

HELPING HAND



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Sometimes a performance doesn't go to plan, as this little one in the Intro to Synchro group took a small tumble, but her instructor, Bobbi-Jacklyn MacDonald, is quick to give her a hand to get back on her blades and continue with the program as if nothing happened. The Alvinston Ice Angels Synchro Gala was held on Sunday afternoon at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre Complex. There were seven teams from the Alvinston Ice Angels program, including one adult team showcasing their skills during the gala.

VPP surpasses revenue targets for 2022 season

Heather Wright
The Independent

While some in the tourism sector struggled, Victoria Playhouse Petrolia bounced back after pandemic restrictions eased. A report to Petrolia Council shows the theatre brought in \$1,140,298 during the 2022 season - about \$40,000 more than the theatre projected in its budget. The VPP - like all theatres across the province - put its summer season on hold in the spring of 2020, just months into the COVID-19 pandemic. The theatre, which

can draw up to 40,000 people a year, didn't open again until April this year. And the patrons, many of who had held onto tickets purchased in 2020, came back to see the long delayed season. Laurissa Ellsworth, director of marketing, arts and communications for Petrolia, says while revenue exceeded projections, there were fewer people in the seats in 2022 than there were in 2019. Statistics show there were 33,965 tickets sold in 2019. This past season, 29,411 people came through the doors. That's a 13.4 per cent decrease from 2019. Ells-

worth said revenue kept pace after the VPP raised ticket prices by about \$5 a piece. The theatre had been increasing tickets each year pre-pandemic to keep up with the cost of inflation. There was one area where ticket sales were not nearly as strong as 2019 - group sales. VPP sold 977 group tickets this year compared to 2,395 in 2019. The number of senior tickets was also down by about 900 year over year as were the single preview tickets. About 1,000 fewer were sold as the theatre started the season in April.

Growth spurt

Enrollment up but public board still wants school closing moratorium lifted

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

At this point it is difficult to determine whether a rise in enrollment is the beginning of a trend or just a one year blip. New data from the Lambton-Kent District School Board shows there was an increase in enrollment in local schools for the first time in years. Associate Director and Treasurer Brian McKay said there are 535 more students in classrooms since last year, with a total of 22,275 students overall. He is attributing this to the movements families made during the pandemic, allowing employees to work remotely, and therefore not being tied to a particular area. Some moved from the Greater Toronto Area to the region to take advantage of wide open spaces and lowering housing prices. It will be interesting to see whether this continues next year, McKay said as he is seeing many offices returning to the traditional workplace. "This is very much a short-term read," said McKay, as he has seen enrollment decline over a number of years in Lambton Kent. There have been 1,678 fewer students within the district's schools since 2012-13, a 7.23 per cent decline. He said the school district bases its decisions on whether an enrollment increase will remain firm based on the building of new homes or subdivisions. He points to Chatham, Sarnia, and Camlachie, where there has been increased housing development. Errol Village Public School will receive a \$3.8 million investment from the provincial government, which will allow for the building of a two classroom addition. McKay is hoping to have shovels in the ground in 2023, after the project completes its design and tendering process.

SEE ENROLLMENT PG 2



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SCAN FOR MENU



Enrollment up; officials credit COVID movers

CON'T FROM PG 1

Despite population increases in some areas of Lambton Kent, many schools are continuing to operate with fewer students. The overall capacity sits at just over 74 percent with 7,761 empty pupil spaces.

Rural schools are more likely to have open classrooms.

Mooretown Public is the smallest elementary school in Lambton-Kent with 106 students using 41 per cent of the building. That’s expected to decline to just 36 per cent capacity in four years.

Dawn-Euphemia Public School has just 121 students at 47 per cent capacity.

Dawn Euphemia is one of the schools which was considered to be closed when the Dresden area group of schools would merge at Lambton -Kent Composite School. That plan never got off the ground because of the moratorium which was put in place.

Meantime, enrollment jumped at Lambton-Kent Composite School to 421 students - filling the classrooms to 56 per cent this year.

Board officials say about 129 students are enrolled in a program for low-German Mennonite families involved in seasonal work who are in high school.

Aberarder School - which will soon close and become part of the JK to 12 School in Forest - actually saw its enrollment climb to 61 per cent capacity. By 2025, the board projects it will climb to 65 per cent.

While most elementary schools in the Town of Petrolia are at or near capacity, Lambton Centennial, just outside the town limits, is only using 64 per cent of its building housing 214 students. That lack of space came in handy recently when students from Brooke-Alvinston suddenly had to vacate the older portion of the school after engineers declared the building’s roof unsafe in a heavy snowfall.

LCCVI how has a student population of 832 people and is using 70 per cent of the building’s space. Much of the third floor of the building is no longer in use.

Out of the 62 schools within the district, there are six elementary schools with a population less than 150 student, while three secondary schools have less than 400 students.

June 2023 will be the five year anniversary of the moratorium placed on school districts across the province to not close any schools. Dresden’s group of schools has been under the microscope because of low enrollment for years however the board hasn’t merged schools because of the moratorium.

Lambton Kent, as well as many other school districts, has been calling for the lifting of the moratorium.

“We can turn down the heat in some areas of schools, but we can’t turn it right off,” said McKay, noting their continues to be a cost to keep all of the schools open at decreased capacity.

Restrictions after Avian Flu confirmed in Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has set up a 10 kilometre restricted zone around a Lambton Shores poultry operation to stop the spread of Avian Flu.

The highly contagious and deadly virus was found in a commercial poultry operation with more than 300 birds Dec. 13. CFIA doesn’t release details of the farm involved to “protect the privacy of producers who are dealing with a significant setback for their farms.”

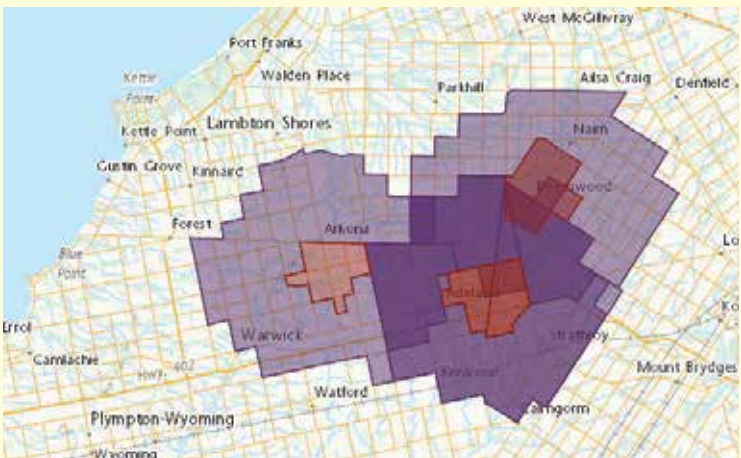
The Food Inspection Agency has been working with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Lambton Public Health and on Thursday, CFIA’s director set up a primary control zone 10 kilometres around the area where the infection occurred.

Officials from CFIA, in an email to The Independent, said “the infected premises is under CFIA quarantine and movement controls to reduce the risk of the disease spreading to other farms.”

There is a three kilometre infected zone around the farm and another 10 kilometres which is restricted. Anyone moving domestic birds in the area needs CFIA permits and that only happens if there is live bird testing or dead bird surveillance. There’s also requirements for the movement of eggs in the area.

The infected zone is south of Arkona and stretches into Warwick Township. The Restricted Zone also stretches into Warwick, south of the 402 and into Middlesex County to Strathroy and north of Nairn.

CFIA says the restrictions stay in place while “stamping out”



The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has placed a restricted zone around the area where Avian Flu has been found.


activities take place.

According to CFIA’s website which instructs farmers on what happens when Avian Flu is confirmed, “All birds on your farm are humanely depopulated and disposed of. Eggs and other poultry products are also

destroyed and properly disposed of, along with litter, manure, feathers and other materials that could spread the disease.”

The operator then has to clean and disinfect the farm to CFIA’s standards.

SEE AVIAN PG 3



CHRISTMAS is the time of year, when we reflect upon the birth of Jesus Christ, and the Eternal ‘gifts’ of LOVE and SALVATION that He gave us.

May JESUS immeasurable ‘PEACE’, which surpasses all understanding, fill your hearts with ‘JOY’ and ‘HOPE’.

Merry Christmas and a Safe and Blessed New Year, to you and yours, from the Grogan Ford Lincoln family.

The Perfect Christmas Gift

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”
Luke 2:11

Born in a Manger, the city of David, in Bethlehem.
To redeem a lost world, came this sacrificial lamb.
The “Creator of the Universe” to a baby, He lay.
“Unleashed Power” constrained, to “deliver” the way.

To the ungodly and blasphemous, He gave Divine Love,
As the Sinless servant, He Glorified His Father above.
Amidst ruthless brutality, He was nailed to a Cross,
Forever, that trickling Blood, covers the crimson stains of the lost.

One breath separates us and Only He can see the heart,
Lives led as men pleasers, are doomed for their part.
You see, “confession” brings “forgiveness”, a new creature cleansed from sin,
Jesus gift to you is “Eternal life” and an “unquenchable peace” from within.

The Gift
Father, this Christmas, because of the sin in my life. I find myself separated from you.
I repent and invite you, Jesus, into my heart to be the Lord of all the areas of my life.
I will live for you, and “thank-you” for your forgiveness and the assurance of an eternal home, in Heaven, with you. Amen

Grogan Watford

THE BEGINNING OF THE DREAM



SUBMITTED PHOTO

After over a year of planning, the Bergsma family is beginning to see their dream of a retreat for first responders and firefighters take shape. The ground on the Three Oaks Retreat is now being prepared for the log cabin which will soon be going up. The Bergsma family decided to build the retreat after their son and brother, Dalles, died by suicide in 2020. “A lot of emotion is flowing at Bilton Line today as we officially break ground. It has been a long-awaited moment,” wrote the family on social media. “We hope to come along side people who are doing the hard work of digging down by providing a place of reprieve and access to wellness programs.”

Tender about ‘getting biggest bang for our buck’

Heather Wright
The Independent

Calls for a contract to trim trees in Plympton-Wyoming to be given a second look were turned away. Town council was to approve a tender to cut 46 trees in the municipality. The low-est bid came from Ontario Tree Service in Forest at \$30,000. The second lowest bid came from Wyoming Tree Service - a local company owned by former councillor Tim Wilkins. His bid was \$6,125 more. Town staff recommended the lowest bid and that concerned Councillor John VanKlaveren. “I do see them employing a lot of people in town. I see them putting up Christmas lights and that might have some value,” he says. Adam Sobanski, director of public works,


says when he recommends a contractor he first checks to make sure they’re qualified and then recommends the lowest cost. Councillor Alex Boughen said one contractor was confused by the tender details and “that could make the difference.” So-banski said he had dealt with the concerns and felt the contractor had a clear picture of what was being asked for. “I’m not saying that the Wyoming Tree Service bid is not of good value, actually, I think it’s a great value. I just think they got undercut on this situation,” said Sobanski at the Dec. 14 meeting. But most of council, including Councillor Mike Vasey, voted to accept the low tender. “If we started going down that road, now we’re picking our buddies we’re picking our friends we’re here to get the best bang for our buck for Wyoming.”

Avian Flu confirmed in Lambton Shores

CON’T FROM PG 2

They’ll only be able to restock the farm after being given CFIA’s approval. The entire process can take months. Poultry farmers can be insured for damages from avian flu, however in some cases they’ll only receive 70 to 80 per cent of their losses. The poultry industry is in the second wave of Avian Flu this year. The first wave subsided in May. The strain came back in September. Right now there are nine commercial operations in Ontario dealing with Avian Flu. Nearly 700,000 birds have died in the province – over six million across Canada in what has been the deadliest year for Avian Flu in Canadian history. Lambton County poultry producers – well aware of the danger of avian flu – asked Plympton-Wyoming council not to allow backyard chicken coops earlier this year. “This is a complicated disease that is

very serious, and I can’t stress it enough.... the compromising of the food system... that’s in jeopardy,” Plympton-Wyoming Poultry Producer Scott Helps told council in October. “I want to make sure you understand the severity of what happens when Avian Flu is detected. There are strict protocols that have to take place in order for them to be able to deal with that. I think it’s the number one concern,” he says. Lambton Public Health is monitoring the outbreak in Lambton since Avian Flu can be transferred to humans. Officials are asking those working on poultry farms to take precautions like hand sanitizing. “Although it can be easily spread amongst birds, avian influenza does not easily cross from birds to humans, and the risk of human-to-human transmission is even lower,” said Dr. Karalyn Dueck, Acting Medical Officer of Health for Lambton County in a news release.



This Month In Lambton

December 2022

[f](#) [t](#)



Warden Kevin Marriott
@LambtonWarden

SL-LIP launches *Welcome to Lambton* app

The Sarnia-Lambton Local Immigration Partnership (SL-LIP) officially launched the *Welcome to Lambton* app this month. Created by the SL-LIP, in collaboration with TMRRW Inc. and funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, the *Welcome to Lambton* app is a user-friendly, personalized guide to support newcomers to Lambton County. It has an integrated translation component, currently making the app content available in eight languages. The app connects users with community programs and settlement services, provides personalized pre- and post-arrival checklists, and delivers guidance on how to complete important tasks like finding a home, searching for a job, and locating childcare and healthcare. It also serves as a tool for service providers, sponsors, or anyone supporting newcomers to the community. You can download the *Welcome to Lambton* app on your mobile device through the App Store and Google Play Store today.

Winter Travel

Winter travel season is here and motorists are reminded to adjust travel plans when severe weather is forecast. **511Ontario.ca** provides travellers with up to date information on road conditions. Slow down and keep extra space between vehicles. Make sure you can be seen by having your headlights and tail lights on. Always dress for the weather and bring along suitable clothing in case you have to walk or remain in your vehicle for a long period of time. If you become stranded, it is often best to stay with your vehicle and wait for help. Make sure you have an emergency supplies kit for these situations. For details on what to include, visit **EmergenciesLambton.ca**.

Looking Ahead

9 a.m. & 11 a.m., Jan. 18, 2023 - Committee A.M. & P.M. meetings
9:30 a.m., Feb. 1, 2023 - Council Meeting
Agendas, minutes and links to meeting live stream videos can be found at **www.lambtononline.ca/meetings**.

To read more, go to **lambtononline.ca**



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CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS

WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

There will be NO CHANGE to the Waste Collection Schedule over the Holidays.

Please remember to flatten all cardboard to no larger than 32" by 32", and to be mindful of the three-bag, and the 50lb. weight limit.

We ask that Christmas trees be placed at the curb, with all ornaments and tinsel removed and staff will be around to collect them beginning Tuesday, January 3.

From Mayor Loosley, Council and Staff we wish you all the best this holiday season, and send warm wishes to you and yours for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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The Municipal Office will be Closed at 4:30pm, Dec. 23 and will re-open on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023.

Editorial

Our Story



PEN AND INK DRAWING FROM THE COLLECTION OF RON VANHORNE

Ron VanHorne knew he had a rare find. The former CAO of Lambton County is known for his ability to find historic pieces about all things Lambton. He recently showed The Independent this hand drawn depiction of Petrolia in 1877. The print was inscribed the words Toronto Eng. Co and is titled “Petrolia, from the Town Derrick, looking Eastward, From a photography by Hunter & Co., (late Ewing & Co.) 39 & 41 King Street West, Toronto.” VanHorne believes it had been reframed in the 1960s.

CHRISTMAS HOURS

The Independent will be closing Thursday, Dec. 21 at 3 pm for our Christmas Break. There will be no newspaper Dec. 29. The office will open Jan. 2 at 9 am for regular business. If you urgently need to reach the publisher, please email Heather Wright at news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca.

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.

Merry Christmas to all and a Silent Night

Twas the week before Christmas and all through the paper, not an email was dinging, not even a police caper. The pages had been completed, quickly with care, in hopes that the printer take them, and make them look fair. (Editor’s note; Huron Web always makes our pages look great, but it doesn’t rhyme.) The employees were nestled at home in their beds, while visions of resting for days danced in their heads. The editor, in her trench coat tied up nice and tight, was about to go home, walking through the night. When out on Petrolia Line their rose such a clatter, she sprang from her desk to see what was the matter. She leaned over to the window and in a flash, moved away some of the junk

and threw up the sash. The streetlights on the pavement just waiting for snow, illuminated the streetscape below, When, what to her wondering eye should appear but a few white flakes on the wind made for snow. The middle-aged editor, so lively and quick, knew at that moment it was about to get thick. Big gobs of the white stuff would soon appear, and all would be cold, white and austere. And then in a twinkling, the editor did hear, the whirring and scraping of steel on the street.. As she looked for the snow plows turning around, there came another sound. Fire engines racing out into the night, to save Christmas for a family of five.

And while the editor packed up her things, she stood a moment in the stillness remembering, That while she would take a break and celebrate, she was thankful for people who were standing ready to deal with fate. So, to doctors and firefighters, police officers and plowmen I say to all, for the rest of the townsmen and women, Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good (and silent) night.



Heather Wright

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Publisher / Editor: **Heather Wright**
news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca
L.J.I. Reporter: **Blake Ellis**
Sales Associate: sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca
Classifieds / Graphics: **Connie McFadden**
office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

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Canada

Opinion

VPP Starbright ‘nurtures joy for the arts’

EDITOR: We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to David Hogan and David Rogers, co-artistic directors of the Victoria Playhouse Petrolia, for their investment in the youth of our community.

Our daughter, Nell, recently joined the Starbright/Lambton Youth Choir – an opportunity made possible by amazing choir leaders and ‘the Davids and it has been such a positive experience.

David Hogan mentors the choir, sharing his boundless enthusiasm

and empowering all choir members to shine and achieve their personal best. As proud parents, we want you to know that your positive impact is noticeable. Nell’s participation in live theatre has nurtured her joy for the arts while building her confidence and connection to her community.

The Playhouse is a pillar of Petrolia, and ‘the Davids’ strengthens its footing by welcoming the Lambton Youth Choir to be celebrated on its professional stage.

And through this experience, the

choir members grow real-world skills like resiliency, teamwork, and time management as they work alongside an elite cast and crew. Ultimately, this experience recognizes and reinforces that our youth are a pillar of our community.

As lifelong members of Petrolia, a heartfelt thank you goes out to ‘the Davids.

Sara Weed
Emily Denham Weed
Petrolia, ON

Officials say ‘several’ people may be homeless in Petrolia

Heather Wright
The Independent

Valerie Colasanti knows it is tough to find an apartment in Petrolia.

The general manager of social services is on the front lines helping people facing homelessness in Lambton and says there may be “several individuals in Petrolia” who are experiencing homelessness.

In August, the county found there were 52 people living rough - outside at all times - across the county; most in Sarnia. Recently, local politicians called for a summit to discuss what could be done to deal with the crisis.

Over the past few months, the county has been notified there may be people in Petrolia experiencing homelessness and they’ve worked with them to help find a safe place to stay if they want it. But it’s not easy. “Right now all of our county housing is full and there is for single units, which is our most needed space, a wait list of about four years,” Colasanti says.

The county’s homeless outreach team, often working with the OPP and its mental health team, approach those in need to offer all kinds of support, including help to pay overdue electricity bills allowing them to stay in their home or providing a benefit equal to the cost of first and last months rent with a private landlord.

Even that isn’t easy; “It is really hard to find an apartment in Petrolia, the costs are very high...The average market rate is well above an allowance of someone on social assistance. They only receive \$733 in total, and that’s going to cover the rent and food,” she says. In today’s market, the cost of renting an apartment can exceed those payments.

But it’s not just those relying on social assistance having problems. Colasanti says “someone working at minimum wage, maybe not full hours, it’s not going be able to afford rent; it is a real challenge.”

That high cost of rent means some of the working poor are trying to hold

onto their vehicle. “That’s why you see people living in their car, because they are working.”

Colasanti says homeless outreach team members can work with someone for months trying to find a solution that fits their needs. “If they’ve been housed recently, they’re more likely to work with us.

“People who have been in and out of shelters, sometimes they don’t have any trust at all. Sometimes there’s mental health issues. So, it is really hard and everyone’s situation is so unique.”

Colasanti urges people to call the Ontario Works crisis line if they see someone they believe is living homeless. They may already know about them or will approach them with mental health professionals to try to help bring them out of the cold.

But only if they want to. “There are some people who do choose to live rough for a variety of reasons. And until they’re ready to make that change, there’s nothing we can do.”

GRAVY TRAIN



Keegan Tizzard and Brady Pavey load up on gravy during the Brooke Central School Christmas Dinner. Each year the Alvinston Optimists host all the students for a turkey dinner with all the fix’ns and skating. The students came back for seconds at the Friday event.

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

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U18C

TUESDAY DECEMBER 27 2022				
8:00 AM	U18C - GRP 1	East Lambton Eagles	@ Dresden Jr. Kings	1
12:30 PM	U18C - GRP1	Lambton Shores Predators	@ Lucan Irish	4
5:00 PM	U18C - GRP1	Wallaceburg Lakers	@ Ilderton Jets	7
9:30 PM	U18C - GRP1	Ilderton Jets	@ East Lambton Eagles	10
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28 2022				
8:00 AM	U18C - GRP 1	Dresden Jr. Kings	@ Wallaceburg Lakers	11
12:30 PM	U18C - GRP1	Twin Centre Stars	@ Hagersville Hawks	14
5:00 PM	U18C - GRP1	Hagersville Hawks	@ Lambton Shores Predators	17
6:30 PM	U18C - GRP1	Lucan Irish	@ Twin Centre Stars	18
THURSDAY DECEMBER 29 2022				
8:00 AM	U18C - GRP1	Seed #8	@ Seed #1	21 C QF #1
9:30 AM	U18C - GRP1	Seed #7	@ Seed #2	22 C QF #2
11:00 AM	U18C - GRP1	Seed #6	@ Seed #3	23 C QF #3
12:30 PM	U18C - GRP1	Seed #5	@ Seed #4	24 C QF #4
FRIDAY DECEMBER 30 2022				
9:00 AM	U18C - SF	Seed #4	@ Seed #1	31 C SF #1
10:30 AM	U18C - SF	Seed #3	@ Seed #2	32 C SF #2
5:00 PM	U18C - CHAM	Seed #2	@ Seed #1	36 C Final

U18B

TUESDAY DECEMBER 27 2022				
11:00 AM	U18B - GRP 1	Ingersoll Express	@ Mooretown Jr Flags	3
2:00 PM	U18B - GRP1	Petrolia Oilers	@ Strathroy Jr Rockets	5
3:30 PM	U18B - GRP1	Mt Brydges Cougars	@ Lambeth Lancers	6
6:30 PM	U18B - GRP1	Strathroy Jr Rockets	@ Ingersoll Express	8
8:00 PM	U18B - GRP1	Mooretown Jr Flags	@ Petrolia Oilers	9
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28 2022				
9:30 AM	U18B - GRP1	Riverside Rangers	@ Mt Brydges Cougars	12
2:00 PM	U18B - GRP1	Halton Hills Thunder	@ Riverside Rangers	15
8:00 PM	U18B - GRP1	Lambeth Lancers	@ Halton Hills Thunder	19
THURSDAY DECEMBER 29 2022				
2:00 PM	U18B - GRP1	Seed # 8	@ Seed #1	25 - B QF #1
3:30 PM	U18B - GRP1	Seed #7	@ Seed # 2	26 - B QF #2
5:00 PM	U18B - GRP1	Seed #6	@ Seed #3	27 - B QF #3
6:30 PM	U18B - GRP1	Seed #5	@ Seed #4	28 - B QF #4
FRIDAY DECEMBER 30 2022				
12:00 PM	U18B - SF	Seed #4	@ Seed #1	33 - B SF #1
1:30 PM	U18B - SF	Seed #3	@ Seed #2	34 - B SF #2
7:00 PM	U18B - CHAM	Seed #2	@ Seed #1	37 - B Final

U18A

TUESDAY DECEMBER 27 2022				
9:30 AM	U18A - GRP1	London Jr Mustangs	@ St Thomas Stars	2
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28 2022				
11:00 AM	U18A - GRP1	St Thomas Stars	@ Haldimand River Kings	13
3:30 PM	U18A - GRP1	Haldimand River Kings	@ Orangeville Flyers	16
9:30 PM	U18A - GRP1	Orangeville Flyers	@ London Jr Mustangs	20
THURSDAY DECEMBER 29 2022				
8:00 PM	U18A - SF	Seed #4	@ Seed #1	29 A SF 1
9:30 PM	U18A - SF	Seed #3	@ Seed #2	30 A SF 2
FRIDAY DECEMBER 30 2022				
3:00 PM	U18A - CHAM	Seed #2	@ Seed #1	35 A Final



2022 Petrolia Regional Silver Stick Tournament

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2022 Alvinston Regional Silver Stick Tournament

Games listed below are all played at
Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre

U11B / U11C

TUESDAY DECEMBER 27 2022				
9:00 AM	U11B B-Round Robin Grp 2	Mooretown Jr. Flags	@ Petrolia Oilers	1
10:05 AM	U11B B-Round Robin Grp 2	Ingersoll Express	@ Strathroy Jr. Rockets	2
11:10 AM	U11B B-Round Robin Grp 2	Ayr Flames	@ Lambeth Lancers	3
12:15 PM	U11C C-Round Robin	Ilderton Jets	@ Mt. Brydges Cougars AE	4
1:20 PM	U11C C-Round Robin	Wallaceburg Lakers	@ Lucan Irish	5
2:25 PM	U11B B-Round Robin Grp1	Strathroy Jr. Rockets	@ Ayr Flames	6
4:00 PM	U11C C-Round Robin	Lambton Shores Predators	@ East Lambton Eagles	7
5:05 PM	U11C C-Round Robin	Mt. Brydges Cougars AE	@ North Middlesex Jr. Stars	8
6:10 PM	U11C C-Round Robin	Mooretown Jr. Flags AE	@ Dresden Jr. Kings	9
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28 2022				
9:00 AM	U11C C-Round Robin	Lucan Irish	@ Ilderton Jets	10
10:05 AM	U11C C-Round Robin	North Middlesex Jr. Stars	@ Lambton Shores Predators	11
11:10 AM	U11B B-Round Robin Grp 1	Strathroy Jr. Rockets	@ Mooretown Jr. Flags	12
12:15 PM	U11B B-Round Robin Grp 1	Petrolia Oilers	@ Ayr Flames	13
1:20 PM	U11B B-Round Robin Grp 1	Lambeth Lancers	@ Ingersoll Express	14
2:25 PM	U11C C-Round Robin	East Lambton Eagles	@ Mooretown Jr. Flags AE	15
3:30 PM	U11C C-Round Robin	Dresden Jr. Kings	@ Wallaceburg Lakers	16
4:35 PM	U11B B-Round Robin Grp 2	Ingersoll Express	@ Petrolia Oilers	17
5:40 PM	U11B B-Round Robin Grp 2	Mooretown Jr. Flags	@ Lambeth Lancers	18
6:45 PM	U11C C-8th vs 9th Elimination	Seed #9	@ Seed #8	19
THURSDAY DECEMBER 29 2022				
9:00 AM	U11C C-Quarter-Finals	Seed 5	@ Seed 4	20
10:05 AM	U11C C-Quarter-Finals	Seed 6	@ Seed 3	21
11:10 AM	U11C C-Quarter-Finals	Seed 7	@ Seed 2	22
12:15 PM	U11C C-Quarter-Finals	Winner 19	@ Seed 1	23
1:20 PM	U11B B-Semi-Finals	Seed 4	@ Seed 1	24
2:25 PM	U11B B-Semi-Finals	Seed 3	@ Seed 2	25
3:30 PM	U11C C-Semi-Finals	Winner 21	@ Winner 22	26
4:35 PM	U11C C-Semi-Finals	Winner 20	@ Winner 23	27
5:40 PM	U11B B-Championship	Winner 25	@ Winner 24	
6:55 PM	U11C C-Championship	Winner 26	@ Winner 27	

Brooke Alvinston Inwood Community Centre

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Teachers will have new computer curriculum in the next school year

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Grade 10 students and teachers across Ontario will have a new computer studies course for the beginning of the next school year . “This change will provide students with hands on experience, expose them to real life problem solving and enhance learning that focuses on giving young people the skills to think critically,” said Ontario Education Minister Stephen Lecce, Dec. 12.

Lambton Kent School District Superintendent of Education Mary Mancini, who oversees student success, secondary, and adult and continuing education, said the school district has not yet the seen the details of the new curriculum. This is not unusual when the provincial government makes a curriculum announcement. She said the changes would have to be made quickly as students will be making their course selections by the end of February and early March in preparation for the next

school year. She is confident teachers will be up to the challenge of delivering the new curriculum. The Digital Technology and Innovations in the Changing World course will replace the current Grade 10 Introduction to Computers class, which was lasted updated in 2008. Technologies which have emerged since has been the advancement of smart phones and the rise of social media. These changes are made as part

of the provincial government efforts to enhance the curriculum when it comes to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, said Mancini. The new Grade 9 mathematics course, which came into place in September 2021, had a section on coding. Other changes will be made to technological education at the Grade 9 and 10 levels in September 2024. The new curriculum will reflect the advancement in automation in the

agricultural, manufacturing and construction sectors. The construction industry is expected to face a shortage of 100,000 workers over the next 10 years. It is expected one in five job openings by 2026 will be in the skilled trades. There are also 17,865 job vacancies in Ontario in the second quarter of 2022 in the computer and information systems sector.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Oil Springs fire truck coming home soon

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

The Village of Oil Springs Council received some good news just in time for Christmas. It might not have a bow on it, but there will be a new fire truck in the fleet of the Oil Springs and South Enniskillen Fire Department soon. Councillor Larry Wagner reported the new fire truck is in Woodstock, where the decals and the license plates will be put on the new vehicle. A select few in the fire department will go to Woodstock and get training on the new truck and run through the various features on the new vehicle, before it can be delivered. Those who received the training will return to the fire department and give the same training to the rest of the crew. The fire truck was in the budgets for both Oil Springs and Enniskillen Township. Oil Springs’ portion is \$140,000, amounting to 22 percent of the entire costs. The lifespan of the fire truck is estimated to be between 20 and 25 years. The Office of the Fire Marshall dictates to municipalities when fire trucks need to be replaced.

- THE INDEPENDENT

COVID shots ready for 5 year olds

The Independent

Children five and over will now be able to get the bivalent COVID 19 vaccine starting Dec. 21. Health Canada recently approved the vaccine for the younger age group. Those over 12 had been able to receive the bivalent shot in October. Provincial officials are urging people to keep up to date with their flue and COVID-19 vaccinations to stay healthy this winter. Hospitals in Ontario have been flooded with young children recently with the flu, RSV and COVID-19.

One dies in St. Clair accident

The Independent

Family and friends are mourning the loss of a “kind-hearted soul” with an “infectious” laugh who died in a Friday night car accident on Petrolia Line. Lambton OPP say Ethan Miniou, 20, of Sarnia died in a single car accident in St. Clair Township just before 11 pm Friday. On social media, friends expressed shock and disbelief that the “amazing soul” who was kind hearted to all was gone. “I’m at a loss for words, such an amazing soul taken from us way too soon. I will forever be grateful for all of the memories we shared,” wrote friend Kendyl Shuart.



Ethan Miniou



Babies bring Joy to the World

Merry Christmas from Lambton Right-to-Life

lambtonrighttolife.org



Sports

SILVER STOP



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

There were some big saves but it was not enough for the U15 Petrolia Oiler team to move on in the Watford Regional Silver Stick over the weekend. Between Christmas and New Years' teams from across the region come to Petrolia for the Earl Trevail Tournament at the Greenwood Recreation Centre.

Flyers close out with home game

Barry Wright
The Independent

The Mt. Brydges Bulldogs visit Greenwood to close out the pre-holiday portion of the Petrolia Flyers schedule Thursday at 7:30.

Petrolia is trying to snap a three-game losing skid following a 4-0 home ice loss to Dorchester last Thursday and an 8-2 setback

to the Sailors in Port Stanley Saturday. Wil Vandenboom, with his first of the season and Alvinston's Dylan Campbell scored for the Flyers against the Sailors.

Thursday is the final day to bring a minimum of three canned goods to the Flyer contest to help those less fortunate and for a chance to win one of three McDonald's gift cards valued at \$200, \$300 and \$500 to be drawn at the end of each period this week.

Chartrand backstops Flags win over Dresden

The Independent

John Chartrand blocked 31 shots for his second shutout of the season (his first at home) to backstop the Mooretown Flags to a 4-0 win over Dresden Saturday at the Moore Sports Complex.

Blake Howard led the Flags with a goal and an assist. Masen Flett, Brody Genyn and Logan Gardner also scored for Mooretown.

Sarnia's Ty Golden took the loss for

Dresden with 48 saves.

The win was just the second in seven games in December for the Flags. They lost 3-1 and 6-1 on the road to Essex and Lakeshore earlier last week. Tristan Konrad had the lone goal against the 73's and Howard scored versus the Canadiens.

The Flags go into the holiday break in fifth place in the Stobbs Division with a record of 12-11-1. Their next game is at Wallaceburg on January 11.

Squires score early in win over Milverton

The Independent

The Squires scored three times in the first period on their way to a 6-2 senior hockey victory last Sunday afternoon in Milverton.

Brendon Merritt and Corey Pawley each scored twice for Petrolia and Ryan Fraser chipped in with three assists.

The victory followed a 5-1 win over Lucknow last Friday night on Minor Hockey Night at Greenwood.

Adam Arsenault scored what proved to be the game-winning goal late in the second

period. It was the first of three goals in about four-and-half minutes late in the period to break a 1-1 tie.

Brandon Biggers had a goal and three assists for Petrolia and Kraig Wright added a goal and two helpers. Eric Marsh and Brendon Merritt also scored for P-town.

Brandon Campbell was only forced to make 18 saves in the Squire cage as Petrolia outshot the visitors, 45-19.

Petrolia takes a three-game winning streak and a 9-6 record into the break. They host Seaforth on Jan. 6.

East Lambton U15s close to Silver Stick win

The host East Lambton Eagles came up just short of winning their own regional Silver Stick banner in Watford on the weekend. The Eagles reached the final but lost 2-1 to the Ilderton Jets in the U15 C division final last Sunday night. East Lambton had reached the championship game with a 5-0 win over Woodville (near Peterborough), and a 2-0 triumph over Dresden in the quarter and semifinals

respectively.

Elsewhere in the C division, Lambton Shores lost to Dresden, 4-3 in the quarterfinals.

In B division action, Petrolia and Mooretown were both eliminated in the quarterfinals. Mt. Brydges beat the Oilers, 5-2 and Dorchester got by the Flags, 2-1.

Regional Silver Stick tournaments in Petrolia and Alvinston begin next Tuesday.

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SWISS GOLD



TEAM CANADA PHOTO

Bothwell Cyclist Nick Wammes won his first international races since 2018 with a victory in individual sprints at the Track Cycling Challenge in Switzerland. Wammes competes for Team Canada and was an Olympian in the 2020 Tokyo Games.

Night of firsts for Alvinston’s Duncan

Hayden Duncan picked up his first goaltending win in the GOJHL and in the process recorded his first league shutout as well. The Alvinston product blocked 27 shots to lead Strathroy over the Sarnia Legionnaires, 6-0 Dec. 17. The Lambton Jr. Sting grad, an affiliated player from the Elgin-Middlesex U18’s, has a save percentage of .951 through two games

with the Rockets. Duncan was a sixth-round pick by the Ottawa 67’s in the 2022 OHL Priority Selection last April. Petrolia’s Andrew Jaques had two assists for Strathroy in the victory. The Rockets were home to Chatham Tuesday, but the score was not available prior to our deadline. The Legionnaires, on a 14-game winless slide, take on the Flyers in Leamington Thursday.

Watson sets weightlifting records

Declan Watson set a series of provincial youth records at the Ontario Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Scarborough last weekend. The 15 year-old from Errol Village had a snatch of 101 kg., a clean and jerk of 126 kg. for a total of 227 kg. in the 81 kg. category. All three were provincial records for his weight class and age group.

For his effort, the Northern student was chosen the best youth lifter of the weekend. Meantime, Marlowe Robinson of Wyoming won a silver medal in her category at the same event. It was one of six medals won by her team; Garage Gym Weightlifting coached by her father Larry Robinson. They were chosen best junior team of the competition.



Declan Watson

Killer Bees snap losing streak at home

The Independent

The Alvinston Killer Bees rallied from a 3-0 deficit after 20 minutes to beat Erin, 5-3 in Western Ontario Super Hockey League action in Alvinston. Alex Cunningham led the winners with two goals with a goal and an assist. Dylan Scriver, Brandon Ritchie and Kier Cumming had the others. Cumming was making his

Bees debut after signing last week. He has previously played junior hockey in Chatham, Blenheim, Lakeshore and Leamington as well as a season of pro hockey in Sweden. Bayly Fryfogle had two assists for the Bees who snapped a four-game losing slide. Nolan DeKoning made 38 saves for the goaltending win. A day later, the Bees were

beaten, 8-1 in Stratford with Scott Case spoiling the shutout bid early in the third period. Alvinston is 4-9-1 on the season. They take on the Bluebirds in Tilbury on Dec. 28 and host the same team on Friday, Dec. 30 at 8 pm. The latter is Minor Hockey Night where all players from 3-18 wearing their team jerseys will get into the game free.

Lancers win big in the rink

The Independent

Brayden Kominek’s goal in the third period was the game-winner as LCCVI beat North Lambton, 5-3 in boys’ high school hockey in Forest on Monday. Rhett Joy scored twice for the Lancers with Jack Morningstar adding a goal and two assists. Adam Broad added an empty net marker for the Petrolia school. Lucas Rogers scored twice and added an assist for the Eagles and Evan Van Gorp had three assists. Jack Niewenhuizen had the other goal for NLSS. LCCVI is 4-0 on the season. North Lambton is 2-2. Nate Perry, Parker Davidson and Joey Hayter each had a goal and an assist to lead LCCVI to a 6-0 win over Northern Dec. 14. Roen Douglas, Kominek and Tyler McGrail also scored for Lancers. LCCVI’s next game is against St. Pat’s at home on Jan. 11. The Lady Lancers hammered GLSS on Monday 8-0. LCCVI is now 2-0 on the season. Elsewhere this week, the Lancers junior girls’ volleyball side hosts Great Lakes, Northern and St. Pat’s on Wednesday beginning at 4:30 and the LCCVI senior girls’ volleyball squads travels to Great Lakes for matches with the Wolfpack, Vikings and Irish. And the junior and senior boys’ basketball teams, coming off losses to Ursuline last week, take on the Wolfpack at Great Lakes on Thursday at 5:30 and 7 pm.

TOWNSHIP OF ENNISKILLEN

Notice of Public Meeting

Concerning Proposed
Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Enniskillen will hold a **Public Meeting on Monday, January 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township’s Municipal Office** at 4465 Rokeby Line (corner of Oil Heritage Road) to consider proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments under Sections 21 and 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended.

The Purpose and Effect of the Proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments affect lands within the entire Township. The proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments would provide policies related to Cannabis cultivation operations across the Township and require these operations only occur in a building (fully enclosed), establish minimum requirements for studies and information for submission, distances from sensitive uses, require a Zoning By-law Amendment and be subject to Site Plan Control. These facilities would be the Agricultural - 1 (A1) and Mixed Commercial/Industrial (1) (CM1) Zones. A corresponding Zoning By-law amendment implements the policies noted above with regulations that include (but are not limited to): separating distances from sensitive uses (like residential development), setbacks for buildings and requirements for parking.

Written submissions in respect of the proposed Official Plan and/or Zoning By-law amendments can be submitted to the official listed below or at the Public Meeting. Where the subject amendment covers all the Township, no key map has been provided.

Additional information and material, including a copy of the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments, are available for inspection at the Public Meeting noted above, at the Township website: www.enniskillen.ca, and at the Township office at the address listed below during regular office hours.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Township of Enniskillen on the proposed official plan amendment and/or the passing of the proposed zoning by-law amendment, you must make a written request to the official at the address listed below.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Enniskillen before the proposed Official Plan amendment is adopted and/or the Zoning By-law amendment is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the respective decision of the Township of Enniskillen (or subsequent approval of the Official Plan by the County of Lambton) to the Ontario Land Tribunal. **If a person** or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Enniskillen before the proposed Official Plan amendment is adopted and/or Zoning By-law amendment is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the respective hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

No other applications are being considered at this time.

Dated at the Township of Enniskillen this 20th day of December, 2022.

Duncan McTavish, Administrator-Clerk, Township of Enniskillen, 4465 Rokeby Line, RR 1, Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0, Telephone: 519-882-2490, Fax: 519-882-3335, Email: dmctavish@enniskillen.ca.

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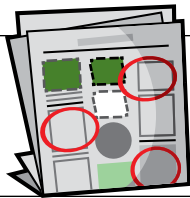
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Pastor Katherine Hawley

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon



Classifieds

Obituary

RACHER

John Raymond

John/Dad passed away **Sunday afternoon at 4:34 p.m.** He had a very peaceful transition from this world to the next, surrounded by family. Your ongoing support, love, positive vibes, and energy wrapped around him, as well as the rest of us throughout this journey.

As we joked and laughed between crying and weeping in his room, we realized that he has left us with a legacy of love, family and humour. He leaves a big empty space, but also gave us the tools to manage it – “One piece at a time, and do it together as family.” Love to you all, Barb, Carrie, Anson, Kristy, Amanda and families

John Raymond Racher, 74 years, of Petrolia passed at C.E.E. Hospital, Petrolia, on **Sunday, December 18, 2022.** For 49 years he was the inseparable husband, co-adventurer, and entertainer to Barb (nee Duquette). He was the proud father of Carrie and Ken Bulgin, Anson and Nicole Racher, Kristy and Greg Layne, Amanda Racher and a loving grandpa to Emma, Dahlia, Russell, Mason, Paisley, Colby, Piper, Owen, and Jillian. John was the son of the late Stan and Shirley Racher and is the brother of Pat and Norm Triest, Jim and Audree Racher, Connie McCallum, Barbara Douglas, and Randy and Lori Racher. He will also be missed by his brother and sister-in-laws Anne Marie and Randy Houdyshell, Carol and John Ruth, Michael and Judy Duquette, Judy and Derek Kerrigan-Dick, and David and Melissa Duquette.

The unconditional love and care he gave to his family was extended to his farm, friends, and community. His dedication to St. Paul's United Church, Petrolia & Enniskillen Agricultural Society, and Lambton Cattleman's Association will be missed and felt by many.

Visitors will be received on Thursday, December 22, 2022 from 2 to 6 p.m. at St. Paul's United Church, 4169 Petrolia Line, Petrolia where a memorial service will be held on Friday, December 23, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. A live stream of the service can be viewed at www.facebook.com/NeedhamJay. Masking is preferred in the church. As expressions of sympathy memorial donations may be made to Myeloma Canada (www.myeloma.ca) or Lambton Cattleman's Association Scholarship Fund.

Thank you to everyone for your support and love - His life was part of a story that began before he was here and will continue on as long as there are those who can share memories of him.

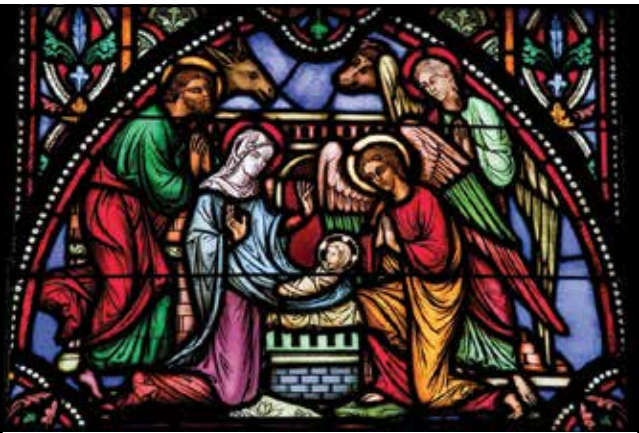
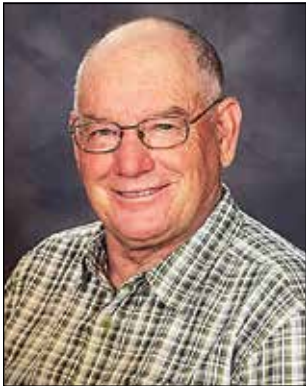
LOOSEMORE

Shirley Elaine

Shirley Elaine Loosemore a resident of Lighthouse Cove, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on **Wednesday, December 14, 2022** at the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance, at the age of **79.** Born in Petrolia, daughter of the late Gordon and Marvelin (Wagoner) McLachlin. Beloved wife of the late William “Bill” Loosemore (2016). Loving mother to Janice Gairdner (Ken), Joyce Brosseau (Jim), James Loosemore (Carolyn Robinet), Jill Loosemore (Phil Belanger).

Cherished grandma to Royce (Taylor), Rochelle (Jeremy), Joshua, Jared (Rachel), Jamey (Danielle), Michelle (Patrick), Nicholas, Justin, and great-grandma to Harrison, Ainsley, Aubrey, Indie, Eli, Beau, and Bella. Dear sister to Harold McLachlin (Deb), Doug McLachlin (Judith), and sister-in-law to Nancy Evoy (late Dale), David Loosemore (Kim), Allen Loosemore (Janet), and Donna Loosemore. Predeceased by her grandson, Ryan Gairdner (2022), brothers, Gordon Wagner (Eileen), Gary McLachlin (late Margeuritta), Manley McLachlin (late Shirley), and sister-in-law, Judy Loosemore.

The Loosemore family received relatives and friends at the Badder Funeral Home & Reception Centre, 679 North St., Dresden on Friday from 1:00-3:00 & 6:00-8:00 p.m. The Funeral Service took place in the chapel on Saturday, December 17, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. Interment followed at Alvinston Cemetery at 1:30 p.m. Those wishing to leave an expression of sympathy are asked to consider the Canadian Cancer Society or Ontario Standardbred Adoption Society. Online condolences and donations may be left at www.badderfuneralhome.com.



Celebrate Christmas Eve & Christmas Day With Us.

A time to gather with family and friends as we celebrate the arrival of Jesus Christ. We extend a warm welcome to our community to join us for our Traditional Christmas Eve Service 4 pm, and Christmas Day Service 10:30 am.

First Baptist Church

418 Greenfield Street Petrolia ON N0N 1R0

Christmas snacks to follow.

Missing Each of You

Each of you are so missed at Christmas & each and every day of each year that goes by, for each of you were someone special who meant more than words can say.

DAD:	Samuel Rees	Oct 5 1977
MOM:	Sarah (Wagner)	Dec 10 1989
BROTHER:	Gerald Rees	Aug 5 2002
SISTER:	Delores Broad	Dec 23 2009
BROTHER:	Sam Jr Rees	Jun 5 2013
SISTER:	Ilene Campbell	Dec 31, 2021

LUV & HUGS Geraldine Duffy (Rees)

Our Loving Son

John Duffy - May 22 2016

Of all the special gifts in life,
However great or small.
To have you “John” as our son,
Was the greatest gift of all.
A special time. A special place.
A special son. We can't replace.
With an aching heart, we whisper low,
We miss you “John” we love you so!!!

**LUV
Mom & Dad,
sister
Myrna Duffy
& daughter
Emily**



Last Minute Gift Idea

for the Historian (or Quilter) on your list!



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for more info or to purchase your copy
call Leslee Williams 519-683-6382
email Heather Childs hhhchilds@hotmail.com
or text Connie McFadden 519-312-4302

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.

Coming Events

I.O.O.F. EUCHRE - Card parties starting **Wednesday, January 4 2023** at the Oakdale Hall beginning at 7:30 pm. All Welcome.

Wyoming Lions

554 Main Street

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Bookings and information

call: (519) 466 7806 or 845 3333



The Petrolia & North Enniskillen Fire Department is currently recruiting for

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Volunteering with the Petrolia and North Enniskillen Fire Department is both challenging and rewarding. It will require a very high level of dedicated service to the community and a willingness to always help others.

General Outline:

Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment

This position will require that you respond to all emergencies when called upon. Specifically, you will respond to the following: all hazards, fire emergencies, technical rescue including high angle, structural collapse, confined space, machinery, water, hazardous materials, medical emergencies to provide emergency patient care and assistance, motor vehicle emergencies, other specialized emergencies and calls for public assistance. In addition you will be required to assist and provide public safety education, fire inspections, develop pre-fire emergency plans, engage in training activities on a regular basis and maintain fire apparatus, equipment, and stations.

Requirements, preferred Skills, and preferred Certifications:

- 18 years of age or older and legally entitled to work in Canada;
- An Ontario secondary school diploma (Grade 12) or equivalent;
- Willing to obtain Standard First Aid certificate and a valid CPR for Health Care Providers (Level HCP) certification. Offered in-house.
- NFPA 1001 Level I & II certification an asset, must be willing to obtain.
- Firefighter positions require Valid Class “DZ” driver's license with a satisfactory Driver's Abstract;
- Ability to attend meeting and training nights, weekends, and holidays;
- Ability to understand and communicate clearly in English, both oral and written;
- Ability to cope in high stress situations;
- Ability to work as a team member;
- Ability to obtain and provide a satisfactory vulnerable sector criminal record search
- Must be physically fit to handle the sustained, intense, physical effort often required to perform these duties

Interested applicants are invited to visit

<https://petroliafiredeptca.wordpress.com/>

to view a detailed description, and additional information on requirements when submitting an application, including supporting documents.

Applications to be submitted through website or directly to pnfiredepartment@gmail.com

Deadline for applications is no later than 4 PM on Friday December 23, 2022.

Applications & Supporting Documentation may also be dropped off at Town of Petrolia, and clearly marked Volunteer Firefighter to be directed in confidence to the attention of:

Jay Arns, Fire Chief
Town of Petrolia
411 Greenfield Street
Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0

We appreciate the interest of all those who respond; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Information obtained through this posting is collected for candidate selection only and is protected by the Municipal Freedom of Information Act. The Town of Petrolia is an equal opportunity employer committed to inclusive, barrier-free recruitment and selection processes and work environments. We will accommodate the needs of applicants under the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) throughout all stages of the recruitment and selection process. Please advise the Clerks Department to ensure your accessibility needs are accommodated throughout this process.



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, Tracey & families

Lambton band’s hockey anthem making its mark

Heather Wright
The Independent

Adam Veen had an idea for the quintessential Canadian song and now that song is playing in arenas far and wide.

Veen and the band Aces High recently wrote “Drop The Mitts” a hard driving song which is a throw back to “old school hockey.”

The musician and Oil Springs councillor says the song “talks about traveling in the beat up bus and the long hours on the road. And just for the love of the game and being out there and doing what you love.”

While many of the band members played hockey, the life of an old school hockey player is the

same as many musicians “they travel the roads and late nights on the road, just to do what you love.”

The video - produced by Paradox Images - features some of the players from the Alvinston Killer Bees at the Brooke-Alvinston Inwood Arena.

“We had a couple of players that were able to make it out during the day...we had some of the Alvinston Killer Bees players come out and act as opposing players during the video and kind of doing some sparring on the ice. Everybody had a big kick out of it... We’re more than happy to have them involved with it.”

The Killer Bees have been using the song at their games, but the anthem has also been getting atten-

tion in other corners.

“The Danbury Thrashers, the infamous junior hockey team, they created kind of like an MMA slash hockey style competition. So their inaugural event, they were utilizing that song for it.

“That was really awesome to get that kind of recognition and notice from some people that are trying to make some waves and do some new things in the sports entertainment world,” says Veen.

While the song is being used by a couple of clubs, Veen is hoping to attract more interest.

He’s approached the Sarnia Sting hoping to some day see the video on the big screen at the Progressive Auto Centre during a game.



Adam Veen, who is a musician, entrepreneur and Oil Springs councillor, as seen in the video Drop the Mitts which was shot at the Alvinston arena with members of the Killer Bees. The Aces High video can be found on YouTube.

Enniskillen councillors worry about additional housing under Bill 23

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

The provincial government’s Bill 23, the More Houses Built Faster Act, sets up the possibility of having additional dwelling units within an existing residence.

“I don’t think there will be many,” said Lambton County’s Planning and Development Services Manager, as he appeared

before Enniskillen Township Council on Dec. 19, to discuss how the township might be impacted.

He was answering a questioned posed by Deputy Mayor Judy Krall about whether the idea of new additional dwelling units will come up in Oil City and Marthaville. These dwelling units consist of basement suites, apartments over a garage or in

separate granny suites will only be considered for residential properties, which have sewer, storm and water systems.

This only exists within Oil City in Enniskillen Township.

This is a misconception this new legislation will allow for three separate structures on a property, said Melanson. “This is a quick fix to get more places to live,” said Mayor Kevin Marriott, as Ontario

is in the midst of a housing crisis.

When it was asked whether the capacity of the water system is considered when granting approval for these units, Melanson said Bill 23 doesn’t consider this.

Melanson said people will still have the right to make third party appeals but the new legislation allows for the granting of costs. “So if you are going to make an appeal, you have to have a good

reason,” he said.

“You can’t be an obstructionist or being using it as a delaying tactic.”

Enniskillen Township is one of several municipalities within Lambton County, which do not have development fees.

Others include Petrolia, Oil Springs, Brooke-Alvinston and Warwick. Warwick Township is in the process of preparing to introduce development fees.

HONOURING THE CHIEF



Dawn-Euphemia Fire honoured its former chief, Dave Williams (right) with a plaque. Williams retired in August. With him is former chief Jerry Burns, Leonard McMurphy and current chief Don Ewing.

5

TIPS FOR SHOVELING SNOW SAFELY

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1 Keep up with the storm

2 Push don’t lift or throw

3 Bend your knees

4 Pick the right shovel

5 Watch for ice

Dr. Derek Martyniuk

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