



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Firefighters from Brooke and Warwick work with Dan McNally in the backhoe to try to bring a fire at the home of Amber and Joel Chalcraft near Alvinston under control Sunday. No one was injured in the fire however 80 piglets died in the blaze.

## Fire chief, CAO in Plympton-Wyoming on leave

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Two of Plympton-Wyoming’s top administrators are on leave.

Mayor Gary Atkinson confirmed to *The Independent* Friday Fire Chief Darryl Thompson is on a six week administrative leave and Chief Administrative Officer Carolyn Tripp is on medical leave.

The details around why the administrators are not at work are not being made public at this time. Both Thompson and Tripp were working last week, posing for a cheque presentation on Feb. 8 with officials from Enbridge Gas and members of the fire department.

Council held a special in camera meeting Wednesday night dealing with an employee matter. The details of that meeting have not been made public.

Atkinson would not say whether there is a further investigation into the conduct of either administrator saying only there would be more details coming soon.

The mayor could not say whether that would be days, weeks or months.

Thompson – who is also the director of fire and emergency services – came to Plympton-Wyoming in April 2021 from Caledon where he was a professional firefighter.

He was hired after Steve Clemens resigned. Clemens left in October 2020 after three years of being dogged by controversies such as a video camera surveillance in the Wyoming station and the firing of three senior firefighters. Council issued a statement of support for the fire chief, but taxpayers picketed, demanding an explanation. Clemens went on stress leave before he resigned his position.

Tripp came to Plympton-Wyoming shortly after she parted ways with the Town of Midland in 2016 in what she termed as a “conflict with council” at that time.

## Neighbours, family save cattle from Alvinston barn fire

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Amber Chalcraft was just about to light the birthday candles on her son Marcus’ birthday cake when she saw the smoke.

Flames were licking out of a shop and drive shed holding farm equipment, straw, hay and feed for the cattle operation just meters from her kitchen window.

With the help of family, friends, neighbours and firefighters, the Chalcrafts were able to save their cattle and stop the blaze from spreading to their nearby house and barn on Old Walnut Road Sunday afternoon. Even as they are grateful for the help of the community, Chalcraft says the loss is devastating and traumatic.

The Chalcrafts had family and friends over Sunday to celebrate their three year-old’s birthday. Chalcraft saw the power flicker. Then, she looked out the window and saw the smoke coming from the shop at the back of the drive shed.

“It was just like a rush ... Everything was going so fast.”

The biggest concern was the animals - the Chalcrafts are beef farmers and about three dozen cattle were in the barn behind the burning shed. And in the 60’ by 60’ shop attached to it, there were 80 piglets the couple had just purchased.

“Everybody was trying to get cattle out and the guys were saying that the fire was so hot when they were trying to open gates that the gates were so hot to touch, they’re

burning their hands to try to get the cattle out of the barns,” she said.

Somehow, they managed to get them outside. Neighbours joined family and friends and moved the cattle down Old Walnut Road to another pasture Chalcraft’s father owns.

And while they tried, the piglets were lost in the fire.

“My brother tried to save them and he couldn’t open the door, it was too hot. He couldn’t touch it.”

Chalcraft says the Brooke Fire Service arrived quickly and, Dan McNally of McNally’s Equipment in Inwood was driving a backhoe across the field to join the fight to keep the blaze from spreading.

**SEE FIRE PG 2**



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HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The backhoe, operated by Dan McNally from Inwood, moves the flaming straw and hay from the barn Sunday.

## Fire destroys drive shed, shop

CON'T FROM PG 1

McNally had seen the smoke across Courtright Line and already had the equipment loaded and was on his way when the fire department called for help. “Watching him come across the field to help save our farm is something I will never forget,” she says. “He didn’t even ask questions. He just started to help us and we were just blown away.”

Brooke Fire Chief Steve Knight was glad to have the heavy equipment on hand early. “Any type of hay or straw bale, it’s compressed material as it’s burning. So, the fire gets deep seated into it. So, applied water, foam or anything from the exterior doesn’t penetrate the same way the fire would as it grows,” says Knight.

“With those types of fires, the only real way to do it is to get all of the material out of the building, and spread it out to the put fire out.”

The Ontario Fire Marshal’s office was called in to investigate the cause of the fire since more than \$500,000 damage was done in the blaze.

Knight says it appeared an electrical problem may have started it, but the cause is listed as undetermined.

“We brought a backhoe in because of the nature of the fire - it pretty much tears through everything just to get the fire out,” says Chief Knight.

Meantime, the Chalcrafts are trying to figure out the next steps. Finding feed and bedding for the cattle was one of the big concerns, but neighbours have once again pitched in.

“We are fortunate that we had a lot of farmers stopped by yesterday (Monday) and a lot of them were offering straw and hay and grain,” says Chalcraft.

“We had calls all hours of the day just to make sure we had enough for animals because they didn’t want us to go with-out... Anything you could imagine for our animals, they were offering in case we lost



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Friends and family comfort Amber Chalcraft as during the fire at her home near Alvinston

medicine or anything. “I just couldn’t believe, I was blown away. I just sat there in tears because they were so sweet.”

The cattle returned to the barn Tuesday and Chalcraft and her husband were talking with insurance agents about next steps. Aside from the building, the bedding and the feed, the couple also lost farm equipment in the blaze, including an old tractor, a combine and pickup truck.

Two campers which were up against the drive shed were pulled to safety.

“I just feel for my dad the most I guess, because he watched his family ...build what basically was burned to the ground.”

And while it is difficult right now, Chalcraft says they will get through it.

“We’re just thankful that the cattle got out and no one was injured and that we still have a family.

“That was the biggest thing. And the house - the house was okay.”

As for the birthday boy, Chalcraft says he did eventually get his birthday cake, courtesy of his aunt and uncle who picked him and his brother up that evening. They bought a cake with candles and had a little celebration far from all the fire trucks.

## Co-workers win Dream Home in Bright’s Grove

The Independent

Four co-workers at the St. Clair Energy Centre in Corunna, are the winners of this year’s Bluewater Health Dream Home Lottery.

The draw happened Thursday at the home in Bright’s Grove.

Alexandra Morrison of Sarnia won the 50/50 prize, which exceeded \$284,000.

The 2023 Dream Home lottery had the largest prize board in its 28-year history

with over 2,500 prizes valued at nearly \$1.4 million.

Since its began, the lottery has raised over \$8.5 million for Bluewater Health and Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital.

All of the proceeds from the lottery are spent on local health-care capital and equipment needs not covered by provincial funding.

All of the 28 homes which have been showcased over the years have been built by local contractors.



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

**ALL application forms** must be submitted by **4pm on Thursday, March 9th, 2023**  
They can be addressed to 5280 Nauvoo Road, PO Box 10, Watford, ON N0M 2S0

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

### ● WARWICK TOWNSHIP CEMETERY BOARD (1 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC)

The Warwick Township Cemetery Board is responsible for providing advice and input on Cemetery services and assisting in the management of all cemeteries within Warwick Township. (Watford Cemetery, Bethel Cemetery, Warwick Cemetery plus several ‘inactive’ cemeteries)

### ● COUNTY OF LAMBTON SENIORS’ ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC)

The County of Lambton is recruiting a resident from Warwick Township for the Seniors’ Advisory Committee. The role of the committee is to promote interests and identify seniors’ issues and address them at a County level. Questions regarding this committee can be directed to Anita Trusler at Lambton Public Health by calling 519-383-8331 ext. 3646 or emailing [anita.trusler@county-lambton.on.ca](mailto:anita.trusler@county-lambton.on.ca). Application forms are available at the Township Office and on the Township website.

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

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

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

## The Independent is now accepting applications for our new Community Journalism Course

If you want to write about your neighborhoods, civic issues, local politics, and interesting people you are invited to apply.

We’ll choose up to six people from the communities we serve to be involved in a six weeks of online community journalism training **every Thursday starting at 7 pm** taught by The Independent’s Publisher/Editor Heather Wright. You’ll learn what is news, the difference between a news story and a feature, how to write an effective lead, and how to prepare interview questions.

With the help of the editor, you’ll use those skills to find a story to tell from your community.

Those chosen for the Community Journalism Course will receive a \$250 stipend upon completion of the course along with the publication of their article. And, we hope you’ll continue providing paid content about the people and events in your community.

**Please submit a short resume and a paragraph or two about why you would like to become a community journalist to:**  
[news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca)  
**by March 15, 2023**





# Daycare provider charged after near drowning

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Lambton OPP have laid a charge of criminal negligence causing bodily harm in the near drowning of a Mooretown toddler in Petrolia.

On Jan. 24, just before 3 pm, police and paramedics went to a home on Juniper Crescent after Waylon Saunders, 20 months, fell into a backyard pool.

He was without a heart beat for nearly three hours and teams of doctors worked to keep the little boy alive in both Petrolia and London.

Waylon has made what doctors are calling a remarkable recovery and is now at home, walking, talking and playing with his siblings. Feb. 16, he stopped at the Central Lambton Family Health Team with his mother, Gillian, to thank the doctors and medical staff who saved his life.

Lambton County building officials posted a notice of work orders for security in and around the pool area on the door of the daycare provider last week.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Waylon Saunders, 21 months, and his mom, Gillian Burnett, had a chance to thank the doctors and health care professionals in Petrolia Feb. 16. They were among the many people who helped keep the toddler alive after falling in to an icy pool Jan. 24.

After a three week investigation, the OPP Crime Unit charged Paula Maness, 50, with criminal negligence causing bodily harm Feb. 16 in

connection the incident.

She appeared in court and has been released from custody. Her case returns to court March 22.

# County politicians consider 3.9 per cent tax increase

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Lambton County taxpayers could see their tax bills go up 3.9 per cent.

Treasurer Larry Palarchio gave councillors an overview of the \$264.9 million budget Feb. 15. And one of its features is more money for social housing.

The administration is recommending \$2 million be spent on building more affordable housing in Lambton this year – that’s an increase of about \$800,000 or one per cent of the proposed tax increase.

Palarchio told local politicians Lambton County needs about 2,450 housing units over the next 10 years. Ideally, he says, the county should be investing about \$3.9 million a year to meet that need.

The treasurer pointed out the county is facing the same pressures as other levels of government; higher costs for things like gravel, construction projects and gas to power county

vehicles.

And there have been increases in benefits mandated by the province. Palarchio added the county will begin negotiations on contracts for “several” employee groups this year.

And he says the county is “not immune to increase rate increases” noting its anticipating paying an extra \$300,000 this year in interest costs.

Overall, operating expenses have increased by \$3 million or 3.65 per cent. The county plans to spend about \$15 million in capital projects – a half million dollars more than 2022.

Palarchio is also anticipating about \$1 million new tax dollars because of new homes in the region.

Warden Kevin Marriott is pleased with the first look at the budget.

“I think it’s pretty fair, because we’re being pressured from two side...the provinces is saying don’t fall into building an inflation increase into your budgets because it’s supposed to be short term,” says the warden.

“And then you’ve got the needs

of the community, which we have addressed with the extra \$800,000 on the homeless. It would be nice to do more as you’ve seen that deficit on units, but ... there’s that fine line between what can you afford and still make a difference?”

“I think just under four per cent, so far is pretty fair to the taxpayer.”

Councillors will be doing a deep dive on the budget March 1. There’s already some who are looking for savings.

Sarnia City/County Councillor David Boushy asked Palarchio if he had to cut \$300,000 out of the budget, where he would start. The treasurer said he’d answer the question during the budget session.

But there also seems to be some support for the budget, particularly for increasing the amount of money the county spends to build affordable housing.

Brooke-Alvinston Mayor David Ferguson says everything he’s study shows “investing money there saves money.”

# Trail under bridge planned to link Bridgeview

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The Town of Petrolia is planning to connect the north and south ends of Bridgeview Park with a trail underneath the Petrolia Line bridge.

In a report to council, BM Ross Engineering says the project includes the construction of two meter wide gravel trail from the parking lot on the south side of the Petrolia Line Bridge to about 20 meters north of the structure.

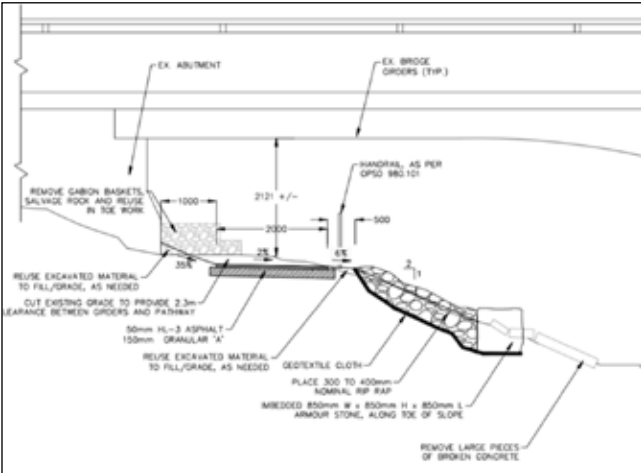
It would include armour stone riverbank protection, a handrail and a hot mix trail surface under the structure.

The engineers say the town would have to connect the trails with another 35 meter trail on the north side of the bridge and recommends pedestrian lighting.

The trail, BM Ross writes, would likely cost the town \$178,000 including \$34,000 in engineering fees if the project is completed in 2023.

Councillors approved the concept during the Feb. 13, council meeting.

Dave Menzies, director of parks and recreation, says in a report to council the work will not move ahead unless the town can find grants to cover 50 per cent of the costs.



BM Ross Drawing

Petrolia is planning a new trail to link the north and south ends of Bridgeview Park with a trail running underneath the bridge as seen in the above engineering drawing.



## FORM 6 SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Municipal Act, 2001

Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

## SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

### THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DAWN-EUPHEMIA

**Take Notice** that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on April 13, 2023, at the Dawn-Euphemia Municipal Office, 4591 Lambton Line, Dresden Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dawn-Euphemia Municipal Office, 4591 Lambton Line, Dresden.

#### Description of Land:

Roll No. 38 06 009 030 25900 0000; 714 MCCREADY RD., BOTH-WELL; PIN 43366-0137 (LT); W 1/2 LT 17-18 CON 10 EUPHEMIA; S/T EU14214; DAWN-EUPHEMIA; File No. 21-01

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$1,573,000.

#### Minimum tender amount: \$166,495.53

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

**Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, crown interests, or any other matters relating to the land to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. Any interests of the Federal or Provincial Crown encumbering the land at the time of the tax sale will continue to encumber the land after the registration of the tax deed. The assessed value according to the last returned assessment roll may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.**

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the “Act”), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province’s Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

**For further information regarding this sale contact:**  
**Marc Seguin, CPA**  
**Treasurer**

**The Corporation of the Township of Dawn-Euphemia**  
**4591 Lambton Line, RR #4, Dresden ON N0P 1M0**  
**(519) 692-5148 Ext. 22**  
**treasurer@dawneuphemia.on.ca**  
**www.dawneuphemia.ca**

## Warwick Fireman’s Association 40th Annual Breakfast

**March 19th, 2023**  
**9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Warwick Community Hall  
7074 Egremont Rd., Warwick



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# Editorial

## The rainy day

On the surface, it is a lot better than it could have been; but is it good enough?

Lambton County Treasurer Larry Palarchio gave councillors an overview of the \$264.9 million budget Feb. 15 which could see your county tax bill go up about four per cent. Considering inflation is running around six per cent, that might not seem so bad. The county has to deal with inflation, too. Any road work or construction jobs have climbed significantly. Employee contracts are coming up for negotiation; we’re guessing most employees would like to see more than a one or two per cent wage increase, just so their salaries keep up with inflation.

Frankly, the proposed county increase is significantly lower than some of our increasing costs. Our county tax bill is much less than some of the other big ticket items we have been forced to shell out more cash for, such as gas and food.

But we’re still left wondering is a nearly four per cent tax increase really necessary?

The county’s budget is \$264.9 million for 2023. Operating expenses are up \$3 million and the capital budget is up a half million dollars more than 2022.

Some of that - about \$1 million - will be covered by new tax revenue because of the 2021 and 2022 building boom in the region.

That leaves about \$2.5 million. In a budget of \$264 million, you would think councillors might be able to find some of that cash somewhere.

The county plans to spend \$800,000 more to build affordable housing and while that’s necessary and will give direct benefit to those in need, does it have to come from taxes this year? For years, the county has been putting tax surpluses - your tax money which isn’t spent the year it is collected - into a special fund. It now sits at over \$10 million. One councillor suggested perhaps that money could be used to fund building more affordable housing units to bring the tax increase down.

Administrators always caution about taking money from reserves, they’re needed for a rainy day is usually the refrain. But in a year where inflation is the highest it has been in four decades, we think it is raining. If this isn’t the time to use some of those funds, it never will be.

## 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

The life of an international oil driller was always interesting. 2023 is the 150th anniversary of the workers from Central Lambton branching out to open the oil fields of the world. One driller, Edward Winnett, travelled to Sumatra where he woke one morning to 560 workers surrounding his bungalow. “Nearly every one of them was armed with knives or cleavers! Standard Oil had planned to reduce their wages, and so they began a strike for better pay. By the afternoon, their tactics prevailed. Standard Oil gave the workers a raise, and they quickly went back to work” he wrote in his diaries.

## Saying goodbye to a dear friend of The Independent

We lost a very good friend at *The Independent* recently.

Don Spitzig died Feb. 11. His obituary in today’s edition says he “took great pride in delivering *The Independent*.”

Don - who was 86 but could easily pass for a man in his 70s - took our papers all over the wilds of Lambton County from Wyoming to Florence and all points in between. Along the way he would chat up the merchants and, I’m guessing, left usually telling a joke as he went.

Don made some good friends along the way and renewed long-time friendships most notably in Inwood where he would stop at the variety store for some lunch and a gab with Fred and

Donna.

And while those who got to know him loved their chats, Don could be an acquired taste. You see, he was a bit of an old curmudgeon. I’m sure he wouldn’t mind me saying that, since he called himself that - although in more colourful language. I think Don was likely crusty long before he aged.

He had an opinion and he didn’t mind sharing it with you, forcefully sometimes. That’s not always comfortable for some people. I had employees ask me about him and why he seemed to be angry with them. He wasn’t (usually). That was just Don.

Over the years, I got a chance to talk to Don about everything from politics to his love of woodworking and his

family. And as his wife, Sue, told me he really was just an old softy for all his bluster.

Don called me about four days after his heart attack from his hospital bed. He’d just come out of the ICU and he wouldn’t be able to deliver the paper and didn’t know when he would be back.

That to me was Don; direct and loyal. And he will be missed.



Heather Wright

**The Independent**  
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# Vote on privatization

Blake Ellis  
Local Journalism Initiative

The Ontario Health Care Coalition wants to hold a province-wide plebiscite on the privatization of Ontario’s health care system.

It is planned for May 26 and 27.

Shirley Roebuck, president of the Sarnia-Lambton Health Care Coalition hosted a news conference Saturday. She said the vote would be like a very visible petition and political action on Premier Doug Ford’s government actions to further privatize the health care system.

Ford announced in January over 14,000 cataract surgeries would be done in private facilities, about 25 per cent of the wait list created during the pandemic.

The next phase will have private clinics offer MRI, CT scans, colonoscopies and endoscopies, with hip and knee surgeries by 2024.

Ford has said this will be a permanent move even after the wait times have been eliminated

Roebuck was concerned what these move will mean to smaller hospitals in Ontario including the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia. “The availability of local services are going to be taken away and we are going to pay for it,” said Roebuck. She said these private clinics will not be in Sarnia-Lambton but will be in Windsor, Waterloo and Ottawa for the cataract surgeries

“The bottom line is the government is refusing to resource the public system,” said Natalie Mehra, executive director of the Ontario Health Coalition. Mehra said Ontario is funding its hospital system at the lowest rate of any province or territory in the country. The government has also under spent its health care budget by \$1 billion, she says. It will spend \$24 million to move cataract surgery into private clinics.

While the Health Minister Sylvia Jones and Ford say the procedures at private clinics will be covered by OHIP, the health coalition worries the clinics will upsell and bill extra fees to patients. While a cataract surgery costs \$550 under OHIP, these facilities have been known to charging \$2,000 for the same procedure, officials say. “The private model would drive up costs,” said Mehra.

Roebuck worries many health care professionals will go to the private system because of better wages and work schedules, further gutting the public system.

The proposed province-wide plebiscite will be organized by the coalition and manned by volunteers. Ballot boxes could be set up in churches, Legions and corner stores across Ontario. While there are approximately 15 million people in Ontario, it is hoped the plebiscite will garner one million votes against the privatization of the health care system.

- THE INDEPENDENT

# Not enough cash for special needs students

Blake Ellis  
Local Journalism Initiative

Lambton Kent District School Board gets only a quarter of the funding needed from the province to educate complex needs students.

The Education Act requires school boards to provide special education programs and services to students who are identified as “exceptional pupils.” Under the Act, an exceptional pupil is a student who has been identified by a committee with behavioural, communicational, intellectual, physical or multiple diagnoses that requires a special education program. That often includes children on the autism spectrum.

Under provincial policies, school boards have to act when the students are young to identify their needs and meet them within the schools.

But that can be an expensive prospect and, according to board officials, it isn’t fully funded by the provincial government.

The Special Education Advisory

Committee (SEAC) Chair Chris King sent a letter to the Minister of Education Stephen Lecce raising the funding disparity the Lambton Kent School Board is left to cover.

The school board received \$27,679 per student from the Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding in the 2019-20 school year, while it costs \$106,366 to educate these high needs children, at a shortfall of \$79,687.

The situation hasn’t become any better in the current school year. While the amount received from the province per student is now \$28,823, expenses have raised to \$111,092 with an additional \$4,581 for bussing, leaving a shortfall of \$86,870.

The issue came forward after a letter was received from the Durham District School Board at the Dec. 15 SEAC meeting. It was decided to have staff draft a letter, which would raise the concerns from the Lambton Kent District School Board, giving actual costs and highlighting the shortfall.

There are currently five students within Lambton Kent School District

who are funded under special grants. This means there is a shortfall of \$434,350, which is absorbed by the Grants for Student Needs.

The money received from the Grants for Students Needs is already stretched due to the considerable needs across the school system for other students with special education needs.

“Our SEAC realizes that insufficient funding puts the most vulnerable and disadvantaged students at risk of falling through the cracks since the programs and services that were developed to ensure their success are underfunded,” said King in the letter.

He asks the ministry of education conduct a thorough analysis so the SIP funding covers the actual costs of providing supports needed for students with complex needs.

The committee last wrote to the minister of education in March 2022 with the same issue.

Trustee Malinda Little presented the letter on Feb. 14 to the Lambton Kent School Board when she made her report about the SEAC.

## BRIGDEN ROCKS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Keegan Hornbostel of LCCVI's band was given the rock star treatment at Brigden Public School Feb. 16. The elementary school students were getting into Hornbostel's guitar riffs during the bands version of the Kansas classic Carry On My Wayward Son. Each year, students in the music programs - including the band, choir and drum line - pack up their instruments in a U-Haul and travel to the elementary schools in the region. Jessica McKay, the head of the music department, says it gives the young students a good idea of some of the things they can do once they reach

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- **Julie Maw**  
Dealer - Courtright ON,  
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- **Dave Foulon**  
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Waste Management

**Twin Creeks Environmental Centre**  
Warwick Public Liaison Committee (WPLC)

## NOTICE OF WPLC MEETING

The next WPLC Meeting will be held:


Date: **Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

Time: **6 p.m. Meeting**

Place: **Twin Creeks-Office Boardroom**

Please RSVP to: [amclachl@wm.com](mailto:amclachl@wm.com)

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# Clock ticking on Highland Glen improvements

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming councillors are anxious to get a new system for boaters to pay for launching at Highland Glen.

The town now manages the Lake Huron park for the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. The town will eventually take ownership of the property. Town council made the move to make sure the boat launch - the only one from Grand Bend to Sarnia - would be fixed after two years of being closed.

The repairs have been complete and now Plympton-Wyoming is trying to come up with payment system which wouldn't require staff on site. It's also planning improvements to parking and washroom facilities.

In January, council discussed the project but heard the payment system was still up in the air because it wasn't clear whether WIFI would be available to run the system which was being proposed.

Recently, Councillor Kristen Rodrigues expressed concern summer was quickly approaching and councillors didn't have enough information to make a decision.

"We didn't have really a cost benefit in front of us we didn't know you know what are the monthly fees for that? The cell tower, the communications, the maintenance... there were a lot of unknowns that made it hard to come to an informative conclusion," she said.

"There really wasn't a lot of information on other options to allow us to make a more informed decision."

CAO Carolyn Tripp - before she went off on sick leave - told council at the time one contractor suggested an antenna which would secure the WIFI signal.

Adam Sobanski, director of public works, suggested requiring boaters to go to the town's website to pay for a launch, eliminating the need for a pay and display system. Meantime, he was to present a plan to expand the parking lots in the park at Wednesday's council meeting.

Councillor Bob Woolvett at the Feb. 8 meeting, said the town is moving too slow. "One thing we need to do is come up with a decision how much we're going to charge the launch boat, and I don't care how we get it through a kiosk or map or whatever, but what our charge is going to be?"

# OPP consider reopening Grand Bend office in the summer

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The head of Lambton OPP says there is a need to open a summer detachment in Grand Bend.

The OPP used to staff an office near Pinery Provincial Park, however in the last 10 years, police responded to calls in Grand Bend from the Forest office.

Inspector Chris Avery was recently speaking to Warwick Township council when he mentioned the increasing violence in the beach side community.

"We've recorded a lot greater violence and an upsurge in our calls for service there. We're having an escalation of serious assaults and weapons offenses," he said noting alcohol related offences, assaults, and sexual assaults are on the upswing. There was

also a murder in the community last year.

"In recent years has been a renewed swelling of the summer population of Grand Bend and Lambton Shores," he says.

"The COVID (pandemic) wasn't any help to us because Grand Bend stayed open and others were not, so a new population seems to have discovered the shores of Lambton County."

Avery says normally Grand Bend gets visitors from Windsor, London and Kitchener. In the pandemic, people from the Toronto region visited, bringing their problems with them, he says.

"We've had some discussions about the increased violence there," Avery says noting Lambton OPP have put a request in with the West Region to reopen the summer detachment there.

"We've seen that some of the people that come from away lack of a better term, are bringing prejudices from the home area," he says adding rivals in Toronto can find each other in the beach town and "that can be a cause of some conflict and violence" including swarmings.

Avery added in some cases, the gangs are trying spring people who have been arrested in Grand Bend. "Crowds come to try and take their friends back," he says.

The inspector says he's asked West Region for "extra bodies" to police the region, wanting to be sure resources aren't pulled from other parts of Lambton to deal with issues in Grand Bend.

Avery did not say when a decision on re-opening a Grand Bend office might be made.

# Victoria Hall repairs planned

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Repairs to Victoria Hall's clock tower are expected to move ahead as soon as possible.

The wood structure around the clock tower is starting to deteriorate at the north end of the roof.

Photos show broken slats and

flashing as well as deteriorating wood in the decorative cupola.

Dave Menzies, the director of parks, recreation and facilities says \$20,000 has been set aside in the 2023 budget.

They "will be used to complete immediate repairs as soon as possible and to obtain a more detailed review of the structure" with recommendations for what



The Victoria Hall Cupola

needs to be done.

# Merging, new locations for St. Clair libraries possible

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Andrew Meyer wants St. Clair Township to think about the future of the community's libraries.

Recently, a 10 year planning report came out which said some of the smaller libraries in the county - including Wilkesport, Port Lambton, Sombra, Courtright and Mooretown - are under used and could be merged or even replaced with library service points which could mean getting books and materials from something similar to a vending machine.

Meyer - the director of cultural services for the county - told St. Clair councillors Tuesday, the

county wants to work with the municipalities.

Meyer suggested Port Lambton and Sombra's libraries might be combined. That might also be an option for Mooretown and Courtright.

Meyer says the county is "looking at the shifting of the space allocation (in several communities) to address areas of service overlap... in order to pool our resources in a way that supports enhanced facilities where the libraries truly serve as community hubs."

Port Lambton in an area where service overlaps, Meyer says adding Sombra could be "expanded to underutilized areas of that building to create a more enhanced service point."

And he says since the report was made public, a number of groups have already approached Lambton County with solutions to improve library service in St. Clair.

"We have been approached by organizations within your community that have come forward and made suggestions about how we might be able to address a new location for the library."

"And we'll certainly be looking to share those with your staff and to your staff to counsel at the appropriate time."

One suggestion was to approach the Catholic board to see if a library could be located in the newly expanded Sacred Heart School.

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### TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK

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**REQUIREMENTS ARE:**

- Strong computer skills in Microsoft Office suite (Word and Excel)
- Experience with customer service in person and over phone
- Self-starter, dedicated to independent task completion
- Full time student in the past academic year and returning to full time studies in the fall of 2023
- Completed their 2022/2023 school term
- A valid Ontario driver's license (Class G of G2) preferred
- Be between 15 and 30 years of age,
- Canadian citizens, permanent residents or have refugee protection status under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- Legally entitled to work in Canada
- Will not have another full-time job.
- Be able to work days during May/June to August 26th (Dates subject to change)

**Application Deadline: 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, 2023**

**Written resumes for all positions will be received until 4 pm on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 and should be addressed to: Township of Warwick, 5280 Nauvoo Road, PO Box 10, Watford, Ontario, N0M 2S0.**

E-mail submission of resumes and questions on positions can be submitted to the Township of Warwick at [messelment@warwicktownship.ca](mailto:messelment@warwicktownship.ca) or 226-848-3926.

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



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## 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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# St Clair group wants battery storage facts

Heather Wright  
The Independent

A new group wants the province and municipalities to look at a better way to deal with setting up battery storage facilities. Marilyn Robbins speaks for a group of about 70 St. Clair Township residents who were frustrated by the township’s endorsement of three projects by Enbridge Gas on Petrolia Line, Tecumseh Road and Lady Smith Line.

The Independent Energy System Operator is in the middle of a call for proposals for electricity storage units which use lithium ion batteries to store energy during low use times and feed it back into the system during peak needs.

Enbridge came to St. Clair Township in December asking for a letter of endorsement for the three projects its propos-

ing which will each generate enough energy to power about 33,000 homes.

Council gave its approval in principle and at the next meeting faced criticism from citizens who voiced concern the projects will be built on top of natural gas pipelines.

Robbins is one of the people concerned. “I only got involved because my eighty year-old parents, their bedroom window they slept under every night for 60 years is 225 meters from one of these installations.”

Robbins says council simply rubber stamped the projects without getting any added information.

“We would like to hear from some independent expertise around citing these (storage facilities.) Enbridge would tell you that their information would say it’s safe. I think I’d feel better hearing that from

someone else. I think I’d also like to hear from an independent fire expert.”

That’s what Chatham-Kent did before giving its okay for four projects there.

“Enbridge is keen to build these things for the province. And because of the rushed deadline, they went first to property they already own, which would be cheaper and easier,” she says.

Robbins says the group isn’t sure it can make an impact on whether the Enbridge project moves ahead - the IESO decides in March - but she’d like to see some rules set out by the province for consultation.

“It would be better to get some steps in place for how they’re going to handle these going forward? Where do we want them? Why do we want them? And how much do we expect to be paid for it?”

## MIGHTY TIRED



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Being a hockey player can be a tiring business. This little guy playing the Mighty Mites tournament in Alvinston on Family Day, took a little break during his game. There were 20 teams of U7 players in Alvinston for the day including teams from Petrolia, Mooretown, Lambton Attack and East Lambton.

# ‘Real progress’ in funeral home reconstruction coming

The Independent

It will be a few more months before a Petrolia business will be able to return to its building. In August 2022, there was a fire at Needham-Jay Funeral Home on Petrolia Line. The owner, Steve Mailloux, had hoped to be back into the Petrolia chapel in six months. But

in a social media post, Mailloux says it will be some time yet.

“Damage was much more extensive than initially thought and we have encountered a few surprises along the way given the age of our building,” he says.

“I feel we are at the point where some real progress will soon begin. Permits for the

rebuild have been submitted and the tendering process has begun.

“I am hopeful that in the next few weeks we should begin to see trades people on site and everything starting to be put back together,” he added.

The funeral home has been working from its Wyoming chapel since the fire.

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



# Family Fun Days



There was a lot of family fun in Central Lambton for the Family Day weekend. Monday, members of New Life Church, including George Feniak, Jared Sit, and Chris Barry, prepared breakfast for hundreds of people. Zerlinda Richards and little Clara, a family friend were at the Y in Petrolia Monday enjoying the games in the gym. Greyson Maddison, bottom, joined in on the fun in Petrolia as well. Hunter Scott, 1, of Inwood tried to get in on the basketball fun at the Warwick Community Centre and the Petrolia/North Enniskillen firefighters - along with Sparky the fire dog - held an open house Sunday.





# Sports

## Flyers wait for playoff match up

The Independent

The Petrolia Flyers are in the home stretch of their inaugural regular season in the PHL’s Yeck Division. The Flyers host the Exeter Hawks on Thursday night at Greenwood. Face off time is 7:30. Petrolia closes out the regular season next week with a home game against Port Stanley a week from Thursday and then a visit to Dorchester on Sunday, March 5.

The Flyers will finish in eighth place in the division regardless of the results of their final three games but who they will match up with in the first round of the playoffs is still to be determined. It’ll be likely be either North Middlesex or Mt. Brydges, although there is still a mathematical chance that either Thamesford or Exeter could win the division and draw P-town to open the postseason.

Feb. 16, Peyton Armitage scored twice and Colby Ackworth and Caleb Kennedy each had a goal and an assist to lead the Petrolia Flyers to a 4-1 win over Lucan. Noah Harse and Dylan Demeulenaere each had two assists. Elijah Grant made 33 saves and lost his shutout bid when the Irish scored in the final minute of regulation time. Petrolia is 9-24-4 on the season.

## Flags notch 20 wins by topping Kings

The Independent

The Mooretown Flags reached the 20-win plateau on the PJHL season with a 7-2 win at Dresden last Friday night. Levi Plain and Jace Dupuis each scored twice and captain Logan Gardner added a goal and four assists. Tristan Konrad and Masen Flett also scored for Mooretown and Blake Howard added four assists.

John Chartrand kicked out 24 shots for the goaltending win. Former Petrolia Flyer goalie Joseph Malinowski took the loss for the Kings with 37 saves. A night earlier, the Flags peppered the Wallaceburg goal with 68 shots in a 7-1 win over the Thunderhawks on the road. The Flags lost 5-3 to division-leading Essex at home on Saturday scoring

all three goals with the man advantage. While Mooretown could still catch Blenheim for fourth place, it would be a long shot. It appears the Flags will finish fifth in the Stobbs Division and take on the fourth place Blades in the first round of the playoffs. The Flags host Amherstburg on Saturday at 7:30.

## Legionnaires teeter on brink of playoffs

The Sarnia Legionnaires’ lead for the final playoff spot in the GOJHL’s Western Conference is down to one point on the Komoka Kings. Sarnia fell 4-2 to the Lincolns in St. Marys Monday while the Kings downed the Chatham Maroons, 6-1. Sean Doherty had a goal and an assist for Sarnia in the Family Day loss with

Plympton-Wyoming’s Ryan Richardson scoring the other. The Lincolns scored twice in less than a minute early in the second period to break open a 1-1. They ice the game with a late tally into an empty net. Sarnia closes out its regular season schedule by hosting London Thursday, taking on the Stars in St. Thomas Friday, and visiting

the Nationals in London on Sunday. The Kings host LaSalle on Saturday and take on the Maroons in Chatham on Sunday. Saturday in Strathroy, the Rockets rallied from a 3-1 deficit to score nine straight times and beat the Legionnaires, 10-3. Petrolia’s Andrew Jaques had a pair of assists for Strathroy and Oil Springs’ William Hull added a point.

## Killer Bees buzz into Erin before playoffs

The Alvinston Killer Bees close out the Western Ontario Super Hockey League regular season with a trip to Erin to take on the Blitz this Saturday at 7:30. The Blitz clinched sixth place in the nine-team

league with a 12-1 romp over the Plattsville Lakers last weekend. The Lakers and Bees are tied for seventh place heading into the final weekend of the regular season. Alvinston was idle

last week. Tilbury clinched first place with a 7-1 win over Stratford. The Bluebirds ended the regular season with a record of 19-5, a game better than Elora in the standings.

## The Battle of the 402 in London Friday

The next chapter of the Battle of the 402 between the Sarnia Sting and London Knights in the Ontario Hockey League will take place Friday night at Budweiser Gardens. The teams split a pair of games last week with Sarnia winning 3-2 at London in a nationally televised game Friday before the Knight turned the tables a night later in Sarnia erasing a 3-0 first period deficit and beating the Sting, 4-3 in overtime. London had won the two previously games played between the two rivals late last year. The sixth and final meeting will be played in Sarnia on Friday, March 3.



SARNIA STING PHOTO

Christian Kyrrou mugs for the cameras with a fan after the Sting beat Flint 7-2 Family Day.



Darius Landon is heading to OFSAA

## Lancer swimmer dominates SWOSSAA

The Independent

Darius Landon is heading to the provincial swimming championships. The Grade 11 LCCVI student won the Senior Boy’s 50 free, 100 back and 100 Individual Medley Feb. 14 at the SWOSSAA swim meet at the Windsor International Aquatic Center. He advances to OFSAA swimming Feb. 28 and March 1. Landon’s wins were part of a good day

in the pool for the Lancers. The Junior Boy’s Free Relay of Yarko Zelenehut, Evan Gruben, Rowen Grover and Hunter Kedwell placed second as did the Senior Boys’ Free Relay team of Carson Love, Hunter Kedwell, Yarko Zelenehut, and Darius Landon. The Junior Girls team of Elizabeth Kuykendall, Madailynne Henderson, Danielle McKay and Marnie Sawyer placed third in the 200 Medley Relay and fourth in the 200 Free Relay.



### This Month In Lambton

February 2023



Warden Kevin Marriott  
@LambtonWarden

#### HHW Collection Events

Bring your household derived hazardous waste to one of the upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Day events and it will be disposed of by experts, at no cost to you!

Household Hazardous Waste Day events will be held at Clean Harbours Canada, 4090 Telfer Road, St. Clair Township from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on the following Saturdays for the 2023 season: March 25, April 29, May 27, June 24, September 30, and October 28. Corrosive, toxic, reactive, and flammable materials will be collected.

These items should never be placed in a regular landfill because they have the potential to injure sanitation workers and damage our environment.

Items NOT accepted include: PCBs, commercial, industrial or radioactive wastes, electronics, and explosives (flares and ammunition).

For more information visit [lambtononline.ca/hhw](http://lambtononline.ca/hhw) or call 519-845-0801.

#### One Seed Lambton launching 2023 season

One Seed Lambton is a program encouraging everyone to grow their own produce and save seeds for next year’s planting. Each year, a seed variety is selected and made available at no cost to all participants. This year’s seed variety will be announced on March 1, 2023.

May to September, programs and workshops that explore the life cycle of a plant from planting to harvest will take place throughout Lambton County. All levels of gardening experience are welcome!

Visit [lclibrary.ca](http://lclibrary.ca) to learn more about the Seed Library, and stay tuned for this year’s One Seed Lambton announcement!

#### Looking Ahead

**9 a.m., March 1, 2023** - Budget Meeting

**9 a.m., March 23, 2023** - Budget Meeting  
*\*\* if required*

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



**Office of the County Warden**  
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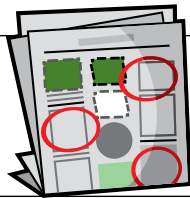
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# Death Notices

February 12 - 18 2023

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

**JOHNSTONE, Simon Daniel**  
Age 81  
Smith Funeral Home

**KERR, Nancy Anne**  
(n Gunn)  
Age 76  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

**BERGMAN, Kenneth "Wes"**  
Age 90, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**GURR, Kenneth William George**  
Age 86, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**HERR, Marian Louise**  
(n Huff)  
Age 93, formerly of Bothwell  
Badder & Robinson Funeral Home

**LLOYD, Jacqueline Rose "Jackie"**  
(n Fournier)  
Age 83  
Smith Funeral Home

**McBEAN, Garry Lee**  
Age 85  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

**McIVER, Howard "Buck"**  
Age 78, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**PHILLIPS, Bud**  
Age 91, formerly of Bothwell  
John C Badder Funeral Home

**PRAVATHARTHI, Ramakrishnan**  
Age 87  
Smith Funeral Home

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

**DENNIS, Diane**  
(n Drope; formerly Clubb)  
Age 78, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**MCCORMACK, Mary Anne**  
(n Name)  
Age 55, of Oil Springs  
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

**MURRAY, Irene Dorothy**  
Age 94, of Sarnia  
McCormack Funeral Home

**WABRO, Pete**  
Age 58, of Forest  
Gilpin Funeral Home

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

**BARRON, Lawrence "Larry" Thomas**  
Age 79, of Sarnia  
Smith Funeral Home

**BRAITHWAITE, Edmond Garrett**  
Age 74, of Sarnia  
Badder Funeral Home & Reception Centre

**LACZO, James "Jim"**  
of Glencoe  
Van Heck Funeral Home

**MILNE, James "Jim" Ian**  
Age 77  
McCormack Funeral Home

**TAYLOR, Roy**  
Age 82, of Petrolia  
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

**THOMSON, G.L. "Kelly"**  
Age 84  
McCormack Funeral Home

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

**CHAVES, Roberto da Costa**  
Age 66  
Smith Funeral Home

**LAPORTE, Richard "Rick"**  
Age 67  
Smith Funeral Home

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

**MacKINNON, Merilyn June**  
(n Oldham)  
Age 86  
Smith Funeral Home

This information is provided as a community service.  
For detailed information, please refer to the funeral home website listing.

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM - DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

# Calendar of events

Events are listed FREE for non-profit groups in Petrolia and Lambton County (space permitting).  
To be included in this listing email the required information to [office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca) Subject: FREE EVENT LISTING.

CLUBS AND REGULAR EVENTS		CONTACT INFO	
DAY	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Mon	7p	Watford	Darts @ Watford Legion
Tues	7p	Watford	Euchre @ Watford Legion
Tues	7p	Petrolia	Petrolia Toastmasters @ Petrolia Lions Hall
Wed	6:30p	Oil Springs	Legion Open - cards, pool, darts - 6:30-10pm
2nd Wed	7p	Petrolia	Bingo @ Petrolia Lions Hall
3rd Wed	7p	Sarnia	Monthly Meeting @ Horticultural Society

DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Feb 27	2-3:30p	Zoom	Ontario Ancestors Drop-in & Chat <b>ZOOM WEBINAR</b> for a link to the meeting visit <a href="mailto:lambton@ogs.on.ca">lambton@ogs.on.ca</a> or email <a href="mailto:lambton@ogs.on.ca">lambton@ogs.on.ca</a>	
Mar 3	7pm	Oil Springs	<b>CORN HOLE</b> @ the Oil Springs Youth Centre - 519-339-8101	
Mar 3	7pm	Petrolia	St Philips <b>CARD PARTY</b> @ St Philips Hall - 519-882-4840	
Mar 4	4pm	Oil Springs	<b>MEAT RAFFLE</b> @ the Oil Springs Legion - 519-834-2537	
Mar 4	7pm	Brigden	<b>EUCHRE</b> @ the Brigden Legion - 519-864-1395	
Mar11	4:30pm	Brigden	<b>MEAT RAFFLE</b> @ the Brigden Legion - 519-864-1395	
Mar15	12-1p	Petrolia	<b>LUNCH</b> @ the Petrolia Legion - 519-882-1557	
Mar15	1-4p	Petrolia	<b>COUNTRY - SOFT ROCK JAMBOREE</b> @ Petrolia Legion - 519-882-1557	
Mar18	4pm	Oil Springs	<b>MEAT RAFFLE</b> @ the Oil Springs Legion - 519-834-2537	
Mar18	7pm	Brigden	<b>TRIVIA</b> @ the Brigden Legion - 519-864-1395	

**To have your event included in the above Calendar of Events the following information is required:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
Event Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # / website: \_\_\_\_\_

You can drop this off at our office or email the information to us at [office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca)

**\*\*Deadline for submitting free events is Friday @ 12 noon\*\***

3rd Thurs	7p	Oil Springs	Optimist Meat Bingo @ Youth Centre	519-834-2152
Fri	7p	Brigden	Pool Night @ Brigden Legion	519-864-1395
Fri	7p	Watford	Meat Raffle, 50-50, CTA @ Watford Legion	519-876-2360
Sat	12p	Petrolia	Lunch 12-3 or until sold out @ Petrolia Legion	519-882-1557
Sat	2p	Petrolia	Meat Raffle @ Petrolia Legion	519-882-1557
Sat	3:30p	Forest	Meat Raffle @ Forest Legion	519-786-5357
Sat	6p	Alvinston	Catch The Ace @ Alvinston Legion	519-898-2100
		Brigden	NEW LEGION HOURS: Thurs 6-9p, Fri 6-9p, Raffle Saturdays 4-8p; Non-Raffle Saturdays 6-9p	519-898-2100

# 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

Card of Thanks

Thank You

The family of the late **Cindy Syer** wish to extend their thanks to family, friends and neighbours, who helped at the time of the loss of our dear wife, mother, sister, aunt and grammy.

We are sincerely grateful for the quality care from the surgical, oncology and palliative staff at Bluewater Health and specifically Dr. E Daniel, Dr. E Lilly, Dr G. Maddison, Dr. C Way, Dr. K Yoshida and their care teams. Special thanks to those who brought food and flowers, expressed their sympathy, shared loving memories of Cindy, donated in her name and the pallbearers and flower carriers as well as all who assisted with the funeral service and luncheon.

*Your support and presence is helping us through the darkest days.*

In Memories

In loving memory of  
**Cassie McNally**

Thinking of you, dear niece and cousin,  
today and everyday with love.

Uncle Kenny and family.

**LUCAN**  
– In loving memory of our precious friend, **KRISTEL LEIGHANN**. Jesus called Kristel home to Heaven on **February 22, 1987**. She was 5 1/2.

Kristel,  
You smile at us from a picture frame.  
Your hand we cannot touch.  
But we treasure the memories we have of you.  
Our dear little friend, whom we love so much.

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by  
Jim, Marie, Candice, Charity and families

In Memory

**Lucan**  
In loving memory of our precious daughter, sister and auntie. **Kristel Leighann** who left us way to soon at the tender age of 51/2 years old Feb 22 1987

When our names get called by Heaven  
We know that you'll be waiting  
Ready to take our hand

We will once again see your sweet smile,  
That we have missed for all these years.  
Our hearts will know that blessed joy  
Of only crying happy tears

Your voice will echo through our souls  
Our hope and dreams will be restored,  
That losing you had stolen

When we are at last by your side  
We'll finally know true peace  
We will wrap our arms around you  
and never let you go

Always and forever loved  
and sadly missed by  
**Daddy, Mommy, Rick Jr,  
Lindsey and Aubrey,  
Brittney, Shawn, Gabby  
and Cole**

**McNally**  
In loving memory of our special little friend **Cassie Lynn**, who left this earth to soon, Feb 27 1987

Sometimes it feels like only yesterday.  
Sometimes it feels like Forever and a day.  
But either way we remember you, all the same.

Forever in our memories and always missed and loved by  
**Rick, Rita, Rick Jr, Lindsey & Aubrey, Brittney, Shawn,  
Gabby and Cole**

**McNALLY**  
In loving memory of a dear granddaughter, niece and cousin - **Cassie Lynn McNally**, who passed away 36 years ago on **February 27, 1987**. Loving memories never die as year's roll on and days pass by. In our hearts a memory is kept of the one we loved and will never forget.

Always loved and remembered by **Grandma Deanie  
and the Jardine families**

■ ADVERTISING POLICY ■

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In Memory

**McNALLY**  
In loving memory of our precious daughter, sister, and aunt, **CASSIE LYNN**. Jesus called Cassie home to Heaven, on **February 27, 1987**. She was 5 1/2.

Cassie, as the years go by  
We miss you more and more  
We do know Heaven is perfect  
And look forward to what's in store.  
But until God calls each of us home,  
We've been given new strength every day.  
We cherish our memories and see signs of you  
In the things your nieces and nephews do and say.  
We know you are shining with the love of Christ.  
And you will be with Him to welcome us home,  
Just like you greeted Aunt Cindy last month  
Into God's everlasting Shalom.

We miss you and love you so much Sweetheart –  
**Daddy, Mommy,  
Candice and Chris, Charity and Shane,  
Maleah, Braxton, Alayna, Levin, Celina,  
Atticus and Shepherd**

Obituary

**SPITZIG**  
Donald

August 6 1936 - February 11 2023

Early on the morning of **Saturday February 11, Donald Spitzig of Oil Springs**, slipped away from us at the University Hospital in London, due to complications of a heart attack that he suffered 15 days earlier. He was born on August 9 1936, in Chepstow, Ontario.

Don will be missed by his wife, Sue, and other family members who knew and loved him, as friendly, caring, fun-loving father, stepfather, grandfather, and uncle.

As a partner in Petrolia Auto-motive Limited, Don enjoyed being on the road as salesperson. After retiring, Don and Sue spent many winters as snowbirds in Arizona. In his later retirement, Don took great pride in delivering the Independent, ensuring the lawns at his residence were beautifully kept, and creating amazing woodcrafts that have been enjoyed by many.

**Upon his request, there will be no services held.**

*May Don rest in peace.*

Coming Events

celebrating 50 years • 2023

**LAMBTON COUNTY**

**Science Fair**

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)

**Check your expiry date**  
don't miss an issue... **RENEW today!**

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ON TO THE FINALS



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

LCCVI will host the North Lambton Eagles for the Lambton Kent boys' AA hockey crown Wednesday in Petrolia. The Lancers advanced with an 8-1 win over Ridgetown in semifinal action Wednesday and the Eagles punched their ticket with an 8-3 win over Lambton Kent Composite in Dresden. Miller Mailloux led the Lancers in their victory with two goals and an assist and Roen Douglas had a goal and two helpers. Jack Morningstar, Zach Wilson, Adam Broad, Ryan Minten and Reid King also scored for LCCVI Jack Van Gorp led the Eagles with a pair of goals in its win at Dresden. Jack Niewenhuizen, Evan Van Gorp, Lucas Rogers, Aiden Wiseman and Charlie Verhoeven had the others. The same two teams played for the title last season with the Lancers prevailing 3-1. It's the sixth straight year LCCVI has been in the A/AA final. Game time at Greenwood is 2 pm.

Lady Lancers face LK in hockey final

It'll be LCCVI hosting North Lambton for the Lambton Kent A/AA hockey championship on Wednesday at Greenwood Recreation Centre in Petrolia. Face off is noon. North Lambton advanced with a 2-0 win

over Great Lakes earlier this week. Taryn King had both goals for the Eagles. The title game is part of a championship doubleheader in Petrolia on Wednesday. LCCVI will host North Lambton in the boys' final at 2 pm.

Black too ill to compete at world's

The Independent

An unfortunate turn of events cost North Lambton grad Connor Black a chance to compete at the world cross country championships. The Forest runner was scratched from the race in Australia on the weekend when he began to experience flu-like symptoms a day before the global event. Black is the reigning Canadian cross country champion having won the national race in Ottawa late last year.

Team Canada, which did include Andrew Davies of Sarnia, finished tenth in the team standings, a six spot improvement over its last appearance in 2019. Team Canada was coached by Sarnia's Hilary Stellingwerff (nee Edmonton) who represented Canada at the Summer Olympics in 2012 and 2016. The St. Christopher grad is currently the cross country head coach of the University of Victoria in BC a position she has held since 2020.

Lancer wrestlers bring home gold

Brock Callister and Luke Holmes of LCCVI won gold medals at the LKSSAA wrestling championships Thursday at North Lambton in Forest. Callister captured the 72 kg class, and Holmes was tops in the 83 kg category. Corunna's Masen Flett of Great Lakes won the 89 kg final, Hayden Wilson of the host school captured the 130 kg event, and Riley Crummer of Florence beat his brother Wesley in the 57.5 kg championships bout. Meantime, Allyssa Crummer of Florence won the 47.5 class on the girls' side of the ledger and Devynn Manning of North Lambton was top of the podium in the 54 kg final, she was also named the female wrestlers of the tournament. The Crummer family attends Ursuline in Chatham. Abigail Ginn and Kylee Somerville were the top finisher from LCCVI in girls' action. Both finished third in their weight classes. Wresters from Great Lakes took five first-place finishes in the boys' division. The Wolfpack, Irish and Vikings all registered three victories on the girls' side of the ledger Great Lakes won the team championship ahead of St. Pat's, Ursuline and North Lambton who finished second, third and fourth respectively The SWOSSA final will be held at St. Pat's in Sarnia Thursday.

LCCVI bows out of boys basketball playoffs

LCCVI's Senior Boys basketball team has bowed out of the playoffs. The Great Lakes Wolfpack used balanced scoring to beat LCCVI, 61-25 in one semifinal Wednesday. Tyler Kirby had eight points for the Lancers. Jack Robinson and Connor Brydges had four points each. Kaden Burnham led GLSS with 10 points against the Lancers while Seth Ainsworth, Noah Lester and Owen Wellington all contributed eight points each. Great Lakes will be home to Chatham's John McGregor Panthers for the LKSSAA senior boys' AA basketball trophy Saturday. In junior semifinal action Wednesday, Wallaceburg downed LCCVI, 52-30 and John McGregor beat Great Lakes, 54-42 despite a 27-point game by Cole MacAlpine for the Wolfpack.



WRANGLER GOES TO LIONS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

For the second time in recent weeks, a product of the Wyoming Wranglers program has committed to the Lambton College women's softball team. Ava Thompson, a catcher, will enrol at the Sarnia school after graduating this year from LCCVI. Her long-time teammate, pitcher Kylee Shortt, committed to the Lions earlier this month. Thompson is pictured above flanked by her parents Mike and Allison.

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