

HEATER SPARKS WYOMING FIRE



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

A kerosene space heater turned on in a garage sparked a blaze which caused extensive damage to a Wyoming home. Around 1 pm Monday, Wyoming firefighters were called to London Road. The homeowners heard the smoke detectors, says Chief Scott Jordon, and went to investigate. Items around the space heater were in flames. The husband moved the car out of the garage then went back to try to douse the flames himself. But the fire proved to be fast moving. “The smoke was too much for him,” says Scott. Plumes of thick black and white smoke could be seen across the town. The entire garage went up in flames in just a few minutes, says Scott. The chief says it wasn’t clear whether the house could be saved. There was heavy smoke throughout the one-story house and damage where firefighters got into the roof to attack the blaze. “I don’t know if the house can be saved; the insurance and restoration companies will have to be the ones to declare that.” Scott estimates about \$500,000 damage was done.

Petrolia’s building boom stalls

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Petrolia’s pandemic housing boom stalled in 2022. Building permit figures provided by Lambton County show there were only five building permits issued for new homes in 2022. That compares with 17 in 2021 and 25 in the first year of the pandemic. County says the five homes built in 2022 were valued at \$3 million. That’s an average of about \$610,000 each. It’s also a far cry from 2021, when more permits were issued and the cost of housing increased significantly. In 2021, the county says the 17 new homes were valued at \$14.8 million. One of the issues driving the slump is the lack of land ready to develop. In 2021, developer Bob Leaper said all the available lots were now spoken for with few left to be built on. At the time, he was voicing frustration over delays in getting phase four of his Countryview Estates 74-lot subdivision approved. It’s still tied up in appeals. Since then, one new subdivision is ready for development - Spectra’s Greenwood Acres with 30 lots available. In all, the county estimates there were 44 building permits worth about \$10.2 million in construction in 2022, down from 67 in 2021 with \$18.6 million in building and 75 with \$19.96 million in value in 2020.

Short term rental rules won’t be ready for summer in Plympton-Wyoming

Heather Wright  
The Independent

People who rent out their homes online in Plympton-Wyoming won’t be regulated this year. Town council hoped to have a short term rental bylaw in place before the busy summer season. But Mayor Gary Atkinson says it’s too complex of a process to rush. And, council wants to make sure they get the bylaw right the first time. Short-term rentals have been a

problem for some time in the community with Blue Point residents asking they be banned in 2020. The residents underscored the current bylaw doesn’t permit people to rent their home out unless they are also at the property. There are now 52 short term rentals in Plympton-Wyoming listed on various websites with about 24 along the lakeshore. That’s where the issues are the greatest, where partiers rent a house, clogging the local streets and making noise late into the

night. Complicating the issue is the fact some of the homes for rent are now owned by rental companies instead of local taxpayers. Other municipalities, including lakeshore neighbour Lambton Shores, have passed bylaws placing limits on the number of people and vehicles allowed at rental homes. Plympton-Wyoming Planner Sarah Baldwin has been looking at those bylaws include licensing of the homes and needed additional

staff to deal with complaints. Council, and Atkinson, originally wanted a local bylaw in place before the summer season, but Baldwin, in a report to council, said there simply isn’t enough time to do it right. She says trying to get regulations in place by the summer “will result in a rushed program that will be more costly to implement and have a higher chance of being appealed” in the courts. Baldwin suggested consulting with residents including seasonal cottagers in May and June since

they would be significantly impacted. Council agreed with the plan, knowing it would mean another year without regulation. Atkinson says its the right thing to do. “I just don’t want to rush into this and try to throw something out there, then we find out maybe that’s not what we needed,” he says. “I know we as council were, hopeful of having something in place by summer, this is going to take a little longer.”



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# PW names temporary emergency coordinator

*Appointments come as PW chief on leave*

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

Lambton’s emergency management coordinator is taking on some extra duties in the wake of the leave of one Plympton-Wyoming’s top administrators.

Jay van Klinken, who is Lambton’s Emergency Management Coordinator, will take over the same duties in Plympton-Wyoming temporarily, according to Mayor Gary Atkinson.

The town’s Director of Emergency Services and Fire Chief, Darryl Thompson, was placed on administrative leave in mid-February with no details being released as to why he had left his position.

Thompson is also the town’s emergency management coordinator. Under provincial law, the town must have someone filling that position. So Feb. 28, council passed a bylaw naming van Klinken to the position temporarily. He’ll also chair the emergency management committee for the time being.

Drainage and Engineering Coordinator, Elizabeth Cummings and Petrolia Fire Chief Jay Arns to serve as alternates.

Plympton-Wyoming Mayor Gary Atkinson

has said little about the circumstances surrounding Thompson’s administrative leave. Sources say he will be off until at least the end of this month.

The two station fire chief in Wyoming and Camlachie are filling while Thompson is on leave, the mayor says.

Thompson’s administrative leave began at the same time as Chief Administrative Official, Carolyn Tripp, went off on sick leave. It’s not clear when she will return to work.

Atkinson says the town has not appointed an acting CAO in her absence. “Until you know, whatever happens, (town staff) they’re just in there, temporarily doing their own job like they would have been doing,” he tells The Independent.

The mayor did not want to comment on whether a human resources investigation is underway. Nor would he say when the town might release more information to the public about the two top administrators on leave.

Thompson came to Plympton-Wyoming in April 2021 from Caledon. He was hired after Steve Clemens resigned. Clemens left in October 2020 after controversies such as a video camera surveillance in the Wyoming station and the firing of three senior firefighters. Tripp came to Plympton-Wyoming shortly after she parted ways with Midland in 2016 in what she termed as a “conflict with council” at that time.

# County taxes going up four per cent

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

Lambton County taxpayers will pay four per cent more for taxes this year.

Lambton County councillors took just over an hour to review the \$264.9 million budget March 1 which features more money for social housing.

Councillors approved \$2 million to build more affordable housing in Lambton this year – that’s an increase of about \$800,000 or one per cent of the proposed tax increase.

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

Brooke-Alvinston Mayor Dave Ferguson says spending money on affordable housing will save dollars in the long term including for social services and health care.

The long-standing concern about safety at the corner of Kimball and Petrolia Line is being addressed in this budget. There have been a number of fatal accidents at the corner and in 2019, then Mayor Steve Arnold requested a roundabout be considered. But staff were not asked to do a study on the corner and for the past three budget years, it was mentioned during budget but never acted on.

St. Clair Mayor Jeff Agar – unaware a study to find a solution to the problems at the corner had not been formally requested – was frustrated with the lack of action. He wanted the county to install traffic lights at the corner in 2023.

County officials said they weren’t sure that was the right option. Instead, councillors approved \$100,000 for a study and engineering to be completed to help reduce accidents at Petrolia Line and Kimball Road.

Agar expects the construction would move forward in 2024.

Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley also wanted to add \$105,000 into the budget for Bluewater Health. That’s the same amount the Strathroy hospital receives from the county as part of a multi-year agreement to help fund equipment.

Loosley said it didn’t make sense to give money to a hospital outside the county and not to the Lambton hospitals, which had requested funding several years ago. Bluewater Health’s request – which included cash for a helipad and cancer care equipment – was put on hold although the county did contribute \$400,000 to the new helipad in 2022.

Loosley’s suggestion was turned aside, with some, like Warwick Mayor Todd Case, saying the majority of his residents use the Strathroy hospital.

Case added Bluewater Health had not made a formal budget proposal and it wasn’t the county’s practice to just give cash away without a request.

And while Petrolia’s mayor wanted to provide funding to the hospital, he wasn’t satisfied with the four per cent tax increase. Loosley asked council to reduce the amount of cash destined for savings. He suggested instead of contributing \$15.9 million to reserves this year, the county contribute \$15 million.

Loosley says at the end of the budget year, there is scheduled to be \$66 million in reserves. “When is enough, enough?”

Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley backed the call to reduce the tax increase by one per cent. “We always walk that tight rope of (funding) reserves...but this year, for most Canadians, it is about affordability...It would be a wise move on our part.”

But Treasurer Larry Palarchio cautioned the next three years are expected to be financially difficult and there are a lot of large projects – such as long term care homes and affordable housing units – which will require a large amount of the county’s money.

The majority of council heeded the treasurer’s advice, including Case who worried in the next three years, the county may have to borrow money for capital projects. “If we have to go out borrowing money at seven and eight per cent – that’s going to go to affect our bottom line, too.”

Council passed budget which will pass along a four per cent tax increase. For the average homeowner, that’s about 18 dollars more for every \$100,000 of assessment.

## Inwood

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Inwood Grocery and Catering is a must stop shop in the heart of Inwood. Owners Fred and Donna Oriet have been serving the community for 36 years providing household staples, lottery tickets, ice, pizza, propane, an ATM and more. They enjoy catering beef dinners for small and large groups. When you order a roast from Fred it will be cooked and sliced to perfection.

Fred and Donna know the majority of their patrons by name and always make time for unhurried conversation. They take interest in family ties throughout the Inwood community and keep collections of photographs, poems and memorabilia to share with customers who drop in.

Kind heartedly, Fred and Donna keep a watchful eye for the safety of children and youth in the village. They are a listening set of ears for kids who drop in with a troubled conscience or heart. Years back, they employed an 8 year-old lad who proudly and dutifully organized the pop cooler. Bottles and cans were placed with forward facing labels and moved to the cooler's front so customers could easily reach for drinks.

Donna credits the Shiloh-Inwood United church along with the Inwood Library as the glue that holds the community together. She is thankful for the ongoing kindness and support these groups provide in the community. Along with numerous other community members, Fred and Donna were saddened by the sale of the Inwood Firehall as it was host to many community events that brought people together. Many years ago, Donna co-spearheaded the formation

Fred & Donna Oriet



of a women's baseball league in Inwood. Back then, nobody kept score, nobody won trophies but rather, took pleasure in being together, having fun and meeting for potluck dinners after games.

Donna recalls the parade on Inwood's centennial anniversary, an occasion for families, businesses, firemen and community members to decorate floats and for others to line the streets as spectators. Surprisingly, that year the parade was longer than the route!

Fred and Donna work full time in their store. They still find time to serve as community volunteers. While Donna volunteers to chair and steer the planning committee for the upcoming celebration of Inwood's 150th anniversary, Fred makes plans to feed the community crowd.

Fred and Donna's hope for the community's future is to stick together and help one another through celebration, challenge and change.

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# Editorial

## Will needed to deal with homelessness

Many people have voiced the same concern as Petrolia Councillor Ross O’Hara.

“It’s a sad thing in a country that has wealthy as our country, that we have people living on the streets, even in Petrolia, we have people living on the street.”

O’Hara and his fellow councillors issued a call to the federal and provincial governments to address the increasing number of people without a place to live.

It seems odd to hear a small community raising what until just a few years ago was seen as a big city problem. But the latest statistics from Lambton County show over 250 people in the community are without a permanent home.

Some likely can’t afford the extremely high cost of rent.

Others, like some of the residents of Fairwinds Lodge or Earls court who were forced from their homes because of a fire, simply can’t find a place to live.

Another 50 or so people sleep outside each night.

Friday, Lambton opened what is called a temporary out of the cold shelter. The idea was to make sure people didn’t have to sleep outside in the winter. The problem is no one is sure how long the temporary shelter will be open.

Considering how long it can take people to find affordable housing - up to two years if they want to live in a county unit - it could be open a very long time.

The problem of homelessness isn’t temporary. There are a myriad of problems leaving people out in the cold; rising housing costs, wages that aren’t keeping pace, low social assistance payments for those in most desperate need, mental health issues, an aging population - the list can go on and on.

The letter Petrolia town council will send to federal and provincial officials asks governments work together to recognize the socio-economic problems driving people out of their homes and to do something about them.

That’s going to require the political will from both government and the public to spend the money needed lift those up who need us the most.

## 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



LOST LAMBTON FOUND PHOTO

It is the stuff urban legends are made of, but this one is true. In the 1970, a young man in Watford, acting on a dare, climbed the town’s water tower and added a new name - Labatt’s. It’s not clear if the lettering was removed immediately, however when it reached the end of its useful life in Watford, the top portion of the water tower was moved to a farm on Highway 7 - now Egremont Road - where it was used, ironically, as a grain bin.

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## TUNDRA STOPOVER



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Petrolia residents got a brief, up close view of migrating Tundra Swans. The birds breed in the remote arctic of Canada and then winter in Chesapeake Bay where they feed almost exclusively on clams that they dislodge from the mud. The swans are the highlight of late winter in Lambton County. Thousands of the bird land at the Thedford Bog, bringing tourists from miles around to get a look at the large birds. Friday, a large flock in the hundreds made a stop on agricultural land between Oil Heritage Line and First Ave in Petrolia.

## Dawn-Euphemia plans hike to cover building fee deficit

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Building permit fees are going up between six and 206 per cent in Dawn-Euphemia.

Administrator Donna Clermont told council Monday the township has been losing money on building permit fees since 2018 and those losses could be more than \$10,000 in 2023 if council doesn't increase the fees now.

Building fees, Clermont says, are supposed to cover the cost of the inspections required to make sure the work is done according to provincial standards.

Lambton County handles that work for Dawn-Euphemia. But since 2018, the amount the township pays for the inspection service is more than the building fees it collects.

In 2022, for example, the county charged Dawn-Euphemia \$32,766.15 for 442.5 hours of inspections and the mileage used to get to the site.

The township only collected \$22,981 in permit fees, leaving a shortfall of \$9,785.15.

Clermont says if there is the same level of building in 2023, the shortfall could be \$10,891.

So far, township taxpayers have footed the bill for nearly \$20,000 since 2018 because building fees have not covered the cost of inspection.

The administrator compared building fees in all of Lambton and then in the three surrounding rural municipalities of Brooke-Alvinston, Enniskillen and Oil Springs and then added 10 per cent for inflation to come to a new fee structure.

"We do like to keep our fees low to encourage development at the same time...it should really pay for itself," Clermont told council.

The biggest fee hike is for multiple housing units or apartments - that fee jumps over 200 per cent to \$5,160.

In some cases, Dawn-Euphemia's fees were only slightly cheaper than

surrounding municipalities - the building permit fee for an attached garage will go up about six per cent to \$700 for example.

New home building permits will go up about 66 per cent to \$1,640. But that's far less than the average fee of \$2,200 around Lambton.

Permits to build agricultural buildings will also go up - pole barn permits will go from \$625 to \$870 and permits for livestock barns will go from \$625 to \$1,450 if council approves the rate hikes April 3.

Councillors seemed agreeable to raising the rates to make the building permits user pay.

"Building permit fees we should not be making money off them," says Mayor Al Broad. "We should be enticing them to develop here but we should be covering costs."

The township will hold a public meeting on the fees April 3, before council votes on the bylaw to enact the increased fees.

## Residents concerned about teens 'roaming' in Florence

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad is hoping the OPP will step up patrols in Florence on Sundays.

This after members of the community voiced concern about a group of up to 25 teenagers who get together - mostly on Sundays - roaming the streets of the town.

Normally, the teens are dressed in black and this weekend, they were seen wearing black masks as well. Photos posted on social media show some of the teens climbing up on the roof of the gazebo at the community centre in Florence.

Another resident saw the crowd pushing snow into the middle of a road and planting the flags used to mark hydro and water lines.

And, one family spotted a group starting a small fire on the bridge lead-

ing into the village.

One resident suggested on social media that a neighbourhood watch group should be formed to go out and patrol the community on Sunday nights.

Administrator Donna Clermont has been fielding some of the calls of concern. She says the OPP offered to lay trespassing charges against the teens, but the only photograph of them climbing the gazebo doesn't show their faces.

"I keep telling people to call police," says Broad, who has also heard the concerns. He added often people "get a little frustrated. They call in and don't get any response." One resident watched as a group of the teens stayed in a house until the OPP left and then emerged to roam the streets again.

Broad says he would like the OPP to "go out and have an extra patrol" in the village particularly on Sundays.



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

This blurry cell phone photo shows some of the teens dressed in black climbing on the roof of a gazebo.

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## Petrolia joins call to act on homelessness

Heather Wright  
The Independent

“It’s a sad thing in a country that has wealthy as our country, that we have people living on the streets, even in Petrolia, we have people living on the street.” That from Petrolia Councillor Ross O’Hara as town council recently endorsed a call for both the federal and provincial governments to do acknowledge the problem of homelessness is more than just about housing.

Council decided to send the provincial and federal government to invest in more than just housing. “Leadership and urgent action is needed from the federal government on an emergency basis, to develop resource and implement a comprehensive plan to prevent produce, and ultimately end homelessness in Ontario. Therefore, be it resolved that the corporation of the town of petroleum called provincial government, urgently, a

acknowledge that homelessness Ontario is a social economic and health crisis, be committed to ending homelessness in Ontario,” says the letter the town will be sending to the upper levels of government. O’Hara added; “It breaks my heart to think that people have to live in the cold, sleep in the cold. But I don’t think that the provincial government can solve all the problems. I think it comes back to maybe municipal, all kinds of places that have to get in there and help out to solve this problem, because I just can’t believe it’s happening in our community and the province of Ontario.” Meantime Lambton opened a new temporary out of the cold shelter Friday just as another snowstorm hit the area. It has 26 beds and is run by the Inn of the Good Shepherd. Lambton County officials will also be on hand to help people find more permanent housing. It’s not clear how long the shelter, at a former Presbyterian church in Sarnia, will be open.

## More single family homes in Alvinston subdivision

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston residents will get another look at a plan for the first subdivision in the community in decades and it looks a bit different than was first expected. When Steve and Deb Durham of Norwich requested 12 acres of land in the Broadway/Lisgar area of Alvinston be rezoned, they had planned to build 19 single family homes, 30 semi detached homes and 20 townhouses in the area. At the time, Lambton planners had concerns, including the entrance to the subdivision would be very close to the neighbours’ homes. Planners said those issues could be resolved as the Durhams submit a plan of subdivision. Some neighbours were not pleased with the plan. Several, including Susan Upshall, wrote letters. Upshall who lives beside the proposed entrance says the development will “transform a quiet, naturalized pretty

spot into a barren, busy thoroughfare – precisely the urbanization and commotion I moved to Alvinston to avoid.” March 16, the township will have a public meeting for the draft plan of subdivision. The public notice says the development now consists of 32 single family home lots, 14 lots for semi-detached homes and two blocks of land for future multiple attached dwellings. Mayor Dave Ferguson recently told The Independent he expects the housing will move ahead despite the slowdown in the housing market. “If you look at the housing need, across Ontario, it’s still needed.,” he says while the higher priced homes may not be built as quickly, more affordable homes are still selling. It’s not clear when the development might start to take shape but when it does, it will be the first major development since about 20 homes were built in the Broadway Street area.

## Knife held to teen’s throat at Corunna post office

Heather Wright  
The Independent

A report from Lambton OPP is revealing for the first time some serious crimes involving teens in the region. In a report to the Lambton Group Police Services Board, the school resources officer outlines major incidents with young people in late 2022. In Corunna in November, a 16 year-old girl called police saying a man in all black wearing a ski mask pulled a knife on her at the post office. Police got a description of the man and found a 15 year-old down the street. The teen was arrested and police search found a brass knuckle folding knife. He was charged with assault with a weapon and possession of a dangerous weapon and then released to his mother to appear in court later. In Forest, a woman called OPP saying her 15 year-old son, who lived with a family

friend, threatened to come to the house, smash her car and then go to his father’s home and shoot him in the head. The school resources officer says the teen was arrested without incident and was released to his grandfather. The OPP also discussed safety planning with the teen’s parents. And in December, the report says a teen boy in Brooke-Alvinston was talking with a woman on social media. She convinced him to sending photos of him “flexing his abs and his groin area” while he was clothed. The teen sent the photos and then discovered that it was a male behind the request. He then started extorting money from the teen. Police say the teen sent \$476 in iTunes gift cards and etransfers before calling police. The officer, in his report to the police board, says the teen called police to make them aware of the incident. Police were not able to get information about the suspect.

## FIRE CASH



PHOTO CREDIT

Enbridge Gas is helping the Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire Department purchase firefighting training materials to supplement existing training for Ontario volunteer fire departments in the communities where Enbridge Gas operates. Pictured accepting the \$5,000 from Enbridge are Petrolia Councillor Chad Hyatt, Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley, Fire Chief Jay Arns, Enniskillen Township Deputy Mayor Judy Krall and Enniskillen Mayor Kevin Marriott. Hyatt and Krall are members of the fire board.

## US Border guards stop migrants near Walpole

US Border Patrol agents arrested five people who were being smuggled from Canada into the US near Walpole Island. Officials say around 10:30 pm Feb. 20, remote video surveillance saw a boat on the St. Clair River near Algonac cross the international border near “a known smuggling route.” US Border Patrol agents from Marysville found five people near where the vessel was observed heading towards the shoreline. Officials say the five admitted to having just crossed the border from Canada, by boat. Two migrants were completely drenched and shivering due to the frigid temperature after they had fallen into the river while climbing out of the boat. They were given blankets and dry clothes. The five, two people from India, and the others from Nigeria, Mexico and the Dominican Republic, were taken into custody and are being processed for US immigration violations. The migrant from the DR is also facing prosecution for re-entering the US after being removed from the country due to a drug trafficking charge. “The smuggler tried to take advantage of darkness and freezing temperatures to mask his criminal activity. Bad people will go to great lengths to avoid arrest, placing themselves and others in danger,” said Chief Patrol Agent Robert Danley.

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# Petrolia/Enniskillen fire agreement questioned

**Blake Ellis**  
Local Journalism Initiative

Enniskillen may spend 10 per cent more on fire protection in 2023.

But at least one municipal councillor says the township is paying more than its fair share for the Petrolia/North Enniskillen department.

Council reviewed the fire budget March 6. Clerk/Treasurer Duncan McTavish is recommending council raise increase spending from \$500,000 to \$550,000 to allow the municipality build up its reserves in preparation for more equipment and vehicle replacements in the coming years.

Enniskillen contributes to two fire budgets. At the Enniskillen/Oil Springs department, the township will be paying \$18,180 more in 2023 contributing \$131,703 to the cost of running the department.

The township is also drawing over \$402,000 from reserves to pay for its portion of a pumper truck in Oil Springs delivered in January.

This year, Enniskillen will pay \$70,800 for capital projects at the Petrolia/North Enniskillen department. The department is hoping to build an accessible washroom with showers on the ground floor of the fire hall.

Councillor Wally Van Dun, one of the township's representatives on the fire board, says four years ago the washroom was expected to cost \$30,000. The estimated cost has now doubled. Van Dun says if the tender turns out to be more than \$60,000, its likely the fire committee will scrap the plan for now.

While the capital costs are on the low side this year, McTavish says a big ask is on the

way.

McTavish said the Petrolia Fire Chief Jay Arns at the Feb. 28 meeting also argued for the purchase of a \$1.3 million combined tanker-pumper. The current pumper truck is slated for replacement in 2025.

The committee asked him to put his idea in writing for its review.

With a deficit of between \$48,000 and \$72,000 anticipated in the fire department reserves at the end of 2023, due to capital expenditures approved by both departments, council agreed to add another \$50,000 to the fire budget to place into reserves.

Meantime, Councillor Judy Krall, who is the chair of the fire board in Petrolia/North Enniskillen, says the cost sharing agreement with Petrolia should be reviewed.

Right now, Enniskillen pays 40 per cent of all costs at the department but Krall's calculations show over the past eight years, Enniskillen generates between 23 and 32 per cent of the fire calls.

In 2022, only 29 per cent of the calls originated in the township.

Krall - who has raised the issue in 2019 only to be shut down - points out Petrolia's population and tax base is growing. From 2016 to 2021, Petrolia's population grew by 271 people. Enniskillen's decreased by 29.

With 8,838 people in the two municipalities, 68 per cent of live in the town limits.

Mayor Kevin Marriott added false alarms at Lambton Meadowview Villa - which is in Enniskillen - may also be inflating the number of calls in the township.

Krall hopes to raise the issue again at the fire board to prompt a review of the cost sharing agreement.

- THE INDEPENDENT

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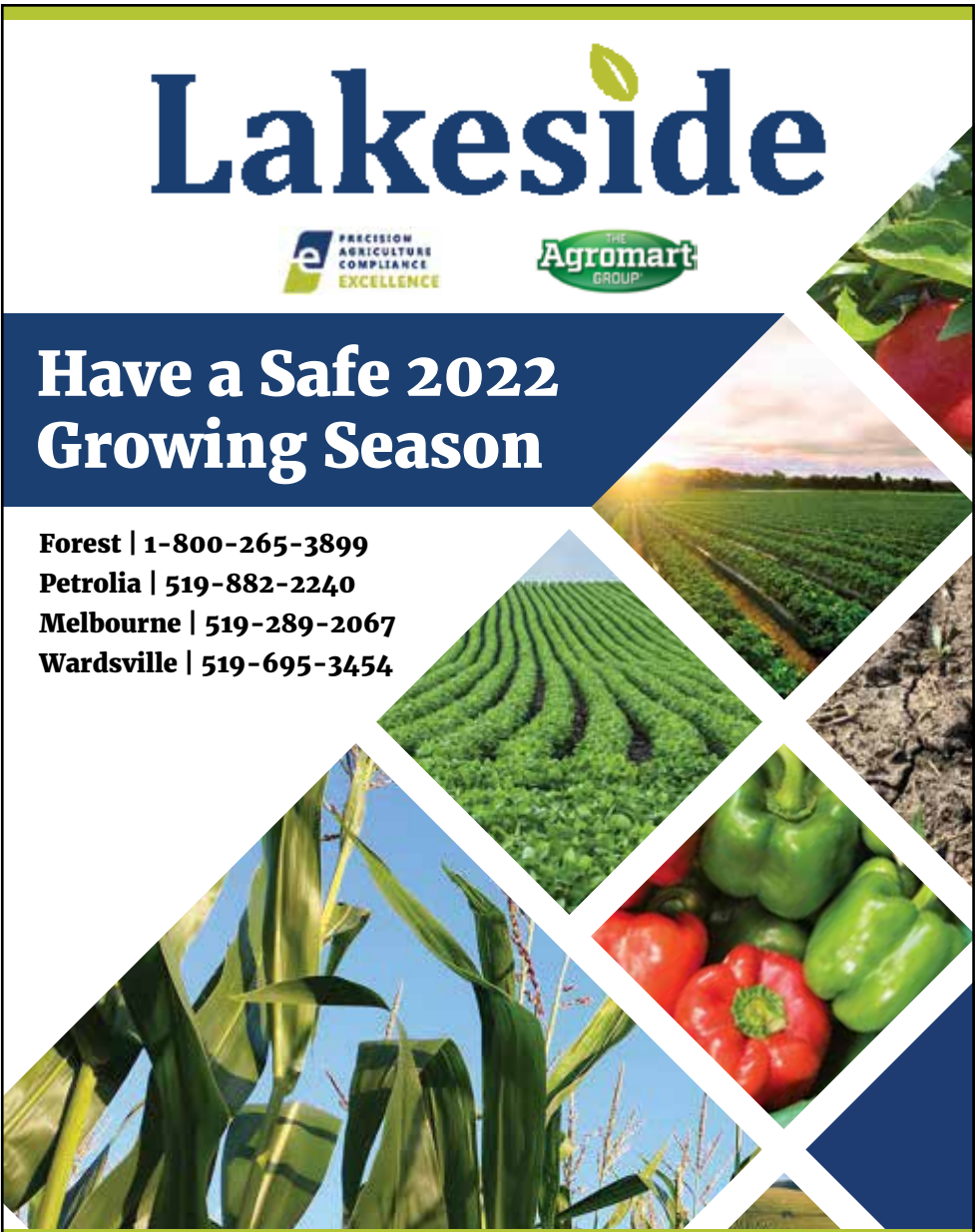
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## Canadian Agriculture Safety Week

### Plan to stay safe working alone

For most farmers in Ontario, working alone is just part of the job.

“Seventy percent of farms in Ontario are owner-operated without employees, so there’s a lot of working alone,” says Dean Anderson, Strategic Advisor for Agriculture with WSPS.

We know that working alone can raise your risk of injury. We also know that it’s the leading cause of stress in the agriculture industry. We may not be able to eliminate working alone in farming, but we can look for ways to make it safer and more productive.

For those farms that have a crew, it’s important for employers to assess and understand the work they are asking their employees to do, such as being alone in a tractor for long hours or repairing a fence alone in a remote area.

“In these cases, the owner/supervisor needs to make sure the worker feels connected while they are working. You need to check in with them and make sure that everything is going well,” says Dean. In other words, don’t send an employee off to work alone for several hours without any communication. “Communication is critical,” reminds Dean.

If you sustain an injury in an isolated location or succumb to a sudden illness with no one around to help, the situation could become critical quickly. Most of us understand the obvious physical risks. However, working long hours alone can also exacerbate one’s mental state. For those whose livelihood depends on successful harvests and other intangibles, these extended times alone are fertile ground for problems and concerns to take hold and become amplified in our minds. If working alone is unavoidable, follow these tips to do it safely.

**Six tips to work alone safely**

Complete a hazard assessment. A hazard assessment is a safety staple for any industry. Agriculture is no different. Break down the tasks that each worker will complete each day, assess the related hazards, and discuss how they will be mitigated. Review how to safely operate equipment with your workers—even if they’ve been using this type of equipment for years.

Plan for breakdowns. Test equipment

to ensure it’s in good working order before someone heads out to use it on their own. If a tractor, combine, or vehicle breaks down far from others, it’s a good idea to have a contingency plan in place. For example, designate who will go out to meet the stranded worker and how they will get there. Regular communication is a key component of working alone safely.


Create a check-in schedule. Make sure someone knows when and where you are planning to work with a regular check-in schedule. For example, plan for a phone call or video chat every hour. Following a check-in schedule either confirms that everything is going well or alerts you that there’s a problem. For employers and supervisors, having a check-in schedule in place demonstrates that you are doing your due diligence to protect your workers. If you don’t have employees, have your spouse or neighbour check-in with you.

Keep your phone charged and on you. “If an incident happens and your phone is in the tractor, you likely aren’t going to be able to reach it,” says Dean. Rather than putting your phone in a bag or leaving it somewhere on the equipment you’re using, it’s better to keep it in a secure pocket that you can easily access. If something happens and you need to call for help, you’ll want to have your phone within reach.

Prepare for wildlife encounters. When you complete a hazard assessment, include the likelihood of wildlife encounters. Outline what type of animals you may come across based on your region and develop a plan for dealing with them safely. Ensure that everyone is trained on this plan and has the required tools and equipment.

Take breaks and socialize. You won’t be productive if you burn out. Breaks not only promote stretching, which helps to combat musculoskeletal disorders, but they also help keep your mental focus. Take a walk, eat a meal, or have a chat with someone. Making time to be with family or visit friends helps to maintain those important social connections, which helps to maintain positive mental health.

- WORKPLACE SAFETY AND PREVENTION SERVICES



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### Sarnia Office

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Sarnia, ON, N7T 5P5  
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Fax Line – 519-337-3995  
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### Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

## Set boundaries to keep kids safe

The farm is a great place to grow up; but it can also be full of hazards for kids.

Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting statistics show about 13 children under 15 died each year on farms between 1990 and 2008. About 44 per cent of the deaths were kids under five.

The most common causes of death were being run over by equipment, drowning or being involved in an equipment rollover.

Often, children were with parents at work on the farm.

Those are some pretty staggering numbers, but with careful planning and instruction to your children, you can keep your kids safe on the farm.

Set boundaries: When you’re looking for hazards, picture a nephew from the city coming for a visit - where are the hazards. Maybe kids under 10 should stay in the fenced yard while older children can venture a little further with the right safety talk.

Set rules for riders: Tractors or ATVs without a secured second seat shouldn’t have riders. And ATV riders should wear a helmet.

Some places are off limits: Places like grain bins or silos can be dangerous, make sure children know they’re strictly off limits as well as sheds where chemicals are stored and biohazards like manure pits and bodies of water.

For more information on keeping children safe on the farm, go to <http://www.casa-acsa.ca/en/resources/for-kids>



# Canadian Agriculture Safety Week

## Fatigue a major safety issue

**Erin Kelly**  
Canadian Agricultural Safety Association

We often hear farmers say, ‘I’ll sleep when the busy season is over.’ But that outlook, even if intended jokingly, is a slippery slope for health and safety considerations. While it’s no secret that long and tiring days go hand-in-hand with farming, that doesn’t mean becoming complacent about the implications of working while fatigued. Because ignoring the signs of fatigue can put yourself and others around you at risk. Susan Sawatzky is president and founder of In-Scope Solutions, a health and safety consulting company specializing in fatigue and stress management. She says that while sleep is vital to our health and wellness, its importance is often overlooked. “It’s interesting how much society does not recognize the importance of sleep,” Sawatzky explains. “We talk a great deal about the importance of nutrition and exercise, but we don’t often emphasize how important sleep is.” According to the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, research has shown that being awake for 17 hours is equivalent to a blood-alcohol level of 0.05, while being awake for 21 hours equals a blood-alcohol level of 0.08, the legal limit in Canada. Sawatzky notes that though fatigue is more likely to contribute to workplace impairment than drugs or alcohol, unlike drugs and alcohol, which can be measured to assess risk, it is often difficult to accurately measure fatigue in the workplace. “I personally define fatigue as an impairment in mental and physical abilities ... this is what the real risk of fatigue is,” explains Sawatzky. “Fatigue impairs our physical and mental abilities, which can then cause workplace incidents.” Fatigue tends to impact people in waves, says Sawatzky. The various stages involve impacts to alertness, emotional capabilities (becoming more frustrated and upset), mental abilities (difficulty concentrating and making decisions), and, finally, physical impacts that reduce fine and gross motor coordination. The physical implications of fatigue can also include microsleep, an unplanned brief episode of sleep that can happen anywhere – even while driving. Karleen Clark has seen first-hand the impact that fatigue can have during long hours in the field. Clark, who, along with family members, operates KCL Cattle Company, a feedlot and farming operation in southern Alberta, explains that an incident occurred on the farm last fall near the end of harvest. After finishing a field around midnight one night, the crew decided to move the equipment to be ready to start the new field in the morning. While moving a piece

of equipment, one of the workers briefly nodded off and ran into the machine in front of him. “There were no injuries, just damage to our header. It was certainly a best-case scenario when you think of farm accidents, but it definitely opened all of our eyes more to the issue of fatigue,” explains Clark, noting that if they hadn’t found a replacement header the next day, the incident could have caused delays in the middle of the busy season. While fatigue is one of the more common hazards on the farm, it’s also one of the most underestimated. A contributing factor, says Clark, is the farmer mentality to keep going until work is done, regardless of the hour. “I think it’s really hard to get farmers out of the mindset of ignoring fatigue because it’s almost ingrained in them that if even if you’re tired, you keep going because you have to get the crops off,” says Clark. “I’ve had conversations with people in farming where I’ve stressed that the delays of an incident due to fatigue can be significantly longer than a delay to take a bit of rest. Asking for a break can be hard with the farming mentality, but it’s important to take breaks when you can.” Not addressing fatigue as a safety hazard on the farm can have financial repercussions. According to the National Safety Council in the United States, fatigued workers cost employers \$1,200 to \$3,100 per employee annually in lost productivity. “Fatigue is something that all farmers need to think about more. When you think about the impact that even a small incident can have on farming operations, it’s worth taking the time to be safe and that includes addressing fatigue,” explains Clark, adding that her family’s farm will be doing more to inform workers about best practices for managing fatigue. “Harvest is responsible for a significant portion of the yearly income, so it makes sense that farmers will work late into the night to get the crops off. The issue with this, of course, is that it leads to fatigue. “What farmers need to do is proactively manage these risks as much as possible,” Sawatzky explains. “Simple solutions like taking a short 10-minute nap in the cab of a truck or tractor can go a long way toward reducing the likelihood of damaging equipment or having someone get hurt.” Other effective strategies include using caffeine appropriately, taking breaks, checking in on each other, eating healthy meals, and strategically planning work to avoid doing safety-sensitive tasks in the evening. “Talking about fatigue is an important conversation to have on any farm,” says Clark.

**CANADIAN**

# Agriculture Safety

**WEEK**

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# Canadian Agriculture Safety Week

## Mental Health; an investment in your farm

When it comes to investing in your farm, one of the first things to come to mind is likely upgrading equipment or facilities.

However, while farm equipment gets the maintenance it needs to operate properly, mental health typically does not receive the same attention. But it's important to remember that an investment in your mental health is an investment in your farm operation. Because you can't run a successful farm operation if you aren't functioning at a healthy level yourself.

That's the focus of 'Rooted in Resilience', a publication from Farm Credit Canada, which helps producers take actions to support their mental health and be better prepared to navigate all of life's experiences.

We aren't born with resilience, it is very much learned, but becoming more resilient can be empowering and offer personal growth. And producers who recognize, acknowledge, and address the pressures they face will ultimately be better equipped to take action and not only survive but also thrive in stressful times.

### Mental Health Dashboard

There's no question that life on the farm comes with all kinds of advantages and excitement, but it also often comes with stress. Unpredictable weather, heavy workloads, market fluctuations, supply chain delays, pests and diseases, and rising costs – the list of the challenges that producers face can go on and on.

The reality is that the agricultural industry will always experience highs and lows. So, while it's impossible to completely eliminate the stressors facing the industry, it is possible to prepare for them. As Dr. Amir Georges Sabongui explains in Rooted in Resilience, "We can't control what happens. We can control how it affects us."

One of the best ways to identify how stress is affecting you is by taking a self assessment of your mental wellness. Using a mental health dashboard, producers can determine their stress levels based on different colour areas:

### Green: Healthy, Optimal

- Good sleep, good appetite, and wanting to take care of your physical health
- Mentally clear with good concentration and focus
- Motivated and a good social network

### Yellow: Reacting, Stress

- Mild insomnia, unmotivated to exercise
- Easily distracted, avoidance, excessive worry
- Irritability, impulsiveness, discouraged

### Orange: Injured, Burnout

- Moderate insomnia, drinking too much alcohol, binge eating
- Inability to concentrate, impaired decision-making, always negative
- Anger, anxiety, overwhelmed, avoiding social situations

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- Constantly sleeping or no sleep at all, excessive drinking, always sick
  - Impaired judgment, paralyzed decision-making
  - Apathy, hopelessness/helplessness, isolating from friends and family
- If you notice any red lights in your

self-assessment, it's best to seek professional or clinical support.

### Multi-Generation Farms

Another important topic addressed in Rooted in Resilience is the intertwining of family matters and business on the farm.

One of the unique aspects about life on the farm is how common it is to have three or four generations on one farm. Each generation brings different perspectives, values, and mental and physical capacities to the family and farm business. While those differences can be advantageous to the farm operation, multiple generations on one farm can also lead to complications when roles, finances, and transition plans are unclear.

The issue of transitioning the farm business can often be a challenging and stressful process. There are a lot of emotions at play when it comes to transition planning, so using a third party can make it easier to have open discussions about the farm, personal values, and financials. Keep in mind that alleviating ambiguity and guesswork is crucial for reducing stress, so make sure everything is documented.

"It's all about trying to find the balance between focusing on the health of the family and the business," says FCC business advisor Annessa Good.

A few other tips for multi-generation farm families include:

- Listen to others' perspectives without judgment.
- Respect individual physical and mental capabilities.
- Write down family and operating agreements.
- Make positive, healthy changes together as a family.

### Reaching Out and Reaching In

Rooted in Resilience notes that while stress and anxiety are high among farmers, they rarely reach out for help when they need it most.

In fact, a 2021 survey of farmer mental health found that 20 per cent of farmers reported moderate to severe anxiety disorders, which is significantly higher than the general Canadian population. And 76 per cent of farmers surveyed experienced moderate or high stress.

However, finding support is easier than coping with burnout while running a farm business. If you need help, don't hesitate to reach out to friends, family, or professionals. If you're unsure where to start looking for help, contact 211, which is available in every Canadian province and territory to help find local mental health supports.

And if you suspect that someone is struggling, take the time to ask them if they're okay – it may not be the easiest conversation, but it can make a huge difference and be the starting point that person needs. An angry reaction isn't uncommon and is an avoidance coping behaviour. But it's better to have someone angry with you for caring than to regret not reaching out to them.

healthy farm.

To download a copy of Rooted in Resilience, please visit [fcc-fac.ca/wellness](https://fcc-fac.ca/wellness).

- BY THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL SAFETY ASSOCIATION



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## FARM SAFETY

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# Canadian Agriculture Safety Week

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### Canadian Agriculture Safety Week

March 12-18 is Canadian Agricultural Safety Week. Farmers, farm families, farm workers, and farming communities are encouraged to show how they commit to farm safety everyday. Canadian Agricultural Safety Week is an annual public initiative delivered by the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association to raise awareness about the importance of farm safety.

This year's theme, Safety is Our Promise, is part of the three-year safety campaign "Your Farm, Your Family, Your Success."

In 2023, organizers are focusing on practical safety advice and inspiring conversations about farm safety while highlighting the reasons safety is essential for the sustainability of farming operations. "We all know that farm accidents can have devastating and far-reaching consequences," says Andrea Lear, CASAs Chief Executive Officer. "Fortunately, many on-farm incidents are preventable. That's why we want to ensure Canadian producers have the resources they need to keep their farms and ranches safe for everyone to live, work, and visit."



## THINK AHEAD FOR SAFETY

### SIX SAFETY TIPS FOR WORKING ALONE

- ✓ Review how to safely operate equipment with your workers—even if they've been using it for years.
- ✓ Plan for breakdowns. Test equipment to ensure it's in good working order. If a tractor does break down, designate who will go out to meet the stranded worker and how they will get there. Regular communication is a key component of working alone safely.
- ✓ Make sure someone knows when and where you are planning to work with a regular check-in schedule for your workers. If you don't have employees, have your spouse or neighbour check-in with you.
- ✓ Keep your phone charged and on you in a secure pocket that you can easily access.
- ✓ Prepare for wildlife encounters. Outline the animals you may come across and develop a plan for dealing with them safely.
- ✓ Take breaks and socialize. You won't be productive if you burn out. Breaks not only promote stretching, they also help keep your mental focus. Take a walk, eat a meal, or have a chat with someone. It's also great for your mental health.



Lambton Farm Safety Association

LFA  
LAMBTON FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE  
[lambtonfederation.ca](https://lambtonfederation.ca)



# Canadian Agriculture Safety Week

## Preventing deadly tractor rollovers and runovers

Tractors are essential to farm productivity and are a regular sight on rural roadways during the spring planting and fall harvest seasons. But while tractors are vital for completing many farm tasks, using these machines is a hazardous activity that people often overlook. In fact, tractor rollovers and runovers are the leading causes of agriculture fatalities.

According to the latest Canadian Agriculture Injury Reporting data, between 2011 and 2020, there were 91 agriculture fatalities due to machine rollovers and 90 deaths caused by machine runovers. In fact, over one-third of all agriculture-related fatalities in Canada were due to three machine-related causes: runovers, rollovers, and being pinned or struck by a machine component.

While those figures can be startling, the good news is that rollovers and runovers are easy to prevent if basic safety practices are followed. Below are safety best practices that will help prevent rollovers and runovers from occurring.

### General Tractor Operation

- Always use a tractor equipped with a rollover protective structure (ROPS) and seatbelt. If a tractor doesn't have these, have it retrofitted. While ROPS and seatbelts won't prevent a rollover from occurring, they are effective in preventing serious injuries or death.
- Never use a homemade structure if your machinery needs to be retrofitted with a ROPS.
- Keep in mind that a sun canopy does not provide rollover protection and should not be used in place of a ROPS.
- Before getting into the tractor, do a pre-operational inspection by walking around it to check for obstructions and bystanders and to check the general condition of the machine. If any systems are faulty, do not use the machinery.
- When coming to a stop, make sure you are parked on even ground and disengage the PTO (if attached).
- Remember that tractors are

not intended to be passenger vehicles. Except for machines with instructional seats, tractors are built for only one person to operate. Passengers can interfere with safe operation of the machinery and be at risk of serious injury

- Always drive at a speed appropriate for the machinery and conditions.
- Keep tractors and other farm machinery well-maintained, paying particular attention to electrical and braking systems. Remember to also occasionally check seat belts and ROPS for signs of wear that could compromise safety.

**Backward Rollovers**

- Do not hitch a load above the tractor drawbar.
- When starting to drive forward, do so slowly and be prepared to cut power quickly if the front end begins to rise. Remember to change speeds gradually.
- Use front-end counterweights to increase stability when raising heavy equipment on the back.
- Always drive around ditches, never across them.
- Do not drive forward up a hill or backward down one. It's safest to back up a slope and drive down one.
- Tractors are prone to tipping when the wheels are stuck, so back out or have the tractor towed out by another machine if you become stuck.
- Keep loaded front-end buckets low to the ground during transport.

**Sideways Rollovers**

- Never drive close to an incline, embankment, or ditch and avoid large obstacles (like tree stumps), depressions, and uneven terrain.
- Watch your speed when turning – driving too fast when making a turn can easily cause a rollover.
- When loaded with side-mounted implements, keep them on the uphill side.
- Before travelling at higher speeds, lock the brake pedals together to ensure even brake pressure.
- Never carry a load that is too heavy for the machine, and always travel at speed appropriate for the load.



Tractors are essential, but they're also the main source of accidents.

- If a tractor's right front tire goes off the road, do not turn the wheel sharply to get it back on the road. Instead, hold steady and slowly ease the tire back on the road.
- When going downhill, use engine braking.

### Runovers

- Before starting the tractor, ensure all controls are in the neutral position and the parking brake is applied.
  - Never start the tractor or operate any controls from anywhere other than the seat.
  - After coming to a stop, place all controls in the neutral position, apply the parking brake, and then turn off the engine.
  - Do not dismount a tractor if it is still moving.
  - Avoid parking a tractor on a hill. If parking on a slope is absolutely necessary, ensure no one works in the tractor's path.
- While there's no denying that tractor rollovers and runovers can have serious and even deadly consequences, they are preventable. And fortunately, implementing safety measures on the farm doesn't have to be complicated. Following basic safety precautions while using tractors and other farm machinery can help ensure everyone on the farm stays safe.

To find more farm safety tips, visit [agsafetyweek.ca](https://agsafetyweek.ca).

- FROM THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL SAFETY

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# Sports

## Landon brings home LCCVI’s first swim medals

Heather Wright  
The Independent

LCCVI’s Darius Landon says swimming for the first time at the provincial high school championship was stressful until he hit the water. The Grade 11 student took home two medals - silver Senior Boys 50m free Feb. 28 and bronze in the 100m individual medley at the OFSAA swim meet in Windsor at the International Aquatic Centre March 1. It’s the first time a Lancer has medalled in a OFSAA swim meet. Landon has some experience in competitive swimming. Before the pandemic, he and his brother were part of the Sarnia Rapids swim team for three years, getting up at 5:30 am twice a week to practice and spending Saturdays at the pool. But when the team finally got back to practice, the Landon brothers were not interested in going back to competitive swimming.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Darius Landon brought home LCCVI’s first OFSAA swimming medals.

morning, I was ranked third. It was super stressful because there are all these 12 graders with these guys so much faster than me,” he says. The first heat, “the one guy beside me, he beat me by a lot. So I was like, really nervous. I’m like, ‘Oh my gosh, I’m like, am I even gonna get like top eight or anything?’” Landon went into the 50m freestyle final ranked fourth. “It’s thrilling, but like, also, super nervous just to be like standing up there with all those people watching you ... but once you dive in the water, everything, like, your mind just goes clear. And it’s just like, just go finish the race.” When he touched the wall and looked up, Landon found he’d placed second - just eight-one hundredths of a second from the gold medalist. “I took my goggles off I looked up at the clock that had all the times and I’m just like, ‘oh my gosh, no way I just got second. Like this is crazy.” The teen admits he had a what if moment - ‘what if I had just stretched a little more’ - but says the winner was a “super nice guy” who “deserved to

win.” Landon was ranked seventh going into the Individual Medley on the second day of competition, so he wasn’t feeling as much pressure. And he came out of the pool with a bronze. He also managed to cut two or three seconds off his best time in the race. Since his big wins at OFSAA, Landon’s parents have suggested that he might want to return to competitive swimming. But he’s content to continue with the LCCVI team for now. And Landon’s hopeful when he heads to college, he might be able to join the swim team there. Along with Landon at the provincial championship were several other Lancers. Carson Love of the Lancers competed in the Senior Boys’ 100 m freestyle placing 37. Love and Landon, along with teammates Hunter Kedwell and Yarko Zelenehut placed 23rd over all in the Senior Boys’ Free Relay. The Junior Girls team of Elizabeth Kuykendall, Madailynne Henderson, Danielle McKay and Marnie Sawyer placed 27th in the 200 m medley.

## Petrolia Flyers face the Bulldogs in first round of playoffs

The Independent

The Petrolia Flyers now know their opponent for the PJHL’s Yeck Division quarter finals. They’ll take on the regular season division champion Mt. Brydges Bulldogs. The Dogs secured first place with a 4-2 win over North Middlesex

on Monday in Parkhill. The first-place showdown was rescheduled after being postponed due to inclement weather last Friday. The Flyers will host the opener on Thursday with the rest of the first round schedule yet to be determined. Game time for game one at Greenwood is 7:30. Mt. Brydges

finished first atop the Yeck Division regular season standings with a record of 29-7-4. Petrolia, coming off back-to-back losses to Port Stanley and Dorchester last week, finished in eighth place with a mark of 10-26-4. The Bulldogs won all five games between the teams this season, including twice in Petrolia.

## Flags, Blades in repeat first round playoff matchup

The Independent

The Mooretown Flags are hoping history repeats itself as they open PJHL Stobbs Division playoffs in Blenheim Thursday. The Flags disposed of the Blades in five games in the first round of the postseason last year.

Blenheim finished fourth in the regular season standings during the 2022-23 campaign with a mark of 24-14-4. Mooretown was fifth at 21-19-1. Their postponed game Friday in Lakeshore due to inclement weather was not rescheduled because it had no bearing on the final regular season

standings. The Blades won four of six games with Mooretown during the regular season with five of the six games decided by one goal. Game two in the series is Saturday night at the Moore Sports Complex at 7:30 with the third game back in Blenheim on Sunday night at 7.

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		4		8		6		
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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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The LCCVI Lancers win the girls hockey SWOSSA final 4-1 over L'Essor Tuesday.

# Lady Lancers heading to OFSSA

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The LCCVI Lancers are SWOSSA girls hockey champions. They defeated L'Essor 4-1 to take the title Tuesday afternoon. Ella Jackson and Toni Gunton both had a goal and an assist to lead the Lancers. Lizzie Swain started off the scoring with Gunton assisting. Dayna Robbins netted the second with a helper from Jackson. Gunton

stormed the net for the third and Alex Salaris and Gracie Harse had the assists. Jackson rounded out the scoring with an assist from Tessa Jackson and Dayna Robbins. Riane McEachern was in net for the win. The Lancers advanced to the SWOSSA final after a decisive win in the Lambton-Kent final. Swain scored twice to lead LCCVI to a 5-1 win over North Lambton. The Lancers now gear up for OFSSA. It's in Stratford March 21 to 23.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Ally Scotchmer of the North Lambton Eagles looks back to see Lizzie Swain's first goal hit the back of the net. The Eagle goalie faced 43 shots during the Lambton-Kent final March 2.

# Boys play in SWOSSA

The Independent

The Greenwood Recreation Centre is expected to be jumping Wednesday as the LCCVI Boys' Hockey team takes on Belle River for the SWOSSA championship. The Lancers North Lambton 4-2 March 1 at the Greenwood Recreation Centre. It's the second year in a row the Lancers claimed the title. Belle River advanced by beating Essex 5-3 Monday to set up the final. The SWOSSA final starts at one and it's expected most of the students at LC-CVI will be on hand for the action. The Lancers drum line will also be in the house to cheer the boys on.



The Lancers defeated North Lambton 4-2 to gain a berth in the SWOSSA championship. Game time is 1 pm. There will be a \$5 admission charge for the public with the proceeds going to LC-CVI Athletics.

# 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)  
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# Charlotte's Corner

- ADVERTORIAL -




## Petrolia Health Partners Recognized in Lifesaving Efforts

Staff and physicians at Petrolia's Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital of Bluewater Health appreciated a special visit last month from Waylon Saunders and his family (pictured here) – who came with coffee and timbits to thank staff for their lifesaving efforts. Petrolia staff have coined Waylon as their “strongest patient” and were so grateful for the visit. CEEH Emergency Room staff, along with our Petrolia health and first response partners, have been recognized over the past month as working tirelessly to save Waylon, who had a near-death experience on January 24.

Waylon's story is an inspiring example of how our community comes together in times of need, delivering on our collective promise to high quality rural healthcare delivery. We are so proud of our emergency room staff for their dedication and lifesaving efforts, as well as those of our partners, including: Dr. Taylor, Central Lambton Family Health Team physicians, Lambton EMS, Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire, Lambton OPP, and London Health Sciences Centre.

Our continued thoughts and prayers go out to Waylon and his family. There are a number of community events in support of Waylon and his



**Waylon Saunders and his family**

family, including a family-friendly musical this Saturday, March 11, at Victoria Hall in Petrolia. For more information, and to reserve your seat, email [chameleonsforwaylon@gmail.com](mailto:chameleonsforwaylon@gmail.com)

#PetroliaProud



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  
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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 TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

ARE LOOKING FOR A

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FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE

**ALL application forms** must be submitted by **noon on Thursday, March 23rd, 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.

- **COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (C.I.P.) COMMITTEE (1 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC)**

The C.I.P. Committee is responsible for receiving applications under the Community Improvement Plan (ie. facade improvements, murals, etc.) and making recommendations to Council.

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  
Heather Willemsse, Deputy Clerk, at hwillmse@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**

Help Wanted

THE PETROLIA FAIR BOARD

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5	3	2	1	7	8	4	9	6
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Coming Events



Shiloh-Inwood United Church

Invites everyone to attend

**Euchre Card Party**

**Tuesday, March 28 @ 7 pm**

Inwood United Church

Fundraiser for: Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Light Lunch - 3211 Inwood Rd, Inwood

Oil Springs Optimists'

Meat Bingo

**Thurs., Mar. 16 @ 7pm**

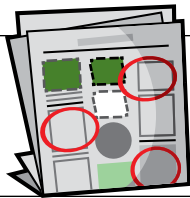
at the Oil Springs Youth Centre

To Enter and Play, you must be 18+ years of age

All proceeds go to local youth



Classified Deadline:  
Monday @ 12 noon



# Classifieds

Obituaries / Death Notices

**PENFOUND**  
**Claire**  
**Claire Penfound, of Petrolia** passed away at C.E.E. Hospital on **Thursday, March 2, 2023 in 89th year.** Claire was the loved husband to the late Katy (nee Quinn)(2014). He was the loved father to the late Karen (2007) (Eric) Tugwood, Sharon (Rick) Hughes, Ron (Peggy) Penfound, Mark (Brenda) Penfound, Steve Penfound, and Patti (Bob) Mackesy. He will be missed by his grandchildren William, Tanya, Brittany, Jordan, Breanne, Theresa, Chrissy, Todd, Joey, Ashley, Bryan, Shannon, Tyson, Kayla, Mike, Katy, Chris, and Jesse, and her many great grandchildren. Claire was predeceased by his parents Robert (1993) and Viola (1999) and his brother Robert (2007). Claire was retired from Polysar after 40 years as Lab Tech. **A private graveside will be in Hillsdale Cemetery.** As expressions memorial donations may be made to the Parkinson's Canada ([www.parkinsons.ca](http://www.parkinsons.ca)). **Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home [www.needhamjay.com](http://www.needhamjay.com).**



**KERBY**  
**Wendy Jane**  
**September 13, 1948 - January 29, 2023**

**Wendy** passed away peacefully with her sister by her side on **January 29, 2023** at the Ruddy-Shenkman Hospice in Kanata (Ottawa), Ontario following a four year journey with breast cancer. Wendy was passionate about her career in nursing, especially her years spent in clinical cancer research around the world, and in her time spent travelling with family and friends.  
Born in Petrolia, Ontario and residing for many years in Ottawa, Ontario, Wendy is survived by her sister Brenda (John) DeJong, her cousins Mary Jane Gallivan, Susan (Per) Von-Bulow-Gallivan, Shari (Ralph & Shannon) Duross, Tim (Edel & Claire, Casey, Kate) Gallivan, Adam (Meaghan) Hargraves, Elise (C.J. & Elliot) Rowbotham, Kevin (Shannon & Ethan,Tyler) Kerby, Kelly (Alex, Nick & Samantha) Gregory, and Aunt Marianne Kerby as well as Lois Heiber and her family. Additional recognition and thanks go to Wendy's wonderful neighbours Raya and Krista for their caring and kind support.  
Wendy was predeceased by her parents Jack (2016) and Ruth (1991) Kerby.  
**No service at her request, a private internment has taken place.**  
Donations in Wendy's memory may be made to the Ruddy-Shenkman Hospice in Kanata, Ontario: via [www.hospicecareottawa.ca](http://www.hospicecareottawa.ca) or to the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation via <https://www.ottawa-cancer.ca/donation/> . She received exceptional care at the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre and in her final days at hospice.



**McKay**  
**Velda Elizabeth**  
**Velda Elizabeth McKay** sadly passed away surrounded by her loving family on **Thursday March 2, 2023** at North Lambton Lodge in Forest, Ontario **in her 95th year.**  
Velda is survived by her loving nieces Marilyn (Jonathan) Robinson, Barb Bartholomew, Linda (Don) Levesque and Nephew Glen Magee. She is fondly remembered by her great-nephew Chris (Kristy) Ravell and great-niece Amanda (Scott) Robertson and grand-nieces Meagan and Shae Ravell and grand-nephew Fletcher Robertson.  
She is pre-deceased by her parents Joseph and Violet (nee' Lucas) McKay and her dear sister Dorothy Magee and nephew Larry Bartholomew.  
Velda was a long-time member of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, and The Rebecca's.  
**A visitation for Velda was held on Tuesday March 7th from 1-2pm at DENNING'S OF WATFORD. A Celebration of life will followed at 2pm. Interment will follow at St. James Cemetery, Watford, ON.**  
In memory of Velda, donations may be made to North Lambton Lodge or St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Forest ON.

**■ 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.

**MOORE**  
**George "Sonny"**  
**On February 28 2023,** surrounded by his family, **George "Sonny" Moore** passed away peacefully after calling Lambton Meadowview Villa his home for 4 years. He was **in his 90th year.** Sonny was a loving husband to Connie (nee Parker)(first wife of the late Larry Williams) Moore for 36 years. A proud and loving step-father to Michael Williams, Jason (Nicole) Williams, and Allison (Derrick) Preiss. An extremely proud and loving grandfather (Papa) who will be dearly missed by his 5 grandchildren; Morgan and Hayden Williams, Logan Williams, Nolan and Macie Preiss.

A proud brother-in-law to Anne and Dave George, Rob and Paula Parker, Tim and Penny Parker, Scott Parker, Paul and Ginny Williams, Cathy and Pete Doyle.  
Fondly remembered as Uncle Sonny by many nieces and nephews as well as great nieces and nephews.  
Predeceased by his parents, George and Mary, his brothers Reginald, and Gerald and his sisters, Rosa, Grace, Peggy and Joyce - all from the Campbellford, Peterborough area.  
Sonny was a veteran who served his country with pride while stationed in Europe, Egypt and Northern Canada as a peacekeeper and an Engineer with the Canadian Armed Forces. After serving, he worked as an Electrician and was hired by the Ministry of Transportation, helping to design the "Golden Mile" and HWY 40.  
He thoroughly enjoyed golfing, fishing, and travelling with his friends and family and holding hands with his love. Sonny graced the people he loved with an unrelenting sense of humour. His integrity and raw genuine nature permeated everyone he met. He was undeniably, a "one of a kind" individual, who will be deeply missed by all.  
**A Celebration of Sonny's Life will take place on Friday, March 10, 2023 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 216 Petrolia. Cremation has taken place with a private burial to be held at a later date at Resurrection Cemetery.**  
As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Lambton Meadowview Auxiliary. (<https://www.lambtoncares.ca/donate/support-us/>)

"Gone fishing" • "Till the end of time"



**HULL**  
**Hazel**  
It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Hazel Hull** on **Sunday March 5, 2023** at Fiddick's Nursing Home, Petrolia at the age of **93.** Beloved wife and best friend of the late William "Bill" Hull. Loving mother of Randy (Margaret), Lanny (Brenda). Cherished grandmother of Emmie (Leslie), Scott (Brandy), Brad (Jenna), Adam (Katieland) and Amy (Jeff) Poaps. Special great grandmother to Blake, Will, Hailey, Elliott, Cameron, Milah, Miller, Remy, Amelia, Austin, Alex, Michael and Carter. Dear sister of Lorne and Stew Mitchell. Predeceased by parents Charles and Emily Mitchell and by her siblings Kathleen, Wilford and Lyle. Hazel will be missed by many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends. **Family and friends will be received on Monday, March 20, 2023 from 10 to 11am at Steadman Brothers Funeral Home, Brigden with a service to follow at 11am.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Oil Springs United Church, Heart and Stroke Foundation or C.E.E Hospital Foundation. Memories and condolences may be sent online at [www.steadmanbrothers.ca](http://www.steadmanbrothers.ca). **Steadman Brothers 519-864-1193.**

**In Memory**  
**BRYDGES**  
In loving memory of **Pearl Brydges** who passed away **March 12, 2004.**  
*19 years have come and gone,  
Our love for you helps keep us strong.  
Not a day goes by that you aren't missed,  
We long to hold you and hug you for one more kiss.*  
**Forever in our hearts and minds  
Bob and Family**

**Celebrations**  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**  
**Alex MacKellar (Budda)**  
**March 10, 1932**  
Love, Maxine  
David & Annette  
Adam, Katie, Michael, Conner & Duncan  
Paul, Sarah, Thomas & Ivy  
Jacob, Annie  
Darlene, Dave & Derrick  
**91 YEARS YOUNG!**



**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)

**A FAMILY-FRIENDLY MUSICAL SPECTACULAR!**  
**Emilio's**  
**A MILLION CHAMELEONS**  
**CO-CREATED BY BYRON LAVIOLETTE**  
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**FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF WAYLON!**  
**SATURDAY MARCH 11**  
**SHOWTIMES: 11:00AM & 2:00PM**  
**VICTORIA HALL**  
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**In Memory**  
**DAVE BRAND**  
**June 22, 1939 – March 9, 2018** *Missing You!*  
God looked around his garden  
And found an empty place.  
He then looked down upon the earth  
And saw your troubled face!  
He put His arms around you  
And lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be Beautiful,  
He always takes the Best.  
He saw the road was getting rough  
And the hills were hard to climb.  
So He closed your weary eyelids  
And whispered "Peace Be Thine."  
It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you did not go alone,  
For part of us went with you  
The day God called you home.





# Killer Bees hunt for first playoff win

The Independent

The Alvinston Killer Bees find themselves down two games to none in their Western Ontario Super Hockey League quarter-final series after a 5-1 loss to Elora in Fergus.

Game three is on the road Friday night.

Tye Johnson had the lone goal for Alvinston. Nolan DeKoning made 34 saves against Elora who tallied three times with the man advantage. The Rocks came back from a three-goal deficit to beat the Bees, 5-4 last Saturday in Alvinston. Tyler Winqvist scored twice and added an assist for the Killer Bees. Bayly Fryfogle and Brandon Ritchie had the others. Cam Welch registered three assists. DeKoning made



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Cameron Rombouts battles in front of the net during the Killer Bees first playoff game Saturday. The Bees need a win this week to keep the playoff drive alive.

32 saves. If the Bees are able to extend the series on Friday, the fourth game is scheduled for Alvinston on Saturday at 6:30.

# Jaques scores as Rockets look for playoff win

The Independent

Petrolia's Andrew Jaques scored twice for the Strathroy Rockets but the St. Marys Lincolns prevailed 5-4 in overtime to open their GOJHL quarter final playoff affair. The Lincolns subsequently

beat the Rockets, 4-1 in game two Monday. The third game was scheduled for Tuesday in Strathroy but the score was not available prior to our weekly press time. Game four will be played in St. Marys on Thursday.

Oil Springs' William Hull is

also on the Rockets roster. Meantime, the Sarnia Legionnaires found themselves down 3-0 to Leamington heading into a fourth game Tuesday at the Pat Stapleton Arena in Sarnia. The score was not available prior to our press time.

# Lambton Jr Sting one win from OHL Cup play

The Independent

The Lambton Jr. Sting can advance to the OHL Cup with a victory Wednesday against the Sun County Panthers in Leamington.

Lambton leads the Alliance U16 AAA first round series,

four points to two. The four first round series victors will move on to the prestigious final.

Petrolia's Roen Douglas had the overtime winner to open the series March 2 and Petrolia's Isaac Truman added a goal and an assist.

Sombra's Caleb Rosseel had

two goals and Douglas had two assists in Lambton's 5-4 win Sunday.

Watford's Blake Verberne was the winning goaltender. If a fifth game is necessary, it'll be played on Saturday afternoon at Sarnia's Progressive Auto Sales Arena at 2:30.

# OHL's Haight signs contract with Minnesota Wild

Hunter Haight has signed an entry-level contract with the NHL's Minnesota Wild. The Wild drafted Haight in the second round last summer. The 18 year-old is averaging

better than a point per game with the Saginaw Spirit since being acquired by the Barrie Colts three months ago. He has 16 goals and 41 points in 36 games with the Michigan

club.

Haight's father, Steve is from Camlachie and played with both the Petrolia Jets and Sarnia Bees in the early 1990's.

# Shaw just two seconds from top ten U20 finish

LCCVI's Charlie Shaw continues to make his mark in track and field.

Shaw placed 22nd of 91 competitors in the U20 800

metre final at the Athletics Ontario U16 and U20 Indoor Track and Field Championships last weekend in Toronto.

His time of 2:02.20 was just

over two seconds off a top ten finish.

Shaw was also 28th of 77 finishers in the 1500 metre final in a time of 4:13.31.

# NEW CANADIAN RECORD



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

Krista Duchene set a new Canadian record for women 45 years of age and older with her 19th place finish at the Tokyo Marathon. The Brooke-Alvinston native finished the race is 2:38.53 breaking the previous age group national record by more than a minute-and-a-half. Her last sub 2:40 race was in Berlin in 2019. In a social media post, Duchene says this was "the race of my life, the brightest and most incredibly satisfying experience of my athletic career" saying after the 22nd marathon she believed she "mastered the event... Everything about it, and the events leading up to and around it, was perfect. Absolutely perfect." Duchene says she was blessed to work with gifted professionals and trainers and never wavered in her desire to win. "I've experienced incredible joy in this marathon pursuit and didn't once lack the motivation to work at something I loved and had fun doing." Duchene, a graduate of Brooke Central Public School and LCCVI, has now competed in all six majors on the world marathon circuit. The same can now be said of Plympton-Wyoming's Wes Harding on the men's side after his participation in Japan. He achieved the goal he first set a decade ago by participating in marathons in Chicago, Boston, New York, London, Berlin and Tokyo.

# College play for Petrolia pitcher

Brett Hecimovich made his junior college pitching debut with the Kankakee Community College Cavaliers. The Wyoming Wrangler, Sarnia Braves and Great Lake Canadians grad faced nine batters over 2.1 innings. He struck out three and did allow a walk. The

right hander gave up two hits and an earned run. The Chicago-area Cavaliers are coming off a 43-17 campaign in 2022. Their regular season continue through early May.

The Cavaliers were NJCAA Division II champions in 2017.



Brett Hecimovich

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