

SANTA IS A FIREFIGHTER?



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

We may have just solved the secret behind Santa's speed - he may be a volunteer firefighter. At least that appears to be the case in Watford. Santa appeared at the end of the parade wearing full firefighter gear - which seems to have been borrowed from Jan Joosten - waving to the crowds. For more of the Watford Santa Claus Parade see page 16.

Donald Campbell tries again for day parole

The Independent

Donald Campbell is appealing a Parole Board of Canada ruling that has kept him in prison for the planned killing of his wife. On the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada Tuesday, Joel Campbell wrote on social media that Donald Campbell – who murdered Joel's mother, Fenny, in 1998, has appealed a bid for unescorted temporary absence and day parole and has been granted a new hearing Dec. 21. "This is a hard day for many, including our family as we remember the murder of our

mother, Fenny Campbell, at the hands of her husband, Donald Campbell, in January of 1998. "Today, our mother's name will be acknowledged as part of memorial events across the country and Canadians will unite themselves in recognizing the immorality of violence against women, remembering the victims, and resolving to stand up against these heinous actions," wrote Joel Campbell. "Even as these events are occurring, our family is preparing to be re-victimized by a man who has acknowledged no responsibility for the brutal murder he has

committed, displayed no recognition of the immense pain that he has caused so many, and expressed no remorse for the devastation he has left in the wake of his crimes." Joel Campbell says if he is successful, Donald Campbell would be transferred from prison to a halfway house where he would have unsupervised access to the community while seeking full parole. Donald Campbell has said he wants to live in Southwestern Ontario, likely Windsor-Essex.

SEE CAMPBELL PG 2

WM to turn methane to natural gas in Watford

Heather Wright
The Independent

Waste Management is planning to turn methane into natural gas at its Watford landfill. The company hasn't revealed its plans for the project yet, however Enbridge Gas is working on the first part of the project – a pipeline which will carry the finished project to its existing pipeline. Alissa Lee, the project manager from Dillon Consulting, says the project involves the construction of a new renewable natural gas injection station at the Waste Management Twin Creeks site. The station will push the finished product – natural gas made from methane produced naturally in landfill operations – through a four-inch steel pipeline from Watford to Alvinston – about 20 kilometres. The project is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 70,000 tonnes per year, which is like taking 28,000 cars off the road.

Waste Management officials have yet to release details of the Watford project, however in a similar project, the company said it would invest \$50 million at the Ridge Landfill in Chatham-Kent for a project which was about 30 per cent larger and reduces 110,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. Lee says Enbridge also can't estimate the cost of the pipeline project saying Waste Management will pay the bill. Also, the company only releases the proposed cost of the pipeline project after the Ontario Energy Board has given permission for the project. Enbridge is just beginning its consultation on the pipeline. It has to prove to the Ontario Energy Board there is a need for the project as well as the natural environment, outline safety measures and describe how Enbridge would mitigation and monitoring of the pipeline.

SEE NATURAL GAS PG 2



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SCAN FOR MENU



Campbell to try again for day parole in the murder of his wife

CON'T FROM PG 1

“At his first parole hearing this past spring, he showed absolutely no recognition of what he had done, no reaction to the many victims who shared powerful and heart-wrenchingly emotional victim impact statements, and no remorse whatsoever.

“And now he wants to be granted release into our communities, as an unapologetic, unchanged man.”

Joel Campbell says the family will continue to fight against his release.

“Our family has gone through times of unimaginable pain and grief, and experienced an emptiness that cannot even be described. As a result of one man’s selfish actions, we were robbed, as children, of any sense of normalcy or stability. We did not get to have our mother present at our graduations, weddings, and other significant milestones. Our mother was denied the opportunity to hold or spend time with any of her grandbabies.

“Our lives were literally shattered because of the actions of one man.”

Joel Campbell says the family and friends will be at the Dec. 21 parole hearing and “will continue the fight for justice for our mother Fenny.

“It is our hope that justice will, yet again, prevail, and that Donald Campbell will remain in prison where he belongs.”

Campbell added he’s sharing on this National Day of Remembrance and Action “to create both support for our family and also awareness among communities in Southwestern Ontario, particularly the Windsor-Essex region, so that they are aware of the potential for this convicted murderer to be released into their communities.

“Please reach out to your local federal MPs, provincial MPPs, and municipal leaders to express your concern about this persistently remorseless offender’s potential release into the general public.

“We thank you all for your continued prayers, support, and positive thoughts as we navigate through these challenging times.

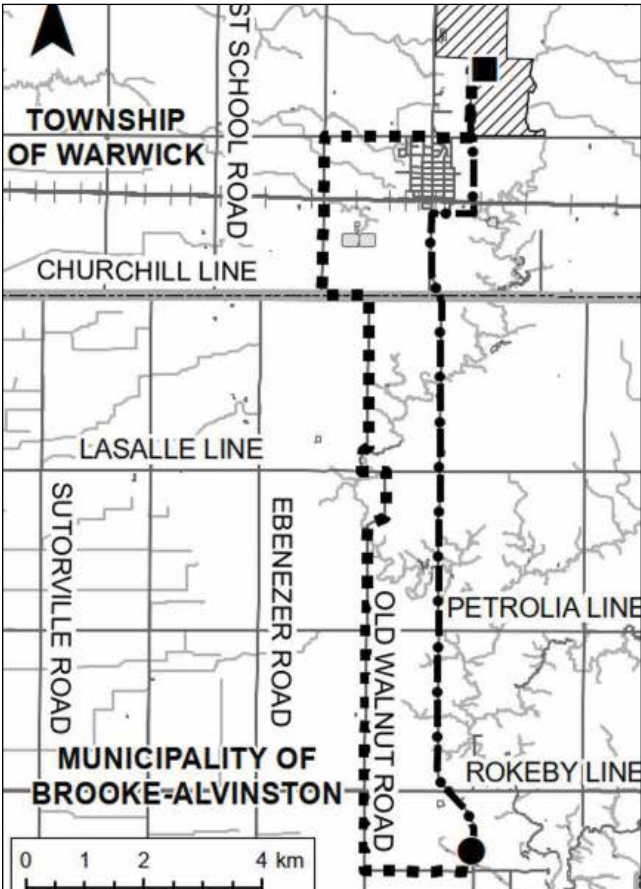
“As long as we have breath, we will fight for justice for our mother who we love and miss so much, on this December 6, and always.”

If you or someone you know is at immediate risk for family violence, contact 9-1-1 and report the abuse.

Help is also available online at www.domesticviolenceinfo.ca



FILE PHOTO
Fenny Campbell



The dotted line is Enbridge’s preferred pipeline route.

Natural gas project planned

CON'T FROM PG 1

A public open house was held Tuesday in Watford and an online presentation can be found at www.watfordpipelineproject.ca.

Lee says Enbridge would like to build the pipeline along Old Walnut Road. It’s also considering a second route which has the potential to cut through farmland and a bush area.

The consultation website is open until Dec. 18. Comments are being accepted until Jan. 13. If the OEB approves the project, construction could begin in 2024.

Twin Creeks is one of the largest landfills in Ontario. It already diverts methane produced by the landfill to Twin Creeks Greenhouse – a 40-acre greenhouse which produces peppers. The methane is used to power the company’s boilers to produce heat.

SMILING WITH SANTA



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Five-year-old twins, Emma and Noah Charette, told Santa what they wanted for Christmas this year at the YMCA after the Petrolia Santa Claus on Saturday. The pair also left with a keepsake photo with Santa, candy bags and take home crafts. The event was organized by the Lambton Central Petrolia Optimist Club, Petrolia Camera Club and the Petrolia Community Theatre.

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Replacement best option

Structural engineer says Campbell House should be taken down

Heather Wright
The Independent

A structural engineer says tearing down and replacing AW Campbell House with a replica of the building is the most “realistic and financially more viable long term option” for the historic structure.

Dejan Popovic, a senior structural engineer at VPN Engineering recently completed a report of the historic home of Archie Campbell, the man who donated 308 acres for the AW Campbell Conservation Area.

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority owns the land and in Sept. 2021 voted to take down the house. Popovic, in his report to the authority, shared with Brooke-Alvinston Council, says the museum advisor found in 1968 that the house was already suffering from lack of maintenance. “The letter concludes that even though the house “is not beyond redemption, it will take a great deal of repair, paint and plaster to catch up on all the years of deterioration which may bring the cost of restoring to be almost prohibitive without some voluntary assistance, either financial or physical,”” writes Popovic.

The authority did open the Campbell House Museum in the early 1970s, furnished with items from the late 1800s – donated by local residents. It was open a few days of the week each summer with funding from the provincial government.

But in the 80s, the money ran out and the museum only opened during the annual Maple Syrup Festival. By 2001, thieves had broken in and stolen valuable artifacts. The museum was

closed and never reopened.

Popovic went inside the building in September and found the roof appeared to be original. But there was a lot of damage.

“By the stains observed on the ceiling plaster, the roof on the main building has been leaking significantly on numerous locations. The biggest leak is located near the fireplace chimney resulting in disintegration of the plaster and a big hole on this area of the ceiling,” Popovic wrote.

And the engineer says the walls are not stable. Some of the door frames have separated from the walls as the walls shifted. “This can cause serious structural damage, even destruction of part of the building in right circumstances.

“Leaving the house in the current condition is not an option,” Popovic adds.

“It will inevitably lead to further gradual deterioration and eventual collapse of the structure. The collapse, partial or overall, will likely happen abruptly and without a warning once the remaining residual strength, or the integrity, or the stability of the system are exhausted.

“The fact that this house survived for over 150 years, more than twice as long as the life expectancy of any contemporary house of this period, with only sporadic maintenance and repairs/replacements over the years, speaks about the resiliency of these older houses and their structural systems.”

Popovic says the best option appears to be taking the house down and building a replica of the building, “That way the original condition of the AW (Archie) Campbell will, as described in the noted bylaw, that the house stays available to general public, will be preserved.”

Brooke-Alvinston council asked the municipality’s insurance agents to take a look at the structure and the liability problems it could cause.

HONOURING A LIFETIME OF SERVICE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

It’s not often that a volunteer firefighter serves their community for 55 years, but in Watford three men have been honoured for 55 years of service. At a recent banquet, Warwick Fire and Rescue honoured Don Hard, (above) Terry Smith (below right) and Keith Milner, (inset above) all who have served 55 years with the Watford department. Chief Rick Sitlington also received honours for 40 years of service, Jan Joosten was recognized for 30 years of service as was Brad McCann. Four others, Dave Clark, Scott Oulds, Philip Pomoransky and Marty Vanos were awarded honours for 10 years of service. Fire Marshal Nelly Green, Warwick Mayor Todd Case Captain Mike Couwenberg and Deputy Chief Jim Hart.



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Here's How It Works: Level: Advanced
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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Charlotte's Corner

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Holiday Health Tips

BY DR. CHARLES WINEGARD

It's not news to many that emergency departments (ED) across the province, including our local Petrolia and Sarnia EDs, are seeing more patients, and in particular children, presenting with severe respiratory illnesses. COVID-19 is still here, as well as RSV for children, and a few cases of the influenza virus (flu) have been noted in Lambton County. For the few we have treated so far, this year's influenza virus is making people very sick.

Over 99% of what we are seeing locally is virus in origin – which means antibiotics are not helpful in treatment. Antibiotics ONLY work for bacterial infections, not viruses like RSV, COVID-19, or the common cold.

My best holiday health tips are to understand all of your health care options first, and potentially avoid longer-than-usual wait times at your local ED:

1. Call your primary care provider first.
2. Consider making an appointment with one of the local COVID, Cold and Flu Care Centres (formerly known as COVID-19 Testing and Assessment Centres). Locations available in Sarnia and Wyoming. Booking instructions and hours of operation can be found on www.lambtonpublichealth.ca
3. Be up-to-date on your vaccinations, including your COVID boosters and flu shot. And if you are a senior, please consider the pneumonia vaccine.
4. For parents: Use the armpit to gage temperature for your little ones, or use the under-the-tongue thermometer. This method is more reliable than the ear or forehead thermometers if you feel your child has a fever.
5. The virus we are seeing is lasting up to three weeks – so be patient, drink lots of fluids, eat healthy foods, and get some rest.
6. Wear a mask in densely populated indoor areas.
7. If you cannot find children's liquid ibuprofen or acetaminophen, talk to your pharmacist about alternative options – they may be able to assist you with behind-the-counter solutions.

Staff at Petrolia's ED are always here to help should you require emergency care. If you, your child, or a loved one is short of breath, please come see us in the ED.

*I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.
Please remember your local food banks.*

Dr. Winegard

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Canada

Opinion

Respect workers - accept Bill 124 decision: union

EDITOR:
I have a message to Premier Ford: Respect Workers, Accept Bill 124 Decision
Frontline workers have been through a lot the past three years. They’ve kept us safe and our economy running under unprecedented circumstances. Yet this government looks ready to keep punishing them.
In 2019, the Ford government passed Bill 124, which capped public sector workers to a one per cent annual

raise for three years. The government claimed it was needed for fiscal reasons, but we have since learned this was not true. We also learned that the government knew the bill would cause staff shortages but went forward with it anyway.
And now we are experiencing the destabilizing effects.
It’s not normal to see emergency rooms closed. It’s also not normal to have schools scrambling to find qualified teachers and education workers.
But there is an easy, achievable first step to help restore stability; the Ford government must accept the ruling that Bill 124 is unconstitutional. It wrongly targeted frontline workers, the majority of whom are women. They deserve fairness and respect.

**Jennifer Kumpf
President
District 10 OSSTF**

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CUPE workers approve deal which gives \$1/hour raise

The Independent
Parents can breath easier; education workers have a deal with the province.
CUPE-Ontario President Laura Walton announced Monday 76 per cent of the workers voted in favour of the deal after weeks of turmoil which led to two days of political protests.
Over 40,000 of the unions 55,000 educational assistants, secretaries,

custodians and early childhood educators took part in the vote.
Walton, who said she voted in favour of a deal, expected fewer workers to vote in favour of the deal.
With the deal, all workers get a \$1 per hour wage increase which the government says is a significant pay increase for the union’s lowest paid workers. Some CUPE members were earning \$39,000 per year and are the lowest paid employees in the educational system. The workers will also receive pay for the two days they walked out for a political protest when the province imposed a contract by suspending the workers’ constitutional right to strike.
The union was not able to convince the government to hire more workers to deal with a shortage of educational assistants in the schools.

Enniskillen will spend \$5,000 on study for Rokeby Line

**Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative**
Enniskillen Township will have to pay \$5,000 for an archaeological study for the Rokeby Line erosion protection project.
The project is to address erosion along Bear Creek, adjacent to Rokeby Line between Fairweather and Plowing Match roads. The toe slope of the bank has shifted causing the shoulder of the road to slump.

The solution recommended by the Environmental Assessment is to shift Rokeby Line, the width of one lane, while protecting the slope and grading the erosion area. The second phase will involve further protecting the slope, but the area will be monitored after the first phase is completed to see if the second phase needs to be conducted.
The project will be conducted in two phases, the first will be moving the road and grading the erosion area. The second phase will involve further protecting the slope, but the area will be monitored after the first phase is completed to see if any additional work needs to be done.
The entire project is expected to cost the municipality in the neighbourhood of \$1 million over the course of a couple of years.
“I can’t wait until we don’t have to talk about it again,” said Councillor Chad Burke.

- THE INDEPENDENT

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BRONCO CHRISTMAS



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

There were a lot of smiling faces at Brooke Central Public School for the annual Christmas Craft Sale. For a while - when the Lambton-Kent District School Board announced students were leaving the building because the roof might collapse under the snow - it was unclear whether show would have to be moved. Saturday’s event - and some of the students - are able to use the newer part of the building, which meets the current building standards.

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Pay hike for Brooke-Alvinston council

Heather Wright
The Independent

It will cost Brooke-Alvinston taxpayers about 37 per cent more – about \$9,300 - to pay councillors in 2023.

Council has agreed to a new pay system which sees the mayor and councillors receive an honorarium and a reduced rate of pay for attending meetings. Until council approved the move Nov. 24, Brooke-Alvinston council members had been the lowest paid in the county.

In the last term of council, the mayor received \$263 per meeting and \$85 when there was a special meeting. Councillors would get \$200 per regular meeting and another \$75 for special meetings. With that, up to \$2,500 per year to attend conferences and 58 cents per kilometre in mileage and \$100 for each committee meeting, the municipality spent about \$26,870 to pay members of council.

That was far lower than other small municipalities in Lambton, according to Clerk-Administrator Janet Denkers. Warwick spent \$48,455.11 in 2021 and Dawn-Euphemia spent \$34,075 in the same time frame.

In a report to council Denkers says “councillor wages have remained relatively

the same since 2011 - only a moderate increase was shown in the committee pay and conference allowances.”

Denkers suggested paying the mayor an honorarium of \$4,800 per year with \$175 per meeting and \$175 for special meetings. The deputy mayor would get an honorarium of \$2,700 and councillors \$2,400 as well as \$150 for meetings and special meetings of council. Both would receive \$100 for committee meetings and 60 cents per kilometre in mileage. It’s expected to cost the municipality \$36,925 in 2023. The increase would mean Brooke-Alvinston councillors would still be the second lowest paid in Lambton.

“Staff have found significant cost savings in eliminating special council meetings over the terms and pairing these meetings to coincide with regular council meetings, thus eliminating several special meetings,” she said adding any training will be done during already scheduled meetings.

“It is anticipated with the proposed introduction of honorariums, an additional \$9,300 will be added to the budget. The cost is modest in consideration that there have been no increases for 12 years,” says Denkers, noting the increase works out to about 2.5 per cent a year for the last 12 years without an increase.

PW ponders fate of closed roads

Councillors question spending cash on unimproved roads

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming council is considering how to deal with remote roads which are deteriorating.

The issue came up recently when Adam Sobanski, the director of public works, asked councillors to agree to improve the drainage on South Plympton Road between Churchill Line and the railroad tracks. Sobanski says the road is considered rated as an unimproved road and is maintained for agriculture use. The town grades the dirt about twice a year and sometimes fills in some of the potholes and ruts with gravel.

“The public has also informed staff that the remoteness of the unimproved roads leads to undesirable, nefarious activities by unknown third parties,” wrote Sobanski in a report to council. Drivers – including ATVs – looking for mud, damage the road leaving ruts behind.

Sobanski says before the road can be improved, drainage work needs to be done.

“In the springtime, the road becomes impassable. As the snow melts and the water levels rise, there’s nowhere for the water to

go. It collects on the road surface,” he told council. “We have received complaints in the springtime where the road is completely impassable due to high amounts of water.”

Sobanski says the work, including the drainage, could cost \$250,000.

But Deputy Mayor Netty McEwen questioned the need to improve the road.

“I feel myself that it’s sort of overkill to finish this road up to make it a better joy ride for the people that will use it again anyway.”

McEwen says the road should be declared surplus and sold to the landowners in the area for agricultural use.

Councillor Mike Vasey agreed the town may not want to spend money to upgrade South Plympton Road however it should be closed and gated - but not sold.

“I wouldn’t personally want to see it go as surplus right now because it is a true road not like he ones that lead up to the 401 which become fairly useless to us. So I would like to just see this close to the road.”

Sobanski says the town does have a number of closed and gated roads where the landowners have access but he needs to check federal legislation to figure out how that might affect the rail line.

Council has asked staff to look into the matter and also identify other roads with similar problems so council can discuss how the roads should be maintained or if they should be sold.

Petrolia wants rules for councillor recall

The Independent

Petrolia wants the province to consider removing councillors found to be guilty of some forms of discrimination against women and racial minorities.

Councillor Liz Welsh asked council to send a letter to the Office of the Integrity Commissioner mirroring the concerns of the Township of McGarry.

It wrote to the commissioner saying; “across municipal councils in Ontario there have been appalling instances of misogyny

and hatred.”

Under the Integrity Commission rules, councillors can only have their pay suspended or be removed from council for up to three months.

Petrolia and the Township of McGarry are asking the office of the Integrity Commissioner and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to “study the merits of allowing the recall of municipal councillors under carefully prescribed circumstances including displays of hatred, misogyny and all forms of discrimination.”

GOOD SCOUTS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

1st Petrolia Scouting honoured two long standing volunteers. Leva White - known as Rainbow in the group - has been a leader for 40 years and Earle Woolaver - known as Baloo - has been leading for 45 years.

Township’s insurance jumps 17.5 per cent

The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia will be shopping around for insurance next year.

That after township councillors learned there will be a 17.5 per cent increase in the community’s premium in 2023. That’s an extra \$25,000 for the community.

Treasurer Mark Seguin says some of the

increase is due to the new fire truck purchased in 2022. It has a higher replacement value than the old trucks.

Since 2021, the township’s insurance premium has increased over \$43,000 or about 34 per cent, prompting both Councillors Jason Myer and Mark McGuire to suggest it was time to start shopping around for a better deal in 2023.

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New housing along Hill Street prompts St. Clair to consider stop lights

Heather Wright
The Independent

St. Clair Township has put the brakes on a plan to put a pedestrian crosswalk at Hill and Queen Streets. Instead, councillors will consider putting a stoplight at the intersection. Last year, residents came to council asking for a stoplight. But a traffic study said there wasn't enough traffic in the area to warrant it. But that was before the recent housing boom in Ontario. Aileen Hamill spoke to council Monday saying with the expansion

of the Paddock Green subdivision there are between 105 and 190 more cars using the intersection now than when council approved the pedestrian crosswalk. And she says there are more children in the area. "Recently the new skateboard park has brought more pedestrian traffic to this intersection, with many children having to cross four lanes of Hill Street to access the park. "We cannot rely on drivers to be paying attention and stop accordingly for flashing lights pedestrian crossover. Most drivers

are not aware of the rules and possible fines associated with pedestrian crossovers," she says. "I do feel that drivers are more aware of responding to traffic lights and will adjust their driving accordingly." Hamill adds it is "extremely difficult to make left hand turns in all directions and intersections and the number of near miss accidents that I hear that I've witnessed is very concerning." Hamill brought council two petitions with nearly 500 names calling for the change. And while traffic studies may not

show the need for a traffic light in the area, Hamill reminded council another light on Hill Street was installed even though it didn't meet the official threshold for traffic use to install the standard. Councillor Pat Brown agreed with Hamill saying the engineers in the past had said the pedestrian crossover might need to be upgraded in the future. "I believe the future is here with the added housing ... at this point, we're wasting money on a pedestrian crossing." Council agreed the matter to the 2023 budget talks in January.

When the move was first discussed, it was expected installing the lights would cost about \$250,000. Staff says that installing a four way traffic signal will now cost about \$400,000. Meantime, the township will ask the company which was about to install the pedestrian crossing at Hill and Queen Street to install the crossing to Hill and Colborne instead. Brown says the crossing is just up the road about a half kilometre and students are likely to try to cross there instead of walking to the traffic light.

Water cash to pay for arena fix

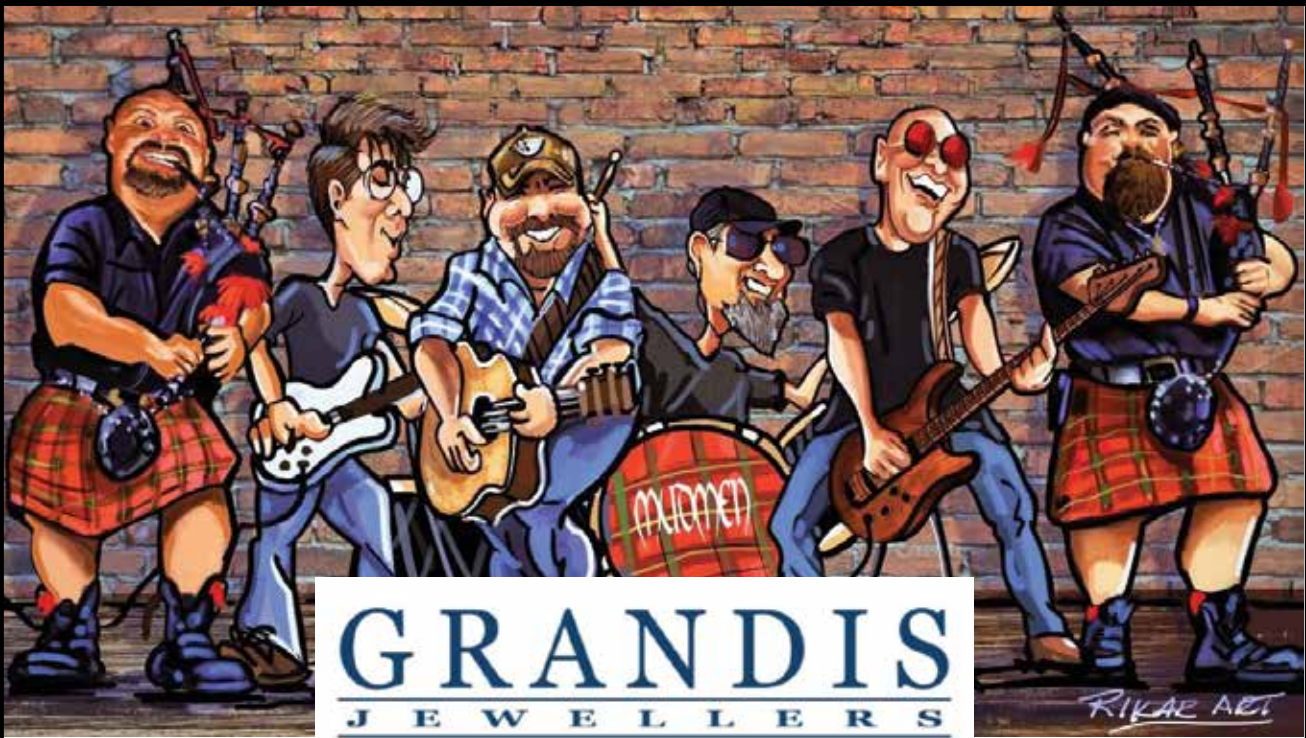
Heather Wright
The Independent

St. Clair Township is going to pull \$2.4 million from reserves and take out a loan to pay off the repairs at the Moore Sports Complex. Treasurer George Lozon says \$6.25 million in repairs were done on the sports complex after a \$35 million plan to redevelop the complex fell through because of lack of grants from the provincial and federal government. Instead, the township moved ahead with replacing the ammonia refrigeration system for the ice surface, - the last of its kind in the province and a safety hazard - replacing the concrete pads and arena boards for the ice surfaces as well as complete repairs to the roof trusses. The work has just been completed, with hockey teams returning to the ice in the last few weeks. At Monday's council meeting, council came up with a plan to pay for the renovations. Lozon says the township received about \$800,000 in grants. The rest will be drawn from a number of reserves including \$1,050,000 from the water reserves, which will be repaid over 30 years without interest. Lozon says while the money comes from water rates and was originally set aside to help pay for water meters, the province allows municipalities to use the reserves for other municipal projects as long as the money is repaid. Another \$400,000 will be taken from year end surpluses, \$600,000 will come from the Environment and Education reserve and \$350,000 from a reserve set up for the capital works at the complex. The rest of the money will be financed through a loan from the Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation over a period of 30 years.

Boards should foot election bill

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia's mayor wants school boards to start footing the bill for the election of trustees. School board trustees for all four of the province's systems are elected during the municipal elections and are run by the local clerks. School boards have never contributed to the cost of running the election. When the municipality has a race for councillors, the costs are not often seen, but when the municipal candidates are acclaimed, the communities must still run an election for those trustee position. That was the case in Dawn-Euphemia this year. Clerk-Administrator Donna Clermont told council Monday running the election for trustees cost the municipality over \$12,000 using the vote by mail system. While Petrolia had a full slate of candidates for municipal council, Mayor Brad Loosley is still concerned the school boards aren't paying their fair share. He'll ask council to get behind his plan ask the province to make "school boards become responsible for conducting their own trustee elections or at minimum municipalities be compensated by the school boards for overseeing such trustee elections." Loosley also hopes to get the local MPP, Bob Bailey, behind the move. He'll ask council to consider the idea Dec. 12.



Presents

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SATURDAY

25
FEB
2023



\$30

ALL AGES

8 PM

DOORS OPEN @ 7:30

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Ron MacLean Loves 'Em. You Should Too!

THIS IS A MUDMEN INC. EVENT

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Fish and friends join in for Petrolia’s Under the Sea Santa Claus Parade



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS

It was a sea of colour as Petrolia celebrated Christmas 'Under the Sea.' The theme for this year's Santa Claus Parade held Saturday brought out everything from Jelly Fish to Nemo, sea creatures and even a couple of mermaids. There were some of the traditional sights of Christmas, too, including Town Crier Les Whiting, a few ponies, the LCCVI marching band - who had already been in Watford for their parade in the morning, and a lot of happy, and a few exhausted children.



Chili and Christmas Cheer in Petrolia

Hundreds come to Victoria Park for Christmas in the Park

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS

The weather was on the warm side but it didn't detract from the Christmas feeling as Petrolia turned on the lights at Victoria Park. The display delighted Mia Pinto and became a place to play for other children. The Petrolia Rotary donated a set of reindeer to this year's display. And many people enjoyed the annual Chili Cookoff with service clubs such as the Central Lambton Optimists and the Petrolia Lions cooking up big vats to feed the crowd in the hopes of claiming the title of best chili in town.





Santa arrives in Plympton-Wyoming

Wyoming lights up the village and Camlachie celebrates the Gifts of Giving

BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS

Christmas came to Plympton-Wyoming this weekend with two events to mark the season. Santa helped light the Christmas tree at the library during Christmas in the Village in Wyoming Saturday night. He then took some time to talk to children at the Lions' Hall. The kids also had a chance to make some crafts; below right Jordyn Brooks, 5, gets some help from mom, Chloe, and Makenna Atkinson, 2, bottom centre, heads off to show off her craft. In Camlachie Sunday, the Huron Shores Optimists made the season bright with the family fun day called The Gift of Giving. Dean and Shelley Dochstader with son Gage drive the horses Babs and Bunnie from Beaver Meadow Stables at the Camlachie Community Centre on Sunday (centre right) while Parker Moore, 4, works on a craft.



Accessibility award named for Wyoming native

Heather Wright
The Independent

Sarnia will honour people who break down barriers in their daily lives with the new Kevin Schenk Legacy Award.

Sarnia City/County Councillor Brian White presented the first award to Kevin’s brother, William, and sisters, Kate and Maggie, during a ceremony Thursday.

Schenk passed away in October 2021 with his family noting his “lifelong participation in his community has been astonishing and admirable.”

Schenk, who lived with Down’s syndrome, grew up in Wyoming supported by Lambton County Developmental Services. He was active in his church, was a 4H member, went to Wyoming Public School and then LCCVI, and participated in Special Olympics.

He went to live in supportive housing in Sarnia in his 20s where his passion for community work continued including fundraising on Team Hoyt in the Ride for Refuge. He was also on the board of the Sarnia Association for Community Living. Kevin held part time jobs, was politically active in election campaigns, and active in his church. He was also part of the Sarnia Legion and helped out with local baseball teams in the summer.

White, who is a member of the Sarnia Accessibility Advisory Committee, developed the concept of the Kevin Schenk Legacy Award.

“I thought it would be an amazing addition to the annual celebration, to highlight somebody who faces barriers in their daily life, yet who



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sarnia City/County Councillor Brian White presented the first award to Kevin’s brother, William, and sisters, Kate and Maggie, during a ceremony Thursday.

continues to thrive in unique and meaningful ways.

“Barriers are different for everybody. And so are the successes that they achieve. To me it’s worth celebrating the resilience and determination it takes to wake up every day and live your best life,” White wrote on Facebook.

“Kevin demonstrated that determination every day. Kevin lived with Down’s Syndrome. He didn’t let that stop him from building relationships across the community, living independently, having jobs, and volunteering for countless organizations. If you knew Kevin, chances are you knew his hugs. And you knew his smile and sense of humor. It is that determination that inspired us as a committee to want to celebrate folks who take on life’s challenges in their own ways.”

Enniskillen inks dog deal with Dewhirst

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

The temporary appointments Enniskillen Township made to its animal control and shelter services are now permanent.

Enniskillen Township Council passed a bylaw on Dec. 5, which appoints Jeff Dewhirst as the animal control officer, as well as the Sarnia Humane Society to provide shelter services. These same appointments were made just after the June 30 retirement of Vicki Kyle who provided the same services out of the Glencoe Animal Shelter, for not only Enniskillen Township, but also nine other municipalities

including the Township of Warwick and the Town of Petrolia.

The Municipality of Adelaide Metcalfe posted a request for proposals on behalf of itself and the other municipalities to fill the animal control role. Enniskillen Township had until November with anyone who had shown interest in the request for proposals, but in the end decided to continue with Dewhirst and the Sarnia Humane Society.

Dewhirst currently operates an animal control business in Brigden. Enniskillen Township will be paying \$90 for each dog that is taken to the Sarnia Humane Society. It is estimated there are less than 10 dogs taken to the shelter from Enniskillen Township each year.

FLORENCE LODGE GIVES



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Members of the Florence IOOF Lodge were a busy group, delivering Christmas donations to a number of community organizations. The IOOF gave \$500 to the Alvinston Food Bank’s Don and Anne McGugan as well as the Petrolia Food Bank, Christmas For Everyone and the Dresden Food Bank. They also provided a \$1,000 to Four Counties Hospital in Newbury.

4

REASONS FOR ORTHOTICS

There are some situations that require extra foot support.

ONGOING FOOT PAIN

It’s Important to have a thorough assessment to rule out certain issues. When serious issues have been ruled out, orthotics can be beneficial by removing pressure and stress from painful areas.

YOU HAVE A FALLEN ARCH

While orthotics don’t correct a fallen arch, they can reposition structures in the foot to improve biomechanical function and reduce chance of injury. There a few different conditions that contribute to, and are aggravated by fallen arches such as plantar fasciitis, heel spurs, bunions and arthritis.

YOU STAND FOR LONG PERIODS AT YOUR JOB

If you are spending long periods of time on your feet, you will need extra support because your muscles will fatigue. It’s important to move around and give your feet a break.

DIABETES

If you suffer from diabetes, you have an increased risk of corns and calluses, especially if your foot alignment altered. Orthotics can be helpful in reducing these key pressure areas of the foot.

www.lambtonchiropractic.ca

Lambton Chiropractic Centre

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Blue Christmas

DECEMBER 18, 2022 @ 3:00 PM

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A quiet, contemplative service of hope and remembrance.

PETROLIA FOOD BANK

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Any items not listed are accepted, if you use it in your home our clients will use it in theirs

Alvinston Ice Angels Synchro Gala

Sunday, December 18th, 2022
2pm - Alvinston Arena
Donations at the Door

Featuring Intro to Synchro, Star 3 (BI), Star 4, Star 4 (PJ), Star 4 (Elem), Pro-Novice, On The Edge -Adult 2 and Special Guests-Dragonflies

Sports

LCCVI NOTCHES FIRST WIN



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

The Lancers opened the season with a 4-1 home ice triumph over North Lambton. Nate Perry had a goal and an assist to lead LCCVI with the others going to Trevor Anderson, Parker Davidson and Casyn Foster Brett Dickey replied in the final period for the Eagles. The Lancers look to make it two in a row against St. Pat’s Wednesday. The girls team played Tuesday but the score was not available at press time.

Squires hang ten on Milverton in home win

All but one skater with the Petrolia Squires registered at least one point in a 10-4 home ice win over Milverton.

Ryan Trottier led the way Friday for the winners with a hat trick and an assist, while Curtis Helps and Jared Pageau both added a goal and an assist. Other Petrolia goals were scored by Eric Marsh, Kole Keating, Tanner Harris, Sam McCormack and Isaac McLean.

Tom Morley contributed three assists and Steve

Farlow, Zach Van Eyk, Brandon Bigoers, Jack Hackett and Brendon Merritt all had two helpers.

Brandon Campbell made 20 saves in the Squire goal.

Saturday in Ripley, Connor MacKinlay made his season debut making 23 stops for Petrolia in a 3-1 loss to the Wolves. Pageau had the lone goal for the Squires.

Petrolia, now 6-6 on the season, hosts Tavistock on Friday at 8:30.

Hockey Roundup: Killer Bees, Flags fall, Silverstick win

The Tilbury Bluebirds scored twice in the third including the game winner with 13 seconds left in regulation time to beat the Killer Bees 5-4.

It’s the first of four meeting between the Birds and Bees over the next month in Western Ontario Super Hockey League action.

Tyler Winquist, Avery Antone, Blair Derynck and Bayly Fryfogle scored for Alvinston at home Saturday. The Bees are in Strathroy on Friday at 7:30 and entertain Tilbury on Saturday at 1:30.

...

The visiting Essex 73’s scored three times in the first period, including twice on the power play and went on to beat the Flags, 5-1 Saturday night in Mooretown. Petrolia’s Ethan Kerby had the lone goal for the Flags. John Chartrand made 33 saves as the 73’s outshot Mooretown,

38-36. The Flags were 0-for-10 with the man advantage. Mooretown is home to Lakeshore on Wednesday night at 7:30. They take on the Kings in Dresden Friday and entertain Amherstburg on Saturday at 7:30.

...

East Lambton got by the Elmvale Coyotes, 5-4 to capture the U15 tier two championship at the regional Silver Stick tournament in Ayr last weekend.

The Eagles went through the round robin with victories over Greater Fort Erie, Elmvale and Ingersoll and blanked Norwood, 2-0 in the semifinals.

Petrolia made the semifinals in both the U15 and U18 divisions losing to Elmvale and Parry Sound respectively.

Petrolia’s Dobbin to be inducted into Hershey Hall of Fame

Brian Dobbin will be inducted into the Hersey Bears Hall of Fame at a ceremony next March. The Petrolia product won a Calder Cup championship with the AHL Bears in 1988. He had 43 goals and 98 points in 69 regular season and playoff games that season and was also chosen as a first team league all-star. The

Forest’s Tyler McGregor assisted on Canada’s

56 year-old began his junior career with the Mooretown Flags before going on to play major junior A hockey in Kingston and with the London Knights.

He played nearly 800 games of pro hockey over 12 seasons including 63 NHL games with the Philadelphia Flyers and Boston Bruins.

lone goal. He led the tournament with nine goals in five games and was second in scoring with 13 points. McGregor scored his 100th career international goal earlier in the week.

Flyer food drive continues

The four-week food drive by the PJHL’s Petrolia Flyers continues this Thursday when the Aylmer Spitfires pay a visit to Greenwood at 7:30. Fans who donate a minimum of three canned good will receive a ballot for one of three McDonalds gift cards, valued at \$200, \$300 and \$500, to be drawn during Petrolia’s home game on Dec. 22.

Playing with just 14 skaters, the Flyers hung tough in a 3-1 loss to

the Lucan Irish last Thursday night on home ice. Hunter Monkhouse of Kettle Point iced the game with a late empty net goal after he had drawn an assist on the game-winning marker midway through the second period.

Noah Harse had the lone Petrolia goal, his fourth of the season.

Maddox Nazwaski made 37 saves in the Flyer goal. Nazwaski stopped 45 shots in a 3-0 loss to the Trojans in Thamesford on Friday. Petrolia is at

Saturday, December 10, 2022



FREE ADMISSION
if you bring a
lightly used winter coat
(or ½ price admission if you bring
a canned good)

1:30 pm @Alvinston Arena
The Bees take on the Bluebirds of Tilbury once again - brought to you by Munro Honey. You could win up to \$1000.00 in our first ever **Turkey Toss**, \$3.00 Hive & Harvest Coolers, plus Live Music by Chatham’s ‘Just Us’ band in the upper hall (Honey House Bar) after the game (the band will also play outside during the drive thru Santa Claus Parade at 6:00 PM)



3:30 - 9:00 pm
Killer Bee Honeyhouse Bar
(Upper arena hall)



3:30 pm: Meat Raffle

6:00 pm: Catch the Ace Draw (\$2,628.00)

Alvinston Legion
Br# 249

**Christmas DINNER**

Homemade turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, vegetables, gravy, cranberry sauce, a bottled beverage and dessert.

\$25/MEAL
ADVANCED TICKETS ONLY

Tickets available online at www.alvinstonoptimist.com or at Three Maples Variety in Alvinston, Inwood Grocery & Variety, Wilson’s Shell in Watford, Lizzy’s in Thedford, or from any Optimist Member.

ALVINSTON OPTIMIST

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



ONE WAY & NON STOP DRIVE THRU PARADE ROUTE




6:00-7:30 pm:
ONE WAY Drive Thru “It’s a Gingerbread Christmas” Santa Claus Parade
Including: 10 bands and several elite parade performers (details at alvinstonoptimist.com) or on Facebook - enter off Courtright Line onto River Street only.
Free horse and carriage and hay wagon rides - board in arena parking lot.

7:30-9:30 pm:
FREE Public Skating & hot drinks.
Photos w/Santa & parade mascots.
Colouring Contest.

Sat., Dec. 10 to Wed., Dec. 14 - Vote for “People’s Choice” favourite home light display - full list posted Saturday at alvinstonoptimist.com

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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

Notices


Answers to this week's

Sudoku

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1	5	6	9	3	7	8	4	2
7	4	8	1	2	6	3	9	5
6	2	5	4	1	8	7	3	9
4	1	7	3	9	2	5	8	6
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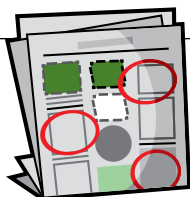
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<p>Christ Anglican Church 414 Oil Street, Petrolia</p> <p><i>Regular Services @ 10am</i> <i>Blue Christmas Service</i> <i>Dec. 21 @ 6pm</i> <i>Christmas Eve Service</i> <i>Dec 24 @ 6pm</i> <i>Christmas Day Service @ 10am</i> <i>Everyone Welcome</i></p> <p>Rev. Dave Hewett Church Office 519-882-1430 christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com</p>	<p>St. Paul's United Church 4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street</p> <p><i>In-Person Services</i> <i>Sundays</i> <i>@ 10:30 am</i></p> <p>Rev. Carol Ferguson Church Office: 519-882-1390 www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net</p>	<p>First Baptist Church 418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia</p> <p>IN PERSON CHURCH SERVICE Sunday Mornings @ 10:30 am</p> <p>Pastor: Alex Craig Church Office 519-882-2480 email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca</p>	<p>Wyoming United Church 730 Second Street, Wyoming</p> <p><i>In-Person Services</i> <i>taking place</i> <i>Sundays @ 11 am</i></p> <p>Rev. Steven Longmoore Church Office 519-845-3963 FIND US ON FACEBOOK</p>	<p>St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 416 Queen Street, Petrolia (Behind the Post Office)</p> <p><i>In-Person Service</i> <i>Sundays</i> <i>@ 10:00 am</i></p> <p><i>Services also available online:</i> www.standrews-petrolia.ca</p>
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Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon



Classifieds

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

Obituaries / Death Notices

SMITH

Leola Carol



Leola Carol Smith (Roze) former resident of Petrolia, ON, passed away at St Thomas Elgin General Hospital on **Monday, November 28th, 2022**, surrounded by family. Beloved wife of the late Roy L. J. Smith. Praying mother of Michael Smith (Joy); Linda Van Troost (Theodore); Patricia Kelly (Wesley); and Reginald Smith (Suzy). Proud grandmother of 17 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren, each one remembered in her prayers. Fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Carol was predeceased by siblings Gordon, Burton ('Ronald'), Eldon, and Lorna. Survived by Roberta and Charles. Loving daughter to the late Reginald and Carrie Roze (Boutilier). Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on July 29, 1933, with a thimble and needle in hand, best known in the community and surrounding area for her passion for sewing. While others wore store-bought clothes, we wore her creations. Slipcovers and quilts came later, but her passion for bedspreads and drapes made her well known, for her workmanship was well sought after. We, her family, have fond memories of Bible story time and will be forever grateful for the godly values she taught us, and the importance of seeking after God. Mom looked forward to the hugs and the sweet sit-down visits from her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She adored every photo sent and could be found searching for family photos on social media. She was a proud Nova Scotian and didn't mind being called a bluenoser. Yearly trips out east brought much excitement and produced a treasure trove of memories. The day of her passing was spent in reflection; tears of loss and laughter, remembering the treasured memories she left us with. In her own words, "I gave you some stories to tell." It is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a, "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die." Never take life for granted, and may love abound in our hearts toward one another in the good times and the hard time. **Friends and family were received at STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigden on Saturday, December 03, 2022 from 10am to 12pm with the funeral service following.** Sympathy may be expressed through donations to Freedom Village of Canada (Freedom Village of Canada – Helping Teens through Christ). Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.steadmanbrothers.ca. Arrangements entrusted to STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigden 519-864-1193.

LOWDEN

Jean

Jean Lowden, of Perth-Andover New Brunswick and formerly a longtime resident of Petrolia, passed away on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at Victoria Glen Manor Nursing home in Perth-Andover, New Brunswick. She was **90** years of age. Jean was predeceased by her parents Wilfred and Mary Harvey and by her husband Ross. She is survived by her brother Keith Harvey (Pat) of Sussex New Brunswick and her children, Phil Lowden (Patrice) of Sarnia, Janice Rummig (Bill) of Sussex New Brunswick and Virginia Scott (Jim) of Perth-Andover New Brunswick, and also by her grandchildren, Julia (Steve), Allison (Jeremy), Joseph (Sandra), Katie (Randy), Jeffery, and Robyn (Shane) and fourteen great grandchildren. **There will be a memorial service at the Perth-Andover Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses on Saturday, December the 10th 2022, 2pm.**

Wanted

CASH PAID FOR QUALITY VINTAGE & MID-CENTURY MODERN Teak/Walnut/Chrome FURNITURE from the 1950s-70s. Also lamps, mirrors, art, HOCKEY CARDS, Christmas ornaments and more. **Please call Lance @ 519-882-4729, thank you.**

Shared Accommodations

ROOMMATE WANTED

Beautiful home in Petrolia, completely furnished. Non-smoker, female, no pets \$700.00 per month includes all utilities and wifi. Washer and dryer on-site. Available Immediately. Phone: 226-738-0784

Antiques, Art & Collectibles

BUYING ANTIQUES, VINTAGE ITEMS, ESTATES

Buying anything old: Signs, pottery, toys, comics, knives, Coleman lanterns, lighters, advertising, razors and much more! Single items, contents of attics, garages, barns & entire estates. Call Chad 519-639-9102 chadnlyndsay@yahoo.ca.

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.

Upcoming Events

PETROLIA LIONS CLUB

BINGO

Come & Join Us at the Lions Hall

Wednesday Dec 14 2022

Doors Open @ 6pm BINGO @ 7pm

Refreshments Available Information 519.882.8728

Oil Springs Optimists' Meat Bingo

Thurs., Dec. 15 @ 7pm

at the Oil Springs Youth Centre

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

All proceeds go to local youth

Immediately Needed Items



PETROLIA FOOD BANK

Your Generosity & Support Are Greatly Appreciated.

Other ways to help out...

FOOD DONATIONS can be left at: Heidi's YIG - Petrolia; Wyoming Foodland & Corunna NoFrills or dropped off to 4156 PETROLIA LINE, UNIT 1 (REAR) • 519-882-3950 • MONDAY 9-11:30 AM & 4TH WEDNESDAY 6-7:45 PM



Malcolm Brown a member of The Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Florence Lodge 196, is seen here presenting cheques to Sandra Hartman as \$500 is being donated to both the "Christmas for Everyone" Petrolia, and the Petrolia Food Bank. Other donations made recently by the Florence Lodge 196 include \$500 to Dawn-Euphemia and another \$500 to the Dresden Food Bank.

Windy and Wonderful Watford Santa Claus Parade

Watford’s downtown was filled with the sound of Christmas and howling winds Saturday



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS

The wind and spirits were high in Watford for the annual Santa Claus Parade. Members of the Watford Legion stretch to straighten the flag as they marched and everyone was bundled up against the stiff breeze including the members of the LCCVI marching band.





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