

Over 500 families receive Christmas help this year

Central Lambton officials say that includes over 520 children

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Local volunteer fire fighters will be making several visits to homes in Lambton County this week, not because there is an emergency, but to make sure families have a good Christmas celebration this year.

Sandra Hartman, manager of the Petrolia Food Bank, which oversees Christmas for Everyone, has seen an increase in need this year with 21 families more families receiving hampers over last year.

There were just over 400 families, which received hampers in 2021.

Even though there is an increase in need, she has seen a decrease in donations, getting one third less of what is normally received. “There is a lot of juggling,” said Hartman.

In anticipation of demand exceeding donations, she has shopped all year long for the program.

Each hamper has 36 items, including fresh cheese, eggs and bread. There are other staples, such as peanut butter, jams and soup. Gift cards are also provided so families can buy a turkey or a ham. There are also gifts for the children, as she estimated about 400 children among all of the families receiving hampers.

Christmas for Everyone delivers to hamper to families everywhere in rural Lambton County, except for St. Clair Township.

In the north of St. Clair Township, the Optimist Club of Moore has Operation Christmas Tree underway with hampers going out to 106 families. Among those families are 152 adults and 121 children, said Stan Marsh, president of the board of directors of Operation Christmas Tree.

Marsh said donations have been very good, as the local community supports the program each year.

SEE CHRISTMAS PG 1

Petrolia Y bouncing back better than most

Heather Wright
The Independent

The manager of the Petrolia Y says the fitness centre is bouncing back from the pandemic better than most clubs in the region.

But Joe Cebulski says a year and a half after reopening a quarter of the people who used to come to the local Y still haven’t returned.

Cebulski told Petrolia Council Monday that of all the 15 Y’s in southwestern Ontario, Petrolia has rebounded from closures during the pandemic the best with about 78 per cent of its members returning to work out and socialize.

Right now, 1,140 people come through the doors of the Y in Petrolia. Cebulski says about half are from Petrolia and the rest are from the surrounding communities.

About 14 per cent of those people are getting help to pay for their membership fees.

“There’s lots of chatter about membership fees ... but what we need to remember is that we’re a not-for-profit, charitable organization; that those fees that come in are going back into our programs going back into our

community,” Cebulski told council. “We allow anyone to come forward to request subsidy and we don’t say no; we are able to work with everyone...when they’re in need, when things are difficult the Y is there for them and that recreation is always available.” That’s particularly important, he says, as people try to recover from the isolation of the pandemic.

The Y has managed the Oil Heritage Community Centre for five years. Council will discuss extending the contract in January.

Right now, the town pays the Y’s deficit - the difference between what it earns in membership and program fees and the cost to operate the facility. The town also pays a monthly fee for administration. That’s based on 9.5 per cent of the revenue which is brought in.

When the Y was brought on to manage the facility, the town and the Y said it was likely between \$500,000 and \$625,000 would be saved by contracting the service out.

From October 2021 to 2022, for example, the town has paid operating fees ranging from as little as \$19,890 to as much as \$44,830 per month to support the centre.

STEPPING OUT FOR CHRISTMAS



BLAKE ELLIS/ LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

There was a lot of high stepping fun in Alvinston this weekend as the Alvinston Optimist hosted the second ‘Reverse Parade’ where people drove through the community to see floats, 10 bands and performers. You can see more of the event on pages 8 and 9.



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SCAN FOR MENU



‘It’s better than nothing’

Heather Wright
The Independent

It’s better than nothing. Lambton’s Manager of Planning, Ken Melanson told Petrolia councillors Monday that while the province is trying to discourage municipalities from putting new development charges on new residential housing, the town would still benefit from introducing a fee. Right now, Petrolia is one of a handful of municipalities in southwestern Ontario which doesn’t charge development fees. It was a conscious decision in the 1990s as a way to attract new development. But in a time of climbing costs and rapid development, some councillors want to have a study done to see how charging a fee would impact the town. The province has allowed development charges for some time. The purpose is to charge a flat rate after estimating what new or expanded servi-

ces the residents of the new homes will need in the future. Some communities - like Plympton-Wyoming - charge less than \$2,000 per home. Sarnia charges the most in Lambton - upwards of \$30,000 per home. But recently, the province passed legislation to discourage new fees on developers as it tries to spur housing growth. Any new development charge will now have to be phased in. But Melanson told council Monday it would still be an important revenue source for the town. “The fact is the town would earn 85 per cent of the fee on every project through the development charges by-law is still 80 cents if you didn’t have yesterday,” he said. “I would encourage every municipality that was considering it to still adopt it.” Melanson says there will also be exemptions for affordable housing, although the province is looking at a new definition of what that means.

Christmas boxes go to over 500 families

CON’T FROM PG 1

“We never know how much we are going to get,” said Marsh. “We do our best to get it all out to families who need it.” Operation Christmas Tree provides gift cards, toys, books and clothing, all matched to the children’s ages. All food donated to redirected to the local food bank. Operation Christmas Tree came under the direction of the

Optimist Club of Moore in 1989. Prior to this, the Corunna Post Office employees ran it. Fifteen fire departments will be delivering Christmas for Everyone hampers on Thursday, while the Operation Christmas Tree the Corunna, Brigden and Courtright fire departments will distribute hampers to families on Saturday.

- THE INDEPENDENT

SECOND TERM FOR MARRIOTT



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Former Warden Bill Weber helps Enniskillen Mayor Kevin Marriott with the Warden's chain of office. Marriott was acclaimed as the 160th warden of Lambton. He was the only candidate for the job to be the face of the county and to lead county council meetings. Sarnia City/County Councillor Brian White will serve as Marriott's deputy mayor. He defeated Brooke-Alvinston Mayor David Ferguson and Point Edward Mayor Bev Hand – who served as the deputy warden for the past two years. The 160th warden is expecting this will be a difficult term. Marriott told county councillors after the election the pace of change in the last three years has been “staggering. I believe much more pain is coming,” he says adding while economist believe the country will have a difficult 2023, he believes the economic problems will last longer than that. “I think it’s going to be a challenge. I think the worst of the pandemic is yet to come.” Marriott told reporters the first big challenge county council faces is the 2023 budget. Inflation is pushing up costs and the warden doesn’t think taxpayers can afford large tax increases. “Taxpayers can’t afford to handle a six per cent increase in taxes. Where do we come up with the money to deal with the issue of rising costs?” says Marriott. That will have to be balanced with the need to help those who are homeless and seniors in need of long term care, says Marriott. Right now, the waiting list for an affordable housing unit is four years and Marriott says the county needs to find ways to build more homes. And the county’s long term care homes are in need of \$100 million in repairs in the next decade. The province has already told county officials there isn’t provincial cash available to help. Marriott urged county councillors to work as a team “overlooking the occasional differences of opinion” working for the good of the county as a whole.”

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FIELD FIRE ON LONDON LINE



STACEY CHARLTON PHOTO

Fires in farm fields are not that unusual in the summer, but drivers did a double take Monday night when travelling down London Line near Camlachie Sideroad. Firefighters from both Wyoming and Camlachie were on the scene of a field fire in the early evening. Witnesses said trucks could be seen shuttling water to the site from a nearby fire hydrant near the churches on the corner. It isn't clear what cause the fire.

Campbell's parole hearing postponed

Heather Wright
The Independent

The second parole board hearing for convicted murder Donald Campbell has been delayed. Campbell was found guilty of first degree murder after killing his wife, Fenny, at their Wyoming home in 1998. Campbell applied for day parole earlier this year but was denied. He won the right to appeal the decision and was expecting a second hearing Dec. 21.

In a social media post, Joel Campbell, one of the victim's three children, said "our family learned that the new parole hearing for Donald Campbell has been postponed until January 2023.

"No specific reason was given and no specific date has been provided yet." "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," said Joel Campbell in a social media post on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada, Dec. 5.

He added the family "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."

Joel Campbell also asked the community to "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."



Fenny Campbell

New Lambton MOH urges vaccines

Cathy Dobson
For The Independent

An early start to the flu season is hitting the area hard, contributing to a "triple threat" of respiratory illnesses straining the health care system, says Sarnia-Lambton's acting medical officer of health.

During her first media conference since taking Lambton's top public health job in November, Dr. Karalyn Dueck talked about dealing simultaneously with the COVID-19 pandemic, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and the current spread of flu in Sarnia-Lambton.

Locally, influenza A is the most prevalent strain of flu right now. Influenza A's test positivity rate is 16.7%, higher than 14.3% the week before.

"It's been rapidly increasing since September," Dr. Dueck said. And those rates are expected to increase during the holiday season.

She said she backs the Ontario chief medical officer of health's recommendation to wear masks, especially in indoor public spaces.

She urged Lambton residents to adopt a multi-faceted approach to avoid getting sick. That includes screening daily

for symptoms, wearing masks, getting vaccinated, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands really well and using hand sanitizer when you can't get to a sink, cleaning high-touch surfaces frequently, and coughing and sneezing into your arm.

"Those are skills that need to be practised and I think if we all really focus on those, we can try to protect each other," she said.

When it comes to deciding whether to wear a mask, Dr. Dueck said individuals need to assess their own level of risk.

"Think about who you are around," she said. "Are you around young kids, older adults, or people who are immunocompromised?"

Lambton Public Health has already vaccinated 3,000 people against the flu and more are being vaccinated by local health care providers and pharmacies.

That's in line with last year's pace, Dr. Dueck said. Health officials have said this year's flu vaccine is a good match for the dominant strain in circulation.

"I know it can be kind of tricky to find a good time when you're not ill to get the vaccine, but as soon as you have the opportunity, I'd encourage everyone in the community to get the vaccines they are eligible (for)," she said.



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This Month In Lambton
November 2022



Warden Kevin Marriott
@LambtonWarden

OMC receives OMA Award

The Oil Museum of Canada, National Historic Site has been presented the Award of Excellence in Exhibitions, by the Ontario Museum Association (OMA).

The OMA presents awards in several categories, celebrating museums across the province that demonstrate outstanding contributions to the Ontario museum community.

The Award of Excellence in Exhibitions focuses on new and innovative exhibitions, and recognizes the Oil Museum of Canada's recent renovation project that transformed the exhibition space, improved accessibility, and replaced end of life equipment and building systems.

The project enhanced key areas to improve visitor's comfort and experiences with interactive components.

You can experience the exhibit during operating hours on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.



Upcoming JNAAG events

Join the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery this month for one of their upcoming events. Learn more and see a full list at jnaag.ca.

Future Community Blueprint

December 2, 2022 – March 31, 2023

Beginning this December, we invite you to collaborate on a blueprint for our community's future. Submissions will be integrated into an augmented reality visualization, being revealed in May 2023.

Cozy Candle Making

December 3 & 17, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Drop-in on December 3 and 17 between 1 and 3 p.m. to create a beeswax candle through a wax dipping method.

This activity is free and fun for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Treats and hot chocolate provided.

Looking Ahead

9 a.m., Dec. 7, 2022 - Warden's Election

Agendas, minutes and links to meeting live stream videos can be found at www.lambtononline.ca/meetings.

To read more, go to lambtononline.ca

Office of the County Warden
519-845-0801 | 1-866-324-6912
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Editorial

Financial accountability

It is laudable that the Petrolia Y has made one of the best comebacks of health clubs in the region after the pandemic.

The head of the local Y was at council Monday to talk about the good things that are happening a year and half after the building reopened to customers in the wake of the pandemic. And the news is somewhat good.

Of the 15 Y's in Southwestern Ontario, Petrolia's Y has recovered better than any other. That's good to hear. But good is relative here; nearly a quarter of their members have not returned a year and a half later.

That's not a complete surprise. People were nervous about going out and gyms were considered a high risk area with all the huffing and puffing going on. But a year and a half after the Petrolia Y's doors reopened for good, they're still not all back.

And that undoubtedly causes money issues although it is difficult to find out exactly how extensive they are.

The agreement the Town of Petrolia has with the Y to run the Oil Heritage District Centre is based on first covering the cost of operating it when revenues don't pay the bills and second, paying an administrative fee of nearly 10 per cent of revenues. While town staff sees quarterly reports on the finances of the centre, it is not clear if councillors do. Instead, they would have to dig through agendas to look for bills which have been paid to the Y. And that can be time consuming and confusing.

The contract stipulates the Y can submit bills 90 days after the month is complete. It makes it difficult to figure out just what the financial picture is.

That's particularly important now. Early in the new year, town council will be asked to renew the contract with the Y. The deal five years ago was supposed to save the town \$500,000 to \$650,000, administrators said at the time.

Wouldn't it be a good idea to know if there were any savings? It would provide some accountability to the taxpayer, who is paying the bill for the cost overruns at the Y.

Without that information, councillors will make the easy decision to renew the contract, assuming everything is just fine, even if it is not.

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



IMAGE FROM THE FILES OF BRIAN MACFARLANE

Another image from Scarborough historian Brian MacFarlane from an envelope of old negatives marked "Petrolia." These three ladies are standing on a lawn roller. History buffs have speculated it is either on the golf course or in "The Flats." More images can be found at Lost Lambton, Found's Facebook Page.

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Warwick faces ‘mind boggling’ inflation in 2023

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick taxpayers could be facing a 3.5 per cent municipal tax increase. And that won’t come close to dealing with the rising costs due to “unprecedented inflationary pressures.”

For example, the cost of replacing the salt shed at the Warwick public works yard has climbed from \$750,000 to \$1.5 million, mainly due to inflation. The cost of insurance has also skyrocketed 86 per cent in the last five years.

Warwick Council got the first look at the proposed 2023 budget Tuesday. Treasurer Trevor Jarrett says staff did as much as they could to remove extra costs adding there is “little to no contingency in any departmental operating budget. Any emergency situation will create an operating deficit.”

Aside from the proposed \$1.5 million salt shed, the township has set aside \$300,000 to repair the walls at the Watford fire hall. Another \$100,000 has been set aside to revitalize the old fire hall which houses historic artifacts. Another \$85,000 is set aside to work on the foundation of the local library. The budget was drafted with a 3.5 per cent increase in taxes and \$1.73 million taken out of reserves to help meet the shortfall.

Jarrett says there is room to remove that much money from savings. Since 2014, he says the reserves have grown from about \$250 per resident to over \$2,500 per resident today. But, the township’s debt load has also increased, because of some new buildings, including the East Lambton Community Complex.

Jarrett says since 2014, debt per resident has grown from \$1,000 to over \$3,000.

Councillors didn’t make any changes to the draft budget yet, but they did voice concern about what they were seeing, particularly the rising cost of repairing or erecting new buildings. “It’s mind boggling how much it is,” said Mayor Todd Case about the rising cost of the salt shed.

He also voiced concern about the state of the roads in the municipality, particularly Arkona Road. “I think it’s very important that we find a balance between the urban and the rural projects,” says Case. “There’s been an awful lot done in Watford for the last little while, justifiably so. But there’s an awful lot that needs to be done in the rest of the Warwick as well. So I think we really need to start looking at that balance and how we go about doing that how we fund it.”

Dawn-Euphemia wastes no time cutting budget

Heather Wright
The Independent

It didn’t take Dawn-Euphemia councillors to get to work reducing the 2023 budget.

Like most other communities, the township is facing increasing costs because of inflation. Treasurer Mark Seguin presented a \$5.2 million budget with an 8.5 per cent increase - about 3.5 per cent of that can be attributed to inflation.

The cost of insurance is rising 17 per cent this year for Dawn-Euphemia. And the township was considering buying insurance to protect against cyber attacks. That would cost another \$25,100.

The budget calls for about \$950,000 to be spent on gravel to resurface local roads.

Seguin also suggest putting aside \$30,000 to buy the land around the Shetland Library in the future. The treasurer also wanted to put some cash into reserves. He wanted to put an extra \$190,000 into reserves this year including some extra into the fire reserves.

Mayor Al Broad says that’s just not realistic at this point. So on the first night of budget deliberations, council removed about \$50,000 from reserves to bring the tax increase to about five per cent. Broad says while there is still more work to do, he’s not sure how much councillors will be able to cut since inflation is driving costs up.

Historic Kingswell Glen sold to golf management company

The Independent

Kingswell Glen Golf Course has been sold.

The historic Petrolia golf course is one of two Lambton County properties which are now part of the GolfNorth group of 38 courses. GolfNorth purchased Arkona Fairways in October.

The Petrolia course, built by Jake Englehart in 1895, is one of Canada’s oldest courses. In 2020, it was purchased Joe and Jenna Gorzeman. GolfNorth Regional Vice President Doug Breen was “ecstatic” when the opportunity came up.

GolfNorth will continue to operate the winter facilities without interruption and will honour 2023 memberships which have been purchased.

The current management team will remain in place.

GolfNorth also bought Arkona Fairways from the Vanos family who built the 18 hole par 68 in 1988. GolfNorth owns 38 properties and sells multi-course membership packages.

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The Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

The Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston is looking to fill a vacancy on the Committee of Adjustment effective Feb. 1, 2023. As members of this committee you will review and make decisions on applications for severances and minor variances and other planning issues. The appointment is a three year term.

Attendance at meetings will be mandatory. You will be required to prepare for meetings on your time. Previous municipal or planning experience would be an asset.

Applications in the form of a letter will be accepted until 12 pm Fri. Jan. 6, 2023 to the address below:

Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston
Attention: Janet Denkers, Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment
3236 River Street
PO Box 28
Alvinston, Ontario N0N 1A0
Email to: jdenkers@brookealvinston.com

We thank all applicants for their interest however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used for the purpose of candidate selection.



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Tues., December 27 (Boxing Day Observed): 7 am – 3 pm
Sat., December 31 (New Year's Eve): 7 am -11 am
Sun., January 1 – (New Year's Day): Closed
Mon. January 2nd – (New Year's Day Observed): Closed
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LASALLE LINE ACCIDENT



SUBMITTED PHOTO

One person was injured in an accident on Mandaumin near Lasalle Line. Lambton OPP say a passenger car and a commercial vehicle - a tanker truck - collided around 7:30 Friday and one person was taken to hospital with serious injuries. Police are investigating.

Petrolia subject of new documentary

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

“I am really intrigued by small towns,” said Tys Burger. The documentary film maker and his partner have turned their sites on Petrolia, delving into the discovery of oil here and how it changed the world. Burger started with a film about his hometown of Pembroke. The Heart of the Valley was produced by the Elytra Collective. The idea to feature Petrolia came from a casual conversation. When a friend explained her family history she said her family settled in Petrolia for a short time. The name of Petrolia caught Burger’s attention and led to another documentary about how Petrolia and the first commercial oil discovery in nearby Oil Springs in 1858. “The oil boom in Petrolia didn’t

last very long,” said Burger. Those early drillers who got their start in the Petrolia area went around the world following the oil strikes and made their mark in 80 different countries like Saudi Arabia and Russia spreading their knowledge and applying their trade. The oil industry developed the Chemical Valley near Sarnia where many oil refineries and chemical plants are located. This has negatively impacted the Aamjiwnaang First Nation, which sits in the shadow of the Chemical Valley and have experienced health consequences due to its proximity to the processing plants,” says Burger. It is this paradox of the relationship the local area has being the site of the first commercial oil well but then seeing the harm the industry has done to the environment “is what draws me to it,” said Burger.

Burgers said all of the filming is already complete. He came to Lambton four times over two years to conduct 15 interviews, including with Charles Fairbank, whose family helped open the oil fields of Oil Springs - fields that still produce oil today. Burger says they’re working on editing and the post production work. A tentative date for release has been set for the fall of 2023 and Burger hopes there can be a screening in Petrolia. Burger explained the project has been self funded which allows the Elytra Collective to do things at its pace. A film trailer has been produced and a Kickstarter fundraising has begun. He’s raised 20 per cent of the \$8,500 goal to finish the film. You can donate to help Burger complete the film through Kickstarter.com by searching for Petrolia Documentary.

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MARKING 25 YEARS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Long-time Petrolia councillor and former mayor, Ross O'Hara was honoured for his community service Monday. Mayor Brad Loosley surprised O'Hara with a provincial certificate recognizing over 25 years as an elected leader. “The reason I do it is I love it,” said O'Hara in accepting the certificated. “I love the Town of Petrolia.”

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FROM THE STAFF AT THE INDEPENDENT



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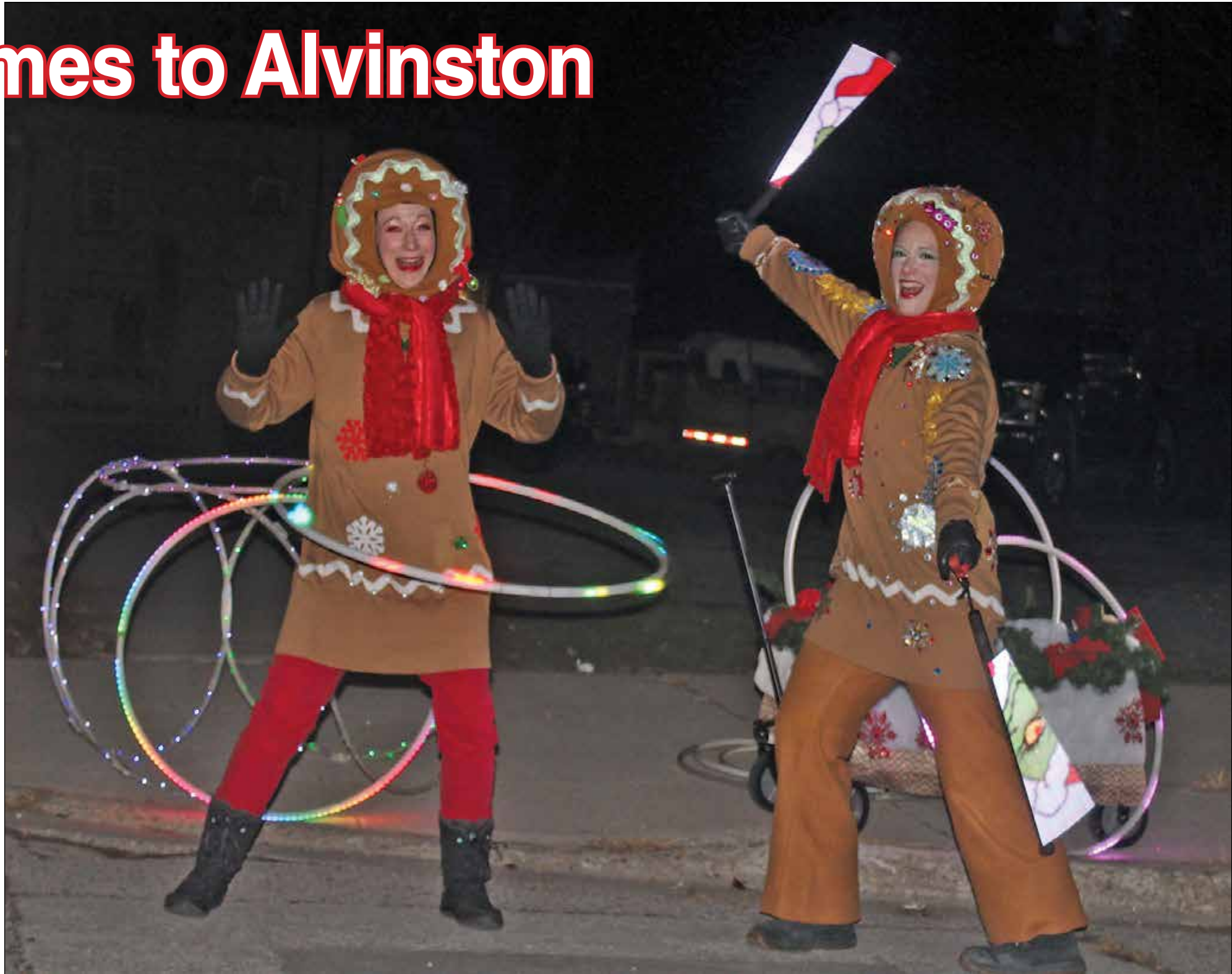
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This Employment Ontario program is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.



Christmas comes to Alvinston



The roads in Alvinston were overflowing with Christmas Saturday as the Alvinston Optimist hosted the second annual 'Reverse Parade.' Cars travelled through the community to see 10 bands, dozens of floats and performers like the Hoolahoop artist from the Toronto are who really got into the theme this year called a Gingerbread Christmas. While the parade was one of the highlights of the day, there was plenty to do, including ice skating, an Alvinston Killer Bees game, a take-out Christmas Dinner and visiting with Santa, who was also at the end of the parade route.

BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS



Wishing you a Merry Christmas

With the blink of an eye, another year has sped by and we find ourselves in the rush of the Christmas season again.
Like you, the staff at The Independent finds this a very busy time of year trying to serve our customers and do all the errands which have to be done to make the season bright.
It's our hope that you and your family have a chance to rest and relax, enjoy the warm company of friends and the wonderful flavours of the season and take a little time to look through the pages of Christmas greetings from members of the community and the Christmas themed stories you'll find the next few pages.
From our family at The Independent to yours, a Very Merry Christmas and Joy in 2023.
Heather Wright
Publisher



RESE STRANGWAY PHOTO
Reese Strangway, daughter of Matt and Nicole, could hardly contain her smile when she had a chance to meet Santa after the Oil Springs Jingle Bell Walk Saturday. The children and their families returned to the Youth Centre for Christmas Bingo hosted by the Oil Springs Optimists.

*Wising you the best of the Season
and a Happy New Year*

*From The Town of Plympton Wyoming
Mayor Gary Atkinson and Council*

Petrolia Branch 216
INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM
IN WELCOMING IN A NEW YEAR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023
2:00 P.M.
New Year's Day Levee
Complimentary Finger Foods.
Moose Milk, Punch
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Everyone welcome
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a Wonderful Christmas,*

Join us for
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Dec. 20 to 23.
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*Full of Family. Fun and
of course. Good Food*

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Best Wishes
for 2023

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The Unexpected Christmas Gift

Christmas night, December 25, settled over Creighton Valley like a favourite blanket and the feeling in the Saunders' home was one of peaceful contentment.

"How about a rousing card game?" Dad asked, grinning and rubbing his hands together.

"Yep. I'm in," Mom said, heading for the shelves beside the fireplace where the cards and games were stored, but their daughter Molly groaned and her sister Daylen didn't even look up.

"No thanks," Molly said, focused on the video game she was playing on her new computer tablet.

"I've still got 63 per cent left of my charge and I'm about to get to the next level. It's not easy to get to the next level and if I stop before I do, I'll lose my bonus points," she explained.

"So thanks, but I'd rather play this," and her strawberry blonde hair hid her face as she bent back over her game.

"Huh?" Daylen popped one ear bud out and music leaked from the tiny speaker.

"Wanna play a card game with Mom and I?" Dad asked in his best salesman's voice.

"Is Molly playing?" When her sister gave an impatient shake of her head, Daylen popped the ear bud back in.

"No thanks. I'd rather listen to my music."

"Oh. Well..." Neither girl even noticed his disappointment or heard his sigh as he turned to Mom, his hands spread in a gesture of surrender. "Guess we'll forget that idea."

Mom said: "How about trying to beat me at Gin Rummy?" and soon they were slapping cards down, laughing and scolding each other for 'bush-wacking' or holding onto the cards each other needed.

"Wind's really picking up," Dad said, standing to peer out the front window into the darkness.

"Snowing hard too," Mom said, coming to stand beside him.

The night was black as tar, dotted with rainbows of Christmas lights, which had begun to dance in the rising howl of a winter storm.

The lights inside and out blinked once, twice and went out. In the fireplace, the merry flames threw strange flickers and shadows around the room.

"What happened?" Two small girls plastered themselves to their parents' sides, frightened by the sudden darkness and by the quiet in which no refrigerator hummed and the noisy dishwasher had stopped in mid-cycle.

"No lights anywhere, so everybody's power is out," said Dad. "Well, the fireplace will keep us warm, so we'll be fine."

"I'll get some candles," Mom said, feeling her way along the wall back into the kitchen, which she knew so well she didn't need light to find her way around in.

"We'll come with you!" The girls hung off her sweater, choosing the dark kitchen with their Mom over the unfamiliar sight of the pitch black valley. Little lights from candles and flashlights moved strangely in neighbours' windows.

Video games and music were turned off, to save the batteries in case the power stayed off for awhile, and soon candles cast a mellow light around the main rooms.

Dad brought more wood inside to keep the fire bright, and the family



sat down around the dining room table for a second time that Christmas day.

"Here's an idea," Dad said. "How about Daylen is my partner and Molly is Mom's and we'll teach you how to play Crazy Eights?" This time, both girls jumped on the plan and the family laughed and mock-scolded each other, all in a great spirit of fun, pausing only while Dad stoked the cheerful fire.

Suddenly all the lights in the valley came back online and Mom, Dad and the girls blinked at each other in the too-bright light.

"I guess that's the end of that little adventure," Dad sounded a bit sad.

But Molly slipped off her chair, straight to the light switch and turned off the dining room light, and then the kitchen and hall lights, until only the candles and the fireplace shone on.

"Nuh-uh," she giggled. "Mom and I are winning!"

- By Kathy J. Ehman

Wishing you a season filled with the warmth of caring, the joy of togetherness, and happy memories that linger long after the holidays.

We sincerely thank you for your business during the past year, and wish you every happiness for the holidays and the coming New Year.

From all of us at
SHANAHAN REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Wishing you an abundance of glad tidings at this special time of year.

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40th Christmas In Business

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

May this be a special time filled with all your favourite people. A world of good wishes for good health, and a peaceful new year in 2023.

Season's Greetings

LAMBTON MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY



Edmond Bryce returns to Hickory Line

Edmond Bryce didn't know why he was on this forsaken road again.

He wasn't lost - at least he wasn't lost in the literal sense of the word. He was going home for Christmas. But it wasn't really his home anymore. It was more accurately described as the place he grew up and then fled as soon as possible.

Mom and Pop had lived at the end of Hickory Line their entire married life. Pop had lived there before that with his parents. It was a simple life. They got up early. They worked the land and took care of the cows. They went to bed.

It was for them, the ideal life. It was not the ideal life for Edmond.

Edmond did not like the great outdoors or cows. He wasn't strong, nor did he want to be. Edmond liked numbers and facts and reading.

And Edmond - or Eddy as Pop called him - never felt he measured up to his father's expectations. Never.

At the age of 13, Edmond went off to high school in a town 45 minutes from the end of Hickory Line. It seemed like a world away. There were people and shops and arts and opportunities. It was fascinating to him.

Then, at 16, Edmond had a chance to go to Toronto for a class trip. He stepped off the bus at Bay Street and knew this was where he would live.

His high school guidance counsellor noticed his knack for numbers and his thirst for knowledge and suggested a career in statistics and research.

He was accepted to university, got in his parents Ford pickup truck, his stuff piled in the back,

said goodbye to Pop and drove off with his mother into the future. Edmond didn't even glance back at the white frame house and the dilapidated old barn at the end of Hickory Line. The future looked bright. The future did not include Hickory Line.

But the future wasn't as bright as Edmond envisioned. He got his degree and his dream job. He lived in a high rise, married a beautiful girl - Rose - who had escaped rural life for the big city, too. They had everything they could want.

And then they had Maisey. Edmond wasn't sure about children. He wasn't sure he wanted to make sacrifices for anyone - even if they were small, cute and related.

But Rose longed for a child and Edmond was powerless to say no. Edmond should have said no.

Rose thrived with parenthood. She loved being a mom. Edmond retreated from it. He was afraid to hold this squirmy ball of a human.

Edmond emersed himself in his work.

Rose and Edmond floated along for four years, more like roommates than life partners. Edmond wasn't happy, but he was content. Rose was not. She wanted more of Edmond - much more than he could give.

Rose moved out the day before Maisey's fifth birthday. She left a note; "I can't do this anymore. I am a single parent. This isn't what I signed up for. Rose."

Edmond felt guilty - not because Rose had left taking his daughter with her - but because he really didn't care. He was happy puttering about the apartment. It was peaceful.

Christmas interrupted his

peace. Mom had called asking if he would come home this Christmas. She and Pop would like to see their only child.

Edmond couldn't say no to his mom. So, he set off in his Jeep down the highway, turning off at the familiar exit. He grew uneasy as he made his way down the increasingly empty, snow covered roads. He took a deep breath as he turned down Hickory Line.

The barn was falling apart. The paint was coming off the house making it more grey than white. He found a spot under the tree, took another deep breath, pasted on a smile and walked in the door.

There was Mom at the counter, making sugar cookies with Maisey. Pop was in his lazy boy chair near the fireplace sharing a laugh with Rose. The firelight painted their faces with a warm glow. It took Edmond's breath away for a moment.

"Daddy!" said Maisey as she ran to him hugging him around the waist. "Hey honey - wow, you've really grown!"

Mom came over, flour still on her hands, and kissed him lightly on the cheek. "I'm so glad you're here."

Rose helped Pop from the chair. He grabbed the cane beside him and slowly made his way across the floor. "Son." He thrust out his hand and Edmond shook it - there wasn't the strength there anymore. For the first time, Edmond realized Pop was old - very old. He didn't know quite what to say.

And then Pop leaned in. "I missed you Eddy." There were tears in his eyes. Pop was crying. It was too much.

His mind whirled and he

realized how he ached for Hickory Line. What had he been doing all this time? He loved the life he had built but it was taking him away from these people, Pop, Mom, Maisey and Rose. Rose, who still stood by the fire, watching.

Edmond walked slowly over to her and looked down at her. "Can you forgive me?" He wasn't even sure he could articulate what he'd done wrong, he just knew he was wrong.

"I can try." And she smiled and put her arms around Edmond, just for a moment.

"We made cookies," said Maisey loudly as everyone laughed.

"I see that. My mom makes the best cookies," he said, taking one from her. "Let's see if yours are as good." He took a bite and every memory of Christmas past flooded back to him.

And Edmond was home again.

In This Holy Season...

May your faith be renewed and your spirits lifted, by the true meaning of Christmas.

We thank you for your friendship and for the privilege of serving you this past year.



Needham-Jay
Funeral Home

www.needhamjay.com
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Warmest Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2023



From Warwick Township Mayor Todd Case.
Deputy Mayor John Couwenberg.
Councillors Joe Manning, Wayne Morris
Jerry Westgate and Staff



In the Spirit of this Christmas Season...



we'd like to extend our best wishes to you and your family. Wishing you blessings in the New Year.

"To you is born a saviour, Christ the Lord."

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Jeremy’s Christmas Surprise

His forehead was sweating. He still didn’t know what to say. The water rolled down his face as the line grew shorter and shorter.

Then, there he was, waiting for Jeremy.

Jeremy slowly walked up to Santa and sat down on the farthest corner of his lap. He hadn’t really looked at Santa before. His blue eyes sparkled and they were kind.

“So my boy, have you been a good boy?” Santa said with a smile and wink.

“Oh...” Jeremy had not thought of that — had he been good?

“Don’t look so puzzled my boy,” Santa laughed.

“I hadn’t really thought of that — I mean, whether I’d been good or not. I’m sorry Santa.”

“What’s your name son, Santa is getting forgetful.”

“Jeremy. Jeremy Parker.”

“Ah yes — Jeremy Parker, I remember now. Well, now it seems to me, you’re like most young lads. Every once and a while you get into a bit of a jam, but you’re usually a pretty fine young lad.”

Jeremy smiled. He leaned in a little closer and Santa squeezed his shoulder. “Santa?”

“Yes, Jeremy”

“I...I don’t really know what to tell you — I mean I don’t know what gift I want. You see, I heard Mom and Dad say they couldn’t afford much this year cause Dad hasn’t been working and you have to get everyone, I shouldn’t ask you for anything big either....” Jeremy’s voice trailed off and he looked up into the kind blue eyes behind the wire-rimmed glasses.

“You know Jeremy, sometimes Santa watches little boys and girls and he sees what they like. Maybe instead of telling me, you’ll let Santa pick something out for you. It will be a surprise.” A slow smile spread across the young boy’s face. Jeremy leaned in and gave Santa a quick hug and ran back to his mother.

“So did you and Santa have a good talk?” she asked hopefully.

“We sure did. Santa knows everything — it’s all going to be good,” he said looking up at his mother.

“Oh Jeremy,” said mother as she licked her thumb and started rubbing his face with it, “you still have that picture of the bicycle on your face! How did you miss that?” She was still wiping when they got to the car.

Just three days - Jeremy could wait three days.

When Christmas morning arrived, there were a few gifts under the tree. One box had Jeremy’s name on it. He was itching to open it. He would have to wait until after Christmas pancakes.

When the table was cleared Jeremy and his family gathered around the tree. Dad handed him his package.

“Merry Christmas son!”

He tore open the bright red wrapping paper to find a small Nerf gun inside. “That’s cool!” he said trying to muster up as much excitement as he could see in his

dad’s eyes. But Jeremy couldn’t get that mountain bike out of his head. As Jeremy examined the gun, he heard a knock at the door.

“Jeremy _it’s for you,” called Mother from the door. As he rounded the corner, all Jeremy could see was the tire of a bicycle. “Hi Jeremy! Merry Christmas.” It was Mr. Franklin from down the street. “I found this under our tree. It has your name on it,” he said as he pushed the bright blue mountain bike toward him. Jeremy took hold of the handle bars and stared, mouth open, for what seemed like hours.

“Jeremy,” said Mom, her voice cracking with emotion “you’re forgetting your manners...”

Before she had finished, Jeremy was hugging Mr. Franklin with all his might. “Thank you,” he whispered into his chest. And then he looked up.

Jeremy had never noticed before the sparkle in Mr. Franklin’s bright blue eyes.

“Come to me all who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens... and I will give you rest.”

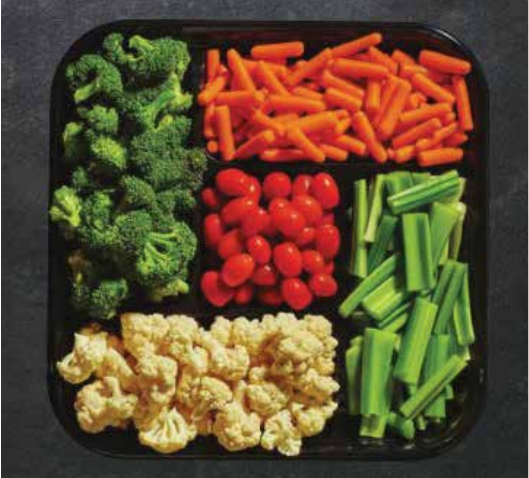
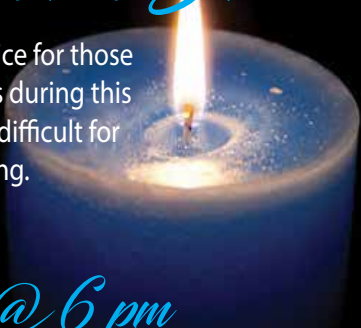
A Blue Christmas Service

A gentle contemplative service for those who are suffering pain or loss during this holiday season. This time ins difficult for those whose hearts are hurting.

All are welcome!

December 21 @ 6 pm

Christ Anglican Church, 414 Oil St., Petrolia
Call 519-882-1430



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and a Happy New Year!

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drink
AND BE
merry

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HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Isabella Field-Bressette was very excited to pick up the first place prize for Elite Dance Academy. The business picked up the prize in the Commercial Division of the Petrolia Santa Claus Parade. The academy created walking jelly fish for the Under the Sea theme.

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

SHARP


Joyce



Joyce Sharp, a resident of Petrolia, passed away on **Tuesday, December 6, 2022** at Lambton Meadowview Villa at the age of **86**. Born in Chatham, the daughter of the late Verne and Jean (Stinson) Arnold. Mom always kidded that she raised 5 boys, her four boys Stuart, Bradley, Ronald, Jim and Dad! Joyce never let any grass grow under her feet and always loved staying active in her Shetland community, whether it be the Women’s Institute, a school board trustee, fashion shows, craft judging, 4-H leader, she was always into something. Mom lived life to the fullest, wintering in Florida, flying with dad, snowmobiling, cottage life in Port Albert, her love of doll making, and her beautiful gardens at every home she lived. After dad passed she took up golf, and had a gift for entertaining, and enjoying the company of the many friends she made throughout her life. She loved her boys and would do anything for them..., she’s probably staying busy getting things ready for us in her new place!. Love you mom. Beloved wife of the late Edward “Ted” Sharp. Loving mother of Stuart and Cindy Sharp, Bradley and Susan Sharp, Ron and Bonnie Sharp and Jim and Pat Sharp. Cherished grandma of January (Amos), Jocelyn (Mike), Jeffery (Darcy), Mitchell (Natalie), Marcie (Jared), Holly, Andy (Keri), Patrick and 14 great-grandchildren. Predeceased by infant daughter Wendy Lou. **A private family gathering will be held. Interment in Shetland Cemetery.** If desired, donations may be made to Faith Trinity United Church, Shetland. (c/o 7424 Euphemia Line, Bothwell, NOP 1C0) Arrangements entrusted to the John C. Badder Funeral Home, Thamesville.

BURDETT

Jason Andrew




Jan 13, 1969 – Dec 11, 2022
Jason died peacefully at Bluewater Health, Sarnia with family by his side. Jay grew up in Oil City and attended Centennial School and LCCVI. Beloved husband of Dawn (nee Jacklin) Burdett. Adored father of Jaden, Chloe, and Jonah and stepdad to Daniel Hachey. Loved son of Sharon Dupuis and the late Billy Burdett and dear brother of Mark and uncle to Hannah. Jay is also survived by his mother-in-law Jean Bradshaw, and his brothers-in-law and their wives Scott (Cathy), Russell (Kerrie), Roy (Kerry), and Kevin (Cherie) Jacklin. He fondly remembered by his beloved McEachen, Dupuis, and Jacklin extended families. A special thank you to all the medical teams at Bluewater Health especially in the ICU, and to Lambton EMS, Petrolia and North Enniskillen Fire Department and O.P.P. for their superb care of Jay. **Cremation has taken place, interment will be in Hillsdale Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Lambton Wildlife Inc. PO Box 681, Sarnia, ON N7T 7J7 or www.lambtonwildlife.com. Arrangements by the Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.
Spread your wings our boy, you have earned them. Go soar the heavenly skies now to a world without pain. We love you, Jay.

Obituary

McLACHLIN

Marie




Peacefully, on Monday, December 5, 2022 at Arbor Trace Alzheimer Care Centre in London, **Shirley Marie Joyce McLachlin** passed away at the age of **88**. Beloved wife of George. Loving mother of Heather and Erin McLachlin (Rob Griffith). Cherished grandmother of Annika Edwards (of Ottawa) and Cameron Edwards (of Vancouver). Predeceased by parents Lydia and Lionel Leneve, sisters Elizabeth Anderson, Jeanette McDonald, and Dolly Wonderham along with brother Fred Leneve. Cremation has taken place. **In keeping with Marie’s wishes, no services will be held.** Sympathy may be expressed through donations to St. Thomas Elgin Hospital and the Victoria Order of Nurses (cheques only at the funeral home please). Arrangements entrusted to **Smith Funeral Home, 1576 London Line, Sarnia**. Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.smithfuneralhome.ca

Obituary

HEXT


Thomas James



Peacefully at C.E.E. Hospital of Bluewater Health, Petrolia on **Saturday December 10, 2022, Thomas James Hext** passed at the age of **90**. Beloved husband to the late Elaine (nee Scott, 2010). Loving father to Tracy and John Steadman of Wyoming, Dan and Mary Jo of Kanata, Larry of Petrolia, and Rod and Jane of Wyoming. Cherished grandfather to Craig (Brianna) Steadman, Cory (Tiffany) Steadman, Brandon and Austin Hext, Mackinlay and Gracynn Hext, and Sarah and Becky Hext and great grandfather to Bennett, Andilyn, Collins, Laurel, and Peyton. Survived by his sister-in-law, Sherri Hext. Tom was predeceased by his parents, Thomas and Sarah Hext and his brother George (2003). Tom doted on his grandchildren the most – he was an especially wonderful grandpa. As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society (www.cancer.ca) or the C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.ceehf.ca). Memories and condolences may be sent on-line at www.needhamjay.com. Arrangements by **Needham-Jay Funeral Home**.


IN MEMORIUM

In loving memory of a dear brother-in-law and uncle,
Ron Strangway,
who passed away **December 17 2018**
Loving and kind in all his ways
Upright and just to the end of his days
Sincere and true in heart and mind
Beautiful memories he left behind
*Always in our thoughts
forever in our hearts*
Love always, and remembered by
Don & Mary Saunders and families.



STRANGWAY

In loving memory of a Dear Husband,
Father and Papa, Ron Strangway, who
passed away Dec. 17, 2018
Everyday in some small way
Memories of you come our way
Though absent, you are ever near
Still missed, still loved,
and ever dear.
You are forever in our hearts
Bonnie and Family




CARDS OF THANKS

Heidi’s Independent Grocer

Thank you
for everything you do for us
at Lambtonian Apartments.
A Very Merry Christmas
Lois Dennis


THANK YOU

to the
community,
friends, family
and neighbours
for all the cards
and visits. It
made my 90th
birthday that
much more
special
Bertha-Rose Park




Thank You

The family of Brian Annett
would like to express our
thanks and appreciation
to friends, relatives and
family for your support,
food and donations after
our recent loss.
*Glen, Edna,
Sandra and Tracey*



IN MEMORIUM




John F. Hull

Christmas Time...
Remember Time

Christmas means memories in your heart to stay,
And thoughts about with love on every Christmas Day.
And as Christmas comes again bringing joys,
both old and new.
Our memories and good wishes turn warmly to you.
We Love and Miss You,
Myrtle, Kathy, Paul and Family


In Memory of

John
Stewart



Our hearts are forever broken
Can’t believe it’s been a year
Day to Day we force a smile
In hope it hides the tear
Love and Miss You
Darlene & the Stewart Family

March 19, 1951 -
December 20, 2021




In Loving Memory


Ken Sitzes

Sept 21 1938 - Dec 20 2018

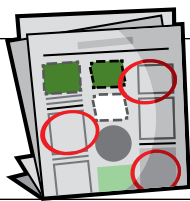
Forever in Our Hearts and
Loving You Always
Barb, Brian, Kevin, Bonnie,
Wanda, Randy and Families



*Those we love do not go away, they walk beside us every day.
Unseen, unheard, but always near , still loved, still missed throughout the year*



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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Real Estate

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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.*

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Single items, contents of attics, garages, barns & entire estates. Call Chad 519-639-9102 chadnlyndsay@yahoo.ca.

Check Your Newspaper Expiry Date

Upcoming Events

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

• soda crackers
• peanut butter
• jam
• ready-to-serve soups
• Kraft dinner
• Sidekicks - rice & pasta
• brown beans
• kidney beans
• canned stew
• flakes of chicken
• flakes of turkey
• salmon
• social crackers - ritz, triscuit
• CheezWhiz
• taco kits

please remember to

the expiry dates

We can not use opened or expired foods

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Church DIRECTORY

Christ Anglican Church
414 Oil Street, Petrolia

Regular Services @ 10am
Blue Christmas Service
Dec. 21 @ 6pm
Christmas Eve Service
Dec 24 @ 6pm
Christmas Day Service @ 10am
Everyone Welcome

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

St. Paul's United Church
4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

In-Person Services

Sundays @ 10:30 am

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

First Baptist Church
418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

IN PERSON CHURCH SERVICE
Sunday Mornings @10:30 am

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

Find us on Facebook!
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Wyoming United Church
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In-Person Services taking place
Sundays @ 11 am

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Sports

Flyers grounded by Hawks

Barry Wright
The Independent

The Exeter Hawks scored what proved to be the game-winning goal less than a minute after a tying goal in the second period by Logan O’Leary-Dilosa in the home team’s 5-2 win over the Petrolia Flyers Friday night.

Noah Harse had the other Flyer goal.

The Hawks iced the game with two unanswered goals in the third period. Elijah Grant made 37 saves in the Petrolia net as Exeter outshot the Flyers, 42-26. The Flyers, 5-15-3 on the Yeck Division season, are on home to Dorchester on Thursday at 7:30 in a game where fans are again asked to bring canned food for the hungry and less fortunate. They take on the Sailors in Port Stanley on Saturday night.

Mooretown bitten by Sharks at home

The Independent

The visiting Wheatley Sharks scored five unanswered goals in the second and third periods in a 6-2 win over the Flags at the Moore Sports Complex. Captain Logan Gardner scored both goals for Mooretown in PJHL action last Saturday and Brody Genyn had two assists. John Chartrand took the goaltending loss despite make 40 saves.

The Flags, winners just twice in their last eight games, are in fifth place in the

Stobbs Division with a record of 11-9-1. Mooretown takes on the Canadiens in Lakeshore on Friday and entertain Dresden on Saturday at 7:30 to close out the pre-Christmas portion of their schedule. The Flags beat the Kings, 4-2 in Dresden last Friday. Masen Flett broke a tie game with two Mooretown goals in the final eight minutes of regulation time. Watford’s Malcolm Verstraten made 21 saves for the goaltending victory. Ex-Petrolia Flyer goalie Joseph Malinowski took the loss for Dresden making 34 stops.

Squires topple Royals in Petrolia

The Independent

The Petrolia Squires scored three times in the first period and went on to beat Tavistock, 5-2 Friday night at Greenwood. Isaac McLean scored twice for the Squires and Corey Pawley added a goal and two assists. Jesse Ferguson and Kyler Keating had the other Petrolia goals while Tanner Harris

chipped in with two assists. Brandon Campbell made 33 saves for the goaltending win, including 16 in the third period as the Royals outshot the home team, 18-5. The Squires, now 7-6 on the season, host Lucknow on Friday at 8:30 and travel to Milverton for an afternoon contest on Sunday.

Alvinston Killer Bees lose twice in a weekend

The Independent

The Alvinston Killer Bees’ losing streak is now at four games following a 6-1 home ice loss Saturday to the Tilbury Bluebirds. Dawson Winchester broke up the shut-out bid with an early third period tally for Alvinston. Former Petrolia Flyer Tyler Richardson made his Killer Bee goaltending debut making 40 saves. On Friday in Strathroy, the

Jets downed the Bees, 6-3. Winchester and Bayly Fryfogle each had a goal and an assist for Alvinston with Avery Antone adding the other. Spencer Robertson made 50 stops in the Bees cage. Alvinston, 3-8-1 on the season, closes out its pre-holiday home schedule with a rare Friday night game against Erin at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Complex at 8 pm. The Bees are in Stratford on Saturday afternoon. named to the squad on Monday. Canada opens the tournament Boxing Day against Czechia after pre-tournament games next Monday, Wednesday and Friday against Switzerland, Slovakia and Finland.

Gaudreau wins a spot on Team Canada at World Jrs

Following in the footsteps of ex-Sting forwards Steve Stamkos and Jordan Kyrrou, Sting goaltender Ben Gaudreau will sport Canada’s colours at the world junior hockey championships. Gaudreau was officially

SILVERSTICK UNDERWAY



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

The Petrolia Oilers, Mooretown Flags, Lambton Shores Predators and the host East Lambton Eagles are on the schedule this weekend in the U15 regional Silver Stick in Watford. All four local teams begin play on Thursday. Petrolia opens against Strathroy at 8 am as well as going up against Dorchester at 2:20, Mooretown has games against Mt. Brydges and Strathroy at 9:05 and 4:40 in the B division. In C division action, Lambton Shores skates against Ilderton at 12:20 and East Lambton plays Wallaceburg at 3:35. The tournament continues through the weekend. Last weekend, Lambton Shores downed North Middlesex, 3-1 to capture the U13 C crown. The Predators advanced with a 5-2 win over Dresden in the semi-final while North Middlesex eliminated the host East Lambton Eagles, 4-3 in the photo above. In the B division, Petrolia knocked out Mooretown, 1-0 in the first round of the playoff but lost 4-1 to Lambeth in the semi-finals. Mt. Brydges beat Lambeth, 1-0 in the B championship contest.

LCCVI Hockey teams register wins

The Independent

The LCCVI Lancers are 2-0 following a 10-2 victory over St. Pat’s. The Lancers entertain Northern Wednesday at Greenwood in boys’ high school hockey. Puck drop is 2:30. The Lancers LCCVI closes out its first half schedule with game against North Lambton at Lambton Shores Arena next Monday at 3:30. In girls action, the Lancers are at home to

Great Lakes Thursday at Greenwood at 2:30 and take on the Wolfpack at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena in Sarnia next Monday afternoon at 3 pm. The Lady Lancers opened the season last week with a 5-0 win over North Lambton. The boys basketball teams are at St. Pat’s Thursday for a junior-senior double-header. Games are scheduled for 5:30 and 7 pm. LCCVI lost both ends of a double-header to John McGregor last week.



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