

Tornado touchdown in Wyoming

Storm which dumped six inches of rain also spawned a tornado says UWO researchers

Heather Wright
The Independent

When the tree blew down at the end of Calvin and Michelle Batterink’s Wyoming area farm, Michelle gathered up their six children and headed to the basement. The rain was heavy - an estimated six inches falling in about an hour - and on Minelly Road, the winds were howling July 19. Calvin was driving home from the field on London Line around 5:30 pm when his wife called.

“I had a breakdown in the field, so I was going home anyway. And she said, ‘should we go downstairs?’ There was nothing on the radar; like it’s raining hard. It doesn’t look crazy - no tornado warnings or severe thunderstorm warnings on that Weather Network. So you know, I didn’t think much of it.”

It wasn’t long before the family hustled to the basement. “Honestly, when the tree went down at the end of the laneway I took all six kiddos to the basement,” Michelle says.

Calvin drove through driving rain and hail and had to go all the way down to Churchill Line to access his Minielly Road home near Confederation Line because of trees in the way. “It wasn’t too bad till I hit the bush and then it was - Yeah, the truck was shaken around pretty good.”

Soon, the Batterink’s pole barn used to store equipment was ripped apart.

Western University’s Northern Tornado Project now says that storm and specifically the part of it which swept down over London Line to Minielly Road was a tornado with winds of up to 125 kms per hour. It brought the Batterink’s barn down and a house under construction on London Line also partially collapsed.

SEE STORM PG 2

ALL IN



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

It may have been a game, but Isaiah Ardell, Ethan Butler, Brendan Ballock and Quinn Edwards looked like they could have been out in the field with the best of the firefighters. The team was part of the Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire Department’s Junior Firefighter camp. Friday, they had a water ball contest to end off the week-long summer camp.

Petrolia nursing home reassures residents after charges

Heather Wright
The Independent

Officials at Fiddick’s Nursing Home and Retirement Home are reassuring family of residents after Administrator Michael Fiddick was charged with nine criminal offences.

Fiddick appeared in Sarnia court last week answering to charges of assault, sexual assault, mischief and illegally transferring restricted weapons.

In Fiddick’s June newsletter, the owner of the home said he would be working remotely after surgery which required a lengthy recovery.

Under the Long Term Care Act, no one convicted of an offence can work at a long term care home.

Mark Nesbitt, spokesperson for the Ministry of Long Term Care, says administrators must report when someone is facing criminal charges, although the regulations don’t give an exact time frame for when that should happen.

The LTC Act is also silent, Nesbitt says, about whether someone facing charges unrelated to the operation can be at the long term care home.

The news of the criminal charges reverberated around the community and led Fiddick’s Acting Administrator, Jennifer Arsenault, to write to the staff, residents and their families.

In the letter, obtained by *The Independent*, Arsenault said “*The Independent* newspaper recently released two articles about charges

laid against Michael Fiddick, our administrator.

“It is important to be factual and transparent during times like this. We only know the information that has been identified in these articles,” wrote Arsenault.

“The allegations are personal in nature and do not reflect our homes nor the quality resident care that we provide.

“Fiddick’s has a long standing history of providing quality resident care in our community. This will not change.”

Arsenault added anyone with concerns could reach out to her personally.

The Independent also obtained a memo to staff which instructed them not to speak with members of the media.

Fiddick returns to court Sept. 19.



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SCAN FOR MENU



Enniskillen couple remembered for their love of life

Heather Wright
The Independent

Family and friends are mourning the loss of an Enniskillen couple who “loved life to the fullest.” Lambton OPP have released few details about an accident Saturday on Oil Heritage Road in Oil City, but said Tuesday, Ted and Susan Jolly had died in the crash.

The Independent has learned the pair were riding their ATV and crossed the road on the north side of the community and were struck by a pickup truck heading north toward Petrolia.

Friends and family were stunned by the accident which claimed their lives.

Ted and Susan Jolly were married in 2016, according to Susan’s sister, Judy Holt. It was the first marriage for Susan and the second for Ted. Both had two children and two grandchildren and Holt says “Susan was an amazing Mom and the best grandma.”

Jolly worked at New Way Lawn Care for 18 years. “Susan would light up everyone’s day with her amazing laugh and smile,” Holt says. “She had Lyme disease; she still came to

work everyday to make sure everyone else was taken care of.”

Ted was a long time employee of the Oil Well Supply company in Petrolia. “He was an amazing dad and best papa, (and he) loved his jacked up pickup truck. They both loved ATVs and hunting.”

“Susan and Ted were truly rednecks and loved life to the fullest,” says Holt.

Enniskillen Mayor Kevin Marriott says the hydro corridor which runs from Courtright to St. Thomas, has been used for years by people on ATVs and four-wheelers. At one point he says, the OPP tried to stop people from going over Hydro One land but failed to curtail the traffic.

There are no warning signs at the corridor telling ATV drivers of oncoming traffic and the road is obscured in both directions by houses at Oil City. Marriott said he had not considered before if there should be signage there to prevent accidents in the future. He was concerned that might encourage use of the corridor.

Lambton OPP continue the investigation but have not laid charges.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO
Flowers are laid at the scene of the accident which claimed the lives of Ted and Susan Jolly (below).



Storm spawns tornado in Wyoming say experts

CON’T FROM PG 1

The Northern Tornadoes project says a narrow band passed through the area along with the heavy rain. The researchers searched Wyoming by drone and found the worst of the damage at the Batterink’s farm.

In town, residents watched as their streets filled with water, unaware of the other damage being caused by the storm.

Broadway Street was flooded longer with water coming up driveways and licking at the tires of other vehicles when people passed by making a wake. The force of the water was enough to knock off the bumper and a muffler from drivers out on an adventure.

Plympton-Wyoming CAO Carolyn Tripp said the storm water system functioned as expected. “No storm water system could have handled the

amount of water we received without temporary flooding.”

Meantime, Calvin Batterink is just thankful the damage wasn’t any worse knowing his wife and children were at home.

“After you see the power of the wind there, you’re very thankful to the Lord that He spared them, and me of course too, but yeah, it’s really makes you realize how small you are.”

HEATHER WRIGHT AND SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Calvin and Michelle Batterink’s pole shed on Minielly Road was the worst damage from a tornado that touched down near Wyoming. A home under construction on the Schenk family farm on London Line was also hit. In Wyoming, Greg Clark watches cars go by his flooded street.



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Petrolia Community Theatre Audition Notice

The Trial of Ebenezer SCROOGE

Comedy written by Mark Brown. Rights granted by Dramatic Publishing
Directed by Bonnie Harris

Audition Date: Thursday August 4 from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.
and Sunday August 7 from 2.00 p.m. to 5 p.m.
305 Center St. Unit 2. Petrolia

No preparation necessary for auditions. Total Cast: 20+
Interested crew members invited to attend auditions

For full cast list visit the PCT website at www.petroliatheatre.com
Production Dates: November 10-13th, 2022
Questions? email bhjprescott@hotmail.com

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Countryview expansion on hold; Tribunal wants more study

Heather Wright
The Independent

Elbee Investments won’t be able to remove most of a 17-acre woodlot to expand Petrolia’s Countryview Estates.

At least not yet.

Petrolia council gave developer Bob Leaper approval to move ahead with the 74 lots of the fourth phase of the subdivision in May 2021 when it removed the Significant Woodlot designation on the land and rezoned it residential.

The original plan of subdivision laid out the 74 lots in 2007, however in between, the land was rezoned as significant woodlot.

Leaper had completed some environmental studies of the property, which according to Lambton County planning officials “were required to be completed as conditions of the draft plan of subdivision approval.”

The county, during a public meeting in 2021 said they studies were reviewed and approved by the Ministry of the Environment.

Leaper also promised to pay \$3,000 per acre for the 10 acres of woodlot which would be removed.

The plan caused a stir among neighbours and raised the ire of a neighbouring farmer. Both William Loerts and Racher Farms filed appeals of the rezoning which was jointly heard by the Ontario Land Tribunal in mid-May.

The tribunal released its decision July 14 saying the developers “forestry, tree impact and endangered species studies, while helpful in addressing certain requirements, do not sufficiently address all of the components of an EIS (Environmental Impact Study) as required by the policies of the province (of Ontario) the county (of Lambton) and the town (of Petrolia.)”

That means the developer and the town, according to the tribunal, failed “to satisfy all legislative requirements.”

Colin Léger, an associate at Garrod-Pickfield - a law firm specializing in environmental, municipal and planning law, represented Racher Farms and Loerts who lives in Countryview Estates.

“They (the developer) did studies in relation to species at risk. But on the other hand, did not do studies in relation to other elements of the forest, such as significant wildlife habitat,” says Léger.

The town properly designated the land as a Significant Woodlot, the tribunal writes.

And Lambton’s Official Plan says significant woodlands “may be permitted if it can be demonstrated through an Environmental Impact Study that no negative impacts on the features or their associated ecological functions will result.”

The Environmental Impact

Study looks at all aspects of forest life, including the woodlot itself, the groundwater in the area, the wildlife and floral and fauna in all seasons and whether there are species at risk in the area.

The reports done by the developer did find Butternut and Big Shellbark Hickory in the area - both are rare species at risk which led to the original designation by the town.

The tribunal points out both the province and the town have policies which say “development... shall not be permitted...unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions,” and that all of the aspects of that were not covered by the reports submitted by the developer.

The tribunal says it could not accept the town’s “determination that the full retention of the woodlot area was neither feasible nor possible.”

“The tribunal finds that the draft plan would have the effect of essentially removing the woodlot. The retained strips are just that - strips of trees - not woodlots, nor interior habitat - and collectively account for only 28 per cent of the woodland today.

“Close to three-quarters of the woodlot would be removed. Such alteration to a designated and zoned significant woodlot warrants



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A plan to remove about 70 per cent of a woodlot to expand Countryview Estates has hit another road block after a tribunal ruled and Environmental Impact Study was not completed before the Town of Petrolia rezoned the area residential.

a full EIS.”

The tribunal added the funding the developer planned to give to plan trees elsewhere is “not a preemptive step to avoid an EIS.

“In the absence of an EIS, the tribunal is unable to conclude that the proposal constitutes good planning in the public interest.”

The ruling also states if the report is completed, and the ecosystems were not endangered by the development, the housing could move ahead.

When contacted by *The Independent*, the developer said he his reviewing his next steps.

“We’re in the middle of looking at our options,” says Leaper.

“Obviously, we’re not happy with the decision. So... I think, within the next week or two, we can go into more detail as to as to where we go from here.”

When the appeal was launched, Leaper said there were 15 people who had already signed up for the homes in the woodlot area.

Elbee also plans to develop some farmland on the north side of the woodlot. When the development is complete, the tribunal says 129 lots will be added to the subdivision.

PW gets cracking on chicken bylaw

Heather Wright
The Independent

The roost is up - Plympton-Wyoming council has asked staff to get cracking on a bylaw which would allow backyard chickens in urban areas.

The town’s bylaws don’t permit farm animals within residential areas. In 2020, a complaint about a backyard coop brought the Needham family to council hoping to change the bylaw. Jon Needham said during the pandemic the birds had become good therapy for his son, Noah, who is autistic. A local feed dealer estimated there could be upwards of 500 backyard chickens in the town.

But changes to the bylaws would have meant a public meeting at the time, something council didn’t want to do during the pandemic. The Needhams’ chickens were given a reprieve.

Over the last month, Planner Sarah Baldwin has hosted two public meetings and compiled an online survey to gauge support for backyard birds. And she says most people are okay with the concept - with a few limitations.

Between the open houses, the survey and letters and emails, Baldwin says about 83 per cent of the people who responded liked the idea.

“Fifty of the 55 (people who responded) want fresh eggs; 39 (would have chickens) for educational purpose; 30 for compost (manure); 26 due to an interest in owning chickens and nine for selling of surplus eggs,” Baldwin wrote.

People responding to the survey had some ideas of their own. “Possible food shortage coming. The people have the right to self preservation. Plus the increase cost of food,” wrote one.

“We are a rural agricultural area. We should be allowed to have chickens. We need to continue with the heritage of farming and education within our community,” said another.

“They’re amazing family pets but also lay eggs to help feed families,” added another.

Seth, Anna, Sophia and Caleb Doktor - who live in Wyoming and raise chickens in the backyard feeding them table scraps and collecting their eggs - sent hand printed letters of support to council.

“I like chickens because they give lots of fresh eggs, they keep my little brothers happy, and they love food scraps so they reduce garbage,” said Anna, a Grade 4 student. “You could make a law to only allow 20 or less chickens and they have to keep the coop clean and not stinky.”

Doktor’s suggestion to limit the number of birds was echoed by others. “Forty-nine of the 55 stated that roosters should be restricted,” Baldwin said in her report.


Those who didn’t like the idea are concerned about noise, manure, they might carry disease and could attract other wildlife who are predators.

One writer, who had first hand experience living next to backyard chickens, said “the chickens were not soothing and quiet, they fought with one another; they made noise continuously during daylight hours; they smelled.”

Others offered compromises.

“For the sake of neighbours who don’t love chickens, it’s a good idea to limit the amount of chickens someone can own based on property size. This would lower the potential noise level and the amount of waste,” wrote one resident.


Council asked staff to draw up a bylaw to be considered in a month. It will also be the subject of a public meeting.



This Month In Lambton

July 2022

[f](#) [t](#)



Warden Kevin Marriott
@LambtonWarden

COVID-19 booster eligibility expanded

Residents of Lambton County over the age of 18 are now eligible to receive a 2nd COVID-19 vaccine booster dose after the Province of Ontario expanded eligibility beginning Thursday, July 14.

Appointments can be booked online through [GetTheVaccine.ca](#), or by calling 226-254-8222. Call Centre hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.


Additional information regarding booster dose eligibility can be found at [lambtonpublichealth.ca](#).

Paint Ontario returning to LHM


In partnership with the Grand Bend Art Centre, Lambton Heritage Museum is proud to present the 26th annual Paint Ontario Art Show & Sale, returning to the Museum September 2 - 25, 2022.

Original paintings will fill the exhibition hall at the Museum, bringing to life the beauty, character, and diversity of Ontario.

For more information and updates, visit [paintontario.com](#).



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Nauvoo and Egremont Road intersection closed for construction

The intersection of Nauvoo Road (County Road #79) and Egremont Road (County Road #22) is fully closed for construction of a roundabout. The work is expected to last until mid-October, weather permitting.

Detours are in place and posted. No through traffic will be permitted for the duration of the project. Routes can be viewed online at [lambtononline.ca/roadclosures](#).

Please visit [Municipal511.ca](#) and [lambtononline.ca/construction](#) for road closure information and project updates.

Looking Ahead

9 a.m. & 11 a.m., August 17, 2022 - Committee A.M. & P.M. Meetings

9:30 a.m., September 7, 2022 - Council Meeting

Agendas, minutes and links to meeting live stream videos can be found at [www.lambtononline.ca/meetings](#).

To read more, go to [lambtononline.ca](#)

Editorial

Put your name in

You may not know it, but we’re in the middle of a municipal election campaign.

Nominations for municipal councillors opened May 2 and have been trickling in across Petrolia and Central Lambton ever since.

Across the region, many of the current members of councils have declared their intentions to seek office again. And in a few communities - Petrolia, Brooke-Alvinston and Warwick notably - there are a few interesting races shaping up for the job of mayor.

But there aren’t a lot of new, fresh faces, willing to provide a different view on their local municipal councils and that’s too bad.

In some municipalities there are people who have been serving in the same position for a decade or more. While the service to community is laudable and many of these politicians serve well, it means people without experience but an interest in serving their community might not bother thinking they’ll never beat the councillor whom the entire community knows.

Being a municipal councillor isn’t an easy job. It takes work; there are hundreds of pages a year - sometimes even in a month - of material to digest and understand before forming an opinion and attending a council meeting. There are phone calls to your home. People are constantly approaching you with their problems. And sometimes those interactions are not all that pleasant.

It takes a patient person with an ability to weigh criticism without getting upset to be a good councillor.

And it takes someone who can think on their feet - someone who questions why in an effort to reach the best solution for all.

And it takes someone who really looks out for all members of the community, not just one or two groups that can make the municipality money.

It sounds like a big task, but there are rewards to helping to shape the future of the community you love. If you want to serve - put your name out there. We could always use some fresh new ideas.

Letters to the Editor

The Independent welcomes Letters to the Editor. Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca. You can also deliver letters to *The Independent* at 4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia or drop them in the mail at *The Independent*, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0. *The Independent* reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity. All letters need to be signed and must have a phone number for verification.

Our Story



DAVE BURWELL POST CARD COLLECTION

A photo of front street in Courtright. Kerr’s Grocery Store is in the foreground billed as a ‘Good place to Eat and Drink’ and the Hotel Bedard is in the background.

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Publisher / 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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NOT QUITE READY FOR HIS CLOSE UP



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Mercedes Machado was trying to get her grandson, Kenji Camacho, to look up as he sat in the sunflower field at Sipkens Nurseries on London Line in Plympton-Wyoming on Saturday. The field is five which are part of a Miracle Max’s Minions. Seed dealer Brian Schoonjans, planted a sunflower field after Max Rombouts, 2, died in 2019 after a battle with leukemia. People coming to the tribute field left donations and in the first year over \$48,000 was raised to help families of cancer patients pay for travel costs and parking through the charity ChildCan. The field at Sipkens is the first to bloom this year and is open Monday to Saturday from 8 am to 6 pm.

Youngest students to get special attention in September

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

When kids in Lambton-Kent go back to school in a couple of weeks, the littlest students will be getting some special attention.

Education Minister Stephen Leece released what it dubbed ‘The Plan to Catch Up’ - what the government plans for schools across the province. It includes more tutoring and more mental health supports.

One of the strategies is to centre on students on the Kindergarten to Grade 2 level in the Lambton Kent District School Board. “None of these students have experienced a typical school year ever,” said Ben Hazzard, superintendent of education for early years and elementary.

The board began offering tutoring in April and have extended into the summer months for reading at the Kindergarten to Grade 2 level. Currently there are 800 students involved in the reading tutoring program daily.

There is summer tutoring in urban areas, while online learning can be accessed across the rural areas. Offering tutoring to the younger students in the school system can be a challenge, given their low attention span, says Hazzard. The reading tutoring has been tailored to the needs of the students. Each day these students get 20 minutes of online reading with a one-on-one tutoring.

Hazzard says the children need even more help with math particularly for students in Grade 8 who will be heading to high school this year.

“We know there is anxiety around transitioning back to the classroom,” said Hazzard. So the board is trying to make it easier by holding transition days in August. Hazzard says a student at the elementary school will get a tour of the classroom and the playground, while being introduced to teachers, resource teachers and other staff.

They’ll also get a book to take home.

That transition day will look much different for older elementary school students and teens at the high school

level. Supports from social workers are also available to students.

There are 15 intervention and assessment teachers to determine whether students were at the level they needed to be and what supports were needed to bring them up to speed.

Hazzard called the new school year challenging and complex after going through two years of disruption brought on by the pandemic. Hazzard says principals across the system would be glad to hear from parents who are anxious about how the new school year will unfold to help calm some of the concerns.

Leece, in his remarks to the media Monday, said the government’s Plan to Catch UP includes making sure kids are back in the classroom in September getting a full experience - including extracurriculars like clubs, sports and field trips. Leece says the plan also includes preparing students for the jobs of tomorrow, providing more money to build schools and improving mental health supports.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Warwick on track for October opening of complex

Heather Wright
The Independent

After years of planning, and some significant construction delays because of the pandemic, officials are feeling optimistic they’re on track for an October opening of the East Lambton Community Complex.

When construction on the \$11.5 million complex began last May, officials were hopeful. But the pandemic caused shortages of building materials and labour issues.

But Amanda Gubbels, the administrator of the township, says construction

is moving along well now with the target opening date of October within reach.

“My understanding from our general contractor is all of our supplies are ordered and scheduled and are on site, so they don’t anticipate any additional issues,” says Gubbels noting occasionally the contractor may wait for a day or two for supplies.

With the rooms taking shape and drywall going up, there are other signs the replacement for Centennial Hall is close to completion. The Y, which will run the wellness centre, is advertising to hire a manager now. “The YMCA

of course needs to recruit someone to bring on in advance, so that they have someone who’s responsible for recruiting their own team and setting up the area,” says Gubbels.

And another facet of the effort to raise \$2 million from the community launches this week. “We do have a mailer to go out to all municipal homes and businesses scheduled for this week, so we’re hoping that will potentially drum up some interest from our local community for personal donations. We’re optimistic.”

At last count \$1.4 million had been raised.


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see Scarecrow Contest flyer for more info
- 6:30-8pm: Old Fashioned Kids Games**
Join us on the grass behind the pavillion for some child oriented games!
- 6:30-8:30pm: Tinkerbell**
from Happily Ever After Events
- 7pm-12am: Two Pitch Tournament**
- 9pm: Live Music by TRAVESTY**
brought to you by our major sponsor Cauldron Cannabis

Saturday:

- 10am-12am: Two Pitch Tournament**
- 11am-7pm: Food and FREE Corn**
provided by Watford Rotary
- 10am-6pm: FREE Inflatables and Activities**
from I-Fast Rentals
-- FREE thanks to our major sponsors
- 11am-4pm: Indoor Vendor & Craft Sale**
at Centennial Hall

Saturday continued

- 2-4pm: Ariel**
from Happily Ever After Events
- 9pm: Live Music by AUDIOWAVE**
brought to you by our major sponsor DT Welding and Erection
- Sunday:**
- 9-10:30pm: FREE Breakfast**
from New Life Assembly
- 10am-3pm: Watford Cornfest Car Show**
at Centennial Hall
- 10am-4pm: Two Pitch Tournament**
- 11am-5pm: Food and FREE Corn**
provided by the Alvinston Killer Bees
- 11am-1pm: Princess Anna**
from Happily Ever After Events
- 12pm: Cornhole Tournament Registration**
by Licensed Lounge
- 1pm: Cornhole Tournament**
- 2pm: Live Music by BILL KNAPP**

The 40th Anniversary!

Tim Hortons WATFORD
(226) 219-7705
Proud sponsor of Cornfest!

LAMBTON MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY
Watford, Ontario
AUTO BUSINESS HOME FARM
Visit lambtonmutual.com to find a broker or agent near you!
1-800-561-4136
Neighbours helping neighbours

dt Welding & Erections INC.
Alvinston
dtwelding.ca
519-709-9984

FOREST SERVICES LTD.
COME ON DOWN TO CORNFEST!

Watford: 615 Bond Street Phone: 519-576-8089
Forest: 71 Enterprise Drive Phone: 1-888-242-7677
darryl@forestagservices.com everett@forestagservices.com

WILSON'S SHELL
5201 Nauvoo Road
Watford, Ontario N0M 2S0
Gas, Diesel, Variety Store, Lottery and Bottle Return
Enjoy Cornfest!
Hours: M-F: 6 AM-9 PM, Sat: 8 AM-9 PM, Sun: 9 AM-7 PM
Phone: 519-849-5480

SOUTHWEST CONCRETE INNOVATIONS LTD.
info@swci.com
Ralph Bork Greg Bork
(519) 777-4589 (519) 490-4813

Proud Community Supporter of the Watford Cornfest
519.849.5810 • 5768 Nauvoo Rd. Watford, ON

Hey Warwick Township, Let's Keep Moving Forward!

RE-ELECT JACKIE ROMBOUS -FOR MAYOR-

Be sure to vote for Jackie on October 24, 2022
Questions? Please call or text me at 519-464-3634 or send me an email at Jackie_Rombouts@hotmail.com

Proud Committee Member, Active Volunteer & Sponsor of the Watford Cornfest

2022

ALL MUNICIPAL

election

NEWS

as it happens

The Independent
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

starting August 19

contact the office...
to be added to our
election news email list

office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Christmas

FOR EVERYONE

A CARING COMMUNITY PROJECT

presents

Christmas in July!

GIFT CARDS ARE A GREAT OPTION!

Drop off Mon to Fri,
10am to 4:30pm until July 29th
at The Independent Newspaper
4156 Petrolia Line

Thank you!

Rising costs means it will be more difficult to provide gifts this year.
Help us jump start raising funds now so everyone has a Merry Christmas!

For information or to make a donation, contact us at 226-349-8660

Easy E-transfer! Send to: ChristmasForEveryonePetrolia@gmail.com with your contact info.

Sports

Players from Botswana learning skills, helping Aces in Alvinston

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

The Alvinston Aces pitching staff has been bolstered this season with the additions of some international talent.

Kunyalala Samuel, 25, and Pamidzani Madzulukwa, 23, have been in Alvinston for the past four weeks, having played four senior league games in the tournament and another four games in a tournament in Tavistock.

Both are members of the Botswana National Softball team and Madzulukwa said the opportunity to play in Canada gives them new challenges with stiffer competition and the ability to further hone their skills.

“They are very happy and eager to get better,” said Aces Manager Joe Triest.

The tournament in Tavistock opened their eyes to the level of competition they will face where they need to be to win, he said.

The pair has missed three tournaments this season due to not

getting passport approvals on time.

There were many players from around the world at the tournament in Tavistock as senior teams had players on their rosters from Australia, New Zealand and Argentina.

The Botswanian players are able to play to Ontario without missing their softball season at home, which runs during our winter season.

Triest was in search of pitchers during the off-season. He had a player on the Aces squad during the 2018 season from the Botswana National Team, so he approached the team again.

He was shown a video from the Softball World Cup Qualifier played in Petrolia, South Africa in February and was impressed. South Africa defeated Botswana 4-3 and was given a berth in the Softball World Cup to be held in later this year in Auckland, New Zealand from Nov. 26 to Dec. 4.

Taking Botswana to the international championship is the ultimate goal said Madzulukwa.

It is one of the biggest championships in the world for softball and is played every two years.

Both Samuel and Madzulukwa have represented their country in the World Cup in 2019 but COVID-19 delayed the next championship in 2021, setting it up for 2022 in Auckland.

The two players have had high praise for many of the people in Alvinston.

Doug Waller of Lambton Meat Products heard they liked oxtails and was able to hook them up.

One Alvinston resident stopped by where they are staying to give them \$20 so they could buy a pizza.

There have also been donations given which allowed the team to pay for their travel expenses in getting them to Canada in the first place.

Above all, the players are here to get better so they can take their talents and represent their home country at the highest level of international competition, while



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Two players from Botswana’s National team are in Alvinston helping the Sr. Aces and learning new skills for their team. contributing to the Alvinston Aces. Whatsapp account, “Dreams do come true.”

There are enjoying it as well as Madzulukwa has even said on his

- THE INDEPENDENT

Wranglers qualify for U17 girls championship

The Wyoming Wranglers will play for a Provincial Softball Association of Ontario (PWSA) Girls’ U17 Grand Championships in Windsor early next month.

The Wranglers punched its ticket by

winning all five of its games at the tier two qualifying tournament in Kitchener on the weekend.

The Grand Championships will take place August 5-7.

Wyoming’s White wins title at Brampton Cup

The son of three-time Canadian boxing champion, Frank White, is following in his father’s footsteps.

Michael White of Wyoming won the Novice 70 kg final at the Brampton Cup boxing event last weekend.

He defeated a Brampton fighter by

RSC (Referee Stopped Fight) in the championship bout on Sunday.

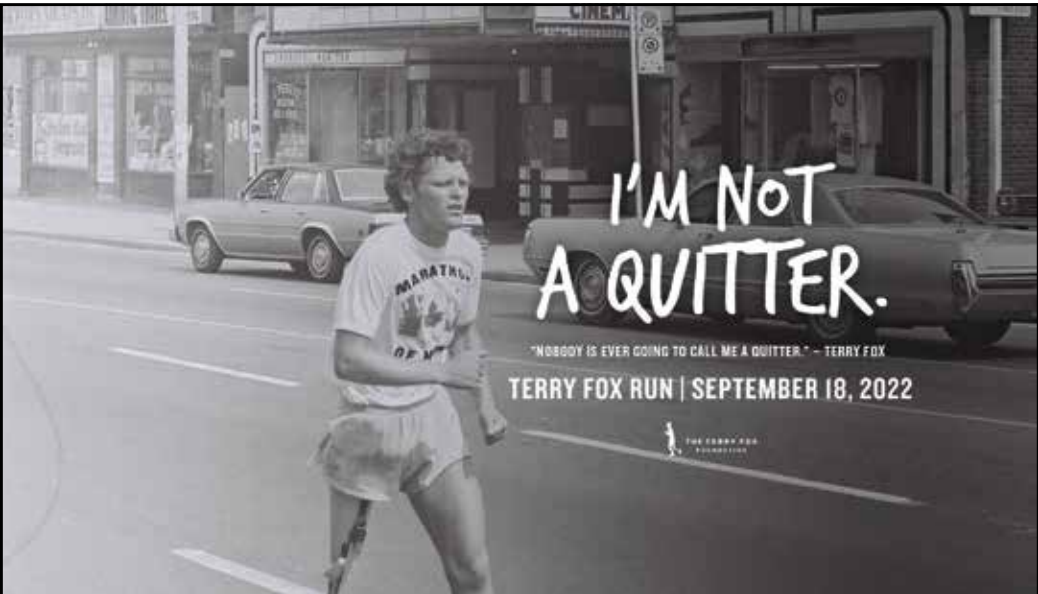
The 16 year-old trains with Kent Athletic Youth Organization (KAYO) in Chatham.

White went 3-0 over the course of the event.

SWING’N FOR TANNER



The Magnums took on the Cut Off Men in Saturday afternoon’s action as the second-annual Tanner Redick Memorial Two-Pitch Tournament was held in Alvinston over the weekend. After four days of ball, the men’s side had STD prevail over the McGlovin while the women’s final had Jager Bomber defeat Harley’s Angels in Sunday’s championship games. There were 18 men’s teams and 12 women’s teams competing. All proceeds from the tournament will be distributed to local organizations. The tournament is organized by the family of Tanner Redick whose life was cut short when his vehicle collided with a combine on Petrolia Line in 2019. The 20-year-old was a volunteer firefighter with the Brooke-Alvinston Fire Department. He was hired just before his death as a full-time firefighter with Six Nations Fire. He also loved his community and baseball. Money raised at the event is distributed to local charities.



2.5km, 5km, 10km

Bike, walk, stroller, wagon, run, rollerblade

Register a team of family and friends, co-workers, sports teams, minor hockey team building, community event, school team, etc.

Register on-line at www.terryfox.org

BBQ hotdogs, wagon ride, merchandise sales, and small silent auction

Petrolia Terry Fox Run

Sun, Sept 18 2022

Petrolia Lions Hall Pavillion
Registration: 8 - 9 am

Rolling Start, anytime from
9:15-11:30am



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



1713 Marthaville Rd,
Dawn-Euphemia



MLS#22016439 **\$725,000**

SHANAHAN REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

7963 Egremont Road, Watford • 519.849.6783 www.shanahanrealty.com

Leo Shanahan Sales Representative
Direct: 519-878-5981 • leo@shanahanrealty.com • Fax-519.849.6683

Open House

4716 Orchardview Dr - Oil Springs

Sunday
July 17
2-4pm



MLS#22015347

New Model Home built by Henderson Builders Limited. The "Northview IV" is a beautiful bungalow plan with 2+1 bdrms, 3 bathrms & dbl car garage (approx 21x20). Located in the quiet Village of Oil Springs. Open concept main floor, spacious kitchen w/quartz counters, cathedral ceiling in living room, master bdrm has a cheater ensuite and walk-in closet. Large lower level w/852 sq ft of finished spacing including spacious rec room, finished 3rd bdrm & 3 pc bath. Plenty of room for storage or a 4th bdrm. Large back deck, fully sodded front & back yard. Hot water tank is owned "On Demand" system. HRV system upgraded to ERV. Property tax & assessment not set.

Host: Jeremy Guerette
519-312-1488

\$520,000

Price includes HST with any rebate back to the builder on closing.



or Jane Baker
519-384-0919
519-542-9999

For Sale

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

3 restored park benches - \$250
each. Call 519-330-4823 for more
details.

For Sale

1. 1984 CCM Supra Hockey
Gloves Red, White, and Blue - Like
new \$50.00

2. Senior Elbow Pads - \$20.00

3. Electric Fireplace - \$100.00

4. Old 2 Man Buck Saw - \$30.00

5. Stainless Steel Mailbox - \$30.00

Call Rick at 519-330-4823.

ADVERTISING POLICY

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

Rentals

Wyoming Lions

554 Main Street

Reception Hall Rentals

Weddings
Anniversaries
Funerals
Business Meetings



Up to 150 seating capacity
Fully licensed by AGCO
Bookings and information
call: (519) 845 0020 or 845 3333

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

Help Wanted / Employment Opportunity

Full-time Deputy-Treasurer

Township of Dawn-Euphemia

The Township of Dawn-Euphemia is seeking an experienced and highly motivated individual to replace our current retiring Deputy-Treasurer. This position will provide assistance and expertise to the Treasurer in completing the statutory duties under the Municipal Act and is responsible for the financial transactions and maintenance of accounts payable, general journal entries, as well as the processing of the payroll and benefit administration functions.

The preferred candidate will require:

- Post-secondary education with discipline in finance or accounting, or related combination of education and experience
- Minimum two (2) years' experience of related, relevant experience within a financial setting. Municipal experience is preferred and considered an asset
- Knowledge of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and practices
- Understanding of Government reporting requirements
- Familiarity with year-end Financial Audit procedure
- Strong interpersonal, financial, time-management, organizational, analytical and communication skills both written and oral; high level of accuracy, superior attention to detail and the ability to multi-task
- Computer skill including Accounting/Financial software and Microsoft Office suite, with a strong aptitude with Excel

This position is full-time and includes a competitive benefits package. The salary range is \$49,387 – \$61,736 annually, based on a 35-hour work week. The Township also offers competitive benefits and participation in the OMERS pension plan. For a complete job description please visit our website at www.dawneuphemia.ca under "Alerts & Notifications". Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and detailed resume by 4:00 pm, Monday August 15, 2022 to the attention of:

Terri Towstiuc, Deputy-Clerk, Township of Dawn-Euphemia,
4591 Lambton Line, R.R. #4, Dresden, ON N0P 1M0
Email: deputy.clerk@dawneuphemia.on.ca
Ph: 519-692-5148 Fax: 519-692-5511



Garage Sales

Brigden United Church
Garage Sale

@ Brigden Fairgrounds

Friday, July 29 & Saturday July 30 - 8 AM start

Something for Everyone:
Furniture, Glassware, Tools,
Antiques, Electronics, Toys,
and Kitchen Essentials!



Wanted to Buy: Bikes

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

ALSO, will pick up scrap bikes.

IMMEDIATE
OPENING
CLASS A TECHNICIAN WANTED

- Must have a strong diagnosis ability
- Valid Driver's license and be bondable
- 310S, 310T Mechanic License
- Would consider 3rd or 4th year apprentice
- No nights or weekends
- Wages based to be negotiated, based on skills & training
- Ford experience would be an asset

Ask For: Jamie Feddema | (519) 849-7777

servicegroganford@gmail.com



5437 Nauvoo Rd. Watford, ON N0M2S0



Church 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



METCALF Lois Jean

METCALF, Lois Jean (nee Johnston) – of Brigden, passed away on **Wednesday, July 20, 2022** at Bluewater Health - C.E.E. Hospital, Petrolia **at the age of 85**. Raised in Inwood, moved to Brigden with husband of 66 years, Percival Joseph Metcalf. Loving mother of Cathy (Bruce) Stephens, Patty Turner, Beth (late Sam) McGill, Ronald (Cheryl) Metcalf. Special grandma to 16 cherished grandchildren and loved all her great-grandchildren. Predeceased by her parents Basil and Bessie Johnston of Inwood, parents in-law Wesley and Katherine Metcalf of Brigden, brother Ralph (Marilyn) (Ann) Johnston. Survived by sister-in-law June (late Ladd) Trachtulec, brother-in-law Ray (Jean) Metcalf and many nieces and nephews. Special thanks to Dr. Hijazi and staff at C.E.E. Hospital, Petrolia and past care of Dr. Wm. (Billy) O'Mahony of Corunna. **A private family graveside service will be held at Hillsdale Cemetery, Petrolia.** Sympathy may be expressed through donations to St. Joseph's Hospice. Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.steadmanbrothers.ca. Arrangements entrusted to STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigden 519-864-1193




RUYPERS Mary Ann

On **Wednesday July 20, 2022**, **Mary Ann Ruypers (McCahill)** passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones at the **age of 69**. Mary Ann was a lifelong reader and lover of mystery novels. She is remembered as a dedicated educator who taught business and computers at LCCVI in Petrolia for 37 years. Survived by her beloved partner Gus of over 50 years. Loved sister to her brother Neil (Diane). Devoted mother of Robyn (Jared) Wolf and Joe (Becky) Ruypers. Proud Nana to Walker, Collins, August and Callum. Mary Ann was predeceased by her parents Donald & Mary (Walker) McCahill. **Friends and family attended a celebration of life at the Lion's Hall in Petrolia on Monday July 25, 2022.** Donations in Mary Ann's memory can be made to Petrolia Food Bank. Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.NeedhamJay.com

Office will be closed: August 8-12,
as we will be off on vacation and there will be
NO PAPER THAT WEEK (August 11)

In Memoriam

In loving memory of



Forever loved
and deeply missed
by Mildred, Janice,
Ross & family,
Julie & family
and your little buddy
Duchess

Seven years gone, Dad
And we miss you still
Our tears may have stopped
But our love never will.
Tho no longer physically here
You continue to walk beside us
The life lessons you taught us
Are still the ones that guide us.
Keep your word. Pay your bills.
Love and respect your mother.
Work hard. Appreciate nature.
Look out for one another.
When worry or doubt
Or troubles surround us
We feel your quiet presence
Your calm and strength around us.
We think of you every single day
Reminders are everywhere
A red F150, cardinals at the feeder
A Blue Jays win, your favourite chair.
So on this day we remember
All the good times that we had
And we thank God
for the wonderful gift he gave us
When he chose you to be our Dad.

THE CHURCHES OF PETROLIA
INVITE YOU TO

CHURCH
in the
PARK

SUNDAYS AT 7:00PM
VPP BANDSHELL

*BRING A LAWNCHAIR, INVITE A FRIEND

Death Notices
July 18 - July 24, 2022

MONDAY, JULY 18

GRAY, Bernadette Barbara
Age 72
Smith Funeral Home

SHELSWELL, Michael
Age 73
Smith Funeral Home

TUESDAY, JULY 19

GOSSE, Nicole Mary Blanche
Age 76
Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

BRYNE, Philip Stephen
Age 88, of Petrolia, formerly Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

METCALF, Lois Jean
(n Johnston)
Age 85, of Brigden
Steadman Brothers Funeral Home

RUYPERS, Mary Ann
(n McCahill)
Age 69, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

WILLIAMS, Dr. Stephen
Age 82
Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, JULY 21

COOK, John Douglas
Age 91, of Port Lambton
Knight Funeral Home

SOLTYS, Neil Joseph
Age 45
Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, JULY 22

BURNS, Linda Colleen
(n Minielly)
Age 65, of Watford
Denning's of Watford

LYALL, Peter Stewart
Age 67, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

PEACHEY, Bruce
Age 74
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, JULY 23

ALDERSON, William "Bill"
Age 86
McCormack Funeral Home

JOLLY, Edward "Ted"
Age 51
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

JOLLY, Susan
Age 49
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

LIGHTFOOT, Lois
(n Caley)
Age 86, formerly of Alvinston
VanHeck Funeral Home

MAXFIELD, Ruby Elizabeth
Age 87
Denning's of Forest

PARK, Annetta Pauline
Age 87
Smith Funeral Home

WINTER, Edward "Ed" J.
Age 85
Smith Funeral Home

SUNDAY, JULY 24

BALL, Kathleen "Kathy"
Age 80
McCormack Funeral Home

HEARD, Donald Alan Freeman
Age 80
Gilpin Funeral Home

McCOLL, Roger Alexander
Age 53
Smith Funeral Home

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

Celebrations



**Carol Currah's
80TH BIRTHDAY**
July 31, 2022
Open House 12:00 - 5:00 pm
Stone Pickers (Forest Road)
*No gifts please.
If you wish, a donation could be made to:
St. Joseph's Hospice*




Celebration of Life



Celebration of Life
Margaret Isabel Dunlop
Sat., July 30th ~ 1-4 pm
at Oakdale Hall
Please join her family and share your memories

Cards of Thanks



A big thank you to all who supported Joyce Prevett to live her last days independently and engaged in the activities of the Town of Petrolia until her death on May 16, 2022. To D. Butler, The staff at Bluewater Health, and St. Joseph's Hospice, your care was much appreciated. For her special friend Joyce and neighbours at Dobbin Enterprises: Teresa, Verna, Anne, Roger & Dan. Her caregivers Ruth & Jean for all the creative ideas to entertain her and keep her active during her last months. To her friends at St. Philip and Canada Post card club, thank you. To the Parr, VanEwyk, Holmes, Hart and Talashavich families for their many visits. She lived a full life and we are creating a small booklet about her life and accomplishments that will be available by fall 2022.

Janet & Dick Bradley

A very special *Thank you*
to my wife Colleen for all your hard
work and dedication for all four of
my surgeries in the last 18 months.
Love you very dear.
Love always,
Chester



The family of the late Cynthia Sitzes would like to thank everyone for flowers, cards, food, calls, monetary gifts, and donations. Also special thank you to VanHeck Funeral Home and Reverend Mike Burns.

Brian, Austin, and Sitzes Family

WARM WEATHER HAZARD



Petrolia/North Enniskillen firefighters spent several hours trying to get a fire in a wheat field under control. Chief Jay Arns says they were called to the field on Churchill Line Saturday afternoon and found the field and 10 large round bales of hay already on fire. Crews spent several hours on the scene trying to contain the blaze which damaged several acres of the field which was being harvested at the time. The temperature was in the 30s with humidex readings edging towards 40 C at the time. Arns says the firefighters took lots of breaks, drank a lot of water and at times removed some of the heavy bunker gear to avoid heat exhaustion.

More history marked in Petrolia

Heather Wright
The Independent

Two homes have been added to the long list of historical buildings in Petrolia. The homes at 4233 Emma Street and 425 Chestnut Street were designated under the Ontario Heritage Act Sunday. Terry Syers of the Petrolia Heritage Advisory Committee called Petrolia “a living museum” which tells the history of the community through its many heritage designated buildings and homes. “We value their commitment and drive to preserve not only the architectural heritage and craftsmanship, but also the cultural and family history of these properties,” he said. Susan McEwan and Jeff Harvey have owned the Emma Street home near Crescent Park for 17 years. The large five-bedroom red brick home was constructed in the 1870s but Harvey said there is actually some debate on what year the home was actually built. A large portion of the home is an addition to the original home. It was built by Henry Warren Lancey and was first owned by Charles Jenkins of Petrolia Crude Oil and Tank Company. A later owner was Frederick Edwards, who was a prominent oil driller. It is believed Lawrence of Arabia rescued him in the Middle East during an oil expedition. Some of the architectural features of the home include the original stained glass around the front door and in the dining hall, the original wrap around porch and front stairway, a butler’s pantry, unique radiators with lattice design and decorative corbels around the porch. There are the original sunroom sliding doors, the original high baseboard and crown moldings and an arts and craft style fireplace. Laurissa and Ross Ellsworth have owned the home at 425 Chestnut Street since 2013. They are the only the fifth owners of the home since it was built in 1885. They

have done considerable work to restore the home and taken care to bring it back to its original state, said Laurissa. “A lot of blood, sweat and tears” have been put into the home, said Ross.



Ross and Laurissa Ellsworth show off their new heritage plaque on Chestnut St.

The Chestnut Street home was built in the Italianate Villa style and is near Crescent Park. One of its owners was John MacDonald who founded the boiler works and was one of the largest oil producers in Petrolia. He built the National Oil Company refinery, which he operated for over 20 years. He was one of the first to import casing and tubings from England for oil wells. His community work involved serving on Petrolia Council and the school board. Some of the features of the home include floor to ceiling windows on the front of the house, an original slate fireplace and a tiled hearth. There is a coloured plaster decorative medallion on the kitchen ceiling, while two other decorative medallions on the dining room ceiling and on the ceiling in the front entry. The front door is original to the home made from wood and glazed glass inserts. The home has its original slate roof with a decorative roof cresting. It also has a quarried stone foundation and a basement with a built in safe with the original owners name on it. Petrolia currently has 38 Ontario Heritage Designated properties, which is the most designated properties in Ontario per capita, doubling Stratford at a rate of two to one.

AUGUST 2022
DOOR BUSTERS

Quantities are limited. While supplies last.

Single Handle Kitchen Faucet

8" center, metal lever handle, durable metal construction. 1.8 GPM at 60 PSI. Includes detached white hose sprayer. Chrome finish. 1737824



\$59.99
Reg. \$99.99

Blowgun with Rubber Tip

Allows full line pressure to be used. Oil resistant, soft replaceable rubber tip. Will not mar delicate surfaces. 6279491



\$12.99
Reg. \$21.99



12 oz Minimum Expanding Sealant

Fill small gaps in walls, around exhaust vents, plumbing fixtures, baseboards, sill plates and electrical outlet boxes. Use it on both indoor and outdoor applications. Amber colour. 7127996

\$9.99
Reg. \$13.99



\$8.99
Reg. \$12.99

12 oz NoWarp Window & Door Sealant

Fills gaps and insulates window and door frames. Stops drafts to minimize energy loss. Creates a moisture barrier. Fire retardant. 7128044

\$59.99
Reg. \$77.99

120V Battery Maintainer

Usage for car, motorcycle, lawn tractor and power sport batteries. Includes: set of double-sided adhesive and cable tie. 7227754



10 Amp Automatic Charger

Input Voltage: 120V AC. Input Current: 0.6A continuous/3A intermittent. Output Voltage: 12V. Output Current: 2A Continuous/10A Intermittent. 7227770

\$89.99
Reg. \$119.99



get your email added to our e-flyer list and check instore for more monthly items email: fmflorence@yahoo.com



Senco 1 Gallon Compressor

0.5 running HP. Oil-Free Compressor

\$199.99
Reg. \$249.99



Amflo Poly Air Hose

\$55.99
Reg. \$77.99



\$40.00
Reg. \$69.99

Professional Woodworker Plastic Sawhorse

1 pair. Holds up to 500 lbs.

Amflo Rubber Air Hose

\$89.99
Reg. \$109.99



ALL INSTOCK CANNING SUPPLIES

10% OFF reg price



Titanium Drill Bit Set

\$12.99
Reg. \$16.99



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Florence, ON N0P 1R0
Ph: 519-692-4711