

DOUBLE DRIVING AT THE BRIGDEN FAIR



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Three year-old Mary Scott gets some help from former Moore Agriculture Society president Dennis Robinson of Beaver Meadows to turn the team during the working wagon team competition on Sunday afternoon during the Brigden Fair festivities this Thanksgiving Day weekend. Nearly 45,000 people came through the gates for the fair dubbed ‘The Grand Daddy of Them All’ for the first fair since 2019. See more on pages 9, 10 and 11.

‘It’s taxpayers’ money - whatever happened to transparency’

Heather Wright
The Independent

At least one Warwick council member says they were told they couldn’t release the cost of the rent for the new municipal building to the public. The issue came up at an all-candidates meeting in Centennial Hall Oct. 5. That same day, *The Independent* published some details of the deal which saw a new municipal office built on Nauvoo Road by Watford Investment Group. The township is leasing the building for over \$13,000 a month. It can purchase the building four years into

the 25 year lease. If it continues to lease the building for the full term, it will pay over \$4 million in rent. The council candidates were asked at the all-candidates meeting how much it is costing taxpayers. “Under the Municipal Act, cannot comment on a deal with a landlord,” Incumbent Councillor Wayne Morris told the crowd “I don’t know exactly, but we can’t comment... We were told in camera that it’s confidential. We weren’t allowed to say anything.” Mayoral Candidate Todd Case asked Morris if he had seen the CAO had released the information to the newspaper and added, “It

is the taxpayers’ money. Whatever happened to transparency?” Jackie Rombouts, the current mayor who is running for re-election, didn’t directly address why the information had not been public until now but said the investment is a good one. “The downtown looks amazing and beautiful” with the municipal office anchoring a new set of buildings. “It was a good thing for the downtown and for economic development. Rombouts added she would like to see the township purchase the building after four years.

MORE ON THE MEETING ON PG 8

Petrolia posters have neighbours worried about hate groups

Heather Wright
The Independent

A Petrolia family is wondering if a new hate group is forming right in their neighbourhood. And they’ve asked the OPP to investigate. The family, whose identity we’re protecting, contacted *The Independent* saying signs with what appeared to be some of the language used in the far right movement started appearing on telephone poles on James St. The photocopied signs read “Calling all local patriots” and have a QR code which links to the Telegram account of a group names Lambton County & LDN Active Club. The family says patriot is often a term used by hate groups and they’re concerned. “The idea that these groups are advertising recruitments right outside my house, right where my kids play, terrifies me. I have gay and trans family members. My neighbours are refugees. I love my neighbourhood and want everyone to feel safe here. But they can’t if hate groups are allowed to post recruitment flyers and operate in secret like this,” they said. The family contacted Lambton OPP and Petrolia’s bylaw control office - which is administered by Lambton County. They were told the OPP is investigating.

SEE HATE GROUP PG 2



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

One of the posters on James Street.



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SCAN FOR MENU



Concerns about hate group in Petrolia

CON'T FROM PG 1

Lambton OPP didn't return our request for information by press time.

However, *The Independent* has learned the small group bills itself as a fitness group. Text messages on Telegram shown to the paper show users talking about the Freedom Convoy and then, the owner of the group raising the issue of drag shows in local libraries. He presenting a video of trans youth, asking "Do u (sic) think it is OK for two lesbians on hormones to cover a child into transgenderism?"

The owner of the group later asks a user if they would be willing to "apply energy towards combating the above type of grooming of children."

Later, the owner says "If you are in any way sympathetic to child sex change surgery, puberty blockers to prepubescent children or promotion of transgenderism to children your beliefs do not align with ours and you will be barred from membership."

Crystal Fach of Diversity Ed is not

surprised by the online exchange saying Diversity Ed gets people "coming at us in droves" saying they are "indoctrinating their children to become trans and that we are grooming kids."

Fach says in the last few years people have increasingly attacked the trans community saying it is freedom of speech. "They're using freedom of speech to direct hate."

Fach says there are a number of groups in Lambton tracking the small hate groups popping up over the internet and acting at night.

If anyone sees signs of a hate group, Fach says they should contact police or the Sarnia Alliance Against Hate.

"It's important the community knows these groups are here because ultimately, it is vulnerable people targeted. Those folks need to know they are here so they can be watchful."

Fach adds despite the disturbing nature of the group "we have more allies than those who hate us" in Lambton.

Lambton has a long way to go on inclusion

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Lambton Kent School Board has a long way to go when it looks at promoting diversity and inclusion.

Some trustees were hopeful the board is making in roads in promoting diversity.

"I bet we are in the lead," said Trustee Jack Fletcher, at the Sept. 27th board meeting as the strategic priority of its effort to remove systemic inequities in learning was reviewed as part of last school year's operational plan.

The director of education was quick to dispel that hope.

"Unfortunately we aren't leading the province," said Director of Education John Howitt. He said there are many in the community and among the staff who are resistant to the message of diversity and inclusion, noting there are many with racist or homophobic views. It shows that these efforts the school board has moved forward with, are absolutely necessary.

Lambton Kent School Board provided mandatory training for administrators and board office staff last summer. Voluntary

training was also available to clerical staff. They are also working on the implementation of the professional advisory on anti-Black racism. Two positions were also created on Sept. 1, an inclusive diversity consultant for Kindergarten to Grade 8 and a system coordinator of equity, diversity and inclusion position.

A voluntary student census was completed last March. Results are not yet available and will be released this fall. It was the goal of the Board to have the results available of the census by January 2023. One of the other goals was for the Board to submit a board improvement and equity plan to the Ministry of Education by May 2022, but the ministry currently has this on hold.

The Board's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee started meeting monthly last February. The School District started tracking hate based incidents that take place in the schools at the beginning of this school year.

At LCCVI last spring, the Lambton OPP were called in after slurs were written on a bathroom wall in a room under renovations. The entire school was locked down while the OPP investigated.

BRINGING JOY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

École Hillcrest Gender and Sexuality Alliance group was spreading some love to Chris Tripp. The students had planned to visit the food truck owner in June. A recent incident where Tripp found a PRIDE flag in a noose at his truck, prompted the group to head down and spread some joy and kindness according to staff advisor Katie Nesbitt.



TODD WHITE CANDIDATE Warwick Township COUNCIL

Over the last 12 years on council, and as Chair of the Development Committee, I have learned that all councils build on the good decisions of the previous councils before them. Things take time and require a council that works together, as a strong team, all pulling in the community's best interest while guiding staff to put into action the decisions of Council.

Our current council achieved many successes during this term. The build out of the Scenic Court subdivision, the redevelopment of the South end of Main Street, the continued development of our business park, the building of the East Lambton Community Centre and the interest of developers to invest in Warwick Township. *On behalf of my fellow councillors, I wish to thank staff for assisting us in delivering a successful mandate this past term.*

A focus of my platform is to continue to leverage income streams from Waste Management for the development of our community. Our agreement with them has generated significant funds thanks to the councils of the past. This has allowed the current council to have the confidence to make significant investments in the community during this term.

I have a passion for Finance and Development in Warwick Township. I have always had an entrepreneurial personality, and this led my wife Sandra and I to create Brookside Retirement over 20 years ago. We chose Watford because of our personal connection growing up in this community, its central location between London and Sarnia and our passion for small towns.

Having my own personal experience with development has helped me to understand the concerns and needs of developers in Warwick. As a councillor I will continue to work with council to address their concerns and support their developments.

An attractive downtown and new public resources like the East Lambton Community Centre, and the new YMCA, all support and help encourage additional residential development in our community. These things make a strong first impression for those looking to relocate to a new area.

As a taxpayer in Watford, I understand that the costs to run the township continue to increase.

With that, having more residents in the community, spreads those costs over a larger group of taxpayers over time.

For the upcoming term of Council, the following I believe should be top priorities:

- The renegotiating and Updating of the Community Host Agreement and emerging revenue streams with Waste Management
- The continued development of residential homes and businesses in Warwick Township.
- The continued updating and redevelopment of the Main Street of Watford.

A successful Council is the sum of many working parts. It takes for-sight, extensive planning, and financial security. The successes of Warwick Township have been years in the making and our future developments will take cooperation, dedication, and the follow thru of the next council and future councils to come.

Thank you.

Todd White Candidate for Warwick Township Council.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

It will be at least 2023 before the clean up at the Lambton Generating Station in Courtright is complete.

LIUNA strike, hot weather slows LGS clean up

Heather Wright
The Independent

It will be at least 2023 before the steel remnants of the Lambton Generating Station in Courtright are gone.

The coal-fired generating plant which once employed hundreds of people generating nearly 2,000 MW of power was downsized in 2010 and then closed in 2013 as part of the then Liberal government’s plan to phase out coal for generation to improve air quality.

The work to tear down the massive complex along the St. Clair River before the pandemic. But in 2020, JNX Contracting declared bankruptcy and the demolition stopped.

Delsan A.I.M. took over and expected to have the work completed by the end of this year. OPG spokesperson Neal Kelly says it will now likely be complete in “early 2023.”

Kelly says a number of things, including a strike by LIUNA earlier this year, slowed the progress of the demolition.

“We had some hot summer days where Delsan A.I.M. staff would have been sent home early, so that cost us some time.

Kelly says work is ongoing at the site. Large piles of steel can be seen across the yard. The contractor is shipping that out by rail - the rev-

enue from them going to Delsan as payment for the work.

And he says the next phase will be bringing down two absorber units - which is dependent on good weather.

“We’re in the process of getting ready to bring down the absorbers...That is wind dependent, weather dependent, you need precise wind directions and wind speed to bring them down,” Kelly says.

“The absorber buildings are the bare right now they’re constructed a steel and concrete, there’s no hazardous materials, but due to the close proximity to the Hydro One, switchyard - that is an active switchyard - so we can’t have any damage on the switchyard.”

Kelly expects it will take until the end of 2023 for the land along the St. Clair to be declared a brownfield site. It’s only then will OPG start considering what will be done with the land.

“It’s an important site for Ontario Power Generation. So we will retain ownership of the lands and we’re not sure what will go on the lands,” he says. “We’ll take our time and we will, in some form at some point, come forward with the plan.”

St. Clair Township officials in the past had expressed some interest in seeing the land become housing in the future.

Making a dent on Walpole drug trade: OPP

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Lambton OPP say they’re making progress on clamping down on the drug trade on Walpole Island.

OPP told reporters Tuesday 30 people have been arrested, 149 charges have been laid and \$141,000 in drugs have been seized was a result of the OPP’s Project McNulty. It began after a state of emergency was declared by Chief and Council on Walpole Island in the summer of 2021.

Walpole Island First Nations was concerned about the rise in illegal opioid use and overdoses. Inspector Chris Avery, OPP detachment commander for Lambton County, said theft, violence and human trafficking has also been a factor as opioid use increased on Walpole Island. He said up to this point, police have

seen a dramatic reduction in overdose deaths - Avery says as much as 50 per cent - as well as a significant reduction in ambulance calls.

Avery said this would have an impact on all of Lambton County, as many of the traffickers dealing drugs on Walpole Island are active in the rest of the county.

The latest operation Sept. 29, on Walpole Island First Nation, Wallaceburg and Chatham Kent, resulted in the seizure of drugs and weapons. James Barnes, 39, of Chatham Kent was arrested and charged with three counts of drug possession for the purpose of trafficking, three counts of unauthorized possession of a firearm, three counts of careless storage of a firearm, one count of careless storage of ammunition and three counts of failing to comply with court orders.

There has been over \$11,000 in cash, 13 weapons and over \$190,000 in stolen property seized.

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Editorial

Hate has a home; try kindness instead

The signs say ‘Hate has no home here’ but it is really more wishful thinking than the truth.

The fact is there is hate in Lambton County. There is hate everywhere in Canada.

Our story of a small group with an anti-trans stance trying to recruit new members in Petrolia is really just a small part of the picture of hate. Almost every corner of the internet you look at there is someone making hateful comments about any number of groups. It can be a celebrity - like Kanye West who recently spewed anti-Semitic comments on social media - or some guy in a pair of sweatpants in his mother’s basement trolling the internet. Or it can be a local or national politicians using race and gender dog-whistles to incite fear and drive voters to mark an X beside their name on the ballot.

The public school board sees it. The director recently said there is a long way for this community to go to say it has reached its goals for a diverse and inclusive community.

Members of the LGBTQ2S+ community see it - their advocacy groups open their emails to the vitriol almost daily.

Government’s commit cash to combat hate. People form volunteer organizations to raise awareness. Yet hate still lives here.

So, how do we change that?

We’re sure there isn’t an easy answer, but there are things you can do to start. Remind your kids to be kind to others no matter what. Model that behavior for them, being kind even in difficult situations. When you encounter people who hate, stand up - kindly - and tell them their words are offense. And don’t wait to right the wrong - firmly but kindly say ‘Hey; we don’t speak like that around here.’

And talk to your family about those who want to envelope them in their hate - make the aware so they too can speak for kindness.

Hate will unfortunately always find a home, but maybe, if we work harder, it won’t be so close to our home.

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



This photo, uncovered by Dawn McNally, shows her dad, John Leitch and his brother-in-law, Jim Lucan, building one of the pavilions at AW Campbell Conservation Area. McNally is among the group trying to save the original home of Archie Campbell which is on the site.

A pre-election civic lesson, free for all candidates, voters

There are a lot of good things about being a journalist and a political geek at election time.

You get to ask everyone the questions you want for weeks on end and they generally will answer because they want the public to hear what they have to say. There’s an odd few who can’t find the time or don’t see the need to answer your questions, but for a political geek, like myself, that’s just a minor annoyance.

Of course, the problem with asking questions is you get answers. And I’m finding - shockingly - that not everyone thinks like me. And even more disturbing, many of the candidates don’t know the issues. I’ve had a lot of answers from across Central Lambton where people say things like - when I’m elected I’ll figure out what to do with this issue. Pardon?

But perhaps the biggest concern is those first time and long time candidates who don’t really seem to grasp what their role is. They think staff should make decisions for them. They look at issues without considering all taxpayers. It’s shocking to me. I’ve yelled at the screen more than once.

So, to save my sanity and to help those of you running, here’s something you should know; from section 224 of the Municipal Act - the role of council.

The act says council is to “represent the public” as well as considering the well being of the municipality. Some councillors think they’re in the chair just to protect the corporation.

The act says, they have to “develop and evaluate policy and programs.” You might note that means council has a large say in this, even if staff presents ideas, they’re in charge. The act goes on to say council members “ensure the accountability and transparency of the operations of the municipality including the activities of senior management.” If something fishy is going on, council members can only point the finger at themselves.

And my favourite the act says they are “to maintain the financial integrity of the municipality” which in my books means council signing off before any one asks for money to do the job.

That’s my pre-election civics lesson. How well those rules are followed depends for whom you cast your vote.



Heather Wright

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LOOKING FOR THE GOOD STUFF



A customer leans in to get a good look at some of the breads baked by Lauren Vanewyk and Tiffany Hillman of Brigden during the last day of the Petrolia Farmers' Market Saturday. The market was filled with people looking for treats for the Thanksgiving table.

Enniskillen wants more info from cannabis growers

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Enniskillen is moving closer to regulating the cannabis industry in local greenhouses and it could mean a lot more work for those who want to grow the crop here.

There will need to be three reports compile, on odour, lighting and traffic impact, completed before a cannabis license can be given. This is what Senior Planner Rob Nesbitt from the County of Lambton presented at the Enniskillen Township meeting on Oct. 3, as the municipality looks at possible cannabis bylaw.

He is using the Town of Pelham's cannabis bylaw as a template. There are two types of licenses given, one of a standard operation and another of a micro operation. A micro operation

is described as 200 square metres in growing area or less.

It is an evolving industry that is still in its infancy, said Nesbitt.

"I don't know what the future holds in the size of these operations," he said.

There is a distinction from growing for personal consumption and those growing for commercial purposes. A doctor can give you a prescription, which will allow you to grow cannabis for your own personal use.

"There is no clear law," said Township Clerk and Treasurer Duncan McTavish. "It is clearly not black and white."

Nesbitt explained the reports that are needed under the proposed bylaw should show the cannabis location is appropriate and there is no impact on surrounding properties.

This after years of complaints from neighbours of High Park Farms. One neighbour took the multi-national company to the Normal Farm Practices Board over the smells coming from the Lasalle Line greenhouse.

The company merged with another and moved its operations to Leamington last year.

Councillor Mary Lynne McCallum was concerned about the term processing in the bylaw. She would like the bylaw to only allowing for growing and harvesting of cannabis. She felt including the word 'processing' opened up the bylaw to include the making of edibles on a commercial scale, something she is not in favour.

The proposed bylaw will be back to council with their concerns addressed in the future.

Lambton county online teacher recognized by PM

The Independent

A Lambton county online teacher who works out of LCCVI in Petrolia has been recognized by the Prime Minister for excellence in teaching.

Melissa Dent has been given Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in STEM, Certificate of Achievement.

Dent, who currently teaches Grade 7 language, mathematics, science, social studies, arts and health virtually, has been a classroom teacher for 25 years.

"Her passion and love for integrating technology into her program is contagious, exciting, and revolutionary. If there is a new technology available, she is the first to learn, try, share, and teach it," according to colleagues in a news release.

Dent uses technology into her teaching program to build skills, support academic objectives and promote mental development and health.

Dent loves hands on learning, including having students and brings in all

kinds of speakers - from musicians to shark experts - to show how math and science are used in their jobs.

She also uses gaming to help students learn. Dent recently formed a team for Girls that Game where players learn computation and critical thinking skills.

This year, her group not only won the Citizenship Award but also won the Esports competition making them the North American Champions for their category.

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Nine outbreaks as COVID cases increase

Heather Wright
The Independent

Nine long term care and retirement homes in Lambton are dealing with COVID-19 outbreaks.

But the county’s acting medical officer of health says the outbreaks are much different now since almost all residents have been vaccinated.

Public health says in the last week there have been 126 cases of the virus reported in long term care, health care and congregate living homes – the only places the province continues to track the virus.

Albany Retirement Village has been dealing with a COVID-19 outbreak for a little over a week. Fourteen residents and fewer than five staff tested positive. Watford Quality Care is also a week into an outbreak with nine residents and fewer than five staff testing positive for the virus.

The largest outbreak is at Vision Nursing Home where 23 residents and 16 staff have tested positive for COVID-19. Marshall

Gowland Manor in Sarnia has been in outbreak for COVID-19 for almost a month now with 32 residents becoming ill.

Ranade says health care providers are expecting more people to test positive again this fall.

“Remember COVID-19 is now co-circulating with a number of other routine respiratory viruses. Essentially you’re seeing a movement to treating COVID-19 as part of what we usually deal with respiratory viruses.”

Ranade adds the burden of disease has “shifted” with people getting vaccinated and new variants which are more transmissible but less severe.

Ranade says nine outbreaks “sounds like a lot for Lambton County but when you look at the numbers – although some of them have many cases – again the burden is different in terms of the severity of the disease in terms of hospitalizations and fatalities.”

Ranade says one person in long term care passed away due to the virus this week.



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO
Nikki Boere, Rawson Donald and Kara McKinlay are the 2022 scholarship winners.

IPM keeps on giving after 31 years

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

The 1991 International Plowing Match hosted in Lambton County continues to benefit the county, even those who were not yet born when the original event took place.

Three post-secondary students, Nikki Boere, Rawson Donald and Kara McKinlay were each presented with \$2,000 scholarships at the Bridgen Fair on Saturday. They are enrolled in their second year of college or university were given the awards based on the student’s community involvement, academic record and financial need.

Boere, 19, is the daughter of Rawson Boere of Birnam Line in Warwick Township. She is enrolled in her second year of her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at McMaster University. Her community involvement includes serving on the student council when she attended North Lambton Secondary School in Forest.

Boere also was involved in her high school’s Relay for Life Committee to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society. She continued to be involved at McMaster with the Relay for Life, acting as a first year liaison. She was also a student leader at the Muskoka Woods Leadership Camp and was part of the Forest Kiwanis Key Club.

Donald, 19, is enrolled at Lambton College and is studying chemical production and power engineering technology. He hopes to become a process operator and owner of his family farm. He is the son of Rob and Tracey Donald of Churchill Line in

Plympton-Wyoming.

Donald was diagnosed with a rare lung disease at an early age and he has participated in every possible study and survey so he can benefit other patients.

He has played hockey for 15 seasons in Petrolia and was captain of several teams. He has been a hockey referee for the past five seasons. He has been a volunteer with the Plympton and Wyoming Agricultural Society, Western Ontario Steam Threshers and the Wyoming Volunteer Fire Department. He has also been a member of the Wyoming 4-H Beef Club and has started his own firewood business.

MacKinlay, 20, is attending the Ontario Institute of Audio Recording Technology in London. She plans to become an audio engineer for musical artists and visual media projects. She is the daughter of Scott and Deryne MacKinlay from Plympton-Wyoming.

She provided live music in her band, The MacKinlays, for a number of events and causes. She has been active in ringette as a player, coach and volunteer. She also volunteered with the Kaeden Brown Foundation and uses her musical skills to help with the Rebound Hearts of Youth program, which helps youth with mental health challenges.

The International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Show hosted in Enniskillen Township raised over \$100,000 in profit. This money was invested into a trust fund and the money generated through interest is what provides these scholarships each year.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Voter Information Letters have been mailed to every eligible elector in Warwick Township. These letters include your personal PIN and instructions on how to vote online. If you do not receive your letter by October 14, 2022, please visit or call the Municipal Office.

2022 Township of Warwick Municipal and School Board Election

The 2022 Municipal Election will be conducted using Internet Voting only. Residents can vote anytime between Friday, October 14, 2022 and Monday, October 24, 2022 until 8:00 p.m.

Voter Assistance Centre

If you do not have access to a computer to vote online, or if you require assistance with electronic voting, please visit the Voter Assistance Centre at the Municipal Office located at 5280 Nauvoo Road. The Voter Assistance Centre will be equipped with touch screens and staff who can assist you.

The Voter Assistance Centre will be available on the following dates & times:

- Monday, October 17, 2022 to Friday, October 21, 2022 – 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
- Saturday, October 22, 2022 – 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
- Monday, October 24, 2022 (Election Day) – 10:00 am to 8:00 pm

Identification Requirements at Voter Assistance Centre

Your Voter Information Letter cannot be used as identification. Please ensure you bring with you a piece of ID that provides proof of your identity AND proof of residence. For a list of acceptable identification, please refer to your Voter Information Letter.

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Meadowview needs work but clear plan, cash to do it not available yet

Heather Wright
The Independent

There isn't a clear plan yet to replace Lambton Meadowview Villa.

But what is clear is the provincial government is not about to provide money to help.

Lambton County Councilors got their first look at the work of a committee tasked with trying to determine what the county should do with the aging Petrolia nursing home. It, like many others, was built in the 90s without funding from the provincial government. But it is aging and Jane Joris, the general manager of long term care in Lambton, says all the options are being discussed.

Lambton has already been given funding to build a 10 bed unit for people with dementia. It would be a home-like atmosphere.

"Our first plan was just

to build the 10 bed house separately, and go ahead and do that. And then, we realized that the homes getting older or we're spending a lot of capital, maybe we should look at what we should do with the whole campus," says Joris.

"(Meadowview) meets most of the new standards. The thing is, it's a huge building with old systems, and they're expensive to replace. So, do you keep replacing and upgrading and fixing? When do you get to the tipping point where it's better just to build something new, that's going to last longer."

The study group presented a number of ideas including a new facility, either with several of the 10 bed units or in the current 22 bed unit form or rebuilding the current building with residents inside.

Joris, who worked at North Lambton Lodge when it

renovated, doesn't think that's the best option.

"It's very difficult to even describe how living in a construction zone 24/7, when you have cognitive issues, how that affects people. So we have to look at that really carefully to and there's also loss of revenue, right - because you have to close rooms, probably we'd have to do one floor at a time."

And the county would need revenue. All of the ideas are costly, from \$40 million to \$80 million.

And right now, the provincial government and the Minister of Long Term Care are flatly rejecting any municipal projects. County officials met with the minister in the summer and were told there would be no funding for the Lambton project.

"The ministry is not willing to fund these older (homes.)

"I've been going and talking to the ministry for almost 10 years about this problem, because municipalities went ahead and built these fancy homes in the

90s, on their own and now they need to be replaced. What the minister told us, (is) they have targets to meet. They have these older homes that need to be renovated, and he has to meet those targets. I'm not really sure why these municipal beds can't be part of their targets, too. I haven't had a good conversation with them about that. But without some money, I don't think we can replace the villa on our own. It's a lot of money."

Joris' committee didn't

come with a clear recommendation for county councillors, yet. She's planning to do more research to figure out what is the best course ahead. But the general manager says Lambton needs to figure it out soon.

"When I did, when I did a little research for the 25th anniversary of Lambton Meadowview, I realized that we started looking at a new home when lamp to Twilight Haven was about 30 years old. So it makes sense to plan now," she says.

Frustration at PW debates

The Independent

A Wyoming woman is frustrated after trying to ask some tough questions at all candidates meetings.

Angela Lyon, who is part of a group which has pressed town council to address the firing of Carrie Ann Wilson, tried to ask the chair of the fire board, Bob Woolvett, how the municipality let 150 years of experience leave the Wyoming department. But the question, read by a moderator, was altered.

Then, in Camlachie, Lyon tried to question mayoral candidate Tim Wilkins about a comment made on Facebook about gay pride - it wasn't allowed.

"It is clear the only questions allowed are regarding roads and taxes," she says.

But Lyon says while controversial, the other issues are also important to voters.

"When I am deciding my vote, I want to know the integrity and moral character of the candidate. And that is exactly what I was pointing out."

Both of the meetings were hosted by local service clubs. One was led by Brian Boyle who summarized written questions from the audience. At the Camlachie meeting, voters were able to ask questions directly, although Lyon's question was interrupted.

Re-Elect


Ross O'Hara
for Petrolia Town Council

A vote for Ross is a vote for Integrity, Experience, Fiscal Responsibility and Approachability

■ Experience:

17 years - Petrolia Town Council
9 years - Mayor of Petrolia
9 years - Lambton County Council

519-882-1293 • oharaca@sympatico.ca



TODD CASE FOR MAYOR Township of Warwick



My name is Todd Case and I am running for Mayor of the Township of Warwick.
My platform is simple – good, transparent governance and common sense.
I believe in good communication and customer service.
It is important to make good business decisions while being fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of our municipality.

Experience:

- Mayor of Warwick for 18 years, from 2000-2018
- Strong Business Management background
- Three term Lambton County Warden
- Two-time Chair of the Western Warden's Caucus
- Former Member of the Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership
- Former Member of the Lambton College Board of Governors
- Former Chair and Board Member of the Lambton Area Water Supply System
- Former Chair of the Bluewater Recycling Board
- Former Board Member of Tourism Sarnia-Lambton
- Two-time Board Member of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Platform:

- Common sense leadership
- Fiscal responsibility
- Transparent governance
- Advocate for natural gas and phase three hydro expansion into Warwick
- Infrastructure improvements and expansion of services into all areas of the Township
- Get rid of the red tape
- Work with developers in moving growth forward
- Improve customer service
- Address environmental concerns arising from landfill
- Be diligent to ensure the Township gets the best deal for our community with the landfill potential expansion while maintaining their accountability
- Provide Warwick with a strong voice at Lambton County Council

My goal has always been to represent small town and rural community needs.
It really is all about working together for the betterment of one's community.
#warwickwatford #votecase2022 #smalltownruralontariomatters

Vote Starting Friday, October 14 thru to **Election Day: Monday, October 24**

For general
inquires and contact,
call or text Todd
at 519 490 4533
or reach him
by email at
cases@execulink.com

EXPERIENCE You Can TRUST!

Where’s Warwick’s natural gas?

Heather Wright
The Independent

Nancy Mastronardi wants to know what happened to the plans for natural gas in Warwick Village.

The woman, originally from Strathroy, was excited to learn in 2018 the provincial government had a plan to bring a natural gas line into the village. It was part of a \$243 million investment by the province for projects which, on their own, would not be feasible for Enbridge to complete.

Then Infrastructure Minister, and Lambton-Kent MPP, Monte McNaughton, made the announcement about the program, with the agriculture minister, at a farm on the outskirts of Warwick Village.

But the Warwick project has been passed over twice in the provincial program.

Mastronardi wants to know why. And - during the all-candidates night Oct. 5 - she wanted to know what those running for Warwick Township Council - who were proclaiming the township’s low tax rate - are going to do about it.

“I have a \$4,000 propane bill so the low tax doesn’t hold water,” Mastronardi said while holding a petition she’s started hoping to bring natural gas to Warwick.

“I thought about starting a business in Warwick; I’m not thinking about that now.” She’d hoped to start a farmers’ market.

“I see a lot of development happening in Watford, not in Warwick and were not helping our farmers.”

Mayoral candidate Jackie Rombouts said she’d met with Mastronardi and urged the room to support the project. But Mastronardi was quick to point out the petition wasn’t about politics and it was her idea, not the incumbent mayor’s.

All candidates agreed with the resident

that it was unusual for a minister to come to a community touting a new program and then the community to be left out in the cold when the funding was announced.

Rombouts says council has raised the issue with the province a number of times, including at meetings in August. She and council candidate Jerry Westgate attributed the move to politics.

“Politics being what it is, the money got moved to the north, they wanted to focus on the north,” says Westgate.

Mayoral candidate Todd Case, who served as the township’s mayor before Rombouts, said Warwick officials had been working for some time to get a natural gas investment in Warwick and they were “pretty sure we had it” in 2018. “I thought it was a done deal.”

Case pledged to make it his top priority if he’s elected adding natural gas and third phase hydro is key to getting more economic development in the community.

The candidates also addressed what almost everyone agrees is the biggest issue facing the community - the expansion of the Twin Creeks Landfill. Case touted his experience with the first phase of the project and said that even if the municipality opposed the move it was likely “a done deal.” He said he would work to get the best deal possible for the community and said if the expansion were to move ahead, the landfill once again needed a full time employee from the Ministry of the Environment to monitor it.

Rombouts says council has been pressing the ministry for that for years.

Council candidate Bill Davies was blunt, saying “we can say no until we’re blue in the face, but we’re going to be overruled.

“I’m sorry. I hate it. The reality is it’s here,” he said. “The reality is we have to negotiate the best circumstances for the community.”

Wilkins says Highland Glen should pay its way

Heather Wright
The Independent

One Plympton-Wyoming mayoral candidate wants Highland Glen’s boat ramp to pay for itself.

Tim Wilkins made the comments during an all-candidates meeting in Camlachie Oct. 7 when a resident asked what the municipality was doing about the ramp which had been closed for over two years. A contractor is currently working on dredging the area and getting the ramp operable for the end of the fishing season.

But Wilkins says council has to think about the future of the facility.

“We’re getting it operable, but it needs to be rebuilt and we need to think about how we’re doing that because if we just do status quo - rebuild what’s there - it’s going to be our money pit,” Wilkins responded.

“We need to make sure that when we rebuild it, let’s make sure that it’s rebuilt to where it’s creating revenue, too.

“I could go to someone like yourself and say, ‘You know what, give me \$70,000 a year, you manage it, you run the boat ramp, have some boat docks, that you can rent out, have bait station, whatever you want.’ So it’s creating revenue for us, and you look after the staff demand.”

Other candidates say after the ramp is reopened, council needs to take a long look at what should be done at the park. The town has a lease arrangement to run the conservation area however the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is still the owner of the property as they wait for the province to approve the turnover of the land to Plympton-Wyoming.

Mayoral candidate Muriel Wright is worried there will need to be a lot of money spent at the facility.

“I’m fearful that \$105,000 (to improve the boat ramp) isn’t enough. It’s a band aid right now. And I’m fearful for how to move forward with it.”

Mayoral Candidate Gary Atkinson says the park’s future is not set in stone.

“We have to decide what we want to do moving forward,” he told the crowd of about 200 people.

“My personal opinion is I’d like to bring in a consultants to look the whole situation over before we start spending money. I’d like to go to the public to get your input on it, because it’s your park, as well as ours. So we need to make sure we’re going to do it right and not waste any money as we go forward.”

Incumbent councillor Mike Vasey agreed saying the federal government should also be coming to the table since Highland Glen is the only safe haven for boaters in a storm.

So far, that hasn’t happened.

“The Coast Guard did not qualify it as a safe haven. It never has been, according to them, nobody could find any paperwork until we started to put some money into it,” Vasey said in answering the resident’s question.

“And then all of a sudden, they said, ‘This is a great thing. It’s a safe haven, we need this.’

“But there was no money from anybody federal coming our way to help keep it open.”

Vasey says the municipality should try to press the federal government for funding for the Lake Huron boat ramp.

WILKINS FOR MAYOR

PLYMPTON-WYOMING



LEARN MORE ABOUT MY CAMPAIGN AT
WWW.WILKINSFORMAYOR.CA

Jamie ARMSTRONG

FOR MAYOR

About Jamie

PERSONAL

- Married to Vickie for 25 years.
- 5 children all attended Brooke Central School and participated in Hockey and Baseball in Alvinston/Inwood.
- 4 grandchildren.
- Cash Crop Farmer.
- Operations Coordinator at Suncor Sarnia Refinery for 32 years (retiring March 31, 2023).
- Owner of Armor’s Alehouse with wife Vickie since Dec 2014.

VOLUNTEER

- Coached Hockey and Baseball.
- Belong to Alvinston and Districts Optimist Club, Alvinston Pro Rodeo, Alvinston Ag Society and Alvinston Legion.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE

- 1 term on Brooke Alvinston Council.
- 7 years as LKDSB Trustee.
- 4 years on the Suncor Employee Bargaining Association.

MAYORAL PLATFORM

- Fiscal responsibility.
- Continue improving municipal services.
- Improve communications to Council.
- Collaboration and clear communication between Council, staff, taxpayers, volunteer groups, stakeholders and neighboring municipalities.
- Propose to Council to plan projects (with stakeholder input) so we have them ready for Federal and Provincial grants, i.e. walking trails, main street improvements, arena upgrades, infrastructure projects.
- Represent and respect Council decisions on all votes and accept that they may differ from my own.
- Once a resolution has passed, ensure Staff moves it along in a timely fashion.
- Represent Brooke Alvinston at the County level.
- Propose to Council that Question Period is brought back in.
- Focus on Employee retention.
- More Council input on the budget (currently the budget is drafted and sent to Council for approval).
- Propose that we begin a Brooke Alvinston Inwood “Hall of Fame”.
- Communicate grant applications to Council prior to application.

BROOKE ALVINSTON MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2022



Holding onto their Hats

BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS

The theme was Hats Off to the Brigden Fair - and there were lots of hats to be seen and also a few that people should have been holding onto considering the Pro Motorcross demonstration. But perhaps the tip of the hat should go to Mother Nature since the sun shone on the first Brigden Fair since 2019.



RE-ELECT

JERRY WESTGATE

for WARWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

INVOLVED.

A record of professional accomplishments and community involvement.

TRUSTED.

Served Warwick Township for 28 years with insight, commitment and integrity.

ACCOUNTABLE.

Will make the right decisions for our community.

Used talents to inform and enrich our community.



JERRY WESTGATE

A Leader Who Listens.

VOTE

October 24 2022

jjwestg801@execulink.com | 519-332-2519

Charlotte's Corner

- ADVERTORIAL -



Shop Like Charlotte Gives Back

"The CEEH Foundation greatly appreciates the annual Shop Like Charlotte event that has contributed to our Petrolia hospital over the last 10 years. Thank you to the event organizers, community participants, and Petrolia merchants who take part year-over-year. Your contributions have resulted in improved patient experience at CEEH of Bluewater Health." – Owen Byers, Board Chair, the CEEH Foundation

Proceeds from last year's event went towards purchasing hospital-grade commodes for CEEH patients (displayed in photo). The commodes aid in easier patient transfer when moving from the bed to the washroom for toileting and showering.

Last year, the Shop Like Charlotte event celebrated their 10th anniversary – with over \$40,000 in funds over the last decade going towards the CEEH Foundation!

This year's Shop Like Charlotte event took place on Friday, September 30, 2022. And tickets were once again sold out! A sincere thank you to the Petrolia community who has shown unwavering support of their local hospital over the years.



(From left) CEEH Foundation Board Chair, Owen Byers, and Shop Like Charlotte event organizer, Denise Thibeault. Denise presenting the cheque of \$4,500 to the CEEH Foundation from the 2021 Shop Like Charlotte event proceeds.

#PetroliaProud



Huge crowds return to the Brigden Fair



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS
The Brigden Fair once again was a Lambton County Thanksgiving weekend tradition having been on hiatus since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 44,700 people came through the Brigden fairgrounds from Friday until Monday. The large crowds took in the midway, which led to many smiles, as well as a parade that wound through the fairgrounds and it wouldn't be complete without the livestock shows. The Canadian Great War Society Cavalry formation demonstrated many of the maneuvers done on the battlefield in the First World War. During the Working Wagon's Team Show on Sunday, Brigden Fair Ambassador Emma Ouellette hitched a ride on the back of one of the wagons. The Western Ontario Outlaws entertained with lawn mower races.



2022 Municipal Election

Candidate Profiles - Mayor of Brooke-Alvinston

Jamie Armstrong

Jamie Armstrong is challenging the incumbent for the top elected position in Brooke-Alvinston. The 60 year-old one term councillor and member of the Optimist Club, Agriculture Society and Rodeo Committee is concerned about the loss of funding from the province.

What is the biggest issue facing Brooke-Alvinston and what should be done about it?

The continued loss of funding from the province. We must continue to lobby the government for financial support and try to increase revenues by encouraging new business and residential expansion.

Over the past four years, the local Optimist Club has built a pavilion at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre. Some are concerned the future plans are too expensive and in the end, the municipality will end up footing some of the bill. What do you think still needs to be done at the BAICC? Should the arena and community centre be a focus of council right now?

Two motions were passed by the current council, one in Oct. 2021 handing the planning of the project to the Public works manager, the other was in March of 2022, when the Optimist Club came in and offered to donate \$15,000 of matching funds to try and get the plans moving along. The plans finally got to the architects mid summer. The plan has support from the parks and rec committee. The municipality received a \$327,000 pavilion from the Optimist Club for \$80,000 of taxpayer money which had been slated for rebuild of the ball park washrooms. The municipality then applied for and received a grant for \$64,000 for the new washrooms, which was applied to the arena reserves putting taxpayer revenue for this much used facility at \$16,000. The motion of building the current pavilion passed with a 3 to 2 vote with the "no votes" saying the washrooms were too big and the pavilion was too big. After seeing some of the events that have been held here, it would appear the Optimist hit the size right on. The Optimist Club is only interested in building what we need and keeping the costs within budget and do not plan to build until all money has been raised from donations, fundraising or they are able to receive provincial or federal grant money. All stakeholders have been asked for input into the plans for the arena. I believe the plan is the right size and will not leave the municipality paying the bill. The plan should move forward and council should support establishing a community fund for fundraising. The arena project does not need focus from council. The motions are made and passed and it just needs the mayor/head of council to help move the project along and to talk positively about the project to help the Optimists receive grant money and encourage donations.

David Ferguson

David Ferguson, 63, the incumbent mayor is seeking a second term leading Brooke-Alvinston.

What is the biggest issue facing Brooke-Alvinston and what should be done about it?

Aging infrastructure that needs update and repair and decreasing population are 2 issues to discuss. The infrastructure issue is something all municipalities are struggling with, priorities have to be made prudently concerning rebuild and paving of roads, bridge and culvert reconstruction. Also the replacement of road graders and fire equipment has to be planned years in advance and money set aside. The municipality does have an asset management plan ,and we must look ahead and plan accordingly as each asset comes into play. The new housing developments that will bring new residents into our municipality helps to spread the costs associated to run the municipality over a larger tax base. As our population starts to build, this will support all services, schools and business in the immediate area .

Over the past four years, the local Optimist Club has built a pavilion at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre. Some are concerned the future plans are too expensive and in the end, the municipality will end up footing some of the bill. What do you think still needs to be done at the BAICC? Should the arena and community centre be a focus of council right now?

The Optimist Club has constructed a beautiful pavilion that is used by many. This building is a need that has been addressed for the community .

Recently, there has been several residential developments - including a subdivision in the planning stages - in Brooke-Alvinston. What services are needed as the municipality grows? What could the municipality do to encourage more investment?

Currently the municipality has the services required to handle residential developments. Water and sewer are mandated by the province in that the water and sewage revenues must maintain and upgrade the system without using tax revenues which we are currently doing. The municipality needs to do a good job of reviewing their official plan, which is currently underway.

Brooke-Alvinson is among the rural municipalities in Ontario which have lost millions of dollars as the province reduces the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund grants to rural communities. It is clear this government is continuing the trend - with less provincial revenue, should the municipality be raising taxes to keep services at the level they are now? If not, what services should be cut to meet the reality of less funding?

The municipality is experiencing growth at the present time and this will increase some revenues. We must keep tax increases at or below the annual cost of inflation by continuing to find efficiencies and collaborating with others. We must work and communicate with our municipal neighbors or we will lose revenues from services that we currently share with them. IE we currently are at risk of losing the Dawn-Euphemia fire agreement. At this time I do not believe we should cut any services. **Housing prices have more than doubled and that could mean municipal taxpayers may face a big hit this year if the Municipal Property Tax Assessment moves ahead. If you are elected, are you committed to reducing Brooke-Alvinston's mill rate to lessening the impact?**

The municipality of Brooke Alvinston has always adjusted the mill rates. Revenue increases are based on expenditure increases which have been kept at the rate of inflation. The current mill rate is used and then adjusted to make the mill rate cover the costs. Be it an increase or a decrease.

Municipal government's often focus on services in urban areas - but what municipal issue needs to be addressed in Brooke-Alvinston's farm community?

With the larger farm equipment that are using the roads. The roads are always a topic of concern for our rural areas. We need continuous improvement and planning to keep our roads in good shape for everyone to use. We should develop plans for infrastructure (bridges, large culvert and paving) improvements so when infrastructure grants for road repairs come through we have prioritized our needs and plans can be submitted for grants in a timely manner.

Since construction there has been several updates to the pavilion, some updates such as a bar area by The Optimists, security system and vandalism repairs by the municipality. Municipal staff with assistance from Sarnia Lambton Tourism applied for grants to assist in covering the \$80,000 municipal money committed to the project - \$68,000 was received due to staff efforts. The accessible washroom area was the eligible area of construction for the grant. Should the Optimist Club, with support of residents, pursue additions to the BAICCC,I would like to see 1) a feasibility study done by an independent consultant to justify the build and 2) a full open house for the public to view and ask questions on the proposal with a statement of where the funds will come from. The project is Optimist endorsed and should not be a consideration of council until, at a minimum the justification for the build is written by a consultant taking population, economics and need into the analysis.

There are several residential developments - including a subdivision in the planning stages - in Brooke-Alvinston. What services are needed as the municipality grows? What could the municipality do to encourage more investment?

The municipality is placed quite nicely, having water, and sewer capacity to handle the proposed growth. Already having fibre optic lines in the municipality due to the collaborative efforts of Brooke Alvinston with neighbouring municipalities.

SEE FERGUSON PG 13



As part of our election coverage, The Independent recently sent a survey to all candidates running for office in the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston; the following are their answers.

MURIEL WRIGHT FOR MAYOR

Plympton Wyoming

COMMITMENT • LEADERSHIP • VISION



“As your Mayor, I am committed to providing quality services for you, supporting the hard working families, farmers and small business owners of P-W. Together with Council, I will lead us in finding solutions and making tough decisions that will benefit the entire community.”

– Muriel Wright


24 yrs of Experience and Leadership

VOTE The WRIGHT time, the WRIGHT choice

ELECT MURIEL WRIGHT FOR MAYOR | Vote from Oct.14 - Oct.24 | THE WRIGHT TIME, THE WRIGHT CHOICE

ON OCTOBER 24TH

RE-ELECT SOUCH



Marty Souch

FOR COUNCILLOR OF PETROLIA

ELECTION DAY: OCT. 24



Re-Elect WAYNE MORRIS

FOR WARWICK COUNCIL

A STRONG VOICE FOR THE FUTURE!

• PETROLIA •

Town of
PETROLIA

HARVEST DAYS

SEPT 7 THRU OCT 25
- ANNUAL -
**PETROLIA
SCARECROW
FESTIVAL**
IN VICTORIA PARK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15
1:00-3:00 PM

**THE GREAT
PUMPKIN GIVEAWAY**
LOCATION: Heidi's
Your Independent Grocer
Parking Lot

Independent

**FREE
PUMPKINS**

"The first
300
people
will
receive
a FREE
pumpkin!"

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20
5:00-8:00 PM

**COMMUNITY
PUMPKIN
CARVING**

BYOP Bring Your Own Pumpkin
LOCATION: Petrolia Discovery Boomtown
Come out, carve some pumpkins and
help us set up Flery Faces in its new location!
Last time we lit up 500 pumpkins... can we top that this year?

SATURDAY, OCT 22 • 11:00 AM-3:00 PM

FIERY FACES FAMILY DAY
Location: YMCA Petrolia
Come out for a fun-filled day of
games, crafts, photo booth and more.
Don't forget the popular Cunk N Dunk!

OCTOBER 21-23 • 6:00-9:00 PM

**PUMPKIN
LIGHTING DISPLAY**
Location: Petrolia Discovery Boomtown
Come out & walk around Boomtown
that has been transformed into a
Spectacular Halloween Carved Pumpkin event.
Feel free to bring a pumpkin or 2 to add to the collection.

SPONSORS
Kiwanis
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**Petrolia
Discovery**

Thanksgiving Draw

Go to
Petrolia
Farmers'
Market on

SEPT 24 & OCT 1
7:30AM-NOON

TO PICK UP
YOUR FREE
BALLOTS

*Enter to
Win* **1 of 3
PRIZE PACKS**

Pack includes:
Turkey, Produce & Petrolia Bucks!

**DRAW WILL BE HELD ON
OCT 1 @ NOON**

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

**Domino's
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Barb and Rick
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OR FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Candidate Profiles - Brooke-Alvinston Councillor
Vanessa Benoit continued

Housing prices have more than doubled and that could mean municipal taxpayers may face a big hit this year if the Municipal Property Tax Assessment moves ahead. If you are elected, are you committed to reducing Brooke-Alvinston's mil rate to lessening the impact?

If I'm elected, I would support reducing Brooke-Alvinston's mil rate to allow the municipality to collect only enough for what is essential, thereby lessening the impact of reassessment. I know that so many of us are already having to adjust to higher gas and grocery prices. I don't think this is the right time for council to ask more than what is necessary from the taxpayer.

Jeanette Douglas

Jeannette Douglas is seeking her third-term as municipal councillor. The active volunteer is also a member of the Canada Day Committee and hosts a Community Christmas dinner each year. What is the biggest issue facing Brooke-Alvinston and what should be done about it?

Brooke-Alvinston biggest issue is keeping taxes affordable with reduced funding from the provincial and federal government. Over the past four years, the local Optimist Club has built a pavilion at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre. Some are concerned the future plans are too expensive and in the end, the municipality will end up footing some of the bill. What do you think still needs to be done at the BAICC? Should the arena and community centre be a focus of council right now?

The focus of the municipality should be on the upkeep of the whole municipality not just the arena. There are several residential developments - including a subdivision in the planning stages - in Brooke-Alvinston. What services are needed as the municipality grows? What could the municipality do to encourage more investment?

Municipality needs to encourage

businesses new and old. Activities for the community. Brooke-Alvinston is among the rural municipalities in Ontario which have lost millions of dollars as the province reduces the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund grants to rural communities. This government is continuing the trend. Should the municipality be raising taxes to keep services? If not, what services should be cut to meet the reality of less funding?

Services should be maintained as they are if possible. Grants and other areas of income should be found. Housing prices have more than doubled and that could mean municipal taxpayers may face a big hit this year if the Municipal Property Tax Assessment moves ahead. Are you committed to reducing Brooke-Alvinston's mil rate to lessening the impact?

If this happens any windfalls should be used to reduce the mil rate to lessen the impact of reassessment. Municipal government's often focus on services in urban areas - what issue needs to be addressed in Brooke-Alvinston's farm community?

Roads and drainage are the most important issues for rural Brooke-Alvinston

Municipal government's often focus on services in urban areas - but what municipal issue needs to be addressed in Brooke-Alvinston's farm community?

It's my understanding that road and drain maintenance are the most critical things that the municipality administers for rural and farm residents. There are also some water access issues for part of Brooke that need to be addressed by the next council. I would also like to foster a Brooke-Alvinston Business Association which I'm hoping would help some farm value-add businesses, and see what council can do to help grow our agro-tourism.



ELECTION DAY:
OCT. 24

*** PUBLIC NOTICE ***

To the Attention of Wyoming Charitable Groups and Organizations

Re: 2022 Wyoming Community Foundation Grants

The Foundation is **now accepting 2022 applications** from local groups and organizations (registered charities) for funds to support qualifying projects in the community. The focus of the Foundation is to continue to improve the quality of life for local residents in its ongoing support of local projects.

Application forms can be obtained from the undersigned (please call or email), and are to be **submitted by Monday, November 28, 2022**. Should you require assistance or have inquiries regarding the grant criteria and process, please contact the undersigned by phone or email.

Caroline DeSchutter, Secretary
519-330-5978 • cdeschutter123@gmail.com

LAMBTON COUNTY RESIDENTS

Dispose of your HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE at this Special Mobile Event

Commercially Generated Hazardous Waste Will NOT be Accepted
Containers larger than 20 litres or weighing more than 25 kg (55 lb) will NOT be accepted



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| CORROSIVE
Batteries
Drain Cleaners
Oven Cleaners | TOXIC
Pesticides
Pharmaceuticals
Cleaning Fluids | REACTIVE
Pool Chemicals
Ammonia Bleach
Aerosols | FLAMMABLE
Gasoline, Paints
BBQ Starter
Oils, Solvents
Propane Cylinders |
|--|--|---|--|

In every home there are products that need special care.
You will recognize them by these warning signs.

When you use these hazardous products, you use them carefully. When you don't need them any more, you should dispose of them carefully. That's what Household Hazardous Waste Day is all about - an opportunity to clear potentially hazardous waste out of your home and protect our environment - water, land, and air - at the same time. If hazardous products are thrown in the regular garbage, they can injure sanitation workers and cause long-term environmental problems. Bring your Household Hazardous Waste to the special depot, and it will be dealt with by experts, at no cost to you.

Additionally, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, event attendees are asked to follow physical distancing protocols, including the following:

1. Package materials in disposable containers (i.e. cardboard boxes) as they will not be returned;
2. Place materials in the trunk or back of their vehicle to maximize distancing for event staff when collecting items; and
3. Remain in their vehicle at all times, as event staff will be removing materials from their vehicle.

ALSO ACCEPTED: Sharps (Hypodermic Needles)

NOT ACCEPTED: PCB's, commercial, industrial or radioactive wastes, tires, explosives (flares, ammunition), electronics.

PLEASE NOTE: For safety reasons, residents are asked to segregate lithium batteries from all other battery types prior to drop-off.

Saturday, October 15, 2022
9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Services paid for by the County of Lambton. Waste management collections services by Clean Harbors Canada Inc.

This service is intended to accept household hazardous waste from County of Lambton residents only.

Hazardous waste generated from private business will not be accepted.

Public Works Forest Depot, 6958 Townsend Line, Lambton Shores



For more information call the
County of Lambton
Public Works Department at
519 845-0801 / 1-866-324-6912
or visit www.lambtononline.ca



Please join us in Honouring
the Retirement of Mayor Lonny Napper

A Celebratory Dinner

Saturday November Fifth
Two Thousand Twenty-Two
Six O'Clock in the Evening
at Camlachie Community Centre
6767 Camlachie Rd., Camlachie ON

Attendees to RSVP
by October 28th 2022
rvandenberk@plympton-wyoming.ca
or 519-845-3939

Limited Tickets Available
Tickets: \$25.00 per person





CON'T PG 15

Candidate Profiles - Brooke-Alvinston Councillor
Les Douglas Continued

The current council is not willing to work with the various community groups to apply for grants to make this expansion a reality. They were not excited about the pavilion expansion right from the start, as they wanted separate stand alone washroom to be built. They did however in the end receive a grant of more than \$60,000 which in turn decreased their overall contribution of taxpayer dollars. This goes to show what grants are out there if only they would help with this aspect of the expansion. That \$60,000 was not earmarked for the continued expansion, however jut put into general reserves. **There are several residential developments - including a subdivision in the planning stages - in Brooke-Alvinston. What services are needed as the municipality grows? What could the municipality**

do to encourage more investment? There has been tons of investment in the community. We have housing developments in full gear, a crop input supplier has expanded recently and our local agricultural implement dealer is in current expansion. I feel the businesses have noticed what a good place it is to do business with relatively close proximity to a major 400 series highway as an overall centralized location. One must keep in mind that we are a largely agricultural based community and the infrastructure such as natural gas, hydro and especially roads must be built with the possibility of larger equipment moving on the roads as the average size of farms increases. The resurfacing of Shiloh line is a great example of building a road that is wide enough for large

equipment to move safely around the community. In the future this must be kept in mind when doing road re construction. **Brooke-Alvinson is among the rural municipalities in Ontario which have lost millions of dollars as the province reduces the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund grants to rural communities. This government is continuing the trend. Should the municipality be raising taxes to keep services? If not, what services should be cut?** Taxes are always gong to increase, it is just a fact of life, the real goal is to use this taxpayer money wisely and try to maintain tax increases to an attainable consumer friendly rate, and have a realistic plan in place to use the money wisely.

Housing prices have more than doubled and that could mean municipal taxpayers may face a big hit this year if the Municipal Property Tax Assessment moves ahead. If you are elected, are you committed to reducing Brooke-Alvinston's mil rate to lessening the impact? Taxes are going to increase as property values increase, its a fact of life, but we have the ability to soften the blow to the people. I would have to see the numbers before I could fully commit to this, but we can't stay the same all the time and must progress or one becomes stagnant. **Municipal government's often focus on services in urban areas - but what municipal issue needs to be**

addressed in Brooke-Alvinston's farm community? The roads need to be addressed in a proper manner. The roads need to be built with the increase size of equipment, and farm size in general, in mind. Trucks are running up and down these roads all the time whether it is to a livestock farm moving feed or animals, or a cash crop farm moving products out of storage. Equipment is getting larger and roadways need to be wide enough with shoulders and flat enough for producers to safely move equipment and keep both operator and the general public safe. Municipalities could also aid in making sure the hydro and natural gas capabilities are adequate for rural residents and in the future.

Gregory Hilliard

Gregory Hilliard, 39, is making his first run in municipal politics. **What is the biggest issue facing Brooke-Alvinston and what should be done about it?** Cooperation from municipal organizations. Red tape and lack of accountability **Over the past four years, the local Optimist Club has built a pavilion at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre. Some are concerned the future plans are too expensive and in the end, the municipality will end up footing some of the bill. What do you think still needs to be done at the BAICC? Should the arena and community centre be a focus of council right now?** I have never seen a more determined and effective not for profit than the Optimist club. Reasonable investment and cooperation from the municipality can bring an incredible value to the residence of Brooke. All public assets need the constant attention from council. **There are several residential developments - including a subdivision in the planning stages - in Brooke-Alvinston. What services are needed as the municipality grows? What could the municipality do to encourage more investment?** Continued focus from council on connectivity - high speed internet and wireless networks. Expansion of access to natural gas to outlying residents are key. It is also vital that we do not grow beyond our means. If growth comes at the expense or loss of green space and agricultural land then perhaps its not for the better. **Brooke-Alvinson is among the rural municipalities in Ontario which have lost millions as the province reduces the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund grants to rural communities. This government is continuing the trend. Should the municipality be raising taxes to keep services at the level they are now? If not, what services should be cut?**

We need to be a loud and unified council when communicating with Provincial representatives. On a local level we can look for ways to maintain services while improving efficacy. I'm driving a 16 year-old pick up truck that still looks and runs like new but only because I made preventative maintenance a priority. If we look at each piece of equipment acquired by the municipality and consider what measures might be taken to extend its service life, it will result in a long term savings. We need to also think outside the box and invest in technology that will reduce overhead. Robotic lawn maintenance equipment is currently being employed by the city of Kitchener Waterloo with excellent results. **Housing prices have more than doubled and that could mean municipal taxpayers may face a big hit this year if the Municipal Property Tax Assessment moves ahead. If you are elected, are you committed to reducing Brooke-Alvinston's mil rate to lessening the impact?** Absolutely. The current value of homes in this country is out of control. Taxes need to reflect the actual cost of providing municipal services not to inflated value of a run away housing market. Property tax increases hurt the most vulnerable in our community first and hardest. A crushing Tax increase would instantly force many long time residents from their homes and in a hart beat our community would loose much more. **What municipal issue needs to be addressed in Brooke-Alvinston's farm community?** Access to natural gas and High speed internet are essential to helping Family farms stay competitive. An open mind and flexibility when it comes to zoning and alternative land uses. Affordable housing in and around town will help farmers find and retain labor.

SEE MORE ON PG 16

In September, I launched my campaign to introduce and re-introduce myself to the voters and offer some background on

WHO IS DEBB PITEL?

Now it is October and time to get down to business...

Experience!

1985 - I worked on a cleanup crew/general labourer with a construction company in the mid-eighties at Hiawatha. **1986** - I was one of the first fifteen women hired at Lambton Generating Station, starting off in the mechanical shop and later finding myself in the fabrication shop as a welder. It was a much harder campaign to run, convincing a strong, male-dominated work force to accept a woman as a trades partner, but when I left, it was with 99% of the votes. **1990-2020** I have worked with many Direct Selling and Multi-level marketing companies. Regular trip earner, recognized in the top five in Canada many times for personal and team achievements. **1991** - My husband and I started our own farm in Brigden. In 2005, we moved to a large farm in Rutherford.

Characteristics:

I have been a strong voice and an advocate for the community for more than 25 years. I have celebrated both personal and professional achievements that my resume did not support. Determination and grit have provided me foundation to learn, gain experience and confidence to make tough decisions

Am I your vote for councillor?

There are some tough issues and I feel confident I bring fresh experience to the team to collaborate in those issues. I want to fill the empty stores, add to and support our current downtown sector. Be accountable and transparent and hold others to the same standard. I would love to fill in on committees where needed and share new perspectives for our town that meets budget and vision. I am ready!

Do not vote for me because you want new. You need a confident, strong representative at the table. Someone who does the research, finds the facts, and that together with the team, makes a decision. Always trying to put the community's interest first.

I am Debb Pitel, and I am asking for a seat at the table.

Thank-you



debbpitel4council@gmail.com

ELECT DEBB
PITEL
PETROLIA
COUNCIL



Authorized By The Debb Pitel Election Campaign

Candidate Profiles - Brooke-Alvinston Councillor

Don McCabe

Don McCabe is well-known in farm politics as the former president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. The 60 year-old farmer is taking his first run at municipal politics.

What is the biggest issue facing Brooke-Alvinston and what should be done about it?

Revenue. Due to government cutbacks to funds usually destined for Brooke-Alvinston, and rerouted to urban centers over rural areas, the reserves for the municipality have been drawn upon recently. Reserves should be used to complete infrastructure and projects deemed necessary when current yearly tax dollars will not suffice. How long could you and your family continue to pull from savings?

Over the past four years, the local Optimist Club has built a pavilion at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre. Some are concerned the future plans are too expensive. What do you think still needs to be done at the BAICC? Should the arena and community centre be a focus of council right now?

The BAICC needs upgrades and improvements to the current facility as identified by municipal staff. The BAICC always needs to be a focus item for council as it is a facility of note to the community for emergency shelter needs in case of emergency to recreational purposes and assembly space for meetings. However, no clear plans or vision for the Optimist plan have been defined for the community. Until the community unites on the plans, and the revenue sources for such a build are quantified accurately, there is NO reason for council to deliberate on the expansion of the facility. Revenues are tight. Once the facility is built it will become taxpayer maintained. Brooke-Alvinston needs to stay focused on the issues facing its immediate future that will be tempered

Frank Nemcek

Frank Nemcek - the current deputy mayor - is hoping to return to council. The 68 year-old farmer stresses fiscal management.

What is the biggest issue facing Brooke-Alvinston and what should be done about it?

The biggest issue in my opinion is the arena addition. I am in favor of the addition if The Optimist can raise the money needed, by fundraising and applying for grants to cover the cost. I am not in favor of putting this on the tax role, so it has to be 100 per cent funded by donations and grants.

Over the past four years, the local Optimist Club has built a pavilion at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre. Some are concerned the future plans are too expensive and in the end, the municipality will end up footing some of

with inflation, interest rate hikes and supply chain issues in the coming years.

There are several new residential developments in Brooke-Alvinston. What services are needed as the municipality grows? What could the municipality do to encourage more investment?

Brooke-Alvinston needs to have a progressive policy environment accompanied with communication that welcomes not only residential development but commercial and industrial, too. Having shovel ready areas identified and zoned properly helps to attract developers. This means having information readily available for prospective investors to review and see the great opportunities that exist in Inwood, Alvinston and Brooke. The area is well serviced in most regards with water, sewer, broadband and some access to natural gas. Some areas can be improved. Let's get interested parties and have those dialogues.

Brooke-Alvinston is among the rural municipalities in Ontario which have lost millions of dollars as the province reduces the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund This government is continuing the trend. With less provincial revenue, should the municipality be raising taxes to keep services? If not, what services should be cut?

No doubt, services will have to be cut without tax increases unless the province reverses this trend. Advocacy to the province using the venues of AMO and ROMA area required to increase to state the case for rural Ontario. Brooke-Alvinston is not alone in this case. All rural municipalities are feeling these cuts. The province has a four year mandate after the election; building highways for Toronto and health care for urban centers - over rural Ontario's needs - is truly unbalanced.

the bill. What do you think still needs to be done at the BAICC? Should the arena and community centre be a focus of council right now?

In my opinion the main focus of council should be our infrastructure, mainly roads which we all use. The municipality has spent a lot of money on the arena complex over the past few years to make it a first class facility to use for hockey, baseball, figure skating, weddings, dances etc. We should be proud that we have such a fine facility here.

There are several residential developments - including a subdivision in the planning stages. What services are needed as the municipality grows?

We are lucky that when our sewer and water plants were built they were built oversize.

Advocacy is necessary by all means and venues to get the government to realize that rural Ontario is the backbone of the provincial economy and deserves respect.

Housing prices have more than doubled and that could mean municipal taxpayers may face a big hit this year if the Municipal Property Tax Assessment moves ahead. Are you committed to reducing Brooke-Alvinston's mil rate to lessen the impact?

The mil rate will need to be adjusted to avoid unnecessary gouging of the taxpayer due to the recent housing price boom. However, it is

As part of our election coverage, The Independent recently sent a survey to all candidates running for office in the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston; the following are their answers.

necessary to note the ag land assessment has already been brought in prior to this housing explosion and farmers saw their landbase had appreciated a great deal with a subsequent tax increase ensuing even after a mil rate adjustment. Therefore, residential can expect similar treatment. That said, the property value and mil rate need to be set at rates that will only bring in needed taxes to meet the needs and services of the municipality as deemed necessary for the community.

What municipal issue needs to be addressed in Brooke-Alvinston's farm community?

The farm community of Brooke-Alvinston is an economic powerhouse that feeds, clothes, provides biodiversity habitat, sequestering carbon, numerous bioeconomy products, etc. At the same time it is a location for a family to reside that deserves the same services as expected in urban areas. So, the first priority is to provide good infrastructure in terms of roads, bridges

and drainage for the farm commodities produced in Brooke-Alvinston to continue to reach local and global needs. The provincial government put in a program for natural gas expansion under its last mandate that has not been realized yet. Again advocacy to remind both provincial and federal governments of the great contribution coming from this area to address society's needs as a whole needs recognition by investment back is needed.



Liz Welsh

for Petrolia Council

An informed, effective, and passionate leader for the community.

- committed to continued learning and informed decision-making
- a proven record of success and getting results for our community
- passionate about Petrolia’s history and its future

Top Priorities

- Quality infrastructure – sidewalks, parks, water, sewer and roads
- Long-term financial stability
- Inclusivity
- Community Building

Experience & Accomplishments

- Member, Vice-Chair (2020-2022), Chairperson of Petrolia Discovery Foundation (2022-present)
- Chairperson Waste Management Citizen Liaison Committee (2019-present)
- Chairperson of Petrolia Heritage Committee (1992-2010 & 2018-2022)
- VPP Foundation
- Municipal Councillor, Town of Petrolia (2006-2018)
 - Council representative, Victoria Hall Art Advisory Committee, Victoria Playhouse Petrolia Advisory Committee, Petrolia Heritage Advisory Committee, Waste Management Citizen Liaison Committee
- Completed Professional Certificate in Asset Management Planning
- Two terms as provincial appointee on the Lambton Group Police Services Board providing citizen oversight of the Lambton Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police

About Liz Welsh

My husband Dave and I are born and raised in Petrolia. We also raised our two daughters Sydnie and Keely here and now we are blessed with a son in-law, Michael, and our grandson Clark, who live just down the street.

I worked at the Petrolia Library for 20 years connecting with residents every day. For 12 years I had the privilege of serving on Petrolia town council. Since leaving council I’ve continued to be actively involved in multiple municipal committees, attended, and participated in council meetings, and became Chairperson of the working Board of Directors for the Petrolia Discovery Foundation.

I am an effective, passionate, and detail-oriented leader who listens, investigates, and considers all points of view before making a decision. I am committed to the principles and values of public service and will work hard to make sure your voice is heard and respected at council.

Have a question? Want a sign? Need a ride to the poll? Reach Out!

Email me at: welsh_liz@hotmail.com
Send a message on Facebook: Liz Welsh
Call me at: 519-882-0825

How do I vote?

Voting Period Begins: October 14, 2022 • Voting Day: October 24, 2022
Visit <https://town.petrolia.on.ca/town-hall/elections/> for voting FAQs

Sports

WINNING HOME OPENER



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

The Petrolia Squires were clicking on all cylinders in a 12-2 win over Creemore Coyotes in the opener of the senior AA hockey season Saturday at Greenwood. The Squires take on the Minto 81’s in Palmerston Friday. Their next home game is against Ripley Oct. 21 at 8:30 pm.

Corunna’s Thomson inks two-year deal with Phillies

The Independent

Rob Thomson is no longer the interim manager of the Philadelphia Phillies. The Corunna native has been given a two-year contract by the Phils to become full-time skipper in the City of Brotherly Love. Thomson led the Phillies to a 65-46 record after Joe Girardi was fired in early June. After punching their ticket to the postseason for the first time in

more than a decade, the Phillies swept the Cardinals in the wild card round and are now playing the defending champion Atlanta Braves in the divisional round of the playoffs. At a news conference to announce the signing, Thomson deflected any suggestion that he had anything to do with the team’s turnaround. “I really want the spotlight on the players and the series,” said the 59 year-old.

Philadelphia stars Zack Wheeler and Bryce Harper are both on board with the signing. “He’s a good teacher and a good person,” said Wheeler, “Everybody really loves him.” “He’s just who he is,” said Harper. “And we all love that.” Thomson spent nearly three decades in the Yankee organization before being hired as the bench coach by the Phillies in 2018.

Phillips key in Legion win

Corunna’s Logan Phillips made 46 saves and Jaxon Priddle scored twice to lead the Sarnia Legionnaires to a 4-2 win over the Lincolns in GOJHL action on Friday night in St. Marys. The Legionnaires are now 5-5-1 on the season. Watford’s Ty Moffatt also scored for the Legion. Moffatt also scored on Thursday in an 8-3 win over Komoka. Plympton-Wyoming’s Jace McGrail and Ryan Richardson both had two points and ex-Flyer Will O’Leary-Dilosa added an assist. Ethan Everaert made 40 saves. The Legionnaires host London on Thursday at the Pat Stapleton Arena. Face off time is 7:10.

Top ball honours

Cadence Harrison of Corunna and Alvinston’s Sydney Redick both competed at the Canadian Collegiate Softball Association nationals in Windsor. Harrison and her Western Mustangs took second place bowing 9-0 to St. Clair College in the final. It was Western’s first regular season loss of the season after 16 consecutive victories. Redick and her Durham Lords lost to UBC-Okanagan in the third-place contest. The Lords had defeated the University of Calgary in the quarterfinals and lost to St. Clair in the semifinals.

St. Pats claims LCCVI opener

St. Pat’s spoiled LCCVI home opener with a 32-7 win over the Lancers. LCCVI (0-2) visits Chatham-Kent on Thursday. The Lancer baseball team was scheduled to close out its regular season on Tuesday against Great Lakes in Sarnia. LCCVI fell to 2-3 losing 12-2 and 8-0 to Wallaceburg and Northern last week. LCCVI’s junior

girls’ soccer side hosts Northern on Thursday at 4 pm after losses to the Vikings and St. Pat’s last week. They’re 1-4. The senior volleyball team split six sets with St. Pat’s, Northern and Great Lakes, while the juniors went 0-6 against the same three teams. The season continues Oct. 19. The Lancer girls’ basketball squads entertain Great Lakes

for a doubleheader on Thursday beginning at 5:30. The juniors lost to Lambton Kent last week while the seniors were defeated by John McGregor and Ursuline. And the LCCVI golf team of Rhett Joy, Tayt Stonehouse, Jack Helps and Jack Morningstar was fifth in the boys’ SWOSSA golf competition last week in Blenheim.

Killer effort against champs

The defending champion Elora Rocks scored three times in the final nine-and-a-half minutes to beat the Alvinston Killer Bees, 5-2 to open the Western Ontario Super Hockey League season Friday. Watford’s Cameron Rombouts and Petrolia’s Josh Jamieson scored for the Bees who were tied with Elora, 2-2 through both the end of the first and second periods. Alvinston’s home opener is against Delhi on this Saturday. Pre-game festivities begin at 4 pm with puck drop at 6:30.

Flyers drop two games

The Petrolia Flyers were on the wrong end of a 4-1 score to the Irish in Lucan on Saturday night. Cameron McCarthy scored his first career PJHL for the Flyers and Elijah Grant made 39 stops. Grant also made 33 saves, including turning away a penalty shot, in a 2-0 home ice loss to Dorchester last Thursday at Greenwood. Petrolia, now 1-6 on the season, is at home to the Port Stanley Sailors on Thursday night at 7:30 before taking on the Hawks in Exeter on Friday night.



HAMSTRING STRETCH Lay on back & bend one knee towards the ceiling. Hold the back of the thigh with both hands & straighten the knee as much as you can by raising your foot towards the ceiling. Hold the stretch for one second, then bend the knee and straighten again. Repeat 20 times on each side.

GROIN STRETCH Stand with feet slightly wider apart than shoulders. Bend knees. Shift weight to the right leg. Reach down and across the body with left hand to touch right foot. Point right hand up to the ceiling. Keep back parallel to the ground. Shift weight to the left leg. Repeat 10 times on each side.

HIP FLEXOR STRETCH Stand with feet shoulder width apart. Step forward with right foot into a lunge position. Right knee should be directly over the toes of your right foot. Keep left leg and back straight. Extend arms straight in front and bring palms together. Turn upper torso to the right, keeping pelvis and hips stationary. Hold for one second and repeat 10 times on each side.



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

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

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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



ARE YOU READY WITH ANSWERS?

Sunday October 23, 2022
10:30 AM

How Do You Know? Who Was There?
Thomas Bailey - CMI speaker

First Baptist Church
418 Greenfield St, Petrolia



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Everyone here at L.C.C.V.I. wants to extend a giant thank you

...to our WONDERFUL community that has graciously donated and still donates to **Kelly's Cupboard.**

We are so fortunate to be supported by a community that values our youth... our future!



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.**

The family of **Terri Fisher** would like to thank all extended family, friends and neighbours, for their kind support and generosity during this difficult time.

Special thanks to the Petrolia Legion Branch 216, the Ladies Auxillary, I.O.D.E. Ladies, Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel, Albany Retirement Village, Gray's Floral Market and The New You.

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

Obituary

ANDERSON
Marguerite

Marguerite Anderson (nee Kelly), of Inwood, went peacefully to be with her Lord and Savior on **Thursday, October 6, 2022** at Bluewater Health, Sarnia in her **95th year.** Marguerite was predeceased by her husband Frank (2011). She is survived by her children Patricia (Lloyd Belan) of Inwood, Carol (David Patterson) of London, Ruth (Steve Stratton) of London, Leslie (Sue) of Sarnia, Murray (Maureen) of Strathroy, and Marla (Wayne Burgess) of Waterdown. And will be missed by her grandchildren, Deanna, Adrianna, Shilo, April, Donovan, Michelle, Michael, Sara, Brian, Kendra, Kyle, and Kayleena, as well as twelve great grandchildren. Marguerite is survived by a sister Kathleen Lochner. A devoted member of the Inwood Community, she faithfully and joyfully served the Inwood United Church, where she was a dedicated quilter, Sunday school teacher, and choir member. She worked many years with her husband at Anderson Hardware. **A funeral service was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the Needham-Jay Funeral Home Wyoming Chapel, 650 Broadway St., Wyoming. Interment was in Alvinston Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial may be made to Bluewater Health Foundation for Palliative Care (www.bwhf.ca).



Real Estate



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Watford**

One of Watford's landmark houses is available! While retaining its elegance and charm of yesteryear, enjoy the comfort of today's modern amenities in perfect harmony. This 4 bed, 2 bath stunning home is superbly renovated, tastefully decorated and has so much to offer. Gorgeous entryway, spacious rooms throughout, wide baseboards & trim, high ceilings, captivating kitchen w/island, main floor laundry, formal dining room, grand staircase leading to 4 big bedrooms, your own private space in the Master bedroom w/ ensuite. See stars at night on the walk-out balcony. Large double lot w/high privacy fenced back yard ideal for children and pets to play. In addition an oversized deck & hot tub for entertaining & family fun. A double-wide concrete drive & a two-car garage plus a workshop for the hobbyist. Low property taxes. Close to all amenities, high-speed fibre optic unlimited internet available to work from home. Upgrades are numerous, ask for a separate list of features.

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changed business hours

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

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Rev. Carol Ferguson
Church Office: 519-882-1390
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First Baptist Church
418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

IN PERSON CHURCH SERVICE
Sunday Mornings @ 10:30 am

Pastor: Alex Craig
Church Office 519-882-2480
fbcpetrolia@gmail.com
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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

 **To Enter and Play, you must be 18+ years of age**

***All proceeds go
to local youth***

FALL CLEANUP

**(For WATFORD/WARWICK
TOWNSHIP
residents ONLY)**

Warwick Township residents can take their unwanted items of refuse and e-waste to the following depots **free of charge**:

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Large items that will not fit into a regular size garbage bag (i.e. furniture)
- Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers (Freon must be removed & certification paperwork provided to the scale attendant)
- Steel - it must be sorted and put in the recyclable steel bin, at the landfill

- Animal Carcasses
- Biomedical Waste
- Car Batteries
- Computer Monitors
- Construction Materials
(drywall, shingles, etc.)
- Corrosive Materials

- Drums with Lids
- Ignitable Waste
- Liquid Industrial Waste
- Liquid Waste
- Paint
- Pathological Waste
- PCB Waste
- Reactive Waste
- Severely Toxic Waste
- Tires
- Waste Chemicals
- White Goods containing CFCs

Any questions can be directed to Waste Management at 519-849-5810

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Amplifiers
- Audio & Video Players
- Cameras
- Cell Phones
- Computers & Peripherals
- Copiers
- Digital Cameras
- Fax Machines
- Monitors
- Papers & PDAs
- Printers
- Radios
- Receivers
- Scanners
- Speakers
- Tuners
- Televisions
- Telephones and Answering Machines
- Turntables
- Video Projectors

- Dehumidifiers
- Microwaves

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.warwicktownship.ca Township Office: 226-848-3926

- a resident of the Municipality in which you are voting or a non-resident owner or tenant of lands in the Municipality or the spouse of such non-resident owner or tenant;
- a Canadian citizen;
- at least 18 years of age; and
- not prohibited from voting by law

Electors will be able to cast their vote in person on the Advance Voting Day, Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 12'noon to 5:00 pm and on Election Day, Monday, October 24, 2022 from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm at your Municipal Office.

Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 40)

Jeff Baranek, Clerk

On-Line/Telephone Voting
MAYOR 1
DEPUTY MAYOR (ACCLAIMED) 1
COUNCIL MEMBERS 5
Erin Kwarciak, Clerk

On-Line Voting

MAYOR	1
COUNCIL MEMBERS	4

Amanda Gubbels, Clerk

FRENCH LANGUAGE SEPARATE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Conseil Scolaire Catholique Providence – Area 1
 geographic area 1 comprised of the Counties of Bruce, Grey, Huron, Lambton, and Perth

(1) TRUSTEE (ACCLAIMED)

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.

Amanda Gubbles
Clerk
Township of Warwick

2022 Municipal Election

Candidate Profiles - Councillor of Brooke-Alvinston



The Independent recently sent a survey to all candidates running in the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston; candidates Craig Sanders and Wayne Deans did not respond.

Frank Nemcek Continued

Now, we have the capacity for all the new development which is happening in Alvinston but we still need to keep replacing the old sidewalks and work on street drainage.
Brooke-Alvinson is among the rural municipalities in Ontario which have lost millions of dollars as the province reduces the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund. This government is continuing the trend

- with less provincial revenue, should the municipality be raising taxes to keep services at the level they are now? If not, what services should be cut to meet the reality of less funding?
Yes, our funding has been cut, but with good management with the funds we do have, I think we have done well to keep the services people expect without raising taxes too much above inflation. In this day

and age, everything you touch has gone up, plus we have to promote the services we have now like high speed internet and a good work force. Like my dad always said to me 'you can't spend money you don't have.' So, we have to do the best we can with the money we do have. I hope we will not have to cut any services.
Housing prices have more than doubled and that could mean

municipal taxpayers may face a big hit this year if the Municipal Property Tax Assessment moves ahead. Are you committed to reducing Brooke-Alvinston's mil rate to lessening the impact?
With the new assessment I think we should be able to keep taxes where they are or maybe drop the mill rate a little to give everyone a break from higher property taxes. It is a wait and see what the assessment is

going to be.
What municipal issue needs to be addressed in Brooke-Alvinston's farm community?
In my opinion, the main farm issue is the roads. We all have bigger equipment these days so we need good safe roads to travel on, also we need to continue to extend water lines to farms which need a secure water supply for their operation.

Jenny Redick

Jenny Redick, 49, is taking her first run at municipal politics. Redick most recently has been active in the community raising money with the Tanner Redick Memorial Tournament. She is also a member of The Alvinston Optimist Club.
What is the biggest issue facing Brooke-Alvinston and what should be done about it?
I have lived in this community my entire life, and I would like to see this municipality to continue to grow and where people are proud to say they are from Brooke -Alvinston - Inwood. I would say that infrastructure would be one of the issues that Brooke - Alvinston - Inwood would be facing. Infrastructure is expensive to maintain and Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood is a large area. So as a council we need to make sure that there is money in the budget to maintain and or make improvements to our infrastructure.
Over the past four years, the local

Optimist Club has built a pavilion at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre. Some are concerned the future plans are too expensive and in the end, the municipality will end up footing some of the bill. What do you think still needs to be done at the BAICC? Should the arena and community centre be a focus of council right now?
I am a supporter of any kind of improvements and development in our municipality that will give the residents a better quality of life. The Optimist has made it very clear the municipality will not be held responsible for the cost of the improvements to the BAICC. The pavilion from start to finish took years to complete and to fundraise for. I believe if the improvements can be made to the BAICC through fundraising, sponsorships and government grants than it is a great idea. I believe that the next phase of the improvements will again take a

few years to complete as fundraising does not happen over night.
There are several residential developments - including a subdivision in the planning stages - in Brooke-Alvinston. What services are needed as the municipality grows? What could the municipality do to encourage more investment?
I think it is great that there has been residential developments in the municipality and I think it will be important to ask the residents of the municipality what they would like to see, having open communication with residents and organizations and current business owners and future business owners is the key to being successful. Being innovated and not working in silos is important to attract more investment into the municipality.
Brooke-Alvinson is among the rural municipalities in Ontario which have lost millions of dollars as the province reduces the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund. This

government is continuing the trend - with less provincial revenue, should the municipality be raising taxes to keep services at the level they are now? If not, what services should be cut to meet the reality of less funding?
It is unfortunate that the current provincial government has reduced grants. Reduce doesn't mean there isn't any available. As a municipality it is even more important now to find what grants are available and to utilize them and not wait. If I am elected I would ensure that the council works together to what ever we can so we do not have to raise the taxes.
Housing prices have more than doubled and that could mean municipal taxpayers may face a big hit this year if the Municipal Property Tax Assessment moves ahead. If you are elected, are you committed to reducing Brooke-Alvinston's mil rate to lessening the impact?

If elected I would certainly want to learn more about the mil rate and what can be done. With the cost of everything rising it is important that the municipality look at ever avenue so that taxes do not increase. No one wants to see a drastic increase in their taxes so if elected I would want to make sure I could gather all the information so I could have knowledge to be able to make a decision that is right for the municipality.
Municipal government's often focus on services in urban areas - but what municipal issue needs to be addressed in Brooke-Alvinston's farm community?
While talking to many different people in the farm community, the issue of roads, severances and drainage have been the common issues that have come up. So if elected, I would like to learn more what the municipality can do to ensure our farming community does not get left out.

Editor's Note: In the print edition of The Independent, Joel Field's answers to the survey were unintentionally omitted. They have been included online and are seen below. Our apologies to the candidate for the error.

Candidate Profiles - Petrolia Councillor Joel Field

Joel Field, 55, has been a community volunteer for over 30 years. Before becoming a councillor, Field served on a number of advisory committees. He's seeking his fourth term on Petrolia Council.
What is the most important issue facing Petrolia in the next four years?
Growth and development and the impact it will have in our infrastructure, services and population
What would you do about the issue you identified?
I think it is important to update our strategic plan and asset management program to ensure that we are meeting the new requirement of the community with the potential of hundreds of

new homes and thousands of new residents.
Do you support implementing development fees in the next term of council? Why or why not?
I feel that is very important for us to do the required study that is mandated by provincial guidelines if we plan on charging fees. The study must be done over the course of one year and will provide us with the details that we need to make a educated discussion. Until the study is done it is hard to say what exactly development fees would mean for Petrolia, but I feel that there needs to be additional funds to be brought in to assist our growth and I do not see provincial and federal governments giving the money needed. Ultimately "growth pays for

growth"
Many of Petrolia's subdivisions do not have sidewalks – how do you think the town should address the problem? Should it be a priority? How much cash should be dedicated to the task yearly?
I believe that Council has made a good step forward with new subdivisions with having sidewalks on one side. To address the lack of sidewalk from years past we are currently undertaking a study through BM Ross to identify shortcomings and a strategic plan in addressing our walking network which look at trails as well. The well-being master plan will be taken into account. Not knowing the results of the study, it's premature to put a dollar figure on it.

Transparency is key to good government; how do you think Petrolia could provide more information to the public about the business of government?
I believe educating the public on what is already available to them would be a good first step a lot of information is available through our website or from town hall but not knowing how to access can be a hindrance and perceived as non-transparent. Petrolia's Civic web has a feature that allows residence to sign up for notifications of meeting or have agendas sent to them directly.
Recently, town staff applied for and received grants for projects which had not been approved by council in public session. This committed

taxpayers to thousands of dollars in spending without the proper approvals in place. Do you approve of this process? Explain why or why not and what you would like to see happen in the future.
It is important for staff to apply for grants that align with our budget or capital projects. Ultimately all grant opportunities are approved by council before proceeding. If the grant opportunities follow master plan and asset management then I feel staff are justified. In 12 years that I have been on council I've never been surprised by a grant that we were not prepared to receive. Our grant opportunities have aligned with our strategic plan and we have been very successful with this approach.

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larry@groganclassics.com
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