

## COMMUNITY FRIDGE OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Larry Leckie of St. Paul's United Church in Petrolia examines the best before date on some donated buns as he restocks the shelves of the new Community Fridge now open beside the church. The Community Fridge is meant to provide people in need with food immediately, seven days a week. The refrigerator will be open from 8 am to 8 pm. For more see page 6.

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

## Kettle and Stony Point residential school survivor to meet Pope

**Cathy Dobson**  
Local Journalism Initiative

Seventy years after suffering abuse at a residential school in Brantford, Kettle and Stony Point's Marlene Cloud is invited to meet with Pope Francis at the Vatican and intends to ask for an apology.

If she gets one, she will be the first residential school survivor from Ontario to receive an apology in-person from the Pope ahead of his planned visit to Canada next year.

"We were abused and robbed of our childhood," said the 80 year-old Cloud. "Why wouldn't he apologize?"

She is one of 13 Canadian delegates selected by The Assembly of First Nations

(AFN) to meet with Pope Francis on Dec. 20. The trip to speak with the Holy Father is described by the AFN as the next step in completing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #58, which calls on the Pope to issue an apology to survivors.

Amid a growing number of calls for a papal apology for the Catholic Church's role in the notorious residential schools, the Pope agreed to meet with three groups of Indigenous survivors – First Nations, Metis and Inuit.

Cloud will represent First Nations from Ontario.

"I found out about a month ago and said to myself, that can't be true," she said. "I am scared to go because I've never been in a

plane but I am okay meeting the Pope. It's overwhelming but it's also an honour."

She was only six years old in 1947 when she and five siblings were forced to leave their home at Kettle and Stony Point.

"We had no choice and after a few years, it felt like being in jail," said Cloud. "The people who were supposed to look after us, carried around big straps and just whacked us all the time."

She remembers feeling the strap across her back when she broke a rule and opened a window at the school.

"This really happened. I was only six years old. We'd get strapped for being too loud and for using our native language. That was the biggest thing."

SEE VISIT PG 3

## OPP investigated Petrolia councillor watching staff

*Charges never laid; town investigator suggests workers "watched" for "cost constraint"*

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

A member of Petrolia's senior staff went to the OPP with concerns about a councillor who constantly observed town staff at work.

That's the crux of the issue which led to an investigation of a staff/council relations issue in Petrolia.

The town released a report by Investigator John Fleming Nov. 25, and while the names of the councillor and the senior staffers involved were not provided, the report clearly lays out a simmering issue which Fleming indicated stemmed from the desire to make sure the town was cost efficient.

No criminal charges were laid and it is unclear whether Fleming recommended any action against the councillor since much of his recommendations are redacted. The investigator's report does say a senior staffer went out on their own to deal with the situation instead of telling the chief administrative officer who should have dealt with any staff complaints.

The seven page summary says a town councillor had been following town staff at work and taking photos of them. Staff approached the councillor and he committed to putting the camera away.

But Fleming said while the camera was put away, the town staff said there were still people driving by watching their work – something the workers classified as "creepy" although it was not always clear who was watching the town employees work.

Fleming says "concerns were raised by more than one employee of the town."

SEE INVESTIGATION PG 3

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The Corunna Santa Claus parade made spirits bright for hundreds of people lining the parade route Saturday night. The first major snowfall of the year couldn't have come at a more picture perfect time.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS  
The snow made the scene perfect for the parade, and provided a little fun for people on the floats (top). The Scouts proved they are always prepared in their warmest clothing and a little dog got a great view of the parade from a shopping cart for Operation Christmas. And the Stormtrooper was kept busy waving to adoring fans.





# Investigation finds Petrolia councillor watched town workers, staff went to OPP

CON'T FROM PG 1

Fleming said staff raised issues “regarding what they felt was unusual and discomforting observation of their work in several locations and on more than one occasion by persons not known to them, generally by persons in several different vehicles,” he says.

The supervisor and manager raised the issue with another senior manager, who felt they might be at risk, and “raised the matter informally with an OPP officer.”

The police launched an investigation and ultimately decided the incidents didn’t amount to criminal harassment. Fleming summed it up as a desire to make sure taxpayers were getting value for their money.

“There is constant pressure on government for cost savings. As a result, all of those associated with local government are accustomed to being “watched” as they go about their daily work, very often in the public eye,” writes Fleming

in his report.

“Perhaps appropriately, perhaps not, some take more extreme measures in their interest in cost constraint and spend more time and attention to that “watching than most would consider normal.”

What concerned Fleming was the actions of the senior manager who went to the OPP without letting the CAO, Rick Charlebois, deal with the issue.

“The OPP became involved ahead of any reference to or knowledge of the CAO,” says Fleming.

Fleming says the town has the right policies to deal with an issue like this - staff writing down a formal complaint which is dealt with by the CAO.

But, Fleming wrote “the critical question, of course, is how well those policies and procedures have been followed especially those in management positions.”

Fleming said as recently as six months ago, new hires were given specific instructions what to do

should they find someone was observing their work and it made them uncomfortable.

Instead, when the staffers raised the issues of the frequent “creepy” drive-bys of their work places, the workers told their supervisor and their manager, who talked to another senior manager whom “informally consulted” with the OPP.

“The OPP ultimately undertook an investigation of these concerns and at the conclusion of that investigation revealed to town management at the director level that there was no evidence of criminal activity and that no charges were to be laid,” wrote Fleming.

As a result of the incident, Fleming says Charlebois indicated the policies and procedures around this type of incident have been reviewed and updated “to make it very clear to all employees the appropriate course of action when they have concern about any potential workplace safety issue.

“At the heart of those recent updates, reinforced by staff meetings to underscore the learning from recent events, is additional clarity as to when concerns should be raised to the supervisor or manager and ultimately to the CAO and when the appropriate action is to call 911 and seek the intervention of the OPP...

“That additional clarity was needed since in this case, the OPP became involved ahead of any reference to or knowledge of the CAO.”

“It’s clear to me that there were steps in the proper process that were missed or not followed resulting in concern being raised, ultimately to the level of town council.”

Fleming added that while the event is “unfortunate” it has been “a learning event on several levels” including senior staff’s “compliance with the policy.”

In response to the issue, the town has organized an education session

for councillors with the Integrity Commissioner Dec. 13 at 5 pm via Zoom. That’s a public meeting.

Charlebois has also taken action already including “in depth training sessions with staff that offered a great deal of focus on policies and procedures as they pertain to personnel policies and to workplace safety,” according to a news release.

The town will also have a “thorough review of job descriptions for key positions.”

It’s not clear from the report nor the news release, whether any staff member faces discipline from the incident; Fleming’s recommended course of action to deal with the staffing issues are redacted in the report which you can find on The Independent’s website.

Fleming also sent a copy of the report to the town’s integrity commissioner for review.

It’s not clear from the report whether there will be any further action against the individual councillor over the complaint.

# Plympton-Wyoming puts cannabis growing developments on hold for another year

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Farmers looking to set up a cannabis operation in Lambton County won’t find a home in Plympton-Wyoming.

Council has agreed to extend is ban on new agricultural cannabis

operations in the community for another year.

Cannabis became a legal product in 2018. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs says it is an agriculture crop like any other. “Therefore this crop cannot be prohibited, only regulated,” writes Planner Sarah Baldwin

in a report to council Nov. 29. She added several municipalities have had complaints regarding light and odour pollution from the greenhouse operations.

Council first passed the Interim Control Bylaw in Dec. 2020. Council agreed to renew the bylaw for one more year allowing staff to

look at the issue and provide some solutions.

Baldwin says consultants have already looked at some the problems around cannabis operations and during the Official Plan review earlier this year heard comments from the public about what should be done.

Baldwin says “we’re hoping to embark on a zoning bylaw review process next year in 2022, which will incorporate additional study and zoning parameters that will be for these cannabis facilities.”

While there are no cannabis operations in the works, the town has received inquiries in the past.

# Pope to meet with Cloud at the Vatican

CON'T FROM PG 1

Cloud stayed at the Mohawk Institute for six years and was allowed only brief summer visits back home.

During their time at the residential school, her oldest sister Edna died of tuberculosis.

When Cloud finally returned to Kettle and Stony Point, she too had TB and had to stay at a London sanatorium for two more years, not returning home permanently until she was 14. By that time, she was unable to speak her native tongue.

“At the school, we ate oatmeal from a big pot every single day and we called it mush. That’s why the school was called Mush Hole.

“I want an apology because we should not have been treated like that,” Cloud said. “They called us little heathens. We were only children.”

Kettle and Stony Point Chief Jason Henry said he is proud that Cloud is meeting the Pope and hopes it will be healing for her.

Cloud was the lead plaintiff in a class action lawsuit initiated 20 years ago (Cloud v Canada) that sought damages from the Diocese of Huron, the Missionary Society that ran the Mohawk Institute from 1922 to 1969, and the Canadian government.

Cloud said the plaintiffs won but only received about \$10,000 each.

“Marlene’s a strong voice and an example of how we can stand up and overcome generational traumas from the schools,” said Chief Henry in a recorded community update.

He said Cloud’s trip to the Vatican is good news and “will bring healing, not only to Marlene and her family, but help bring healing to our community and other



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Deanna Bressette and her mother, Marlene Cloud, on Orange Shirt Day at Kettle and Stony Point

indigenous survivors across Ontario and Canada.”

Cloud’s daughters, Joanna Cloud and Deanna Bressette of Kettle and Stony Point, will accompany their mother in December.

“They’re searching the grounds at Mohawk Institute right now for children’s unmarked graves,” said Bressette.

“My mom had friends that went missing and she was told they just ran away. I think an apology is a long time coming.”

- THE INDEPENDENT

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# Opinion

## Time to examine development charges in Petrolia

**EDITOR:**  
Recently, the council of the Town of Petrolia, received an education session on implementing development charges. This session was quite informative and laid out the parameters to establish development charges in Petrolia. It’s not a simple and quick task.  
It’s important to understand that most progressive growing municipalities charge development charges and in neighbouring municipalities the amounts range from \$6,000 to \$30,000 per new residential single family home. This is a wide range and reflects the different needs in each municipality.  
These charges are added to the building permit fees at the beginning of the building process.  
The monies are placed in development charges town reserve funds and can only be used to offset capital, not operations, costs. The dollars could go to upsizing sewer and water pipes, pumps, new road construction, extra vehicles, policing and many other capital items required because of new development.  
The funds can’t be used for past

developments.  
In Petrolia, we are experiencing a flood of new developments and presently the costs of extra town services for these developments are shared by all ratepayers.  
Development charges would take some of that burden off the present day taxpayers.  
That said, it would add a small additional amount to the price of a new home to be constructed. That additional amount would possibly be from one to two per cent of the price of the new home. This has not been an issue in other municipalities with development charges as new home building is booming everywhere.  
New growth in a municipality is vital and Petrolia has been very fortunate to be on the high end of residential growth.  
Many years ago, when Petrolia struggled with attracting new residents and new homes, it was the decision of the council of that day to provide an incentive to builders to come to Petrolia by not implementing extra fees. It worked! Now we are attracting many developers and builders and the

costs of infrastructure is enormous.  
The entire ratepayer population is paying to subsidize the new developments.  
Development charges are not popular with developers and builders because it adds dollars to the price of a new home. I understand that but does it make it fair to the present taxpayers in Petrolia.  
Other growing municipalities charge fees and implementing development charges in Petrolia would just level the playing field. Development charges will not hinder the sale of new homes.  
It will take a number of months, with public meetings and town information sessions and bylaws to establish development charges before actual charges can be levied. The fees could be gradually implemented over a few years.  
It’s time to examine the pros and cons of development charges in Petrolia.  
Waiting will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and in the meantime the tax rate will keep climbing.  
**John McCharles**  
**Petrolia, ON**

## ER renovations in Petrolia given green light

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent  
Officials with Bluewater Health say it is an exciting step in the redevelopment of Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital.  
The hospital’s board has approved the plan to renovate the emergency department at the Petrolia site and the proposal is now in the hands of the Ministry of Health.  
In April 2017, the head of Bluewater Health announced the provincial government had provided a \$7.5 million grant to reconfigure and update the historic hospital.  
The 25-year plan for the complete redevelopment of the Petrolia hospital was to begin with the reconstruction of the emergency and diagnostics departments which, in 2017, were said to be in “immediate need of renovation.”  
The emergency department was originally designed for 7000 visits, and now 22,000 people come to Petrolia’s ER every year.  
But as the plans progress, officials realized the bones of the structure, including the heating and electrical sys-

tems, needed an overhaul. Four years, and over \$4 million later, much of that work has been done. But the plans for the emergency department were only plans until the hospital’s board of directors gave them the green light last week. They were sent immediately to the Ministry of Health.  
Rural Health Director, Bob DeRaad, is hopeful the ministry will approve the plan by this spring.  
DeRaad says the plans for the emergency department include separate ambulance and pedestrian entrances, increasing the size of the treatment rooms and providing a separate mental health room in the department.  
“We would be also putting in a new cooling tower on top of the roof that would help support future redevelopment of the Petrolia site,” DeRaad says.  
“It’s going to put us in a lot better position for the next 15 to 20 years when we look when we hope to build a new emergency department.”  
The reconstruction of the emergency department will be costly and a bit difficult for staff. DeRaad says the plan is to continue using the ER while the

now vacant operating rooms are rebuilt to be new treatment rooms. Once they’re complete, the ER will move into the new area, while the current department is retooled.  
“We’re really fortunate in that we have a lot of large space that is not being used right now. So we can move the emergency department to that unused space, it won’t be pleasant.... but at the end of the day, we’re going to have a bigger, more functional emergency department.”  
Original estimate put the ER renovations around \$7 million. DeRaad says with the rising cost of building materials and inflation, it will likely be more than that.  
That puts added pressure on the CEEH Foundation, which will be helping to raise 10 per cent of the costs.  
Foundation Chair Owen Byers says the board is well positioned to help since it has been putting proceeds of its fundraising away for the renovations for some time.  
He adds the upcoming Dream Home Lottery will also help boost the coffers in preparation for the renovations.

## Petrolia BIA creation delayed as town talks to more businesses

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent  
Petrolia officials are taking more time to meet with more businesses before asking council to form the Petrolia Business Association.  
Recently, the town has been holding public information meetings about the ideas. It also sent out letters to the 127 businesses across the municipality about the concept.  
The idea is each business would face

a new \$150 levy on their taxes. The town would match that amount and the money would be used to market Petrolia’s businesses, bringing more people to the community to shop and possibly live.  
The businesses were asked to respond with their concerns to the town. The town had two meetings in November to hear from business people about the concept. The plan was to present the concept for approval at council Dec. 13.

However Laurissa Ellsworth, director of marketing, arts and communications, says they plan to take more time to talk to a wider range of businesses after hearing some concerns voiced.  
Ellsworth says the project will move ahead if 66 per cent of the businesses have not objected in writing to the plan.  
Council is expected to deal with a new vacant building bylaw which would fines landowners who leave their buildings in poor repair.

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# Corunna dad could face eight years

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Jessica Soney says she will never be able to forgive Nathan Watson for killing their two month-old son.

The Corunna mother poured out her anguish in a Sarnia Court Tuesday during the 21 year-old’s sentencing hearing.

Crown Attorney David Rows is asking Justice Deborah Austin to consider up to eight years in prison for Watson’s role in Liam’s death. Watson’s lawyer, Ken Marley is looking for a conditional two year sentence to be served in the community.

Soney told the court Aug. 20, 2019 was just like any other day. She called her friend, got the kids up and then headed out the door. But the normal day turned tragic when she got a call from her partner saying the baby was limp and blue.

Watson first told police he left the child with a sibling while he went to make a bottle and returned to find him lifeless. Later he said he’d had his foot on a bouncy chair the baby was sitting in, shaking it. Later, he admitted he’d actually picked up the crying Liam, shook him and asked him what he wanted.

Soney tried to read a victim impact statement she had written at the virtual hearing, but soon broke down in sobs.

“You have broke my heart. You’ve broken my children’s heart. And now I have to live in fear my children will always be in harm’s way, with the fear of my children and having to live with the resentment and the fear myself of being trusting anyone,” she cried out.

She wasn’t able to continue, so Rows continued reading the statement which added she would never be able to trust anyone to care for her children alone.

“You made me feel helpless and like a failure of a mother or not being able to protect my son.”

Watson’s lawyer suggested his client was also in emotional turmoil over the death of his son. And he says a psychological report showed Watson “was experiencing significant situational and psychosocial stress, lacking in impulse control, coping skills in support,” when he was left alone with Liam.

“He was quite likely overwhelmed and in a state of emotional turmoil.”

Marley says Watson and Soney’s relationship moved quickly and children soon followed. That became overwhelming as he worked a night shift to support the family and often cared for the kids when he came home.

Marley said that is “very challenging for any young person - particularly challenging for a young person who already has the emotional health and developmental challenges, which Nathan Watson clearly did.”

Marley says evidence from an OPP officer who covertly befriended Watson in an attempt to figure out what really happened, shows the accused was remorseful about his son’s death.

But Rows disputed that, saying it took Watson three attempts to come out with the truth of how his own son died. “It was only when the accused was arrested that we approach the version of events that most resembles the truth,” Rows said, noting it was a “convoluted route to the truth.”

Rows believes the sentence should reflect that a vulnerable child died at the hands of his parent. Liam “was two months of age at the time of his death and the accused had that a duty of care to this child - to care for him and protect him - and that he failed and that he breached the trust of Liam Watson.”

And while Watson’s lawyer pointed out he was highly unlikely to reoffend, Rows told Austin she needs to consider the child’s death had “tremendous impact” on both Soney, her children, and Liam.

“Liam was two months old, he was not able to experience the joys that life has to offer; growing up, going to school, finding a partner having children of his own. His life was cut short after only two months.”

Watson also addressed Austin saying “I wish I could take the pain away. I wish I could just hold on to it all. I guess nobody else should be able to have had that pain for me - one who did it. I wish I never had never, you know, that it never happened. I miss my son very much.”

Austin will the legal arguments, the victim impact statement and Watson’s own words as she considers a sentence. She’ll deliver it Jan. 5.

The Town of Plympton-Wyoming Presents ...

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Saturday, December 4th - 5 PM

5pm

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5:15pm

Help welcome Santa to Wyoming! Wear holiday colours

5:30pm

Join Santa's jingle bell walk - ending at library for a tree lighting ceremony

6pm

Head back to Lions' Hall for photos with Santa, kid's crafts, horse + carriage rides & snacks



# Community Fridge opens

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Petrolia’s Community Refrigerator is stocked an open for use.

St. Paul’s United Church is spearheading the effort.

Larry Leckie says a company in Toronto donated a 12 foot long refrigerated truck to use for the winter months. The church and the Inn of the Good Shepherd will stock the unit with food. Originally, the plan was to allow anyone to step inside at any time of the day to take what they needed. But Leckie says there were some concerns by the supporters of the project that vandalism may occur in the early hours of the morning, so now the Community Refrigerator is open from 8 am to 8 pm.

Leckie is hopeful the site will compliment the services already in town, including the Petrolia Food Bank which provides food boxes for families once every three weeks throughout the year and special Christmas hampers at Christmas time. The refrigerator will provide staples like bread, milk and eggs when people need them.

Leckie says the fridge has only been open a few days and it is already seen use. He estimates between six and 10 people per day are coming in to pick up something to eat.

Leckie expects as word of the programs spreads, the use will continue to expand.

And while the project provides food to those in need, Leckie says it also provides a place to safely use and distribute some of the food which normally would be thrown out. More than 50 per cent of Canada’s food is wasted, he added.



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HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Keith Milner shares a little kiss with his wife, Margaret, as the Watford Fire department celebrated 55 years of Milner's service.

## A firefighter for 55 years

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The Watford firefighters honoured one of their own Saturday. Keith Milner has retired from active firefighting service after 55 years.

Milner was 25 when he was asked to join. He's been there ever since.

There was no formal training at the time, he tells *The Independent*, he just followed along with the firefighters for six months absorbing everything they knew. "After that, it was just training all the way through," he says

After six months probation, he was out on calls, playing an active roll in fighting any blaze.

Milner has helped fight all of the major fires in the community including the destruction of the Watford arena - a wood barn which burned to the ground one May day in the 1970s. They never figured out exactly what - or who - caused that.

And while Milner was out putting out the latest barn fire, his wife, Margaret, sat at home, awake - not worried - but waiting for his return.

When Milner retired from firefighting in July, Margaret was quite happy to avoid the late night calls.

And while he's no longer going to fire calls, Milner will play an active roll in the department as the caretaker of the hall and the mechanic for the trucks - just as he has for years now.

Saturday, he was given a standing ovation from his brothers in the department and presented with his helmet, freshly signed by everyone he's served with over the years.

## Clean Harbors strike about equity

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Scott Doherty says after years of inequity, the people who work at Clean Harbors are pledging to stay out on the picket line near Brigden until the women that work there are treated fairly.

Doherty, the executive assistant to the national president of Unifor, was one of about 100 people at the Clean Harbors site Monday as the 76 workers there entered the second week of their strike.

The union says women are being passed over for promotions in violation of the collective bargaining agreement. They also have inadequate washroom and shower facilities. Women often walk up to 10 minutes to go to the only female washroom on site at the lab, to use the facilities there. "I've never seen anything like it in 20 years, probably. It's unheard of."

Nation Rep Gary Lynch says the women also have to use showers that are accessible to the men. Some leave the hazardous waste facility without showering off the any toxic dust they may have come into contact with.

The Unifor leaders say the inequities have gone on for years, but this time around, the entire unit is willing to take a stand.

"The members have taken on this fight. And we're really proud of the local for taking that on both the men and the women," says Doherty.

## CAUSE UNKNOWN

DAWSON CURRIE PHOTO

Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire Chief Jay Arns says the cause of a fire on Rokeby Line will never be known. Arns says the Nov. 25th fire started in the garage, but the department can't pinpoint the exact cause. It's not clear how much damage was done however the roof of the building collapsed.



# Petrolia CHRISTMAS 2021

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HALF CENTURY HONOUR



DAWSON CURRIE PHOTO

The Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire Department honoured Firefighter Ken Henry, and his wife, Nancy, for 50 years of service. During the Saturday night ceremony, Kenny was presented with a plaque from the Ontario Fire Marshal, both his 45 and 50 year bars to go on his service medal presented Nelly Green, a wood carving of a PNEFD Maltese cross and an engraved watch presented by Chief Jay Arns. Recently, Plympton-Wyoming council also presented Henry with an award of appreciation for his work with the town’s departments over the years.

Assault charge laid in Halloween stabbing

Heather Wright  
The Independent

A 20 year-old Petrolia man is facing a charge of assault after a stabbing at a Halloween party.  
A young man was hosting a party at his parents Grove Street home on Halloween when some people arrived. The host asked

them to leave and was leading them back to the car when he was stabbed a number of times.  
The unwanted guests left.  
The host spent time in a London hospital recovering from his injuries.  
Nov. 24, Lambton OPP said Justin Porteous has been charged with assault.  
Police say the investigation is continuing.

Coalition says it isn’t too late to stop for profit care

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The Ontario Health Coalition says there is still time to stop the provincial government from giving for-profit companies from getting 30 year contracts for long term care home.  
Natalie Mehra, coalition executive director, says the pandemic laid bare the long standing problems in long term care with more than 4,000 people in care who died because of COVID-19. For profit facilities had some of the highest casualty rates. There have been calls for the province to eliminate for-profit long term care homes in favour of non-profit or municipally run homes.  
Instead, the province is in the middle of granting 30,000 beds in the system and is “rewarding some of the worst offenders” during the pandemic.  
“The promise of a new day is slipping away. Instead of building the 46,000 new and redeveloped long-term care beds under public and non-profit ownership in a new capital development plan, the Ford government is in process of allocating the majority of the new beds to for-profit corporations, and the majority of those to large chain companies. Chief among them are the same chains that were responsible for the worst death rates in the pandemic and terrible records of care over many

years,” she writes.  
Mehra says there is still time to change course since nothing is finalized, if there is “public outrage.”  
“This report should serve as a warning and a call to action. It is not too late, but unless the Ford government is stopped, they are in process of setting up Ontario for another entire generation of for-profit long-term care.”  
Liz Daniel, who worked for Revera in Ridgetown and Blenheim, said there are a myriad of problems in for profit care but nothing changed because the province reduced the inspection routine.  
Daniel called for the return of surprise inspections noting when she worked in long term care, the homes knew when the inspectors were coming and prepared for them.  
Shirley Roebuck, the head of the Sarnia Lambton Health Coalition is calling for the public to raise concerns now.  
“We do have a chance but it the government doesn’t hear anything they will go ahead,” she says.  
Roebuck urged people to call and write their MPPs telling them long term care should not be controlled by for-profit corporations adding it is despicable that people who were responsible for the poor conditions that lead to death in long term care during the pandemic should not be rewarded with new contracts.

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# Sports

## Harper makes Sting debut

**Barry Wright**  
The Independent

A little over a week after signing an OHL contract, Austin Harper made his debut with the Sarnia Sting against the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds.

Harper, 17, played a handful of shifts and didn't look out of place, according to Sting associate coach Brad Staubitz.

"I'm really excited for Austin," said Staubitz in post-game comments. "I've known him for a few years now and watched him progress as a player."

Staubitz says it will take some time for the Plympton-Wyoming product to feel comfortable at the major junior A level but has no doubt he will contribute to the Sting moving forward.

"I believe he's a player who can produce points in this league."

Harper recently signed with the Sting off the

roster of the Sarnia Legionnaires where he leads the Junior B franchise with 23 points in 19 games this season.

Harper was a tenth-round selection by the Sting from the Lambton Junior Sting in 2020.

Harper's debut was overshadowed somewhat by former Junior Sting teammate Landen Hookey's first visit to Sarnia since he cracked the Greyhounds lineup this season.

Hookey took the ceremonial faceoff with Theo Hill of the Sting.

Hill has billeted with the Hookey family since joining the Sting in 2018.

The Hounds and Hookey won the first installment of the battle of the billet brothers, 2-0.

Plympton-Wyoming's Austin Harper, right, heads out onto the ice for his first Jr. A game as a member of the Sting.

PHOTO VIA TWITTER



## First female drafted by to OHL will play in the US

The Strathroy-based Bluewater Hawks of the Provincial Women's Hockey League have announced that goaltender Taya Currie has committed to play NCAA women's hockey at Providence College beginning in 2023.

Currie, 16, made headlines this past summer when she became the first female ever drafted by an Ontario Hockey League team.

The Parkhill native was taken in the 14th round by the Sarnia Sting.

Currie attended Sarnia's preseason orientation camp but was released before the main camp began.

## Flyers at home to Wheatley Thursday

**Barry Wright**  
The Independent

The Petrolia Flyers can inch closer to sixth place in the PJHL's Stobbs Division standings with a win in a four-point contest with the Wheatley Sharks on Thursday at the Greenwood Recreation Centre.

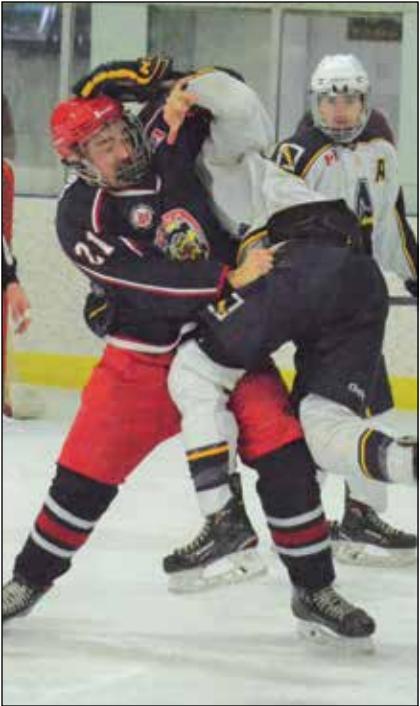
Face off time is 7:30.

Petrolia, 2-9-3 on the campaign, is in seventh place six points back of the Sharks.

The Flyers will reach the halfway point of the condensed 32-game regular season with a game at Amherstburg Sunday. The Admirals needed overtime to beat the Flyers, 4-3 last Thursday in Petrolia. Andrew Jaques scored twice for Petrolia. Josh Jamieson had the other.

Meantime, Mooretown will play a pair of road games this weekend coming off a bye week.

The Flags are at Wallaceburg Saturday and take on the Blades in Blenheim Sunday.



Michael Vanek tussles with a member of the Amherstburg Admirals in the 4-3 loss Thursday.

## Squires outscore Milverton en route to road win

The Independent

The Petrolia Squires ended a five-game winless streak with an 8-6 win in Milverton Sunday afternoon.

Isaac McLean and Brandon Li Wan Po had two goals each

for the Squires. Kole Keating, Ethan Dupont, Alain Brosseau and Jesse Ferguson also scored for Petrolia.

McLean is now third in league scoring with nine goals and eight assists.

He had the lone goal for

Petrolia in a 5-1 loss at Clinton last Friday.

The Squires are now 3-6-1 on the season.

They host Saugeen Shores Friday at 8:30 at Greenwood before traveling to Tavistock Saturday.

## The ladies have it: three big wins for Sting, Flags, Attack

**Barry Wright**  
The Independent

The Lambton Attack U15 squad went 5-0 to capture its divisional title at the Mississauga Hurricanes Winter Classic.

The Attack beat the Brock Jr. Badgers, 3-2 in the final after four consecutive shutout victories.



Meantime, the Mooretown Lady Flags U15's edged Stratford, 2-1 to win its title at the Fallfest tournament in Kitchener.

The Lady Sting blanked Hamilton, 6-0 in the U15 final at the Panthers on the Prowl tournament in St. Thomas to round out the weekend of winning by the Lambton's girls hockey clubs.

Three other clubs, the



Lambton Attack U11's, the Lady Flags U13 team and the Petrolia Oilers U15 boys' squad all made it to the finals in tournament action in St. Thomas, Kitchener and Paris respectively.

All fell short in the championship contests.





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# Shortt to lead new Lambton softball program

**Barry Wright**  
The Independent

A familiar face around girls’ softball circles in Wyoming and Camlachie has been named the new head coach of the women’s softball program at Lambton College.

“I’m super excited that Lambton College has brought on women’s softball,” said Greg Shortt in a prepared statement earlier this week.

“It’s really good for females at the college to have an opportunity to play competitive ball.”

Shortt brings a wealth of softball experience with him to the program, both as a coach and a player, domestically as well as a season in Australia

“I think it opens up a lot of opportunities for females in the community,” added Shortt. “I think they will look closely at the programs we offer at Lambton College, and having the ability to pair a program of interest with the opportunity to play competitive softball for a couple more years

at a high level is a great opportunity.”

The manager of athletics and student life at the college, James Grant, is thrilled to bring Shortt on board.

“I’ve known Greg a lot of years and he has an extensive background in softball,” said Grant.

“We’re lucky to have him here, and we’re lucky that he wants to jump on board and support our students, which is great.”

“Adding softball to the mix and having an opportunity where more student-athletes can take part in varsity athletics is always a positive.”

Prospective student-athletes are encouraged to contact Greg Shortt (greg.shortt@lambtoncollege.ca) directly for more information on the program, including the plan for off-season workouts.

Lambton has added women’s softball and cross-country running to its sports repertoire beginning in 2022.

The coaching staff for the new cross-country team has yet to be announced.

# Regional high school championships back on

**Barry Wright**  
The Independent

In concert with its two school boards and health units, the Lambton Kent Secondary School Athletic Association (LKSSAA) will again allow area high schools to play for regional and provincial championships during the winter sports season.

“We’re back--full speed ahead,” said LKSSAA coordinator James Clarke.

“We’re making what we feel is an educated decision.”

Teams that competed in the just concluded fall season were not allowed to move on past their local championship due to concerns over COVID-19.

The winter season began this week with hockey, followed by boys’ basketball and

girls’ volleyball next week. The season also typically includes wrestling, swimming and curling.

LCCVI’s boys’ hockey opener is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 1 when the Lancers take on Northern at the Clearwater Arena at 3:30.

North Lambton opened its season with a 4-0 triumph over St. Pat’s Monday afternoon in Forest.

Clarke says the decision also allows teams under the LKSSAA umbrella to take part in tournaments in other jurisdictions.

He says the Windsor area has yet to declare its intention to be part of SWOSSA events this winter. If Windsor does not take part in SWOSSA, Lambton Kent champions will go directly to provincial championships.

# Killer Bees take on top ranked Elora Saturday

The Independent

Killer Bees return to home ice for Saturday contest against Elora

Statistically, it will be a David vs. Goliath matchup Saturday when the Alvinston Killer Bees entertain the Elora Rocks in Western Ontario Super Hockey League action at

the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre. Game time is 6:30.

Elora leads the league with a 10-1 mark, while Alvinston continues to search for its first victory of the season in this its 13th game.

The Bees fell to 0-12 last week, falling 12-1 to the Thunder in Tillsonburg.

# FIREFIGHTING DONATION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Enbridge Gas is helping Brooke Fire Rescue purchase firefighting training materials, through Safe Community Project Assist—a program with the Fire Marshal’s Public Fire Safety Council that supplements existing training for Ontario volunteer and composite fire departments in the communities where Enbridge operates. This year’s \$250,000 donation from Enbridge Gas will be shared by 50 Ontario fire departments, including Brooke Fire Rescue. Funds will be used to purchase educational materials for firefighters to enhance life-saving techniques.

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2021-2022

# Skating Schedule

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An opportunity for parents to teach children to skate, and for open skating. Skate aids are permitted, and CSA approved helmets are strongly recommended. No sticks permitted.

**Mon & Thurs**  
**12pm-1pm**  
**\$3 - Adults**

**Adult Lunch Time Skate**  
For adults only. No sticks permitted. CSA approved helmets are strongly recommended.

**Friday**  
**12pm-1pm**  
**\$3 - Adults**  
**FREE - Children**

**Learn To Play** *Not available during Christmas Holidays*  
Provides an opportunity for adults to teach children hockey skills. No aggressive playing or slap shots are permitted. CSA approved helmets and a mask & gloves are mandatory. Players must bring sticks & pucks.

**Every Sunday**  
**1:50pm-2:50pm**  
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**\$6 - Per Family**

**Public Skating**  
CSA approved helmets and strongly recommended. Children must be supervised by an adult, and no sticks are permitted.

## Snow Day & Holiday Public Skating

Watch the Town of Petrolia Facebook page or visit [www.town.petrolia.on.ca](http://www.town.petrolia.on.ca) for Snow Day Updates!

Additional sponsored Public Skates during Christmas Break and otherwise will be promoted at a later date.



Dates & times are subject to change, please contact Town Hall for more information and bookings at 519-882-2350 or by email to [lbelan@petrolia.ca](mailto:lbelan@petrolia.ca)



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Obituaries / Death Notices



SPINKS  
Goldie Elizabeth

**Goldie Elizabeth Spinks, of Petrolia**, died peacefully on **Wednesday, November 24, 2021** at Fiddick's Nursing Home, Petrolia, in her **76th year**. Goldie was the beloved daughter of the late Clifford (2004) and Joyce (Christie) (nee Derry)(2021) Spinks. Goldie was the loved sister of Diane Farr, sister-in-law Shirley Spinks and Sandra Spinks, and an aunt to many nieces and nephews. Goldie was predeceased by a sister Penny Wallace, and brothers Glen and Jim Spinks. Goldie was a kind spirit who loved many, especially her nieces and nephews. And she always appreciated a good belly laugh. **A service for Goldie was held on Monday, November 29, 2021 at 1pm from the Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 4059 Petrolia Line, Petrolia. Interment in Zion Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Petrolia Food Bank or Sarnia Humane Society.

BLACK  
Eldon Duncan

**BLACK, Eldon Duncan - Age 85, of Oil Springs**, passed away at Lambton Meadowview Villa, Petrolia on **Sunday, November 28, 2021**. Beloved husband of Sandra Black (nee Dunlop). Survived by several niece and nephews and great-nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his siblings Gerald Black, Anelda (Bruce) Higgins, Keith (Helena) Dawson and Leona LeBlanc. Dear brother-in-law of Mac (Nancy) Dunlop and the late Jack (Judi) Dunlop. **Family and friends are invited to a graveside service at Alvinston Cemetery on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 11am.** Sympathy may be expressed through donations to Parkinson Society Southwestern Ontario (www.pssso.ca) or Canadian Cancer Society (www.cancer.ca).

Memories and condolences may be sent online at [www.steadmanbrothers.ca](http://www.steadmanbrothers.ca) • Steadman Brothers 519-864-1193



LITTLE  
Sergeant John Ross CD

**Aug 7, 1985 – Nov 22, 2021**  
Beloved father, fiancé, son & brother passed away suddenly on **November 22, 2021**. He is missed by his fiancé Andie Scarrow, sons Jack, Josh, Austin & Morgan, his parents John & Sharon Little, brother Will (Kelsea), and sister Lisa (Tom). He will be dearly remembered by aunts, uncles, cousins and brothers & sisters in arms. John was born in Wallaceburg, Ontario on August 7, 1985. He joined the Canadian Armed Forces at the age of 18 and served proudly with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) in Edmonton, AB. John was deployed on two tours to Afghanistan during his career and was decorated for his bravery. **Family and friends gathered to honour and remember John at the Wyoming Chapel 650 Broadway Street (County Rd. 21), Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0.** For more information go to [www.needhamjay.com](http://www.needhamjay.com)



BLACKSTOCK  
Neil

**Blackstock, Neil** - Died peacefully with family by his side on **Saturday, November 27, 2021** at C.E.E. Hospital of Bluewater Health, Petrolia. Neil was married for 54 years to Jessie (nee Hardy) who predeceased him in 2015. He will be missed by his children Carolyn of Kitchener, Laurie (the late Stephen Belliveau) of Almonte, and Glen of Petrolia. He is also survived by his sister Margaret (Bruce) Gray. He was the cherished uncle and great-uncle to many nieces and nephews. Neil was the son of the late James and Ethel Blackstock and was the brother to the late Keith (Blanche) Blackstock and Eric (Alice) Blackstock. A retiree of Imperial Oil in Sarnia Neil was active in St. Paul's United Church in Petrolia and was a member of the Bluewater Model Engineers and the Washington Lodge. Neil volunteered for many years, often in leadership roles, with the Petrolia Fair Board, Stroke Recovery Association, Pickin' & Fiddlin', Meadowview Alzheimer's Day Out, and more. Neil could often be found at the Petrolia library getting another mystery book or gardening at home. He rediscovered acting in later life and performed in local plays. Music was always a part of Neil's life. He sang in church choirs, played in many local Country & Western bands and was well known for his rendition of The Auctioneer. **A funeral service will be held on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 2pm from the Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 4059 Petrolia Line, Petrolia. Visitors will be received on Wednesday evening by signup at https://signup.com/go/OZWjKuS and prior to the service from 1-1:45 pm. Interment will occur at a later date in Wyoming Cemetery. Masks are mandatory in the funeral home.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Kidney Foundation of Canada (Sarnia-Lambton Chapter) or St. Paul's United Church, Petrolia. **Memories & condolences may be shared on-line at [www.needhamjay.com](http://www.needhamjay.com).**

Real Estate



Leo Shanahan  
SALESPERSON



Paul Shanahan  
BROKER OF RECORD



7963 Egremont Road, Watford, NOM 250  
[www.shanahanrealty.com](http://www.shanahanrealty.com)  
519-849-6684 519-319-6012




**24179 Pratt Siding Road, Glencoe/Alvinston NOW \$475,000**  
**New Price!**

Country living with privacy. This impressive three-bedroom brick and stone bungalow is set back from the road on a mature treed lot providing curb appeal. This home offers an eat-in kitchen with plenty of kitchen cabinets, open concept dining and living room, with hardwood floors, 1-1/2 baths, updated windows, central air and an energy efficient propane gas furnace. The lower level is unfinished with plenty of potential to add your finishing touches for family fun and recreation. There is a deck at the rear of the home to sit and observe farm fields as far as the eye can see. MLS #40165792.

In Memory


In Memory of

**Corrado (Ken) Paolucci**  
January 6, 1935 - December 3, 2019  
Those we love don't go away,  
They walk beside us every day.  
Unseen, unheard, but always near,  
Still loved, still missed and very dear.  
*Remembered with Love & Deep Affection  
by wife Glenda, son Ed, daughter Luisa,  
son Errico and families always*



In Loving Memory of

**Bonnie Howes**  
who left us December 2, 2017  
*What would we give her hand to clasp,  
Her patient face to see,  
To hear her voice, to see her smile,  
As in the days that used to be.  
But some sweet day we'll meet again  
Beyond the toil and strife,  
And clasp each other's hand once more,  
In Heaven, that happy life.*  
Love Mom & Dad




WANTED

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

Coming Events


Plympton-Wyoming Ag Society

**Euchre**  
**Tues., Dec. 7**  
**@ 1 pm**  
at the Wyoming Fair Building  
refreshments @ mid-way break  
Covid Rules Apply...  
*must show proof of double vaccination  
wear a mask and provide  
phone number for  
contact tracing*  
**\$5** per player




**Christmas CRAFT SALE**  
**Saturday Dec 4 - 1-4p**  
**4003 Henderson Drive**  
**PETROLIA**  
COVID PROTOCOL will be followed






**Church DIRECTORY**


**Christ Anglican Church**  
414 Oil Street, Petrolia  
**Welcome Back!**  
**In-person Church Services**  
**Sunday Mornings @ 11:15 am**  
Rev. Michelle Collins-Wongkee  
Church Office 519-882-1430  
[christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:fbcpetrolia@gmail.com)  
[www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca](http://www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca)  
[www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia](https://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  
[wyming\\_united@outlook.com](mailto:wyming_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](http://www.standrews-petrolia.ca)  
Pastor John MacIntosh





**Classified Deadline:**  
**Monday @ 12 noon**



# Classifieds

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

## Services Offered



**MAGGIE BORTHWICK**  
REALTOR®  
c: 226-402-3454  
o: 519-542-1000  
[Maggie@exitsarnia.com](mailto:Maggie@exitsarnia.com)

EXIT REALTY TWIN BRIDGES  
Brokerage - Independently Owned & Operated  
MLS

**PRO-TAX**  
(Pro-Tax is a division of Teogotha Inc.)

**Professional INCOME TAX SERVICES**

**519-882-2966**

**3927 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON**

*Appointments \*\* Drop-Offs \*\* Contactless*

**MARK AND JOANNE JAMIESON**  
[jam\\_jo11@hotmail.com](mailto:jam_jo11@hotmail.com) | [www.protaxpetrolia.com](http://www.protaxpetrolia.com)

## Notice

**NEWS FLASH!!** - Beginning in January 2022, the **LAMBTON YOUTH CHOIR** has **positions available** for four new fully vaccinated singers. Prospective Singers are required to demonstrate: a positive attitude; visible enthusiasm at every rehearsal and performance; ability to take direction; the desire to be a team player; commitment to personal best in every situation. **Additional Information: Contact Diane ODell via Messenger or Text 519.339.0771**

## Notices

**WINTER MAINTENANCE NOTICE**

**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 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 snow
- The Sidewalk Plow will make its way through Town once permissible, 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



## Employment Opportunity / Help Wanted



**Township of Dawn-Euphemia**  
requires an  
**Animal Control Officer (on-call)**

Respond to complaints and attend “as-needed” to dogs running at large and other related matters. Must be skilled in capturing, handling, restraining and transportation of dogs. Compensation: \$400/month plus \$18/hr per callout (approx. 10 callouts/year). Please contact the Township at 519-692-5148 or see website for additional information [www.dawneuphemia.ca](http://www.dawneuphemia.ca) **Resumes will be accepted until Wed Dec 15/21 @ NOON** by the Township of Dawn-Euphemia, 4591 Lambton Line, RR4, Dresden, ON N0P1M0 Fax: 519-692-5511 or Email: [clerk@dawneuphemia.on.ca](mailto:clerk@dawneuphemia.on.ca)



**The Township of Warwick** is a progressive rural community with Eastern Lambton County and home to 4,000 residents. The economic foundation is built on agriculture/agri-business, local retail and institutional services and regional industries. The township offers a range of quality parks and recreation services, along with roads, fire, public works, and related services to its residents.

**Parks and Recreation Manager**

The Township of Warwick is currently recruiting for a Parks and Recreation Manager. Reporting directly to the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk. This position requires a self-directed, energetic and team oriented problem solver to lead all activities of the Parks and Recreation Department of the Township, operating the Watford Arena, parks and facilities, coordinating ice/floor rentals and concession booth operations, responsible for recreation program development and delivery of marketing and communications activities aligned with the Township’s Strategic Plan and Parks and Recreation Master Plan, responding to emergencies, directing mechanical maintenance of departmental equipment, producing budget and operating department within budget, supervising staff, reporting to Council regularly, ensuring all record keeping, reporting and accounting for Department are carried out properly, and maintaining liaison with concerned property owners, community groups and event groups, regulatory bodies, neighbouring municipalities and County Officials and others as required.

**How to Apply:**

Interested applicants are asked to **apply online at [www.lambtononline.ca/jobs](http://www.lambtononline.ca/jobs)** and select **Job# J1121-0949**. The **deadline to apply is Thursday December 16, 2021**. The Township of Warwick has partnered with the County of Lambton to advertise this job opportunity. The full job description can be found in the job posting from the link above.

Any questions regarding this job opportunity with the Township of Warwick should be directed to:

**Amanda Gubbels, CAO/Clerk**  
**Phone: 519-849-3926**

We thank all interested applicants however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The Corporation of the Township of Warwick is dedicated to maintaining a fair and equitable work environment, and in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, and the Human Rights Code, the Township of Warwick will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment and selection process to applicants with disabilities. If selected to participate in the recruitment process, please inform the Township of Warwick of the nature of any accommodations you may require to ensure equal participation. Personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, and will be used for the purpose of determining eligible for employment.


**Job Board: [www.lambtononline.ca/jobs](http://www.lambtononline.ca/jobs)**

**READERS CHOOSE PRINTED COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS FOR EVERYTHING LOCAL AS WELL AS ADVERTISING!**

**91%**  
Choose LOCAL information as their main reason for reading (editorial, news, sports, entertainment, events)

**63%**  
Read for advertising (flyers, inserts, ROP)

**55%**  
Reading for Classified ads, Employment & Real Estate



Source: News Media Canada



The Brooke Alvinston Agricultural Society presents

**MEAT BINGO**



**DECEMBER 7, 2021**  
**STARTS AT 7:00 PM**  
**BAI Community Centre**  
3310 Walnut St. Alvinston

Please Wear a Mask | Must Show Proof of Vaccination

**50¢ A CARD OR \$1 FOR 3**

All Proceeds for Further Development of The Brooke-Alvinston Watford Fall Fair

Bring a canned food good for the Alvinston Food bank and get an extra ticket into our door prize draw.



# Councillor worries about vaccine clinics ‘behind closed doors’

Heather Wright  
The Independent

A Lambton County Councillor says vaccine clinics shouldn’t be held in schools .

Sarnia City/County Councillor Margaret Bird, who has raised widely discredited theories about COVID-19 before, asked her fellow councillors to write to Canada’s health minister urging him to prohibit the practice.

“Teachers and politicians are not doctors and have no authority or responsibility over the health of our children,” Bird said in a statement at the end of the Nov. 24

council meeting. “Parents are the only people who have authority to give consent for what gets put into the bodies of their children.

“We do not need schools to hold these clinics behind closed doors,” she added seeming to suggest children would be vaccinated without their parent’s knowledge.

Bird added parents “need to know their children are safe when in any public facility. They need to know there is absolutely no risk to their children.”

Bird then went on to cite studies which claimed increased risk to children who have had the COVID-19 vaccine.

That raised the ire of Sarnia Mayor and County Councillor Mike Bradley. “The last time the councillor raised a study, it turned out it was not accurate and it was dismissed by the acting medical officer of health,” he said adding some of Bird’s “theories, I think, many people would disagree with.”

Bradley suggested if Bird wanted to make a speech about an issue, she should be willing to ask council to endorse her opinion so people know whether other Lambton councillors agree.

Bird refused adding “I don’t like the innuendos here suggesting

what I’m presenting is not fact...people are always going to say it is true its not true... it behooves everyone to do their own research.”

In a news release announcing the opportunity for five to 11 year-olds to be vaccinated, Bird’s views were discounted.

“The COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11 has been tested rigorously, is safe, and is being used around the world,” says Bluewater Health Chief of Pediatrics, Dr. Tom Lacroix. “I strongly encourage all eligible children to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The vast majority

of side effects from the vaccine are mild, but most children don’t have any side effects at all. When considering long-term risks, a pediatric COVID-19 infection is a much more serious concern.”

Medical Officer of Health Dr. Sudit Ranade told reporters public health expects a parent to be at the clinic and to give consent for a vaccine for anyone in the five to 11 year old range.

Currently, public health only has clinics scheduled in high schools, including one at LCCVI next week.

There is no age requirement for consent in Ontario law.



This former church in Sarnia’s downtown will be the site of a temporary emergency shelter. Lambton has 60 emergency housing beds; right now 150 people are using shelter services - some in local motels.

## New shelter opening

Heather Wright  
The Independent

There has been a 400 per cent increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in Lambton during the pandemic and it is putting a lot of pressure on the emergency housing system in the county.

Valerie Colasanti, general manager of social services for Lambton County, says Lambton has about 60 emergency shelter beds for youth, adults and families. At one point during the pandemic, there were 260 people in need of shelter.

That led the county to purchase emergency housing at local hotels. “It was a good solution when COVID started and we had to isolate them,” Colasanti told Lambton county politicians Nov. 24. But it had a big price tag.

“The cost of housing people in motels is astronomical. We’re almost out of funds; we’ll be out of funds by the end of this year,” she says.

So, Colasanti says the county has signed a lease to open a new “congregate care” setting. “By moving people into the congregate care setting we can reduce the costs and provide the care.

“We’d like to work with them...to help them find housing, to find help with mental health and addictions, to provide primary care health care to them...so hopefully we can reduce our numbers.”

Right now, about 150 people in Lambton are in need of shelter. The new facility – an old United Church in downtown Sarnia – will house up to 30 people.

Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley expressed frustration the county hasn’t kept city politicians informed of the developments because they’ve been getting calls of concern from people in the area.

Colasanti says the county has reached out to the neighbourhood watch group in the area and stresses the new shelter won’t be a drop in.

“People can’t go to the setting on their own, they can’t just drop in,” she says adding people will need to register with the Shepherd’s Lodge and may be directed to the new living quarters.

Colasanti adds the centre will be temporary to address the heightened need created by the pandemic and won’t mean a permanent increase in shelter beds. She hopes the county can continue to help people find more stable housing. Since the pandemic, the county has helped 183 households move into more permanent housing, she added.



# Vulnerable Persons registry

Do you know someone living with dementia? 3 out of 5 people living with dementia will go missing at some point, a frightening experience, and a dangerous one.

That’s why the Alzheimer Society of Sarnia-Lambton is partnering with Sarnia Police Services and OPP to provide an opportunity for individuals living with dementia to be registered as someone at risk of going missing. Critical information shared provides searchers with quick access to key information to assist in locating and returning the individual home safely.

**Registration is easy! Simply call Alzheimer Society Sarnia-Lambton at 519 332 4444 to learn how.**

Let’s all do our part to help individuals with dementia live safely in our community.