

SILVERSTICK FINALS



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

The East Lambton Eagles made it to all the way the final U11 C International Silver Stick finals in Forest. Drayton edged the Eagles 2-1 Sunday. See more photos on page 8.

UK company eyes Oil City for battery storage

**Blake Ellis**  
Local Journalism Initiative

Enniskillen Township is weighing the options of supporting a battery storage project east of Oil City. Renewable Energy Systems Canada (RES) is asking for a letter of support for the construction of an energy storage project near Oil City. It would generate up to 250 megawatts of energy to be fed into the system in peak demand periods. The Independent Energy System Operator is calling for lithium ion battery projects to help support the current demand.

The project is on a 30 acre parcel on the back portion of a farm on Courtright Line along the Hydro One transmission line.

RES held an open house on Nov. 30 in Oil Springs to answer questions about the project. The public meeting is a requirement of the submission of the project bid.



FILE PHOTO

RES - a company based in the UK - hopes to build a battery storage area east of Oil City.

RES sent a flyer to people living in Oil City – which is less than one kilometre from the proposed site – but just 15 people went, including Enniskillen politicians and officials from Lambton County.

Deputy Mayor Judy Krall talked to a couple from Oil City, who did not get a notice. She adds as residents learn about the project, they’re concerned.

Councillors also had questions for Philippe Abergel, a senior development manager with RES, who was at the Jan. 16 council meeting.

There is concerned the project would be only 700 metres east of Oil City.

SEE BATTERY PG 2

PW taxes heading up three per cent

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

The average Plympton-Wyoming homeowner will likely be pulling out an extra three per cent from their pocket for municipal taxes this year.

Council is proposing a \$21,123,406 operating budget and a \$8,117,710 capital budget for 2023. That means a 3.1 per cent tax increase. Officials say for every \$100,000 of a home’s assessed value that adds about another \$20 to the tax bill. The average home in the town costs about \$400,000.

One of the biggest drivers of the increase is the cost of insurance. The town’s premiums went up 17 per cent, or an extra \$105,571. That’s one third of the increase this year.

Mayor Gary Atkinson says this has been a problem for

municipalities across the province for a couple of years.

“Even he previous council, when we found out things were going up like that, we kept saying, ‘Can you look for other prices?’ And staff comes back and says, ‘Look, we’d love to do it, but there’s nobody else out there.’ So they got they kind of got the monopoly sewn up.”

Atkinson says right now there are only one or two brokers in the province which will insure municipalities.

The budget also includes about \$100,000 to improve Highland Glen. The municipality has an agreement with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority to run the park. It has already repaired the boat launch for the coming season.

SEE BUDGET PG 2



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# PW taxes up 3.1 per cent

CON'T FROM PG 1

“One of the things we are looking at is probably doing some roadwork there,” says Atkinson noting the parking lots in the area may be expanded this spring.

“Also the washrooms are the major issues that we had - just remember last year we had to conservation when doing they weren’t doing anything to the washroom, so we ended up putting porta potties in,” he says. “We want to clean that mess up.”

That could be costly. The permanent washrooms at the site are in bad shape and have been closed to the public for a number of years now.

The town also put \$1.1 million from the reserves to fund the new public works building project valued at \$3.65 million. It’s a couple years down the road yet.

Spending on Plympton-Wyoming’s roads will be over eight per cent higher than last year - about \$448,000 more. There are major builds on Michigan Line, Front and Plympton Streets planned in 2023.

Fisher Line between Brush and Forest Road, the 402 overpass approaches on Uttoxeter and Camlachie Roads, Wanstead Road from the tracks to Confederation and Elevator Street in Wanstead will all be repaved this year.

The town plans to improve the Camlachie fire hall’s washroom to meet accessibility standards. The

washrooms at the municipal office will also be upgraded to meet accessibility standards. The town is also buying a new chair lift for the Wyoming pool to help people with differing abilities get in and out of the water.

“We did make sure is that lift that we are getting now we can utilize it in the new pool also,” says Atkinson.

Chief Administrative Officer Carolyn Tripp says there is also money set aside for a public consultation process “to determine what the public would like to do” with the former Plympton Town Hall. The municipality has not been renting the frame building on Egremont Road for over a year now. A consultant on historic buildings looked at the hall and suggested it should be saved because of its architectural value. Atkinson says there is much work to be done there including accessible washrooms, a new stage and repairs just about everywhere.

Town staff was suggesting a four per cent tax increase, however Tripp says staff made some changes, using reserve money. Council also “decided to conduct a Strategic Priorities review rather than a full-blown Strategic plan using a consultant. Tripp estimates that will save about \$20,000.

The budget needs council’s final approval after a public meeting.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- √ \$21,124,406 - total operating budget
- √ \$8,117,710 - total capital budget
- √ \$105,571 - the total increase in insurance premiums about one per cent of the tax increase this year
- √ \$7,954,000 - the amount of money PW would have to spend each year to repair all its infrastructure
- √ \$486.05 - the money it would cost to actually do that work per \$100,000 of assessment per home
- √ \$5,082,774 - reserves used to help pay for projects in 2023
- √ \$380,348 - the added taxes generated by housing growth in town
- √ 3.6 - the percentage both the water and sewage bills will increase in 2023
- √ \$45- the yearly cost of that water and sewage increase.
- √ \$150,000 - the amount of a Trillium Grant to be used on the Lakeshore Road Trail
- √ \$82,962 - the increase in spending for administration of the town - a 4.8 per cent increase
- √ \$23,707 - the increase in the spending for the fire department - a 2.6 per cent increase
- √ \$188,740 - the budget for spending on council pay and expenses.
- √ \$41,383 the increase in council pay over 2022

# Battery Storage near Oil City considered

CON'T FROM PG 1

Councillor Mary Lynne McCallum wanted to be sure the company would work with the fire department on training on how to deal with fires at lithium ion storage centres. She also wants to make sure the volunteer department has the equipment it needs.

Abergel says RES will develop and pay for an emergency response and fire safety plan with the local fire department as well as paying for training and equipment.

Councillor Wally Van Dun wondered about access to the site, asking whether the company would have to use the Hydro One right of way. Abergel says access would be off Gypsy Flats Road. The company, he adds, is willing to pay for upgrades of Gypsy Flats and pay for any damage done to the road during construction.

McCallum wondered how the presence of the energy storage project could hamper development of Oil City, as it is only 700 metres to the east of the settlement.

Abergel says RES will also make sure it minimizes the light and noise pollution coming from the site – including installing ‘noise walls’ if necessary. The battery storage site will have fans to cool the batteries when the temperatures reach 22 C.

And, as in many renewable energy projects, Abergel says Enniskillen will benefit financially from the project. Aside from any

tax money, RES is offering a Community Fund contributing \$500,000 the first year and \$125,000 each of the 22 years the facility produces power. That amounts to \$3.25 million over the course of the agreement.

But councillors weren’t ready to ink their support immediately. They plan to make a decision at the Feb. 6 council meeting

RES has to submit it’s proposal by Feb. 16.


The Oil City project is one of four which will be considered by the IESO.

St. Clair Township has already sent a letter of support for three battery energy storage systems proposed by Enbridge Gas, east of Corunna around the NOVA Chemicals plant. All three sites could produce 200 megawatts of power and will use lithium ion batteries.

Concerns were raised at a Dec. 19 meeting in St. Clair Township centring on the danger of a fire breaking out at the proposed sites, especially ones that are being built close to natural gas pipelines.

Santo Giorno, a local expert on green energy projects, cited a fire that occurred in California at a similar facility where people were evacuated within a three-kilometre radius of the site. Giorno says the fires can emit toxic fumes.

Enbridge holds its second public meeting to discuss the projects Feb. 2 from 7:30 pm at the Mooretown Sports Complex.



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

OF  
**LAMBTON MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY**

TAKE NOTICE that the Annual Meeting of the Members of LAMBTON MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY will be held at the Office of the Company, 7873 Confederation Line, Watford, Ontario

**Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.**

TO:

1. Receive, consider and approve the Annual Statements and Auditors’ Report for the year ended December 31, 2022.
2. Elect two directors for a three-year term in accordance with Company By-laws. The terms of Clare Moffatt (Director at Large) and Randy Gilliard (Lambton County Director) will expire at this meeting. Randy Gilliard is eligible for re-election.
3. Appoint auditors.
4. Transact such further business as may rightly come before the meeting.

NOTE: The Annual Statements for the Company for the year ending December 31, 2022 may be viewed on the Company’s website at [www.lambtonmutual.com](http://www.lambtonmutual.com). A Member may obtain a copy of the Annual Statements by sending a written notice to the Company’s head office at least 14 days before the Meeting.



### This Month In Lambton

January 2023



Warden Kevin Marriott  
@LambtonWarden

#### Lambton County Library spreading the love for Valentine’s Day

During the month of January, everyone is invited to visit their local library and write a Valentine’s Day greeting to a local senior citizen. All valentines completed in the library by Tuesday, January 31, 2023 will be delivered to residents of the County’s long-term care homes – Marshall Gowland Manor, Lambton Meadowview Villa, and North Lambton Lodge.

All 25 Lambton County Library locations will provide blank valentines for this program during operating hours.

For full details on locations and hours of operation visit [lclibrary.ca](http://lclibrary.ca).

#### One Book Lambton

One Book Lambton, an initiative aimed to unite people around Lambton County by reading the same book, is returning for another year with an engaging Canadian mystery.

Lambton County Library is excited to announce the selection for One Book Lambton 2023 is *Still Life* by Louise Penny.

*Still Life* is available to borrow by using the online catalogue at [lclibrary.ca](http://lclibrary.ca), through the Iguana Library app, or by calling or visiting a Lambton County Library location to reserve a copy. eBooks are also available to borrow through Libby using your Lambton County Library card.

One Book Lambton encourages residents of Lambton County to read the book and participate in programs and events that explore themes of the book, between January and April.

Visit [onebooklambton.ca](http://onebooklambton.ca) and follow @LCLibraryca on Facebook and Twitter to stay up to date on upcoming programs and events.

#### Looking Ahead

**9:30 a.m., February 1, 2023 -** Council Meeting

**9 a.m. & 11 a.m., February 15, 2023 -** Committee A.M. & P.M. meetings

Agendas, minutes and links to meeting live stream videos can be found at [www.lambtononline.ca/meetings](http://www.lambtononline.ca/meetings).

To read more, go to [lambtononline.ca](http://lambtononline.ca)



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# Forest and London Line on track for roundabout

Heather Wright  
The Independent

A Lambton County intersection which has been the site of a number of fatal accidents in the last three years may soon have a roundabout to deal with traffic.

And at least one family who lost a loved one at the intersection are happy to hear the news.

Matt Deline, the manager of public works for Lambton County, told local politicians Jan. 18, the roundabout is the best solution for the intersection at Forest Line and London Line on the border of Warwick Township and Plympton-Wyoming.

Deline says there have been “numerous collisions” at the intersection. Often the cause is one driver fails to yield at the stop signs on Forest Line. “There have also been several fatalities in the last three years.”

Deline says the county plans to improve London Line to the village of Warwick and the intersection would be part of the work.

“It provides the opportunity to enhance the safety and improve the infrastructure.”

That’s just what Stephanie Cattrysse wanted to hear.

Here stepfather, Bob Hollingsworth, died after an accident at the intersection in September 2020. His death brought calls for safety improvements at the intersection.



FILE PHOTO

Lambton County staff say a roundabout is the best option to control traffic at Forest and London Lines

“We were aware the county was conducting a study of this intersection as it was brought up at the meeting when I presented my petition in 2021,” she says. “Staff’s report took several factors into account including road safety when determining which option would be best and clearly road user safety continues to be a concern at the Forest Rd and London Line intersection.

“Since Bob’s death in 2020, crashes have continued to occur at this intersection despite the county’s installation of flashing amber lights and red lights on the stop ahead and stop signs in 2021. Those crashes, from my understanding, were also caused by driver error.

“Our family is happy to hear county council approved the recommendation to install a roundabout as statistics

show they significantly reduce fatalities and injuries at intersections.”

Cattrysse says the initial approval of the idea shows the county believes “road safety is a priority and we hope to see similar upgrades to other intersections across Lambton that are also affected by high accident rates.”

Deline looked at a number of options for Forest and London Lines including a two way stop, a four-way stop and traffic signals however the least expensive option to rebuild the intersection was the roundabout at a cost of about \$2.6 million.

Deline says the county would use 2023 to acquire the land needed and to deal with the utilities. The work, should county council approve it during budget deliberations would likely take place in 2024.

# PW mayor ready to tackle short term rentals

Heather Wright  
The Independent

If you’re looking for a place to stay in Plympton-Wyoming, you have plenty of choices - 54 according to international websites which connects travellers - or even partiers - to places to stay.

And if you want to stay along the shores of Lake Huron, there are at least 24 homeowners offering you a place to stay - for a price.

Plympton-Wyoming Mayor Gary Atkinson knows all about the booming short term rental market in the mostly rural municipality. He usually hears about the downsides.

“I don’t like getting those phone calls or people saying, ‘my family’s just been threatened because we’re going out for a while and the people that are renting it are all drunk and they want to fight us. They’re flying drones over our house.’ You know, like, come on, folks,” he says.

The constant parties along the lakeshore in rental homes has been an issue for sometime. In 2020, about 30 residents of Blue Point sent the town a petition asking that short term rentals be banned in Blue Point. They underscored the fact that according to the official plan of the town, rentals should only happen when the homeowner is there.

Increasingly, short term rentals have become big business. Just a quick perusal of the Airbnb website shows some of the homes for let in Blue Point are owned by companies specializing in short term rentals.

The town has approved some policies around short term rentals in the official plan in October 2021, but there are still



A map from Airbnb shows the concentration of rental homes on the lakeshore.

no concrete policies to regulate the industry which has doubled in Plympton-Wyoming since 2020.

Atkinson says nearby Lambton Shores has put a regulation in place. It goes into affect Feb. 1. Lambton Shores rules allow only two people per bedroom or 10 to a home, two parking spaces for homes where 10 people will be staying, a fire safety plan, proof of \$2 million in liability insurance and a renters code of conduct.

Atkinson wants to take a look at the bylaw as Plympton-Wyoming considers its next move.

“I think we have to not only recognize, though, that this is a business, but also we have to be very cognizant of those people that live in the neighborhood and live around. If somebody’s got the house rented, and you’re only allowed to have six people or whatever, but yet there’s 15 cars and people

walking the streets and surrounding area for a party, I have an issue with that.”

At Wednesday’s council meeting, town staff is scheduled to lay out a plan to figure out just how to regulate the short term rental industry.

“The intent is to have the registration and regulation by-law in place for the summer of 2023. With this tight time frame a work program is proposed. The work plan is comprehensive consisting of a review of by-laws, interviews with staff from other municipalities which have STVR programs, a legal review, and public consultation,” writes Sarah Baldwin, the town’s planner, in her report to council.

Atkinson realizes that means a great deal of work in a short time frame but he’s hopeful regulations can be in place by the time the summer rental season rolls around.

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# MEAT RAFFLES

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# Editorial

## Airbnbs need regulation in PW

Plympton-Wyoming is going to take a stab at a problem which is causing headaches for many waterfront communities - short term rentals.

Most people know them as Airbnbs after the company which first made it possible for people to rent their homes to absolute strangers for a night or two to make a few extra dollars.

To many, it's a great idea. Hotels don't always provide the most comfortable atmosphere and usually are in the middle of the city. Renting a home near the water is much more appealing.

And it likely would be appealing to everyone had the cottage industry not boomed particularly during the pandemic.

When it wasn't possible for friends to gather in public places, they could still rent an Airbnb and bring 60 of their closest friends to the water to party in Lambton County. Places like Lambton Shores - home to the famous party spot, Grand Bend - had already had their fill of noisy revellers and started imposing rules on cottage rentals.

Now, Lambton Shores is the first municipality to put a bylaw in effect which limits the number of people in one home to just 10.

Adopting something similar in Plympton-Wyoming might help calm some of the anger residents are feeling towards their now absent neighbours and their paid guests.

The key to making sure short term rentals are helpful for tourism instead of being a nuisance will be enforcement.

It won't be enough for the town to have a few rules written down; when Airbnb host break the rules, Plympton-Wyoming has to have will power to actually charge people. And that will take political will, because figuring out who will do the enforcement and at what it will cost is bound to be the biggest hurdle.

That's why there also must be some fee associated with running an Airbnb. Those who will reap the ample rewards of renting their homes, should be forced to pay a licencing fee that should be high enough to pay the enforcement.

## 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



LAMBTON COUNTY ARCHIVES PHOTO

The Maylor Building is one of the most recognizable in Lambton County. Built in 1884, the Forest building began its life as a department store similar to Simpson's and Eaton's. It had a millinery shop, mantles, carpets, dry goods, fancy goods, groceries, glassware and pottery in the town's "one-stop shop." Over the years, the department changed hands becoming White and May Department Store, a drug store, Gordon's Dressmaking Shop, Marguerite Brown Ladies Wear and RB Crosby China shop as well as a book store and an art store.

The

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# Opinion

## Bison photo ‘just has to be acknowledged

**EDITOR:**  
The January 12 issue of *The Independent* has a photo by Blake Ellis on page 6 that has just to be acknowledged.

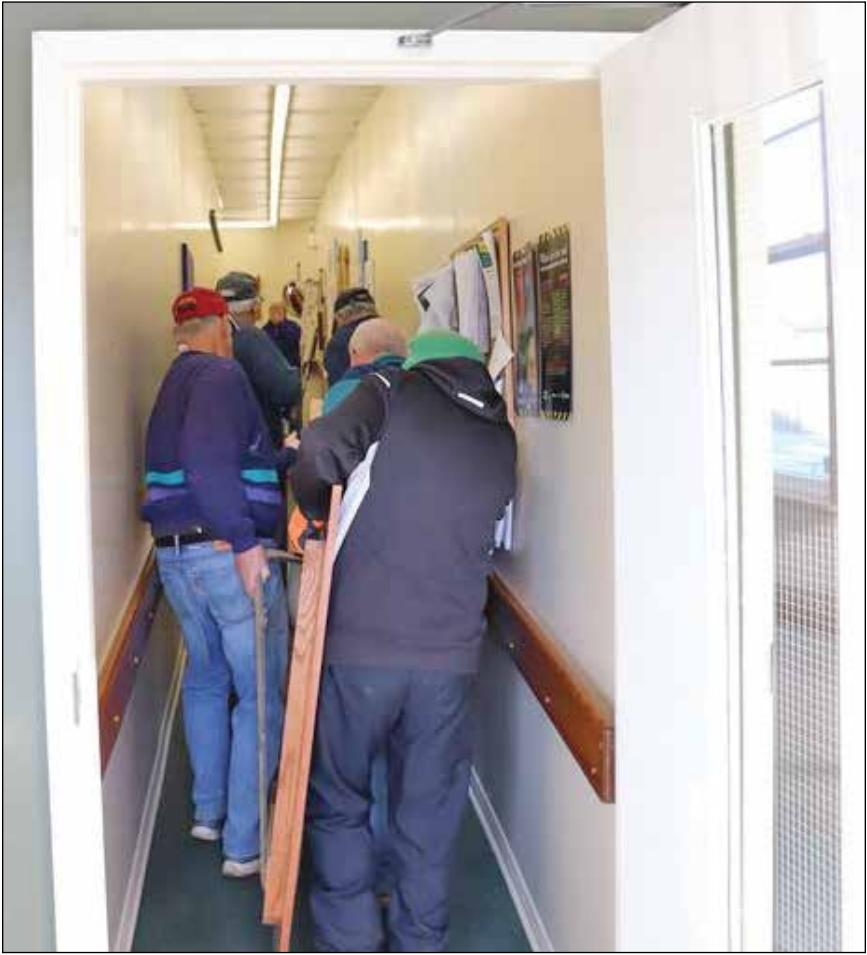
The photo of the bison intently, seemingly joyfully, interacting with a Christmas tree is wonderfully evocative.  
This photo should encourage people to stop and take a look and admire these pre-historic-looking animals before they drive past a buffalo farm.  
**Paul and Mona Gudjurgis  
Ottawa, ON**

## Drug charges in St. Clair stop

The Independent

A Sarnia woman and a St. Clair Township man are facing drug charges after Lambton OPP stopped a car without tail lights.  
On Monday, police saw a vehicle on the St. Clair Parkway without any rear lights. They stopped the car and found they worked.  
The OPP saw the driver was prohibited from being behind the wheel, so they were arrested.  
Police searched the vehicle and found what they believed was methamphetamine.  
Ashley Kelly, 36, and James Stafford, 26, have been charged with drug possession.  
Kelly also faces charges of operating a motor vehicle while prohibited.  
The pair appeared in court and were released pending their next court date.  
Meantime, on Jan 21, OPP went to Brigden Road after getting word someone wanted for speeding and evading police was in the area.  
They arrested Brendan Vandersteen, 31, from St. Clair Township and charged him with two counts each of flight from a peace officer and dangerous operation of a vehicle.

## HEAVY HISTORY



A group of volunteers took the long, slow walk down the hall of the museum Tuesday. They were lugging this heavy Lambton Generating Station sign to the wall in the hallway with the ramp to add to the museum’s display.

## ‘No questions asked’ for Petrolia hot meal program

**Blake Ellis**  
Local Journalism Initiative

Petrolia Community Refrigerator is partnering with the Salvation Army to offer free hot lunches beginning Friday.  
“There is an escalating need,” said Larry Leckie of Petrolia’s Community Refrigerator, adding anybody who is struggling to make ends meet is welcome.  
“If a person says there are in need, there is no questions asked,” said Leckie. There is no proof needed to show your need.  
The Salvation Army contacted the Petrolia Community Refrigerator and asked if it could come to its St. Paul’s

United Church site to distribute hot meals to those who need it.  
St. Paul’s United Church Board and the Petrolia Community Refrigerator Committee both approved the idea and the partnership was born.  
Hot lunches will be available through the Salvation Army’s community outreach truck every second and fourth Friday of the month and only for take out.  
He is hoping between 18 and 24 meals can be given out this Friday.  
“It might take a little bit to catch on,” Leckie said.  
For those who are not able to make it at noon, there will be lunches left at the Petrolia Community Refrigerator facility, which can be picked up at any

## Website helps employers find international help

A new service may help employers connect with international job seekers.  
The Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership is touting a new service called Explore Talent Sarnia Lambton - a website which allows international job seekers to post a video resume online to give people an idea where their talents lie. Officials say this “brings life to candidate’s experiences versus reading a traditional paper-based resume.”  
The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Trades is supporting the website.

time.  
The Petrolia Community Refrigerator opened in November 2021. Last summer, the organization did a survey to determine how many people use the service. It was found on average 35 people use the Petrolia Community Refrigerator a day.  
Leckie says the Petrolia community is excellent in giving its support to the program with several businesses providing food on a regular basis.  
Petrolia Community Refrigerator is also a member of Second Harvest, which conducts food rescue operations and works to save food, which would otherwise be wasted.

• **Emery Huszka**  
Dealer - Florence ON,  
226-373-6244

• **Julie Maw**  
Dealer - Courtright ON,  
519-384-2281

• **Dave Foulon**  
Dealer - Tupperville ON,  
519-683-2136

• **Dave Emery**, Territory Manager  
South Lambton ON,  
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# New face at the grains table

**Blake Ellis**  
Local Journalism Initiative

There's a new Lambton County face around the table at the Grain Farmers of Ontario and some of the veterans are happy to see the next generation of farmers step forward.

Julie Maw was elected as the District 3 Director representing Lambton during a recent annual general meeting. She takes over a position that has been held by well-known local farm representative Emery Huszka

"It is an honour to be elected and be that voice for farmers," says Maw.

Maw served the Grain Farmers of Ontario for the last five years as treasurer and has also served on the organization's research and innovation committee. She farms with her husband and three boys on their farm just outside of Brigden. They have a no till operation where they harvest wheat, corn and soybeans, while also doing custom farming.

Farmers are facing many issues which are out of their control, said Maw, including inflation, tariffs and the sustainability of farming.

Young farmers have difficulty getting into farming in the first place, not only with the size an operation must be, often a another income is needed to deal with rising costs for land and equipment. She feels it is also important to educate people on where their food comes from.

For his part, Huszka is glad to see some of the area's younger farmers step forward.

He has always supported young farmers to getting involved in farm politics. Rising land costs have been a barrier for many to enter the agricultural industry.

"You often have to win the lottery or



District 3 Director Julie Maw with outgoing director Emery Huszka

inherit it," said Huszka. People who are buying farmland and flipping it for a profit often drive the rising land prices.

The cash crop farmer who has been the district representative since 2019, says he was glad to step aside. "I am not going to be the one who stands in her way..."

"She is eager to go and I am sure she will do great things," said Huszka.

But, life in farm politics won't be easy. Huszka said the biggest problem facing farmers today, is politics with the second being the weather. Politicians are often from an urban setting, and a lot of time goes into educating them on farm issues, he said. Once they get up to speed, the people change.

Huszka will continue to be involved with the Grain Farmers of Ontario, as a delegate.

- THE INDEPENDENT

# Films, food and fun on Family Day

The Independent

Petrolia officials are hoping for a weekend of family, fun and of course snow as they prepare for the annual Family Day weekend.

The town has prepared a weekend of movies at Victoria Playhouse, sports events including free skating and open gym time at the Y and a number of places to have something good to eat for the Feb. 17 to 20 weekend.

Movies start Friday with Top Gun: Maverick. Saturday, Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank plays in the afternoon and in the evening it's The Lost City.

Sunday, the Y has free family sports and

there will be free public skating. Town officials hope people will get sporty with their snow sculptures this year. The theme for the contest is sports teams logos. Once you're done your sculpture, you're asked to send a photo to twagner@petrolia.ca for judging.

And, there will also be plenty of food with the Petrolia Legion hosting a fundraising breakfast and the firefighters having an open house with a barbecue Sunday as well. Monday; New Life hosts its Free Family Day Breakfast.

The Optimist will have bouncy castles at the Y for the kids, the Lions are hosting Bingo at the hall and there will be another round of free skating for all.

# Spend \$3.45 million to digitize: consultant

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

Sometimes, the example you need to prove a point falls right into your lap.

That was the case for Oscar Poloni, a partner with consultants KPMG as just as he was ready to talk to Lambton County councillors about the need to move a lot of the county's paper processes online.

As Poloni sat in the audience waiting to make his pitch for the county to spend another \$3.45 million over the next three years to upgrade computer systems, the meeting was delayed.

A staff member returned with a sheet of paper and the council meeting began.

"You held this meeting up because you

needed a piece of paper," Poloni said as he began his presentation, calling it the perfect example of the problem Lambton is facing.

"It's exactly what we want to avoid."

Poloni says half of every process in the County of Lambton is paper based.

By spending \$3.45 million over the next three years on things such as Enterprise Resource Planning software and the new Microsoft Suite, Poloni says the county could not only be more efficient by saving time getting things done, but will also save money on something as simple as printing, copying, and sending out information by Canada Post or couriers.

Poloni's suggestions will be discussed at the budget meeting in February.

# PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR HOUSE IS



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



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BY-LAW AND BACKGROUND STUDY

On Monday, February 13, 2023, the Council of the Township of Warwick will hold a public meeting, pursuant to section 12 of the Development Charges Act, 1997, as amended, to present and obtain public input on the municipality's proposed development charges (D.C.) by-law and underlying background study.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Public Meeting of Council and any person who attends the meeting may make representations relating to the proposed D.C. by-law and background study. The meeting is to be held:

Monday, February 13, 2023  
4:15 p.m.

Council Chambers, Municipal Office  
5280 Nauvoo Road, Watford, ON N0M 2S0

In order that sufficient information is made available to the public, the background study is being made available online at the municipality's website ([www.warwicktownship.ca](http://www.warwicktownship.ca)) on December 20, 2022.

Copies of the proposed D.C. by-law and the background study are also being made available as of December 20, 2022 from the municipal Clerk at the above location.

Interested persons may express their comments at the public meeting or in writing, addressed to the municipal Clerk, at the above address prior to noon on Thursday, February 9, 2023. All written comments received will be placed on the meeting agenda for Council and public information.

The agenda for the meeting will be available on the Township's website at [www.warwicktownship.ca](http://www.warwicktownship.ca).

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, contact the Township Office at 226-848-3926 or [info@warwicktownship.ca](mailto:info@warwicktownship.ca).



# Sports

## Beaten by one of their own

Barry Wright  
The Independent

Wil O’Leary-Dilosa scored early in the first period for North Middlesex in a 3-1 win over the Flyers in PJHL action last Thursday in Petrolia. O’Leary-Dilosa was released to the Stars from the GOJHL’s Sarnia Legionnaires earlier this season. He played a portion of the 2018-19 season with the Flyers scoring nine goals in 19 regular season games.

Daniel Gibson had the lone goal for the Flyers with newly signed Jackson Coleman of the East Lambton Eagles registering his first career assist for Petrolia.

Maddox Nazwaski made 24 stops in taking the loss between the pipes.

## Flags bitten by Sharks

The Independent

The visiting Wheatley Sharks scored two unanswered goals in the third period to beat the Flags, 4-2 last Saturday night in Mooretown. The Sharks have now won seven straight PJHL games.

Masen Flett and Brody Genyn scored for Mooretown. John Chartrand made 40 saves and was chosen the third star of the contest.

The Flags fell 5-1 in Lakeshore last Friday with Petrolia’s Ethan Kerby scoring Mooretown’s lone goal.

The Flags are now 15-13-1 on the season. They are seven points behind Blenheim for fourth place in the Stobbs division and have four games in hand on the Blades.

Mooretown entertains Blenheim this Saturday at 7:30.

The Flags take on the Admirals in Amherstburg Sunday.

Meantime, former Flag Bo Doxtator and his Stratford Warriors had their 18-game win streak snapped with a 5-4 loss to Cambridge last weekend. Doxtator had two goals and five assists in 29 games with the Warriors this season.

## Big second for Squires

The Independent

Playing with an extremely short bench of just 10 skaters and two goaltenders, the Petrolia Squires bounced the Shallow Lake Crushers, 7-1 in Western Ontario Athletic Association senior hockey last Saturday in the Owen Sound-area community.

The game was scoreless through 20 minutes before the Squires struck for six unanswered goals in the second frame. No scoring details were made available.

Petrolia is now 11-8 on the season.

They close the regular season against the Lancers in Lucknow on Saturday night.

The playoff pairings and dates will be determined after the final game.



## Perry scores in Bees loss

The Independent

The Plattsville Lakers downed the Alvinston Killer Bees, 6-1 in Western Ontario Super Hockey League action last Saturday in east Lambton.

The game was tied at one at the first intermission before the visitors scored twice in the second period and three more in the third for the victory.

Petrolia Oiler grad Carson Perry had the lone goal for the Bees.

Alvinston has now lost seven straight games and has fallen to 4-15-1 on the campaign.

They host Strathroy this Saturday at 6:30.

## WAIT - WHAT?



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

A LCCVI Lancer objects after a penalty call during a 3-3 tie game with Northern. LCCVI will take undefeated records into the post-exam schedule in both boys’ and girls’ high school hockey. The girls improved to 4-0 with an 8-2 win over St. Pat’s and a 7-1 decision against Northern last week while the boys skated to a 3-3 tie with Northern. The Vikings tied the game with an extra attacker late in the third period. The Lancer boys are 4-0-1. The second half of the LKSSAA winter sports season begins Feb. 6. Among other highlights last week, Tyler Collins had 24 points to lead the Lancers to their first junior boys’ basketball season victory of the season and the LCCVI junior and senior girls’ volleyball squad both remain in first place in their divisions after splitting four matches last week.



upcoming

# EVENTS

check out our Facebook Page for all up to date information "Alvinston Killer Bees"

For more information or sponsorship info call or text 519-490-5393

## SAT. JAN 28

### vs STRATHROY

#### @ 6:30 PM

**Charity & Non-profit Night**  
brought to you by  
**Commonwealth Financial Equity Associates Inc.**  
**Guaranteed 50/50 take home of \$1000.**  
Ice Angels Performance @ Intermission  
*Every person in attendance gets their name in a draw to randomly win \$1000 for a charity of their choice and \$500 to the individual*

## SAT. FEB 4

### vs STRATFORD

#### @ 6:30 PM

**Fan & Player Family Appreciation Night**  
brought to you by  
**McNaughton Dodge & RV.**  
\$3.00 Beer, FREE Pop & Water  
Shoot out for \$500 @ Intermission

ALVINSTONKILLERBEES.COM

All Games at the Alvinston Arena - Bar Proceeds to Victims' Services





# Eagles soar to International Final

*U11's lose tight final to  
Drayton in Forest*



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS

East Lambton edged the hometown Lambton Shores Predators in the U11 C International Silver Stick Final to face Drayton in the final. And it was a tight one, with the Eagles losing 2-1 in the final. East Lambton lost just once in the tourney and dominated Fort Wayne - below - 9-2. The host Lambton Shores Predators are U13 C division champions. After going 4-0 in the preliminary round, the Preds downed the North Middlesex Stars in the final, 5-1. The Stars were the qualifiers from the regional tournament in Watford. Penetang won the U13 B banner and Kincardine captured the U11 B crown. Petrolia went 1-3 in the U11 B round robin and did not qualify for the playoffs. All three of the Oiler losses were in overtime.



# LCCVI's Hunter wins silver

Hunter Campbell of LCCVI took second place in the boys' U18 shot put at the Don Wright Team Challenge indoor track and field event in London.

Campbell's throw of 10.93 metres was 38 centimetres behind the winner.

He made his high school debut last spring by finishing third in the LKSSAA novice boys' shot. Campbell competes for the Sarnia Athletics Southwest Track and Field Club.

# Myers signs pro deal in Indiana

Noah Myers will be plying his trade with the Evansville Otters of the Frontier baseball league this season.

The Wyoming product has signed with the Independent League team after a stellar collegiate season last year with the University of South Carolina Upstate Spartans.

He had a stat line of .317/.423/509 in 58 games with nine homers, 13 doubles, 38 RBI and 21 stolen bases.

The Otters were third in their division last season with a 52-43 record and lost in the wild card playoff.

The league schedule runs from May to September.

## Alvinston connection to national team

Softball Canada has named 32 players to initial list of possible players for Canada's national team for 2023. The list includes Jeff Lyons and Ty Sebastian. Lyons played with the former Alvinston Indians until the St. Thomas and District League folded in 2016 and is currently playing with his hometown Appin Athletics in the Southwest Middlesex League.

Sebastian, played with the former Indians about a decade ago while he was a teenager in school. He was part of Canada's national team that won silver at the World Cup last year.

Lyons and Sebastian will train with the national group until a final roster is named. Team Canada is ranked second in the world in men's softball.

## Lancer wrestlers advance to regionals

Austin Wilkins beat LCCVI teammate Luke Holmes to win the open boys' 89-kilogram final at the recent Sarnia Invitational high school wrestling event at St. Pat's.

It was one of two first place finishes for LCCVI. Lancer Brock Callister won the boys 77 kg event, and Dominic Cook took

third place in the 67.5 kilo class.

On the women's side, Elianna Callister (47.5 kg.), Kylee Summerville (54 kg) and Abigail Ginn (67.5 kg) all took third place in their respective events.

The LKSSAA wrestling championship will be held on Feb. 16 at North Lambton in Forest.

# Landon leads Lancers in the pool

Darius Landon led LCCVI to a third place finish at the LKSSAA swim meet.

Landon won three individual events at the Sarnia Y this week – the senior boys 100 and 200 freestyle and the 100 metre backstroke. The only other swimmer to do that was Daisy Jenkins of Northern.

Northern outscored St. Pat's and LCCVI to capture the LKSSAA swimming team title at the Sarnia Y.

The Vikings amassed 936 points. The Irish and Lancers had 802 and 684 points respectively.

The Vikings also won the boys' team title with LCCVI placing second. And, St. Pat's captured the girls' crown by defeating the Vikings and Lancers.

Other individuals winners were , Carson Love and Hunter Kedwell (LCCVI), Kate Bedard, Nathan Gubbels, Matthew Kemp, Celeste Munoz and Gabrion Tulang (St. Pat's), Jordan Somers, Gabby Jones, Sophie Victor, Lucas Jones, Kylee Atkinson (Northern) and Francesco Montanino (St. Francois-Xavier).

# Leamington extends Legionnaires streak

The Leamington Flyers scored the game-winning goal nine seconds after Sarnia tied the game midway through the second period and went on to beat the Legionnaires, 4-1 in GOJHL Sunday.

Lambton Shores' Jake MacLean had the lone goal for Sarnia.

Logan Phillips made 47 saves as the home team outshot the Legionnaires, 51-23.

Sarnia lost 8-1 on home ice last Thursday

to Chatham and have now scored two or fewer goals in eight straight contests.

Sarnia, winless in its last 21 games, host Komoka Thursday at Pat Stapleton Arena. Puck drop is 7:10.

The Legionnaires remain four points up on the Kings for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Komoka has two games in hand.

# Lady Flags strike gold at Belmont tourney

The Mooretown Lady Flags captured the gold medals at the B.A.D. (Belmont, Aylmer, Dorchester) Blazers Annual Winter Tournament.

The Lady Flags beat South County (Kingsville area) Predators, 4-3 in a shootout to capture the U13 House League championship.

The Flags had edged Burlington, 3-2 in an earlier elimination game to advance to the finals.

Elsewhere, the Lambton Attack came up just short in the U9 C final, bowing to Kincardine, 3-1 in the title game.

They had reached the championship game with a 4-1 win over Sarnia in the semi-finals.





# FEBRUARY 2023

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Equipped with an 8" bar, chain and durable pole shaft that extends up to 10' for a total reach of 15'. Delivers up to 96 cuts per charge. Includes (1) 12V and (1) 20V battery pack. 2309896

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2,900 SPM. Features, pivoting shoe, LED light and tool free blade changes. Includes Reciprocating Saw, battery, charger and kit bag. 3888674

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**February 2023 DOOR BUSTERS**



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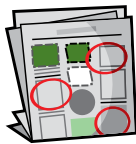
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4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728  
or email: [office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca)

Cards of Thanks

## To Our Sanway Court Friends

*It's hard to sum up our gratitude for the friendship and support you have given us over the years. Al, thank you for hosting the Christmas and Send Off Party at your home and Dan, thanks for your kind words and laughable memories. Thank you all for the sign which will be a lovely reminder of our home and the time enjoyed on Sanway Court*

*Ira and Brenda Downer*

Obituary



COLTER  
Bill

Feb 19, 1925 - Jan 22, 2023

Peacefully on Sunday, January 22, 2023, William Richard (Bill) Colter, passed away at C.E.E. Hospital of Bluewater Health, one month prior to his 98th birthday. This gentle, kind and hardworking man was predeceased by his beloved wife, Roberta (nee Burnes) in 2004.

Predeceased by his parents, Robert James Colter, Annie Dinah (Stonehouse) and his sisters "Bessie" Rundle (Garnet), Louise

Hall (Willard), Mary Clark (Wally), Hazel Lambert (Homer) and Irene Vargo (John), and in-laws, Margaret Butler (Arnold), Isabel Nelson (Ron, and Robert Burns (Kay). Bill is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Bill was born at home on Wanstead Side Road and lived there until 1990, when he and Roberta moved to the Royaleigh in Wyoming, and enjoyed may years of retirement.

All knew Bill as a man of faith, who loved the land, farming, gardening, sharing his bounty and helping those in need. This continued at the Royaleigh with vegetable gardening and his beloved rose garden, which he planted and maintained with pride and joy.

In 2016, Bill moved to Albany Retirement Village, where he made new friends and was looked after with care by both staff and residents. Visitors will be received on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 from 1:00-1:45 p.m. at the Wyoming Chapel of Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 650 Broadway St., where a funeral service will take place at 2:00 p.m..

As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made by cheque to St. Paul's United Church, Petrolia, C.E.E. Hospital Foundation, or a charity of your choice. Memories and condolences may be shared online at [www.NeedhamJay.com](http://www.NeedhamJay.com)

The family of **Doug Piggott** would like to express their sincere thanks to family, neighbours and friends for the cards, food, flowers, donations, and kind expression of sympathy shown following his passing. We send our gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Maddison and the staff of St. Joseph's Hospice, Steadman Brother's Funeral Home, the pallbearers, Pastor Tim Brown, and Brigden United Church for the lunch.

**Pat and Family**

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## Friday, Feb 3

Doors open at 6pm

### Brooke-Alvinston Arena

Age of Majority Event

**Tickets are \$25 each**

Tickets can be purchased from any Firefighter or at 3 Maples

In Memory

*In Loving Memory of Our Mother*

**Margaret "Joanne" Randall**

January 29, 1935-January 25, 2022

If Roses Grow In Heaven  
If roses grow in Heaven Lord  
Please pick a bunch for me  
Place them in my Mother's arms  
and tell her they're from me.  
Tell her that I love and miss her  
and when she turns to smile,  
Place a kiss upon her cheek,  
and hold her for a while.  
Because remembering her is easy,  
I do it every day.  
But there is an ache within my heart  
that will never go away.

In Memory



JUDITH MARIE SMITH  
Passed away January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Wife, daughter, sister, mother  
You are still in our hearts,  
Loved and missed by all,  
Everyday

Hugh, Marie, Jim, Margot

Cards of Thanks

**GARRETT:** On behalf of the Garrett family, we would like to thank Lambton EMS, Petrolia Fire, staff at Bluewater Health (Emergency Dept.) and everyone involved in responding to James Garrett's passing. Thank you to everyone for the condolences and thinking of our family during this difficult time.

Notices

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News Tips? Call 226-738-0728



# Church DIRECTORY



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416 Queen Street, Petrolia (Behind the Post Office)

**In-Person Service**  
**Sundays @ 10:00 am**

Services also available online: [www.standrews-petrolia.ca](http://www.standrews-petrolia.ca)  
Pastor Katherine Hawley

## Christ Anglican Church

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

**Join us for In-Person Services**  
**Sundays @ 10:00am**

Everyone Welcome

Church Office: 519-882-1430 | [christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com)

Rev. Dave Hewett



## St. Paul's United Church

4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

**In-Person Services**  
**Sundays @ 10:30 am**

Church Office: 519-882-1390  
[www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net](http://www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net)

Rev. Carol Ferguson

## First Baptist Church

**In Person Church Service**  
**Sunday Mornings @10:30 am**

Pastor: Alex Craig

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**Notices**

**PET PANTRY** - St. Paul's United Church Official Board has given approval to implement this program and use St. Paul's as a donation location. This initiative will work together with the Petrolia Community Refrigerator. So many pets have been displaced and surrendered at an alarming rate in the last couple of years. Shelters are overrun and these animals are in need. Our goal is to help support our community families that need help to keep their fur babies cared for and support local organizations that help animals. We are reaching out to our community for item donations and financial support. Anyone can drop off items as well as monetary donations of cash, cheq (payable to St. Paul's United Church with Pet Pantry on the memo line) Our address is 4169 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0), or e-transfer and be sure to indicate Pet Pantry. Tax receipts will be provided. We are The Big Red Church on the corner across from Tim Horton's. E-transfer is available at the email below. If you have any questions, please call 519-882-1390 or email at office@stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net. Until an outdoor drop bin is available at the church, please drop off donations Monday-Friday 9am-3pm (call ahead, rear entrance, just ring the doorbell) Donation Suggestions: dry dog food, dry puppy food, dry cat food, canned cat food, cat litter, gently used leashes, food dishes, collars, pet beds, or toys. Please call 519-882-1390 for more information

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Stop in at the office 9a-3p Mon, Tues, Fri or 9a-12p Wed  
4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728  
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**Notices**

**WYOMING LION'S MEAT RAFFLE**- Wednesday February 1 starting at 7 pm at the Lion's Hall in Wyoming.

Deadline

for all classified ads is  
**Monday at 12 noon**  
for the paper that prints  
and distributes Wed-Thurs

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soda crackers • peanut butter • jam • ready-to-serve soups • kraft dinner sidekicks - rice & pasta • brown beans • kidney beans • canned stew flakes of chicken • flakes of turkey • salmon • social crackers • cheezwhiz taco kits • boxed potatoes • boxed stuffing

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

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Town of PETROLIA

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Admission \$3

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# Spalding recalls her career in music in new book Life’s a Highway

**Blake Ellis**  
Local Journalism Initiative

It has been a long time since Joan Spalding gave her first performance at the Oil Rig Restaurant in Petrolia in the 1970s. She only made \$4 that night because in those days she had to rent her own equipment. “No one could see my knees knocking,” she said, as she described how nerve racking it was.

It all worked out as she continued to perform there for four years. Performances like this and at the Bridge Tavern in Point Edward in those early days would lead to Spalding becoming a Nashville recording artist and have a country music career which spans 50 years.

Not bad for a girl from Mooretown.

She has now written a book “Life’s Highway, telling about all of the twists and turns as she persevered through out her career.

A book signing was held at the Lawrence House Centre for the Arts in Sarnia Sunday.

Spalding love of music began as a child, as she remembers

watching her grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles play music in her home.

She sang all the time and told her neighbours she was going to be a star one day.

She went on to learn to play the guitar, harmonica, banjo and mandolin. She took her only formal lesson on the piano when she was 10 or 11.

Spalding won the Canadian Open singing contest for the first time in Simcoe.

This would lead her to meeting Roger Quick and he produced her first album, True Country in 1979.

This album included songs she had written herself, “I Know the One I Love is You,” and “Please Come Back to Me.”

Spalding went on to form her own band, The Foggy Mountain Band, and sang with other bands, The Rhythm Ramblers, The Jubilaires, Roger Quick and the Rainbows as well many others.

She performed in the United States from Arizona, to Florida and Indiana, as well as Ontario and Quebec.

It was during her time in the United States when she was given the title, the First Lady of

Bluewater Country, which would be used as an introduction as she took to the stage.

She would go to Nashville for the first time in 1980 where she recorded with Producer Howard Walker.

She then went to Toronto to record, “He Means So Much to Me,” which was released by Hillcrest Records and it went as high as third position on the worldwide charts.

Spalding would go to Nashville again in 1990 and record four more of her own songs with producer Gary Buck.

One of the four songs, Life’s Highway was released and was in the top 10 on the European charts. She released Life’s Highway as a cassette in 1990.

“Nashville was beautiful,” she recalled. “In the recording studio, that is where I felt I was meant to be.”

When asked whether she thought she had to work harder as a female country musician, Spalding responded with “It’s a man’s world.” Women have to put in a lot more effort in order to have success, she said.

Spalding would release five



Joan Spalding picks up her guitar to sing at her recent book signing

more albums over the course of her career. One of the highlights of her career has been the people she met, which has included Willie Nelson and Boxcar Willie.

During the pandemic, she decided to entertain online when everyone found themselves in lockdown. Despite not knowing much about computers at the time, she performed online for 736 days.

Spalding is not going to be stopping any time soon as she continues to book dates and perform, so there might just be one more chapter to write.

- THE INDEPENDENT

# Petrolia’s Barry reaches for her international tennis dreams

**Blake Ellis**  
Local Journalism Initiative

Petrolia’s Sarah Barry has come a long way since she was introduced to tennis by her father at the age of 8.

There have been many ups and downs throughout her journey, but the 26 year-old now finds herself in a national ranking of 33 in Canada. He goal is to get her first professional points and get a Women’s Tennis Association ranking on the world stage.

“I had tried other sports like soccer and swimming and while I did like these sports, there was something different about tennis. I was immediately drawn to it and wanted to play every day,” said Barry, who is now playing in the International Tennis Federation tournaments.

Her father made her a tennis wall

in her basement to work out daily. She then began taking lessons at the Sarnia Tennis Club. Barry started going to tournaments at 12, in both Canada and the United States. She went on make the United States Tennis Association Junior Team Nationals and placing second in the country.

At 17, Barry suffered a setback. She started panicking during matches, she was insecure and was suffering from low self esteem. When she was offered a full tennis scholarship to a US school, she turned it down. It was devastating to her.

Then, her father bought tickets for the 2019 Roger Cup. It sparked something in her and she realized she wanted to pursue her dream of playing professional tennis.

Her partner, Bernardo Teixeira, began working with her to improve her fitness and working

on her footwork. Teixeira is now her full-time coach. “Having my partner as a coach has helped me a lot,” said Barry. “I feel comfortable with him, so I can express concerns I have, freely and with confidence.”

During the pandemic, the couple moved back to Petrolia to live with Barry’s parents. She began working with her friend, Justin Bourassa to help improve her skills. Bourassa died in 2021 at the hands of police in an alley in London.

“His death has made me more determined to succeed, but more than that, I feel sad he isn’t here to see the progress I have made,” said Barry.

It took Barry nearly a year to get back into competitive form, but getting back into tennis in her 20s, has made her realize, she doesn’t have much time to learn from her



Petrolia’s Sarah Barry on the court in Sarnia. She’s playing at International Tennis Federation Tournaments

mistakes, she has to has no time to waste.

As Barry reaches for her goal, she’s encouraging other young people struggling with mental health issues not to be afraid or ashamed to reach out and talk to someone.

- THE INDEPENDENT

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