The Independent Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

Newsstand Price \$1.50 per week

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Russian tariff trouble

Tax charged to fertilizer bought before invasion

Heather Wright The Independent

Long before Vladimir Putin's first tank rolled into Ukraine, Kevin Marriott bought fertilizer for his Lambton County farm. The grain farmer bought 40 metric tonnes of a fertilizer containing Nitrogen and Phosphoric Acid for a total of \$41,400 in November and paid the bill in December.

Then, he got bill number two dated May 26. Although he had bought and paid for the fertilizer long before Russia invaded Ukraine prompting the federal government to put a tariff on fertilizer coming from Russia, Marriott now owed the federal government \$6,967.99 in tariff fees.

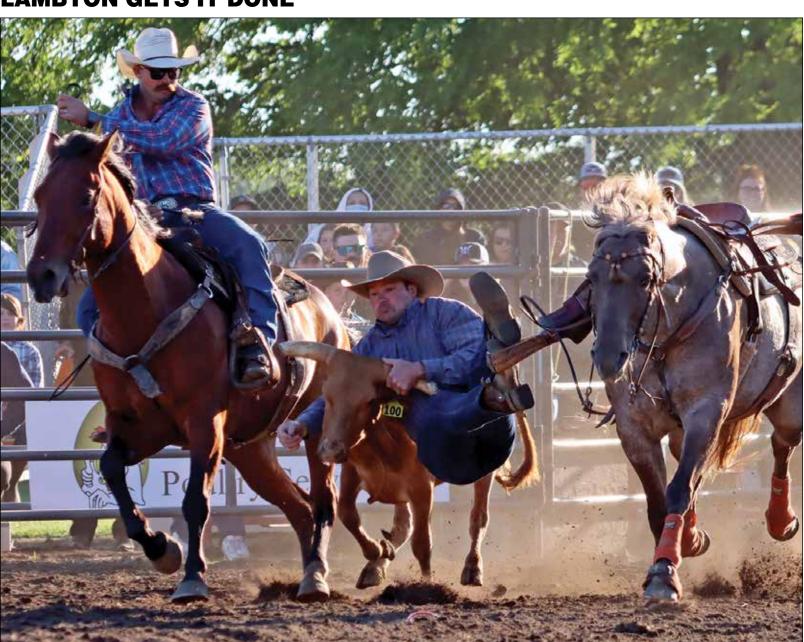
Marriott says the federal government imposed the fee "because it hadn't hit the dock yet. Apparently, what they're going by is when it arrives."

That \$7,000 bill for the Russian tariff is only half of his fertilizer bill. Factor in that the cost of fertilizer tripled this year and that diesel fuel has skyrocketed; "All of a sudden the good (grain) prices are not going to mean anything. We might be behind the eight ball with all the added costs all of a sudden."

Marriott is not alone in paying the fee even though the war had not begun when the purchase was bought and paid for.

SEE TARIFF PG 3

LAMBTON GETS IT DONE



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Lambton County's own Rod Weese and Tyler Foster were showing the crowd how to get it done during the Alvinston Pro Rodeo Saturday night. Foster wrestled the calf to the ground as Weese made sure the animal stayed close enough to tackle. For a gallery of photos of this weekend's events see pages 8 and 9.

Enniskillen family escapes fast moving house fire

Heather Wright The Independent

Tammy and Angus McAuslan saw the smoke

pizza when they spotted the thick black smoke. "When we got past the trees there was big flames," says Tammy.

While the McAuslan's knew of the family well a

and we figure they could be there," she says as she stood beside her car. The family's dog was inside so it wouldn't run

away.

first.

The couple had been golfing earlier in the day and were headed down Shiloh Line near Forest Road on their way to Alvinston to pick up a enough to wave hello, they could tell they were still at home.

"We saw the flames and the smoke and we could see the vehicles were parked in the carport

"We backed into the laneway, Angus was trying to call (9-1-1) and I was getting out to go and they just started walking out the front door." SEE FIRE PG 3



Hot grad ceremony honours **Class of 2022**



Families, friends, teachers and graduates crowded into Bradshaw Auditorium at LCCVI to honour the Class of 2022 Thursday night. Over 150 seniors were honoured for what Principal Greg Nemcek called "the most unforgettable" high school education of any generation living through the global pandemic. A number of students were honoured including Emma Patchett, who was the valedictorian as well as the winner of the Loran Scholarship and a Nicol Scholar along with Jalyn Jackson, Megan Jaques, Keenan Reidhead, Trevor Syer and Jada Welch. Patchett and Connor Cumming also received the Principal's Award for Student Leadership. Graduates were looking for anyway to stay cool, drinking water (middle) and using their sleeves for a fan. (Center right) Amid the heat there were smiles; Patchett (top right) stopped to talk in the hall just before the ceremony and Cummings (top left) mugged for the camera as he crossed the stage greeting his teacher. Caroline Altiman and Mohmd Alsaidi (bottom right) wait to be the first to cross the stage and another graduate found family in the balcony and waved.

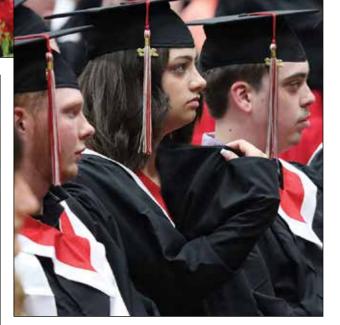
or me

ANCER

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS









The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton - 3



Firefighters from Brooke-Alvinston, Petrolia and Oil Springs work together to put out a house fire on Shiloh Line. A family of four fled the blaze which destroyed the newer home Thursday.

Fire destroys newer home on Shiloh

CON'T FROM PG 1

The homeowners and their two small children, aged 1 and 3, escaped unharmed along with the dog. "He tried to move the truck but it was already burning and he jumped out and left it partway in the laneway and the car in the carport was completely in flames."

McAuslan said the homeowner briefly considered going back in to get the family's cat but didn't.

And the house, which was only a couple of years old, was now in flames.

"It was completely engulfed in flames by the time the fire department arrives," says McAuslan. By 9:30 pm, firefighters from Petrolia/North

Enniskillen, Oil Springs and Brooke Fire Rescue had put out most of the flames but were still trying to put out the hot spots. The house was a blackened shell with no windows or doors left.

The children had been put to bed at the neighbours' house nearby as the family watched firefighters at work.

Tariff backdated to before war **CON'T FROM PG 1**

John Barlow, the federal Conservative's Shadow Agriculture Minister, says farmers, particularly in Eastern Canada, are facing the same problem as Marriott.

The Ontario Grain Farmers' estimates \$150 million in tariff fees have been paid on Russian fertilizer.

"That's a big number. That's a huge number. That's \$150 million taken right from the pockets of farmers and it goes into the government tariffs or government coffers," says Barlow. "Putin is not paying this tariff, Canadian farmers are paying this tariff, and it has no impact on Russia." That's what bothers Marriott. "What they're trying to say it does is teach those Russians - but this money all goes into the our government's coffers.' Barlow says the tariff has been the subject of a lot of committee hearings and lobbying. "We've been asking for an exemption to any fertilizer purchase before March 2 from that tariff on specifically Russian fertilizer before the invasion. Thus far there's been a) in the Liberals have refused an exemption and b) refused any kind of compensation. "You're asking Canadian farmers to pay the price for Russia's invasion of Ukraine." Barlow added many farmers feel "morally obligated" to produce as much as they can to help ease the food crisis coming because Ukraine isn't planting this year. With high fertilizer prices, Barlow says many are using less and will get a lower yield as a result. The office of the Minister of Agriculture did not answer our questions about the issue by press time. Sarnia-Lambton MP Marilyn Gladu was unavailable to comment on the issue.



A fireplace can be seen inside the burnt out home.

It's not clear what started the fire.

DETROLIA

call (519)882-2350 or

or find us on Facebook

no wagons.

RULES

visit www.town.petrolia.on.ca

· Sit with your family group.

No eating, smoking, drinking,

vaping on bus or at pick up.

Small fold up strollers allowed,





Garfield & Florence

PETRO FLAG SING OLIA BRANCH 216 CELEBRATION **7AM TO 10AM** CUPE kids fishing derby 2:00pm AM TO 1P Downtown Petrolia Legion 🖲 Branch 216 oose chase round Petrolia! PETROLIA Kiwani Rotary BOURQUE

Hull Bus Lines compliments of ____ For more information please

Starting at 6:00pm Friday, July 1st

Buses will run continuously until ?:?? p.m. and then will begin returning residents to their original bus stops immediately following the fireworks display.

Center St & James James & Eureka Sycamore & Maple Juniper & Juniper (Cul-de-sac) Juniper & Catherine St Catherine & Pine Catherine & Garfield Evergreen & Applewood lewood & Parkside Parkside & Parkside Parkside & Garfield Garfield & Maple Garfield & Florence



Princess St & Grove Kerr St & Glenview Rd Tile Yard & 1st Ave 1st Ave & Garden Cres 1st Ave & 487 First Ave 1st Ave & Garden Cres 1st Ave & 6th St 1st Ave & 3rd St 3rd St & 4th St Mutual & Derby St Mutual & Petrolia Line Petrolia Line & Kentail St Petrolia Line & Northridge Place

Buses will be marked with signs: Bus 1, 2, or 3

Feds should rethink fertilizer tariff

There are two things we think everyone can agree on; the Russian invasion of Ukraine is unjust and barbaric and paying taxes or tariffs to the federal government is not fun.

We also likely can agree that people who have been caught up in a situation beyond their control shouldn't have to pay the price for it.

Such is the case for Ontario farmers who bought fertilizer from Russia this year. They're facing a 35 per cent tariff which the federal government imposed on Russian fertilizer. It's a penalty for invading Ukraine and it is meant to deter farmers from buying from the invader.

However, farmers don't wait until the last minute to buy fertilizer. Many, like Enniskillen's Kevin Marriott, buy their products months in advance. Marriott and others bought their fertilizer long before the first Russian tank entered Ukraine - before there were even rumours of war. But here they are paying the tariff anyway. And it isn't just a couple of bucks - for Marriott it was \$7,000 on just half of his year's supply.

We don't think you could find too many people who would object to tariffs meant to keep Putin from earning money for his war machine, however that's not what this retroactive tariff does. It penalizes Canadian farmers at a time when they're needed the most.

Some observers suggest farmers will use less fertilizer to deal with the cost of the tariff and the rising cost of the high priced input. That could mean a lower yield just as the world worries how to feed the 400 million people who normally get their food from Ukraine. That country's fields lie idle during the war.

The farmers we talk to feel that need keenly and want to make a difference. It is, they say, their moral obligation. And as they feed the world, they face a tariff on something that is long bought and paid for.

The federal government has every right to place a tariff on Russian goods - we support that. But it needs to take a second look at this. Farmers shouldn't bear the burden of this at the time their help is needed around the world.

Letters to the Editor

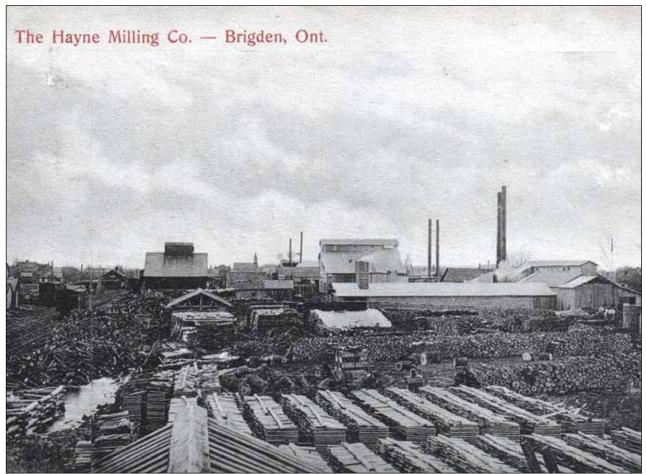
The Independent welcomes Letters to the Editor. Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website www. petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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

The Independent reserves the right to edit letters for brevity

Editorial

Our Story



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION

It is hard to imagine when you look over Lambton's field that this land was once so thick with trees it took days to travel through the forest. Then you see a photo like this one of Hayne Milling Co. in Brigden and you get some sense of how many trees there once were in Lambton.

Volunteers back to their hectic, giving lifestyle

What a difference a few months make.

Since early May, my trusty Edge has been bombing down the roads of Lambton County sending my odometer spinning. If Edge-y could talk, it would be telling me to pull over for a while so it could cool its wheels.

The people of Lambton have emerged from hibernation and flooded to the events which were once a staple of life - the Alvinston Rodeo, Pizzafest, Ribfest - basically anything with Fest in the title.

I'm anticipating Canada Day will be wild this year with almost every municipality in our coverage area hosting some kind of event. There will be car shows, bed races, fireworks white as far as the eye can see. While I take all this in, I wonder about the people behind all this partying.

Literally hundreds of volunteers have put in hundreds of hours to make all of these events work. I wondered recently if going back to (volunteer) work after two years of pandemic rest would be difficult.

Some hesitantly admit that yes, life is much busier now than last summer. But before long, they start talking about what they have been doing and there is a little spark in their eye - they can't wait to tell you what's going on and how great it is going to be.

That's waaay more energy than I have after two plus years of pandemic life. I find my self sitting on the porch looking out over the street wondering if it would be bad to serve my family the leftover, moldy cheese curds in the back of the fridge for dinner.

These guys cook the chicken while figuring out where to get the supplies for the dance and directing people to put up fencing and signs and picnic tables. It's enough to make anyone tired.

Heather Wright

But, when you're there, sitting in the stands, or getting your fingers greasy from the chicken

and clarity. All letters need to be signed and must have a phone number for verification. (of course), flags, music, barbecued chicken, and every other kind of food you can imagine as well as red and or screaming along to the band, you're glad volunteers put in all the work. And they do it just for you.



Opinion

The view from Alymer: refusal to take responsibility 'shameful'

EDITOR: Would that the citizens of Petrolia were as well served by the council there as they are by *The Independent*.

After a cursory and shallow investigation, Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley was given a mild reprimand by the town's Integrity Commissioner after his apparent breach of confidentiality. The breach seemed a relatively minor discussion of a job description change, but the Mayor was adamant that the disclosure was the result of *The Independent's* trick questions and the twisting of his words, and not that he was speaking loosely (sorry, couldn't resist). We have heard the interview. They were straight forward, Queens English questions and straight answers. The Mayor's refusal to take full responsibility – he is the Mayor – is shameful. Apparently the buck sure doesn't stop with him.

As for the town staff characterizing *The Independent* as "tabloid" journalism - well I think *The Independent* is a tabloid (in size) but if the suggestion was pejorative in any way that's an odd comment coming from public servants about an awardwinning municipal taxpayer. Just who do they work for again? What is their background for making such judgments? They need a reprimand. All Heather Wright and her paper have done is accurately report what their municipal government is doing or saying. If there is anything distasteful or embarrassing it is in the function of the Council – not the reporting of it. Maybe the Integrity Commissioner

needs an Integrity Commissioner. Freedom of the press is really the freedom of the public's right to know. Heather Wright, through *The Independent*, is doing a far better job defending democracy than the Mayor or his staff. Petrolia is very fortunate to have *The Independent*.

John H Hueston, President The Aylmer Express Newspaper, Aylmer, ON Ontario

Explaining why newspapers need a deal with Facebook and Google

EDITOR: During the 2021 federal election campaign, several political parties made commitments to introduce news remuneration legislation. Why is it needed?

First, the need for strong, independent local news has never been higher – it keeps communities connected and informed on issues that are impacting them directly. Covering city hall, provincial and territorial legislatures, our courts, and holding parliamentarians to account is vital to our democracy. Pollara, a leading research firm, found 90 per cent of Canadians said they believe it's important that local media outlets survive. And for those outlets to survive, they must be commercially viable.

Second, there is a significant imbalance of power between tech giants and Canadian news outlets. To put this in perspective, Google brings in about \$2.3 trillion; Meta is over half a trillion. Together, that's larger than the GDP of Canada, Brazil, Italy, or India. On a combined basis, these companies take of online ad revenues stands at more than 80 per cent. And the pandemic has only worsened the situation.

Third, with the prospect of Canadian legislation, Google and Meta negotiated content licensing agreements with a dozen or so news publishers, including large players like The Globe and Mail and The Toronto Star. These publishers should be getting compensated for their content. But we now have a situation of haves and have nots among Canada's news publishers with Google and Meta picking winners and losers. And that's not fair – especially to many smaller publishers - like The Herald - who have been left out in the cold.

In April Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage, introduced bill C-18, the Online News Act. According to that same Pollara survey, 80 per cent of Canadians support parliament passing a law that would let smaller outlets negotiate collectively with the web giants. Our organizations represent hundreds of trusted news titles in every province and territory, support this legislation for three reasons.

First, it allows us publishers to negotiate collectively. Currently, the Competition Act bars us from forming a collective. Given the overwhelming power imbalance, we will be in a stronger bargaining position if we stand together.

Second, it includes an enforcement mechanism. Baseball-style final offer arbitration ensures that parties put their best offer forward and the arbitrator picks one or the other. The hammer of arbitration gives both sides incentives to reach a fair settlement on their own. Third, similar legislation in

Australia is working. According to Rod Sims, the former chair of the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission, the amounts paid to news organizations were over \$200 million. More importantly, Country Press Australia, an affiliation of 160 smaller regional newspapers, was able to reach settlements with Google and Meta. More recently, a group of 24 small Australian publishers reached a deal with Google.

While there are clear benefits to publishers from collective negotiation, the question is: How should members of each collective organize themselves it in a way that is inclusive, fair, and transparent to all its members?

As a matter of principle, News Media Canada and the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada believe that publishers large and small should benefit equally from any settlement Simply put, any settlements from collective negotiation would be shared among publishers on a pro rata basis.

C-18 builds on the success of Australia's News Media Bargaining Code. While not a silver bullet, it brings the value of trustworthy, high quality Canadian journalistic content to readers through more licensing deals, which will allow more publishers to reinvest in their newsroom and in their digital business transformation.

> Paul Deegan CEO of News Media Canada Maria Saras-Voutsinas, of Media Council of Canada.





NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Bluewater Power will be held at the

Best Western – Guildwood Inn

1400 Venetian Blvd Sarnia, ON N7T 7W6

Thursday June 30 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Guildhall Room

Residents of Bluewater Power's Shareholder Municipalities are invited to attend!



Enniskillen dirt bike track won't face restrictions

Blake Ellis Local Journalism Initiative

Enniskillen Township Council will not be making changes to its off-road vehicle.

Corey McKinnon came before Council on June 6 concerned about the noise from a dirt bike track on the Marthaville Side Road. He wanted a curfew placed on the dirt bike track. His neighbor and owner of the track, Kristen Kelvin, refutes his claims.

McKinnon was asked to collect signatures of property owners who had the same concern. He collected two additional signatures, while Kelvin countered with a petition of 19 signatures asking that no changes be made.

Most council members were torn on the issue, but no one wanted to change the existing off-road vehicle bylaw. "I wouldn't want it 20 feet from my house," said Councillor Wally Van Dun.

He suggested a letter be sent to McKinnon asking him to document what is happening on the track if it continues. McKinnon has already submitted photographs.

Van Dun suggested a mediator should be set up between the neighbours to resolve the dispute.

"I don't think a mediator is going to work," countered Mayor Kevin Marriott.

Deputy Mayor Judy Krall noted

the race track has been at the home for nine years and this is the first complaint about it.

Councillor Mary Lynne McCallum said people often have to put up with noise from farm equipment such as tractors and sprayers.

"It is a part of putting up with neighbours," she said.

The township currently has an offroad vehicle bylaw, which limits offroad vehicles being driven from 10 am to 8 pm Monday to Saturday.

This only applies to two specific areas in the township and this Marthaville Sideroad location is not one of them. healthy, attractive smiles in your neighbourhood

Looking for a dentist close to home?

Petrolia Dentistry offers dentistry for the whole family, from cleanings and exams to natural looking fillings, crowns, bridges & more.

With convenient hours and a clean modern office, you'll feel completely comfortable.

Dr. Mike Hoben Dr. Rudha Al-Rohani Dr. Rebecca Phillips 519-882-0520

- THE INDEPENDENT

430 Albany Street • petroliadentistry.com

PADDLING BEAR CREEK



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Ashley and Elsie Armstrong recently went for a paddle down Bear Creek in Bridgeview Park Petrolia. The family, along with the Rondeaus, were learning how to kayak in the still waters of the creek.

PW takes over Highland Glen Waiting for OK to fix boat ramp

The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming is now the official caretakers of Highland Glen.

The municipality and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority signed a lease agreement at the beginning of June. The goal is for the town to take ownership of the park in the future. For now, CAO Carolyn Tripp says

For now, CAO Carolyn Tripp says the public works department is cutting grass, making sure the portable washrooms are in good repair and trying to mark out the best way for people to park their cars the busy Lake Huron venue.

The biggest project at the park will likely begin in mid-July - the repair of the boat ramp. It's been out of commission going on three years and was the reason many councillors wanted to get into the park.

Tripp says the local contractor is "working on the drawings, and getting them submitted for approval. So until they are approved, we cannot start. And we know we cannot get in the water until after July the 15th." That's the date set by Oceans and Fisheries to protect fish which may be spawning.

Tripp says everyone is anxious to begin, including anglers who still call the town office inquiring about when the repairs will be complete. The town is anticipating the repairs as well. Tripp says the contractor will complete the repairs for \$104,830 - far less than the \$3 million the conservation authority was planning to spend over 10 years to repair the breakwall and shoreline after years of erosion.



"I think it was a local contractor (Gordon's Shoreline and Marine) really wanted to see it opened as well," says Tripp about he price difference.

"I can't say that for sure but yeah, I think they are doing good community service here."

It's not clear exactly when the repairs will begin nor if they will be complete during the summer boating season.

JUNE 24TH - 25TH, 2022



Like us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/thamesvillethreshingfestival Follow us on Twitter - @ThreshingFest email: threshingfest@gmail.com

BACON BACK



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Wyoming firefighters proved once again they know their way around a fire as the annual Bacon Burgers event returned. The firefighter association puts on the event, barbecuing 1,000 pounds of peameal bacon to build a tasty burger. Residents flock to the fire hall for their annual fix and the money raised goes to help buy equipment for the department. This year, the association donated a new jaws of life unit worth \$20,000 to the department.

Learned injured; Grassle takes on VPP role

Blake Ellis

Local Journalism Initiative

The show will go on, but without Michael Learned. The much anticipated return of the actor to the

Victoria Playhouse Petrolia to play one of the leads in On Golden Pond as been postponed after Learned broke her wrist.

"I'm just devastated that I can't be with my friends in Petrolia this summer," said Learned. "I've fractured my wrist. It's very painful and the role of Ethel is a buoyant one. I'm just not up for it. My doctor has advised surgery and that's the route I'm going to take." Audiences will not be

left disappointed, as Karen Grassle has stepped into the part.

Grassle is best known for her portrayal of Caroline

librarian asked Grassle whether she thought she would work in Canada again.

Ψľ

days

later

would love to work in Canada again," Grassle says she told her. "A few

Grassle

call. It just seems like it was meant

While she's stepping in on short notice, Grassle isn't worried. "I have the ability to get my adrenaline in gear and just go for it," said Grassle. She will be drawing from her experiences in television and film where

excited to get on stage July 5 and opening night July 9.

"I'm in very good hands and that makes a big difference," said Grassle, as she credited Co-Artistic Director David Hogan with being well prepared.

"It just makes it smooth as silk for the rest of us."











came the

to be."



Ingalls in Little House on the Prairie. She had one day to get everything arranged, coming in on an emergency basis. She arrived in Petrolia on June 16 and started work the following morning.

She has been in Toronto to film previously but this is the first time she had worked in any other part of Ontario.

And while the experience is new, Grassle had thought about working here. She was doing an interview with a librarian in Ottawa about her memoir, Bright Lights, Prairie Dust, which she released last year. The

you don't get a lot of time to get ready. She also performed in summer stock where you have only a week to prepare for a play. On Broadway where Grassle would be on a standby for a part, getting the call in the day to take the stage that night. And she's excited about

being in On Golden Pond. "It practically plays you," said Grassle of the role of Ethel.

Walter Borden, an Order of Canada recipient, will be in the role of Norman. Grassle is ready and

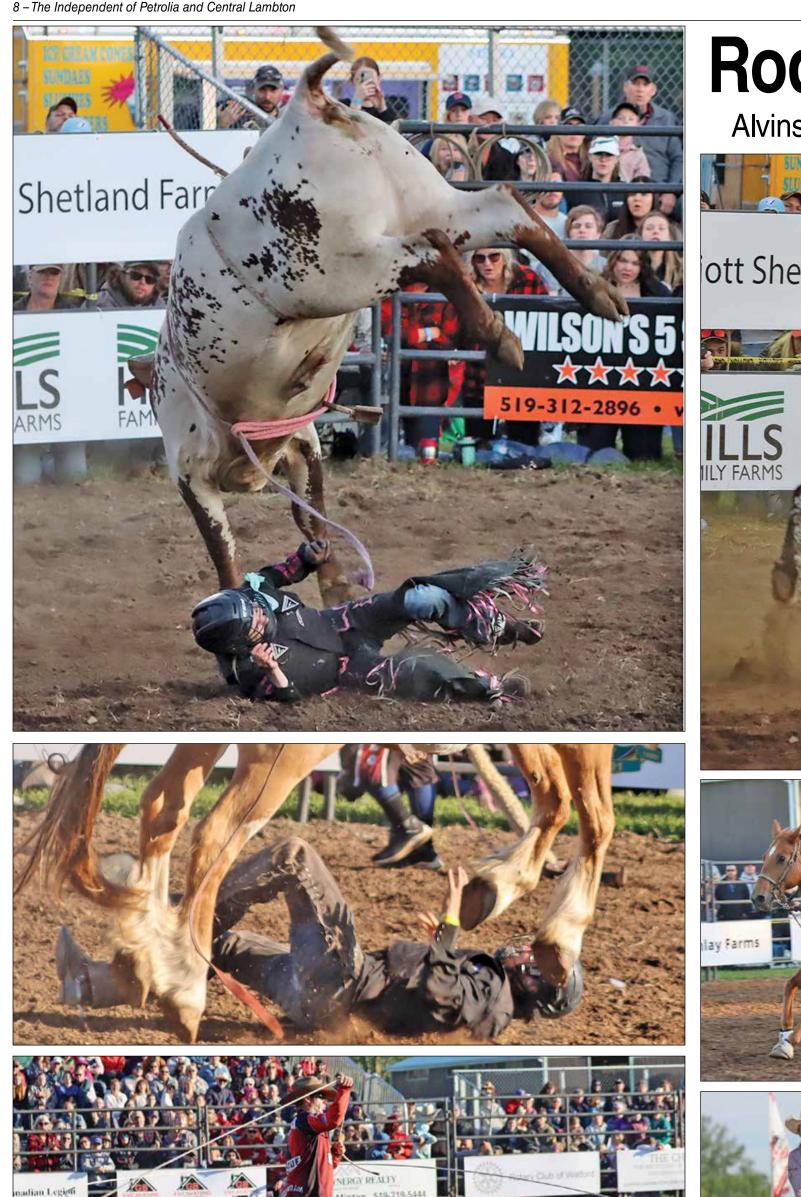




8 – The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Thursday, June 23, 2022











The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton – 9



POWER PROBLEM



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

A collision between a tractor and some power lines on London Line east of Reece's Corners brought down six hydro poles and put about 300 people in the dark Friday afternoon. The driver of the tractor safely got out and Wyoming firefighters stayed at the scene until Hydro One crews arrived. There were three hydro outages in Plympton-Wyoming Friday, some due to high winds.

International experts touring Oil Springs

The Independent

The oil heritage of Oil Springs is drawing international attention.

Heritage experts from Europe and North America will be arriving in Oil Springs Aug. 27 to tour the Oil Museum of Canada and the authentic 19th century technology of Fairbank Oil Fields founded in 1861.

The tour is part of a three-day conference organized by The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage (TICCIH).

It is an organization that provides technical expertise to UNESCO World Heritage in Paris.

In 2017, the Oil Museum of Canada and Fairbank Oil jointly applied to be considered for World Heritage designation. Though unsuccessful, they will apply again.

Speakers at the conference include the TICCIH president from Scotland and the TICCIH industrial archeologist of Barcelona who wrote the Heritage of the Oil Industry thematic study which led to the conference. Oil Springs and Alberta's Turner Valley Gas



International heritage experts will learn more about Oil Springs history in August.

complete system of authentic technology from the 1860s," says owner Charlie Fairbank. "As well, they will see the 1858 site at The Oil Museum of Canada, where oil was first produced, refined and sold in North America. Many global experts have never heard of Oil Springs and this tour will increase our visibility on the world stage."

Andrew Meyer, head of Lambton County's Cultural Services, says, "Few know how Lambton's International Drillers took their technology and expertise to open new oil fields in 86 countries between 1873 and 1945. This is a great opportunity to highlight our amazing influence."



2. TAKE BREAKS Set a timer and take a break every 15-20 minutes to stand up,

stretch and walk around.

- **3. DRINK WATER** Carry a bottle of water with your garden tools. When you take your break have a drink of water.
- 4. LISTEN TO YOUR BODY Do not ignore those niggling aches and pains until it's too late, if you feel a twinge, take a break or change positions.
- 5. BE MINDFUL OF LARGE LOADS Divide large loads into smaller batches that are easier to handle or use a wheeled cart.

6. VARY YOUR TASKS Ensure that you aren't holding the

same position for extended periods.







www.lambtonchiropractic.ca



431 King Street, Petrolia 519-882-1880



Plant are among the 11 case studies.

Two heritage scholars from Poland will be speaking about their proposal for several countries to join a serial designation of significant oil sites for World Heritage consideration.

North American heritage experts are coming from Pennsylvania, Texas, Alberta, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Waterloo and Windsor.

In the 1850s, oil was a new energy source and an alternative to coal and whale oil for lighting lamps. Poland dates its oil history to 1853, Romania 1857, Oil Springs 1858 and Pennsylvania 1859.

The tour will also include Baines Machine & Repair Works, founded in 1914, and the Black Gold Brewery in Petrolia.

"We are very excited that these influential experts will see Fairbank Oil Fields and its

The newly renovated Oil Museum of Canada which now has several interactive displays and a clean, new look, will also be showcased.

The conference was originally scheduled for May 2020 but was postponed because of the pandemic. After the conference, a report will be published in international heritage journals.

The Oil Museum of Canada (run by the County of Lambton) and Fairbank Oil Fields is one National Historic Site. It was designated in 1925 and includes the famous James Miller Williams well of 1858 and the 1862 site of Canada's first gusher which is on Fairbank Oil Fields.

- 4:00PM-6:00PM Free Hot Dogs & Drinks
 5:00PM Greetings from Dignitaries and
- **Cupcakes served by Mayor and Council**

AMAZING PRIZES! SPLASH PAD! BALL HOCKEY! FACE PAINTING! INFLATABLES & BOUNCY CASTLE! **BEER GARDENS!** GREAT LIVE MUSIC! Fireworks at dusk at the Karwick Conservation Area, 6101 Warwick Village Rd. www.warwicktownship.ca

Ranade heads north for new challenge

Heather Wright The Independent

Lambton's medical officer of health is heading north - way north.

And he's feeling a bit nostalgic about his life in Lambton, the people he leaves behind and what he learned from the role he played in guiding the community through a pandemic.

Dr. Sudit Ranade has accepted the role of Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health. He starts July 4.

Ranade came to Lambton in 2012 replacing Dr. Christopher Greensmith who retired.

Ranade was active in the community and helped shape public health with a new strategic plan which helped identify public health priorities in Lambton.

But he became a well-known public figure as COVID-19 came to Ontario and the province imposed restrictions to stop its spread. Ranade held hundreds of news conferences and updates for municipal leaders at Lambton County Council to keep the public informed and to try to ease concerns.

Ranade also took a leave of absence during the federal election to run as a Liberal candidate in the Lambton-Kent-Middlesex riding in the 2021 election.

In a news release announcing his resignation, Lambton County Warden Kevin Marriott thanked him for his "superb leadership" during the pandemic.

Ranade will oversee the transformation of Yukon's health and social services system into a more integrated, collaborative and person-centred system.

The Independent had a chance to talk to Ranade about his time in Lambton, his future in Yukon and, of course, how the pandemic changed everything. Here's excerpts from the interview.

The Independent: What was attractive to you about the job in Yukon? ... It seems that they're really forward thinking? Ranade: Yeah, that's a big part of it. I think that they are already in this place where they really acknowledge the high degree of connectivity between health and social wellbeing and other parts of the system and how they work. And so they're really trying to design something new, something that works, something that takes into account, just what we've learned about health and how interconnected health is to other things.

And I think that's really exciting. **The Independent**: *Because*, *after two years* with a pandemic, you probably need a challenge, right?

Ranade: (Laughter) There is some truth there... The pandemic was so challenging, and so different and so big, that almost going back to routine or normal, ...it's nice, it's comfortable for a while to say, 'Okay, I've got this and that routine feels good.' But you start to see how much we grew, how much we learned through all of this, right? And I kind of want to keep that going, you know, take that to a place where I can keep learning and keep growing. The Independent: I think a lot of people reevaluated what they do in their life or work during the pandemic. Do you kind of feel like 'I don't want to do the same thing anvmore?' **Ranade:** I think there are a lot of people, including me, I think after the pandemic thinking there's some kind of changes needed, right? To keep things fresh to keep things different or new. There's a part of that that is definitely a part of it for me. The other thing, though is everybody sees their career differently. And some people

see it as I want to be in one place, and I'm gonna do that for my whole career, and that's what they want. For me, I've always thought I want to go places have an impact, but then, keep learning and keep growing, which sometimes means you have to kind of change places or change settings. **The Independent:** I'm thinking there's probably not much more of a dramatic change.

Ranade: I know, it's very dramatic difference. Very, very different. ...In Whitehorse you're just surrounded by these mountains. So it is it's a dramatic shift in scenery.

The Independent: So when you went there, was the actual physical place part of the reason you went?

Ranade: I think that had something to do with it, it's probably a combination of like, a physical place and people I met there, as well as the possibility of the work that's going on. I've been to a few places where the views are kind of dramatic, but certainly this place ranks up there on the list of dramatic views ...every time you turn a corner, you're just sort stand by some thing breathtaking.

The Independent: What do you think is the biggest thing that you learned, or that changed about you while you were in Lambton?

Ranade: Wow. I mean, I think you have to set to two time periods into that, right ... Probably in the pre pandemic time, you know, a lot of my learnings were around, how can we make the local public health system better by looking at the programs and services that we offer, and then also by strengthening and improving the connections....I'm still not even done right, processing all of the learnings from the pandemic, because we've learned so much. But it's also been influenced by the fact this has been going on for so long...When you've got an emergency that lasts for two years...not only is it hard to take the lessons, but everybody's so burnt out that even the act of reflecting is like, you know, re traumatizing...I think one of the things that I would feel really sort of sad about is in the rush for people to just be like, 'I just need to get back my life, I just need to get back to normal.' You lose the chance to go, 'Wait a second, what do I want my post pandemic life to look like? I fully accept that there are many people who may not be able to make choices around that. And so to the extent that we can enable them to do that, we should do that. But certainly the exercise of thinking about what was okay for me and what was not okay for me over the last two years? And what do I want my post pandemic life to be like? ... I think that's something that's worth doing even if the act of doing it is a little bit painful.

The Independent: Have you though about what you might miss when you leave Lambton?





Ranade: Now that I've now that this is a more real thing, that it's actually happening, .there's like, a big, like, nostalgia thing that's coming back to me right already, even before I leave. The first thing, just professionally, it's really the team that lived in public health has been phenomenal... And then the personal side, like we've made a lot of friends here...And also this place has its own beauty too. And I'm gonna miss this beautiful lake experience that everybody sort of values and talks about. When I when I ran for office ... it really exposed me more to the interior community, which also has some lovely times. So, there are all of those pieces I am going to miss but I think probably more over time.

12:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Water Fun with the Brooke Fire Rescue (Bring a towel)
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Fun & Games for the Kids with Redline Inflatables.
1:30 pm	Legion Card Party (Upstairs hall of arena)
4:00 pm - 8:00pm	Free Entertainment by JAY ALLAN
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	PINERIDGE BBQ Chicken Dinner Limited number of tickets available
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Co-ed Two-Pitch Championship Games
8:30 pm	Free Entertainment by SOUTHLANDERS
9:00 pm	Retire the Flag
Dusk	Fireworks
🐳 JULY 3RD, 2022	
11:30 am - 4:00 pm	River Street Car Show. Free Registration.

ps for volunteering their time to make this event such a success



ALVINSTON



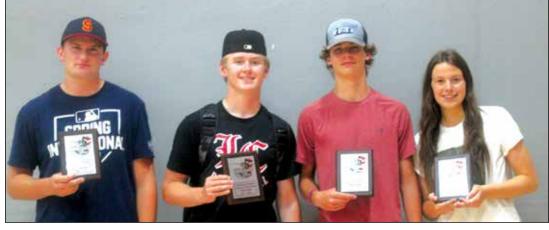






Sports

LANCER ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

LCCVI honoured its athletes during the last full week of school. The graduating Athletes of the Year are Luke Lalonde, Trevor Syer and Jayden Parks for the boys and Jalyn Jackson for the girls. The award takes into account all of the students' athletic accomplishments during their four years. As the awards were given out, a common sentiment among the coaches was it was good to be back on the field, court or rink after the pandemic shut down much of high school athletics in the past two years of the pandemic.

Fryfogle heads west for junior hockey

Barry Wright The Independent

Brayden Fryfogle is heading west. He's signed with Melville Millionaires of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League for the 2022-23 campaign.

The Wyoming native had 22 goals and 53 points in 45 games last season with Northern Colorado of the USPH, his second season with the Eagles after a minor hockey career which included stops with the Petrolia Oilers, Lambton Jr. Sting, Chatham-Kent Cyclones

and Elgin Middlesex Chiefs. The son of newly named Petrolia Flyers coach Chris Fryfogle, Brayden turns 19 early next month.

The Millionaires, located about an hour and a half drive northeast of Regina, missed the playoffs last season.

Petrolia's Leighton, Spitfires miss Memorial

The Independent

Michael Leighton and the Windsor Spitfires came up a game short in a bid to represent the Ontario Hockey League at the Memorial Cup in St. John,

New Brunswick. The Spits fell 6-1 to Hamilton in the seventh and deciding game of the OHL championship series last Wednesday in the Steel City. Although he had been

working with the club in an unofficial capacity for some time before the announcement, Leighton was officially named goaltending coach with the Spitfires in February.

GOJHL back to regular 50 game season in fall

The Independent

The Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League, including the Sarnia Legionnaires, is returning to a regular 50-game schedule for the 2022-23 season.

The additional games will be made up with the return of the

league's Showcase tournament in Pelham from September 23-25.

The Top Prospects game for 17- and 18 year-old players and Future Stars contest for the top 16 year-old players will also be returning after missing last season due to COVID restrictions. Those game will

Cattlebarons offense comes alive in two senior baseball wins

be played on December 27 in Ayr.

The regular season will begin September 7 and continue through February 23. Playoffs are scheduled to begin March 1. The PJHL, including the Petrolia Flyers and Mooretown

Flags, has yet to announce its plans for the coming campaign.

Flyers pick up Sanderson

Noel Sanderson is the latest local player to sign with the PJHL's Petrolia Flyers.

The 16 year-old from Petrolia

registered two assists in nine playoff games with the Flyers last season as an affiliate from the Petrolia Oilers" U18 squad.



1. Each team must have 5 people to a team who actually race (4 runners, 1 rider and 1 alternate, just in case). Rider must wear helmet.

3. Two beds will race at once for a time trial Top 10 times, race in pairs of two,

- for the single best time. All beds must be decorated.
- 5. No breaking devices allowed.
- 6. No steering devices allowed.
- 7. Pushing the bed only during the race, no pulling
- 8. All 5 team members must pass finish line (with the bed) to win
- Beds can be decorated in any way but must have a headboard and footboard as par of the design be creative!
- Bed cannot have any means of propulsion other than the team pushing it. No motors No steering mechanism. Human power only. No brakes.
- Bed may have push bars not extending more than 4 inches out. Nothing sharp may be part of the bed.
- Any violations in bed design will have penalties (up to and including disqualification). Beds that are not constructed according to the rules will be required to be modified to adhere to the rules.
- Participants are encouraged to dress along with the bed theme decoration to win

Iown of

DETROLIA

you'll be surp

No sharp items, glass or obscene items on beds Beds will be disqualified for any of these violations.

16

TO REGISTER VISIT www.town.petrolia.on.ca or visit us on Facebook and find the form in the "Petrolia Day" Event! once completed e-mail form to twagner@petrolia.ca or drop it off to Town Hall.

Progressive Agriculture Workplace Safety LAMBTON FARM SAFETY ASSOCIATION **PROUDLY PRESENTS PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE** FAMILY

SAFETY DAY®

Thursday, July 7th, 2022 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Legacy Recreation Centre 16 Allen St., Thedford, ON

Registration begins at 8:30 NOTE: Group Presentation is going to take place at beginning of day

This is going to be a family walk through event. Please register as a family and you will be going through the safety day together in your own group. Masks are optional.

> **Tractor Safety Underground Safety** Fire Safety **Chemical Safety Internet Safety**

BUNGE Nutrien CHS

FARM CREDIT

Lawn Mower Safety **PTO Safety Outdoor Safety Personal Wellness Animal Safety Stop Think Act**

() TransCanada

The independent

Wyoming pushed across 19 runs in two games to improve to 4-1 in Western Counties Senior baseball action.

Travis Helps poked a threerun homer to lead the Barons over Corunna, 10-4 Friday at Canton Park. It was Corunna's first loss of the season after five straight triumphs.

And Mitch Robb drove in four runs to lead Wyoming over Petrolia, 9-8 Saturday at Morrison Field. Eric Lipton had three hits and two RBI for the Raiders who following an earlier one-run loss to Corunna is now 2-3 on the season. Elsewhere, Courtright outscored Port Lambton, 9-7

and Dresden topped the Pirates, 7-5.

The league takes a break this weekend as Wyoming, Corunna, and the two Port Lambton squads along with teams from Welland and Woodstock play in the Dave Leach Memorial Tournament starting in Courtright on Friday evening.

Lambton athletes win OCAA academic awards

Four local athletes have received OCAA all-academic awards for their prowess in both athletics and academics during the 2021-22 season. Petrolia's Caitlyn Frew

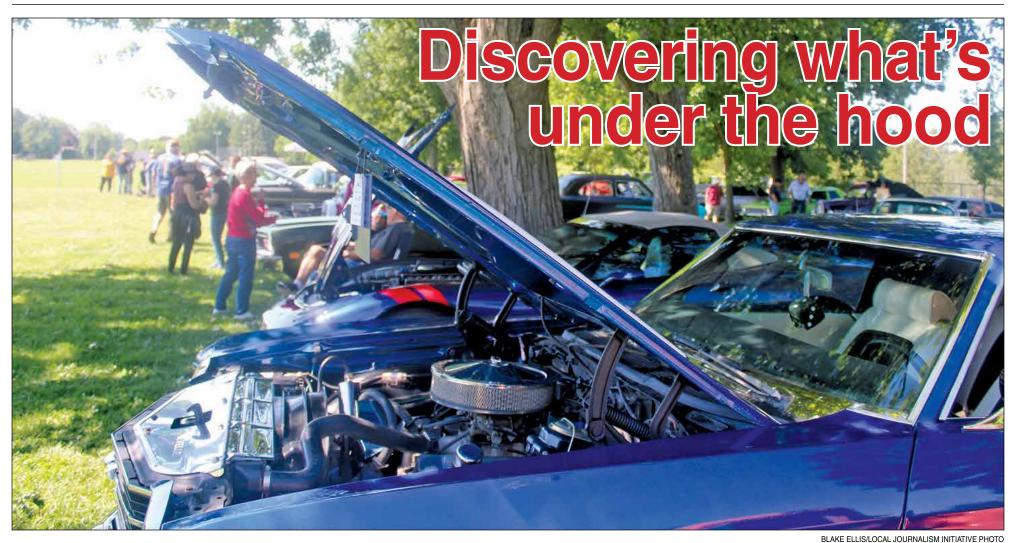
(soccer), Oil Springs' Kyle Fowler (baseball) and Corunna's Jake Prudhom (baseball) all attend Lambton College, while Wyoming's Chantal DeVlugt is a volleyball star at Windsor's St. Clair College. DeVlugt had previously

been named an academic All-Canadian.

Please note since this is a family event parents/guardians are required to stay and accompany participants to stations, there will be NO Group Leaders

To Pre-Register please email: lambtonfarmsafety@gmail.com Or Call - Agnes Dickenson @ 519-344-7858 *Pre-Register to ensure your child gets a t-shirt and a hat This safety day includes lunch, snacks, a t-shirt, and a take home "info/goody" bag. If your child has allergies, please bring a lunch.

The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton - 13



There were almost 80 vehicles on display for dads to drool over at the Petrolia Discovery Annual Car Show Father's Day. The weather was perfect at Greenwood Park as many took the opportunity to peek under hoods and kick some tires and tell some car stories, while showing off their pride and joy Sunday. Money raised through this event goes towards the Petrolia Discovery Foundation.



Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 noon

Wanted to Buy: Bikes

Wanted to Buy

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

Wanted to buy: ANTIQUES, COL-LECTIBLES, ESTATES etc. Buying anything old: Signs, Pottery, Toys, Comics, Knives, Coleman Lan-terns, Lighters, Advertising, Razors & much more! Single items, contents of attics, Garages, Barns & entire Estates. Contact Chad at (519) 639-9102 or by email at

chadnlyndsay@yahoo.ca.

177 John Street

Watford

For Sale

Classifieds

PERENNIAL PLANT SALE -Hostas, Rose of Sharon Bushes, Ferns @ 458 Ignatiefna St, Petrolia. We recycle old pots.

Notices

Antiques, Fine Furniture and Collectibles Every Sunday 9am to 4pm

KUBOTA TRACTOR w/BUCKET-

bought new in 1998 - L5450

519-834-2649.

dens,

Eureka St.

LM610. Come and try it out. Call

PLANT SALE - Container Gar-

8am-12pm, Sat. June 25 @ 296

Garden Paraphernalia.

at the Sarnia Flea Market

112 N. Christina Street Downtown Parking Off Davis Plus Sports Cards,

PLUS Jewellery, Books, New Merchandise to General Housewares, Clothing to Handmade Items

COME CHECK IT OUT!

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

Upcoming Events

Tuesday July 5, DANCE the afternoon away with LARRY HART at Wyoming Legion from 1-4pm. \$7 pp admission.

Brigden Legion SPAGHETTI DIN-**NER - July 22** \$15. Two sittings 5 and 6pm. Tickets available until July 16. Take out available from Marilyn 519-381-1211; Legion 519-864-1395 or Pauline 226-886-1693. Also available at the Legion during open hours Thursday, Fri-day and Saturday. Ticket includes spaghetti dinner with meatballs and garlic toast.

2022 MODEL TRAIN EVENT runs from 1-4 pm on Sunday, July 3 at Moore Museum, located at 94 Moore Line in Mooretown. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children, which includes the model train event as well as the other 12 buildings on the Museum site. For more information about this event, please call 519-867-2020 or visit www.mooremuseum.ca

FOR SALE BY TENDER - FARM PROPERTY

Tenders will be received until 3:00 p.m. on the 8th day of July, 2022 for the purchase of the following property:

That Part of Lot 18, Concession 14, Township of Dawn, now Municipality of Dawn Euphemia, lying between the River Road and the Sydenham River and containing 40 acres more or less, and being more particularly described in Instrument #550183 for the County of Lambton.

The property is said to contain approximately 12 acres workable of which approximately 7 acres are river flats and the remaining approximately 28 acres is bush. The workable land will be planted in beans for the 2022 crop year, the crop shall remain the property of the Vendor. The property contains no buildings.

TERMS: 10% on acceptance of tender made payable by certified cheque to the undersigned solicitor in Trust,

Thursday, June 23, 2022

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

For Sale By Tender





Welcome to your new home! The Bianco Model: meticulously crafted by Castel Homes, an award-winning possession

FARARAM

builder. You will be impressed with spacious great room, stunning white cabinets w/huge island & quartz counter tops, 3 full bathrooms, 4 bdrms. This raised ranch with 9ft ceilings is 1645 sq ft on the main floor and 1162 sq ft finished lower, has a 2-car garage, interlocking brick driveway and so many more extras, high speed unlimited internet available. Call for details.

SHANAHAN REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

7963 Egremont Road, Watford • 519.849.6783 www.shanhanrealtv.com Leo Shanahan Sales Representative

Direct: 519-878-5981 • leo@shanahanrealty.com • Fax-519.849.6683

Help Wanted



HELP WANTED Journeyman Electrician

Full time Journeyman Electrician needed. \$35 - \$40 an hour based on years of experience.

We are a small electrical contractor located in Camlachie. Our work consists of installation and maintenance of pole lines, agricultural building's, grain handling facilities, stand by power systems and industrial control systems and equipment.

Must have valid driver's license.

Email resumes to hleystrasons@outlook.com

The man who stops advertising to save money is like the man who stops the clock to save time.

- Thomas Jefferson

with the balance due on closing.

Sale to the completed on October 31st, 2022

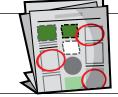
HIGHEST OR ANY TENDER NOT NECESSARILY ACCEPTED

Tenders may be submitted to the undersigned solicitor.

For further particulars, contact the undersigned:

Timothy Mathany Professional Corporation 423 St. George Street, Dresden, Ontario NOP 1MO 519-683-6219 tdmathany@kent.net

Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 noon



June 12 - 20, 2022

Age 95

Denning's of Watford

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

Betty May

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

Age 89 Smith Funeral Home

Age 93

Age 89, of Petrolia

Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

(n Smith) (Williamson)

Needham-Jay Funeral Home

DAVIDSON, William "Bill"

Age 90, of Sarnia

Smith Funeral Home

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

Smith Funeral Home

MONDAY, JUNE 20

Gilpin Funeral Home

CARLIN, Kerry John

(n Lowry)

Age 75

Age 81

LEE, Garvin Charles

Classifieds

Obituary

Death Notices SINKEY, Wanda Blanche SEARSON-ANDERSON,

Born: January 13, 1933, Bob passed away June 17, 2022, 1 day before his 67th wedding anniversary. Husband of Betty Cole, Father of son Mark Cole and daughter Judy Cole. Four grand-children and seven great-grand children knew him as "Bobby". Bob and Betty spent 53 years on the 10th line on a 10 acre hobby farm. A tightly knit community shared a million laughs and equal number of caring moments. Bob's fascination with steam engines, machinery,

and various modes of transportation led him to be able to work in areas he was passionate about. He was employed by CSX railroad during the transition from steam to diesel locomotives. His career as truck driver allowed him to see many parts of Canada and the USA. His love of flight set him up as a ultra-lite pilot trainee. Motorcycles provided a great number of summer travel memories for him and Betty. Tractors and farm machinery were another favourite of his to work on. Bobby chose to fix many things that others might ask "why". He was not wasteful and was always curious as to how something worked. Bobby was also a very talented artist. Handcrafted, scaled down models of steam engines and planes were meticulously created and were blue and red ribbon winners at various local fall fairs. The family send their sincere gratitude to the following teams that helped Bobby over the years: Blue Water Health Dialysis & Rehab Team, Bayshore Team, Fiddicks Team, Albany Team and the Palliative Care Team who guided us through the MAID process. Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will take place at a later date. Donations to Blue Water Health Palliative Care or Dialysis or Kidney Foundation would be appreciated.

Upcoming Event



at 3403 Wanstead Rd. (corner of Shiloh Line and Wanstead Rd)

Special Guest Speaker from Compassion of Canada

'Releasing Children from Poverty, in Jesus' name.'

Stay for lunch and a time of fellowship following the service.

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

The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton - 15

In Memory



SUNDAY, JUNE 12 HAWKINS, George Robert

Age 94, of Wyoming Needham-Jay Funeral Home

MONDAY, JUNE 13

SELMAN, Douglas Wayne Age 88, formerly of Mooretown Steadman Brothers Funeral Home

WATSON, Janet Louisa Age 69, of Sarnia **Gilpin Funeral Home**

TUESDAY, JUNE 14 DONAHUE, Patricia "Pat"

(n Kennedy) Age 82, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

EDWARDSON, Joseph William

Age 98, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

JACOBS, Gary Leonard Charles Age 82

Smith Funeral Home **MEEDER**, Aty

Age 73 Smith Funeral Home

PETTIGREW, Leila Marie Age 90

Gilpin Funeral Home WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

AIREY, Diana Margaret (n Coleman)

Age 65, of Oil Springs Steadman Brothers Funeral Home

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

Upcoming Event

Ecumenical Church Service June 26th, 2022

WHERE: Brooke-Alvinston Arena **WHEN:** 10:30 am



Special Guest Speaker and Special Music Lunch is also available. All are welcome to attend!



COLE Robert J (Bobby)

Christ Anglican Church 414 Oil Street, Petrolia

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

> > **Everyone** Welcome

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



Wyoming United Church 730 Second Street, Wyoming **In-Person Services** taking place Sundays @ 11 am Those attending will be physically distanced, must wear a mask and be fully vaccinated. Rev. Steven Longmoore Church Office 519-845-3963 FIND US ON FACEBOOK

St. Andrew's **Presbyterian Church** 416 Queen Street, Petrolia (Behind the Post Office) **In-Person Service** Sundays @ 10:00[°] am Services also available online: www.standrews-petrolia.ca **Pastor Katherine Hawley**

A Petrolia love/blues song

Blake Ellis

Local Journalism Initiative

It is tough to be a musician, especially during the pandemic.

That's how Petrolia Singer/Songwriter Mike Gallant's song, My Petrolia, was born. It is a selfdeprecating tune about trying to get people to care about your music. "Would it kill you guys for a round of applause" is one of the lines in the lyrics.

The North Bay native moved to Petrolia 14 years ago. He met his wife, Katie, at Canadore College in North Bay where they were both students. Katie and her family are from this area and he now considers himself from Petrolia.

He started playing music 20 years ago. "I wanted to pick up chicks," says Gallant. "It only worked once," he laughed, referring to Katie.

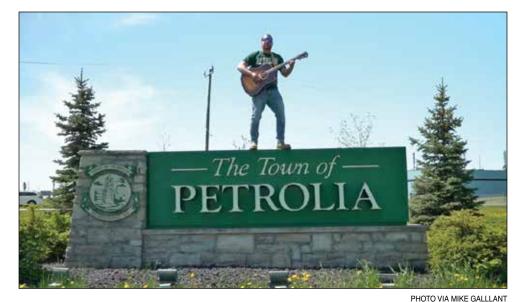
He has put out three albums so far, the first in 2012 and the last in 2020, just as the pandemic was beginning. He says his goal is to get on to bigger stages, saying that the largest audience he has played in front of was 400 people in North Bay.

But paying big audiences is tough in Lambton County.

There is a very small music scene locally, says Gallant. The musicians are really supportive, but getting the interest of the wider community is more difficult. The community does give you the ability to dream, Gallant said. "No one tells you no," he said, adding local businesses have also been supportive. But the crowds are not always paying attention. So when Gallant was sitting in his basement during the lock down he started thinking about the bar scene and wrote My Petrolia an ode to the bar scene "Like everyone, I was wanting a human connection," he said.

Gallant teamed up with Corey Leckie to produce the video. Leckie did some brainstorming and picked places to feature in town.

"I didn't want it to be corny or be considered a tourist video," says Gallant. The video was completed in only one day and he had to sing it over and over again as they captured the best shots. Gallant can be seen singing on top of the Petrolia sign at Discovery Line, walking down Petrolia Line, where he meets his nemesis in the



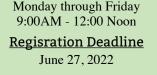
Mike Gallant sings atop the Petrolia sign on Discovery Line about his adopted home.

video, a particularly feisty patron, played by Jeremiah Goodacre.

The response he has received has been positive and really cool, saying that much of the interest generated has been "hyper local." Gallant has played the song around the campfire when the gigs were scarce, but says it is more of a "big room song."

He is really enjoying going out and playing live and taking in that community experience, especially after the pandemic. The song has become popular during his gigs, as he usually ends up playing My Petrolia three times a night with the crowd singing along to the refrain. It's been popular on YouTube getting 3,600 views in three weeks.





Wyoming, ON NON 1TO Phone: 519-845-3386 Email: peoples@peopleslambton.com <u>PEOPLES CHURCH</u> of Samia-Lambton \$140 (tax included) \$140 (tax included) \$75 (tax included) T-Shirt included in Camp 1 & 2

Sign up online or call 519 383 5537 to register www.elitestardanceacademy.com





Session #1 (12 to 14 years) July 11 – 15 - Ghostly Tales Session #2 (7 to 11 years) July 25 – 29 - The Magic Mirror Session #3 (7 to 11 years) August 1 – 5 - Punky and The Pirates Christ Church Petrolia 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Session Session Session Session Session Session MEW PRICE Session Session

To Register Call: (226) 932-7262 www.lambtonyoungplayers.com