

## FINALLY, WINTER FUN



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Big Bird Hill on the end of Gem Ave in Petrolia was alive with people after several centimetres of snow fell in Lambton County last week. The hill is a favourite spot for families to take their toboggans for a spin.

## Enniskillen councillor questions energy proposal

**Blake Ellis**  
Local Journalism Initiative

“They paint such a pretty picture,” said Enniskillen Councillor Mary Lynne McCallum.

But the councillor still isn’t sure a battery storage proposal in Enniskillen is a good idea.

McCallum has been searching for more information about the energy storage projects being proposed near Oil City while she attended the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference from Jan. 22 to 24.

Renewable Energy Systems - a UK based company - is applying for a 250 megawatt battery storage operation just 700 meters

east of Oil City on Gypsy Flats Road. It’s one of four projects in Lambton bidding for the lucrative contracts from the Independent Electric System Operator. Those bids need to be submitted by Feb. 16 and RES is looking for a letter of support from Enniskillen.

But McCallum wanted to find out more about battery storage operations and what the impact would be on the municipality.

The Enniskillen councillor says she could not find any projects as large as the Oil City proposal in Ontario. There are two energy storage projects which were built in Ontario in the last five years - one in Newmarket and one in Stratford.

US-based Ameresco won contracts for two, small units generating two megawatts

of power each. The \$14.6 million project went online in September 2019.

There is also facility in Stratford which went online December 2018. It generates almost nine megawatts of power and cost \$25 million to build in the Stratford Industrial Park.

McCallum still has questions about the proposal in Enniskillen.

“These battery storage facilities are being touted as the wave of the future,” said McCallum. She and other members of Enniskillen Council questioned Philippe Abergel, senior development manager of RES Jan. 16 about the proposed storage site and put off a letter of support until the township’s Feb. 6 meeting.

**SEE BATTERY PG 2**

## ‘He’s a miracle’

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

“He’s a miracle.”

That from the grandmother of Mooretown area toddler who against all odds is recovering after spending at least five minutes submerged in the icy waters of an outdoor pool. And while the family of Waylon Saunders, 20 months, is hopeful, they’re still waiting to see the long term affects of the near-death experience.

Petrolia/North Enniskillen firefighters were first on the scene Jan. 24 and began CPR on the little boy. He was taken to Petrolia’s Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital where his mom, Gillian Burnett, says doctors at worked tirelessly to save the toddler.

Burnett says Waylon “had no heartbeat for over two hours” and arrived at hospital “with a temp of 23 from the icy water.” She added he was given less than a 10 per cent chance of survival. He was taken to Victoria Hospital in London. LeBlond says doctors told the family “We did what we can do, it’s up to Waylon now.”

Little by little, the toddler made progress. By Tuesday, Waylon moved out of critical care and could be cuddled by his mom instead of lying hooked up to life support machines.

“I just want to give a massive thank you to Dr Taylor and all Petrolia staff who worked on my son Tuesday evening,” she said in a social media post. “I cannot put into words my gratitude to you all. How hard you all fought for my son’s life is the reason he’s here today ... from every piece of my soul thank you.”

“The staff that’s there is beyond incredible,” Burnett told The Independent Tuesday as she held Waylon in her arms beside his hospital bed.

“They had like 15 people each of them taking turns to give Waylon the best compressions that they could ... One of the doctors came in to say that they were never gonna give up on him. All the doctors had tears in their eyes, and they’ve been calling to see how he’s doing they said that they were looking at like it was their kid and they weren’t gonna give up.”

**SEE TODDLER PG 2**

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# Toddler recovering after falling into pool

CON'T FROM PG 1

Burnett added her son’s recovery is “living proof God is real and he’s just amazing.”

“I kind of lost my faith before all this happened. I don’t know. I just I knew in my heart that God wasn’t gonna let anything happen to him and I could feel it,” Burnett said Tuesday.

“We prayed and we prayed and we had 1000s of people praying for Waylon. I know the doctors and nurses, they did a whole lot that day. They’re a big part of why Waylon is here but he can’t be dead for two and a half hours and then not say that God did something here. I fully believe that God brought Waylon back and God’s got a purpose here for sure.”

LeBlond agrees saying she and hundreds of people all over the world were praying for her grandson’s recovery.

Burnett and Waylon’s father, Garth Saunders, have been at the little boy’s side constantly since his accident.

That prompted friend, Chloe Ingles, to launch a GoFundMe page to help raise money for their expenses while they stayed with their son.

“We hope to ease some of the burden on these wonderful parents in such tragic circumstances,” she wrote on the page which by Tuesday had raised over \$15,000. Ingles was also asking community members to pray for Waylon’s recovery.

“Waylon is an amazing little boy who started walking early so he could keep up with his big sister. He has a contagious laugh that lights up the whole household and makes it impossible not to laugh with him. He has an infectious curiosity for everything around him and dearly loves his mum and dad.”

Other members of the community have rallied around the family to help with expenses.

Meranda Jansen of Jansen Homestead and Highlands in Wilkesport is hosting “Highland Kisses and Waylon Wishes” Sunday offering photo sessions for people with their animals in return for a donation to the family. “He’s very close in age to my little boy and my heart absolutely aches for this family,” she said.

“I’m so overjoyed and content with how much support and love our community has shown them.”

In two days, a number of local businesses have chipped in with donations of food and services. Jansen hopes the event will raise over \$3,000 for Waylon’s family.

Burnett and her family are amazed by the community support they are receiving.

“It’s breathtaking to be honest. I never expected this kind of support. I didn’t expect that Waylon would touch somebody’s lives, I guess people look at him and think of their children.

“We always say it will never happen to me and then it does. It’s amazing we’ve had friends, family, the community all work together to show support. I get at least 40 messages a day from random people asking how Waylon is doing saying that they’re thinking and praying over him,” she says.

“Our communities come together to because they know that this is not going to be one day, but a journey for him. It can affect his whole life.”

And that weighs heavily on Burnett’s mind.

Doctors in London didn’t expect Waylon to live through the first night. Now, they looking for signs of damage.

So far, the little boy is smiling and speaking, but not as much as he normally does.

Burnett says his left side is also affected, he’s not able to move his leg right now.



PHOTO VIA GOFUND ME

Waylon Saunders, 20 months, is recovering after falling into an outdoor pool in Petrolia Jan. 24.

Doctors aren’t sure how much of that will return.

“We don’t know if he’s ever going to be able to ride a bike if he’s ever going to be able to walk. We don’t know what his future looks like. We just know what today that is.”

“Everybody is just kind of in awe of how strong Waylon is and how he keeps persevering after everything that he’s already went through. He’s just 20 months old. He’s just this little baby that took on more than an adult can and he still keeps pushing through. He’s a fighter.”

Burnett isn’t sure how long Waylon will be in the hospital. Doctors have said it could be at least another week.

Meantime, the accident which led to his hospitalization haunts her. Waylon and his three year old sister had just started going to daycare.

“I always said to that I would never trust anybody with my child unless it was a family member and then I put them into daycare. They were only there for two weeks.

“You feel a lot of guilt you know, when things like this happen, because you just think about all the what ifs and it sucks. It really sucks.”

Burnett adds Waylon’s sister saw her little brother in the water. Tuesday, she was able to visit him to see that he was okay.

So far, there have been few answers to what actually happened.

“I have about 1,000 questions and I wish I could figure them out. It just didn’t make sense to me how Waylon got outside and fell into a pool. It doesn’t make sense. You’re supposed to be watching him - how did he get outside?”

Burnett says she is angry but has forgiven the day care provider, because “I know that’s what God would want me to do... What she must have experienced was probably pretty traumatic and she’s going to have to live with that for the rest of her life.”

Lambton OPP say they are investigating the incident at the daycare. Const. Jamie Bydeley says the OPP aren’t confirming any details at this time.

While the investigation goes on, Burnett is grateful to be able to be with her little boy who is free from life support. “When they’re in that kind of state with tubes everywhere, you’re not allowed to do anything. We couldn’t even really rub his head, we can only hold his head. We had to be really careful.

“So, to be able to pick them up and snuggle him is something else. It makes you really appreciate the little things in life.”

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



# Warwick taxes up 3.5 per cent as insurance, inflation rise

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Warwick Mayor Todd Case doesn't like to pass along a tax increase, but says this year, it is necessary.

Township council completed its budget deliberations Friday committing to a 3.5 per cent tax increase. That will bring in a little over \$96,000 for the municipality and cost local taxpayers about \$21 for every \$100,000 of value their home is assessed.

This year, it will take \$7.78 million to run the municipality. The township will have to take \$91,000 out of reserves to help pay for the needs in the operating budget according to Treasurer Trevor Jarrett. Jarrett has advocated making sure tax dollars pay for the operating budget but he told council he was "comfortable" with using reserves this year.

Warwick, like every other municipality in Lambton County, is facing double-digit insurance increases. "The insurance alone almost equals a three per cent tax increase by itself," said Case, noting Warwick is not alone.

"All municipalities, Ontario been hit hard with large insurance increases this time around."

There is only one or two insurance companies in the province which provide municipal insurance. With rising claims, due in

part to damage from more severe weather events, increases have become the norm in the last three years, with communities paying at least 10 per cent more yearly.

And as inflation rises, so do the costs of doing business for the township, particularly when it comes to building projects.

Last year council planned to replace a salt shed at the Nauvoo Line works yard. The original plan included a wash bay for the township vehicles. Contractors wanted to spend \$1.7 million at the time. The wash bay was removed from the project, but inflation struck again; estimates still sat around \$1.7 million for a new 10,000 square foot shed.

Friday, councillors voted to scaled the project back to 6,000 square feet. It's now expected to come in at \$1.1 million.

"It was a challenge. I mean, look at projects that didn't get done last year, because of the overruns, the extra costs, and everybody in Ontario seems to be or seem to be experiencing that," says Case.

There was also a move to replace all of Zion Line. Administrators suggested fixing the most damage parts of the road at a cost of about \$629,000 - nearly double the amount Warwick expected the same job to cost last year. The project was expected to extend the life of the road by about five to eight years when it could be rebuilt.

But Don Jones, who lives along the road, wanted the entire road replaced as Confederation Line had been, saying the plan being proposed is a "complete patch-work" solution.

Jones says Zion Line sees a lot of traffic when Highway 402 is closed and its done a lot of damage. "I was talking to some of the truck drivers that go down it and they said it is getting tough to keep their rigs on the road because they're wanting to bounce all over because of the cracks."

Case acknowledge there is more traffic on Zion Line that anyone ever thought and there is a lot of damage.

"I'd like to be able to even do a more thorough job and do a complete road replacement" says Case adding the cost in 2021 was about \$3 million to replace it from Arkona Road to London Line. That would mean a 100 per cent tax increase in one year.

Case says it shows how important federal and provincial grants are to maintaining local infrastructure. But he worries those may be few and far between for a while.

"I do know times are tight, times are tough. And I don't expect that we're going to see tons of those opportunities. So it makes sense that you just have to be that much more prepared when they do come along."

Council did cut a number of

items from the \$3.73 million capital budget including a new lawn mower which would have been used in the local cemetery. It was part of a plan which would have seen town staff do the work. Councillors decided it would be cheaper to contract the work out. They also removed a new \$86,000 wood chipper from the capital budget.

The mayor says the township's costs also increased with a number of building projects in the last year, including the new lease for the municipal office, which is over \$161,000 a year.

"With the money that's been spent in Warwick Township over the past couple of years and the extra debt we've taken on, I was happy with that (3.5 per cent tax increase.) I will say I'm never happy with the tax increase. But I think it was reasonable at 3.5 per cent. And as we move forward, honestly, it's going to be another tough budget year next year. And what we need to do is continue to try to move on and promote our new facility and promote our community."

Case admits that might be tougher considering the economic climate.

"We were in a very good place for potential growth on the residential side and on the development side. So we're not going to give up on that; we're going to continue to work hard to try

to land business opportunities in this community, because there are some out there. And when it comes to residential and residential development, we will work with our developers and try to find the path make some of that happen."

Not everyone was pleased with the tax increase. Council received a letter from resident James Aubin who said, "Irresponsible spending is not what we need right now in a financial crisis. If I had wanted bloated government spending, I wouldn't have bought a house out here."

"If you wish to find revenue sources, encourage people to come here, don't punish the ones who already are," he wrote.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- ✓ \$70,000 amount set aside for the 150th anniversary celebration
- ✓ \$10,000 - the amount set aside as a subsidy for the Y
- ✓ \$300,000 - to be spent on stabilizing the Watford fire hall
- ✓ \$50,000 to resurface the tennis courts
- ✓ \$100,000 to revitalize the old Watford Fire Hall museum
- ✓ \$181 - the total increase in spending on councillor pay in 2023.
- ✓ \$1,369.28 - the amount of taxes paid by homeowner whose house is assessed at \$300,000 under market value assessment.



FILE PHOTO

One of RES' battery storage projects. The UK based company is proposing a 250

## Battery storage support considered Feb. 6

CON'T FROM PG 2

After an article in The Independent about the three proposed 200 megawatt energy storage projects by Enbridge Gas in St. Clair Township, east of Corunna, McCallum said heard from concerned residents about the project near Oil City.

The proposed Enbridge Gas facilities are to be built close to natural gas pipelines, while the Oil City facility is to be constructed on farmland, so it is not the same situation, said McCallum.

St. Clair Township has already given a letter of support the Enbridge projects, prompting angry letters from some St. Clair residents who noted councillors gave the approval even as they suggested the sites near pipelines not be a good idea.

McCallum spoke with representatives from the IESO while at ROMA. It's the body which will decide which energy storage facilities will be constructed. That decision is expected in March.

McCallum says officials at the conference explained the proposals for energy storage are requiring municipalities give letters of support, said McCallum. Without it, the

proposals will not go on to the next stage.

She said IESO could also decide to downsize projects during its approval process. Even though RES Group is proposing a 250 megawatt facility, it could be a much smaller project.

RES - the world's largest independent renewable energy company - has developed more than 20 battery energy storage projects with a combined capacity of 500 megawatts.

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

RES is offering a community fund contributing \$500,000 the first year and \$125,000 for the rest of the 22 years the facility is in use - \$3.25 million over the course of the agreement - if Enniskillen gives a letter of support.

McCallum is still concern about the noise the facility will produce. The site will have fans to cool the batteries when the temperatures reach 22 C. The sound is to be no louder than 40 decibels, according to Ontario regulations.

- THE INDEPENDENT

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# Editorial

## CN not above the rules

Since 1894, rail companies crossing Ontario have, like every other property owner, be subject to the rules of the Drainage Act.

For 129 years municipalities installing drains to improve the water flow for local farmers and landowners, have used basically the same formula to figure out who benefits most from the new drain and therefore must pay the largest amount.

Usually, there is at least one landowner who complains that they’ve been assessed too high of a cost for the drainage work. And if they decide to appeal, they usually lose.

The rules have been the same for 129 years and have been applied equally to all. And the province has benefited.

But in the last five years, CN Rail has resisted being involved in the Drainage Act. In fact, it has outright refused to pay its fair share of projects which impact its lands.

The company’s lawyers basically say that CN is a federally regulated entity and doesn’t have to follow provincial laws. What has changed in the last five years which allows CN to step away from its responsibilities after all these years isn’t clear.

It seems the national railroad is trying to save a few bucks and it’s pushing its weight around to get its way.

Frankly, most drainage projects are done by smaller municipalities. The money CN withholds is a big deal for them - \$135,000 for Warwick Township alone. But, it would also be big money to force the issue against CN in court. After all, the company would throw all its corporate lawyers on it and drag out the process, costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. A smaller government can’t afford that.

So, the municipalities are asking the federal government to step in.

CN Rail has clearly made an arbitrary decision for its financial gain. It’s acting like the bully in the playground saying the rules don’t apply to them.

The only entity which can bring CN in line is the federal government and it should.

## 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

This is Camlachie's Needham Hotel, once owned and operated by James and Clara Needham, and located near the Grand Trunk Railway station (later C.N.R). Located on the western route of the bustling corridor that was Egremont Road, the 14-guestroom hotel saw its fair share of traffic in the nineteenth century. The hotel's proprietor, James Needham, was born in Belfast, Ireland, and came to Canada with his parents when he was three years old. The family farmed on the 8th Concession of Plympton Township. Prior to running the hotel, James worked as a timber estimator for lumber companies in Northern Michigan until an injury forced his early retirement from this occupation. James would go on to run and operate the Needham Hotel with his American-born wife, Clara Shraugher, for forty years "Mr. and Mrs. Needham were known for miles around for the clean dining room with its long table laden with home-cooked food. It was a gathering place for social get-togethers and political meetings." (The Forest Free Press, ca.1962) The hotel was destroyed by fire in January 1959. The site is now home to the Camlachie Canada Post office.

The

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Publisher / Editor: **Heather Wright**  
[news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca)

L.J.I. Reporter: **Blake Ellis**

Sales Associate: [sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca)

Classifieds / Graphics: **Connie McFadden**  
[office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca)

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# Mayors want feds to push CN to pay up

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Warwick Mayor Todd Case and Plympton-Wyoming Mayor Gary Atkinson want the federal government to push CN Rail to pay its fair share for drainage work.

The issue came to light last year. Warwick Township administrators raised concerns that CN Rail was refusing to pay the portion of three projects allotted to them under the Drainage Act.

In the last five years, the rail company has simply refused to pay the bills. CN says railways are federally regulated under the Canadian Transportation Act, so they aren’t governed by provincial rules.

Warwick was left holding the bag for \$135,000.

That angered then Mayor Jackie Rombouts and councillors agreed to raise the issue with other municipalities. Dozens of municipalities responded they also have been having problems.

About 60 municipalities surveyed by the Association of Municipalities say they are facing the same problem. About half have up to 10 drains within the railway lands. AMO says CN has outstanding maintenance bills of about \$500,000, another \$1 million in unpaid construction projects and about \$2.7 million dollars in critical capital projects have been delayed because of the national railways stand.

Warwick and Plympton-Wyoming - which is waiting for CN to pay over \$80,000 in drainage projects - have expressed their concern to the Ontario government. The province says it still believes the Drainage Act - which was enacted in 1894 - applies to federally regulated railways.

Earlier this month, Case and Atkinson met with London Liberal MP Peter Fragiskatos to talk about the issue and decided to write a letter to the Transport Minister, Omar Alghabra, asking him to step in.

“Over the past five years railway companies, and especially CNR, have become less cooperative on matters pertaining to the (Drainage) Act. Recently, CNR officials have formally communicated CNR’s interpretation that railways are a federally regulated entity, or activity, under Canadian Transportation Act guidelines, as such, are not governed by provincial regulations,” the mayors write.

“This lack of mutual, beneficial cooperation, and refusal to follow provincial law, is delaying scores of projects under the act across the province. CNR’s refusal to pay for completed projects is withholding millions of much-needed dollars from helping develop rural Ontario municipalities.”

And Case and Atkinson say it’s an uphill battle for small municipalities to fight the national corporation.

“Small, rural municipalities have limited resources. They should not have to incur legal costs or unnecessarily

use resources to ensure costs under the Drainage Act are paid by CN Rail. We ask that the Minister of Transport call upon all railways to act as a partner to municipalities and agriculture in Ontario as they have in the past and as the Act had intended...

“The existence, and execution, including the honest interpretation, of this legislation, is vital to maintaining the sustainability of Ontario’s roads, highways, railways, utilities, urban-area stormwater discharge systems, as well as agricultural lands essential to food production. This essential infrastructure, Ontario’s drainage systems, supports sensible transportation, healthy-food security, as well as the health and wellness of all of Ontario’s diverse communities.

“Good drainage also provides vital and environmentally impactful flood-control measures for all municipal stakeholders. Its improvement, maintenance, and repair are necessary, now more than ever, in our ever-changing climate.”

The letter asks that the federal government call on all the railways, including CN, to work with municipalities on the issue so drainage projects which have been delayed for years can move ahead.

And they added local municipalities depend on legal instruments such as the Drainage Act to maintain the local infrastructure for agriculture and flood control.

## Bridge replacement, clubhouse, planned in St. Clair this year

Heather Wright  
The Independent

St. Clair Township will pull money out of reserves to repair the Marshy Creek Bridge on the St. Clair Parkway.

The township recently looked at its \$6,169,595 capital budget. That’s over \$1 million more in spending over 2022.

Mayor Jeff Agar says most of the increase can be attributed to rebuilding the Marshy Creek Bridge which will cost \$2,537,238.

That could have led to a nearly seven per cent tax increase. But the mayor says council is not willing to place that

burden on taxpayers now, choosing instead to draw money from reserves to pay for the repairs.

That means the capital budget, at this point, will only increase property taxes by about two per cent. Township council hasn’t completed its review of the capital budget yet.

Also included in the budget is the new sound system planned for the council chamber. Administration originally budgeted about \$60,000 for that project. The 2023 budget lists it at \$120,000.

Clerk Jeff Baranek says the cost of the audio visual equipment needed to live stream council meetings is higher

than expected. Three companies have made proposals in the \$70,000 to \$80,000 range.

But the budget also contains cash to upgrade council chambers which hasn’t been changed since the administration building opened in the mid 1990s.

Baranek says chairs will be replaced and the chambers will be repainted.

There is also \$3.5 million set aside to rebuild and renovate the golf clubhouse. The township is planning an addition for a kitchen and washrooms, and renovating the former kitchen for more space in the clubhouse.

## Merge, close small Lambton libraries suggests consultant

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Petrolia’s library is “an example of what other libraries can aspire to be.”

That from Anand Desai of Monteith Brown Planning Consultants who was assigned the task of looking at the needs of Lambton County’s libraries.

Desai recently told Lambton County councillors there is about 87,817 square feet of library space in Lambton, a little less than one square foot for every resident. About half of the county residents went to a library in 2019. There are 17,000 active cardholders who borrowed 330,000 books, movies, music and materials.

The consultant adds about 9,000 square feet of library space will be needed in the coming years to keep pace with growth in the region.

Desai says many of Lambton’s libraries are located in buildings which were not first libraries and are undersized. He pointed to the Shetland Library as an example. And, Desai says, many libraries don’t meet current accessibility standards and can’t provide a full range of services because they’re undersized.

The report suggests some small changes to libraries in Alvinston, Arkona, Port Franks, Thedford and Forest. Desai believes the Camlachie branch, will need to be expanded. Wyoming should “modernize” and increase visibility into the library. Corunna’s library needs accessibility improvements and the consultant says the county should talk to Watford to “prepare a reinvestment plan to enhance the building’s condition.”

The report also calls for the Sombra

and Port Lambton libraries to be combined with an “express service point” being developed for Port Lambton.

The Mooretown and Courtright libraries, it says should also be combined. Desai says the smallest branches, Shetland and Wilkesport, are undersized, outdated and unable to offer a modern experience. He says “express library service points” should be considered.

The consultant also suggested the county work with the local school boards to improve library services making sure plans don’t overlap.

The report made no mention of the Petrolia Library. When asked by Mayor Brad Loosley why it wasn’t, Desai said, Petrolia was a beautiful library which offers “meaningful community engagement.

“It is an example of what others can aspire to be,” he told Loosley.

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# Bail plan expected for man facing 50 charges

The Independent

Cody Price will remain behind bars at least for a couple more weeks.

The Lambton County man was arrested Jan. 4 after a Lambton OPP cruiser was damaged as the officer tried to stop a fleeing vehicle just before New Years.

According to court documents, officers had been searching for Price since Dec. 20, when he took a vehicle from a relative without his consent.

He was bound by a bail agreement at the time.

OPP attempted to stop a pickup truck in St. Clair Township a Dec. 30, but said the driver “intentionally damaged” the cruiser.

Price faces 11 charges from that incident including 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 36 charges from an incident in March 2022 which the Special Investigations Unit probed when his nose was broken as he tried to flee police, according the findings.

That arrest was part of an OPP investigation of dozens of break ins to businesses in Lambton, like Parkland Farms, Access Mini Storage and Lambton Ford where over \$500,000 of items were recovered.

The charges then included 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 appeared for a bail hearing Monday, however was remained in custody until Feb. 7, when a bail plan is expected to be reviewed.



Twelve year-old Shyanne Kinna of Watford was making a mask at The ART Shop on Saturday afternoon.

# Arts group looking for post pandemic growth

Blake Ellis  
Local Journalism Initiative

It’s like starting from scratch.

That’s what Helene Williamson says of trying to attract young people to return to The Art Shoppe in downtown Watford as pandemic restrictions eased.

Williamson is one of five active volunteers with the art council. The group has The ART Shoppe open Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoons. Thursday and Friday are geared to adults with many activities centred on card making and scrap booking. Saturday is geared to children. But this past Saturday, at times, just one child was busy creating. Williamson is there to help.

But the Arts Council of East Lambton, which runs the shop,wants to do more and is looking for volunteers for the organization, as well as those who just want to develop

their artistic talents at The Art Shoppe.

Williamson says flag is always flying in front of The Art Shoppe when it is open, and everyone is encouraged to drop in. You can bring your own project or use the art council’s supplies for a small donation.

The store front opened in 2016. After two years of pandemic restrictions, in 2022, the group delivered 19 workshops off site.

In the past, the group has offered many learning opportunities from drawing, weaving, jewellery making, fabric painting, sewing, crocheting and knitting, among others.

Williamson hopes to return to more activity but says it will be gradual as they rebuild the activities being offered hoping that artist will return and create, just like they did before the pandemic.

- THE INDEPENDENT

## STAY STANDING THIS Winter!

Slippery sidewalks, driveways and icy parking lots can be risk factors for falls in winter. Avoid a bad fall with these top tips!

### WALK LIKE A PENGUIN

The penguin waddle helps you keep a centre of gravity over the front leg as you step, instead of split between the legs. Short strides also help keep your centre of gravity, which help avoid falls. Don't keep your hands in your pockets! Walk slowly, with short strides and try to land your steps with a flat foot.

### KEEP WALKWAYS CLEAR

Shovel snow and scrape ice as soon as possible. Liberally sprinkle ice melt product or sand onto walkways to provide foot traction and to make sure surfaces don't turn to ice. This is not only protects you and your family, but also postal carries and others when they're walking around your property. Where possible install or use handrails for extra support.

### TAKE ALL PRECAUTIONS

Be extra cautious walking after a storm. Tap your foot on partially icy areas to see if it is slippery. Hold a railing while walking on icy steps. Stay steady by wearing proper winter footwear. lightweight boots with a thick, non-slip tread sole will provide good traction on ice. If a sidewalk is icy down the missile, walk on the snow beside it to avoid slips.



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# Delays, dispatching mistakes prompt fire departments to look to Sarnia Police

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Fire departments across Lambton County may turn to Sarnia Police for dispatching service.

As municipal governments in the region work on their budgets, fire chiefs are doubling their dispatching costs preparing for the move.

Richard Boyes, Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief in St. Clair Township recently told council the current arrangement with Central Ambulance Communications in Wallaceburg isn't working as well as it used to.

County fire departments have been dispatched through Wallaceburg since 1993. "When CACC started the fire dispatch services, it was far superior to the individual fire department telephone system; it still required a firefighter to operate the radio at the fire station to maintain contact with

the responding apparatus. Over the years, this practice has been discontinued, and CACC has assumed this duty," Boyes writes in a report to council.

"As the county has grown and EMS calls ever increasing, CACC is much busier with their mandated services, and the fire dispatch has moved down the list in dispatch priority and efficiency. Most fire departments in the county are experiencing delays in dispatching fire apparatus, fire stations being sent to the wrong area, and at times (there is) a noticeable delay in getting a response from CACC when called."

Boyes says St. Clair experienced an 11 minute delay to a car accident. He says it is not uncommon for firefighters to be the third agency arriving to the scene, even though the fire station is closest to the call.

Firefighters are trained to be

first on the scene and to stabilize patients as they wait for paramedics to arrive.

"When CACC was questioned about the delays, it clearly stated that EMS and 911 calls are the priority and fire is dispatched when time permits," says Boyes.

And he says the CACC doesn't provide constant monitoring of fire radio transmission.

There are also privacy issues that delay getting information the St. Clair department needs, says Boyes.

"St. Clair has also experienced significant delays (months) in getting certain fire call information from CACC due to the Ministry of Health and Sunnybrook (the company which operates the CACC) privacy policies. These reports are required in a timely fashion for fire investigation and third party reports."

Boyes says Lambton Shores was

one of the first departments to start looking for a new dispatch service. It approached Sarnia Police, which dispatches both Sarnia and Point Edward fire.

Boyes says Lambton Shores is finalizing an agreement now.

That's led to a domino affect, with other fire departments banding together to work with Sarnia Police, hoping for better service.

Boyes, who was the Sarnia fire chief before taking over the role in St. Clair, says Sarnia Police know what's required, and would provide the ground monitoring services they need.

He adds they also work with the local petrochemical industries already, operating the CVECO emergency system.

The department also answers all Lambton County 911 calls, rerouting them where needed. Using Sarnia police would reduce the wait time for dispatching, Boyes

says.

Boyes says the only drawback to moving the service might be the potential for a delay for the fire departments in getting feedback from paramedics on specific calls.

"There is a high level of frustration with the current dispatch services being experienced by our firefighters, and they are certainly in favour of moving to a different provider," says Boyes.

"There will be increased costs for this service, but we will also receive expanded services, and by having the radio transmissions monitored, the safety of the firefighters is improved at an emergency call."

Dispatching fees are not high in most communities, for example Warwick Township budgets about \$2,500 a year currently. Warwick's council agreed to double that amount hoping to striking a county wide deal with Sarnia police.

# Board still aiming to have kids back to Brooke this school year

Blake Ellis  
Local Journalism Initiative

Lambton-Kent District School Board officials are reassuring parents they're doing their best to get children back to Brooke Central Public School this school year.

In November, the board was told by an engineering firm working on estimates to replace the roof in the summer of 2023 that it could collapse under the weight of more than 12 inches of snow.

The board decided to move most of the students out of the building, transferring some to East Lambton and others to Lambton Centennial.

The senior students are still in Brooke Central, but in the newer part of the school where the roof

has been deemed safe.

Parents were unhappy with the move suggesting the board should not upend the students lives and family routines on the basis of one engineer's word. But the board said it had to act immediately.

While the transition went relatively well, there have been bumps in the road. The board sends out regular updates. The latest in mid January said

"The timeline for completion of the structural and sprinkler upgrades and return of the students currently attending East Lambton Elementary School and Lambton Centennial Public School is unknown. Only required structural and sprinkler upgrades for occupancy will be completed at this

time, with any additional work to be completed in the summer," it said.

Trustee Greg Agar has been hearing the complaints about the construction.

So Tuesday, Associate Director and Treasurer Brian McKay gave an update to trustees.

Work is being currently being completed on the structural reinforcement of the beams supporting the roof and on the sprinkler system. Any other roof repairs will be completed next summer.

McKay said the timeline still has to be provided by the architect on the work this summer. A lot of the issues that are still being examined involve supply chain issue and

finding enough workers.

The plan is still to return students to the school within this school year, he said

One of the concerns by parents was bussing of the students in Kindergarten to Grade 3. The concern was the younger students might be dropped off at home at the end of day before their older siblings, said McKay.

This has been coordinated so this doesn't happen. The busses pick up students at Brooke-Central first where the Grade 6 to 8 students are still holding classes, then pick up the younger students at Lambton Central and East Lambton schools, before dropping off everyone at home. The longest bus ride is 69 minutes in the

afternoon.

Director of Education John Howitt said possibly the number of concerns Agar could be hearing are from grandparents of students. He said the board is 100 per cent committed to transparency to parents sending out regular newsletters and posting those on the school's website for all to see.

"You are doing a heck of a job there," said Agar in response.

Trustee Jane Bryce attended the public meeting in November, which was held in Alvinston to discuss what was going to be done at Brooke Central School. What was stressed was Lambton Kent School District was not going to compromise on student or staff safety, said Bryce.

## Public Information Meeting

Regarding Proposed 2023 Budget

**Monday, Feb, 13, 2023**  
**5:00 - 6:00 pm**

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There's also a good chance that **Sparky the fire dog** will be greeting kids at the store!



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# Weekend vet coverage questioned

Cathy Dobson  
The Independent

A pet-owner has started a petition trying to get after-hours vet service after learning a Petrolia veterinarian appears to be one of the few ready to help in case of an off hours emergency.

The Sarnia woman says her dog suffered for seven hours before dying in her arms because she couldn't find local emergency vet care.

Since her Shih Tzu died, Marg Allen has written every vet clinic in Sarnia Lambton and has started a petition pleading for an after-hours vet service that is easy to access.

"Our vets do a wonderful job 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. I am not bashing them," she said. "But they hardly provide anything after hours.

Bernie was 15 years old and collapsed after 5 p.m. on Dec. 22. Allen called her own vet but the office was closed and a recorded message directed her to a virtual pet care service called Smart Vet.

When Allen dialed Smart Vet, she was told the closest emergency clinic open that night was three hours away in Mississauga. London has an emergency after-hours clinic but its hours are limited and it was closed that night, Allen said.

"My hands were tied," she said. "Helplessly, I cradled and comforted Bernie from 8 p.m. to 2:45 a.m. when his heart finally quit.

"It was a tortuous death of strokes, seizures and laboured breathing," she wrote in her letter to the vets. "Had a local Sarnia emergency vet been available, he or she could have ended his misery in minutes."

"My little guy suffered like you wouldn't believe, so I am doing this in memory of Bernie so perhaps other pets don't have to suffer like that," said Allen.

Allen has since learned that Dr. Vasant Barot of Discovery Animal Hospital in Petrolia frequently works after hours and may have been available to help.

"But I didn't know about him," she said. "I was shocked when the woman at Smart Vet said Sarnia has no after hours care.

"People are regularly told to take their pets to London or Windsor. I was told I had to go even farther."

A call to Smart Vet confirmed that the

closest emergency clinic to Sarnia is in London. Otherwise callers are referred to clinics in Brantford, Waterloo, Windsor and the Toronto area.

Dr. Barot understands why most local vets don't answer emergency calls after hours but he'd like to see more co-operation among them so that fewer pet owners are directed to take their animals out of town.

"I am trying my level best," Dr. Barot said. "I try to be available to my own clients and I will help others if I'm not busy.

"The problem is that everyone has their own private life. I already work morning to evening. But, for me, it's a noble profession where I want to help people.

"After all, these animals are family members," he said.

Jimmy Bacon, a Plympton Wyoming resident, was desperate for after-hours vet care on Friday, Dec. 16 when his sick yellow lab named Lucy suddenly lost mobility and he knew he had to put her down.

"My vet was away and I was told by the telecare service to take Lucy to London," Bacon said. "I was really surprised no one could help here."

He called numerous vets and found one that agreed to euthanize Lucy the following week.

"I didn't want to see Lucy suffer through the weekend. We were left high and dry. I was considering a trip to London even though the weather wasn't good," said Bacon. Fortunately, he spoke to a friend of a friend who knew Dr. Melanie Moore of Bright's Grove Animal Hospital and she provided emergency service.

"But I just got lucky," said Bacon. "I just happened to find someone. There's got to be a better system."

A [change.org](https://www.change.org) online petition started by Miranda Sauve is asking for a better after-hours vet service in Sarnia-Lambton and has 2,800 signatures to date. Allen has a separate petition circulating in Sarnia with more than 365 signatures.



Marg Allen and Bernie

PA Day

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# OPP officers assaulted in Arkona

The Independent

Three Lambton OPP officers were injured after trying to deal with a man damaging a parked car on Arkona Road.

Police say on Jan. 27, the OPP were called to Arkona Road around 6:15 pm with Lambton EMS and found the man damaging the vehicle.

The man was agitated and as the officers

tried to arrest him, they were assaulted. Officials say the three were injured during the arrest.

Nicholas Webster, 33, of Arkona has been charged with two counts of assaulting a peace officer causing bodily harm, assaulting a peace officer, mischief and three counts of failing to comply with a release order.

He's being held in custody.

# COVID-19 outbreak at Petrolia's CEEH over

The Independent

The COVID-19 outbreak at the continuing care unit at Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia is over.

Officials says "diligent infection prevention and control measures were key in helping control this outbreak." Fewer than five patients became sick during the outbreak.

Meantime, There has been another death in Lambton due to COVID-19.

Lambton Public Health says 167 people have passed away of the virus since the pandemic began.

There is some positive news, two long term care and retirement homes in Petrolia are now COVID-19 free.

Both Fiddick's Retirement Home and Albany Retirement Village had been dealing with outbreaks since the beginning of the year.

In all, Lambton Public Health recorded just 41 cases in the past week in long term care, retirement homes, hospitals and congregate living spaces.

Landmark Village in Sarnia is currently the only outbreak listed by Lambton Public Health.

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# Sports

## Squires face Ripley

Barry Wright  
The Independent

The Petrolia Squires face Ripley in the first round of the WOAA senior AA quarter final playoff series.

The series opens Friday in Ripley with game two scheduled for Greenwood on Saturday night at 7:30.

The Squires clinched seventh place in the league, avoiding a series with number one ranked Seaforth by scoring twice in the opening 70 seconds Saturday and coasted to a 7-1 win over Lucknow to close out the regular season.

Jesse Ferguson had two goals for the green and gold with Kraig Wright adding a goal and two assists.

Corey Pawley, Brendon Merritt and Eric Marsh all contributed a goal and an assist. Jared Pageau had the other Petrolia goal and Isaac McLean had two assists. Connor McKinlay was the winning goaltender.

Petrolia finishes the regular season in seventh place to take on Ripley which finished second in the tightly bunched standings with 30 points. The Squires had 24 points.

Both teams went 7-3 in their final 10 games of the season. The Wolves won both games against Petroilia during the regular season by scores of 6-3 and 3-1.

The series starts in Ripley Friday; game two is in Petrolia Saturday at 7:30 pm. Games three, four, five and six, will follow the same pattern on the weekends of Feb. 10 and 11 and 18 and 19. The final game, if it is needed, will be in Ripley Feb. 21.



## MCCORMICK RINK'S CUP



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
The Heath McCormick rink won the 92nd edition of the Imperial Bonspiel at the Sarnia Golf and Curling Club. The team, including Steve Brown, Ian Parker and Jamie Parkinson, defeated the Mark Patterson foursome from Blenheim in the main event final. Geoff Gander's rink won the Masters Division with a win over Al Beacage in that final. Both teams are from the host club.

## Gibson's first hatty in Flyer win

The Independent

Daniel Gibson's first career PJHL hat trick led the Petrolia Flyers to a 6-3 win over Exeter.

It was Petrolia's largest offensive output of the season, eclipsing the previous high of five goals in a game.

Tanner Hull, Peyton Armitage and Nathan Clatworthy also scored for Petrolia with Hull also adding an assist in the Thursday night game at the Greenwood Recreation Centre.

Maddox Nazwaski made 27 saves for the win between the pipes.

A night later in Parkhill, a pair of goals in 17 seconds late in the second period broke open a 1-0 contest and led the North Middlesex Stars to a 5-0 win over the Flyers.

Nazwaski took the loss despite



Maddox Nazwaski made 54 saves in a 5-0 loss to North Middlesex.

making 54 saves.

The Stars outshot the Flyers, 59-21. The same two teams play Thursday at Greenwood in Petrolia. Game time is 7:30. The Flyers remain in eighth place in the league's Yeck Division with a record of 8-22-3.

## Central Lambton players help end losing slide

The Independent

A winless slide that lasted just a few days shy of three months for the Sarnia Legionnaires is over.

Former Sting and Plympton-Wyoming native Austin Harper had a goal and three assists Jan. 26 to lead the Legionnaires to a 6-3 home ice win over Komoka to snap Sarnia's 21-game streak without a victory.

The Legionnaires' last win was Oct. 30 in Leamington.

Ex-Petrolia Flyer Landon Marcy and Cameron Graham each had a goal and two assists for the Legionnaires

with Watford's Ty Moffatt, Plympton-Wyoming's Ryan Richardson and Jerome Emmett Pegrum adding the others.

Former Mooretown Flag Logan Phillips made 34 stops for the goaltending win as the Kings outshot Sarnia, 37-27.

The Legionnaires are now 10-25-5 on the season and four points clear of Komoka for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Both teams have played 40 games.

Sarnia's back in action Wednesday taking on the Vipers in LaSalle.

Meantime, Sarnia has signed former Petrolia Flyer goaltender Tyler Richardson for the remainder of the season.

He was 8-5-2 in the tier two playoffs last season for the Flyers with a goals-against average of 3.09 and a .918 save percentage. He's the older brother of



Ty Moffatt



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Obituaries / Death Notices

SYER

Cindy Lou

Feb 11, 1957 - Jan 27, 2023

It is with the heaviest of hearts we announce that on **January 27, 2023, Cindy Lou Syer, in her 66th year**, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family. God called home his angel before we were ready to let her go. Cindy was welcomed to heaven with a joyous song by her late parents, Irvine and Ruby (nee Walker) Syer. Cindy will be missed dearly by beloved spouse Kenneth McNally. Mother and best friend of Joseph (Amber) Syer, Carlyn (Aidan) McNally, and Shayna McNally. Proud grammy to Jameson Syer. “Favourite sister” of Kay (John) Allison, Douglas (Diane) Syer, Terry (Cathy) Syer, and Joanne (Chris) Power. Sister-in-law to Bill (Dawn) McNally and Jim (Marie) McNally. Aunt to 18 beautiful nieces and nephews and great-aunt to many. Predeceased by her in-laws, Joyce (nee Harrison, McNally) and Jim McClung, Ross McNally, and her niece, Cassie McNally.



Cindy was also an affectionate cat mom to Kaz and Kahlua.

Born and raised on her parents’ farm in Shiloh, Cindy had a love for the outdoors and music. She was actively involved in team sports, including broomball, baseball, curling, golf, and dragon boating with the Breast Buddies and the Dirty Oars. Cindy was an integral member of the Shiloh-Inwood United Church. She was one of the first female operators at Nova Chemicals where she worked for over 30 years. Dearly loved by friends and family, Cindy was kind-hearted, witty, and giving; someone who always showed up for others.

Cindy’s presence lit up every room she walked in to. We will miss that light.


Visitation was held at Wyoming Chapel of Needham-Jay Funeral Home on Monday January 30, 2023, followed by a Funeral service that was held at Shiloh United Church, on Tuesday, January 31, 2023, at 11:00am.

As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made by cheque to Canadian Cancer Society (cancer.ca), the Children’s Health Foundation (childhealth.ca) and Shiloh Inwood United Church. Memories and condolences may be shared online at [www.NeedhamJay.com](http://www.NeedhamJay.com).

BUTT

Sharon Lynn

At her Sarnia home on **January 26, 2023, Sharon Lynn Butt (nee Elliott)** passed away at the age of **59**. Beloved wife of Andrew Butt. Loved sister to Ken Elliott and aunt to Piper Elliott. She will be missed by her in-laws, Gerald Butt (the late Beraldine), and Michael Butt and his wife Michelle and their family. Sharon leaves behind her aunts and uncles, Leroy and Stella McKay, the late Doreen and Jack Smith, Andy and Marion Elliott and their families. Predeceased by her parents Roy (2021) and Florence (2022) Elliott. Sharon was known for her penguin collection, and she worked for Tupperware and Regal for many years, alongside Woolco and Walmart. She grew up around Petrolia, went to LCCVI and South Plympton. She will be dearly missed by friends and family alike.



A graveside service will take place at Hillsdale Cemetery, Petrolia on Monday, February 6, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. Memorial donations may be made to Bluewater Health Foundation, Dialysis Unit. ([www.bwhf.ca/donate](http://www.bwhf.ca/donate)). Memories and condolences may be shared online at [www.NeedhamJay.com](http://www.NeedhamJay.com)

■ ADVERTISING POLICY ■

The publisher of this newspaper, *The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton*, reserves the right to clarify or refuse any advertisement based on its sole discretion. The publisher reserves the right to reject, discontinue or omit any advertisement without notice or penalty to either party. Liability for errors or non-insertion is limited to the amount paid for the cost of space occupied by the error. Claims of errors must be made prior to the next publication date.

In Memory

In Memory of

Steve Mihalik

March 12, 1940  
to January 30, 1998

Twenty five years have  
passed and we miss you!

Love always  
Margaret and family

Coming Events

ST. PHILIPS CARD PARTIES - Fridays, Feb 3, 10, 17 & 24 and Mar 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 @ 7pm at the St. Philips Hall. \$5.00 pp. Light Lunch. Wheelchair accessible. Call 519-882-4840 for more info.

COUNTRY SOFT ROCK JAMBOREE - 3rd Wednesday (Feb 15, Mar 15) at the Petrolia Legion. Lunch 12noon-1pm \$10.00 pp. Music 1-4pm by donation.

Monday, February 20, 2023



The Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

Happy Family Day


Our office will be closed for Family Day.

Deadline for the Feb 23 issue will be Friday, Feb 17 @ 12 noon

PRETTY

Jon

On **Saturday January 28, 2023** at St. Joseph’s Hospice, Sarnia, **Jon Pretty (age 50)** died in the arms of his beloved partner, Roxanne Kehn, joined by his mother Patricia Angela Byrne (Ang). He absolutely adored his children, Chloe and Charlie Pretty. He will be dearly missed by his brother Steve Pretty and his children: Jennifer and Callum, his step-sister Iona (Neil) Hawkins, and cousins Tracey Murphy-Marshman, her husband Paul and their daughter Hannah, and Joanne Marshman-Spiers, her husband Brendan, and their children. Jon had many special friends in his life, who will greatly miss him: Howard, Jude, Lee, Dean, and of course, all his colleagues at Bluewater Health Pharmacy Department, the Palliative Care Team, the Emergency Department and St. Joseph’s Hospice, who all showed incredible compassion and kindness during Jon’s long illness.



A memorial service will take place at Christ Anglican Church, 414 Oil St. Petrolia, on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. Interment of cremated remains at Hillsdale Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy memorial donations may be made by cheque or online to St. Joseph’s Hospice ([www.StJosephsHospice.ca](http://www.StJosephsHospice.ca)). Memories and condolences may be shared online at [www.NeedhamJay.com](http://www.NeedhamJay.com).

Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary  
Petrolia Branch 216  
4129 Glenview, Petrolia

CHICKEN PARMESAN DINNER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2023  
5:00 - 7:00 P.M.  
EAT IN OR TAKE OUT  
\$22.00

EVERYONE WELCOME

INCLUDES PASTA CAESAR SALAD GARLIC BREAD DESSERT

Only 100 meals available (advance tickets recommended, but not mandatory)

Tickets available at 519-882-1201 (9:00 am - 7:00 pm) or at the Branch Club Room on Thursdays (7:00 - 10:00 pm) and Saturdays (Noon - 3:00 pm)

Church DIRECTORY



St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church

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

418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia | Church Office 519-882-2480  
email: [fbcpetrolia@gmail.com](mailto:fbcpetrolia@gmail.com) | website: [www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca](http://www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca)  
Find us on Facebook! [www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia](https://www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia)



Classified Deadline:  
Monday @ 12 noon



# Classifieds

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

LAMBTON COUNTY

Science Fair


celebrating 50 years • 2023


Register by 5pm March 24.

Open to students: Grades 3-12

Mar 31 / Apr 1 @ Lambton College

For info and to register [www.lambtoncountysciencefair.ca](http://www.lambtoncountysciencefair.ca)





Watford Warwick Horticultural Society presents

SPEAKER: JESSICA BOS-LANDRY

Starting your Spring Seeds:  
When and How!

THURSDAY FEB. 16 2023  
7:00 PM-8:00 PM

HORTICULTURAL CENTRE 5306 NAUVOO RD  
WATFORD ON

Jessica has extensive Horticultural expertise and education including

BA Sc in Horticulture & Associate Diploma in Horticulture  
From :Olds College of Agriculture and Technology Alberta  
& U of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus

COST \$10.00 Non-members. Members free

For info see our FB page or call or text Holly 226-402-0116

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Looking for your own place to escape with your camping trailer or motor home for a weekend or holiday? Here is a remote 6.8 acre strip of mature trees land along your private oasis overlooking the beautiful Sydenham River with approx 430 ft of river frontage. Install your own launch pad along the river to canoe, kayak, fish or hunt in season. Vacation or simply relax and observe nature. This property is located 45min from Sarnia. Property being sold in "as is" condition. Recreation only. This is not a building lot. Rare properties like this don't come along often!

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THIS WEEK AT

Haywood's

TAP & GRILL

OPEN DARTS  
Tuesday @ 7 pm

JEFF BLACK  
OPEN MIKE  
Wednesday @ 9 pm

LIONS MEAT DRAW  
Thursday 6-8 pm

KARAOKE @ 9 pm

KARAOKE & OPEN  
MIKE w/MIKE  
Live Music Saturday  
519-882-0300

THE DEMENTIA - FRIENDLY CANADA PROJECT - Sunday, February 26 with The Alzheimer Society of Sarnia-Lambton at Christ Church, 414 Oil St., Petrolia following our 10 am service (approx 11am). 519-882-1430

Lambton Branch, Ontario Ancestors Drop-In & Chat - Zoom Webinar - February 27, 2023 - 2-3:30 pm. Working on your Lambton County Genealogy? Have questions? Meet with others to discuss obstacles or exciting new discoveries. For a link to the meeting visit [lambton.ogs.on.ca](http://lambton.ogs.on.ca) or email [lambton@ogs.on.ca](mailto:lambton@ogs.on.ca)

Watford Warwick Horticultural Society presents Horticulturist Jessica Bos-Landry speaking on "STARTING SPRING SEEDS, WHEN AND HOW", Thursday Feb 16, 2023 at 7 pm. Join us at the Horticulture Centre 5306 Nauvoo Rd Watford. Cost for non members \$10.00. Members free. For more info, visit our FB page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071073251927> or call/text Holly 226-402-0116

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES - February 22 2023 at Christ Church, 414 Oil St., Petrolia - Church Services at 10:30 am and an Evening Service at 7:00 pm

Britannia Chapter No. 34, Order of the Eastern Star is pleased to announce that tickets are available for our... **ROAST BEEF SWEET-HEART DINNER - Saturday, February 11 • 5-7 pm** at Wyoming United Church, 730 Second St, Wyoming. Tickets \$18 and \$10 for children 10 and under. Contact Pam 519-854-0503 or Kim 519-328-6823 or buy them from a Star!

Lambton Branch, Ontario Ancestors Meeting - February 14, 2023 - 7 pm. Speaker: Donna Bjore- "My 2022 Irish Palatine Trip-Never Give Up the Search". ON-LINE ONLY. Register for Zoom Meeting at [lambton.ogs.on.ca](http://lambton.ogs.on.ca) Meetings are free and open to the public - all welcome. For more information email [lambton@ogs.on.ca](mailto:lambton@ogs.on.ca)

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PANCAKES & SAUSAGE SUPPER - February 21 from 4:30-6:30pm at the Camlachie United Church. All you care to eat - Advance Tickets Only: Adults \$10, Child 6-10 \$5, Children under 5 eat free. 226-776-1222 or Doug 519-869-4727. [camunitedevents@gmail.com](mailto:camunitedevents@gmail.com).

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Upcoming Events

SHROVE "PANCAKE" TUESDAY - February 21 2023 at Christ Church, 414 Oil St., Petrolia from 5-7pm (while quantities last). Good Will offerings accepted with all proceeds to Lancer Locker. Everyone is Welcome! For more info call 519-882-1430

SPECIAL GUEST SERVICE - Bishop Todd Townsend of the Diocese of Huron presiding over the service on Sunday, February 5 @ 10 am at Christ Church, 414 Oil St., Petrolia. Light luncheon to follow. Everyone is Welcome!



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Thursday, February 2, 2023



# Bees win

The Independent

Petrolia’s Carson Perry had a goal and three assists to lead the Alvinston Killer Bees to a 5-4 win over the Strathroy Jets.

The win Saturday night in Alvinston snapped the Bees’ seven-game losing streak in the Western Ontario Super Hockey League.

Robert MacLean, Tye Johnson, Kier Cumming and Bayly Fryfogles also scored for the Bees with Dawson Winchester and Carter Wright contributing two assists each.

Nolan DeKoning stood tall in the Bees’ with 44 saves as the Jets outshot Alvinston, 48-37.

The Bees are now 5-15-1 on the season and will close out the home portion of the regular season Saturday against Stratford. Puck drop is 6:30. Alvinston ends the regular season on the road with game in Delhi on Feb. 12 and Erin on Feb. 25.



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Wes Baker of the Strathroy Jets pops one behind Nolan DeKoning during the Alvinston Killer Bees win Saturday.

# Flags beat Admirals 2-1

Captain Logan Gardner and Levi Plain scored 29 seconds apart early in the second period as the Mooretown Flags beat the Admirals 2-1.

Amherstburg broke up John Chartrand shutout bid midway through the final period in Amherstburg during the PJHL game Saturday.

Chartrand ended the contest with 33 saves.

The same two teams will play at the Moore Sports Complex Wednesday at 7:30. On Saturday at home, the visiting Blenheim Blades scored twice in the second period and went on to beat the Flags, 2-1. Jace Dupuis had his 20th of the season early in the third period for Mooretown. The Flags are now 16-14-1 on the season. Mooretown is home to Wallaceburg on Saturday, also at 7:30.

# Red Hat games on the road

The Independent

Central Lambton teams making it to the Ontario Minor Hockey League finals won’t get a home advantage.

Minor hockey players in the area competing for the coveted red hats will do it in a tournament style location again this year.

The OMHA says its 45 champions will be crowned over four weekends from March 17 to April 7 this season. It was a format first started in 2022. Organizers at the time said was safer during the pandemic.

Games will be played in Windsor, Barrie, Whitby, Halton Hills, Oakville and Kingston.

# Winegard, all-stars win title

The Independent

Lambton Jr. Sting grad and former Sarnia Legionnaire Tanner Winegard was part of the championship team at the annual MacPherson Tournament at St. Andrew’s College in Aurora on the weekend.

The GOJHL U18 all-stars blanked the Northwood Huskies, 2-0 in the final on Sunday. The Huskies, from Lake Placid, New York, were the defending champions.

Winegard, now with the London Nationals, played all five games but was held off the scoresheet.

He has six goals and 24 points in 36 games this season, including a goal and two assists in four games since joining London earlier this month.

# Helping vulnerable wanderers

There is a new program in Lambton to help vulnerable people who might wander from home.

Lambton OPP is now offering Project Lifesaver, along with Sarnia Police and Victim Services.

People with Alzheimer’s, Autism, Downs Syndrome, or acquired brain injuries can wander from home. Project Lifesaver gives participants a small personalized wristband that can be tracked by the Project Lifesaver receiver.

OPP say a number of police officers are now electronic search specialists who operate the tracking system. The technology allows first responders to quickly find the wandering person and get them back home.

You can register a family member by contacting Victim Services of Sarnia Lambton at 519-344-8861 ext. 5238 or online at [www.victimservices.on.ca](http://www.victimservices.on.ca).



# MISSION ACCOMPLISHED



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Wyoming Lions have reached their \$50,000 goal for the Plympton-Wyoming Health and Wellness Centre. The final funds came through the Wyoming Community Foundation. Pictured here are Murray Marsh, Lion’s member and Wyoming Foundation Member, Jim Turnball, Wyoming Foundation Chairperson, Joe Joosten, Lion’s member, Plympton- Wyoming Mayor Gary Atkinson, Mike Vasey, President Wyoming Lion’s Club and Pete Pakalnis, Past President Wyoming Lion’s Club.

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