



Vol. 9, Issue 11 Newsstand Price \$1.50 per week Thursday, November 11, 2021

#### **SALUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVED**



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Lieut. Peter Reintjes of the 4th Battalion RCR and Chief Warrant Officer Morris pay their respects to the fallen during the annual Camlachie Remembrance Service on Sunday. For more photos of the event, see page 2. Remembrance Services are being held across Central Lambton at community cenotaphs starting at 10:45 am today. (Thursday)

## Bid to hold the line on Petrolia municipal taxes fails

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia Councillor Wade Deighton had hoped to hold the line on municipal taxes. It doesn't appear that's going to happen.

The town recently completed its budget deliberations and Monday brought the \$7.4 million document to the public at a virtual meeting.

Taxpayers are looking at a two per cent tax increase - about \$24 more for every \$100,000 of the assessed value of their homes.

Most 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.

But 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.

Anyone purchasing a new or existing home will pay the tax assessment on today's market value. Deighton says with some people's homes now assessed around \$1 million, that could mean a \$15,000 tax bill.

During budget deliberations Oct. 29, 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.

Council rejected the move fearing it would mean "slashing

services" and opted instead to take a half per cent off the increase, asking staff to trim \$30,000.

That's despite the fact the CAO/ Treasurer, Rick Charlebois, told councillors there would be no need to slash services and that any reduction in the budget would simply mean less money would go into the working capital reserve.

It was established in 2014 and now contains \$4 million. The 2022 budget plans to deposit another \$1.5 million into the reserve. That's about 20 per cent of the total budget.

And that raised the eyebrows of experts in municipal finance.

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, and senior economist with the Ontario Ministry of Finance until 2011, says most municipalities add between one and five per cent of the total budget into reserves.

Only one taxpayer asked questions about the budget during the public budget session Monday, concerned about the water issues in the west end of town.

During the council meeting later that evening, Deighton tried again to have council consider holding the line on municipal taxes.

His written motion suggested cutting the full \$1.5 million destined for the working reserve for a zero budget increase, but after talking with the treasurer,

Deighton changed the motion to remove \$120,000 from the budget. That would mean taxpayers would have the same municipal bill as last year and still put \$1.3 million into the working reserve.

Four members of council, Deighton, Councillors Grant Purdy and Marty Souch and Mayor Brad Loosley voted in favour of reconsidering the budget.

Councillors Ross O'Hara, Joel Field and Don Welten - who had all expressed concern about cutting services during budget deliberations, voted against reopening the budget to lower taxes. To reopen the budget, five councillors would have to agree.

Council has one more look at the budget when it approves the 2022 document at its December meeting.

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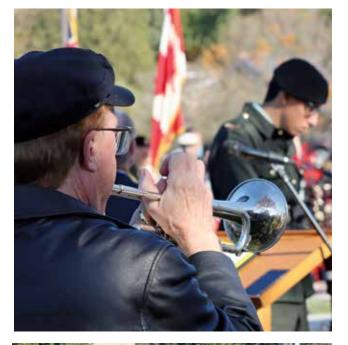
## Remembering in Camlachie

The Camlachie community paused to remember those who lost their lives while in service to the country. Over 200 people gathered in the bright Sunday sunshine to mark the lives of those who served and did not return and to thank those who did. The Camlachie ceremony always begins with the community being led to the cenotaph by a piper, (bottom left). At the cenotaph, wreaths are laid including by Lambton County Warden Kevin Marriott and Plympton-Wyoming Mayor Lonny Napper. Pat Poland laid one of several wreaths in honour of Cpl. Brent Poland - her son - who died in Canada's mission in Afghanistan. Cpl. Poland died with five other Canadian servicemen in April 2007. At the left she lays the wreath for the Silver Cross Mother. Community groups also paid their respects. Below, a member of the Sparks approaches with one of her leaders to place a wreath for those who served. And only the wind and the hum of approaching aircraft could be heard as the last post was played and the community was still remembering those who served.











## Teacher finds inspiration for book in the classroom

The Independent

Steve McGrail didn't have to look very far to find the inspiration for his first book.

The Wyoming man who teaches at Lambton Centennial School outside of Petrolia got some help from a friend and his students and inspiration from Cash McKinnon for his first book A Heart Full of Cash.

The book, according to McGrail, tells the true life events of McKinnon, a Grade 6 student with cerebral palsy who runs cross country, helps McGrail with the school teams and is an accomplished sledge hockey player.

"It was always on my to do list or bucket list to write a book," says McGrail. He had a "few ideas kicking around and I'm like 'I'm seeing the best idea right in front of me every day.' Every time we go to a cross country meet and the effect Cash has on other people, it was pretty amazing.

"Seeing the energy and life that he has - nothing is easy for him and he just keeps working hard and everything he wants to do he does."

Cash had no idea his teacher was writing about him. McGrail just showed up one day and read the book he wrote to the class. Cash says he expected it to be about McGrail's son, Jace, who is a hockey player. But then he realized it was about him. "I just didn't know what to say; I was in shock."

After introducing the story, McGrail worked with other teachers and students at Centennial to make the illustrations for the book. And he contacted a local author and illustrator, Erin Miller Hawryluk, to create the covers.

The book started to come to life in the classrooms, but then, the pandemic interrupted and the students went online, leaving the book on the drawing

This fall, McGrail and his students



So what inspires his 'I can attitude'? "My idol is Terry Fox, to look up to him and see what he could do, I came to the conclusion that I could do it too, because he ran in every condition; that just stuck to me ever since I saw that video and still stuck to me now."

and adults alike can learn a lot from

## Campbell House stands until at least May

says as McGrail quips "You

"I have to start practicing my auto-

in their hands, both are proud of the

work that went into it. McGrail says

Cash has an attitude that everyone can

"He just faces those obstacles with an

'I can attitude' and I think a lot of kids

While they haven't had the hard copy

need a publicist!

learn from.

graph," Cash replies.

**Heather Wright** The Independent

Campbell House will stand for at least six more months.

In October, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority decided to demolish the historic home at AW Campbell Conservation Authority. The former museum, known as Campbell House, is deteriorating with holes in the roof, water damage and animals have done damage inside the building.

Greg Wilcox, manager of conservation areas, told the board of directors he doesn't feel safe going up the stairs of the home.

The move was met with dismay by members of the community who said the home is the last original farmhouse in the area. Many also felt if the conservation authority had maintained the building over the years, it wouldn't have had to make this choice to destroy it.

Brooke-Alvinston council heard of the pending demolition and asked the authority to delay the removal of the home so they could look at some options to maintain the home.

An online petition headed by several local historians also drew over 700 signatures. There were pledges of \$1,800 for repairs and offers to help with the work.

At Thursday's board meeting, Brooke-Alvinston Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek spoke for council and residents who wanted the house to

"I'd hate to see this original house torn down," he said adding "Archie would be turning in his grave if he knew we tore his house down."

While most members of the board of directors were agreeable to give the community six months to try to raise the money to fix the home, they weren't ready to commit any funds to a reconstruction project.

Nemcek hoped the \$16,200 for the demolition of the building could be used on repairs. Instead the board voted to allow the building to stand until May giving the community an opportunity to save it, but at no cost to the conservation authority.

Wilcox added if the plan to save the building failed, it would be likely the home would stand until at least



Campbell House at AW Campbell Conservation Area will stand a little longer. The St Clair Region Conservation Authority has given Alvinston residents until May to see if they can raise enough money to repair the turn of the century farmhouse.

September 2022 since the authority wouldn't complete the work when campers were in the park.



NO PARKING is allowed between November 15th, 2021 to April 15th, 2022 between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on any Township of Warwick streets.

\*In January 2021, Warwick Township Council passed a by-law amendment to change the parking permit period to November 1st until October 31st.

On-Street Parking Permits, for residential vehicles, may be obtained at the Township Office during office hours, at the set fee of \$50.00. Parked vehicles without a permit will

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, please contact office at: 519-849-3926 or info@warwicktownship.ca

www.warwicktownship.ca

TOWN OF PLYMPTON - WYOMING

#### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING A PROPOSED** ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming will hold a Public Meeting on Monday, November 29th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via the electronic platform: GoToMeeting to consider a proposed Zoning By-law Amendment under Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/913043957

You can also dial in using your phone. Canada (Toll Free): 1 888 455 1389 Canada: +1 (647) 497-9391 Access Code: 913-043-957

You are entitled to be part of this public hearing to express your views about this application or you may be represented by Council for that purpose. The following are options for your participation:

letter posted to the address below;

• drop off a letter in the 'dropbox' at the office (address below);

 è-mail the Planning Technician, Ella Lassaline at elassaline@plympton-wyoming.ca.;

 address the Council directly by informing the Planning Technician, Ella Lassaline, by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on November 29th, 2021 for instructions. Note: A personal internet or a telephone connection will be required.

THE PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT would amend the Town's Zoning By-law 97 of 2003 as it applies to all lands in the Town of Plympton-Wyoming with regards to the updated Alternative and Renewable Energy Systems (Green Energy) policies in the Official Plan. The Zoning Bylaw Amendment will enact these policies into regulation.

ANY PERSON may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS in respect of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment can be made to the official listed below.

IF A PERSON or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Plympton-Wyoming before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

IF A PERSON or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Plympton-Wyoming before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

IF YOU WISH to be notified of the approval of the proposed Amendment, you must make a written request to the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, 546 Niagara St, Wyoming, ON. No KEY MAP is included as the lands affected are the entire municipality.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT will be available for public inspection during regular office hours at Town of Plympton-Wyoming, 546 Niagara St, Wyoming, ON and at the public meeting. Note, when considering whether to attend, there is the potential of the amendment not being approved exactly

DATED at the TOWN OF PLYMPTON-WYOMING this 3rd DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2021.

Sarah Baldwin, Senior Planner Town of Plympton-Wyoming 546 Niagara St. PO Box 250, Wyoming, ON NON 1TO (519) 845-3939 | sbaldwin@plympton-wyoming.ca

## Editorial

## They fought for all

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Each year, around Remembrance Day, The Independent uses this space to honour those who gave their life in service to this country. This poem is from a student in Grafton, Ontario. It placed second in the provincial Royal Canadian Legion Poetry Contest in 2019.

Peace by peace they fought for all So on this day, we must recall The soldiers who fought strong and brave For our freedom they would save I can't imagine the fear inside When families heard a loved one died Defending their land in a far away place When countries came first, soldiers last. My poppy, I will wear it proud To honour those who fought out loud In fields of battle, pain and glory I will stay still to hear their story As we stand and bow to pray To remember those who died today The soldiers who gave up their lives for all of us who have survived.

Liam Salzmann, Grafton, ON



Remembrance Day

## **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

All letters need to be signed and must have a phone number for verification.

## **Our Story**



This photo shows the fourth platoon of the A Company 70th Battalion. It's believed some of the soldiers were from Petrolia and served during the First World War. The family names can be seen at the bottom of the photo.

## The joy of construction in my own front yard

I have tried really hard not to be the 'Karen' of Greenfield Street - that middle-aged woman who complains about virtually everything. I haven't voiced my concerns about the slow pace and what I believed to be under performance of the construction company which was paid \$1.6 million to rebuild the road this summer because somehow it seemed unfair.

But, after six months, I am giving myself permission to complain.

I've done enough construction stories in my time to know everyone thinks the road construction in front of their house is THE WORST EVER! And I've seen some ridiculous things over the years. The work on Princess Street dragged on endlessly. The merchants in downtown Petrolia had two years of pounding and dust and trying to direct customers around the construction in the hopes of making a profit.

On Greenfield Street the work

seemed to drag on. Construction workers were able to be on the job from 7 am to 7 pm but rarely stayed past 5 pm. They seemed to miss a lot of days, too, partly because of the rain and partly because they seemed to have spent a huge amount of time reconstructing the part of the golf course at the end of Greenfield after the construction of the storm sewer outlet.

Bizarrely, my neighbour had to use our backyard to get into their house because they couldn't navigate the driveway. One day there was a mound of dirt as high as her house blocking her entrance.

In September, before the theatre opened, the road was finally paved only to have crews return and cut out the pavement around about a dozen manholes, add gravel and repave the neat squares around the circle. It took until October for the laneways of the residents to be repaired. Mine was

a mess with pavement sinking and

barely wide enough for my vehicle to have all four tires on the asphalt. An engineer came by and noticed all the problems and now, in the second week of November, three driveways and some of the new sidewalks are being replaced.

In short; this was a dogs breakfast of a construction project. Heather Wright

Hopefully, the next time around, the town will set clear standards for access to homes, clarify when crews will actually be working and keep a better eye on what's going on in the first place so the job is done right, and in reasonable time, the first



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Publisher / Editor: Heather Wright

news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Reporters: Alex Kurial Sales Associates: sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Classifieds / Graphics: Connie McFadden office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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## **Opinion**

## With rights come responsibilities to let us get back to normal

In Canada "My Rights" are accompanied by "My Responsibilities" as well as "My Respect for Others".

Sarnia-Lambton has a small group of "My Rights (Only)" who are using intimidation/bullying tactics to impose their misguided "anti" views on the local majority.

They bullied a mobile vaccination clinic to shut down early, thereby violating others' rights to be vaccinated.

They have been trying to bully local businesses' "rights" to operate with safe protocols in place and get them to change their business practice.

The vast majority of Canadians, including those in Sarnia-Lambton, have been vaccinated. We have been told that if vaccination rates reach

certain levels, all restrictions will be lifted. It seems that the nay-sayers' attitude is - You get vaccinated and give us non-believers a free ride!

Those who do get vaccinated are doing so to protect themselves and others in order to return to living a normal life.

Taxpayers of Ontario are paying for the treatment of the mostly unvaccinated COVID-19 patients in hospital. Through our health system, we all are paying a heavy price to protect your right to avoid vaccination. The least you can do is respect our right to limit our exposure to the potential of you having and spreading COVID.

Unfortunately, our local Member of Parliament, Marilyn Gladu, in my opinion, is emboldening these naysayers.

- 1) You do not have the right to spread this plague to our children, vulnerable seniors or immunocompromised individuals.
- 2) You do not have the right to freely mingle with those who have taken "The Jab".
- 3) You do not have the right to bully vaccine clinics to close early and violate the rights of others to freely get vaccinated.
- 4) You do not have the right to descend on local businesses trying to bully them into changing their business

With rights come responsibilities.

Dean de Jong Plympton-Wyoming, ON



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6 8 4 6 8 9 5 6 3 9 4 5 8

Level: Intermediate Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues

= CHALLENGING
YOUR INSURANCE SHOULDN'T BE

already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



Enniskillen new home to rare 155 year-old map

Special to The Independent

A rare 1866 map of Enniskillen Township is in the hands of Enniskillen Township - a gift from Charlie Fairbank of Oil Springs.

And it appears to be a one-of-akind since experts in the field and the municipality have never seen a map

The map's reference to "Enniskillen Township, C.W." is another indicator that the map predates Confederation, when Ontario was known as Canada West.

For an unknown number of decades, the 155-year old map hung in the middle office of VanTuyl and Fairbank

The store was established in 1865 by Fairbank's great-grandfather John Henry Fairbank and closed in 2019. It is being emptied and Fairbank thought the township should have the document.

"It seems only right that this historic map should go to Enniskillen Township where it can be viewed and shared, rather than remain in my personal possession," says Fairbank.

Duncan McTavish, the administrator clerk, had never seen the map detailing the northwest corner of the township.

Pouring over the map he noticed that the township had an office on the north side of Rokeby at what is now Oil Heritage Road – not the south where it



Charlie Fairbank and Duncan McTavish of Enniskillen Township with the historic map.

The 1866 map, McTavish noted with a chuckle, shows the township office was adjacent to a tavern.

The map shows and names nearby oil wells and the school that existed on Rokeby Line, just south of the present Centennial School.

Yellowed with age, the document is in good condition because it was framed.

Nicole Aszalos, curator of the County of Lambton archives, was delighted to hear of the 1866 map. The archive

does have 1866 maps of different sections of Enniskillen, but not this particular section.

She hopes to scan it to a high resolution to be available to anyone visiting the archives.

The map shows the landscape of a particularly important time. 1866 is the year that Petrolia was founded as a village. It later became a town in 1874. Enniskillen Township dates back to

1855, just three years before oil was struck in Oil Springs in 1858

## Brooke-Alvinston exploring ways to win more grants

**Heather Wright** 

The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston is looking at hiring someone to help the municipality claim lucrative grants from the provincial and federal governments.

Over the years, the upper levels of government have chosen to give out one-time grants to municipalities for special projects, like road work or to rebuild recreation facilities. But the grant applications are complex and one mistake can be the difference between

claiming thousands of dollars or waiting until the next round of funding.

In a report to council, Clerk/Administrator Janet Denkers said during the pandemic there have been "numerous" applications. Staff have been able to fill out the forms and claimed \$150,000 in 2021.

"Although the number is acceptable and the finances complement aspects of the budget, the time and effort is forced and not always manageable by staff," she wrote.

Denkers suggested the township

considers ways to make it easier. That could include hiring someone who specializes in grant writing for larger amounts of money, look at partnering with other municipal governments in the area to hire someone to work for everyone, or help the staff attend grant writing and economic development courses.

Denkers says Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership and the county which has its own grant writer - could be helpful.

Council gave the okay to look into it.



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#### REMEMBERING EACH VETERAN



Members of the Margaret Stokes IODE, Petrolia Legion and Lambton County Developmental Services are paying tribute to those who served in Central Lambton. The groups went to cemeteries in Petrolia, Oil City and Wyoming to place white crosses to represent each veteran buried there. In Petrolia, pictured here, the crosses were placed in front of the Veteran's Memorial Garden.

## Great Lakes teacher guilty of sexual assault on student

**Alex Kurial** 

Local Journalism Initiative

A Great Lakes Secondary School teacher has been found guilty of sexual assault and sexual exploitation.

Tyler Shaw, 37, listened as Justice Kevin McHugh thoroughly rebuked his defence against claims he had five sexual encounters with an underage girl both while she was a student and after her graduation in 2020. "I find his evidence to be self-serving, disingenuous, contrived and at times intention-

ally false," says McHugh.
Shaw and Defence Lawyer Phillip Millar attempted to paint the girl as lacking credibility and said the teacher, who was married at the time, only had one sexual encounter with her.

But McHugh didn't accept the argument, saying during testimony the girl "struck me as a mature and intelligent young woman. She was a measured and careful witness who would readily acknowledge when she was unsure on a particular point."

"There was nothing in her version of

the events that unfolded that I found to be implausible," he says.

That version outlined how the pair developed a relationship while she was a student in Shaw's Grade 12 class. Following that meetings at her home, Shaw's home and on country back roads, developed into sex. The girl testified these engagements happened five times, three while she was still a Great Lakes student and two in the summer.

McHugh dismantled Shaw's defence throughout the Nov. 5 judgement, including his belief there was nothing wrong with meeting her outside of school. "There were any number of reasons not to. COVID restrictions about being with people from other households for one. The real possibility of marital discord if his wife were to find out about the clandestine rendezvous for two."

"And of course the potential of having to provide a difficult explanation to his employer were they to find out meet in person."

When Shaw says it was the girl's wishes, "This evidence was preposterous and I reject it out of hand," the justice responded.

McHugh also concluded Shaw was in a position of trust toward the girl. "The entirety of their relationship had, at its genesis, the student-teacher dynamic... His actions were intentional, prolonged, measured, insidious and ultimately criminal... He touched the complainant in sexual circumstance having induced the complainant to engage therein by abusing his position of trust," says McHugh.

Lambton Kent District School Board officials said after the verdict that Shaw has not been in the school since the allegations came to light. Because Shaw has been convicted, provincial law prohibits him from teaching again. The 2016 Protecting Students Act strips the teaching licence of any teacher convicted of sexual offences, meaning Shaw will never return to the classroom in addition to his pending

#### about them. The better question really is 'why?' as opposed to 'why not?' criminal punishment.

Heather Wright

The Independent

The closure of Aberarder School in Plympton-Wyoming is one step closer.

The provincial government has given about \$4.7 million to the Lambton-Kent District School Board to purchase land near the arena complex in Forest for a new Kindergarten to Grade 12 school which will combine Aberarder Central School, Bosanquet Central School, Kinnwood Central School in Forest and North Lambton Secondary School.

The board has been looking at reducing the number of schools in the region since 2016. The number of students attending the schools at the time had dropped steadily.

North Lambton Secondary School is by far the smallest high school in Lambton with 535 students in the building which can hold nearly 900. The board is projecting by 2024 there will be 577 students there.

Province provides \$4.7M for land for Forest super school

In 2016, Aberarder was projected to have just 78 students by 2026. In June the board projected that would now be 141 students by 2024

Plympton-Wyoming council asked the board of education to consider letting students from the Aberarder Central School go to the Errol Village School in Camlachie. That request was turned down with administration saying 75 per cent of the Aberarder students had chosen to go to Forest for high school anyway.

And projections by the board show

that might not be possible anyway Errol Village school will have 284 students by 2024 – a 149 per cent occupancy rate.

Errol Village is bound to get even more cramped. Plympton-Wyoming has seven different subdivisions with a potential of 1,039 housing units in the school catchment area.

Three years ago, the Ministry of Education announced a \$27.4 million investment to build a new Kindergarten to Grade 12 school in Forest along with a two room Child and Family Centre and a one-room child care centre which will provide 24 new child care spaces.

The timeline for completion of the Kindergarten to Grade 12 school is still to be determined.

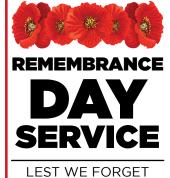
### Hospital deals with outbreak

Lambton Public Health has declared an outbreak at Bluewater Health after four people tested positive for COVID-19.

Julia Oosterman, chief of communications for the hospital, said Nov. 5 two patients and two Bluewater Health staff tested COVID-19 positive in one unit of the

"Outbreaks have been occurring at hospitals all across the world since the onset of the pandemic. While vaccinations do not 100 per cent prevent people from getting COVID, they do significantly reduce the risk of hospitalization, serious illness, or death. Vaccination also prevents the risk of significant spread of the infection," she says.

"We are confident we are able to get this outbreak under control, as we have each time we have had COVID in our hospital. Not only has the source of the outbreak been removed, but impacted staff are all isolating at home," Oosterman said. "The news could have been much worse without mandatory vaccinations in place."



THURSDAY **NOVEMBER 11** 

> @ 11 AM at the

Wyoming Cenotaph in case of rain held

at Wyoming Legion **Lunch to Follow** 

All proceeds go

to local youth

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## Sarnia Lambton MP Gladu out of Conservative 'shadow cabinet' after vaccine remarks

**Heather Wright**The Independent

Sarnia-Lambton's MP is no longer in the Conservative Shadow Cabinet.

Leader Erin O'Toole unveiled his cabinet Tuesday and Marilyn Gladu was not among the 49 names.

Gladu has been silent since an interview with CTV's Question Period where she talked about vaccine mandates and the new Civil Liberties Cabinet where she compared the relative risk of COVID-19 to polio. Gladu says the group is looking out for the rights of the unvaccinated. The comments which drew the most fire were when Gladu compared COVID-19 to polio.

"In terms of the risk, people that got polio, many of them died and many of them were crippled, and that is not the same frequency of risk that we see with COVID-19... I'm just receiving the information from medical experts that talk about the relative risk. I'm not a doctor myself," Gladu told Evan Soloman.

required his caucus to be vaccinated, chided Gladu a day later while speaking with reporters.
"It's important for

Erin O'Toole, who has not

members of Parliament to advocate for their constituents who may be losing a job or may need reasonable accommodation, we do that all the time on a range of issues. But it's very different to cause confusion with respect to the health and well-being of Canadians and Ms. Gladu's interview did that yesterday," he told reporters on Monday.

an interview with the MP about her comments, but was told by staff she was unavailable.

Instead, we were offered a

written statement which was also posted on social media. "I would like to apologize for my inappropriate

for my inappropriate comments about COVID-19 vaccines during a recent CTV interview," Gladu wrote.

"Upon reflection, I recognize how dangerous it is to share misinformation about the severity of COVID-19 and the safety and efficacy of vaccines. I retract these comments in

full.

"I apologize unreservedly to Canadians. I also apologize to my caucus colleagues and Leader for the distraction my comments have created," she says.

"Vaccines are a safe and effective way to limit the spread of COVID-19 and prevent serious illness. I encourage every Canadian, who is able, to get vaccinated.

"When it comes to the safety and efficacy of vaccines, it should be physicians and public health experts who advise Canadians, not politicians."

In September 2020, after the leadership race where she was a candidate for the Conservative Party's top job, Gladu was named Shadow Minister for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario and critic of the President of the Queen's Privy Council.

Tuesday, her name did not appear on the list of 49 MPs tasked to hold the Liberals to account. Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MP Lianne Rood has been named Shadow Minister for Rural Economic Development & Rural Broadband Strategy.

## Dad hopes to give LCCVI parents the gift of connection with their autistic children

**Alex Kurial** 

Local Journalism Initiative

With a little help from his friends, Mike Primeau and the Playroom Experiment have realized the goal of installing a pinball machine at LCCVI.

And they're hoping the idea will catch on with every high school in the county.

Adorned with John, Paul, George and Ringo, along with their trademark instruments, the new Beatles themed toy was unveiled in the alternative learning space of LCCVI last week. Vice principal Scott Watson was on hand and played a few rounds of the bumper game with students.

As fun as the game is, Primeau explains there's a lot more to the activity than meets the eye.

Primeau's son has autism and he says stimulating

activities like video games and pinball helped them connect.

The Conservative Leader,

"I used gaming to come to his world and validate him as a person... When he was being validated as he was, he began to use gaming spaces as a way to embrace social convention outlets," says Primeau. Their favourite activities were playing Pac-Man and a pinball machine in their home.

Primeau has noticed positive steps in both his son's behaviour and schoolwork after finding this connection.

"During that time I learned a lot and he taught me really important life lessons about being good and being empathetic, which are very different things."

Primeau would invite other parents and their kids over to play and connect. A few times a year they would all go to the Microsoft store at Yorkdale Mall in Toronto

Petrolia

for mass gaming sessions.

The Independent asked for

But COVID closed the door on these group gatherings. So Primeau asked,"What would happen if we brought this to the school where it could exist everyday?"

Primeau got in touch with fellow Wallaceburg native Watson and the two began collaborating. "He's moved mountains for us," says Primeau.

Soon the Playroom Experiment had raised \$12,000 in just eight months. In addition to the pinball machine this allowed them to add a \$2,000 board games library and a Nintendo Switch video game to the Petrolia classroom.

And the kids are involved with the work, too. Keegan Hornbostel is the inaugural student ambassador for the program and will design accessible Super Mario levels for kids to play. Future

ambassadors will contribute in different ways to the program.

"Essentially what we're doing is creating a space where anyone can play with anyone and we can start to really break barriers when it comes to social isolation," says Primeau.

"Even if you have kids that aren't living with special needs, kids are struggling to reach out when they're having a hard time. And we want this space to serve that purpose."

Primeau says there's still work to be done in Petrolia. The group is seeking donations to help maintain the program including software, new games and upkeep. He credits the Petrolia TD Bank, Sarnia's District Beta gaming centre and a strong international response for their help so far.

Primeau calls back to his son for the original inspira-



ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Jaime Jolly and Keegan Hornbostel take a turn at a new game at LCCVI's special education department along with Mike Primeau.

tion and for his motivation going forward.

"It's unbelievable how this has changed this boy's life.

"And this is the same gift we want to give to kids at the school."

GET YOUR FLU SHOT HERE

Community Theatre

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, Nov 22nd 7:30 pm

Virtual Meeting on GoToMeeting
Link information available at
www.petroliatheatre.com

Tis' the Season ...for Flu
by Dr. Charles Winegard

– ADVERTORIAL –



Charlotte's Corner November is officially here, Halloween is over, and holiday advertising is already everywhere we turn. The colder weather is also upon us; which in healthcare means, flu season.

You may have noticed a stronger push this year and last to encourage the public to get their annual flu shot. This is because our healthcare system is still battling another highly contagious and serious disease: COVID-19 and its' variants. Before the pandemic, the flu season was already a very busy season for our healthcare system. Last year's flu season was milder, likely because of all the health measures taken to prevent COVID-19 transmission. This year, as those measures are eased, flu transmission is expected to increase.

Now more than ever, it's important to get your flu shot – flu prevention is necessary to lessen the strain on our already burdened healthcare system. The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones is to get the flu shot every year, and get it early.

Here are some reasons why getting the flu shot is a good idea:

Vaccination is the most effective way to reduce the impact of influenza. Although the flu
vaccine is not always 100% effective due to various strain sensitivities, it greatly reduces
the chance of various influenza-related illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths

- $\bullet$  The earlier you get it, the better, as it can take up to two weeks to build up immunity
- If you get the flu even after being vaccinated, studies have shown the severity of the illness is reduced
- When you get vaccinated against the flu, you build up your own immunity, as well as our community's collective herd immunity
- Getting the flu vaccine provides protection for people in our community who are immunocompromised and at high risk of serious complications from the flu.
- According to several randomized controlled clinical trials, when healthcare workers were vaccinated against influenza, the incidence of death in the patients they cared for was reduced
- The flu vaccine is safe and well tolerated and you cannot get the flu from the shot. Mild reactions include soreness, redness or swelling where the vaccine was given, lasting up to two days. Serious reactions from the vaccine are rare. Even those with egg allergies can safely receive the vaccine

It's also important to continue practicing frequent hand-washing, sneezing or coughing into your sleeve, wearing masks when indoors, and staying home when you are sick to reduce the risk of spreading infection.

To learn more about the flu and where you can get your flu shot, visit, www.lambtonpublichealth.ca



## We Will Remember

Florence residents gathered Sunday to mark Nov. 11



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

People from Florence paused to remember the nine men who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars. The Thamesville Legion hosted the annual Remembrance Day service Sunday. Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad (below) laid one of the wreaths during the service. Pastor Justin Comber of the St. Matthew's Anglican Church in Florence gave the blessing (top right). Dawn-Euphemia Councillor, Ann Gray, helped her grandson.





## Death knell for the Silverdome

#### Alex Kurial

Local Journalism Initiative

Barring some sort of miracle the dilapidated Silverdome in Courtright is likely headed for demolition in the new year.

The hall has a laundry list of required fixes to even make it safe to use, including rust, mold, concrete cracking and water damage. An engineering report says it's not even known whether all the repairs are possible, particularly given the corroding metal exterior which needs to be sandblasted.

The estimated cost of repairs according to St. Clair Township staff was quoted at \$272,000 in March, but it's already believed the current number is probably higher and would continue to rise.

A demolition would be far cheaper, staff said, at \$37,100.

"We have not taken any of this lightly as this is a beloved building in the community," says Kendall Lindsay, director of community services, in a

report to council.

"We have shown this project to several contractors and now an engineering company that all believe it is a better option to demolish the existing facility and build new," says Lindsay.

Council didn't discuss any

Council didn't discuss any concrete plans for a new hall but did hear it could cost up to \$3.75 million to replace.

This is up about \$1 million from the previous quote. Staff attributed this increase to the "lumber boom."

But the final nail wasn't put in the hall's coffin just yet.



Mould and water inside the Silverdome in Courtright. It is likely to be torn down.

Deputy Mayor Steve Miller says he'd like to have a meeting with groups who used the hall, such as the Optimist Club, and see if there's any final ideas or suggestions on repairs or alternatives to demolition.

Lindsay says he'll set up the meeting soon. If feelings remain the same after, council will approve with dismantling of the 60 year-old hall.

### **IPM SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**







SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Three post-secondary students from Lambton County were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships from proceeds of the 1991 International Plowing Match held in Lambton. Rewarded for their community involvement and scholastic ability were Emma Bulgin, from Enniskillen, Kevin McGrail, from Plympton-Wyoming, and Amanda Palocz, from St. Clair Township.

## Flyers bow Flags in Round Two

The Independent

The Petrolia Flyers had leads of 2-0 and 3-1 in the first period against Mooretown last Thursday at Greenwood but couldn't hold on bowing to the Flags, 6-4.

Andrew Jaques had two goals for Petrolia with the others going to Logan McLinchey and Peyton Armitage.

Jake Vince scored twice to lead Mooretown with Greg Hay adding an empty net goal and two assists.

Logan Gardner, Ayden Letang and Quinton

Johnston had the others for the Flags.

Nathan King turned aside 22 shots for the win between the pipes. Tyler Richardson took the loss with 38 saves. The Flags outshot the Flyers, 44-26.

Petrolia, 1-5-2 on the season, are at home to Essex Thursday and then take on the Thunderhawks in Wallaceburg Saturday. Both games start at 7:30.

The Flyers lost 8-1 in Essex last Tuesday. The 73's scored five powerplay goals in the victory, including four in the third period. Josh Jamieson had the lone goal for

## Flags rally for home ice victory over Kings

The Independent

Logan Gardner scored 12 seconds into the extra period to lift the Mooretown Flags to a 5-4 win over Dresden in PJHL action Saturday in the south Lambton community. Gardner had tied the game with just over a

minute left in regulation time.

Greg Hay, Ethan Kerby and Kyle Flamminio also scored for the Flags who rallied from 3-0 and 4-2 deficits to earn the two points in the standings.

Nathan King and Logan Phillips combined to make 25 saves for the Flags. Mooretown has now won four straight games and is 8-1 overall. The Flags host Lakeshore Saturday

The Canadiens are 9-0. They take on the Sharks in Wheatley Wednesday.

## Squires bow to Port Elgin in senior play

The hometown Saugeen Shores Winterhawks struck for three goals in each of the second and third periods for a 6-2 win over the Petrolia Squires in Western Ontario senior hockey in Port Elgin.

Jesse Ferguson and Brent Sauve had given the Squires a 2-0 lead by late in the second period before the Hawks rebounded Friday. Isaac McLean assisted on both Petrolia

Anthony Hurtubise took the goaltending loss. The Squires outshot the Winterhawks, 40-35

Petrolia, now 2-3-1 on the season, has the rest of this week off.

The next game is a home contest against Seaforth on Nov. 19 at 8:30.

## Killer Bees silenced by Thunder in WOSHL

Grant Spence had two goals and two assists and Tommy Lee made 35 saves in his Alvinston debut, but it wasn't enough as the Killer Bees lost 8-4 to the Tillsonburg Thunder in Western Ontario Super Hockey League action on Saturday. The Thunder pulled away with four goals in the second period, outshooting the Bees, 43-23 on

the night. Sebastian Nogueira and Blair Derynck had the other Alvinston goals.

Lee, a former Thunder goaltender, signed with the Killer Bees last Friday.

The Bees take on the Fighting Irish in Stratford Saturday. Alvinston's next home game is against Élora on Friday, Nov. 19 at 8:30.

## LCCVI grads crack top 20 at NYC Marathon

Brooke-Alvinston's Krista DuChene finished fifth in her age group and 40th overall among women competitors at last weekend's New York City Marathon. Her time was 2:52.56.

Meantime, another LCCVI grad Terry Ditmars was 17th in his age group on the men's side in a time of 2:49.08. His time

was the fifth best among all Canadians in the race.

DuChene now lives in Brantford while Ditmars lives in Bowmanville.

Some 30,000 athletes from around the globe ran in the 50th anniversary event on Sunday. Runners from Kenya were the overall men's and women's champions

#### Lancers close season with a doubleheader Thursday

The curtain will come down on the LCCVI girls' basketball regular season with a doubleheader at Great Lakes Thursday (Nov. 11). The juniors will tip off at 5:45 and the seniors at 7:15.

The seniors fell to 3-6 with losses to St. Pat's and Chatham-Ursuline last week while the juniors lost by 16 points to North Lambton.

In senior tier 2 action, North Lambton bowed to Lambton Kent Composite and rebounded for a one-sided victory over Chatham Christian to improve to 6-2. The Eagles close out their regular season with a game at Blenheim on Thursday at 5:45. North Lambton hosted Tilbury on Tuesday but the score was not available prior to our weekly press time.

## Carson Perry's point streak now in double digits

Petrolia Oilers grad Carson Perry now has the second longest point scoring streak in the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League. He has registered a point in each of his last 11 games with the Strathroy Rockets dating

back to Oct. 9, including five points in three games last week. Only Glencoe's Zach Power has a longer streak. They'll go head to head this weekend in Strathroy, Saturday night at 7:10 pm.

### RESPECT



LIMITLESS PHOTOGRAPHY - THERESA CHALMERS PHOTO

Assistant Captain Scott Case of the Alvinston Killer Bees and Mike Findlay of the Tillsonburg Thunder help the President of the Alvinston Legion, Jack MacDonald, off the ice at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre after the puck drop of the Remembrance Day game Nov. 4.

#### FORM 6 SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER Municipal Act, 2001

Ontario Regulation 181/03 Municipal Tax Sales Rules

#### 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

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.

<u>Description of Lands:</u> 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

**Classified Deadline:** Monday @ 12 noon

## Classifieds



#### **Real Estate**



5459 Confederation Line **PLYMPTON-WYOMING** 

Ideal Horse/hobby farm 20 acres near Sarnia on Confederation Line includes 4 acres of fenced pasture and 14 acres of level workable fertile soil for extra income. The barn has a hay and straw mow existing stalls and a run in for horses, currently beef cows. Former chicken house for storage and a recent storage shed 32'x48' with 50% insulated providing a heated garage / workshop / mancave. The inside smokeless wood heating system heats the house, shop, pool and hot water tank very economically. A forced air propane furnace with central air is a back up system. The 4-bedroom 1-1/2 storey home is in move in condition, numerous updates, huge deck at the rear leads to the above ground heated pool for extended family fun. Trees and landscaping give plenty of privacy. Act now! Won't last long.

#### 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

#### Wanted



#### **Wanted: Farmland**

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

#### **Wanted to Buy**

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



MONDAY **@ 12 NOON** 

#### In Memory



In Memory of **DOUG** 

who passed away on November 14, 2019

Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us everyday, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed and very dear.

Lovingly remembered and deeply missed by his wife Pat, his daughter Pamela, son-in-law Tom and grandsons Jack and Will.

#### **Card of Thanks**



The family of the late **Glenn Rogers** thank all the family, friends and neighbours who remembered Glenn with donations and attendance at the cemetery service. Edith, Cathy, Tom

### Thank you!

I would like to sincerely thank all the organizers especially Krystal Minielly and Brooke Grift for my

"Surprise" Retirement Party from C.E.E.

It was great to see everybody that I haven't seen in forever. Thank you for all the beautiful gifts, cards and well wishes.

Very unexpected and very appreciated. It was a great time.

Thank you, so very much. Mary O'Hara Hewitt



Brought to you by:

519.882.1290 4146 Petrolia Line



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#### **Obituary**



**KEARNS** Rosemary Joan (n Sheppard)

Passed awav peacefully at Fiddick's Nursing Home, Petrolia on Saturday, November 6, 2021. Rosemary Joan Kearns (nee Sheppard) of Petrolia and formerly of Raleigh Township, was in her **97th year**. Rosemary was predeceased by her husband Henry "Hank" Kearns (2009) and her son, Peter (Maryanne) (1999), and her brother Alfred Sheppard. She will be missed by her daughters Nancy Hind (Brian) and Susan McEwan (Rolfe). Grandchildren Candace Hind-Dersch (T.J), Courtney Hind (Chad), Katy Hind (Matt), Bryce McEwan (Lanna), Megan McEwan, Travis McEwan (Laura), Jeremy Kearns, Christopher Kearns (Crystal), and her 11 great-grandchildren Carter, Hudson, Logan, Lauren, Audrey, Ada, Simon, Myla, Parker, Dustin and Emily. Born in London, England, she met Henry during World War II when she was part of London Fire Service. She considered herself a Pioneer on a great adventure when she came to Canada as a War Bride in 1945. Rosemary was well known as skilled card player, a voracious reader, and enjoyed spending time at her cottage near Port Loring. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 2 pm at the Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 4059 Petrolia Line, Petrolia. Visitors will be received prior to the service from 12:30 pm to the service time. Masks are mandatory in the Funeral Home. As expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Petrolia Community Fund (www. sarniacommunityfoundation. ca) and Sarnia Humane Society (www.sarniahumanesociety.com). Arrangments by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamiav. com.

#### **Obituary**



WILL **Ethel Grace** 

Ethel lived 100 years upon

God's earth and died on November 2, 2021. Ethel Grace McLaughlin was born at home on the Second Line of Moore to John and Pearl McLaughlin on August 1, 1921. A devoted daughter, she truly honoured her parents in word and deed. Ethel was a loving sister to Jack, Lorraine and Charles. Dearly loved by her husband Roy É Will, together they savoured the good gifts of life for 55 years. Ethel's journals tell of their rural life on the Sixth Line of Moore. Ethel was proud to be a farmer. After 8 decades of farm life, Ethel learned to appreciate apartment life at Queen Victoria Place in Petrolia. In 2015 she reluctantly moved down the road to Meadowview Villa where caring staff on the third floor caught glimpses of the beautiful lady who was hidden in the disguise of dementia. Ethel was a dedicated mum, loved by Bob, Connie and Don. Ethel was a loving and beloved grandma to Jeremy, Michelle, Elizabeth, David, Jessica, Danny and Yettie, and was delighted to be a GG. Her favourite son-in-law, Wayne, loved her too. Aunt Ethel was dear to many nieces and nephews. Ethel has finished her fight with dementia. Those of us who can still remember are blessed to now keep the precious memories of this much loved lady. Family and friends were réceived at STEADMAN BROTH-ERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigden on Friday, November 5, 2021. Funeral service was held on Saturday, November 6, 2021. Interment followed at Moore Union Cemetery. In her honour, let us please be kind to one another. You may direct your expressions of sympathy through donations to where you choose. Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.steadmanbrothers.ca. Steadman Brothers 519-864-

Word Classifieds: \$10 plus tax for up to 40 words Stop in at the office 9a-5p Mon-Fri – 4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728 or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

**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 Sunday's @ 10:30am

**Rev Carol Ferguson** Church Office: 519-882-1390 www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

## First Baptist Church

418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

IN PERSON CHURCH SERVICE Sunday Mornings 10:30am

Pastor: Alex Craig Church Office 519-882-2480

email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca 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)

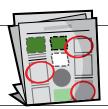
In Person Service now back Sundays @ 10:00 a.m.

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



Pastor John MacIntosh

**Classified Deadline:** Monday @ 12 noon



## Classifieds



## **Death Notices** November 2 - 6, 2021

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

HARRIS, Kenneth Melvin

McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

WILL, Ethel Grace

(n McLaughlin) Age 100, of Petrolia Steadman Brothers Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

MARTIN, Jack David

Age 86 D.J. Robb Funeral Home

WILLS, Patricia Anne (n Miller)

Age 74, of Dresden

Badder F.H. & Reception Centre

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4** SPINKS, James "Jim" Kevin

Age 68, of Sarnia Needham-Jay Funeral Home

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

**CROMBEEN**, Geraldine

(n Gerrits)

Geradina Johanna Petronella Age 85, of Petrolia (Corunna) Knight Funeral Home

**DERLIS, Simeon "Sam"** Age 74, of Sarnia D.J. Robb Funeral Home

JARMASZ, Jo-Anne (n Bannister)

Age 80, of Corunna Knight Funeral Home

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

**KEARNS**, Rosemary Joan

(n Sheppard) Age 96, of Petrolia (Raleigh Twp) Needham-Jay Funeral Home

ST ONGE, Carmelle Jacqueline Age 93

McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

SHAW, Marilyn Louise

(n Coates) Age 90, of Wallaceburg (Dresden) Badder F.H. & Reception Centre

## lendar

**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** LOCATION EVENT Wyoming Remembrance Day Service @ Wyoming Cenotaph (held at Legion in case of rain) Lunch to follow, fully vaccinated and covid rules apply Lambton 60th Anniversary of Lambton Centre (formerly Lambton United Nov13 3-7p Centre Church Camp). Tickets online at: LambtonCentre.com Nov18 Oil Springs Optimist Meat Bingo, fully vaccinated and covid rules apply Watford Warwick Horticultural Society Christmas Open House 19-21 and Craft Show: Fri., Nov 19 - 1-7p; Sat., Nov. 20 - 9a-4p; Sun., Nov 21 – 10a-4p Nov20 9a-2p Wyoming Vendor Craft Show at Wyoming Legion. Lunch available. Proof of vaccination & ID required. Covid rules in effect.

Alvinston Legion Honours and Awards

On Nov. /, after a year and a half of COVID lockdown the Alvinston Legion opened its doors hosting the 2021 annual Honours and Awards dinner. The Legion's Padre Jo-Anne Symington read a letter written by her son, Nathan, which was a school assignment for Remembrance Day. He was 15 at the time; it was insightful, poignant and a little brutal weaving a visual picture of what it would have been like as a young man in the trenches.

Affiliate and Associate pins were handed out to Kim Lee, Simon Lee,

Kyle McEachern, Bill Oke, Robert Sauve, Mike Van Leerzem, Arnold Black, Shawn Ritchie, Kim Ritchie, Justin Ritchie, Ken Randall, Mary Randall, Dan Cumming, Tony Belan, Ron Carlton, Ken Dew, Karen Smith, Jovce Vlcek and Marlene Gurchin (25 years). A membership bar went to Mary Ann Williamson.

The ladies Auxiliary handed out awards to Deb Narr, Betty Long, Blossom Smith, Carol Ann White and a 45 year pin to Jean Paterson.

After 39 years service, Terry MacDonald received a Lifetime Membership.

## Learning the stories of children in residential schools

**Heather Wright** 

The Independent

Small, solemn hands reach up to touch Chanie Wenjack.

The children from Plympton-Wyoming Public School have just learned the little boy's story. Chanie was one of thousands of Indigenous kids who were taken from parents to go to residential schools across Canada. Chanie, who was just six, ran away and died while trying to walk 600 kilometres home.

Maggie Lynch is one of the teachers telling the young students the nation's dark history during Treaty Week.

"There are some hard conversations, but they've been very enlightening, and the children have been very engaged and open and interested. So it's been quite powerful... the older children are even asking some hard questions about what was really going on. And we're answering it truthfully. And I think it's just improving their empathy.

"The little ones, they can imagine, they wouldn't want to be in the shoes of Chanie Wenjack."

After learning the story of Chanie, the entire school walked through Wyoming Nov. 4, then tied orange ribbons at a tree in Canton Park.

Lynch is keen to teach about residential schools saying even as a university history major, she learned nothing about the horrors of the schools and our government's role in them. "We never talked about this. And I know that's similar with some other teachers as well. So we are learning as we're going and we're sharing our knowledge and our understanding and our compassion with the younger ones. So hopefully, it'll open up their hearts and understanding."

Lynch says learning and sharing the stories now will make Canada stronger in the end. "We should know better if you want to do better."



IEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Students from Plympton-Wyoming Public School were learning about residential schools during Treaty Week. The students learned the story of Chanie Wenjack who ran away from the Kenora residential school he was forced to attend.

### Bid to end vaccine passport fails

**Heather Wright** 

The Independent

A bid to ask the province to remove vaccine passport rules by Warwick's mayor has failed.

Jackie Rombouts wanted Lambton County Council to "bring equality back to Ontario" citing situations of families being torn apart and people's mental health being affected because they are barred from some of the things they want to do because they are not vaccinated.

The province now requires people who want to eat in restaurants or go to bars or arenas to show proof of vaccination. Rombouts made it clear when the province announced the program in September, she felt it was divisive and would not support businesses which enforced the rules.

Nov. 4, at Lambton County council, Rombouts reiterated she is not against the vaccine and has volunteered at the county's vaccine clinics, but she believes the vaccine mandates and passports have created divisions.

"You have an opportunity to be a hero," she told councillors before the vote.

Sarnia City/Councillor Margaret Bird was the only person to speak in favour of the motion saying "There has never been so much divisiveness in the Country of Canada... it must be stopped now.

"It has already pitted children and parents against each other... next will come threats to access to health care and driving licenses... Our freedoms are being eroded," she added saying we are close to Remembrance Day and invoking the sacrifices of veterans.

For several minutes, Bird provided widely discredited theories about COVID-19 and the vaccine and likened it to a flu. She also noted her research shows the country's death rate has only increased marginally in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over 29,052 Canadians have died of the virus since the beginning of the pandemic – even with the public health measures which have been taken.

St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold took offense at Bird's characterization of COVID-19 as a flu saying it hurt, particularly for families who lost loved ones. "Try and tell their family that COVID is not real." He added even if people are not dying from the virus, it's changing their lives. Arnold spoke of a young family where a child brought the virus home from day care. "Dad is a COVID long hauler and now he can't work."

Sarnia City/Councillor Brian White agreed with Rombouts that "there is a level of coercion" involved with vaccine passports and he wished they could have "tried other things before we got to this" but he noted the province has set out clear timelines to end vaccine passports and remove masks by the end of March.

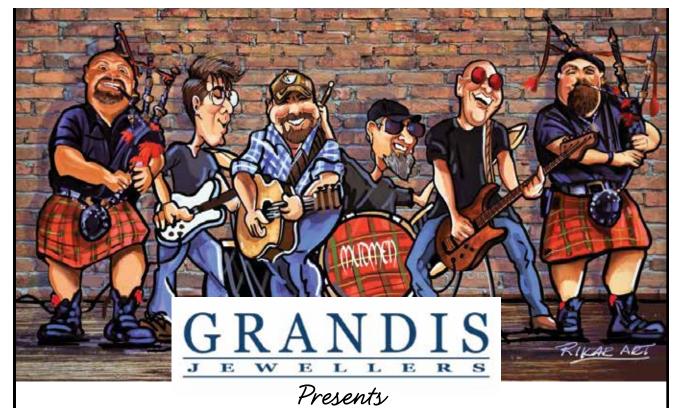
"It's slow, as it should be with medical evidence, but by March they will hopefully be resolved."

Rombouts suggested it may be too late for some people. The mayor says she has empathy for people with "this illness" but she also has empathy for people with addictions which have been worsened in the pandemic.

"I don't want more division in this county or this council," she said.

"My intention is to help the people who are suffering right now," Rombouts added, her voice cracking.

In the end, only Rombouts and Bird supported the motion.



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