

# No plans to scale down Petrolia cataract clinic

Provincial move to private clinics won't affect CEEH

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Bluewater Health officials say there are “no plans to scale down” cataract surgeries done at Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital.

There have been concerns voiced by health advocates about the fate of the surgeries in local hospitals as the province ramps up three new private clinics to clear the backlog of nearly 14,000 cataract surgeries in Ontario.

In a February letter to the editor shortly after the provincial plan was announced, Shirley Roebuck, the head of the Sarnia-Lambton Health Coalition expressed concern about the fate of the Pat Mailloux Eye Care Clinic in Petrolia.

“Presently, all of the cataract surgeries occur at CEEH of Bluewater Health. But Premier Ford is building new cataract surgery clinics, in three areas of the province: Windsor, Waterloo and Ottawa. The majority of cataract surgery will be done at those for-profit clinics.

“This will rob our local public hospitals of services and our

community of convenient surgeries performed in our home areas,” she wrote. It was a concern she raised again when talking to Lambton County Councillors April 5.

But Dr. Michel Haddad, Chief of Staff at Bluewater Health, has heard nothing about how the private clinics might affect the local eye clinic.

“If anything, actually our plans with the surgical team and our team is to do a bit more,” he tells *The Independent*.

About 15 trained staff at Pat Mailloux Eye Care Clinic perform 1,300 cataract surgeries every year, operating two days a week.

The experience, from registration, to pre op, surgery and discharge, can take 20 minutes. “It used to take much longer in the past but with changes in technology and skills, over the years, it’s become pretty efficient and fast, actually,” Haddad says.

Lambton County has one of the shortest wait times for cataract surgery in the province. “Roughly 97 per cent of all our cataract patients are done within 84 days, which is less than three months,” the chief says.

“Some centers they wait six months, nine months, we’re basically three months mark.”

The key to the speed is the process.

SEE CLINIC PG 2

## WHAT DID THE EASTER BUNNY BRING?



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Fallon Latawiec, 3, was carefully checking her Easter Eggs with her father at the annual Petrolia Lions Easter Egg Hunt at Greenwood Park Good Friday. Hundreds of children from babies to pre-teens scouted the ground for the eggs and returned the slips of paper for chocolate and prizes. See more on page 8.

# Petrolia’s mayor on leave

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley is taking a leave of absence. Council approved the three month leave at Tuesday night’s meeting. Town officials said the absence is “to deal with a medical issue” although it wasn’t clear at press time what

that issue was. The longest serving member of council, Councillor Joel Field, will serve as acting mayor until the Loosley returns.

“I’d like to wish Mayor Loosley as speedy recovery during his absence from his illness,” said Councillor Chad Hyatt who sat in for Loosley Tuesday night .

# Province wants abandoned oil well plan

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Over a year and a half after an explosion demolished two buildings and injured 20 people in Wheatley, the Ontario government is meeting with municipal leaders hoping to find ways to deal with 27,000 abandoned oil wells in the province.

Oil Springs Mayor Ian Veen and Plympton-Wyoming Gary Atkinson were among the politicians invited to a meeting in Chatham-Kent recently to talk about the abandoned wells and what the government could do. The problem is massive.

The Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Library estimates there are 3,000 active oil wells in Ontario and another

24,000 abandoned wells.

The black dots saturating OGSR Map around Oil Springs and Petrolia proves this is the heart of the early oil industry - hundreds of abandoned wells are in the area. Aside from the active historic wells owned by Fairbank Oil, Oil Springs is dotted with long forgotten wells.

SEE PROVINCE PG 2



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COMMUNITY HONOURS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Watford Optimists celebrated 50 years of serving the community by thanking people who serve the community. George and Rhonda Noll were named the Optimists’ Citizens of the Year at their banquet over the weekend which 400 people attended. The couple headed up the East Lambton Community Complex Fundraising campaign. The Optimists also recognized the founding members of the Optimist Club, Harley and Dorothy Wilcocks and Jerry and Joan Westgate.

Petrolia tries to ease day care shortage

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Petrolia hopes to make it easier for people to get into the licensed home daycare business.

The need for day care is great across the county. The Petrolia Child Care Advocacy group recently told council 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 licensed 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.

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 which is requesting the municipality operate its own daycare, like Goderich does. Even with the new child care spaces only a quarter of the children will be able to find licensed day care.

As town administrators begin discussions with municipalities which have their own day care centres, Deputy Clerk Jessica Smith, in a report slated to be heard Tuesday at council, suggested the town could help immediately by encouraging more people to become licenced home daycare providers.

“Staff is recommending council waive the \$250 Home Occupation Business Licence fee and the Petrolia portion of the fire inspection fee for a period of one year. This would apply to applicants interested in obtaining a Home Occupation Business Licence for a home-based child care operation only. It is our hope that this will

remove a barrier and provide incentive to those currently operating without a Home Occupation Business Licence to obtain one,” she wrote noting to obtain the license, operators have to have an inspection by the fire department.”

Smith also is asking council to suggest Enniskillen, which funds part of the fire department’s budget, also waive the fire inspection fees.

Smith wanted to host information sessions with Lambton Rural Child Care and Wee Watch, which licenses homecare for the Ministry of Education, so people would understand what is involved.

“Staff have begun conversations with the County of Lambton, Goderich and the Lambton Kent District School Board and will be continuing to work on our report regarding the feasibility of municipally run child care in the Town of Petrolia. Staff will report back to Council once we have had the opportunity to complete a more comprehensive report, but thought it was important to get this initiative started immediately.”

Kate Wagar, a member of the Petrolia advocacy group and a home daycare provider, is pleased to see the town move so quickly on the problem.

“Any safe licensed child care is welcomed into the community...It is absolutely a quick solution...it can be an instant fix if there are people willing to do so.

“However if there were people to do so, we wouldn’t be in this situation.”

And Wagar says the advocacy group is “putting municipally run day care at the forefront...”

“We’re working on bringing a municipal run day care to fruition.”

Wagar is optimistic after noting in the report the town has already started talking with Goderich about the possibilities.

“We are thrilled...the fact that we were so well received, is more than we can ask for,” Wagar said.

Mask mandates mostly lifted at hospitals

After three years, visitors at hospitals in Lambton County won’t have to wear a face mask.

Bluewater Health is lifting many of its mask mandates implemented to combat the spread of COVID-19 at the Sarnia and Petrolia sites. Masking is now optional for visitors in outpatient and public spaces. However, masking is strongly recommended for visitors while in a patient’s room.

The only exception to the masking modifications, is in high-risk settings like the emergency department waiting areas in Sarnia and Petrolia, and when units are in outbreak, where all staff, patients and visitors will be required to wear a mask.

Hospital staff will still be required to wear a mask while providing patient care.

Dr. Michel Haddad, the chief of staff at Bluewater Health says COVID-19 is here to stay but with high levels of vaccination and recovery from infections, it is time to lift the pandemic restrictions

“We have to plan to gradually and safely go back to normal, while we continue to focus on mitigating risk to vulnerable patients.

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# Editorial

## Changing vision of home

It is time for all of us to rethink our vision of the ideal home and it likely won't be easy.

Recently, Lambton County politicians decided they needed to look at where development can occur again because the population of the community is growing a lot faster than anticipated. At issue, at least in part, is a 500 acre section of Bright's Grove where developers are chomping at the bit to build nice big single family homes.

The city's plan to designate the land as residential hit a road block at the county. Lambton officials didn't approve it because it wasn't in the boundaries for residential growth for Bright's Grove. According to the provincial rules it couldn't be approved.

The best solution is to change the county's boundary in the area by revisiting the official plan. And by the way, there are plenty of other municipalities who want to make sure they have nice flat land available for new homes, too.

The growth is being spurred on by a provincial government bent on building 150,000 homes a year for the next ten years. That's a lofty goal considering in 2022 - when there was an unprecedented building boom - the province built nearly 97,000.

But as politicians look to win the housing race and provide much needed homes to the area, we fear their sights are set on the big tax dollars instead of affordable places for people to call home. One Petrolia politician once suggested a new development with \$500,000 townhouse would be affordable housing leading us to ask affordable to whom?

The fact is fewer people are able to afford single family homes.

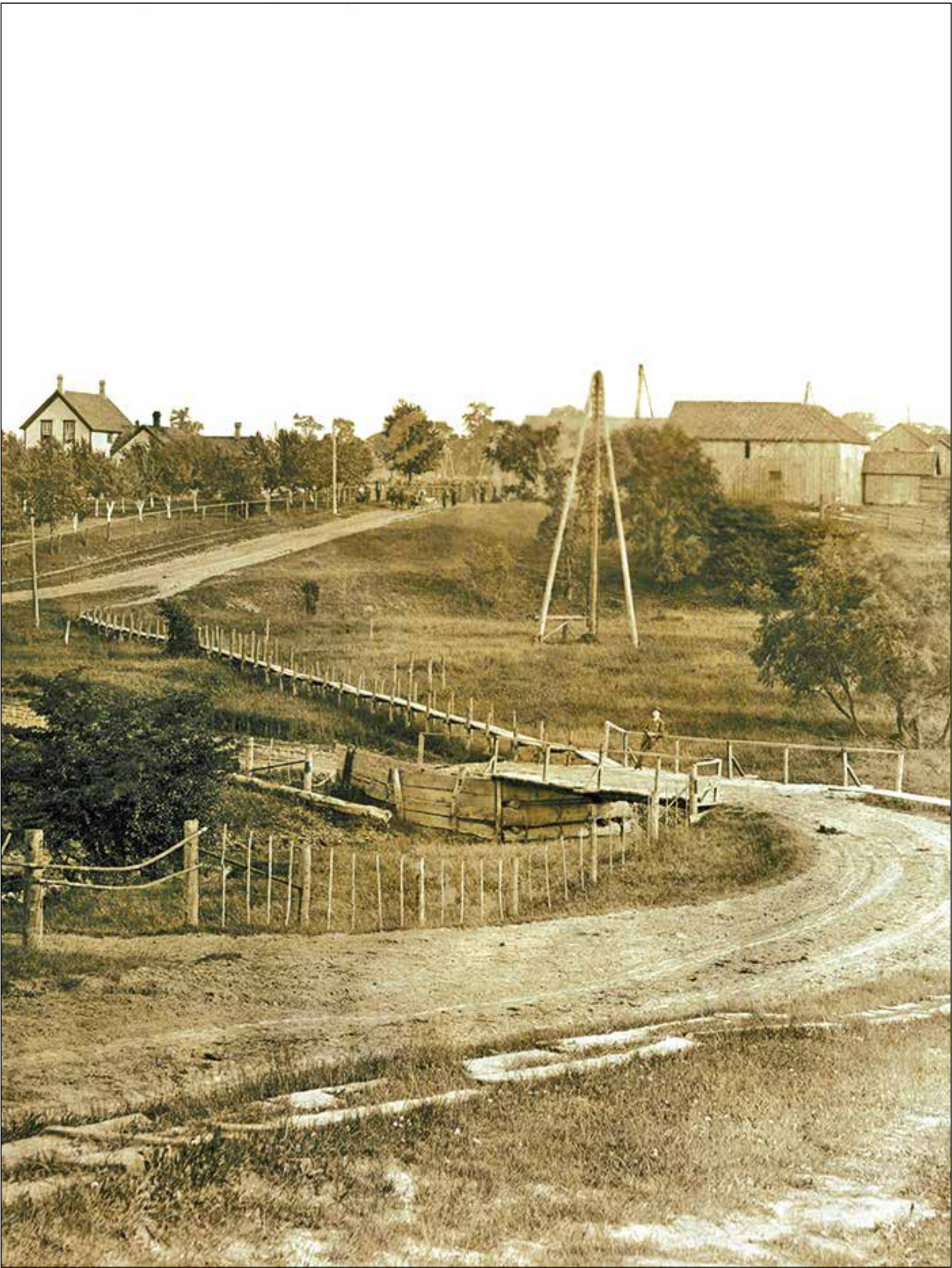
Instead of catering to big tax dividends while eating up farmland, municipalities should put more emphasis on building multi unit homes - townhouses and apartments - to meet our housing needs.

Of course, that means we all have to rethink our vision of a home. For a very long time in rural Ontario it has meant a big house on a big lot. That's not a sustainable reality and the sooner we all adjust our vision, the sooner we'll have more affordable places for everyone to live.

## 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



FAIRBANK OIL FIELDS PHOTO

The entrance to the Fairbank family farm has remained virtually unchanged since 1905 when this photo was taken. The owners of the historic oil operation are working with the County of Lambton and Poland on a new bid to gain an UNESCO heritage designation.

The

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# Unexpected growth leads Lambton to rethink boundaries

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Lambton County is growing a lot faster than expected and that could lead to changes to where homes are being built.

That has agriculture groups worried. Lambton County Council considered a plan by the City of Sarnia to bring over 500 acres of farm land into the Bright’s Grove settlement area to allow more housing to be built.

County planners said it could not be approved since the city’s plan was outside of the county’s boundary for settlement. The issue is now heading to an appeal at the Ontario Land Tribunal.

Ken Melanson, manager of planning with the county, told councillors April 5, he expects the OLT to turn down the request as well since the plan must follow the Provincial Policy Statement.

Melanson says the only way to solve the issue was to reopen the county’s official plan, something he and his staff had been talking about due to the extraordinary growth in the last few years.

The current official plan projects only 499 more residents in all of Lambton by 2031. Melanson says changes to immigration policies and people are moving to smaller centres where housing is less expensive is driving growth far beyond those projections.

“The way we work has fundamentally changed. You don’t need to be in a Bay Street office...you can be in an apartment building in Sarnia.”

Melanson says other municipalities are also looking for changes to their official plans including Point Edward, which wants to protect its waterfront, Warwick, St. Clair and Plympton-Wyoming.

Melanson is waiting for the province to update the Provincial Policy Statement before moving forward.

However, council wanted action sooner, and asked the planner to prepare a report for June to see what could be done to move the boundary changes forward.

That worries Crispin Colvin. The vice president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture came to council urging them to stop urban sprawl.

Colvin says 319 acres of farmland is taken out of production every day in Ontario. “The easiest thing to develop is anything that is flat and clear and that’s farm land,” he tells *The Independent*.

Colvin says municipal governments often gravitate to open land saying building more homes will increase taxes. But studies have show that growing out instead of using the land already within municipal boundaries - a process called infilling - actually costs 13 per cent more to service than

the taxes it brings in.

Colvin says development has to occur but new rules created by the province seem to have wiped out well established planning practices.

“What’s lacking is good planning. We need to be looking at planning from 75 to 100 years out.”

Colvin has been travelling to municipalities to urge them to look further down the road, however its a difficult sell as the province makes it easier than ever to pave over farm land. On Thursday, the premier introduced Bill 97, the Health Homebuyers bill, which “makes it a lot easier for municipalities to sprawl. They basically have to say ‘we want the land and we want to build on it.’”

And Colvin says the bill also makes it virtually guaranteed that municipalities will be able to develop just about anywhere with a Ministers Zoning Order.

“We had a pretty robust planning system - it was cumbersome,” says Colvin adding it appears the province has “thrown the baby out with the bath water” attempting to build 1.5 million homes in a decade.

The OFA vice president says his group will continue to put pressure on decision makers “to realize what is at stake and “protect the land that grows our food. How do keep food on the table when your paving over the land.”

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Here's How It Works: 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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# Oil Springs, Poland working together in UNESCO bid

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Lambton politicians have given staff the green light to work with Poland on a bid to have UNESCO recognize the historic importance of Oil Springs.

In 2017, Fairbank Oil Fields’ Owner Charles Fairbank and with Lambton County submitted a bid for Canada’s list for UNESCO designation to recognize the importance of the birthplace of the modern day oil industry.

The Fairbank Oil Fields have 350 wells spread out over more than 600 acres. The commercial operation uses authentic 19th century technology to pull the oil from the ground. The area and the Oil Museum of Canada are already a National Historic Site and part of the County’s Oil Heritage Conservation District under the Ontario Heritage Act.

But the 2017 bid failed, in part, Parks Canada said, because it did not show the international importance of the industry.

This summer, 30 people from oil producing nations around the world

came to Oil Spring for a conference organized by the county, Fairbank Oil and The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage.

At the time, Dr. Boguslaw Szmygin from Lublin University of Technology in Bobkra, Poland, encouraged Canada to join with Poland and other countries around the world to put forward a serial designation of early oil sites for world heritage.

Andrew Meyer, general manager of cultural services, says Poland and Oil Springs have now agreed to work together on the project. County council gave staff approval to work towards a bid for designation.

Meyer says working with Poland seems to be a good fit. The country, once known as Galcia, was an area Lambton County foreign drillers frequented, including William Henry McGarvey who built a successful oil company there.

“You can demonstrate really well with technology that was developed here was transplanted and preserved there. And both sides kind of helped

him to tell that story,” says Meyer.

“What’s unique about what sites are being considered within this transnational nomination is, they all demonstrate that the technology is still in place, that it’s authentic, that it’s preserved.

“Because the nature of the oil industry is often technology has just replace the wooden jerker line with something that’s more modern.

While he and officials at Fairbank Oil are excited about the process, it will take some time.

“We’re in early conversations. So the report was to get the council’s blessing to energize these discussions, knowing that it’s a few years out before we’re back here at his table, which looks like it’s go.”


Pat McGee of Fairbank Oil says they are “thrilled” to be working with Poland although these types of applications can take more than five years.

She adds Parks Canada is already dealing with one Trans Atlantic submission, which grease the wheels of the Oil Springs’ bid.



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# Oil Springs increasing new home development charges

**Blake Ellis**  
Local Journalism Initiative

Development fees in Oil Springs are going up.  
It's the first time in a decade the new home fee is rising.  
The fee increase came after the 10 year review of the development fees conducted by the Village of Oil Springs.  
Last time the fees were reviewed, it was decided to not raise the fees in an effort to attract people to build in Oil Springs, said Veen.  
“That did or didn’t work” says the mayor, adding the availability of lots could have been the deciding factor in the mini housing boom in the community in the last three years.

There were six new homes built in Oil Springs in 2020 followed by 11 new homes in 2021.  
The one-time development fee for a new residential home will go up to \$1,683 from \$1,500, an 11 percent increase.  
The fee for multi-residential buildings will go from \$2,500 to \$3,500, a 40 percent increase.  
Any money raised through the development fees is put into a reserve fund, said Oil Springs Clerk Martha Gawley.  
As the village reviewed its fee schedule, another concern came to light - this time over the number of sea cans being used in the village.  
Oil Springs Councillor Larry Wagner says the village needs to regulate the

use of sea cans.  
At the suggested at the Oil Springs Council meeting April 4, Wagner suggested it was time for a bylaw.  
Mayor Ian Veen agreed saying he has seen several of the sea cans in the village and the municipality doesn’t currently have a bylaw in place.  
It was suggested to take a look at neighbouring municipalities such as Enniskillen Township and the Town of Petrolia to see what it is in place there.  
Dawn-Euphemia just implemented its own bylaw.  
Gawley will be doing some research.  
She doesn’t expect a new bylaw can be passed until June at the earliest.

• THE INDEPENDENT

## Tiny affordable homes backed

Lambton County could be getting much needed affordable housing at basically the cost of the land.  
County councillors agreed April 5 to back a project on Kathleen St. in Sarnia which would see 24 tiny homes placed on land which the county already owns. The project by Wildscape Co. which is hoping to win funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.  
Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley worried this was more affordable housing on the street, saying “ghettoizing” public housing leads to stigmatization but county officials say it was the only land available on short notice.  
Deputy Warden Brian White added it was “high time” the county started buying property for geared to income housing.

# Highland Glen boat launch reopens after three years

The Independent

A key boat launch on Lake Huron has reopened after more than three years.  
The Highland Glen Conservation Area has the only boat launch between Sarnia and Grand Bend and is seen as a key point for boaters to get off the water in inclement weather or a launching spot for emergency crews.  
But in late 2019, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, which owes the park, closed it down saying there was too much damage to allow people

to use it.  
Over the years, the authority hired an engineer to look at the problem. Aecom estimated it would cost up to \$3 million to repair the launch and reinforce the bluffs on the waterfront. The project was put on indefinite hold.  
Then, Plympton-Wyoming approached the conservation authority asking to take over the park. An operating agreement was negotiated first and later both agreed the town would eventually own the park.  
Since then, the town has been

working at the park, hiring a Gordon Marine to fix the damage at the site at a cost of \$105,000.  
Staff has also been expanding the parking lot and trying to find the right system to collect fees for the boat launch.  
April 4, the boat launch was re-opened and available for public use. Officials say now the launch is free, however council is reviewing whether to charge fees and what they would be.

# Petrolia service club brings experts to parents

**Blake Ellis**  
Local Journalism Initiative

Melissa Duquette knows how overwhelmed parents can be when their children enter school and don’t have the services available to meet their needs. Parents are often looking for more supports.  
She wanted to bring all of these services together to introduce them to parents. Duquette had just become a member of the Petrolia Kiwanis Club last summer and approached the president of the club if she could organize the event with the club’s help.  
Duquette worked as a communicative disorder assistant for 18 years, before being involved in a car accident in 2010. This led her to operating a tutoring business.  
The parent information session will be held on Sunday, April 30 from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Petrolia Y.

Each speaker will be given 15 minutes to give an introduction of their profession before giving parents an hour to ask any questions they have of any of the professionals.  
The professionals represented will be speech and language pathology, communicative disorder assistant, art therapy, occupational therapy, child and youth worker, psychology and educational testing, optometry, as well as Debb Pitel with No One Stands Alone, a guide to resources and supports for those currently in a mental health crisis or who wants to assist someone.  
There is also an opportunity to ask questions before the event on Facebook. These questions will then be asked during the parent information session.  
The parent information session is free but donations to the Kiwanis Club are welcome says Duquette.

• THE INDEPENDENT

# OPP looking for video after Arkona armed robbery

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

Lambton OPP are looking for three people after an armed robbery at the Libro Credit Union in Arkona.  
Around 5:20 pm Tuesday, OPP and the Anishinabek Police Service from Kettle and Stony Point were called to the credit union on Arkona Road in the Lambton Shores village.  
Police found three masked people went into the bank at 4:50 pm and locked the doors behind them. The trio had a gun which was shown to the employees.  
The group fled the building after taking an unknown amount of Canadian money from the vault. Sources say they also took employees cellphones.  
Police say the trio fled the building and were last seen going south on Arkona Road.  
The OPP released surveillance photos of the



DAWSON CURRIE PHOTO

Police outside the Libro Credit Union after three armed robbers made off with cash from the Arkona bank’s safe.  
trio, however all three are covered head to toe in black without any skin or hair visible.  
Police are looking for anyone who would have surveillance footage, including video doorbell systems or dash cam video from the area at the time.



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- Clears brush and trees and grass maintenance, maintains weed control;
- Collects and removes garbage from roads and adjacent areas;
- Responds to concerns from the public and if appropriate forwards concerns to the Public Works Foreman;
- Apply safety precautions and procedures in the performance of duties in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and policies of the Town of Petrolia;
- Participate in rotating On-Call responsibilities
- Performs other duties as assigned.

**Skills and Requirements:**

- Minimum Grade 12 completion;
- 5 or more years' experience within Public Works or construction environment would be an asset;
- Snow Plow Operation experience (necessity);
- Back Hoe Operation experience (necessity);
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**mpearson@petrolia.ca**

We appreciate the interest of all those who respond; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Information obtained through this posting is collected for candidate selection only and is protected by the Municipal Freedom of Information Act. The Town of Petrolia is an equal opportunity employer committed to inclusive, barrier-free recruitment and selection processes and work environments. We will accommodate the needs of applicants under the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) throughout all stages of the recruitment and selection process. Please advise the Clerks Department to ensure your accessibility needs are accommodated throughout this process.



# 1880s map shows early beginnings of Petrolia

The Independent

A rare map has made it’s way into the Lambton County Archives.

Charlie Fairbank of Oil Springs has donated a map of Petrolia which dates back to 1880.

“It is the only one known to be in existence so we’re excited,” said Nicole Aszalos, supervisor/curator of the county archives. “This map will allow researchers and everyone else to explore Petrolia when it was just at the cusp of enormous industrial change and growth.”

Fairbank says as far as he knows, the map has been in his family for 143 years.

“For four generations, the Fairbanks have been active participants in Petrolia oil industry. They knew they were also witnesses to history and preserved that history.”

The map hung in VanTuyl and Fairbank Hardware until the store closed in 2019.

The large square map was likely framed in the 1970s and measures 81 by 81 cm.

“I’m happy that so many will have access to the map. Studying the past, explains the present.” Fairbank said.

His great-grandfather, John Henry Fairbank, was a founder and a leader of Petrolia who became an oil producer in Oil Springs in 1861 before moving to budding Petrolia in 1865.

The county will be scanning the map and saving it electronically so it can be shared Aszalos said.

The map, which was drawn just six years after Petrolia was incorporated, shows four churches, two bridges which crossed Bear Creek and the early beginnings of the downtown. Petrolia began its development in the east end.

Two railways served Petrolia in 1880. Starting in 1866, the Great Western ran north from the current library and later the Michigan Centre Line was added rumbling straight through the town and south on Albany St. where it had a station.

Victoria Hall would not be built until 1889, and what is now Victoria Park had businesses on 17 lots on them.

When the map was drawn, Jacob Englehart had just built his huge Silver Star refinery that straddled the north end of Centre Street. It was the town’s ninth refinery many of which were on Centre Street.

It was said the Silver Star refinery



Charlie Fairbank with a rare 1880s map of Petrolia which has been donated to the Lambton County archive.

was the largest and most sophisticated in the world and would become Imperial Oil in a few years.

Petrolia was much smaller in 1880. Development stopped at Princess Street and lumber baron John Kerr owned a track of land which stretched from Dufferin Street to near Rokeby Line.

## Sarnia politician worries bill would ‘weaponize’ harassment complaints

Heather Wright  
The Independent

A Lambton County councillor says a bill to allow municipal councillors removed from office if they violate workplace violence and sexual harassment rules could be weaponized against local politicians.

A group called Women of Ontario Say No is backing a private members bill from MPP Stephen Blais allowing municipal Integrity Commissioners to go to court to remove a politician who violates workplace violence and harassment policies. Right now, the most severe penalty is suspending a municipal council member’s pay for 90 days.

Sarnia City/County Councillor Bill Dennis voiced concern April 5 at county council saying the legislation could be used against politicians.

“In politics today, there’s a lot of people out to get you and I’m afraid that this could be weaponized. You know, we’re seeing a bit of a gong show in the United States right now – maybe a lot of people don’t like the president, former president – but it looks like that it is totally political persecution.” President Donald Trump is facing 34 felony charges. “I just see that this could be used as a way to get back at people that you don’t like.”

The Sarnia City/County councillor then suggested former premier

Kathleen Wynne was behind the bill. She is not.

“Keep in mind, her government was one of the most corrupt and provincial in history, she had a member go to jail,” he said. Lambton Shores Mayor Doug Cook interrupted asking Warden Kevin Marriott “can we stop this conversation?”

Dennis replied “This is a kind of serious thing here. But, I just am reminding people that when you point your finger at one person, there’s always three people responding back. Liberals don’t like hearing the truth.”

Councillors agreed to support the call for more accountability.

The bill has had just one reading.



### SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

#### THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PLYMPTON-WYOMING

**TAKE NOTICE** that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on May 11, 2023, at the *Town of Plympton-Wyoming Municipal Office, 546 Niagara Street, Wyoming Ontario.*

**Description of Lands:**

1. **Roll No. 38 35 360 001 10100 0000;** 597-599 BROADWAY ST., WYOMING; PIN 43113-0203 (LT); LT 3 BLK V PL 2 WYOMING; PLYMPTON-WYOMING; File No. 21-01According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$107,000 **Minimum tender amount: \$22,858.39**

2. **Roll No. 38 35 360 001 12000 0000;** 627 BROADWAY ST., WYOMING; PIN 43113-0150 (LT); PT LT 3-4 BLK S PL 2 WYOMING AS IN L764418; PLYMPTON-WYOMING; File No. 21-02 According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$35,000 **Minimum tender amount: \$392,239.25**

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, crown interests, or any other matters relating to the lands 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.

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. A full copy of the tax sale advertisement and further information about this matter is available on line at:

**www.OntarioTaxesales.ca**  
**or www.plympton-wyoming.com**

Answers to this week's

## Sudoku

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6	1	8	4	3	9	5	2	7	
4	2	9	8	5	7	6	3	1	
5	7	3	2	6	1	9	8	4	
8	3	1	9	2	6	4	7	5	
7	5	4	1	8	3	2	6	9	
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ANSWER:



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

## TOPPING IT OFF



The Alvinston Optimists - represented here by Frank Nemcek - partnered with Rob and Tatiana Van Dyk of RT Construction to put a new roof on the Inwood ball diamond canteen just in time for the coming baseball season and the 150th anniversary of the community.

# PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR HOUSE IS

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# Looking for the Easter Bunny

Children in Watford and Petrolia were looking for Easter Eggs during the annual events



There was a feeling of spring in the air as local service clubs hosted Easter Egg Hunts. In Watford Saturday, (top) the Optimist Club hid treats in the straw for little ones to find. Hannah Minten, 3, found a bright red egg in the pile (middle right). In Petrolia Good Friday, the Lions event drew hundreds of children including Aurora Webster, (bottom left) who had her own bunny whiskers.

PHOTOS BY HEATHER WRIGHT AND BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

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**90 percent are reading it for local news**

**Source: Nanos Research, Newsmedia Canada**

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# Sports

## EYE ON THE PUCK



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

The Mooretown Flags were keeping their eyes on the puck during a game against the St. Mary's Rock in the U9 tournament at the East Lambton Community Complex.

## Sarnia Sting headed to round two

**Barry Wright**  
The Independent

The Sarnia Sting has advanced to the second round of the OHL playoffs for the first time since 2018 and just the fourth time in its existence beating the Storm 4-3 in overtime last Sunday afternoon in Guelph.

Nolan Burke played the hero with a wraparound goal at 4:06 of the extra period. Up until then, the Sting had never led having battled back from 1-0, 2-1 and 3-2 deficits to tie the game on three separate occasions. It was his second overtime winner in the series, a feat that had never been done before by a Sting player.

Sarnia wins the best-of-seven conference quarterfinal in six games.

Ex-Storm Sasha Pastujov scored twice for the Sting with Ty Voit adding the other on a nifty three-way passing play with Pastujov and Luca Del Bel Belluz. Del Bel Belluz had two assists. Pastujov had a team-high eight shots on goal and was chosen the first star of the contest.

The Sting will now take on the Saginaw Spirit in the next round. The first game of the series is Friday in Sarnia at 7 pm. Game two is Sunday afternoon at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena before the series heads to Saginaw Tuesday and Thursday.

Meantime, the London Knights knocked off Owen Sound in the first round. The Knights take on Kitchener in round two with the first two tilts at Budwiser Gardens in London Thursday and Friday night. Game three is Saturday in Kitchener.

## U15 Eagles reach provincial finals

The Independent

The East Lambton Eagles fell just short of its goal of winning the red hats.

The U15 Eagles bowed to the Otonabee Wolves (near Peterborough) in the OMHA U15 tier 3 final, 3-2 on Sunday afternoon in Windsor.

The Eagles reached the championship contest with wins over Goderich, Norwood and Millbrook in the preliminary round and advanced to the championship contest with a 7-6 overtime verdict against the



South Grey Spartans in the semi-finals.

Meantime, the East Lambton year-end banquet will be held April 22 at the East Lambton Community Complex hall.

## Duncan, Van Gorp win U18 bronze with Canucks

**Barry Wright**  
The Independent

Alvinston's Hayden Duncan, Watford's Evan Van Gorp and Luke Bogart of Grand Bend took third place with the Elgin-Middlesex Canucks at the Central Ontario U18 hockey championship on the weekend in Windsor.

Bogart had two assists in the Canucks' 5-4 overtime win over Oshawa in the bronze medal game

Sunday.

Elgin-Middlesex lost to the Toronto Junior Canadiens, 6-2 in the semifinals Saturday.

The Canadiens won the title with a 6-3 win over the host Windsor Jr. Spitfires on Sunday and will represent Ontario at the Telus Cup in Quebec later this month.

Elgin-Middlesex is coached by Petrolia's Brian Dobbin.

Bogart ended the tournament with seven assists in seven games and Van

Gorp registered three helpers in seven games.

Duncan had a goals-against average of 1.65 in four games and had his eighth shutout of the season.

The Canucks went 5-2 over the course of the week long event.



Hayden Duncan

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## Petrolia duo propels Jr. Sting in Alliance

The Independent

The Lambton Jr. Sting will take an eight-game winning streak into the Alliance U16 consolation playoff finals against the Windsor Jr. Spitfires. At press time, dates have not been announced.

Petrolia's Roen Douglas scored the game-winner with

seven-and-a-half minutes left in the third period on the weekend in a 4-3 win over Elgin-Middlesex to complete the round-robin semi-finals with a perfect 8-0 record. Douglas also had an assist. Petrolia's Isaac Truman scored the equalizer early in the third after the Canucks had taken a 3-2 lead.

Watford's Blake Verberne was

the winning goaltender.

Douglas and Truman both scored in Lambton's 6-2 win at Hamilton Thursday and Truman notched a pair of goals for the Jr. Sting in a 3-1 over Brantford last Tuesday.

Douglas is now on a five-game point streak and Truman has scored four times in his last three games.

## Port Lambton swimmer Western's top athlete

The Independent

Shona Branton is the 2022-23 Female Athlete of the Year at Western University in London.

The former swimmer with the Sarnia Rapids program was honoured for winning two gold and two silver medals at the Ontario University swimming championships last month in Toronto.

The Port Lambton native was also

named a first team all-star this season by the OUA and first team All-Canadian by U Sports.

"Swimming gets overlooked a lot because it's not a super popular sport," said Branton in accepting the award. "Winning this award and bringing awareness to our team is awesome. We work really hard throughout the year and have the longest season training from September until March. I'm so proud."



Shona Branton

**4**

**REASONS FOR ORTHOTICS**  
There are some situations that require extra foot support.

**ONGOING FOOT PAIN**

It's Important to have a thorough assessment to rule out certain issues. When serious issues have been ruled out, orthotics can be beneficial by removing pressure and stress from painful areas.

**YOU HAVE A FALLEN ARCH**

While orthotics don't correct a fallen arch, they can reposition structures in the foot to improve biomechanical function and reduce chance of injury. There are a few different conditions that contribute to, and are aggravated by fallen arches such as plantar fasciitis, heel spurs, bunions and arthritis.

**YOU STAND FOR LONG PERIODS AT YOUR JOB**

If you are spending long periods of time on your feet, you will need extra support because your muscles will fatigue. It's important to move around and give your feet a break.

**DIABETES**

If you suffer from diabetes, you have an increased risk of corns and calluses, especially if your foot alignment altered. Orthotics can be helpful in reducing these key pressure areas of the foot.

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431 King Street, Petrolia  
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Dr. Storozuk Dr. Martyniuk



Classified Deadline:  
Monday @ 12 noon

# Classifieds



Word Classifieds: \$10 plus tax for up to 40 words  
Stop in at the office 9am-3pm – Monday to Friday  
4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728  
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

## Death Notices

April 4 - April 11, 2023

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

**DANBY, Katherine Grace**  
Age 89  
Smith Funeral Home

**McCOLL, Gertrude**  
Age 101  
VanHeck Funeral Home

**SWETLISHNOFF, Grant Peter**  
Age 58  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

**WOLFE, Gloria Jean**  
Age 79  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

**MARCY, Helen Lopena**  
Age 96  
Smith Funeral Home

**TRACY, Roberta Gertrude**  
Age 87  
McCormack Funeral Home

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

**CUCKSEY, Lillian**  
Age 93, of Corunna  
Knight Funeral Home

**DIONNE, John Andrew**  
Age 66  
Smith Funeral Home

**ANNE, Jarvis**  
Age 83  
McCormack Funeral Home

**GEORGE, Perry Neal Watson**  
(Pierre)  
Age 69, of Stoney Point  
Gilpin Funeral Home

**LATIMER, Norma Grace**  
Age 97, of Dresden  
John C. Badder Funeral Home

**SMITH, Anne Elizabeth**  
Age 91, of Chatham  
John C. Badder Funeral Home

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

**KOZAK, Lily**  
Age 99, of Petrolia  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

**PARRY, Hillary**  
Age 62  
Smith Funeral Home

**MITCHELL, Allan John**  
Age 81  
Smith Funeral Home

**ROSE, Jeffery Alexander**  
Age 62  
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

**WHEELER-GUZI, Margaret Anne Elizabeth**  
Age 85  
Smith Funeral Home

**KRAHN, Ursula**  
VanHeck Funeral Home

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

**STEVENS, Donald Ross**  
Age 86, of Sarnia  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

**STEWART, Chad**  
Age 39  
Knight Funeral Home

**METCALFE, William Carl "Bill"**  
Age 82  
Smith Funeral Home

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

### Prize Raffle

Oil Springs Optimists'

## Meat Bingo

Thurs., Apr. 20 @ 7pm  
at the Oil Springs Youth Centre

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

All proceeds go to local youth

### Help Wanted

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## Church DIRECTORY

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416 Queen Street, Petrolia (Behind the Post Office)

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

Services also available online: www.standrews-petrolia.ca

Pastor Katherine Hawley

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414 Oil Street, Petrolia

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www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

Rev. Carol Ferguson

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Pastor: Alex Craig

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6. Advertising frequently is a lot like repeatedly inviting a friend to come see you. One day, they are bound to visit!
7. Frequent advertising helps you build a steady source of incoming sales.
8. Out of sight, out of mind.
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[theindependent.junkin@gmail.com](mailto:theindependent.junkin@gmail.com)





Hecimovich earns second save of season

LCCVI grad Brett Hecimovich pitched 1.1 innings and struck out three of the seven batters he faced in earning his second save of the season for Kankakee

Community College Cavaliers over Sauk Valley in Region four junior college baseball last weekend.  
The Petrolia righthander now has a win and two saves

in 12 appearances this season for the Chicago-area club. He has fanned 19 batters in 12.2 innings and has an ERA of 2.84.  
The Cavs are 19-8 and are in fourth place in their region.

Wyoming’s Jackson leads college squad to victory

Core Jackson had two hits, including a double, a walk and an RBI to help South Mountain Community College to a 13-1 win over Arizona Western in Arizona Community College Athletic Association baseball action last Saturday.

South Mountain is in third place in the conference with a record of 19-9 and they are 33-11 overall.  
Jackson from Wyoming, has hit safely in nine of his past 11 games dating back to a season-high four hits and six RBI

performance two weeks ago.  
The John Knox and LCCVI grad has a stat line this season is .306/.401/.493 with 12 doubles, three triples, three homers, 19 RBI and 33 runs scored.  
The South Mountain regular season is done in April.

Mooretown Lady Flags win Easter gold in Brampton

The Mooretown Lady Flags are divisional winners in the U13 B pool at the Canadettes Easter Girls Hockey tournament in Brampton.  
The Flags opened the tournament last weekend by winning three straight games

in the preliminary round outscoring their opponents, 21-1. They downed Lakeshore, 5-1 and the Huron Heat, 7-2 in the quarter and semi finals respectively and then defeated the Hearst Ice Cats, 3-1 in the championship contest.

Overall, the Lady Flags went 6-0 with 36 goals for and only five against.  
Teams from Mooretown as well as a host of other local clubs are competing at the provincials this weekend in the GTA.

OILER ATTACK



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

The U18 Petrolia Oilers and Lambton Attack went head-to-head in a friendly exhibition match Saturday at the Greenwood Recreation Centre. The Oilers prevailed.

Bright’s Grove’s Weir bows misses Augusta cut

Mike Weir carded a four over par 76 Good Friday but had to wait for the second round of the Masters in Augusta, Georgia to be complete to find out if he made the cut. He missed the mark mark by one shot. The Bright’s Grove native came

up just short on a chip from off the back the green on 18 in the second round that would have allowed him to play on the weekend. He finished the second round with five bogeys and a birdie.  
Weir opened with an even par

72 Thursday. The second round was suspended due to inclement weather.  
Weir, whose 20th anniversary of capturing the green jacket is Thursday has now missed the cut at Augusta for three straight years.

Former P-town Jet named Coach of the Year

Garrett Rutledge has been chosen as Coach of the Year in the Federal Prospects Hockey League.  
The 42 year-old former member of the Petrolia Jets in the early 2000s is the head coach of the Carolina Thunderbirds. His team leads its

division heading into the final week of the regular season with a record of 39-12-3.  
Rutledge has previous coaching and scouting experience in the GOJHL, OJHL and with both Saginaw and Flint of the OHL.

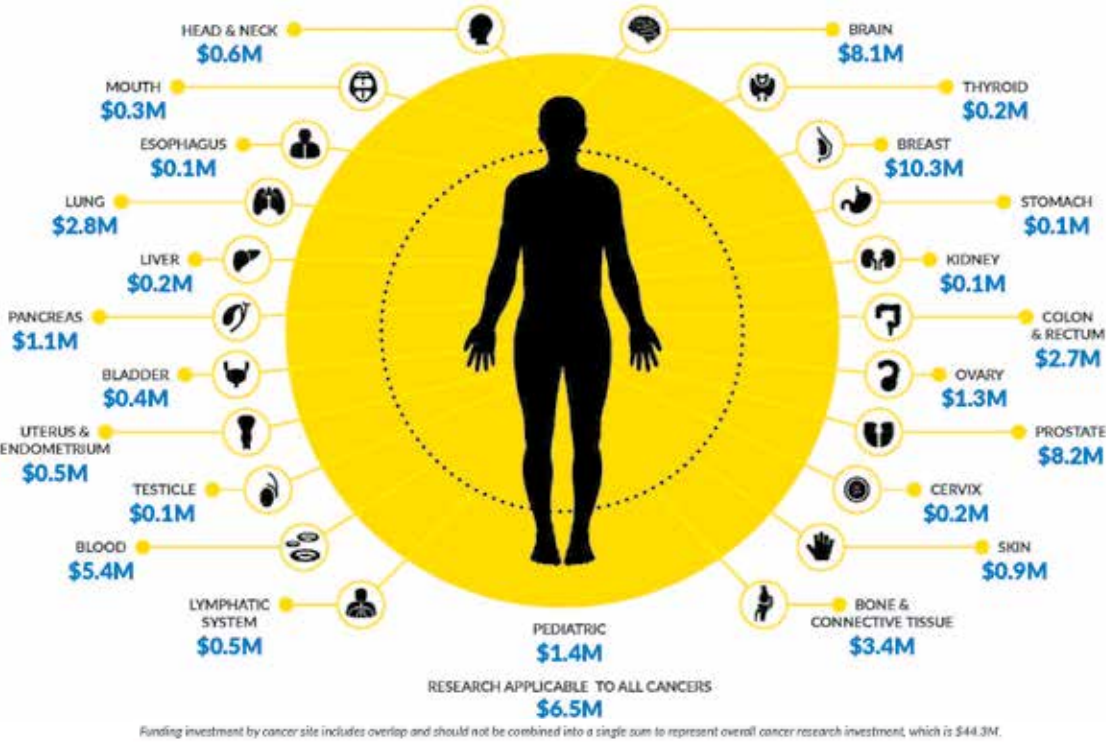


Canadian Cancer Society

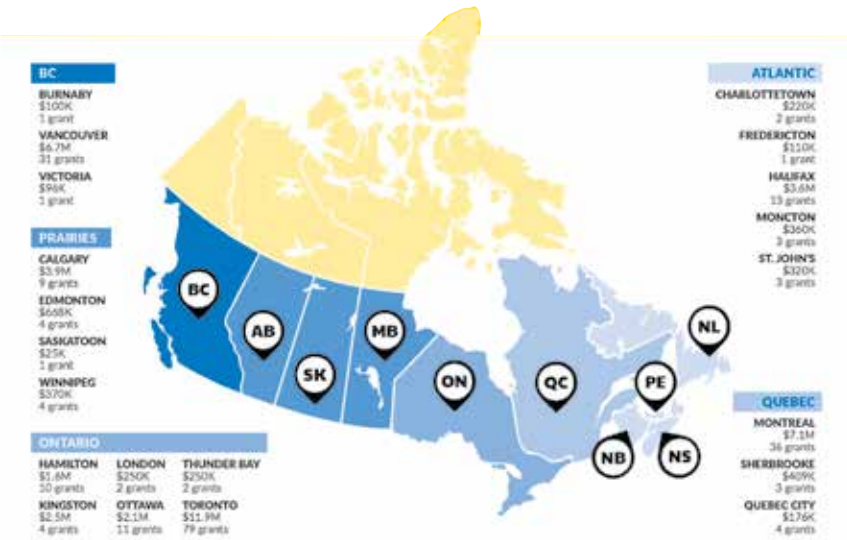
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CANCER.CA/RESEARCH

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Marilyn Gladu, MP

Sarnia-Lambton