

Education support workers walking out Friday

Province imposes CUPE contract, workers plan to strike anyway

Heather Wright
The Independent

Students across Ontario likely won't be in the classroom Friday as CUPE plans what will be an illegal strike.

They're protesting legislation which forced them back to work before a strike began, imposes a contract limiting wage increases to well below the current rate of inflation and uses the not-withstanding clause of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to take away collective bargaining rights.

The union representing custodians, school secretaries, early childhood educators and assistants as well as library and computer technicians gave notice to begin bargaining in June. By August, it had presented its proposal - the union was looking for a raise of \$3.25 per hour or an 11.7 per cent increase. Officials say many members make \$39,000 a year and have been hit hard by inflation. Inflation sits at about 7 per cent right now.

The province was offering 1.5 per cent.

The talks produced little and on Oct. 17, both sides agreed to meet with a private mediator. Those talks disintegrated two days later. Sunday, just days before they were asked by the mediator to return to the bargaining table Nov. 1, CUPE said workers would walk off the job Friday.

Instead of negotiating on Tuesday, Education Minister Stephen Lecce and Premier Doug Ford were defending the 'Keeping Students in Class' bill which it was expected to pass in a matter of days. The legislation is designed to stop any work action which would disrupt the classroom.

SEE CUPE PG 2

THE QUEEN OF HALLOWEEN



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Marlee Shuart was the Queen of Halloween as LCCVI Drama students hosted a Haunted House at the school Friday night. Shrieks of horror could be heard through the hallways as the students jumped out from all corners at the guests.

PW's bridge 'to nowhere' nearly doubles in cost

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming is spending over \$480,000 to replace a bridge which only a handful of local farmers will be using.

And it had at least one councillor suggesting Plympton-Wyoming should sell the road allowance to the farmers to avoid the cost.

In 2004, the town and farmers around Hyslop Road agreed to close the path to traffic. Farmers could continue to use the town's right of way if they maintained the

road. But in 2021, the bridge on Hyslop Road was deemed to dangerous to stay open. Farmers have been forced to travel around on Lakeshore Road to get to their fields. In Oct. 2021, Brian Pelleboer told council he would be travelling 272 kilometres extra to harvest his corn because the bridge was closed. So, council made it a priority to fix the bridge, wanting to keep large farm equipment off major roadways.

But this October, when Plympton-Wyoming called for tenders, the project which was expected to cost \$250,000 ballooned to over \$480,000 when the engineering costs

are included. Staff said "inflationary pressures" drove the costs up. Savings could be found, but it would delay the project likely until July 2023. And there would be no guarantee the price would come down.

That left Councillor Mike Vasey questioning whether the right of way should be sold so the farmers could deal with the bridge.

"Even though it's a road to nowhere, we still have to build the bridge to road standards; where, if I'm a farmer, then I just have to build one that will hold the weight of my machinery," says Vasey.

SEE BRIDGE PG 2



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SCAN FOR MENU





BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Michelle Lalonge-Davey, the head of CUPE Local 1238 in Lambton, is flanked by supporters, including members of the Sarnia and District Labour Council Tuesday at a protest at MPP Bob Bailey’s office on Christina Street.

CUPE workers to risk \$4K fines in Friday walkout

CON’T FROM PG 1

The bill also imposes an annual increase of 2.5 percent for those making less than \$43,000 a year. The increase will be 1.5 percent for those making over \$43,000. It also gives the province the power to fine workers who walk off the job \$4,000 per day and the union \$500,000.

Even before word of the back to work legislation broke Monday, the President of Local 1238 CUPE in Lambton, Michelle Lalonge-Davey, requested to meet with Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey on Nov. 4 to discuss the labour dispute with the support workers in schools. That meeting will not be taking place because, she said, Bailey has been instructed not to meet with her.

Lalonge-Davey had asked for the meeting on Nov. 4, the MPP’s regular day to meet with constituents since many of Local 1238 members are constituents of Bailey.

“We are stretched thin,” Lalonge-Davey said, adding the union is fighting for the kids, families and improvements to the education system. CUPE has been pushing for its members, families and supporters to flood MPP offices with phone calls, emails, while also getting in front of their government representatives, face to face, to tell them of their displeasure in dealing with the pending labour action.

“It is a violation of our rights,” said Lalonge-Davey, of the legislation the Ontario government plans to pass

which would avert a strike action since it prevents workers from negotiating a collective bargaining agreement, she said.

The union is not the only group voicing concerns about the imposition of the contract by stripping the union’s right to bargain using the notwithstanding clause of the Charter. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau urged the Ontario government to rethink the move.

“Using the notwithstanding clause to suspend workers rights is wrong,” Trudeau told the CBC Tuesday. “I know that collective bargaining is sometimes difficult but, it has to happen. It has to be done in a respectful, thoughtful way at the bargaining table. Suspending people’s rights is something you only do in exceptional circumstances and I would hope that all politicians call out the use of the notwithstanding clause to suspend workers rights and freedoms.”

Unions are also lining up to back CUPE including LIUNA President Joe Mancinelli who has been a supporter of the Ford government.

“We urge you to revoke the recently announced anti-union legislation that erodes the collective bargaining rights...free and fair collective bargaining is Charter protected, historical right that is the foundation of labour rights and must be respected,” he wrote to Lecce.

Aside from the suspension of bargaining rights, Lalonge-Davey says the deal the government is imposing

will hurt the lowest paid education workers.

“This is essentially a pay cut overall,” said Lalonge-Davey, given the level of inflation is currently at seven per cent. She also doesn’t like that there are two different pay increases for her 1,000 members - 2.5 per cent for those under \$43,000 and 1.5 per cent for those over that mark..

Tuesday, Lambton CUPE members took to the streets in Sarnia, in front of Bailey’s office to protest the move. More than 100 people gathered with less than a day’s notice.

Meantime, the directors of education in Lambton-Kent were warning parents of what is to come. “A full strike would mean none of these important supports for schools would be in place and the LKDSB will not be able to safely operate our schools,” wrote John Howitt, the public board’s director.

“If an agreement is not reached this week and if the Ontario government legislation does not pass and the strike proceeds, all LKDSB schools will be closed to students on Friday.”

Scott Johnson at the St. Clair Catholic board agreed saying Catholic schools will also close Friday.

“We do not take this decision lightly,” he wrote to parents.

“Student supervision, safety and wellbeing are our first priority. Without the important services of these school-based employees, the board cannot ensure learning environments will remain safe and clean for all students.”

Bridge to nowhere for \$480K

CON’T FROM PG 1

Vasey says if the right of way were sold, the farmers could “take the risk and use the bridge that is there now - there is nothing stopping them” even though town staff in a report to council says the bridge is “near failure” and should remain closed until its repaired.

While several members of council decried the rising cost, Vasey’s suggestion to sell the right-of-way to the farmers was discounted.

With the growth in the Lakeshore area, some members of council, including Mayor Lonny Napper, believe the road may be needed by the town in the future.

Council decided to move ahead with the project, approving a bylaw which will see All Season Excavating repair the bridge for a cost of \$422,675.42 including provisional items. About \$58,823 has already been spent on engineering.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OFFICIAL PLAN UPDATE



THE PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Council of the Municipality of Brooke Alvinston will hold a Council meeting, pursuant to Section 26(3) of the *Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990*, as amended, for the purposes of discussing the revisions that may be required as part of an upcoming update to the Municipality’s Official Plan. The Special Council Meeting will be held as follows:

THURSDAY DECEMBER 8, 2022 @ 4 PM

Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston

Brooke-Alvinston Inwood Community Centre - Upper Hall

THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL is to discuss the revisions that may be required to the Official Plan. It is intended to provide an opportunity for the public to offer comments regarding any issue or matter that should be considered during the Official Plan Review process. Members of Council will also be providing input on their issues or matters to be considered during the Official Plan review.

BACKGROUND ON THE OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW

The Municipality of Brooke Alvinston Official Plan outlines the Municipality’s goals, objectives, and policies primarily used to support growth, economic development, and building Brooke Alvinston’s future. The plan also establishes a framework for managing the effects of growth on the social, economic and natural environment of the Municipality.

The Planning Act requires that an Official Plan be updated to ensure that it: conforms with provincial plans or does not conflict with them; has regard to matters of provincial interest; is consistent with provincial policy statements; and addresses recent legislative changes. Taking into account the timing of the approval of the current Official Plan, the introduction of a 2020 Provincial Policy Statement and amendments to the *Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990*, as well as a new Lambton County Official Plan, the Municipality has initiated a comprehensive update to its Official Plan.

SUBJECT LANDS

The update to the Official Plan will affect all lands within the municipal boundary of the Municipality of Brooke Alvinston. Accordingly, no key map is provided.

YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT

Any person may attend the special public meeting and/or provide written or a verbal representation. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may provide written comments by submitting them to the address below.

**Mail: Municipality of Brooke Alvinston,
3236 River Street, P.O. Box 28, Alvinston, ON N0N 1A0**

A copy of the agenda for the special public meeting of council, including a staff report and any attachments, will be available by December 5, 2022.

The Municipality’s current Official Plan may be reviewed on the Brooke Alvinston Website at www.brookealvinston.com

NOTICE OF COLLECTION

Personal information collected as a result of this public meeting is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), the Planning Act, and all other relevant legislation, and will be used to assist in making a decision on this matter. All personal information (as defined by MFIPPA), including (but not limited to) names, addresses, opinions and comments collected will be made available for public disclosure to members of the public, at the meeting, through requests, and through the website of the Municipality of Brooke Alvinston. Questions regarding the collection, use, and disclosure of this personal information may be directed to the Clerk, Municipality of Brooke Alvinston; 3236 River Street; P.O. Box 28, Alvinston, ON N0N 1A0

COVID-19 Information:

The health and safety of residents, Council, and staff is the most important part of this meeting. Residents who do not wish to attend the meeting have the option of submitting their comments in writing. Both in person and written comments are equally valued.

**Clerk, Municipality of Brooke Alvinston
November 1, 2022**

Thank you!

Thank you to the
voters who took the time
to participate in this election.

Sincere gratitude to those who supported my campaign.

Richard Poore



HAUNTING ALVINSTON



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Mikayla Schalk creeps out of the shadows to scare an expecting person, as the Alvinston and District Optimist Club held its annual zombie walk on the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 29. An leisurely walk down a trail at the AW Campbell Conservation Area became more like a nightmare for many as zombies appeared out of nowhere to send many running down the path.

PW fire working on improving fire prevention, inspection

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming’s fire chief says the department is already on the way to meeting some of the recommendations in a recently released fire master plan.

On Oct. 12, Council received the plan created by a consulting firm which gives recommendations to improve the department over the next five years.

Some of those are big ticket items, including two full-time deputy chiefs and a new clerk to help with the paper work and renovations or replacement of the Camlachie fire hall.

Council wasn’t keen on moving forward with some of those items until Chief Darryl Thompson came forward with a plan during budget.

The consultant did express concern about the lack of fire prevention and inspection in Plympton-Wyoming, saying it was the best way to reduce community risk.

Thompson says in the last few months, the departments have made a concerted effort to do that work. “We’ve all committed to public education, I can tell you that in the Fire Prevention Week that just went by, we probably presented to 600 to 700 students in all the schools here in town,”

Thompson told *The Independent*. “This month, we’re going to some daycare centers as a matter of fact and start very, very basic fire safety, some fun stuff that I can tell you, the firefighters enjoy as well. Next year, we will be doing some education programs towards seniors.”

And he says proactive fire inspections have begun in Wyoming and Wanstead - until recently, inspections were only done when there was a request or complaint. Thompson says next year the department will complete inspections of all buildings required by the province.

The report also called for firefighters to be trained to a minimum certification - something Thompson says the department is doing in time for the provincial deadline of 2026. Nine firefighters will be starting their training this month. “We’re being very, very proactive in ensuring our firefighters are meeting the standard.”

The consultant also said there should be clear rules as to when Incident Commanders call for help from other departments at the scene. “I believe there are clear guidelines,” says the chief. “All of our officers are empowered to call at anytime, if they feel that they’re they don’t have enough manpower to handle the situation ... they’re quite aware that the first sign of any issue they have, call for help.”

Fiddick criminal charges return to court in December

Another brief court appearance in the case of Petrolia nursing home owner facing criminal charges.

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

choke or strangle, and mischief.

He also faces three charges of transferring a restricted weapon. Fiddick was represented in Sarnia Court Monday for a brief appearance. His case will be back before a justice Dec. 12..

The owner of the long term care home is not working at the Petrolia home at this time.

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Thank you

“I would like to thank everyone who observed their right to vote. I am looking forward to working with the rest of Council to make a great team for Warwick Township. I appreciate all who supported me during this election process and I will do my best in representing everyone in the Township for the next four years.”

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SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

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Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on November 24, 2022, at the Oil Springs Municipal Office, 4591 Oil Springs Line, Oil Springs, Ontario.

Description of Lands:

- Roll No. 38 18 000 010 21200 0000;** 4590 Oil Springs Line, Oil Springs; PIN 43498-0130 (LT); File 21-01;
Minimum tender amount: \$69,617.91
- Roll No. 38 18 000 010 11907 0000;** RICHMOND ST; PIN 43499-0369 (LT); File 21-02;
Minimum tender amount: \$7,055.93

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. A full copy of the tax sale advertisement and further information about this matter is available online at www.OntarioTaxSales.ca or www.oilsprings.ca or you may contact Martha Gawley, Clerk-Treasurer, The Corporation of the Village of Oil Springs, 4591 Oil Springs Line, PO Box 22, Oil Springs, ON N0N 1P0, Phone: 519-834-2939, Email: clerk@oilsprings.ca

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Editorial

Over reach

The Ford government’s Keeping Students in Class Act - set to be passed by Friday - has implications which reach far beyond any Ontario classroom.

Education Minister Stephen Lecce introduced the legislation which would stop a strike by custodians, librarians, computer technicians, early childhood educators and educational assistants represented by CUPE before it even began. It also impose a four year contract with wage increases of between 1.5 and 2.5 per cent.

CUPE was looking for wage increases of nearly 12 per cent saying these are the lowest paid education workers in the province with some making \$39,000 a year. With inflation sitting at seven per cent, CUPE argues, workers will be taking a pay cut.

We could argue whether or not the union’s demand is reasonable. But we think it is clear the province is being unreasonable.

The fact of the matter is the provincial government seems unwilling to do the hard work of negotiating.. particularly when the union set a strike deadline. Lecce and the government immediately started playing hard ball - calling it quits while proclaiming students have suffered enough through the pandemic and have to be in school at all costs. That includes, it seems mowing down the rights Ontario workers have to form a union and negotiate a contract. The Ford government is using the notwithstanding clause of the Charter of Rights to quash those. That clause was only supposed to be used in extraordinary circumstances.

The province had a budget surplus of \$2.1 billion in 2021-2022, so where is the extraordinary circumstance? It certainly isn’t a dire financial situation. As much as we want kids in class, there is no justifiable reason to suspend collective bargaining rights to get there. The government just has to work at negotiations to get a deal - like every government up until now has done. The fact they don’t like unions doesn’t justify trying to rid the province of them.

And while you may applaud the Conservatives standing up to unions, consider this; what happens when your rights don’t fit the Conservative agenda? What rights will you lose? The move to suspend hard won rights is a misuse of the notwithstanding clause. It’s government over reach at its worst.

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



PETROLIA HERITAGE PHOTO

At just three, Ned McRobie, made history. The son of Petrolia’s mayor was the drummer used to help recruit men to join Lambton’s 149 Battalion in the Great War and was billed as the youngest drummer in the British Empire. About 1,000 men were recruited in Lambton to travel to Europe starting in 1915.

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Opinion

Armstrong never dreamed Optimists would be ‘a pawn’

EDITOR: Mayor Ferguson states that this election shows the people of Brooke-Alvinston aren’t looking for extensive renovations to the arena. The election results were 55 percent to 45 percent.

I’d like to take this opportunity to apologize to the Alvinston and District Optimists Club for indirectly causing some tarnishing to your good name. I have been told by many voters that there was misinformation being given out by some door-to-door canvassers claiming that the Optimist Club was trying to take over the municipality; that the Optimist Club wanted to spend \$4 million of Brooke-Alvinston money to renovate the arena; that the Optimist Club wanted the work done now and that they were willing to take out large loans with the risk of leaving the municipality on the hook. This information is not true and very hurtful to many of the hard-working, community-oriented Optimist members who belong to the club.

The Alvinston and Districts Optimist club is one of the largest volunteer organizations in Brooke-Alvinston and do a ton of work in the community... in order to raise funds for community activities and youth programs. Without them the community would not be the same. They provide funds for the Santa Clause parade, HAM camps, minor sports, events and the pavilion at BAICCC just to name a few.

The fact that they were used as a pawn in this election is appalling to me

and it is something I never dreamt of causing to such a good community and youth oriented group.

Across Ontario you will find a large percentage of those on council in small rural areas are members of some type of community group. If only people that have no affiliation with any volunteer group were allowed to run for council they would be few and far between.

The facts about the Pavilion / washrooms there was seven years of planning, six years of fundraising with donations from individual donors large and small, plus memorial donations from numerous individuals from the community, and from The Optimists.

It cost \$325,000 and was \$2,000 under budget. It’s about the perfect size and is in use constantly.

Municipal funds \$80,000 - money which was donated by the council on behalf of the taxpayers of Brooke Alvinston in lieu of not having to rebuild the ball washrooms.

A grant was received by the Municipality worth \$64,000 which was placed in the arena reserve account (none given to phase 2 of the project at this time.)

That means the total cost to replace the washrooms and gain a pavilion to the Municipality is \$14,000. The Municipality is providing the maintenance as they would on the old washrooms.

Here are the facts about the Optimist building project Phase 2 which includes front dressing room

renovations, new rear dressing room and new canteen east of pavilion washrooms; the cost at this time is unknown, the timeline for drawings is unknown, a new community fund account has not been established, fundraising has not started yet and the funds will come from donations, fundraising and provincial and federal grants.

The municipality will not be asked for any further taxpayer dollar support other than the matching funds of up to \$15,000 for drawings. The municipality will be asked to support the project in principle in order to facilitate grant applications. All stakeholder and user groups are in support. The Optimist Club have no plans to fund this project using loans.

Municipality would see some increased maintenance costs

Phase 3 includes a new two story entryway and ties the north side and the south side of the arena together eliminating the inside food booth providing a new larger booth

It also provides accessible heated seating that will provide a view of the entire ice surface.

I’d like to thank the Optimist club for all their hard work and dedication, Keep your head held high, your work is appreciated by the community more than you know. Again I offer my sincere apologies and I hope I never indirectly bring this type of propaganda the clubs way again.

James Armstrong
Brooke-Alvinston, ON

Warwick to CN: show us the money for drainage

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick is calling on CN Rail to pay its fair share of drainage projects in the township. Recently CN sent the township a letter saying it wouldn’t pay \$130,000 allotted to them from two separate projects saying “CN’s decision is that it is a federally regulated entity under CTA guidelines, as such, are not governed by provincial regulations.”

Warwick is one of dozens of municipalities holding up 55 projects waiting for CN to pony up. Warwick council

approached the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs about the impasse. Lisa Thompson says it is still the government’s position that the Drainage Act does apply to all federally regulated railways.

In a motion passed in October which will be sent to CN and municipal, provincial and federal politicians, township council says CN is setting a dangerous precedent. “The implication that any public utility could become exempt from the financial requirements invalidates the underlying principle that all benefitting from municipal drain projects are required to contribute financially, including all public utilities.”

The curtain goes up on first community theatre show since 2020

Heather Wright
The Independent

Over the moon, nervous and just a little bit worried. Those are some of the emotions Carol Graham is feeling as Petrolia Community Theatre prepares to open its first play since 2020.

PCT will open The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge starting Nov. 10 at Victoria Playhouse after trying and failing to mount several other productions just before and through the pandemic.

Getting the gang together to put on the show took a bit of work; Graham says they had to recruit some gentlemen to fill some of the roles because the casting calls didn’t attract the usual number of people. She expects some people who normally would have auditioned simply found other things to do during the pandemic or weren’t comfortable staging a play just yet.

But Graham says she is “over the moon, so excited and nervous and happy to finally be past... that time when we couldn’t be in the theater ... when the theater was dark.”

And she’s hopeful; “I am feeling positive about the audi-

ence coming back to the theater, simply because we’ve got a lot more knowledge about COVID and people are more savvy, and they’re feeling a little bit more comfortable, going back into that environment.

“I’m a little bit concerned that people have filled their time with other things and gotten out of the habit of enjoying live theater. But I also know that if they can remember how much they enjoyed it, and sharing laughter with the other people in a large group experience, that they will be coming back to the theater.”

The play is a continuation of the familiar story of Ebenezer Scrooge from A Christmas Carol. “Scrooge, who has been model citizen, for the whole year, is now decided to sue the ghosts of Christmas Past and the Marley’s for kidnapping, attempted murder, emotional distress,” says Graham.

Asked if Scrooge’s mood in this play reflects our post-COVID world, Graham said it may strike some that way. She says the comedy may “just to remind people that we need to get back to being the people you were before the pandemic.”

The show runs from Nov. 10 to 13. Tickets can be purchased through the VPP box office.

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Legion

Services

Alvinston

Nov. 6 – Remembrance Service at Guthrie Presbyterian Church at 11am
Nov. 6 – Honours and Awards Banquet at the Alvinston Legion starting at 5 pm. Tickets \$20.
Nov. 11 – Act of Remembrance 10:45 am at the cenotaph at the Alvinston Library on River Street.
Nov. 13 – Remembrance Service at the Inwood United Church at 10 am

Brigden

Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day Service at the cenotaph 10:45 am

Corunna

Nov. 6 – 75th Anniversary and Remembrance Banquet at the Legion - 5 pm
Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Cenotaph at the Corunna Clock Tower - 10:45 am

Oil Springs

Nov 6 – Remembrance Day Service at 11am at the Oil Springs Legion, followed by a short procession to the cenotaph for laying of the wreaths - light lunch to follow back at the Legion

Petrolia

Nov. 6 – 9 am, Remembrance Service at St. Philip's Church
Nov. 6 – 2 pm Wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph in Victoria Park
Nov. 11 – Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph in Victoria Park—11 a.m.
Nov. 11 – Remembrance Dinner at Branch 216 Legion 4129 Glenview Street, Petrolia at 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$20.

Plympton-Wyoming

Nov. 6 – Camlachie Remembrance Service Community meets at the Camlachie Community Centre at 10:30 to walk to the cenotaph at 10:45 am for service. The Huron Shores Optimists will be serving Bacon on a Bun for \$3 at the hall after the service.
Nov. 11 – Wyoming Remembrance Day Service at 10:50 am at the Cenotaph. In case of inclement weather the service will be in the Wyoming Legion Hall.

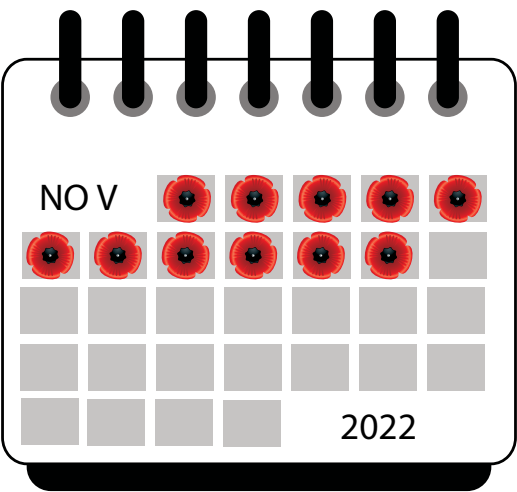
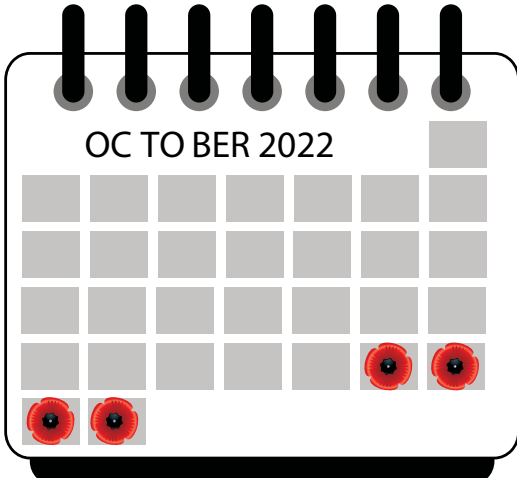
Watford

Nov. 6 – Branch 172 Remembrance Service at Trinity Anglican Church at 9:30 am
Nov. 6 – Branch 172 Levee Brunch at the Legion from 10 am to 1 pm
Nov. 11 – Act of Remembrance at the Watford Cenotaph At 10:50 am with socializing at the Legion afterwards



Flags raised at Petrolia Legion

Lest We Forget



WEARING THE POPPY

- The Poppy can be worn as of the last Friday of October
- It is removed at the end of the day on November 11th
- It is worn on the left, close to the heart
- Do not alter or modify
- Do not re-use the Poppy every year.



On behalf of
Lambton County Council and Staff

We Will Never Forget



Kevin Marriott
Lambton County Warden

Office of the County Warden
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REMEMBRANCE DAY



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Lest We Forget





SPOOKY FUN

Central Lambton put on a spooky show for Halloween this weekend



There was lots going on for Halloween this year. Oil Springs had the help of the local Optimist club to offer a night out for kids. Jacoby Vaughan, 4, was a police officer, Blythe Byers, 5, enjoyed some treats while the movie Hocus Pocus 2 was on. In Alvinston, teens from Hope United Church reverse trick or treated Monday, collecting items for the food bank. Jake Decarolis, 4, was making a pumpkin at the Plympton-Wyoming Spooktacular Event Saturday. LCCVI drama students put on a haunted house Friday night, bottom left, and Warwick firefighters entertained trick-or-treaters Monday at the local fire halls.

BLAKE ELLIS/
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS

Thank you!

"It's been an honour and a privilege to have had the opportunity to serve the hard working families, farmers and small business owners of Plympton-Wyoming over the years.

Thank you to all who supported me throughout my journey."

Muriel Wright



Sports



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Harper Oulds of East Lambton Elementary School races to a second place finish at the elementary school district cross country championships Oct. 26.

Flyers continue to struggle offensively

The Petrolia Flyers are still having trouble finding the back of the net. The Flyers have scored just 23 goals in 12 games after a pair of losses, one in overtime, last week. Petrolia’s total is the second fewest in the PJHL’s Yeck Division and the fifth fewest in the province. Daniel Gibson and Colby Ackworth gave the home team a 2-0 lead at the first intermission Oct. 27 before the visiting Aylmer Spitfires scored twice in the second period and an early overtime tally to skate away with a 3-2 victory. A night later in Mt. Brydges, the Bulldogs scored three times in the second period in a 5-2 win over the Flyers. Gibson had a goal and an assist to extend his point scoring streak to five games. Nathan Clatworthy had the other Petrolia goal. Elijah Grant and Sam Dobroski combined to make 37 saves as Mt. Brydges outshot the Flyers, 42-21.



FLYER HOCKEY PHOTO

Elijah Grant keeps his eye on the puck in Petrolia’s game against Alymer.

The Flyers host Exeter on Thursday at Greenwood at 7:30. They take on the Bulldogs in Mt. Brydges on Friday at 8:15.

Flags double Wallaceburg at Walpole

Gavin Black had a goal and three assists and Captain Logan Gardner added a goal and two helpers to lead the Mooretown Flags to a 6-3 win over Wallaceburg. Brody Genyn, Jimmy Simpson, Ayden Letang and Caleb Laframboise also scored for the Flags in PJHL action on Saturday at Walpole Island. Veteran d-man Blake Howard had three assists and now has 13 points in his last four

games. Watford’s Malcolm Verstraten made 14 saves for Mooretown for his first career PJHL goaltending victory. Sarnia’s Jacob Trudgeon took the loss making 37 stops as the Flags outshot the Thunderhawks, 43-17. Mooretown is 6-4 on the season. The Flags host Blenheim on Saturday at Walpole Island at 7:30 before taking on the Blades on the road Sunday night at 7.

Flyers, Flags and Jr. Sting all at prospect game

Alvinson’s Dylan Campbell and Camlachie’s Evan Morningstar will wear the Petrolia Flyers’ colours at the PJHL prospect game this Saturday afternoon in Mitchell. Corunna’s Jace Dupius will represent the

Mooretown Flags and Lambton Junior Sting Tyler June will be there on behalf of the Dresden Jr. Kings. The four players were named to the Western Conference roster earlier this week.

Central Lambton players lift Legion to three wins

Plympton Wyoming’s Ryan Richardson scored twice and added an assist and ex-Mooretown goalie Logan Phillips made a season-high 52 stops to lead the Sarnia Legionnaires to a 7-4 win at Leamington. Wyoming’s Jace McGrail and Corunna’s Dylan Dupuis also scored for Sarnia in GOJHL action on Sunday. Richardson had a goal and three assists

and ex-Petrolia Flyer Landon Marcy along with McGrail scored in a 7-6 overtime win at Strathroy on Saturday while Phillips made 43 saves and McGrail and Dupuis drew assists on the game-winning goal late in the second period as the Legionnaires edged LaSalle, 2-1 at home Oct. 27. Sarnia, 9-7-2 on the season, host St. Mary’s Thursday and Komoka Saturday.

Centennial wins two x-country titles

Barry Wright
The Independent

Lambton Centennial won the team title in the boys’ nine- and 11 year-old divisions at Lambton Kent elementary school district cross country championships. Petrolia’s QE II and Alvinston’s Brooke Central were third in the boys nine- and 10 year-old divisions during the meet last week at Cantara Park in Sarnia.. Individually, Harper Oulds of East Lambton in Watford was second and Linkin Hill of QE II placed third in the boys’ nine-year-old race. On the girls’ side, Khloe Baron of QE II and Keala Pickard of Aberarder won the girls’ 11 and 12-year-old races respectively. Baron nosed out Kinwood’s Arlee Roder for the title and Pickard edged Eden DaCosta of

QE II. Paxton Bright of Lambton Centennial was third in the girls’ nine year-old race and Finnley Winegard of Errol Village was third in the 13 year-old competition. Teamwise, Corunna’s Sir John Moore won the girls’ 12 year-old division and Kinwood was third, Wyoming was second in the girls’ nine-year-old competition while East Lambton and Lambton Centennial finished second and third in the girls’ 13 year-old division.



Olivia Wallace of Dawn-Euphemia powers to the finish line.


KILLER BEES STUNG



ALVINSTON KILLER BEES PHOTO

The Tillsonburg Thunder scored five goals in the third period to defeat the Killer Bees, 9-2 in Western Ontario Super Hockey League action Friday in Alvinston. Tye Johnson and Dawson Winchester scored for the Bees.

thank you



GARY ATKINSON
Mayor Elect - Town of Plympton-Wyoming

Plympton Wyoming
for Your Support !

LCCVI duo takes bronze at SWOSSA

Tessa and Ella Jackson ended their high school tennis careers with a victory.

The LCCVI team lost to the eventual gold medalists Ursuline's Samantha Lozon and Mary Bondy to head to the bronze medal game where they defeated a duo from Windsor in the bronze medal match in the ladies' doubles competition at the recent SWOSSA tennis championships in Windsor.

But with only the top two teams qualifying for OFSAA next June, Team Jackson did not qualify for the provincials.

Meantime, Timothee Noirhomme of LCCVI was fourth in the Open boys' category.



Thank You

Thank you to everyone for attending my 50 years in music Celebration, October 22, 2022. Thanks to special guests that got up and sang a song: Marilyn Whiting, Wanda Ross and Brian Storey. And thanks to my Foggy Mt. Band: Donna Wade, Gary Wade, Jimmie Deyo, Doug Springstead, Dave Spalding and special guest Steve Atichson. Thanks to all my help: Jim, Bart and Janice and Crystal for taking photo's and being a hostess. Thanks for all the beautiful cards, flowers and gifts, and to Lonny Napper, Bob Bailey and Lee Copper for the presentations.

A big thank you to everyone that donated at the door towards St. Joseph's Hospice Samia.

Thanks again, Joan Spalding

Squires to take on unbeaten Centenaries

The Squires are at home to Minto on Friday at 8:30 at Greenwood before boarding the bus for a trip to take on the first place and unbeaten Centenaries in Seaforth on Saturday.

Petrolia is 4-2 after splitting a pair of games last weekend.

The Squires beat the Muskies, 5-3 in Shelburne last Saturday after a 6-3 home ice setback to Saugeen Shores last Friday night.

Isaac McLean and Steve Farlow had a goal and an assist in the loss with Kole Keating adding the other.

Lancers move into second place in Lambton Kent boys' volleyball

LCCVI downed the host Great Lakes Wolfpack 25-20, 25-17 to complete a three-match sweep at the Samia school on Monday.

The Lancers also won two straight games against Northern and St. Pat's to end the regular season. With the wins, the Lancers leapfrogged the Wolfpack into second place in the LKSSAA senior boys AA standing with a record of 5-7-2.

Playoffs have yet to be announced.

CLUB MATCH CHAMPION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Petrolia's Carson Perry – a member of the Alvinston Killer Bees – is well known on the ice, but he's also getting a name for himself on the links. He has won the match play championship at Kingswell Glen in Petrolia. Perry and Ian Parker were even through nine holes before Perry pulled away to win 3 and 2 in 16 holes in the final match.

One win, one loss and a rain delay for Thomson

All eyes - at least in Canada - are on Rob Thomson as the World Series heads to game three.

The Philadelphia Phillies, with Corunna's Rob Thomson at the helm beat the Houston Astros, 6-5 on Friday to draw first blood in the World Series.

JT Realmuto won the game when he poked an opposite field homer to right field in the 10th inning. Nick Castellanos saved the game with a diving catch in the bottom of the ninth with Jose Altuve in scoring position.

The Astros came back to take game two of the series 5-2.

The third game Monday postponed because of rain. It's to be played Tuesday. The result wasn't available at press time.

Thomson became the first Canadian ever to manage in a Fall Classic.



Rob Thomson

■ **ADVERTISING POLICY** ■

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

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Sunday, November 6th, from 9:30am to 3 pm
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christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com

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4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

In-Person Services Sundays @ 10:30 am

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

First Baptist Church

418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

IN PERSON CHURCH SERVICE Sunday Mornings @10:30 am

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

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

Wyoming United Church

730 Second Street, Wyoming

In-Person Services taking place Sundays @ 11 am

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

Rev. Steven Longmoore
Church Office 519-845-3963

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

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416 Queen Street, Petrolia (Behind the Post Office)

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Pastor Katherine Hawley

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon




Classifieds

Word Classifieds: \$10 plus tax for up to 40 words
Stop in at the office 9a-3p Mon, Tues, Fri or 9a-12p Wed
4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728
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PUBLIC NOTICE
OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
OFFICIAL PLAN UPDATE
THE PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
The Council of the Town of Petrolia will hold a special meeting, pursuant to Section 26(3) of the *Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990*, as amended, for the purposes of discussing the revisions that may be required as part of an upcoming update to the Town's Official Plan. The Special Council Meeting will be held as follows:
MONDAY DECEMBER 12, 2022 @ 5 PM
Victoria Hall – Council Chambers
411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia
THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL is to discuss the revisions that may be required to the Official Plan. It is intended to provide an opportunity for the public to offer comments regarding any issue or matter that should be considered during the Official Plan Review process. Members of Council will also be providing input on their issues or matters to be considered during the Official Plan review.
BACKGROUND ON THE OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW
The Town of Petrolia Official Plan outlines the Town's goals, objectives, and policies primarily used to support growth, economic development, and building Petrolia's future. The plan also establishes a framework for managing the effects of growth on the social, economic and natural environment of the Town.
The Planning Act requires that an Official Plan be updated to ensure that it: conforms with provincial plans or does not conflict with them; has regard to matters of provincial interest; is consistent with provincial policy statements; and addresses recent legislative changes. Taking into account the timing of the approval of the current Official Plan, the introduction of a 2020 Provincial Policy Statement and amendments to the *Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990*, as well as a new Lambton County Official Plan, the Town has initiated a comprehensive update to its Official Plan.
SUBJECT LANDS
The update to the Official Plan will affect all lands within the municipal boundary of the Town of Petrolia. Accordingly, no key map is provided.
YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT
Any person may attend the special public meeting and/or provide written or a verbal representation. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may provide written comments by submitting them to the address below.
Mail:
Official Plan Review, Town of Petrolia
411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0
A copy of the agenda for the special public meeting of council, including a staff report and any attachments, will be available by Monday, December 5, 2022 found at <https://petrolia.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=716>
The Town's current Official Plan may be reviewed on the Petrolia Website at www.town.petrolia.ca
NOTICE OF COLLECTION
Personal information collected as a result of this public meeting is collected under the authority of the *Municipal Act*, the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)*, the *Planning Act*, and all other relevant legislation, and will be used to assist in making a decision on this matter. All personal information (as defined by MFIPPA), including (but not limited to) names, addresses, opinions and comments collected will be made available for public disclosure to members of the public, at the meeting, through requests, and through the website of the Town of Petrolia. Questions regarding the collection, use, and disclosure of this personal information may be directed to the Clerk, Town of Petrolia; 411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0
This notice published on the 24th day of October, 2022
COVID-19 Information:
The health and safety of residents, Council, and staff is the most important part of this meeting. Residents who do not wish to attend the meeting have the option of submitting their comments in writing. Both in person and written comments are equally valued.

Mandi Pearson
Clerk, Town of Petrolia

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Obituaries / Death Notices


HANDS
Beatrice Marie
Oct 17, 1926 – Oct 26, 2022
Beatrice Marie Hands (nee O'Hara) passed away peacefully at the age of **96** at Fiddick's Nursing Home, Petrolia, ON. She is now reunited with her husband, Joseph Hands (2014).
Survived by her children David (Debbie) Hands, Donna (Rob) Johnson, Denise (Bruce Baird) Hands. She will be missed by her grandchildren Jeff (Andrea) Hands, Jody (Mike) Flanagan, Rachel Johnson, and Derek (Courtlyn) Johnson and her great-grandchildren Avery and Barrett Hands, and Liam, Ashlyn, and Grady Flanagan. Also missed by special friend Gloria Hands, her sister-in-law Lois O'Hara, and many nieces and nephews.
Beatrice was the daughter of the late John and Eva O'Hara and was the last surviving sibling of Ruth (the late Ernie) Bailey, John O'Hara, Albert (the late Pansy) O'Hara, and William (Lois) O'Hara. Also predeceased by George Hands and Delta Stephenson.
Family was always important, and she thoroughly enjoyed when we were all together. Beatrice and Joe had a wonderful life on the farm in Wyoming and she enjoyed gardening. Beatrice knew at 4 years old that she wanted to be a teacher, a profession she loved. They also travelled many places together in Canada, the US, and Europe.
At the age of 34, Beatrice was diagnosed with a brain tumour after months of telling the doctors something was wrong. As she went into surgery, she had a 50/50 chance of survival, but survived she did with some facial paralysis.
A long-time resident of Wyoming, ON, she had belonged to the Wyoming United Church, the Plympton-Wyoming Agricultural Society, and the Order of the Eastern Star.
We are grateful for the staff at Fiddick's who took care of Beatrice. She always kept them on their toes. We are especially thankful for Ashley and Krista this past week.
A private funeral service will be held. Internment in Wyoming Cemetery. Donations in memory to the Diabetes Canada (www.diabetes.ca) or the CEE Hospital Foundation (www.cee-hf.ca).
Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.NeedhamJay.com



SIMMONS
William George
William George Simmons passed away peacefully after a brave fight with Muscular Dystrophy on **October 27, 2022**, at University Hospital London. He was in his **67th year**. He will be dearly missed by his wife, Cindy Simmons. He was born in Woodstock, ON to Doris (nee Thompson) and George Simmons, both predeceased. He is survived by his sister Janet (Steve, predeceased) LeMesurier and brother-in-law Donald (Catherine predeceased) Doan. He will be missed by his sister-in-laws Laurretta (Tim) Dowsell, Audrey (Julien) Mallais and Bobbie (Paul) Kalar along with his many nieces and nephews. Bill graduated from Fanshawe College. He started his working career at 3M in London. His next move was to Sarnia where he enjoyed a long career at Imperial Oil. He loved sports and politics and was eager to engage anyone in conversations on such topics. He loved to fish and take photographs, especially portraits, in his earlier years. Cindy and Bill enjoyed traveling the world with a particular fondness for cruises. **Visitation will take place at Smith Funeral Home, 1576 London Line, Sarnia, on Thursday, November 3, 2022, between 6 and 9 p.m. The funeral service will be held at Smith Funeral Home, Sarnia on Friday, November 4, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Interment in Norwich will take place at a later date.** In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Sarnia & District Humane Society, St. Joseph's Hospice or Muscular Dystrophy (cheques only at the funeral home please).

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Brooke-Alvinston top turnout in Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

While voters in Ontario’s larger cities largely stayed away from the municipal election polls, the voter turnout in Central Lambton was much higher.

Voter turnout in London was about 25 per cent. Toronto’s election drew 29 per cent of municipal voters; Brampton’s drew 24 per cent and Mississauga’s drew just 21.8 per cent.

But in Central Lambton, more voters turned out to elect their local representatives.

The highest voter turnout in the region was Brooke-Alvinston where 53.61 per cent of eligible voters returned David Ferguson to office along with a council including three new members. The municipality used mail in ballots.

Warwick Township – where former mayor Todd Case unseated current mayor Jackie Rombouts – 51.77 per cent of voters cast a ballot electronically. That compares to 46.78 per cent in 2018.

In Petrolia, 45.5 per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot re-electing Brad Loosley and a council with only two incumbent councillors. In the 2018 election, 53.5 per cent of eligible voters cast a ballot after the turbulent year when the former CAO left the town after renting buildings to the municipality using a numbered company.

Petrolia used an online voting platform but also had 116 people cast a paper ballot at town hall. That was part of the reason, according to Clerk Mandi Pearson, the results for Petrolia were among the last to be released election night.

In Plympton-Wyoming, 42.71 per cent of voters cast a ballot online to elect Gary Atkinson to succeed the retiring Lonny Napper. Voter turn out



LIANA RUSSWURM PHOTO

Greg Hilliard congratulates mayor-elect David Ferguson in Alvinston Oct. 24. Brooke-Alvinston had the highest voter turn out in Lambton County.

there was 46.1 per cent in the 2018 election.

St. Clair Township had the lowest voter turn out in Central Lambton with 39.34 per cent of voters heading to the polls. Jeff Agar was elected mayor in the wake of the retirement of Steve Arnold. The township uses the mail in ballots.

In Lambton Shores, Doug Cook became the new mayor after 39.6 per cent of voters cast ballots online and by phone.

Enniskillen, Oil Springs and Dawn-Euphemia council’s were all acclaimed however they did run elections for the trustee positions.

In Sarnia, where Mike Bradley won his 11th term as mayor, 40.4 per cent of voters cast a ballot.

GETTING OUT ALIVE



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Lambton County firefighters will benefit from a new training opportunity in Sarnia. Sarnia Fire Rescue Services will soon be trained how to excavate someone who is trapped. The department’s Training and Safety Officer Russ Lloyd said 116 Sarnia firefighters will complete the training over the next two weeks. He said it is not something the department deals with often, but it is important to be ready when it does happen. The training will be offered to other fire departments in Lambton County as well. There was only one other trainer in the province so Lloyd became certified as a trainer. The Petrolia and North Enniskillen Fire Department responded to a call last February where an individual fell into an empty grain bin and was rescued without injury on a farm on the Churchill Line. A training trailer, cofferdam and auger were donated to Sarnia Fire Rescue Services, in partnership with the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association

Community helps improve walking trails at Bridgeview Park in Petrolia

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Petrolia’s trails are a little more regal, thanks to a couple of community groups.

The Margaret Stokes IODE recently opened the Jubilee Trail in honour of Queen Elizabeth II who celebrated 70 years on the throne before passing away.

The trail, on the northeast side of Bridgeview Park, was dedicated amid a downpour Oct. 26.

Two grants have helped the IODE place signs along the trail as well as benches and a tree in honour of the Queen.

Meantime Shell Canada has also improved the trails in the park. The company donated 200 trees and employees got out the shovels to plant them around the Bridgeview trails.



Wendy Loosley, Margaret Stokes IODE president, opens the new Jubilee Trail, along with her husband, Mayor Brad Loosley, and Lambton County Warden Kevin Marriott Oct. 26.

The town established a trails committee a couple of years ago to help refurbish the trails in the Bridgeview Park area. Recently, trails have been cleared up and brush cut back and trail signs have been added to show the routes through the bush with distances and safety tips for hikers.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Shell Canada employees are among those planting trees along trails in Bridgeview Park. The company donated 200 trees to the project.

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