

Family overwhelmed with Petrolia's generosity after fire

Funeral home repairs likely to take months

Heather Wright
The Independent

A Petrolia family is feeling the love of the community after a fire destroyed their apartment at Needham Jay Funeral Home. Laura Hodgins, her husband, Jason, and their two children, Peter, 7 and Indy, 16 months, fled their apartment after a fire broke out in the sunroom Aug. 10. Hodgins - who is the funeral director at the Petrolia Line facility - and her young family lost everything in the blaze. While they tried to take in what had happened, people in Petrolia began offering help almost immediately. The Community Life Centre at New Life Assembly offered clothing and toys for the family. Strangers bought gift cards to help replace items which were lost. The owners of Petrolia Home Hardware - Lana and Jason Mullins - brought Dips Ice Cream to their parking lot for a fundraiser. And an online GoFundMe campaign was launched. Tuesday, Hodgins was reflecting on the generosity of the people of her town.

"Over the past five days, we have experienced an abundance of unmitigated kindness and generosity from our beautiful Petrolia community. Perfect strangers approaching us to help in any way they can, fundraisers organized in the matter of hours by family and friends and local businesses... We're a pretty quiet, private family, and don't know many people in town, but that has changed drastically over the past five days. I'm so happy we lived here and we look forward to living here again as soon as possible," she said in a text.

SEE FIRE PG 2

Few new faces in Election 2022

Heather Wright
The Independent

Barring any late August surprises, it appears many communities in Central Lambton will see the same faces around the municipal council table. With just days before the deadline to file papers to run in the Oct. 24 election, most municipalities have only a handful of new people running with the some communities barely able to get enough people to fill the chairs around the table. As of Tuesday in Petrolia, two people - Brad Loosley and Richard Poore - are running to be mayor. Loosley is the incumbent, Poore is a newcomer to politics although he was an administrator with the town until his retirement. All the current councillors are seeking re-election including Grant Purdy, who filed his nomination papers Tuesday. Former councillor Liz Welsh is also running. There is just one political newcomer nominated - Shalen Hunter.

SEE ELECTION PG 2

SERIOUS ABOUT CORN



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Iris Minton, seven months, was taking a serious chomp out of some corn during the annual Watford Cornfest - with a little help from her mom, Vanessa. There was a ton of free corn and lots of fun Aug. 6 and 7. See more photos on pg 6.



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SCAN FOR MENU



Few new faces, some raises this election

CON'T FROM PG 1

In Plympton-Wyoming, it appears Netty McEwen will be acclaimed as deputy mayor. At press time, the long-time councilor and former administrator was the only person vying for the position.

There is a race for mayor with Deputy Mayor Muriel Wright and Councillor Gary Atkinson hoping to replace the retiring Lonny Napper.

But in the councillor’s race, just four people had filed their papers for five spots on council by Tuesday.

In Enniskillen, the entire council have declared their candidacies, including Mayor Kevin Marriott. The cash crop farmer has has served on Enniskillen Township Council for the past 26 years, including seven years as deputy mayor and the last 11 years as Mayor. While he wants to continue serving the people of Enniskillen, Marriott also has his sites set on another run at the warden’s chair.

“After talking to some county counselors, they’re all like, ‘well, you have to run again, because that’s kind of been the standard in the past that, the warden goes for two terms. So I guess I felt some encouragement that way,” he says.

It’s likely Marriott will get the chance to represent Enniskillen at county council again since with three days left to file nomination papers, it appears the entire council will be acclaimed.

Four of five Oil Springs council members hope to be back on council - and its a pretty good shot they will be. Oil Springs acclaimed its council in 2018. So far, Ian Veen has filed papers to run for mayor again and incumbents Larry Wagner, Connie McFadden and Adam Veen have also re-upped.

There is one newcomer here as well, Jason Newport.

In Dawn-Euphemia, there are a lot of familiar faces as the clock ticks away on nominations. Al Broad is the sole nominee for the mayor’s job. Current councillors Ann Gray, Jason Myer and Mark McGuire are also in the running. And a former councillor - Paul Leboeuf - has also tossed his hat into the ring.

East Lambton has a couple of interesting races with potential for new councillors and even a new mayor. In Brooke-Alvinston Incumbent Dave Ferguson faces a challenge from Incumbent Councillor Jamie Armstrong for the mayor’s chair.

Frank Nemcek and Jeannette Douglas also plan to run again. But there are a number of newcomers hoping to win a seat including Les Douglas, former NDP Candidate Vanessa Benoit, Craig Sanders and Jenny Redick have all filed nomination papers.

There’s also an election for mayor in Warwick where Incumbent Jackie Rombouts faces a challenge from former mayor Todd Case.

All the current members of council are looking to reclaim their seats, however there is also two newcomers and a former councillor in the fray - John Cowenburg has filed his papers as has Sharon Plunkett and Bill Davies.

In St. Clair, three people are hoping to fill the shoes left by the retiring Steve Arnold. Ward One - the former Moore Township - is a horse race with six people running for two positions. Just three people hope to fill the chairs of those in the former Sombra Township. And it appears Steve Miller will remain the deputy mayor.

Nominations close Friday at 2 pm.



NICKI MORREAU PHOTO

Petrolia/North Enniskillen firefighters rush to the scene of a blaze at the Needham Jay Funeral Home Aug. 10.

Fire damages likely take months to repair

CON'T FROM PG 1

While the Hodgins’ family tries to pick up the pieces, the Mailloux family is also working to restore their business.

The Petrolia funeral home is closed for now, with Needham-Jay working out of its Wyoming Chapel for the time being.

Steve Mailloux is confident the building - including the apartment - can be restored.

“I have been through the entire building. The second floor is where most of the fire damage is, particularly in the kitchen and dining room. The main floor of funeral home has no fire damage, but has extensive water damage. All indications are the building is still sound and will be used again,” he tells The Independent.

How long those repairs will take isn’t yet

known. “as far as time line until reopening I do not yet, but is safe to say it will be measured in months.”

While the restoration takes place, Mailloux says they’ll continue providing services.

“We have moved our office into our Wyoming location for the time being, as well we have had very generous support of other local funeral homes, allowing us to use their facilities.

“The community’s response on has been wonderfully supportive, I am feeling really blessed to be part of this community.”

Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire Chief Jay Arns says it appears the fire started in the sunroom although the department has listed the cause as undetermined. He estimates the damage at about \$400,000.

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TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK Request for Proposals Invitation for Farm Land Lease

Warwick Township is now accepting proposals for two properties owned by the municipality for farming use. Interested persons can bid on one or both properties. The successful proponent(s) will be required to provide proof of minimum \$2 million in liability insurance. Details of the properties for lease are as follows:

“Industrial Park” Farm Land - +/- 10 acres

- Legally known as Part Lot 19, Concession 4 S.E.R. in the Township of Warwick, County of Lambton (Part of Industrial Park)
- Five-year lease term: October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2027
- Full annual payment to be completed by September 30 of every year
- Survey markers to be undisturbed

“Lagoon” Farm Land - +/- 110 acres

- Legally known as Part of Lots 16 and 17, Concession 6 S.E.R. in the Township of Warwick, County of Lambton (Lagoon properties)
- Five-year lease term: October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2027
- Full annual payment to be completed by September 30 of every year
- Survey markers to be undisturbed

Proposal Submission

- Proposals are required to be submitted on the prescribed forms and provide a valid Farm Business Registration (FBR) number.
- Bidders packages with prescribed forms, mapping and additional information are available online or at the Township Office for pickup.
- Proposals are due Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 12:00 noon

Mail or drop off proposals to the Warwick Township Office,
5280 Nauvoo Rd, PO Box 10, Watford, ON N0M 2S0
prior to the deadline.

Questions can be directed to Amanda Gubbels, CAO/Clerk
at 226-848-3626 or agubbels@warwicktownship.ca.

www.warwicktownship.ca

Bailey sees confidence in economy

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey says there is confidence again in the economy.

That from the local MPP as the Conservative government reopened the Ontario Legislature with Throne Speech Aug. 7.

And while Bailey believes there is confidence in the economy, there is a problem - nearly 370,000 jobs are unfilled. “Ontario is facing a generational labour shortage with the lowest rate of unemployment since 1989,” said Ontario’s Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell, in a speech written by the government and delivered by the Queen’s representative.

Bailey pointed to the partnerships with the unions - which the Progressive Conservative touted during the June election - as a way for the government to get people retrained to fill those jobs.

The labour shortage also includes a shortage of health care workers. Bailey pointed to the Bachelor of Science-Nursing program at Lambton College, which began in 2019 with collaboration with the University of Windsor, as a way to train more nurses locally. The Ontario government also has eliminated requirements for Canadian work experience which was a roadblock for internationally trained health care professionals trying to get accreditation. Bailey believes this will make it easier for health care professionals to come to Canada and get to work as soon as possible.

Bailey said there have been investments made to retool auto plants to be able to manufacture electric vehicles in Windsor and Brampton in future.

Last March Diageo announced plans to build a distillery in St. Clair Township to produce Crown Royal

whisky. The distillery is expected to employ 90 people.

To keep the economy moving, Bailey says “it is important to keep the international border open.”

One of the other trouble spots in the Ontario economy is housing. The cost of homes have increased about 15 to 20 per cent in the last two years.

The speech from the throne reiterated an election promise to build 1.5 million units over 10 years.

“I am glad to see movement on housing,” said Bailey.

After the Throne Speech was delivered, the Ford government reintroduced its pre-election budget. Critics called on Premier Doug Ford to change course and address the growing problems in the province’s hospitals. Over the summer, large and small hospitals have closed departments and bumped surgeries because of staffing shortages made worse by burnout caused by the pandemic.

The Health Minister Sylvia Jones said she’d directed the College of Nurses to make every effort to register health care workers as quickly as possible.

She added the government has all options on the table - including some private options - to reduce wait times.

Included in the budget is a five percent increase to the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), something which was Bailey was pleased to see.

It is the first time ODSP has been increased since 2018 and it will amount to \$58 more a month. That brings the monthly allotment to just over \$1,200 - far less than the average rental cost in most communities.

However advocates and other politicians including the Green Party have called on the province to provide a living income for those on disability. The Greens promised during the election to raise disability rates by 50 per cent.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Steve Young answered the call for a 400 pound fighter and now the Oil Springs man is ready for Primetime and to defend Canada against American slurs.

Steve Young ready for Primetime

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

“I plan to knock him out in the first round,” said Steve Young.

The Oil Springs man - who goes by the name of Primetime in the ring - will be part of a no-holes barred fight in West Virginia.

Young will be in be going toe to toe in the headliner in Barstool Sports’ Rough and Rowdy 18 set for Aug. 19 in Huntington.. The boxing match which pits the Canadian against a 500 pound American is being called “A 1,000 lbs. Canada vs. USA main event.”

Young - who works in the petrochemical industry in Lambton - has never done anything like this before.

But he decided to send in a video to Barstool Sports after a call went out online looking for a Canadian who was willing to fight who was at least 400 lbs. The original guy from Windsor bowed out, which led to the call for his replacement.

“It is just ridiculous,” said Young. He will be

stepping into the ring against Coach Duggs. Duggs has been talking a lot of smack about Canada and Young is looking to shut him down hard.



Young was only informed that he will be competing three weeks ago. Since then, he has been hitting the heavy bag in his basement and running the trails at the gym in preparation.

He won’t be going to West Virginia alone. He is taking 35 of his buddies, including teammates from baseball, hockey and rugby.

His ring name, Primetime, comes from his time playing baseball. He started calling himself Primetime as a joke and the name stuck.

Young has been getting a lot of support locally with several sponsors. A local band, The Bad Men Association has written the song, Calling the Right, which will be his introduction song as he enters the ring.

Barstool Sports calls Rough and Rowdy 18 “a night of boxing with non-stop haymakers, absolutely zero defence and no headgear.” The full card will include 20 fights.



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Charlotte's Corner




Things to keep in mind when visiting your local emergency department

Just like the temperatures this summer, you have likely heard that wait times and volumes in emergency departments (ED) across the province are also rising. Locally, we are seeing more patients daily, at both Sarnia and Petrolia EDs, than we’ve ever seen before. Daily average ED volumes have increased 41% in Sarnia since January 2022 and 71% in Petrolia over the same period of time. And while wait times are higher than usual and we’re certainly feeling the crunch, Bluewater Health EDs and our staffing rates are faring well in comparison to our provincial partners. I’m happy to report that our ED staff schedules are covered into October 2022.

While this is certainly good news, we are still doing our best to cope with the higher than average daily volumes. Our emergency departments are NOT first-come first-served – we see those most critical cases first. In Petrolia, we only have one physician on at a time, and if we have a serious case, it could mean a longer wait for those less in need. We ask for resident’s patience as we navigate the higher-than-normal volumes, and know that you will be seen.

Sometimes, it can mean less time waiting for the care you need if you consider all of your care options first. Always ask your primary care provider for minor issues. Most primary care providers in Petrolia and Central Lambton strive to provide same day/next day access. Don’t have a primary care provider? Consider calling Health Connect Ontario at 811 (formerly Telehealth Ontario), or visit one of the walk-in clinics available throughout Lambton County.



Petrolia’s Emergency Department

Our ER and ER staff are always here and available for help. But understanding all of your health care options can often save you time, and help ensure those who need emergency health care services the most, can do so in a timely manner.

– by Dr. Charles Winegard, Medical Director, CEEH of Bluewater Health

Editorial

The first sign of belt tightening

It may be the first sign of what many politicians have been expecting since the money taps turned on during the COVID-19 pandemic.

After hearing about a meeting between Lambton County officials and the Minister of Long Term Care, Paul Callandra, it seems the money spigot may be turning off.

Lambton County Warden Kevin Marriott and his team went to a municipal conference in Ottawa. Government ministers often meeting with scores of municipal leaders during the event. The local politicians come prepared to pitch their important projects. In Lambton, a big ticket item is long term care. Lambton’s homes are aging and the county is planning to build a new Meadowview Villa.

That’s going to cost big bucks - over \$50 million by some estimates.

So, as they have always done, municipal leaders met with the minister to explain the project so when the ask comes across his desk, he might remember why it was important to Lambton.

Marriott said the discussion with Callandra was frank and interesting, but there were no solution.

In short, when Lambton went looking for cash, Callandra said the province had committed lots of money to long term care and it wasn’t ready to shell out more right now. In a time when the largest generation - the Baby Boomers - is heading into retirement, that’s not very reassuring.

It’s also a much different tone than what the province has used for the last two years as long term care struggled through the pandemic. During that time, the premier often repeated the province was building 30,000 new long term care beds.

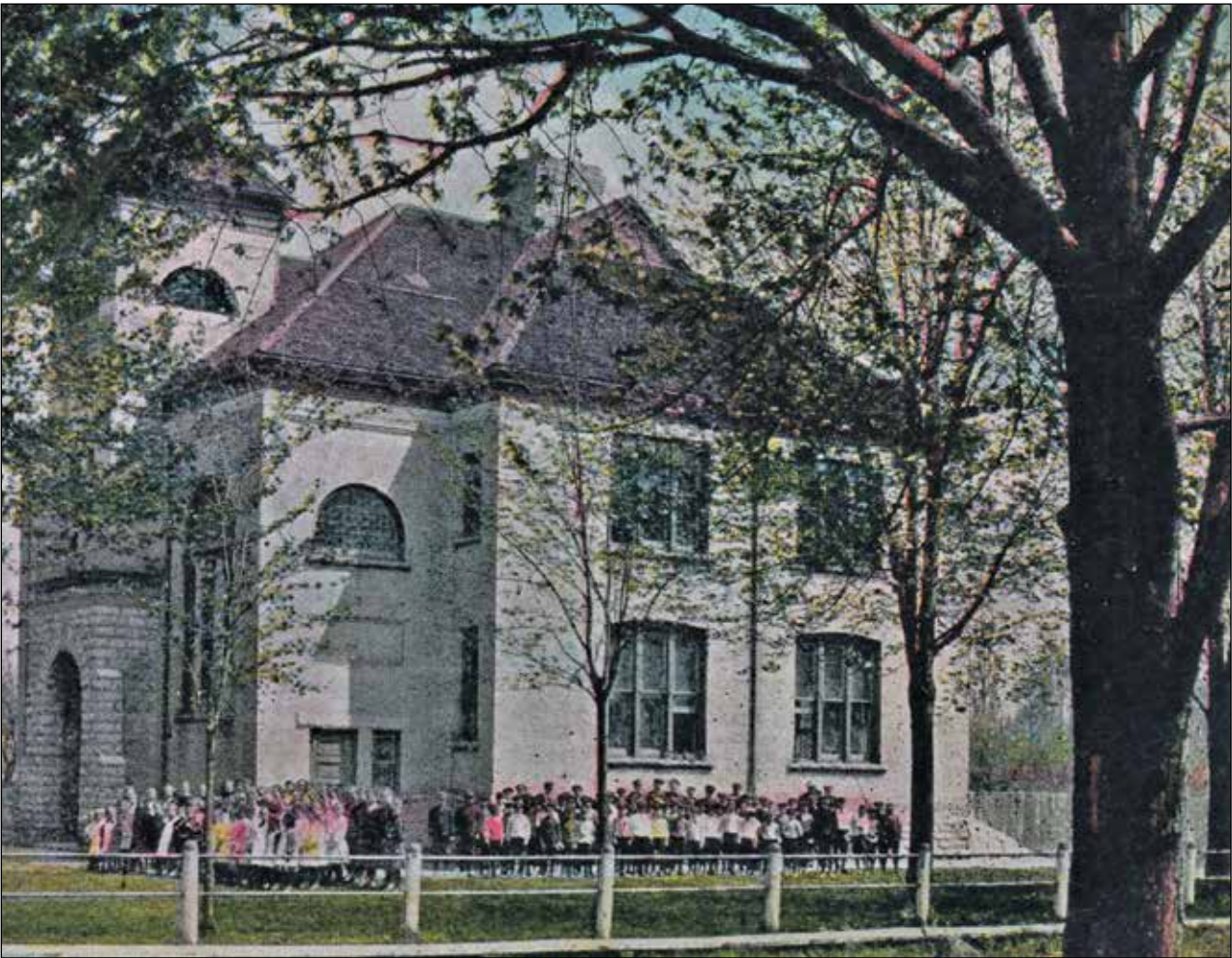
And indeed, the province has announced lots of new homes to private providers usually in the Toronto area.

Perhaps the re-elected government is pulling back a bit, wanting to reign in some of the cash which was flowing during the pandemic. While we might need to tighten our belts, long term care, in our opinion, is not the place to do it.

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



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION
A unique colourized postcard of Jubilee School in Petrolia according the Dave Burwell Post Card.

Don’t kid yourself, Ontario’s health care system has problems

Our family recently got an up close view of life Lambton’s hospitals and while there are lots of wonderful, caring and professional people who do there very best every day, it seems there are simply not enough of them.

Our story is probably a lot like yours. My husband, Barry, has been hobbling around for a while. Earlier this year, his doctor said he needed his hip replaced. He was scheduled for surgery Aug. 16.

While we were on vacation we got the call. There would be no anaesthetologist available that day. Staffing shortages.

Thankfully, Barry’s surgeon could get him in Friday instead. A couple days early is far better than a couple months later, so we headed home, got a good night’s sleep and arrived at Bluewater Health bright and early.

The health care staff we met along the way were wonderful; everyone answered our questions, treated Barry with care and respect and were very professional. But it was easy to see they were doing their best to get to each bedside as soon as they could but sometimes, that took a little while.

But what I found most unusual about the experience was how empty the hospital’s surgical unit seemed to be. I hear from all kinds of people about how long they are waiting for surgery. And it seemed to me Bluewater Health could accommodate a lot of patients at a time. I counted 20 beds for people waiting for day surgery in the unit we were in.

But I only saw two other people waiting for surgery with us. I noticed a couple more as we headed to the surgical floor for Barry’s recovery.

Even with what appeared to be a scaled back schedule, it seemed the staff on hand were run off their feet trying to get the job done.

And because of the staffing shortages, people you love may not be as lucky as Barry and have their surgery in a timely way.

There are no quick or easy solutions to staff shortages. The Health Minister told reporters this week they’re looking at everything - including privatization to solve the problem. That will only make things worse.



Heather Wright

The

Independent

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Sympathy but no solution from LTC minister

Heather Wright
The Independent

It was a frank discussion with few easy answers. That according to Lambton Warden Kevin Marriott who was part of a delegation meeting with the Minister of Long Term Care, Paul Callandra, at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in Ottawa Tuesday. Marriott and his team wanted to talk about some of the problems facing

Lambton as the population ages. Recently, county council approved moving forward with planning a replacement for Lambton Meadowview Villa in Petrolia. Last year, officials estimated it would cost about \$50 million. Marriott met with the minister hoping to make him aware of the funding need in Lambton. “We asked about the money that we need for rebuilding...and the government is saying they’ve got some other ones that have already been set to go

that they’ve got to finish first, before they can look at any other rebuilds or additions,” says Marriott. The minister freely admitted there was a staffing problem in long-term care, Marriott said, but instead of providing answers, he asked Lambton officials if they had solutions. Marriott says the county has been having a difficult finding and retaining health care workers in the homes particularly in the last two years.

Zion Line fix will have to wait another year

Heather Wright
The Independent

The cost of fixing Zion Line has ballooned another to nearly \$550,000. Warwick Township had planned to repair the road last year. During the Freedom Convoy blockade of Highway 402, Zion Line became a detour

route and the road was damaged further. A project that was expected to cost \$269,000 increased about 60 per cent to \$429,000. Council called for tenders for the work recently and received five bids. The lowest was \$549,000 - another \$117,00 more than first expected.

Treasurer Trevor Jarrett in a report to council suggests rising costs and supply chain issues are the likely cause of this increase. Council decided to defer the project until next year, hoping to get a better price by looking for one contractor to complete a number of projects.

Three percent cost of living increase in Warwick

Heather Wright
The Independent

Employees and municipal council members in Warwick Township are getting a three percent wage increase to cover the increasing cost of living. In a report to council, CAO Amanda Gubbels says council approved the increase July 11 and it took effect Aug.

1. “Cost of living adjustments are one piece of a competitive wage structure in Warwick and are a valuable tool to ensure that the work completed as part of the 2020 wage study and the CUPE wage scale do not fall behind market rates. “If COLA rates are not applied regularly, there is risk related to retention

of current employees and the ability of the Township to recruit new employees in the current challenging recruitment market,” she said in the report. The increase should not have an affect on the budget since the township set aside four per cent for a cost of living increase in the budget and there are a couple of staff vacancies which have saved about \$52,000.

Driver on three wheels damages 80k of roads

The Independent

It gives three-wheeler a whole new meaning. Lambton OPP got a call from a citizen who noticed a car heading down Lambton Line on three wheels Sunday

morning. When officers got out to the road, they noticed damage to the pavement. They followed it for over 80 kilometres and found a broken down vehicle on the side of the road. Police suspected the man had been

drinking and used a roadside test. Caleb Pype, 20, of Port Rowan, has been charged with impaired driving, failing to report damage to property on the highway and operating an unsafe vehicle.

BEEF BRIGADE



The Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre was packed with hungry patrons as the Lambton Cattlemen's Association held their annual Beef Barbecue Aug. 3. Officials estimated 1,000 people were served a dinner of roast beef and all the fixings.

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It’s all about the corn

There was a hole lot of people and a whole lot of corn as Watford celebrated Cornfest



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS

It was all about community and corn in Watford Aug. 6 and 7 during the annual Watford Cornfest. Watford got a little help from their Alvinston neighbours as Chad Hayter and Dan Cumming helped cook the festivals namesake. There was lots for the whole family to do. Felicity Hogervorst, 5, middle, enjoyed meeting with Princess Anna from Frozen. The car show was dedicated to the memory of John Smith who passed away earlier this summer. He was often seen around Watford in his red 1964 Mustang and his absence this year was being felt. There were also lots of adult games including two-pitch on the ball diamonds and a Cornhole Tournament.



SUMMER LEARNING



Blake Ellis/Local Journalism Initiative photo
Brooke-Alvinston Station Chief Ron McCabe shows Quinn Riley-MacDougall, 4, and her grandmother, Dianne, the proper way to use a fire extinguisher. Firefighters brought Sparky the Safety Dog to the Inwood Library Saturday. “This is a great way to get the information out to the young ones,” said McCabe.

Ouellette new Brigden Fair ambassador

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Emma Ouellette is ready to roll up her sleeves and be the 2022 Brigden Fair Ambassador.

She was crowned at the Brigden Exhibition Hall at the fairgrounds on Aug. 14. The 18 year old has been a volunteer with the fair for the last 10 years and she spoke about the value of volunteerism.

“Volunteerism is good for the soul,” Ouellette said, as she called volunteers the backbone of the Brigden Fair, which could include such things as peeling 100 pounds of potatoes.

And it’s not just a speech - the first thing Ouelette did after the competition was to take off her dress and change into some blue jeans so she could help to dismantle the stage.

Ouellette is a recent graduate of Wallaceburg District Secondary School, will be attending the Western University in the fall. She faced off against four other young women during the contest including Marissa Lester, Emma Wheeler, Savanah Denomme and Tanis DeGurse.

The contest involved the presentation of the young women in an outfit which best describes their interest or hobby, followed by speeches and answering an impromptu question about the role of the ambassador in being a leader.

“You inspire others to do their best,” said Ouellette, while also encouraging her ambassador court and encouraging the community to get involved with the fair.

The Brigden Fair will be held during the Thanksgiving Day weekend. It was first held in 1850 with the Queen of the Fair Contest starting in 1972 with it being changed to Fair Ambassador in 1994.

Some of Ouellette’s duties will include speaking to students at local schools to educate them about the upcoming fair,



Blake Ellis/Local Journalism Initiative photo
Emma Ouellette is the new Brigden Fair Ambassador.

attending the 4-H banquet, being a part of parades and representing Brigden in the Canadian National Exhibition Fair Ambassador Contest. The big thing is to help in the preparation, as Bridgen gets ready to host the fair.

“Without the fair, the town would not be the way it is,” said a 22-year-old Lester during her speech, as she recounted some of her memories of the Brigden Fair. She remembers hoping for some rain on fair weekend when she was a child, so that her father could attend the fair and didn’t have to work on the farm.

Denomme, 17, remembers when she was nine years old entering her rabbits in the fair to be judged. She was so proud of herself after winning the prize money, she bought lunch for herself and her mother. She would continue to show her rabbits the next three years.

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NEW SPRING POLE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Volunteers at Petrolia Discovery found just the right dead tree on the property to restore the historic site’s spring pole exhibit. Here Doug Clark and Eric Curragh place the log which was prepared by Discovery’s summer students.

Heart Full of Cash wins provincial award

The Independent

What started out as a pandemic project has lead to provincial recognition.

Lambton Centennial teacher Steve McGrail has been given the Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario 2022 Children’s Literature Award for his book A Heart Full of Cash.

McGrail wanted to write an inspiring kids book and decided there was no one more inspiring than his student Cash McKinnon. The 12 year-old has cerebral palsy but participates in as many sports as he can, most notably cross country events. The book tells the true-life events of Cash’s hard work and determination to run at the annual cross country meet - a goal he reaches with the help of his coach.

“Unfortunately, we continue to live in a society where, every day, individuals face barriers that exist due to ongoing

systemic discrimination,” says ETFO President Karen Brown.

“Steve’s heartwarming story teaches children about the obstacles some individuals face and demonstrates what it is to have the heart of a champion.”

This is not the first time the book received accolades; Heart Full of Cash was also nominated for The IODE Jean Throop Book Award in the spring.

And, as the book about him receives an award, McKinnon is also being honoured.

The Sarnia Lambton Sports Hall of Fame has named McKinnon the receipt of the Joe DeRush Memorial Award for athletes with physical disabilities. McKinnon started playing sledge hockey in 2018, quickly gaining a reputation as a highly competitive performer. He has also taken part in cross country and challenger baseball events.

IODE HONOURS STUDENTS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Margaret Stokes IODE in Petrolia recently awarded local elementary school students scholarships for their academic excellence. They are pictured here from left to right Farrah Mahue (Hillcrest), Rachel Burns (St. Philip), Pat Traichevich of the IODE, and Jacobb Lassaline (Centennial) with Wendy Loosley of the IODE.



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LIVE Farm Real Estate Auction. 70 +/- Acres
For the Estate of Ron Pratt
Plank Road, St. Clair, ON N0N 1R0

Live Farm Real Estate Auctions is Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 12 NOON
Registration starts Thursday, September 8 at 11 AM

70.886 +/- Acres
60+/- Workable Acres – partially systematically tiled

Auction to be held at Plank Road (east side between Brigden Road & Petrolia Line), St. Clair, ON. Feel free to walk the land
There is no buyer’s premium for this auction
Bidder information packages available online or by calling the office at 519-882-4554
For more information, call **JOHN STEPHENS**, Auctioneer/Broker 519-464-3560

**** Be watching for the upcoming Estate of Ron Pratt Farm Machinery Online Auction ****



Street View





Map Overview



United Country
Real Estate



Great West
Realty Inc.
Brokerage




		5		1				
1		8	2		4			7
				3				
	8		1		9			
7				5	6			9
							3	2
6								
	3		8			4		
		4				2		6

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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Sports

The PJHL's Petrolia Flyers is waiting for the league's Yeck Division to cross its t's and dot its i's before the 2022-23 schedule can be formally released.

Prior to the regular season getting underway,

Petrolia will entertain Dresden on August 25 and then skate against Mooretown on September 1.

Both games are scheduled for 7:30.

Hold ups in the refurbishing of the main rink at the Moore Sports Complex will mean the PJHL's Mooretown Flags will play the first six home games of its 2022-23 home schedule at Walpole Island.

General Manager John Baker says the home opener will be September 17 against Wallaceburg in the First Nations community. At this point, home games will be played at Walpole up and

Meantime, Baker has announced the re-signing of veterans Logan Gardner, Blake Howard, Brody Genyn, Ethan Kerry, Masen Flett and Tristan Konrad for the coming season as well as the acquisition of Point Edward's Jimmy Simpson from Wallaceburg.

The Alvinston Killer Bees of the Western Ontario Super Hockey League have made a recent splash with four prominent signing for the coming season.

The Bees have inked Petrolia's Carson Perry and Josh Jamieson, along with Wyoming's Bayly Fryfoogle and East Lambton Eagles and Lambton

Fryberg and Power both ended their junior careers last season in the USPH with teams in Colorado and Virginia respectively. Jamieson and Perry both bring leadership skills as captains of the Petrolia Flyers and Strathroy Rockets last season.

Clay Dolbear and his Owen Sound Selects finished second to Tavistock in the Softball Canada U23 Championships near Ottawa last weekend.

The Selects and Tavistock both finished with 5-1 records in the round robin and tied for first place, but Tavistock prevailed in the gold medal game last Sunday.

The Alvinston Junior Aces were 2-4 in the

Teams from Alvinston and the Bear Creek Express are competing this week at the ISC World Championships in Moline, Illinois.

The Express, based near Melbourne, Ontario, are managed by long-time Alvinston skipper Paul "Chico" McCart.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Wyoming Wranglers are heading to the Maritimes next week to compete for the Eastern Canadian tier two fastball championship. The Wranglers won the provincial crown with an undefeated weekend in Windsor. The Eastern Canadian tournament begins next Thursday.

Liam Crummy of Oil Springs carded a 76 last week to successfully defend his junior boys golf title at the Sarnia Golf and Curling Championship. Crummy is competing this week at the Ontario Junior Boys' Match Play event in Port Hope.



Warwick Township Council recently approved rebranding its communications materials. The first step in this process was to refresh its existing logo and two new designs have been created. Now residents can vote on which logo it prefers as the

new Township of Warwick Logo.


To be eligible to vote individuals must be a resident of Warwick Township. In addition, each person may only vote once and can only select one design. The logo with the most votes will become the new Township of Warwick Logo.

Voting can be done at the Township of Warwick Municipal Office or online with the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/warwicktownshiplogo>

Voting closes **Monday, September 12 at 12PM ET.**

We are very excited to announce the upcoming Ride for Pride event in memory of Lori Neville.

This event was put together in hope that families will not only have a day full of FREE fun but also learn something new at the OPP bike safety presentation.



AUG 28, 2022 🚲 10AM - 3PM

RIDE WITH PRIDE

**BIKE & ROAD SAFETY DAY
McKay Park in Wyoming**

FREE SWIM
1PM - 2:30PM &
3PM - 4:30PM

FREE FUN!
10AM - 3PM

3RD ANNUAL BIKE RIDE FOR LORI NEVILLE
STARTING AT 12PM

WYOMING LIONS CLUB & DIPS ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE FOOD

O.P.P. BIKE & ROAD SAFETY PRESENTATION FOR ALL AGES
10AM - 3PM

PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT WILL BE DONATED TO The Great Cycling Challenge

FREE BAG AFTER ATTENDING THE O.P.P. PRESENTATION

FREE EVENTS

- OPP PRESENTATIONS - 10AM to 3PM
- BOUNCY CASTLES - 10AM to 3PM
- SWIMMING at the Wyoming Pool - 1-2:30PM & 3-4:30PM
- FACE PAINTING by FairTale Face Painting - 11AM to 1PM

-- GIVEAWAY (KIDS)--
The first 150 kids that take part in the OPP Presentation will receive a Sports Drawstring Bag full of many items, including a bike light, water bottle, first aid kit, & much more!!

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

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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**.
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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


Card of Thanks

I would like to thank everyone so much for all my 95th Birthday well wishes, visits, gifts, calls, cards, and Facebook messages. They were very much appreciated.

Grace Ross



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




Thanks to all who came to celebrate my birthday party at Stonepickers and for all the birthday wishes & donations to the Hospice. Also, thanks to our girls for preparing this enjoyable day.


Carol Currah

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2	4	7	6	3	5	9	1	8
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7	2	1	3	5	6	8	4	9
9	5	6	4	8	7	1	3	2
6	7	2	9	4	1	5	8	3
5	3	9	8	6	2	4	7	1
8	1	4	5	7	3	2	9	6



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South West Woodlot Association
Information Day & Bus Tour
Thursday August 25, 2022 • 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Starts at the Bothwell Arena Sports Complex, 860 Main St., Bothwell
8:30-8:45 am – registration and coffee, Bus Leaves at 9:00 am
Tour Stops: Carolinian plant nursery; Commercial hazelnut orchard; Handmade wooden archery equipment; Clear Creek Forest and Provincial Nature Reserve, restoring Carolinian eco-system, reforestation techniques and challenges; Plantation thinning, Middlesex County Forest.
**Wear clothing appropriate for walking in woodlots, fields and long grass which may be damp – Hard hat and vest are recommended for woodlot tours.
BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH (soft drinks provided)
Everyone Welcome!!!

REGISTRATION: Please register by August 19th, 2022 - seats are limited. Please email swwaowa@gmail.com with your info, to reserve a seat on the bus. Registration requires payment; \$35 per person until August 19th (\$45 after August 19th). Please make cheques payable to The South West Woodlot Association Or send e-transfer to swwaowa@gmail.com
Info contact: swwaowa@gmail.com or Donald Craig; dcraigtreeman@sympatico.ca or Tim Payne at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority; tpayne@scrca.on.ca

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2022
vote

MUNICIPAL
election

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
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Obituaries / Death Notices



SYER
Irvine William Frederick

With tears in our eyes but a song in our hearts we announce that **Irvine William Frederick SYER**, in his **97th year**, passed from this world to join his beloved Ruby for a joyful reunion in heaven on **August 12, 2022**. Son of the late Leonard and Lettia (Symington) Syer. Much loved father to his children Kay (John) Allison, Douglas (Diane) Syer, Cindy Syer (Ken McNally), Terry (Cathy) Syer, and Joanne (Chris) Power. Proud grandfather to Corey (Patrick), Kelly (Josh), Adam, Dale (Sarah), Devon (Andrew), Derek (Kelsey), Denise (Ru), Joey (Amber), Carlyn (Aidan), Shayna, Felicia (Justin), Emily, Ethan, Brooke and 14 great grandchildren. "Don't take any wooden nickels" Grandpa. Predeceased by brothers Arthur (Eileen) and Glenn Syer. Survived by Donna Syer Cook. Irvine was most content on his farm on Shiloh Line in Enniskillen Township where he spent his entire life. The early days involved mixed farming which made it truly a family farm - from baling hay to gathering eggs, and everybody's favourite, hoeing beans. The operation later morphed into cash cropping which lessened the daily excitement level. Never one for idle time, he also worked in Sarnia for many years as a seasonal painter, mainly with Harkness & Waters or Heist. Irvine also enjoyed serving as a board member of the Petrolia & Enniskillen Agriculture Society Fall Fair. Irvine shared the same strong passion for music as he did for the land. After earning his A.R.C.T., he devoted himself to teaching piano lessons well into his 80's to over 200 students. He began playing for church when he was 14 years old. After he began directing the church choir, he found a great sense of fulfilment in composing dozens of songs as well as adding his own arrangements to countless others. Starting in the 1980's, Irvine and Ruby directed the Shiloh Choir and friends in Christmas musicals for the next 32 years. Two of these musicals were written in their entirety by Irvine. So many people have shared dad's love of music either through performing with him or just simply listening. **Visitation was at Shiloh United Church 3403 Wanstead Rd on Monday August 15 from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. His funeral service was held at Shiloh United Church on Tuesday August 16 at 11:00 a.m. Interment followed at Hillsdale Cemetery.** Expressions of sympathy graciously accepted for the Shiloh Inwood United Church, Petrolia Foodbank, or Petrolia Community Refrigerator. Dad had a strong faith and always lived by his beliefs. He felt a calling to use his music in service to the Lord. *"Well done, you good and faithful servant!" Matthew 25:23.* **Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.**

McKay
Marion Joyce

Peacefully on **Tuesday, August 9, 2022** at Lambton Meadowview Villa, Petrolia, **Marion Joyce McKay (nee Turner)** passed away at the **age of 95**. Beloved wife to the late Wesley (2005). Loving mother of Bruce McKay and his dear friend Brenda Hotchkiss of Guelph, and the late Alan McKay (2002) (Helen McKay). Loved grandmother to Alex (Nancy) Dolapo. Marion will be dearly missed by Lora Storey and Kelly Cheong. **A memorial service was held on Monday August 15, 2022 at the Needham-Jay Funeral Home, Petrolia. Interment was in Wyoming Cemetery.** As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Canadian Cancer Society, (Cancer.ca) or the Heart and Stroke Foundation (www.heartandstroke.ca). **Memories & condolences may be shared online at www.NeedhamJay.com.**



SMITH
James A.

James A. Smith, of Wyoming, passed away peacefully on **Tuesday, May 3, 2022** at Victoria Hospital, London, in his **82nd year**. The son of the late Nate and Neva Smith. He was the beloved husband of Patricia Boswell-Smith for 46 years. He will be missed by his children Kimberlie and Greg Southcombe, Norah-Lynn DeLeeuw, Laurance DeLeeuw, and Kim Smith, his grandchildren Chelsea Southcombe, Taylor Crane, Catrina Crane, Alex McCallum, Kaleb Patrick McCallum, Elizabeth McCallum, Christopher Deleeuw, and Bradley Deleeuw. James was the brother of Caroline Osborne, Dick Smith, Diana Skidmore, Helen Walker, Linda Tuach, Ab Smith, and the late Ralph Makey. He retired from the Ontario Provincial Police, serving 37 years in Chatham and Petrolia. In retirement he drove for Hull Bus Lines. James volunteered coaching hockey and baseball and loved to fish in his spare time. **Cremation has taken place and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.** As expressions of sympathy memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's society (www.alzheimer.ca/sarnialambton) or Lambton Meadowview Villa Adult Enrichment Centre (www.lambtoncares.ca). **Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.**




ANDERSON
Betty

Peacefully, at Lambton Meadowview Villa on Thursday, **August 4, 2022, Betty Anderson (nee Hackett) of Petrolia**, passed away at the age of **91**. Betty was predeceased by her loving husband of 61 years, Bill (2015). She will be missed by her daughter Cindy and Rick Charlton, her son Jim and Dana Anderson, her grandchildren Olivia Anderson, Lee and Sherry Charlton, Tyler and Stacey Charlton, and her great grandchildren Kailyn, Lainey Charlton, and the late Abigail Grace Charlton. (2019). Betty was predeceased by her parents Jack and Alta Hackett, her sisters Louise (Bill) Sykes and Marion (George) King, and her brother Bill (Betty) Hackett. She will be loved by many nieces and nephews. **A graveside service was held at Hillsdale Cemetery on Monday, August 8, 2022, at 11am.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the Lambton Meadowview Villa Auxiliary (www.lambtoncares.ca). **Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.NeedhamJay.com.**



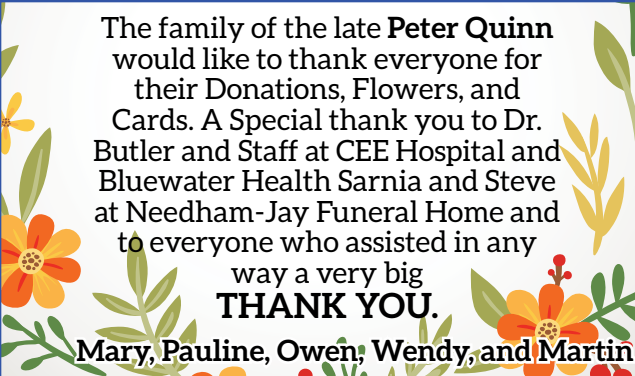
HOLMES
Barry Miles
Sept 17, 1948 – Aug 9, 2022

It is with heavy hearts the family announces the passing of **Barry Miles Holmes** in his **74th year**. Predeceased by his father Eugene and mother Ruby. Survived by his loving wife of 54 years Sheila (nee Henry) and daughters Julie Lockrey (Leland), Tina Campisi (Joe) and Bridget. Also survived by brothers Tom and Chris. Proud "Papa" of Emma (Sam), Isabella, Alex and Olivia Campisi. Fondly remembered by the Lockrey and Nielsen families. Well known and highly respected. Dad touched thousands of lives through his dedicated service as a Courtright volunteer firefighter, Mutual Aid member and Lambton College Fire School Instructor. He was patient, kind, loving, understanding and supportive. He taught us that, if you fall get back up and try again; don't forget to stop and smell the roses and most importantly ... don't blink ... life goes faster than you think. Tell me, I'll forget; Show me, I may remember; Involve me and I will understand. In true firefighter fashion his last words before he left us were "Call 911". Rest peacefully Dad ... You did it your way! Special thanks to Sarnia EMS, Sarnia Firefighters, Dr. McCreery and Bluewater Health ICU staff for your compassionate care. **At Dad's request there will be no service. Cremation to take place.** Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Lung Association (www.lung.ca). Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.steadmanbrothers.ca. **Arrangements entrusted to STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigden 519-864-1193.**



The family of the late **Lois Metcalf** wish to express our thanks to everyone for cards, flowers, food, donations, and calls. A special thank you to Steadman Brothers Funeral Home for their attention to care and detail.

Percy Metcalf and families



The family of the late **Peter Quinn** would like to thank everyone for their Donations, Flowers, and Cards. A Special thank you to Dr. Butler and Staff at CEE Hospital and Bluewater Health Sarnia and Steve at Needham-Jay Funeral Home and to everyone who assisted in any way a very big **THANK YOU.**

Mary, Pauline, Owen, Wendy, and Martin

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www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

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www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca

Find us on Facebook!
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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

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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



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The pilot of a private helicopter made an emergency landing in Grand Bend.

They all walked away

Heather Wright
The Independent

Nick McCaan likes to watch the helicopters take off from the old tennis courts at Oakwood Golf Resort next to his house.

But even the 11 year-old could see something was going drastically wrong Aug. 11 just before 9 pm when a private helicopter began taking off.

Dressed in his pyjamas and bathed in the red emergency lights surrounding the helicopter, McCaan explained how he watched as the helicopter lifted off, but then - instead of going straight up over the trees like normal - the helicopter started moving “back and forth” and then went sideways out of his view.

“I heard a bang and then I didn’t hear

the helicopter sound.”

Officials with the Grand Bend division of the Lambton Shores Fire Department say the private helicopter with four people on board, was trying to lift off when the engine quit. The pilot was able to safely land a few hundred feet away in a small yard.

The helicopter fit just between the side of a house on Oakwood Lane and Highway 21 on the outskirts of Grand Bend. All four people walked away without injuries.

Michelle McCaan, Nick’s mother, says the pilot told her he struggled to get the helicopter over the trees because of strong gusts of wind. And she added he had to be a skillful pilot to miss the houses, the busy highway and the hydro wires to set the failing aircraft down safely.



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

There were smiles for miles at the Oil Springs Family Funfest Aug. 13. The characters of PAW Patrol were a big hit, arriving at the Oil Springs Youth Centre after driving around town on the back of a fire truck. The event was hosted by the village's parks board.



SCHOOL TIME

HELP PROTECT OUR CHILDREN THIS SCHOOL YEAR!



Laws exist to **protect children** getting on and off the bus **AND PROTECT YOU** from a tragedy.

DRIVERS MUST STOP when the bus displays flashing red warning lights and extends the stop signal arm. Drivers traveling in the same direction as the bus are always required to stop. Drivers should never pass on the right side of the bus. This is illegal and can have tragic results.



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