

Ukraine on their minds, in their hearts

Heather Wright
The Independent

In the darkness, as the bombs drop on Ukraine, there are people huddled in the basement of an orphanage which has ties to Petrolia.

For years, New Life Church has been working with the Chatham-based charity Loads of Love in Ukraine. Pastors Sam Welten and Tim Brown have both been to the country a number of times with mission teams, running summer camps and helping the Christian community there.

They’re now watching in horror and sadness as Russian President Vladimir Putin bombs their friends.

Welten says they recently held a prayer service for safety and peace for their friends and their nation.

“It really hits home for us because we have personal relationships with a lot of these people,” he tells *The Independent*.

“It’s a really sad thing for me especially when they mentioned cities and I’ve been in those cities. It’s not only some distant kind of thing - I mean - I’ve been there and know the people.”

Welten says it is particularly hard to see the destruction in the capital, Kyiv.

“When you know that some of the most hospitable people on the planet are being victimized by this, basically, dictator from another country - it is just insane to me.”

Ed Dickson of Loads of Love agrees. He’s in Chatham right now as his daughter goes to school but he’s lived in Ukraine for 25 years. “Everybody I was with did not believe there would be an all-out invasion,” Dickson said.

“The idea was too insane.”

Dickson, who is married to a Ukrainian national, said his neighbours are now “hiding in basements. They were completely caught off guard,” he said, adding he’s encouraging everyone to have faith “Jesus is with them” and to pray.

SEE UKRAINE PG 3

STANDING WITH UKRAINE



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Petrolia Legion member Laura Nicholls stands at attention during the Canadian national anthem as the Ukraine flag snapped in Sunday’s strong winds. The Legion organized a Vigil for Ukraine hoping to give people a place to talk about the war now raging in Europe after Russia invaded the country. See more on pg 2.

A place of honour for Oil Springs’ Meghan Hunter

Heather Wright
The Independent

Hockey great Meghan Hunter will be honoured with a place in the Greenwood Recreation Centre Petrolia Wall of Fame.

The Town of Petrolia announced on International Womens’ Day, Tuesday, the Oil Springs native will be honoured with a ceremony in April.

Hunter began her hockey career with Petrolia Minor Hockey. When she started playing, she was one of three girls in the

entire organization but says playing with boys fueled her to excel.

Hunter graduated from LCCVI in 1999 and was recognized as a Nicol Scholar.

She also won a scholarship to the University of Wisconsin-Madison where, in her first year, she was named the Western Collegiate Hockey Association’s Rookie of the Year, was a US National leader in goal scoring and was a Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award Finalist -an award for the top USA women’s college hockey player. She was the only rookie selected.

Hunter won tried out and won a spot on the National U-22 team where she competed for two seasons. The team won gold in the European Air Canada Cup in 2003. Over the years, Hunter worked in the coaching and development side of hockey with colleges and the London Knights which is owned by her uncles, Mark and Dale Hunter.

In 2010, she became the manager of hockey operations for Hockey Canada and was with the team for when it won gold in the U18 Worlds in 2012.

SEE HUNTER PG 3

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Petrolians pray for peace in Ukraine

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Petrolia Legion are standing with the people of Ukraine and trying to help Lambton residents process the horror they’re watching real time.

Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24. Citizens have fought along side the Ukrainian Army to try to fend off one of the world’s largest military powers. So far, Russian troops not gained control of Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv.

The war in Europe has mobilized the international community which has levied sanctions against President Vladimir Putin and his friends which have crippled the Russian economy. Countries, including Canada, have sent weapons and humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

All of it has played out on computers and TV screens around the world. Vigils have also been held around the world and close to home including one in Petrolia Sunday. Legion Member Alex Billings wanted to do something to help. The veteran, who served in the air movement squadron at Trenton for over six years, says people who have served in the military can help others process what’s going on.

“As a Legion, we have a lot of veterans who are in a very special spot to offer support to what they’re going

through that people normally wouldn’t have access to,” says Billings. “So, by opening up our doors and saying ‘we’re here for you if you need to talk about what’s going on – if the images on TV are upsetting – we have members that have been through it.’

“Obviously, the majority of the focus is on the Ukrainian side, but there’s a lot of people in Russia that don’t agree with this. There’s a lot of people even in the community that have no ties to either country that find images like this upsetting,” Billings adds.

For Billings and his family, it is also personal. He has family in Ukraine.

“We heard from a week ago that they were leaving for Poland and that’s the last we’ve heard. We know that they’re okay, they just can’t communicate with us at the moment because of circumstances. But you know, as a veteran who’s seen the effects of what a natural disaster and what a war can do to a country for years afterwards, it’s hard to sit here and not be able to do anything.”

About 70 people came out to the vigil in the Petrolia Legion parking lot Sunday. Billings hoped it would be a community building moment. “We need to get back to being there for each other; I think the pandemic kind of closed a lot of us off from each other,” he says.

“We can come together again, we can be here for each other, we can support each other and we can be stronger as a community as a whole if we stand with each other.”

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS
Deacon Rudy Terpstra listens at the Vigil while the Ukrainian flag snaps in the wind. Below, Graham Holme holds his daughter, Emily, at the vigil.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

A New Life trip to Ukraine in better times.

Ukraine is on their heart

CON'T FROM PG 1

The Petrolia pastors are getting information from Dickson about the friends they have made in Ukraine. Loads of Love employees are still in Ukraine. Welten says there are “lots of stories about some of the workers going to grocery stores and buying food so they can they can help these people out whether they’re in subways or in homes in the smaller communities.”

Brown says the urge is strong to reach out and help, even though it is difficult. “You build relationship and you don’t just want to build relationship, but you want to check in to see how they’re doing like and what needs are - what needs can we assist in right now,” he says.

New Life is collecting monetary donations to be used for the workers of Loads of Love. Donations are being accepted at the church or online and they’re asking people to indicated the money is for Ukrainian relief.

Both Welten and Brown say they to do more to help. “The Ukrainian people are going to be hurting for years to come - it’s just the destruction, the buildings and rebuilding. And I’ve already told (Dickson) whenever it happens that the country’s open again - that we can travel - I want to be one of the first ones that offers a team to be able to come and help.”

While Brown, too, wants to return, his family has already provided shelter to the Ukrainians. Brown found out just last week that his mother, Adeline, before she passed away this year, had given money to Loads of Love to buy an orphanage for special needs children. Dickson, Brown says, explained, “I want you to know that building is all special needs kids,” he says. ‘It’s incredible.’ And he says, ‘but I want you to know that building has an amazing basement and it’s not just those kids right now that are using it as a bomb shelter, but the community right around there is all using that basement, this bomb shelter.’

“And I got thinking ‘man, mom would be so happy. Like, she is so happy. She’s looking at it all.’”

- WITH FILES FROM PAM WRIGHT/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE-THE CHATHAM VOICE



FILE PHOTOS

Meghan Hunter, seen here at the Blackhawks podium making a draft pick, in her Team Canada uniform and as a Petrolia Oiler, will be honoured in Petrolia for her contributions to the game on April 1.

Hunter to be honoured

CON'T FROM PG 1

Team Canada brought home gold again at the 2014 Olympic in Sochi – as well as numerous silver medal performances in tournaments around the globe.

Hunter is now with the Chicago Blackhawks now working as director of hockey administration and is the first female amateur scout in Blackhawks history. And, the Hockey News has twice recognized Hunter as one of 20 women with the credentials to be a GM in the NHL in the future.

The induction ceremony will be April 1 at 5:30 pm.

Pandemic not over but ‘we’re getting there:’ MOH

Heather Wright

The Independent

“We’re getting there,” says Lambton’s medical officer of health.

Dr. Sudit Ranade made the comments asked when the COVID-19 pandemic will be over. Ranade was speaking with reporters Tuesday about how the restrictions around the virus are changing. It’s was expected Premier Doug Ford would be announcing Wednesday the end of masking mandates by the end of March.

“It is a reflection of the fact that two years later with a highly vaccinated population and the less severe variants

floating around that there’s more tolerance for people to do the things that they used to do,” Ranade says. “We have to approach that gradually; some people are ready to just go full steam ahead and some people are not quite there yet.”

Ranade also cautioned people to “recognize that because it’s a global pandemic, and the situation is changing, or could change, that the things that we can do now may not be the things that we can do six months from now. Just remember it, you don’t have to get upset about it or worry about it, but just remember it. ...We’re still in a global pandemic, and that

hasn’t fully resolved itself yet.

Ranade says should a new variant appear which is resistant to the current vaccine, that would be a problem. But, he added, the world is moving toward the end of the pandemic because so many people have been exposed. Ranade expects the virus to continue circulating like the flu.

Currently in Lambton, 9,914 people have tested positive for COVID and 126 have died from the virus. There are two active outbreaks - on at St. Francis Advocate. Seven people are in hospital with the virus and just two are in the intensive care unit as of March 5 according to health unit data.



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Editorial

Know the truth

The images of the war in Ukraine are everywhere. They are horrific to look at but we cannot look away. And we must not. We are witnesses to this war in a way no others have been before us.

There are those of us, like those at New Life Church in Petrolia, who know Ukrainians now fighting for survival as the Russian war machine moves through their country. As you can see from our front page article, it is heart-wrenching for them to watch the news coverage and see the places they once walked obliterated by the bombs of a man bent on possessing the land.

There are others who have lived this horror. The men and women of the Petrolia Legion have served in conflicts and have seen what bombs and people hungry for power can do. It haunts them.

And there are those among us who know exactly how the Ukrainian people feel; the senior Dutch immigrants among us who lived through the Nazi occupation of their country and the liberation by Canadian troops. They feel the fear, dread and anger even though it was decades ago. Their children remember their stories.

But this war is perhaps the first to be fought not only on the ground, in the air and on the seas but also in cyberspace.

We are watching as Ukrainian families flee, fight and even die in the streets on our social media platforms even before news agencies can report it. We can hear their voices and see their eyes. It brings war up close and too personal. We all understand the stakes here unlike wars gone by where citizens waited for weeks for news about what was happening overseas.

There is a word of caution here; while it is critical we witness, understand and never forget what is unfolding, we also have to be aware that there are forces on social media working to win you over to Putin’s war. The Russian people are being fed a line about how they’re freeing Ukrainians of the Nazis. That information is circulating on all social media channels and it is sucking the less discerning in.

Watch, listen and learn, but make sure you look at many sources, big newspapers and TV stations from around the globe, independent media in Ukraine and your friends and neighbours who are talking to their friends living there. We owe it to them to know the truth and plead their cause to the people who can help.

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

This photo in the Dave Burwell Postcard Collection caught our eye this week. It’s obviously a harvest scene; the back of the postcard says it is likely near Brigden on Highway 80 or the Moore/Enniskillen Townline.

The

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Opinion

Baptist church looking for readers for 150th event

EDITOR:

We would like your readers to be our readers!

As part of our 150th Anniversary celebrations, First Baptist Church Petrolia will host Proclamation – a 10 day reading of the Bible, cosponsored by the Canadian Bible Society. This unique event will take place April 18-27.

We invite the public to join us as scripture readers.

Short sections of scripture will be

provided in advance and participants are encouraged to read as many of the two to four minute segments as they would like from whatever Bible version or language they would like.

Here’s how Proclamation works: a group of scripture readers will read for 45 minutes, followed by a 15- minute break for refreshments. Daily readings will start at 7:00 a.m. and continue until 9:00 p.m.

We welcome individuals and groups. Anyone interested in being a part of

this unique event is asked to leave a message at the church at 519-882-2480 or send an e-mail to our scheduling coordinator Wanda Pratt at fbc150@outlook.com.

If you are unable to be a reader, please come and listen.

We hope Proclamation will be a blessing to all participants and our town.

Jan White
Petrolia, ON

OPTIMISTIC CELEBRATION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Lambton Central Petrolia Optimist are marking a milestone. The service club which focuses on youth in the community is celebrating 40 years of service. Some of the clubs long-standing members raised the Optimist Flag at Petrolia Town Hall Monday to mark the occasion. It will fly over Petrolia until the end of March.

Sarnia man drives by St. Clair accident then arrested

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

It was a case of bad timing for a Sarnia driver and good timing for Lambton OPP. Officers were in St. Clair Township for an accident Jan. 2021 when a pickup passed by. Officers could see the truck was swerving all over the

road. Sarnia court heard Monday that an officer followed him and pulled him over, noticing his speech was slurred, his eyes were glossy and the man stumbled as he got out of the truck. John Johnson, 61, plead guilty to impaired driving and was fined \$2,250 fine and will not be allowed to drive for a year.

He had experience quite a bit of loss Defence Lawyer Terry Brandon said Johnston had been dealing with a number of deaths in his family. “I am very sorry for what I did,” he said. Judge Krista Leszczynski stressed the seriousness of his conduct, adding he put himself as well as others at risk.

- THE INDEPENDENT

PW pool, washroom grants sought in 2022

The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming hopes to make the municipal office more welcoming and give everyone a chance to go for a swim. Council has given staff the go-ahead to apply for \$60,000 in grants to improve accessibility in the town. The plan is to bring the accessible washroom at town hall up to current standards. They also want to get a portable chair-lift or ramp for the Wyoming pool so more people can use the facility in the summer.

Ag federation exploring Lambton food hub

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Lambton Federation of Agriculture is wondering if the region could support a food hub. The federation and the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Development Partnership hosted an online seminar Wednesday about the concept to bring local producers together to distribute their goods. “Food hubs are different things to different localities in Ontario,” says Lambton Federation of Agriculture

President Gary Martin. “Some of them focus on food distribution; some of them focus on cottage industries where they have a centralized hub where producers can go in and make up their value added goods,” he says. The seminar was to look at several different food hubs, what worked and what didn’t. Martin says the federation is in the early stages of discussion and would like to hear not only from farmers about the concept but consumers as well.

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Trucker takes family over border

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

A Canadian truck driver who took pity on a Nigerian family trying to get across the border has been given an absolute discharge after failing to immediately tell border guards of their presence in his truck.

In Oct. 2020, Hannington Kogo of Calgary was about to cross from Port Huron into Sarnia on the Bluewater Bridge. A family approached him asking if he would take them over the bridge so they could claim asylum. With two children crying, Kogo took pity on them and invited them into his cab. He would take them over the border for free.

Kogo, the crown said, felt a connection to the family from Nigeria. He had come to Canada from Kenya 20 years earlier.

As they drove into the Canada Customs lanes, Kogo didn't tell customs officers about the family in the bunk of his cab.

He did tell agents about the family as he pulled into the secondary inspection area. That delay led customs officials to charge Kogo under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

Justice Deborah Austin, who heard the case March 4, called this "unique and unusual" noting it wasn't human smuggling. Withholding the information, she said, was a "technical breach of the rules."

"I don't want to trivialize this matter" said Austin in giving him an absolute discharge. Truck drivers must provide information to the Canadian Border Services at the earliest opportunity when crossing the border. Kogo will be under more scrutiny by the border services due to this charge being laid. Austin said that was enough supervision for him and probation was not necessary.

- THE INDEPENDENT

\$400K in stolen vehicles recovered

Lambton OPP have tracked down a lot of stolen vehicles but have yet to lay any charges in the incidents.

Lambton OPP has found over \$400,000 worth of stolen property in February alone. That includes eight trailers, three pickup trucks, two snow plows, a tractor and a skid steer. Much of the recovered property was able to be returned to rightful owners, officials say.

No charges have been laid yet but the investigation continues.

Probation for sword wielding man

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia man found wandering around with a sword strapped to his back says he didn't know what he was doing because he was high.

Christopher Brennan, 42, pled guilty to possession of a dangerous weapon in Sarnia court Feb. 28.

In Nov. 2020, Sarnia police were called about a man walking down Wellington St. in Sarnia with a 70 cm sword strapped to his back. When police approached Brennan, he handed it over. He was arrested and taken to hospital for an assessment.

Defence lawyer Terry Brandon said her client wasn't thinking properly as his mind was riddled with drugs. Brandon said her client wants the court to know he had no intention of threatening or harming anyone with the sword. He told police at the time, he knows of 15 people who had been murdered and he needed the sword for protection.

Brennan admitted this was a dangerous situation in a public setting, as he plead guilty. He was sentenced to one year probation and is prohibited from owning weapons for five years.

- THE INDEPENDENT

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No hospital grant, roundabout delayed in budget

Heather Wright
The Independent

A bid to get Lambton taxpayers to donate to Bluewater Health through their taxes has failed.

And a roundabout at the corner of Petrolia Line and Kimball Sideroad has been put off for another year.

Lambton County councillors passed the \$247 million 2022 budget March 2 without making any changes to it. That's a 2.5 per cent increase tax increase on the county portion of property tax bills.

It includes \$205,907,000 to run the county – the operating budget – and another \$41,022,000 for capital projects. Most of increase in spending can be attributed to the Infrastructure and Development, Social Services and Long Term Care departments.

The budget talks usually illicit a lot of question about whether the services provided are necessary or about why one project is granted priority over the other. But this year, councillors had few questions after pouring over the inches-thick binder for the past two weeks.

And while councillors seemed satisfied by the spending plan, they were not willing to take a second look at a Bluewater Health request for funding.

In 2020, Bluewater Health was looking for a \$10 million grant over 10 years. It planned to spend the cash in a number of places including the redevelopment of Bluewater Health's Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital.

But county councillors put off the request – and any new community grants – in the 2021 and 2022 budgets.

Loosley and Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley wanted county councillors to reconsider. But their pleas fell on deaf ears.

That seemed to anger Loosley. "I want to make it clear that I cannot support money going to the Strathroy hospital if we are not going to support our local hospital," he told councillors. Five years ago, county councillors approved a \$1 million grant over 10 years to Strathroy - a hospital widely used by people in Warwick and Brooke-Alvinston.

Loosley was frustrated council wouldn't even discuss the issue. "It's a little disappointing, it is making me feel that this county council does not support our local hospital. And I've heard how some councillors have stated they do support the hospital but yet voted against it, including you, Warden (Kevin) Marriott, to not even consider – I'm just a bit disappointed."

Loosley also failed in a bid to have the tax increase to be reduced to the same as last year's 1.9 per cent.

And bid to have a roundabout built at the corner of Petrolia Line and Kimball Sideroad was also pushed back to the 2023 budget. An accident in May 2020 prompted neighbours to start a petition to get the county to make improvements to the intersection. There had been dozens of accidents – many of them fatal – in the past.

St. Clair Mayor Steve Arnold, who had championed the idea in 2020, suggested the roundabout plans be pushed back to 2023 during Wednesday's meeting. The \$1.8 million project had also been deferred during the 2021 budget talks.

WHAT'S IN THE 2022 BUDGET

The budget will put \$18.5 million into various reserves to finance large, necessary projects in the future or to pay for unexpected opportunities and emergencies. That will mean the county will end up with \$54 million

in total – about \$1.3 million more than at the end of 2021.

One of the big items Lambton is saving for is long term care. Lambton Meadowview Villa is the first building to be replaced. County officials have begun planning and expect it could cost \$50 million.

The county is also putting away \$500,000 so it can purchase the county shared services building in Sarnia when the lease expires, should it wish to. That's a \$23 million expense.

Lambton also needs to pump up to \$39.4 million into affordable housing by 2031.

Treasurer Larry Palarchio is also concerned there could be future cost increases as the provincial government changes how it funds children's services.

The Ford government, before the pandemic, also talked about decreasing how much money it provided to public health units from 75 per cent now to 70 per cent. That plan was shelved as the province dealt with COVID-19.

Palarchio says the federal and provincial grants for infrastructure projects are also expected to decline in the future.

In his assessment for council Feb. 16, Palarchio said the cost pressures and revenue losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic were projected to continue in 2022. The pandemic, he said, piled on an addition \$14.8 million dollars in costs. That includes the increases in public health spending, help for long term care homes – like screening, testing and pandemic pay. Social Services also used extra cash for homelessness initiatives and child care.

All but \$300,000 of that was covered by COVID-19 grants from federal and provincial governments, something he expects will continue.



Frontline care provider at CEEH of BWH holding a patient's hand

Pandemic Brought Frontline Staff Together: "We're a Family"



Charlotte's Corner

– ADVERTORIAL –

At Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital of Bluewater Health, frontline staff have come together throughout the pandemic, facing new challenges and supporting each other through ever evolving conditions. In the process, stronger bonds have formed; colleagues have become a tight-knit family.

Carla Bolton started her role in Housekeeping in November 2019, mere months before the pandemic was declared. She says in the beginning, it was overwhelming, but the support of colleagues was unwavering.

"Everyone just got closer," she says. "Even though I'd only been here for a few months ... it was my family away from my family."

Carla and other Housekeeping staff took on extra shifts to help ensure every surface was sanitized; they play a key role in keeping both patients and staff safe. She says she was taking on all the shifts she could, but the pandemic really hit Carla on a personal note when in 2021, she lost her father to COVID.

She says her work family was a great source of support for her and her family during that time in her life, and she was so grateful for that.

Charlene Degurse has been a nurse with Bluewater Health for 24 years, taking on the role of a Designated Care Partner

Coordinator during the pandemic. She has played a part in helping families stay connected with loved ones in the hospital.

She says there have been many rewarding moments in her new role, but also some trying times. At the height of the pandemic, visiting restrictions often left families feeling frustrated and upset. Charlene often coordinated virtual visits and visits outside of windows, doing everything she could to keep patients' spirits up.

In a small town like Petrolia, both Charlene and Carla say they often know those patients and visitors coming through the doors. Having grown up in the area, Charlene and Carla both say there is a real connection between staff and patients. They spend time together, they know the families of many patients. And they do all they can to ensure they are comfortable and at ease.

It's not always an easy job, Charlene says, but there are certainly days when she knows she's made a difference, and that makes it all worthwhile.

For the most part, Charlene says the community has been understanding and cooperative during the many restrictions and changes throughout the past two years. "We're all in this together," Charlene says.

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week

Making the business case for farm safety: preventing risks

Canadian Agricultural Safety Association

Everyone knows that a business plan is good for, well, business. But did you know that safety plans and procedures are also good for business? In fact, farm safety is an essential aspect of any successful and long-lasting farm operation.

We all know that there are inherent risks with working in agriculture.

According to the Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting (CAIR), agriculture ranks as the fourth most hazardous industry in Canada with fatal injury rates. And in terms of absolute numbers of fatalities, there is no more dangerous occupation.

What's more, agriculture is unique because farms and ranchers aren't just worksites but also places where people of all ages live and take part in recreational activities. That means while farmers and farm workers are at risk of serious injuries, so too are farm families. According to data from CAIR, between 2006 and 2015, 84 children and youth lost their lives to agriculture-related injuries.

Safety is everyone's responsibility.

That's why safety needs to be included with any farm business risk management plan. Looking at safety from an economic perspective can benefit your farm business' bottom line, but more importantly, it will ensure the well-being of your family, workers, and visitors.

After all, there's no question that safety risks on the farm have business and financial consequences, along with physical and emotional impacts. That's why it's good business practice to prevent safety risks before they happen and assess them just like any other business risk.

Plus, linking safety risks to other risks on the farm is an essential component of managing the overall business risk of an agribusiness. Consider how safety issues are connected to other matters on the farm, like finances and human resources. Because aside from the obvious benefit of preventing injuries, farm safety plans and procedures also reduce costs resulting from damages to property or machinery, downtime, or even loss of business.

Think of it this way: farm safety risk

management is like the business principle of "a dollar saved is worth more than a dollar earned." That's because a loss prevented is worth more than increased production. Start by reviewing the potential direct and indirect costs of injuries to get a complete picture of the financial implications that safety issues will have on your operation's success and longevity.

Of course, embracing safety as a business practice also means changing how many people look at farm safety.

- Instead of viewing farming as an exception to workplace safety legislation, keep in mind that farming is a career/business operation and that a farm is a workplace.
- Rather than thinking, "Farm safety restricts me and keeps from doing certain things," consider it from a risk management perspective and how it will improve your business and personal life.

The 2020 Canadian Ag Safety Study conducted by FCC Market Insights found that 72% of producers have had an injury or close call on their operation at some point in their lifetime. And though

these producers are more likely to recognize health and safety risks, they are less motivated to improve safety on their farm than producers who have not had an incident.

While there are various reasons for this behaviour, a contributing factor is certainly because many people think creating a safety plan is a long and challenging process. However, dealing with the aftermath of a serious workplace injury or fatality is a far longer and more complicated process.

The truth is that safety plans and procedures are easy to establish. Not to mention that the long-term benefits of safety measures far outweigh any efforts involved with creating farm safety plans and procedures.

So what's involved in prioritizing safety as part of a business risk management plan? There are four main steps to take in making farms safer for everyone:

Commitment

First and foremost, there must be a commitment to farm safety and health communicated to everyone who lives on, works at, and visits the farm.

Hazard recognition

Recognize and acknowledge hazards on the farm to understand what can impact progress. Be mindful that hazards can be biological, chemical, ergonomic, physical, or lifestyle.

Control strategies

Implement control strategies for the hazards. These strategies fall into five categories: personal wellness assessments, integrated safety standard operating procedures, emergency response plans, training; or investigations.

Communication

Communicate safety and health measures with everyone at the farm.

Want to make safety part of your farm business risk management plan but not sure where to start? To help take the guess work out of developing a robust safety program, CASA's Canada FarmSafe Plan is available to download: www.casa-acsa.ca/en/resources/canada-farmsafe-plan/.

Remember that investing in safety means investing in the well-being of your family, your employees, and, of course, your business.

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Canadian Agricultural Safety Week

Safety on the road a two way street

Robert Gobeil
Canadian Agricultural Safety Association

Too often, many of us overlook the fact that we might be sharing the road with agricultural equipment.

We hear of traffic incidents involving motor vehicles and agricultural equipment on public roadways every year. Unfortunately, many of these incidents have severe outcomes for motorists and farm equipment operators alike.

In fact, according to Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting (CAIR) data, traffic collisions made up approximately 7% of all agriculture-related fatalities between 2003-2012.

Below are some tips to help keep everyone safe while sharing the road:

Motorists

- Spring planting and fall harvest time tend to see more agricultural equipment on roadways. But it's important to keep an eye out all year long, especially when travelling in rural areas.
- Agricultural equipment travels a lot slower than regular traffic. That means a motor vehicle travelling at the speed limit can approach farm equipment more quickly than expected. Make sure to stay alert and slow down when approaching any farm machinery.
- Leave plenty of space behind farm equipment to allow for potential debris coming from the machinery. Keeping a distance will also help assess when it is safe to pass the equipment. If you can't see the operator, they can't see you – and may not know you're there!
- We all know how easy it is to get

impatient when driving behind a slow-moving vehicle. But only pass when it is safe to do so, and the operator can see you.

- When passing a piece of farm equipment, always follow the same road rules that apply when passing other motor vehicles, like never passing on a solid centre line or corner.
- Pay attention to turn signals and any hand signals from the operator.
- Tractors and other farm equipment need plenty of room to make left-hand turns.

If the operator veers to the right, it might mean that they are about to make a left-hand turn – this is NOT an indication for the motorist to pass!

Agricultural Equipment Operators

- It's best practice to use side roads instead of highways whenever possible, given the size and limited speed of farm machinery. Before heading out on the road, take time to plan your route.
- Ensure that all loads are secure and that your equipment won't leave debris on roadways or send projectiles towards motorists.
- Make sure your equipment has reflective materials and a Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) sign that are in good condition and visible. Be sure to replace these items as needed. Take care to check that all lights, beacons, and turn signals are clean and working properly before operating on any roadway.
- Use signals whenever you turn or change lanes.
- Know the width and height of



your equipment and adjust mirrors as needed. This will help to ensure safe travel and clearance with potential obstructions such as road signs, overhead lines, and bridges.

- If you'll be transporting oversized loads/equipment or have to travel on high-speed roadways, use a pilot vehicle whenever possible. (NOTE: Some provinces have requirements regarding pilot vehicles, while others do not. Check with your provincial highway traffic legislation to verify requirements in your area.)
- Always wear a seatbelt when operating a tractor or other agricultural equipment.
- Keep in mind that anyone operating agricultural machinery on public roadways must possess a valid driver's licence and comply with traffic laws.

Remember that we all share the same public roadways. And that means we all have a responsibility to help ensure everyone makes it home safely.

We're fortunate here in Lambton to have such a strong and renowned agri-food industry. It's the hardworking farmers, farm workers and food processors, and others across our supply chain, who continue to produce and deliver the incredible food that feeds Canadians, thank you.

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Remember to watch for farm machinery moving between fields.

Farm machinery moves slowly, and at highway speeds, motorists will approach a piece of farm equipment faster than expected.

Slow down, be patient and stay safe!

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Canada

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week

Combatting loneliness and social isolation on the farm

Canadian Farm Safety Association

Did you know that humans are the most social creatures on the planet? It's true. In fact, we have a biological necessity for social interactions. And that's one of the core reasons why the pandemic has taken such a toll on people's mental health over the past two years – feelings of loneliness and isolation have increased because of restrictions.

Even without the restrictions of a pandemic, farming is well-known for often being a very isolating and lonely occupation. Many farmers spend long hours working alone in geographically isolating locations. Not to mention poor rural broadband and transportation connections that can worsen the sense of isolation. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has exacerbated feelings of isolation and loneliness by eliminating many of the already limited opportunities farmers have for connecting with others.

And while some enjoy and even thrive working alone, frequent isolation from social connections can have serious health consequences.

According to the 2021 Canadian Social Survey on Loneliness in Canada, of the one in 10 Canadians who reported frequent loneliness, 49% also reported poorer mental health and lower levels of overall life satisfaction.

The potential health risks are why it's crucial to pay attention to the signs and symptoms of isolation and loneliness, which include: poor coping skills, sense of emptiness, questioning values, loss of purpose/meaning, disconnected, not sharing with others, and isolating from friends and family.

It's important to note that isolation and loneliness aren't mutually exclusive, and everyone has different tolerance levels for isolation and loneliness. For example, some people can be isolated and not feel lonely, while others can be surrounded by people and feel lonely.

While it may not seem relevant at first, what we say to ourselves plays a significant role in feeling lonely as it affects our thoughts, emotions, and behaviours. So we need to first have a good relationship with ourselves in order to have meaningful connections with others.

A few ways to feel more comfortable with yourself include:

- Take care of yourself. Find out what gives you peace and helps you to feel comfortable.
- Stop negative thoughts.
- Be patient.

- Reflect on what else is going on. How you are feeling in other parts of your life may impact feelings of loneliness.
- Keep track of your feelings and ask for help when you need it.

There is a lot of unpredictability in farming. Many stressors – like weather, commodity prices, and machinery breakdown – are not in a farmer's control.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has further heightened unpredictability in the farming industry.

There are several aspects of the pandemic that aren't easily "fixable," and the best practice for dealing with these issues is connecting with other people experiencing similar challenges.

How can you focus on creating meaningful social connections? A few tips include:

- Make time to connect. Think about the types of connections you want to make. Increase connections with close friends and family members. Schedule time to connect.
- Stay grounded. We can learn a lot from those around us. Be respectful to others, open to dialogue, and listen to those around you.
- Find people who share a common interest. Start by making a list of things you are interested in or would like to explore more.
- Know your boundaries. While it's important to build social connections, it's okay to set boundaries and communicate them. If feeling overwhelmed, it's okay to step away and take a pause.
- Be careful with expectations. Don't have a specific goal or objective in mind; focus on being present in the experience of connecting.

One of the keys to moving away from loneliness and isolation is to start small. Keep in mind that starting with small actions can lead to other connections. So take your time and remember, it's not a race.

For more detailed information and tips for maintaining your mental health, check out the Sowing the Seeds of Mental Health webinar series from Howatt HR Consulting: www.howatthr.com/products-services/workplace-learning/sowing-the-seeds-of-mental-health/

For more than a decade, CASA has been raising awareness about the importance of safety on Canadian farms through Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW), which takes place every year during the third week of March. CASW is presented by Farm Credit Canada. In 2022, CASW sponsors include long-time corporate sponsor Farm Credit Canada, as well as CN, Syngenta, Bayer Crop Science, and Fertilizer Canada.



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MARCH 2022

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The Do More Agriculture Foundation



March 2022 Talk Ask Listen

March 28, 2022 @ 10am-3:30pm

at the
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Canadian Agricultural Safety Week

Online course helps brush up on business planning

Erin Kelly
Canadian Agriculture Safety Association

No matter what stage your farm is in, business management practices play a crucial role in your farm’s success and longevity. But how to go about figuring out which practices to implement and how can be a daunting task. Especially after a long day spent in the fields.

Fortunately, a new program is making it easier for producers to learn key skills for taking care of their business, their workers, and themselves.

Thought to be the first of its kind in Canada, the Foundations in Agricultural Management is a free online certificate course from the University of Guelph. Created in partnership with the RBC Foundation and Farm Credit Canada (FCC), the program aims to give producers the skills and confidence to succeed and grow their agribusiness.

“The idea for the project was about helping Canadian producers improve their business management skills and have it be a call to action to start thinking more systematically and more seriously about ‘If I’m going to grow my farm business, how am I going to do that?’” explains Dr. John Cranfield, Associate Dean of the University of Guelph’s Ontario Agricultural College.

“This course is about investing in your business, investing in yourself and taking your agribusiness to the next level.”

And there’s clearly demand for such a program. Just four days after the program launched on January 17, 1,700 individuals had already signed up.

“The response has been fantastic. We’re hearing from people from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia,” says Cranfield, adding that it was essential to the university and its partners, RBC and FCC, that the course be available free of charge to anyone interested in taking it.

Using video modules recorded with University of Guelph instructors, the course teaches participants the fundamentals of core business management themes: business planning, finance, human resources, risk management, farm transitions, and mental health and resilience.

The course is self-paced, with participants having to pass a short quiz before continuing to the next module.

While mental health may not seem like a prominent topic for business management at first glance, Cranfield stresses it is a fundamental component that should not be overlooked.

“Mental health is a significant issue in Canadian agriculture right now. Most producers are running family businesses and there’s a lot of pressure. They are working in markets that show a lot of volatility and that creates some unwanted effects in terms of farmer mental health,” says Cranfield. “We thought it was so important to include mental health because it recognizes that you have to look after yourself in addition to the business and the people around you.”

And though the mental health module is

situated last, that isn’t meant to reflect the importance of the topic compared to the other module themes.

Rather, says Cranfield, the sequence of topics was purposefully constructed to build off one another, with mental health intentionally put at the end.

“The reason we put the mental health module after the farm transition one, is that farm transition conversations can be challenging and stressful. These businesses are often passed down from one generation to the next so there’s a legacy issue that can create a lot of pressure and anxiety,” Cranfield explains.

“We wanted to position people to have the supports they need to have those courageous conversations. We know that mental health plays an important role in those conversations.”

Tackling those tough conversations and other crucial business management topics is also why the university and its partners want participants to be able to picture themselves and their own scenarios throughout the program. To help participants relate to the course content, short vignettes of interviews with producers who have gone through a “business growth journey” are included with each module.

“We wanted to bring the importance of the topics alive and make it relatable so that a producer watching a module can see themselves in the producer being interviewed,” Cranfield says.

“We’re proud of the fact that we’ve produced something that will really resonate with the farm community.”



Cranfield says the program’s goal is to reach 50,000 producers. The program is available in both English and French four times per year over the next two years. Registration details can be found at www.guelphagriculturalmanagement.com.

“Whether it’s a new producer who is getting started on a small scale or someone who is looking to grow their operation, this is fundamentally about the growth and success of those businesses and producers being proud of how they’ve been able to achieve that,” explains Cranfield.

“We ultimately want to give producers the skills to take their business to the next level.”



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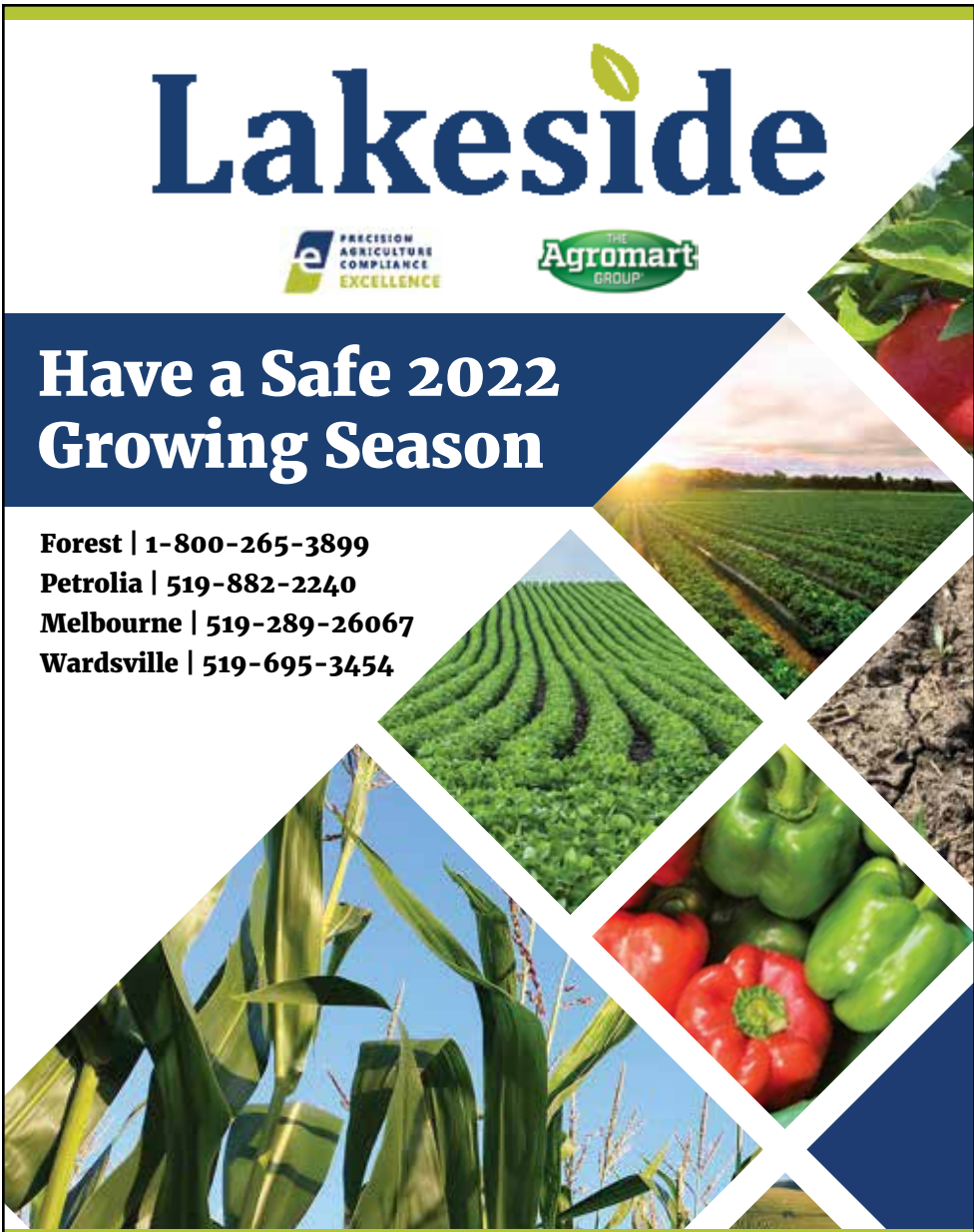
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Museum uses new tech, old architecture to tell oil history

Heather Wright
The Independent

There is lots of light and lots of interactive displays to hold the interest of young and old in the newly redesigned Oil Museum of Canada in Oil Springs.

Last year, contractors stripped the 60 year-old museum to the studs as part of a plan to return the building to its original design by Ian Rutherford, including returning the walls of windows. Erin Dee-Richards, the curator and supervisor at the site, recently gave *The Independent* a tour, showing the exhibits based on the original vision of the museum including the geology of oil, how Indigenous people used it, the discovery of oil and the reach of Lambton’s oil drillers as well as the history of Oil Springs and the boom there.

The wall of windows is one of the first changes visitors will notice as they walk up to the museum. And Dee-Richards says it stays true to Rutherford’s vision. “The original intent for the windows was for you to read about the history and then turn around

and see it - the oil field.

Many of the displays are interactive, like the new history wall which explains the use of oil through the decades. And, with the touch of a hand, the oil starts gushing from the rig. “There’s more interpretation and more time can be spent in here,” she says.

Tall columns of oil bubble at the press of a button so visitors get an idea of just how thick crude is. And people can visit the different countries Hard Oilers opened up oil fields in India and beyond.

And there is a look at how the discovery of oil brought about the development of Oil Springs; from a miniature of the Fairbank Oil Field to the register of one of the more famous hotels from the period. The Oxford Hotel register from April 2, 1862 shows people from as far away as England visiting the community.

And there are items rarely seen before, such as home movies taken by a Hard Oiler in India.

The museum is open to visitors Wednesday to Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm. You can reserve a spot online.



Erin Dee-Richards, Curator/Supervisor at the Oil Museum took us for a tour of the newly renovated site. There are plenty of interactive displays and some pieces of history - like the register of the Oxford Hotel above - which few have seen.



Lancers LK Champions

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS

LCCVI has captured the Senior Girls volleyball crown in Lambton-Kent. The Lancers beat John McGregor in Chatham Friday night. LCCVI advanced to the final after defeating Wallaceburg 3-0 at home Wednesday night. The Panthers and Lancers had been tied atop the AA standings for first place. It was a hard fought match with close games but LCCVI took the final 3-1 with sets of 25-19, 25-21, 20-25, and 25-20. The members of the championship team (with their jersey numbers) are Jalyn Jackson (10), Kylee Shortt (12), Tecla Gerrits (11), Camryn McAuley (13), Autumn Kaldeway (15), Sophia Sayers (5), Grace Lucier (2), Kylie MacFarlane (4), Emma Hendra (6), Dannika Maniuk (1), and Hailey Wilkins (3).



Sports

Flyers open playoffs against Essex

Barry Wright
The Independent

For the fourth time in the past six seasons, the Petrolia Flyers and Essex 73's are meeting in the first round of the PJHL Stobbs Division playoffs. Petrolia's first home postseason game is Thursday at Greenwood Arena at 7:30. The first game in the best-of-seven series was Tuesday in Essex but the score was not available prior to our weekly deadline. The

73's won all four regular season games between the teams but they have not played since early December. Game three is in Essex on Sunday afternoon with the Flyers hosting game four next Tuesday.

Petrolia closed out the regular season skating to a 4-4 overtime tie against Lakeshore in a rescheduled game last Saturday. The contest was postponed last month due to inclement weather. Andrew Jaques had a natural hat trick to lead the

Flyers including the equalizer with less than three seconds left in the third period. Jaques has ten goals in ten games since the season restart early last month. Jack McAlpine had the other Flyer goal. Tyler Richardson had 34 stops.

Tyler Richardson stops the puck in the during the Friday night game against Lakeshore.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Flags to entertain Blenheim in first round of playoffs

The Moore Sports Complex will be the site of game one of the best-of-seven Stobbs Division series against the Blenheim Blades on Wed. March 9. Game two is the following night in the Chatham-Kent community. The Flags will host game three on Saturday with the Blades on home ice

on Sunday. Games in Mooretown are scheduled for 7:30 with the Blades' home contests scheduled for 7 pm. The Flags swept all four regular season games against Blenheim this season outscoring the Blades, 23-9. Mooretown downed Dresden, 5-1 on home ice Saturday to end the regular

season. Brodie Conlon led the Flags with two goals. Logan Phillips made 26 saves. He lost his shutout bid when the visitors scored a shorthanded goal with less than 90 seconds to play in the final period.

Squires to play Owen Sound-area squad for Senior A hockey

The Petrolia Squires open their Western Ontario Athletic Association senior "A" championship series at home this Saturday. They'll host the Shallow Lake Crushers in game one of the best-of-seven series this Saturday at Greenwood at 7:30. The second

team will be in the Owen Sound-area community the following Saturday, March 26. The teams did not meet during the abbreviated regular season this year. After receiving a first-round playoff bye, the Squires swept Milverton in four straight games while Shallow

Lake needed seven games to dispose of Lucknow. The Crushers forced a decisive game with a 1-0 triumph Friday before beating Lucknow, 4-3 in overtime in game seven Saturday. The Squires won the league's A trophy in 2018.

Killer Bees first season over

The Alvinston Killer Bees lost a pair of weekend playoff games in Stratford and were eliminated from further Western Ontario Super Hockey League postseason play. The Fighting Irish won by scores of 5-1 and 7-4 and now advance to play top-seeded Elora in the semi-finals. The other semi features Strathroy against Tillsonburg.

Team Canada on to semi finals

Forest's Tyler McGregor had a goal and an assist as Team Canada beat Korea, 6-0 early Tuesday in sledge hockey play at the Paralympics in Beijing. With the win, Canada advances directly to the semi-finals. McGregor and his mates got off to a rocky start in the opener last week, bowing to top-ranked Team USA, 5-0. The Americans have advanced directly to the semis.

Flag signs with Sting

Owen MacDonald has signed a standard player agreement with the Sarnia Sting. The Mooretown product and Lambton Jr. Sting grad has an assist in nine games with the OHL club. He's also has three goals and 16 points in 29 games this season with the Sarnia Legionnaires "He is a player who puts in the work both on and off the ice," said Sting GM Dylan Seca in a statement.

Lady Lancers pick up pair of hockey victories

LCCVI is now 4-1 in LKSSAA girls' hockey action after a pair of victories over Great Lakes. Kameron Roache was the player of the game for the Lancers in a 4-0 win over the Wolfpack. The Lady Lancers were in Forest for a tilt with North Lambton this Tuesday but the score was not available by press time. Meantime, the Lancers boys' fell to 4-3 with losses to first place North Lambton and St. Pat's last week.

LCCVI is scheduled to close out its regular season at home Wednesday against Great Lakes but the Wolfpack have been forfeiting recent game due to a lack of players. North Lambton travels to Ridgetown Wednesday to take on the Royals for the senior boys' A basketball crown. The Eagles advanced with a semi-final win over Pain Court Monday. Ridgetown won its semi-final over Dresden.

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Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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Petrolia Legion General Meetings - Petrolia Legion General Meetings return on Tuesday March 15 at 7pm.

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.

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Country property, with high traffic commercial zoning location out front on a main country highway. And a quiet setting for your home at the back of the second property. Perfect location to bring/start your own business. A successful business has been run here for over 30 years! Showroom, large workshop & office already existing w/plenty of parking on site. Spacious, well maintained 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home, large wrap around porch, steel roof, and many updates. Located between Sarnia, London and Chatham-Kent. Dual properties like this don't come along very often.



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Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 noon

Employment Opportunity - Help Wanted

WARWICK TOWNSHIP

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)

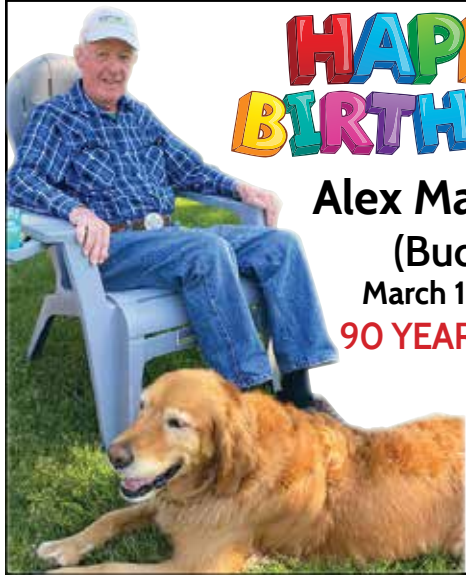
Application Deadline: 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

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 MEsselment@warwicktownship.ca or 519-849-3926.

www.warwicktownship.ca

Coming Events



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Alex MacKellar (Budda)

March 10, 1932

90 YEARS YOUNG!

Love Maxine, Darlene & Dave Schumacher & Family Dave & Annette & Family

Employment Opportunity - Help Wanted

WARWICK TOWNSHIP

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 MEsselment@warwicktownship.ca or 519-849-3926.

www.warwicktownship.ca



Church DIRECTORY

Christ Anglican Church

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

Join us for In-Person Services Sundays @ 11:15 am

Everyone Welcome

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 Sundays @ 10:30 am

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 am

Pastor: Alex Craig

Church Office 519-882-2480

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 taking place Sundays @ 11 am

Those attending will be physically distanced, must wear a mask and be fully vaccinated.

Rev. Steven Longmoore

Church Office 519-845-3963

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

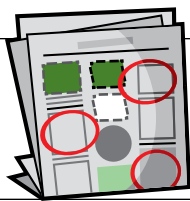
416 Queen Street, Petrolia (Behind the Post Office)

In-Person Service Sundays @ 10:00 am

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

Pastor Katherine Hawley

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon



Classifieds

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

Obituaries / Death Notices

MOSHER

Eric Raymond



MOSHER, Eric Raymond – Age 78, of Petrolia, passed away peacefully on **Thursday, March 3, 2022** at Bluewater Health, Sarnia. Born November 18, 1943 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the son of Donald and Florence (Flemming) Mosher and brother of Elsie and Rosalie. While a young boy the family moved to Niagara Falls, Ontario. Eric will be remembered by his wife of 46 years, Gale (Lazaroff) Mosher, his sister-in-law and brother-in-law Vikki (Lazaroff) and John Zulpo, nephews Andrew and his wife Tarah, Adrian and great-nephews Declan and Atticus. Also remembered by his aunt and uncle of Chester Basin, Nova Scotia, Wayne and Alice (Flemming) Milner, aunt Jackie Colucci, many cousins by marriage and Eric and Gale's many friends. A special thank you to the Steadman family of Brigden, Ontario, who have helped us in so many ways over the past four years, when we made our move to Petrolia, Ontario. Eric started his working career as a draftsman for the Town of Oakville, then changing to the Ambulance Service in Oakville and then Woodbridge, Ontario. He moved into the office to become the supervisor then acting manager of the dispatch centre for the Ontario Air Ambulance Service. His last change was to become the contracts auditor and inspector for the Air Ambulance, flying around the province several times a year to examine heliports and more. Eric was a terrific handyman and was especially proud of a 24x36 foot garage he built at Horseshoe Lake near Parry Sound. He loved boating and fishing, his last boat being a 27 ft Wellcraft that allowed Eric and Gale to anchor in a peaceful cove for several days at a time on Georgian Bay. Our thanks to the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia and the ICU unit at Bluewater Health in Sarnia, who were so caring during Eric's last two days. **As per Eric's request, there will be no funeral service but a gathering of family and friends will be held at a later date.** Sympathy may be expressed through donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation (www.heartandstroke.ca) or Diabetes Canada (www.diabetes.ca) or the charity of your choice. Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.steadmanbrothers.ca. **Arrangements entrusted to STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigden 519-864-1193.**

ANDERSON

Anna Marie



Anna Marie Anderson (nee Whitehead) – Age 96 of Chatham, formerly of R.R. #3 Oil Springs, passed away at Chatham-Kent Health Alliance, Chatham on **Friday, March 4, 2022**. Beloved wife of the late Charles "Keith" Anderson (2010). Loving mother of Ross (Cynthia) Anderson of Erin and Linda Slatford of Chatham. Dear grandmother of David, Hilary and Jose, Keith and Amanda Slatford and Craig Slatford. Great-grandmother to Brynna, Fiona, and Quinn Slatford. Pre-deceased by her siblings Verli and Norman Whitehead. Anna was a life-long member of the Do Our Best Institute and Brigden United Church. **A private family funeral service will be held at STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigden with interment to follow in Hillsdale Cemetery, Petrolia.** Sympathy may be expressed through donations to Brigden United Church or C.E.E. Hospital Foundation. Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.steadmanbrothers.ca. **Steadman Brothers 519-864-1193.**

MADACSI

Joe



March 25, 1934 – March 5, 2022

Passed away on **Saturday, March 5, 2022** at C.E.E. Hospital in Petrolia. Born in Hamilton, Ontario on March 25, 1934. Beloved husband of Marilyn (nee Adams) for 66 years. Loving father of Paul, proud grandpa of Jennifer (James) Snider and Jessica (Patrick Picard) Madacsi, and great grandpa of Aaron and Avalynn Snider and Arizona Picard. He was predeceased by a great granddaughter Kinsley Picard (2016). And his parents Margaret Bozoky and Marton Madacsi. Joe served with Ontario Provincial Police for 30 years London, Petrolia Municipal (1960-1962), Woodstock, and returning and retiring from the Petrolia detachment as Corporal. He was a member of the Lions Club of Petrolia for 49 years was Lions District Governor in 1990-91. Joe was also a member of the Petrolia and District Pilots Association. **Cremation has taken place. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Parents for Parks Petrolia (www.sarniacommunityfoundation.ca). **Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.**

Obituaries / Death Notices

OATES

Janet Katherine



Janet Katherine Oates, passed away peacefully at her home in Summit Place Lodge, **Owen Sound, ON., February 20th, 2022** at the age of **84**. She was born in Plympton Twp., Lambton County, ON., the first of two children of Gertrude and Gordon Walker on October 18th, 1937. It is with heartfelt emotion and great sadness that we are sharing the passing of Janet Oates, who passed away peacefully at Summit Place February 20th at 3:00 pm. She was a strong, resilient and determined woman who raised 2 sons on her own and worked her way up to a successful career with the Ontario government, and went on to enjoy an incredible retirement since 1995. Janet moved to London in the 1950's and worked at Simpson Sears before being married and having two boys. After the death of her husband she took in foster children while they were awaiting placement with permanent parents. Janet went back to school in 1970 to obtain her high school equivalent and courses in Business and Commerce which landed her the position of Data Entry Clerk with the Ontario Government's Regional Assessment Office. After her retirement Janet traveled frequently on bus trips (as she didn't like planes or boats) around Ontario, Quebec and many US states. She also loved live theatre and was a subscriber to the London Little Theatre/Grand Theatre for many years. She moved to Owen Sound in 2018 after she found travel was getting to be difficult for her. Janet was a small but mighty woman who loved her family, grandkids and great grandkids. God speed mom we hope you are dancing in heaven and free of pain! Janet was survived by her sons Dennis (wife -Pam), Dave (wife-Shelly), grandchildren Chris (wife-Anny), Brad, Erica, Matt (wife-Rashelle). Great grand children Keira, Shelby, Lincoln, Taelyn and step son Kyler (Jennifer) Predeceased by her husband Thomas (Bud) Oates (1963), and parents Gordon (1979) and Gertrude (nee Walsh) Walker (2005), brother Leslie Walker (2002) and beloved daughter in law Trish Oates (nee Leis) (2009). Those wishing to make a donation are asked to consider the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Grand Theatre. **As per Janet's wishes, cremation has taken place. Interment of her ashes in the Wyoming Public Cemetery will take place at a later date.** Logan Funeral Home, (519-433-6181) entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at www.loganfhn.ca

A tree will be planted, by the Logan Funeral Home, as a living memorial to Janet Oates

LOGAN FUNERAL HOME

Cards of Thanks

We would like to thank our neighbours for the items given to us while Roy was in the hospital in the ICU unit for two weeks. We were blessed with soups, flowers, and gift cards. Also, thank you to Ashley and Bennet for the flowers, the Ambulance Team and Petrolia Emergency Department for stabilizing him before transit to Sarnia. Special thanks to the I.C.U. Nurses, Physio, Dr. Hadad and Dr. Dhanjani for their care.

Thanks to all - **Roy & Mary Ayrheart**



The family of the late Don Moore wishes to thank relatives, friends, and neighbours for their support and their thoughtfulness in sending gifts of food, cards, flowers, condolences, and donations.
*We appreciate your kindness and generosity.
Sincerely, The family of Don Moore*

Answers to this week's

Sudoku

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Obituaries / Death Notices

BURNS

Katherine Helen

Katherine Helen Burns: It is with heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of Katherine on **March 3, 2022** at her home in **Courteney, British Columbia**. She leaves behind her soul-mate Steve Horel, daughters Anna and Bridget and two grandchildren Kailey and Nickolas. Predeceased by her mother Anne (Mackesy) Burns 1957 and her father Matt Burns 1976, and her sister-in-law Alice Burns 2010. She is survived by her brothers Pat of Petrolia, Leo (Karen) of Oil Springs, Jerry (Linda) of Croton and a sister Margaret Foessel (Dieter) of Okotoks, Alberta. Also survived by many nieces and nephews as well as a number of cousins. Katherine was born in Chatham, Ontario on January 16, 1953 and was raised in the Township of Dawn. In her early 20's her adventurous spirit propelled her to leave her hometown taking her to New Zealand, Australia and Africa, before she returned to Canada and settled in the Comox Valley area on Vancouver Island where she raised her family. Kathy worked as a counsellor,, a carpenter and later co-owner of the Blue Heron Book Store. She was an independent, creative, witty, pragmatic and loving person. **Cremation has taken place with a celebration of life to follow at a later date.** Donations may be made to the Red Cross through Piercy's Mt-Washington Funeral Home, Courteney. www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/courtenay-bc/katherine-burns-10615024.



Clocks will 'spring forward'
at 2 a.m. local time
on Sunday, March 13 2022.

In Memory



TODD O'BRIEN

March 11, 2018

*Four long years have come
and gone,
But our love for you,
helps keep us strong.
No day goes by
That you aren't missed,
We long to hold you and hug you
For one more kiss.*

Forever in our hearts and minds
Loved & Missed Forever & Always
Lisa & Lola and family
Mom & Dad, Stacey & Mike
and Cody & Jack.

BRYDGES:

*In loving memory of
Pearl Brydges*

My Mother who left us on March 12, 2004.

*No more your face to look upon
or your beautiful smile to see.
Though deep inside my heart
I know you are still with me.
When the sun casts down its golden rays,
that's when I see you smile.
A rainbow in the sky appears
with a beauty of its own.
And in the breeze I hear your voice,
it whispers you are not alone.*

Bob and family



ROANE

January 29 1936 – March 9 2021

In loving memory of our wonderful Husband, Dad, Grandpa and Great Grandpa
Bruce Roane
Already one year has passed,
we are all missing you very much.

We miss your smile,
your *joking* ways.
We miss the *things*
you used to say,
And when old times
we do *recall*.
It's when we *miss* you
most of all.

Forever loved Eleanor,
Pam, Connie
& families.

Only one maple syrup festival this year

Heather Wright
The Independent

If you’re hoping to get your maple fix this spring, the pickings are going to be a little slimmer than usual.

Two of the three annual events have been cancelled because of uncertainty surrounding the pandemic.

The Alvinston Festival, which featured a day-long breakfast by the local volunteer firefighters and an educational event at AW Campbell Conservation Area. The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority pulled the plug on it last

week.

“Due to the uncertainty around what COVID-19 restrictions would be lifted, and when those changes would come into effect, planning the event has been challenging,” said Melissa Levi, Conservation Education Coordinator in a news release.

“We have decided to hold off for another year to re-focus our efforts and host an event that would align with our visitors’ expectations.”

The tours usually bring about 1,000 people to the park.

The firefighters had already decided not to host the event this year when the conservation

authority made its decision.

This year’s Watford Maple Syrup Festival has also been cancelled.

The local Rotary Club and the Township of Warwick had hosted a take home festival for the past two years. Mayor Jackie Rombouts confirmed last week it was not going forward this year either.

But people looking to get their maple syrup fix will be able to have breakfast in Warwick.

The Warwick Firemen’s Association plans a Pancake Breakfast on March 27 at the Warwick Community Centre from 9 AM to 1PM.



FILE PHOTO

The Alvinston Maple Syrup Festival has been cancelled this year.

CASH FROM CASH AND FRIENDS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students at Lambton Centennial School, along with their teacher/author Steve McGrail presented \$3,000 to Parents for Parks - the proceeds of a book they all produced together, **A Heart Full of Cash**. McGrail wrote the inspirational book about Cash Stephenson and it was illustrated by Erin Hawryluk and Mrs. Landon’s students. Hawryluk is part of Parents for Park, the group which plans to build an accessible playground at Greenwood Park this summer.

COVID emergency orders lifted

Heather Wright
The Independent

It’s another sign of Ontarians learning to live with COVID-19.

Lambton County and three of its municipalities - Petrolia, Plympton-Wyoming and Sarnia - all rescinded their State of Emergency Orders put in place nearly two years ago to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. The county dropped the order one year and 350 days after imposing it March 18, 2020.

Municipal governments can impose a State of Emergency in an extraordinary situation to give government wider powers to respond quickly using extraordinary resources.

The county believes it is now positioned to respond to COVID-19 without the state of emergency.

“Lifting the State of Emergency means the County believes it can incorporate the ongoing response to COVID-19 within our day-to-day operations without significant outside assistance,” said Warden Kevin Marriott in a news release.

Marriott says while the State of Emergency is over and restrictions are lifting, COVID-19 is still here and the county will continue to monitor the virus. He urges people continue following public health guidelines, being understanding to others who might not be comfortable with restrictions easing.

In March 2020, the county and all of its municipalities issued a State of Emergency. Several communities, including Warwick and Dawn-Euphemia, had already lifted their orders.

Maintain a firm grip and your composure.



REQUEST A TEST DRIVE





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