

STORM DAMAGE



Crews from the Town of Plympton-Wyoming and Wyoming Tree Service had their hands full clearing the damage left behind by Monday night’s thunderstorms. See more on page 3.

BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Mural to celebrate Petrolia’s past, present and future

Heather Wright
The Independent

Visitors to Petrolia will soon get an artful look at the oil town’s past. Mark Moran, the publisher of Daytripping, is working with Watford Artist Francis Martin, and members of Petrolia Heritage to erect a 20 foot long mural on Petrolia Line. The idea for the mural has been a seed in Moran’s mind for a while. When his friend,

Central Lambton artist Barbara Perrin, passed away, he was entrusted with her art supplies and paintings. The proceeds from the items which have been sold at charity auctions - and a Creative County grant - are being used to create the mural with paintings by Martin. The mural will show an oil well, a portrait of Charlotte Eleanor Englehart, the cenotaph, the front cover of the former Petrolia Advertiser-Topic the week Victoria Hall went up in flames, and a

fiddler on the stage into the future. “Victoria Hall is the heart of this community,” he says adding it’s hard to imagine what the community would have looked like had it not been rebuilt after the tragic 1989 fire. The mural is also a tribute to Perrin, who Moran said preserved the history of rural Lambton with her art. The mural will hang on the wall of Heidi’s Independent Grocery store. It’s expected to be erected this fall.

Fairbank and museum may join international bid to recognize oil industry history

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

A Polish academic says Fairbank Oil Fields and the Oil Museum of Canada are “monuments of history” and should be part of an international bid for UNESCO World Heritage designation. Dr. Boguslaw Szmygin from Lublin University of Technology in Bobkra, Poland, encouraged Canada to join with Poland and other countries around the world to put forward a serial designation of early oil sites for world heritage. Szmygin was in Lambton County for an international oil heritage conference Thursday and Friday. He visited Oil Springs Saturday to see the national historic site first hand. The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage (TICCIH) organized the conference drawing delegates from Poland, Scotland, Spain, Texas, Pennsylvania, and Canada. TICCIH advises on UNESCO world heritage designations. The Oil Museum of Canada, operated by the Lambton County, and the Fairbanks Oil Fields unsuccessfully applied to Canada’s Tentative List to be considered for a world heritage designation in 2017. They will be applying again, but Szmygin hopes it can be a joint application of all those countries involved with the early development of the oil industry. He called the Oil Museum of Canada and the Fairbanks Oil Fields “a living package from the past.” Szmygin’s country is no stranger to oil development. Bobkra had its first extraction of oil in 1854, four years before the first commercial oil strike in Oil Springs in 1858. There is a museum in Bobkra to commemorate the oil and gas industry, as well as 60 oil wells, some of which are still in use in Poland, near the Ukrainian border. SEE INTERNATIONAL ON PG 2



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SCAN FOR MENU



International bid considered

CON'T FROM PG 1

Szmygin feels there is support for the world heritage designation at the local level in Lambton County, but the problem might be at the federal government level. “Oil was so important,” he said but now has a negative connotation due to global warming.

He called the Fairbanks Oil Fields and the Oil Museum of Canada “monuments of history.” The discovery of oil in Oil Springs led to the development of Lambton County with the construction of roads, rail and farm drainage.

Pat McGee of Fairbanks Oil who is the chair of the steering committee for TICCIH, said there are many who never heard of Oil Springs and its contribution to the oil industry. She called the conference a huge boon to raise the international profile of the community and the effort to get world heritage designation.



Polish delegate Dr. Boguslaw Szmygin tours the Oil Museum of Canada.

McGee said the next step is to determine what is the best course of action moving forward. The summary report will be prepared about the conference and it will be shared internationally.

Trucker declared a hero after Inwood crash

Heather Wright
The Independent

While Lambton OPP have yet to explain a crash in Inwood, truckers are calling the man who died in the crash a hero.

Aug. 23, a transport truck and Jeep collided at the corner of Inwood Road and Courtright Line. The transport - a feed truck for Luyk Farms - was headed east toward Alvinston.

The owner of Luyk Farms, Willy Luyk, said the driver, Cam Wilcox, 67, of St. Thomas, swerved to avoid the Jeep and died in the process.

“We lost a good man yesterday, accidents do happen people, please look before you drive through,” Luyk wrote. “He saved five young kids lives but he payed for it.”

Lambton Warden Kevin Marriott called Wilcox a “true hero for sparing those five lives.”

Wilcox was also praised by people in the trucking industry.

“This was preventable. These are big heavy trucks people - stay out of their way,” wrote Brandi Oliver in an online truck driver’s forum. “Rest easy sir knowing that you saved five lives today by giving your own.”

“He made the ultimate sacrifice; the sign of a true professional, added Chris Britton.

His family, in his obituary, said Wilcox was a man who “was always helping someone” as other called him “larger than life.”

OPP have yet to give an official cause of the accident or lay charges.



Cam Wilcox

THERE SHE BLOWS



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

The smells and sounds of tractors filled the Wyoming fairgrounds Saturday as the Plympton-Wyoming Agricultural Society held it's eighth annual Truck and Tractor pull. Organizers say the event was the biggest they'd ever had.

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Not permissible items include hedge clippings, vines, roots, perennials and any other compostable materials. Resident will be responsible for removal.



The East Lambton Community Complex Fundraising Committee would like to thank all individuals, families, organizations & businesses who have donated to this amazing project this far.

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Hope for full-time landfill inspector at Twin Creeks

Heather Wright
The Independent

There seems to be a chance of getting a Ministry of Environment inspector to work full-time at the Twin Creek’s Landfill.

Peter Pickfield, who is part of the technical review team for the township, recently presented the year end report about Waste Management’s operation outside of Watford. Pickfield noted the company has addressed some concerns while others, including landscaping, remain unanswered. He noted the number of complaints about odour remains high, with 36 last year compared to just seven in 2018.

Pickfield says the company has been dealing with the odour complaints by tarping the open area on the weekend. But Warwick Mayor Jackie Rombouts says when the tarp is removed, there are inevitably complaints again about the smell wafting over the community.

Pickfield says the tarp is only a temporary solution and the company has to find a better way to deal with the odours.

In the past, there was a MOE inspector at the site constantly to deal with issues like excessive odours, but in recent years, the largest landfill in Ontario now only receives periodic inspections.

Pickfield told council Monday that if WM receives approval to expand its site upwards - as is proposed - it will be even more important to have an inspector on site. He suggested the municipality continue to push for the full-time inspector. Rombouts met with the Minister of Environment at the annual Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference who suggested its open to the idea, if WM pays the fee. The township hopes to set up a meeting with WM on the issue in December.

ALVINSTON VOLUNTEERS HONOURED



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Five Alvinston volunteers were among 65 people honoured with the Queen’s Jubilee Medal over the weekend. Dan and Marnie Cumming - both volunteers of multiple organizations including the Brooke-Alvinston Agricultural Society - Terry MacDonald of the Alvinston Legion and Ann and Don McGugan who have been active in local politics and a number of charities including at Lambton Rural Child Care and the Alvinston Food Bank, all received the medals at a ceremony in Thedford.

Storms down trees, cause damage in Wyoming

The Independent

Another heavy thunderstorm made its way through Lambton, bringing down trees and hydro wires, leaving hundreds without power for almost a day.

In Wyoming, the storm did the most damage in the cemetery. Carolyn Tripp, CAO of the town, said there were too many downed trees to count. Town work crews and Wyoming Tree Service worked all day trying to clear up the mess.

Tripp said fortunately, it appeared there was only some damage to the tombstones.

In South Lambton, St. Clair Township residents waited for hours to have power restored after trees crashed through hydro wires. Hydro One said at one point more than 11,000 homes were in the dark.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lightning captured by a video cam in Port Huron on the St. Clair River.

Expect a normal school year, and some precautions

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

COVID-19 is still top of mind for educators as classes across Lambton County resume Tuesday.

Masks will not be mandatory in any Ontario school, nor will the online screening tool. However the Lambton-Kent District School Board “strongly recommends” students, staff and visitors continue using it to check for symptoms before heading to class.

“You must stay home if you have COVID-19 symptoms or are waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms,” states the website. Also anyone who is sick or has any symptoms of illness, including those not listed in the screening tool, should stay home and seek assessment from their health care provider if needed.

The head of the St. Clair District Catholic School Board echoes those comments asking parents to continue using the app.

But Scott Johnson says he’s pleased the 2022-2023 year is wide with opportunities for students.

“I am pleased that our schools are ready to return to a normalized school experience, where students can engage fully in academic, athletic, artistic, social justice, wellness and faith formation activities throughout the school day,”

he writes in a letter to parents.

“This will include opportunities for experiential learning and outdoor education; and in our secondary schools, a return to fully operational cafeterias.”

Johnson adds the schools will continue the extensive cleaning which took place in the last two years and will provide masks for those students and teachers who want them to avoid exposure.

And he says, the schools have invested heavily in ventilation systems.

“Over the past three years, St. Clair Catholic has invested \$7.7 million in school ventilation upgrades.

“Our schools are equipped with excellent ventilation systems ... the highest-grade filters and additional HEPA filters that meet or exceed ministry requirements - in every classroom, portable and school.”

The first day of classes in Lambton-Kent School District will be Tuesday, Sept. 6. Senior Kindergarten will also begin full-time attendance on Sept. 6 while Junior Kindergarten will have a staggered entry with half of the students attending on Wednesday, Sept. 7 and the other half of Thursday, Sept. 8.

- THE INDEPENDENT

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PUTTING IT ON

Put the pack on a flat surface, at waist height. Slip on the pack, one shoulder at a time, and then adjust the straps to fit comfortably.

WEARING IT RIGHT

Both shoulder straps should be used, and adjusted so that the pack fits snugly to the body, without dangling to the side. You should be able to slide your hand between the backpack and your child's back.

More than 50 per cent of young people experience at least one episode of low back pain by their teenage years. Research indicates one cause is improper use of backpacks. So pack it light and wear it right!



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Editorial

Oil history is still important

As you read in our front page article, Poland and several other countries want Oil Springs to be part of a bid to have the earliest oil fields designated by UNESCO as world heritage sites.

It's a great idea, but we wonder if it will ever come to be.

Oil Springs and Petrolia have a great story to tell about hard-working people figuring out ways to pull oil from the ground of the walnut forests of Lambton County. The discoveries made here changed the way the world operates. Without the abundance of oil pulled from the ground, our world would not have developed to what it is today. Virtually everything we touch can be attributed to the oil industry. It's influence is unquestionable.

You will recall that Lambton oil producer Charlie Fairbank and the County of Lambton have tried to have the oil fields recognized in 2017. That failed. Now, an international group wants UNESCO to look at all early oil development and name a number of areas - including Oil Springs - as historically significant.

But so far, it has yet to be recognized and we - like many others - believe this has more to do with the current state of our climate than anything else.

UNESCO is living in a world where many vilify the oil industry. The affects of the overuse of petrochemicals are unmistakable in the world around us. Perhaps they believe its not politically correct to celebrate it.

But since when is history politically correct. Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump in Alberta is a world heritage site. It, according to the website, "celebrates the cultural significance of this cliff to the Plains People." It's also where millions of buffalo were slaughtered. Not exactly politically correct.

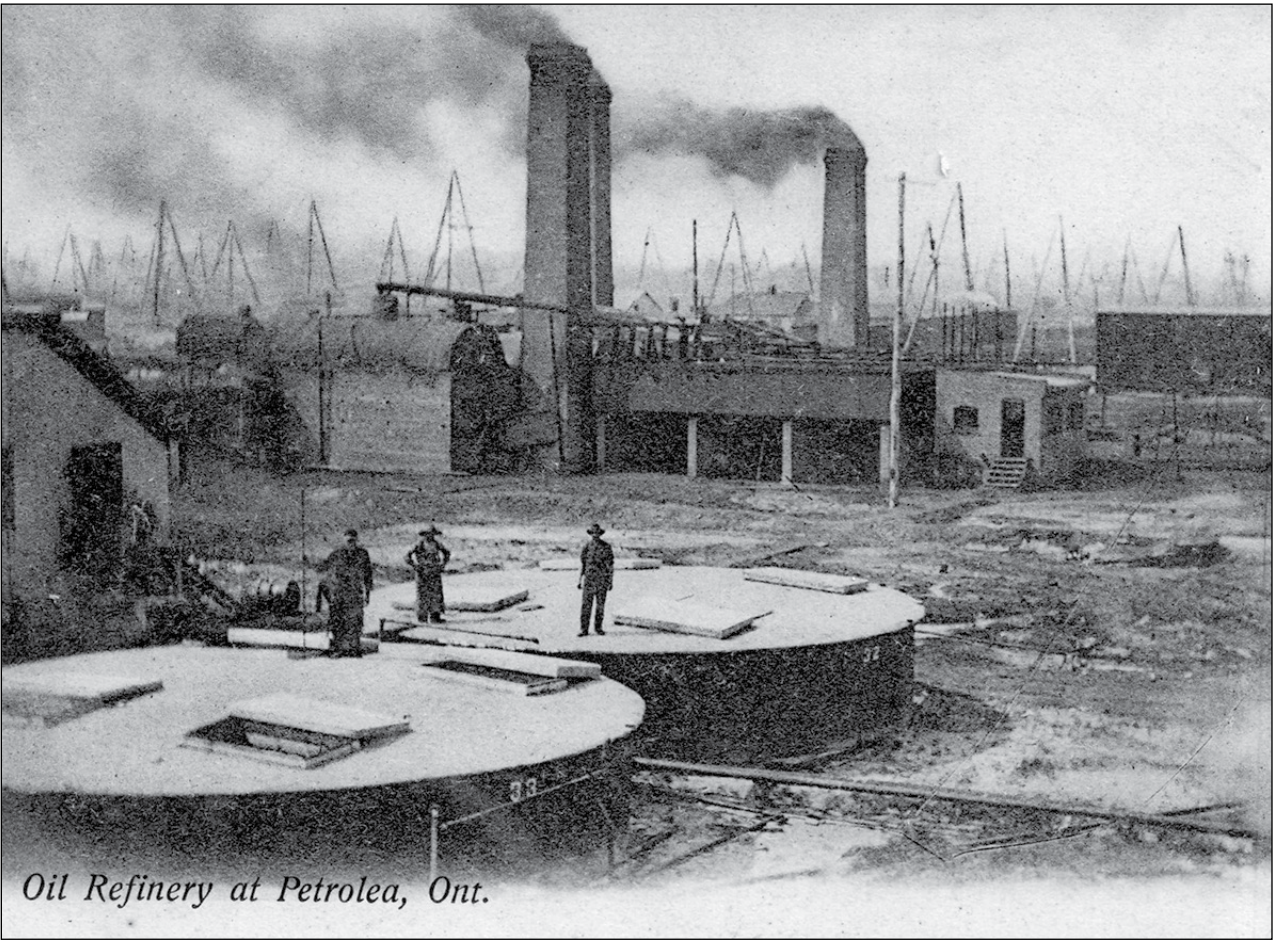
We should be telling the story of oil, the good, the bad and the ugly, so people understand more about our shared history, their use - and misuse - of it, and how it shaped our nation.

It doesn't have to be a political time bomb; it's history; the story just needs to be told.

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



Oil Refinery at Petrolia, Ont.

DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION PHOTO

This postcard pictures an early oil refinery in Petrolia. The development of new technologies in the oil exploration led to 700 people from the area going abroad to open oil fields. The most famous of them is William McGarvey. You can read more of his story on pg 12.

Why are the elderly's rights being ignored

I sometimes wonder if we ever learn from the past.

This week, the provincial government introduced legislation which effectively removes the rights of elderly people to choose where they want to live.

Bill 7 is aimed at easing the bed shortage in Ontario hospitals. In some communities, frail, elderly people wait in hospital for months for a spot in the long term care home they want to live in. It's an expensive way of caring for people and the province wants to see it end.

So, it drafted a bill which would in effect, force seniors into long term care homes, even if that's not where they want to go.

Bill 7, More Beds, Better Care Act, allows the transfer of a patient to a long term care home — without the

consent of patients - if an attending clinician deems they require "an alternate level of care."

There are several problems with this of course, the most basic being its a fundamental right in this country to choose where you will go.

The second would be what long term care homes have beds readily available?

Since our population is aging quickly and most homes have waiting lists, it is reasonable to assume those which have an excess of empty beds may not provide the quality of care you want for your loved one.

And there seems to be no guarantee that these elderly people who need more care won't be sent to a long term care home far from any family members who might be able to help them.

For many people, travelling hours

to be with family would simply not be possible and it would leave the senior alone and likely confused.

Sounds a whole lot like the conditions they faced in the pandemic.

The final kick in the teeth to all this is the Minister of Long Term Care says no one will be forced out of a hospital. They will however be forced to pay for their hospital stay if they refuse to go to a home.

And of course, that is really no choice at all.



Heather Wright

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Canada

Opinion

Support candidates who support Petrolia tourism

EDITOR:

I was once reading a newspaper in Treasure Island, Florida and the local council had been debating the value of tourism to the municipality. It was mind-boggling since the town exists because of the millions of tourists that flock there. Petrolia’s not quite on that level, but I spoke with a friend recently and

was told that there are still people in Petrolia who question the value of Victoria Playhouse to the community. As a former resident and former VPP board member who visits and shops in Petrolia quite often and works in tourism, let me assure you that the theatre is a gem that you should be proud of and thankful for. Countless other communities would beg to have an attraction like this and, while there will always be room for improvement, it is the face of tourism in Petrolia and it is shining brighter than ever. When you’re deciding what candidates to support in the upcoming election, please consider how they will support tourism and VPP.

Mark Moran, Publisher, Daytripping in SW Ontario

Autism services still not fixed

Heather Wright
The Independent

Laura Hodgins says its time for the province to “pull up their bootstraps” and fix the way services for children with autism are delivered. Three years ago, the province faced a firestorm of angry parents when it changed the system to deliver services. It was, the government said, an effort to help the 23,000 children waiting for government-funded services. But Hodgins says three years and one election later, the number of children waiting for services is now 53,000. Hodgins, who lives in Petrolia with her family, including her seven year old son, Peter, who is autistic, says the problem is the assessment system was dismantled. Parents were given access to more kinds of therapy paid for by the government, but their children’s needs were not being assessed. Autism Ontario’s Marg Spoelstra agrees. “I would say one of the most significant sources of frustration for families is not getting their kids in into those services that are so clearly needed to have them clearly identified.” Spoelstra says Autism Ontario was part of a group which advised the government on how to improve the system. “Those recommendations have been acknowledged, and the system is moving in that direction... now, it will be a matter of additional investment in the programs.” Spoelstra says cash is needed for services but also to train those to provide services. “In some places... you could have access to the funds, but not be able to spend it” because there are not professionals trained to provide them. That’s a great source of frustration for the Hodgins family. Years ago, they sold their home so they could afford to spend about \$15,000 for treatment for Peter. And, they’re seeing progress as Peter “comes out of his shell” as he learns to express himself. But the family has weathered the system on their own, unwilling to risk their son’s future waiting for government help. She says other parent’s aren’t able to do that. Hodgins says the government must act now. “There’s more than 53,000 kids on the list (for autism services) right now - that’s crazy. That’s more than the capacity of the Skydome.”

TINY DANCER



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

Ryan Duncan opened the Summer Wrap-Up Music and Dance in Oil Springs Saturday. Also taking the stage were local bands Crop Tour and Dog Patch. A sizable crowd was in attendance to enjoy the evening in the municipal parking lot beside the fire hall. The Summer Wrap Up came after a full afternoon of Cornhole as 32 teams battled it out for supremacy. The Oil Springs Parks and Recreation Committee organized the event.

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***Jr Ambassador competition update!**
Due to the amount of interest in our Jr. Ambassador program, we have decided to run two different age groups. We will run ages 7-11 and 12-16. The competition will be held Thursday, September 8th @ 6pm at Greenwood arena. The winner of each age group will win a prize handed to them at our opening ceremonies on the Friday night of the fair. They will also be invited to ride in our parade on Saturday morning! If you or anyone you know is interested in running please visit our website www.petroliafair.ca and fill out our Jr Ambassador entry form. Please have your entry in by September 5th.

Shell

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WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 8

4-9 pm Arena open to receive exhibits

Friday, September 9

8-10:30 am Arena open to receive flowers

6-10 pm Inflatables

6-10 pm Exhibits on display in arena

7 pm Beer Gardens open

Tractor Pull

Opening Ceremonies (Arena)

Ambassador Introductions

Winners announced

Thursday, September 8

8:30-4 pm Exhibits on display in arena

9 am Childrens' Pet Show

10 am Heavy Horse Show

10:15 am Judging - Childrens' Parade

11 am Parade

12-7 pm Inflatables

1:30 pm Sheep Show

2:30 pm Childrens' Sheep Show

12-4 pm Entertainment Demonstrations

12:30 pm Beef and 4-H Inter-County Shows

3 pm Loonie/Candy Hunt in the Straw near playground

4:15 pm Exhibits removed from arean and elementary prize pickup

8 pm Jeff Leeson Comedy

Sunday, September 11

11 am Antique tractor pull

12-4 pm Inflatables

1 pm Demolition Derby

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Kiddie Tractor Pull (arena)

Beer Garden (till 5 pm)

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SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2022

www.petroliafair.ca



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JEFF LEESON

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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10

GREENWOOD REC CENTRE - PETROLIA, ONTARIO

TICKETS AT THE PETROLIA HOME HARDWARE

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FRIDAY NIGHT TRACTOR PULL
Who's excited to have the tractor pull back!? I know we are!!! The pull will be Friday, September 9th starting at 7pm!
See you there!

DEMOLITION DERBY

Sunday, September 11th @ 1pm!

Prizes subject to change at the discretion of the derby committee
For full contest rules please see www.petroliafair.ca and the Petrolia Derby Facebook Page
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LEANING IN FOR A GOOD LOOK



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Vintage cars packed the Petrolia Legion parking lot and beyond Saturday. The Sarnia Street Cruisers filled the area and music from the 60s and 70s, played, while many wandered through. A 50/50 draw was held with Joe Card holding the winning ticket. He donated his winnings to the building fund. Money raised goes to the building fund to make the Legion accessible. The Legion plans to install an elevated platform, which can transport a wheelchair up the stairs. A universal bathroom will also be added and a ramp installed at the front of the building. The project could cost up to \$300,000

Health team among the few accepting patients

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Petrolia doctors are fielding calls from Sarnia and Chatham-Kent as patients try to find a family doctor.

Over the past decade, health care advocates have voiced concern about the lack of family physicians in rural and northern Ontario. In some communities, people wait for years to have their own doctor. Recently, Enniskillen Township endorsed the call of another municipality asking the province to address the problem.

There are 1.3 million Ontarians who do not have access to a family doctor, according to 2019 data released by Statistics Canada.

Central Lambton Family Health Team Executive Director Sarah Milner says there are still many people who do not have a family physician. The clinic gets daily calls from people looking for a family doctor. Priority is given to those living in the area. The clinic often gets calls from people in Sarnia and Chatham who are looking for a family physician, says Milner.

The Central Lambton Family Health Team's patient load has increased from 10,000 in 2012 to 18,000 currently, with the organization on track to reach 19,000, says Milner. There are 11 family physicians with no vacancies. Patients are still being accepted by two of the doctors who started with the family health team last September, Dr. Ahmed Hijazi and Dr. Paxton Moon.

It's unusual for communities to have doctors accepting patients.

But Milner said the recruitment of doctors has been successful here because of the Petrolia Recruitment Committee and its involvement with the residency program through the Western University's Schulich School of Medicine. Dr. Moon completed his residency training in family medicine in Petrolia, working and learning at the Central Lambton Family Health Team. This led him to decide to practice with the same team upon graduation. The practice also has a nurse practitioner, a chiropractor, social workers as well as a number of nurses who see some 200 people a day.

FIBRE FRIENDS

BLAKE ELLIS PHOTO

The first ever Lambton County Fibre Fest was held in Courtright, on Saturday, Aug. 27. The event brings a focus to artisans who create with fibre and textiles. The outdoor event had booths set up with many items up for sale. Many of the artisans could be seen knitting or crocheting throughout the day.



Sports

Wyoming captures bronze in Eastern Canadians

The Independent

The Wyoming Wranglers are home with bronze medals to their credit from the Eastern Canadian girls' U17 fastball championships on Prince Edward Island.

After an opening round loss in the round robin last week, the Wranglers rattled out six straight wins to advance to the semi-finals on the weekend. There they lost a tough 5-4 decision to a team from New Brunswick. Wyoming's only losses were to the two teams from New Brunswick that met each other in the championship game.

Kylee Shortt of the Wranglers was named player of the game for Wyoming in its final playoff contest.

Team Members: Mariah Altman, Molly Battram, Olivia Battram, Riley Brush, Gracie Harse, Ava Hart, Paige Hudson, Taryn King, Avery Lines, Alley McLean, Aubrey Moffatt, Kylee Shortt, Ava Thompson

Coaches: Greg Shortt, Steve Moffatt, Richard Help and Manager, Ann Helps

Meantime, four area players were part of the Chatham Golden Eagles Eastern Canadian U15 championship



Wyoming's U17 team placed third at Eastern Canadian championship in Prince Edward Island over the weekend.

in Newfoundland. The Eagles roster included Jaelyn Devine and Sydney Nibset of Corunna, Brigden's Kendle

Adams and Summer Dalgety of Courtright.

Raiders host provincial tournament

The Petrolia Raiders are hosting the Senior "B" tournament with the Port Lambton Pirates #1 and Courtright Cardinals also representing the Western Counties Senior Circuit. Petrolia opens the tournament against the Creemore Padres in Petrolia on Friday afternoon at 2 pm. There are also games in Wyoming over the weekend beginning on Friday at 7:30.

The defending B champions Wyoming Cattlebarons and runner-up Corunna Giants will head to Woodslee for the "A" tournament. Wyoming opens the tournament on Friday night at 8 against the Ivy Rangers in Woodslee while Corunna will play their first game in Tecumseh against the Woodstock Nationals with the first pitch also on Friday night at 8.

The Port Lambton Pirates #2 and Dresden Bulls will be going back to Thorold for the C tournament.

Alvinston's Triest at nationals on the Rock

Andy Triest of Alvinston is in Newfoundland this week for the Softball Canada Masters men's nationals. He is on the St. Thomas Storm roster. The Storm opens the tournament on Wednesday afternoon with a game against Nova Scotia followed by games against St. John's and Saskatchewan on Thursday. The Storm advanced with a dominating performance at the provincials in Kitchener a month ago.

OHL training camps underway

A handful of players from Central Lambton are attending OHL camps this week. Plympton-Wyoming's Austin Harper is back with the Sarnia Sting trying to acquire more ice time this year along with Watford's Ty Moffatt. Wyoming's Jace McGrail is in Peterborough at the Petes camp while Alvinston goalie Hayden Duncan is at the Ottawa 67's camp.

If they don't stick with their OHL clubs, McGrail and Moffatt have signed with the Sarnia Legionnaires while Duncan has agreed to terms with the Strathroy Rockets.

Flyers take on Flags, Kings

The Petrolia Flyers have back-to-back exhibition contests this week. They take on the Mooretown Flags on Thursday (Sept. 1) at 7:30 in Watford before travelling to Dresden the next night to take on the Jr. Kings. Dresden beat the Flyers, 5-2 last week in Watford.

Meantime, Petrolia's schedule has been released with all its home games set for Thursday night at 7:30. The home opener will be September 22 against Thamesford. The season opener is at Dorchester on September 16.

Sanders, Stout win top honours at Kingswell

Kelly Stout won the overall championship and was also crowned senior champion at the Club Championship at Petrolia's Kingswell Glen last weekend. Denise Sanders won the overall ladies' title and the senior crown. Rhett Joy was the Junior Champion.

PLAN TO ATTEND!!

Plympton Wyoming Agricultural Society presents the

176th Annual
PLYMPTON
Wyoming
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FALL FAIR

SEPTEMBER 16 & 17

ANIMALS

TOY TRACTORS

DISPLAYS

FOOD

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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-3p Mon, Tues, Fri or 9a-12p Wed
4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Real Estate



**3219 Church Street
Alvinston**



\$499,000

WOW, this classic Victorian home, on what is considered the most desirable street in town, is move-in ready. Enjoy all the old-world charm, 3 bedrooms & 1.5 bathrooms, & original features such as functional pocket doors & an authentic, updated water closet under the stairs. Recently renovated throughout, the list of updates is long & includes: new kitchen & upstairs bathroom '19, brick repointed '21, new eaves '21, new shingles '14, electrical '22, basement insulation '19, hi efficiency furnace '19), & main floor laundry '22. This is a must-see home.

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Obituary



CLEMENT
Albert Hector “Ab”

A devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend, athlete and mentor. It is with extreme sadness, that we announce the passing of **Albert Hector Clement (Ab)**. Born in Sarnia on June 11, 1931, he passed away peacefully, **August 26, 2022**. Ab was predeceased by his parents Remi and Louise (née Brazeau) Clement, his sister Pauline (Richmond) and his brother Raymond.

Ab Clement was a naturally gifted athlete, as a youth he was a star player in Sarnia baseball, football for St. Pats High School and for the Sarnia Junior Sailors hockey team. As an adult Ab would play hockey year round and stayed involved in Old-timers hockey games, tournaments and trips as well as coach in the Sarnia Minor Hockey Association and later the Forest MHA. Of average size he was a man of high energy and well known for his physical strength, whether it was accurately throwing a football 60 yards down the field or using his strong legs and speed to skate through and around opponents while driving to the net.

Ab first worked for Dow and then joined the Canadian Oil Companies Ltd. (White Rose) which later became Shell Oil. Ab worked for Shell in the maintenance department as a millwright and later as a maintenance supervisor until his retirement.

At the age of 29, Ab took up the sport of golf and within a year he was the tournament champion for Shell Oil. Golf became his life's focus and for many years he competed in the low handicap flight for tournaments, sometimes winning his flight as well as winning several club championships at Egremont Golf & CC. After retiring from Shell, Ab became fully immersed in golf as he partnered with the ownership of Egremont Golf & CC to manage the operations of the golf course. In the off season, Ab and Donna would go to their winter place in Florida where he would work as a course marshal allowing him to network with friends who had access to play some of the finest courses around Naples.

In 1969, Ab built his home in the lakeside community of Blue Point where you could often find him in his garage manufacturing, building or repairing just about anything, as it was his gift. He was also the driving force behind the development of a playground and tennis court in the Blue Point community park. This is where he started playing tennis and learned to perfect the art of applying “english” to the ball with cuts, spins and nasty drops over the net, much to the disfavoured of his opponents. Ab enjoyed the mental aspect of sports, in serious competitions he was a fierce competitor with a precision-like focus but when competing with friends and family he enjoyed the art of gamesmanship, often cajoling someone into a decision they would later regret, and having a good chuckle about it, all part of his playful but slightly off-beat sense of humour.

In spite of some physical impairments he suffered later in life, the lost usage of a couple fingers and a struggle with the cancer radiation treatment that caused the removal of the femur bone from his hip, he still continued to compete on his one good leg, able to play a solid round of golf as well as play tennis while using a cane.

Ab is survived by his best friend and devoted wife Donna, married for 67 years. His 2 daughters Dianne (Paul), Carol (Rick) and his son Dave (Janet). His 8 grandchildren: Laura (Cameron), Steve (Andrea), Greg (Krista), Grant (Theresa), Thomas (Shera), Nathan, Maurina and Ken. His 13 great grandchildren: Heidi, Jacob, Ria, Beckett, Quinn, Jasper, Griffin, Coen, Aspen, Sophie, Vincent, Bruce and Layla.

A celebration of life will be arranged at a later date. In remembrance of Ab Clement's life, the family asks that any charitable donations be made in his name to the Canadian Cancer Society. Arrangements entrusted to Smith Funeral Home, 1576 London Line, Sarnia. **Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.smithfuneralhome.ca**

Monday: 9 am - 3pm
Tuesday: 9 am - 3 pm
Wednesday: 9 am - 12 noon
Thursday: Closed
Friday: 9 am - 3 pm

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226-738-0728
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Calendar

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

of events

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

CLUBS AND REGULAR EVENTS					
DAY	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO	
3rd Thurs	7p	Oil Springs	Optimist Meat Bingo @ The Youth Centre	519-834-2152	
Mon	1:30p	Alvinston	Seniors Cards @ Alvinston Legion	519-898-2100	
Tues	1p	Wyoming	Wyoming Fair Bd - Euchre + coffee & cookies	519-312-0578	
Tues	7p	Petrolia	Petrolia Toastmasters @ Petrolia Lion's Hall	519-381-4910	
2nd Wed	7p	Petrolia	Bingo @ Petrolia Lion's Hall	519-882-8728	
Wed	7:30p	Alvinston	LA Cards @ Alvinston Legion	519-898-2100	
Wed	7p	Forest	Darts @ Forest Legion	519-786-5357	
3rd Wed	7p	Sarnia	Monthly Meeting @ Horticultural Society	519-332-5837	
Thurs	7p	Alvinston	Pool League @ Alvinston Legion	519-898-2100	
Fri	7:30p	Alvinston	Dart League @ Alvinston Legion	519-898-2100	
Fri	1:30p	Forest	Shuffleboard @ Forest Legion	519-786-5357	
Sat	6p	Alvinston	Catch The Ace @ Alvinston Legion	519-898-2100	

UPCOMING EVENTS					
DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO	
Sep 3	10-5p	Sarnia	First Friday and Weekend Walkabout host their last event of the season - A Taste of Sarnia Food Festival . Car show to follow on Sunday from 10am-4pm.		
Sep 5	11a-1p	Petrolia	Peameal on a Bun w/ a side of Coleslaw @ Petrolia Legion for \$10. Eat in or Take Out.		
Sep 6	1-4p	Wyoming	DANCE the afternoon away with LARRY HART @ the Wyoming Legion. Admission is \$7.00 per person.		
Sep 10	Noon	Petrolia	Ham & Cheese Sliders for \$3.00 @ Petrolia Legion. Eat In or Take Out.		
Sep 10	2p	Petrolia	Meat Raffles return @ Petrolia Legion		
Sep 11	4p	Tupperville	Dawn Valley United Church hosts the 133rd Anniversary Musical Celebration featuring The Torchmen Quartet . Please contact Gloria Pegg at 519-683-2266 for more information.		
Sep 12	6p	Wyoming	Plympton-Wyoming Health and Wellness Centre Grand Opening . Come join us for tours, staff meetings, and refreshments!		
Sep 13	7:30p	Pomiton Edward	Bluewater Anglers September General Membership Meeting @ 210 Monk St. Guest Mr. Lorne Font from Twin Bridge Fishing Charter will talk about the art of vertical jigging for Walleye.		
Sep 15	7p	Sarnia	Ed Dejong – One Room School Houses of Lambton County @ LDS Church, 1400 Murphy Rd. or online by registering for Zoom Meeting at lambton.ogs.on.ca .		
Sep 16	11a-2p	Wyoming	Ham and Scalloped Potato Fair Luncheon @ Wyoming Lions Hall. Admission \$15.		
Sep 17	Noon	Petrolia	Hot Dogs for \$3.00 @ Petrolia Legion. Eat In or Take Out.		
Sep 17	7p-11p	Petrolia	Dance to “Just Us” for \$20 per person @ Petrolia Legion. Light Lunch provided.		
Sep 17	2pm	Petrolia	Meat Raffles return @ Petrolia Legion		
Sep 18	8a-12p	Wyoming	Wyoming Lions Breakfast @ the Lions Hall. Adults \$15, Kids 10 and under \$5		
Sep 18	1:30p	Alvinston	Drumhead Service @ the Alvinston Legion. For information, contact 519-898-2032		
Sep 21-24	Lunch	Watford	Legion Week Lunches return @ The Watford Legion. Profits from the week go to support Homeless Vets. Minimum \$12 donation. Takeout will be available.		
Sep 24	9a-12p	Sarnia	Drive Thru Food Drive @ New Horizons Community Church. All donations will be given to the Inn of the Good Shepherd. For more info, call 226-402-3060		
Sep 25	10a	Petrolia	The Petrolia Legion hosts a Mixed Dart Tournament . Admission is \$10 a player, pre-admission required. Call 519-882-1201 from 9am-9pm to register.		
Sep 29	7p	Wyoming	Wyoming Lions are hosting a Plympton-Wyoming Candidates’ Night , at the Lions Hall, everyone welcome.		
Oct 5	7-9p	Watford	Branch 172 is hosting a Candidates’ Night . A question period will follow.		
Oct 11 & 12	7:30p	Sarnia	Two Meet the Candidates Meetings will be hosted at he The Imperial Theatre. City/County Council & Mayoral Candidates will be hosted Tues & Council will be Wed. In-Theatre admission is \$5.00 & live stream is free. For further information or to submit questions, please contact info@slchamber.ca		
Oct 15	Evening	Watford	World's Greatest Fish Fry @ Branch 172 is back! Tickets will be available in early Sept. at the Legion on Fridays from 2-9pm and Saturdays from 12-6pm.		

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon



Classifieds

Word Classifieds: \$10 plus tax for up to 40 words
Stop in at the office 9a-3p Mon, Tues, Fri or 9a-12p Wed
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Church DIRECTORY

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*Those attending will be physically distanced,
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Pastor Katherine Hawley

In Memory



In loving memory of
the Honourable

Ralph Ferguson

Who passed away
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From his wife Dolores, children
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We hope to have a Celebration
of Life soon.

Hunter

In Loving Memory of
Bernice
wife, mother, grandmother & great grandmother
who passed away August 31, 1993

*Memories are a gift to treasure,
Ours of you will last forever.*

Loved and remembered every day

Love your husband Dick,
Children - Ron, Dave, Karen, Dave, Carol,
Mark & families

HUNTER

In loving memory
of **Bernice**
who passed away,
August 31, 1993.

*It isn't what we write
It isn't what we say.
It's how we feel inside
As we think of you today.*

Missed by Kay

Celebrations

**HAPPY
88th
BIRTHDAY**

ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2022

**Patricia Ruth
McIlwain**

Love, from your family

**early
deadline**

for the
Sept 8 2022
issue

2

September 2
Friday @

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FALL FAIRS 2022

Petrolia & Enniskillen
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– **Petrolia Fair** –
Sept 9 - 11

Plympton-Wyoming
Agricultural Society
– **Wyoming Fair** –
Sept 16 - 17

Forest
Agricultural Society
– **Forest Fair** –
Sept 23 - 25

Brooke-Alvinston
Agricultural Society
– **Brooke Alvinston
& Watford Fair** –
Sept 30 - Oct 2

Moore
Agricultural Society
– **Brigden Fair** –
October 7 - 10

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

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CANDIDATES

Get Noticed!

2022
MUNICIPAL
election

Telling the story of Petrolia’s top foreign driller

Heather Wright
The Independent

Gary May says if William McGarvey was an American, they would have made a movie about his remarkable life.

The author of *Crude Genius, The Making of an International Oil Baron William H. McGarvey*, has been fascinated for decades by the man who started as the owner of a general store and became one of the most wealthy foreign drillers to come out of Petrolia.

May, a former newspaper reporter, first discovered Lambton’s oil history when he worked here for the *London Free Press*. He started digging deeper to find out about the oil exploration here and wrote *Hard Oiler*. But during his research he came across William McGarvey’s name and was intrigued.

He researched McGarvey’s story for 15 years, travelling to Europe where he gained his fortune after developing the Canadian Drilling System with John Burke of England.

“They didn’t have a lot of money themselves yet. So instead of buying up oil leases, they worked for other people and they were extremely successful... they made so much money in this way that they ended up buying their own oil leases. And they were making more money that way. Then they decided, ‘well, we might as well become like a full service company. We’ll build our own refinery, we’ll build our own equipment factory. And that’s what they did initially in Galicia, later on in Russia.” He also had refineries in Hungary and what we now know as Poland.

McGarvey’s wealth was so great, he gave his daughter a castle in Austria as a wedding present.

And he was considered one of the most powerful oilmen in Europe - advising governments and industry.

But, war changed much for McGarvey. The

Russians invaded and began burning down his refineries. On his 71st birthday, amid the growing tensions, his wife threw him a birthday party. He went to bed that night and died of a heart attack. “His son wrote back to Canada ...saying he thoroughly believed that it was the worry and the losses that McGarvey had faced that were largely responsible for his death.”

May says McGarvey was one of the most successful oil men in Lambton’s history and he deserves recognition.

“He’s one of the early Canadian entrepreneurial success stories and I like to tell people if McGarvey had been an American, there would have been a Hollywood film about him years ago,” says May.

But, he’s a Canadian, and, you know, we’re a bit hesitant to play up our heroes in our success stories.

“So, it’s taken a while and I’m hoping that this is going to be a breakthrough, that people are going to start to pay more attention to these international drillers - these 700 men and many whom brought their families overseas with them with McGarvey being one of them, the most successful of them. I really hope that this is going to be the breakthrough.”

May officially launched his book Sunday at the Oil Museum of Canada.

It can be found at the museum and online from book services such as Amazon.



William McGarvey

PARK DEDICATION



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Plympton-Wyoming officials recently officially opened Lamrecton Park. The lands, a former summer camp, was donated to the town and over the last few years, washrooms, a pavilion and a new breakwall was added. The park also features memorial trees and a memorial bench.

YOU'RE INVITED TO

OUR SITE 70TH ANNIVERSARY

"SHELL-EBRATION"

AND COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE!

Join us for food, entertainment for the kiddos, displays, swag, door prizes, site tours and more!

Location:
Shell Refinery at 150 St. Clair Parkway in Corunna

Time:
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Date:
Saturday, September 17, 2022

Parking will be on LaSalle to the north of the site with shuttles taking attendees to and from the event. Look for parking signs directing the way. The event is open to all and is free of charge.

