

ALL STAR SHOT



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

The All-Stars of the Future were displaying their skills at the The Wallaceburg Memorial Arena Sunday at the Shamrock Hockey League All Star Showcase. The Under 11 division players were put through their paces with a skills competition, where their speed and shot accuracy were measured. Players were divided into teams and played a game. Players in the U11, U13 and U15 divisions participated. Among some of our local players who participated included youth from Petrolia, Mooretown, East Lambton and Dresden.

Retired St. Clair chief, PW CAO top local Sunshine list

Heather Wright
The Independent

A Lambton County fire chief who didn’t work a day in 2022 made the Sunshine list. And some of Lambton’s top administrators in municipal government again got double-digit pay increases. The provincial government released the Sunshine List Friday and the number of people in Lambton on the public accountability list has grown. Since 1996, the provincial government requires all government agencies to release the salaries of publicly paid staff who make

more than \$100,000. There are 266,903 people on the public payroll in Ontario who made the list, 22,000 more than last year. The health care sector saw a large increase with thousands of nurses crossing the \$100,000 threshold this year. About 65,510 educators are also on the list. The list has grown in local municipalities with 13 ‘Sunshine Employees’ in St. Clair, seven in Plympton-Wyoming, four in Petrolia, two in Dawn-Euphemia and two in Warwick Township. John Rodey, the CAO in St. Clair Township is the highest paid municipal employee in Lambton with a salary of \$195,701.33

salary and just over \$1,000 in benefits. That’s a 10.4 per cent increase over 2021, where he made about \$177,000 plus benefits. His salary went up 17.2 per cent in 2021. Carolyn Tripp, the CAO in Plympton-Wyoming, received the largest double digit increase of administrators in 2022. Tripp, who is currently on sick leave, was paid \$178,293.87 in 2022 an 11.2 per cent increase over 2021. Her pay went up 10 per cent in 2021. Petrolia’s CAO, Rick Charlebois, is also on the list making \$159,601.99 in 2022.

SEE SUNSHINE LIST PG 2

Parents want Petrolia to start child care center

Heather Wright
The Independent

“It is time that this government shows up for you and your kids. We are asking for municipal run daycare now.” That from Jenna Simpson, one of the members of the Petrolia Childcare Advocacy Group which is appealing to the town to start a municipally run daycare. Young parents and their parents packed the Petrolia council chambers Monday to demand something be done to ease the two year-plus long waiting lists for day care and after school care in the community. The need for day care is great across the country. The Petrolia advocacy group estimates there are about 340 children who are of day care age in the Town of Petrolia and 85 spaces. Young families told councillors how they applied for day care in licenced programs as soon as they found out they were expecting, but still didn’t have a spot by the time the child was born and the parental leave was over. And while it is a big issue for the parents, Simpson says it is also a problem for the community.

“How can we expect nurses to show up when their kids have been on the wait list at Generations Day care for four years. The person who makes your Subway sandwich at lunch needs day care. The person who responds to your EMS call needs day care. The PSW looking after your loved one at the long term care home needs day care. This is critical social and economic infrastructure,” she told council. “Petrolia is a growing municipality, attracting remote workers and others from around the province. There isn’t a more important reason for families to choose another municipality,” she added. “If we can’t ensure the health and well being of this community’s children, we will lose out even more than we are now. It’s great that we have the water treatment capacity but we can’t support parents and children adequately right now.”

SEE CHILD CARE PG 2

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STUFFING THE BUS



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Natalie Bourne and Nathan Beaulieu load the bus one final time on Sunday afternoon during the Petrolia Leos' Stuff the Bus fundraiser before it was taken to the Petrolia Food Bank. Leos members helped bagged groceries at Heidi's Your Independent Grocer in Petrolia throughout the weekend while encouraging customers to donate to the food bank. The club collected \$2,700 in food donations for the Petrolia Food Bank, along with some cash donations. The club has been organizing its stuff the bus event for the Petrolia Food Bank for over 10 years. The Leos is the junior club of the Petrolia Lions Club. It has 10 members and is for youth between the ages of 13 and 18 years of age.

Sunshine List includes retired fire chief, college president

CON'T FROM PG 1

Charlebois - who also holds the role of treasurer - received just \$2,140 more than 2021, a 1.3 per cent increase. He's one of four Petrolia employees on the list. Director of Operations, Mike Thompson, is on the list for a second year with a salary of \$103,162.10 - about a one per cent increase over 2021. New to the public disclosure list are Clerk Mandi Pearson with a salary of \$ 101,965.48 and Fire Chief Jay Arns with a salary of \$100,939.38. Arns' Plympton-Wyoming counterpart also made the public disclosure list. Chief Darryl Thompson - who is currently on an administrative leave for undisclosed reasons - made \$105,426.88. Current fire officials in St. Clair Township also made the Sunshine List. Two deputy chiefs make \$101,830.87.

The 2022 Sunshine List also includes retired St. Clair Chief Walt Anderson. It says Anderson made \$100,640.92 plus benefits. Anderson retired Sept. 29, 2021 after St. Clair Township investigated comments he made on social media promoting violence in the federal election. Users on Twitter flagged the personal account of Anderson under a *National Post* story about protestors following the Prime Minister around on the campaign trail. There were widely condemned photos depicting the hanging of Justin Trudeau. Under the post, Anderson's feed said "Time for Canadians to stand up if that means violence so be it." The township launched an investigation, but then Mayor Steve Arnold said Anderson had been "impersonated" online. Anderson had warned his followers he'd been hacked. His social media accounts were scrubbed but screenshots of posts



A screenshot from former St. Clair Fire Chief Walt Anderson's Twitter feed prior to his retirement.

he promoted circulated, comparing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to Adolf Hitler and Karl Marx. After an in camera discussion with St. Clair council, Anderson retired. But the details of that retirement were never made public. From the information on the Sunshine List, it appears the municipal government continued to pay the former chief for at least a year and a half. Other notable Public Disclosure Act facts, Warwick Township CAO Amanda Gubbels' salary topped \$130,705.12; that's up 10.7 per cent in 2022. She received a 17.2 per cent increase in 2021. In 2021, there were three Warwick employees on the list, there were just two in 2022 - Gubbels and Treasurer/Deputy CAO Trevor Jarrett. Dawn-Euphemia had two employees on the list for the first time, the CAO and the Public Works Manager, who made about \$1,000 more than the CAO in 2022 - about \$106,000.

St. Clair Township had the most municipal employees on the list with 13 including all the top administrators and several department heads. The salaries of those on the Sunshine List total nearly \$1.6 million. Lambton County has 136 people on the Sunshine List. The now retired CAO, Ron VanHorne, was the top earner with a salary of \$245,593. The deputy CAO, Stephane Thiffault, who is now the CAO, earned about \$219,000. And Corrine Nauta, manager of building services, received \$200,436 in 2022. Also on the list is Mark Perrin - the head of Tourism Sarnia Lambton - who made \$109,840. Former Lambton College CEO Judy Morris also made the 2022 Sunshine List despite retiring in 2021. She received \$252,171 while the current president Rob Kardas was paid \$264,439. There were 132 Lambton College employees on the list. Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Monte McNaughton was paid \$165,851.04 in 2022, because of his role as the Minister of Labour. Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey was paid \$146,538.73 as a parliamentary assistant. Former Bluewater Health CAO Mike Lapaine made \$319,546 in salary and \$10,469 in benefits. That hasn't changed since 2020. There were 217 Bluewater Health employees on the list, including a number of registered nurses. There has been much discussion whether the \$100,000 salary mark is still relevant considering inflation since 1996 - \$100,000 then is about \$166,630 today. At full-time hours, workers in Ontario who make minimum wage of \$15.50 per hour make \$31,000 per year. About 11 per cent of Lambton County workers make over \$100,000.

Municipal day care needed

CON'T FROM PG 1

There is more childcare options on the way. A new federal/provincial program will create 541 new day care spaces in Lambton - 67 are slated for Petrolia and Wyoming. County officials say they will focusing on licensing home day care providers since the province is offering only \$90 per square foot to build new child care centres when the going construction rate is up to \$400 per square foot. But that didn't sit well with the advocacy group. "Registered licensed home daycare isn't good enough. We deserve childcare free of household hazards," she said pointing out that a recent near drowning occurred at a home day care. But even with those 541 spaces only a quarter of the children will be able to find licenced day care. The advocacy group urged council to consider a municipal centre like one in Goderich. While it ran a deficit of over \$460,000 in 2022, the group says parents are willing to pay more just to have safe spaces for children. "Affordability is a barrier for some, availability is a barrier for everyone," said Simpson. Shalen Hunter added some parents have said they'd be willing to pay up to \$70 per day for care. The federal target is \$10 per day. Council asked Petrolia staff to gather information about the Goderich municipal day care centre. Council did not make a commitment to move ahead with a facility.



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WM plans natural gas facility

Heather Wright
The Independent

Waste Management is hoping convert all the methane produced at its Twin Creeks landfill into natural gas.

And at least one Warwick politician would like to see some of it come to his community.

In 2009, the Watford area landfill became one of the largest landfills in the province. Since then, 1.4 million tons of waste from across the province is hauled to the site.

Waste Management officials, who were at a special Warwick Council meeting Monday to explain the Renewable Natural Gas project, say the landfill now has about 8.4 years of life. The company is also in the process of expanding the landfill by building up.

But it the company also wants build a 300 by 400 foot Renewable Natural Gas facility on site to power its own municipal collection trucks and to feed into a new Enbridge pipeline which is in the works.

John McDonald, WM senior district manager, says the project will not only provide fuel for the company, it will take methane out of the environment.

“The landfill gas is produced and collected at the landfill currently, but it is flared off at the present time,” McDonald told council. “A portion of the gas that’s collected goes to the 40 acre greenhouse (next to the Watford landfill) for heating purposes for them. It is our intention to develop a renewable natural gas plant at the landfill to utilize that gas that’s coming out of the landfill itself and will be connected directly to a natural gas transmission line that is being constructed.”

Right now 60 per cent of the methane produced is burned off in the company’s flares.

“Once the once the gas is processed, then it comes out the other end and it can be used in our in our commercial fleet as natural gas to replace our current sources.”

Larry Feduc of Waste Management says the building will house all of the equipment needed to “take the landfill gas and remove a number of compounds... like oxygen, nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide, various other compounds, basically to clean it up, and almost purify it to almost pure methane if you will to make it natural gas pipeline quality.

“A number of the processes and equipment will occur inside an enclosed building... anything that’s sort of noise generating - compressors, those sorts of things - will be within the enclosed building.”

Warwick Township Mayor Todd Case says capturing the methane and producing natural gas is “way better than flaring it into the sky into the atmosphere.”

But Case added it is “rather ironic, we’re sitting here talking about producing natural gas in our community and the landfill, or which we have a partnership, and they’re going to be taking this product and they’re going to be taking it down the system when we actually need the product here in our community.

“It’s a little hard to swallow in the sense of this great project that’s going to produce this natural gas - we need in our own community.”

Case says he talked to the company about finding a way to “reroute it to be able to service our community.”

While WM didn’t comment on the possibility, officials did say they will soon be coming to township council with a site plan which will need approval.

McDonald also noted the company needs to work out a community host agreement for the RNG plant.

The host agreement Warwick has with WM has so far generated \$33 million in revenue for the township.

Waste Management is hosting a public meeting on the project Thursday at the Twin Creeks site.

It runs from 4 to 7 pm.

WAYLON ON THE DRUMS



CATHY DOBSON PHOTO

Waylon Saunders, 24, months, was too busy playing the drums to pay attention to the hoopla at the Ruster Music Hall Sunday. The venue hosted a fundraiser for the toddler who nearly drown after falling into a pool at a Petrolia day care. Waylon, and his mom, Gillian Burnett, were joined at the drums by Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley and Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley. The event for the Mooretown boy raised \$8,550 which will go to help pay for his continued medical expenses.

New St. Clair committee to look at library locations

The Independent

St. Clair Township is taking a deep dive into its libraries.

A recent Lambton County report suggested some of the community’s libraries be merged or replaced with service depots to improve services.

But Councillor Pat Brown says the municipality, which owns the buildings and contracts the service from the county, needs to examine the consultant’s report, the local library buildings and any future locations before any changes are made.

Council will form a committee to review the issue. Brown says the community services

department recently reviewed all the municipal buildings and that could be helpful.

“This is a good opportunity to do an overview of that report and where we want these libraries in the future,” he recently told council. “We could have another facility...which would potentially be a good spot for our libraries.”

Other council members suggested working with the school boards on possible locations. Councillor Cathy Langis suggested Riverview School which has empty classrooms.

“If we had one between Sombra and Port Lambton and have it open five days a week, I think more people would use it,” says Langis.

MAINTAINING YOUR MOBILITY

Being active doesn’t mean you have to be a gym addict.



Active living is important for your health and well-being, no matter what your age is, but it can be vital for older adults. Being active and mobile can help many chronic conditions that can impact you as you age.

BRISK WALKING

Walking doesn’t require any extra equipment apart from supportive shoes. Taking a walk every day is a simple and effective way to help maintain balance and strength.

STRENGTH TRAINING

Strength training can be adapted for your needs through simple exercises such as leg extensions. In a seated position, straighten out one leg, lift to a comfortable height, hold for 10 seconds and put down.

MAINTAIN YOUR MOBILITY AS YOU AGE

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Qualifications will include Grade 12 diploma, valid Class G Ontario driver’s license, ORFA Basic Refrigeration Course and 2 years’ related experience. Must possess the ability to deal with conflict effectively. Additional qualifications and experience in the areas of ORFA: Certified Ice Technician, First Aid/CPR and WHMIS, Certified Pool Operator (CPO) designation, Propane Handling Certificate and knowledge of HVAC systems considered assets.

Compensation will be in accordance with OPSEU Local 123 Collective Agreement. Only those candidates selected for interview will be contacted.

Candidates are invited to submit a resume in confidence clearly marked “Operations/Community Culture/Recreation” to hr@stclairtownship.ca until April 5, 2023.

St. Clair Township values the diversity of the people it hires and serves. Diversity at our Corporation means fostering a workplace in which individual differences are recognized, appreciated, respected and responded to in ways that fully develop and utilize each person’s talents and strengths.

Personal information submitted will be used for the sole purpose of this competition. It is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for employment purposes.

Please note this document is available in alternative formats upon request, to accommodate individuals with a disability beginning with the recruitment process. The Township of St. Clair is committed to providing accommodations for people with disabilities. If you require an accommodation, please contact the Clerk’s office and we will make all necessary arrangements to meet your needs.

The health, safety and well-being of Township of St. Clair employees is paramount, and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, additional measures have been implemented throughout the corporation to protect our employees and ensure their continued health and safety.



St. Clair Township

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Editorial

Sunshine List still valuable

Every year, when the provincial government releases the Public Salary Disclosure Act list for the year, people in the public sector are quick to point out that \$100,000 isn't what it used to be and perhaps the list is outdated.

Conservative Premier Mike Harris instituted the so-called Sunshine List in 1996 to shed light on just how much of taxpayers money was going to salaries in the public sector. At the time, a group called Public Policy Options and Harris' biographer, John Ibbitson, said the act was to purely political; "introduced to provide support for the government's desire to reduce the size of government and restrain the growth of public sector salaries."

In a 2016 article, Public Policy Option noted that had not happened.

I think its clear in 2023, as the list has grown to the largest number of public sector workers ever at 266,903 people, it's still a pipe dream.

Politicians often argue the \$100,000 mark is arbitrary and certainly isn't as much of a benchmark as it was in 1996. Inflation has made that \$100,000 about \$166,000 now.

But that still doesn't make the list irrelevant. It still does give valuable insight into government spending.

This year's list gave us a few insights into some questionable Lambton County issues - a fire chief who resigned in 2021 still being paid in 2022 despite leaving under a cloud; a president of a college who retired being paid a full year's salary a year after retirement; and administrators getting 10 per cent or more wage increases.

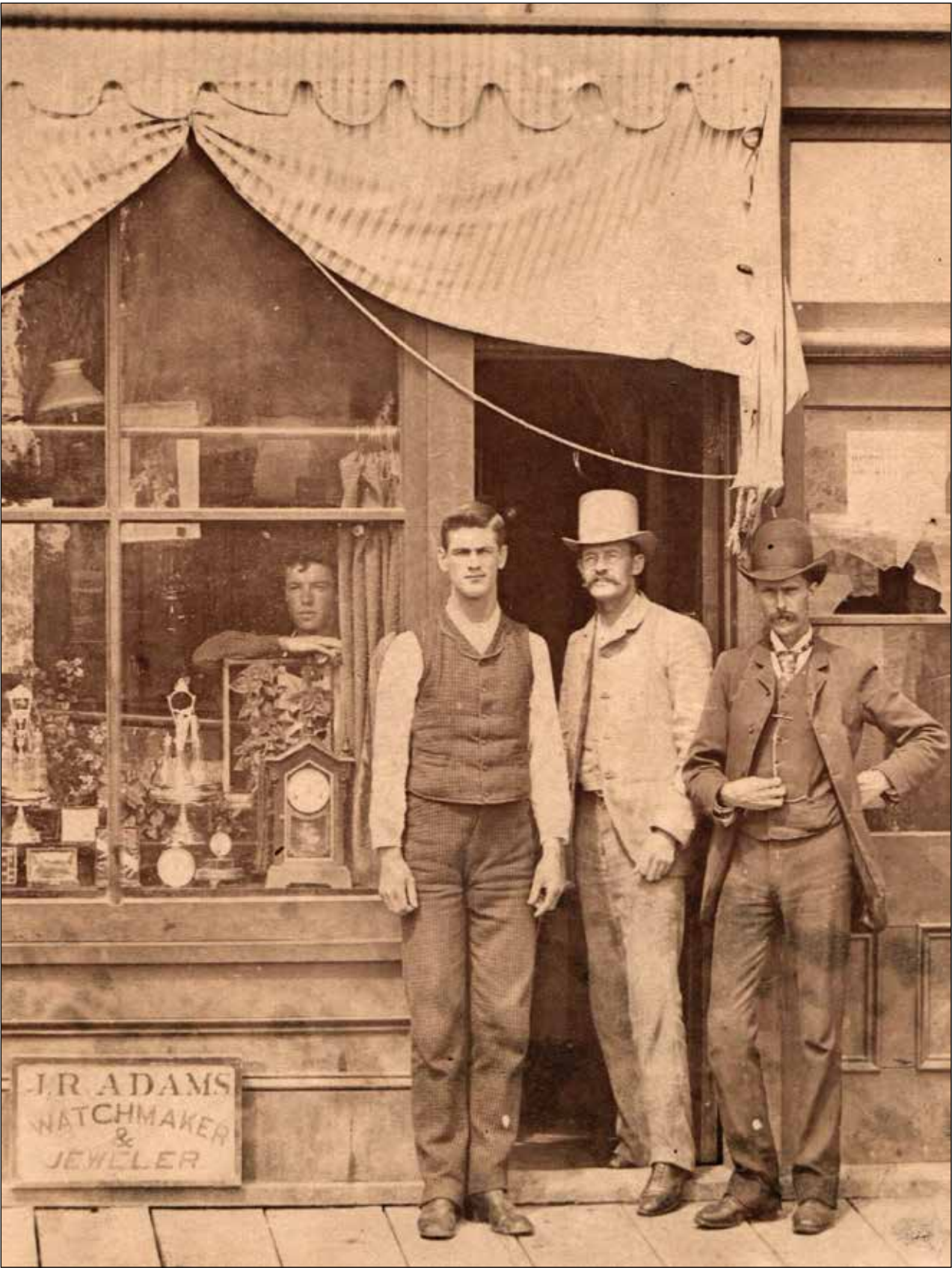
And it also shows us unheralded events, like a hospital CAO who makes a hefty salary and obviously appreciates the fact he is financially blessed so he doesn't take a wage increase in the last two years of his work life.

And even if the intent of the Sunshine List has never been realized and the \$100,000 salary has lost its luster, it is always valuable for taxpayers to be able to see how their money is being spent.

Letters to the Editor

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



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POST CARD COLLECTION

This turn-of-the-century photograph is from Brigden where JR Adams was the watchmaker and jeweler in town. The photograph was an advertisement for his main street business. It was taken by Brigden photographer R. Ruston.

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Opinion

Camper decries new deck rules

EDITOR’S NOTE: *This is an open letter to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors:*

I am writing this email in response to the new rules for decks and sheds Greg Wilcox has brought up before the board of directors. I have got legal advice on this matter.

I bought two trailers in the park in the last two years and both had decks already built. I asked before I purchased if they were approved and was give the ok .

The lawyer suggested that common sense would be the right play here. I showed him the newspaper clip where Mr. Wilcox admitted the rules had been overlooked for a long time, he also thought that (Dawn-Euphemia Mayor) Al Broad’s suggestion was fair.

He said the seasonal campers can not be punished for the camp oversight.

My lawyer also said if you want to go to court we can, but that will only cost everyone thousands of dollars. And, with the admission in the paper, the case won’t go far and the park could possible be held responsible for some of the cost of tear down or repairs.

I am not against the rules, but how would you, as directors, like it if the shoe was on the other foot and you were told it was ok for 10, 15, even 20 years it was ok, then all of a sudden someone comes along that should have been doing their job for years and tries to back date everything to cover shortcoming.

Greg (Wilcox) wrote in the report to you that insurance was a concern but each site carries \$1 million liability on each site and build permits.

I looked it up and as long as (it is) not attached and is under 200 square feet and floating, I don’t need permit.

My opinion on this is if the decks are an eyesore (or) unsafe, make (the owners take) them down.

Just because you have a little bit of power, it is not fair to make campers that have been in the park some for 25 years, myself four years now take down their decks. I have a handicap and can not do the work or afford to do changes just because you screwed up, I am requesting the board take another look at this and do the fair thing and not make us pay for the park’s shortcomings.

Gordon McAuslan
Inwood, ON

No one injured in fire

Heather Wright
The Independent

Brooke Fire Service Chief Steve Knight says the cause of a fire on Petrolia Line will likely never be determined.

Around 10 pm March 22, firefighters from Brooke, Watford and Petrolia/North Enniskillen were called to the home between Little Ireland Road and Old Walnut Road.

Knight says flames were coming through the front windows when he arrived.

The chief says the fire spread quickly. “There was

a little bit of wind and lots of fuel,” he says adding the home is a total loss.

One person lived in the two-storey house. He wasn’t there are the time but pulled into the driveway as fire crews arrived.

Knight says the exact cause of the blaze won’t be determined. “He was doing some renovations but there is so much damage after these fires it is the hardest part of the job to find the cause,” says Knight.

He added the large loss fire was not suspicious.

No one was injured in the blaze.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Brooke Fire Service Chief Steve Knight says it will be difficult to determine the cause of the Petrolia Line fire because of the extensive damage in the centre of the home where it likely started.

Lambton hard hit by ‘Grandparent Scam’ calls

Heather Wright
The Independent

The OPP is urging families to talk to their elderly loved ones about ‘The Grandparent’s Scam’ as the number of people losing money soars.

West Region OPP say the number of seniors sending cash to people they believe are their grandchildren has increased 220 per cent in one year with 348 incidents being investigated in 2022.

OPP Const. Erin Fraser of the Serious Fraud and Anti-Rackets office says last year alone, scammers stole \$9.2 million from seniors across the country – about \$5.4 million of that was in Ontario. In 2021, the OPP reported about \$2.4 million was stolen through the Grandparent Scam.

Essex County had the highest number

of incidents followed by Lambton and Oxford County.

Det. Const. John Armit says “different (criminal) groups are seeing how lucrative it is and they’re jumping in.”

Karen Piatt Westbrook of the Older Adult Centres Association of Ontario says the scam is pervasive. She was speaking to a colleague who told her he’d called his own grandfather just to check in and found out he was headed to the bank to get \$5,000 after falling victim to the phone scammers.

“We hear about this type of occurrence quite often and the seniors say ‘I never thought this could happen to me,’” says Piatt-Westbrook. “It leaves people feeling isolated, victimized and embarrassed.”

Often, she says, the elderly won’t tell their family they’ve lost money

because they fear losing their independence when family finds they’ve been duped.

The OPP estimates only five per cent of the scams are ever reported to police.

Piatt-Westbrook pleaded with the elderly to come forward. “Make sure you talk to your family members right away...if you don’t feel comfortable talking with the police, call someone you trust.”

Det. Const. Armit added seniors need to know the scammers always make the situation seem urgent. But he says, they should “pause and call your relatives – and feel free to hang up on (the scammers.)

“We can’t arrest our way out of cyber crime,” says Armit. “We have to work together to get this information out there.”

Enniskillen upping the ante, offering more scholarships

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

From famine to feast. Enniskillen will be giving out three scholarships this year. This is after it

had no applications at its Feb. 21 meeting and councillors expressed concern no one would apply for the yearly award.

After an article in this paper, seven applications were submitted.

•THE INDEPENDENT

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Petrolia splashpad one step closer

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia will be paying for the new splashpad at the Oil Heritage Centre under a new agreement which sees the Petrolia Kiwanis Club donate money toward the project.

In July 2021, the newly formed service club came to council offering to pay for a new splashpad which located near the Y.

At the time, the club asked the town to foot the upfront costs and offered to pay back the anticipated \$150,000 cost over the span of six years.

Dave Menzie, director of parks, recreation and facilities, presented council with an agreement where the Kiwanis signs an unsecured contribution note with the promise to donate \$150,000 to the project over

10 years.

In his report to council, Menzies says the town will pay the contractor, Open Space Solutions directly as invoiced for the manufacturing and installation of the splashpad with the Kiwanis club “reimbursing the town.”

“If the Kiwanis Club is unable to make a yearly contribution to the town, the organization will be required to provide, in person, in an open public Council meeting, an explanation and produce their yearly charitable tax returns to the town.”

Menzies says the unsecured contribution note allows the service club to look for grants where a direct loan to the club from the municipality would rule that out.

The groundwork for the splashpad is expected to occur this summer.

Composters made available in Petrolia

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia taxpayers will once again be able to get lower cost composters.

Since 1994, the Ontario government has had a law that said municipalities larger than 50,000 people had to provide composters at cost or lower to residents to encourage home composting.

At one point, there was a program, however it fell by the wayside.

While the municipal council was discussing the Maude Street transfer station, Coun-

cillor Liz Welsh brought up the regulation telling staff the town should be following it.

While the regulation doesn’t apply to a town the size of Petrolia, council authorized a program to provide the composters at cost.

The town working with the Petrolia Home Hardware will be offering the home composters at a cost of \$75.

To receive one, residents have to go to town hall between April 1 and 15 with a proof of residency and the \$75. They’ll get a voucher for the composter to be picked up at the hardware store when they arrive.

CEEH AUXILIARY BUYING CPR MACHINE




Ken Stubbs demonstrates a new heart compression machine called LUCAS. The Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital Auxiliary raising \$20,000 for the mechanical chest compression device used in resuscitation efforts. The lithium battery powered computerized unit is designed to give textbook CPR to a patient in distress. The unit was on display at the Petrolia Legion Friday night. The auxiliary plans to raise \$20,000 for the machine by June and already has \$10,000 committed including a \$4,000 donation from Shop Like Charlotte.

BIRTHDAY BOOM?




Facilitator Bryan Boyle helps Petrolia business owners discuss how they might be able to take advantage of the town’s 150th anniversary next year. The Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership hosted the event Thursday as part of an initiative to increase business in small towns.



This Month In Lambton

March 2023

f



Warden Kevin Marriott
@LambtonWarden

HHW Collection Events

The next Household Hazardous Waste Day event will be held at Clean Harbours Canada, 4090 Telfer Road, St. Clair Township from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday April 29.

Corrosive, toxic, reactive, and flammable materials will be collected and disposed of by experts, at no cost to you! These items should never be placed in a regular landfill because they have the potential to injure sanitation workers and damage our environment.

Learn more: lambtononline.ca/hhw.

LPH hosting low-cost rabies clinics

Lambton Public Health is hosting several low-cost rabies vaccination clinics in Lambton County in April and May.

These clinics are open to all cats and dogs over three months of age. Animals must be restrained, in good health, and cannot have been vaccinated against rabies within the past year. The cost is \$30 per animal, payable in cash only.

For more information, call 519-383-8331 or visit LambtonPublicHealth.ca.

Applications open for Lambton Renovates and Homeownership Program

Applications are being accepted for the Lambton Renovates and Homeownership Down-Payment Assistance Programs.

Lambton Renovates provides one-time financial assistance for home repairs. The Homeownership Down-Payment Assistance program offers one-time financial assistance in the form of a 20-year forgivable loan for a 10% down payment to be used towards the purchase of a new or resale home.


Applications and program qualification details can be found online at the following links, or by calling Housing Services at 519-344-2062.

www.lambtononline.ca/lambtonrenovates
www.lambtononline.ca/homeownership


Looking Ahead

9 a.m., April 5, 2023 – Council Meeting
8:30 a.m. & 1 p.m., April 20, 2023 – Committee A.M. & P.M. Meetings
Agendas, minutes and links to meeting live stream videos can be found at www.lambtononline.ca/meetings.

To read more, go to lambtononline.ca



Office of the County Warden
519-845-0801 | 1-866-324-6912
www.lambtononline.ca



Discoveries
That Matter

WHATCHA GOT DAD?



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

Shawn Lilley pours maple syrup on his pancakes, as he enjoyed breakfast with his three-year-old daughter Quinn, as both attended the Alvinston's Fire Fighters Association's Maple Syrup Festival on Saturday. The room was filled with families enjoying the season's sweet treat in the event which raises money for fire equipment.

Engineers vision of Alvinston arena renos studied

Heather Wright
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston residents got the first look at the next phase of plans for the Brooke-Alvinston Inwood Community Centre. The Alvinston Optimist began a project to revamp the aging arena. It raised money for an outdoor pavilion and had plans to continue inside. Before the last election, the club hoped to start raising money to refurbish the dressing rooms. But there was concern the structure couldn't handle the planned renos. So, council agreed to have new engineering drawings of for the project completed. March 23, those designs came to council and members of the Optimist Club and the local user groups got their first look. Optimist Jamie Armstrong voiced concern that the plans did not include renovations which had already been completed and that the new plans didn't reflect the design the Optimist promoted for the outdoor roof line.

Both Mayor Dave Ferguson and Clerk Administrator Janet Denkers emphasized the engineers wanted to see the original blueprints from the building and that may be why some of the interior was different.

Ferguson also stressed the Optimist



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS

Brooke-Alvinston Mayor Dave Ferguson explains new engineers drawings of the Alvinston arena to about 40 people during the March 23 council meeting. The revitalization of dressing rooms is the next phase of the project.

and the user groups have time to re-view the plans and to give suggestions for improvements that the architect will incorporate into the design.

Brooke-Alvinston agreed to pay \$15,000 toward the plans with the

Optimist raising money for the approved renovations.

Armstrong hopes with the full plan approved by council, the club will be able to access grants and set up a community fund to raise the money.

Uniquely rural experience graces Victoria Hall this weekend

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

A little bit of rural Ontario will be on the stage from March 30 to April 2 at Victoria Hall as the Petrolia Community Theatre stages Stag and Doe.

In this comedy, two couples are renting the same hall, while one is holding their stag and do while the cost of their wedding is secretly getting out of control, the other had her wedding tent blow away and was forced to share the hall. It shows the stress and the misadventure of getting married. Carol Graham of the Petrolia

Community Theatre said this is the second show the group has staged since the pandemic. While there was difficulty to fill all the roles in the group's first play, this was not a problem this time around as Stag and Doe only has six cast members, said Graham. The group has been rehearsing four times a week for the last two months.

"There is no small role," said Graham, who is sharing the director duties with Jean Simon. She calls it an ensemble as all of the actors get equal stage time.

The play was written by Mark Crawford, who hails from Glencoe,

who decided to write about stag and does, something which is generally a rural Ontario tradition to raise money for a couple before their wedding day.

Graham said the play has been performed in such places as New Zealand and Poland. Ontario references such as LCBO had to be changed to liquor store to make it understood by these international audiences, she said.

Stag and Doe will hit the stage on March 30, March 31 and April 1 at 7:30 to close with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. on April 2.

• THE INDEPENDENT

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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

Three day celebration to mark 150 years of community in Watford

Heather Wright
The Independent

Watford is marking its 150th anniversary with a three day community celebration.

A large volunteer committee has been working on events to mark the founding of the community in the centre of Warwick Township.

Watford was first settled in 1851 and was known as Brown’s Corners. It was a stagecoach stop between the Village of Warwick and Brooke Township. When the Great Western Railway built a line in the area in 1856, the settlement moved toward the railroad tracks. Watford was incorporated as a village in 1873 and was named either after Watford in England or Watford, Ireland.

The village became one of the main hubs of commerce for the East Lambton community and it was a hub of innovation as well. Watford is the birthplace of “The Maxmobile”, the first hand-made automobile in Canada. While

Henry Ford was creating the world’s first automobile in the early 1900’s, David A. Maxwell, was inventing an automobile of his own. Henry Ford was interested in developing a business partnership with Maxwell, who turned down his offer.

The historic automobile is still in existence today and on display in the Old Fire Hall Museum in Watford.

As Watford marks an economic resurgence, a three day sesquicentennial event is being planned. Joe Manning, the committee’s chair, says the opening ceremonies will be Friday, June 23 at Centennial Park. There will be children’s activities, a food and drink festival and an outdoor concert with Mudmen as the feature band.

Saturday’s events are in the downtown core and include a kids’ ball hockey tournament and community market, a strawberry social, a Legion barbecue, historical tours, street performers



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Watford residents will be celebrating 150 years of community with a three-day celebration starting June 23.

and another outdoor concert series. Manning said the committee is incorporating as much local talent as possible in the celebration.

Sunday June 25, the actual anniversary date, will close out the weekend with an antique car and tractor show, firemen’s breakfast and a dinner.

Manning says funding from the federal government and Warwick Township will make it possible to offer almost all of the events for free.

The committee has also set up a website <https://www.watford150.com> which outlines the weekend events.



PETROLIA HERITAGE PHOTO

Inwood will be marking 150 years in June. This photo from the 1920s shows the thriving main street.

Inwood plans 150th party

The Independent

The community of Inwood is marking 150 years in June.

Inwood was settled by Archibald Gardiner in 1837 who built a grist mill. The community was a part of Brooke Township which in 1996, amalgamated with Alvinston. There was a thriving downtown, but over the years only a few businesses remain in the community. The sense of community is still strong with the local church hosting monthly events to bring people together.

A group of community volunteers has formed the Inwood 150th Celebration Committee and is planning two days of fun at the community park.

Recently, Chair Donna Oriet wrote to Brooke-Alvinston council saying the celebration would be June 24 and 25 at Inwood Community Park.

The municipality agreed to let the group use the park for free for two days, made the group a committee of council so the celebration will be under the municipality’s insurance and will help promote the event by mailing out a schedule of events and advertising them on the municipality’s social media page.

Expired plate leads to charges

The Independent

An expired license plate led Lambton OPP to a drunk driver.

March 23, police patrolling in St. Clair Township when officers used new Automatic License Plate Reader technology. They found the vehicle had expired plates so they stopped it on St. Clair Boulevard to talk to the driver.

Police believed the driver had been drinking, gave a roadside test and charged the 33 year-old with two counts of impaired driving.

The man was released from custody.

Police remind drivers than while there is no fee associated with licensing your plate, you still have to register online while it is in use. You can find the registry at www.ontario.ca/page/register-vehicle-permit-and-licence-plate.

Fees return for use of Petrolia transfer station

The Independent

Petrolia gardeners who want to bring yard waste to the town transfer station will once again have to pay a fee.

Last year, the town waived the \$25

yearly pass for residents and gave up over \$6,000 in revenue. But use of the site increased by about 40 per cent.

Town councillors approved reinstating the \$25 yearly pass. Town staff noted it works out to under \$2 per visit if a gardener would take yard

waste to the station for each of the 13 dates it is open.

This year, the transfer station on Maude Street opens April 15. It will be open twice a month for every month except for July, August and November when it will be open once.

Purchase an At-Home Composter

With Partnership with Petrolia Home Hardware, Residents can purchase an at home composter for at cost!

From April 1- 15, 2023

Register and pay at Town Hall to receive your voucher. After April 15, the composters will be ordered.

Cost:

\$75

+HST

per composter

To obtain a voucher, residents must provide:

- 1 Proof of Petrolia address
- 2 Payment

Once composters are in stock, residents will be contacted. Residents will then pick up their composters with their voucher at Petrolia Home Hardware.



Sports

SLIDE TO THE PUCK



Lambton Attack's Kathleen Downes works to get the puck away from a South Huron Sabres player on Saturday in Petrolia. South Huron went on to defeat the Attack 1-0.

900 victories for Dale Hunter

Barry Wright
The Independent

Dale Hunter has become just the third coach in the history of the Ontario Hockey League to record 900 regular season victories.

The Oil Springs native reached the mark Saturday as the London Knights beat the Windsor Spitfires, 6-3. Hunter won his 901st against the Kitchener Rangers on Sunday.

Hunter is now only six victories behind Bert Templeton for second place all-time. Brian Kilrea is the leader in OHL coaching victories. He won 1,194 over his three decades plus career behind the bench for the Ottawa 67's.

With the exception of a brief stint as head coach of the NHL's Washington Capitals, Hunter has been at the helm of the Knights since the 2001-02 campaign.

Hunter and his brother, Mark, also helped lead the 2020 Canadian Junior team to gold in the World Championship.

London the playoffs against Owen Sound Friday at Budweiser Gardens.



Oil Springs' Dale Hunter waves to London Knights fans after is 900th win.

Flags on the brink in Essex

Barry Wright
The Independent

A power play and shorthanded goal in the second period by the Essex 73's broke a scoreless tie as the visitors blanked Mooretown, 3-0.

Essex added an empty net marker late in the third frame to ice the victory on Sunday before 524 fans at the Moore Sports Complex. John Chartrand stopped 35 of 37 shots directed his way in the Mooretown cage.

With the win, the 73's gained a 3-1 lead the best-of-seven divisional semifinal. Game five was Tuesday night in Essex. The score was not available at press time. If the Flags extend the series to a sixth game, it would be Friday night at the Moore Sports Complex.

Chartrand also made 35 saves in a 3-2 setback to the 73's on the road Saturday. Petrolia's Ethan Kerby scored both goals for Mooretown.

Essex won the game with a powerplay goal with just over six minutes remaining in regulation time after the Flags had battled back to tie the game erasing a 2-0 deficit.

Chartrand made 44 stops and Blake Howard had the game-winner early in the third period to give the Mooretown Flags a 2-1 win over the 73's to open the series March 21 in Essex.

It was only the second loss on home ice for the 73's this season.

Masen Flett had the other Mooretown goal. Logan Gardner assisted on both Flag markers. But Essex turned table the next night with a 2-1 win in overtime in Mooretown. Gardner had the Flags goal.

APRIL 2023 DOOR BUSTERS

Quantities are limited. While supplies last. Florence Mill

PowerZone 3-Speed, 20" Black Floor Fan
PowerZone LF-20 Floor Fan, 120 VAC, 20 inch dia. blade, 3-blade, 3-speed, 360 degree rotating, Black 0840249
\$89⁹⁹
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Reg.-\$269.99



Louisville Aluminum Step Ladder
TYP1A, 300 lb, 2 foot. 6966014
\$74⁹⁹
Reg.-\$89.99



Landscapers Select 2 pk - Spray Nozzle Set
9 pattern - 3 way Landscapers Select GN43451 + GN1945 Spray Nozzle Set. Female, plastic, yellow. 6966329
\$14⁹⁹
Reg.-\$22.99

Landscapers Select Bow Rake 16 tine, fiberglass handle, 60 inch 4083739
or
Square Point Shovel 47 inch 1730613
or
Round Point Shovel 34597 shovel with fiberglass ergonomic handle, 47 inch length 2667954
\$29⁹⁹
Reg.-\$39.99



Colorite / Swan Contractor Grade 5/8" x 11' Hose
7185804
\$84⁹⁹
Reg.-\$119.99

April 2023
DOOR BUSTERS



Mac Sports Inc Director Chair Rocker
MAC SPORTS C2161A-103 Director Rocker Chair, 24 inch OAW, 23.8 inch OAD, 34-1/2 inch OHA, Aluminum/Polyester. Red 7370471
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In Memoriam

Sherman Parr
He was more than a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.
He was the greatest earthly gift God has given our family. Held in our hearts always with gratitude and love.
Carolyn, Jason and Iris, Brent and Angela, Ken and Lauren, grand and great grandchildren.

In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.
Robert (Bob) Jardine
who passed away 30 years ago on March 30, 1993.
*Sunshine passes, shadows fall,
Our loving memories outlast all.
Cherished thoughts keep you near,
As time unfolds another year.*
*Always loved and remembered
by Dean & Family*

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Card of Thanks

HIGGINS - I would like to thank the staff and helpers at Continuing Care, for the care I got. I also want to thank the people who tasted my maple syrup and the lady who bought my syrup. Thanks again.

Doug Higgins

Special Thanks

Thank You
Words seem inadequate to express the gratitude to my family for a great birthday get together. Appreciation to family and friends for all the texts, cards and “Best Wishes”.
It certainly was an enjoyable evening.
- Joanne Dobbin

Home Gardening

Margaret Stokes Chapter
Annual PLANT SALE
• Order Deadline April 7, 2023 •
Geraniums 3/\$12 15/\$50
pink, red, salmon, white, magenta
10” Baskets \$22ea
boston fern, fuchsia, million bells
12” Mixed Patio Planter \$30ea
please specify either shade/sun
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Safe Curbside Pick Up Available
To Order
Wendy 519.882.2073 | Dawn 519.882.4919
Please no calls after 9pm

In Memory

McCALLUM
In loving memory of our father, grandfather, great grandfather
Elwood, March 29, 1998,
our mother, grandmother, great grandmother
Lucille, May 16, 1971
our sister
Lou-anne, April 12, 2017
(a mother & grandmother) and
Ron Bailey, April 7, 2022
(a father, grandfather and brother-in-law)
*Loving memories we will never forget
Sadly missed along life's way
With silent thought & deep regret
We think of you every day
No longer in our lives to share
But in our hearts you will be there.*
Forever Loved & Sadly Missed by
Gary & Judi
Sherry & Randy
Wayne & Mary Lynne
Kevin & Cheryl
Cathy & Tony
Jim & Denise
Maureen
Souzanne & Mark
and families

In Memory

McRAE, James - In loving memory of a dear husband and father and grandfather who passed away on April 2, 2001.
*You never said I'm leaving
You never said goodbye
You gone before you knew it
And only god knows why.*
Forever loved by
Wife Ann and Families

Real Estate

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Easter Service Program for
CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH PETROLIA
Palm Sunday April 2/23 10 am Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday ... April 6/23 7 pm Foot Washing & Holy Communion
Good Friday April 7/23 10:30 am **NOT IN PETROLIA**
Trinity Anglican Church - 1194 Murphy Rd., Samia (next to Tim Horton's)
Easter Sunday April 9/23 10 am Holy Communion
Everyone Welcome!

Local Events

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Rev. Dave Hewett



St. Paul's United Church

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Sundays @ 10:30 am*

Church Office: 519-882-1390
www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

Rev. Carol Ferguson

First Baptist Church

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

Pastor: Alex Craig

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email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com | website: www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca
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Death Notices

March 21 - March 27, 2023

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

DE BLAERE, Bryan Ronald
Age 44
Streadman Brothers Funeral Home

ROBICHAUD, J Allison
Age 91, of Point Edward
McCormack Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

DE BRUIN, Leendert "Len"
Age 90
Smith Funeral Home

PACKET, Eileen
Age 57, of Wyoming
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

PEARSON, Jackie
(n Kuchta)

Age 61, of Oil Springs
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

PHILIPPON, Gilberte
(n Bizier)
Age 89
Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

KNIGHT, Brad
Age 68, of Corunna
Knight Funeral Home

MITCHELL, Joanne "Jody"
(n DePelsmaeker)
Age 70, of Glencoe
Van Heck Funeral Home

TRELEAVEN, John

Age 86
McCormack Funeral Home

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

COULTHARD, Robert Alexander "Bob"
Age 89
Van Heck Funeral Home

CUGLIETTA, Alfredo "Fred"
Age 81, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

McLEAN, Linda
(n Sitlington)
Age 68, of Town
Denning's of Watford

MONDAY, MARCH 27

MANESS, Richard Carman Jr
Age 57
Smith Funeral Home

MONTEITH, Carol Mae
(n Mitchell)
Age 79
Smith Funeral Home

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

Calendar of events

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM
DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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 Subject: FREE EVENT LISTING.

CLUBS AND REGULAR EVENTS

DAY	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Mon	7p	Watford	Darts @ Watford Legion	519-876-2360
Tues	7p	Watford	Euchre @ Watford Legion	519-876-2660
Tues	7p	Petrolia	Petrolia Toastmasters @ Petrolia Lion's Hall	519-381-4910
Wed	6:30p	Oil Springs	Legion Open - cards, pool, darts - 6:30-10pm	519-834-2537
2nd Wed	7p	Petrolia	Bingo @ Petrolia Lion's Hall	519-882-8728
3rd Wed	7p	Sarnia	Monthly Meeting @ Horticultural Society	519-332-5837
3rd Thurs	7p	Oil Springs	Optimist Meat Bingo @ Youth Centre	519-834-2152
Fri	7p	Brigden	Pool Night @ Brigden Legion	519-864-1395
Fri		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	

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Apr1	8a-2p	Watford	Watford Fire Dept PANCAKE BREAKFAST @ Watford Fire Hall	
Apr1	4pm	Oil Springs	MEAT RAFFLE @ the Oil Springs Legion - 519-834-2537	
Apr1	7pm	Bridgen	CARDS @ the Brigden Legion - 519-864-1395	
Apr4	1pm	Wyoming	EUCHRE @ Wyoming Fair Building - 519-312-0578	
Apr5	7pm	Wyoming	Wyoming Lions MEAT BINGO @ Lions Hall, doors open at 6pm	
Apr7	8a-12p	Wyoming	Wyoming Lions BREAKFAST @ Lions Hall	
Apr8	4:30pm	Brigden	MEAT RAFFLE @ the Brigden Legion - 519-864-1395	
Apr11	7pm	Online	Lambton Branch Ontario Ancestors Meeting: Speaker BOB ALLE-BONE - Manitoba G.S. Membership Benefits and Resources - get link to zoom meeting at lambton.ogs.on.ca	
Apr12	7:30p	Sarnia	Sarnia Concert Association presents JAZZY VARIATIONS - Joe Trio - 519-344-7469	
Apr15	4pm	Oil Springs	MEAT RAFFLE @ the Oil Springs Legion - 519-834-2537	
Apr15	7pm	Brigden	TRIVIA @ the Brigden Legion - 519-864-1395	
Apr16-23		Online	FACEBOOK AUCTION - St Paul's United Church fundraiser - 519-312-6505 www.facebook.com/groups/908539857129026/	
Apr18	1pm	Wyoming	EUCHRE @ Wyoming Fair Building - 519-312-0578	
Apr22	4:30pm	Brigden	MEAT RAFFLE @ the Brigden Legion - 519-864-1395	
Apr24	2-3:30p	Online	Lambton County Branch, Ontario Ancestors Drop-in & Chat - Zoom Webinar - link to meeting lambton.ogs.on.ca	
Apr29	4pm	Brigden	ELIMINATION DRAW @ the Brigden Legion - 519-864-1395	
Apr30	1-3pm	Petrolia	IT'S TEA TIME @ the Petrolia Legion - 519-882-1201	
Apr30	4pm	Oil Springs	MEAT RAFFLE @ the Oil Springs Legion - 519-834-2537	

LCCVI part of the Elite Eight at provincial championships

Heather Wright
The Independent

They went up against the best and came oh so close.

Both the LCCVI Boys and Girls Hockey teams ended their OFSAA run as part of the Elite Eight – losing in the quarter finals Wednesday. Both teams played the number one seeds of their tournaments; both came heartbreakingly close to upsetting them.

In Stratford; the girls team took on St. David from Waterloo. LCCVI Coach Scott Watson says before St. David took on the Lancer, they’d been dominating their opponents.

The Lancers held them scoreless until the final frame.

“The other team was extremely fast and our girls had to make adjustments,” he tells *The Independent*. “They continued to step up their level of play every game throughout the tournament.”

“It was 0-0 after the first two periods and it seems like St. David’s was getting frustrated. Our girls kept battling.”

Watson says the only goal on the game was “scored on a questionable play where our player was taken down by a slew foot. Everyone looked at our player, theirs picked up the puck, passed it out front and scored.”

Watson says the game was

“very intense. Our girls played so well.” He added they are an “amazing group of girls” and that he’s “extremely proud. They never waiver once all tournament and showed incredible intestinal fortitude. I think our girls surprised a lot of teams in this tournament.”

The 13th ranked LCCVI Boys’ team also surprised a few people at the OFSAA tournament in St. Catharines as the Lancers kept pace with number one ranked St. Mary’s College in Sault Ste. Marie.

The Lancers battled back from a two goal deficit and made it 3-2 late in the third.

Coach Chris Edgar says

they pulled their goalie, Sean Shanahan, with a minute left in the third and had a very good chance as the puck rang off the post. St. Mary’s College capped the victory with an empty netter.

“They’re a very good team and we played them really hard,” says Edgar.

The coach said it was a tough loss, but the team proved it can play with the best.

“I can’t ask anything more of the boys,” he says, knowing that right now the loss stings. “We can look at that and say, ‘Hey, we did fit in with some of the best teams in the province.”

It was a theme OFSAA organizers emphasized during a

banquet, says Edgar, telling the teams “‘just take a moment, just to take it all in and enjoy it while you’re here, because it’s not an easy task to get here.’ So, I think we certainly made the most of that for sure.

“To get here and then see that you got a chance as the week goes on and with the games we are playing and you see what you’re up against; you’re like, ‘Oh, crap, we got a real legit chance here,’” Edgar said.

“So now it’s a little bit of a letdown, but yet in the end, we’re pretty happy with what we accomplished. We ended up in the top eight.”

Eagles looking for the Red Hats

The Independent

Teams from East Lambton are in the hunt for the Red Hats.

The Eagles’ U11 and U13 squads are going to Barrie this weekend while the U18, U13 AE and U15 AE teams will play the following weekend for their respective OMHA championships.

The two AE teams will play in Windsor and the U18 team will play in Barrie.

East Lambton Minor Hockey Association President Adam MacKellar says it is unfortunate the series won’t be in the home communities again this year.

ELMHA and others are promoting having

the championship finals returned to host communities so more fans can watch their home teams play.

But, he says having OMHA buy into going back to the future has been challenging. “I have emailed OMHA about the new tournament format,” said one social media post about the ongoing issue. “They basically said that this is what people want. Just one tournament in one city instead of driving back and forth across Ontario. They are very much out of touch with what people really want”. Another post says the tournament style is killing small town hockey and separating families over the Easter season.

Mooretown U15s advance to provincials

Ben Grant took a pass from Kyle Dupuis and scored the winning goal in overtime to lift Mooretown to a 3-2 win over East Lambton in the deciding game of their U15 OMHA qualifying series before a large crowd in Watford March 22.

Liam Lahey had made several quality saves for Mooretown before the series-

clinching goal was scored.

The Jr. Flags now advance to the OMHA Finals in Barrie on Easter weekend.

Meantime, no teams from Petrolia Minor Hockey qualified for OMHA this year but many are still involved in the Shamrock League playoffs which continue through this weekend.

The Sting and Storm face off in playoffs

The Independent

The principal players involved in the first of four major trades by the Sarnia Sting this season will meet each other in the first round of the OHL playoffs.

Sasha Pastujov of the Sting will take on Max Namestnikov of the Guelph Storm beginning Friday night at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena. Game time is 7:05 pm

Game two is Sunday afternoon, also in Sarnia, at 2:05 pm.

Sarnia won two of three games last weekend to finish the regular season in third place in the Western Conference with a record of 41-18-9.

The 41 victories tied for the third most in team history.

The Sting head into the postseason have registered points in 18 of its last 19 games

Forest Ringette Club to compete in Maritimes

Barry Wright
The Independent

Fresh off their gold medal performances at the recent provincial ringette championships in Mississauga, the Forest Xtreme U16 and U19 teams will now take their talents to the Maritimes.

The Forest squads will represent Ontario at the Eastern Canadian Ringette Championships in New Brunswick from April 20-23.

“We had some unique challenges this year

and our players worked hard and really focused on their goal of earning a gold medal at Provincials, “ said U19s head coach Tanya McKinlay.

“To achieve Team Ontario representation really reflects our love of the sport and our determination to be the best we can possibly be.”

Meantime, U16 head coach Adam McKinlay said his team has been strong and determined all season long including some challenging games to take top spot at provincials.



Notice of Public Information Centre

Town of Petrolia

Bright’s Grove WTP Intake Replacement EA

The Town of Petrolia (Town) is undertaking an Environmental Assessment (EA) Study for a new intake at the Bright’s Grove Water Treatment Plant (WTP). The existing raw intake from Lake Huron originally installed in 1944 is approaching the end of its useful service life. The Project will increase access to safe drinking water by restoring the capacity of the existing treatment plant to its rated capacity of 12,000 m³/d.

The Town is hosting a Public Information Centre (PIC) on Tuesday April 4th, 2023 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Victoria Hall, Main Lobby. The purpose of the PIC will be to introduce the study, provide background information and context and the preliminary preferred alternatives. The PIC will be a drop-in style open house format. Members of the project team will be available to answer your questions and receive your feedback.

We are interested in hearing from you about this project. Please contact either of the project team members below if you have questions or comments, wish to obtain more information on the project, or would like to be included on the Project Contact List.

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Director of Operations
Town of Petrolia
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Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0
Phone: 519-882-2350 ext. 235
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Kitchener, ON N2H 6R2
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All comments and information received from individuals, stakeholder groups and agencies regarding this project are being collected in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

“To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven”
Ecclesiastes 3:1

As of March 31st, 2023
GROGAN FORD LINCOLN will become
WATFORD FORD LINCOLN, the new owners
will be Perry Kantzas and Mark Lensink.

Larry, myself & family will be full-time at GROGAN CLASSICS,
7910 Industrial Rd., Watford, Ontario.
So, if you’re in the market for a Classic vehicle,
call 519-849-7500, we’re here for you!

Thank you

A special “thank-you” to our amazing staff and
loyal customers who have supported us over the
47 years, we appreciate you!

God Bless
Larry, Bonnie-jean & Family