

Lambton to be a battleground in privatization fight: Coalition

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Sarnia-Lambton Health Coalition says the provincial health care system is being privatized and they want to make it an election issue.

The coalition held a news conference Monday highlighting Health Minister Christine Elliott’s statement several weeks ago which said it would use “independent health facilities” to clear up the backlog of surgeries which built up during COVID-19. Kathy Fortier of Unifor says that is another clear move towards the privatization of health care.

“This is a very, very serious breach of the whole spirit of the Canada Health Act ... For profit hospitals have been banned for many, many years in Ontario, and in Canada. And this is just really, finding a solution to a problem that they’ve created,” she says noting the current system is underfunded.

Trish McAuliffe of the National Seniors’ Federation says her members already are paying out of pocket for health services as private centres doing procedures such as cataract surgery “upsell” lenses, costing seniors upwards of \$2,000.

June Weiss, a pharmacist who now co-chairs the Sarnia-Lambton Coalition says Lambton residents already are being lured into private care by a company called Ontario Outpatient. People can book procedures like surgeries, MRI’s online, drive over the Bluewater Bridge and complete the treatment.

SEE PRIVATIZATION PG 2

THERE’S A FLYER AND A PUCK IN THERE SOMEWHERE



PHAEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The Dresden Jr Kings net became a very crowded place as Petrolia Flyers forward Clay Dolbear was in the middle of the melee to get the puck during Feb. 24 game at the Greenwood Recreation Centre. See coverage on page 9.

Havlik remembered as health care advocate for rural Ontario, Petrolia councillor

Heather Wright
The Independent

Helen Havlik is being remembered as a mentor, fierce advocate and a woman who took politicians to task.

Havlik, who served as a Petrolia councillor and fought to keep Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hos-

pital vibrant, has passed away at the age of 92.

Havlik was born in Amherstburg and trained as a nurse in Windsor. She spent many years at CEEH before retiring as the director of nursing.

In retirement, she served as the president of the Sarnia-Lambton Health Coalition for many years.

She pushed to keep services at the CEEH during her tenure, worried about “small insidious cuts” which she feared would lead to the hospital eventually closing.

Arlene Patterson, who worked along side Havlik on the coalition says she was “a true advocate for public health care.”

Havlik was also one of the first

people to suggest Glenview – the home of the Englehart’s which became the first hospital – should be separated from the hospital and remain a historic site. That’s now part of the 25 year plan to renovate the hospital.

Havlik was an honorary life-time member of Lambton Developmental Services. She

served as a board member and president over the years. “Helen was a fierce advocate for people with developmental disabilities and also served and represented LCDS as the President of Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs,” says current general manager Nick Salaris.

SEE HAVLIK PG 2

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Havlik remembered as fierce advocate

CON'T FROM PG 1

Havlik was an inaugural member of OASIS, says Jane Joris, general manager of long term care for Lambton County.

“Helen set the course for all the good work that organization has done over these many years,” says Joris. “When I was on that board many of the members had their favourite memories of Helen ... providing sage advice, taking politicians to task and ensuring that good governance was part of every decision. She has left a legacy and the whole province will miss her.

Havlik also served eight years on town council.

In Aug. 2013, Councillor Havlik, who was in her 80s at the time, had a stroke and took a leave of absence while recovering. She told *The Independent* at the time she hoped to return to the council table, because she felt “obligated to do something for the town.”

Former Petrolia mayor John McCharles served with Havlik. “Helen was extremely dedicated to rural health and promoted CEE every chance she got,” he tells *The Independent*.

“She believed being on council gave her a forum to get her message out about rural health and the support that was required from the community.

“She was strong-willed and well versed in health care and the politics in the system.”



Helen Havlik

Privatization of health care to be election issue

CON'T FROM PG 1

“Ontarians deserve free access to medical care whether it be day surgery, ultrasound, MRIs, CT scans. This is what the Canada Health Act is all about,” says Weiss.

“Service should not be based on how much money you can pay out of pocket, and are you willing to pay out of pocket, are able to pay? Because we know not everyone can, and that’s not fair.”

And Shirley Roebuck of the Sarnia-Lambton Coalition says the long term care field is rife with examples of privatization.

“Mr. Ford’s government is midstream in giving away over 18,000 Long Term Care beds with 30-year licenses to for-profit companies, which already are responsible for the deaths of thousands of residents during the COVID epidemic and who had stood in the way of inspections, regulations to protect residents, accountability and justice for those who have died in squalid conditions,” she says. “He is planning \$17.8 billion in cuts to public services post election.”

Weiss agrees noting Revera was recently given a 30 year contract to rebuild Trillium Villa in Sarnia with more beds. When the announcement was made, the home was in a massive COVID-19 outbreak.

“At that point in time, a third of 100 residents and 36 staff tested positive for COVID-19. It’s been shown that these large for-profit homes have had a much higher death rate than the public nonprofit,” she says.

“We need more not-for-profit homes not private for-profit. Corporations should not be profiting at the expense of our loved ones that need care.”

Roebuck says the health coalition will launch a massive education campaign before the June election to make sure health care funding becomes the top election issue.

Cattle lost in Warwick dairy farm fire

Heather Wright
The Independent

About 100 cattle were lost in a barn fire in Warwick Township.

Firefighters from Warwick and Arkona were called to a dairy farm on Egremont Road at about 4 am Feb. 24 and found a barn on fire according to Fire Chief Brad Goodhill.

A truck driver on Egremont noticed the fire and woke the family at the dairy operation. By the time firefighters arrived the building was engulfed in flames.

“This was an auxiliary barn, so it was heifer calves and basically dry cows – cows that are done milking - and young breeder stock coming up, but they were varied in age to replace herd later.”

The building was destroyed and about 100 cattle died in the fire however the fire chief says the main operation was not damaged.

Goodhill says fire officials have not been able to determine what sparked the fire.

He expects it will cost about \$1 million to replace the barn.

St. Clair waterline project scrapped by CK PUC

Thanks, but no thanks.

Some residents on Whitebread Line have decided against having the Chatham-Kent Public Utilities Commission install a new waterline in the area.

The PUC was approached several years ago by some 12 residents along the St. Clair Township Road north of Wallaceburg about the possibility.

Officials say the 3,130 meter pipeline was estimated to cost \$614,376. That would have meant a bill for just under \$50,000 for each homeowner and about \$11,000 for the five farm properties on the road.

The PUC sent the information out to the people affected. About 55 per cent returned the ballot and 72 per cent voted not to go ahead.



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Agreement needed with Brooke-Alvinston on house

Heather Wright
The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia’s mayor says the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority should have an operating agreement with Brooke-Alvinston for Campbell House.

The comments came at an authority meeting where members heard how a new Friends of Campbell House group hopes to rebuild and use the home St. Clair planned to demolish.

The group came together shortly after The Independent reported the board approved the demolition of the historic farmhouse once owned by Archie Campbell. He donated the land which became AW Campbell Conservation Area. The house was once a working museum but has been in disrepair for decades.

The conservation agreed to delay demolition until the spring to allow the group to investigate what was possible.

Since then, Steve Cheshire - a roofer - has been on site, fixing the cedar shingles to keep the weather out. He’s also volunteered to fix some of the other holes in walls to keep the animals out.

Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad reminded the group the

authority did not want to spend any money on the building. But there is a fly in the ointment. The Friends of Campbell House found records showing the building was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1991.

“Back in 1991, this building was deteriorating,” Broad said. “I think what the board needs to do is get an agreement with Brooke-Alvinston...And, and if it is of local significance then we need an operating agreement with them there so the newly formed committee can work on putting the money into it,” Broad said. “I think our motion was pretty clear. We didn’t want to spend any more money on it. And I think the only way we’re going to get away from that is by getting an agreement with Brooke-Alvinston.”

But Greg Wilcox, manager of conservation areas, says there are still a few steps to take before any decisions can be made. He’s had meetings with legal staff to find out what the conservation authority’s obligations are for a building designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Wilcox says Lambton County building officials have also looked at the site and will soon be submit-



LIANA RUSSWURM PHOTO

Steve Cheshire has been fixing the roof of Campbell House near Alvinston. The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has put the demolition of the homestead on hold while a community group tries to find solutions to save it.

ting a report.

“I believe even to keep the building standing with no public access, they’re going to require structural engineering assessment,” Wilcox says.

“I was hoping to bring this back to the board in April with a little more information to see what direction we want to move with this.

If we want to spend that money on a structural engineer to figure out really what our true costs are going to be. Or if we want to move towards talking to the municipality as with them, maybe making an agreement to take this over.”

Meantime, the Friends of Campbell Park are also doing some investigating. They want to bring in

a noted restoration expert to take a look at the building to see what could be done and at what cost.

The friends group wants to “preserve, protect and promote the ... provincial historically designated farmhouse” and hopes it can be used for community events like historic and art exhibitions when restored.

Petrolia capital projects raise questions

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia councillors approved about \$315,000 worth of capital projects with out going to tender.

The move initially concerned one councillor but staff said all of the projects are with long-term contractors or the only company available to fill the need.

Each year at budget time, councillors approve which capital projects will move ahead. But as staff works on the projects, anything that will cost more than \$25,000 is supposed to go to a public tendering process as laid out in the town’s procurement bylaw.

At the Feb. 14 council meeting, councillors were asked to approve five projects, all of which should have been under the bylaw. They included:

- \$38,000 to put solar lighting in Bridgeview Park
- \$31,000 to for wooden light standards in Bridgeview Park
- \$100,000 to buy a new ice resurfacer. Council had \$75,000 set aside in the last few years for the item.
- \$96,000 for a new condenser unit for the Greenwood Recreation Centre.
- \$50,000 for a new entrance sign at the south end of Oil Heritage Road.

Councillor Grant Purdy raised concerns about approving the sole-sourced contracts.

“My only concern about circumventing our own procurement policy is just maybe that we might be missing out on potential cost savings that happened with the competitive bidding process,” he said during the meeting.

“The other thing is probably more so is the optics; I worry that when you go with a single source, maybe it leaves

more room for people to be concerned about issues involving a single company.

“I just want to make sure that the corporation and council and also staff are protected.”

Chief Administrative Officer Rick Charlebois says it makes sense to hire the companies without having a tendering process.

Charlebois says for the two Bridgeview Park lighting projects, Bluewater Power is being contracted for the work. Petrolia has a financial stake in the company.

Pride Signs, he says, worked with the town of the first entrance sign and the new sign will be identical to the original.

According to a report on the issue, the town has been using Black and MacDonald for 25 years for the work at Greenwood Recreation Centre. The report says it has done all the certification and service work “start up and shut down of our refrigeration plant. They have been instrumental in planning and upgrading the plant with items such as compressors, header pipe and most recently the ice box controller systems to save on energy” so it makes sense to use them for the condenser unit.

And Charlebois says Olympia is the only Canadian company which supplies ice resurfacers. Zamboni is based in the US. “What the exchange on the dollar, I think it’s we already know what to be more expensive,” he added.

Purdy was satisfied by the answer. “I didn’t realize the Olympia was the one place in all of Canada for ice resurfacers.”

Council approved all of the contracts for the projects.

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Editorial

The privilege of democracy

It is hard to look away from the war raging in Ukraine. On Feb. 24, Russia’s president began what he thought would be a simple task of reclaiming “Little Russia” the nickname used for Ukraine.

But Vladimir Putin’s army, as big and well equipped as it is, wasn’t able to walk right in and take over as he expected.

Putin didn’t count on the people of Ukraine. They have built their democracy for the past 30 years - as the Russian government fumed - and would like to keep it.

Like is not the right word. Ukrainians are proving each passing minute they are willing to fight and die for democracy.

Each night, the air raid sirens wail and the Ukraine army - which is about the same size as Canada’s - and the Ukraine people steel themselves. And they resist.

That in itself is amazing to watch. Municipal workers change signs and lace them with expletives so the invaders can’t find their way to their targets. Vodka makers have turned their attention to making Molotov cocktails to fend off Russian troops and tanks with fire. And farmers in their tractors find abandoned equipment, and drag it back to their homes. And their president stands with them in the fight.

So do the nations of the world; Canada has led the effort to cripple Russia financially. It’s also sent weapons and protective gear, as well as humanitarian aid to Ukraine to help them protect their democracy. But, the bombs are still falling and how this will end is uncertain.

What is clear is Canada stands with Ukraine against a man drunk on power and filled with hubris.

This principled stand should also give us pause to remember how privileged we really are in this country.

When people vehemently disagreed with the government and occupied the capital, there were no bombs dropping; no tanks, no death. The group with the express goal of overthrowing the government, were able to make their point for weeks before people were cleared out. Arrests were made and the justice system will deal with the issue. It was messy and ugly and showed us a side of Canada we didn’t like, but democracy prevailed. How fortunate are we.

And it is our hope Ukraine will be able to hold on to democracy, too.

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



LAMBTON COUNTY ARCHIVES PHOTO

Curling can be traced back to the first half of the 19th century in Ontario when Scottish immigrants pioneered the pastime in Atlantic and Central Canada, according the Lambton County Archives. Author David B. Smith says wooden stones were often used in Upper Canada. Others, including stonemasons, fabricated curling stones from granite boulders left behind by ice or found as they cleared the land for farms. This photo features the winners of W.G. Fraser Trophy at the Petrolia Bonspiel in February of 1910; from left to right AM McQueen, Dr. CO Fairbank, Wallace J McKay and George P McMillian.

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Opinion

Lambton resident living in Ottawa calls mayor to task

EDITOR:

As someone who grew up in Corunna and still considers Lambton County as home, I was more than a little disappointed with the apparent glee that Warwick Mayor Jackie Rombouts took in contributing to the chaos as part of the occupation that lasted more than three weeks in Ottawa. I live in Ottawa and know that the actions of these protesters erased whatever sympathy our city may have had for them or for their point of view initially.

To be fair, Ms. Rombouts has every right to her opinion, just as she has every right to come to Ottawa to protest something that she feels affects her. I supported the right of the so-called Freedom Convoy in coming to Ottawa, even though I don't agree with their views on health mandates. I am immunocompromised so I don't have the luxury of taking chances with my health or that of my family.

There are several things that I find truly disappointing about what happened here in Ottawa and the role people like Ms. Rombouts may have directly or indirectly played, not to mention her comments to this

newspaper.

I don't know how anyone can take pride in a group that stood by while thousands of people were kept from living their lives out of fear or simply because our streets were clogged with trucks.

I don't know how anyone can take pride in the intimidation that went on, the mess that was made, the constant blaring of truck horns that disrupted lives or the sheer arrogance of some that they were allowed to act like this with no consequences.

I am also disappointed that an elected official would not bother to take leadership and educate those who agree with her that most health mandates in our province are the result of policies from the provincial government, not the federal government.

I am shocked that an elected official would at best tacitly endorse the views of protesters that they could unilaterally depose our democratically elected government, with no regard to the will of their fellow Canadians. I did not vote for Prime Minister Trudeau in the fall election, but I recognize that his party won the right to govern.

That's part of living in a democracy. You respect the process.

Lastly, I am shocked that she would support efforts closer to home that involved blockading the Bluewater Bridge and blocking the 402. How does this help truckers, the very people that this protest was designed to help? How, in the fight for her rights, is it okay in her mind to trample on the rights of everyone else?

I wonder if the silent majority in Warwick Township has decided that perhaps Ms. Rombouts is not the leader they thought she might be. I would remind her that as an elected official, she has a duty to represent all her township's residents, not just those who agree with her. She better hope that Warwick residents don't resort to the same tactics the Freedom Convoy did if they decide they want to remove her as mayor.

Michael Hammond
Ottawa, ON

Editor's Note: Rombouts did not endorse the 402 blockade nor was she involved in the group responsible. She was criticized by her council for not denouncing it as an illegal protest.

Brooke-Alvinston asks auditor to solve fire cost dispute

Heather Wright
The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia council wants Brooke-Alvinston to reconsider how much it should pay towards renovation of the Alvinston fire hall.

Brooke Fire Service has \$119,280 in renovations planned for the hall including the bathroom facilities. The project came in \$35,000 over budget. Since Dawn-Euphemia contracts fire services from Brooke-Alvinston, their contract states they will pay a per centage - based on usage - for both the operating costs and any capital improvements.

But the council, in a letter to Brooke-Alvinston, says the cost Dawn-Euphemia has been assessed "does not accurately reflect the reality of the customary cost-sharing arrangements" because Brooke-Alvinston secured an \$85,000 grant for their share of the project.

Dawn-Euphemia council argues the benefit of the grant should be shared, reducing the cost of the projects and then splitting up the true cost of \$34,280.

That would save Lambton's southern most municipality about \$9,300, Mayor Broad said in the letter.

And he says there is precedent for the move. "Recently, Dawn-Euphemia participated in a cost-sharing arrangement with Brooke-Alvinston and Warwick with respect to the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board

whereby each party paid one third of the legal expenses. Brooke-Alvinston was awarded \$1,000 for costs that was equally distributed with between all parties.

"At the time the agreement was made there was "no reference to sharing revenues" but it was "understood" and would have been offensive to suggest otherwise," the council wrote adding this should be no different.

But that's not the way Brooke-Alvinston sees it.

Clerk-Administrator Janet Denkers, said in a written response to Dawn-Euphemia's concern, each municipality is responsible to pay their share of the expenses. She says the agreement "makes no reference to sharing revenues - each municipality is responsible for their own source of funding whether it be reserves, taxation, grants, borrowing, donations, etc."

She adds the fact Brooke-Alvinston received the grant and is using it for this purpose has nothing to do with the agreement. And Denkers writes the township could have used it for any purpose. She adds if Brooke-Alvinston "chose to borrow the funds or to take the funds from reserves for their share of the capital expenditures the other municipalities would still be responsible for their portions." Treasurer Stephen Ikert told councillors Feb. 22 that in the past two years, Brooke-Alvinston has changed the way it assesses costs for fire services for Dawn-Euphemia. It

went from 17 per cent of the cost to 11 per cent of the costs, he says adding that would have saved about \$31,000 a year.

Southwest Middlesex, which also contracts fire service from Brooke-Alvinston, also wanted to see the cost reassessed.

Denkers says it is normal for everyone to want to pay less. To satisfy the concerns, she's asked the auditor to look at the project and see if Brooke-Alvinston assessed the costs to its partners correctly.

In the meantime, Councillor Jamie Armstrong, who sits on the fire board, is regretting council didn't take more time with the contract, particularly when it came in so much over budget.

"I honestly believe that these renovations are going to be at \$85,000. And the grants going to come in and cover that. That's honestly what I thought," he told council.

But, you know, it never occurred to me that if it goes over budget like it did, that it's going to increase the cost to neighboring was municipalities.

"I take full responsibility for the mistakes that I made," Armstrong said.

"It's an unfortunate incident the way it came about and we'll just have to work through it, I guess. And hopefully we can talk through it with Dawn-Euphemia as well," he said adding that might be tough since there is a new truck to be purchased in the future and the disagreement may make that "difficult."

the township pay about \$9,000.

"It often floods there in the spring ... but we are hoping to have them serviced by the time the campground opens on the long weekend in May."

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RUBBLE REMOVAL



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The front end loaders can hardly be seen working to remove the pile of rubble left behind by the implosion of the Lambton Generating Station in Courtright. While the familiar stacks are gone there are huge piles of steel and concrete the contractor is sifting through. The steel will be recycled and Delsan-A.I.M. will sell it as payment for their work. The clean up is expected to stretch into the summer.

Vaxx passes gone, masks may be next says Moore

Bird Bouchard
Local Journalism Initiative

Ontarians no longer have to fumble to find vaccination passports, and soon, your mask will be a thing of the past too.

The province lifted the need for vaccine passports March 1 and all venues can now be at full capacity.

Mask mandates are staying in place in Ontario for now. Officials say the mask mandate will likely be lifted in schools when it is removed for most public spaces.

Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kieran Moore, anticipates it will be lifted simultaneously across most sectors when it is safe to do so.

Other provinces, such as New Brunswick, have announced it would lift its mask mandate for indoor public settings as of March 14, including schools. Moore said a review of the mask mandate in Ontario is already underway. He added that an announcement on its fate could be made in the coming weeks.

Currently, all students in Grade 1 to Grade 12 in Ontario are required to wear masks at school as part of a series of measures intended to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

“If and when we transition, it would be from a mandate to mask to a recommendation to mask,” he said.

Moore said masking remains an important tool. He added when it’s no longer required in public policy, it will continue to help reduce transmission and protect those recovering from illness, their close contacts and those who may be more vulnerable to severe COVID-19 infection.

“Some in our communities may even choose to continue wearing them regularly, and we need to be respectful of individual choices once masking is no longer required,” said Moore.

If and when the mask mandate is rescinded in Ontario, local school boards are expected to follow suit.

According to Scott Johnson, Director of Education at St. Clair Catholic District School Board, the local school board has followed the advice of the local public health unit and Chief Medical Officer health since the beginning of the pandemic.

Meantime, the number of people hospitalized because of COVID-19 continues to decline. As of Tuesday, there were three straight days when there are less than 1,000 people hospitalized. Tuesday, there were just 278 in the ICUs across the province.

There were also 1,176 cases diagnosed Monday. That number, public health experts say, is not accurate since the province only allows PCR testing in hospitals, long term care and retirement homes and congregate care settings.

In Lambton County, as of Feb. 21, there have been 9,785 cases of COVID-19 in the community and 127 people have died of the virus. There have been about 19 confirmed cases on average per day.

Lambton Public health reported just two outbreaks in the week of Feb. 21, one at St. Francis Advocates Congregate Living Home and the other at Trillium Villa.

Lambton’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade recently told Lambton County councillors the outbreaks in long term care during the Omicron wave have been bigger but not as deadly.

“We are seeing some institutions with a high, high number of cases,” he says adding the number of fatalities is “nowhere near where mortality would be” before vaccines became available.

“There are still fatalities, but it is not to the same degree.”

- THE RIDGETOWN INDEPENDENT NEWS
WITH FILES FROM THE INDEPENDENT

County meetings in person

Lambton county councillors will be wearing masks and goggles when they return to in-person council meetings in April.

Staff is recommending a return to in person meetings, with precautions including screening, keeping two meters apart and wearing a face mask and eye protection during meetings. Councillors will be able to take off their masks while talking.

They will also be able to participate in the meetings online, if they’re not comfortable. The policy is expected to be approved Wednesday.

MOE wants meeting on Florence

The Independent

The Ministry of the Environment is concerned about Dawn-Euphemia’s plan for testing septic systems in Florence.

The municipality has been dealing with the issue for 30 years. It had worked with the MOE on a plan for a sewage treatment system, but there was not a guarantee there would be any funding for the project. The plans stalled. Then, last November, the MOE tested the water going into the Sydenham River and found it was still

contaminated.

Dawn-Euphemia has been following the MOE’s instructions and reporting monthly on progress to stop septic seepage from contaminating the river but a plan to test individual systems, which was supposed to begin in June, didn’t meet with the MOE’s approval. And officials suggested the township should be hiring someone to help with the testing.

Township officials have agreed to meet with the MOE to talk about Dawn-Euphemia’s plan to move forward.



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Township of Warwick

Student Summer Employment Opportunities

Customer Service Assistant

Position will be responsible to assist with customer service at the Township Office, take payments and provide support for general reception. Work will also include various administrative duties such as research, filing and records management to support operations.

Requirements Are:

- Strong computer skills in Microsoft Office suite (Word and Excel)
- Experience with customer service in person and over phone
- Self-starter, dedicated to independent task completion
- Full time student in the past academic year and returning to full time studies in the fall of 2022
- Completed their 2021/2022 school term
- A valid Ontario driver’s license (Class G of G2) preferred
- Be between 15 and 30 years of age,
- Canadian citizens, permanent residents or have refugee protection status under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- Legally entitled to work in Canada
- Will not have another full-time job.
- Be able to work days during May/June to August 26th (Dates subject to change)

Application Deadline: 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

Written resumes for all positions will be received until 4 pm on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 and should be addressed to: Township of Warwick, 6332 Nauvoo Road, RR#8 Watford, ON, N0M 2S0 or fax to (519) 849-6136.

E-mail submission of resumes and questions on positions can be submitted to the Township of Warwick at messeslment@warwicktownship.ca or 519-849-3926.

www.warwicktownship.ca



Township of Warwick

Student Summer Employment Opportunities

Parks & Recreation Labourers

(up to 3 positions)

Parks and Recreation Labourers will assist with grass and grounds maintenance, cleaning and setting up facilities, special events, watering flowers and supporting summer programming. Successful candidates will work 30 to 40 hours per week and be required to be available during evening and weekends.

Position Requirements:

- Full time student in the past academic year and returning to full time studies in the fall of 2022
- Completed their 2021/2022 school term
- A valid Ontario driver’s license (Class G of G2) preferred
- Be between 15 and 30 years of age,
- Canadian citizens, permanent residents or have refugee protection status under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- Legally entitled to work in Canada
- Will not have another full-time job.
- Be able to work days, weekends and weeknights during the period May 9th to August 26th, 2022 (Dates subject to change)

Application Deadline: 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

Written resumes for all positions will be received until 4 pm on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 and should be addressed to: Township of Warwick, 6332 Nauvoo Road, RR#8 Watford, ON, N0M 2S0 or fax to (519) 849-6136.

E-mail submission of resumes and questions on positions can be submitted to the Township of Warwick at messeslment@warwicktownship.ca or 519-849-3926.

www.warwicktownship.ca

Is it history? Old Plympton Hall closed to public use; future to be determined

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Old Plympton Hall will stay silent as town council decides its future.

The hall on Egremont Road was built in 1869 and was the seat of the former Plympton Township municipal government until the mid-1950s.

It was also the first site of what is now the Plympton-Wyoming Fair.

In the 1950s, it became a community hall with a community committee taking care of rentals and maintenance of the hall.

Deputy Mayor Muriel Wright was one of those caretakers.

“It’s very close to my heart. I looked after that building, scrubbed the floors, cleaned the windows, made curtains for, you know, painted, and you name it. I’ve done that over the last 50 years. It is very close to me, and it is part of our community.”

There are vocal supporters of the hall on council and in the broader community. In 2016, one of Canada’s most successful independent recording artists, Fred Eaglesmith, played the hall and extolled the virtues of it as a symbol of the heart of small communities. “When we had little townships people had to stick together to fight for their little municipalities... it was community,” he told *The*

Independent at the time.

“All these halls should have dances in them on Saturday night and cards in them on Monday morning.”

But, the hall has been a sore point for some on council. Plympton-Wyoming has been sinking money into it making repairs to the wood frame building. The hall has an operating budget of about \$5,000 a year but brings in only \$1,500 in revenue. Councillor Netty McEwen has suggested for several years the Old Plympton Hall should be closed.

Recently, as Plympton-Wyoming was considering some capital repairs, the public works manager said his employees would not touch the shed beside the hall because it is not safe.

And when councillors suggested a reduced rental rate to attract new users, McEwen again voiced concerned and suggested a report on the condition of the historic hall.

Feb. 23, that report by Public Works Manager Adam Sobanski’s showed there were up to \$365,000 in repairs and accessibility improvements which need to be made. That’s about the same amount, Sobanski estimates, as it would cost to build a replica.

Council voted 5-2 to stop renting the hall for now. Mayor Lonny Napper and Councillor Tim Wilkins were opposed.



FILE PHOTO

Fred Eaglesmith played the Old Plympton Hall in 2016, extolling the virtues of the small venues which brought rural communities together.

Wright wants the hall to be used, but she’s aware the cost is high.

“I am conscious of taxpayers dollars, but it’s the only historical significant building left in our community. It’s the only place left because all the rest have been sold off and demolished,” she says.

Sobanski’s report suggests a couple of solutions to deal with the aging building.

“Council could also consider reconstructing a replica of the building as the replacement cost is not significantly more than the

identified repairs,” he says. It could also be closed and sold off or the land could be repurposed, Sobanski says.

Councillor Gary Atkinson isn’t sure about the proposed solutions, but he does believe the building is not safe for public use right now.

“We have some work on the front porch that has to be done. I think the doorway would have to be opened up. The washroom facility is not really a washroom facility – it was good back in those days. And then, of course, there’s

a stage in there that is very short. That would have to come out or be remodeled.”

“There’s a lot of issues that I believe we need to address, especially as we move forward, on accessibility, and a few other things that it’s just not really safe at this time to be renting out to our public,” he says. “We have to be cognizant of that and made sure that we have it in good condition.

There will be a public meeting to get input on the future of the historic hall.

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North York woman uses fraud to buy \$102K car

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

A 42 year-old North York woman walked into Sarnia’s BMW dealership on May 20, 2020, but instead of driving away with a new vehicle, she was arrested.

Jill Zenchyshyn sent the dealership’s sales manager an email asking for a quote on a new vehicle and application for financing. But she used another woman’s identification for the credit application.

The bank contacted the woman saying her identification and credit was being used to apply for financing at the dealership. The woman then contacted the sales manager. He had already figured out this was a fraud. But the financing had already been approved and the pick up of the vehicle was planned for May 20.

A Sarnia police officer acted as a car salesman when Zenchyshyn came into the dealership. She signed for the \$102,000 vehicle and was immediately arrested.

She plead guilty on Feb. 28 in Sarnia court to fraud over \$5,000 and possessing another person’s information to commit an offence. A fraudulent health card and driver’s license was found on her when she was arrested, as well as a certificate of Canadian citizenship.

“These types of crimes the court is starting to see on a more frequent basis,” said Assistant Crown Attorney Aniko Coughlan.

Zenchyshyn’s lawyer, David Stoesser says she knew what she was doing was wrong, but she was approached by people “far more sophisticated than her” and was talked into the scheme. Stoessner says Zenchyshyn is “generally homeless,” with no ties to Sarnia. She would have difficulty knowing how to buy a car, let alone one that expensive, he said.

Justice Deborah Austin was asked to consider a suspended sentence with two years of probation - something she questioned.

Zenchyshyn returns to court May 10 for sentencing.

to (expletive) kill that cop.”

Both were arrested and Racette admitted to the assault Feb. 23. Defence Lawyer Autumn Johnson says Racette’s memory of the event is “foggy.”

She added he does struggle with drug addiction and has plans to go to a treatment facility in Ottawa.

Racette spent 60 days in custody, so he was sentenced to time served and placed on probation for one year.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Assault on police officer nets one year probation

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia man has been sentenced to one year probation after punching a Sarnia police officer in the head, threatening to kill him.

Kevin Racette pled guilty to the assault Feb. 23 in Sarnia court.

On Jan. 22, 2019, police were called to home because there was a lot of yelling going on inside. When they arrived the house was dark and quiet. Police knocked on the door but it took

Racette some time to answer. When he did, he told them he was alone with his grandfather.

Racette tried to close the door, but the officer put his foot inside saying he had to make sure everything was okay inside the house.

Racette’s common law partner, Emily Watson, became involved pushing the officer and telling him to get out. She spit on the officer’s boots and slapped him across the face.

As police tried to arrest her, Racette punched the officer yelling “I am going

- THE INDEPENDENT

Accident near Walpole Island leads to drug find

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

A car accident on Walpole Island lead police to about \$5,500 in drugs.

In March 2020, Emerson Sands was driving down River Road when he lost control of his vehicle. He hit a couple of mail boxes, then rolled the car at

least twice before stopping jammed on a tree.

Sands was injured, bleeding from a 20 centimetre gash on his left arm.

When he was taken to hospital in Chatham-Kent, police found a large freezer bag of crystal meth.

Court heard Feb. 24 that Sands was carrying 87 grams of crystal meth, two

Percocet pills, \$5,415 in Canadian cash and \$940 in US dollars.

Police also found over three hundred rounds of ammunition for rifles and shotguns in his Chevy Blazer.

Sands plead guilty to drug trafficking. He returns to court in April.

- THE INDEPENDENT

The green hose gave a Sarnia thief away; sentenced to probation

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

It was a strange sight to see a bicycle pulling a trailer with an air compressor on Devine Street in Sarnia.

And it led to an arrest two days later.

A Point Edward resident reported the air compressor stolen in April 2020. It had a distinctive green hose that made it easily identifiable.

Two days later, a 65 year-old man admitted to police he had the air compressor.

Joachim Lainey plead guilty in Sarnia

court Feb. 22, to being in possession of stolen property under \$5,000 and being in possession of break and enter tools.

He also answered to an incident dating back to Sept. 2019. Lainey and a friend broke into the fenced compound at Hydro One on Conestoga Drive in Sarnia. Police were called after video surveillance revealed the men’s presence.

The pair were stopped on the Howard Watson Trail. There was a bag containing wire cutters attached to the handle bars of Lainey’s bike.

“I am sorry for the things I have

done,” Lainey told Justice Krista Leszczynski. “I know I am getting up in age and I know I shouldn’t be doing the things I have done.”

Defence Lawyer Robert McFadden says his thefts can be linked to his alcoholism. And he says Lainey has been homeless for quite some time and is living in a shelter.

Lainey - who had spent two days in jail after his arrest - was sentenced to time served and one year probation with orders to get counselling for his alcohol addiction.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Restaurant raises ire of Aamjiwnaang Council with conspiracy theories

Heather Wright
The Independent

Aamjiwnaang First Nation is distancing itself from a post by The Leaky Tank - a restaurant which rents space in the First Nations’ business park.

The post claimed the Russian president was “deNazifying” Ukraine after Putin invaded the sovereign nation Thursday. That echoes Russian propaganda about the invasion.

The band council issued a notice saying it heard from members that the

post was “offensive. The chief and council of Aamjiwnaang want to make it clear that we do not condone the message that was delivered and those values are not in line with our council and the large majority of the community we serve.” The statement went on to say the council was thinking of those suffering and at risk and they were praying for peace.

Some people on social media applauded the move worried the restaurant owner, Shelley Stewart, might be seen to be representing the commun-


ity. “This post was disgusting. Thank you for issuing the notice,” said one person.

But others want band council to take action against the owner.

For her part, Stewart removed the post saying her staff had been threatened by people on the phone.

“I’m sorry for the firestorm my post caused,” she wrote, although she did not apologize for what she had said.

That didn’t sit well with some; “Not even close to an apology...my guess is that you got heat from the council.”



**Request for Proposal
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Closing Date: April 1, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.

Central Lambton Family Health Team
4130 Glenview Road Unit 3, Petrolia, ON, NoN 1R0
519-882-2500

www.centrallambtonfamilyhealthteam.com

The Central Lambton Family Health Team (CLFHT) invites proposals from qualified accounting firms for the provision of professional audit services related to the annual financial statements and supplementary financial information of the organization.

The full Request for Proposal document is available by contacting:

Jill Edwards - Finance Administrator
Central Lambton Family Health Team
(519) 882-2500 ext. 159 | Jill.Edwards@clfht.com

All submissions become the property of the CLFHT and will not be returned to the sender. **Proposals are to be delivered in a sealed envelope, in person or mailed to the attention of:**

Sarah Milner - Executive Director
Central Lambton Family Health Team
4130 Glenview Road, Unit 3, Petrolia, ON NoN 1R0

Submissions must be received by noon on April 1, 2022.


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Sports

Flyers, Blades tilt Thursday

Barry Wright
The Independent

The Petrolia Flyers will bring the curtain down on the shortened PJHL season with a pair of games this week.

They travel to Wallaceburg Wednesday to take on the Thunderhawks before hosting Blenheim on Thursday at Greenwood starting at 7:30.

Despite two-goal losses to Dresden and Mooretown last week, the Flyers clinched seventh place in the Stobbs Division.

Petrolia will likely go up against Essex in the first round of the playoffs. The 73's only needed a

point in their final game Tuesday against Amherstburg to clinch second place but the score was not available prior to our weekly press time.

Andrew Jaques scored for the Flyers in both games last week and is riding a four-game goal scoring streak. He has five goals in his last four games. Tyler Richardson made 53 saves in the loss to the Flags.

It's the fourth time in his last five games he has faced at least 49 shots and the sixth time this season he has faced 50 or more shots.

Jake Vince, Masen Flett and Tristan Konrad scored for Mooretown in its win over Petrolia. Greg Hay added two assists.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Andrew Jaques scores on the breakaway in the Flyers' loss to Dresden Feb. 24.

Flags earn tie with Habs in Lakeshore

The Independent

For the second time in recent weeks, the Mooretown Flags went on the road and earned a point from one of the two top clubs in the Stobbs Division.

Following a 1-1 draw in Essex earlier this month, Mooretown skated to a 2-2 overtime at Lakeshore last Friday.

After a scoreless first period and the team splitting a pair of games in the second, Logan Gardner scored his second of the game with just under seven minutes remaining to give the visitors a one-goal

lead, but Lakeshore tallied the equalizer with a little more than two minutes to play in regulation time. Nathan King made 28 saves for Mooretown.

King earned the shutout last Wednesday in a 6-0 win over Wallaceburg. Brodie Conlon had two goals to lead the Flags with Ethan Kirby adding a goal and four assists.

Mooretown closes its regular season with two home games this week. They entertain Blenheim tonight (Wed) at 8:30 in what could be a first-round playoff preview and they entertain Dresden on Saturday.

Squires wait for championship final opponent

Barry Wright
The Independent

The motto of the Petrolia Squires is undoubtedly "hurry up and wait."

After waiting more than two months to begin the playoffs due to holidays, COVID-19 protocols and a first-round playoff bye, the Squires will wait again to see who they will play for the WOAA Senior A hockey

crown. The Squires advanced to the championship series with a four-game sweep of Milverton last weekend, while Lucknow leads Shallow Lake, three games to two in the other semi-final. The latter series won't wrap up until this weekend, meaning the final will not likely begin until the weekend of March 11.

Last Sunday in Milverton, Wyoming's TJ Harris had the game-winning goal in overtime

to lift the Squires past the Four-Wheel Drives, 4-3 in the series-clinching game last Sunday afternoon. Isaac McLean, Eric Marsh, and Jack Hackett had the other Petrolia goals.

McLean scored twice on Saturday in a 6-2 home ice triumph by the Squires. Harris, Ethan DuPont, Jared Pageau, and Curtis Helps also scored. It was Helps' first goal as a Squire.

GRETZKY WINNERS



The Mooretown U13 Lady Flags are 2022 champions at the 40th annual Walter Gretzky Tournament in Brantford. The Flags ran the table on the weekend to capture the U13 "B" crown. They defeated Burlington, Brantford, North York and the Mt. Forest Rams in the preliminary round and then blanked the Rams, 2-0 in the championship contest.

Lancer sports roundup

The top teams in the LKSSAA boys' hockey north division standings will go head-to-head Wednesday at Greenwood. Game time between North Lambton and LCCVI is 2 pm.

The Eagles lead the division with a 5-0 record, followed by the Lancers are 4-1.

Meantime, the girls are home to Great Lakes Thursday at 2:30. It's the back half of a home-and-home series with the Wolfpack. They were played in Sarnia Tuesday but the score was not available.

Elsewhere, LCCVI will host a girls' AA volleyball playoff doubleheader Wednesday against Wallaceburg. The finals are Friday. The senior boys basketball playoff tip off Thursday but LCCVI does not yet know its opponent or location. The jr boys' basketball playoffs are next week.

McKellar remembered

A well-known figure in the Central Lambton sports community has passed away.

Rob McKellar died last weekend in London just three days shy of his 59th birthday.

A prominent catcher in his playing days, he won two provincial fastball championships with the Alvinston Indians before turning his attention to coaching. He played Junior B hockey with the Petrolia Jets.

He was also a volunteer firefighter in Brooke-Alvinston.



Rob McKellar

Playoffs for K-Bees

The Alvinston Killer Bees open a playoff series this Saturday afternoon against the Fighting Irish in Stratford.

The winner of the series between the fourth and fifth place club will take on regular season champion Elora in the semi-finals.

The other final four series will feature Strathroy against Tillsonburg.

The Bees just fell short in a comeback bid on Saturday in its final regular season home contest, bowing 5-4 to Strathroy.

Christian Moccia, Josh Hamilton, Tyer Ryan and Brandon Ritchie scored for Alvinston who rallied from a 4-1 deficit.

Dane Gubbels made 39 saves in the Killer Bees' net.



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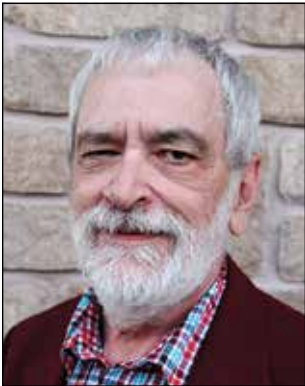
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Obituaries

Cards of Thanks

GARINGER


Dave



GARINGER, Dave is remembered as a husband, father, grandfather, friend, and award-winning educator and community volunteer. He passed away peacefully with his family by his side on **February 27th, 2022**. Dave grew up in the Oil Springs area in southwestern Ontario, attended elementary school in Oil Springs, secondary school in Petrolia, received his professional teaching credentials from London Teachers' College, and earned his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Western Ontario. He was an avid softball player and sports fan, following all sports, but especially hockey and baseball closely. Dave started his teaching career at Bosanquet Central Public School in 1971 and after moving to the Bruce Peninsula in 1975 with his wife Bev, taught at Amabel-Hepworth Public School for twenty years. In September 1995, he had the opportunity to help design and then open the Amabel-Sauble Community School. He completed his teaching career at ASCS as Lead Teacher, retiring at the end of the 2000-01 school year. During his teaching career, he coached many school teams and lead or assisted with many fund-raising efforts other extra-curricular initiatives. In addition to his teaching career and dedication to school extra-curriculars, Dave was a dedicated community volunteer. Initially volunteering to coach his wife Bev's broomball teams and then his sons' hockey and softball teams, Dave became more involved throughout the years, most notably with the Western Ontario Athletic Association (WOAA), the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA), and Hockey Canada. Dave cherished the friendships he earned both in his teaching career and in volunteering alongside his colleagues in the WOAA and OMHA. Dave is survived by his wife Bev, sons Edward (Marita) and Joseph, grandchildren Juregen and Amelia, in-laws Ralph and Louise Milner, Dan and Eileen Ravell, Sherry Howe, Pat Ravell, and many nephews, nieces, and their families. **In keeping with Dave's wishes to never be 'in the spotlight', there will be no visitation or service.** If you are so inclined (and of age) please raise a glass with your friends and family to toast his life. Short glass, Bacardi white rum, Pepsi, no ice. A heartfelt thanks to Dr. Cam Tweedie and the staff at Georgian Heights, Owen Sound for their compassionate and professional care. In Dave's memory, a donation to a local non-profit minor sports organization of your choice would be appreciated. **Arrangements entrusted to the GEORGE FUNERAL HOME, Wiarton where the full obituary can be read by visiting the website.** Messages of condolence may be sent to the family through the website www.georgefuneralhome.com

NEVILLE


Marion



Marion Neville, formerly of R.R.2 Florence, passed away at the Lambton Meadowview Villa, Petrolia on **Sunday, February 20, 2022** in her **94th year**. Born in Dawn Twp., daughter of the late Dean and Alice (Liddle) Lidster. Marion was a life-long resident of Lambton County where she farmed in Croton and Shetland. She was committed to serving her community, notably in the Women's Institute and the United Church Women. She was known for her gift of baking and sharing with family and friends. Beloved wife of the late John Neville (1995). Loving mother of Linda Ferrari (Jack) of London, Karen Pumfrey of Bothwell and Wayne Neville (Tina) of Wyoming. Sadly missed by her grandchildren Remo, Alastair (Natalie), Michael, and Nicolas (Julie Ann), Andrew, Eric, Angela (Ron), Matthew (Danielle), Brandon (Amanda), and Natalie (Katlyn) and great-grandchildren Risa, Marcello, Ariella, Lucas, Gabe, Kaiden, Kohen, Madeleine, Olivia, and Oliver. Predeceased by her sister Lillian Moorhouse, brother Robert Lidster, son-in-law Paul Pumfrey, and granddaughter-in-law Lori Neville. **The Neville family received family and friends at the John C. Badder Funeral Home, 72 Victoria Street, Thamesville on Tuesday evening from 6-8pm. The funeral service was held in the chapel of the funeral home on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 1:30 pm. Interment Shetland Cemetery.** Donations to the United Church of Canada Foundation 3250 Bloor St. W. Suite 200 Toronto ON M8X 2Y4 (please note on memo line of cheque "UCW Endowment Fund Marion Neville"). **Online condolences and donations may be left at www.badderfuneralhome.com**

IKERT

Mary Emma




On **Sunday, February 20, 2022, Mary Emma Ikert (n Howson)** passed from the loving arms of her husband and family to the loving arms of her Saviour. She died peacefully in the Brooke-Alvinston home where she and Walter raised their family and cared for their own parents. Mary was born in Essex on March 11, 1933, the youngest of Annie and Ben Howson's seven children. Mary is survived by her sister Grace (Jacob) Fehr and predeceased by Enos (Ruby), Herb (Pat), Fred (Alma), Olive (Arnold) Dohms and Wes (Violet). After completing nursing school at Grace Hospital in Windsor, Mary married her sweetheart, Walter, in 1955 and moved to Inwood. In 1964 they moved to Petrolia Line in Brooke Township. In the years that followed Mary helped on the farm, kept a vegetable garden that supplied her household, sewed clothing for her five children, worked at various nursing jobs and enjoyed creative expressions like ceramics, upholstery and tole painting. Mary and Walter were long time active parishioners at Watford Pentecostal Church and Mary contributed by teaching Sunday School, playing piano, hosting bible study and prayer groups, preparing food and offering her legendary hospitality. Mary's faith was first in her life, but family was a close second. She will be dearly missed by Walter, her beloved husband of sixty-six years; her children Colleen (Ben) Valuck, Evangeline (Daryl) Sader, Nathan (Kathy), Stephen (Patsy), Philip (Lorraine); her grandchildren Heidi (Jimmy) Rushton, Anson (Tamara) Valuck, Sam (Samantha) Valuck, Jayden (Kara) Sader, Alyssa Sader (Brandon Saada), Rachelle (Tage) Grauwiler, Karyn (Dustin) Font, Zack (Kristina) Ikert, Elise (Eric) Soepboer, Jennifer (Josiah) Newton, Heather Ikert, Robyn (Graham) Burt, Angela (Stephen) Coriell, Emma Ikert (Taylor Eisenbraun) and Olivia Ikert, and twenty two great grandchildren. **A private family Funeral Service was held at DENNING'S OF WATFORD on Saturday, February 26th, 2022.** As an expression of sympathy, donations payable by cheque to Teen Challenge Canada, YWAM Hope Village Project YB17 or YWAM Doug Sharpe SD02 would be appreciated by the family. **Share a memory at www.watfordfuneralhome.com**

Thank you

Many, many thanks for all the lovely cards, beautiful flowers, goodies, food and phone calls ... I have received, after the loss of my dear friend Don Moore. All was very much appreciated.

Thanks again. *Detta Shea*

Thank You



JOHNSTON:

I would like to thank everyone for the Birthday Cards, phone calls and well wishing. Thank you!

Margaret Johnston

McAUSLAN - The family of **Maurice McAuslan** wish to extend a sincere thank you for all the acts of kindness shown to us during this difficult time.

Mary, Dan, Amanda and Aliya

FEENSTRA - We can't begin to thank everyone who helped us out during Dad's (Frank Feenstra) brief illness & passing. To all the BWH Sarnia staff who kept us informed after his surgery & while visiting was restricted. Also to all the people who came out on a sunny, but very cold Saturday morning with balloons & lots of amazing signs to brighten Dad's hospital stay. Special thanks to all who made it possible for Dad to come home to CEE for his final hours. The beautiful palliative care room brought comfort to us all. Extra thanks to Knight Funeral Home & Needham Jay Funeral Home for the guidance & accommodating our requests. Also to First Christian Reformed Church & Pastor VanBerkel for the words of remembrance at the wonderful service. We have been overwhelmed by the support shown to our family in so many different ways over the last 6 weeks. Dad's 65 years of "work" in the community he loved has brought out many new stories that we'll treasure forever. Thank you for everything & especially for the generous donations to CEE. We are heartbroken to lose someone we loved dearly, but comforted to know Dad & Mom were reunited on Valentine's Day. Not enough words to express our gratitude.

David, Brian, Brenda, Jody & families

THANK YOU - We appreciate the work of first responders and wish to thank them for the help and compassion that they provided to us. Our gratitude goes out to the OPP officers led by Sergeant Rick Mathieson, the paramedics and ambulance service, the staff at the CEE Emergency department led by Dr. Moon, and the staff at the London Health Sciences Centre critical care trauma unit led by Dr. Ball. We are grateful also for the many years of excellent medical care provided by Dr. Daniels and the staff of the Central Lambton Family Health Team. To all involved in Dad's care, we will always remember your kindness and professionalism.

Sincerely, the family of Don Moore

MUNRO - Just a little note of thanks to friends and neighbours for calls and cards. Thanks to Dr. Maffet's team of surgeons and Dt. Q. for the great care I received at Newbury Hospital. Thanks to Rev. Joann Symington for her calls and visits. Thank you to our families for the calls and concerns before and after my return home. Special thanks to Jim and Jody for their delicious fruit basket and also Doug Jarvis and families for the lovely flower. Last but not least our kids, Jarrod for his trips to and from London Hospital and Diane and Marie for keeping their Dad and Grandpa well fed. May God bless you all for your kindness.

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

Coming Events

Welcome back to the Sarnia Horticultural Society. Naturalist Larry Cornelis is presenting **"THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIVE TREES," Wednesday, March 16, 7 pm** at the Navy Club, 1420 Lougar Avenue, Sarnia. His talk will cover how working with trees helps our natural environment, with the emphasis on local rare Carolinian species. 2022 memberships will be available to purchase. Free admission, everyone is welcome. More info, contact Barb Toyte at 519-332-5837.

Wyoming Fair Board Euchre - The Wyoming Fair Board is hosting 12 games of Euchre from March 8th - March 15th at 1pm. Coffee and cookies will be provided at halftime. Proof Vaccination will be required at the door.

The Lawrence House Centre for the Arts is featuring local artist Jane Hunter's solo exhibition, **"From Then Until Now,"** and a members' exhibit, **"Motion and Movement."** March 4-6, 11am-4pm, 127 Christina St. S, Sarnia. More info, contact 519-337-0507 or <https://lawrencehouse.ca>

Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an **International Women's Day Breakfast, March 8th 7:30-8:45am** at the Legacy Restaurant in the Insignia Hotel. To reserve your table and RSVP info@slchamber.ca or 519-336-2400 by March 4th. Chamber Members \$20, non-members \$25

In Memory


Eleanor Parr

A year ago you left us,
Our life is not the same.
But we do find some comfort,
In knowing you weren't in pain.

Love and miss you!

Darlene, Charlene,
Dori, Bobbi Lynn
& families



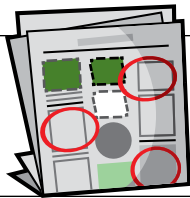


INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY

MARCH 8

Imagine a gender equal world.
A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination.
A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive.
A world where difference is valued and celebrated.
Together we can forge women's equality.
Collectively we can all #BreakTheBias.

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon



Classifieds

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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.**

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon

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International Women's Day
#IWD2022 #BreakTheBias

MARCH





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Church Office 519-882-1430
christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com

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In-Person Services Sundays @ 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!
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Wyoming United Church
730 Second Street, Wyoming

In-person services suspended at this time. Please contact our office at wyoming_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
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St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
416 Queen Street, Petrolia
(Behind the Post Office)

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Services also available online:
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Pastor Katherine Hawley

Hundreds from Sarnia-Lambton gather to pray for peace in Ukraine

Heather Wright
The Independent

Old and young, those of Ukrainian heritage and those who have been shaken by the war between Russia and Ukraine gathered to pray for peace and safety Sunday.

Several hundred people stood in the sunshine at St. George’s Ukrainian Catholic Church Sunday afternoon. Fr. Bohdan Winnicki offered several prayers and urged the crowd to continue to pray for peace in the conflict which started Thursday.

Kea VandenHeuvel was among those at the vigil. Her parents came to Canada after the first world war. While she no longer has contact with family in Ukraine, the images of war and thoughts of her parent’s homeland being torn apart are difficult.

VandenHeuvel says Ukraine has been occupied a number of times over the years. Her mother, for example, was born in Ukraine, but at the time it was occupied by Austria.

In the old days they called the fighters cossacks; when I see this (conflict) I think of the strong heritage they have as fighter, defenders.”

Sarnia Lambton MPP Bob Bailey says he has had many calls from constituents ready to take in refugees from the war. He’s also had calls from businesses and labour unions who are ready to put refugees to work in Sarnia-Lambton should they make their way here. It’s not clear yet when Ukrainians would arrive in Canada.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS

Kea VandenHeuvel, right, of Sarnia joins in the prayers for the people of Ukraine at St. George’s Ukrainian Catholic Church Sunday. Many in the crowd wore Ukraine’s colours or carried signs. Mary Card of Bethel Pentecostal Church offered a prayer with Fr. Bohdan Winnicki of St. George’s at her side. The church is forwarding donations sent to saveukraine@stgeorgessarnia.ca to go towards humanitarian aid programs in Ukraine.



Lawson’s contribution to ag remembered

Heather Wright
The Independent

The head of the Kent Federation of Agriculture says the death of Harry Lawson leaves a “void” in the agriculture community.

Lawson, who had been a director and vice president of the organization during the 20 plus years he volunteered, died Feb. 7 at the age of 68. Lawson had recently had a heart transplant.

Jay Cunningham says Lawson had a heart for agriculture. “I don’t know if his brain every really stopped thinking about agriculture,” says the KFA president.

Ron Faubert, a director and former president, agrees saying Lawson first became involved in farm politics in the 1980s.

“Harry was always our key person was trying to make sure that these abandoned wells, oil wells and gas wells were property sealed,” Faubert says. When the thorny issue of a woodlot bylaw first surfaced in 2013, Lawson was involved in creating a Natural Heritage Strategy instead of the bylaw. And Faubert says Lawson was also passionate about preserving the infrastructure in rural Chatham-Kent.

Faubert says while Lawson was very active in the KFA, he didn’t want to be in the spotlight despite others encouraging him to become the president of the local organization.

“Harry didn’t like to be in the forefront. He liked to be in the background doing his work. That’s where he prefer.... he felt he could do much more and contribute much better in those background roles,” says Faubert adding Lawson served as his vice president when he was president.

Cunningham described him as “generous. Generous with his time, generous with his knowledge because he cared about agriculture.”“We’re gonna be hard pressed to fill that void,” he says.

Faubert agreed. “I describe Harry as one of the nicest gentlemen I’ve ever met,” says Faubert.

“He just had a way with things. He could take an agitated issue and bring it down and into a workable situation.

“Harry was respected by all that he touched.”

Lawson didn’t hide his medical issues, taking to Twitter to let his followers know about his upcoming heart transplant. Even as he waited, Faubert says Lawson was busy on behalf of the KFA.

“He always had a positive attitude, no matter how dim things looked, Harry always looked at it positively.

“And even when he was laying in bed, and he wanted to contribute by researching some articles for us by constantly giving us updates as to his position on things.

“From his bed, he drafted a deputation. He said, ‘if I’m not there to do it, can somebody please make sure it gets in front of council? That was the last conversation we had,” says Faubert noting Lawson’s presentation was read at Chatham-Kent council Feb. 14, a week after his death.

Faubert kept in contact with Lawson through his medical journey and says he maintained his positive attitude and was excited after the heart transplant.

“He was very upbeat. He said he felt great,” says Faubert. He was home for a day, and Lawson had to return to hospital. “And he just sent us a text that said ‘I just had a helicopter ride.’ Not that this is getting serious here.” Lawson was 68.

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