

TOWER FIRE



St. Clair firefighters were dwarfed by a tower at the former Lambton Generating Station Monday. Crews were called to the St. Clair Parkway site Monday for a fire. See more on page 2.

Petrolia may add more pedestrian crosswalks downtown

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Petrolia will take a second look at the crosswalks in the downtown after Lambton County Developmental Services said painted crosswalks without lights may create “a false sense of security” for pedestrians. On Dec. 22, a person whom LCDS supports was struck by a vehicle while crossing Petrolia Line at King Street around 8 pm. Lambton OPP say the pedestrian – who was in a motorized wheelchair – was injured and taken to hospital and a driver was charged. Nick Salaris, executive director of LCDS, says it was the second time in less than a year someone the agency supports was hit crossing the street in the

downtown. In 2019 the town looked at crossings in the downtown upgrading one at Petrolia Line and Greenfield St. The consultant had suggested removing crosswalks which only consisted of paint on the roadway – like the ones at Petrolia and King and Petrolia and Oil and Tank Streets. The consultant also recommended two more crosswalks with amber flashing lights. The chair of the LCDS board and Salaris sent a letter to the town asking council to revisit the report. Salaris tells *The Independent* he believes more crosswalks with overhead flashing amber lights would be appropriate. Salaris is not clear on the legislation surrounding the placement of the crosswalks but “what I do know is that there might be a false sense of

security with people that they see markings on a road, and it makes them feel safe crossing there. And in fact, maybe that’s not right,” says Salaris. At Monday’s meeting, town staff said money had been placed in the 2023 budget to review that 2019 consultants report and for capital if council wished to add more crossings with amber lights. When asked by *The Independent* what had changed since 2019, Mayor Brad Loosley said; “I think because of some accidents with one set of concerns for the safety. Council have to consider that during budget deliberations.” He added putting in more crossing lights would reduce the amount of parking in the downtown. The budget discussions begin Jan. 17.

Serious about gas

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Warwick council wants the province to know it’s serious about getting more natural gas lines in the community. The township was expecting the village of Warwick along Egremont Road and the surrounding farms to be able to access a natural gas pipeline in 2019 after Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Monte McNaughton - who was then the infrastructure minister - announced a new program which would bring natural gas to smaller communities. But when the first round of projects was announced, Warwick’s bid wasn’t approved. SEE GAS PG 2



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SCAN FOR MENU





BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

St. Clair Township firefighters are dwarfed by the large tower at Lambton Generating station Monday. A fire broke out on the demolition site around 11 am.

## Fire at former generating station

The Independent

Some of the remains of the former Lambton Generating Station caught fire during demolition. St Clair Township firefighters from Courtright and Brigden were called to the

St. Clair Parkway in Courtright Monday around 11 am as smoke billowed from one of the remaining towers on site. Demolition crews using torches caused the fire. The coal fired power plant closed in 2013 and has been in the process of demolition since 2019.



## Oil Springs residents without water

Blake Ellis  
Local Journalism Initiative

Meadowview Estates residents in Oil Springs were without water throughout the weekend. The Village of Oil Springs received several calls on Monday, but this is not a municipal problem. The Village supplies water to the edge of the 29 acre property, which backs on to Black Creek Golf Course

but the water system on site is the owner’s responsibility. There are 17 mobile homes in the park now however a sign on the property says the owner is opening up the 15 additional serviced sites. There is also 22 acres available for an additional 78 sites. The owner did not supply the tenants with water during the outage. It was fixed by Tuesday afternoon.

-THE INDEPENDENT

## Warwick ‘serious’ about natural gas

CON’T FROM PG 1

When the second round of projects were announced Warwick once again wasn’t on the list. The province had invested \$373 million to support the expansion of pipelines in rural and remote areas, yet Warwick’s project had not been approved. During the October municipal election, all the candidates said it was one of their top priorities to get the area served. Monday, Administrator Amanda Gubbels said the province has announced there will be another round of projects coming - but it hasn’t said when people can apply. Town staff had been meeting with Enbridge to work on the local bid to have a gas line installed so it is ready when the bidding opens. And council is sending a letter to the province to get the process moving. “We want the province to know we are serious,” said Mayor Todd Case “and we are looking for these funding opportunities.”



FILE PHOTO

Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Monte McNaughton seen in 2019 announcing a new provincial program to expand natural gas lines into rural areas. He made the announcement at a Warwick Village farm however Warwick Village is still waiting for approval for a pipeline to the community.



### WARWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL ARE LOOKING FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES/BOARDS

**ALL application forms** must be submitted by **Noon on Wednesday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
They can be addressed to 5280 Nauvoo Road, PO Box 10, Watford, ON N0M 2S0

Appointments for Township committees will be for staggered terms between one (1) year and four (4) years; and members shall be a resident and/or ratepayer in Warwick Township. Appointment to the County of Lambton Seniors’ Advisory Committee is for a term of two (2) years.

- **WARWICK TOWNSHIP CEMETERY BOARD (3 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC)**  
The Warwick Township Cemetery Board is responsible for providing advice and input on Cemetery services and assisting in the management of all cemeteries within Warwick Township. (Watford Cemetery, Bethel Cemetery, Warwick Cemetery plus several ‘inactive’ cemeteries)
- **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE (2 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC)**  
The Parks & Recreation Committee is responsible for matters pertaining to the Parks & Recreation Programs; advice and recommendations to Township Council.
- **COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT and LAND DIVISION COMMITTEE PROPERTY STANDARDS APPEAL COMMITTEE (additional committee) (3 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC)**  
This is a Committee established by municipal council under the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13 S.44(1) and is responsible for making decisions on Minor Variance applications and Land Division - severance applications.
- **COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (C.I.P.) COMMITTEE (5 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC)**  
The C.I.P. Committee is responsible for receiving applications under the Community Improvement Plan (ie. façade improvements, murals, etc.) and making recommendation to Council.
- **COUNTY OF LAMBTON SENIORS’ ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC)**  
The County of Lambton is recruiting a resident from Warwick Township for the Seniors’ Advisory Committee. The role of the committee is to promote interests and identify seniors’ issues and address them at a County level. Questions regarding this committee can be directed to Anita Trusler at Lambton Public Health by calling 519-383-8331 ext. 3646 or emailing [anita.trusler@county-lambton.on.ca](mailto:anita.trusler@county-lambton.on.ca). Application forms are available at the Township Office and on the Township website.

For further information on Township committees, or to receive a copy of the Terms of Reference or an application form, please contact:  
Amanda Gubbels, CAO/Clerk, at [agubbels@warwicktownship.ca](mailto:agubbels@warwicktownship.ca)  
Heather Willemse, Deputy Clerk, at [hwillemse@warwicktownship.ca](mailto:hwillemse@warwicktownship.ca)  
or by calling 226-848-3926.

Application forms are available at the Township Office or on the Township website and must be submitted by the above date to the Clerk’s Department.

[www.warwicktownship.ca](http://www.warwicktownship.ca)



PUMPER PRIDE



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

After years of work and an extra six months of waiting, the new pumper rolled into the Enniskillen Oil Springs fire hall Friday morning. Officials from Resqtech brought the new rig to the hall and picked up \$650,000 from the communities of Enniskillen and Oil Springs to pay for the much anticipated truck. Supply chain issues meant the department waited an extra six months for delivery. The pumper is the most expensive piece of equipment purchased for the department to date. The last pumper was purchased in 2000 and cost \$240,000 compared to the \$650,000 current cost. Officials from Resqtech said they could sell the Oil Springs pumper for \$850,000 today. A newly ordered pumper will now cost about \$1 million Chief Al Charlton, who backed the new pumper into the station Friday, says members of the public can come to see the new apparatus Saturday, Jan. 14 at noon. Firefighters will hold a “Push In” ceremony to mark the occasion and then have an open house for people to take a look at the new vehicle. Mayors Kevin Marriott and Ian Veen got a chance to look at the new truck as it arrived Friday.

Teen admits to writing threatening graffiti at LCCVI

The Independent

A teen from Plympton-Wyoming won’t have a criminal record in the wake of threats which closed LCCVI for a day in June. On June 2, Lambton-Kent District School Board officials called in the OPP after threatening graffiti was found in a bathroom which was under

renovation. Students were kept in the classrooms and bathrooms were off limits while officers investigated. And after consulting with police, the board closed the school building Friday concerned about the threats. Five days later OPP arrested a teen who was charged with uttering threats and mischief.

Friday, the teen appeared in Sarnia Court and plead guilty to the single count. He was given a judicial reprimand, according to the Crown Attorney’s office. It’s an option under the Youth Criminal Justice act which allows a judge to give “a stern lecture” in a minor case to hold the youth accountable for their actions.

82 COVID deaths in 2022

Heather Wright  
The Independent

2022 has been the deadliest year of the pandemic in Lambton County. Statistics from Lambton Public Health show there have been 166 deaths in Lambton since the pandemic began; 26 in 2020, 58 in 2021 and 82 in 2022. Across Canada, over 49,200 people have died from the virus since the pandemic began; 15,741 were in Ontario. The number of people in Lambton who have tested positive for the virus since 2020 was 14,374 at year’s end. 8,417 of those cases were in 2022. And that record breaking number was after the provincial government stopped reporting all cases of the virus and only publicly reported cases in institutions such as hospitals, group homes, long term care and retirement homes. Right now in Lambton, there are COVID-19 outbreaks in all three of Petrolia’s long term care and retirement homes according to Lambton Public Health. At Albany Retirement Village, eight residents have tested positive according to data released Wednesday. Twenty people at Fiddick’s Retirement Home are COVID-19 positive and 10 people at Lambton Meadowview have tested positive for the virus. The county long term care home first reported an outbreak Dec. 17. Lambton Public Health reports staff members at all three homes have also tested positive, however officials don’t report the actual number of staff ill until more than five have tested positive.

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**Charlotte's Corner**

**CEEH New Manager Inspired to Lead in 2023**

Happy New Year to Petrolia and Central Lambton residents. I hope 2023 is filled with health and wellness for you and your loved ones. I would like to take this time to introduce myself, Anastasia Carron, as the newly appointed Manager of Rural Health, overseeing management of Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital (CEEH) of Bluewater Health. I began my new role January 5, 2023. I have been with Bluewater Health since 2013, and have held other leadership roles during my tenure, including Charge Nurse for the CEEH site. Most recently, I held the role of Professional Practice Supervisor for Rural Health and the Complex Continuing Care Cognitive Unit at the Sarnia site. I graduated from nursing in 2002 from St. Clair College and completed a Masters in Nursing Science in 2019 from Walden University. In my years with CEEH, I have been inspired by my colleagues in their unwavering commitment to delivering excellent care to Petrolia and rural Lambton County. I understand, and believe in, the strong sense of community that defines CEEH. It is an excellent example of how hospitals and community partners can work together to improve the overall health and wellbeing, and ultimately, a patient's experience. I am truly honoured to lead this committed team and continue our great work together.

**Anastasia Carron**

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# Editorial

## Protect pedestrians

Governments of all stripes have a fine line to walk; they have to provide the services and protection people need while satisfying the taxpayers desire to pay as little tax as possible.

Sometimes, it's easy to stay on the right side of the line; it should go without saying that protecting people is one place taxpayers should be willing to spend money. As Petrolia Council prepares to start budget deliberations, we hope our elected officials can see that the safety of pedestrians on Petrolia Line is a place we need to spend some money.

Lambton County Developmental Services sees the need for a cash infusion into new crosswalks. In the past year, two of the people LCDS provides service to have been hit while trying to cross the street. Most recently, a person was struck at Petrolia Line and King Street. The so-called crosswalk there is anything but safe. And the town has been told that. The consultant it hired in 2019 recommended taking the painted markings off the street. Ministry of Transportation approved crosswalks include flashing amber lights and signage.

After LCDS wrote a letter voicing concern about the crosswalks, staff suggested money could be placed in the budget to review the 2019 study - which was largely ignored by the past council - and perhaps put up some new crosswalks.

But the reaction was cool to say the least. The mayor told The Independent that safety is certainly important at the crossings, but the last accident occurred when it was raining and dark. Adding a crosswalk, he said, would mean the reduction of parking spaces in the downtown.

Surely people's safety is more important than parking spaces.

We would challenge councillors to come to the crossing at Petrolia Line and King Street and stand on the south side of the road, waiting for traffic to stop so you can cross safely. Traffic heading east simply cannot see pedestrians around the cars parked on the street and without lights or signage, there is nothing to alert them of pedestrians crossing.

Council walked the wrong side of the line when it had a chance to protect pedestrians in 2019; we hope they don't make that mistake again.

## Letters to the Editor

The Independent welcomes Letters to the Editor. Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to [news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca) (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website [www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca](http://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



JACK MINIELLY PHOTO

It was obviously a good day under the bridge. Jack Minielly of Camlachie brought in this 1945 newspaper photo of his uncle, Les Minielly (left) and his friends Elliot Patton (right) and the Fisher brothers, all from the Camlachie area. They'd been fishing under the Bluewater Bridge.

## Questioning the costs of transparency in Petrolia

The Town of Petrolia is considering a new audio visual system for the council chambers. And its price tag is raising some eyebrows.

Administration estimates it will cost \$60,000 to put in the equipment needed to live stream meetings, allow presenters to share their documents so the viewing audience can see and so the video of the meeting can be made available to all on YouTube for viewing whenever they want.

Something has to be done. In past meetings the sound system gave out and the video is so

horrible, there is no way to tell who is voting for what with a show of hands.

But \$60,000 is some serious cash - about a one per cent tax increase according to an online survey the town is now doing to see what the public wants.

It's interesting that council wanted to gauge public support for something which will clearly benefit the public - when it has spend much more than that - about \$100,000 with my quick figuring - for four new signs - two so-called gateway signs and the replicas of town hall on Petrolia Line - without

any public input on whether that money was well spent.

It's also interesting to me that a group of people who pledge to be transparent are making noises that perhaps transparency is too expensive.

Is Petrolia getting the Cadillac of AV equipment - maybe. But if it is, so have other municipalities, like St. Clair Township and Plympton-Wyoming, who have paid a similar amount.

Maybe there is a less costly system, but I sure hope councillors realize transparency via video is priceless.



Heather Wright

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# PW man faces 11 charges after cruiser damaged

The Independent

A Plympton-Wyoming man is facing 11 additional charges after a Lambton OPP was “intentionally damaged” in St. Clair Township.

Lambton OPP posted to social media they were looking for Cody Price, the man they believed was involved in the crash of the cruiser Dec. 30 in rural St. Clair Township. At the time, police said Price is allegedly a repeat offender who “steals pickup trucks daily.”

He was taken into custody Jan. 4, according to court records.

He’s facing charges of assaulting a peace officer with a weapon, flight from police, dangerous operation of a vehicle, break and enter, two counts of theft of a motor vehicle, two counts of theft over \$5,000, two counts of possession of property obtained by crime and failing to comply with a release order.

Price is also facing 31 charges from an incident in March 2022 where the Special Investigations Unit was called in .

On March 1 around 8:10 am, the OPP found a stolen vehicle and trailer on Courtright Line in St. Clair Township. Someone was seen near the pickup and tried to flee when officers arrived. The man was taken into custody after resisting arrest.

Four officers who were involved in the arrest were investigated after a



The OPP SUV damaged Dec 30 in St. Clair Township.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

man’s nose was broken. The SIU ruled they used reasonable force considering the suspect was trying to flee in a stolen pickup.

The arrest was part of an OPP investigation which linked multiple thefts and break-and-enters throughout Lambton.

The value of property that has been recovered and returned to the owners is more than \$500,000.

Price was charged in July with 13 counts of possession of stolen property obtained by crime, six counts of break and enter, three counts of theft of a motor vehicle, four counts of theft over \$5,000, flight from a peace officer, resisting arrest and failing to comply with a bail order at that time.

Price is police custody now and is expected to appear for a bail hearing Jan. 16.

# Mayor pans Bell’s service: ‘We should never have been involved’

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad says it shouldn’t have taken municipal pressure to fix Bell Canada’s land lines around Florence.

Up to 45 people were without land line service since before Christmas in and around the Dawn-Euphemia community.

Some people voiced concern that people with Lifeline Medical Alert services need a land line. Many customers, including the Lambton County Library system, had been given several dates when the issue would be repaired but each deadline came and went without the problem being resolved.

Residents of the hamlet started sharing their stories on social media about the problems and then local politicians started asking question.

Broad launched a complaint with the Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission

about the issue on Thursday. Under the Telecommunications Act, the CRTC must ensure people in both urban and rural areas “have both reliable and affordable telecommunications services.”

“Clearly, the CRTC are the ones that have the most power and hopefully, if we lodge enough complaints through the CRTC, that they will force Bell Canada’s hand to figure this out and get back to us on a plan,” he said early Friday morning.

In an email Friday morning, Vanessa Damah, Senior Manager of Media Relations for Bell, said “an equipment problem in the Florence community had been causing intermittent land line outages for approximately 45 customers in the area. Please note that the issue has been resolved and full services have been restored.”

Broad disputed Bell’s claim saying service at the community centre – which houses the local library – was still intermittent late in the afternoon. The Florence Library at the

community centre had been using a cell phone to call patrons about items which had come in for them.

Broad’s complaint to the CRTC and the local media coverage of the outage were enough to garner a call from a Bell senior manager and by the end of the business day the lines were restored.

“I strongly suggested that they would then be held liable if anybody got hurt and no sudden I think it got moved up in their priority list very high,” he told members of council Monday.

Broad told the Bell manager the company needed to be more responsive, working with municipalities to solve shortages.

“We should never have been involved at all but you know, there are ratepayers too, so we want to make sure they’re protected.

Bell has faced criticism before for long outages. In May, residents around Winnipeg went for months without service. The issue was only resolved when the CRTC stepped in.

# Petrolia considers new AV system to stream council meetings

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The Town of Petrolia may spend up to \$60,000 for an audio visual system for the council chambers.

During the pandemic, Petrolia - like most other municipal governments - turned to online platforms like Zoom to hold their meetings. As the restrictions eased, many municipalities continued the practice of streaming meetings online and saving them to platforms like YouTube so taxpayers to watch the council meetings when they had time. Petrolia began archiving its

meetings on YouTube a year ago.

But the quality of the audio and video of the recording was poor from the beginning. The town used a laptop to get a wide-angle shot of all the councillors on the dias. Anyone speaking to council at the podium had their back to the camera.

Laurissa Ellsworth, director of marketing, arts and communication says some of the audio equipment would simply stop working after 20 minutes as it over heated.

In December, the town stopped providing a live feed or posting video to the town’s YouTube platform saying it

was of little use to residents since they couldn’t hear or see anything.

Monday, Ellsworth asked councillors to approve spending up to \$60,000 for a new system before budget deliberations. Councillor Bill Clark says he supports the online service but didn’t think the item needed to be approved before budget. He suggested, and council agreed, that staff should move ahead to get firm quotes for the project which will come to the budget meetings starting Jan. 17.

He also suggested \$60,000 was steep. St. Clair Township is now installing a similar system at the same price.

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# Two years for Oil Springs crash

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The Windsor man who drove a car which crashed south of Oil Springs killing three people in 2019 has been sentenced to two years in prison.

In October 2019, the OPP, Dawn-Euphemia and Oil Springs fire departments and Lambton EMS were called to the curves on Oil Heritage Line at Aberfeldy Line. A sedan had veered off the highway in the curve and flipped several times into a field on the west side of the road.

The three victims were all 19 and from the Indian state of Punjab. They were studying business in Windsor but had been working at the High Park cannabis greenhouse on Lasalle Line. They were on their way home from work.

Jovanpreet Singh pleaded guilty in a Sarnia courtroom last June to three counts of dangerous operation of a



FILE PHOTO

Three Windsor college students who had been working at High Park Farms near Petrolia died in a crash on Oil Heritage Line south of Oil Springs in October 2019.

motor vehicle causing death, as well as a count of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing bodily harm. One other person in the car survived the crash.

The case was moved to Windsor for sentencing. It is likely Singh will be deported after serving his sentence.

# Drop PO Box rule says Warwick

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Greg Hilliard is frustrated Canada Post is returning his mail because it doesn't have a post office box number on it. And he's not alone.

The mechanic recently moved his business from Petrolia to Watford where he began to run into trouble getting his shipments through Canada Post.

Hilliard says if he doesn't reference a PO Box in a shipping address, the vendors can't deliver the part. Some online vendors don't have a spot to put the Box number. That can lead to weeks of delays.

And Hilliard says when a letter is returned to the sender because the post office box is missing, the vendor will freeze the account. "They don't want to send \$1,000 of parts to a place that is undeliverable."

Hilja Deuzeman also brought the concern to Warwick Council in September. Her accountant called asking about an insurance cheque she was supposed to receive. It had been returned because the post office box was not on the envelope. It took six months to fix the mistake. "What if our accountant had not brought this to our attention? We would not have received this money."

The municipality wrote to Canada Post and met with local managers about the issues, concerned that Deuzeman had been told by Canada Post employees the municipality approved the move.

"Warwick Township council or its staff representatives, have never approved the requirement for PO Boxes to be required for mail service in Watford; for Canada Post to advise our community of this false information is unacceptable," council wrote. "As one of only two communities where PO Box number are required for mail delivery in Ontario, it is not a common practice. Warwick Township residents have a right to access their mail and packages through the national postal delivery service without regular issues. The requirement for Watford to include PO Boxes on all mail in order to be delivered must stop."

But Canada Post's Chief Operating Officer Manon Fortin in a Dec. 1 letter said she was "disappointed to learn that some residents expressed their community was being unfairly targeted by this change."

"I can assure you there are thousands of customers in hundreds of communities across Canada that use a PO Box as their prime mode of delivery and share their PO Box address accordingly."

Amanda Gubbels, the chief administrative officer of Warwick, says the township is now trying to get meetings with Canada Post for councillors attending the Rural Ontario Municipal Conference in January.

Gubbels hopes to "discuss the concerns of the community and a potential solution to address them."

She added the township is forwarding all complaints it receives to Canada Post until the situation is resolved.

# Watford fire needs new generator

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Warwick Township will be buying a new generator for the Watford fire station.

Treasurer Trevor Jarrett says the unit failed and the department couldn't get the parts it needed to fix it. The hall is an emergency shelter and needs the generator in case of power outages.

Jarrett says the unit was supposed to be replaced in 2025, but it is an "emergency issue" and needs to be replaced now.

The town will buy a new generator and have it installed for about \$12,860. It's expected to take a matter of weeks.

The money will be found by delaying the purchase of other equipment and using reserve funds, Jarrett told councillors Monday.

# BELATED CHRISTMAS FUN



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

A bison gets a close up view of a Christmas tree at the Copper Flats Bison Farm near Wyoming Saturday. People were invited to bring their used Christmas tree. The bison will play with it, break it up and recycle it into the pasture. The trees are also made into mulch to be used as bedding and compost.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Proposed 80.0 Meter Telecommunications Tower Site OSR2529

### Located at 3545 Michigan Lake, Camlachie, ON

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** the approval of this site and its design is under the exclusive jurisdiction of **Freedom Mobile Inc.** has proposed a 80.0m self-support steel lattice structure style telecommunication tower and related radio equipment on private property at 3545 Michigan Lake, Camlachie, ON. The proposed structure will enhance wireless coverage for Camlachie; specifically this site will provide enhanced coverage along Trans-Canada Highway 402, Michigan Line, London Line, and the surrounding area.

The geographic coordinates (NAD 83) for the proposed site are as follows: Latitude: N 42° 59' 41.2" & Longitude: W 82° 11' 10.5". The facility is proposed in an Agricultural area and will occupy a ground compound area of 15.0m x 15.0m.

**THIS NOTICE** serves as an invitation to any interested members of the public to submit comments or requests for additional information to the individuals listed below by Tuesday, February 14th, 2023.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** the approval of this site and its design is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Government of Canada through Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED). For more information on the federal process pertaining to these installations please contact the local ISED office at: [specttrumswodo-spectrebdsoo@ised-isde.gc.ca](mailto:specttrumswodo-spectrebdsoo@ised-isde.gc.ca)

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Tel: (519) 845-3939 Ext. 117  
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**SITE LOCATION MAP**



# Panthers sprucing up their playground

Blake Ellis  
Local Journalism Initiative

Some of the staff at Lambton Centennial Public School knew their playground was not the most exciting place to play. So, they have started the Panther Playground Project to raise money for new playground equipment.

The group started talking about their plans into the summer break and so far has made a number of additions.

The school was built in 1968 and teacher Steve McGrail, said there had been equipment removed from the school grounds over the years, but nothing was added.

“There was not much left,” McGrail said when a walk through was made to inspect what kind of equipment the school had and what was needed. He said the school grounds are huge with a lot of green space

“We are shooting for the moon,” said McGrail as the group has a goal to raise \$75,000. The rejuvenation has been split into three phases with the first phase already complete.

New soccer posts and two basketball

fun poles have been added on the primary side of the playground so far as well as a basketball court with poles to have volleyball and badminton nets. A few picnic tables have also been added. The group raised \$20,000 for the additions.

Gaga ball pits, a fitness trail, and an outdoor shelter - to be used as an outdoor classroom or school events - are up next.

The fundraising has consisted of tapping into the current families as well as the alumni of the school, and getting local service clubs involved. The hard part is keeping the project’s momentum, going, said McGrail. The school is planning to hold events this school year, which can further raise money for the project and keep it top of mind.

McGrail says the committee is being intention to make sure the new equipment as accessible as possible for every student. A fitness trail can be paved making it more accessible for students with wheelchairs and walkers. Also doing such things as lowering basketball nets and putting in smaller soccer nets can not only help those who are physically challenged, but the younger students at the elementary school as well.

- THE INDEPENDENT

## HELPING A VET



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Navy veteran Dave Willis has a new mobility scooter thanks to the Wyoming branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. President Connor Weed said one of the mandates of the Legion is provide for veterans who are in need. The scooter was purchased out of the poppy fund. Willis is appreciative of receiving the scooter. At one time, he was taking his dog for a walk three times a day, now he can barely take his dog for a walk once a day. The new scooter will increase his independence. Willis served with the Canadian Navy from 1963 to 1966. His most memorable experience happened when he was aboard the HMCS Kootenay and chased a Soviet submarine across the Atlantic Ocean in the midst of the Cold War. Legion President Connor Weed, Membership Chair Jim Turnbull, Vice-President Trevor Boersma and Keith Watson from Green County Ebike and Mobility Scooters are with Willis.

## Entrepreneur looking at PW bike rental service

Heather Wright  
The Independent

There could soon be a bicycle sharing service in Plympton-Wyoming.

Katelyn Bedard recently brought her plan for a company called Rydn. She hopes to offer bicycles and scooters for rent for tourists and members of the community to explore the lakeshore and rural landscapes.

Bedard says riders would book their bicycle online or walk up to yet-to-be determined location to rent. Bedard plans to use shipping containers as the outlets.

Councillors were interested in the idea but asked the entrepreneur to work with town staff to come up with the right locations.

Bedard believes the cycling service could help spur local tourism including getting people to visit local restaurants.



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The Lambton Attack blanked Owen Sound, 4-0 to capture the U18 A championship banner at the Girls Silver Stick final in Sarnia on the weekend. The Attack advanced to the championship contest with a 1-0 win over Mississauga in the semi-finals while Owen Sound downed the Sarnia Lady Sting, 4-0. The team includes: Riane McEachern, Julia Boelens, Jorja DeCaluwe, Lizzie Swain, Gaby Batte, Kylee Shortt, Ava Thompson, Paige Hudson, Alison Cuthbert, Felicia Park, Kara Duffy, Dayna Robbins, Chloe Vanderzon, Amelia Hoven, Alex Salaris and Teagan Cox. Ace Hudson is the head coach, Jay DeCaluwe and Gregg McEachern are the Assistant Coaches, Marcia Stinson is the trainer, Jen Salaris is the Assistant Trainer and Nick Salaris is the manager.



ACTION PHOTOS  
BY BLAKE ELLIS/  
LOCAL  
JOURNALISM INITIATIVE





# Sports

## Flyers face Sailors Thursday

The Independent

Port Stanley sails into Petrolia Thursday for a PJHL matchup with the Flyers. The Sailors are tied for sixth place in the Yeck Division with a record of 10-10-4, nine points better than Petrolia. Port Stanley has won the previous three games between the two clubs this season. Petrolia is at Dorchester Friday. Noel Sanderson's goal at 5:44 of the third period Friday gave the Flyers a 2-1 win at

Lucan snapping Petrolia's five-game losing streak. Kyle Flamminio had the other Flyer goal and Elijah Grant made 35 stops. Grant also turned aside 36 shots in a 5-0 loss to Mt. Brydges Thursday at Greenwood Recreation Centre. Petrolia also picked up depth forward Dylan Demeulenaere at the trade deadline this week. The Mt. Brydges native had three goals and an assist in 16 games with Lucan and North Middlesex this season.

## Mooretown heads to the 'Burg

The Mooretown Flags play the first of seven games in 18 days this month with a stop in Wallaceburg tonight. (Wednesday). The Flags are at home to Dresden on Saturday at 7:30 before travelling to Blenheim and a game with the Blades on Sunday. Mooretown is in fifth place in the Stobbs Division, nine points behind fourth-place Wheatley. The Flags did not make any moves at the deadline. General Manager John Baker said they had discussions, but nothing made sense for Mooretown right now.

## McGrail scores in Legion loss

The Sarnia Legionnaires are now winless in 16 games after losses to St. Thomas and Chatham in GOJHL action last week. Petrolia minor hockey grad Jace McGrail had Sarnia's lone goal in a 4-1 loss in Chatham last Sunday and Ethan Everaert made 52 saves in a losing cause. Last Thursday at home, Plympton-Wyoming's Ryan Richardson had his team-leading 13th goal in a 4-2 setback to St. Thomas.

McGrail and former Flyer Landon Marcy both drew assists for Sarnia. The Legionnaires are at home to St. Marys on Thursday before road games in Komoka and St. Thomas on Saturday and Sunday. Sarnia traded rearguard Tanner Winegard to London last weekend. The Lambton Jr. Sting grad has five goals and 21 points in 32 games this season. He was acquired by Sarnia from LaSalle prior to this season.



Jace McGrail

## Killer Bees bounced by Bluebirds

The Bluebirds peppered Alvinston with 20 or more shots on goal in each of the three periods in an 8-1 win over Alvinston in Western Ontario Super Hockey League in Tilbury. Spencer Robertson made 54 saves as the Birds outshot the Bees, 62-22 Saturday. Cam

Welch had the lone goal for the Bees, his third of the season, midway through the second period. Alvinston has road games this weekend in Stratford and Tilbury before returning home to host Plattsville a week from Saturday, Jan. 21.



## Stokes shines at All-Star game

Petrolia Oilers goalie Ryder Stokes earned the second star of the game in helping to backstop Team Black to a 6-2 win over Team Green in the Shamrock Hockey League U18 minor all-star game in Wallaceburg. Oilers teammates Adam Valiquette and Jack Thompson played for Team Green. Ryan Minton and Michael MacKellar represented East Lambton at the game while Drew O'Neil, Nolan Boundage and Garry Bennett flew the Mooretown colours. Lucas Rogers and Jack Rombouts represented Lambton Shores. Meantime, Nate Perry, Craig Richardson and Riley Gray (Petrolia), Joey Hayter, Josh Rops and Devin Graham (East Lambton), Lleyton Ticknor and Jake MacLean (Mooretown) and Brett Dickey



Ryder Stokes was the second star at the All-Star game and Trevor Vandenberg (Lambton Shores) were named major U18 all-stars, but no details were available on that contest as of press time.

## Squires hang tough with Seaforth

The top-rated Seaforth Centennaires had all they could handle edging out the Petrolia Squires, 2-1 in Western Ontario Athletic Association senior hockey action at Greenwood. Corey Pawley had his eighth of the season for the Squires and Brandon Campbell took the tough-luck loss between the pipes for Petrolia.

The loss dropped the Squires to 9-7 on the season. They take on the Royals in Tavistock Saturday before hosting Minto next Wednesday in their final regular season home game of the season. They close out the campaign with road games in Shallow Lake and Lucknow before the end of the month.

## Petrolia's Truman scores in U16 all-star contest

Isaac Truman notched a third period tally to help Team White beat Team Navy, 8-3 in the Alliance U16 AAA all-star game in Komoka. Truman, from Petrolia, is third in scoring with the Lambton Jr. Sting U16's this season with 11 goals and 23 points in 16 games.

Meantime, Alvinston's Hayden Duncan of the Elgin Middlesex Canucks played the first half of a 4-3 shootout loss by Team Navy to Team White in the U18 AAA all-star, also in Komoka on Sunday. Team Navy was coached by former NHLer and Petrolia native Brian Dobbins.

## Sarnia Sting trading their way to the playoffs

The Sarnia Sting have pushed all the chips to the middle of the table. The OHL club acquired Team Canada blueliner Ethan Del Mastro and Luca Del Bel Belluz from the Mississauga Steelheads for Angus MacDonell and Porter Martone and draft picks prior to Monday's league trade deadline. Del Mastro is a Chicago Blackhawks prospects while Del Bel Belluz was a second-round

choice by Columbus last summer. Del Mastro and Sting goaltender Ben Gaudreau were on the Team Canada squad that won gold at the World junior hockey championships. Sarnia also traded d-man Chandler Romeo to Guelph and acquired power forward Brenden Anderson from Hamilton prior to the deadline. Sarnia is on the road with games in Peterborough, Kingston and Ottawa.



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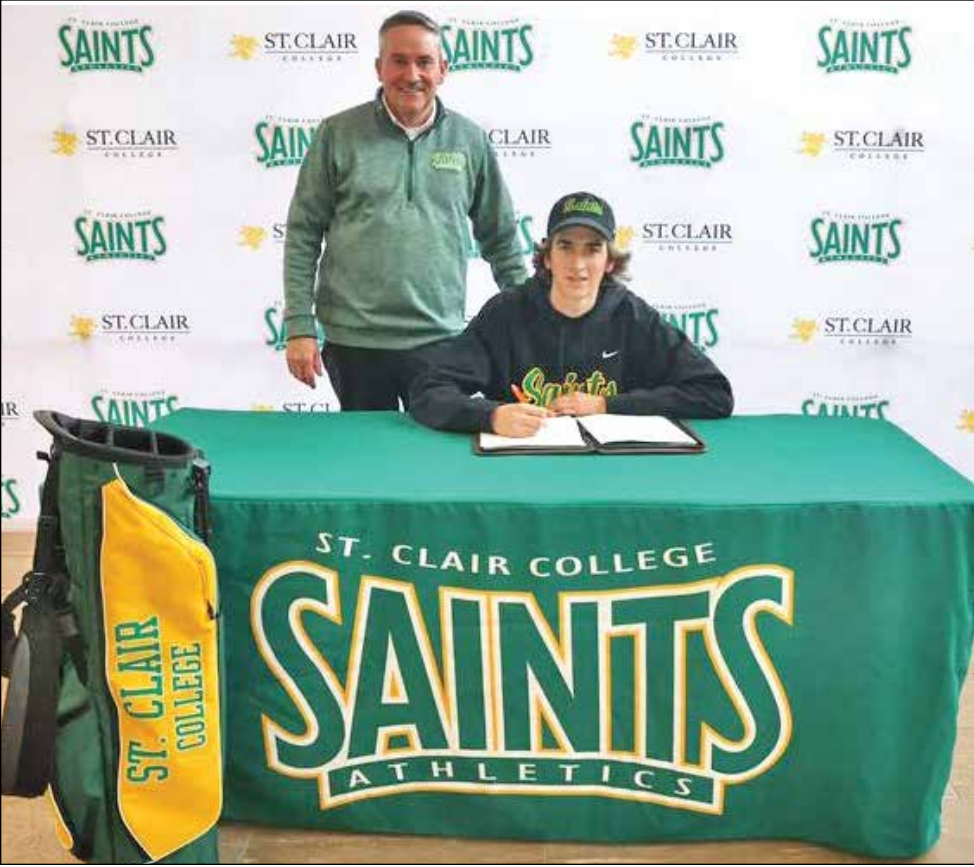


BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS

The Mooretown Lady Flags were edged out by Lucan for the U13 B title on Sunday at the North American girls Silver Stick tournament in Sarnia. The Irish bested the Lady Flags 3-0 at the Clearwater-Red rink Sunday. Both teams were 3-0-1 in the round robin including a 1-1 tied between the two teams earlier in the weekend. The Flags downed the Lambton Attack, 5-1 and Detroit-Honeybaked, 6-1 on Saturday to advance.



CRUMMY A SAINT



Liam Crummy has signed to play collegiate golf at St. Clair College in Windsor. The Oil Springs native and member of the Sarnia Golf and Curling Club will begin his journey with the Saints in September. Crummy is a graduate of LCCVI and Lambton Centennial Public School. He'll be studying engineering at St. Clair.

PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

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In addition to Dr. Daniel and the CEE care team giving us the gift of time together as a family to say good-bye, we have been wrapped around by an incredible outpouring of support from friends, extended family and community. This support has come from near and far, virtually and in-person in the form of food deliveries, flowers, donations, visits, messages, phone calls, thoughts and prayers. We can not even begin to capture in words the gratitude we feel and how important your gestures have been for carrying us through this difficult time. Thank you to Steven, Laura and staff at Needham-Jay, Reverend Dr. Bob Gibson, Rev Carol Ferguson and the staff of St. Paul's for their assistance and guidance during this difficult time.  
Stories are medicine. Please continue to laugh, share, reflect and celebrate life with us as we journey from living in person to living in spirit with John/Dad/Grandpa. As one of the sympathy cards we received so aptly stated, "the only reason we feel such profound loss is because we had such a profound blessing... Let us find peace in the past to carry our hearts forward".  
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# A Quarter Century of Celtic Rock

Alvinston’s Campbell Brothers mark 25 years on the road

Blake Ellis  
Local Journalism Initiative

The Mudmen have had a career, which not only spans a quarter of a century, but also touch many Canadian cultural icons. Founding members Robby and Sandy Campbell hail from Alvinston where it all started.

Sandy was suppose to take violin lessons, but before he could begin, his violin instructor passed away. Instead, they then joined the Strathroy Pipe Band. They took the bagpipes and found ways to play rock music with a Celtic twist and the rest was history.

The brothers were discovered in 1993 and signed with EMI Records as The Campbell Brothers. They then formed the Mudmen in 1998 with original members, Zoy Nicoles, Lonny Knapp, Tommy Skilton, Ryan McCaffrey, with Robby and Sandy on the bagpipes. The Mudmen name came from their work as bricklayer assistants before they made music their full-time gig.

Inspired by groups such as the Irish Rovers and the hard rock group AC/DC, the band mixes its Celtic sound with rock. They even cover AC/DC’s “It’s a Long Way to the Top (If you Wanna Rock ‘n’ Roll)” which famously uses the bagpipes within its rock tune.

The Campbell Brothers remain apart of the band which now includes Colin Amey on lead vocals and acoustic guitar, Andy Gingerich on drums, with Alex Showdra on electric guitar and banjo and Jordon Brosseau on bass guitar.

In those early years, the record label would put us in front of crowds hoping the group would grow a following, said Robby, as he explained the record label tried to find a way to promote the group, which mixed the bagpipes with rock music. It took a while to find their niche but this year, they mark 25 years in the business.

“You don’t get into this business thinking you are going to fail,” said Robby. “Time does sneak up on you.”

The Mudmen are embarking on a 25th anniversary tour, which includes a date at the Victoria Theatre Petrolia on Feb. 25. Roddy is looking forward to the Petrolia show, as the brothers graduated from LCCVI. The band is also working on a documentary.

The group has a long resume performing over 3,000 shows and releasing 11 studio albums, the last being Farmers Tan in 2022. The highlights of their careers include playing at a Canada Day celebration on Parliament Hill in Ottawa in front of Queen Elizabeth II, and a reunion for the 1984 Stanley Cup champion Edmonton Oilers, with Wayne Gretzky and all the team in attendance.

They have opened for The Guess Who and ZZ Top. They have performed at seven Grey Cups, three Memorial Cups, and 12 Canada’s Walk of Fame ceremonies.

Robby said growing up in Alvinston has prepared he and his brother for anything. “It keeps you grounded,” he said, noting their mom is still living on the farm near Alvinston, which gives them an excuse to make their way home.

“You can’t deny longevity. We have connected with people,” said Robby



Over the years, the Campbell brothers have met some pretty interesting people including singer Johnny Reid, football legend Pinball Clemens, and hockey greats Wayne Gretzky, Bobby Orr and Dick and Dale Hunter.



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