

## A GIRL AND HER HORSE



Peyton Matheson was all eyes during the horse show at the Plympton-Wyoming Fall Fair Saturday. For more photos of the event see page 6.

BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

## Court transcript tells different version of Petrolia councillor’s 2018 charge withdrawal

*Souch was charged after investigation of town truck*

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

It appears a Petrolia council member who faced criminal charges during the last municipal election didn’t tell the full story of why those charges were dropped.

In August 2018, just after the nominations for the municipal election closed, Marty Souch was charged with obtaining a document by false pretence. It stemmed from a two-year quest to figure out what happened to a town vehicle which had been damaged. Souch believed an employee using the truck after hours hit some posts.

During his search, Souch requested information through the Information and Privacy Commission, but was turned down.

He revealed to *The Independent* at the time that he had an estimate for the repair of the truck.

A citizen complained and the police investigated, charging Souch with the unusual charge.

On election night, Souch told *The Independent* he had been in court that morning where the crown withdrew the charge “unconditionally saying there wasn’t a reasonable chance of conviction.

But that’s not exactly the tale the transcript of the proceeding tells.

SEE SOUCH PG 2

## Repairs to Highland Glen boat launch underway

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

Work is finally underway to repair the Highland Glen boat ramp. Gordon Marine began work Friday.

The boat launch was closed in 2019 after high water and winds damaged the steel groins around the ramp. The conservation authority hired an engineer to look at

the damage to the ramp and also the banks of the park which were collapsing. At the time, Aecom Engineering said it would take about \$3 million over a number of years to fix the damage.

Plympton-Wyoming council pushed to have the project moved forward, but the St. Clair Conservation Authority delayed the project. The town then went to the authority to work out a

management agreement which will, in time, lead to Plympton-Wyoming owning the park again.

In April, council approved a \$105,000 contract with Gordon Marine to fix the launch - the only one between Sarnia and Grand Bend. It was hoped at the time the launch would be open by the summer.

But it took some time for approvals from Oceans and

Fisheries and the conservation authority.

At the Sept. 14 meeting, CAO Carolyn Tripp told council the final approvals had been granted and the contractor would begin work this week.

Adam Sobanski, the director of public works, said work was already underway. It could take two to four weeks to complete depending on the amount of



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Only kayakers were using the Highland Glen boat ramp last week.

damage on site.

He’s hopeful boaters may be able to launch by October.

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# Souch: ‘I admitted to nothing’

CON’T FROM PG 1

A court transcript obtained by *The Independent* shows Souch appeared in London on Oct. 22, 2018 before Justice of the Peace D. Issac. David Nichol was Assistant Crown Attorney and Souch was represented by S. Donahue, who was duty counsel at the time.

In the court transcript - which *The Independent* verified is an accurate transcription of the recorded session - Nichol says “This individual has completed the Direct Accountability Program. The Crown is requesting the charges be withdrawn.”

The Justice of the Peace then agrees to withdrawing the charges.

The Direct Accountability Program is an alternative to prosecution for people with no or limited prior involvement in the adult court system who have been charged with minor offences.

The John Howard Society of Ontario explains; “The accused person is held accountable through community based sanctions. To be eligible the person must be willing to accept responsibility for actions that led to the charge, be willing to make amends for their offence through an assigned task or sanction and complete an agreement which outline the terms to be met.”

Former Petrolia CAO Manny Baron also used the Direct Accountability Program just one month before Souch. Baron was charged with breach of trust in the wake of a scandal where he rented buildings he owned via a numbered company, back to the town. Baron resigned after an investigation by the Integrity Commissioner in 2017.

The court case was resolved when Baron admitted responsibility through the program and paid the Petrolia Community Foundation \$1,000 as restitution.

Souch, in an interview with *The Independent* Tuesday, denied he went through the Direct Accountability Program. “I didn’t know anything about how it works,” he said of the program through the court system. And they, (the crown

attorney’s office) when they came to me, told me that there was nothing there. They didn’t have enough evidence to bring these charges through.

“There was not enough evidence in which to lay the charges and they were being withdrawn, and they would never come to court and it was done. They had no-no evidence of anything.”

*The Independent* asked Souch if he was involved in the Direct Accountability Program, “absolutely not ... I admitted to nothing.”

*The Independent* could not find a record of what, if any, restitution, Souch gave.

Souch also tells *The Independent* he did not attend court when the charges were withdrawn.

However, the court transcript records Souch speaking during the hearing.

After the court agreed to withdraw the charge, Nichol says; “I believe Mr. Souch may seek a publication ban, though I don’t know what section of the Criminal Code would allow for a publication ban to be placed on this.”

Nichol goes on to explain that the court documents are not to be published. To which Souch is recorded as replying “Okay. Perfect. Thank you.”

Any member of the public can receive a transcription of any court case by paying a fee.

While Souch was not prohibited from running in the election because of the charge, it did hang over him and he was unable to attend one of two debates.

It was held at Victoria Hall and his bail conditions prohibited him from being in the building.

Souch went on to win a seat on council garnering 11 per cent of the vote - 1,092 votes in all.

Election night 2018, Souch told *The Independent*, “With the obstacles and the hurdles I had to jump over ... I think people knew I was telling the truth all along and I was thankful they had the faith in me.”

Souch is seeking re-election in the Oct. 24 vote.

# Fiddick returns to court in October

The Independent

The criminal case against a Petrolia nursing home owner will return to court in late October.

Michael Fiddick faces nine criminal charges including assault and sexual assault. The owner and administrator of Fiddick’s Nursing and Retirement Home, was first charged by Lambton OPP May 22 with three counts of assault, sexual assault, overcoming resistance by attempting to choke or strangle, and mischief.

# ‘The end of democracy’ says Weber

The Independent

Lambton Shores Mayor Bill Weber calls it the ending of democracy.

Weber, at county council Sept. 7, was speaking against new powers the province was on the verge of passing which gives mayors in the cities of Toronto and Ottawa the ability to overrule council and would have the ability to hire and fire senior staff. The province wants mayors to be able to push through housing projects.

Weber, a former warden of Lambton, says the act is taking the province down the wrong path. “It is the ending of democracy,” he told county councillors. “One person, one

vote has always been the way it has been.”

Weber added “I have not seen the evidence of having a strong mayor will build more homes. I don’t see that a mayor should have the opportunity to hire and fire CAOs or others.”

Weber asked councillors to approve writing to the premier, the local MPPs and the Minister of Municipal Affairs hoping to stop the legislation. All but Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley agreed. Bradley says he’s long advocated for more power for municipalities. While Lambton councillors agreed to send a letter, the legislation passed at Queen’s Park the next day with both local MPPs voting in favour of the new powers.

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# ‘He has erased everything and it is done’

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The race for mayor in Plympton-Wyoming is heating up after allegations of sign tampering and a confrontation after a council meeting. But one candidate for mayor in Plympton-Wyoming isn’t saying whether she took down the election signs of one of her opponents. Gary Atkinson, Tim Wilkins and Muriel Wright are in the running for the town’s top job after the retirement of long-serving Mayor Lonny Napper. Wright, who was the deputy mayor, is a long-time council member while Atkinson and Wilkins have served one term on council.

The Independent learned from several sources last week a resident took a video Muriel Wright taking down the campaign signs of Tim Wilkins on Egremont Road. Some were thrown into a nearby ditch, others allegedly were put in the candidate’s trunk. The Independent contacted the citizen however she declined to comment on the video. People who remove election signs



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The three candidates for mayor in Plympton-Wyoming, Tim Wilkins, Gary Atkinson and Muriel Wright, are seen here with Mayor Lonny Napper at the opening of Lamrecton Park as the campaign began.

can be charged with the criminal offense of mischief according to the OPP. Plympton-Wyoming Clerk Erin Kwarciak said there had been no formal complaints of sign tampering come across her desk. However, many at town hall were aware of the incident. Several sources tell us Wilkins angrily accused Wright of destroying signs after the Sept. 14 council meeting ended. It was de-

scribed as a shouting match. The Independent went to Wright about the report and the candidate for mayor neither confirmed nor denied the incident. “Tim and I have agreed not to talk about it; end of story and we’re moving on. There is - he has erased everything and it is done. Thank you.” Wright then hung up. The Independent reached out to Wilkins for comment but he declined.

## Trailer trash talking: candidate explains signs in Brooke-Alvinston

Heather Wright  
The Independent

An election campaign sign in Brooke-Alvinston is raising a few eyebrows. Greg Hilliard is one of nine people running for four council seats in the Central Lambton municipality. His signs have a distinct look - suggesting he wants to be elected as the trailer park supervisor/councillor. On social media, residents of the municipality questioned what the trailer park reference was about with some asking if it was for real. “I guess mocking the community you want to win a seat on council for and control your taxpayers’ money is now a campaign strategy,” wrote one. Hillard - who clashed with this council early in its term about a requirement to get a pool fence in 20 days to be in compliance with the local bylaws - says the signs have been misunderstood. “The whole reference to trailer park supervisors more reference to what a circus arts council has become,” he says. “They certainly some on there that like to take themselves extremely seriously. And let’s be honest, it’s a small town politics, we’re neighbors. When you’re a member of the Council or the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

One of Greg Hilliard’s Brooke-Alvinston election signs.

mayor and want to speak down to your neighbors, it’s time for change.” Hillard says the slight was not intended toward the community. “That is not the intent of the signs; the intent is again to take a shot at the mayor and some of the members on council.” And while the signs may have caused some poor first impressions, Hillard

says it has provoked a conversation. “At least now we’re talking, I got their attention and whether they agree with my platform and agree with what I’m saying or they don’t, at least they’re going to hear my message. And then they can make that decision whether they want to vote for me or whether they want to vote for somebody else.”

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The LGPSB has specified its requirements for Cleaning Services in the complete RFP, which can be found along with submission forms on our website at [www.lgpsb.ca](http://www.lgpsb.ca)





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# Editorial

## Who will win

As you can see from the pages of *The Independent*, the municipal election is now in full swing, with all candidates meetings, sign wars and miscellaneous mayhem.

And while all this is interesting, we hope our readers are beginning to consider their choices. All kinds of people have thrown their hats into the ring - the experienced, the newbies, young and old, life-long residents and people who are just now making Central Lambton home.

In some of our communities, there are people who have been serving in the same position for a decade or more. While the service to community is laudable and many of these politicians serve well, it means people without experience can be the underdog.

But we urge people to give each of these candidates a look - whether you've supported the same politician for the past 20 years or not. Perhaps among the names on the pages are people who could make a significant contribution.

What should you consider? We think councillors should have an interest than more than just one issue; councillors deal with problems ranging from a neighbourhood fence dispute to people accusing the municipality of breaking the law to major disasters. Being concerned about the park on your corner is good, but your passion for that park is bound to wane and for many, municipal council meetings are tedious.

Will the candidate you're considering pay attention to all the issues?

And we believe it takes a patient person with an ability to weigh criticism without getting upset to be a good councillor, someone who can think on their feet - someone who questions why in an effort to reach the best solution for all. And it takes someone who really looks out for all members of the community, not just their friends.

But perhaps the most insightful question you can ask is 'Who will win if this candidate is elected?' Will political ambition be advanced or does the person have a heart for the community and real ideas on how to improve the place where you live.

Those with real ideas, who serve all parts of the community are those we're hoping to see win election night because, in the end, that means our communities win, too.

## Letters to the Editor

*The Independent* welcomes Letters to the Editor. Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to [news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca) (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website [www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca](http://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



LAMBTON COUNTY ARCHIVES PHOTO

As we mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II we note Lambton County was visited by the Queen once during her reign in 1959. Queen Elizabeth II visited Sarnia on July 3, 1959 during a royal tour of Canada. The royals were then welcomed by more than 100,000 people as they drove through the streets of Sarnia.

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# Opinion

## Enniskillen should have roadside garbage pickup

**EDITOR:**  
Regarding your story on ‘Enniskillen done trash talking’ by Blake Ellis. As a new resident of Enniskillen proper, I was very surprised to find out that there was no curbside garbage pick up.  
This might be adding to the problem of waste being discarded along roadsides.  
We are surrounded by waste pick

up companies. Plympton-Wyoming and Sarnia townships have Marcott, Warwick, Brooke and Dawn townships have BRA and St. Clair has Waste Management and Emterra for recycling.  
We have approximately 340 sq/ kms and in 2019 we had almost 3,000 households which means we are bigger than three other townships that have pick up.

I learned that the township will be renewing their contract with Waste Management for the waste depot in 2023.  
I believe it’s time to have curbside pick up in our township and I believe it will help clean up our roadsides.  
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BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Jackson Mitchell of Oil Springs helps his fellow cancer survivors carry the ribbon of life at the Petrolia Terry Fox Run in Petrolia Sunday.

## Local Terry Fox Runs show power of research

**Blake Ellis**  
Local Journalism Initiative

Jackson Mitchell is living proof of the power of cancer research.  
The Grade 3 Oil Springs student was charming the crowd at the Terry Fox Run in Petrolia. The Lambton Central Elementary School students spent much of the last school year battling a brain tumor, but on Sunday, he was all smiles as he participated in the survivors walk donning a red t-shirt worn by those who have survived cancer. He helped to carry a “We are the Ribbon of Life” banner and made sure to give each survivor got a well deserved high five before the official Terry Fox Run got underway.  
And there were a lot of fives to give with over 170 people either running, biking or walking the route through the streets of Petrolia Sunday.  
This was the first time in two years there was an in person event, as the pandemic forced Terry Fox Run to raise money virtually. And that seems to have helped. Before the event even started, Petrolia had raised \$12,000 online, said Organizer Steve McGrail. For the first time since McGrail became organizer of the Petrolia run, the community raised over \$25,00. And there is more to come, says McGrail, since schools will also conduct their own Terry Fox Runs in

September and they will be added to each of their community totals.  
There was also a silent auction with several donated items and Terry Fox t-shirts for sale, which brought further money into the cause for cancer research.  
In Alvinston, residents gathered to honour Terry Fox and those they knew who had cancer.  
The Terry Fox Run in Alvinston involved a five kilometre route, which started on the arena grounds and ended at AW Campbell Conservation Area, where everyone partook in a barbecue. Runners, walkers, bikers and scooters were all welcome. About \$8,000 has been raised.  
Terry Fox started his Marathon of Hope in 1980 setting out on his journey to run a marathon each day in his quest to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research. His right leg was amputated in 1977 after he was diagnosed with osteosarcoma. He was fitted with an artificial leg.  
Fox was forced to stop his Marathon of Hope on Sept. 1, 1980, near Thunder Bay when his cancer returned and spread to his lungs. He ended his run after 143 days and 5,373 kilometres.  
He passed away in June 1981 and the first Terry Fox Run was held on Sept. 13, 1981



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Jackson Mitchell talks to fellow cancer survivors in Petrolia while a family walks in the Alvinston Terry Fox Event.



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# Lots of family fun at the Plympton-Wyoming Fall Fair



BLAKE ELLIS PHOTOS  
It was a family affair at the Plympton-Wyoming Fall Fair on the weekend with lots of proud mammas showing their babies and proud farmers showing off their tractors and animals. The parade was a hit with Emily Smith of Wyoming Tree Service up a tree in one of the more unusual entries. And it seemed the Shriners got caught in the parade judging traffic jam as one of the mini-car drivers waited to move forward. At the top left, Allison Hawkins, the fair ambassador, waves to the crowd.





## TRIBUTES TO THE QUEEN



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE AND MARIANNE VANDERSPEK PHOTOS

People in Lambton County paused to pay respect for Queen Elizabeth II Monday. The monarch who reigned over the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth - which includes Canada - died Sept. 8 and was buried in a ceremony steeped in tradition Monday. Members of the Petrolia Legion, including President Dennis Laker, laid a wreath at the cenotaph at 11 am while Dawn-Euphemia resident Dugal Smith placed a simple Union Jack at his property in Huffs Corners to mark the Queen's passing.

## Rokeby fix could cost over \$1 million

Blake Ellis  
Local Journalism Initiative

Rokeby Line could be on the move; and it isn't going to be cheap.

The toe slope of Bear Creek bank at Rokeby has shifted in recent years. This has caused the shoulder of the road to slump and the guide rail is not stable. In order to move ahead, the township had to have an environmental assessment of the area.

Project Engineers Kelly Vader and Steve Jackson came before Enniskillen Township Council at its meeting on Sept. 6, to present four options to move ahead with Rokeby Line Erosion Protection Project.

Council believes moving the road to the north and protecting the toe of Bear Creek may solve the problem.

The moving of the road, along with water main and storm drainage work and conducting spot treatment to the vegetation will only be the first phase of the work. The second phase will involve further protecting the slope.

But the fix is expensive - over a million dollars if both phases of the project are complete. The cost of the first phase is

estimated at \$750,417, while the second phase comes in at \$381,146.

Council heard it is possible the second phase won't have to be completed. The consultants suggested monitoring the river bank after the road has been moved.

Among the options presented to Council including moving the road 13.5 metres to the north while also protecting the slope. The second solution focused on protecting the toe of the slope by putting down 130 metres of stone, protecting the fish habitat and grading the slope. The last alternative was to do no work at all. One chosen is a hybrid of the first and second options.

While the consultants gave an estimate for the work, Jackson said the final bill would not be known until come until contractors bid on the project.

Deciding on a solution for the class environmental assessment does not tie Council to going ahead with the project. This will only allow for the class action assessment to be completed.

Council can wait up to 10 years to fix the erosion along the road using this assessment before it has to have a new assessment completed.

## Hate has no home signs available to public

If you want to encourage diversity in Lambton – the public library may be the place to start.

All Lambton County Libraries will be offering free Hate Has No Home Here lawn

signs and stickers for anyone interested.

It's part of a campaign to encourage people to welcome new immigrants arriving in Sarnia-Lambton.

## LAMBTON-KENT DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE

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**Autumn Blade Maple**  
Fire-red Fall colour, virtually keyless, up to 50 feet tall.

**Linden Species** are mostly large, deciduous trees, reaching typically 20 to 40 meters (65 to 130 ft) tall. Young linden trees have nearly smooth grey bark. Old trees have grey to brown bark which is shallowly fissured. Linden produces broad, heart-shaped, asymmetrical leaves with pointed tips and serrated edges.

The **Flowering Crab** tree is a small, deciduous tree found primarily in the temperate zone of the Northern Hemisphere. These trees typically grow to be 4-12 m tall, and possess distinct white, pink, or red petals when in bloom.

**Sienna Glen Maple** features showy clusters of red flowers along the branches in early spring before the leaves. It has green deciduous foliage. The lobed leaves turn outstanding shades of orange, red and burgundy in the fall. The furrowed gray bark and brick red branches add an interesting dimension.

The **Brandywine Maple** is a stunning shade tree with great color. Small red blossoms steal the show in early spring even before the red-tinged green leaves emerge. These maple leaves mature to solid green before turning a bold crimson red in fall. This tough red maple is cold hardy and adaptable.

TUESDAY OCT 11 REGISTER BY PHONE	WEDNESDAY OCT 12 thru PICK UP CERTIFICATE FROM TOWN HALL	FRIDAY OCT 21 PICK UP TREE	SATURDAY OCT 22 PICK UP TREE
--	--	----------------------------------	------------------------------------







# Legion week begins with Alvinston drumhead service

Blake Ellis  
Local Journalism Initiative

The haunting shrill of the bagpipes, the beating of the drums and the flying of the colours were all on display in Alvinston as Legion Week began. A parade came to a halt in front of the Alvinston cenotaph and the drums were stacked and the flags draped over them. The flags included the White Ensign for those who fought and died at sea, the Red Ensign for those who fought and died on land and the Air Force Ensign for those and fought and died in the air. The traditional drumhead service is

held to commemorate the beginning of Legion Week. The drums and colours are a fitting symbol of remembrance for the fallen and for those who have answered their last drum call. This service included all of Zone A-4 of the Royal Canadian Legion and was hosted by Alvinston Branch. Branches included in Zone A-4 are Sarnia, Watford, Forest, Petrolia, Alvinston, Thedford, Wyoming, Corunna, Grand Bend, Oil Springs and Brigiden. The origins of the drumhead service can be traced back to the 17th and 18th centuries. It was custom before a battle that the various drums of the participating

armies were assembled and used as an alter on which sacraments were placed and religious services held. If it became apparent during a battle in those early days that all was lost, the losing army was given the opportunity to gather its dead and wounded, assemble its drums and standards and pray to its God and King before the final confrontation. The drums and standards were then usually set on fire, as it was an act of disgrace and cowardice to let them be taken by the enemy. The drums were used in both World Wars and the Korean War as a source of strength and unit pride.



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO  
Kerry Horan places the Red Ensign for those who fought on land on the drumhead.

- THE INDEPENDENT



Shell Canada is recognizing its “long-standing relationship with and connection to the Aamjiwnaang First Nation.”It unveiled a large-scale original painting from Aamjiwnaang First Nation artist John Williams as part of its 70th anniversary celebration. It honours the land. Williams is seen here with his son, Theo Wolfe. The art is visible from the St. Clair Parkway near Talfourd Creek.

## Shell celebrates 70 years

Blake Ellis  
Local Journalism Initiative

Shell has been in Corunna for 70 years and Saturday, Sept. 17 was a chance for the company to celebrate this momentous anniversary with its employees, retirees, their families and members of the community. Dubbed as a “Shell-ebriation” and Community Open House, it was free and open to anyone. Set up on the front lawn of the Shell refinery in Corunna, there were food trucks and inflatables, and tents where people who



learn about what Shell is doing.

# Petrolia goes green with annual tree program

Petrolia residents with a green thumb or looking to add some shade to the backyard have a chance to land a free tree. Each year, Petrolia hosts a tree giveaway program where residents request one tree while supplies last that they can plant on their property at no charge. The trees are usually native trees, trees that provide a large canopy for shade and trees that turn bright colours in the

autumn. There are five varieties available this year, Autumn Blaze Maple, the Flowering Crab tree, the Sienna Glen Maple, the Brandy wine Maple - it has small red blossoms in the spring - and Linden. The town begins to offer the trees October 11 and usually they’re given away within hours. Trees will be picked up Oct. 22.

## HONOURING TANNER



CHRISTAL BRESSETTE PHOTO

Organizers of the Tanner Redick Memorial Tournament turned over a cheque for \$32,000 to the Alvinston Optimists Monday. Redick passed away in 2019. He was a volunteer firefighter and a member of the Optimist Club. His family, including mother, Jenny, in the centre, organize a two pitch tournament. The Optimist, who provide events for youth in the community, received some of the proceeds from this year's event.

Church DIRECTORY

Christ Anglican Church

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

Join us for  
In-Person Services  
Sundays  
@ 10:00am

Everyone Welcome

Rev. Dave Hewett  
Church Office 519-882-1430  
christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com

St. Paul's United Church

4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

In-Person Services  
Sundays  
@ 10:30 am

Rev. Carol Ferguson  
Church Office: 519-882-1390  
www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

First Baptist Church

418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

IN PERSON  
CHURCH SERVICE  
Sunday Mornings  
@10:30 am

Pastor: Alex Craig  
Church Office 519-882-2480  
email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com  
www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca

Find us on Facebook!  
www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia

Wyoming United Church

730 Second Street, Wyoming

In-Person Services  
taking place  
Sundays @ 11 am

Those attending will be physically distanced,  
must wear a mask and be fully vaccinated.

Rev. Steven Longmoore  
Church Office 519-845-3963  
FIND US ON FACEBOOK

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

416 Queen Street, Petrolia  
(Behind the Post Office)

In-Person Service  
Sundays  
@ 10:00 am

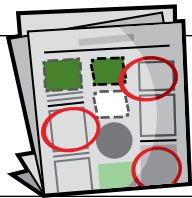
Services also available online:  
www.standrews-petrolia.ca

Pastor Katherine Hawley



Classified Deadline:  
Monday @ 12 noon

# Classifieds



Word Classifieds: \$10 plus tax for up to 40 words  
Stop in at the office 9a-3p Mon, Tues, Fri or 9a-12p Wed  
4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728  
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

## Real Estate



**3219 Church Street  
Brooke-Alvinston**

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

**new price**  
**\$449,000**

MLS# 22019162

**SHANAHAN REALTY INC. BROKERAGE**  
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*Leo Shanahan* Sales Representative  
Direct: 519-878-5981 • leo@shanahanrealty.com • Fax-519.849.6683

## Celebrations



**Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Vicky Irwin**

September 30, 2022

Join us for  
**Cake & Coffee**  
Sunday, October 2nd  
1 pm - 4 pm  
485 First Ave, Petrolia  
*Best Wishes Only*



**25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**Tara & Kevin Broad**  
Sept. 27/22

*Love  
Adam & Haleigh*



**10" APPLE PIES**

Limited Supplies  
so get your order in soon  
Call Carol  
519-882-1684  
or Wendy  
519-882-2073  
or your favourite  
IODE member to order.

**Available  
Sept 28 & 29  
and Oct 5 & 6**

*\* PICK UP LOCATION \**  
St. Philip's Catholic Church Hall  
9:30 & 11:30

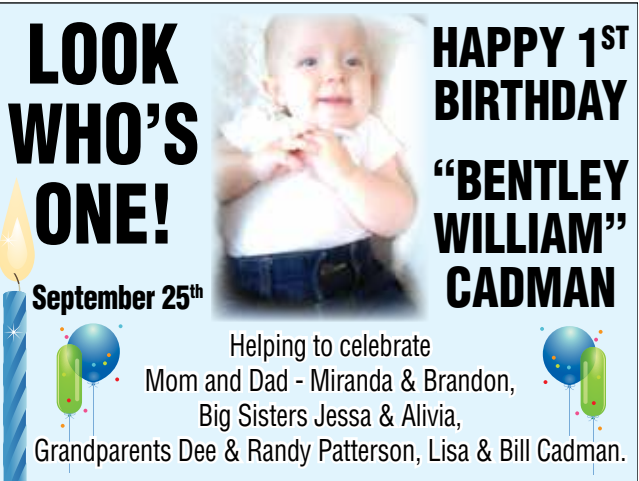
**\$10 EACH**

Margaret Stokes Chapter, Petrolia



**Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Miranda & Brandon Cadman**

~ September 22, 2022 ~




**LOOK WHO'S ONE!**

**HAPPY 1<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY  
"BENTLEY WILLIAM" CADMAN**

September 25<sup>th</sup>

Helping to celebrate  
Mom and Dad - Miranda & Brandon,  
Big Sisters Jessa & Alivia,  
Grandparents Dee & Randy Patterson, Lisa & Bill Cadman.



**WYOMING LIONS**

will be hosting a

**PLYMPTON - WYOMING  
ALL-CANDIDATES  
MEETING**

**THURS., SEPT. 29 @ 7 PM**

Wyoming Lions Hall - 554 Main St  
DOORS OPEN @ 6:30 PM

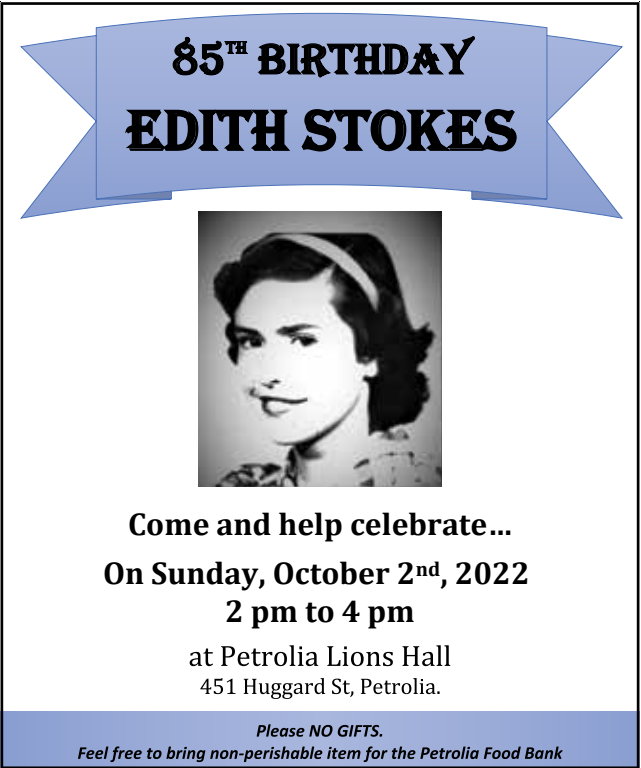


**Congratulations on your  
70<sup>th</sup>  
Wedding Anniversary!!**


**Doug & Greta Acton**

Married September 20th, 1952

With love and admiration from  
Howard, Janet, Brian,  
Brenda, Julie  
and families



**85<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY  
EDITH STOKES**



**Come and help celebrate...**  
**On Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022  
2 pm to 4 pm**  
at Petrolia Lions Hall  
451 Huggard St, Petrolia.

Please NO GIFTS.  
Feel free to bring non-perishable item for the Petrolia Food Bank



**Help Wanted  
Full Time  
Journeyman  
Electrician**

**\$40 - \$50 an hour  
based on years of experience.**

We are a small electrical contractor  
located in Camlachie.

Our work consists of installation and  
maintenance of pole lines,  
agricultural building's, grain handling  
facilities, stand by power systems and  
industrial control systems and equipment.

Must have valid driver's license.

Email resumes to  
**hleystrasons@outlook.com**



**"Welcoming to the World"**

**Jackson James Thompson**

**Born:  
August 5, 2022**

Weighing 7 lbs. 14 oz.  
and 22 in. long

**Proud parents: Travis & Laura Thompson**

First grandchild for  
Jim & Sandra Thompson of Florence Ont  
and 2nd grandchild for  
John & Kathy Thrower of Bothwell Ont  
The "30th" great grandchild for Pat Lawson  
of Florence Ont.



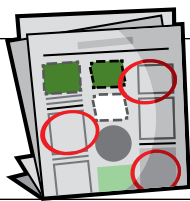
**changed  
business  
hours**

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

**The Independent**  
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton



Classified Deadline:  
Monday @ 12 noon



# Classifieds

Word Classifieds: \$10 plus tax for up to 40 words  
Stop in at the office 9a-3p Mon, Tues, Fri or 9a-12p Wed  
4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728  
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca


## Celebration of Life




### WHITE Robert Arthur

**Robert Arthur WHITE – Age 85 of Oil Springs**, passed away on **Thursday, June 23, 2022** at Riverview Gardens, Chatham. Beloved husband of Leva (Courtts) for 50 years. Loving father of Shane and Ryan (Colleen). Dear brother of Carol Ann white and brother-in-law of Jim (Nancy) Courtts, Ethel (Carl) Lister and Carolyn Courtts. Bob is predeceased by his parents Robert and Caroline White, brother James and brother-in-law Bruce Courtts. Survived by many friends, cousins, nieces, and nephews. Bob worked at Imperial Oil for almost 30 years and was a Scout leader for over 20 years. He will be missed by all who knew him. **Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, October 01, 2022 from 1:30 to 4pm at the Dresden Legion.** The family ask to dress casual. Sympathy may be expressed through donations to First Petrolia Scouting or Faith Trinity United Church – Faith Missions. Memories and condolences may be sent online at [www.steadmanbrothers.ca](http://www.steadmanbrothers.ca). **Arrangements entrusted to STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigden 519-864-1193.**

176th Annual  
PLYMPTON



Wyoming  
EST. 1846  
FALL  
FAIR



Thank  
you

The Plympton Wyoming Agricultural Society would like to send out a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who came out to the 176th Fall Fair! It was nice to see those smiling faces come through our gates after 2 years. We greatly appreciate your support, this weekend would not be a success without you!!

**SEE YOU AT THE FAIR NEXT YEAR!**

## 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.*

## 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**.

## Coming Events

**OIL SPRINGS LEGION - OPEN** - to the public. **Wednesdays** from 6:30-10 pm, with the exception of the 3rd Wednesday of month when doors will open at 8:30pm following meeting. Come in for a game of cards with friends, shoot a game of pool or just for a social time.

**ST. PHILIPS CARD PARTIES - Friday, September 23 & 30 @ 7pm** at the St. Philips Hall. \$5.00 pp. Light Lunch. Wheelchair accessible. Call 519-882-4840 for more info.

**OIL SPRINGS LEGION - MEAT RAFFLES - start this Saturday, September 24.** Doors open at 3:30 pm, raffle runs from 4-6 pm. Meat Raffles run every other Saturday. Everyone welcome.

## Obituaries / Death Notices



### BRIGHT Wayne Randy

Surrounded by his family, it is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Wayne Bright** on **Tuesday, September 13, 2022** at Bluewater Health, Sarnia, at the age of **46**. Beloved brother of Ray (Terry), the late Ken (2018) (Liz), Lee (Chris), Barb (Randy) Core, Brian (Sharon), Bonnie (John) Gray, Lynn (Kevin) Rundle and his twin Wendy (Dave) Hill. Survived by many nieces and nephews and many great nieces and great nephews. Predeceased by his parents Percy (2012) and Jo-Ann (2015). Wayne enjoyed the outdoors, tractors, playing video games, McDonald's and riding his bike all over Petrolia. **A private family graveside service will take place.** Sympathy may be expressed through donations to C.E.E Hospital Foundation (<https://ceehf.ca>). Memories and condolences may be sent online at [www.steadmanbrothers.ca](http://www.steadmanbrothers.ca). **Steadman Brothers 519-864-1193.**

### ANDERSON Charles "Lenard"

**Charles "Lenard" Anderson, of Petrolia**, passed away peacefully with family by his side **Sunday, September 18, 2022**, in his **84th year**. Lenard was the son of the late Hearld (1998) and Velma (1990) (nee Harris). He was predeceased by his sister Doris (the late John) Longe and his brothers Stanley (the late Alice) and Lyle (the late Dorothy) Anderson. He will be sadly missed by many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. Lenard worked for many years in the public works department of the County of Lambton and earlier worked McCormick Silos. **A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. from the Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 650 Broadway St., Wyoming. Visitors will be received prior to service from 11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Interment to follow in Hillsdale Cemetery, Petrolia.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society ([www.cancer.ca](http://www.cancer.ca)). Memories and condolences may be shared on-line at [www.needhamjay.com](http://www.needhamjay.com).

### TREMBLAY Jerry

**Jerry Tremblay, 73 years, of Petrolia** passed away peacefully with his family by his side at his home near Petrolia, **Tuesday, September 13, 2022**. Jerry was the loved husband of Pat, a proud father of Michelle and her husband Aaron Sayers, and loved grandfather Lucas and Sierra. He was a step-father to Amy (Tina) Kingston. He will be missed by his brother Marcel and Wendy Tremlay. He is survived by his mother-in-law Ruby Bailey, sister-in-law Jean Bailey (Dennis Shuler), Jerry was predeceased by his parents Sylvio (1994) and Angeline (2003) Tremblay, a brother Tom (Lisa) Tremblay, a step-son Nathan Kingston, his father-in-law Sherman Bailey (2011), a sister-in-law Deborah Bailey (1984), and a brother-in-law Paul Bailey (2019). A proud lifelong farmer who was a lover of old tractors and fast cars. He was a longtime member of the Ontario Vintage Tractor Pulling Association and the Western Ontario Steam Threshers. **A memorial service was held on Friday, September 16, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Needham-Jay Funeral Home Wyoming Chapel, 650 Broadway St., Wyoming. A reception followed at the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 388 in Wyoming. Interment will be Mount Calvary Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made C.E.E. Hospital Foundation ([www.cchf.ca](http://www.cchf.ca)). **Memories and condolences may be shared online at [www.needhamjay.com](http://www.needhamjay.com).**



## JANET (DUNCAN) BEECROFT

September 20, 2016

We think of her often  
Our Dear Janet B  
She was a breath of fresh air  
On a warm summer's eve.  
Fall was her favourite  
The colours and leaves  
Halloween costumes  
O' the memories she did weave.  
The winters came  
And the winters went  
Our times in the arena  
Were times well spent.  
So think of them often  
Our loved ones who've passed  
Think of them often  
So their memories will last.

Love Charles & Cory, Chad & Bri, Kurt & Sabrina,  
Jeff & Kristy, Dana, Brent & Liam.



## Obituaries / Death Notices

### ARTISS

William (Bill) George

**William (Bill) George Artiss was born in Petrolia**, Ontario on July 28, 1938. He passed away **September 16, 2022** in the same hospital in which he was born after a long and productive life. Bill led a remarkably rich life dedicated to his family and service to his community. He met his future wife, Jeanann Katherine Andrew, in high school. She recognized a gem in the rough and the two married shortly after graduation - a loving partnership which endured 61 years. The couple lived briefly in Sarnia, Ontario until Bill began training as a nuclear technician. He was hired as a First Operator at the Douglas Point Nuclear Generating Station and moved his family to Port Elgin, Ontario in 1966. Bill and Jeanann's family grew to include three children: Heather Anne (1963); Thomas Andrew (1966); and Jennifer Elizabeth (1969).

In 1970 Bill joined a team of Ontario Hydro nuclear engineers who helped commission a new CANDU reactor in India. Bill boldly relocated his young family for two and a half years to the remote desert community of Rajasthan in North India. Following his return to Ontario, Bill worked briefly in Port Elgin before relocating again to Fredericton, New Brunswick where he helped plan the commissioning of the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station. Bill settled his family in Rothesay, New Brunswick in 1979 where, in addition to being a senior control room operator at the PLNGS, Bill began a life of community service. He served on the Parent's Advisory Council of the Rothesay Middle School, led the formation of the Fundy Solid Waste Action Committee, the installation of a new wastewater treatment facility and the construction of the new Rothesay Town Hall.

Bill dedicated his post-retirement life to the people of Rothesay. He served as a Rothesay Town Council member for several years before serving as mayor for two terms from 1993-2001 and deputy mayor for another two terms. Bill played an instrumental role in the eventual amalgamation of Rothesay, East Riverside-Kingshurst, Fairvale, Renforth and Wells into one governing body.

In addition to his life spent in community service, Bill stayed active in the Canadian nuclear industry following retirement from NB Power. He formed his own consulting company, traveling twice to Romania to work on CANDU projects in their newly-formed democratic republic. In 2017, Bill fully retired and he and his wife moved back to Petrolia to be closer to family.

Bill is predeceased by one daughter, Jennifer (2006) and a brother John (wife Marg). He is survived by his wife, Jeanann; his sister, Mary Ann Miller; his brother Joseph Artiss and his wife Sue; his daughter Heather Thomson and her husband Rex; and his son Thomas and his wife Heidi. He leaves a legacy of two grandchildren, Gwyneth and William, two step-grandchildren, Christian and Stephanie and a great-grandson, Rowan.

**The cremation will take place at the Needham-Jay Funeral Home in Petrolia with a service at Christ Church Anglican, Petrolia ON in early October with a memorial service to follow in June of 2023.** In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the Kidney Foundation of Canada ([www.kidney.ca](http://www.kidney.ca)) or the Diabetes Canada ([www.diabetes.ca](http://www.diabetes.ca)). **Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home ([www.needhamjay.com](http://www.needhamjay.com)).**

### ROBINSON

Kathryn "Kay" Evelyn  
(nee Mitchell)

Sept 16, 1934 – Sept 12, 2022

Kay was born on September 16, 1934, to Kenton and Evelyn Mitchell in Watford, Ontario. She lived in Watford until 1953, when she moved to London and received her Nursing Certificate at the Victoria Hospital. Afterwards, she moved to Calgary and continued her nursing career at the Calgary General Hospital. In 1958, she met and married Hugh Robinson. Their first son, Jonathan, was born in September 1960 in Banff, Alberta. They briefly lived in Sarnia, Ontario, where their second son Robert was born in 1962. In 1963 the family returned to Banff, and settled in Olds in 1967; here their last child Russell was born.

When Kay retired from nursing, she found many ways to keep busy around Olds: She was a clerk at many of the stores in town, worked as the Curator of the Olds Museum, and was a member of the Accredited Supports to the Community charity. She had a natural talent for nurturing and caring for others, and is fondly remembered by her family as a loving mother and a wonderful wife. Her horses and cats received much love and attention from her as well. She was always ready to lend a helping hand, and gave her friendship freely.

Kay is survived by her loving husband of 64 years Hugh; as well as Robert (Teresa), Russell, Christy, Kara, and her many friends and family members. She was predeceased by her parents, Evelyn and Kenton Mitchell, and her son Jonathan.

Email Your Ad To:  
office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca







# St Clair Township

## Rising recreation fees, golf course questioned

**Blake Ellis**  
The Independent

Fees at the Moore Sports Complex, traffic lights and the municipal golf course were hot topics as candidates for St. Clair Township council met the public.

With just over a month before Election Day on Oct. 24, 100 people were at an all-candidates meeting held at St. Joseph’s Parish Hall in Corunna and hosted by the Moore Optimist Club Monday.

It is a wide open race for the mayor’s race with long-time Mayor Steve Arnold retiring. Voters can choose between three candidates, Jeff Agar, Tracy Kingston and Chad Shymko.

Agar served on St. Clair Township Council from 2006 to 2018 before making an unsuccessful bid for the mayor’s office in 2018. Agar works at Kel-Gor in Sarnia, is a member of the Moore Optimist Club, a past director of the Moore Agricultural Society and has been involved for several years with Mooretown Minor Hockey.

“I never have a biased opinion,” Agar said, and he wants to make sure all of the areas of the township are treated equally.

“I would love to be your next mayor,” said newcomer to politics Shymko. “I’m young and enthusiastic.” He has worked at Shell for 17 years, and this is the first time he has run for an election.

Kingston has served as a councillor since 2014. She has also been the alternate on Lambton County Council. She the retired business person is member of several business and volunteer organizations including the Moore Optimist Club “I am not about ego or personal gain,” said Kingston. “I am about caring for our community.”

When the evening was opened up to questions, the candidates were asked about the membership fee at the Mooretown Pool increasing from \$198 to \$500.

Shymko proposed conducting fundraisers and getting donations from industry, so the fee doesn’t have to go up any further. If it

keeps going up, nobody can afford it, he said.

Agar doesn’t remember an increase like that when he served on council. He would never advocate for that kind of jump.

Kingston said council has to act on the information the township staff give them. She said the fees were not being increased enough in the past and council has to keep the facility viable. She did say the pool will need to be replaced.

Traffic light at the intersection of Hill and Queen streets in Corunna has been another issue the current council grappled with during this past term. The candidates were asked if they were in favour of putting a traffic light at this location.

Kingston said a traffic study conducted by the municipality indicates a traffic light is not needed. Council has opted to put in a pedestrian crossing instead. “We consider all angles, we don’t just ignore,” said Kingston.

Agar countered traffic studies don’t say anything. He supported a traffic light be installed at No Frills on the St. Clair Parkway when he was on council and that turned out to be the right decision, due to future development that took place in that area.

Another resident wanted if the candidates supported more lighting at Highway 40 and Metcalf Line. St. Clair Township has voiced this need two or three times at county council without success, said Kingston. It is a place where more lighting is needed, she added.

“The county owes us,” said Agar, pointing out St. Clair Township has the second highest population in Lambton. Shymko admitted to not knowing the answer.

When asked about the state of the St. Clair Parkway Golf Club, Agar said the clubhouse needs a total rebuild and is in terrible shape. He wants to see this done in a fiscally responsible way that is not a burden on taxpayers.

Shymko would like to see a five year plan being made to see the work completed. He wants to get grants for this project, so it is not a burden on taxpayers.

Kingston has been keeping an

eye on the golf course. The facility has been making money and the council has put that savings away for any future renovations.

Bylaw enforcement is also a concern. Agar agreed it has been an issue and says he has made calls about bylaw enforcement in the past and they never seem to be followed up upon. When a complaint is made, the township has to respond, he says.

Kingston says the township only has a part-time by-law officer and only deals with complaints. If residents wanted, there could be a full-time employee who can also patrol the township.

**COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES**

Also at the all-candidates meeting was candidates for Ward 1 and Ward 2 councillors. There are six candidates in Ward 1 for three positions while there are four candidates in Ward 2 for two positions.

**WARD 1**

**Pat Brown** has served as councillor for St. Clair Township since 2018. He is retired from Arlanxco as a construction coordinator. He was also a member of UA Local 663 Pipefitters. He says the municipality needs to attract new industries, noting the Crown Royal investment is a good start.

**Holly Foster** is owner of Holly’s Heavenly Touch and a retired NCAA women’s basketball referee. “When the storm gets wild in council, I can calm that storm,” she said. Making sure St. Clair Township has a strategic plan is her top priority, while expanding the water treatment plant is another.

**Cathy Langis** is a educational assistant with the Lambton Kent School District and has served as union president. She feels safety is a top priority for her if elected, especially with the tornado that went through Mooretown. She wondered whether St. Clair Township has an emergency plan. Langis would also like to see the Neighbourhood Watch and Block Parents programs back in place as well as more lighting be installed at the parks. She will advocate for more housing for young people as



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Mayoral candidate Tracy Kingston speaks at an All-Candidates meeting Monday in Corunna.

well as for a long term care home.

**Michelle Maitland** would like to see the municipality expand its small businesses and grow as a community. With the closure of the Courtright Community Centre, she suggested a new community centre in Mooretown which can be central to Courtright and Corunna. She is a volunteer with Captain Kid Days and had previously run for a Ward 1 councillor in 2018.

**Bill Moran** was born and raised in Lambton County but had to move away for work. He moved back to Corunna in 2018 and has since retired from the power industry. He wants to make sure infrastructure projects are shovel ready. “I don’t make promises, I deliver them,” said Moran.

**Charles Mortley-Wood** has lived in St. Clair Township since 1999. He is retired from Imperial Oil. He believes his time with managing a refinery will serve him well. “I am not wanting to be someone who complains with no skin in the game,” he said. Mortley-Wood is concerned about inflation and how that will affect St. Clair Township. He wants to work to grow the community and believes he can work with private and public partners to accomplish this.

**WARD 2**

**Craig Bezaire** grew up in Sombra but now resides in Port Lambton. He works for UA Local 853 and represents members daily. He

wants to make sure taxes are affordable while maintaining a superior level of service. “All issues will be considered with an open mind,” said Bezaire. “I won’t rest until the job is done

**Brad Langstaff** is a businessman in the construction industry. He wants to make sure projects that council takes on are home grown and sustainable. He wants to make sure “the new mayor’s values align with the communities of Ward 1 and 2.

**Gary Martin** is a chartered accountant and has taught at Lambton College. He has been in the president of the Lambton Federation of Agriculture since 2020. He has also served on the City of Sarnia Airport Action Working Group. “This is my home and I would like to see it prosper,” said Martin

**Bill Myers** just completed his first term on the St. Clair Township Council.

Myers would like to see smaller scale homes being built as a solution for more affordable housing. This way more young adults and seniors will be able to remain in the community.

While the others campaign, Deputy Mayor Steve Miller has been acclaimed for another term.

St. Clair residents vote by mail with ballots due in the mail Oct. 18 or delivered to the municipal office on election day.

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