

DETERMINATION



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

It was man against beast and it was hard to tell who was going to win the battle in the 4H show ring at the Petrolia Enniskillen Fall Fair. Competitors were in the ring for the weekend event and many will be back in Wyoming for the Plympton-Wyoming Fall Fair this weekend. For more of the Petrolia Fair events, see pages 8 and 9.

Soccer fields at Petrolia Y just the beginning

No cost estimate for four-phase backyard plan

Heather Wright
The Independent

We’re getting the first look at the first phase of a multi-year plan to build an extensive recreational complex at the Petrolia Y. For the first time, staff brought a report and concept plan to council for the YMCA Community Backyard Project. It is a project which was not formally endorsed by council before staff applied for and received a \$699,999 federal grant committing the municipality to over \$233,000 to

complete the \$932,000 worth of additions to the Y property. There had been a brief description of what the grant money was meant to build, however town staff had never presented the plan for the area. The development of a concept and the plan itself had not received the endorsement of council at a public meeting. Dave Menzies, director of facilities and community services, in a report to council outlined the project already underway. It includes two full-sized soccer pitches, an addition to the Y building for a yoga and cycling studio, an outdoor, seasonal washroom with a concession stand, two picnic areas with pergolas and an outdoor fitness area.

The project also includes additional paved parking for 110 cars, sidewalks, crossing areas and lighting and outdoor security cameras to deter vandals. But that won’t be the end of construction at the Y. Included in the council package Monday was a study completed by MIG Engineering on what will be a four-phase plan to build a multi-phased recreational complex. According to MIG’s report, the engineering firm was hired in 2021 by the town to prepare the concept plan. “Given the large scope and cost of the project, it is proposed that the YMCA Community Backyard Project be divided into four phases,” the report states.

SEE NO COST PG 6

‘This should be an alarm bell for Petrolia’

Politicians, inclusion advocates, ag society and public condemns hate crime at Petrolia fair

Heather Wright
The Independent

Demi Krall says a PRIDE Flag wrapped in a noose found at the Petrolia Fair “doesn’t make you feel safe to be who you are.” The past president of the Petrolia/Enniskillen Agricultural Society is gay. When she found out about the hate symbol hung on the Truckin Mamma’s On the Run food truck on the fairgrounds Sunday morning, she was “disgusted and heartbroken.” Krall is just one of the people speaking out about the incident. The owner of the food truck – Chris Tripp – arrived at the fairgrounds to find the noose tied to the propane tanks on the back of his truck around 7:30 Sunday morning. Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley and his wife, Wendy, were manning the gate that morning. “Chris came over and was very upset. I saw it. And you know what, it really is very hurtful and a disgrace to see something like that in our small town,” he tells The Independent. His comments were echoed by Tripp’s friends and customers. “It’s unsettling to know that some unknown person is willing to pull such a violent stunt,” wrote Adam Kilner. “Isn’t that so sad though, to think that people aren’t safe to be who they are?” Demi Krall, past president of the Petrolia Enniskillen Agriculture Society “It is incumbent upon each and everyone of us who lives in the area to stand up and speak against nonsense like this. There is no place for hate. Anyone who remains silent should be ashamed,” added Kent Bitson.

SEE HATE PG 2

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SCAN FOR MENU



Chris Tripp’s photo of the noose found on his food truck at the Petrolia Fair Sunday morning. OPP are investigating the incident as a hate crime

OPP looking for tips on hate crime at the fair

CON’T FROM PG 1

“Somebody out there knows the culprit. . . Please show yourself to be bigger than this nonsense and call him out,” wrote Judy Geraghty.

Lambton OPP were called in to investigate and on Twitter called the incident a hate crime. Officials have so far not responded to *The Independent’s* request for information about the investigation.

Krall – who works in security and is on the fair board – says the fair typically doesn’t have security on site. People who work with the midway company usually camp on the grounds and that provides a deterrent. Without a midway, the board hired a security guard for the grounds.

“I want to make it clear that we do not blame security, we recognize that one person can’t see everything all the time. We need to keep our focus on finding who did it and preventing this from happening again,” says Krall.

Aside from her concerns about the fair’s security and reputation – this is personal for Krall. “I myself am a farmer and also a member of the LGBTQ+ community. I hope people realize that a few bad people don’t represent the whole community.”

Krall says it was disgusting and heartbreaking to see the vicious symbol in her hometown.

“There are so many people struggling with being who they are and to have to see this definitely doesn’t make you feel safe to be who you are,” she tells *The Independent*.

“I’ve spent my whole life in Petrolia and I love my town and community and we’ve come a long way – but we definitely still have a long way to go when it comes to acceptance.

“Fortunately I’ve mostly gotten love and support from my community but there has definitely been some situations that were not so supportive. High school was definitely not a safe space to be out as gay. So, I didn’t come out until much later in life and that was a struggle,” Krall said.

“I don’t really share much about my personal life but I feel like someone needs to speak up so that people know stuff like this is still happening ... I’m speaking up for the people who don’t feel safe enough to speak up.

“Isn’t that so sad though, to think that people aren’t safe to be who they are?”

“This should be an alarm bell for Petrolia.”

Crystal Fach, co-founder and executive director of Diversity Ed agrees. The group has been active in Petrolia and is planning on setting up a safe space for students to

hang out after school. Fach’s mind went immediately to them, and Tripp who they said is a great community advocate.

“I was heartbroken – I was scared for my 2SLGBTQAI+ folks in Petrolia and I was angry that this was still happening,” Fach tells *The Independent*. “This should be an alarm bell for Petrolia.”

And Fach received calls of concern from people involved in a Drag Queen show scheduled for Petrolia this week. “They asked ‘Are we going to be safe in Petrolia?’

“Hearing that made me sad ... they don’t live in the county ... that was a noose that was hung on the back of his truck, anybody in our community would be scared thinking ‘are those people going to show up at our show, are they going to hurt us?’

“Our instant reaction is our safety,” says Fach, adding it is not unusual for people of the 2SLGBTQAI+ community to be “attacked on the street” for being who they are.

Both Krall and Fach downplayed the idea that there is less tolerance for the LGBTQ+ community in rural areas. “There are so many people who do support our community in (Lambton) county ... but there is a few who go online or go in the middle of the night when they’re not visible to scare people,” says Fach.

“That came from hate, it didn’t come from a farmer it didn’t come from a county person it came from a hateful person.

“It’s not just a county problem, it’s a national problem.”

Fach commended the OPP for taking the incident seriously but says the police investigation is only the start.

“There needs to be responsibility at all levels of government; what are you doing to enforce safety in this community. What are you doing to make sure people are educated,” Fach says adding the public has to ask “how are we investing in equitable communities.”

Fach says that includes education and training in workplaces and safe spaces for young people to gather.

For his part, Loosley condemned the incident and reached out to the LGBTQ+ community.

“I certainly want to say you’re welcome in the Town of Petrolia no matter what. And that’s unfortunate that those things have happened, but I really feel that we’re talking a minority.

“I am glad that this is being investigated ... I think people in the public need to be aware that this is unacceptable in the Town of Petrolia.”

Oil Springs farmer promotes help line

Heather Wright
The Independent

Joe Dickenson knows what it is like to not be okay.

The Oil Springs farmer is one of many adding his voice to a new mental health campaign called the Farmer Wellness Initiative. A 24-hour hotline has been established with money from both the provincial and federal government. It gives people in the agriculture industry easy access to counseling quickly.

Dickenson, a member of the Beef Farmers of Ontario, was contacted to be part of the social media campaign to spread the word about it. While he didn’t know much about the new hotline, he was well aware of the mental health issues that plague farmers. In the last year, Dickenson knows two farmers who completed suicide.

And in the last few years Dickenson has dealt with burnout after taking on extra work to keep his beef operation viable.

“I took on a job off the farm and that was a full time job. So every day, I’d wake up at 4:30 in the morning, I do chores, and then I go work an eight hour a day job. And then I come home and do more work. And if something goes down, I have to deal with it,” Dickenson says.

The workload was so heavy, he told family not to call him on Saturday mornings so he could catch up on some of his sleep.

“On top of it, you’re not doing anything well.

“You got to a point where you’d just you look back, and how am I going to keep this up?”



That’s when he pulled the plug on the full time job.

While friends and family were supportive as they could be, Dickenson didn’t see professional help for his burnout.

“Most of it, I kept to myself. I’m not saying the supports weren’t there, but I didn’t know who to turn to, to access them.”

That’s why he was eager to be a part of the campaign to promote the hotline and counseling services particularly considering some estimates say farmers are 20 to 30 per cent more likely to complete suicide than the average population.

And Dickenson is concerned it could get worse. Farmers have always had to deal with the stress of the unpredictability of weather and markets. But the recent sharp increase in land prices and the rising interests will soon be causing additional stress.

“Input costs are quite high and they’re not going down. The price of land has shot up to almost unbelievable levels and that was all done in low interest. We’re starting to see interest come back to basically the long time term average, and it could potentially be ruinous.”

If you or someone you know needs counseling for mental health issues you can call 1-866-267-6255 or go on line to farmerwellnessinitiative.ca



NOTICE OF:
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Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA)
Southwest Region
9210 Graham Road
West Elgin, ON N0L 2P0

OCWA's 24 hour Emergency Contact # 1-888-522-0117

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BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

“I’m the happiest mayor in the world,” said Plympton-Wyoming Mayor Lonny Napper during the grand opening of the Plympton-Wyoming Health and Wellness Centre in Wyoming Sept. 12. Many of the dignitaries who stepped to the podium called a Napper a champion of the project, but Napper says it takes more than just a mayor to run a town. Dr. Ahmed Hijazi and Dr. Paxton Moon, based at the Central Lambton Family Health Team will be seeing patients on Wednesdays at the new health and wellness centre. It is hoped the doctors’ time in Wyoming can be expanded in the future. Public health programs will also be offered at the same location.

Petrolia council closes up shop early

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia councillors will have a little more time to campaign for the Oct. 24th municipal election.

Council Monday approved a motion by Mayor Brad Loosley to cancel the final two council meetings before the election.

The mayor explained his suggestion saying “it is felt that you don’t want to get into committing the new council (to projects). The other is that it also gives the town staff time to prepare for the election.”

It wasn’t clear if town staff had asked for the extra time for the election, however the electronic vote has been in the planning stages for months. Around Lambton County, municipal councils will continue to meet until the election.

Council now won’t meet again until Nov. 14. Clerk Mandi Pearson says the final meeting of council will be followed the next day by the swearing in of the new Petrolia council in a largely ceremonial meeting.

Just one councillor voted against the idea; Joel Field.

If there is new business which needs to be dealt with, the motion allows the

mayor to call a special meeting.

Ironically, before the motion passed, Loosley acknowledged the candidates for council who were in the audience at the meeting and suggested it would be good for the remaining candidates to take in a council meeting before the election.

One of the items which was kicked to the curb at the last meeting of council was a motion from Councillor Don Welten to start a study on development charges. Welten has spoken in favour of the fees for development saying it will help pay for future costs such as more parks and fire services.

The study needed to figure out just how much money should be collected when new homes are built is extensive and council has heard in the past that it will take at least a year to implement the charges once council agrees to move ahead with a study.

Field asked council to approve the \$24,000 study, but no other councillors agreed with the idea. Mayor Loosley suggested passing the motion would be “circumventing the new council” and the decision could be made after the new council is elected.

Beginning the study did not commit the town to implementing the fees.

Councillors did get a commitment from CAO Rick Charlebois to give a better picture of staffing in the future.

Councillors had earlier asked the CAO to adopt an attrition management plan to reduce the number of employees at town hall.

Charlebois in a report to council said it was the CAO’s job to manage hiring not council’s and seemed to suggest the councillors desire to reduce the number of town employees was stepping into that territory.

Instead, Charlebois committed to providing council “with a yearly report on any staffing action taken by me in the previous year as part of the annual draft budget process.”

“However, if I were to seek additional positions (caused by land development growth for example an additional public works employee), I would bring this to council seeking approval during the annual budget process to staff such positions in the following fiscal year.”

Both Councillor Wade Deighton and Grant Purdy said it was not their intention to take control of the process but to put in place an attrition plan that would “give the council a little more accountability to what is actually happening.”

Enniskillen done trash talking; implementing a litter bylaw

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Enniskillen councillors are tired of the trash strewn across the municipality. They’ve agreed to implement a littering bylaw to control the mess.

Municipal staff has picked up building materials, household furnishings and yard waste, which have been dumped along municipal roads in the township this year. The

township doesn’t have a littering bylaw so there is no way to fine anyone.

The draft bylaw would make it an offence to dump items along municipal lands and roads as well as private property.

Approval by a regional judge of the short form wording for the provincial offences tickets will be the next step, as council can’t pass the bylaw until this is done.

The draft bylaw sets out a \$300 fine

for littering on any municipal land, road or private property.

Clerk/Treasurer Duncan McTavish doesn’t feel littering in the township is getting any worse, it just gets annoying.

“It is quite remote to catch anyone,” said McTavish, but this will allow the municipality to give an individual a ticket if needed.


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Editorial

Neat plan but at what cost

We have finally got a look at the plan to develop the lands around the Petrolia YMCA and it's a doozy.

You may recall the town staff applied for and recently received nearly \$700,000 in federal funding for a project at the Y.

The plans for it had not been approved at council even though in applying for the grant, the town would be committed to spending about \$233,000 of taxpayers money.

It is, in this newspaper's opinion, poor public policy to allow staff to apply for grants for project which have not been reviewed and approved by council publicly. Council members hold the purse strings; they set policy and budgets yet they had no say in this project at all.

Monday we learned that the town's engineering firm, MIG, had been hired to create a proposal for the grounds of the Y. We've searched through council minutes and found no evidence council approved the money for that study. We don't know what it cost.

The plan would be the pride of any community - tennis/pickleball courts, a multi-use court for basketball, badminton and volleyball, a much-wanted splash pad, a place for picnics, food and outdoor washrooms, a new yoga/cycling studio addition and two full sized soccer fields with more than 100 new parking spaces. Pretty amazing. But also a lot more than is covered by the current federal grant. And we have no idea what all of that will cost taxpayers.

Think about it; town staff hired an engineer at an unknown cost, to develop a plan for a concept which had never been approved, for a need which had not been justified with data, to conceptualize a complex which taxpayers had no input on and without any firm concept of the final cost. And the current council happily rubber stamped it without the slightest thought that perhaps they should have had more say in it since, after all, they were elected to make sure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. How can they say that actually happened if no one can say how much it will cost?

It's sure a neat plan. Because our councillors didn't do their job, all we can do now is hope that it doesn't become a drain on taxpayers.

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 POST CARD COLLECTION

An aerial view of downtown Alvinston, looking south, at the turn of the century.

Protecting democracy takes a back seat in Petrolia

I've been a journalist for over 35 years and avoid inserting myself into the news. Over the past summer and again Monday, I broke that rule by speaking to Petrolia council about the Integrity Commissioner's report into the actions of Mayor Brad Loosley.

When I was interviewing him, he told me information which was supposed to be kept private. I reported it. Someone in the public recognized the mayor broke the rules of council by releasing in camera information and asked the Integrity Commissioner to investigate.

That investigation was a train wreck. The mayor painted a picture of this reporter practically beating information out of him using "trick questions."

After I read the report, I went back to my interview recording. The 'trick' question was only this: why did the fire chief's job change? Some trick.

The Integrity Commissioner believed the reporter made him do it and said the mayor should get a pass.

Councillors were quick to agree with Grant Purdy suggesting the former mayor was behind the whole thing for political purposes.

They made their decision without

allowing me to respond to the reports findings. I told them moments later that the mayor had misled the investigator, gave them the proof and waited, hoping that someone on council would have the integrity to say, 'you know, we made the wrong decision.'

And while I waited, it struck me that even if I had asked a trick question, the mayor still released the information. No one can dispute that he said what he said. And no one can dispute that it was information which should have been private. So why did council not consider that?

Monday, I told councillors that allowing the mayor to excuse his actions damages the integrity of the council and diminishes the oath of office they took. It makes a joke of the town's Code of Conduct.

I asked the mayor to own his mistake instead of saying "the reporter made me do it" and for council to do the same for not seeing through the excuse. The mayor did not admit it nor did he apologize as I suggested. One councillor suggested it was too bad they didn't know when they made their decision what they know now. That

is, in my opinion ridiculous. Even months later, we can still do the right thing.

But, not surprisingly, they didn't.

What's sad about the whole affair is how blind members of council seem to be how this damages the integrity of council and hurts the democratic process. Other politicians have vilified the media to avoid admitting their own failings - one president to the south comes to mind - and we see what that has done to democracy there.

It's a sad day when council members don't hold each other to account for their actions. It's a good thing we can at election time.

By the way, you can't hear my presentation on the council YouTube feed; my mic wasn't turned on. You can read my presentation on our website.



Heather Wright

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Canada

Opinion

Petrolia answers the fair’s call for help

EDITOR:
On behalf of the Petrolia and Enniskillen Agricultural Society which organizes the annual fall fair, I would like to extend our appreciation to the whole community and even further aboard.
We found out less than two days before the opening of the gates of our fair. That meant our gates would not be manned by the organization that we had asked.
We were sure scrambling and our minds were whirling at what to do.

We started calling sport organizations, contacts etc but this came up empty handed.
What to do but put it out on social media. From that we had a number of people stepping up to help at the gates and even some that would come back if we needed them.
We had people even coming from up to on hour from Petrolia. On that hot weekend they stood at the gates and helped us to finish our fair.
Thank you to our Petrolia community.

I have lived here for 35 years and I see this happening again and again how people hear about a need and are there to help.
I am feeling very blessed to live in a community such as ours.
Again, we couldn’t have done it without all our volunteers and please know that we thank you for your meaningful assistance.

Donna McAuslan
Petrolia/Enniskillen
Agricultural Society

- **Emery Huszka**
Dealer - Florence ON,
226-373-6244
- **Julie Maw**
Dealer - Courtright ON,
519-384-2281
- **Dave Foulon**
Dealer - Tupperville ON,
519-683-2136
- **Dave Emery**, Territory Manager
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519-360-6072
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Concern raised about the state of public health care

EDITOR:
On June 2, 2022, Ontario re-elected Doug Ford. He has more seats in the Legislature than before, despite less people voting.
He received only 40 per cent of the ballots cast.
In the months preceding the election, Mr. Ford stated time and time again he was not going to privatize our public health care system. Our local MPP Bob Bailey echoed his words.
However, the government, in a rare summer session tabled new legislation, “More Beds Better Care”; they cut off debate and did not hold public hearings. This bill means patients in hospital waiting for a bed in long term care - 1180 patients in total - to be sent to the first bed available, even if they haven’t chosen it.
The government says that this would clear beds for those who need admission to hospital. It also robs these patients of their rights under the Charter.
Also it does nothing to clear the beds, occupied by patients waiting for

another sort of bed, within the hospital system (rehabilitation, post stroke, mental health bed.) Patients could be sent far away from their home, family and friends. We remember that during COVID multiple long term care homes had atrocious records; over 4500 residents died, and many in private, for profit homes. It is understandable that many people do not wish to go to those homes.
Yet with this Bill people may be forced to.
This Bill also allows more private, for-profit clinics to open to address the surgical back log. Our tax dollars will go to private for profit businesses, instead of properly funding our public hospital system.
Mr. Ford’s government has also re-tabled a budget, during the Throne Speech, that was previously released. He spent \$2.1 billion less than was documented in his Health budget. Health care Experts and Economists opine that there is not enough money in the Health care budget to sustain current hospitals and services.

Although nothing has been announced, this does not bode well for small and rural hospitals in Ontario. I am not singling out CEE or Wallaceburg or Four Counties as targets, but I am concerned. Small hospitals play an essential role in health care: from seeing less urgent patients to stabilizing and transferring the more critical patients to the proper facility.
All of this seems quite demoralizing. However, we must fight back! The Sarnia Lambton Health Coalition, along with the Ontario Health Coalition is planning a fierce fight back campaign. We must protect public health care.
We want to be pro-active and plan for the government’s next moves.
Please join us. All are welcome. If you are interested in being part of our fight to protect Public Health care, please contact me at goddess@bell.net or 226-402-2724.

Shirley Roebuck,
Co-Chair SLHC,
Board Member, OHC

Conservative optimism with the election of new leader: Benn


EDITOR:
The Conservative Party of Canada recently elected their new leader in resounding fashion giving a first-round victory to Pierre Poilievre with 68 per cent of the vote.
As a result, the leaders of all major federal political parties are now in place and the Canadian political landscape is coming into focus.
Let us consider what the main parties and party leaders of the left and right have to offer Canadians.
The political left is represented by a Liberal Party whose leader is taken seriously by a diminishing minority of Canadians and by an NDP whose leader is engaged only in clutching the Liberal Party’s fraying shirttail.
Those two parties offer Canadians very little beyond deficit spending of money conjured out of thin air and fear mongering about the global climate over which humans have no control. Their depressing political project is to make us poorer, fearful and increasingly dependent on government.
Positive excitement and momentum reside on the political right where the Conservatives and the People’s Party of Canada are vying to define the best strategies to guide our country into the future.
Both parties have leaders, Mr. Poilievre and Mr. Bernier who are energetic and charismatic. They actively promote free market economics, putting our natural resources to work and preserving a properly functioning representative democracy. That is to say one in which government serves the interests of the people rather than the opposite.
With conservatism politically ascendant, I am optimistic for the future of our country and our people.
I do, however, offer a note of caution. There is risk that the establishment old guard within the Conservative Party will strive to undermine their new leader’s agenda.
Hopefully they would fail.
If they should succeed then the People’s Party would remain to provide the necessary conservative alternative. Canada’s future is bright.

Keith Benn
Port Lambton, ON

OPP urge drivers to be cautious around farm vehicles this fall

Lambton OPP are sharing some tips on keeping farmers safe on the roads during the harvest season.
The department say its essential for everyone’s safety that drivers remain patient when approaching a tractor or combine on the road.
Here are a few tips for safe driving during harvest.

- Watch for slow-moving vehicle signs. The orange triangular sign indicates the vehicle is moving at less than 40 km/h.
- Remember some farm vehicles are very wide and may take up more than one lane. Some vehicles also have protruding equipment that can be hard to see. Give that farm vehicle space.
- Not all farm vehicles have turn signals, watch for farmers signalling a turn using the same hand signals as a cyclist. Be aware that farmers with long or wide farming equipment sometimes need to make a wide turn.
- Don’t stop or slow down in front of the farm vehicle. Large equipment can’t brake as quickly as a car.



Waste Management

Twin Creeks Environmental Centre
Warwick Public Liaison Committee (WPLC)

NOTICE OF WPLC MEETING

The next WPLC Meeting will be held:



Date: **Wednesday, September 21, 2022**
Time: **5 p.m. Tour, 6 p.m. Meeting**
Place: **Twin Creeks-Office Boardroom**

Please RSVP to: amclachl@wm.com

1. Call to order – Chair Mary Lynn Metras
2. Approval of/Additions to Agenda
3. Acceptance of June 28, 2022, Minutes
4. Business Arising

AGENDA

a. Full Time Inspector from MECP
b. Updated Complaint Log from Waste Management
c. Q2 2022 – Exceedances and Monitoring – RWDI & Q3 Correspondence
i. TSP Logs
ii. Email sent to MECP August 4, 2022-Q3 SW Notification
d. New Members Application:
5. New Business
6. Open Session
7. Reports
a. MECP Inspector – Review of MECP Inspection Reports
b. Twin Creeks Landfill Operational Report from John McDonald
i. TCEC TOR Update
8. Next Meeting Date/Agenda



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No cost estimate yet

CON’T FROM PG 1

- The next three phases according to MIG’s plan include:
- A community vegetable garden.
 - A raised bed memorial flower garden with dedicated stepping stone plaques and benches.
 - A splash pad area adjacent to the washroom facilities and the existing playground area.
 - A wooded/treed walking area with winding paths and benches.
 - Additional playground area adjacent to the existing playground.
 - A fenced ball and field hockey net area.
 - A fenced multi-use sports court sized for basketball, badminton and volleyball.
 - Two fenced tennis courts that may be converted for use as two pickleball courts.
 - Open space for community events and/or future development.
 - Various additional parking facilities.
 - Additional gardens and treed areas.
 - Other amenities include paved sidewalks and walkways, benches, bike racks, and security lighting and cameras in select locations.

Around the council table, there was little discussion about the plan. Menzies presented the report saying only residents and councillors could see the new soccer fields already under construction.

“I think it is great news for the town and it is going to be really nice when we get this done,” said Mayor Brad Loosley.

Councillor Wade Deighton asked what the entire plan will cost. “We don’t have an exact estimate,” said Menzies citing the “supply chain has broken parts and pieces are missing” as a reason for the lack of an estimate for the project.

“So, anything going forward - tender process (coming) back to council; engineering reports for each part of the phases and the budgeting process.

“So right now, no exact number but everybody will be informed of those decisions as they go,” Menzies added.

While there is not an official cost estimate, the development won’t be cheap.

Recently, service clubs and parents have raised money for park equipment which ranged anywhere from \$150,000 to \$300,000. The price tag for two tennis courts according to online sources will be about \$200,000. A multi-purpose sports court could top \$125,000.

Add in the cost of fencing each of the amenities and the dollars start to accumulate.

It’s also not clear if the municipality has a firm commitment to build a splash pad at no cost to the taxpayers.

In 2021, the Petrolia Kiwanis Club presented a plan for a \$150,000 splash pad which was endorsed by the community services committee. But the future of that project isn’t clear.

Rick Charlebois, CAO of Petrolia, tells *The Independent* the town had discussions with the Kiwanis Club about the splash pad and the town’s costs for water “caused them to pause” and rethink whether the new service club could afford the ongoing costs of the splash pad.

The idea of an outdoor recreational concept around the Y is not a new one. In 2017, staff asked council to commit \$64,000 to, in part, develop the concept. At the time, Charlebois estimated the cost of the redevelopment would be about \$1.7 million.

But the idea faced some backlash with then mayor, John McCharles, admitting the concept was “a dream” of some members of the community but might need public input “to see what the public wants and what the public can afford.”

The money for the concept plan was removed from the budget at that time and public input sessions for the grounds surrounding the Y building were never held.

The town did complete a recreation master plan in 2020. The study’s main finding was that people wanted more walking trails.

It also concluded residents wanted more neighbourhood parks near residential areas. The Y property is on Tank Street which is surrounded by commercial and industrial development and seniors’ housing.

And the Backyard Plan is not the only concept for the use of the land around the Y. Petrolia’s Matt Mueller proposed a tennis academy be built at the site.

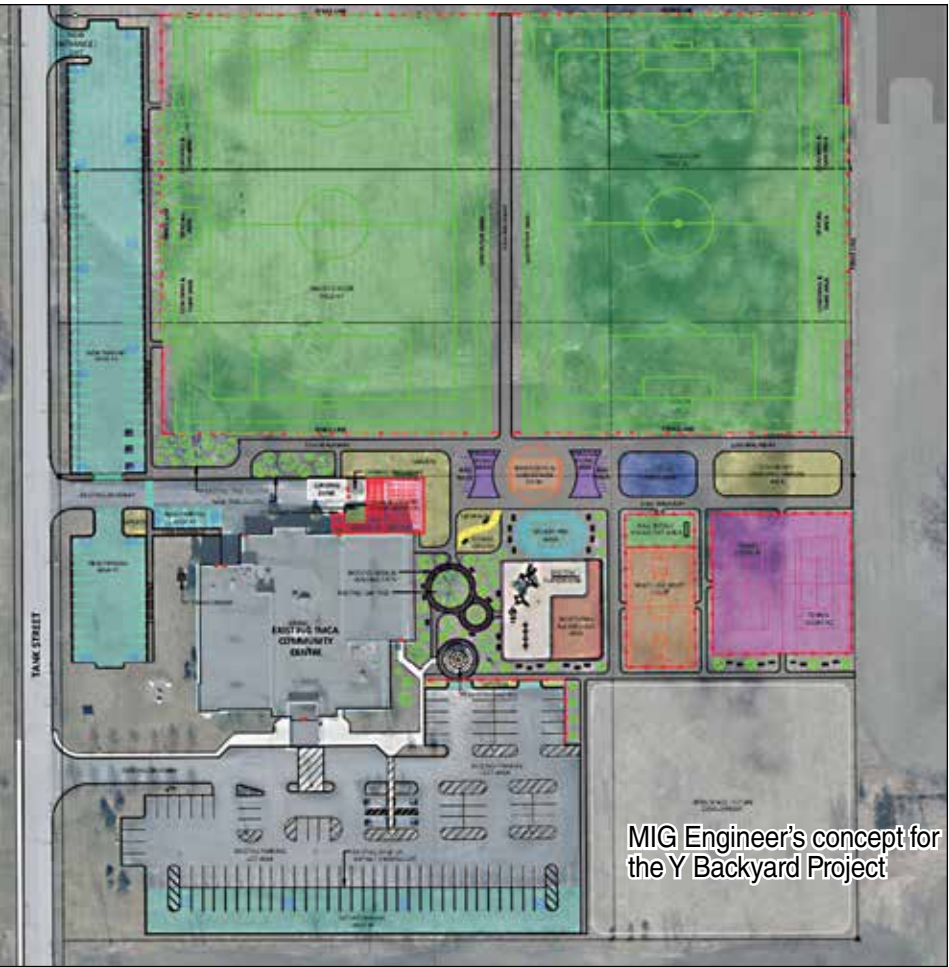
In 2019, he suggested a \$2.2 million facility which would have three tennis/pickleball courts, as well the possibility of hosting soccer, a computer generated golf driving range and a running/walking/wheelchair accessible track. The facility would be linked with a sports program for young tennis stars who would go to school at LCCVI and practice at the facility.

Council approve the concept in principle and allowed Mueller to move ahead with fundraising. Town staff are looking for an update on the project noting in a report that if the project isn’t going ahead the funds committed to it will go to town recreation projects.

Meantime, council Monday endorsed the new plan without that information and committed to moving forward with a phased in approach for the project.

YMCA Community Backyard Project

1. TWO FULL SIZE FENCED SOCCER PITCHES
2. YOGA AND CYCLING STUDIO
3. OUTDOOR, SEASONAL WASHROOM AND CONCESSION STAND
4. TWO PERGOLA PICNIC AREAS
5. OUTDOOR FITNESS AREA
6. COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDEN
3. MEMORIAL FLOWER GARDEN
8. SPLASH PAD AREA
11. WOODED AREA WALK
12. ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUND AREA
13. ONE FENCED BALL AND FIELD HOCKEY NET AREA
14. ONE FENCED MULTI USE BASKETBALL, BADMINTON AND VOLLEYBALL COURT
15. TWO FENCED TENNIS COURTS
16. OPEN SPACE FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT
17. ADDITIONAL PARKING
18. ADDITIONAL GARDENS



MIG Engineer's concept for the Y Backyard Project

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ACT VOTER’S LIST Notice to the municipal electors of the



MUNICIPAL POSITIONS TO BE ELECTED:

The Voter’s Lists prepared as required under the Municipal Elections Act Sec 23 (2) are available for review in the respective offices of the Municipal Clerks of Brooke-Alvinston, Dawn-Euphemia, Enniskillen, Oil Springs, Plympton-Wyoming, St. Clair and Warwick beginning on the 1st day of September 2022.

All voters should examine the list to ensure that their names and relevant information are correctly shown.

Applications for inclusions, additions, or corrections to or deletions from the list may be made by an elector through completing and filing a form obtainable at their Municipal Office. The last day for filing applications concerning inclusions, additions, corrections, or deletions of a voters’ name from the voters’ list is October 24, 2022 – Municipal Election Day.

No person shall use information obtained from the Voters’ List except for election purposes.

Voters are encouraged to visit their local Municipal Office to make revisions prior to Election Day.

Janet Denkers Clerk Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston	Donna Clermont Clerk Township of Dawn-Euphemia	Duncan McTavish Clerk Township of Enniskillen
Martha Gawley Clerk Village of Oil Springs	Erin Kwarciak Clerk Town of Plympton-Wyoming	Mandi Pearson Clerk Town of Petrolia
Jeff Baranek Clerk Township of St. Clair	Amanda Gubbles Clerk Township of Warwick	

Local Terry Fox Run organizers hoping the crowds return

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

After two years of virtual events during the pandemic, the Terry Fox runs are back in Petrolia and Alvinston Sunday.

The run, honouring Fox who lost his leg to cancer then attempted to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research, has grown to be one of the biggest fundraising events in the country. Fox has become an icon of courage. He had to stop running when his cancer returned. It claimed his life in June 1981.

“Cancer really does affect everyone and you would be hard pressed to find someone in our community who doesn’t know someone who has cancer,” said

Steve McGrail, an organizer for the Petrolia event.

He is hoping for between 150 to 200 participants this year, but knows it might be difficult to gain momentum and have crowds return to community events after COVID-19 restrictions and two virtual events.

In Alvinston, organizers are also hoping for a good crowd.

“I think people are very excited,” said Hannah Symington, an organizer with the Alvinston Terry Fox Run.

“It was very difficult to host virtually the last two years and fundraising was much more difficult.”

Symington’s grandpa fought with cancer for some years and her husband’s Oma died of cancer. She

was always present at each Terry Fox Run growing up, so when a volunteer was needed to take on the event, it was impossible for her to say no.

She is hoping for over 60 participants at the Alvinston event, but she would not be surprised if this number was a little lower, given this is the first year back.

Symington would love to see \$20,000 raised in Alvinston, recognizing every dollars counts, even if this goal is not reached.

A goal of \$10,000 has been set for the Petrolia Terry Fox Run, The local schools also organize events later in September and the money they raise is added to the Petrolia total.

Typically between \$16,000 and \$20,000 is raised each year.

Volunteers will be set up at 8 am at the Petrolia Lions Club by the Greenwood Recreation Centre with the run beginning at 9:15 am.

People can walk run, rollerblade, or bike and have a choice between a 2.5 kilometre, five kilometre or 10 kilometre route.

There will be Terry Fox t-shirts for sale as well as a silent auction.

The Lambton Central Petrolia Optimist Club will provide hot dogs and wagon rides as people finish their routes.

Registration begins in Alvinston at noon behind the arena under the pavilion with the run beginning at 1 pm.

There will be a five kilometre journey to the AW Campbell Conservation area. A barbecue will follow.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Long time Terry Fox walker Barb Stewart was one of many who participated virtually in 2020 in Petrolia.

Three arrested in Sombra smuggling attempt

The Independent

Three people have been arrested for illegally crossing the St. Clair River near Sombra.

The US Border Patrol said three foreign nationals were taken into custody in a failed smuggling attempt near Marine City, Michigan.

On Sept. 5, US officials monitoring the river with remote video surveillance saw a boat on the river near Marine City. It crossed the international border. Dispatchers notified officials in the region about a possible smuggling incident taking place.

Marysville agents met the boat as it made landfall and found three people.

They were interviewed and according to US Border officials “all admitted to having just crossed the border from Canada in a boat.”

The three men were taken into custody at the Marysville Border Patrol station for processing.

The three, according the officials were a 37 year-old Spanish man, a 30 year-old Chilian man and a 34 year-old man from Brazil.

The news release says the men were “processed for removal” from the US.

“Smugglers need to understand that our manpower integrated with technology affords us the operational advantage in these smuggling attempts and they will be stopped,” said Chief Patrol Agent Robert Danley. “We will continue to degrade and dismantle these Transnational Criminal Organizations who attempt to exploit our border.”

New COVID vaccine available

Lambton’s Acting Medical Officer of Health says COVID-19 vaccines will be similar to a regular flu shot in the near future.

In an update to Lambton County Council. Dr. Sudit Ranade said period refreshers will be needed.

“It will look a lot more like flu vaccines – when you get the flu vaccine is it possible to get a different strain? Yes. Is it possible to reduce the severity of disease? Yes.”

The province has released a new vaccine targeted specifically at the Omicron variant. It is available for the most vulnerable populations including seniors.

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-Simon Sinek

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SEPTEMBER 23 - 25 2022 150TH ANNIVERSARY
23 SEPT FRIDAY
6-10PM PETTING ZOO
6-7PM REBOUND ROCKS
9-9:45PM NORTHERN FIRE CIRCUS
8-8:45, 10-11, 11:30-12PM BROTHERS WILDE
9:45PM CELEBRATION FIREWORKS SHOW (PENDING)
24 SEPT SATURDAY
PETTING ZOO 9-5PM
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY AREA 11-5PM
MOGO MAGIC SHOWS
#1 12-15-12:45PM & #2 3PM
RIDE THE VIBE SHOWS
11:30-11:45, 2:30-2:45, 3:30-3:45, 5:30-5:45PM
PARADE 12PM
RAY PETTIGREW & DAWN BROWN 1-4PM
BALLOON TWISTING 1-2PM & 3:45-5:15PM
CLASSIC CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING 4-5:30PM
WALK AROUND MAGIC 6-8PM
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8-10PM "AFTER MIDNIGHT" BAND
FT JACOB MOLOY
10-11PM FULL PETTY FEVER
25 SEPT SUNDAY
PETTING ZOO 9-5PM
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY AREA 11-5PM
MOGO MAGIC SHOWS
#1 11:30-12PM & #2 2:30-3PM
DERBY 1PM
BALLOON TWISTING 12-15-2:15PM & 3:15-5:15PM

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Pulling together at the Petrolia Fair

BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

The sun shone on the Petrolia Enniskillen Fall Fair as people got 'Together Again' after a two year break because of the pandemic. The start of the fall fair season marked the 120th anniversary of the Lambton Fair Association which in the early 1900's scheduled the fairs so they wouldn't overlap. The Petrolia Fair featured 4H competitions, a parade which drew out lots of celebrities including the Ambassador for the Brigden Fair, Emma Ouellette and Sparky the Fire Safety Dog, who came along with Petrolia/North Enniskillen Deputy Fire Chief Brian Clark. One of the favourite events was Sunday's demotion derby which starts with a kids event.





BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Kyle Churcher of Oil Springs was getting into the competition at the demolition derby. Members of the Ambassador's court road in the parade and children on the fairgrounds enjoyed the inflatables and animals. The show rings were busy with both 4H competitions and the heavy horse show. And, as usual, the tractor pull Friday night drew a large crowd.



Sports

Watford softball star sets provincial record

Barry Wright
The Independent

Jenna McLean now owns the OCAA record for runs batted in a single Ontario college women’s softball game. The Watford product had eight RBI in Fanshawe’s 15-3 win over Lambton last weekend. She went four-for-four, including a three-run homer to give the

Falcons the mercy rule victory. Over the four-game weekend, McLean hit .583 with three doubles and the aforementioned home run. She scored six times and had 11 RBI. Fanshawe went 3-1. The Falcons are at Lambton and Sheridan on Wednesday and Saturday respectively and then host Durham on Sunday.



Jenna McLean

Petrolia Flyers open new PJHL season Friday

The Petrolia Flyers take to the road to raise the curtain on their new PJHL season on Friday night in Dorchester. Game time against the Dolphins is 7:30. Petrolia has moved from the Stobbs to

Yeck Division this season. The Flyers’ home opener is next Thursday against the Thamesford Trojans. Petrolia closed the exhibition season

with a 4-1 loss to Mooretown at Walpole Island last Saturday. East Lambton’s Dylan Campbell had the lone Petrolia goal. Elijah Grant turned aside 36 shots in a losing cause.

Mooretown Flags debut new season in weekend games

The Mooretown Flags open the 2022-23 PJHL season at Walpole Island on Saturday against Wallaceburg. Game time is 7:30. The Flags will play at least their first six home games in the First Nation

community while renovations continue to the Moore Sports Complex. The Flags visit Amherstburg on Saturday. Mooretown completed a 4-0 pre-season schedule with wins over

Petrolia and Mt. Brydges last weekend. Alex Simpson had the game-winner early in the second period as the Flags beat Petrolia, 4-1 and Brett Vince had two goals in Mooretown’s 6-3 triumph over the Bulldogs.

LEGIONNAIRES LEADERS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A one time member of the Petrolia Flyers will wear the C this season with the GOJHL’s Sarnia Legionnaires. Wil O’Leary-Dilosa played 23 games with the Flyers in 2018-19. He had eight goals and 21 points in 42 games last season with the Legionnaires. The group of alternate captains include Watford’s Ty Moffatt and Plympton-Wyoming’s Ryan Richardson. The Legionnaires open the regular season Thursday at Komoka at the newly named Pat Stapleton Arena. Puck drop is 7:10. Sarnia is at St. Thomas on Friday.

Petrolia’s Jaques shines in Rocket win

The Independent

Andrew Jaques had a goal and two assists, including a helper on the game-winner in overtime, to lead the Strathroy Rockets to a 4-3 win over St. Marys on Friday. It was the season opening GOJHL game for both teams. The 18 year-old from Petrolia signed with the Rockets in June. He led the Flyers last season with 27 goals in 47 regular

season and playoff games. Jaques was also the Flyers’ Rookie of the Year of the 2021-2022 season. In other Junior B Action this weekend: Strathroy is at Leamington and Chatham on Thursday and Sunday respectively. Meantime, Forest’s Bradyn Santavy had a goal and two assists to lead London over LaSalle, 5-2 in the Nationals’ season opener last Wednesday.



COLLEEN WIENDELS PHOTO
Andrew Jaques

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

Here’s How It Works: Level: Beginner
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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Put the pack on a flat surface, at waist height. Slip on the pack, one shoulder at a time, and then adjust the straps to fit comfortably.
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Both shoulder straps should be used, and adjusted so that the pack fits snugly to the body, without dangling to the side. You should be able to slide your hand between the backpack and your child’s back.
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SUBMITTED PHOTO
Jett Jarvis - seen here with the Great Lakes Canadians - had three hits in university ball.

Jarvis, McGill notch win

Jett Jarvis had three hits, including a solo homer, a double and two-run single to lead McGill to a 15-5 win over College Lafleche in collegiate baseball last weekend. The Wyoming centre fielder also scored twice. He had three hits in five at bats, highlighted by a solo home run to right-field that gave McGill a 3-0 lead in the third inning. He also came around to score a pair of runs.

His OUA season continues through the season-ending tournament on Thanksgiving weekend.

This past summer, Jarvis hit .305 with Welland of the Intercounty Baseball League. His team was eliminated by Toronto in the IBL playoffs last week.

Solid start for Petrolia’s Park

Jayden Park went two-for-five in three weekend appearances for the Halifax-based Dalhousie University Tigers to open the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball Association (ACBA) season.

The Petrolia product also had two walks, two RBI and two runs scored. The Tigers went 2-2. They play four more games this weekend with doubleheaders against St. Mary’s and the University of New Brunswick.

Sting lose shootout to Knights

The Sting lose 4-3 in a shootout to the London Knights on Saturday night at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena.

Sandis Vilmanis, Tyson Doucette and Angus MacDonell scored for Sarnia.

Ben Gaudreau made 21 saves in regulation time and two of three in the shootout.

The Sting have ten players either away now or soon to leave for NHL development camps.

Sarnia’s final two pre-season games are against Windsor on September 22 and 24.

Former Sting inks eight year deal

Jordan Kyrou has agreed to an eight-year deal with the St. Louis Blues worth \$65 million.

The former Sting had a career high 27 goals and 75 points in 74 games with St. Louis this past season.

Kyrou, an early second round pick in 2016, played four seasons with the Sting including 39 goals and 109 points during the 2017-18 campaign.

Black top 10 at national event

Connor Black finished seventh at the Canadian 5K Championships in Moncton, New Brunswick on the weekend.

His time of 14:15 was within nine seconds of a top three finish in a very tight race.

The Forest native went out quickly and was second through the first kilometre before settling in.

Lions score soccer win, draw

Drew Fraser scored the winning goal in the 51st minute to lead Lambton to a 3-1 win over Mohawks in the Lions’ season opener on the weekend.

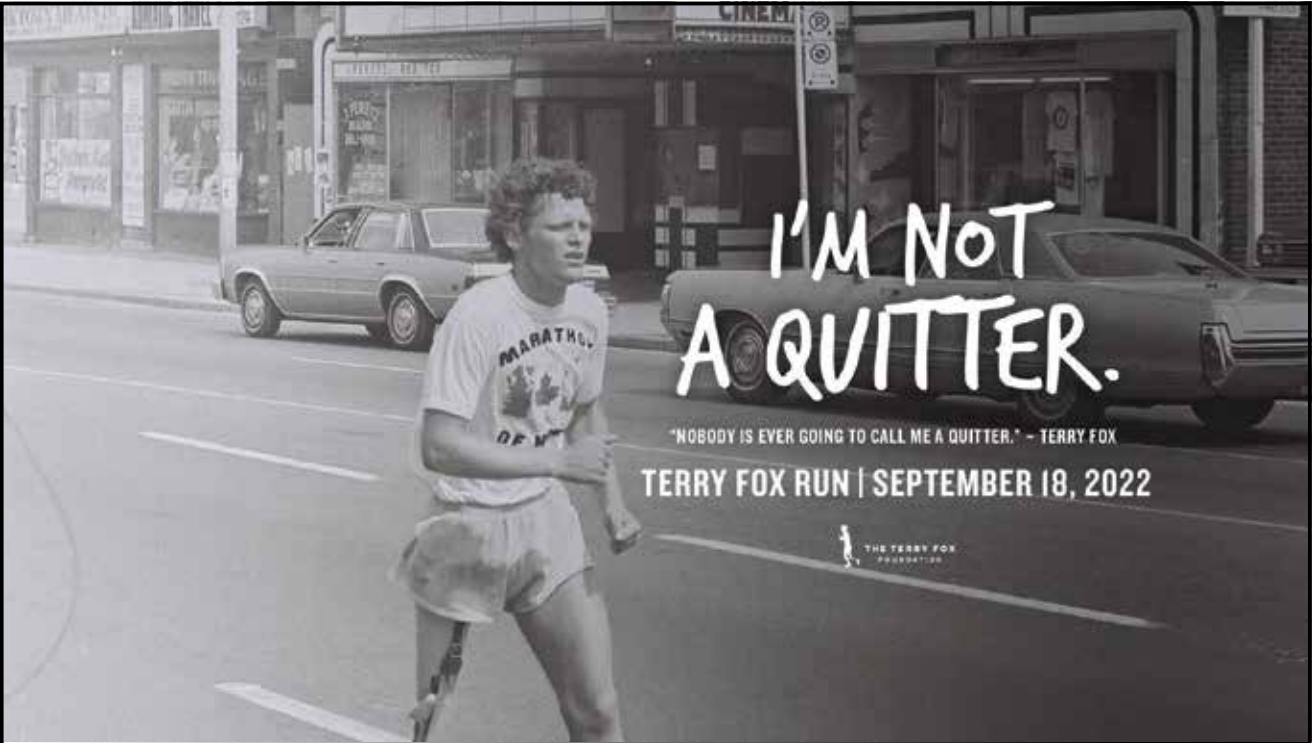
Ky Duong made eight saves in the Lambton goal.

Meantime, Madeline Sloan turned aside 26 shots to backstop the Lady Lions to a 1-all draw with Mohawk. Emily Roy had Lambton’s goal.

A BIG WELCOME



SUBMITTED PHOTO
There is a unique welcome sign for visitors to Petrolia, thanks to a local businessman. Glen Lapointe hired artist Elizabeth Colvin to paint a welcome on a sea can on his Tank Road property asking people to support local restaurants. Colvin says since the sign went up, more restaurants have asked to be placed on the sign, too.



2.5km, 5km, 10km

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Petrolia Terry Fox Run

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Classifieds

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In Memory

IN MEMORY OF
**Grandpa Bob
aka The Paint Man**

We can no longer see you, but we know that you are here
We feel your presence often, it helps contain the tears
Two years have come and gone, we miss you every day

Keep painting those skies for us,
until we meet again.

Wanted to Buy: Bikes

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

**Starlight Rebekah Lodge
Fair Luncheon**
@ Wyoming Lions Hall
**September 16th
11am-2pm**

Ham and
Scalloped
Potatoes

Adults \$15

Jean Zavitz
Apr 5, 1930 - Sept 18, 2021



Mom
It has been a year now since we lost you. I think of you every day and miss you a lot.
Sandra, Carl & family

Answers to this week's
Sudoku

Brought to you by:
the co-operators

Give yourself peace of mind with the right coverage for you.
Call us today!

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

A Better Place For You®
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Pictured here: Gerry Dawson is with Pat Stonehouse & Bill Dobbin at Van Tuyl Fairbank

Good byes are not forever
Good byes are not the end
They simply mean
We miss you every day,
You walk beside each of us
and always in our hearts
as time never diminishes our memories
and we know we will meet you again.

Remembered by Pat
Children: Melissa, Michael (Elle), Pam and
Grandchildren: Hayley, Emily, Spencer, Tyler, Brooke and Jackson

In Memory of
Gerald (Gerry) Dawson
March 10, 1942 - September 16, 2016

A loving son, husband,
father and grandfather.
Gerald worked at
Holmes Foundry,
Ontario Hydro and
Van Tuyl Fairbank

Promote your upcoming event
with a business card sized ad (3.33" w x 2" h)
in the classifieds for just
\$25.31* including tax
*non-profit, service groups, individuals only

In Memory

In loving memory of a
dear husband, father, grandfather & friend
WAYNE LENNAN
November 15, 1942 - September 20, 2018.

The real secret to a fabulous life,
is to live imperfectly,
with great delight.

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by
Bea
Joe, Bernadine, Tony, Emma & Jesse
Mike, Maria & Alyssa

MARSH, Barbara Jane

In memory of a loving wife & mother
Barbara Jane Marsh,
who left us September 18, 2008

Every day, in some special way
Memories of you come our way.
Tough absent, you are ever near
Still missed, still loved, and ever dear.

Always loved and remembered by
BRIAN & ERIC

Your presence we miss
Your memory we treasure
Loving You Always
Forgetting you never.

Forever in our hearts,
Murray and Mary,
Kevin, Brenda and families

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
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Sundays @ 10:30 am
Rev. Carol Ferguson
Church Office: 519-882-1390
www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

First Baptist Church
418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia
**IN PERSON
CHURCH SERVICE**
Sunday Mornings
@10:30 am
Pastor: Alex Craig
Church Office 519-882-2480
email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com
www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca
Find us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia

Wyoming United Church
730 Second Street, Wyoming
In-Person Services
taking place
Sundays @ 11 am
Those attending will be physically distanced,
must wear a mask and be fully vaccinated.
Rev. Steven Longmoore
Church Office 519-845-3963
FIND US ON FACEBOOK

**St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church**
416 Queen Street, Petrolia
(Behind the Post Office)
In-Person Service
Sundays @ 10:00 am
Services also available online:
www.standrews-petrolia.ca
Pastor Katherine Hawley

Obituary

TULLY

Elizabeth “Betty”

We regretfully announce the passing of **Elizabeth “Betty” Tully** of Petrolia, ON, Canada on **September 12, 2022**. Elizabeth passed away peacefully with her loving husband Gord at her side. Our mother, Elizabeth, was one of the kindest, most caring and strongest women to ever walk this earth and our family was blessed to have her as its head. Elizabeth worked for Esso Chemical and then “retired” early to open and run a bed and breakfast for 20 years in Petrolia’s Crescent Park with her husband Gord where they made many new friends who they continued to cherish. She loved serving the community and was involved in many activities in Petrolia including the Victoria Playhouse, Petrolia Discovery, Lambton Meadowview Villa women’s auxiliary and many others. She was also the neighbourhood dog grandma and kept a box of treats at each door for the dogs walking by with their owners whom she befriended. Elizabeth was a wonderful and loving mother and wife who gave her all to her family. We will never be able to fill the space left behind by her. Elizabeth was predeceased by her parents Earl and Dorothea Lawrence, her children Shelly and Gerald Robinson. She is survived by her loving husband Gord Tully, her children Connie Robb (Ricky), Katherine Robinson, Susan Robinson, Gwendolyn Sayers, Joseph Robinson (Jacqueline), Cindy Unternahrer (Fred), Karen Gnitecki (Jim), Mark Tully (Rita) and Patricia “Trish” Tully. She is also survived by several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Please consider a donation in Elizabeth’s name to St Joseph’s Hospice Sarnia (www.stjosephshospice.ca) or Petrolia Discovery (www.petroliadiscovery.com). as these organizations were important to her. **Visitation and reception will be held on Friday, September 16, 2022 from 12 to 3 pm at the Petrolia Lions Hall, 451 Huggard Street, Petrolia.** Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.



LUCAS

John E.



It is with heavy hearts, the family announces the sudden passing of **John E. Lucas on September 8th, 2022** at LHSC - University Hospital - Intensive Care Unit in his **72nd year**. Beloved husband of Victoria Lucas (Nee Kingston) for 46 special and cherished years. Proud and devoted father of Jacob Lucas (Scott Wilson) and Jess Lucas. John will be sadly missed by his girls, Maggie Mae and Emma Jane. John is predeceased by his parents John Wellington Lucas and Margaret Jane Lucas (Nee Watson) and his siblings, Ron, Joyce and Keith. John is survived by his mother-in-law Laura Kingston, his brothers-in-law George (Linda) Kingston and Kenneth (Shirley) Kingston and his sister-in-law Catherine (Gary) Freer. John will be sadly missed and always remembered by his dear friends Jim Johnson and James Watson and his many other friends and extended family.

John was passionate about nature and the outdoors. He will always be remembered for his love of camping, kayaking, motorcycles, fishing, snowmobiling and his convertible. He also had a great passion for horses and his beloved dogs. John was a lifelong resident of Brooke Township, living on the family farm as fourth generation in the Lucas family. John was also a lifelong farmer and was also dedicated in his work as a Welder, Draftsman, and Pipefitter at CF Industries for over 35 years.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2022 from 12pm until 2pm with a memorial service to begin at 2:30pm at DENNING’S OF WATFORD.

As expressions of sympathy, donations may be made to the Myasthenia Gravis Fund at the Department of CNS, Western University. Online condolences and donations may be left at www.watfordfuneralhome.com. *The family would appreciate all in attendance to wear a mask.*

Coming Events

90TH ANNIVERSARY - 1932-2022. Come out and join us as we celebrate our 90th year as a Service Club in Petrolia, on **Saturday, September 24, 2022. Parade @ 11 am** - begins and ends at the Petrolia Lions Hall and runs through Petrolia (*Huggard Street to Petrolia Line to Greenfield Street to Dufferin Avenue*). **Donation BBQ starting @ 12 noon.** Anniversary Cake will be served. Contact Lion Bill Fell at 519-383-4308 or email b.fell@cogeco.ca for more information.

Wyoming Lions

554 Main Street

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



Classifieds

Coming Events



Hosted by: Alvinston Branch #249

Sun, Sept 18, 2022

1:30 pm parade to cenotaph service to follow

Refreshments at the branch following the service.
For information contact: 519-898-2032

Legion parade form up @ 1:15 pm behind the gazebo on the corner of River St & Railroad Line

WYOMING LIONS

Fair Weekend



BREAKFAST

Sunday

September 18
8 am - 12 noon

at the

Wyoming Lions Hall

Adults \$15; Kids 10 & under \$5



DOWNRIVER CRAFT & GIFT SHOW

Moore Museum

Mooretown • 519-867-2020 • www.mooremuseum.ca

Sunday, September 18
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Something for Everyone

Get an early start on your holiday shopping!
Food booth.

Admission: Adult \$2.00 Children free with an adult.



THE MISFIT ELVES

1st ANNUAL



Christmas FOR EVERYONE
A CARING COMMUNITY PROJECT

POKER RUN



A group of friends and former firefighters from Wyoming (affectionately known as “Sandra’s Misfit Elves”) would like your help to support Christmas For Everyone.

Christmas For Everyone is a non-profit organization which provides toys and food hampers to families in need in rural Lambton County.



Saturday,

OCTOBER 1
2022

Start/Finish: Wyoming Lions Hall 554 Main St
Registration: 10 am • **Kickstands Up:** 11 am

\$20 Donation per motorcycle

BBQ & REFRESHMENTS for sale following Run
PRIZES: Best Hand, Best Costume, Best ??

Monetary donations gratefully accepted on site

Information: Bubba 519-312-3200 • misfitelvespokerrun@gmail.com

Proceeds to CHRISTMAS FOR EVERYONE PETROLIA

Enniskillen encourages 9-1-1 signs on farm land

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

If you are an owner of a farm property in Enniskillen Township and you don't have a 911 identification number at the end of your lane, call the municipality and request one be installed. It could have a life in the event of a medical emergency

There are 400 farm properties without homes in Enniskillen Township, council recently heard. Most of these properties do not have a 911 number, making it difficult for first responders to find an accident when time is of the essence.

Farm 911-The Emily Project was formed after the death of seven year-old Emily Trudeau in Hastings County in 2014. The young girl died after she fell from and was struck by a moving tractor on her parent's beef farm near Tweed. Emergency responders could not immediately find the scene of the accident.

The project issue came to Enniskillen council earlier this month with Township Clerk/Treasurer Duncan McTavish saying signs are installed at the request of property owners. Between five and 10 signs are installed a year.

Councillor Wally Van Dun suggested when a vacant piece of property is sold, the township should put a sign up. While the municipality does suggest a sign be installed if a burn permit is taking out for one of the vacant properties, it doesn't actively promote the idea.

Council agreed to make the signs available when landowners request them.

LEARNING ABOUT THE FARM



Blake Ellis/Local Journalism Initiative Photo

Ten year-old Clifford McFadden showed his cow to the students as they learned about the 4-H program About 300 students from five elementary schools converged on the Wyoming fairgrounds Tuesday. They were given a glimpse of life in agriculture by the Plympton Wyoming Agricultural Society in a lead-up to the Plympton-Wyoming Fair set for Sept. 16 and 17.

Lions mark major milestone with a parade

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

The Petrolia Lions Club is marking its 90th anniversary with a parade Sept. 24.

The Petrolia Lions have a long history of supporting various causes throughout the years. "It is hard to say which projects we are proud of, as each one is special to us," said Lion Bill Fell, the 90th anniversary committee co-chair.

And that support goes back a long way.

A small number of businessmen decided a service club was needed in Petrolia in 1932. The first general meeting of the club was held in the Fletcher Hotel dining room on Nov. 24, 1932. The club received its charter the next month.

One of its first efforts was to donate 42 barrels of milk for undernourished school children, as Petrolia was in the depths of the Great Depression. The Lions Club supported Petrolia's first library in 1933, then known as the Petrolia Library Association. The Lions applied for a government grant, asked the public to donate suitable books and campaigned for people to take out memberships. The library was set up in the Stokes Confectionary Store with Mary Stokes as the librarian. A membership was only \$1 for a year.

The Lions Club organized a Dominion Day celebration in 1934. The day included a picnic basket lunch, horse racing with a \$900 purse, baseball game, bicycle races, monster school parade, free eye clinic with the Citizen Band performing throughout the day. Round and square dancing also took place at the town hall in the evening.

The Lions Club organized the first Petrolia Frolics on May 21 and 22, 1935 at the CNR train station.

There were up to 12 midway tents set up across the tracks,

where you could see clowns, sideshows, acrobats and magicians. Proceeds went to help school children who had either defective eyesight or were undernourished.

The club went on to help with all kinds of community projects including repairs to sidewalks and better sports facilities.

Petrolia was one of the first Lions Club in the area to have both men and women members after the Lioness club folded in the 1980s. The club membership has risen to approximately 60 members in recent years.

Everyone is welcome to celebrate with the Lions. The parade will be begin at 11 AM Sept. 24 at the Lions Hall, proceed down Huggard Street before turning east on Petrolia Line to Greenfield Street, before going west on Dufferin Street and back to Lions Hall for a barbecue prepared in their food truck.

- THE INDEPENDENT

New boundaries 'don't make sense'

Heather Wright
The Independent

Sarnia-Lambton MP Marilyn Gladu has not heard one good thing about the changes proposed to the federal riding boundaries. 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.

Gladu is spearheading review of the boundary proposal for the federal Conservative party and has been talking to residents about the plan which sees Walpole Island rejoin her riding while adding communities as far away as Elgin to the former Lambton-Kent-Middlesex riding. Grand Bend would end up in the

Huron South riding.

"I haven't heard a single stakeholder say like the proposal," says Gladu. Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad recently summed up the feelings of most local politicians. He wanted the ridings to either stay the same or have all of Lambton make up one riding. "The new boundaries just don't make sense," he told council recently.

Gladu has submitted a proposal to the federal commission asking just that.

She also heard from people who were disappointed the proposed Sarnia-Lambton riding name would only reflect one of three First Nations communities here.

"I think the consultation should be with First Nations people to determine what they think is a more inclusive thing.," she says.

A public hearing on the proposal will be held Oct. 28 with a virtual hearing Oct. 29.



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