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UNKNOWN CAUSE



Petrolia/North Enniskillen fire investigators are still trying to figure out what caused an apartment fire on Greenfield Street early Friday morning. About 20 residents and their pets had to be evacuated and were sent to the Greenwood Recreation Centre as crews put out the fire and clean up crews tried to remove the smell of smoke. See story on pg 2.

'Some concern' Petrolia automatically fills jobs: Deighton

Heather Wright The Independent

Petrolia Councillor Wade Deighton wants to make sure the town is not automatically filling positions left vacant by retirements.

And he's not alone. In Nov. 2020, council passed a motion asking the CAO to report on attrition management. At council Monday, Deighton brought the motion back and asked for a report from Rick Charlebois about what actually has happened.

"When people retire or quit the CEO was to come back to us with a report on this as the justification for replacing this role. Because,

as you know, we've not reduced staff overall, we continue to add staff. And there's some concern are we just replacing, because we've always had those people," Deighton told *The* Independent.

"Recently, there has been a couple of retirements and or (people) quitting and the CEO has just went ahead and replaced them without justification, as to do you actually need that many people in those positions," says Deighton. "It's just a check and balance.

Charlebois says at the end of 2021, according to reports filed with the province, there were up to 69 people on the town's payroll - depending on the time of the year. There were 24 full-time and 11 part-time employees. Another 29 people are on the seasonal payroll including crossing guards and summer students. Another 35 people are at the fire department although they are not considered employees despite receiving a small stipend for their volunteer efforts.

Deighton says councillors need the information heading into budget particularly as the economy is changing.

"I'm asking the question to the CAO what are you doing to actively look at your department's numbers in an effort to overall reduce those numbers if at all possible ... It's something that every business has to do."

Man charged in Wyoming standoff

Heather Wright The Independent

A Wyoming man is facing four charges after a stand off which led to the evacuation of homes on Broadway Street.

Around 8:30 Saturday night, eight Lambton OPP cruisers converged on a house at the corner of Erie and Broadway Streets in Wyoming.

One neighbour told *The Independent* a woman had fled the house before police

By 10:13 pm, Wyoming firefighters were evacuating people in the block around the house.

Some people stayed in the streets with neighbours watching the event unfold; others went to the Plympton-Wyoming Fair building.

Neighbours told The Independent they could hear yelling coming from the home as the man shot arrows out a window.

Another said they heard glass breaking at the back of the house. Broadway

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO **Emergency Response** Team officers arrive on Broadway St. in Wyoming.

was closed to traffic between Huron and Ontario St. and around midnight, the Canine Unit and Emergency Response Team from London had arrived in Lambton County,

A large armoured vehicle and a smaller van filled with officers in tactical equipment came up to the house.

stopping at the county building to prepare

before heading to the home.

SEE WYOMING PG 2

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Damage could top \$475,000 in Petrolia fire

Heather Wright The Independent

It could cost up to \$475,000 to fix the damage caused by a fire at an apartment building on Greenfield Street in Petrolia.

And the repairs could keep three tenants out of their homes for up to six months.

That's according to Melisa Johnson, manager of housing services for the County of Lambton which owns the building.

Around 3 Friday morning, Petrolia/North Enniskillen firefighters were called to the apartment building – neighbours saw fire coming from the roof.

Chief Jay Arns says while the cause is under investigation, it appears the fire started on the

outside of the building near the front entrance.

"There was construction going on at the building and there were materials stored on site and that's in the area of origin."

"It had started outside the building but crews knocked it down quickly," he says.

Originally it appeared the fire was contained to the outside of the building and two storage rooms. But Johnson says the damage is much more extensive than thought. Three apartments, a lounge area, storage areas and an outdoor patio area were destroyed.

New living arrangements are being worked out for the three residents in the damaged apartments. Johnson says they may not be able to return for six months

"The units are likely to take the longest to fix," says Johnson adding delays in getting supplies and labour issues mean a longer waiting period.

And with building prices rising constantly, Johnson says it may take anywhere between \$300,000 and \$475,000 to fix the damage.

While there was extensive damage, no one was injured in the fire. Many of the residents had evacuated the building by the time firefighters arrived after hearing the alarms go off.

"The building was fully charged with smoke. You couldn't see unstairs or downstairs" says Arns

upstairs or downstairs," says Arns.
Two residents, he said, couldn't
find their way through the thick
smoke, so they went out on their

balconies where firefighters helped them down with ladders.

"It did affect the main entry ... the fire was in the ceiling above the exit (on Greenfield St) so it cut off an exit for them, so they just went to their balconies and we rescued them off the balconies," said Arns.

The residents and their pets were taken to Greenwood Recreation Centre where a shelter had been set up.

The town's SORT team has set up cots and provided food and water as the people waited to return to their homes. The Red Cross and the OPP were also involved in the evacuation.

Johnson added the residents told her they felt the care of the community during the event with local businesses pitching in to feed

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Firefighter Ryan Bender holds a resident's cat at the Greenfield St. fire Friday morning.

them.

Most of the residents were able to return home by Friday evening.

Arns said the cause of the fire had not been determined.

HONOURING AN ORIGINAL



CHRYSTAL BRESSETTE PHOTO

A familiar face around Alvinston's ball park and arenas has been honoured as Senior of the Year. Brooke-Alvinston Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek and Councillor Jeannette Douglas presented Norm Triest with the award Sunday during a Canada Day Ecumenical Service. Triest is a founding member of the Alvinston Optimists and spent countless hours mentoring kids in both the local hockey and baseball programs. He could often be seen at the Alvinston Aces games keeping score for the senior team.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Members of the Emergency Response Team move to the back of a home on Broadway Street in Wyoming during Saturday's standoff.

Wyoming man charged

CON'T FROM PG 1

The officers went into the back yard of the home in small groups.

Shortly after a man could be heard yelling for help before being taken away.

Police have charged a 35 year-old man with assault, assaulting a peace

officer, uttering threats to cause damage to property and possession of weapons dangerous to the public.

The man was in court Sunday and returned to court Monday for a brief appearance to arrange a lawyer.

He was expected to return to court Wednesday.



Blessed are the undefiled, in the way,
Who walk in the law of the Lord, day by day.
His precepts and statutes they faithfully keep,
Unashamed, His commandments they diligently seek.
Bible in hand, our fore-fathers, settled this "great" land,
Fearing God, our constitution reflected, their stand.
Prayer and God's Word, guided our courts and school,
Respect and humility, governed their rule.

Have we become so morally insensitive, we can't discern the way? Do the gods of materialism, egotism and power, rule the day? Have we deceived our next generation, being politically correct? Are the statistics of divorce and suicide, the future's effect?

Life has many choices, but eternity only two, Who will you be found serving, when your life, is thru. You see, "repentance" is required, for you and for me, Bringing Jesus unending "forgiveness", to set us free.

If we "humble" ourselves and "pray", God promises to heal our land, His righteousness exalts a Nation, with one accord, we will stand. So we say, "God Bless Canada" and earnestly pray, Forever, your mercy endures Lord, change our hearts to-day.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

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

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BLAKE ELLIS - LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

Lambton County Warden Kevin Marriott and Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley were joined by former head librarian Ronald Baker and Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey to reopen the Petrolia Library. It had been closed for five weeks for an update. The circulation desk was moved, floors repaired, the children's room got an update and the entire former train station got a fresh light coat of paint. The renovations were made possible because of a large donation made by Otto and Kathleen (Cunningham) Schuldt. While they didn't live in the area, Kathleen grew up in the area. A bequest of about \$440,000 will be used to maintain the library.

Hotel developers regrouping, sitting tight

Heather Wright

The Independent

Plans for a hotel in downtown Petrolia are officially on hold.

That's according to Christine Greydanus of the Enniskillen Pepper Company. The family announced plans for a four storey hotel in the downtown in Aug. 2018 on a lot left vacant by a fire years before.

Plans called for a 25-room, four-storey boutique hotel with construction planned to begin in March 2019.

By September 2019, construction was still delayed as the town and the builders worked out a plan to allow work to be carried out on two parcels of land at the same time.

In July 2020 - several months into the pandemic - the developers were still hoping the work could begin. With two years of restrictions, and the purchase of what is now Kingswell Glen Golf Course, the construction didn't get off the ground.

Monday, council was asked to rescind the bylaws which outlined the project. Council agreed but Mayor Brad Loosley expressed disappointment that the hotel was not moving ahead. "They've decided not to proceed," said the mayor.

Councillor Joel Field agreed the news was a disappointment but noted "we're in a changing world" which is making people rethink plans.

Christine Greydanus says the family has not abandoned the project, they're simply regrouping to see what plan will work best and are biding their time to see what the economy and the marketplace does in the next little while.

"We're not making any decisions one



One of the original concept drawings of the Kingswell Hotel in Petrolia. The developers have put the project on hold for the time being. It was first proposed in August 2018.

way or the other, (about) when we're going forward. But we are going to tweak our site plan, because we have different lands. We're just shifting things around and holding tight right at the moment," she told *The Independ*ent.

"All we asked was that they removed that site plan, because we're switching properties around anybody that's speculating is doing just that - speculating."

Greydanus adds the economy is a major factor in the decision to sit tight right now.

"Things really picked up as far as travel. But it's been devastating for the hospitality sector. We need to see that all corrected itself before we make any plans on it go forward



PETROLIA

DATE	START TIME	EVENT
July 1st	7am-10am	Kids Fishing Derby at Bridgeview Park presented by CUPE, The Outdoorsman, and the Optimists of Petrolia
July 1st	9am-1pm	Canada Day Breakfast at the Petrolia Legion Branch 216
July 1st	9am-1pm	Wild Goose Chase around Petrolia presented by the Petrolia Heritage Advisory Committee
July 1st	11am	Flag Raising at the Petrolia Legion Branch 216
July 1st	2pm	Canada Day Parade in Downtown Petrolia
July 1st	3pm	Rock in the Park at Greenwood Park - Live Music, Bouncies, Games, and more!
July 1st	4pm	Petrolia's Famous Bed Races at Greenwood Park
July 1st	•	Bus Shuttles brought to you by Hull's Bus Lines
July 1st	10pm	Canada Day Fireworks at Greenwood Park
		WYOMING
DATE	START TIME	EVENT
July 2nd	-	Canada Day Parade starting at McKay Park and ending at the Fairgrounds
July 2nd	4pm	Touch a Truck Refreshment Tent
July 2nd	5pm	Wyoming Fire Department Waterball Tournament
July 2nd	9pm	Outdoor Movie: Spiderman No Way Home shown on a 28' screen
		WARWICK
DATE	START TIME	EVENT
July 2nd	2-6pm	Canada Day Celebrations at Watford Park (61 Centennial Ave) featuring a Splash Pad, Live Music, Beer Gardens, Ball Hockey, Face Painting, Bouncy Castles, Prizes & more!
July 2nd	4-6pm	Free Hot Dogs & Drinks
July 2nd	5pm	Greeting from Dignitaries and Cupcakes served by the Mayor & Council
July 2nd	Dusk	Canada Day Fireworks at the Warwick Conservation Area (6101 Warwick Village
		K(I)
		BROOKE-ALVINSTON
DATE	START TIME	
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	START TIME 10:30am 11am- Close	BROOKE-ALVINSTON EVENT Ecumenical Church Service with Guest Speaker Rev. Andrew Hawkins with Music by
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Editorial

Signs of the election

There are two movements afoot at Petrolia council which lead us to believe election season is fully underway.

First, Councillor Wade Deighton is pushing back against hiring practices when people retire.

In 2020, council asked the CAO to review whether a position should be filled when someone retired or quit. The theory is the town should reduce its staff complement, not by laying anyone off, but by reducing positions and reassigning tasks when someone is leaving. It's called attrition and its done by many businesses and municipalities.

There are 24 full time, 11 part time and 29 seasonal jobs at town hall to serve a population base of 6,000. Even with just the part and full time employees, that means there is one employee for every 171 people in town. Add in the seasonal workers and that becomes one municipal staffer for every 94 citizens. Reviewing whether we need that many people seems like a good idea to us.

I'm sure some will question if the town will be able to handle the growth with the large number of developments on the table. And while we're sure that means extra staff work, we must remember the county planners carry a lot of that burden.

And speaking of development, Councillor Don Welten wants council to move ahead with that development study.

It would set fees for developers to pay when they're building. The money would go for future needs in the community because of the extra people. Every other municipality in Lambton has them. They're housing market is booming too. It's high time Petrolia get on board. I highly doubt developers are going to go running in the other direction if a reasonable fee is set.

Both are good moves, in our opinion.

But, it's just the timing that makes one wonder. Both of these issues could have been tackled earlier in the mandate of council. Both were tried and seemingly failed because of the will of council.

It remains to be seen if other councillors will suddenly see the light at the end of the election tunnel and have a change of heart.

Letters to the Editor

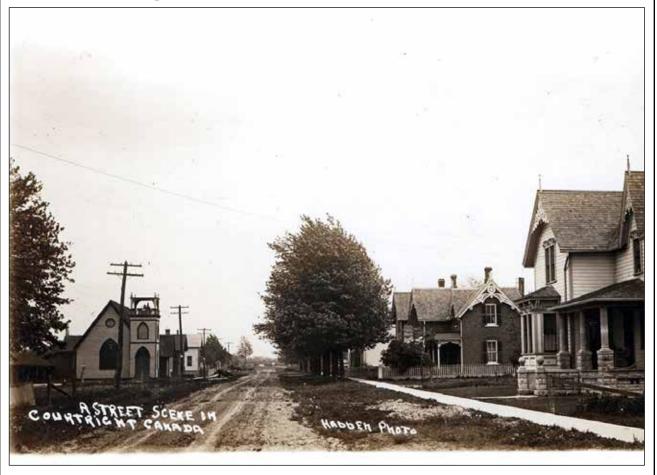
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The Independent reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity.

All letters need to be signed and must have a phone number for verification.

Our Story



ROM THE DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION

This Hadden photo is only identified as a Street Scene in Courtright Canada. It's not clear which church is pictured in the background.

Neighbours helping neighbours keep their stuff

Talk to anyone in rural Lambton and you're likely to hear about their frustration over the number of break ins on their property. Even in little communities which used to be considered so safe and no one ever locked their doors.

They may be the most vulnerable now.

Rural areas are seemingly the perfect spot to find things to sell on for cash. Farmers are flush with things like pickup trucks - the vehicle which is most widely taken by thieves - and four wheelers which are also a popular target.

Then consider their remote location - away from communities which might have an active police presence on the roads - like say Petrolia or Grand Bend - and usually a long way from any cruiser on the roads in the region.

Add to that most rural homes and farms are surrounded by nice big green trees right now that hide the movements of those who aren't supposed to be there and you have the perfect crime scene.

And if you talk to your rural neighbours, you'll be sure to find at least one of them who have lost everything from ATVS to family jewels. I can think of two of my close friends who have been the vicitms of theft.

So, it really wasn't that surprising that when Julian Gervais started calling his neighbours about a guy stealing the ATV from his uncle's farm that he got a big response.

Within a few minutes, neighbours flooded the area the ATV was in and basically blocked off the road. The driver tried a couple of times, but he

was foiled by neighbours who didn't want to exact justice - but wanted to make sure when the police did arrive, he'd still be around.

Julian called it "heartwarming" to see the neighbours help. And it is.

But it is also disturbing the level of crime in rural Lambton. This isn't the



meatner Wright

first time I've heard of citizens taking things in their own hands.

It was 't he the last. And the part time

It won't be the last. And the next time, there may not be a satisfying ending.

The www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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Petrolia and Central Lambton

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olisher / Editor: Heather Wright

news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

L.J.I. Reporter: Blake Ellis

Sales Associate: sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca Classifieds / Graphics: **Connie McFadden / Lauren Wright** office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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SPARKLING SENIOR



Diane O'Dell, the head of the Lambton Youth Choir, has been named Petrolia's Senior of the Year. Mayor Brad Loosley says she and her late sister started the group which has mentored young singers for over 24 years. He says O'Dell "mentoring each child to find where their vocal talents lie and encouraging them to "sparkle" where they are." O'Dell is also an active supporter of Victoria Playhouse Petrolia, acting as a billet for performers, and photographing performances giving the actors a book of photos to remember the experience. The announcement at Monday's council meeting was a surprise to O'Dell, who thought she was going to be taking photos for the town. But was quick to say "I love the involvement of VPP in our community; it's great for the economy of our town and I love it for the thousands of visitors it brings to our town."

CEEH renovations on track Lapaine says

Blake Ellis

Local Journalism Initiative

The emergency department and the diagnostic imaging unit will be the focus of the second phase in the development of the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital.

The Stage 2 Functional Plan was approved by the Bluewater Health board of directors at its November meeting and submitted to the Ministry of Health, said Bluewater Health President and CEO Mark Lapaine in his report at the Bluewater Health annual general meeting on June 22.

The first phase work is continuing to upgrade patient rooms in the acute care unit. Two of the acute care rooms were completed in the summer of 2021. Renovations are being done in two room blocks so patient care is not

The current patient rooms in the acute care unit are semi-private and bathrooms are shared. There is also no shower in the bathrooms and the rooms did not meet accessibility standards.

The newly renovated rooms are private, with each having a private bathroom equipped with a shower. The bathrooms also have a walker or wheelchair access.

When the renovations are completed in the unit, one of the rooms will be dedicated to palliative care while another will be a ward-room.

Lapaine told people at the online annual general meeting June 23 that there has also been electrical and boiler plant upgrades at the hospital as part of the first phase.

There was some good news on the fundraising side.

The CEEH Foundation received \$403,954 from the Dream Home Lottery, said CEEH Foundation Chair Owen Byers in his report to the board.

This will go towards the redevelopment of the hospital as set out in the 25 year master plan. The Dream Home Lottery is done in partnership with the Bluewater Health Foundation and the proceeds are split

between the two partners.

The CEEH Foundation was also able to purchase 20 new wheelchairs, over 10 new walkers and many new therapeutic cushions for the hospital's physiotherapy department. A donation of \$5,000 was

received from the CIBC Children's Foundation and a specialized pediatric resuscitation system for the emergency department and a toddler/baby weigh scale was purchased. The foundation purchased five televisions for patients in the Chronic/Continuing Care Department with another donation.

During the meeting, the board also reports how many people have moved through the hospital throughout the year.

Bluewater Health has delivered 1,085 babies, completed 10,344 MRI exams, treated 764 COVID-19 patients and treated 527 patients in its cancer clinic in the past year according to the 2021-22 annual report.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Blitz tracked down assault suspect

Emery Huszka Dealer - Florence ON, 226-373-6244

Julie Maw Dealer - Courtright ON, 519-384-2281

Dave Foulon Dealer - Tupperville ON, 519-683-2136

Dave Emery, Territory Manager South Lambton ON, 519-360-6072

Kirk Van Will, Territory Manager 519-899-3255



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Watford man facing assault charges

The Independent

Lambton OPP used the Canine Unit and the Emergency Response Team to track down a Watford man after an assault.

Monday night around 11 pm, OPP were called to St. Clair Street for an assault. The suspect, a 36 year-old

Watford man, had fled on foot.

Police called in Blitz who in 30 minutes tracked down the suspect who had traveled two kilometers.

Members of the ERT arrested the

He's facing three assault charges and is in custody.

Boards work together for mandatory online courses

Few students have opted out of online class officials say

Blake Ellis

Local Journalism Initiative

If you and your kids hoped never to hear the words "Zoom Class" again, this is not what you want to hear.

Online learning is here to stay. This was the message trustees of the St. Clair Catholic District School

Board heard at its meeting on June 21. The Ontario government has mandated students who are currently in Grade 9 will need two e-learning credits in order to obtain a high school diploma. There are currently three courses offered by the St. Clair Catholic District School Board, - English, computer science and digital management - said St. Clair's Superintendent of Education Chris Kehoe. He oversees virtual learning for students in Grade 9 to 12.

There have been 135 Catholic students who have taken the online courses while 145 students from outside the school district were registered in those courses.

St. Clair will be offering 12 e-learning courses in September and have plans to ramp that number up to 24 courses by 2023. Students can choose from online courses from their own school district and throughout the province.

But, the Catholic board has to be careful when students choose to take e-courses in other school districts.

"Every student we send out, we have to take a student in," said Kehoe. If more local students learn elsewhere than come to St. Clair for classes, the board would loose provincial funding.

The story is similar at the local public

There are currently between 40 and 45 e-learning courses being offered by the Lambton-Kent District School Board, said Mary Mancini, Superintendent of Education. About 900 students are taking these courses - 550 students from Lambton-Kent and 350 students from the rest of the

province. That's about 12 to 13 percent

of the secondary school student body. Lambton-Kent has been involved with the Ontario E-Learning Consortium for the past five or six years, said Mancini. There are a lot of small schools in the district, so it was better for students to find courses they need.

It is also good for students who want to work independently, she said. A teacher assigned to a course who will set office hours for those students who need help. There is also a dedicated space at each of the high schools where students can go to do their online courses.

The dedicated space for e-learning at St. Clair's secondary schools are at the school libraries.

It is a challenge to get some students engaged in online learning classes,

said Kehoe but the school board is still having face-to-face teacher conferences with students to give them assistance and make sure they are progressing.

St. Clair Catholic District School Board is also a member of the Ontario E-Learning Consortium, as well as Catholic Virtual Ontario, which prioritizes Catholic based courses.

Mancini and Kehoe said most of the courses being offered are at the Grade 11 and 12 level.

And while the province wants to see students take the online line courses, there is a process to opt out of the e-learning.

At St. Clair Catholic School District, two percent of students have opted out. It just didn't fit their learning style.

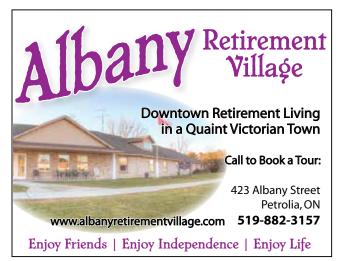
The drive to continue offering the online learning doesn't sit well with some for the provinces teachers

The Ontario Teachers' Federation released two studies on May 30, which looked into the effects of e-learning.

"On the basis of these findings, there is no place for mandatory e-learning courses and hybrid learning in publicly funded education," they found.

This policy has failed to meet the needs of students, teachers and educators," said Ontario Teachers' Federation President Chris Cowley.

'We need the Ontario government to focus on in-person learning and commit to reducing class sizes, which provides for greater student-teacher interactions.'





Opinions about backyard chicken appears split: planner

Blake Ellis

Local Journalism Initiative

Sarah Baldwin says opinion seems to be split on whether backyard chickens should be legal in Plympton-Wyoming.

The town's bylaws don't permit farm animals within residential areas. But in 2020, a complaint about a backyard coop brought the Needham family to council hoping to change the bylaw.

Jon Needham said as a way to ease tension during the pandemic, the family started a small flock in their back yard, which backs onto a wooded area. When a neighbour complained, a bylaw enforcement officer came to the house saying the chickens would have to go.

Needham went to council to plead his case. Baldwin - the municipal planner - said there could be changes made and rules limiting the number of birds. But changes to the bylaws would have meant a public meeting. That was delayed, and the Needhams' chickens were given a reprieve.

June 23, about 24 people were at the Camlachie Community Centre to talk chicken.

Those in attendance were split into groups to discuss the issue. Their thoughts were then put on post-it notes and placed on the wall.

Some of the comments were that backyard chickens are part of a movement to be more sustainable and many large urban centres have permitted them. They are more pets than anything else. There was a concern there could be a witch hunt for those who have the backyard chicken coops as complaints are made to the municipality. There are many who have backyard coops and have had them for years, despite the bylaw.

If you still want to give your opinion, the Town of Plympton-Wyoming has a survey on its website that can be submitted. A report will be submitted to the Plympton-Wyoming Council at the end of July for its consideration.





PlymptonWyomingEvents

Follow our Facebook Page for the most up-to-date information regarding this event and others

Wyoming Fairgrounds Saturday July 2nd -

3:30pm Canada Day Parade

Starts at McKay Park, down Broadway to Main Street then ends at Fairgrounds

4:00pm Touch a Truck **Refreshment Tent**

Stonepicker Brewing Alton Estate Winery

Food Trucks

Dips Soft Serve Mr. Chip Stafford Brothers Meats Black Hog Barbeque Gramma's Candy Store Cotton Candy

5:00pm Fire Department **Waterball Tournament**

9:00pm Outdoor Movie:

Spiderman - No Way Home

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Outdoor Movie

Surrounded: neighbours stop ATV thief

Walpole Island man faces charges

Heather Wright The Independent

A community tired of seeing thieves getting the best of their neighbours stepped up to stop the theft of an ATV near Florence.

Monday, Julian Gervais was working at his uncle's farm just over the Chatham-Kent/Lambton Line in Zone Centre. He had an ATV and a trailer out moving steel stands for the greenhouses.

"I heard the four-wheeler start up and then I hear it hit the rev limiter four or five times and I thought – that's odd. Then I remembered my uncle telling me somebody tried to break into a shed earlier down the road. I thought 'something's not right' and I ran over

By the time Gervais ran to see what was going on, the thief had taken the ATV and the trailer and headed down the road.

Jason Badder just happened to be traveling in the area at the time. "The guy pulled out of the farm fast with a trailer of flower beds on the back of it, the steel beds, and two or three of them fell off in front of my vehicle."

Badder pulled over assuming a worker didn't realize they'd lost the equipment.

Then Gervais – a friend of Badder's son – came running out the driveway saying the four-wheeler was stolen. Badder and Gervais hopped in the car and followed him.

Gervais called 9-1-1 and then friends to let them know what was going on.

By this time, the thief had removed the trailer and was making his way down the back roads trying to escape. That's when the neighbours started to arrive. They lined the gravel roads around the bush and field the ATV had entered making it impossible for him to leave without being followed.

"At first there were only four or five people there and then we called other people; finally I think we had enough that he knew he couldn't get out," says Gervais. "He got on the road once and got over to another, but after that, he couldn't. He tried it a couple of times but he couldn't get out because of the people there," says Gervais. He estimates there may have been as many as 30 or 40 vehicles on the roads in a matter of minutes.

Police arrived and tracked the man down and arrested him. And the fourwheeler was turned over Gervais and his uncle, Luke Demaiter.

Chatham-Kent Police say the man had a "large amount of methamphetamine, a BB gun, pliers, a head lamp, tin snips, bank cards, credit cards, keys and cellphones.' The 23 year-old was also wanted on an outstanding warrant. He faces more than a half dozen charges including theft, possession of stolen property, dangerous operation of a vehicle, and drug trafficking charges.

While no one wants to face down a thief, Gervais says it was amazing to see the community come together. He suspects they did it because they're tired of "losing stuff" to thieves. "I've never seen anything like it...there have been some break-ins around lately and this was cool to see that all the neighbours got together to help.

"It was pretty heartwarming to see."



Neighbours flooded the roads around Zone Centre near Florence to stop an ATV thief Monday.

Warwick meeting pay going up

Heather Wright

The Independent

The next Warwick councillors will be getting \$20 more per meeting - that's a 20 per cent increase.

At the June 20 meeting, Treasurer Trevor Jarrett presented a report which would see the annual rate of pay given to council members remain the same but the per meeting pay increase from \$100 to \$120 per meeting. At the same time, councillors wouldn't be able to file mileage claims within the township borders.

The move comes after a study of other communities pay rates. "There is no consistent method of remuneration among the 11 County of Lambton municipalities; however, there are several trends; the larger the population base, the larger the base pay; increases are generally tied to either CPI or CUPE/ staff increases; and given the significant increase in meals at restaurants, travel per diems have increased significantly," wrote Jarrett.

"In order to save internal processing costs and to reduce potential

submissions errors, there are municipalities abandoning mileage within municipal borders and offsetting these expenditures with higher per meeting fees."

Jarrett also pointed out that one committee of council - the committee of adjustment - is paid per application they hear. He recommended they go to a flat meeting rate, like council and other committees.

"It is anticipated that the proposed increase in Per Meeting rates and travel Per Diem will add an additional \$7,500 and \$10,000 in costs to the Township of Warwick," Jarrett wrote.

"Part of this increase will be offset by the anticipated savings in processing costs of mileage claims and offset further once the Committee of Adjustments is aligned with the Per Meeting rate of other committees of Council.'

In 2021, Warwick Township spent \$77,022.90 to pay the mayor, councillors and those on committees of council. Over \$44,000 of that came from the meeting pay.

The rates will increase for the next council members on Nov. 15.

Two cyclists die after being struck on Walpole Two Walpole Island woman were

struck and killed in an early morning cycling accident.

Lambton OPP were called to assist Walpole Island police June 22 just before 5 am after a vehicle struck two cyclists on River Road.

They were pronouced dead at the scene and the driver of the vehicle was taken to hospital with serious injuries. Police say Gretta Williams, 50, and

Michelle White, 36, died in the crash. Police are still investigating. It's unclear the condition of the driver.



Private schools ok in Petrolia

Heather Wright
The Independent

Private schools are now considered schools in Petrolia.

Lambton County Planner, Phil Rough, in a recent report to Petrolia council, said the town's development advisory team heard from an educator planning a private school in town.

But when looking at the zoning bylaw, Rough says, private schools were not listed as schools under the current bylaw.

"The current definition lists two school boards permitted within the town. These are the Lambton County Board of Education and the Lambton County Roman Catholic Separate School Board. Currently neither of these school boards operate in town," he writes. The boards were amalgamated in the 1990s with their Kent County counterparts and operate under a different name now.

Town council received information about the proposed zoning change Monday with Rough terming it a "small house-keeping bylaw."

"This amendment will only change the definition of a school, not change where schools can go.

"The definition of school will be updated to refer to those type of schools permitted under Province of Ontario's Education Act. This Act regulates all types of schools, both public and private, in the province."

Recently, Jenna Simpson announced she and three colleagues are accepting registrations for Petrolia Primary School for the 2022-2023 school year.

Simpson, who has been trained in the Montessori method of education, says the school will also emphasize outdoor education and community immersion.

Council passed the changes at Monday night's meeting.

Zion Line fix costs 60 per cent more

Heather Wright

The Independent

Warwick will move ahead to repair Zion Line, even thought it will cost about 60 per cent more than originally anticipated.

In 2020, the township did a study on paved roads in the community. Zion Line was one of the roadways slated for improvement.

But recently, the condition of the road became worse after traffic was detoured on Zion Line around a protest which blocked Highway 402.

"The 402 occupation caused traffic to be re-routed and although heavy truck traffic

was diverted to County Roads, there was an increase in truck traffic down Zion Line during this period that is the likely cause of the rapid deterioration," wrote Treasurer Trevor Jarrett in a report to council.

Recently Spriet Engineering looked at the roadway again for the township and "now verify that the roadway condition for Zion Line has deteriorated significantly" since the road study, according to a report to council.

The engineers say the work will now cost \$429,000, about \$160,000 more than originally estimated.

The money will come from reserves.

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, 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

Warwick campground approved

Heather Wright

The Independent

Janet Watson and Robert Roy's dream of running a private campground is coming true.

The couple came to Warwick from Windsor with plans to run the private campground which had been owned by Watson's family since the 1970s and ran under the name Bear Lake Campground. But as they prepared to reopen the 12 trailer campsite, they ran into a roadblock - the property was zoned agricultural and environmental protection because of a wetland on the site.

When the couple went to council to change the zoning last summer, neighbours voiced concerns about the plan, many concerned the waste from trailers was not being property disposed. Some neighbours wanted fencing to protect their property from campers.

Others worried the couple would try to expand the site and that might lower property values in the village.

Planning officials and councillors said they didn't yet have enough information about the property. Administrators said a detailed report will have to be done to demonstrate that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions if the campground is approved.

Council put the application for rezoning on hold until that could be complete.

Warwick Township sent the couple back to the drawing table to work with Lambton County planners on the project.

At the June 20 council meeting, council gave approval for the campground to move ahead, with planners saying the couple had met all the conditions.



Satellite map of the campground which has been in Warwick Village since the 1970s. The owners have been given the okay to move forward.

Roy, in comments posted on social media, said "the overall concept of the small campground will ensure the environment is not impacted."

"This is a back to nature type of plan. So we can share the natural beauty of the property with others"

Roy said there has been "significant cleanup and tree planting on the property" which they plan to continue in the future.

"We plan on retiring on this property and the campground helps with the costs to maintain the 42 acres to a standard the community can be proud of.

NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF AN UPDATE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING BY-LAW FOR THE TOWN OF PETROLIA

TAKE NOTICE, that the Council of the Town of Petrolia passed By-law No. 31 of 2022 on the 27th day of June 2022

THE PURPOSE AND EFFECT of this By-law is to amend By-law 63 of 2017 by to rezone a property legally described Plan 64, Block I, Lot 6, Registered Plan 25R10796 Part 2. The property is located on Dufferin Avenue between 4119 Dufferin Avenue and 445 Queen Street. The intent of this Zoning By-law Amendment is to rezone the property from "Residential 1 (R1)" to "Residential 2 - 4 (R2-4)". The "Residential 2 - 4 (R2-4)" zone is a site-specific zone that will allow the conversion of an existing building into a Semi-Detached Dwelling. This amendment establishes site specific development standards for a side yard setback, minimum dwelling size and minimum lot frontage.

The Council of the Town of Petrolia has adopted this By-law and is now circulating it in accordance with Provincial Regulations.

APPEALS to the Ontario Land Tribunal in respect of the By-law may be made by filing with the Clerk of the Town of Petrolia a written notice of appeal, **not later than the 18th day of July, 2022**, setting out the reasons for the appeal and accompanied by the Ontario Land Tribunal fee made payable to the Minister of Finance.

IF A PERSON or public body did not make oral or written submissions to the Town of Petrolia before the by-law was passed; the person or public body is **not entitled to appeal** the By-law to the Ontario Land Tribunal. **Only individuals**, corporations and public bodies may appeal a by-law to the Ontario Land Tribunal. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf.

No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the by-law was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to Town of Petrolia Council or, in the opinion of the Ontario Land Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

A COMPLETE COPY of the By-law is available for inspection by visiting www.petrolia.civicweb.net, or in person during regular office hours at the Town of Petrolia Municipal Office. An email copy of the By-Law may also be requested by contacting the Clerks Office directly. Phone: 519-882-2350 or email clerksdepartment@petrolia.ca

THE KEY MAP shows more particularly the subject lands.



Dated at the Town of Petrolia, this 28th day of June 2022

Mandi Pearson Clerk Town of Petrolia 411 Greenfield Street PETROLIA, Ontario NON 1R0



NIGHT MARKET GIG



It was a banner day for Jules & Company as the band played its first gig at the Tuesday Night Market in Petrolia. Julie Coulombe has been playing for four or five years but this was Emily Lane Poster's first time ever before a crowd.

Surplus goes to yet to be approved Y project

Heather Wright

The Independent

Petrolia ended 2021 with a \$122,000

That's according to new financial statements from the town's auditor presented to council Monday night.

Normally, a surplus at the end of a budget year would go into the budget stabilization reserve according to Rick Charlebois, CAO, in a report to council.

"There is already an appropriate amount in that reserve, about \$130,000. Therefore, staff recommends that council transfer the operating surplus of \$122,000 into Working Capital Reserve to help fund our Canada Community Revitalization Fund grant of \$700,000 which will enhance our community centre and the outdoor

amenities," he wrote. Council agreed.

While a grant has been received for that vitalization work and some of the land has been moved around to the north of the Petrolia Y, council has yet to approve a final plan for the work which is expected to cost \$932,000. The federal and provincial government provided a \$700,000 grant - which town staff applied for without specific approval from council. The town will have to provide \$233,000 toward the project.

The project has been deemed "a fitness and wellness hub" and according to a report from staff to council includes building a wellness studio, new washrooms, sports courts, and soccer pitches as well as landscaping the gardens at the Petrolia Y.

It's still not clear when the plan will come to council for approval.

Alvinston group hopes to curb cat population

Heather Wright

The Independent

Sharon McCabe has always been a cat person, but the Alvinston woman has been taking that to the extreme lately as she works with a new group called Alvinston Feral Cats.

McCabe started the group to care for about 80 feral cats which make their home in the community. It started around the time Betty White - a celebrity with a love for animals passed away. A viral challenge asked people to give money to animal charities on what would have been her 100th birthday.

The group feeds the animals and traps them so they can receive veterinarian care including spay and neutering.

McCabe says without this work Alvinston is "going to be overrun. We're already getting overrun."

There are other problems. Lots of cats attract unwanted attention from other animals. "I think it is attracting the coyotes into town."

That can lead to small pets disappearing. McCabe says the group has begun the work of making sure the colony doesn't reproduce. "We're kind of hoping to neuter all the females first, then all the males and



The Alvinston Feral Cat group recently held a yard sale to help raise money to neuter up to 80 cats in the community.

stop the kitten explosion within the next two years," she says.

McCabe says they've already fixed eight cats, but it is not easy work. "They're wily; we can set the traps and they know how to step over the trip plate, get the food and

Once the cat is caught, it cost \$200 to have them neutered. The group recently raised money at a yard sale to help pay for what McCabe calls "a labour of love."

NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF AN UPDATE TO THE COMPREHENSIVE ZONING BY-LAW FOR THE TOWN OF PETROLIA

TAKE NOTICE, that the Council of the Town of Petrolia passed By-law No. 32 of 2022 on the 27th day of June, 2022

THE PURPOSE AND EFFECT of this By-law is to amend By-law 63 of 2017 by amending the definition of schools to include private schools as defined under the Province of Ontario's Education Act.

The Council of the Town of Petrolia has adopted this By-law and is now circulating it in accordance with Provincial Regulations.

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THE KEY MAP N/A, proposed amendment is a blanket definition amendment.

Dated at the Town of Petrolia, this 28th day of June 2022

Mandi Pearson Town of Petrolia 411 Greenfield Street PETROLIA, Ontario NON 1R0





This Month In Lambton

June 2022







Summer Reading Program

Blast off into new galaxies with Lambton County Library's Summer Reading Program. This year, the theme is A Universe of Stories and we encourage participants of all ages from around Lambton County to read stories, participate in activities, and discover programs at your local library. The more you read and participate the more chances you'll have to win amazing

Register by visiting your local library starting July 4, 2022 and visit www.lclibrary.ca for full details.

Join the Oil Museum of Canada, National Historic Site on Saturday, July 9 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for Black Gold Fest!

This family-friendly community event celebrates the first commercial oil well in North America. Come and rediscover our local oil heritage with fun activities, tours, entertainment and a Family Movie Night with the Village of Oil Springs.

Visit www.oilmuseum.ca to learn more.

Used Book Sale

It's back! After a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lambton County Library is bringing its annual used book sale back.

There will be a large selection of books, DVDs and audiobooks for children and adults. They are available at a low cost of 50 cents for children's items and one dollar for adult items, or bring your own bag to fill for five dollars. All proceeds benefit the Lambton County Library System.

The sale will take place on Wednesday, July 27 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Wyoming Fair Building. Don't miss

Looking Ahead

9:30 a.m., July 6, 2022 - Council Meeting

9 a.m. & 11 a.m., July 20, 2022 -Committee A.M. & P.M. Meetings

** tentative Agendas, minutes and links to meeting

live stream videos can be found at www.lambtononline.ca/meetings.

To read more, go to lambtononline.ca



Office of the County Warden 519-845-0801 | 1-866-324-6912 www.lambtononline.ca



Welten wants fee study started now

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia Councillor Don Welten wants to move forward with development charges.

He's going to ask council to consider approving a \$27,500 study which would help the town implement legislation which would see development pay for the costs of the effects of development in town.

Petrolia, unlike the majority of municipalities in Ontario, does not charge development fees. Council in the past decided against the move as a way to bring developers to build in Petrolia.

But with the latest housing boom, there have been calls to rethink the past strategy.

Development charges are a set fee based on the type of housing being built. Developers pay the fee to pay for new infrastructure which will be needed in the future because of the development.

For example, when new homes are built, municipalities

often put parks in the community, including equipment which costs money to buy and maintain; development fees can help pay that cost instead of existing taxpayers.

In November, council heard from consultant BM Ross and

In November, council heard from consultant BM Ross and Associates about how the system worked and the formula to come up with fees. But councillors were not ready to spend cash to have the work complete.

At the time, Councillor Ross O'Hara noted there is a lot of development coming in the next year - about seven new developments according to staff.

O'Hara says he's not "opposed totally" to development charges but now is not the right time to implement them.

"We have a lot of things on our books, a lot of developments that could happen, and I would rather look at this year-by-year and maybe next year down the road," he told council

Councillor Grant Purdy agreed, asking "Why do we need to spend that kind of money?" on a consultant at this time. The rest of council agreed putting the approval of the study at the feet of the new council.

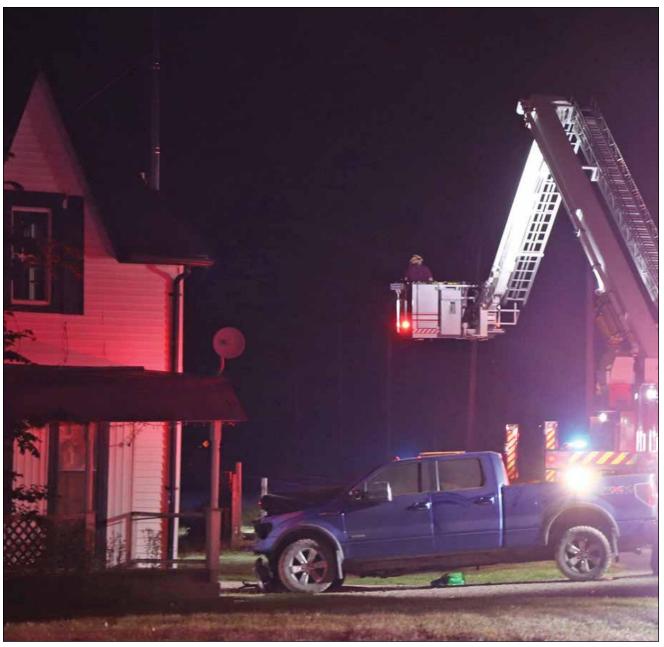
But Welten gave notice at Monday's meeting he thinks council should move ahead with the study now.

Welten, in his motion, says the study will take at least a year to complete before any council can take action.

And his motion reads "it is vital for the continued success and proper growth management of our Town to have these Development Charges in place to ensure that growth pays for growth."

Council will discuss the issue July 11.

TRUCK VS HOUSE



DAWSON CURRIE PHOTO

It appears no one was seriously injured after a pickup truck struck a house at the corner of Lasalle Line and Plank Road Saturday. Sometime after 11 pm, Lambton OPP were called to the corner and found the four door pickup truck had hit the building. The truck seemed to suffer most of the damage. The driver fled the truck when police arrived. While not officially confirmed by OPP, sources say the man was arrested later in the evening in a nearby field near Telfer Sideroad and was treated by paramedics. The truck was believed to have been stolen.



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 July 14, 2022, at the Petrolia Municipal Office, 411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia Ontario. Submitted tenders will be opened virtually using Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83744124129?pwd=V3ITcHY4aUovUklzNkpscmE4e TBUdz09

Meeting ID: 837 4412 4129, **Passcode**: 263736, One tap mobile; +17806660144, +12042727920, 83744124129#, ..., *263736# Canada

Dial by your location; +1 780 666 0144, +1 204 272 7920, +1 438 809 7799, +1 587 328 1099, +1 647 374 4685, +1 647 558 0588, +1 778 907 2071, Canada; Meeting ID: 837 4412 4129, Passcode: 263736

Find your local number: https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kbwQ8iynGa

Description of Lands:

1. Roll No. 38 19 000 070 02100 0000; Tank St; PIN 43330-0230 (LT); File No. 20-02;

Minimum Tender Amount: \$38,165.73

2. Roll No. 38 19 000 060 12505 0000; 4481 Derby St., Petrolia; PIN 43458-0378 (LT);

File No. 20-04; **Minimum Tender Amount: \$19,619.26**

The municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, crown interests or any other matters, including any environmental concerns, relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. Any interests of the Crown encumbering the land at the time of the tax sale will continue to encumber the land after the registration of the tax deed. 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. A full copy of the tax sale advertisement and further information about this matter is available on line at www.OntarioTaxSales.ca or www.town.petrolia.on.ca or you may contact: Rick Charlebois, CAO/Treasurer, The Corporation of the Town of Petrolia, 411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia ON NON 1RO, Phone: 519-882-2350 Ext. 225, rcharlebois@petrolia.ca



A COLOURFUL HELPING HAND



As the school year drew to a close, the students at Lambton Centennial School were helping their neighbour. They were part of the Cereal Box Challenge. The school collected 511 cereal boxes which were placed like dominoes in a pattern designed by the students to reflect growth and inclusion. The students had to stand by to make sure the wind didn't blow them down before the chain reaction could be set off. The cereal is now in the hands of local food banks.

Petrolia councillor race shaping up

Heather Wright

The Independent

Petrolia has its first candidates for councillor and they're people who know their way around town hall well.

Current councillor, Ross O'Hara, and former councillor, Liz Welsh, have both filed to run this October. Petrolia's mayor's race also has two candidates, incumbent Brad Loosley and former administrator Richard

In Plympton-Wyoming, three people have also filed to become councillors. Both Mike Vasey and Bob Woolvett who currently sit

on council have filed in a bid to regain their seats. Mike Thompson, the director of operations in Petrolia, will try a second time for a council seat. He ran in the 2018 election.

The race for mayor is currently between Deputy Mayor Muriel Wright and Councillor Gary Atikinson. Netty McEwen is the sole candidate for deputy mayor.

In Enniskillen, only two nominations have been filed. Judy Krall and Chad Burke are hoping to regain their councillor's seat.

There have been no new nominations for the races in Warwick and Brooke-Alvinston. The final date for people to file nomination papers with their municipal clerk is Aug. 16.

Seeing Enniskillen with new eyes

Heather Wright

The Independent

Enniskillen Township wants people to see the community in new ways. So it is notding a photo contest to update some of the images people find on the municipal website. Councillor Judy Krall is helping with the

"We want pictures of things around Enniskillen - whether it's sports or farming, because people go to that website and you want it to portray what's going on in your

Currently the website features predominately shots of farm fields in the community. And while that plays a big role in the township, Krall hopes people will submit some of the beauty they see as they travel around.

"There's things I'm sure in Enniskillen that we don't see. Even the wooded area out in Marthaville, people go out there they go for walks, - some people don't see that right now. So it would be nice to have those



Enniskillen is running a photo contest for residents

pictures on the website."

The contest is open to Enniskillen residents and photos will be accepted until Sept.

Photographers can find the rules and a waiver form on the township website. Photos can be emailed to cpoland@enniskillen.ca.





Prevent the BITE

Mosquito Larviciding set to begin in Lambton County

Catch basin larviciding is set to begin late June and will continue until September 2022. Lambton Public Health will be monitoring and larviciding catch basins on public property, under the authority of the local Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sudit Ranade, to control vector mosquito larvae that have the ability to transmit West Nile virus.

Larvicide will be applied by the St. Clair Conservation Authority, a Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks licensed operator with licensed pesticide exterminators and qualified pesticide technicians, contracted by Lambton Public Health.

Within this time period three separate applications of the pellet formula of the larvicide Methoprene, Altosid, Pest Control Products Act (PCP) # 21809 will be applied at 21 day intervals. It will be placed in up to 16,500 catch basins in urban settings in Lambton County.

The Larvicide B.t.i (Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis), VectoBac 200G (granular formula), PCP # 18158, will be used in affected stagnant water on public lands in Urban areas in Lambton County where there is ample evidence of vector mosquito larvae present.

Please Prepare to Stop

The public is encouraged to take precautions when driving this summer in consideration of employees who will be treating catch basins across the county. Please look out for vehicles equipped with a roof top yellow flashing light, West Nile virus signs, and a caution signs reading "Makes Frequent Stops."

Prevention - Reduce Mosquito Breeding Sites

- Reduce the amount of stagnant water on your property
- Keep roof eaves clear of debris
- Drain water from containers or tovs

Personal protection includes the use of insect repellent (DEET or Icaridin) during peak times or locations where mosquitoes are active.



519-383-8331 1-800-667-1839 LambtonPublicHealth.ca

Sports



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Members of the Lambton Attack look on as Meghan Hunter is honoured at the Greenwood Recreation Centre in April. Hunter has just been named assistant GM with the Chicago Blackhawks.

Hunter named assistant GM

Heather Wright The Independent

Oil Springs native Meghan Hunter has a new job with the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks.

Hunter is now the assistant general manager of hockey operations with the club. She's only the fourth woman to become assistant general manager in NHL History. Mark Eaton will remain as the assistant general manager of development working with Hunter.

Hunter joined the Chicago Blackhawks organization in 2016, having served in various hockey operations and scouting roles for the NHL club.

In her new role, she will oversee budgeting, team services, contract execution, team security and player services. Hunter played collegiately at the University of Wisconsin where she was a four-year letter winner and, in 2001, was a finalist for the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award given to the top female college hockey player in the United States.

Prior to her time with the Blackhawks, Hunter worked for the gold-medal Canadian Women's National Hockey Team and with the London Knights – a team owned by her uncles – former NHLers Dale and Mark Hunter. Hunter grew up in Lambton County, playing her minor hockey in Petrolia.

"Meghan and Mark have both been important parts of our operation for a

number of years and we are lucky to have them in these important and redeveloped roles," GM Kyle Davidson says in a news release. "Their leadership skills, shared vision with the rest of the leadership team and knowledge of the game gives me plenty of confidence in us achieving our goals."

"Our goal is to be best-in-class in all we do and organizing a structure and defining roles behind the scenes is an important step."

Hunter, when she was honoured by the Town of Petrolia being placed on the Wall of Fame at the Greenwood Recreation Centre, talked about her desire as a young woman to make hockey her career and how important her role is as one of the first women in NHL management.

"I really believe now, there is a lot of truth behind, if you see it you can believe it. When I was coming out of university basically there was only females coaching ... there were no females in the NHL hockey administration, so I had a hard time figuring out what I was going to do with my career because there wasn't any females in those roles," Hunter said before the ceremony in April

"I don't really think of myself as a trailblazer, I'm just working my way up," she tells *The Independent*.

"I don't take it lightly ... I have a little niece who is four years old now who plays for the Lambton Attack and that's the coolest thing ... I just want to be a role model for her."

BUSTERS Quantities are limited. While supplies last. 1/2" x 50' Soaker Hose Made from recycled

rubber. Plastic couplings (male and female) and plastic end cap. Saves water usage by 70 percent.

\$1999 Req. 522.99

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Adjustable head with zinc spike. Provides full uniform coverage

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with Spike

up to 60' in diameter.

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Thermometer
and Hygrometer
Monitors temperature and relative humidity levels.
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Can be mounted horizontally or vertically.



al rubber adhesive. istant. Gray colour. 1242197



300 mL Extreme Stretch Elastomeric Sealant

BUSTERS

Acrylic urethane sealant ideal for sealing a wide variety of interior and exterior surfaces. Formulated to stretch over 600%. Does not crack or lose adhesion. 100% Waterproof and weatherproof seal.

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Mooretown's Doxtator signs with Stratford

Barry Wright

The Independent

Bo Doxtator is moving up a level in his hockey journey. The lanky rearguard has signed with Stratford of the GOJHL.

The Corunna native had three goals and 11 assists in 24 games last season with the Mooretown Flags and also won a gold medal with Team Ontario at the National Aboriginal; Hockey Championships in Nova Scotia.

Meantime, the Flags have acquired 18 year-old blueliner Gavin Black from the Niagara Riverhawks. He had 11 assists and 66 PIM for the Hawks last season.

He'll be attending Lambton College in September.



Bo Doxtator

Sports

Oil Springs golfer cracks top five at invitational

Barry Wright

The Independent

Liam Crummy won the 3-5 handicap flight and finished fifth overall at the men's invitational last weekend at the Sarnia Golf and Curling Club.

The Oil Springs golfer had rounds of 73 and 75 for a 36hole score of four over par. Chad Morningstar of Kingswell Glen in Petrolia was seventh in the 9-12 handicap flight competition.

Graham Hill carded a final round 66 to successfully defend his title with a four shots victory over Steve Brown.

The tournament had not been played since 2019 because of pandemic restrictions which limited play.

Crummy plays next at Blue Mountain Golf & Country Club



Liam Crummy

Jackson won't return to Nebraska baseball

Core Jackson is moving on from Nebraska. He'll enter the transfer portal looking for a new home to continue his collegiate baseball career.

The 18-year-old from Wyoming hit .210 with the Cornhuskers this past season with six doubles, two triples, a homer and 21 RBI. He

also scored 18 runs and stole six bases. The Great Lake Canadians alumni played 44 games this season split between second base and shortstop.

Petrolia's Hecimovich, Canadians win CPBL

The Great Lake Canadians, with Petrolia's Brett Hecimovich on its pitching staff, won the Canadian Premier Baseball League (CPBL) U18 title on the weekend with a 4-0

win over the Toronto Mets in the final. The Canadians won all four games in the championship outscoring their opposition,

The Dorchester-based

organization won the regular season with a record of 15-2-1 and went in the playoff tournament as the number one seed. Sarnia's Dylan O'Rae is also on the Canadians roster.

GIANTS BOW TO WOODSTOCK



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

The Woodstock Nationals outscored the Corunna Giants, 7-4 to win the Dave Leach Memorial Tournament in Port Lambton last weekend. The Giants advanced to the championship contest with a 5-0 win over Wyoming in the semifinals. Travis Moore pitched a complete game shutout

Shaw wins big at Legion regional meet

The Independent

Charlie Shaw had quite the day at the recent Legion District A Track and Field Championships in Windsor.

The LCCVI runner won both the U18 800 metre and 2000 metre steeplechase events.

Meantime, Lancer teammate Hunter Campbell won the U16 shot put by nearly eight

metres over his nearest rival and finished second in the U16 shot put.

Shaw and Campbell are both members of the Sarnia Athletics Southwest Club.

Selling for: Patterson Farms, 5072 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON NON 1RO









Bidding starts Wednesday, July 6 @ 8 AM Auction begins to close Wed, July 13 @ 8 PM - 5 minute soft close

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Preview July 5, 10 AM – 2PM @ 5072 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON Pickup July 14, 11 AM - 3 PM @ 5072 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON For inquires on equipment, call Rick at 519-882-0002 or the office at 519-882-4554



John Stephens AUCTIONEER/BROKER 519-464-3560 greatwestauctions.com







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**

Lawn Mower Safety PTO Safety Outdoor Safety Personal Wellness Animal Safety

Stop Think Act

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.











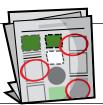






Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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

Real Estate



4301 Nauvoo Road **Warwick-Watford**

Rare find! 22-acre horse hobby farm. Come ride through the pasture, down along Bear Creek, take the trails up the hill through the woodlot. Ideal farm pasture for hay, vegetable farming, grazing cattle or horses. The creek runs through the farm (possible irrigation.) Located halfway between London & Sarnia on Hwy 79, 5 km south of Watford, minutes to Hwy 402. High-speed unlimited internet available & natural gas. Over the years, there have been many updates to the 2+1 bedroom home with a full basement. Steel clad, painted drive shed/workshop/garage 38X60, ideal for the car enthusiast. A 29X31 hip roof barn, center isle plan, approx 1000 bales storage above, some perimeter fencing. Act now; properties like this don't come along very often.

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Leo Shanahan Sales Representative

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

Upcoming Events





Sunday July 3 1-4pm

Adults - \$6.00 Children - \$3.00

Model Train Displays Crafts for Children Woodcarvers Demonstrations

Phone: 519-867-2020 http://www.mooremuseum

For Sale

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

KUBOTA TRACTOR w/BUCKETbought new in 1998 - L5450 -LM610. Come and try it out. Call 519-834-2649.



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

ALSO, will pick up scrap bikes.

Wanted to buy: **ANTIQUES, COL-LECTIBLES, ESTATES** etc. Buying anything old: Signs, Pottery, Toys, Comics, Knives, Coleman Lanterns, 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.

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

ubmitting fre @ 12 noon* su ay <u>S</u> **Deadli

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

Date: Time: Town: **Event Title:**

Phone # / website:

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



Pay your invoice or subscription with Interac® email money transfer! It's FREE, It's FAST, It's EASY, It's SECURE.

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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
Tues	7pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Toastmasters @ Petrolia Lion's Hall	519-381-4910
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	6р	Alvinston	Catch The Ace @ Alvinston Legion	519-898-2100
Sat	3:30p	Forest	Meat Raffles @ Forest Legion	519-786-5357

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT CONTACT INFO
July & Aug.	Sat. & Sun.	Wyoming	New Exhbits @ The Plympton-Wyoming Museum including Military, Early Settlers, Great Strom 1913 & Post WW2 Immigration, Canada's Raid on Dieppe - Aug. 1942-80th Anniversary & Canada's Role in the 5 year battle of the Atlantic. Saturday: 10am-2:30pm & Sunday: 1-3pm.
July 3	1-4pm	Moore-	2022 Model Train Event @ The Moore Museum. Featuring 2 new

town showcases: Dinosaurs and Aviation/Aerospace. Wyoming Dance the afternoon away with Larry Hart @ Wyoming July 5 1-4pm Legion. Admission is \$7.00 per person.

The Sarnia Bluewater Chordsmen are holding Guest Nights @ All 7-9pm 5&12 Saints Anglican Church. No musical training or ability to read music required. Call 226-402-3060 for more info. Bluewater Anglers **Family Fun Fishng Day** @ Centennial Park.

Food, prizes, bait, and fishing rods will be available. Contact 519-11am 541-1856 for more info. First Friday and Weekend Walkabout is back @ Christina July 9 10-5pm Street. This week's theme: Dog Days of Summer. Bring your pets!

Email hjohnson@slchamber.ca for more info. **Spaghetti Dinner** @ Brigden Legion. Tickets are \$15 and are Evenina available until july 16. Takeout also available. Contact 519-381-1211 for more info.

Lambton Cattlemen's Beef Barbeque @ the Brooke-Alvinston-Alvinston Inwood Arena. Advance Tickets only. Tickets \$25. Contact 519-318-0897 or lambtoncattlemens@hotmail.com for tickets.

JUUCU DIRECTORY

Christ Anglican Church 414 Oil Street, Petrolia

Join us for In-Person Services Sundays @ 10:00am

Everyone Welcome

Rev. Dave Hewett 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 (Behind the Post Office)

In-Person Service Sundays @ 10:00 am

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

Pastor Katherine Hawley

Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 noon



Classifieds

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

Obituaries / Death Notices

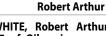
DOBBIN

Johanna "Ena" Carolina

Peacefully on Wednesday, June **22, 2022** at Albany Retirement Village, Petrolia, **Johanna "Ena"** Carolina Dobbin (nee van Leeuwen), passed away at the age of 92. Beloved wife to the late Jack Dobbin (2019). Loving mother of Ray (Martha) Dobbin, Marianne (the late Bill) Cooper, Ken (Pam) Dobbin, Brian (Carol) Dobbin and Karen (John) Findlay. Lovina grandma to Brent (Katy), Teresa (Nathan), Kim (Phil), Craig (Jess),



Rob (Alyssa), Jenny (Tim), Will (Kate), Mitch (Ashley), Kailey (Derek), Erika (Brad), the late Taylor, Trevor, Sydney, Wesley, Jackson, Alexandra and Malia and great grandma to Bronson, Eve, Ethan, Clara, Alexis, Carter, Ivy, the late A.J., Brooks, Boyd, Danton, Dylan, Morgan, Cameron, Riley, Timmy, Abbey, Hunter, Boe, Nash, Aubree, Liam and Walker. Survived by sisters Frances (the late John) Ravenhorst of Petrolia, and Elsie (the late Dave) Catton of Dresden and her brother's Jip (Geerda) van Leeuwen of the Netherlands and John (Lil) van Leeuwen of Sarnia. Predeceased by Ria (the late Don) Smith, Jane (the late Donald J.) Smith. Ena grew up in Holland during WWII and came over with her family from Rotterdam in 1952. She loved to read, taught herself English and she loved to spend time with her kids, grandchildren and great grandchildren. A private service has taken place. Ena has been interred in Hillsdale Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Ronald McDonald House (https://www.rmhccanada.ca/). Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com.



WHITE

WHITE, Robert Arthur – Age 85 of Oil springs, passed away on Thursday, June 23, 2022 at Riverview Gardens, Chatham. Beloved husband of Leva (Coutts) for 50 years. Loving father of Shane and Ryan (Colleen). Dear brother of Carol Ann white and brotherin-law of Jim (Nancy) Coutts, Ethel (Carl) Lister and Carolyn Coutts. Bob is predeceased by his parents Robert and Caroline White, brother James and brother-in-law Bruce Coutts. Survived by many friends,

cousins, nieces, and nephews. Bob worked at Imperial Oil for almost 30 years and was a Scout leader for over 20 years. He will be missed by all who knew him. Cremation has taken place. A private family gathering has taken place. Sympathy may be expressed through donations to First Petrolia Scouting or Faith Trinity United Church – Faith Missions. Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.steadmanbrothers.ca. Arrangements entrusted to STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigden 519-864-1193.

In Memory

Mitchell In Loving Memory of Mildred Mitchell who passed away on

July 3, 1984 Gerald Mitchell

who passed away on

August 9, 2007

We miss you both every day, but memories we keep in our own special way. We know that you are happy in Heaven together, and know that you will be watching over all of us forever. Love Always, The Mitchell Families

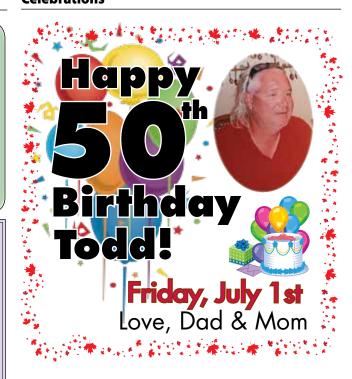
In loving memory of

Valera McCallum August 21, 1924 - July 3, 2007

Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day. Unseen, Unheard, but always near, still missed, still loved, and very dear.

> Terry, Sandra & Family and Darlene & Ron

Celebrations



Employment Opportunity / Help Wanted











SMONDAY, JUNE 20

CARLIN, Kerry John Age 81

Gilpin Funeral Home

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

BEYER, Doris Olive Age 99

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

BYGROVE, Vicki Rose Diane Age 36

Needham-Jay Funeral Home DOBBIN, Johanna "Ena"

Carolina (n van Leeuwen)

Age 92, of Petrolia Needham-Jay Funeral Home

FRASER, John "Jake" Michael Age 65, of Oil Springs

McCormack Funeral Home

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

VEENBAAS, Betty Age 90, of Sarnia Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

WHITE. Robert Arthur Age 85, of Oil Springs Steadman Brothers Funeral Home

WHITSON, Adriana **Pharaildes** (n Clauws)

Age 93

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

PHILLIPS, Charles Gordon Age 91, of Petrolia McCormack Funeral Home

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

BRESSETTE. Martin Lee Age 58, of Sarnia Gilpin Funeral Home

MOFFATT, Lyle of Watford Denning's of Watford

MONDAY, JUNE 27

SAUNDERS, Linda Margurite (n Kettle) Age 72, of Petrolia

Needham-Jay Funeral Home

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



DONATION MADE

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The RCL Br #535, Oil Springs makes a donation in memory of Ron Bailey who was an active member of the Legion up until his recent passing. The \$5000.00 donation is being made to the Ronald McDonald House Charities at the request of Ron's family, they wanted to support a charity that has provided support to families within their community. Seen here, President of RCL Br #535 in Oil Springs - Al Byers presents the cheque to Ron's wife Maureen Bailey who is also an active member of the local Legion.

Summer camp struggles

Heather Wright

The Independent

Where there was supposed to be smiles, there is disappointment and depression. Camp Vincent, a summer camp outside of Bothwell, won't open this summer for the third year in a row. This time, it's not the pandemic - at least not directly. It's labour shortages made worse by the pandemic

Connie Bradour, the president of the local society which runs the camp, says they simply couldn't get people to work at the summer camp. "We are short 32 staffers. We were only we only had eight applications for counselors and that was it," she says.

Bradour says it is heartbreaking after a small volunteer group put in long hours. "We've spent the last year-and-a-half bringing the camp up to code. It's in the best shape it's ever been in. The pool is ready to go everything. The camp ready, and we don't have the people," she says.

And that's disappointing for the 200 children who will now be staying home.

Summer camps across Ontario are facing the same labour squeeze. Joy Levy, executive director of Ontario Camp Association, says before the pandemic over 40,000 people were employed each summer at camps across the province. But, like every other employer, this year, summer camps everywhere are facing staffing issues.

"Like other industries, summer camps are no different, whether it's our day camps or overnight that camp, they face challenges in the past. And the pandemic really has amplified it," says Levy.

"Part of the reason for that is that sometimes, young adults simply don't recognize the benefits of working camp...and because of the pandemic, and restrictions and lock downs, there are some staff that have left the industry to go work elsewhere."

Levy says while many camps are still hiring counsellors (they're is a list of job opportunities at the OCA website) they are coming down to the wire since the counsellors need training.

PIZZA POWER



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The people behind Petrolia's Pizzafest were on hand to give their contributions to from the June event to the Petrolia Community Foundation. A portion of the cash from each \$2.50 slice - all 7,200 of them, was donated to the foundation Monday. It in turn gives micro grants to community groups in Petrolia for local parks. Bud's Family Pizza, Godfathers Pizza, Johnny G's Premium Pizza, Petrolia Pizza Hut, Petrolia Pizza and Subs and Wise Guys Inc presented the donation of \$1,802 to Community foundation member Wayne MacFarlane.

Alix Foundation gives cash for basketball, accessibility

Inwood's basketball will be getting new asphalt. Petrolia is going to figure out how to make Victoria Hall more accessible.

Those are just two of the projects given funding by the Alix Foundation.

The grants were recently announced by the county and the foundation.

Brooke-Alvinston will receive \$19,400 to put an asphalt topcoat

to finish the Inwood Community Basketball Court.

The Town of Petrolia is receiving \$35,000 to develop a plan for accessibility related projects for Victoria Hall, with full details and plans to be received by the town's council and made public once available. "Looking at accessibility and how we can provide a safe and

reasonable way for those with all abilities to access live theatre is absolutely necessary. All people deserve dignity, and a safe and comfortable way to access our facility," said Laurissa Ellsworth, Petrolia's Director of Marketing, Arts and Communications.

The International Symphony received \$50,000 to buy a concert piano.

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