

MINI MINIONS



ERIC CURRAGH PHOTO

The Forest City Mini Owners Club took in Miracle Max's Minion's display at VanLoon's farm between Watford and Strathroy over the Civic Holiday weekend. The club had stickers made for their Mini's celebrating the fundraiser for ChildCan. The group also made a stop in Petrolia at Crescent Park Sunday.

Farm-flation as costs double

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

If inflation is making a dent in your spending power, consider Lambton County's farmers.

They're finding the cost of their most basic inputs have doubled from last year.

"The cost of everything has increased," said local dairy farmer Kevin Forbes, who owns and operate Forbesvue Farms with his wife Melissa on Waterworks Road in Lambton County. His biggest increases in expenses have been fuel, feed, and fertilizer as inflation has hit his operation where he has a herd of 200 cows which produces 7,000 litres of milk a day.

The cost of fuel has taken a huge jump. In the first seven months of 2021, he spent \$25,000 in fuel; that cost has jumped to \$49,000 over the same time period in 2022.

Another huge increase has been fertilizer, which has jumped from \$585 a tonne last year to \$1,075 a tonne now. Forbes said this is not only due to inflation but tariffs put on Russia due to the war in the Ukraine.

The tariff, he says, "didn't hurt Russia.

It hurt the consumer instead." The United States are pulling off these tariffs, something which Canada has failed to do as of yet, says Forbes.

The price of feed for his cows is also rising. Canola meal is added to a dairy cow's diet to provide protein. Last year it was at \$514 a tonne, and has increased to \$617 a tonne. He feeds his herd of 200 head, a half a tonne a day.

Forbes says he can find some ways to save by managing the amount he uses for fertilizer. But reducing his fertilizer in trying to save on costs, can mean lower yields and less crop to sell.

While inflation has affected his expenses, crop prices have also climbed. Forbes says the soybean crop shows promise, but it needs some rain. The area has seen a lack of rain so far this summer leaving much of the area with drought-like conditions.

Many dairy operations try to grow as much feed as it can for its herd. If the yields are lower this season, there will be an increase in cost to fill the gap, he said.

SEE FARM INFLATION PG 2

'They're just struggling'

Heather Wright
The Independent

The problems of the people coming through the doors of the Petrolia Food Bank are sadly familiar.

One woman quit her part-time job because most of her pay cheque was going to pay for the gas to get there.

Seniors who once gave cash and food to the Petrolia charity, are now turning to the charity for help because their pensions are shrinking.

Another family which had broken the cycle of poverty 10 years earlier had to walk through the doors again.

The manager of the Petrolia Food Bank says says in a time of rising inflation, the working poor and the elderly are increasingly using the pantry for help.

Before the pandemic, there would be about 20 to 25 families come to the door Monday morning for help. "Now we're seeing anywhere from 20 and one week we had 47 families come through on the Monday," Sandra Hartman says.

Inflation in Canada hit 8.1 per cent in June - the highest rate in decades. Most people notice the price increases at the pumps and in the grocery store. Hartman says for the working poor, that increase is enough to throw all their finances out of whack. Hartman says there is a "trickling effect" to each increase.

"It is just - they're struggling; they're all struggling."

And the first thing people who are struggling do to save some cash is cut their food budget because, Hartman says, they know they can get help at the food bank.

"They can't afford produce is the main thing," she says. "They expressed to me that it's easier for them to eat unhealthy foods. It's cheaper to buy unhealthy foods than it is to have your milk and your produce and your meats."

And in the last few months, Hartman and her volunteers have been trying to find ways to help the people who are now homeless in Petrolia.

SEE FOOD BANK PG 2



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SCAN FOR MENU



Food bank use just one part of problem

CON’T FROM PG 1

Hartman says about six clients are either living rough outside or in their car. There are more that are couch surfing - moving from home to home to find a place to rest.

“If there’s somebody that’s living in their car, we can’t really give them foods that they really need to cook like rice. We don’t give them frozen stuff. We just try to adapt it as best as we can,” she says.

Valerie Colassanti knows how hard it is to find help for people without a home. She’s the general manager of social services in Lambton County and during the pandemic had to deal with huge increases in the number of people without a home.

People who had been living with friends were forced out on their own as people isolated to stop the spread of COVID-19. At one point 250 people in Lambton needed emergency housing.

While Colassanti says many people have found a home, there are still just under 100 people in the county without a permanent place to live. “People can’t afford to have someone stay with them now,” she says. And it is very costly to go it alone. If the person is receiving social assistance, they’re getting just \$733 a month to live on. That barely will cover half of the cost of the average rent in Lambton.

“With the rent increases and all food inflation, there is just no money left.”

So, Colassanti says, many people with Ontario Works are left to search for food. “People are spending all of their time going from food bank to food bank, from soup kitchen to the next place, ... they spent all of their time trying to get their basic needs. So even if someone’s looking for work, they also have to make sure they’re finding food to feed their family.”

Even the most careful budgeter can’t get around increasing food costs, Colassanti adds.

“They’re already buying those, you know, those products, the cheapest product they can. So now what do they do when those go up, there’s nowhere for them to go other than the food bank.”

The struggle to find food or substituting cheap food for produce will lead to more problems down the road.

“If they’re not eating properly, then of course, their health starts

to deteriorate. And again, if you’re struggling all the time, and you’re constantly worried about how to feed your family, how to pay your bills, then you also can start to have mental health crisis. So that is on top of the housing insecurity, and it’s very troubling.”

Colassanti says the most efficient way to help people who are struggling is to increase the amount of money people can receive from Ontario Works.

There hasn’t been an increase since 2016 when the provincial Liberal government upped it by 1.5 per cent. Inflation since that time has increased 18.25 per cent.

During the provincial election in June, there was some push to have the rates paid through the Ontario Disability Support Plan increased. The Conservatives - who were re-elected - pledged to increase the \$1,116 monthly rate by 10 per cent.

There was never any discussion about increasing the rates paid by Ontario Works.

Colassanti says between the rising prices, the lack of affordable housing and the mental health issues facing people with lower incomes, there are no quick or easy answers to improving life for those with the least.

“There just isn’t the affordable housing and it takes time to build affordable housing,” says Colassanti. “It takes dollars from all levels of government to build affordable housing. And it’s not just affordable housing, we need affordable housing supports. Some people need support to assist them, particularly those struggling with mental health issues or addiction issues.

“So we’ll need dollars from everywhere. It’s going to take time.”

And if government’s don’t act quickly, Colassanti says the crisis is only going to deepen.

“If we continue to see inflation increasing and the rates don’t increase, I think we will have more people living rough.”

Hartman agrees adding she’s expecting to see more working poor walking through the doors. “They’re just everyday people... They’re somebody that works in our community that we probably have all seen at their job.”

And she calls that heartbreaking.

Farm inflation soars with fuel, fertilizer rising

CON’T FROM PG 1

All those increases mean there is less cash to spend on things like tractors and new farm pickups. And when Lambton County’s agriculture industry turns out over \$582.72 Million in total sales - a number estimated by the Lambton Federation of Agriculture in 2016, decreased spending has spinoffs in the community.

Even if there is a little cash left to spend, like everyone else, farmers are facing supply issues. In Forbes’ case, he ordered fans for his barns. They were suppose to be to him by last May but he has just got them installed. The fans help keep the cows cool and comfortable and will affect his overall milk production.

Most tractor dealers have not seen a new 2022 piece of equipment on

their lots. New tractors next year are expected to go up by \$40,000 next year.

The increase in interest rates will also have an effect on some farmers, said Forbes, as the dairy farming is capital heavy and many farmers need to carry debt to finance their operations

And while the economics of farming are difficult, Forbes says farmers are resilient.

“We will continue to produce a high quality product,” said Forbes. Many of the larger operators are a little more progressive, as they look to ways to be more efficient.

He added if this keeps up, there could be some farmers who choose to exit the industry.

“There is a high level of stress in dairy farming,” he said.

EPIC SUMMER TRIP



CHRISTAL BRESSETTE PHOTO

Campers from Hope Alvinston Ministries started an epic five day journey down the Sydenham River Sunday. The summer campers will paddle from Alvinston to Wallaceburg camping at prearranged stops along the way in Croton, Florence, Dresden, Wallaceburg and finishing at the St. Clair River . They’re carrying all their own supplies - food, water and tents - in the canoes.

Persons may be nominated as candidates in the Municipal Election for the positions set out below by filing a nomination paper in the prescribed form along with a **\$100 filing fee** payable by cash, certified cheque or money order. Identification of the candidate must be produced at the time the nomination paper is submitted. A **\$200.00 filing fee** is required for the Head of Council of a Municipality.

Nomination papers may be filed anytime during normal office hours from **May 2, 2022, to Thursday, August 18th, 2022. On Nomination Day, Friday, August 19th, 2022**, nomination papers may be filed anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.


Nomination papers shall be filed at the office of the Clerk of the Municipality in which a person intends to run for office, or in the case of School Board, the office of the Clerk designated to receive nominations for that particular office. Nomination forms and full particulars of the nomination process can be obtained from the office of the Clerk in which nomination papers must be filed.

Where more certified candidates are nominated for an office than the number required to fill the office, an election will be held.

If, by 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 19th, 2022, the number of certified candidates nominated for an office does not exceed the number of vacancies, those nominated will be acclaimed to office. Additional nominations for any remaining vacancies will be accepted on Wednesday, August 24th, 2022, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

2022 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS NOMINATIONS

Notice to the municipal electors of the



MUNICIPAL POSITIONS TO BE ELECTED:

Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston		Township of Dawn-Euphemia	
MAYOR	1	MAYOR	1
COUNCIL MEMBERS	4	COUNCIL MEMBERS	4
<i>Janet Denkers, Clerk</i> Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston		<i>Donna Clermont, Clerk</i> Township of Dawn-Euphemia	
Township of Enniskillen		Village of Oil Springs	
MAYOR	1	MAYOR	1
COUNCIL MEMBERS	4	COUNCIL MEMBERS	4
<i>Duncan McTavish, Clerk</i> Township of Enniskillen		<i>Martha Gawley, Clerk</i> Village of Oil Springs	
Town of Petrolia		Town of Plympton-Wyoming	
MAYOR	1	MAYOR	1
COUNCIL MEMBERS	6	DEPUTY MAYOR	1
<i>Mandi Pearson, Clerk</i> Town of Petrolia		COUNCIL MEMBERS	5
		<i>Erin Kwarciak, Clerk</i> Town of Plympton-Wyoming	
Township of St. Clair		Township of Warwick	
MAYOR	1	MAYOR	1
DEPUTY MAYOR	1	COUNCIL MEMBERS	4
COUNCIL MEMBERS:		<i>Amanda Gubbels, Clerk</i> Township of Warwick	
Ward 1	3		
Ward 2	2		
<i>Jeff Baranek, Clerk, Township of St. Clair</i>			

BOARDS OF EDUCATION:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LAMBTON KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL
NORTH LAMBTON: Lambton Shores, Plympton-Wyoming, Warwick.
Nomination paper filed with: Clerk, Municipality of Lambton Shores, Forest, On

CENTRAL LAMBTON: St. Clair, Brooke-Alvinston, Oil Springs, Petrolia, Enniskillen.
Nomination paper filed with: Clerk, St. Clair Twp., Mooretown, On

SOUTH LAMBTON/NORTH KENT: Dawn-Euphemia, Chatham-Kent.
Nomination paper filed with: Clerk, Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Chatham, On

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT
NORTH & CENTRAL LAMBTON: Brooke-Alvinston, Enniskillen, Petrolia, Oil Springs, Plympton-Wyoming, Lambton Shores, Warwick.
Nomination paper filed with: Clerk, Municipality of Lambton Shores, Forest, On

SOUTH LAMBTON/EAST KENT: Dawn-Euphemia, St. Clair, East Kent.
Nomination paper filed with: Clerk, St. Clair Twp. Mooretown, On

FRENCH LANGUAGE PUBLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Conseil Scholaire Viamonde – Area 8
geographic area 8 comprised of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, and Counties of Elgin, Haldimand, Lambton, Norfolk, and Oxford
Nomination paper filed with: Clerk, City of Sarnia, On

FRENCH LANGUAGE SEPARATE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Conseil Scholaire Catholique Providence – Area 1
geographic area 1 comprised of the Counties of Bruce, Grey, Huron, Lambton, and Perth
Nomination paper filed with: Clerk, City of Sarnia, On

ALMOST READY TO LAUNCH



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Gary Martin, seen here with Laurie Zimmer, vice president of operations at Bluewater Health on the soon to be commissioned helipad, knows the value of a helipad at a hospital. The president of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture lives near Wallaceburg and watches Air Ornge fly over his land to pick up the seriously ill and injured. Martin says when an LFA member suggested donating to Bluewater Health's effort to raise cash for the new helipad in Sarnia, they ran with it. The LFA and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture presented \$5,000 to the hospital foundation for the project Friday. The helipad expected to cost \$900,000, about \$100,000 more than originally anticipated. Work on the helipad is likely to be complete in the early fall. The hospital then has to wait for approval from the federal government before using it.

Rodeo plans to expand its reach

Heather Wright
The Independent

Organizers of the Alvinston Pro Rodeo are hoping to attract even more people to the annual event in 2023, thanks to a grant from the provincial government.

The Brooke-Alvinston Agricultural Society, which runs the rodeo, applied for and received \$33,421 from Reconnect Ontario - a program aimed at increasing tourism in the region.

"We wanted to promote and expand our already successful local event as a destination event for day trippers and weekenders tourists," says McKinley. An estimated

5,000 to 6,000 people paid to attend the event in 2022.

And it seems the rodeo already has a pretty good draw according to the ag society which asked people at the gate where they were from.

"We had attendees from Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton as well as attendees from Scotland, Switzerland and Paraguay who attended with local families that they were visiting," says McKinley.

"We proposed to advertise in the Kitchen-er, Windsor and London television media," he added saying they didn't try that this year because of the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic.

Tanner Redick tourney raises over \$40K

The Independent

An Alvinston ball tournament has raised some big bucks for charity.

And organizers say its just what its name-sake would have liked.

Tanner Redick, a young Alvinston man who had just landed his first job as a firefighter, died in 2019. His family organized the 2022 Tanner Redick Memorial Two Pitch Tournament and hit it out of the park raising

\$41,149 during the weekend event.

Organizers say all the funds will go back into the community organizations which Tanner Redick was a part of including the Alvinston Optimists and the Alvinston Firefighters' Association.

The tournament has been so successful, the organizers have started a scholarship. Gracie Goodhill and Gavin Burgess of East Lambton were the winners of the \$1,500 scholarships this year.

June 21 thru Aug 30

396 Fletcher St.
Behind The Library

tuesday
NIGHT
market
4:30pm-8:30pm

Every Tuesday Night
4:30pm-8:30pm

Town of PETROLIA

WARWICK TOWNSHIP
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Part-Time Parks and Recreation Labourer (Arena Operator)
2 Positions Available

The Parks and Recreation Labourer is a part-time position that works between 20-35 hours per week between August 15 and April 15 annually. This position is responsible for maintaining and operating the newly constructed East Lambton Community Complex (formerly the Watford Arena), Warwick Community Hall and the Townships Recreation facilities. The position maintains and operates all equipment including operation of the Ice Resurfacer. The position will deal directly with the General Public, provide event support and promote the use of these facilities.

This position is a Union position, CUPE Local 2393.3

This position requires regular shift availability during weekday, evenings and weekends.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Secondary School Graduation.
- A valid Ontario Driver's License.
- Two years of experience in an Arena and or Gymnasium environment.
- Certificate in recreation and leisure, office administration, public or business administration, marketing or related field would be considered an asset.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal and time management skills.
- Excellent customer service skills and ability to work in a public setting.
- Knowledge of Occupational Health and Safety practices and their application in the workplace.
- An equivalent combination of education and experience.

How to Apply:

Interested applicants are asked to apply online at www.lambtononline.ca/jobs and select **Job # J0722-1463**. The deadline to apply is **August 12, 2022 by 11:00am**. The Township of Warwick has partnered with the County of Lambton to advertise this job opportunity. The job description can be found in the job posting from the link above.

Questions regarding this exciting opportunity with the Township of Warwick should be directed to:

Ryan Chamney
Manager of Parks and Recreation
Email: rchamney@warwicktownship.ca
Phone: 519-876-2808

Job Board: www.lambtononline.ca/jobs

For a copy of the job description email: rchamney@warwicktownship.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The Township of Warwick is an equal opportunity employer. The Township of Warwick provides reasonable accommodations throughout the hiring process. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request throughout the hiring process as required under the Township of Warwick's policies and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, and will be used for the purpose of candidate selection.

Editorial

Condemning our neighbours to poverty

We are relatively fortunate in Petrolia and Central Lambton; while we are all feeling the affects of inflation in our everyday lives, we are still managing for the most part. But there is a significant and growing portion of our population which is not managing and we should all be concerned.

As you have read, people in our communities who make the least money are struggling significantly. Consider someone making minimum wage - even at 40 hours a week, they're taking home just under \$1,800 a month. If they're new to the rental market, they're likely to spend two thirds of that income on a place to live. With \$600 left to spend for the month, they have to deal with the rising cost of gas - if they're lucky enough to own a car - utilities and of course, the rising price of food.

If you need your car for work, you pay that bill first. You also need power and water to live, so those bills are next. You can easily see how someone making minimum wage is going to run out of money in a hurry. And when they do, the stop buying food. That's why the local food bank is seeing an increase in the number of people who have jobs coming to their doors for help. It's also why both the food bank and the new Petrolia Refrigerator are available for support. So many people need help.

And that's just the working poor. Now consider those who are using Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Plan - they get \$733 and \$1,116 respectively to live on a month. If they get a job to try to make life better, the government reclaims their cash right off the top even though they face a host of new costs to have a job.

The amount we provide to people on social assistance hasn't changed since 2016. The rate of inflation has increase 18.25 per cent since then.

It is beyond time for our province to provide meaningful help and increase what it provides to those who have no other place to turn. To do otherwise is to condemn our neighbours to a life of poverty.

As citizens, we should be telling politicians they must act now. It shouldn't have to happen to you for it to matter to you.

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 POSTCARD COLLECTION

As families headed out to Lake Huron, they needed a spot to buy gas and have something cool to drink. This postcard is simply labeled 'Refreshment Stand, Bright's Grove.'

Vacation confusion; yes, I'm still here

I'm still here. And yes, I'm regretting it just a little. Since we started *The Independent* nine years ago, the staff has always enjoyed a summer break after the Civic Long Weekend. Happily, that not only coincided with the long weekend, it usually included our wedding anniversary which is a real bonus for me and Barry. So this year, when the Civic Holiday came early, I decided we'd take the second week of August off including the anniversary. And frankly, that's

caused a bit of confusion. It's amazing how quickly people become used to something. I had several emails wishing me a happy holiday - even though I had another week to wait. Even the folks at Canada Post were expecting use to be off Aug. 4. It has been a little amusing. But then, Tuesday rolled around and I remembered WHY we took the first week of August off - because seemingly everyone else is also off.

It took hours for my first email to arrive in my inbox Tuesday - usually there are a half dozen by 10 am. I was trying to write up a list of assignments for our reporter, Blake, and it was slim pick'ns until the weekend when Cornfest takes over in Watford. So, perhaps next year, I will confuse you all again, and go back to taking the first week of August off. It likely won't matter; I am sure, as history has shown, you'll all be waiting for your paper in the mail whenever we return from vacation.



Heather Wright

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The Independent

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Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514

Proud host of the Local Journalism Initiative

Funded by the Government of Canada
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Oil Springs Summer 2022

family fun fest



ALL
events are
FREE
and held at
THE YOUTH
CENTRE

FREE
face painting
by Fairy Tale Face Painting 2:00-4:00 pm

saturday
Aug 13
1-5pm

Oil Springs Parks & Rec
will have
cotton candy
& kettle corn

available
for sale!



1:30-
4:30
pm

Something for all ages!

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OIL SPRINGS PARKS & REC

friday **Aug 12** family movie night
on the big screen outdoors



movies starts @ 9pm

Summer Wrap-up
Music & Dance 7pm-12midnight
Featuring Local Bands
@ The Muncipal Parking Lot
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SUN: 8 AM - 8 PM
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Cheeseburger & Corn PARTY
Saturday Aug 13th
at the Oil Springs Legion
Doors Open @ 4 pm
Gather up the kids and stop by to
grab a bite to eat after FunFest
Serving Starting @ 5 pm
Cheeseburger \$5.00
& Ear of Corn
Also accepting donations of non-perishable food goods for the Oil Springs Food Bank

Oil Springs' Parks & Rec - Summer 2022

family fun fest

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Legion **Basement Boss** **OIL SPRINGS FIRE DEPT**
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 535 Oil Springs **R. Dobbin Engineering Inc.** **ENVISKILL FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION**
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519-834-2833
Watts Line - 800-265-7506
Fax Line - 519-834-2171
oilsprings@cam-ron.ca

Sarnia Office
560 Exmouth Street,
Unit 105,
Sarnia, ON, N7T 5P5
519-337-3713
Fax Line - 519-337-3995
sarnia@cam-ron.ca

Hours of Operation
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS
There were plenty of pirates and lots of fun in Corunna over the weekend, and it was all for a good cause. Captain Kidd Days featured a parade, pirate contest, as well as lots of music and games. The Civic Holiday weekend event raises money for community project. This year, the money went to help pay for a new skateboard park in Corunna. Sunday, the park was officially opened as kids swarmed the area with skateboards and scooters. The park was built in eight months and is being partially paid with community donations. Of the \$100,000 which needs to be raised, \$50,000 has been collected. Captain Kidd Days organizers gifted \$24,000 to the project.



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November 27 - December 3, 2022

Discover how we do Branson best with 5 top rated shows, excellent Branson Landing hotel accommodations and more. Lineup includes Dolly Parton’s Stampede, Presley’s Jubilee, Hughes Brothers, SIX, Dean Z Rockin’ Christmas & Miracle of Christmas at the Sight & Sound Theatre.

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Full details to be released soon. Visit www.beyondborderstravel.ca for updates.

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THE CHURCHES OF PETROLIA
INVITE YOU TO

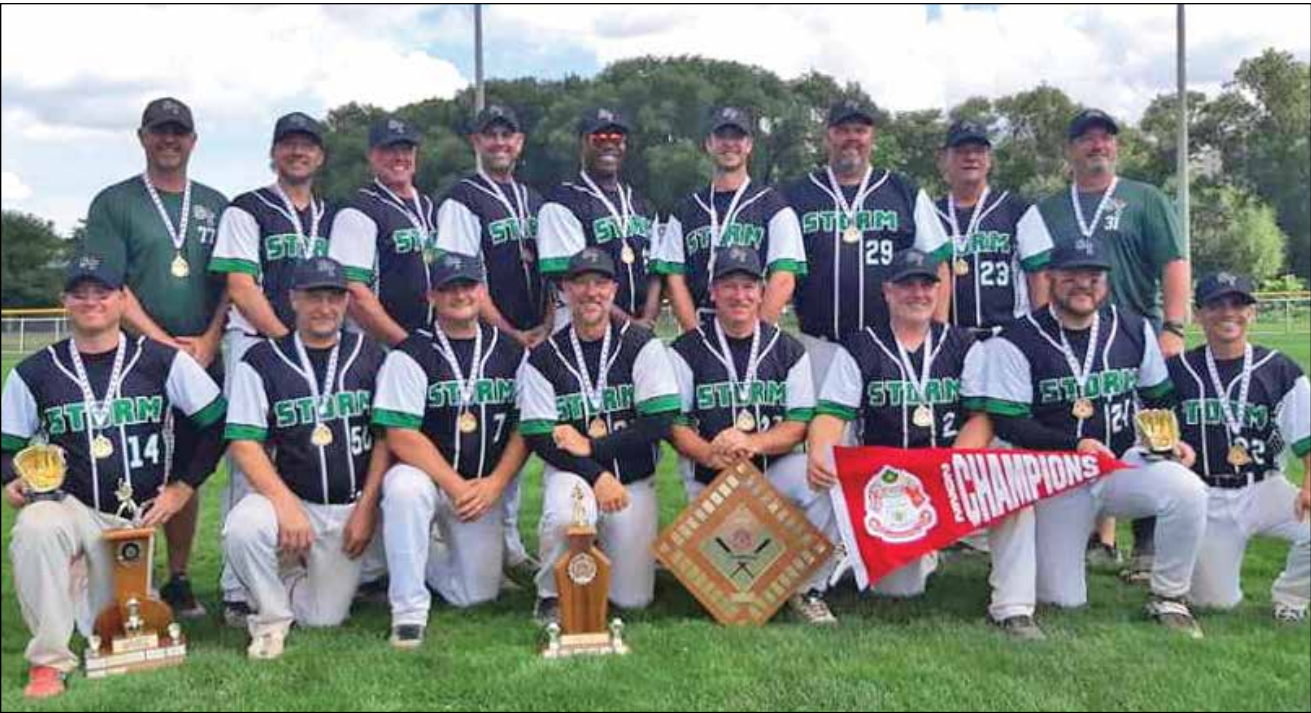
CHURCH in the PARK

SUNDAYS AT 7:00PM
VPP BANDSHELL

*BRING A LAWNCHAIR, INVITE A FRIEND

Sports

TRIST HEADING TO CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Alvinston's Andy Triest is heading to the Canadian Masters Fastball Championship in Newfoundland. Triest teamed up with the Alvinston Aces' long-time rivals, the St. Thomas Storm at an Ontario tournament in Kitchener on the long weekend where the storm was 4-0 on the tournament scoring 39 runs and allowing only three. The tournament starts Aug. 31. Meanwhile, The Alvinston Junior Aces are at the National U23 Fastball Championships this week in Carp near Ottawa. Preliminary round play began Tuesday and continues through Thursday with seeding playoffs beginning on Friday morning. Alvinston is one of four Ontario entries at the seven-team affair along with clubs from Quebec, Newfoundland and Saskatchewan.

Local ball players help Brigade to silver

Several players from the Petrolia and Wyoming areas helped the Sarnia Brigade to a second-place finish at the Ontario Senior baseball AAA eliminations in Windsor. Wyoming's Core Jackson

homered twice, scored seven times and drove in four runs for the Brigade who fell 10-5 to the Windsor Stars in the gold medal game on Monday. Sarnia had blanked Etobicoke, 6-0 and beaten the Stars, 16-8

earlier in the day to set up the one-game showdown. Sarnia's roster also included Wade Babula and Alex McLean from Petrolia and Kaden Gray of Wyoming. The Brigade went 6-2 overall.

Campbell claims silver in shot put at provincials

Petrolia's Hunter Campbell unleashed a throw of 42.55 metres to claim the silver medal in the U16 discus event at the Athletics Ontario Championships on the

weekend. The LCCVI student also placed sixth in the hammer throw with a mark of 29.35 metres. Fellow Lancer Charlie Shaw

also took part at the competition finishing 15th and 22nd in the U18 800 and 1500 metre events, respectively.

ANTICIPATING



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

There was some good volleyball and a lot of good natured fun at Port Lambton's Gala Days on the Civic Holiday weekend.

Florence golfer wins in Belle River

Kassandra Rombouts carded a 77 to win the Jamieson Tour event last week at Rochester Place in Belle River. The Florence golfer won by four shots. Rombouts golfs out of the Maple City in Chatham. The 2022 season wraps up with events at Erie Shores, Beach Grove and Kingsville over the next week.

Lancer turns to Lion

The new head coach of the Lambton College cross country team has a connection to LCCVI. Scott Burns is a former Lancer coach. "I'm honoured to be part of the program," said Burns in a statement this week. The cross country program is returning to the Sarnia school after a hiatus since the 2015 season. The 2022 season begins in early October.



LOOKING FOR Contestants!

The Petrolia & Enniskillen Agricultural Society will be holding it's

Fair Ambassador COMPETITION

Thursday, September 1 @ 7pm at the Petrolia Lions Hall

If you are between the ages of 18 and 25 years of age as of September 1, 2022, you are eligible to compete!

For further details, please call Judy Krall at 519-882-1055

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

5 WAYS TO REDUCE BACK PAIN WHILE CYCLING

- 1. TAKE IT EASY**

Be careful not to overdo it, take breaks as needed, hydrate and stretch or move about.
- 2. THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOUR NEEDS**

Touring, road racing or all-terrain – there is a bike for every rider. What terrain will you be riding on? How long will your trips be? Are you looking for comfort or speed?
- 3. POSTURE**

While riding, keep a neutral spine by bending at the hips and avoiding the "hunch" in your mid-back. If possible, avoid excessive movement from your upper body and use your back as a fulcrum instead.
- 4. CORE STRENGTH**

Having well-conditioned abdominal and back muscles will help to support your upper body while riding and minimize excessive swaying. Your chiropractor can help to guide you and recommend exercises that are targeted to your core, as well as exercises to enhance your overall conditioning.
- 5. ADJUST YOUR BIKE TO YOUR FRAME**

Minor adjustments can make a huge difference. Different styles of bikes require different riding postures, however, the photo above provides a quick reference for general adjustments that can help ensure a relaxed, comfortable posture while riding your bicycle.



www.lambtonchiropractic.ca

Lambton Chiropractic Centre

431 King Street, Petrolia
519-882-1880



Dr. Storozuk Dr. Martyniuk

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



8021 Centre Street
Alvinston



Come and enjoy this heated 24x36 shop w/ concrete floors, 10ft ceilings and a large door leading to a separate side street entrance large door. Ideal starter home, has 2 bedrooms, 4 piece bath, extra large kitchen and spacious living room. A huge primary bedroom on the main floor plus a loft bedroom (could be two bedrooms), main floor laundry. Numerous updates like natural gas furnace, central air, electricity, windows and more. An above-ground pool with deck for family fun. A bunkie in the back yard for kids playhouse. All this is located on an oversized wood privacy fenced corner lot for kids and pets to play. Low taxes, approx \$1650/yr. High speed unlimited fibre optic internet available to work from home.

MLS#40298438

\$499,900

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Leo Shanahan Sales Representative
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Card of Thanks

Thank You

The family of **Mary Ann Ruypers** wishes to thank all friends, family, and former staff for making her celebration of life a joyous one. A special thank you to the members of the Petrolia Lions Club for their accommodating and excellent service. Also, thank you to Needham-Jay Funeral home for their professional care and assistance. And thank you to the many people who sent sympathy cards, donated to the Petrolia Food Bank, posted tributes, and helped our family.

Love, Gus, Robyn & Jared, Joe & Becky

Notices

Mid-Century Glass and Kitchen Sale!

100% of proceeds to Cat Chance
for the entire month of August!!

Includes all Tupperware,
Pyrex, Wine/Bar & other Glassware
and plastic sets, Chip'n dip Bowls,
Art Glass/Bowls/Ash Trays, Marbles,
Pitchers, Heating Trays - 2 for 1.
All in a rainbow of colours!

Please see the Mid-century space at 4166 Petrolia Line
[1 of 4 collectors], across from Tim Horton's in down-
town Petrolia - (519)-882-4729



VOTE

Then turn to: The Independent
for all the results from your hometown



Rentals

Wyoming Lions Club **RECEPTION HALL RENTALS** - 554 Main Street, Wyoming. Fully licensed by AGCO, up to 150 seating capacity and wheelchair accessible. Now With Wifi. Book for your upcoming wedding, anniversary or business meeting. For bookings and information call 519-845-0020 or 519-845-3333.

For Sale

Pedestal Wood Stove -\$65, BTU Glass Door -\$600, White Electric Dryer (New Condition) -\$250, Sterns & Foster Double Mattress and Box Spring (1-2 years old) -\$400, ONKYO 5.1 Home Theater Receiver (New) -\$375, Floral Couch and Chair (Like New) -\$400. Call 226-886-2331 to purchase.

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.

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.

Join our team

Sales Associate
wanted

apply now!

The Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

is looking for a sales associate to join our small but mighty, award-winning team.

We're looking for an ambitious, friendly person who is interested in building relationships with the business community, helping local businesses reach their full potential through the power of print and digital advertising.

This position includes a base salary and commission and with the ability to work from home and the office.

Qualifications

Experience in sales, specifically print, is preferred but we'll train the right person.

Applicants must have a valid drivers licence and a vehicle to use on business

Be fully vaccinated against COVID-19

Please include references with your resume and send along with a cover letter to:


Heather Wright
The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton
4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0
Tel: (226) 738-0728
E-mail: news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Deadline



for all classified ads is
Monday at 12 noon
for the paper that prints and distributes Wed-Thurs





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

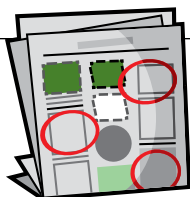
St. Paul's United Church
4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street
In-Person Services
Sundays
@ 10:30 am
Rev. Carol Ferguson
Church Office: 519-882-1390
www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

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

Calendar *of events*

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM
DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS					
DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO	
July & Aug.	Sat. & Sun.	Wyoming	New Exhibits @ The Plympton-Wyoming Museum including Military, Early Settlers, Great Strom 1913 & Post WW2 Immigration, Canada's Raid on Dieppe - Aug. 1942-80th Anniversary & Canada's Role in the 5 year battle of the Atlantic. Saturday: 10am-2:30pm & Sunday: 1-3pm.		
Aug 4	9-4pm	Sarnia	Part of the Big Picture with Daisy Fresh @ The Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery. Participants how to experiment with paints and modeling wax and use the inherent geometry of organic forms. Contact 519-336-8127 ext. 3226 for more details.		
Aug 5	9-4pm	Sarnia	Photography Fun with Sierra Rei Hart @ The Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery. Learn how photos are created. Participants will be crafting & playing different games, bringing together the art of photography and fun for all. Contact 519-336-8127 ext. 3226 for more details.		
Aug 5	6pm	Sarnia	The Lawrence House presents " Seen in Lambton County ". A photo exhibit by Pierre Houle & Jale Fancey, "Beautiful Ontario," will also be on display. Admission is free. Contact 519-337-0507 for more info.		
Aug 6	10-5pm	Sarnia	First Friday and Weekend Walkabout presents Art Crawl 2022 . Enjoy art vendors and live music throughout the day! The Sarnia Street Cruisers return Sunday from 10am-1pm.		
Aug 12 & 13	6p-9:30a	Point Edward	Village Of Point Edward And The Bluewater Anglers present their Walleye Derby . To enter you must have a valid fishing license and purchase a \$10.00 entry ticket. Tickets available at Bucks Baits & the Outdoorsman until 4:30 PM on Friday, August 12th. Visit the Bluewater Anglers Website for more details.		
Aug 18	5-6:30p	Camlachie	Join us for the Grand Opening of Lamrecton Family Park @ 3110 Egremont Rd! Ribbon cutting and social starts at 5pm. Treats provided by Dips Soft Serve.		

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

Date: _____
Time: _____
Town: _____
Event Title: _____
Phone # / website: _____

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

****Deadline for submitting free events is Friday @ 12 noon****

LOCAL MATTERS.



Remember that time when **Amazon** sponsored your church fundraiser?



Remember when **Facebook** bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?



Remember when **Google** provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

Neither do we!

Local businesses live here. They play here. They invest here.
They need our support, now more than ever.

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

CANADA'S NEWS MEDIA.
CHAMPION THE TRUTH.

Book 4 Weeks of Election Advertising

& SAVE 15% off reg price

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Get Noticed!

1/16 Page - Reg. \$60/wk
1/8 Page - Reg. \$100/wk
1/4 Page - Reg. \$200/wk

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The **Independent**
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

vote **2022**
MUNICIPAL election

A Place for Healing

A Dawn-Euphemia family is pouring their love and faith into a cabin in the woods after the death of a beloved son, brother and husband

‘No one knew enough to add up the excess of everyday stress and turmoil to see the incremental mountain that was bearing down on Dalles’ shoulders.’



At top, Dalles Bergsma, centre, the precut log cabin materials which Three Oaks Cabin will be made of, and below, the drawings for the cabin in the Dawn-Euphemia bush.



Three Oaks Cabin to be a haven

Heather Wright
The Independent

Diane and Al Bergsma’s life changed forever November 23, 2020. But the Dawn-Euphemia couple say God is turning their pain into purpose to make a place of healing for farmers and first responders.

Dalles Bergsma died by suicide 21 months ago. No one knew the stress the farmer and first responder felt - he hid it all with humour and a smile. His death devastated the family and his brothers and sisters at the Dawn-Euphemia fire department.

But in the weeks and months that followed Dalles death, Al and Diane were moved to act. They and their children started planning for Three Oaks Cabin - a place in their woodlot where first responders and farmers could go to deal with the pressures they face.

While it took some time to get the approvals to use the woodlot, this spring, Dawn-Euphemia and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority signed off on the project. A log cabin kit has been purchased and a website has been launched to talk about the vision the family has to help those under pressure.

Diane says farmers and firefighters will be able to use the cabin for free to reflect on what’s going on so “to take time to digest the fact and acknowledge the fact that I’m not in a good spot. I’m not doing my family any favor by pretending that I’m in a good spot. So, I need to go get help for my own sake, for my family sake, my community sake, and those who depend on me.”

Counsellors have also reached out offering to run workshops in the cabin or be a point of contact. One has specific training with farmers. “A counselor who is familiar with the struggles in farming is much more valuable for a farmer to speak to someone who understands the stressors being anxieties, the triggers. So we have several counselors who are very well versed in the farming community. We have some for the first responders who are very familiar and trained in assisting people in the first responder world; we would like to add one or two more.”

Bergsma says the family is in the process of being registered as a charity. It’s ordered the log cabin materials and hopes to begin work in October. A lot of the labour will be done by volunteers, so the cabin may not be ready until next spring.

But she is looking forward to the good Three Oaks Cabin will do. “If one family member can live more with more resilience or more coping skills, then that has ripple effects in that family, which will have ripple effects and how those children grow up, which will have ripple effects in their future families...We’ll never be able to measure the success of it, because we don’t know what might have been with the people that we hope to help. But we will leave that in God’s hands.

The cabin is already helping. Bergsma says the work is healing for the family. “I think God is giving us a lot of purpose and the pain and there is a sense of healing that our loss is not for loss - it’s for other people’s healing and then it makes our loss more bearable - it’s still a loss, it will always be a loss - that makes it more bearable if we know that living without him here for now transpires into a place of refuge for other people who have opportunity for healthier living.”

To Help

If you wish to help build Three Oaks Cabin, you can donate cash, building materials or find items on a registry at myregistry.com to purchase.

To contact Three Oaks Cabin for more information email 3oakscabin@gmail.com