

Powerless: Enniskillen homeowner stunned Wanstead not solar ready

Heather Wright
The Independent

Steve Heisler has always tried to do the right thing by the environment.

The Enniskillen man bought a plot of land in the Tile Yard/South Plank Road area and built a house off the grid, including putting a ground source heat pump. His vehicles were natural gas until the natural gas supply for vehicles disappeared. He's now got an electric pickup truck on order.

And Heisler has invested thousands in solar panels. He bought some panels from a friend who couldn't connect to the grid at his home and worked with a company on the FIT program to get hooked into the grid on a much larger system. Heisler says he was encouraged to get a larger transformer because there was so much room on the grid for solar power.

Heisler was ready to hook into the system and he went online to do the paperwork only to find there is no availability to connect from his home. Thinking it couldn't be right, he called Hydro One. Officials confirmed he couldn't send power back to the system because the substation and lines he's hooked into don't have the capacity.

Heisler couldn't believe it. His service is linked to the recently rebuilt Wanstead system. In 2018, Hydro One spent \$35 million to improve the substation but according to hydro officials, isn't able to accept power from those with solar panels.

Heisler was floored he called Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey's office to figure out what was going on and he, too, was shocked the newly rebuilt system would not serve those with solar.

"The biggest thing that burns me is the fact that there are so many people in the area that would like to hook onto the grid ... I think there is a big demand for it and people are individually getting shot down."

SEE SOLAR PAGE 2

EYE ON THE PUCK



JOHN WRIGHT PHOTO

Allan Manary of the Shallow Lake Crushers keeps his eye on the puck as it slides by while he's sprawled in the net surrounded by Petrolia Squires during the first round of the Sr. A Championship at the Greenwood Recreation Centre Friday night. The Squires and Crushers split the first two games of the series and play again twice this weekend.

Oil Springs man to pay restitution after three month crime spree

Blake Ellis
The Independent

An Oil Springs man has been ordered to pay \$26,000 in restitution after a three month crime spree in Lambton and Middlesex counties.

Jacob Tessier plead guilty to 16 charges including theft, possessing break and enter tools, failing to stop for police, failing to remain at the scene of an accident and mischief Tuesday after incidents in Brooke-Alvinston, Enniskillen, Strathroy, Forest and Sarnia.

Tessier's crime spree began Dec. 31, 2019 when Tessier was seen leaving a home in Strathroy at 3:30 am where police suspected drugs were being sold.

OPP attempted to stop the vehicle Tessier was driving but he fled.

The chase was called off as he was driving erratically. Tessier was finally arrested when the vehicle came to a T-intersection and drove into a farmer's field where the vehicle hit a culvert.

Tessier and his passenger were seen running from the vehicle. Police had to use a taser to subdue him.

On Jan 22, 2020, Tessier stole a 1995 Dodge Ram from Lambton Chrysler on Petrolia Line in Enniskillen. OPP found the vehicle the next day at the Canadian Tire in Forest. Tessier had driven to Forest and had stolen bolt cutters at the store.

Tessier's string of crimes continues in March.

Using another stolen truck, video cameras caught Tessier smashing through a gate at Mellon Electrical Contractors March 14. He stole a utility trailer and struck a pickup on his way out.

CRIME SPREE PG 2

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Long term care homes not expected to increase staffing again after funding annoucement

Heather Wright
The Independent

Officials at Lambton county’s long term care homes are trying to manage expectations after a recent funding announcement by the province.

Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey was one of dozens of local members of parliament to release the funding increases for long term care homes recently. In a news release, Bailey said the eight homes in the area would share \$8.2 million more for staffing in the coming fiscal year.

The province has promised to increase the amount of hands on care to four hours per day for each resident. In the past, long term care homes struggled to give three

hours of care because there were simply not enough staff to do the work.

After the Ontario Long Term Care COVID-19 Commission recommended the province increase funding to homes to allow more workers to be hired, Premier Doug Ford promised to reach a four hours of care per day standard by 2025.

In November, the province handed out the first installment of that - about \$270 million in all.

At Lambton County’s homes, Lambton Meadowview, Marshall Gowland Manor and North Lambton, staffing was increased immediately, with personal support workers and register practical nurses being given full time shifts instead of fill in hours, according

to Jane Joris, general manager of long term care for Lambton.

Then March 15, the province released funding for the coming fiscal year with Bailey saying in a news release; “This funding will allow homes in our community to hire and retain more staff so they can provide more care to residents, every day.

“This is part of our government’s plan to hire thousands of new staff over the next four years to ensure those living in long-term care get the high-quality care they need and deserve.”

But Joris says this funding won’t allow for an increasing in staffing again. She says the announcement provides the same amount of money per month as was provided in November.

She says it is an increase in funding because “they’re announcing it for 12 months but it’s exactly the same amount per month. So it’s not like we can increase staffing,” Joris tells The Independent.

“It’s remarkable increases that we received in November.

“I just want to make it clear to our families and our staff that it’s the same amount of funding each month, even though we’re getting it for a year.

“So, we’ll be able to maintain but we won’t be able to increase.”

And Joris says they were not sure what to expect for provincial funding after that November hike.

“We weren’t expecting a ton,” she says noting Lambton’s long term care homes now provide about 3.25 hours of care per

resident a day, which is near the provincial target. “We were hopeful that there would be at least a small increase.”

If all goes according to the provincial plan, long term care homes are likely to see more funding next year, with another increase of over \$673 million being planned for long term care homes. In all, the province pledged to increase money for direct care by \$1.4 billion by 2025.

And while that cash is making an impact in the homes, Joris says inflation is also having an impact on budgeting with food cost rising up to 20 per cent in some cases.

It’s not clear if the province will provide extra funding to help meet those inflationary pressures.

Ferguson wants investment in infrastructure not arena

Heather Wright
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston’s mayor isn’t convinced the local arena needs more improvements.

Dave Ferguson and council walked through the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre March 17 with members of the Alvinston Optimists. The club wants to move ahead on another phase of renovations to the building.

In 2017, the club unveiled a plan which would have extensively renovated the entire Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre. The club started fundraising and when enough money had been amassed, they put up an outdoor pavilion with washrooms beside the arena. That project was completed over the summer.

Recently, members of the club came to council asking to move forward on the next phase of reconstruction. Andy Triest and Hannah Symington asked council to contribute up to \$15,000 so new engineering plans could be drawn up.

In a report to council, Administrator Janet Denkers said new drawings would be necessary to attract grants for a large project such as the Optimist are suggesting. The club has plans to raise between \$300,000 to \$500,000 for the next phase. Some of that money will come from government grants, making the new plans necessary.

Ferguson says the Optimist reiterated the needs to refurbish the change rooms and the canteen during the tour and raised the idea of a dedicated bar area for the club.

But, Ferguson is not sold on the idea. “Nobody’s showing me yet where the needs are for phase two,” he says noting a needs study has never been done.

And he believes the money the club wants for new engineering drawings is not a given. “That \$15,000 would be better spent on doing study to see what infrastructure or sports facilities are needed to be improved,” he says. Ferguson points to a number of request council has received to connect services to “stranded lots” in the municipality which should be a priority. “We’re getting requests - two of them - for services... and we can’t do it. I shouldn’t say we can’t - there’s not a will on council to help improve infrastructure.”

Ferguson says with declining provincial revenue, the municipality has to look carefully about the need to expand the arena as a way to grow the town.

“There is declining population, which is well known...The 2016 census which came out showed us declining again at 2.2 per cent. Brooke Central School has gone from a peak of over 400 students now down to 240. The facility (arena and community centre) was built at a time there’s lots of capacity in the facility. And it’s been well maintained over the years with available grant money.

“I have to take a look in the community to see how can we can grow the population back up. A sports facility is not growth, houses in town is growth.”

Brooke-Alvinston looks at the issue again

Masks still required at health care providers

Heather Wright
The Independent

If you need any kind of medical attention in Lambton County, chances are you’re still going to have to wear a face mask.

The Ontario government lifted its mask mandate Monday. It was first put in place to help curb the spread of COVID-19 in June 2020. That means it will be a personal choice to wear a mask into retail and grocery stores, restaurants and bars and publicly funded schools. But the province did keep the mandates in place in high risk settings including long term care and public transit.

Health care providers in Lambton County say people using their services will also have to wear a mask. Steve Pancino, Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team Executive Lead says in a news release that doctor’s offices, walk-in clinics and services and community health centres will continue to require masks in their settings.

“Primary care providers care for some of the most vulnerable people in our community and as health care providers we have an obligation to keep these patients and our staff as safe as possible,” he said.

And Bluewater Health says it will continue to take precautions against the virus including requiring anyone entering the hospital to wear a mask and be screened for symptoms, maintain physical distancing, sanitize their hands and visitors will have to provide proof of vaccination, except those in the emergency department.

At the emergency department, one support person may accompany the patient, and may stay in a waiting room or visitors lounge.

“We will be closely monitoring community cases and hospital admissions on an on-going basis,” say hospital officials in a news release. “As we see the impact of lifting measures locally in coming weeks, we can then better assess the next steps at Bluewater Health.

“The community can expect hospitals to continue observing health and safety measures, including masking, for some time, as the health and safety of patients and staff at Bluewater Health remains a top priority.”

Meantime after 43,000 calls in 10 months, Lambton’s vaccine call centre has closed. It was set up to help people having trouble online. Demand has dropped to the point where public health closed the dedicated centre Thursday.

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7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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You may experience discoloured water coming from your tap. If this happens, we suggest you try the following:

- remove the aerators from your taps and flush all the house lines until the water runs clear.
- you may want to refrain from doing laundry during this period to avoid staining of your clothing.



We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

OCWA will continue to work on the flushing programs to ensure consumer satisfaction. Any concerns, please contact OCWA at the phone numbers below.

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OCWA's 24 hour Emergency Contact # 1-888-522-0117

Canada

Opinion

Health coalition want to stop privatization of health care

EDITOR:
Premier Ford held a press conference on Feb 1, and Minister of Health Christine Elliot stated that independent health facilities would be allowed to operate private hospitals, to help with the back log of medical procedures and surgeries that had built up during COVID.
“Independent health facilities” is another way of saying private, for-profit clinics. She was saying that private clinics would be allowed to encroach onto public hospitals’ work. The Ontario Health Coalition commented in province-wide press conferences what had been announced, and the Minister and Premier quickly back-tracked, saying that it was not true. We disagree.
The Fiscal Accountability Office documented that the government stated that it would cut \$17.8 Billion from public programs over the next 8 years. There would be little left to cut, other

than health services, as the health care system has been living under austerity budgets for over 25 years.
What would be cut in Chatham-Kent?
Mr. Ford’s government is about half way through quietly awarding 15,000 new long term care beds to private, for-profit businesses, in spite of their terrible records during the COVID pandemic. This was a pandemic where over 4,000 long term care residents died, many from lack of care. Lastly, home-care is almost totally privatized, yet only 60 per cent of home care requests can be filled.
Most of us in this community have experienced hospital care, long term care services or home-care services. You have seen first hand the shortages of staff, of hospital beds, of long term care beds or of home-care services.
As Co-Chair of the Sarnia-Lambton Health Coalition, I want you to know that we are battling back against any privatization of health services. We are beginning a huge campaign, here in our community to stop Mr. Ford’s plans, and to keep our public health care system viable and with access for all.
We need volunteers to help us. We also need donations to pay for advertising. We want to ensure that everyone in Chatham-Kent has the true facts about health care.
Please contact Shirley at goddess@bell.net to volunteer or donate.
Please check the Sarnia-Lambton Health Coalition Facebook page for information. You can register for our Local Emergency Summit against privatization of Health Services, scheduled for April 7 at 7 PM, via ZOOM.
Together we can win this fight: to prevent any privatization of health care!

Shirley Roebuck
Sarnia-Lambton Health Coalition

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Dealer - Florence ON,
226-373-6244
- **Julie Maw**
Dealer - Courtright ON,
519-384-2281
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St. Clair residents to try new food recycler

Heather Brouwer
The Independent

St. Clair Township is investing in a new way to deal with food waste.
At its regular meeting Monday, council agreed to spend just over \$60,000 on 157 FoodCycler machines, which are designed to reduce kitchen scraps to a nutrient-rich soil mixture.
“People have been asking for green bins and organic waste disposal,” said Councillor Tracy Kingston, who made the motion to approve the project.
“I think it’s a good idea.”
The units – 150 of which will go to residential households – will be used in a pilot project that will see users provide high-quality data and feedback over a 12-week trial period.

The municipality will donate the additional seven units to each of the township’s public and Catholic schools.
“I think that’s a great way to do it,” said Mayor Steve Arnold.
The units typically retail at \$550+HST each, but the municipality is purchasing them at \$325+HST as part of the pilot project. In turn, FoodCyclers will be sold to residential customers at a subsidized cost of \$175+HST per unit, meaning St. Clair Township should recoup \$26,250+HST of its costs.
FoodCyclers can process most fruit and vegetable scraps, cereals, cheese, eggs and shells, coffee grounds, tea bags, pet food, poultry scraps, and more. It dries and grinds the food waste into a dry, odourless, nutrient-dense by-product – about a tenth of its original volume – in as little as three hours. It takes up about one cubic foot of counter space.
“We already know that the unit works as we have been using it at the Civic Centre,” said Brian Black, director of Public Works for the township.
“It’s a great environmental initiative.”
He added that the municipality will soon begin the process of promoting the project on online.
About 32 per cent of Ontario’s waste stream is organic, and the province has identified keeping food and organic waste out of the disposal stream as a high priority.

Port Lambton geologist to run in provincial election

The Independent

There will be a new party on the ballot during the June provincial election.
The New Blue Party was formed by ousted MPP Belinda Karahalios and her husband, Jim, who has been a life long Conservative and ran for the federal leadership against Erin O’Toole.
They believe the current Conservative Part is beyond fixing and have formed The New Blue, planning to run 124 candidates in Ontario.
In the Sarnia-Lambton riding, Keith Benn has been acclaimed as the party’s candidate.
Benn, who holds a doctorate in geology, has been a professor at the University of Ottawa and now works as a geologist in the mining industry in Canada and abroad. He’s an independent consultant and lives in Port Lambton.
Benn was appointed in Jan. 2021 to an expert panel to study the issue of contaminated wells in North Kent. Dozens of wells were filled with black sediment after Samsung began building and operating the North Kent Wind project.
While the panel has completed its work, the results of that report have yet to be released.
The Ontario election is June 2. Conservative Bob Bailey is the only other declared candidate in the election so far.

Fundraisers put \$240,000 of their own cash into the pot

The Independent

The people trying to raise \$2 million for the new East Lambton Community Centre are putting their money where their mouth is.
The committee has announced the people behind the fundraising drive for the centre which is under construction have collectively pledged \$240,000.
Rhonda Nolls, cochair of the fund-raisers committee says it is a natural fit.
“Our committee members know what positive impact this new facility is going to have on our community,” she said in a news release.
“As I’ve said before, everyone is so excited to see this long awaited facility come to fruition.
“Each of us want to contribute to a centre where we will watch our children, grandchildren, parents and other residents alike build memories for years to come.”
Since the launch of the campaign has already had a number of donations including one from the local Rotary Club and Nolls says they’re well on the way to reaching the \$2 million goal.
The community centre is expected to be completed and ready for community use this fall.



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Enniskillen to look at turbine rules

Heather Wright
The Independent

Enniskillen is taking a second look at its rules around wind turbines.

The township was one of many which declared it didn’t want the turbines when then the Ontario Liberal government introduced the Green Energy Act. It made it more difficult to turn the projects down.

Critics had a laundry list of issues with the program including the lack of control municipal governments had over the planning of the projects, the amount of farm land they used, the amount of steel and cement used to build them and the illnesses some people linked to the low level sound created by their operation.

Recently, Wind Concerns Ontario reviewed all the bylaws across the province and around the world regulating the placement of them. It’s concluded the turbines should be no closer than two kilometres from all buildings, including homes and schools.

“We believe this is a reasonable compromise and is more likely to be protective of health and safety than the current Ontario government setback of 550 meters which is unchanged since 2009,” says WCO President Jane Wilson in a letter to the council.

“The Ontario government pledged to monitor research around the world and revise regulations as required, but this has not occurred,” she says adding the province did give municipalities more power to site the wind turbines but did not give them any guidance as

to what the new zoning bylaws should look like.

Wind Concerns Ontario says it is particularly important for municipalities to look at the issue since wind companies, which are now limited from setting up new projects, are repowering existing turbines.

Enniskillen Clerk Duncan McTavish says that could become a problem for some municipalities. “The people owning them will likely try to increase the capacity of the turbines, rather than putting up more new ones in those cases that we trying to rebuild them so that they produce twice or three times the amount of electricity from the same site.”

Enniskillen didn’t end up with any turbine sites, McTavish told council Monday, because the local power grid couldn’t accept anymore power. “There is today capacity within the grid to plug them in,” he said.

McTavish suggested it might be the right time for Enniskillen to review its rules around turbines since he’s heard there are developers considering projects in Chatham-Kent.

McTavish says since the changes to the Green Energy Act in 2019, “there is a greater potential for slowing things down” but it is still difficult to stop any projects at the municipal level.

Councillor Mary-Lynne McCallum wanted the municipality to have Planner Rob Nesbitt to take a look a the bylaw regulating wind turbines in Enniskillen and make some recommendations.

Council agreed to the move.

Six months after another impaired conviction

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Sentences are getting longer for a Plymouth-Wyoming Township man with a history of drunk driving.

Douglas Paquette will spend a further 72 days in jail after being sentenced in a Sarnia court on March 21.

Defence Lawyer Nick Cake asked for a conditional sentence, but Justice Anne McFayden, recognizing his criminal record dated back to 1987, rejected this.

She gave Paquette a jail sentence of six months but due to him spending time behind bars before receiving his sentence, he has 72 day left to serve. McFadyen was concerned he didn’t feel he needed counseling or

supervised probation, as revealed in the pre-sentence report.

Paquette plead guilty to impaired driving, driving while prohibited and refusing a breathalyzer from November 2018. He was swerving all over the road in Sarnia and almost hit oncoming traffic. He also disregarded lights and sirens as police tried to stop him.

Assistant Crown Attorney Ryan Iaquina, says jail has not deterred him up to this point and suggested “I believe a step up (in sentencing) is required.”

Paquette will be on probation for 18 months after his release and will not be able to drive for five years.

- THE INDEPENDENT

\$1 million shed in the works in Warwick

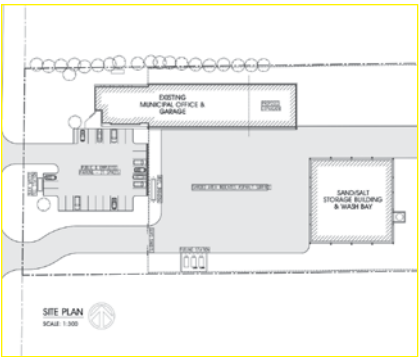
Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick Township is moving forward with a new public works shed.

The township has been talking about replacing the shed already at the Nauvoo Road yard since 2020 since it is breaking down. Repairs would have been costly, so council started talking about replacing it.

By the 2022 budget, councillors agreed the salt shed could also include a wash bay for the municipality’s vehicles.

At the March 14 council meeting members got a look at the layout of



the \$1 million building. Officials say the proposed layout will allow for the facility to be expanded in the future.

Council gave the okay for staff to move ahead on the project.

Heart Full of Cash up for award

A book written by a Lambton Centennial teacher and illustrated by students at the school is up for a prestigious award.

A Heart Full of Cash is one of five books up for the 2022 IODE Jean Throop Book Award. The award is meant to encourage the publication of excellent Canadian authored children’s books for children ages three to seven.

Publishers submit titles for the award and the book by Steve McGrail about his friend Cash Stevenson is in the running this year. It’s up against some pretty big names in the children’s book industry including Robert Munsch for his book I Can Fix It!

In it’s release about the competition the IODE says, “These five newly published Canadian books will teach and bring pure enjoyment to young children and the adults in their lives. Visually, their appeal lies in everything from cartoon-like illustrations to clay art; the use of deep, rich colours to reflect the content and pages that appear like paintings.

The winner will be named at the IODE’s provincial conference April 23.



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Additionally, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, event attendees are asked to follow physical distancing protocols, including the following:

1. Package materials in disposable containers (i.e. cardboard boxes) as they will not be returned;
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Grain farmers worried about supply and food shortages

The Independent

Ontario’s farmers are ringing the alarm bells about the war in Ukraine and a potential food shortage. Friday, the Grain Farmers of Ontario, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Ontario Agri-Business Association met with federal and provincial officials to talk about the crisis in Ukraine. The country and Russia, which invaded Ukraine Feb. 24, are the among the largest grain producers in the world. They say the supply chain is being interrupted by the war and that’s forecast to lead to a spike in food prices between eight and 22 percent over the coming months,

and, they say, many agriculture economists are predicting famine in several African countries within the next 18 months. “It is vitally important that Ontario find ways to maximize its production of livestock feed and grain in the 2022 growing season, which will also require strategies to manage the shortfall in fertilizer that is expected to materialize because of sanctions against Russia,” the organizations said in a news release adding the next few weeks will be critical in dealing with the coming crisis. “The tragic consequences of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine are creating great concern and uncertainty heading into

this year’s planting season. Suppliers are facing several potential obstacles that could prove to be very disruptive for farmers,” says Russel Hurst of the Agri-Business association. “Canada’s food system has already endured supply chain challenges due to the pandemic, and now we must prepare and adjust for global fertilizer supply shortages as well as a CP Rail labour disruption, just weeks before planting. The situation is dire and needs immediate attention,” says Hurst. The groups have been meeting with both federal and provincial officials hoping for help to deal with supply shortages caused by the war.

Caughlin family pleads for return of memorial

The Independent

On the 48th anniversary of the death of Karen Caughlin, her family was hoping not only for the mystery surrounding her final hours to be solved but for the people responsible for taking down a memorial to her to return it. Karen Ann Caughlin was last seen alive at the Rose Garden Roller Rink in Point Edward. The 14-year-old had been roller skating with her friends and never returned home. Her body was found some 22 kilometres away on Plowing Match Road between Churchill and Lasalle Line.



FILE PHOTO

Family members of Karen Ann Caughlin are pleading with the public to help them return a memorial to the teen who was killed 48 years ago. It used to sit on Plowing Match Road, where Caughlin’s body was found.

in Petrolia. **What police know** Karen and a friend were at the Rose Gardens roller skating rink from approximately 7:45 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on March 15, 1974. During this time, Karen arranged to stay the night at another girlfriend’s house, very close to her own home on Brock Street South. She was expected to arrive before 1:00 a.m. The girls left Rose Gardens and accepted a ride with other friends. At 12:50 a.m., the friends dropped off Karen alone at a second girlfriend’s home and drove away. Police want to hear from or about anyone who may have discussed

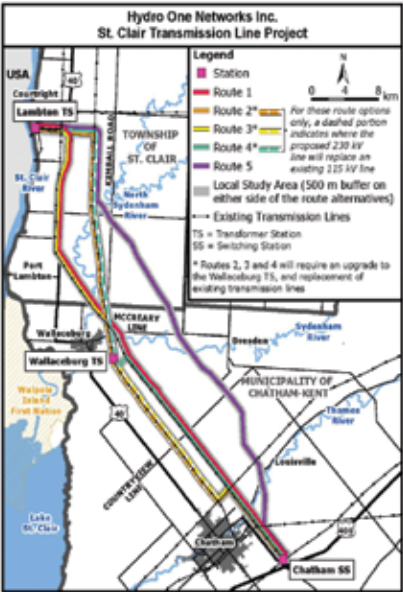
attending or hosting a social gathering in Petrolia after going to the Rose Gardens roller skating rink, perhaps the day before Karen was last seen alive. The OPP also wants to hear from anyone with information about a motor vehicle collision in the Petrolia area, or damage sustained by a motor vehicle around that time. Someone may have observed damage to a vehicle, or not noticed damage to their own vehicle at the time. If you have any information about Caughlin’s death, please call Crime Stoppers or Lambton OPP at 1-888-310-1122

St. Clair hydro line likely to run along current corridor

The Independent

There is a very good chance Hydro One won’t have to build a new corridor for a power line between St. Clair Township and Chatham. The power company is planning the 400 megawatt St. Clair Transmission Project and recently held open houses about the line between the Lambton Transformer Station and the Chatham Switching Station. That will meet the future needs of a community about the size of Waterloo. Hydro One says five routes are being examined and four of them are in existing power corridors. During the Environmental Assessment, the power company will be asking people for access to the land for non-intrusive field studies on all

the routes. They’re looking at environmental features which might be impacted. Once the company picks its preferred route next year, hydro will talk to the affected property owners. Officials said they will be evaluating the routes based on the natural environment including woodlands, wetlands, fish and aquatic habitat and species at risk. They’ll also look at residential and commercial operations, agriculture lands, archeological and heritage resources as well as significant cultural sites. They’ll also weigh the cost of construction, how complex the construction is while determining what route to follow. Construction could begin in 2027 with the line going into service the next year.



THE VILLAGE OF OIL SPRINGS

Public Works and Roads Department

Invites applications for the position of

Permanent Part-Time Labourer


The successful candidate will work under the supervision of the Superintendent of Public Works and will perform road and public works duties as required.

Must have a valid Ontario Drivers Licence, Class G or higher and Grade 12 or equivalent. Experience with snowplow operation and other light duty equipment would be an asset, as well as being mechanically inclined. Successful candidate must be available for call-in during emergencies, inclement weather & weekends.

The position is permanent half-time (two weeks on / two weeks off), with a 40-hour work week.

Interested applicants should **submit a cover letter and resume by March 25, 2022**, outlining experience, education, and skills to: **Public Works Superintendent, Darren Morningstar**
publicworks@oilsprings.ca

Village of Oil Springs
4591 Oil Springs Line, Box 22,
Oil Springs, ON N0N 1P0
Phone (519) 834-2939
Fax (519) 834-2333



The successful candidate will be required to provide proof of double COVID-19 vaccination, a satisfactory Driver’s Abstract and Police Background check.

The Village of Oil Springs is committed to providing accommodations for people with disabilities and will make accommodations if required. We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used for the purpose of candidate selection.



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THE VILLAGE OF OIL SPRINGS

Public Works and Roads Department

Invites applications for the position of

Summer Student Employment

The Village of Oil Springs will be accepting applications for summer student employment with the Village. (40 hours/week including weekends)

The position is subject to receiving student funding therefore applicants must be returning to post-secondary school for the fall of 2022. A Valid G or G2 Driver’s License is required. The employment opportunity is from May 9 to August 26 (may be subject to change).

Interested applicants may **submit their resumes with a cover letter by April 1, 2022**, to the attention of: **Martha Gawley, Clerk-Treasurer**
clerk@oilsprings.ca

Village of Oil Springs
4591 Oil Springs Line, Box 22,
Oil Springs, ON N0N 1P0
Phone (519) 834-2939
Fax (519) 834-2333



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String of thefts nets man over two months

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Stealing a U-Haul moving van on Oct. 24 from a locked compound on Confederation Street in Sarnia, landed a 28 year-old man in jail for a 67 days.

Brandon Lavoie plead guilty to 10 charges including uttering threats, mischief, hit and run and breaching court orders in Sarnia court on March 14.

Lavoie was facing a number of charged, some stemming from stealing the U-Haul and hitting a parked car before

going over the sidewalk into the grass and abandoning it.

He also faced charges from two thefts at Wal-Mart in Dec. 21, 2019 and Jan. 2021.

Lavoie was also caught breaking a window of an unoccupied house on Kathleen Avenue in Sarnia on Sept. 29. By that time, he had breached court orders five times.

Lavoie plead guilty to all the charges at once. “I am too old to be messing around like that,” said Lavoie, apologizing and emphasizing he was embarrassed by the crimes he had committed. He

has been taking substance abuse and anger management programming while in custody.

Lavoie was sentenced to 160 days in jail but was credited with serving 93 days while he awaited a sentence.

He is ordered to pay back nearly \$10,000 in restitution for the broken window, the damaged parked car and the merchandise taken from Wal-Mart.

Lavoie will also be on probation for two years and is prohibited from driving for a year when he is released.

- THE INDEPENDENT



Protesters blocked the Bluewater Bridge in February.

New rules proposed to stop blockades

The Independent

The province wants to make sure long border blockades are a thing of the past.

It’s introducing legislation to allow police to respond immediately to protests at international border disruptions.

In February, protestors blocked Windsor’s Ambassador Bridge for several days. There was also a closure of the Bluewater Bridge for a number of hours on a Sunday in February of farm machinery.

It was part of a nation-wide protest which led to dozens of transport trucks blocking the roads in the nations capital for nearly four weeks.

The Windsor bridge blockade was only cleared after an auto parts industry association went to court for an injunction. It took a joint force of Ottawa Police and the OPP to clear the Ottawa protest.

In a news release, Solicitor General Sylvia Jones says the legislation

would make it illegal to obstruct certain transportation infrastructure if the blockage disrupts economic activity or interferes with the safety, health or well-being of members of the public. That includes international borders, prescribed international airports and other infrastructure that is of significance to international trade.

The proposed legislation also provides police officers with more enforcement tools including issuing roadside suspensions of drivers’ licences and vehicle permits, seize licence plates of vehicles in an illegal blockade and to remove objects and store them.

The fines for offences would be stiff including \$100,000 for individuals and up to \$10 million for corporations. It’s also proposing more training for police on public order policing, establishing a permanent Emergency Response Team at the Ontario Provincial Police and purchasing heavy tow trucks to be able to remove large equipment if necessary.

OPP mobile crisis teams getting funding boost

Lambton OPP are among the groups getting cash from the provincial government to increase mental health programs.

The department has been part of the Mobile Crisis Response Team - a project which sees mental health professionals work with the OPP on calls

involving people with mental health issues.

The province announced Lambton OPP would be getting \$744,600 for its mobile team. OPP officials were not able to say how many teams that would fund over the course of the year nor how big of an increase the funding was over last year.

Teams in Middlesex and Essex are also getting more funding.

The province is also pumping more cash into addictions counselling including spending \$840,000 in Kettle and Stony Point and Walpole Island First Nations for specialized mental health and addictions treatment services.

Petrolia goes red and white to celebrate Year of the Garden

As the weather warms up and you’re dreaming of gardening, Petrolia wants you to dream in red and white.

The town has released its theme colours for local gardeners and it’s red and

white. It also plans to mark the Centennial of Canada’s horticulture sector by calling it The Year of the Garden.

In the spring, gardeners will begin to plan their planting beds for the season and residents are

encouraged to participate in the colour palette and to have some fun. The town also plans to celebrate the year June 11-15.

You can find more information about the Year of the Garden at <https://livethegardenlife>.

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Sports



JOHN WRIGHT PHOTO

The Petrolia Squires celebrate a goal during Friday's win against Shallow Lake. The series for the Sr. A crown is tied at one game a piece.

Squires, Crushers even

Barry Wright
The Independent

The Petrolia Squires came within just over minute of grabbing a two-game lead in the WOAA senior "A" championship hockey series but the Shallow Lake Crushers scored the tying goal with an extra attacker late in the third period and counted the winner in overtime in a 4-3 triumph in the Owen Sound-area community Saturday to even the best-of-seven affair at a game apiece.

Ethan Dupont, Jack Hackett, and Jesse Ferguson scored for the Squires in a losing cause. The Squires won the opener on home ice Friday, beating the Crushers, 4-2. Sam McCormack had the game-winner, shorthanded. Curtis Helps, Kyler Keating and Eric Marsh also scored for the Petrolia with Marsh's marker into an empty net. Game three is Saturday night at Greenwood at 7:30. The fourth game is scheduled for Shallow Lake on Sunday afternoon.

Flyers get a playoff run after all

Barry Wright
The Independent

Due to an abbreviated and disjointed schedule this season, the Provincial Junior Hockey League has introduced a tier two playoff for teams that missed the playoffs and those

knocked out in the first round of the postseason. The Petrolia Flyers, Blenheim Blades and Dresden Junior Kings are the three teams that opted in to the new format. They will play a home-and-home round robin against each other, and the top two teams will play a best-of-seven series for essentially the consolation title. The Flyers open against Dresden Thursday (March 24) at Greenwood at 7:30. They take on the Blades in Blenheim on Sunday at 7 pm

Flags, 73's tied in Stobbs division playoff

Barry Wright
The Independent

The Mooretown Flags scored three times on the power play and peppered the Essex net with 46 shots in a 7-3 win over the 73's in PJHL playoff action before a crowd of more than 300 people at the Moore Sports Complex Monday. The best-of-seven divisional

semi-final is now tied at a game apiece. Game three is in Essex Thursday with the fourth game set for Mooretown on Saturday at 7:30. Nolan Farr led the Flags in game two with two goals while Greg Hay, Brody Genyn and Logan Gardner all had a goal and two assists. Brodie Conlon and Tristan Konrad also scored for Mooretown. Nathan King made 31 saves for the goaltending win. Ex-Petrolia goalie Jakob Knowles took the loss for Essex. Knowles was called upon to make only 19 saves Sunday as the 73's prevailed in the series' opener, 5-2. Farr had both goals for Mooretown in game one.

Jaques joins Legionnaires, scores in loss

Andrew Jaques scored his first career GOJHL goal in a 9-5 loss by the Sarnia Legionnaires in Chatham. The Petrolia minor hockey

product was called up to the Junior B club in Sarnia as an affiliated player. He led the PJHL's Petrolia Flyers this season with 20 regular season and playoff goals, including 11 goals in his last 14 regular season and playoff games after the season restart in early February.

Wyoming's Robinson takes weightlifting gold

Marlowe Robinson won her 59 kilo weight class and was named the best female lifter at the Variety Village Open weightlifting event last Sunday in Scarborough. The LCCVI student is a member of the Garage Gym Weightlifting Club in Point Edward, where her father Larry is the head coach. Meantime, club-mate Declan Watson of Errol

Village was second in the 81 kilo class. He was one of four Garage Gym athletes to finish in the top two at the event. The others were Shoshanna Rogan, Carson Raymond and Rowdy Fisher while Joshua MacLachlan finished fourth in his class. The group is now preparing for an events in St. Thomas next month and in July.

LCCVI takes on Tartans in hockey playoffs

High school hockey playoffs resume as March Break ends. The LCCVI boys high school hockey squad travels south to Wallaceburg for a sudden-death semi-final game with the Tartans Wednesday (March 23) afternoon. Puck drop is 2 pm.

The other semi-final will take place at the Shores Recreation Complex in Forest between North Lambton and John McGregor, also on Wednesday at 2. The winners will meet for the A/AA title next Wednesday.



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Celebrations

100 YEARS
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**Anna
Hlynialuk**



Anna celebrated her
100th Birthday
on March 12
in London, ON

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Mom*
Love you,
Your Family

1922
2022

Coming Events

**2022 Easter Bazaar
and Craft Sale**
supporting Relay for Life
**Saturday, April 2
10am - 3pm**
@ Royal Canadian Navy Club - 1420 Lougar Ave., Samia
Featuring 25 local vendors
with Gifts for Easter & Mother's Day...
Homemade Baked Goods including Meat Pies & Pizza Kits,
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sell take the time to get my of-
fer (which is often double). **Next
show date: Friday, April 8 at
the Petrolia Lions Hall, 451 Hug-
gard St., Petrolia. House Calls Also
available – S Dan Jones B.A.B.Ed.
519-818-1805.**

Wanted to buy: **OLD & UNUSUAL
STUFF** from garages, attics, and
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Wanted to Buy: Bikes

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call **519-882-2548** and ask for
Dave.
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Card of Thanks

The family of the late **Mary Ikert**
wishes to thank our immediate family,
relatives, friends and neighbors for their
thoughtfulness, and most of all their
support.
We were blessed with meals, cards, flowers
and many thoughtful words of condolences & donations.
Thank you to Dr. Maddison and the the palliative team
Care Partners who were amazing and allowed us to keep
Mom at home.

**Thank you for your prayers,
Sincerely, Walter Ikert and family**



MARCH EVENTS @ FOREST
LEGION

- Darts - Wednesdays
7-10pm (Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30); Fri-
days - Lounge open 2-6pm (Mar 4,
11, 18, 25); Fridays - Shuffleboard
1:30pm; Saturdays - Lounge Open
2-8pm (Mar 1, 12, 19, 26); Satur-
days - Meat Raffles 3:30pm. Join
us at the Royal Canadian Legion
Br 176 - 58 Albert St., Forest. 519-
786-5357.

EUCHRE

- The Wyoming Fair
Board is hosting 12 games of eu-
chre **every Tuesday** from March
8 - April 27 starting at **1pm**. Coffee
and cookies will be provided at
halftime. Proof of Vaccination will
be required at the door.

OPEN DARTS - Every Tuesday
at 7pm. All are welcome (not a
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In Memory

In Memory Of
Ross Fraser
April 26, 1931 - March 21, 2012
*We can't bring the old days back,
When we were all together,
But many memories and
treasured thoughts,
Will live with us forever.*

Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by
his wife Doris, our children Joan Helps,
Dale and Deb Fraser, Kathy Fraser,
Mark Fraser, Candace Holmes & Families



To have your event included in the
Calendar of Events the following
information is required:

Date: _____
Time: _____
Town: _____
Event Title: _____
Phone # / website: _____

You can drop this off at our office or email
the information to us at
office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

****Deadline for submitting free
events is Friday @ 12 noon.****

**Church** DIRECTORY

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Rev. Michelle Collins-Wongkee
Church Office 519-882-1430
christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com

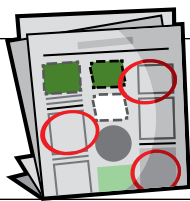
**St. Paul's
United Church**
4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street
**In-Person Services
Sundays
@ 10:30 am**
Rev. Carol Ferguson
Church Office: 519-882-1390
www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

First Baptist Church
418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia
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Pastor: Alex Craig
Church Office 519-882-2480
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www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca
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Rev. Steven Longmoore
Church Office 519-845-3963
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@ 10:00 am**
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www.standrews-petrolia.ca
Pastor Katherine Hawley

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Monday @ 12 noon



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Obituaries / Death Notices

DURANCE

Bruce Lee



DURANCE, Bruce Lee – Age 72 of Brooke-Alvinston passed away on **March 16, 2022** at his home. Beloved husband of Shirley (Henderson) Durance for 33 years. Loving father of Lee-ah (Brad) McGann and Lorilee (Kevin) Fex. Special grandfather of Zachary Fex, Zoe Fex and Luna McGann. Dear brother of Bob (the late Joyce) Durance, Ross (Karen) Durance and Carl (Kaili) Durance. Uncle of David (Cindy) Durance, Andrew Durance, Mark Durance, Christopher (Courtney) Durance, Phillip Henderson, Sarah (Jeremy) Babcock, Brock Redford, Olivia Redford and Will Redford. Bruce will be missed by many friends, cousins, brother-in-law David (Kathy) Henderson and sister-in-law Marian (Jim) Redford. Predeceased by parents Allan and Jean (Bartley) Durance and his in laws Lorne and Reta (Sackrider) Henderson. Bruce was a member of Canadians Owners and Pilot Association (COPA). **A private family funeral service was held at STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME, Brigden on Friday, March 18, 2022. Interment to followed at Wyoming Cemetery.** Sympathy may be expressed through donations to plant a tree in Bruce's name at Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area (scrc.a.on.ca). Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.steadmanbrothers.ca. Steadman Brothers 519-864-1193.



McKELLAR

Lucy Juanita (n Galbraith)

With hearts saddened by loss but overflowing with wonderful memories, the family of **Juanita McKellar, 88 years, formerly of Alvinston**, announces her peaceful reunion with our Dad (Donald McKellar 2010) on **Saturday, March 19th, 2022** surrounded by the love of her family. Cherished mother of Brent (Brenda) McKellar of Watford, Scott (Barb) McKellar of Alvinston, Gwendy (Ron) Richardson of Camlachie and Lisa (Jim) Vandermolen of London.

Adored grandma of Chad (Staci) McKellar, Tara McKellar (Chris Duff), Alicia (Logan) Hunter, Brad (Bridget) McKellar, Todd (Lisa) Richardson, Kailyn (Trevor) King, Cole Vandermolen (Samantha Hodgins) and Justin Vandermolen. Treasured GG of Autumn & Austin McKellar, Adelaide Duff, Maddox, Millar & Merrick Hunter, Bennett & Nash McKellar, Brynn, Hannah & Harper Richardson. Predeceased by her parents Percy & Dollie Galbraith, loving sisters and brothers-in-law, Faye (Stewart) Pierce, Gwen (Leonard) Pole & William Henderson. Survived by her sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Beth Henderson, Marilyn (Chris) Ingelby & Ian McKellar. Fondly remembered by several nieces and nephews and their families. Mom was a devoted wife and a loving mom, grandma and great-grandma and will be greatly missed. **A private family memorial service will be held at Hope United Church, Alvinston on Monday, March 28th, 2022 with interment at Alvinston Cemetery.** The family wish to thank Sprucedale Care Centre for the compassionate care of their mom. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Hope United Church or Children's Health Foundation, London and online condolences at www.vanheckfuneralhome.ca

CLASSEN

Tom



Tom Classen, 84 years, of Petrolia died peacefully with family by his side on **Sunday, March 20, 2022** at Fiddick's Nursing Home, Petrolia. Tom was the loving husband of Barb (Innes) and the late Diane (nee Phillips)(2006). He will be missed by his children Jeff and Connie Classen of Petrolia, Scott and Tracy Classen of London, Darren Classen of Sarnia and Stephanie Ramsay and the late Kim Wikholm, his grandchildren of Bobbi Lee and Jeff, Kristina and Dean, Nicole, Jamie and Christina, Kristin, Courtney, Casandra, and Kirk and Michelle, and his great grandchildren Robbie, Kassidy, Kadence, Charlotte, Olivia, Xander, Keira, and Liam. He will be missed by his step-children Terry, Doug, and Nancy and their families. Tom was predeceased by his siblings Elsie, Ed, Ron, Grace, and Margaret. Tom started at Dome Petroleum in 1970 and retired 38 years later. He was an avid golfer and curler at Glenview Golf and Curling Club, and enjoyed his time in the choir at Wyoming United Church. **A funeral service will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 1pm from the Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 4059 Petrolia Line, Petrolia. Visitors will be received prior to the service from 12-12:45pm. A private graveside service will be held at Hillsdale Cemetery.** YOU ARE ASKED TO CONTINUE MASKING IN THE FUNERAL HOME. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer Society (www.alzheimer.ca). Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com



Death Notices

March 11 - March 20, 2022

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

SMIT, Adeline

(n Yeates)

Age 73, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

MONDAY, MARCH 14

FOWLER, Kelly Virginia

Age 41
Smith Funeral Home

HAVERS, Patricia Colleen

Age 67, of Sarnia
McCormack Funeral Home

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

TURNER, Darren James

Age 47
Knight Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

DARRACH, James "Jim" Allen

Age 92
Smith Funeral Home

DURANCE, Bruce Lee

Age 72, of Brooke-Alvinston
Steadman Brothers Funeral Home

HANSES, Dale

Age 43, of Oil Springs
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

REDICK, Myrna

(n Johnson)

Age 80
Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

HAVERS, Nancy Mary

Age 75
Smith Funeral Home

PETTIT, John Edward

Age 80, of Corunna
Knight Funeral Home

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

DOHERTY, Gregory William

Thomas Leslie

Age 41

Smith Funeral Home

JAPP, Evelyn Frances

(n Sheffer)

Age 76, of Brigden
Steadman Brothers Funeral Home

TULLY, Barbara Faye

(n Woodhams)

Age 84

Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

MACKENZIE, Larry Grant

Age 72

Smith Funeral Home

McKAY, Betty Louise

(n Holmes)

Age 90, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

McKELLAR, Lucy Juanita

(n Galbraith)

Age 88, formerly of Alvinston
Van Heck Funeral Home

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

CLASSEN, Tom

Age 84, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

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

Calendar

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM
DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

of events

Events are listed FREE for non-profit groups in Petrolia and Lambton County (space permitting).
To be included in this listing email the required information to office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca Subject: FREE EVENT LISTING.

CLUBS AND REGULAR EVENTS

DAY	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
3rd Thurs	7p	Oil Springs	Optimist Meat Bingo @ The Youth Centre	519-834-2152
Mon	1:30p	Alvinston	Seniors Cards @ Alvinston Legion	519-898-2100
Tues	1p	Wyoming	Wyoming Fair Bd - Euchre + coffee & cookies	519-312-0578
Wed	7:30p	Alvinston	LA Cards @ Alvinston Legion	519-898-2100
Wed	7p	Forest	Darts @ Forest Legion	519-786-5357
Thurs	7p	Alvinston	Pool League @ Alvinston Legion	519-898-2100
Fri	7:30p	Alvinston	Dart League @ Alvinston Legion	519-898-2100
Fri	1:30p	Forest	Shuffleboard @ Forest Legion	519-786-5357
Sat	6p	Alvinston	Catch The Ace @ Alvinston Legion	519-898-2100
Sat	3:30p	Forest	Meat Raffles @ Forest Legion	519-786-5357

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Mar26	3:30p	Alvinston	MEAT RAFFLE @ Alvinston Legion w/proceeds going towards Hurricanes Men's Slo-Pitch	519-898-2100
Mar31	1:30-7:30p	Petrolia	BLOOD DONOR CLINIC @ New Life Assembly Church, call to book an appointment 1-888-236-6283	blood.ca
Apr2	10a-3p	Sarnia	2022 EASTER BAZAAR & CRAFT SALE @ Royal Canadian Navy Club in support of Relay for Life	

email your event info to:
office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

****Deadline for submitting free events is Friday @ 12 noon.****



2022 Oil Heritage District VISITORS' GUIDE

PETROLIA & SURROUNDING AREAS

CIRCULATION
7,000

- ▶ Visitor of the Victoria Playhouse Petrolia
- ▶ Ontario Information Centers
- ▶ Local Hotels, Retail, Restaurants

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ADVERTISING IS **KEY**

TOP REASONS to advertise frequently

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

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