# The Independent Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

Newsstand Price \$1.50 per week

Thursday, November 4, 2021

## 'Very large' cash drop to Petrolia reserve

**Heather Wright** The Independent

Almos Tassonyi says the \$1.5 million the Town of Petrolia plans to put into its working capital reserve is "large...very large."

Tassonyi, a Research Associate, International Property Tax Institute who is affiliated with the School of Public Policy at the University of Calgary, should know what he's looking at. He was a senior economist with the Ontario Ministry of Finance until

2011. The Independent asked Tassonyi about the town's plans to put about 20 per cent of the tax revenue it collects this year into a working capital reserve fund established in 2014.

When it was established taxes climbed eight per cent to pay for the \$500,000 fund. Town officials had a goal of paying for all of the town's capital projects from it.

But a graph by staff in the draft budget book shows the town didn't spend the

full amount in that year. It left over \$132,000 in the reserve in 2014. Since then it has grown by 30 times that amount to just under \$4 million by the end of 2020. In all, the town had \$7,992,400 in reserves at the end of December 2020. Some are for specific projects, but the working capital reserve doesn't. Tassonyi looked over the town's financial records and says the \$1.5 million is unusual.

**SEE WORKING PG 2** 

## Investigation at Petrolia's town hall

**Heather Wright** The Independent

John Fleming has returned to Petrolia to probe a conflict between staff and a member of council, The Independent has learned.

Fleming was first appointed by Petrolia's Integrity Commissioner in 2017 to investigate after The Independent revealed the then Chief Administrative Officer owned two buildings being rented by the town for storage and a youth centre. Fleming visited Petrolia

again this week to investigate an internal conflict.

While Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley would not comment on the investigation, saying the matter was dealt with behind closed doors, The Independent has learned Fleming is interviewing members of staff and council about a matter which was hashed over in a private meeting of council Sept. 13.

Council then met privately for over an hour. The mayor reported publicly, according

to the meeting minutes; "Council was advised of a recent event regarding a staff/council relations concern...Our CAO will be reviewing policies and procedures with staff. Council have directed the CAO, who is ultimately responsible for staff, to gather further information and report back to council when able."

It's not clear how long the investigation will take nor whether the issues surrounding the conflict will be revealed by council.

## Petrolia man stabbed during Halloween party

**Heather Wright** The Independent

Lambton OPP are still looking for the people who stabbed a Petrolia man at a Halloween party on the weekend.

Officials released the first information about the stabbing Tuesday morning saying "Officers arrived on scene and observed an

to hospital by Lambton EMS.

'Members of the Lambton County OPP Crime Unit and Forensic Identification Services are investigating the incident. "No arrests have been

made at this time." Sources tell The Independent the young man was hosting a party at his parent's home on Grove St. Saturda

The host didn't know them, had not invited them and asked them to leave.

As he was escorting them from the backyard to their vehicle, the young man was stabbed six times. He was taken to hospital

in London where he was recovering Monday.

OPP have not said how many people they are looking for, if police know who

## **A GOOD SCARE**



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Children were running for their lives as the Alvinston Optimist held a Zombie Walk at AW Campbell Park Saturday. Volunteers from the community were dressed as

individual with multiple injuries, consistent with an edged weapon assault. The individual was transported

while they were there.

A group of people arrived from Sarnia who planned to join the party after midnight.

they are, nor have they given a description of the vehicle but are looking for information from the public.

zombies and children, teens and adults walked down the path trying to avoid being caught. There were some chilling screams, and some laughs, and everyone was given a treat bag after running the gauntlet.



## Petrolia council rejects bid to eliminate tax increase

### Heather Wright The Independent

Petrolia council is bringing a \$7.4 million budget with a two per cent tax increase to ratepayers Nov. 8.

That's a half per cent lower than municipal administrators presented in the draft budget Friday - about \$30,000 less.

But one councillor is concerned residents are going to be in for a big shock beyond the extra \$24 per \$100,000 of assessment planned. Wade Deighton wanted council to take \$150,000 out of the budget to eliminate a municipal tax increase saying homeowners will soon see their tax assessment soar because of the rising housing prices.

Homeowners now pay taxes on what their home's market value was in 2016. The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation has delayed adjusting the rates for the last two years because of the economic impact of COVID-19.

Real estate values have gone through the roof since then. For example, the Sarnia-Lambton Real Estate Board reported in Sept. 2016, the average price of a single family home was \$232,000. By Sept. 2021, that same house was selling for \$504,529 – a 54 per cent increase in value.

Petrolia CAO Rick Charlebois acknowledged that Ontarians are past due for a tax reassessment, however he's hopeful the province will kick it down the line at least another year.

If it doesn't, Deighton says there are going to be a lot of people "freaking out" when they open their tax bill. And he says increasing Petrolia's municipal taxes makes the problem worse. He raised the issue with councillors as they deliberated the budget Friday morning. At the time, council was

**Heather Wright** 

The Independent

auestions.

Petrolia administration

hopes to spend \$1.65 million

Some of those purchases drew

Councillor Wade Deighton

wondered why the town would

be spending \$50,000 for a used

past it rented the machine when

needed. Director of Operations

Mike Thompson told Deighton

mini excavator when in the

on capital projects in 2022.

considering leaving the budget as presented by staff.

"When they approve a two-and-a-half per cent increase, that's what they're signing people up for – it's a two-and-a half per cent increase on a 30 per cent (assessment) increase...That's a scary figure. You start talking about houses in Petrolia that are going to be paying upwards of \$15,000 taxes."

Charlebois suggested the tax increase could be eliminated without cutting services. He told councillors the effect of cutting the \$150,000 would be the town would not put as much money in its working capital reserve this year.

The CAO/Treasurer told council he has drafted the budget so that during the 2022 tax year at least \$1.5 million more would be added to the working capital reserve. The CAO said if the tax increase was eliminated, as Deighton suggested, \$1.3 million would be contributed instead.

Councillors painted a different picture of what might happen if the tax increase were eliminated. "I just don't believe it's realistic to start to slash services," said Councillor Joel Field. "And, I believe that we would have to do that; I don't see that we have that kind of money and pencil and paper.

"We will have growth, but if we don't maintain what we're doing right now and continue on the path of plans that we have, I think that we're setting ourselves up for failure."

Councillor Don Welten agreed. "I'm not in favor of changing anything because I think the staff has done a great job. We have a great town, everything's going good. And I've been in budgets before where they slashed it down to nothing and all of a sudden you've got some expenses you have to do," he told council. "I strongly oppose changing this budget down to zero per cent. I have great respect for our staff, they do a great job...we should stick to the budget which has been presented."

Councillor Ross O'Hara also expressed concern about the idea. "We have to realize that wages have gone up a certain amount. And we've all been told over and over again, how a lot of things that we plan to purchase, because of COVID have gotten more expensive," said O'Hara.

Since the pandemic began, the town has received at least \$744,000 in COVID-19 relief funds from the provincial government to cover those costs.

"I guess I'm comfortable with the way the budget sits at two-and-a-half per cent," says O'Hara.

O'Hara, Welton, Field and Loosley all voted against eliminating the municipal tax increase. Deighton and Councillor Marty Souch were in favour. Councillor Grant Purdy did not attend the budget session.

Instead, council agreed to trim a half per cent from the increase – about \$30,000.

As it sits now, municipal taxes will rise about \$24 for every \$100,000 of assessment. With the average single family dwelling selling for around \$502,000 that will mean about \$120 more per year with the municipal tax bill being about \$4,925 and the total tax bill with county

and education taxes estimated at \$7,960. Councillors also approved water and sewage increases of 2.5 per cent each. The budget will be presented to the public at a virtual meeting Nov. 8.



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### they had spent between \$10,000 or \$12,000 in 2021 on rentals. "I don't think we need to buy

one for \$2,500 to \$3,000 per month. Staff says it has been difficult to rent the equipment needed, particularly to get large items up to the theatre.

Splash pad, \$100,000 of sidewalk work in capital plan

There is also about \$914,000 set aside to improve parts of Pearl, England, Glenview, Mutual, Kentail, Third and Valentina in 2022. The town uses two grants to offset those costs, reducing the net cost to local taxpayers to \$135,000.

The Public Works department has also set aside \$100,000 for sidewalk repair and replacement.

There is also \$40,000 in the

built.

Another \$75,000 has been set aside in the budget labeled as a donation to the Parents for Parks group. It's proposing a \$300,000 plus accessible playground in Greenwood Park. The group has raised close to \$200,000 according to Loosley and asked if the town would consider a grant. There is also \$10,000 in the budget to help prepare the site for the new playground.

And if the budget is approved, the town will be getting a splash pad. The new Petrolia Kiwanis Club offered to finance the project and the town has included it in this year's budget. The 2022 budget also includes \$50,000 for a new entrance sign on the south side of town on Oil Heritage Road. Unparalleled Selection.

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one, we can continue to rent." Mayor Brad Loosley also questioned why the town is proposing to spend \$85,000 to buy a scissor lift at Victoria Hall when it is currently renting budget which had already been approved by council for a consultant to look and give a blueprint of which sidewalks should be replaced first and where new sidewalks should be

### Working capital contribution seems 'very large' amount of money placed in reserves "does seem

Tassonyi viewed the town's Financial Information Return prepared for the province and was surprised by the "blips" in the amount of money the town collected. Over the last five years, Petrolia has received millions in grants for a water treatment plant and upgrades to the drinking water plant. But Tassonyi noted "the tax increases have been pretty steady... when I look at total taxation revenue." And he noted the amount of money placed in reserves "does seem very large when you're talking about something like \$1.5 million compared to nearly \$6 million (in operating revenues)."

Tassonyi says while it is up to council and there are no hard and fast rules, he says a "reasonable" contribution to reserves is between one and five per cent "depending on the size of the municipality and what the implications on the tax rate are." Have we become so morally insensitive, we can't discern the way? Do the gods of materialism, egotism and power, rule the day? Have we deceived our next generation, being politically correct? Are the statistics of divorce and suicide, the future's effect?

Life has many choices, but eternity only two, Who will you be found serving, when your life, is thru. You see, "repentance" is required, for you and for me, Bringing Jesus unending "forgiveness", to set us free.

If we "humble" ourselves and "pray", God promises to heal our land, His righteousness exalts a Nation, with one accord, we will stand. So we say, "God Bless Canada" and earnestly pray, Forever, your mercy endures Lord, change our hearts to-day.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

### PRAYER:

Dear Lord Jesus, "thank-you" for the price that you paid for me. Because of the sin in my life, I find myself separated from you. I ask for your forgiveness and invite you into my heart, to be Lord of all the areas of my life. Thank-you for the "gift" of salvation and the assurance of an eternal home in Heaven with you. Amen

Grogan, Watford

## Citizens, politicians want Campbell House saved

**Heather Wright** The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston council doesn't want the former home of AW Campbell torn down.

In September, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority voted to take down the home of the man who donated the 308 acres which has become the park bearing his name.

The authority opened the Campbell House Museum in the early 1970s. The 1800's farmhouse was open a few days a week in the summer months. In the 1980s, a provincial grant for the museum ended. It would only operate during the annual Maple Syrup Festival. In 2001, the museum was broken into and thieves stole the most valuable artifacts. It never reopened.

Greg Wilcox, the manager of conservation areas, says 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."

Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek says once people saw the news in The *Independent*, he started getting calls from people angry the building may come down. Local historians voiced their concerns online. Kevin Edwards says it's "pretty sad."

"AW was born and died in that house and it was built by his parents - in the 1870s - who settled the land. It is the last original farmhouse in the area."

Dawn McNally wrote to the conservation authority hoping to change minds.

'Too many buildings of value have

been torn down at this park I feel this is one that does need to be saved," says McNally. "As a small child, I visited Mr. Campbell with my dad, John Leitch, and feel Mr. Campbell left you a gem of a property... I think this needs to be revisited and looked at in a different way. Preserve the history of the park."

Councillor Wayne Deans went into the building with Wilcox Oct. 27 to take a look. "Yeah, it was in rough shape," he told council Thursday. "I blame the conservation authority for not doing the upkeep." Deans says there was a hole in the wall which should have been boarded up long ago. Racoons went into the building making a mess.

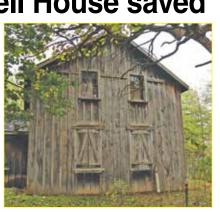
But he also told council there were still lots of artifacts - including photos and an old spinning wheel - which were inside.

"I would like to see a letter sent from the municipality to save it," says Deans.

Councillor Jamie Armstrong agreed saying it may never be a museum again, but the house should remain standing. "At least have the building there so people can still see it... it's not like they're going to put a high rise there."

To me, it is an historic building," said Mayor Dave Ferguson. He suggested the letter should ask for dialogue between the authority and the municipality aiming to keep the building standing.

Armstrong suggested members of the community might be willing to donate money to repair the building so it could remain. Council agreed to send



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO Campbell House is the last original building left at the Alvinston park.

a letter asking for discussions about the historic home. Nemcek warned the conservation authority is ready to act. "If we're going to do this, do it right away because it is on the agenda to come down," he said. "The fire department was asked if they wanted to do a controlled burn."

Deans says it's important to preserve the Campbell House particularly since the nature centre and the sugar shack are also gone. "It will be the last thing there (from the family), everything else will have been torn down."

Hours after the council meeting, local artist Liana Russwurm said she had commitments for \$500. by Nov. 2, there was about \$1,500 and an online petition calling for the conservation authority to put their plans on hold had 500 names. She's also had contractors volunteer to help repair the building. She wants to see Campbell House fixed. "The Campbells donated it to them in good faith; the conservation authority should have taken care of it."





## Restauranteurs worry as server wage hits \$15

**Heather Wright** The Independent

At least one Petrolia restaurant owner says the price for a meal out will likely go up after the province announced minimum wage will go up to \$15 in January.

Premier Doug Ford made the announcement Tuesday, three years after cancelling the increase to \$15 per hour planned by the Liberal government. Ford cited the increased cost of living because of the pandemic as one of the reasons for the 65 cent per hour increase.

For restaurant servers, the increase will make even more of a difference - their wage goes from \$12.55 to \$15 on Jan. 1.

Brian Dunlop of Actors in Petrolia, says that 20 per cent wage increase is tough. And it will affect the cost of eating out. "We will have to do an increase and people think we're expensive now."

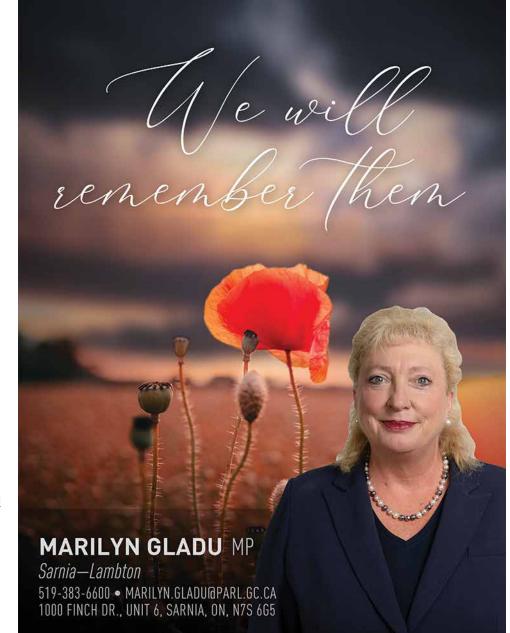
The restaurant industry has been treading water through the pandemic. The Ontario Chamber of Commerce called for the government to look at things like debt forgiveness so the small businesses can pay for the increase.

Dunlop says while the increase will have an affect, it won't cost him as much as it would have in 2018, simply because he has about 16 fewer employees now.

While businesses wondered how they would find the cash for the increase, labour leaders, who stood with the premier at the news conference, signalled this is only the beginning.

"Is \$15 an hour wonderful, no," said Jerry Diaz of Unifor. "Do I think it is a good start? Yes.'

Diaz pointed out a living wage in Toronto is about \$20 per hour. NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said the minimum wage should rise to \$17 an hour.



## Four way stop considered for Marthaville/Aberfeldy

### **Heather Wright** The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia officials are going to take a look at the corner of Aberfeldy Line and Marthaville Road after an accident claimed the life of a Dresden woman.

Sandra McDougall, 59, an Enbridge Gas employee died Sept. 10 when her vehicle struck a pickup truck at the corner. This intersection has been the site of a deadly accident before. In Nov. 2015, a Lambton county teacher was killed in an accident at the very corner on her way to school.

Councillor Mark McGuire asked township staff to take a look at the intersection to see if there is anything that can be done to improve it. McGuire says people "just fly down there."

He suggested a four way stop. Administration says the intersection is well marked and normally the township follows Ministry of Transportation rules. Mayor Al Broad says there are guidelines for a four way stop.

"We do tend to follow the county and their guidelines. But again, I like to remind everybody that those are just guidelines, and sometimes guidelines don't always work. And sometimes the guidelines need just a little tweak every once in a while," added Broad. "Because that's all they are - just a guideline."

Enbridge Gas recently donated several thousand dollars for road safety improvements which may be used on the project.

## Too much of a good thing

Petrolia's working capital reserve is too much of a good thing.

The town set up this reserve in 2014 with the specific purpose of paying for whatever capital projects were needed; new roads, new windows, soccer pitches, whatever could be imagined. It started the reserve by collecting an extra \$500,000 from local taxpayers.

The move was met with howls of protest, but council did what it thought was best and started the fund.

Reserves are a necessary part of municipal government. Communities have to have cash on hand to pay for some of the big projects or unexpected problems. But there are many problems with THIS reserve.

First; the town shouldn't have raised taxes to start it. It could have simply established it by using the surpluses it was generating on the budget. That's how Lambton County funds what some politicians call the "Hopes and Dreams" fund.

Second, municipalities have always set aside money for specific capital projects. For example, Victoria Playhouse Petrolia has over \$500,000 set aside for capital now. But that money can only be spent on capital for the playhouse. Petrolia's working reserve can be for literally any capital project. That means administrators can change their minds about what projects should have priority. The town does asset management plans to make sure capital projects are done at the right time and not switched up at the will of administration and council.

But the biggest problem with the working capital fund is the wads of cash the town is now dumping into it. As of the end of 2020 - ten months ago - there was just under \$4 million. This coming budget, council has tentatively given approval to drop another \$1.5 million in it. They're going to take \$1.5 million - about 20 per cent of all the revenue collected from taxpayers pockets - and dump it into a savings account without telling us how it will be used or when. And council will do it again in 2022 if citizens allow it.

Some councillors suggested cutting \$150,000 from the budget would mean 'slashing services.' Poppycock.

Petrolia could cut \$500,000 without reducing operating costs at all, give taxpayers a huge break and still put \$1 million away from the future. The town's treasurer said as much during the budget. Council just wasn't listening.

## 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, NON 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.

## Editorial

## **Our Story**



This Louis Pesha image is of the Anderson and Murray Machine Shop which was built in 1880 in Oil Springs. This shop sold a wide variety of new and second-hand machinery, and the shop's owners specialized in repairs relating to oil wells and drilling equipment. The business has been managed by many different owners throughout the years and in 1947 the machine shop was purchased by the Watson family who converted the building into a hardware and chainsaw repair store. It has closed but the original building remains unused.

## There is a future for Alvinston's Campbell House

At first glance, Campbell House seems beyond repair.

The batten board walls are rotting at the bottom, windows - both high and low - are smashed. The only glimpse inside the building from the front door window reveals little, other than the decay of a building left for far too long without a good cleaning and rudimentary repairs.

As Brooke-Alvinston council passed a motion asking for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority to reconsider tearing it down - my heart was with them. I love old buildings. But when has rot decayed the promise of renewal.

I thought about that when I was talk

trails at AW Campbell Conservation Area, when Archie Campbell decided the 308 acres should be preserved. She has fond memories of visiting Mr. Campbell with her dad and the gem the turn of the century farmhouse once was. She wants it restored.

I told her about the old building I grew up beside - the Marsh Store in Coldstream. In my mind's eye, I can still see it, grey board and tin roof, looking like it might fall over.

I also remember my parents talking about how ridiculous it was the store was being restored. It was, they thought, a waste of money at the time.

The group behind the restoration was the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. Once the work was done, I loved going through the old store look-

ing at the exhibits about nature there. The authority eventually sold it. It became a tea house, restaurant and quilt shop

once a financial

over the years. It's a private home now. And it is still a useful, beautiful building - the only piece of living history left in the village which was

Heather Wright

hub. There is a future for Campbell House. The community and the conservation authority just have to work together to find it.

ing to Dawn McNally today. Her dad was one of the people who helped cut



## Brooke-Alvinston's legal bill for farm fight nearly \$60K

### **Heather Wright** The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston has spent 60 per cent more than it planned defending itself at a Natural Farm Practices Protection Board hearing.

Buurma Farms filed three applications with the board against Brooke-Alvinston, Dawn-Euphemia and Warwick Township over their regulations surrounding the storage of farm fertilizers. Buurma Farms, which is affliated with LaSalle Agri, a fertilizer company, was storing large amounts of the pungent biosolids on farmland

in the area, a practice which all three municipalities have rules against. The application against Brooke-Alvinston's rules was heard first in the spring of 2021. The board agreed an

operation like Buurma Farms would be likely to store large amounts of fertilizer in one place. However it noted the fertilizer made from human waste required a better storage facility which ensured it was covered to keep down the smell and reduce the risk of fire.

After the ruling, Buurma Farms asked the board to order the municipality to pay its legal fees. That was turned down, but cost the municipality

### over \$11,000 to deal with.

In a report to council, Treasurer Stephen Ikert says it appears Brooke-Alvinston's legal issues are now complete.

'The total cost of all legal fees to defend our position including the first review with all three municipalities, the pre-hearing meetings, the hearing and the appeal come to \$176,601.68. The cost will be split three ways -\$58,867.23 each. Brooke-Alvinston budgeted \$20,000 for the legal fight."

Ikert says Brooke-Alvinston may incur more costs if the other applications move forward.

## **SPOOKY COOKIE**



## HAVE YOU **HEARD**?

## 'I always thought it was my fault

Alex Kurial Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia father will spend eight years behind bars after sexually assaulting his daughter for a decade.

The man, who cannot be named to protect his daughter's identity, admitted to raping his daughter on four different occasions, starting when she was eight until she was 17. When the daughter told her uncle what was happening he took his brother to the police station to confess. He appeared in Sarnia Court Nov. 2 for sentencing and listened to the impact of his crime.

"All through my life I thought this was normal... I always thought it was my fault. Even though I've been told it isn't, I still do. I cry a lot thinking about it. Why can't I have a normal dad?'

"Maybe if I talked sooner I wouldn't have gone through so much pain, but I was scared for my family.

"I no longer want to have a relationship with him nor do I want to see him," she says.

The man spoke briefly.. "I love my daughter very much. In spite of what has happened I never intended to hurt her.

"I accept the punishment that's going to come and I'll come out of this a better man."

Punishment in cases of sexual assault against children has dramatically shifted under the Tougher Penalties for Child Predators Act from 2015. Sexual offences against children which would see sentences of four to six years now see double that.

Justice Deborah Austin in sentencing the father said the Supreme Court has set a standard which sends a "strong message that sexual offences against children are violent crimes that wrongfully exploit children's vulnerability and cause profound harm to children, families and communities.

The man will also be on the sex offender registry for life and cannot contact his daughter or be within two kilometres of her.

If you experienced violent crime the Ontario Victim Support Line can be reached toll-free at 1-888-579-2888.



CHRYSTAL BRESSETTE PHOTO

While many kids were trick or treating, the youth group at Hope United in Alvinston was collecting food for the Alvinston Food Bank. The teens brought dozens of bags of food right to the food bank Halloween night.

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Thursday, November 4, 2021

**Area Services** 

Services at Petrolia Nursing Homes

Friday November 5

10:30 am - Meadowview

Saturday November 6

Sunday November 7

10a-2p - Annual Poppy Boot Drive

10:00 am - Petrolia Church Service

10:30 am - Wyoming Legion Service

1:30 pm - Thamesville Legion Service

at Florence Cenotaph

at Petrolia Cenotaph

at Forest Cenotaph

wreaths will be pre-laid

Two Minutes of Silence

Honour. Thank. Remember.

at Camlachie

2:00 pm - Laying of the Wreaths

Thursday November 11

10:45 am - Remembrance Service

corner of King & Main, Forest

at First Baptist Church

1:30 pm - Albany

2:15 pm - Fiddick's

Thursday, November 4, 2021



Br. 635 Poppy Chair, Deacon Chuck Stevens, begins this year's Poppy Campaign by pinning the first Poppy on President Linda Sangster, Royal Canadian Legion Br. 635, Brigden. PHOTO SUBMITTED

## #GetYourPoppy



beginning of the Royal Canadian Legion's Poppy Campaign. Also in attendance, Sarnia-Lambton MP Marilyn Gladu, Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey, Lambton County Warden and Enniskillen Mayor Kevin Marriott and Senator Robert Black.



















Wear a Poppy to Remember it is not inappropriate to wear a Poppy during other times to commemorate Fallen Veterans and it is an individual choice to Throughout the Remembrance period, we see Poppies worn do so. with pride in every corner of our lives to honour our Veterans. The Royal Canadian Legion provides a Poppy Protocol to guide How to remove a Poppy Canadians on appropriate and respectful wearing of the lapel Poppies may be worn throughout the Remembrance period, including in the evening after Remembrance Day Ceremony. Poppy. However, wearing a Poppy is a personal expression of Remembrance, and how someone chooses to wear a Poppy is Some choose to remove their Poppy at the end of the day always an individual choice.

## How to wear a Poppy

10:50 am - Remembrance Service at Petrolia Cenotaph 11:00 am - Pay your respects, Poppy at Oil Springs Cenotaph

### When to wear a Poppy

The lapel Poppy should be worn during the Remembrance period, from the last Friday in October until November 11. The Legion encourages the wearing of Poppies at funerals of Veterans, and for any commemorative event such as a memorial service, or the anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. As well,





The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton – 7

The Poppy should be worn with respect on the left side, over the heart. The Legion's lapel Poppy is a sacred symbol of Remembrance and should not be affixed with any pin that obstructs the Poppy. Also available through some Branches is the Legion's reusable black centre Poppy pin to affix your lapel

on November 11. Some choose to remove their Poppy at the conclusion of the ceremony and place their Poppy on the cenotaph or on a wreath as a sign of respect. This has become a poignant tradition each year at the National Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa as thousands of Poppies are placed on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. When a Poppy is removed, it should be stored appropriately or

it may be disposed of respectfully. We encourage anyone who finds a Poppy that has fallen to the ground to pick it up and brush it off so that it can be kept or disposed of respectfully.

While Poppies are always free, The Royal Canadian Legion gratefully accepts donations to the Poppy Fund, which directly supports Canada's Veterans and their families in need.





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## LTC critics question new rules; province hasn't fined owners before won't now

### **Heather Wright** The Independent

The province's new long term care act could lead to \$1 million fines for home operators who don't follow the rules.

The Ontario Health Care Coalition says the change has "potential" but in the last three years the Ford government hasn't used the powers it already has to fine operators despite thousands of seniors dying during the COVID-19 pandemic because of poor procedures and lack of care.

Rod Phillips, the minister of long term care, introduced the legislation saying in a news release "the plan is built on three pillars: staffing and care; accountability, enforcement, and transparency; and building modern, safe,

comfortable homes for seniors." One of the most anticipated

pieces of the legislation is the enforcement of the act. During the pandemic, horrific conditions came to light when the Canadian army moved into long term care homes to help overwhelmed staff.

Phillips says the new act will establish new compliance and enforcement tools, including doubling fines on the conviction of an offence under the proposed legislation. It also introduces a minister's review of a director's decision in the licensing process.

"This legislation, if passed, would protect our progress by supporting our commitments to increase staffing for more hours of direct care, enhance accountability, and build more modern beds," says Phillips.

The health coalition, a vocal critic of the government's handling of long term care, says Ontario already had the authority to issue fines.

"This government has for three years done nothing to hold any of the terrible operators to account despite already having the powers in the act to fine, have provincial offenses charged, suspend licenses, revoke licenses, appoint management to take over the homes and stop new admissions," executive director Natalie Mehra writes after reviewing the legislation.

"Doubling fines sounds great but the existing hefty fines – \$100,000 per home or penalties for provincial offenses - have never been enforced and the Ford

government has been sitting on them without enacting or using them since it took office.'

Phillips says the proposed act also establishes the commitment for four hours of care by 2035. Mehra points out that in the

legislation it is a "target" and unenforceable.

"What improvements that could have and should have happened are far more than the changes that they have made," she says.

Mehra adds the province did nothing to encourage a move to non-profit long term care homes. The health care coalition has been advocating for non-profit care.

"They have dropped the requirement that the government promote the delivery of long-term care by non-profit organizations. They added in 'and mission driven' which are weasel words for for-profit owned facilities.

"It is a gaping loophole that allows all the for-profits through, and of course we already know that the Ford government is midstream in awarding thousands of new beds to the same for-profit chains.

"This is a major loss and is not in the public interest."





**Heather Wright** The Independent

Bluewater Health officials say 18 staff members will lose their jobs because they won't be vaccinated against COVID-19. That's less than one per cent of the staff.

Bluewater Health and other hospitals in the region made vaccination against the virus mandatory in September, giving employees until the end of October to be fully vaccinated.

Julia Oosterman, chief of communications, says as of Oct. 31, 99 per cent of employees and professional staff, including doctors, dentists and midwives, are fully vaccinated.

Another 18 people have not complied with the policy - four of those people work in full time

clinical roles, including nursing and physicians. Oosterman says 25 others have been given a limited time to complete their vaccine series to

return to work. When Bluewater Health chose to make vaccines mandatory, there was concern the hospital would be left short staffed at a time when it is already difficult to find trained medical staff. Premier Doug Ford as recently as Friday, has said he is concerned about losing staff.

Oosterman says the vacancies shouldn't mean a reduction in services "On any given day, it's not unusual for us to have 20 to 30 employees call in sick; we have 1,900 people in the building...so it's a very low percentage.

"It's very much manageable. On top of that, we've also been recruiting for these positions."

### A quarter of Catholic occasional staff, bus drivers not vaxxed **Heather Wright** There are 145 occasional and temporary The Independent

About a quarter of Lambton Catholic school board occasional, temporary and bus drivers aren't yet vaccinated.

Each school board in Ontario has to publicly report the vaccination rates within their schools. At the St. Clair District Catholic School Board about 92 per cent of all school employees - like full time teachers and support staff – are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have their first shot.

But the rate of vaccination is much lower for occasional and temporary teachers and what the board calls other individuals, regular volunteers in the schools and bus drivers included. The board has 1,068 people in those categories and about 75 per cent of them have reported their vaccine status to the board.

teachers and 191 individuals who either are not vaccinated or haven't submitted their vaccine status yet - about 17 per cent of the people working in Catholic schools in the region.

The Lambton-Kent District School Board has far fewer outstanding vaccine status reports with just two per cent of the reports outstanding from the 3,105 people who work in schools.

The occasional and temporary teachers are 83.7 per cent vaccinated and 84 per cent of other individuals, including volunteers and school bus drivers, are vaccinated.

Right now, there are 13 people – mostly elementary school students - in Lambton County schools who have COVID-19. Lambton Public Health believes the virus is being spread at Queen Elizabeth II in Petrolia where three students and one staff member are ill. An outbreak has been declared there.





## On November 11 Imperial remembers

We remember Imperial employees like Wallace Carman Horley who made the ultimate sacrifice. Before enlisting in the naval reserve in 1942, Wallace was a pipe fitter at the Sarnia refinery. In January 1944, he was assigned to the crew of the HMCS Alberni and served in the Battle of the Atlantic. On August 21, 1944, the ship was struck by a torpedo fired by a German submarine. Four officers and 55 crew members were lost in the attack, including Wallace. Later that month, Walter and Rachel Horley in Sarnia received a telegram informing them their 22-year old son was missing at sea. Four months later, Wallace was officially listed as missing and presumed dead.

### Traditional Santa parade – with precautions – in Petrolia The Independent

Petrolia's Santa Claus Parade is returning to downtown Petrolia.

Last year, the town held a drive-by parade, with floats moving through the community over a course of a couple of hours since crowds were not able to gather. But as people are vaccinated and the number of people being infected with the virus decreases, the province eased the limit of 100 people outdoors for parades.

Petrolia officials announced Oct. 28 this year's parade "All the Colours of Christmas" will be Sat. Dec. 4 at 2 pm in the downtown.

Before the parade, an online sign-in portal will be available for contact tracing. QR codes will be placed around the parade route so that you can check in also. One check-in per family is required. You are asked to stay in your family

group and to wear a mask if you cannot maintain six feet of distance from other families.

The Lambton Central Petrolia Optimist Club along with the Petrolia Camera Club have confirmed that Santa Claus will be making an appearance at the Y. There will be socially distanced photos with Santa. Families are asked to wear a mask until just before the photo is taken. Anyone over 12 years of age will be required to show proof of vaccination to get in, according to the Ŷ's policies.

The Christmas season kicks off this year with Christmas in the Park Dec. 3 starting at 5 pm. The town is also compiling a "Magical Tour of Lights" for residents to visit. If your home or business has a display, you can contact the town to be included.

The town will also hold a Christmas Market, Dec. 4 from 10 am to 4 pm.

We will never forget.

Special thanks to research by The Sarnia War Remembrance Project by Tom Slater, Tom St. Amand and Lou Giancarlo.







TITTT

## Sports

## **Battle of Lambton County renewed**

**Barry Wright** The Independent

The rivalry between the Flyers and Flags resumes this week at the Greenwood Rec Centre in Petrolia.

The Flags won round one of the battle of Lambton County a month ago in Mooretown by a score of 7-2.

The Flyers won their first of the season last week scoring four times in the third period on its way to a 6-2 win over the slumping Blenheim Blades.

Zack Bressette led Petrolia with a hat trick, his first three goals of the season with one each going to Clay Dolbear, Josh Jamieson and Victor Tang.

For Tang, it was his first career PJHL goal. Cameron Hackett, Landon Marcy and Harly Allison-Jacklin chipped in with two assists each for Petrolia.

Tyler Richardson recorded his first junior hockey goaltending victory with 37 saves. After its trip to Petrolia Thursday, the

Flags return home to entertain Dresden on Saturday at 7:30.

Friday in Dresden, Greg Hay had four goals and an assist to lead Mooretown over the Kings, 10-3. Mason Flett and Quinton Johnston each scored twice for the Flags with one each going to Brodie Conlon and Jake Vince.

Conlon, Vince, Nolan Farr, Kyle Flamminio and Zach Moore all added two assists.

Logan Phillips turned aside 25 shots for his first career PJHL goaltending victory. A night later at home, the Flags improved to 4-0 at home and 6-1 overall with a 5-2 triumph over Amherstburg.

Conlon registered a hat trick and added an assist to lead the Flags with Johnston and Vince scoring the other Mooretown goals and each adding an assist.

Ayden Letang pitched in with two helpers. Nathan King made 30 saves for the win between the pipes.



Vance Jardine tries to disrupt the play during the Flyers first win of the season in Blenhem.

## Three-point weekend for Petrolia Squires

### The Independent

Isaac McLean and Brent Sauve each scored twice in Petrolia's 7-3 win over Tavistock in WOAA senior hockey action Friday night at Greenwood. McLean also added an assist.

TJ Harris, Corey Pawley and

Steve Farlow had singles for the He is tied for the league lead in Squires.

On Saturday in Lucknow, the Lancers tied the game late and won in a shootout, 4-3. Kole Keating scored twice for the Squires with Brock Perry scoring the other. McLean had an assist to extend his pointscoring streak to five games.

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Petrolia travels to Port Elgin and a game with the Saugeen Shores Winterhawks this Friday. The Hawks are 4-1-1 on the season. The Squires are 2-2-1. Petrolia's next home game is against Seaforth on Nov. 19.

## Killer Bees crushed twice by Rock

It was a weekend to forget for the Alvinston Killer Bees of the Western Ontario Super Hockey League. The Bees lost twice in Elora by scores of 16-0 and 15-2.

In the second game, Brandon Mcilvenna and Avery Antone scored just eight minutes in with the score 4-2. But by the end of period, Elora pulled away 8-2 on the way to victory.

**BLENHEIM BLADES PHOTO** 

Alvinston, 0-8 on the season, will host Tillsonburg Saturday in Alvinston at 8:30.

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The two top-five finishers led the Lancers to finish second in the team standings.

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leading the Eagles to a third-place finish in the team standings.

North Lambton was also third in the senior boys' team standings with Thedford's Owen Peters leading the way with a fourth-place finish in the senior boys race, three spots ahead of teammate Cameron Finch. Charlie Shaw was the top Lancer placing 16th just ahead of LCCVI teammate Rhys Vanderzon. Emma Patchett was

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the top Lancer senior girl placing 12th. the 9 year-old race, and Madison Japp of Brigden

was eighth in the girls' 13 year-old event. On the boys' side of the ledger, James Grant of Hillcrest was second in the 13 year-old race, two-and-a-half seconds behind a runner from Dresden. Jacob Lassaline of Centennial was eighth in that race. In the 12 year-old category, Jamison Helps of Petrolia's QEII was sixth. Tucker Ysabaert of Corunna's Sir John Moore was third in the 11 year-old final with Conner MacKellar of Brooke Central and Quinn Edwards of Centennial finished sixth and eighth respectively. In the 10 year-old race, Liam Beveridge of Centennial was third, with teammates Rhys Marriott and Emerson Piggott placing fifth and eighth and Wesley Johnson of Wyoming was tenth. Ryker McDonald of Centennial and Brooke Central's Duncan McKellar were eighth and ninth respectively.



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**Public Skating** 

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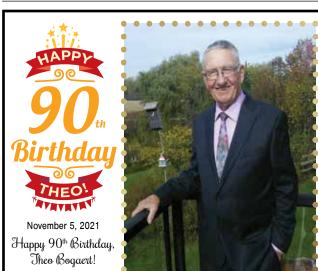
**Public Skating** 

**Classified Deadline:** Monday @ 12 noon

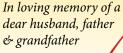
## Classifieds

**Services Offered** 

### Celebrations



In Memory



~ The Family

**MELVIN** erriam Who left us unexpectedly November 1, 2018

God called your name so softly, That only you could hear. No one heard the footsteps, Of the angels drawing near. Down a road that's calm & peaceful, Guided by God's loving hand. You are gone upon a journey, To a distant greater land. Now in God's care you rest above, And in our hearts you rest with love.

Greatly missed by; Marilyn & Family



We remember now in love, your life from start to end. A heart of gold, a smile of pure joy, a kindness that extended to everyone you knew. Your love is still our guide. You are always by our side. We're just glad we knew you as our Mother and Best Friend.

Love, Ann & Lyle Moffatt, Joan & Doug Caley, and Debbie & Bert Bork, and families

### **Real Estate**



Professional INCOME TAX SERVICES 519-882-2966 3927 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON Appointments \*\*Drop-Offs\*\* Contactless **MARK AND JOANNE JAMIESON** 



jam\_jo11@hotmail.com | www.protaxpetrolia.com

### Wanted: Farmland

er 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.

### Wanted to Buy

Wanted to buy: OLD & UNUSUAL STUFF from garages, attics, and basements. Phone Chad at (519) 639-9102.

### Notices

### WINTER MAINTENANCE NOTICE

**CLASSIFIED** 

DEADLINE

is

MONDAY

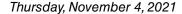
@ 12 NOON

### **Snow Removal**

- Under the Highway Traffic Act Section 181 Deposit of snow on Roadway, states that "No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing to do so from the Ministry of Transportation or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road.
- This generally applies to the snow that accumulates in laneways from precipitation and from private or municipal snow plowing operations, those who insist on plowing snow from private property onto public roads can be fined

### **Overnight Parking**

- · Residents are reminded there is no overnight parking on Town streets between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- This allows for the Town's Road Crews to plow the roads safely and efficiently, we ask that you please abide by the by-law and be considerate of



### **Obituaries**



### SOUTHCOTT Jack McMillan



Our beloved Jack chose to accept his ancestors' invitation to cross over, peacefully on the evening of **Thursday October 28** at Arbour Heights Long Term Care Home in Kingston Ontario. His **90 years** of cherished inspiration will be remembered by his devoted spouse Donna Jane Marie Southcott (nee McDonald); daughters Ann, Lynn, and Mary

Jane; sons-in-law Brian, Jim, and Scott; grandchildren Christie and husband Henry, Ben, Danielle, Mitch, Megan, Michelle, Eric and wife Renée; great grand children Elena, Harry, and Paige Graham; as well as his brother Jim and sister-in-law Jackie Southcott. Born in Morpeth Ontario, first son of the Reverend Robert Earl and Jean Southcott, Jack grew up enjoying the beauty of rural communities in Southern Ontario. Graduating in 1954 with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Western Ontario, Jack spent 37 and a half years making a difference with London Life, one of Canada's leading insurance companies at the time. Originally working in London Ontario, he moved his burgeoning family with every promotion spending a few years in Toronto, Halifax, and Chatham before retiring in Ottawa after 18 years as the London Life Ottawa Regional Mortgage Development Branch Manager. In 1969 Jack, along with brother Jim and his two cousins Robert and Don Southcott, took over as shareholders and directors developing the magnificent enclave community of Southcott Pines along the shores of Lake Huron in Grand Bend, Ontario. A talented athlete, in his spare time Jack enjoyed both golf and curling, becoming exceptionally proficient in both arenas. On the fairways and curling sheets in every city he lived, Jack made many lifelong friends. Ever curious, after retirement Jack and his beloved Donna travelled the world investigating the wonders of Central America, Europe, and even Japan! When not jet setting, Jack could be found quietly volunteering with several charitable organizations in his community. His family and friends will best remember Jack for his dependable quiet strength, selfless loving nature, and as the man who taught us all the profound importance of family. Jack was happiest when surrounded by his adoring extended family during holidays at his home in Southcott Pines. The image of him seated at the head of a full dinner table, arms crossed, stating sincerely and without fail how " that was the best dinner I've ever had, we are truly blessed!", will be forever indelibly stamped in the memories of his clan. A special thank you to the staff at Arbour Heights Long Term Care Home for all your tender efforts caring for Jack while in residence. Friends will be received at the James Reid Funeral Home, 1900 John Counter Blvd., Kingston, on Saturday, November 6, 2021, from 10:00 am – 10:50 am followed by a service celebrating Jack's life in the chapel at 11:00 am. A reception will be held at the conclusion of the ceremony at the Donald Gordon Centre, 421 Union St., Kingston K7L 3N6. RSVP's for the attendance of the service may be at the James Reid Funeral Home, 613-544-3411 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm daily. Due to current Covid protocols all attendees of the visitation, ceremony and reception must show proof of double vaccination and personal ID before entry and masks are mandatory. For those who cannot attend the service please use the livestream link. In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation to the Huron Shores United Church in Grand Bend, Ontario, or your local Salvation Army. Find all links posted on our website https://jamesreidfuneralhome.com/ home/

### MINIELLY Edith Marie (n. Wilkins)

Minielly, Marie - Peacefully surrounded by her family on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at Bluewater Health, Sarnia. Edith Marie Minielly (nee Wilkins), of Wyoming, was 90 years of age. Marie was the loving wife of the late Don (2020). She will be missed by her children Patti (Chuck) Leonard, Joyce (the late Lloyd) Minielly, Mike (Lorraine) Minielly, and Kevin (Kim) Minielly, her grandchildren K.C., Christopher, Rachelle, Ryan, Randy, Reed, Kiera,

and Kade and his nine great children. The daughter of the late Lyle and Margaret Wilkins. She was the sister of Morris Wilkins and the late Glen and Murray Wilkins. She is also survived by her nieces and nephews. A private interment will be held in Wyoming Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the Arthritis Society (www.arthritis.ca). Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com.





cept living room, family room is enormous. There an ensuite 2-piece bath in the main floor bedroom that an be used as an office. The primary bedroom has bee enlarged and includes a wall-to-wall closet. Th primary bedroom is spacious and stunning. Recent viny looring throughout. New front porch, partially covered An asphalt driveway, leads up to garage. The fence MLS: 40148925 finer optic Internet is available.

<u>3277 Walnut St.</u>

**ALVINSTON** 

This charming 3-bedroom Victorian Style home has

high baseboards and original window trim. The interim was just updated and is ready for your family to mov

in. Spacious kitchen and dinning open concept with

rs leading to an over-size

### SHANAHAN REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

7963 Egremont Road, Watford • 519.849.6783 www.shanhanrealty.com

Leo Shanahan Sales Representative

Direct: 519-878-5981 • leo@shanahanrealty.com • Fax-519.849.6683

### 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.

the road crews when they are out doing their best to keep our roads open and in safe condition

### Parking on Roadway

• Under the Highway Traffic Act Section 170.

### Vehicles interfering with traffic

(12) Despite the other provisions of this section, no person shall park or stand a vehicle on a highway in such a manner as to interfere with the movement of traffic or the clearing of snow from the highway. R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, s. 170 (12)

### Sidewalks

- · Under By-Law Business owners are required to maintain the front area of their storefront, this includes the removal of sno
- · The Sidewalk Plow will make its way through Town once permittable, Roads are priority for Works Crew once they are clear Sidewalks

### Sporting Equipment

· Please ensure all sporting equipment ie: hockey nets, basketball nets are removed from the curb & roadway

Your co-operation is appreciated

Mike Thompson Director of Operations



Thursday, November 4, 2021

## Classifieds

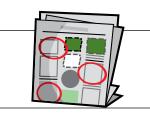
### Obituary



### **MIDDLETON** Wendy

We are heartbroken to share that our beautiful mom, wife, friend, and grandma (Ma) has passed away on Sunday, October 31, 2021 at St. Joseph's Hospice, Sarnia. Wendy Joyce Middleton (nee Cascadden) was born November 23, 1954. She leaves behind her best friend and husband, Rolly Middleton. They shared an incredible love story for over 47 years, living proof of the verse, "Love is patient, love is kind". She also leaves behind her

son Matthew Middleton, his wife Kara, their children Macie, Alec, and Kallie, her daughter Marni Middleton and her boys Adler and Colsen; her parents Dorothy and Murray Cascadden, her sisters, beloved nieces and nephews and their families, her Indiana family, and many cherished friends. Wendy was a beautiful soul. She treasured time with family, always making memories and holidays so special. Her laugh and radiant smile were infectious, and she had a gentle way of making everyone feel welcome and cared for. Her kindness and care for others was always present, even when she was weak. She had such strength, bravery, grace, and love for her family. She was very private and those closest to her understood her battle. Wendy fought hard to live and got to meet all of her grandchildren. We will miss you every second of our lives. We can take comfort in knowing your soul is with God and at peace. Our lives have been forever changed as a result of knowing your love, and going forward our lives will be forever changed learning to live without you. We would like to thank the doctors and nurses involved in Wendy's care. We are forever grateful. Thank you to the St. Joseph's Hospice and beautiful staff that assisted Wendy and our family. A memorial service will be held on Friday, November 12, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 4059 Petrolia Line. Due to current COVID Restrictions attendance is limited to those who sign up at https://signup.com/ go/OtCstLz. The service will be live streamed at www.facebook. com/NeedhamJay. A reception celebrating Wendy's life will be at the Royal Canadian Legion at Erie St. 439 Erie St. Wyoming will follow from 3 to 6 p.m. on Friday, November 12, 2021. Proof of Vaccination and masking is required to attend and masking is required inside the Legion. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to St. Joseph's Hospice (www.stjosephshospice.ca).



### **Coming Events**

VENDOR CRAFT SHOW - at the Wyoming Legion, Saturday November 20 from 9am-2pm. Lunch available. Variety of vendors and crafts. Covid rules in effect. Face coverings, proof of vac-cination and ID required.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE & CRAFT SHOW - at the Horticultural Centre, 5306 Nauvoo Rd, Watford. Fri Nov 19 • 1-7; Sat Nov 20 • 9-4; Sun Nov 21 • 10-4. Hosted by Watford Warwick Hort. Soc., see FB page for more info.

### Notice

Christmas For Everyone - Petrolia TOY & FOOD DONATIONS. Items Currently needed: FOOD ITEMS -Peanut Butter, Jam, Large Canned Fruit (796ml), Soda Crackers, Mac & Cheese (KD), Canned Pasta (Zoodles, etc), Instant & Canned Potatoes, Hamburger Helper, Flakes of Turkey, Chicken & Ham, Canned Salmon, Cookies, Social Crackers, Canned Vegetables, Pancake Mix (Just Add Water), Syrup. CLEANING SUPPLIES - Clorox Wipes, Dish Detergent, Multi-Surface Cleaners, Paper Towels. **MONETARY DONATIONS** cash, cheque or etransers to christmasforeveryonepetrolia@gmail.com GIFT CARDS to Lambton Mall, Sport Chek, Ardene, Best Buy, Old Navy, EB Games, WalMart, Garage, Cineplex, Visa and MasterCard • GIFTS for older children (12+). Follow us on Facebook. Call 226-349-8660 for more information. All donations are appreciated.

FORM 6 SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER Municipal Act, 2001 Ontario Regulation 181/03 Municipal Tax Sales Rules

The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton - 11

### THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF BROOKE-ALVINSTON

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land(s) described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on Thursday, December 16, 2021, at the Municipal Office, 3236 River Street, P.O. Box 28, Alvinston, ON NON 1A0.

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, the tenders will be opened and publicly available via video conferencing on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office, 3236 River Street, Alvinston. The link to the video conference can be found on the Municipality's web site under Town Hall/Properties for Sale.

Description of Lands: ROLL NO. 38 15 120 210 01400 0000, 3123 INWOOD RD, INWOOD, PIN 43347-0186 LT, LT 23 W/S MAIN ST PL 5 BROOKE; S 1/2 LT 22 W/S MAIN ST PL 5 BROOKE; BROOKE-ALVINSTON, FILE LNBA20-001 Minimum Tender Amount: \$65,067.80

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$7,900.

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/money order payable to the municipality (or board)

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, existing interests in favour of the Crown, environmental concerns or any other matters relating to the land(s) to be sold. Any existing Federal or Provincial Crown liens or executions will remain on title and may become the responsibility of the potential purchaser. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers.

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender visit:

### www.Tri-Target.com | Ontario's Tax Sale Community

Info@Tri-Target.com or if no internet access available, contact:

Mr. Stephen Ikert, Treasurer The Corporation of the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston 3236 River Street P.O. Box 28 Alvinston, ON NON 1A0 (519) 898-2173 www.brookealvinston.com



### **PUBLIC NOTICE** WATER AND SEWER RATES

In accordance with Provincial Legislation, Water & Waste Water Rates need to be increased in order to be sustainable; therefore effective January 1, 2022 increases will be adjusted as follows:

- a) Urban water rates will increase by 5% in 2022 which means a difference of \$1.99 per monthly billing on minimum water charges.
- b) Urban rates will increase by 5% in 2022 which means a difference of \$1.88 per monthly billing on minimum sewer charges.

SCHEDULE "Aii" PART 1 - URBAN METERED WATER/SEWER

### Effective January 1, 2022

LIDDAN WATED DATES (LI

### **PUBLIC NOTICE** WATER AND SEWER RATES

In accordance with Provincial Legislation, Water & Waste Water Rates need to be increased in order to be sustainable; therefore effective January 1, 2022 increases will be adjusted as follows:

- a) Rural water rates will increase by 5% in 2022 which means a difference of \$5.97 per quarterly billing on minimum water charges.
- b) Sewer rates will increase by 5% in 2022 which means a difference of \$5.64 per quarterly billing on minimum sewer charges.

SCHEDULE "Ai" PART 1 - RURAL METERED WATER/SEWER Effective January 1, 2022

Minimum Water Charge: up to 33 cubic metres quarterly	\$125.25 *
33.00001 to 171 cubic metres quarterly	1.9663/m3
Over 171 cubic metres quarterly	1.7183/m3
*Minimum water rate = \$3.7955/m3	
RURAL AREA SEWER RATES (billed quarterly) **	
Minimum Sewer Rate: up to 33 cubic metres quarterly	\$118.29 *
33.00001 to 171 cubic metres quarterly	1.8561/m3
Over 171 cubic metres quarterly	1.6220/m3
* Minimum sewer rate = \$3.5843/m3	
** Subject to rounding on billings	

URBAN WATER RATES (billed monthly)	
Minimum Water Charge: up to 11 cubic metres monthly	\$41.75 *
11.00001 to 57 cubic metres monthly	1.9663/m3
Over 57 cubic metres monthly	1.7183/m3
*Minimum water rate = \$3.7955/m3	
SEWER RATES (billed monthly) **	
Minimum Sewer Rate: up to 11 cubic metres monthly	\$39.43 *
11.00001 to 57 cubic metres monthly	1.8561/m3
Over 57 cubic metres monthly	1.6220m3
* Minimum sewer rate = \$3.5843/m3 or ** Subject to rounding on billings.	

Thursday, November 4, 2021

## GO VAXX bus welcomed by protesters

### **Alex Kurial**

Local Journalism Initiative

More than 50 people hopped on board with getting vaccinated during the latest stop of the GO VAXX bus in Petrolia Monday.

But not everyone was happy to see them.

The bus, which has been travelling Ontario bringing the COVID shot to different communities, parked behind the library from 11 am to 5 pm. This followed Lambton stops over the prior three days in Sarnia and Mooretown. The mobile vaccine clinic usually attracts protestors, but in Lambton, one of the Sarnia events ended early because

of the standoff. The bus is equipped with

freezers so the vaccines can be transported long distances across the province. People come aboard and head to the back of the bus for a shot.

Six to eight workers from different regions man the bus. Bill Gaunt, from Grey-Bruce, was team lead for the Petrolia trip, which included volunteers from Lambton and Chatham-Kent.

Chris Johnstone from Oshawa has been volunteering his weekends for the past three months to ferry the precious cargo around. He says reception to the bus is mostly positive and at times there's more demand than supply.

But the bus occasionally faces opposition too. This was especially the case during the Lambton County swing as protestors turned up at all four locations calling for the vaccines to be stopped.

In Petrolia about half a dozen people with signs shouted that the GO VAXX team was killing people and the vaccines were against God and a tool of the Devil.

A brief quarrel ensued between Gaunt and a protestor after the man repeatedly crossed barriers surrounding the bus. But after some arguing the pair separated peacefully.

The protestors were loud but ultimately outnumbered by the GO VAXX team and



ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO Bill Gaunt, right, talks down one of a handful of protesters in Petrolia.

certainly placed a distant

second to the 53 people that

got their COVID shot.

## Corunna's Hill St. may go on a road diet to lose a couple of lanes to bicyclists

Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

One of Corunna's main streets could soon have dedicated cycling lanes.

St. Clair Township is considering reducing Hill Street's four lane road to two lanes and claiming the outer lanes for cyclists as part of a so-called road diet to reduce traffic problems simply.

A road diet reduces the number of lanes on a roadway to improve safety or provide space for other modes of travel - like bikes.

"Many letters have been received from concerned residents regarding the overall safety of Hill Street," read a report from Paul daSilva, coordinator of engineering.

Hill Street is lined with signs asking drivers to slow down.

"A road diet could resolve a number of concerns as a way to calm traffic and provide cyclists an unimpeded lane for commuting," says daSilva.

A traffic study shows Hill Street is a "good candidate" for the road diet, according to the Ministry of

Environment. They recommend any road with traffic of less than 15,000 vehicles a day should be looked at for repurposing. Hill Street carries about 7,500 vehicles a day according to the April study. daSilva acknowledged not

everyone will be thrilled with the idea.

"Although we feel that the implementation of a road diet will be generally well received, similar projects in other municipalities point to the potential of strong opposition from some residents," he says.

"Generally, the loss of on-street parking is a primary concern, followed by the notion that 'if it isn't broken, then why fix it' mentality."

That's why he recommends a lengthy consultation process, starting with a survey of residents along and adjacent to Hill Street. There would also be public presentations about the concept by the township before a decision is made.

"I don't think this is going to be a fast process, I think we're looking at least a year before we want to make a final decision on this," says daSilva.

Staff will report back to council soon on what the initial survey will ask and how it will be conducted.

Mayor Steve Arnold says he looks forward to learning "a flavour of the feeling of the general population.'

The potential lane changes would stretch from Queen Street to Lyndoch Street. Staff estimate putting in the bike lanes as traffic calming measures would cost about \$5,600.

## Nine bottles of beer on the floor dead giveaway of drunk driver stopped in Forest

### Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

A Kerwood man's third drunk driving conviction will take him off the road for two years.

Joseph O'Rourke, 54, plead guilty in Sarnia Court to driving while more than double the legal alcohol limit at 11 in the morning. He fled police when they tried to stop him.

It was Aug. 30, 2020 when police received complaints of an erratic driver approaching Forest. He appeared drunk and had vomited on himself.

As O'Rourke entered town a waiting OPP car activated its lights and attempted to pull over the maroon Ford pickup. But O'Rourke had other ideas and sped away before suddenly turning into a laneway on Townsend Line.

Police watched him running around backyards before realizing he wasn't going to give himself up willingly. After a brief foot chase they managed to track down O'Rourke and arrest him.

A heavy smell of alcohol, glossy eyes and unsteadiness was noted. There were nine empty Busch beer bottles in his truck.

Justice Krista Leszczynski sentenced him to a \$2,000 fine and a six month conditional sentence for fleeing police. He'll be banned from driving for two years. "The fact that you have been convicted of similar offences in the past, although there is a gap, is still a serious concern to this court. You have repeated that mistake, not just once or twice, and are back

before the court having committed the same offence," says Leszczynski.

"Also aggravating is the fact that your readings are very high and the time of day of this offence, in the middle of the day when one would expect there would be more people on the roadway. As well, obviously your conduct following the stop by the police," she adds.

Leszczynski says O'Rourke's total punishment is more "significant and severe... because of the all too often tragic consequences

that flow from drinking and driving that we are all familiar with in this particular community and across the country."

"I'm remorseful for what I've done. I'm sorry," says O'Rourke.

The first four months of the conditional sentence will be served under house arrest and the final two under curfew. O'Rourke must take counselling for alcohol abuse and can't have any alcohol during the sentence. He'll continue the counselling during his year of probation.



**Christ Anglican Church** 414 Oil Street, Petrolia

> Welcome Back! In-person **Church Services Sunday Mornings** @ 11:00 am

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

St. Paul's **United Church** 4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street In Person Services now taking place 10:30am 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

Pastor: Alex Craig Church Office 519-882-2480 email: 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

St. Andrew's **Presbyterian Church** 416 Queen Street, Petrolia (Behind the Post Office)

> In Person Service now back Sundays @ 10:00 a.m.

Services also available online: www.standrews-petrolia.ca

Pastor John MacIntosh