

WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE MOM?



Andre St. Jean-Coates of Sarnia was getting up close and personal with some Easter Eggs during the Alvinston Optimist Easter Egg Hunt Saturday. Organizers planned for 190 children at the event.

Petrolia mayor faces Integrity Commission investigation

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Independent has learned Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley is under investigation by the town’s Integrity Commissioner over comments he made about the fire chief.

The probe underway now, sources tell The Independent, is linked to the fall out from an investigation into Councillor Marty Souch.

In December, Investigator John Fleming probed an incident which saw police tail Souch after a staff member went to police concerned an unnamed councillor was watching staff at work. Fleming found no evidence of the claim and said the staff had gone above the chief administrative officer’s head in taking the matter to the OPP.

After Fleming’s investigation, CAO Rick Charlebois, in a news release, said the actions recommended by Fleming after the two-week investigation into the staff/ councillor relations problem would move forward. But the exact actions were not released, nor were the names of the staff members involved in the conflict with Souch. The Independent, which had talked to Souch long before the internal investigation, revealed he was the councillor involved in the conflict.

Three weeks after Fleming’s report, the town changed the job description of Fire Chief Jay Arns.

SEE LOOSLEY PG 2

Corunna hockey family calls for openness, action after racist comments

Barry Wright & Heather Wright
The Independent

Bo Doxtator has been playing hockey since he was four. Usually, the Corunna teen is the only Indigenous player on the team.

While the cultural differences between him and his teammates were obvious, Doxtator felt part of each team and had never felt the sting of discrimination.

That all changed on March 16. Doxtator, an under-aged player

in the Provincial Junior Hockey League, was on the ice as the Mooretown Flags hammered the Blenheim Blades in the last game of the first round of the playoffs. With the lopsided victory assured for the Flags in the third, things got chippy and the fights broke out.

As Doxtator and Blenheim Assistant Captain Tate Bowden skated toward the bench, with a referee between them, Bowden hurled a racist comment at Doxta-

tor in an apparent attempt to egg him into a fight.

The ref immediately called a discrimination penalty and tossed the over-aged Bowden from the game.

“After that play happened, I was sitting on the bench just thinking about it. And then, soon as I got back on the ice, I was just back into it - the game,” said the soft spoken Doxtator in an interview with The Independent after the Flags season ended last week.

The defenseman says he did feel

“upset” because the comment was made “just of who I am” but it didn’t change his feelings toward hockey or how far he wants to go in the game.

“It’s just one person trying to discourage me,” he says.

Doxtator’s dad, Jeremy, does his best to surround his son with positive Indigenous role models who want to see him excel in hockey.

But he also wants to know that the PJHL is taking a stand against racism in hockey.

And Jeremy says so far, the league has been silent.

The fate of the Blenheim player was never publicly stated, neither in a news release nor on the league’s website.

It’s also difficult to figure out exactly what the minimum discipline is for a player who has been given a discrimination penalty.

And it took some doing to find any public reference of the incident online.

SEE FLAGS PG 2

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Flags would release players making racist comments

CON'T FROM PG 1

Jeremy Duxtator wanted to know what had happened to the man who had hurled the racist comment at his son.

“I called the team manager asked him if he was aware of what was going on and what was said. And he said, Yeah, yes, he was. And that he was contacting the director of the PJHL or the president I guess of that league...he said they were looking into it,” said Jeremy.

“I wanted to know how they were dealing with it.

‘There was no expectations. I just wanted to know how they were handling it.”

The senior Duxtator sent an email to the PJHL president, but weeks later as he sat with his son telling the story, he still had not heard from Commissioner Terry Whiteside.

“We should have got a courtesy call or something more... I think it would have been important,” Jeremy says.

“With all the reconciliation between the Indigenous people, I felt like it would have been polite for them to reach out to at least Bo and ... to explain what the disciplinary action was.”

Duxtator sent one email, saying he shouldn’t have to chase down the president for an apology. “I found it a little bit rude on their part, and kind of just went ‘Oh, Okay. You know, you’re not going to reach out to me, I’m not going

to keep bugging you.”

Jeremy Duxtator says the management of the Flags also had little information but did say this “wasn’t the first dealing they (PJHL) have had with it (racism) this year.”

While the league seemly kept silent, there were some clues how the PJHL was handling the racist comments.

The Ontario Hockey Federation, of which the PJHL is a member, calls for a minimum five-game banishment plus the possibility of supplemental discipline for derogatory comments or racial slurs, according to the OHF website.

And there were some references to what happened to Blenheim player on the Blades’ website.

In news articles about the clubs games, one line in an article nearly three weeks after the incident states Bowden had served three games of a seven game suspension, with out giving the reason for the suspension.

The Independent reached out to the PJHL Commissioner several times over the course of two weeks. Tuesday, the PJHL’s Western Conference Manager, Mark Hagerman confirmed Bowden had received a seven-game suspension but says details of any additional supplemental discipline will not be released.

He says details of individual suspensions is not allowed because

such information is not defined as part of the league’s Manual of Operations.

“This is the first racial slur in the Western Conference this season,” Hagerman said via text.

“I’ve had a couple of derogatory comments, they fell under the same call and a sexual orientation slur. I believe there has been a few in the other conferences but I wouldn’t know the exact number of events.

“This is something that the league takes very seriously. Because in many cases these are young influential players we try to handle these events swiftly and professionally in house and infractions often warrant an in person or by telephone interview and information meeting.”

The issue has obviously been on the PJHL’s mind. Hagerman says the league is looking for better ways of handling players who use racist and derogatory language in games.

“We are currently working on implementing a program based on diversity and sensitivity training for the players that are penalized during game play that would be a requirement before returning to play after such an event,” he says adding they also hope to make the discipline process more transparent.

“The league is also looking at a preseason package that would be read and signed by players when



PHOTO VIA INSTAGRAM

Bo Duxtator of the Mooretown Flags

they sign player cards that would outline our stance, discipline and lack of tolerance regarding derogatory comments and discriminatory behaviour during game play.”

Some in the game would like to see the league go further.

The general manager of the Mooretown Flags John Baker says his team would not tolerate such comments or actions and would immediately release any offending player or staff member.

“I understand in the heat of the moments things can be said, but anything racially motivated is never acceptable, no mater what the circumstances might be,” he said.

And Jeremy Duxtator is on the same page. “I hope for one of two things, either that they come down hard and ban players from their league because there’s just no place for it in today’s world,”

he says.

“Either banned the players totally - that’ll certainly put an end to it because they will not be there - or maybe a fresh start would...be to educate them have a program in place for racism.”

“For someone to say those words to Bo...it’s all wrong,” says Jeremy adding he hopes by speaking out now that “next year there isn’t some 16 year-old Indigenous player who will have to go through this.”

For his part, Bo Duxtator is focusing on the game.

He’s been selected to represent Team Ontario at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Membertou, Nova Scotia. He’ll leave in early May for practice with the championship running until May 14.

All this as he eyes the ultimate hockey dream, playing in the NHL.

Loosley’s comments on fire chief probed

CON'T FROM PG 1

Loosley, in an interview with *The Independent* after the bylaw was approved by council without changes, linked the changes to Fleming’s investigation.

Loosley says the bylaw clarifies Arns position which had been termed Protective Services.

“There’s a difference on his responsibilities now basically to be related to fire and crossing guards and parking tickets, that type of thing,” Loosley is quoted as saying in the Dec. 16, 2021 edition. “And that’s where he will stop. So, it won’t be all the other things that ... what he was involved with – you know, that part of the idea of somebody following somebody and him getting involved with that,” he said.

The Independent asked the mayor then if the fire chief “felt empowered” to go to the OPP because his duties included protective services. “That’s my understanding, yes,” says Loosley.

“It was as recommended by Fleming to do that. So, he was just empowered under certain areas and not everything,” said Loosley.

Petrolia’s Chief Administrative Officer, Rick Charlebois, would not say whether an investigation was underway. “All matters related to code of conduct complaints are managed independently by the Town’s Integrity Commissioner who must handle all matters pursuant to the statutory duty of confidentiality under the Municipal Act. This duty of confidentiality extends to every person acting under the instructions of the Integrity Commissioner. Neither council nor staff are at liberty to comment on any matters that the Integrity Commissioner may or may not be currently hand-

ling,” Charlebois wrote. He directed *The Independent* to the town’s Integrity Commissioner for any further information.

In an email, Integrity Commissioner John Mascarin said he was not able to speak to the matter under the Municipal Act duty of confidentiality rules; “The Commissioner and every person acting under the instructions of the Commissioner shall preserve secrecy with respect to all matters that come to his or her knowledge in the course of his or her duties under this Part,” Mascarin quoted.

“There are statutory exceptions but none that would permit us to provide you with the information that you are seeking at this time.”

When contacted by *The Independent’s* Heather Wright, Loosley said “I can’t comment on that. My understanding is you were involved with that,” he said.

When Wright responded the newspaper did not file a complaint, Loosley said “I’m glad to hear that.”

It’s not clear how long the investigation will take or who is being interviewed. *The Independent* has not been contacted by the Integrity Commissioner to make a statement.

While Integrity Commissioners has to keep all matters they’re investigating, the Municipal Act states municipalities are required to ensure that reports received from the Integrity Commissioner are made available to the public.



Brad Loosley

The Warwick Township Municipal Office is on the move!

The Township of Warwick is relocating to 5280 Nauvoo Road, Watford effective Tuesday, April 19th at 8:30 a.m.

To accommodate the move, the Municipal Office will be closed on Thursday, April 14th until opening day.

Please note that along with the move we will have a new telephone number, fax number, and mailing address.

They are as follows:

**5280 Nauvoo Road, PO Box 10
Watford, ON N0M 2S0**

Telephone: 226-848-3926 • Fax: 226-848-6136

We look forward to welcoming you at our new office!

We will be hosting a Community Open House on Monday, April 25th.

Stay tuned for more information on the Community Open House in your local paper, on the Township’s Facebook Page and website.



Boat ramp fix not likely until July

Heather Wright
The Independent

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is willing to let Plympton-Wyoming fix the Highland Glen boat ramp. But it seems unlikely it will be repaired before the summer months.

That's from a report going to Plympton-Wyoming council Wednesday (April 14) which recommends council move ahead with about \$105,000 in repairs.

The boat launch was closed in 2019 after high water and winds damaged the steel groins around the ramp. The conservation authority hired an engineer to look at the damage to the ramp and also the banks of the park which were collapsing. Aecom Engineering said it would take about \$3 million over a number of years to fix the damage.

The authority board decided to continue studying the problem and then began negotiations with the town, which has been advocating for the boat ramp to be reopened.

Recently, residents came to Plympton-Wyoming asking town council to begin work on the project immediately in the hope of having the boat ramp opened by the end of April for the annual salmon derby. They also voiced concern that the launch is the only one for 41 km, and in an emergency it was a welcome safe haven.

Council agreed to do what they could to get the repairs moving now, even though the conservation authority is still the owner of

the park.

In a report to council, Chief Administrative Officer Carolyn Tripp says the conservation authority seems okay with the idea.

“Mr. Phillips was very receptive to the suggestion and offered the assistance of the SCRCa with their permitting process time frames,” Tripp writes.

“However, he advised that the approval of additional permits would likely be required from Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The time frames associated with these permits is unknown at this time.”

Tripp says the authority believes the federal and provincial authorities would need design and detailed drawings of any proposed repairs. Phillips added the authority has set aside \$32,000 for repairs this year that might be used.

Town staff called three marine repair companies for quotes on the project, including some longer term items like dredging the boat ramp area and are recommending Gordon Marine be hired to fix the damage at the site at a cost of \$105,000.

But even if council approved the move during its discussion April 14, construction wouldn't begin immediately.

"The final completion date cannot be determined until the required permits are obtained," writes Tripp. "In addition, due to the fish spawning season, no works can be conducted in the water until after July 15."

Council's decision was not available at press time.

Mooretown arena now ammonia free

The Independent

The last of the Moore Sports Complex's direct ammonia is gone.

Amid ongoing renovations to the facility, a truck was booked for April 5 to remove all ammonia from its old compressor room.

The following week was spent flushing the pipes in the rink's floor – where the ammonia was circulated – to ensure all of the residual toxic gas was out before the

floor is removed.

“When we restart in August the new system of cooling (indirect ammonia) will be online then,” wrote St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold in an email.




The direct ammonia system was the last of its kind in the province. Similar systems have leaked in the past and, in one incident, three arena employees in BC died after being overcome by ammonia fumes.


WHAT'CHA GOT THERE DOC




HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Cadance Caron of Thamesville holds her Blue Heeler (Australian Cattle Dog) Wesley as Dr. Ann Levesque prepares to give him a vaccine. Lambton Public Health is offering low cost clinics around the county and Saturday, the veterinarian was in Cairo where over 50 dogs and cats were immunized against rabies.


 Wishing you and

 all your loved ones
 a very
Happy Easter




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Charlotte's Corner

- ADVERTORIAL -

The logo for Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital of Bluewater Health. It features a stylized green leaf or wave icon above the text "CHARLOTTE ELEANOR ENGLEHART HOSPITAL OF BLUEWATER HEALTH" in a sans-serif font.

Why leave decisions on your health to chance?

by **Dr. Angela Wang**

Family Physician and
Emergency Room Physician, Petrolia

Imagine a day when you are incapable of making medical decisions for yourself!

Who will you entrust with the power to make decisions on your behalf?

Who will make the best decision based on YOUR wishes, not theirs?

You can start by talking with your family, friends, and primary care provider. You can also begin by visiting this www.advancecareplanning.ca. It is a great source of information, including printable workbooks and

links to the legal power of attorney naming document.

As a family doctor, I try to find out from my patients in advance who their power of attorneys are for several reasons.

If you don't have a power of attorney, a substitute decision-maker will be named for you depending on their relationship to you. Sometimes, this may create unnecessary conflicts between family members.

Most importantly, if the substitute decision-maker is not familiar with your wishes, they will make decisions based on their own interpretation of what is best for you. Their interpretation may NOT

A photograph of Dr. Angela Wang, a woman with short dark hair, wearing a grey patterned sweater. She is standing in a hospital room, smiling at the camera. In the background, there is medical equipment and a patient bed. A caption "Dr. Angela Wang" is visible in the bottom right corner of the photo.

be in line with your actual wishes.

Why leave decisions on your health to chance?

Be proactive and choose the right person to make the most suitable decision for you.

Talk to your loved ones so they know your wishes.

APRIL 16 IS NATIONAL ADVANCE CARE PLANNING DAY. Start the conversations early.

Editorial

Dealing with racism

We have such a long way to go to end racism in this country and this county.

Case in point is our front page story this week. Bo Doxtator, a soft-spoken 16 year-old playing with the Mooretown Flags, was the target of racist comments on the ice during a hockey game. It’s something he’s never faced before in 12 years of playing the game he loves.

It came out of the blue - a racist taut hoping to draw the player into a fight as a lopsided game was in the dying minutes. It clearly shocked and stunned Doxtator for a few moments.

Thankfully, the incident took place in front of a referee who immediately called the discrimination penalty and tossed the player from the rest of the game.

What happened after that wasn’t clear. The Ontario Hockey Association says discrimination calls come with an automatic five game suspension or more if assessed by the league. But Doxtator and his family - even his team - didn’t find out the fate of the player in question. The Provincial Junior Hockey League didn’t bother to contact them, even after family sent an email hoping to find out what was going on.

A group of hockey executive made the decision - seemingly without the input of the Indigenous community - and kept it as quiet as possible.

After *The Independent* asked some questions, the league opened the door a crack, saying it had more than one abusive and racist incident in the league - although the official couldn’t say how many. And they said they were working on a new policy to make the penalties around discrimination clear.

That’s a start. But we wonder if the PJHL is consulting with the people who actually face discrimination about what should happen in a case like this. If we truly want to end racism, a group of predominately white hockey executives who likely never faced racism shouldn’t be making the rules of conduct alone, in private. It should be an open conversation. That’s something we didn’t see here.

If the league talks about its problems with racism openly, calling it out for what it is publicly, it will have a much greater impact on the players and send a clear signal that racism doesn’t belong in hockey. That would be real progress.

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



HAROLD SNARY PHOTO VIA THE DRESDEN VIRTUAL HISTORY GROUP

This is a 1922 photo of the Croton store, which still stands today. Harold Snary says the building housed a post office, possibly as early as 1862. Over the years it had been owned by the Johnston family, the Bodkins, Clarks, Samuel Peters, Clayton Logan and Vinton Armstrong around the time of this photo. The two girls in the photo are Snary's mother and sister.

I apologize for doing my job; I’ll keep doing it in the future

I want to apologize to my readers. It seems some of our elected officials in Lambton are avoiding my calls.

I would submit it is mostly because I’m doing my job, although I’m sure the officials would love to sit down and tell you all sorts of stories about how the media blows things out of proportion or how I have ‘misquoted’ them even though I record and transcribe the interviews that I do.

This past month, I tried to reach Lambton-Middlesex-Kent MPP and Labour Minister Monte McNaughton about the recent report on the tainted water wells near Dresden. Now granted, the minister is a busy guy. He seems to be making at least three major announcements a week - everything from writing new regulations for the Skip the Dishes drivers to reviewing the Workers Safety Insurance Board’s way of doing business and proposing an increased minimum wage. It’s all very important stuff, but so is clean water. And also to be fair, the minister is normally happy to speak with the media - whether we’re critical of their government (as I have been) or not. I think in this case, it’s the subject matter.

Our federal MP is another story. Over the years Marilyn Gladu has served Sarnia-Lambton, she has been very accommodating to the local media. It was very rare that if I wanted to get comment from Gladu, I would have to wait more than a day. But, Gladu doesn’t seem to be interested in talking with *The Independent* any more.

It’s pretty obvious she was angry with an article I wrote about her new shadow cabinet job where a high placed auto parts representative brutally panned the idea on social media. He saw her as being “pro-Freedom Convoy” and that wasn’t flying well with people who need the border open. Gladu’s office sent an email pointing out she spoke against border closures - a fact I failed to mention. I changed it. Her staff thanked me. Since then, I’ve

only had one response to multiple emails - some for advertising and one for a reaction to the federal budget. While the MP has ever right to choose where she spends your money on advertising, it seems counter productive to me to stop talking to the media and your constituents about issues that affect them. But it is much easier to give them the Facebook version of the story which is unchallenged. It’s too bad. Voters need their leaders held to account even if they don’t like it. So, I apologize for doing my job, and upsetting a few apple carts (as my mom would say) along the way. But, I’ll keep doing it in the future.



Heather Wright

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Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton
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Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514

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Lambton adding EMS unit to improve rural response times

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick Mayor Jackie Rombouts says it isn't unusual for someone in her community to wait 45 minutes for ambulance.

She's actually experienced it herself - twice. Once when a family member was in need of medical help and another time when a woman fell down a flight of stairs at the Watford arena - which is just around the corner from the Lambton EMS station.

So, when Performance Concepts Consulting came to Lambton County Council April 6, Rombouts was not surprised to hear the consultants say Watford paramedics, along with some of their other rural coworkers, are being pulled away from their service area to cover shortages caused by a high volume of calls in Sarnia.

Rombouts was surprised however to see how often it happens.

Statistics show there were about 20,800 calls for paramedics in the county in 2020. Sarnia generates the most calls, with Petrolia a distant second. The smaller rural EMS stations have fewer calls, but often their paramedics are called to move their units as close to Sarnia as possible in case Sarnia paramedics can't handle the calls.

Brigden paramedics step in the most

often, taking 3,120 so called Code 8 calls in 2020. On average, they're gone about 39 minutes.

Bright's Grove picks up about 2,400 of those calls but they're back at their base faster - just 22 minutes.

Watford paramedics also find themselves on the move anticipating calls often as well - 2,117 times in 2020. They don't return to their base for 49 minutes.

All that, the consultants say, leaves rural residents waiting when they need help.

In Petrolia, the majority of the 432 calls paramedics field are answered in two to six minutes. That's true in Brigden as well, however in 22 cases there, people were left waiting 15 to 20 minutes for paramedics.

In Watford, paramedics answered 84 calls. Four people waited between 15 and 20 minutes for help, six had to wait more than 20 minutes.

"I didn't realize I guess how bad it was until I saw the numbers for the calls in Sarnia and the majority of them look like they're getting answered within 10 minutes," says Rombouts. "It's not rare at all to wait 45 minutes for an ambulance out in our area. And I don't think that is acceptable."

"We want to make sure that we're getting the same service as everybody else in the county."

County councillors agreed to add

another ambulance as soon as possible to work for 12 hours a day in Sarnia to help ease the situation.

Council also agreed to a study to see what the needs of the community will be in the next 10 years as the "aging tsunami" of Ontarians drives up the need for paramedic services.

And councillors agreed to look at the Code 8 system which pulls rural paramedics from their service areas, just in case they're needed in Sarnia. The consultants say the actual impact of Code 8 movement is unclear beyond "engaging paramedics in a continuous cycle of movement" which leads to them missing lunches and having a hard time getting bathroom breaks. And, of course, making wait times for people in their home communities longer.

It's something Rombouts says paramedics are deeply concerned about. "I made a point of talking to a lot of the EMS workers and they all said, 'Yeah, we don't have the time that we need to do what needs to be done. And they feel awful when they can't respond to a call as quickly as they know people need them to,'" she says.

Rombouts hopes by increasing the number of ambulances available in Sarnia and the new helipad to be built at Bluewater Health, there will be fewer reasons for paramedics to leave their home EMS bases.

Planner says Petrolia should move ahead with Glenview housing

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia's planner says the town should not reconsider its decision to allow a subdivision to build close to an historic oil field.

Developers have been working on the latest phase of Glenview subdivision since 2019. One hurdle they had to clear was getting some land rezoned to allow the subdivision to use land previously zoned Major Open Space and Hazard & Environmental Protection.

In February, Petrolia gave a developer the go head to build the homes around the historic golf course. The latest phase of the housing is tucked between holes 15, 16 and 17 and a pond which is the backyard of the homes fronting on First Street.

Oil Producer Walter Brand objected saying the Oil Gas and Salt Resources Act wouldn't allow for the development of four proposed lots because they are within 75 meters of his oil wells, which while historic, are still producing oil.

The town went back to the developers and asked them to get an opinion on the issue. Engineer Jim McIntosh said in a report to council in February there are nine oil wells near the property to be developed.

Five are owned by Brand. But it was McIntosh's opinion those active wells which are classified as historic should not stop the project. "The act clearly exempts the construction within the subdivisions from being bound by any offset provisions within the regulations or standards with respect to any of the Walter Brand producing historical oil wells. As such, the house lots close to the Walter Brand property could be developed."

Minor damage at Corunna school after fire in custodians room

Heather Wright
The Independent

Students at St. Joseph Catholic School in Corunna had an unexpected day off after a fire in the building.

The students were told to stay home after the custodian, Lynda Groot, discovered the small fire from an overheated exhaust fan in one of the custodial rooms when she arrived early Monday.

Principal Colleen Cogghe, in a letter to parents, said an environmental company has conducted indoor air quality testing throughout the school and has confirmed the building is safe for students to return Tuesday.

"In addition to the testing, all fire-damaged materials have been removed from the school," said Cogghe. "Air scrubbers and portable exhaust fans were installed throughout the building to help rid the school of the odour of

smoke. All corridor walls and ceiling surfaces have been wiped down and water from the sprinkler system has been mopped up.

As an added measure, all HVAC systems have been placed in the full exhaust position throughout the day and into this evening. All HVAC air filters were replaced and HVAC coils have been cleaned."

Cogghe added the full environmental report is available for parents to see.

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2022 MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Township is now receiving applications for the **\$1,000 "Municipal Scholarship"** awarded to one student of Dawn-Euphemia, that is pursuing a full-time post-secondary education in a government-related, firefighting technology, agricultural or skilled trade.

The application is available online at **www.dawneuphemia.ca** or by contacting the Municipal Office (519) 692-5148.

Deadline for submission is April 30th.

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Dawn-Euphemia Artist Ann Towell uses computer images to create magical photos depicting the ‘holiness’ of childhood.

Discovering the magic of childhood

Heather Wright
The Independent

Ann Towell has fallen down the rabbit hole, discovering the magic of childhood in the images she takes of her grandchildren, the farm and flowers.

It’s a departure from the Dawn-Euphemia woman’s usual creative outlet - writing novels. But Towell says it is not far away from what she has been doing for most of her adult life, working with photos.

Towell has helped her husband, acclaimed Canadian photographer Larry Towell, produce his work for decades while raising their three children on the banks of the Sydenham River.

But recently she asked what wanted to do in the quiet times of semi retirement. “Then it was, ‘okay, what skills do you have? What are you capable of doing?’ I am capable of telling a good photo from a bad photo...I am capable of working with Photoshop. So, I started writing out skills. I

know how to work scanners. I know how to work with JPEGs, and it went from there.”

One day, while working with photos of her grandkids in Photoshop she accidentally duplicated one of the children only discovering it after she moved the copy beside the original photo. “It just seemed magical.”

That’s when she learned to layer multiple images of them into what she calls a celebration of childhood. “Childhood is holy, we are all holy, we have that divine element. So I thought, I just want to celebrate childhood and the magic of it.”

When she started showing her work to Larry and friends she got lots of positive feedback. And this month, her exhibit called Down the Rabbit Hole is on at the Gallery in the Grove in Bright’s Grove. It runs to May 7.

Towell plans to continue making images using the stockpile of photos she has of her grandchildren whom she says inspire her. “My grandkids, I can see so much creativity in them,” she says “so that’s kind of inspiring.”

HIGH FIVE BUNNY



Malcom MacRae, 4, of Alvinston had a chance to meet the Easter Bunny before being part of the Alvinston Optimists Easter Egg Hunt Saturday. Organizers say they prepared enough prizes for 190 children.

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Have you ever considered Running for a Seat on Council?

Have you ever wondered what responsibilities come with sitting on Municipal Council?

Now is your opportunity to find out... You're invited to join us!

Candidate Information Session

Monday May 2 2pm & 6pm

Sessions will take place electronically via zoom with two opportunities to receive information and participate in a question session.

Sessions can be accessed via Zoom and will last approximately 2 hours.

2:00 pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88262519874>
6:00 pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86385878927>

We hope you can join us!

St. Clair Fire working on response to Fawn, Stag Island and the Sydenham

Heather Brouwer
The Independent

A recent structure fire on Fawn Island is prompting possible changes to the way St. Clair Township Emergency Services operates. “We had the incident over there on Jan. 1 and it put us in a position where I believe we used a private watercraft to get there,” said Fire Chief Richard Boyes at the April 4

council meeting. “I don’t want our firefighters boarding private watercraft to go across. The health and safety issues are immense.” He presented a report to council identifying issues in department responses not only to Fawn Island, but also to emergencies on Stag Island and the Sydenham River. Essentially, council has never given the fire department an approved level of service for the

Sydenham River or the islands in the St. Clair River. “It’s uncertain as to what we do in the event of a fire,” said Boyes. “And really what I’m looking for is clear direction from council.” Currently, fire department access to the islands in the St. Clair River relies on the use of an independent commercial ferry operator, and the department is limited to shore-based rescue. Boyes indicated several options,

including continued use of commercial ferries, purchasing a department watercraft, and enlisting the help of emergency services from other municipalities as possible paths forward. “There’s a lot to digest in this report,” said Deputy Mayor Steve Miller. “In order to make an informed decision, we’re going to need some numbers here.” Mayor Steve Arnold suggested

that council provide Boyes with immediate direction until he has a chance to work with the township’s Emergency Services Committee to come back with a report that provides those numbers. Council passed a motion that any fire department response to Stag and Fawn Islands will be dependent on the operations of the commercial ferry service.

Wrestling leads to probation

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

A 49 year-old Sarnia man avoided trial on a sexual assault charge on April 6 in Sarnia court, pleading guilty to assault. The court heard how on Jan. 18, 2019, a 14 year-old girl was staying in a hotel room in Point Edward with her stepfather. They had bought fast food and brought it back to the room to eat while they watched television. The man became cuddly with the girl, wrestling with her and touching her body without her consent. They did not speak about this incident the next day and it wasn’t until months later that the girl reported it to Sarnia police. Defence Lawyer Alison Craig said wrestling was not uncommon as the man had raised the girl for most of her life. “He was wrestling with her on a day she wasn’t in the mood to do so,” she said. Justice Krista Leszczynski indicated the man was in a position of trust and acting in a parental role, as she gave him his sentence. He was given a suspended sentence and put on probation for nine months.

A place to ‘go’ in Courtright

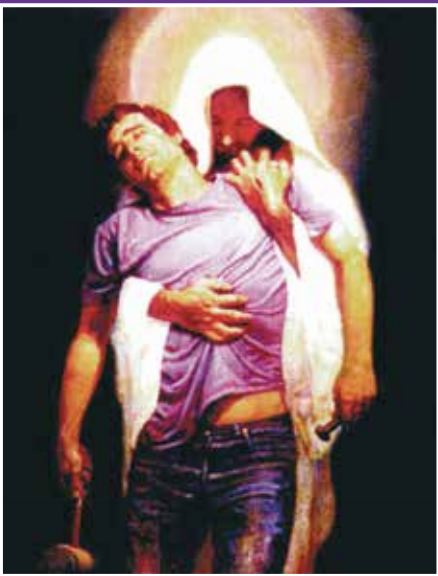
Heather Brouwer
The Independent

Courtright Waterfront Park could be getting new public washrooms. At its April 4 regular meeting, St. Clair Township heard from residents John Dobson and Cathy Vickerd, who discussed their plans to incorporate a new clock tower with all-season gender washrooms at the site. The price tag is an estimated \$200,000. “That would include all the services – gas, hydro, water, sewer, cement work,” said Dobson. Council passed a directional motion that the proponents work with the community services department to create a design and determine a location for the plans. “Once that’s done, you can bring it back to council, and we’ll give it the thumbs up or thumbs down,” said Mayor Steve Arnold.

Lambton opens new trade school

The Independent

Lambton College is will be part of a new skilled trades center in Strathroy . Labour Minister Monte McNaughton – who is also the MPP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex which includes Strathroy – announced \$5.7 million to launch a new Skilled Trades Training Centre in partnership with the Technical Training Group, Lambton College, Thames Valley District School Board and London District Catholic School Board this morning. The Training Centre will provide apprentices, secondary and elementary school students with the equipment and training they need to explore careers as Industrial Mechanic Millwrights, Welders and Metal Fabricators, as part of the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program. The investment will help school boards purchase a lifting crane, welding booth and accessories, robotics, 3D printers and safety equipment. “This project will give young people the opportunity to pursue their apprenticeship training locally and be more likely to enter our local workforce,” said Fred Tranquilli, Chief Administrative Officer, Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc.



HOPE

*“For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only Begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.”
(John 3:16)*

*Clothed in purple, a twisted crown roughly placed on His head,
Mocking, striking, spitting, stripped to Golgotha He was led.
Black hands of a Cyrene, were extended to bear His cross,
Between two robbers He hung, a ‘ransom’ for the lost.*

*Above His head, the accusation, ‘Jesus King of the Jews’ read,
‘If you’re the Son of God, come down’, the blasphemers said.
He opened not His mouth, but a ‘somber’ darkness filled the land,
A cry of dereliction, the burden of humanity’s sin, was in His hand.*

*The Holy of Holies & the Holy place veil, was split in two,
Jesus sacrifice opened the Heavens, so boldly, man could pass throu.
One ‘irrevocable’ breathe, in His ‘Holy’ presence we stand,
Death forever defeated, holding ‘no’ Eternal ‘victory’ over man.*

*When you reach the end of your journey, and reflect upon your life,
Will your soul ‘soar’ in freedom or ‘agonize’ in strife?
You see, a ‘Repentant’ heart is required, a turning from our selfish ways,
Confessing our sin brings ‘forgiveness’, inviting Jesus to be Lord, every-day.*

INVITATION:

Dear Lord Jesus, “thank-you” for the price that you paid for me. Because of the sin in my life, I find myself separated from you. I ask for your forgiveness and invite you into my heart, to be Lord of all the areas of my life. Thank-you for the “gift” of salvation and the assurance of an eternal home in Heaven with you. Amen

GROGAN WATFORD

Sports



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Logan O’Leary-Dilosa gives the puck a poke between two Blenheim Blades during Saturday’s home game victory.

Flyers, Blades split first games in final

Barry Wright
The Independent

The Petrolia Flyers and Blenheim Blades are tied at one game each in the PJHL tier two finals after the Blades rallied from 4-1 deficit to beat Petrolia, 5-4 in overtime in one of two weekend tilts in the Tier Two finals.

The tying goal was originally waved off but then later changed.

Andrew Jaques, Nathan Clatworthy, Landon Marcy and Clay Dolbear scored for the Flyers.

Dolbear has five goals in two games following a

four-goal explosion in a 6-2 victory in the opener at Petrolia Saturday.

Daniel Gibson and Michael Vanek also scored for the Flyers in the opener.

Josh Jamieson had three assists and Tyler Richardson blocked 30 shots. Game three is Thursday night at Greenwood at 7:30.

Meantime, ex-Flyer Jakob Knowles made 32 saves to backstop Essex to a 2-1 in over the Canadiens in Lakeshore Sunday. The 73’s lead the best-of-seven, two games to one. The teams go head to head Tuesday, Thursday and this weekend if necessary.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Lady Flags U11s claimed the Bronze medal at the Ontario Women’s Hockey Association championships this weekend. Teams from across the region were involved in the provincials in Windsor, Barrie and the GTA.

No Red Hats, but some strong showings at provincials

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Mooretown Lady Flags U11 team brought home bronze from the Ontario Women’s Hockey Association provincial finals.

The team tied for top spot in their pool play, then beat the Carlton Place Cyclones 3-1 in the bronze medal game.

In addition to local teams that won medals, there were several other squads that competed at both OMHA and OWHA finals this past weekend. Three East Lambton boys’ squads all

finished in the top eight, including a top four finish by the Eagles U13 reps.

U11 and U18 teams from Lambton Shores and Petrolia also competed. The U11s won their provincial division.

On the girls’ side, teams from the Mooretown Lady Flags, Sarnia Lady Sting, and Lambton Attack all competed with several top eight finishes. The London Devilettes U13’s and Bluewater Hawks U18’s also had local representation with Wyoming’s Ella McCallum part of the Devilettes roster and Gracie Harse of Petrolia on the Hawks’ U18 roster.

4

REASONS FOR ORTHOTICS

There are some situations that require extra foot support.

ONGOING FOOT PAIN

It’s Important to have a thorough assessment to rule out certain issues. When serious issues have been ruled out, orthotics can be beneficial by removing pressure and stress from painful areas.

YOU HAVE A FALLEN ARCH


While orthotics don’t correct a fallen arch, they can reposition structures in the foot to improve biomechanical function and reduce chance of injury. There a few different conditions that contribute to, and are aggravated by fallen arches such as plantar fasciitis, heel spurs, bunions and arthritis.

YOU STAND FOR LONG PERIODS AT YOUR JOB

If you are spending long periods of time on your feet, you will need extra support because your muscles will fatigue. It’s important to move around and give your feet a break.

DIABETES

If you suffer from diabetes, you have an increased risk of corns and calluses, especially if your foot alignment altered. Orthotics can be helpful in reducing these key pressure areas of the foot.



www.lambtonchiropractic.ca

Lambton Chiropractic Centre

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Dr. Storozuk Dr. Martyniuk

NOTICE OF SALE OF SURPLUS LANDS

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK

Take Notice that the Corporation of the Township of Warwick is inviting offers for the purchase of surplus lands described below and will accept offers until **3:00 p.m. local time on April 21, 2022**, at the Warwick Township Office, P.O. Box 10, 5280 Nauvoo Road, Watford, ON N0M 2S0.

Offers will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Warwick Township Office, 5280 Nauvoo Road, Watford.

The Corporation of the Township of Warwick shall not be required to accept the highest offer, or any offer. Offers will be reviewed by municipal staff and legal counsel who will make recommendations to Council. If there are no offers which The Corporation of the Township of Warwick wishes to accept, the Township may at its discretion sell the lands or market the lands for sale by any alternative method, or keep the lands. The Township reserves the right to consider offers and receive legal and staff advice regarding offers in closed Council.

Description of Lands:

Location: South of Confederation Line (See Parcel Map located in offer form)

Legal Description:

PT LT 20 CON 5 SER WARWICK BEING PTS 1, 4, 5, 7 AND 8, PLAN 25R9960; SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT AS IN L136417; SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OVER PTS 1, 4, 5, 7, 8 PLAN 25R9960 IN FAVOUR OF PT LT 20 CON 5 SER WARWICK BEING PTS 2, 3, 6 PLAN 25R9960 AS IN LA99444; SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OVER PTS 1, 4, 5, 7, 8 PLAN 25R9960 IN FAVOUR OF PT LT 20 CON 5 SER WARWICK BEING PT 5 PLAN 25R9563 AS IN LA99444; TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK

PIN 43053-0509

Being 43.654 acres, more or less

Minimum Tender Amount: (CDN) \$1,200,500.00 (\$27,500.00/acre)

Offer requirements:

1. Offers must be submitted sealed and in the prescribed offer form contained in the Property Information Package and must be accompanied by a deposit in the form of a money order or of a bank draft or cheque certified by a bank or trust corporation payable to the Corporation of the Township of Warwick and representing at least twenty percent (20%) of the Purchase Price set out in the offer.

2. Offers must be accompanied by a letter with a detailed explanation as to the Buyer’s intended use of the property and the expected timeline for its development.

Offerors Please Take Note of the Following:

A. Offerors are solely responsible for their own due diligence. If an offeror requires diligence conditions they should insert such conditions in Schedule B of the offer.

B. Offerors are hereby advised that the Township may rely on information provided in the letter to be submitted with the offer, and at its discretion may deem representations in the letter which are unambiguous to be covenants which will survive the closing of any agreement of purchase and sale arising as a result of this notice. Therefore offerors should ensure to provide accurate and truthful information and realistic timelines which they intend to meet. A Buyer’s misrepresentation or intentional or negligent breach of covenant may give rise to damages or other remedies. Notwithstanding the foregoing, acceptance of any Offer shall not entitle the Offeror/Buyer to any favourable treatment or bonus of any kind related to any applications related to development of the property, regardless of whether the property is in fact developed in accordance with the letter or for any particular use, and nor shall acceptance be deemed or construed of pre-approval of any such applications.

Property Information Packages are available at the Township Office or online at www.warwicktownship.ca

For further information regarding this Notice of Sale of Surplus Lands contact:

Trevor Jarrett, Treasurer/Deputy Administrator
The Corporation of the Township of Warwick
P.O. Box 10, 5280 Nauvoo Road, Watford, ON N0M 2S0
(519) 849-3926
tjarrett@warwicktownship.ca



Sports

Sarnia Legionnaires name Hurtubise new GM

The Independent

Paul Hurtubise is the new general manager of the GOJHL's Sarnia Legionnaires. He replaces Tom Norris who has stepped down to spend more time with his young family. Born and raised in Montreal, Hurtubise has called Sarnia home for nearly three decades. Most recently the retired businessman served as an assistant coach with the Lambton Junior Sting

U15 "AAA" squad which took second place at the Alliance championships earlier this month in Kitchener. The Legionnaires say Hurtubise will stay with that team for their U16 season in 2022-23. "Paul is excited and eager to get started in his new GM position and looking forward to our mini camp which is only weeks away, April 29th & 30th," said a statement from the Legionnaires. The mini camp has been moved up the last two days of April from the original dates of May 6 and 7. The team thanked Norris, who followed in the footsteps of his grandfather who was part of the management team in the 1950's and 60's, for his hard work and dedication. "It is greatly appreciated," said the team. The Legionnaires finished in last place in the league's Western Conference this season and the for the first time in recent memory did not make the playoffs.

PW's Harper honoured with GOJHL all-star nods

The Independent

Three members of the Sarnia Legionnaires have been chosen to GOJHL prestigious all-star rosters.; Austin Harper was chosen as a member of the Top Prospects roster for the top 17 and 18 year old's in the league Brayden Degelas and Jaxon Priddle have been named to the league's Future Stars roster as the top 16 year-olds in the GOJHL. "Even though the games weren't able to be played, we wanted to ensure this talented group of players were still recognized for their outstanding talents," said GOJHL Commissioner

Brent Garbutt in a statement. "The Top Prospects & Future Stars rosters are a fantastic example of the talent we have in the GOJHL and it's important to our league that they are recognized by scouts at the next level." The games, originally scheduled for December 2021 were nixed due to provincial COVID restrictions. Harper had 10 goals and 36 points in 33 games with the Legionnaires before being promoted to the Sting. Currently nursing an injury, he has a goal and an assist in 16 games this season with the Sting. Degelas had 13 goals and 34 points in 48 games this season while Priddle had four goals and four assists in 44 games.



Austin Harper

McAuley joins Lambton Lions as softball coach

The Independent

The Lambton College women's softball program has added some heavyweights to its coaching staff.

Scott Smith, LCCVI's Scott McAuley, Brad Young, Richard Helps and Vicki King have all been announced as assistant coaches for the upcoming inaugural season. Greg Shortt had previously been announced as head coach of the squad. Those interested in playing can contact the coach at greg.shortt@lambtoncollege.ca

Alvinston's Cumming leads Racers to victory

The Independent

Ally Cumming stroked a two-run single to lead the Northwestern Ohio Racers to a 5-0 win over 19th-ranked

Madonna University of Livonia, Michigan in NAIA women's softball on the weekend. The LCCVI grad from Alvinston ended the afternoon with two hits, two

RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. She has a stat line of .382/.432/.471 in 18 games in this her senior season. The Racers are 10-12 The regular season ends April 24.

Rec staff hard to come by in St. Clair; affecting programs

Heather Brouwer
The Independent

St, Clair Township is having a hard time finding staff for recreation programs. Kendall Lindsay, Director of Community Services, says in a report to council as restrictions ease and community services begin operating accordingly, staff shortages have become a critical issue.

"We have been actively recruiting since early in 2022 for the upcoming season and we are quickly finding that the applicants are just not there to fill the positions that we have," said Lindsay. For example, he pointed to programming and the pool as areas where services could be affected, after the department fell short of filling all its positions after its March 26 interviews.

"This will directly affect how many kids we can take for lessons and camps in the summer," he said, although the department will be re-posting and hoping for more applicants. In the past year, staff has begun posting openings on more platforms, like Indeed and county job boards. "Yet we are still struggling to fill positions." Lindsay says staff do its best to provide a good level of service.

BREAKING RECORDS



SOUTH CAROLINA UPSTATE SPARTANS PHOTO

Noah Myers stole two bases last weekend to set a new single season school record for the University of South Carolina Upstate Spartans with 17. The Wyoming product reached base three times in the 14-9 loss to Campbell University. He had a single and two walks to extend his hitting streak to 12 games and 14 of his last 15 games dating back to mid-March. The LCCVI alum has a stat line of .302/.419/.457 this season. He has 39 hits, 19 walks, 35 runs scored, seven doubles, two triples and three home runs in 32 games. The Spartans are 18-14 on the season with over a month of ball to play.

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

Here's How It Works: Level: Intermediate
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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Classifieds

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4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Help Wanted

ALVINSTON BALL BOOTH

We are looking for people interested in running the ball booth in Alvinston for the 2022 Season.

Please contact David Tait
at dtait@brktel.on.ca or 519-384-5821

Wanted: Farmland

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

Wanted to Buy: Bikes

WANTED TO BUY - Adult bicycles womens & mens. All sizes. Good to fair condition. All types of bikes wanted. Please call **519-882-2548** and ask for **Dave**. *ALSO, will pick up scrap bikes.*

Real Estate

8813 Churchill Line Alvinston

Ontario cottage style 2 bedroom yellow brick homes are a lucky find! Here is one on a two acre treed lot, located on a paved country road between Sarnia and London. This home needs some TLC and your decorating touches. This property offers private with a country view in all directions and lots of space for pets to roam and for family fun. There is an attached garage and full basement and 2 out buildings for storage, plus a cement silo for decorating with murals. High speed internet is available soon to work from home.

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Coming Events

Holy Week 2022

Service Times
Christ Anglican Church
Petrolia • 519-882-1430
Please feel free to join us!

Good Friday **April 15** 2:00 pm
Easter Sunday **April 17** 11:15 am

All are welcome!!!

Don't forget to wear your Easter Bonnet!!!

The Plympton-Wyoming Historical Society announces

PLYMPTON-WYOMING MUSEUM

6745 Camlachie Rd, Camlachie, ON N0N 1E0 **OPENING SOON**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS INTERESTED IN...
Local Lambton County History – Military History and Marine History of the Great Lakes

First Historical Society Meeting of 2022 - April 20 2022
Location: Camlachie Community Center
Speaker: Stories of a Father's Time in WWII

Oil Springs Optimists

Meat Bingo

Thurs., April 21 @ 7pm
at the Oil Springs Youth Centre

To Enter and Play, you must:

- Be 18+

All proceeds go to local youth

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NEW DISPLAY FRAMES RIKER CASES FOR COLLECTORS - Cases are ideal for badges, medals, insignia, pins, coins, buttons, arrowheads, lighters and more. Made in USA. High quality. Various sizes available. **Also buying local militaria.** Contact: Robert & Maria 519-872-3560 or sbdisplaycases@hotmail.com

Celebrations

Happy Birthday Jack

From all the Family,
and your Best Friend Marth
Many, Many More
- Lots of Hugs.

Calendar

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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
3rd Wed	7pm	Sarnia	Monthly Meeting @ Horticultural Society	519-332-5837
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

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Apr14	7pm	Zoom	Lambton County G.S. Branch hosting British Columbia Genealogical Society - email lambton@ogs.on.ca for link	
Apr15	12pm	Petrolia	Petrolia & District Lions Easter Eggstravaganza @ Lions Pavillion.	519-882-0765
Apr15	8am	Wyoming	Wyoming Lions Breakfast at the Wyoming Lions Hall.	
Apr16	4pm	Oil Springs	Meat Raffle & 50/50 Draw - Oil Springs Legion	
Apr18	7pm	Sarnia	Open Stage @ Lawrence House. 519-337-0507	
Apr29	10:30a-6p & 30 10a-1p	Petrolia	Lambton Youth Choir BBQ & Bake Sale @ 4130 Dufferin Ave	
April		Sarnia	The Lawrence House hosts Local Artist Jack Keefe's and The Sarnia Photographic Club's works. 519-337-0507	

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
email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com
www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca

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

Wyoming United Church

730 Second Street, Wyoming

*In-Person Services
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
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*In-Person Service
Sundays
@ 10:00 am*

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

Pastor Katherine Hawley

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon



Classifieds

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Stop in at the office 9a-5p Mon-Fri
4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Cards of Thanks



On behalf of the Bradshaw/Jacklin families, I would like to say thank you to everyone, the car club members, the church family, and the many friends both in Petrolia and Brigden who called, sent cards, flowers, delivered food, made donations and said a prayer. Your thoughtfulness during these past few months that Leo/Lee was ill and his passing was very much appreciated by all of us.

A special thank you to Dr. A. Wang, the palliative team and Steadman's Funeral Home who all made this journey a much easier road to travel. The support from all of you was overwhelming.

Thank you again. ~ Jean

A BIG THANK YOU - to Heidi's Independent Grocery Store management & staff, for all you do for us seniors. You bring our groceries to us and even put in little treats on special weekends.




Thank you - Lois Dennis



In Memory

FREER - In loving memory of **RAY**, a wonderful husband, a great dad, grampa and great grampa, who passed away **April 17, 2013**.

*Our hearts are full of memories,
Which we gathered through the years,
All the happy times we shared,
Are treasured souvenirs.
Although we are not together,
We will never be apart,
Because you have a special place,
Right here in my heart.*

Forever Loved & Missed by Kay and family

In Memory

Dad...
it's hard to believe that you have been gone for 10 years. You have been missed so much. You were our guide throughout our lives, and because of you ... we are the people we are today.

ALL OUR LOVE
Terry, Cheryl, Sandra, Randy, Kevin and families



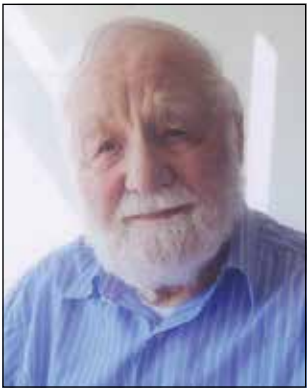
Glen May
March 11, 1936 - April 14, 2012

Obituaries / Death Notices

MacALPINE

Evan

Evan MacAlpine - Passed away peacefully at the John Noble Home in Brantford on **April 8th, 2022** in his **105th year**. He and his much-loved wife, Helen, of 66 years of marriage, lived for many years on the farm in Dawn Township. He was a dairyman, a carpenter, and a dedicated Christian youth group leader for teenage men in Dawn Township. His dedication to those teenagers included building his own version of a "Field of Dreams" baseball field when the Oakdale Picnic Grounds closed the community's only baseball park. Evan's baseball field drew teenagers from all over Dawn Township, enough for two baseball teams. He was a strong support to his sons as they played high school sports and chose their careers. After his five sons were grown, he and Helen moved to Saskatchewan. Evan and Helen continued to nurture by fostering children and supporting neighborhood families. He and Helen held a Sunday School for their neighborhood children, with up to 15 children attending on a Sunday morning. He was a master gardener, inventing his own frost coverings for huge gardens in La Ronge and Wolseley. His own sons appreciated their mom and dad's care as they gave immeasurable help in hard times. Evan was predeceased by his wife Helen, son Bruce, grandson Matthew and great grandson Liam. He is survived by his sons Neil (Coleen), Donald, Malcolm (September), James (Helen) and daughters in law Sue and Patti. Also survived by grandchildren Jeannine, Nathan, Christopher, Trisha, Megan, Brittany, Sidney, Theresa, Evan, Jonathon, Kaitlin, and Leah, along with 9 great grandsons. Thanks to the caregivers, nurses and staff of Park View Retirement Home and John Noble Home for their excellent care of Evan. **The family will hold a memorial gathering at some time in the future. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Beckett-Glaves Family Funeral Centre, 88 Brant Ave., Brantford, 519-752-4331.** Donations, condolences and tributes are available online at www.beckettglaves.com. A tree will be planted in memory of Evan in the Beckett-Glaves Memorial Forest.



ZANTINGH

Peter

Peter Zantingh died peacefully with his family by his side, in his **78th year**, on **Wednesday, April 6, 2022** at Bluewater Health, Sarnia. Peter is survived by his wife of 56 years Mary (nee Braaksma), his children Susan and Les Douglas, Peter M. Zantingh and Jody Taylor, and Brad and Jen Zantingh, and his grandchildren Sarah, Michael, Josh, Nick, Quinn, and Fay. Peter is also survived by a brother Henry. He was predeceased by his parents Pieter (1973) and Geesje (2011) Zantingh, and his sisters Tina Linker (2018) and Helen Zylstra (2015). Peter was a born entrepreneur, he founded and operated Zantingh Direct, farmed, and bought and sold anything he could make money at. He had a passion for playing cards, loved to negotiate, and enjoyed wintering in Florida, and traveling to Branson. **A funeral service was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at Needham-Jay Funeral Home Wyoming Chapel. Interment was in Wyoming Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Canadian Cancer Society (www.cancer.ca) or the Lung Association (www.lung.ca). **Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com.**



LANG

Emmalene Walton

LANG, Emmalene Walton - **September 23, 1931 to April 9, 2022.** Passed away quietly at home after fond farewells to her family. Loving, cherished wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Married for 72 years to soul-mate Don, they will always be together in this world and the next. Missed but lovingly remembered by sister-in-law Virginia Wray. Also by her 4 sons Chris (Sharon), Wally (Terry Lynn), David (Malgorzata, deceased) and Alex (Mona). Special friend to Magdalena VanDenBroeke. Cherished by 15 grandchildren and great-grandchildren who will miss their loving gramma Emma. Special aunt Em to caring nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her parents Isobel and Byron Young and by her sister Marion Good. Emmalene had a long career as a teacher. She was well respected by her peers and adored by her pupils. She was a master gardener, talented musician, oil painter, story teller and home maker. Bedrock of the family farm. Special thanks to Dr. Kim for providing palliative care and to the Bayshore PSW's and nurses. Also, to Dr. Daniel, longtime Doctor and friend. **At Emmalene's request there will be a quiet family memorial when interred at Bear Creek Cemetery.** Memories & condolences may be sent online at www.steadmanbrothers.ca. **Arrangements entrusted to STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigden 519-864-1193.**



BOLTON

Freda May



Freda May Bolton died surrounded with family at Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital, Petrolia, on **Tuesday April 2, 2022** at the age of **84**. Beloved wife of 63 years to Lyle. Loving mother of Heather and Scott Helps, Paul and Carla Bolton and Karen and Jeff Simpson. Cherished grandma of Cassie (Stephen Szmielt), Chris Helps (Abby), Sarah Helps (Christian Cousins), Steve Helps, Julie Bolton (Connor Mathers), Jenna Bolton, Cody Simpson (Kylie), Riley Simpson, Whitney Simpson (Derek Laurikainen), and Bailey Simpson. Proud great grandma of Elliott, Everett, Maverick, Huntleigh, Isaiah and Isabella. Forever remembered by sister Gail Robinson and sister-in-law Janet Fuji & husband Sam. Freda sang in the choir and played the bells at Christ's Church, she will also be remembered as the "Canteen Cutie" at the arena. Family was very important to Freda, her grandchildren and great grandchildren were the lights in her life, she loved to bake for them and was excellent at it. She was a talented crafter, loving a large variety of crafts, paper tole and ceramics were favorite's. **There will be a private family memorial service,** donations in her memory to Christ Church Anglican, Petrolia would gratefully be appreciated. **Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.**

ATKINSON (Morrison)

Jean

Jean Atkinson (Morrison) (nee McDougall) of Wyoming, passed away peacefully at Trillium Villa Nursing Home, Sarnia on **Saturday, April 9, 2022**, in her **90th year**. Jean was predeceased by her husbands Donald Morrison (1986) and Norman "Pete" Atkinson (2018). She will be missed by her children Jim (late Jacy) Morrison, Barbara (Jim) Ferguson, and Carol Karowich, her grandchildren Amy (Justin) Leo, Bradley Morrison, Jocelyn Steadman, Brett (Kristen) Steadman, Chad Steadman, and Tyson Penfound, and her great grandchildren Rachel, Ella, and Cole Leo, Maren and Marla Steadman, and Emmet Caruthers. Also survived by her lifelong friend Cathy Scott. Jean was predeceased by her parents Annie and Allan McDougall and her beloved sister Marjorie (late David) Harris. Fondly remembered by the Morrison, Harris, McDonald, McDougall, and Atkinson families. We are forever grateful for the compassionate care Jean received from the Albany Retirement Village. **Cremation has taken place with interment in Wyoming Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Wyoming United Church. **Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.**



Notices

Answers to this week's


Sudoku

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Auto/Home/Business Insurance

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

ADVERTISING POLICY - The publisher of this newspaper, *The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton*, reserves the right to clarify or refuse any advertisement based on its sole discretion. The publisher reserves the right to reject, discontinue or omit any advertisement without notice or penalty to either party. Liability for errors or non-insertion is limited to the amount paid for the cost of space occupied by the error. Claims of errors must be made prior to the next publication date.

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Speeder on Petrolia Line fined for drunk driving

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

A St. Clair Township woman clocked going 42 kms over the speed limit had more problems than just speeding.

The 25 year-old woman was fined \$1,200 after admitting to impaired driving in St. Clair Township on the evening of Aug. 15.

Victoria Hicks was headed west on Petrolia Line, east of Plank Road, when she was spotted by police. She was travelling at 132 kilometres in a 90 kilometre zone and was stopped by Lambton OPP just east of Brigden Road.

She admitted to the officer she had drank

a few beers that evening. Sarnia court heard Hicks had red, glossy eyes and alcohol could be smelled on her breath. Her blood-alcohol level was double the legal limit.

Hicks pleaded guilty to impaired driving in Sarnia court April 11. She will not be allowed to drive for one year.

“I was in a bad place when this happened,” said Hicks.

“I made a bad choice to get away from the wrong crowd. I just wanted to get home safe and I didn’t choose a safe route to do that.”

She admitted substance abuse has been an issue for her. Hicks has reconnected with an addiction treatment centre and has slowed her drinking since being charged.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Bees habitat coming to St. Clair lagoons

Heather Brouwer
The Independent

St. Clair Township will be joining Canadian Wildlife Federation’s Pollinator network.

CWF told council at its March 7 meeting that it is attempting to provide more pollinator-friendly vegetation in southwestern Ontario, and it would like the township’s support.

It specifically identifies public rights of

way, like roadsides, as ideal locations to plant.

In a follow up report, the St. Clair Township public works department expressed concern that since most township roads are adjacent to farmland, the spread of wildflower seeds would be detrimental to the farming process.

Instead, it suggested putting the targeted vegetation on its sanitation lagoon properties.

Council approved the recommendation.

LEGION WINNERS



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

A Watford student’s poster is advancing to the district finals the Royal Canadian Legion contest. Jane Van Damme, a Grade 8 student at St. Peter Canisius School, Watford, placed first at both Branch and Zone Level for her black and white poster entry into the contest. Her entry now moves on to the District competition. And Revy Alberti, a Grade 6 student at East Lambton Elementary School, Watford, placed first at Branch Level and third at Zone Level. The students were presented with cash awards recently by members of the Watford Legion.



Fun!

PETROLIA TOWN-WIDE

Garage

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 29-30

SALES

Town-wide Garage Sale ads
\$25.00

advertise your garage sale in

The Independent
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

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4156 Petrolia Line
Open Monday-Friday 9-5
Deadline: Friday April 22 @ noon

SWM
SOUTHWEST MIDDLESEX

FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTHWEST MIDDLESEX

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on May 12, 2022, at the Southwest Middlesex Municipal Office, 153 McKellar Street, Glencoe.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Southwest Middlesex Municipal Office, 153 McKellar Street, Glencoe.

Description of Lands:

1. Roll No. 39 06 000 040 02000 0000; 6401 Longwoods Rd., Melbourne; PIN 08553-0023(LT); PT OF LT 2, RANGE 1 SLR AS IN MW114306; EKFRID; File No. 19-01
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$1,116,000
Minimum tender amount: \$29,811.93

2. Roll No. 39 06 001 020 00500 0000; 1150 Limerick Rd., Newbury; PIN 08568-0011 (LT); PT LTS 19 & 20, CON 4, PART 1, 34R611 & PART 1, 34R1432; MOSA; File No. 19-05
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$98,000
Minimum tender amount: \$15,860.53

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province’s Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, visit:
www.OntarioTaxSales.ca
or if no internet access available, contact:

Kristen McGill, H.B.Com, CPA, CGA
Treasurer
The Corporation of the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
153 McKellar Street
Glencoe ON N0L 1M0
(519) 287-2015 Ext. 108
kmcgill@southwestmiddlesex.ca