

Fired PW firefighter seeks \$120k in damages

Heather Wright
The Independent

A former Wyoming firefighter is suing Plympton-Wyoming for \$120,000 because “moral damages” for the “bad faith” actions of the municipality when she was fired.

Carrie Ann Wilson was at the centre of a controversy which bubbled over at the Wyoming fire hall in Feb. 2020 when four senior firefighters were fired by then Fire Chief Steve Clemens.

Clemens’ tenure had been controversial. According to Wilson’s statement of claim filed in late July, Clemens was creating conflict in Wyoming by moving fire memorabilia out of the fire hall, reducing training and reducing the debriefing sessions held after major incidents.

In 2017, Wilson found a computer which had been set up to record firefighters in the station. An investigation launched by the town’s lawyer said the move was an accident.

Then, Wilson’s claim says, the chief didn’t investigate two incidents of harassment.

SEE PLYMPTON-WYOMING PG 2

INWOOD CRASH



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Lambton OPP say one person has died in an accident at the corner of Courtright Line and Inwood Road. Around 11 Tuesday morning, a feed transport traveling east on Courtright Line collided with a white SUV – broadsiding it. Firefighters from Alvinston were called in immediately. An air ambulance was called, but six people were rushed to hospital by Lambton paramedics by land instead. A turn signal on the transport could still be seen blinking an hour after the accident occurred. Police were not commenting on the cause of the crash.

Former Petrolia teacher sentenced to a year in jail for sexual exploitation

Heather Wright
The Independent

“Teachers must live up to that trust that parents and students and families and society placed in them to guide and teach students and not to abuse them.”

That from Justice Deborah Austin as she sentenced a former Petrolia teacher to a year in jail after being found guilty of sexual exploitation.

Austin said the 12 month jail sentence for Gillian Boere, “is necessary to send a clear message that teachers must respect a clear boundary, not only in relation to the students they directly teach, but also to those students who volunteer for in or around

their classrooms or classroom activities, or preparation, in co-op, programs and field trips and coaching.”

Boere was found guilty of sexual exploitation in a Sarnia court on Jan. 28 after four encounters with a teenaged boy over the summer of 2019. Sexual exploitation charges are laid when a person is a position of trust or authority to a minor according to the Criminal Code.

Boere was an elementary school teacher in Petrolia but the teen was not her student. There is a publication ban on any evidence which might identify the teen including how they knew each other.

Court heard the encounters began after the break up of Boere’s marriage. The teen

visited her home and she began to cry. He asked her if she needed a hug, which lasted five to 10 minutes. The two then shared a kiss before the teen left. Court heard she told the teen not to say anything about the incident because she could be in trouble.

There were two other sexual encounters, one which the judge found sexual touching had taken place the other where there was intercourse. The teen distanced himself from Boere after having sex in the 34 year-old’s car in August.

Boere who had faced four charges was found guilty of the single count of sexual exploitation.

In her ruling Tuesday, Judge Austin says it was Boere’s responsibility to make sure

a caring gesture during a difficult time was only that. Boere’s marriage was falling apart at the time, Austin said.

“Crying and sharing her personal difficulties was an extraordinary situation to be placed in, (and) put them in an intimate context that was unfair, unequal and confusing...”

“As an adult acting in her capacity as a teacher - however difficult and painful her situation - her clear duty was not to seek or accept any sexual contact with a young person as a means of coping.”

Austin also denounced people who would shame or blame the teen, saying he had been exploited by an adult he trusted.

SEE TEACHER PG 2



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SCAN FOR MENU



And they’re off; election candidates set Incumbent Mayors in Petrolia, Warwick and Brooke-Alvinston face challenges

Heather Wright
The Independent

There will not be a race for municipal council in Dawn-Euphemia, Enniskillen and Oil Springs this year.

The communities have all acclaimed their municipal leaders after the nomination deadline closed Friday.

But there are a number of races to watch in Central Lambton

PETROLIA

Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley will face former town administrator Richard Poore in the race for the top spot on council.

The municipal election nomination period has just closed and Loosley and Poore are the two candidates for the position.

There has also been a flurry of entries to the race for councillor; Chad Hyatt, Debb Pitel – a suicide prevention advocate and Allison Mevis who was one of the people who recently tried to get Petrolia council to deal with drainage issues before approving the zoning for a townhouse complex – are among 11 people vying for six positions. They face all of the incumbent councillors – Joel Field, Grant Purdy, Marty Souch and Wade Deighton – with the exception of Don Welten who withdrew his nomination due to health reasons.

PLYMPTON-WYOMING

There are now three people running for the top job in Plympton-Wyoming vacated as Lonny Napper retires. Current Councillor Tim Wilkins has filed his papers to run for mayor. He faces Muriel Wright and Gary Atkinson in the race.

Netty McEwen has been acclaimed as deputy mayor. The long-time councillor is also a former municipal administrator.

In the race for councillor in Plympton-Wyoming there are some new faces. Kristen Rodrigues, John VanKlaveren and Alex Boughen joined the race for four council positions Thursday.

Incumbents Mike Vasey and Bob Woolvett are also up for re-election. Conner Weed filed his nomination papers with minutes to spare. Weed ran for council in 2018 as did Mike Thompson, a municipal administrator in Petrolia, who filed his papers in June. Randy Dayman – who voiced concern about the fast pace of development and its affects on the infrastructure, is also listed as a candidate for council.

WARWICK TOWNSHIP

In Warwick, the race for mayor pits current Mayor Jackie Rombouts against former Mayor Todd Case.

There are a number of new faces on the ballot for the four councillor positions. Thursday, Joe Manning joined the list of eight people now running for councillor positions.

Incumbent councillors Colin Mitchell, Wayne Morris, Todd White and Jerry Westgate are all on the ballot as is former councillor John Cowenberg, and newcomers Sharon Plunkett and Bill Davies.

BROOKE-ALVINSTON

Incumbent Mayor Dave Ferguson faces a challenge from current Councillor Jamie Armstrong in the race for the top job.

Incumbent councillors Frank Nemcek, Jeannette Douglas and Wayne Deans are up for re-election. But they have some

company on the ballot.

Former Inwood Fire Chief and president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture Don McCabe, Les Douglas – who ran in 2018, Vanessa Benoit – who ran both municipally in 2018 and for the NDP in the provincial election, Jenny Redick – the organizer of the Tanner Redick Memorial Two Pitch Tournament – Craig Sanders and Gregory Hilliard, a political newcomer who has voiced concern about a number of council actions over the past four years, including the enforcement of the pool fence bylaw are all seeking one of the four councillor positions.

DAWN-EUPHEMIA

Incumbent Mayor Al Broad is unopposed for the top job.

Four people filed their papers for the four available council seats. Jason Myer, Ann Gray, Paul LeBoeuf and Mark McGuire have all filed nomination papers and will be declared the official council Monday when the candidates are certified.

Noticeably absent from the list of potential councillors at this point is long time council member Leslea Williams. She’s served on municipal council for 40 years.

She was unavailable for comment on her decision at presstime Tuesday.

ENNISKILLEN

In Enniskillen, the current council are all on the list of unofficial candidates – with no other challengers the entire council will be acclaimed Monday when the list is certified. Mayor Kevin Marriott and Councillors Judy Krall, Mary Lynne McCallum, Wally VanDun and Chad Burke will continue to serve on council.

OIL SPRINGS

The entire Oil Springs council will also be acclaimed with four people looking to fill the four councillor seats and no challenge mounted to Incumbent Mayor Ian Veen.

Council incumbents Larry Wagner, Connie McFadden and Adam Veen have all filed to run for another term Jordon Newport – a newcomer to local politics – has also filed his papers.

ST CLAIR TOWNSHIP

Three people, Tracy Kingston, Jeff Agar and Chad Shymoko are vying for the mayor’s chair with the retirement of long-time Mayor Steve Arnold.

Incumbent Steve Miller is the lone candidate for the deputy mayor’s job.

Six people are running in ward one, including incumbent Pat Brown. Charles Mortley-Woods, Cathy Langis, Holly Foster, Bill Moran and Michelle Maitland have all filed nomination papers.

There will also be an election for councillors in Ward two as Brad Langstaff filed his nomination papers today. He’ll run against Bill Myers and Gary Martin.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

While some councils have been acclaimed, there will be elections in all communities for the four school boards.

Supporters of the English Public Board (Lambton-Kent District School Board) will have three candidates to chose from; Heather Skolly of Petrolia, Greg Agar of St. Clair Township and Kathryn Shailer a life long educator and former VP of academics at Mount Royal University who now lives in Brooke-Alvinston.

There will be no election for the Catholic School voters. Incumbent Mat Roop will represent the region.

In the French Separate School Board, Sylvie C. Barbeau-Chmielewski will face Meghan Reale for the region’s trustee seat.

In the French Public Board, David Andre Paradis from Chatham-Kent is the new trustee for the regional board.

Election day is Oct. 24.

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This Month In Lambton

August 2022



Warden Kevin Marriott
@LambtonWarden

Roundabout construction at CR #79 and CR #22 intersection

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

Detours are in place and posted. No through traffic will be permitted for the duration of the project. Detailed routes can be viewed online at lambtononline.ca/roadclosures.

Please visit Municipal511.ca and lambtononline.ca/construction for additional road closure information and project updates.

Consolidated Financial Statements

The Corporation of the County of Lambton’s Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2021 have been completed and audited.

Copies of the statements are available online at lambtononline.ca/budget, or by calling 519-845-0801.



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Editorial

So much for common sense

The words common sense and government rarely are found together in the same sentence. You won't find them in this editorial either.

The federal commission responsible for the riding boundaries has released its proposal for Ontario and you need a satellite, a swiss army knife and a protractor to figure out just who will be part of which riding. The lines appear to have been drawn by someone with a penchant for a purple marker and a little too much wine.

What is clear is residents in Lambton County will have three MPs (and later MPPs since the provincial law requires the use of the same boundaries) representing its citizens. Two of the three ridings don't even acknowledge Lambton in its title. Lambton would be represented by the MPs from Sarnia-Lambton Bkejwanong, South Huron Shores and Elgin-Middlesex-Thames.

Sarnia-Lambton-Bkejwanong would stretch from Sarnia down to Walpole Island - as it used to - and add in Wallaceburg and part of Dresden in Chatham -Kent. Elgin-Middlesex-Thames - what's currently Lambton-Kent-Middlesex - would still include Warwick, and Brooke-Alvinston, but only part of Dawn-Euphemia would be in that riding. And Forest and Lambton Shores would be in South Huron Shores.

If the proposals go through, no doubt there will be some confusion when the first election is held with the new ridings.

It will also make it interesting for Lambton County and health care organizations like Bluewater Health, as they try to get help from the feds and province for projects like housing and health care. They'll now have to lobby three MPs instead of two.

MP Marilyn Gladu says the commission's goal is to have about 117,000 people represented by one MP. The new Sarnia-Lambton-Bwjenong riding will be 127,000.

Here's a wild thought - Lambton County has 123,399 people according to the 2016 Census - wouldn't it make sense to have just one person represent that one community. Apparently no. See the first sentence above.

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



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

A photo of the Inwood Barber Shop - undated.

Sad and happy as the next chapter begins

When our kids, John and Lauren, both were accepted to college in Toronto in January, I was happy and sad all at the same time. They're going to be doing what they want and they're ready to take on new challenges.

Besides, I reasoned with myself then, it was six months away.

Now, here I sit, with less than six days before they go and I cannot lie. I'm still sad.

Sure, we have an apartment for them. It's small, but in a relatively good neighbourhood, near transit and roughly halfway between both schools. Sure, they're both excited about their coming adventure. And of course, I'm happy to see them doing what they want. "A school I'm choosing," as John says.

But I'm still sad. Sure, I felt this way when Emily left

our house on Greenfield more than four years ago. She was SOOOOOOOO ready to leave home. But she was the first to leave and it was weird. I vowed not to be the mom who would cry. But I did. And life went on. We make an effort to remain as connected as possible to Em and now her husband, Joseph. And it's good. And she's happy. And while I love her lots, I don't miss her as much as I first did - so I know I can do this.

Still I'm sad. Sure, it's a new chapter in my life. Barry and I will be able to do new things, travel a bit, have fewer responsibilities for chauffeuring people around or hounding people to load the dishwasher, clean the bathroom or cut the grass. We'll be able to visit people we haven't seen for a while, maybe get another dog.

Still I'm sad. These kids of ours - what a blessing they are. They're smart and funny and beautiful inside and out. And in the last two years, John and Lauren have been always with us and I can honestly say that 99.9 per cent of the time, it's been a joy. So, with less than six days before they go, I'm sad. And I'll cry when I drive away from their new Toronto home. But I'll also be happy for them and us because, whether near or far, I love them.



Heather Wright

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Canada

Lambton cut in three as ridings changed

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton county could be represented by three different MPs and MPPs if a proposal for riding boundaries is approved. A federal commission looks at the riding boundaries every 10 years and alters them to make sure each member of Parliament represents roughly the same number of people. This time around, Sarnia-Lambton MP Marilyn Gladu says the commission was trying to build riding boundaries so each MPP would represent about 117,000 people. Gladu is spearheading review of the boundary proposal for the federal Conservative party. Under the plan, Sarnia-Lambton

would grow to include Walpole Island, as well as parts of Wallaceburg and Dresden. It would be called and be called Sarnia-Lambton Bkejwanong. The Lambton-Kent-Middlesex riding would be replaced with Elgin Middlesex Thames. It would include Warwick, Brooke-Alvinston and parts of Dawn-Euphemia as well as parts of Chatham-Kent, Elgin and Strathroy. Gladu says the proposal puts Forest and Lambton Shores in a riding called South Huron Shores. The MP has been talking with some community leaders, particularly the indigenous communities in the riding. Bkewanong and Kettle and Stoney Point have join programs because they are in the same riding, she says, and they are concerned about their future.

The MP says Bkewanong was part of the Sarnia-Lambton riding in the past, but she expects another office would be needed to serve the needs of the south should the boundary proposals be approved for the next federal election. The province follows suit with the boundary redistribution. Gladu is hosting a meeting about the proposed changes Aug. 30 on Zoom. Public consultations will also be virtual in late September. You will have to register to give a presentation. “Changes can be made, but only if people add their voice now, when the public hearings are being held. This is the only time that there’s input from the public,” says Gladu adding changes were “made in the last go round in 2012.”

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PW vows to work with brewery after social media storm

Heather Wright
The Independent

A Plympton-Wyoming brewery says it’s working with the municipality to keep its taproom open. The news comes after a weekend fire-storm on social media after Mary and Joe Donkers of Stonepickers Brewery near Forest said they were closing the taproom after the town’s building and planning departments came required 18 changes to the taproom to meet local regulations including adding a firewall around a steam-heated brew house. The Donkers said the only danger of fire at their brewery is already behind a firewall. The rest of the requirements, they wrote, were “are beyond the scope of our current and planned operations. Remote areas like Forest do not have services like cities do, and the installation of these services come at the

expense of the owner...Our original business plan was to move the taproom to another location within five years. However, with ownership changes and economic effects of the pandemic, relocation is not a viable option at this time.” The Donkers said they would be shutting the taproom after Thanksgiving. The announcement led to loud criticism of the municipality. “This is absolutely ridiculous that PW has imposed these demands, especially after the last two devastating years for businesses,” wrote Michelle Bidner. “(With) the ramifications for all those Joe and Mary support - the food trucks, local restaurants, the musicians and the taproom workers - it is so sad that solutions and common sense cannot prevail,” said Cathy Johnson. Megan Filion said it was “very disheartening” the municipality wouldn’t find a way to work with the Donkers.

The post garnered hundreds of negative comments. But by Tuesday, the business said it had worked out its concerns with the municipality and the taproom will remain open. Plympton-Wyoming CAO Carolyn Tripp said the business originally opened as a value-added business to an agricultural application - since the brewery grown, the requirements had changed. “We did meet with them Monday, there were some misunderstandings with what they were required to do,” she said. Tripp said adding the meeting with the Donkers was very cordial Monday. The concern over building a firewall has been addressed. “If you don’t brew the beer while the taproom is open, you don’t need the firewall,” said Tripp. “The rules are valid, it depends on how they’re operating... dictate which rules apply to them.”

LCCVI artist win Bright’s Grove scholarships

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Two LCCVI graduates have been recognized by the Gallery in the Grove for their artistic talents. Olivia Bourne and Tanis DeGurse were recently awarded the gallery’s student art scholarships. Bourne will be taking graphic design at Fanshawe College, while DeGurse will be heading to the University of Windsor to take visual arts/concurrent education on her way to become a high school art teacher.

Gwen Moore, the education chair of the gallery’s board of directors said \$140,000 in scholarships have been awarded since 1982 shortly after the gallery opened.



Olivia Bourne and Tanis DeGurse of LCCVI were awarded \$1,000 scholarships.

Councillors worry park problems will keep kids from playing

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Some Oil Springs councillors want to see the village parks cleaned up. “We haven’t had a spring park and trail clean up since COVID began,” said Councillor Connie McFadden, as she pointed to the reason why there are so many areas that need to be spruced up. Councillor Larry Wagner had a list of

items - including areas with too many weeds and problems at the ball park at the Youth Centre - when Public Works Superintendent Darren Morningstar’s report was presented at the Aug. 16 Oil Springs Council meeting. Mayor Ian Veen said the items should be checked with a daily drive by staff around the village. But McFadden suggested staff should get out of their vehicles and walk sections of the village to get a better look

at the issues including low hanging tree branches which stretch over side-walks which need to be trimmed. There are also long weeds under the teeter-totter and climber at East End Park, said McFadden. She worries people will not use it because of its state of disrepair. The concerns were to be passed on to Morningstar, who was on vacation.

- THE INDEPENDENT

CORRECTION:
In the Aug. 4, 2022 edition of The Independent in the pg. 12 story A Place for Healing it incorrectly stated The Three Oaks Cabin has received approval from the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. Environmental Impact study has been completed and is being reviewed by the conservation authority before a building permit can be issued. We regret the error and any confusion it may have caused.

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REPRESENTING BROOKE-ALVINSTON



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ashley Podolinsky is the new Brooke-Alvinston-Watford Fall Fair ambassador this year. She was chosen by the agriculture society Aug. 16. Katie Dennis was the runner up. Autumn Bressette - the 2021 ambassador was on hand for the event.

Centennial’s last dance Sept. 24

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Watford will say farewell to its Centennial Hall on Sept. 24.

“There are many memories people have of the building,” said Joe Manning, chair of the 150th anniversary of Watford Committee. There is certainly a lot of nostalgia around the old building from the many community celebrations, stag and does and Cornfest just to name a few. The Watford Gun Club also has a shooting range in the basement.

Watford Centennial Hall was built in 1967, as part of Canada’s 100th anniversary celebrations. In 2017, an inspection revealed the building had seen better days

and Warwick Council decided to build a new community centre attached to the nearby arena.

As the final touches are being placed on the new East Lambton Community Complex, Centennial Hall will get a send off with an open house from 2 to 4 pm. People will be able to reminisce while taking a walk through of the building. The committee is also collecting pictures and artifacts from the last 55 years and will have it on display. And then the last dance will be held at Centennial starting at 8 pm..

Saying goodbye to the Centennial Hall is also a fundraiser for the 150th anniversary celebration for Watford, as the building was a big part of the community’s history.

Legion needs \$300k of work

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

The Petrolia Legion is on a mission to make its hall accessible to all.

The organization needs to raise between \$250,000 to \$300,000 for the work.

“The halls is not accessible,” said Legion President Alex Billings.

The building was constructed in the early 1950s with an addition in 1967. Much of the work was done by volunteers at that time. A stairlift is available to get people up and down the stairs at the front entrance, leading to the upper and lower halls.

Robert White, who serves as the poppy chair and has taken the lead on this project, said those using wheelchairs aren’t able to use the washrooms or get in and out of the chair lift which allows some to get up and down the stairs.

The Legion plans to install an elevated platform, which can transport a wheelchair up the stairs.

In the front of the building, a ramp will be installed with the front deck level with the door.

A universal bathroom for both sexes will be added, which can give the space

needed for someone with mobility issues. The organization has a timeline of one year to get this work done, as it must be in compliance with government regulations by July 2023.

The issue has caused problems in the past. There have been people who could not rent the hall due to their mobility issues, said White.

The Legion is one of the biggest halls in the community for functions with the capacity being 230 in the upstairs hall, 70 in the club room and 50 in the president’s room.

The Legion currently has between 125 and 130 members, which is a far cry from the 400 members it had in 1967 when the building’s addition was constructed.

That makes raising the funds difficult.

“We are burnt out,” White said of the volunteers who work to keep the Legion functioning. This is not much different than many other local organizations.

Saturday, the legion is hosting a car show in the parking lot with the Sarnia Street Cruisers between 10 am and 2 pm. There will also be a dart tournament in September.

All proceeds will go to the building fund to support the renovations.

WILKINS
FOR MAYOR
OF PLYMPTON-WYOMING

On Thursday, August 18, I proudly submitted my nomination forms to officially launch my mayoral campaign for the Town of Plympton-Wyoming. While serving as a councillor, I have solidified my passion for public service and the commitment I have to contributing to this community.

I look forward to the hard work ahead, and working hard to earn the trust of our residents and share a vision for how I think we can continue to improve our beloved community.

ABOUT ME

Married with four children, I first lived in Wyoming proper for nine years before moving back to my rural roots in the County just outside of Camlachie. Born and raised on a dairy farm, I continue to farm 270 acres of cash crop land and remain involved in the agricultural community.

In addition to farming, my wife and I have owned and operated our family business, Wyoming Tree Service, for over 22 years. We’re proud of the business we have built, and would not be successful without our team of over 20 full-time staff, and over 60 part-time staff.



As someone with a commitment to community service, I have served as a firefighter out of Camlachie for 17 years, currently serving as a captain and member of the peer support team. I have also proudly served this community as a councillor for the last four years, working with community members to accomplish some pretty incredible things.

THE LAST FOUR YEARS

There have been some great wins over the last four years that I am incredibly proud of. Four years ago, I stood in front of voters and said we would get better Internet service. I faced a lot of opposition from council on this goal, but within a year and a half into my term as councillor, we had a committee formed to take action and deliver on the promise to bring better Internet service to Plympton-Wyoming. But we still have some work to do and I remain committed to working until this job is done.

I have also served as the chair of the water and sewer committee, where I worked with staff and contractors to develop a new waste water management plan. We now have a clear picture of the work ahead to ensure our infrastructure meets the needs of our growing community.

I also had the privilege to work closely with the Conservation Authority to try and get our boat ramp open in Highland Glen. Again, I faced opposition from council because many people did not think it could get done. However, by working with the Conservation Authority and both the provincial and federal levels of government, we are scheduled to begin repairing the Highland Glen boat ramp this month.

MOVING FORWARD AS MAYOR

Although I’m proud of what has been accomplished over the last four years, there are a lot of things that still need to get done. As mayor, I am confident that I can bring council together and get to work on the important issues facing our community.

We need to continue getting fiber in the ground so that every home in Plympton-Wyoming has better Internet services. One thing the pandemic has shown us is how important good quality Internet is for our residents. This is an incredibly important thing to get done for everyone.

We have also seen the Province of Ontario announce additional funding for energy projects. We need to fight hard for gas lines in our rural areas and prioritize collaboration with the provincial government. This will help reduce costs not only for our farmers, but for other rural residential areas. I also think we are disconnected from our agricultural community and we need to re-engage our farmers to ensure they have a strong voice at the table.

We need to ensure we act on our wastewater master plan. We have the plan and now we need to get to work on making smart investments in our infrastructure to save us down the road. We need to also look at developing grant programs for high-risk areas in our municipalities and support older homes in desperate need of upgrades, like the installation of backflow-preventers and check valves.

I believe that council needs to start shifting focus to our supporting businesses and commercial areas. Invest in community grants that freshen up our commercial core in Wyoming and help owners refresh their storefronts. We need to maintain a low and competitive tax rate and aim to improve the commercial efforts in the Camlachie area.

Ultimately, we need to ensure the development we are seeing is not only done properly today, but is done properly for the future. We need to improve how we look into the future of Plympton-Wyoming and do everything we can to maintain such a livable community for our residents, from things like trails and parks, to the Camlachie Optimists outdoor rink efforts.

I am proud of how I represented the community over the last four years. As someone who has lived in the Village of Wyoming and outside Camlachie, farmed in the country, and operates a business in the commercial areas, I am confident in my ability to represent fellow business owners, farmers, and residents alike.

Tim Wilkins

Sports

PURPLE WINS BRONZE



Petrolia's Matt Mueller and Western's Men's tennis team placed third at the National Bank Open in Toronto. Mueller contributed with wins in both his singles and doubles bronze medal matches.

TENNIS CANADA PHOTO

Petrolia Squire skates around the corner

The Petrolia Squires of the Western Ontario Senior hockey loop have set a trio of preseason skates at the Shores Recreation Complex in Forest in advance of the 2022-23 campaign. The skates, which cost \$20 each, will take place

on September 1 from 8-9 pm and on September 7 and 14 from 8:30-9:30 each evening. Interested players should contract head coach Craig Prudom at craig.prudom@icloud.com

Flyers round out their rosters before preseason

The Petrolia Flyers have signed Colby Ackworth and Brett Dickey for the coming PJHL season. Ackworth, from Strathroy, played in Lucan last year and is expected to provide veteran leadership.

Dickey, 17, is a product of Lambton Shores minor hockey. Last season, he was an affiliated player with the North Middlesex Stars. The Flyers open their preseason schedule on Thursday, August 25 against Dresden at the Watford Arena. Puck drop is 7:30.

McGrail at Pete's camp

Wyoming's Jace McGrail is heading to Peterborough next week for his second training camp with the OHL Petes. The camp begins next Tuesday. McGrail was a tenth round selection by the Petes in the 2021 OHL Priority Selection from the Lambton Jr. Sting.

The 17 year-old rearguard had 26 points in 35 regular season and playoff games with the Jr. Sting U18 squad last season. He has played 14 games as an affiliated player with the Sarnia Legionnaires where he added a goal and three assists.

Lambton links to Canadian gold

There was a local flavour to Team Canada's overtime win over Finland to capture the COVID-delayed 2022 World Junior Hockey Championship on the weekend in Edmonton. Red Wings first round pick Sebastian Cossa has family ties to both the

Sarnia and Alvinston area. Cossa only made one appearance between the pipes for Canada at the tournament, making 22 stops in a 5-2 win over Latvia in the preliminary round.

ACE-ING THE BRONZE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Alvinston Aces finished third at the ISC World Softball II championships over the past week in Moline, Illinois. Alvinston now turns its attention to Southwest Middlesex quarterfinal playoff action against Moraviantown. The Aces opened the series Tuesday but the score was not available at press time.

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WATFORD CEMETERY ANNUAL DECORATION DAY SERVICE

5606 Nauvoo Rd.

Sunday, August 28, 2022 at 2:30pm

EVERYONE IS CORDIALLY INVITED
(Bring your lawn chairs)

In case of rain the service will be held at the Trinity Anglican Church, 5331 Nauvoo Road, Watford

Your donations are important to keep our cemeteries looking great.

Cheques can be made out to the **Warwick Township Cemetery Board** and sent to the Warwick Township Office
5280 Nauvoo Road, PO Box 10,
Watford ON N0M 2S0

Income Tax Exemption Receipts will be issued for \$25.00 or more.

Lambton County Plowmen's Association

SATURDAY SEPT. 3 2022

LAMBTON COUNTY PLOWING MATCH

100th Anniversary

1748 Rokeby Line, St. Clair Township

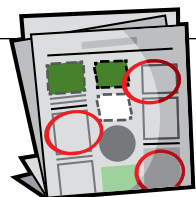
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Antique Machinery • Displays • Youth Activities • Plowing Classes • Food Booth
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Registration: 9:00 A.M. Plowing Starts: 10:00 A.M.

For More Information, Contact: Linda Bryson: 519-828-3311 or Kady Vandevenne: 519-809-0137

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

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.

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25-acre farm, with 3 incomes! Level, fertile farmland, approximately 20 acres workable, 4 acres of woodlot, reported to be systemically tiled at 20ft. A bonus to the annual crop land income each year is the Enbridge gas storage lease approx. \$5000/yr, plus farmhouse rent of \$18,600 /yr rent including utilities from good house tenant. This house is leased until April 2023. Buyer must assume tenant. Exceptional cash flow that should pay the mortgage! Owner will pay off the recent tile loan. This home is on municipal water. Highway location. Excellent wildlife observation, hunting for deer, wild turkeys & other game. Call for more details!

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

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

Obituaries / Death Notices

CHURCHILL

Harold Gordon

Harold Gordon Churchill, of Petrolia, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on **Tuesday, August 16, 2022** in his **80th year**. Harold is survived by wife of 58 years Bev (nee Braithwaite). He is the proud father of Debi and David Donkers and Doug and Shannon Churchill and treasured papa of Kristopher (Kaitlyn) Normandeau, Danielle Normandeau, Colton Churchill, Felix Donkers, and Nicole Donkers and great granddaughter Madison Wyles. He will be missed by his sisters Peggy (the late Doug) Madden and Sheila (the late Alex) McLean. Harold was predeceased by his parents George and Eunice Churchill and brother Gerald. He is a son-in-law to the late Robert and Virginia Braithwaite and brother-in-law to Marilyn (the late Ken) Herrington, the late Pat (Morris) Saunders, the late Carol Templeton, the late Brenda (David) Palmer, the late Ronnie Braithwaite, and the late Tommy Braithwaite. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. He will also be missed by his companion Sasha. Harold's family would like to thank the staff at University Hospital Kidney Clinic/ Transplant Unit and Bluewater Health in Sarnia and Petrolia, and a special thanks to Dr. John Butler for all his care over the years. **A service was held on Monday, August 22, 2022** at 11 am from the Petrolia Lions Hall, 451 Huggard St., Petrolia Visitors were received prior to the service from 10:00 to 11:00 am, Entombment will be in Hillsdale Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Kidney Foundation of Canada (kidney.ca). Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.



STRAATMAN

Johanna Maria Anna



Johanna Maria Anna Straatman (nee Koolen), 92 years, of Petrolia passed away peacefully with family by her side at C.E.E. Hospital in Petrolia on **Friday, August 19, 2022**. Johanna was the loving wife of the Herman (2016). Johanna will be missed by her children Tony (Jane) Straatman, Marian (Ken) McEwan, and Garry (Heather) Straatman, her grandchildren Kevin Straatman, Tyler & Caleigh Straatman, Kyle Straatman (Hailey), Brett & Julia McEwan, James & Amy McEwan, Alyssa & Mark Bunning, Troy Straatman (Katie) and Mallory Straatman (David), and her great grandchildren Myla, Leo, Georgia, Cooper, and Oliver. Visitors were received on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 650 Broadway St., Wyoming. **A funeral mass was celebrated on Wednesday, August 24, 2022** at 11:00 a.m. at St. Philips Parish, 415 King St. Interment will follow at Our Lady Help of Christians Cemetery in Watford. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (ceehf.ca). Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.

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	
Tues	7pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Toastmasters @ Petrolia Lion's Hall	519-381-4910	
2nd Wed	7pm	Petrolia	Bingo @ Petrolia Lion's Hall	519-882-8728	
3rd Wed	7p	Sarnia	Monthly Meeting @ Horticultural Society	519-332-5837	
3rd Thurs	7p	Oil Springs	Optimist Meat Bingo @ Youth Centre	519-834-2152	
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		
Aug28	1-4pm	Wyoming	Joan Spalding, Music & Dance in the Banquet Hall @ the Wyoming Legion - admission is \$10 - 519-384-3032		
Aug29	2-3:30p	Zoom	"Let's talk about genealogy in Lambton County" with Nicole Aszalos from Lambton County Archives. For a link to the meeting email lambton@ogs.on.ca		
Sep 3	10-5pm	Sarnia	First Friday and Weekend Walkabout - A Taste of Sarnia Food Festival . Car show: Sunday 10am-4pm		
Sep 6	1-4pm	Wyoming	DANCE the afternoon away with LARRY HART @ the Wyoming Legion - admission is \$7		
Sep 11	4pm	Tupperville	Dawn Valley United Church - 133rd Anniversary Musical Celebration featuring The Torchmen Quartet . For more info contact: Gloria Pegg 519-683-2266		
Sep 14	7pm	Petrolia	Petrolia Lions - GIFT CARD BINGO @ the Lions Hall – 2nd Wednesday of Month Sept'22 through May'23 - 519-882-8728		
Sep 15	7pm	Oil Springs	Optimist - MEAT BINGO @ the Youth Centre – 3rd Thursday of Month Sept'22 through May'23 - 519-834-2152		
Sep 15	7pm	Sarnia	Ed Dejong – One Room School Houses of Lambton County @ LDS Church, 1400 Murphy Rd or online by registering for Zoom Meeting at lambton.ogs.on.ca.		
Sep 18	1:30pm	Alvinston	Drumhead Service @ the Alvinston Legion - for information contact 519-898-2032		
Sep 21-24	Lunch	Watford	Legion Week Lunches return @ The Watford Legion. Profits from the week go to support Homeless Vets. Takeout will be available - contact Legion for more info.		
Sep 25	10am	Petrolia	Mixed Dart Tournament @ Petrolia Legion - admission is \$10, pre-admission required. Call 519-882-1201.		
Oct 5	7-9pm	Watford	Branch 172 is hosting a Candidates' Night . Coffee served at 6:30pm. A question period will follow.		
Oct 11&12	7:30pm	Sarnia	Meet the Candidates Meetings at The Imperial Theatre. City/ County Council & Mayoral Candidates will be hosted Tues & Council will be Wed. For more info or to submit questions send email to info@slchamber.ca.		
Oct 15	Evening	Watford	World's Greatest Fish Fry @ Branch 172 is back! Tickets will be available in early September		

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
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St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
416 Queen Street, Petrolia (Behind the Post Office)

In-Person Service Sundays @ 10:00 am

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www.standrews-petrolia.ca

Pastor Katherine Hawley

Oil Springs’ Primetime wins ‘unreal’ brawl

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

“It was unreal.”
Oil City’s Steve “Primetime” Young, answered the challenge and walked away with the Super Heavyweight Boxing Championship belt from Barstool Sports Rough N’ Rowdy 18 on Aug. 19 at the Mountain Health Arena in Huntington, West Virginia.
Young defeated Colin “Coach Duggs” McCLOW, going three rounds. “I just tried to hit him as hard as I could,” said Young, describing his strategy.
Billed as “a 1,000 lbs. Canada vs. USA main event,” Young had his 35-member strong cheering section waving Canadian flags with the rest of the crowd booing as he entered the ring.
Chants of “U-S-A” -filled the arena when McCLOW appeared.
“Now if anyone wants to challenge me for the belt, they are going to have to come up here and get it,” he said, admitting he probably won’t be

stepping back into the ring.
He was only confirmed as the challenger three weeks before the fight. A Windsor boxer had bowed out and a call went out online for a guy who was at least 400 lbs.
On a whim, Young sent in a video and he was chosen as the replacement. He called the whole experience fun, thrilling and loud. He would like to thank everyone who supported him and watched him on the pay-per-view.
The odds makers had the 32 year-old McCLOW, as the favourite heading into the fight.
Both men are 6’3 in height, but McCLOW outweighed the 36 year-old Young coming in at 500 lbs. to Young’s 440 lbs.
Aside from the glory of wearing the Barstool Belt, Young is gaining celebrity status in Lambton with the win.
He will be dropping the puck during the pregame ceremony during the Alvinston Killer Bees home opener on Oct. 15. Young played junior hockey in Alvinston.



Steve Primetime Young

Affordable housing project delayed until March

The Independent

An affordable housing project is way behind schedule.
Twenty-four new housing units at Maxwell Park on London Road were expected to be ready for tenants in September. Officials with Lambton County

say it will now be March at the earliest.
The county chose to use a modular construction company to help speed the building process. Those modules are set to arrive this fall now.
The big hold up according to a staff report presented to

Lambton County councillors Thursday was the foundation. Underground water and hydro lines were in the building footprint and had to be moved.
The new construction at the existing housing development is part of a plan to build 75 new units by 2024.

PORT LAMBTON MAKES A SPLASH



PAM WRIGHT PHOTO

Mermaid Aleksandra Johnston of Windsor took time to show apprentice mermaid Ava how to splash her tail at the Mermaids and Mariners Festival at Brander Park in Port Lambton Saturday. Hundreds of people came to event for music, 60 vendors and plenty of kid’s activities.

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New Warwick Township Logo Feedback

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.

June 21 thru Aug 30

tuesday NIGHT market

4:30pm-8:30pm

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

396 Fletcher St.
Behind The Library