

The Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

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HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Protestors pose for pictures with one of the many flags using an expletive to denounce Prime Minister Justin Trudeau when about 150 vehicles parked their machines on Highway 402 Sunday.

Gladu calls on police, government to control protests

Heather Wright
The Independent

Sarnia-Lambton MP Marilyn Gladu says police and all levels of government have to work together to make sure protests against COVID-19 vaccine mandates don't escalate.

Gladu tells *The Independent* she was in contact with the Lambton OPP and Sarnia Police as a tractor convoy organized by David and Roger Buurma under the Freedom Convoy 2022 banner made its way from Reece's Corners to the Bluewater Bridge Sunday.

Lambton OPP closed Highway 402 and the border crossing down for over eight hours when about 150 vehicles, mostly tractors and personal vehicles, parked on the highway at the base of the Bluewater Bridge.

The protest was in support of the truckers convoy which has been parked in Ottawa since Jan. 28. It was organized by Canada Unity. It's stated goal is to have the senate and

governor general remove the current government from office, remove all COVID-19 protocols and restore jobs to those who had left their work after choosing not to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

In Lambton, transport truck drivers, who cannot easily change their routes to go to another border crossing, were left stranded for hours.

Gladu says while she supports protest and has been asking for the prime minister to remove the mandate for vaccine for truckers traveling into the US, "Blocking roads is unlawful."

And she said there were "some very worrisome rules, rumours at this point that the people who were involved in the Ottawa protests... that were not allowed in after a certain point in Ottawa – that they've turned around and that they're coming down to Sarnia and Windsor bridges to continue freedom protests here."

That's leading Gladu to call on local governments and police to work together to avoid an encampment like

the one seen in Ottawa.

"They're in a very difficult situation now in Ottawa where, basically, the police have inadequate resources to remove those that are blocking streets and causing all kinds of chaos," Gladu says. The MP adds she's now in the riding instead of Ottawa because of the continued protest – particularly the honking of truck horns which continues throughout the day.

"Everybody supports people's right to protest peacefully, but we cannot have what has happened in Ottawa happen in our community. And we just need to work together – all levels of government and the police – to make sure that it doesn't happen," says Gladu.

Adding Sarnia is an important trade link for the nation. "I think we should be leaving that border open. There's essential goods coming back and forth."

Municipal leaders were monitoring the situation Tuesday and Premier Doug Ford offered support if needed.

'It doesn't make sense to block the border,' says LFA head

Heather Wright
The Independent

Gary Martin wants Lambton residents to know farm organizations aren't backing the protest movement aimed at getting rid of COVID-19 rules.

In fact, the head of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture, says he's getting calls from members, worried about a small group of people in agriculture which organized a protest which led OPP to shut down Highway 402 and the Bluewater Bridge.

About 150 vehicles – many of them tractors – parked on the 402 between the Bluewater Bridge and the Front Street entrance. The road was opened by 8:20 pm.

The group, organized by David Buurma of Petrolia and his brother, Roger, of the Watford area, left the Reece's Corners truck stop and headed down the 402.

By 11:30 am, Lambton OPP announced it was closing the highway from the 402 to the Bluewater Bridge because of the protest. David Buurma said on a video posted on social media was part of the Freedom Convoy which has been hold up in Ottawa since Jan. 28.

SEE PROTEST PG 2

Business group to start by April

Heather Wright
The Independent

The chair of the Petrolia Volunteer Business Group hopes to have a new business association up and running by April.

Denise Thibeault has been meeting with merchants about the possibility of forming a Petrolia Business Association which would be a committee of council. That would mean each merchant would have a \$150 fee added to their tax bill to support the associations activities, particularly promotions and marketing of the downtown. Town officials had said that money would be matched by the municipality.

But some business owners expressed concerns about the plan, so in a series of recent virtual meetings, Thibeault unveiled a structure which would see a volunteer board of seven downtown business people form by April. Thibeault says by the fall, the board will present its vision of the association and look for funding from the municipality.

Meantime, council will be taking a look at the proposed Vacant Building Bylaw at its next meeting. Owners of vacant buildings will have to pay a \$750 fee and have a plan to get the building in shape for rentals. Any violations are proposed to be dealt with by bylaw enforcement officers.

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HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Farm and personal vehicles parked on the 402 leading to the Bluewater Bridge Sunday. The OPP shutdown the highway, cutting off the international border as a safety precaution.

Protest blocking bridge ‘doesn’t make sense’

CON’T FROM PG 1

The convoy is led by Canada Unity whose leaders’ expressed goal is to get the federal senate and the Governor General to remove the current federal government – elected just five months ago – and remove all COVID-19 rules for reducing the spread of the virus during the pandemic.

Canada Unity used a mandate imposed by the federal government on transport truck drivers as the reason for the nation-wide protest although the Canadian Truckers’ Association says 90 per cent of the industry is already fully vaccinated.

The protest on Parliament Hill has drawn criticism from all corners. Indigenous leaders have called out protestors using scared ceremonies during the event. Nazi and Confederate flags have been seen at the event, Canadian flags have been defaced with the swastika, protestors have danced on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier – an action denounced by the Royal Canadian Legion and dressed a statue of Terry Fox as a protestor – which was condemned by the Terry Fox Foundation.

There are multiple reports of residents around Parliament Hill be harassed by people with the convoy for wearing a mask. And the drivers have been using their horns as a form of protest and setting off fireworks in the downtown at all hours of the night and day.

On social media, David Buurma stood atop bales of hay painted with the word freedom on the side.

“We’re done with the mandates...done with the stupidity,” he said as he showed the tractors heading toward Sarnia when the protest began in Reece’s Corners.

“Canadians are some of the friendliest people on earth but were past our limit,” he says adding he was done with “austerity measures.”

The protesters parked at the top of the Front Street on ramp and vehicles could gone on the international span, however a large snow plow from the Federal Bridge Authority blocked the ramp.

The gates on the highway starting at Modeland Road were closed by the OPP and transports were being rerouted from the bridge. Protestors walked around on the highway while others brought coffee to share.

Lambton OPP Const. Jamie Bydeley in an email to *The Independent* said the police shutdown the road, primarily because the protesters were walking around on the roadway and it would have been a

dangerous situation to allow traffic to pass.

Buurma, who gathered a transport trailer of food and took it to protestors in Ottawa last weekend, said during his live video said the protest “is no longer going to be Ottawa, it’s going to be every single city town border in Canada...all ya gotta do is drop the mandates and we go home.”

But the Lambton protestors did go home. By 8:20 pm, traffic was moving again on the bridge. Buurma told supporters they pulled out.

“There is nothing to be frustrated about,” he said adding they would continue to apply pressure “until the general consensus of the public is heard...It’s clear that people want the mandates dropped and society wants to move on.”

With the show of agricultural equipment blocking the bridge, Gary Martin was getting calls. “I’ve heard from a couple of members saying ‘what are they doing? They’re just making us look bad.”

“I think that would be the general consensus at the end of the day - you’re just going to make us look bad,” said the LFA president.

Martin says the farm community in Lambton was one of the first to be vaccinated. The LFA convinced the public health unit the move would protect Canada’s food supply. Martin says farmers filled the clinics immediately.

He says the COVID-19 pandemic has not had a big impact on the industry, other than new rules for temporary foreign workers. “We’ve been pretty secluded from issues dealing with COVID. I mean, there’s no mandate for bringing your grain into the grain elevator.”

Martin is also concerned for livestock operations trying to get their animals into the US. “For farming, it doesn’t make any sense to block the border. That doesn’t make any sense at all.”

Martin believes the group who protested at Bluewater Bridge doesn’t represent farmers in Lambton says the motivation for the protest may be dislike for the prime minister more than anything else.

“Their vision is clouded. They’re blaming the current government for everything, even though they might not be responsible for it. I mean, it’s a global pandemic.”

Martin says the Ontario Federation of Agriculture has “distanced” itself from the protest because they know vaccination protects the food chain. “So which is it? Do you want public health to be secure or do you want your freedom to not follow those rules? It doesn’t make any sense.”



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Public Works	Public Works Labourer*	2	June 30	August 26
Parks & Rec	Parks Labourer	4	May 16	August 26
Parks & Rec	Sports Field Coordinator	1	May 16	August 26
Theatre	Sound Technician	1	May 16	August 26
Theatre	Lighting Technician	1	May 16	August 26
Theatre	Customer Service – Bar/Usher**	2	May 16	August 26
Theatre	Box Office	2	May 16	August 26
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DEPARTMENT	POSITION	START DATE	END DATE
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LAMBTON MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL AND GENERAL SPECIAL MEETING OF

LAMBTON MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

TAKE NOTICE that the Annual and Special General Meeting of the Members of LAMBTON MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY will be held by way of a virtual meeting on

Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

TO:

1. Receive, consider and approve the Annual Statements and Auditors’ Report for the year ended December 31, 2021.
2. Consider and if thought fit, to adopt, with such amendments as may be made at the Meeting, the amendment to By-Law No. 1A of the Company passed by the Board of Directors on January 25, 2022, which deletes Article 55 of the By-law and replaces it with the following: “The Directors may, subject to the applicable legislation, declare a refund at the end of a fiscal year upon such terms and subject to such conditions as the Directors may determine.”
3. Elect two directors for a 3-year term in accordance with Company By-laws.
4. Appoint auditors.
5. Transact such further business as may rightly come before the meeting.

Please email watford@lambtonmutual.com

if you wish to attend and request your link to the virtual meeting.

NOTE: The Annual Statements for the Company for the year ending December 31, 2021 may be viewed on the Company’s website at www.lambtonmutual.com. A Member may obtain a copy of the Annual Statements by sending a written notice to the Company’s head office at least 14 days before the Meeting.

PROVINCIAL HONOURS FOR SORT



A group of Petrolia volunteers who helped run COVID-19 testing clinics are among those being recognized with the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism. The Support Operations Response Team normally helps at public events and on the scene of fires, supporting volunteer firefighters. But during the pandemic, the team set up an outdoor testing unit in the Central Lambton Family Health Team's parking lot daily. "The past year has been challenging for us all and it's impressive to see how volunteers and organizations stepped up to support their neighbours and communities," said Parm Gill, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism in a news release announcing the award given to 15 individuals and eight volunteer organizations. "On behalf of all Ontarians, I thank our June Callwood award recipients for their kindness, compassion, and selfless commitment to helping others and for making our province such a great place to live." The members of the Petrolia SORT Team include Paula Stokes, Colleen Johnson, Brooke Osthoff, Valerie Dejeu, Pam Barrington, Amber McLaughlin, Martin McLaughlin, Karen Kuykendal, Mitchel McCauley, Andrew Hart, Erv Sullivan, Tori Macdonald, Steve McLaughlin (retired), and Jed Gould (retired).

Rood wants an exit plan for COVID rules

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MP Lianne Rood wants to see a plan to end COVID-19 mandates, so people can “get on with their lives.”

The MP, who recently became the deputy whip of the Conservative Party after the ouster of Erin O'Toole, made the comments after spending hours talking to protestors parked in Ottawa since Jan. 28.

The Freedom Convoy drew around 8,000 people to Parliament Hill that weekend according to Ottawa Police. They want Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to end all COVID-19 rules, including one which requires truck drivers to be vaccinated to cross the border. The group which organized the event, Canada Unity, also wants the senate and the governor general to overturn the current government and install leaders of the protest movement as an interim government - something not possible under Canada's constitution.

Rood says she talked to the Canadians who gathered in Ottawa because "one of my fundamental responsibilities is to listen." And she met over a dozen people who had come from her riding who were "peacefully showing their support

for the premise of ending the mandate...I can tell you what the mainstream media, like what the CBC is portraying, is not really what's happening here on the ground in Ottawa."

Over the course of the demonstration there have been scenes of protestors with Nazi and Confederate flags, Ottawa residents being verbally and physically attacked for wearing masks and protestors dressing up a Terry Fox Monument and dancing on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier - all things which have drawn wide spread criticism. Rood says there are always "bad apples" in a group but "Canadians want to see leadership and they want to see what the plan is so that they can start to get their lives back to normal, especially with the provinces opening up and dropping their mandates."

Rood says she has had 100s if not 1,000 phone calls, letters and emails about the issue “from many different angles...but the vast majority of the people who are writing to my office right now want to see an end to the mandate, they would like their lives back. We are one of the highest vaccinated countries in the world.”

And Rood accuses Trudeau of playing “divisive politics” and “politicizing” the pandemic by keeping the mandates in place.

January sees 28 COVID deaths

Heather Wright
The Independent

Just days after coming out of a COVID-19, Fiddicks Nursing Home in Petrolia is again dealing with the virus.

Lambton Public Health says 18 resident and less than five staff members have tested positive. The home, which cleared a nearly month-long outbreak Jan. 27, was placed in outbreak again Feb. 3.

Long term care homes have again been hit hard by the COVID-19 virus. Five of the seven outbreaks in Lambton are in long term care homes. The worst is at Trillium Villa in Sarnia. The 115 bed home has had 60 residents and 42 staff members test positive for the virus since Jan. 3. It's still in outbreak.

Watford's Quality Care, which had been COVID-19 free before the Omicron wave, is also still in outbreak with 20 residents and 15 staff members positive since Jan. 5.

North Lambton Lodge is also in outbreak according to Lambton Public Health, as is Afton Park Place.

Public Health says six more people have died in the last week of the virus bringing the total number people who have died of COVID-19 in Lambton to 114. January has been one of the most

deadly months of the now nearly two year long pandemic with 28 passing away in the month.

Meantime, Lambton's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, suggested rapid testing of Lambton County employees may not help limit the spread of COVID-19 as effectively anymore.

Those who aren't vaccinated have to have rapid tests twice a week. But Warwick Mayor Jackie Rombouts wanted to know since vaccinated people can get COVID-19 and pass it along to others, is the testing still useful.

“A vaccinated person and an unvaccinated person seem to be equally likely to get COVID-19,” Ranade said adding vaccinated people may not spread the virus for as long.

Ranade says the original premise of the testing program was “if they were more likely to get the disease (when they were not vaccinated) then testing might catch that before it came into the workplace,” he told Rombouts. With vaccinated people getting the Omicron variant, they also could bring the virus to the workplace without being tested.

“The use of rapid tests to detect COVID should be considered independent of the vaccination status of



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Editorial

Picking a side

Our Members of Parliament are in a difficult situation right now.

Faced with pandemic weary constituents a protest arrives at the foot of Parliament Hill - a protest which clearly some members of their community support having travelled eight hours up the highways to bring a message that it was “time to get our lives back” and demanding Prime Minister Justin Trudeau “end all mandates” or they won’t leave. The main talking point has been vaccine mandates for international truck drivers. Vaccination allows free passage; if you aren’t, you face quarantine.

Both the members from Lambton-Kent-Middlesex and Sarnia-Lambton are on record as saying they “stand with our truckers” adding Prime Minister Trudeau should meet with the protestors. Both feel he’s using heavy handed tactics to force people to get vaccinated. The Conservative Party official stance has for some time been that it encourages people to get vaccinated but no one should be forced.

Even one of the Liberal MPs said Tuesday the mandates were politically motivated.

And it is clear in the time of Omicron, being vaccinated isn’t the gold ticket to be COVID free. It does however save you from death, which we think should be enough incentive to roll up a sleeve.

It is easy to see how both MPs could see the political advantage to siding with the Canadians gathered from the far reaches of the nation to Ottawa. But they should be wary hooking their horses to this wagon.

The stated goal of the Canada Unity group organizing the protest is to overturn the democratically elected government. The written proof is for all to see on their website. Truckers involved in the protest have to sign the document to stay. They agree to bypass democracy to get what they want. The MPs can say “there are a few bad apples” but the apple is bad at the core - it’s organizing group. We need only look to our neighbours to the south to see what can be unleashed if we’re not careful and MPs make their stated cause legitimate.

There is undoubtedly support in their ridings for the end to pandemic measures and even support for the protestors actual end game to depose the Liberal government, there are many more people are deeply concerned about those who plot to overthrow a democratically elected government.

And we should be just as concerned our local elected officials don’t seem to be concerned at all.

Letters to the Editor

The Independent welcomes Letters to the Editor.

Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca

You can also deliver letters to *The Independent* at 4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia or drop them in the mail at *The Independent*, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0.

The Independent reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity.

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

Our Story



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION

There was always something exciting going on in Petrolia because of the oil industry. Here young boys gather to watch an agitator on fire in town. It appears it is near Victoria Hall which seems to be on the left of the photo.

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Canada

Opinion

‘No one goes through life without rules’ says reader

EDITOR:
I have heard it said time after time from individuals that being told to get the COVID vaccine and wear a mask is infringing on their rights.
What about my rights?
I have had two doses of the vaccine, had a booster shot, and wear a mask in order to help keep myself and my family safe. Unless we all take a stand in this and get vaccinated, we are

going to spend the next few years like we have been for the last two years. Is that really your intention?
I remember going through my teenage years thinking that I could do whatever I wanted to do and no one was going to tell me what I could and could not do.
Needless to say, anyone living under their parent’s roof has rules, when you are in school, you have rules, and

when you go out into the work force, you have rules.
No one goes through life without rules in place.
COVID is no joke.
Ask anyone who has lost a loved one to this terrible and contagious virus.

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Crown wants two year sentence in Warwick manslaughter

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Tina George wishes she had never gone out the night she stabbed Jesse Storr in a Warwick Village home.
“But what would have happened to my sister,” said George.
Her words came from a pre-sentence report as Justice Bruce Thomas heard from her lawyer, Richard Braiden, and the Crown Attorney Melanie Nancekievill Feb. 4 in Sarnia Superior Court. George, 38, pled guilty to manslaughter last October in the death of Jesse Storr.
Nancekievill suggested George should be sentenced to two years less a day – to avoid federal prison – saying her actions were “near self-defence.”
George’s lawyer suggested house arrest or a suspended sentence.
Storr, 29, was found injured in his Egremont Road home the afternoon of April 29, 2018 after hours of partying and a chaotic, drug and alcohol-fueled confrontation.
Storr and Tina George knew each other. Storr had three children with one of George’s sisters. They divorced and Storr began dating another sister. She was at the party with Tina George and Storr that night.
Both relationships with George’s

sisters were described as “tumultuous,” marred by both verbal and physical abuse. Storr’s girlfriend at the time of his death says he was “abusive, controlling and threatened to kill her if she ever left him.”
The root of Storr’s issues were attributed to addiction.
The night before the violent incident, Storr, Tina George, her sister and a few friends were drinking at bars and house parties in Sarnia and Forest, where they had all been getting along. Storr was consuming cocaine and crystal meth, while they all drank alcohol. The partying end by the early morning where the George sisters and Storr were alone in his apartment in Warwick and went to sleep.
Storr woke up, had a violent fight in the bedroom with his girlfriend where he had punched, bit and threw the woman against a wall. She came out of the bedroom and her right eye was swollen shut. Tina George started to leave the apartment, walking with her sister down Egremont Road. Storr chases them before he broke George’s phone when she tried to call for help. He ripped his girlfriend’s shirt before dragging her back inside his home.
Court heard Storr pushed Tina George down the stairs and slammed the door on her arm before she forced

her way inside.
While Storr sat on the couch with his girlfriend, George went to kitchen and returned to the living room. Before her sister could look up, she heard him exclaim “Ow, what the (expletive) Tina.”
Storr was holding his chest. George admitted to driving a steak knife into him and had stabbed him twice in his legs. He managed to stand up, take a few steps before collapsing.
Tina George’s lawyer says Storr was unpredictable and had been abusive when he had been drinking. Braiden said George was worried her sister’s life was in danger.
Nancekievill says George took the time to get a knife from the kitchen so it was not an impulse. Storr was unarmed when he was stabbed.
The court heard George has no criminal record and has gone almost four years without breaching any of the conditions of her bail as the case went through the court system..
Thomas will sentence George March 15.



Jesse Storr

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St. Clair wants waste water tested for COVID-19

Heather Brouwer
The Independent

St. Clair Township will not be getting its wastewater tested by the province for traces of COVID-19 - at least, not yet.
Township staff recently reached out to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks to ask about being included in its COVID-19 wastewater initiative, but the program is operating at maximum capacity.

The MECP initiative conducts sampling and analysis on the raw sewage of some wastewater treatment plants in Ontario, quantifying COVID-19 viral particles to assess the trends in infections in those communities.
St. Clair Township has requested to be put on the waiting list.
In the meantime, COVID-19 from wastewater will not be infect public, explained Bahar Aminvaziri, manager of the Wastewater Surveillance

Initiative of MECP, in a note to staff.
“Our understanding is that this virus is not waterborne, and it doesn’t survive in wastewater,” he wrote.
And although wastewater might contain viral fragments shed by infected individuals, those particles break down as sewage goes through treatment.
“A standard water treatment plant eliminates the possibility of a live COVID-19 virus being discharged into the environment.”



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ONE LAST LOOK



Members of the Faith Haven Mennonite Church want to give the people of Croton one last look at the old United Church. The building dates back to 1897. In 1996, the United Church closed. The Mennonite Church plant bought the building and have been using it as a school and church. Matthew Horst but it would be too expensive to renovate for their needs now. A new building is already to use behind the church. Before the building comes down, Faith Haven is inviting former church members to have one last look March 5. “Many folks in the community have attachments to that building, whether it’s a wedding or another ceremony that they were involved in at the church previous and so we wanted to give everyone the opportunity to have a look at it before it comes down out of respect for everyone that’s been there.” You can book an appointment by calling 519-436-1641.

Dawn-Euphemia tax increase likely 4.1 per cent

Dawn-Euphemia councillors will be presenting a 2022 budget with a 4.1 per cent tax increase to ratepayers.. Council hashed out some of the details of the \$4.2 million operating and \$1.3 million capital budget Monday. Spending has increased by 4.9 per cent in the 2022 budget including about \$500,000 for future projects. Treasure Mark Seguin says the fire tanker truck - expected to be delivered this spring - came in about \$30,000 under budget. One of the larger capital projects in the works is an addition to the Cairo public works building. Manager Paul Dalton says a two bay addition is expected to cost about \$226,000 with \$100,000 coming from a grant. Council gave directions earlier this month for staff to cut back some of the suggested 4.9 increase signalling 4.1 per cent would be better. They approved that budget Monday night. Council will now hold a public meeting on the draft document.

Brooke-Alvinston studies 4.25 per cent tax increase

Heather Wright
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston councillors will review a 2022 budget proposal Thursday which recommends a 4.25 per cent tax increase. That would mean about \$16 more for every \$100,000 of assessed value of a home or \$3.57 more for every \$100,000 for farm land. Treasurer Stephen Ikert, in a presentation to council, says the draft budget tries to be fiscally responsible while maintaining the levels of service residents have come to expect. It also invests in the community’s infrastructure, he says. Ikert proposes Brooke-Alvinston spend about \$4.45 million to operate the municipality. That’s about \$350,000 more

than last year. The draft budget lays out \$1.4 million in capital spending - that’s far less than the \$5.7 million spent in 2021. “An aggressive 2021 capital budget made possibly only due to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Grant that we were given and due to purchases that were planned for 2020 being deferred to 2021,” says Ikert in the report. “Also in 2021 we went over our capital budget by almost \$1,000,000 which was financed by borrowing and reserve withdrawals.” Ikert says some of the operating increases are being offset by the \$406,000 surplus from 2021. “The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will continue to place uncertainty on the 2022 operating budget as it did on the 2021

and 2020 operating budgets,” he said. And he added the municipality continues to use reserves to help minimize tax increases. In the last two years, the budget shows the municipality has used \$1.33 million from the reserves, which now have about \$2.12 million in them. The problem is compounded by the province clawing back the Ontario Municipal Partnership fund. Brooke-Alvinston gets about \$1 million less now than it did in 2013, when the then Liberal government started reducing grants to rural municipalities. Ikert’s budget proposal also shows Brooke-Alvinston has the fourth highest tax rate in Lambton County behind Sarnia, Petrolia and Oil Springs which has the highest tax rate.

Same speed, more signs to slow Shiloh traffic

Heather Wright
The Independent


Brooke-Alvinston is going to change some of the signs on Shiloh Line hoping to slow down people racing down the newly paved road. Neighbours complained recently about the road near AW Campbell Conservation Area comparing it to a race track. They’d asked for improvements before, however council decided against any changes saying the road would be rebuilt and that should improve the situation. But since the road was repaved, neighbours say the situation is worse and are worried someone is going to get seriously hurt if Brooke-

Alvinston council doesn’t do something about it. Residents at first asked for the speed limit in the area to be lowered from 80 km/h to 60 km/h. Others asked council to consider a community safety zone. The provincial legislation doubles the fines in the zones. But Public Works Manager Randy Hills says there is an obvious problem with that solution. “The problem in implement the community safety zone is enforcement,” he wrote in a report to council. “If police aren’t available for regular enforcement, then implement the program will have little effect.” Hills brought in the

municipality’s insurance adjuster to take a look at the corner and consulted with provincial guidelines for road signage. He suggested council change some of the signage to give drivers more of a heads up on the curve and hill. And he says if that doesn’t work, some of the trees could be cut back or removed to give better sight lines. And Hill says he’ll meet with the park’s manager to see what he can do about the speeders leaving the area. “He can’t control them when they come out of the park, but maybe we can educate them when they’re in the park. It is too bad to have everybody affected by just a few people that are causing the problems.”

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The COVID-19 Pandemic Through the Eyes of Rural Frontline Staff



Charlotte's Corner

– ADVERTORIAL –

Nearly two years since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared worldwide, nurses on the frontline at Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital (CEEH) of Bluewater Health have had to adapt, and they’ve managed to do so while maintaining their excellent standard of care. Anne Gilmore, a Charge Nurse in Acute Care, was on site when, unbeknownst to staff, their first COVID-19 positive patient came through CEEH’s doors. It was late March 2020 when Anne says they had their first frightening encounter with the virus. Anne says that at the time, they weren’t yet accustomed to treating patients with the virus. Once it became clear the patient was likely COVID-19 positive, they were sent to Sarnia, but later succumbed to the virus. In a tight knit community like Petrolia, each loss of a neighbour is a heavy blow to the town’s heart. Since then, Anne says, “COVID-19 has become a household name, but we don’t treat it that way. We are very diligent in handwashing, isolation and supporting each other.” At CEEH, staff work hard to provide both medical and emotional support to patients. And in turn, the community supports their healthcare workers. Anne

says people in the area have brought staff gifts throughout the pandemic, including baskets of apples. “We support one another in this community,” Anne says. “I don’t know what we would do without our community, they’re our lifeline.” Shannon Whalen, a Registered Nurse, spent the past 18 months working in the Emergency Department at CEEH. She says it has been a challenge for frontline staff, and this past fall and holiday season saw a major influx in emergency room visits. “We were seeing up to 60-70 people in a day,” Shannon says. And with one doctor and three nurses on shift, staff were at times overwhelmed. But their hard work doesn’t go unnoticed; just last month, an emergency service drive-by was organized to celebrate and recognize rural healthcare heroes like Anne and Shannon. Shannon says it’s always nice to get that recognition in the community from first line responders, especially in a small town like Petrolia. “We appreciate all of the first responders, we very much work hand in hand,” she says. “It’s great to see that support for us and to know that we’re so appreciated.”

Gladu won’t run for Conservative leadership

Heather Wright
The Independent

Sarnia-Lambton MP Marilyn Gladu says she won’t be running for leader of the Conservative Party.

Gladu, who ran in the race which lead to Erin O’Toole’s leadership, endorsed the first and so far only MP to declare their leadership, Pierre Poilievre.

Gladu tells *The Independent* after O’Toole stepped down, she put her name forward for the Interim Leader’s position, however she didn’t have the support of caucus. She added it was also clear after voicing concerns about the way the last leadership race was handled, the party did not want her on the ballot.

Gladu adds Poilievre seems to have a good grassroots organization.

“Usually the grassroots determines the policy and we fine tune it into programs and election platforms. And I think Pierre has a desire to go back that way and have the grassroots have the say, so I would expect that there will be a lot of dialogue, once he’s leader about what our policy direction changes will be,” she says. O’Toole was widely criticized for his policy on carbon

pricing during the September election which went directly against a grassroots stand on the carbon tax.

While Gladu endorsed Poilievre, who is seen as the front runner, she still wonders whether he will be able to expand the party’s reach outside of the tradition grassroots supporters.

“Pierre is very popular here in Sarnia-Lambton; he’s been here a number of times, people love him. I think I’ve even people on my riding association if they had to choose to vote for Pierre or vote or for me, they would vote for Pierre,” Gladu says with a laugh. “It’s not that they don’t like me and it’s not that they don’t support me, but he is a bit of a strong performer in the house and they do really like that.

“He’s very popular with the base and the challenge for Pierre is going be to expand the base, and to relate to other folks.... The House of Commons is a bit of political theater – so it’s fine to be successful there. But I would say, Pierre has really matured over the time that I’ve known him.”

It’s not clear when the leadership race will be held. Gladu says it could be by the end of the year.

Testing services leaving St. Clair Township

Heather Brouwer
The Independent

Rapids Family Health Team will no longer be providing laboratory services in St. Clair Township.

The health team informed the township that its last day of operation at its Corunna satellite site will be Feb. 28.

Citing staff shortages amid COVID-19, the Feb. 1 letter to council read, “we have been unsuccessful in recruiting staff to our facility.”

Council addressed the issue at its Feb. 7 meeting.

“It’s very sad to lose this service after the number of years it’s been provided,” said Councillor Pat Brown. “Hopefully we’ll be able to come up with something in the future here to replace this at that location.”

Members of staff and council have already begun considering alternatives, said Deputy Mayor Steve Miller.

“I think we might have some irons in the fire right now trying to find people,” he said.

Council passed a motion to have staff investigate alternative service providers.

Rapids Family Health Team has been providing Lifelab services at the Shell Health Centre since 2013.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Clark Aitken of Parkland Farms, Don McGugan of the Lambton Soil and Crop Improvement Association, and Donna Blue of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority present Plympton-Wyoming farmer Brian Schoonjans with the Outstanding Farmer of 2020 award.

PW man behind Miracle Max’s Minions honoured

The Independent

The man behind a sunflower patch in Plympton-Wyoming which raised awareness about childhood cancer and money for families seeking treatment has been named the Outstanding Farmer by the Lambton Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

Brian Schoonjans has been given the 2020 award.

Schoonjans was born and raised in Plympton-Wyoming on a farrow to finish pig farm and now owns his own 150 farm where he grows corn, soybeans and wheat as well as the occasional oats for his goats

or for cover crop.

But it was Schoonjans patch of sunflowers that has perhaps garnered the most attention. Miracle Max’s Minions was a tribute to Max Rombouts who died of cancer at a young age.

Thousands of people have visited the patch and close to \$140,000 was raised for ChildCan which provides funding for pediatric cancer and help for families who are in the middle of a cancer battle.

The news release announcing the honour says Schoonjans has become “a very strong farmer’s voice within Lambton County and beyond.”

Townships of Dawn-Euphemia, Enniskillen, St. Clair and Warwick, the City of Sarnia, the Municipalities of Lambton Shores, Brooke-Alvinston, the Towns of Petrolia and Plympton-Wyoming and the Villages of Oil Springs and Point Edward are recruiting experienced professionals to be considered for appointment to the:

JOINT COMPLIANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Committee is required to act in accordance with the powers and obligations set out in the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended (MEA). The Committee will be required to:

- consider a compliance audit application received from an elector that a candidate or a registered third party has contravened provisions of the MEA relating to election campaign finances and determine whether it should be granted or rejected;
- if the application is granted, the committee shall appoint an auditor to conduct a compliance audit;
- receive the auditor’s report;
- consider the auditor’s report and if the report concludes that the candidate or registered third party appear to have contravened a provision of the MEA relating to election campaign finances, the committee may commence legal proceedings against the candidate or third party for the apparent contravention; and,
- consider the report(s) of the clerk identifying each contributor to a candidate for office on a council or a registered third party who appears to have contravened any of the contribution limits under section 88.9 or 88.13 of the MEA and decide whether to commence a legal proceeding against a contributor for an apparent contravention.

Members of Council, employees or officers of the municipality or local board, any persons who are registered third parties in the municipality in the election for which the committee is established or any persons who are candidates in the election for which the Committee is established are not eligible to be appointed to the Committee.

All Committee Members selected for appointment must agree in writing that they will not work for or provide advice to any candidate running for municipal office within the member municipalities. The Committee will meet as needed, with meetings to be scheduled when a compliance audit application is received.

The term of the Committee shall be from November 15, 2022 to November 14, 2026.

Applicants are required to submit a written summary outlining their qualifications and experience. Applications will be reviewed by the municipal Clerks of the member municipalities who will make recommendations to their respective municipal Councils for appointment.

If you are interested in being considered for appointment to the Joint Compliance Audit Committee, please apply by Friday, February 25, 2022 at 12:00 p.m to:

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The Corporation of the City of Sarnia
amy.burkhart@sarnia.ca

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Fundraiser for East Lambton Centre underway

The Independent

A drive to raise \$2 million for the new East Lambton Community Centre is underway. George and Rhonda Noll are spearheading the campaign to raise money for the revamped arena with a community centre addition. Construction of the \$11.5 million project is well underway, although officials now say it will be the fall of 2022 before the work is complete. Delays due to COVID-19 and a lack of skilled trades workers has slowed the project according to town staff. The Nolls were appointed last year and began putting a campaign team together. “We have set our goal and we know that the goal is attainable with the Warwick and surrounding area’s support,” Rhonda said. “We are ready, we are set, let’s go.” Former owner of Acton’s Service Centre Mike

Acton, Rick Bebingh of Bebingh Insurance, Carolyn Cornelissen of Cornelissen Farms, Warwick Fire Dept. Fire Chief Brad Goodhill, Watford Optimist Club members Mark Hamel and Steve Minten along with owner of Brad Rombouts of Rombouts Farm Drainage & Excavating, join Mayor Jackie Rombouts Warwick Township Councillor Todd White will lead fundraising efforts. “We are so excited to have such committed community volunteers who feel passionate about this project and the amenities it will bring to the community. “Council can’t wait to see the finished product and to attend events in this new facility. It is so exciting to drive by and see the new building take shape,” she said in a news release announcing the drive. Watford Rotary has already committed \$25,000 to the project.

Corunna woman gets house arrest for drug conviction

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

A Corunna woman who worried about going to jail has been sentenced to six months of house arrest after being found in a car with drugs. Jennifer Pyette was sentenced to six months of house arrest when she appeared in Sarnia Court Feb. 8. The Corunna woman pled guilty to fleeing from police and dangerous driving. On July 15, 2019, police attempted to make a traffic stop on Confederation Street in Sarnia. Instead the vehicle, driven by Pyette, sped up. It turned north on Finch Street where it struck the curb, before coming to a stop near Treewood Crescent. She and her passenger, Michael Adams, were

arrested and seven grams of cocaine was found on Adams. Pyette no longer associates with Adams. “It is an ongoing issue, my addiction,” she explained, saying her trouble with police stems from her drug use. “It has been going on for 10 years now. I am sick and tired of being sick and tired. I want to get better for my daughter and for myself.” Pyette added “The thought of going to jail is keeping me up all night,” said Aside from house arrest, Pyette will participate in counselling around her mental health and addiction. She is also prohibited from driving for two years.

- THE INDEPENDENT

LENDING A HAND



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Petrolia/North Enniskillen firefighters provided help in an unusual way Feb. 2. Several headed to Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital to clear off the snow covered cars of hospital employees working late into the night.



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Sports

PW’s Verbeek new GM of Anaheim Ducks

The Independent

Pat Verbeek will lead the Anaheim Ducks.

The Reece’s Corners native says “it’s an honour and a privilege to be named general manager,” in an article on NHL.com. “I look forward to working with our entire staff to build on the foundation in place to construct a championship team our fans will be proud of on and off the ice.”

He was welcomed by Owner Henry Samueli. “Pat’s outstanding work ethic and vast knowledge of the game as a successful executive and player throughout his 35-plus years in the NHL make him an

outstanding fit to lead us forward. He brings a unique pedigree, having vast experience and serving in integral leadership roles for championship teams as both a player and executive at the NHL level.”

Verbeek was assistant general manager and director of player personnel for the Tampa Bay Lightning from 2012-19 after serving as director of professional scouting from 2010-12. He was a pro scout for the Red Wings from 2006-10, including their Stanley Cup championship season in 2008.

Verbeek – nicknamed The Little Ball of Hate for his ferocious temper – scored 522 goals, 540

assist) in 1,424 NHL games for the New Jersey Devils, Hartford Whalers, New York Rangers, Dallas Stars and Red Wings. He finished his NHL career with 2,905 penalty minutes, the most of any player who scored at least 500 goals. He won the Stanley Cup with the Stars in 1999.

Verbeek was a third-round pick (No. 43) by the Devils in the 1982 NHL Draft. He helped Canada win the 1994 IIHF World Championship and finish second at the 1989 World Championship and the 1996 World Cup of Hockey.

He replaces Jeff Solomon, who was named GM on Nov. 10 when Bob Murray resigned as



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pat Verbeek - known as The Little Ball of Hate - is the new GM in Anaheim.

executive vice president and GM professional conduct. following an investigation into his

Petrolia Flyers inch toward playoff berth

The Independent

The Petrolia Flyers took another large step toward a PJHL Stobbs Division playoff berth with a 5-0 win over the Junior Kings in Dresden last Friday. Tyler Richardson turned aside 21 shots for his first career junior shutout.

Clay Dolbear and Peyton Armitage led the Petrolia offense each with a goal and an assist. Andrew Jaques, Josh Jamieson, and Evan Morningstar had the others. The win came 24

hours after Richardson made a season-high 54 saves in a 6-0 loss to Lakeshore. The unbeaten Canadiens only had period leads of 1-0 and 2-0 before peppering the Petrolia cage with 26 shots and four goals in the third to cement the victory.

The Flyers are now six points up on both Dresden and Wallaceburg for the final postseason berth.

Petrolia is at home to the Mooretown Flags Thursday at Greenwood. Game time is 7:30. They host Amherstburg in a



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The Flyers beat Dresden 5-0 Friday. rare Tuesday home game next week.

King registers first career shutout

Barry Wright
The Independent

Nathan King turned aside all 27 shots he faced Saturday for the Mooretown Flags in a 6-0 win over Wallaceburg. It was his first career PJHL shutout. Mooretown outshot the Hawks, 51-27.

Jake Vince led the Flags with two goals and two assists, including what proved to be the game-winning marker. It was his 11th multiple point game of the season. Brodie Conlon had a goal and two assists with singles going to Greg Hay, Nolan Farr, and Masen Flett. Logan Gardner had two assists.

On Sunday night in Blenheim, Hay had a goal and an assist and King made 33 stops in the Flags’ 4-2 victory. Farr, Bo Duxtator, and Brody Genyn also scored for the Mooretown.

After a stop in Petrolia Thursday night the Flags are home to entertain Lakeshore on Saturday night at 7:30. Mooretown visits Wheatley on Sunday afternoon.



Harper returns, helps Legionnaires to victory

The Independent

After a stint with the Sarnia Sting during the GOJHL shutdown, Austin Harper returned to the Sarnia Legionnaires and played a large role in Sarnia’s 2-1 win over St. Marys last Thursday night at the Sarnia Arena.

The Plympton-Wyoming product had

a goal and an assist and was chosen the first star of the contest. He was also stopped on a penalty shot in the third period.

Ryder Nienhuis also scored for Sarnia. Former Petrolia Flyer Wil O’Leary-Dilosa registered an assist for the Legionnaires.

On Saturday in Komoka, Oil City’s

Carson Peer and Sting draft choice Brayden Degelas scored for Sarnia in a 6-2 setback to the Kings.

Komoka and the Legionnaires play the back half of their home-and-home series Thursday at the Sarnia Arena at 7:10.

The Legionnaires are at St. Marys Friday.

Wait almost over for playoff bound Petrolia Squires

The Independent

The Squires will know this weekend who their first round playoff opponent will be in the WOAA Senior A playoffs.

Milverton plays at Creemore this Saturday in the third and deciding

game of their opening round series.

The winner advances to the semi-finals against the Squires. Petrolia received a first round bye by virtue of having the top record in the bottom half of the league standings during the regular season.

The top eight teams in 13-team

circuit play for the AA trophy, while teams that finished nine through 13 play for the A title.

A league source previously said the Squires’ series would likely begin on Feb. 18.

Last year, the playoffs were iced because of the pandemic.



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Obituaries / Death Notices



MOORE
Donald

Donald Moore, of Oil Springs, died at Victoria Hospital, London on **Thursday, February 3, 2022** in his **93rd year**. He was loved by his family of 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. Don was the loving husband to the late Norma (nee Cox)(2014). He will be missed by his children Janice and Gord Fuller, Leigh and Amy Moore, Laurie and Rick Lightfoot, and Rob and Judy Moore. He was a loved grandfather to Katie Fuller and Kris Black, Jackie Fuller and Jamie Huff, Melissa and Mitch Conliffe, Allison and Curtis Reimer, Christie and Dan Baron, Carly and Kyle Crombeen, Zak Lightfoot, Dylan Lightfoot, Emily and Dylan Fraser, Josh Moore and Bailey McCabe, Ashley Moore and Isaac Towell, and great-grandfather to Kylie and Wylan Chapman, Abby Conliffe, Liam Nelson, Shane, Dean and Wyatt Reimer, Beckett Baron, Eve Crombeen, and Xavier Fraser. Don will also be missed by his loving friend and companion Dettes Shea and her family. Don is survived by his sister Elaine Kelly and sisters-in-law Donna Moore and Donna Cox. Don was predeceased by his parents Zacarias and Edna Moore and his brother Garnet Moore. Don was a farmer all his life. He had a strong work ethic, but he also truly loved farming and for much of his farming career Don thought nothing of spending 18 hours a day on farm work, mostly outdoors. Through the years he met so many wonderful people - other farmers, machinery dealers, crop input salespeople, members of farm organizations such as the Soybean Board, the Wheat Board, local council members, community-minded people involved with Alvinston Optimists and the Sarnia Community Foundation, etc. and he remembered each of them for their own unique abilities. Don enjoyed travelling and he was especially interested in seeing how farming was being done in other countries such as Spain, New Zealand, Brazil, and Costa Rica. On some of his trips he met travelers who became lifelong friends. Don was a man known for his good humour and charm - a "character" willing to share interesting comments with anyone in a conversation, no matter whether he had known you for years or had just met you. He usually made an impression as a friendly person with a warm smile and bright, twinkling eyes. Throughout his 92 years, Don was blessed with a loving family, sincere friendships, wonderful neighbours, and many acquaintances in the community and beyond. On Don's behalf, his family would like to extend thanks to each and every person who encountered Don, helped him in any way, or stopped and had a conversation with him. You know who you are, and we know Don is grateful for your interest in him, your assistance, and your friendship. A hard-working farmer, Don is now at rest. We are sure he will be surveying the fields from afar, come spring. **We will honour Don's request for a small private funeral, to be held at a later date, with interment in Oil Springs Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.cee hf.ca) and St. Joseph's Hospice (www.stjosephshospice.ca). **Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.**



JONES
Edna

Edna Jones (nee Unsworth), of Dresden and formerly of Petrolia and Goderich died peacefully at the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance-Wallaceburg Site on **Tuesday, February 1, 2022**, in her **98th year**. Edna was the daughter of the late Ray and Blanche Unsworth. She was the loving wife of the late Elwyn Jones (1999). She is survived by her children Rev. Blake and his wife Saundria Jones, Maureen and her husband Dr. Tim Slavens, and Dr. Mark and his wife Brenda Jones, fourteen grandchildren and their spouses, Heidi and Rev. Seth Weatherald, Dr. Daron and Amber Jones, Cherie and Rev. Titus Byer, Derek and Abby Jones, Kendrick and Emily Jones, Heather and Kevin Forney, Rev. Timothy Jr. and Rebekah Slavens, Meagan and Matthew Espenshade, Sofia and Levi Musser, Phoebe and Brian Spangler, Stephanie Slavens, Reuben and Alissa Slavens, Brent Jones, and Ashley Jones, and twenty six great grandchildren. Edna was predeceased by a sister Myrtle and brother-in-law George Moulton, a grandchild Benjamin Jones, and greatgrandchild Daniel Weatherald. Extending hospitality and kindness was a way of life for Edna. She was a member of the Dawn Valley Bible Methodist Church. **A private graveside service will be held at Hillsdale Cemetery, Petrolia. A Memorial Service will be conducted from the Rock Lake Bible Methodist Church, 8101 N. Pine Grove Road, Vestaburg, Michigan on Saturday February 12, 2022 at 11:00am. The memorial service will be recorded and posted on the church's Facebook page following the service. (Facebook - Rock Lake Bible Methodist Church.)** Edna's family would like to extend a sincere thank you to the staff of Park St. Place for their exceptional kindness and care over the years. Memorial donations may be made to the Resident Council Committee at Park Street Place Retirement Residence. (If making a donation, please make cheque out to PSP Resident Council Committee.) **Arrangments by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.**



MCAUSLAN
Maurice William

Maurice William McAuslan, 73 years, of Petrolia passed away with his family by his side on **Friday, February 4, 2022**. Maurice is survived by his wife of 47 years Mary (nee Knight), by his son Dan and Amanda, and his granddaughter Aliya. He was predeceased by his son Jimmy (2011). He was the son of the late Bill (1993) and Dorothy (2021) McAuslan, and is the brother of Marilyn and Errol Burgess. Maurice was an active member of Lambton Central Optimist Club and Petrolia Fair Board and volunteered many years with Habitat for Humanity. **Visitors were received on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 4059 Petrolia Line, Petrolia Interment was in Hillsdale Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Lambton County Developmental Services (lcdspetrolia.ca) or Habitat for Humanity (habitatsarnia.org). **Memories may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com.**

NEATHWAY
Carol

Carol Neathway, a lifelong resident of Petrolia, passed away peacefully with family by her side on **Saturday, February 5, 2022** at Strathmere Lodge in Strathroy, in her **80th year**. Carol was the daughter of the late Ted (1988) and Betty (2014) Neathway. She will be missed by her sister Joyce Seed (Gibson) of Strathroy, her brother Jim and Rosemary Neathway of Redwater, Alberta. She will also be missed by her many nieces, nephews, and extended family. She was predeceased by her brothers-in-law John Gibson and Rev. Charles Seed. Carol was a faithful member and Lay reader at Christ Anglican Church, leading Sunday Services when needed. She was an employee of C.E.E. Hospital in Petrolia until her retirement. After retirement she continued to volunteer her time as a C.E.E. Board Member and was a voice for the community during the amalgamation of the C.E.E. with the Sarnia hospitals. Carol also influenced the lives of many local girls in the community for many years as the local Brown Owl for the Petrolia Guides and Brownies. **A funeral service will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 1:00 pm. from Christ Church Anglican, 414 Oil St., Petrolia to attend please register at <https://signup.com/go/CUCldhQ>. If you are unable to stay for the service visitors will be received prior to the service from 12 pm to 12:30 pm please register at <https://signup.com/go/vSoCFgq>. Private Interment in Hillsdale Cemetery.** As expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.cee hf.ca) or Christ Church Anglican. **Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.**



ELLIOTT
Florence Catherine

Florence Catherine Elliott (nee McKay) passed away peacefully on **Wednesday, February 2, 2022** at Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital, Petrolia, at the age of **81**. Predeceased by husband Roy Elliott (April 26, 2021). Florence was the loving mother of her daughter Sharon and her husband Andrew Butt and her son Ken Elliott, and grandmother to her granddaughter Piper Elliott. She will be remembered by brother Leroy and wife Stella McKay, her nephew Brian and Andrea McKay and his children Samantha and Logan. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Doreen and husband Jack Smith and her brother-in-law Andrew and wife Marion Elliott and their families. Florence was predeceased by her parents Archie and Reta McKay and her mother and father-in-law Ken and Ena Elliott. Florence was active with Mandaumin United Church, serving as church secretary, UCW member and Sunday school teacher. She was also a prize winning quilter, wedding cake decorator, and was the "Pillow Lady" at the Brigden, Forest and Ilderton steam thresher shows. **A private graveside service was held at Hillsdale Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Kidney Foundation (www.kidney.ca) or support your local agricultural society. **Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.**

Wanted to Buy

CASH FOR GOLD + SILVER JEWELLERY + ALL COINS FREE ESTIMATES

FRIDAY Feb 11 @ Petrolia Lions Hall - 451 Huggard St. Petrolia 9am-4pm (Next to Arena) PRVATE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE ALL Gold+ silver JEWELRY Even some costume Any Gold(even teeth) OLD COINS Canada USA World War Medals Windup Watches Mintsets,Pocket watches. Old-Guitars. House Calls also available Dan Jones B.A.B.Ed. 54 years Coming to Petrolia since 2004 Exp. 519-818-1805



Church DIRECTORY

Christ Anglican Church
414 Oil Street, Petrolia

Due to Covid-19 we will be closed until further notice.

Stay Safe Everyone

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 will resume Sunday, February 20 @ 10:30 a.m.

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

First Baptist Church
418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

IN PERSON CHURCH SERVICE
Sunday Mornings @10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Alex Craig
Church Office 519-882-2480
email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com
www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca

Find us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia

Wyoming United Church
730 Second Street, Wyoming

In-person services suspended at this time. Please contact our office at wymoming_united@outlook.com to be sent the Zoom link to join us for our 10am live service.

Rev. Steven Longmoore
Church Office 519-845-3963
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 Katherine Hawley

Obituary

WILSON
David Sellers



It is with heavy hearts the family of **David Sellers Wilson** announces his passing at Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital, at the age of **85**. Loving husband of Norma Wilson (Nee Stutt) for 63 cherished years. Proud father of Jim Wilson and Barbara (Scott) McKellar. Devoted grandpa of Alicia (Logan) Hunter, Brad (Bridget) McKellar, Julia Wilson and Kristina Wilson. Special great-grandpa of Maddox, Millar and Merrick Hunter, Bennett and Nash McKellar. David was predeceased by his parents Norman and Lillian Wilson. From the young age of 10, David worked at his family business, Wilson Shell Gas Station for over 46 years in which he served his community with great dedication. David also sold and repaired televisions and operated the license office for the Ministry of Transportation for 35 years. The Wilson Shell station is currently still open as Watford's only gas station operating now for 76 years. David will always be remembered for his passion of cars and car racing. He enjoyed the stock car races at Delaware Speedway, Indianapolis 500, Daytona 500 and all the Nascar races. In 1960, David joined the Chemical Valley Car Club when he owned his 1930 Model A and was the last living Chartered Member of this group that was started 61 years ago. David was very involved in the community, serving as the President of Watford Minor Hockey Association. He was also a devoted Mason at the Watford Havelock Lodge, joining in 1961 and serving as Master in 1970. David was a member of the St. James Cemetery Board and also a dedicated member at the Trinity Anglican Church. David loved living in the Village of Watford and enjoyed talking to anyone who had the time to listen whether they were a stranger or a life-long friend. **As per David's wishes, cremation has taken place. A private family service and interment will be held at St. James Cemetery on Thursday February 10, 2022 at 11 a.m. Arrangements entrusted to DENNING'S OF WATFORD.** As expressions of sympathy, donations may be made to the St. James Cemetery Board or a charity of one's choice. Online condolences and donations may be left at www.watfordfuneralhome.com

Classifieds

Real Estate

**5301 Nauvoo Road
Watford, ON**

A commercial/residential investment opportunity in Watford's downtown awaits you. The building has double access from Nauvoo Road (Main Street) or at the rear, with parking. The 2nd floor consists of two 1-bdrm apartments. The main floor has a commercial hair-dressing shop up front with a 1-bdrm apt at the rear. These 4 units are all rented with long-term tenants. Tenants pay hydro and heat. Landlord pays the water. High speed unlimited internet available. It is a perfect investment opportunity to just take over or live in one unit and let the tenants pay the mortgage.

\$299,900

SHANAHAN REALTY INC. BROKERAGE
7963 Egremont Road, Watford • 519.849.6783 www.shanahanrealty.com
Leo Shanahan Sales Representative
Direct: 519-878-5981 • leo@shanahanrealty.com • Fax: 519.849.6683

Coming Events

Drive Through Food Drive- New Horizons Community Church (corner of Russell and Maxwell streets) will be holding a Drive Through Food Drive on Saturday February 26, 2022 from 9am until noon. Please bring your food donations and enter the church parking lot off of Elgin Street entrance. Exit church parking lot onto Maxwell street. All donations will be given to the Inn of the Good Shepherd. For more information call 226-402-3060.

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.**

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

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

Celebrations

Happy 88th Birthday Margaret Johnston

Please join us in sending cards and best wishes for Margaret's Feb. 26th birthday to Apt 112, 490 Erie St. Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0

Originally from Brooke Township, Marg was a long-time resident of Watford, working at Bell Canada, providing child care for many years and was active in the United Church



In Memory

In loving memory of a wonderful Dad, Grandpa & Great Grandpa

ARNOLD JOHNSON

who passed away nine years ago, February 18, 2013

*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.*

For death leaves a heartache,
No one can heal,
And love leaves a memory
No one can steal.

Forever loved and missed
Elaine, Len, Kathy,
Linda and Larry
and families

Answers to this week's


Sudoku

Brought to you by:

519.882.1290
4146 Petrolia Line
Petrolia

BrokerLink
Auto/Home/Business Insurance

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

**AGM** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**tuesday
FEB 22
7:30pm**

In Person Meeting and by Zoom

Wyoming Fairbuilding

Covid-19 Vaccination Compliance Check will be required for Attendees

If interested in attending via ZOOM please email: pwag.society3@gmail.com

Oil Springs Optimists


Meat Bingo

Thurs., Feb 17 @ 7pm
at the Oil Springs Youth Centre

To Enter and Play, you must:

- Show Proof of Double Vaccinations
- Wear a Mask
- Be 18+

All proceeds go to local youth

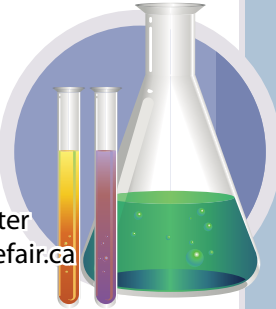


Lambton County Science Fair

Open to students
Grades 3-12

Projects ready for judging April 4

For information and to register www.lambtoncountysciencefair.ca
Register by March 25.



DEATH NOTICES

MONDAY, JANUARY 31

ADAMS-SLEEPER, Doris Mary
Age 92, of Town
Smith Funeral Home

HENDERSON, Reta Pearl
(n Sackrider)
Age 94, formerly of RR3 Oil Springs
Steadman Brothers Funeral Home

JONES, David Leon Paul
Age 72
Denning's of Watford

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

FITCHETT, Patricia (Baxter)
(n Skerratt)
Age 85
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

FOULIS, George Edward
Age 63
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

GRANT, Brienne Catherine Ashley
Age 20
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

HOPKINSON, Alexander Murray
Age 91
Smith Funeral Home

JONES, Edna
(n Unsworth)
Age 97, of Dresden & formerly Petrolia and Goderich
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

VAN TINTELEN, Jan
Age 94
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

ELLIOTT, Florence Catherine
(n McKay)
Age 81
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

NESBITT, Ronald "Ron" Murrell
Age 77
Smith Funeral Home

ST. ONGE, Richard
Age 65
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

MACK, Linda Elizabeth
(n Weber)
Age 73
Smith Funeral Home

MOORE, Donald
Age 92, of Oil Springs
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

HICKS, Emily Carline
(n Dunham)
Age 90
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

McAUSLAN, Maurice William
Age 73, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

SNELGROVE, Doreen Annie
Age 101
Knight Funeral Home

WATSON, Lucy Faith
(n MacPherson)
Age 70
Denning's of Forest

WELCH, Geraldine
Age 97
Van Heck Funeral Home

YATES, Robert "Bob" Lloyd
(Hutch, Beep Beep)
Age 81
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

NEATHWAY, Carol
Age 79, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home


WILSON, David Sellers
Age 85, of Watford
Denning's of Watford





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

Employment Opportunity / Help Wanted



Employment Opportunity – Township of Warwick
Proof of Vaccination Screeners

The Township of Warwick is looking to hire Proof of Vaccination Screeners for the Watford Community Arena. Screeners are responsible for reviewing and understanding all current information relevant to the screening mandate. These positions are temporary, part-time contracts with work in the evenings (after 4pm and weekends). The position will pay \$15/ hour.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Greet and screen visitors, at point of entrance into the Watford Community Arena
- Request and view COVID-19 double vaccination passports
- Other duties as assigned

Mandatory Competencies:

- Flexible, self-directed, and able to work with minimal supervision.
- Possess excellent customer service skills.
- Able to follow directions, instructions, and procedures.
- Able to maintain a polite and courteous manner in stressful situations.
- Able to communicate and provide clear instructions in an appropriate authoritative manner.
- Able to wear Personal Protective Equipment which includes masks.
- Able to physically perform the duties of the position and tasks including standing and sitting for extended periods of time.
- Reliable with excellent attendance record and able to work all shifts including week-ends and holidays; afternoon and evening shifts.

If you are interested in this position, please submit your resume to the undersigned by 12:00pm NOON Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

Madie Esselment
Township of Warwick
6332 Nauvoo Road
Watford, ON N0M 2S0
Phone: 519-849-3926
Fax: 519-849-6136
Email: messelment@warwicktownship.ca

KOSY KITTY IN ALVINSTON



PHOTO CREDIT

Feral cats in Alvinston have a place to call home. Sharon MacCabe started the Alvinston Feral Cat group in January after noticing a huge amount of strays in the community. MacCabe feeds the animals and tries to get them to adapt to humans. She thought this was the next logical step. The hope is to be able to have as many of the animals spayed or neutered to stabilize the population which she estimates could be as high as 100. So far, MacCabe has been able to have four cats fixed and three have found homes. All this costs money and the community has stepped up. On Jan. 17, residents were challenged to give money to animal causes in memory of TV star Betty White who recently passed away. The Alvinston Feral Cat group received \$1,000 to help pay the bills.

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



SHOP EARLY!
Shop Local!

LTC residents getting more visitors

The Independent

More family members were able to visit residents in long term care Monday.

The Ministry of Long Term Care says each resident will be able to have four essential care givers enter the home whenever they want, even in outbreak. But only two people will be able to visit at one time.

Residents who have had at least three doses of COVID-19 vaccine can go out on social day trips.

On February 21, general visitors five years and older who have had at least two doses of COVID-19 vaccine will be able to resume visits to long-term care residents.

The number of visitors at a time per resident will also increase from two to three, including caregivers. And all

residents, regardless of vaccination status, will be able to resume social day trips, and residents who have had at least three vaccine doses will be able to enjoy overnight social absences.

The adult day programs can resume then along with the return of entertainers and external personal care services in the homes. Social group activities should remain small, with up to 10 individuals.

After March 14, visitors under five years old will be able to resume visits and the number of visitors at a time, per resident will increase from three to four, including caregivers. All residents regardless of their vaccination status will also be able to enjoy social overnight absences.

Testing requirements for all staff, caregivers and visitors continue to be in place.

Lambton waiving library fines in March

The Independent

Procrastinators, it will soon be safe to go back to the library again.

Starting in March, Lambton will stop charging fines for late books. Even current fines will be removed from your record at the beginning of the month.

Darlene Coke, Lambton’s manager of library services, says research shows library fines usually hit low income earners and people for whom English is a second language the hardest.

And she says libraries around the world who have dropped fines have found the circulation of materials actually goes up without fines.

“We don’t want to penalize anyone for wanting to read, develop and learn,” said Coke.

“At the same time, we encourage our patrons to return items on time to ensure everyone has timely access to

our materials. All materials will still have due dates, however the financial penalty will simply be removed unless the materials are not returned.”

You will still be responsible for returning library items on time and fees charged for lost or damaged materials will still apply. Items that are not returned will be considered lost 30 days after an item’s due date, and borrowers will be notified.

Coke says they expect the move will actually save money in the long run. The average revenue collected on fines over the past two years is \$7,600, however the costs of collecting those fines can outweigh the revenue. According to the Ontario Library Association, hidden costs, including staff time, supplies for overdue notices, and payment fees, cost on average 20 per cent more than the fine itself.

ADVERTISING IS KEY

TOP REASONS to advertise frequently

1. People may not need your product or service today, but they may need it tomorrow.
2. Frequency builds trust.
3. Frequent advertising adds credibility to your message.
4. When an ad is seen frequently, it gets the consumer yearning for your service and they will take action to buy it.
5. Advertising frequently helps put your name out in front of the competition’s.
6. Advertising frequently is a lot like repeatedly inviting a friend to come see you. One day, they are bound to visit!
7. Frequent advertising helps you build a steady source of incoming sales.
8. Out of sight, out of mind.
9. You make more money when you do! It’s plain and simple.

The Independent
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0
Phone: 226-738-0728
email: sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca



KOSY KITTY IN ALVINSTON



LIANA RUSSWURM PHOTO

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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

Saturday, Feb 19

STREAM AT HOME*

Starting at 3:00pm for 24 hours!

HERITAGE DAY PETROLIA DISCOVERY

Open for Self Guided Tours Saturday, February 19 10:00am - 2:00pm Learn about the specific challenges of operating an 1870's historic oil field in winter.

SPECIAL GIVEAWAYS

Both entrances will be open, follow signage to parking. Entrances and parking locations are weather dependent. Follow us on Facebook for a special series of winter photos and updates.

*DRIVE-THRU THE PETROLIA FARMERS' MARKET AND PICK UP YOUR... FAMILY FUN PACK

396 Fletcher Street Saturday, February 19 10:00am - 2:00pm Family Fun Packs include log in code for movie Tom & Jerry, take out coupon and more! Available to the first 400 families.

SPONSORED BY

Sunday, Feb 20

PUBLIC SKATING

Greenwood Arena 4065 Dufferin Ave 1:50pm-2:50pm Participants permitted based on Provincial limits and vaccine requirements.

SPONSORED BY

Monday, Feb 21

FREE* All Are Welcome DRIVE THRU BREAKFAST

New Life Assembly Church 421 Oozloffsky St. 9:00am-10:00am

PUBLIC SKATING

Greenwood Arena 4065 Dufferin Ave 10:00am-11:30am 12:00pm-1:30pm 2:00pm-3:30 pm Participants permitted based on Provincial limits and vaccine requirements.

SPONSORED BY

FEBRUARY 19-21, 2022

Petrolia Family Fun Days!

Send us some photos of how your family celebrates Family Day! We would love to see them!

Town of PETROLIA

411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia 519-882-2350 town.petrolia.on.ca

Send us your pictures

Take pictures and send them to twagner@petrolia.ca by Monday, Feb 21 at 4pm

Annual TOWN OF PETROLIA SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST

WEATHER PERMITTING FEBRUARY 1 TO 21

SOME SIMPLE RULES

USE SNOW BE CREATIVE HAVE FUN

1 Make Your Snow Monster. You may use props but snow must be the main material.

2 Take a picture.

3 Email pictures to twagner@petrolia.ca by 4pm on Feb 21, 2022.

THEME: SILLY, SCARY, GOOFY SNOW MONSTERS

WIN GREAT PRIZES

SPONSORED BY: LAMBTON CENTRAL PETROLIA OPTIMIST CLUB

EVENT SPONSOR

Lambton College Community Employment Services