

BUBBLY GIRL



Blake Rivett was busy ‘Doing the Laundry’ as her part in the Watford Skating Club’s annual carnival with a theme of What A Weekend. The Watford arena was packed with family in friend for the two shows over the weekend. See more photos on page

Accident spurs calls for more changes on Shiloh Line

Heather Wright
The Independent

Neighbours of AW Campbell Conservation Area near Alvinston are again raising concerns about a sharp curve on Shiloh Line.

Sunday morning, just before 2 am, a young man on an ATV crashed into the field and was thrown from the vehicle. Brooke Fire Rescue, Lambton paramedics and the OPP were called to the scene. The young man was taken to hospital with serious injuries which have already

required several operations.

Chris Wygergangs lives across the road from the crash site. She and her neighbours urged Brooke-Alvinston councillors to make improvements to the road in 2020 and then again in 2021 when the municipality paved Shiloh. Wygergangs says last year, there were a number of changes at the suggestion of Brooke-Alvinston’s insurance agent.

“The signs were replaced with higher visibility (paint) and there were clearer directions for the curve. That was a great change,” she tells *The Independent*.

“It was also suggested the row of trees be removed, which they all were. If I understood..if someone missed the curve, they would go into the field, not hitting a tree.”

But Wygergangs says the stumps were left behind, the ridge the trees were on is so steep vehicles have a rough ride going into the field.

And she says the trees may have actually been a visual cue for people cresting Shiloh to follow the road.

SEE SHILOH PG 2

Developer must do more environmental study of Petrolia woodlot: OLT chair

Heather Wright
The Independent

A Petrolia developer has lost another bid to start developing a 17 acre woodlot.

Elbee Investments wants to build 74 new homes in Countryview Estates in a woodlot on the west side of the subdivision. When the original plan was laid out in 2007, the lots were in the wooded area. But sometime between 2007 and 2021, it was rezoned a significant woodlot by the town.

In May 2021, after two contentious public meetings, town council removed the significant woodlot status, after the developer produced some environmental studies which council believe cleared the way for the development. Those studies have never been provided to the public.

While the town approved, two people, Greg Racher, whose farm abuts the land, and Petrolia resident William Loerts, appealed the ruling to the Ontario Land Tribunal, in part because they believe there is a protected tree species in the area. In July 2022, the OLT ruled more study on the land was needed including identifying natural heritage features and the impact of the development.

SEE COUNTRYVIEW PAGE 2

Independent tops again

The Independent

For the fourth time in five years, *The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton* has been named the top small newspaper in the province.

The Ontario Community Newspaper Association handed out its 2022 awards Friday and *The Independent* was named the Best Newspaper among those with circulation under 2,000.

The judges praised *The Independent’s* “extensive coverage, strong photography, clean design and effective advertising...providing the people the information they need about their community.”

The Independent also placed second in Sports Photography for Heather Wright’s photo at the Alvinston Pro Rodeo and third for a story about racism in hockey in the Sports and Recreation category.

“We’re excited to be recognized again for the work we love to do,” says Publisher Heather Wright.

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Two people sought in Marthaville murder

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton OPP are looking for two more people in the murder of Andrew Chute at the Marthaville Wildlife Management Area.

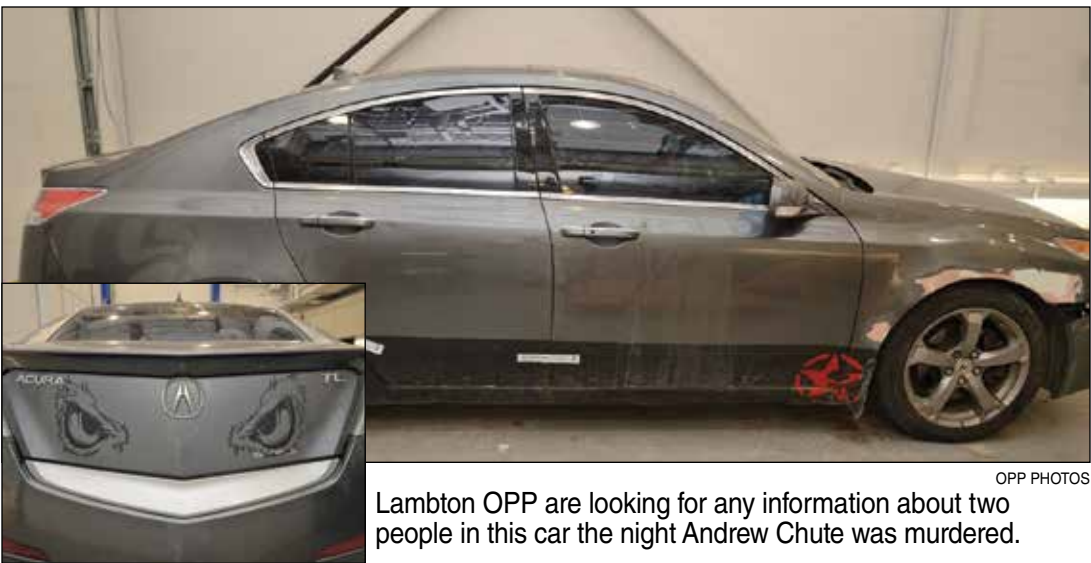
The OPP released the information exactly a year after the 45 year-old Sarnia man was murdered.

Just before Easter 2022 – a resident out for a walk discovered Chute in the parking lot of the popular trail. He’d been shot. Lambton OPP closed the habitat and the Marthaville Road for days as they combed for clues in what they called a targeted attack.

Two men, Jason Nahmabin, 43, from Sarnia and 43 year-old James Armstrong, were charged with first degree murder a month after the crime.

April 14, the OPP released photos of a car they believe was involved in the killing adding two unknown people left the scene in a grey sedan and drove to the City of London. Police hope by releasing the photos, memories will be jogged and they might figure out where the pair went.

If you saw this car, you’re asked to call the OPP dedicated line 1-844-677-9408 or you can email your tips to OPP. CHUTE.Homicide@opp.ca



Lambton OPP are looking for any information about two people in this car the night Andrew Chute was murdered.

Countryview appeal to OLT chair rejected

CON’T FROM PG 1

The OLT said an Environmental Impact Study was required by all policies of the province, Lambton County and Petrolia and the studies the developers did complete, did not address all the components of the study. Without it, the developers didn’t meet all the legislative requirements and could not move forward.

Not satisfied with the ruling, the developers - Bob Leaper and Louis Bratenek - appealed the decision to the chair of the OLT saying the tribunal made errors of law in the ruling since the town and county had approved the use of the studies.

Michael Kraljevic, in a written decision released Thursday, said Elbee’s lawyers basically seemed to be re-arguing the original case.

He said that doesn’t meet the guidelines of raising a “convincing and compelling case” for a full review. “The tribunal does not routinely review decisions,” Kraljevic writes.

The chair writes Elbee’s lawyer charged the board “erred in law in failing to defer to the decision of the town in the exercise of its discretion in applying official plan policies and determining the appropriate studies” and in ignoring the expert studies completed in support of the proposed development.”

Kraljevic notes the tribunal found all of the provincial, county and municipal planning documents showed



The original plan for Countryview Estates shows 74 lots in the 17 acres of bush. The plan has now been the subject of two Ontario Land Tribunal hearings. Both times, the OLT ruled the developer needs to do more study on the habitat in the trees.

an Environmental Impact Study was needed adding the town would be able to decide if the housing could go ahead after the Environmental Impact Study.

Kraljevic writes Elbee’s lawyers suggest that “since the county, town, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks had all determined that the necessary studies were completed, the tribunal ought to also have been satisfied.

“I disagree with this argument in the strongest terms. The purpose of the

tribunal is to hear and decide appeals. To suggest the tribunal should offer complete deference to other entities disregards the scope of the tribunal’s authority and its role in the planning law regime.”

Elbee’s lawyer had not responded to questions from *The Independent* about what the developer will now do.

However in the judgement denying Elbee’s OLT appeal, the chair writes the developer has filed a “leave to appeal the decision” in court.

The Town Of
PLYMPTON-WYOMING

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. 21-01 According 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

Shiloh Line still dangerous despite repairs say neighbours

CON’T FROM PG 1

Wyergangs says in the last four months there have been three or four accidents at the curve, despite the changes.

“We’re not just complaining to hear ourselves talk, but we have legitimate concerns. Obviously the changes the Municipality of Brooke Alvinston made - bigger, brighter, more clear signs, and removing the trees - that were supposed to make the curve more visible to drivers and safer has not worked. My opinion, based on numbers, is that it may be worse now. Three to four accidents in four months is a massive increase. Previous to December there was maybe that many in 10 years.

The busy traffic seasons



An SUV heads up the hill at Shiloh Line in Alvinston. The municipality has made changes to make the road safer but a weekend accident has prompted more calls for improvements.

haven’t started yet. Something needs to change. Quickly.”

Wyergangs says the neighbours have brainstormed to figure out what may help, including a flashing amber light on the sign which has the sharp curve warning and streetlights

on the hydro poles on the corner.

“Someone from the municipality should make an effort to come talk to us and to sit and watch,” she says adding the campers will soon arrive making matters even worse.

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No school closures, more provincial control

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

The Ontario government won’t let boards close schools with low enrolment but there will be a push to use the vacant space in existing schools.

Ontario’s Education Minister, Stephen Lecce, said Monday the province won’t lift a school closing moratorium which has been in place since 2017. Instead, he wants partnerships developed between school boards, municipalities and non-profit organizations such as the YMCA to better use some of the vacant space within these schools.

This could be a benefit for many of the schools, which are currently operating under capacity. Dawn Euphemia School north of Rutherford could be among the first to close if the moratorium were be lifted. Dawn Euphemia has 121 students enrolled, just one of six elementary schools within Lambton Kent School District to have less than 150 students. A report in 2010 called for the rural school to close and students to be bussed to Dresden where they would attend a JK to Grade 12 school in the Lambton-Kent Composite building.

Local municipal leaders who worry the township’s only school could close, see this as a positive move.

“This should have been there 25 years ago,” said Dawn Euphemia Township Mayor Al Broad. In the past, the township council has looked at the school as a good place for a public library but this idea was shot down. Broad looks forward to getting something else in the school, which can benefit not only Dawn Euphemia but also people in neighbouring communities.

John Howitt, the public board’s director of education, says the board has shared space with a number of schools including Brigden and Grand Bend.

Lambton Kent has a number of times

called on the provincial government to lift the moratorium. The Ontario Public School Boards Association repeated the call to lift the moratorium by the end of the current school year after Lecce’s announcement.

Lecce tabled new legislation at Queen Parks April 17 called The Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act. It includes plans to improve accountability for school boards, enhance training for educators and building schools faster.

“We are taking action to refocus Ontario’s education system on what really matters: strengthening reading, writing and math skills,” said Lecce.

If passed, the legislation would allow the minister of education to set the priorities for student achievement, then school boards would be required to update parents on the progress.

“We are in support of any initiatives that improve student achievement and well being,” said Ontario Public Schools Board Association (OPSPA) President Cathy Abraham. “OPSBA has long advocated for improved accountability and transparency in the delivery of public education.”

Abraham was critical of the provincial government saying her association and school boards must be properly consulted on details of important changes to the education system, something which did not take place as this legislation was formulated.

The Ontario government has said nearly 2,000 front-line educators will be hired under the act.

The legislation also increases the main grant school board receive by 2.7 per cent. Inflation is running at about 6 per cent. Lecce says that will increase education spending by \$694 million.

Howitt has yet to see the details of the funding announcement and how they will apply to Lambton-Kent but the director praises any changes which will improve student learning.

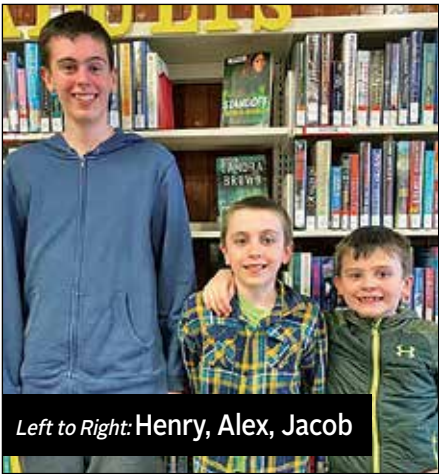
Inwood ...a caring community

Happy spring, the king of all seasons! The days are longer, the sun shines brighter, nature awakens and outdoor activities abound. It’s bicycle season for Henry, Alex and Jacob! The brothers can be spotted pedalling around the village, taking jaunts to visit Fred and Donna and to buy treats, groceries and snacks for home movie nights. When riding near the outskirts of the village, the boys see tranquil woodlots across the acres of farmland.

The siblings assert that Inwood is a quiet place to call home. The only noise that disrupts the peace is when construction vehicles and snow plows are at work. As advocates for the senior population, they recommend Inwood as a quiet, safe and entrusted place to dwell.

The siblings agree that the residents of Inwood are friendly folks who show excitement when new neighbors move in. The boys are willing to visit fellow villagers in their spare time after school and after commitments at the hockey rink. To Henry, Alex and Jacob being actively involved in the community means donating food and clothing to others in need and making meals for neighbours. Henry’s specialties are hot-dogs, grilled cheese and scrambled eggs.

Although the brothers are gratified by daily living in the village, they have specific wishes for the greater



Left to Right: Henry, Alex, Jacob

community. They would like to see a new school in or nearby their village and an in-ground public swimming pool! Even better, a school **with** a pool! They identified the green space across from the library where James Street and Inwood Road intersect as a possible location. In addition, the boys would find it practical to have sidewalks constructed along the streets so they wouldn’t get muddy when walking in the springtime. As for seniors, sidewalks would allow secure footing on even ground for safer mobility. When asked what they thought would be needed to build sidewalks they said cement . . . and donations!

Henry, Alex and Jacob enjoy positive experiences in daily village life. Their youthful perspectives speak to an understanding that communities that work together, grow together!

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Striking up the band(shell) for birthday bash

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia is giving itself a big birthday present for a milestone year.

Town council has approved the construction of a new bandshell for Victoria Park in honour of the town’s 150th anniversary in 2024.

Laurissa Ellsworth, director of marketing, arts and communications, recently told council the Petrolia 150 committee looked for four things in a \$200,000 legacy project; something available for everyone to use, accessible, something that would be a low or no cost facility not limited to just one age group and it must be prominently displayed in the community.

The new bandshell fit the bill, she says.

The stage will also house permanent accessible washrooms and a sound system



for events like Christmas in the Park and Pizzafest.

Ellsworth says the bandshell is expected to cost about \$250,000 with \$200,000 coming from the town and the rest raised through commemorative clothing and coin sales.

Ellsworth says the current bandshell will be in use until the fall and the town hopes to have construction complete in early 2024.

Cause of blaze at landfill undetermined

Heather Wright
The Independent

It could have been a lot worse.

Watford and Warwick firefighters were called to Twin Creeks Landfill Sunday after thick black smoke was seen billowing from the site on Nauvoo Road.

Chief Rick Sitlington says firefighters arrived to find about 300 to 400 square area in the cell where garbage was being dumped in flames with black smoke filling the area.

Sitlington says the flames were about 500 meters off the built roadway, which made it

difficult to get to. “The biggest problem was getting to it,” he says. “We started laying down hose . . .but then we tried to drive the one truck to it. He made so the other went, too.”

Sitlington says it took about three hours to bring the fire under control with the help of Brooke Fire Rescue, which was shuttling water to the site. The chief says the fire had likely been smouldering for sometime before it broke out into full flame. He speculates a cigarette butt may have sparked the garbage fire, but there is no way of knowing for sure.

Fun!

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Editorial

Homes vs nature battle rages on

The expansion of homes in Countryview Estates into a woodlot is a good example of both why developers are frustrated by planning regulations and the new provincial rules easing those same rules are problematic.

Elbee Investments is trying to build the next phase of Countryview Estates. Since 2007, the developer planned to build 74 homes in a 17 acre woodlot. Sometime between then and 2021, the Town of Petrolia rezoned the area as significant woodlot which strictly limited how development could occur. Basically, the developer would need to do an Environmental Impact Study as prescribed by the provincial government. It ensures the development isn't taking out any rare animals, plants or trees and making sure the new human homes don't affect the homes of the flora and fauna.

The developer did some environmental studies - not an Environmental Impact Study which takes time and a lot of money - and local officials in Petrolia and Lambton and even the Ministry of the Environment gave the green light using those studies.

The neighbours didn't agree with the decision and appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal. It's been nearly two years of wrangling since then.

Despite the province's manic push to eliminate any preceived obstacle to the construction of new homes, there is still a need to make sure we're not harming the environment as we build. We pave over 319 acres of land a day in Ontario for new development - there are huge environmental cost to that which must be assessed for the good of our planet.

But we can also see why developers find the process of building so frustrating. Two years after applying to move forward, the developer is still tied up in legal battles.

In the rush to development - and the tax dollars that eventually come with new homes - the town and Lambton county didn't push for the study which is actually required by provincial and their own planning rules. If they had, the issue would have been solved by now.

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



PHOTO FROM THE LAMBTON COUNTY ARCHIVES

Robert A. Germaine first opened his harness shop on the west side of River Street in Alvinston in 1908 in the portion of the building that is currently operated by the Legion. Germaine operated in this location until 1920 when he and his family moved to Petrolia where he carried on his high class leather goods business. He kept his shop well-stocked with horse collars, Gladstone bags, and trunks. He was also known to do repairs and carry additional complementary goods such as blankets, saddles, and robes. Robert Germaine lived in Petrolia until his passing at Charlotte Englehart Hospital, 1965, at the age of 80. He is buried in Alvinston Cemetery.

Perhaps lessons for pedestrians is perfectly proper

As I was mindlessly scrolling through social media, I noticed the Ministry of Transportation is offering a seminar. That's not too peculiar. What was strange was it seemed to be targeted at pedestrians and cyclists.

My first take of the colourful message was "Hey, get out of the ways of the cars in our busy province." Frankly, I was a little offended.

It seemed odd to me, considering I was taught that the pedestrians have the right of way.

Generally speaking as a driver, I think it is bad form to smack into a walker or cyclist just because they weren't following the rules of the road.

And let's face it, the pedestrians are

far outnumbered by vehicles on the road. Even on the sunniest of days there are always more vehicles bombing down the streets than cyclists or walkers.

And those vehicles only seem to be getting bigger, which could leave more than a few bumps and bruises should pedestrians crossing when they should be hit by the monster trucks of today.

Of course, I know there are plenty of pedestrians who don't follow the rules of the road. I admit to regularly jaywalking in front of our office.

Kind drivers who aren't yet in a hurry to get to work wave me across the street. Thank you very much.

My person favourite pedestrian faux

pas is walking or cycling on the wrong side of the road. You walk with your face TOWARD the traffic and you cycle WITH the traffic.

Maybe the MTO has a point. Maybe pedestrians need a reminder that the pedestrian having the right of way rule isn't a free pass to do what-ever you want on the roads.



Heather Wright

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Opinion

Parents, caregivers deserve options says grandmother

EDITOR: Thank you to members of the town council and town staff who listened as residents of Petrolia shared the personal and tragic impact that has been felt because of the lack of local daycare spots.

A presentation from the County of Lambton confirmed that available daycare spots in Petrolia are well below most communities in Ontario.

Every chair at the regular council meeting on March 27 was occupied, which speaks to the desperation and lack of options this group is facing.

Parents and caregivers are not able to find childcare options that meet their needs. This is not a new problem but one that has been exasperated due to

recent events in Petrolia.

We play an active role in our grandchildren’s lives and the recent changes in Petrolia’s daycare and before and after school care is very concerning.

For many parents and caregivers this means relying on family members and friends to care for their babies.

This is not a solution that works for everyone.

Our daughter has cut her work hours in half and others have been forced to do the same or have had no choice but to resign from their jobs.

These young people have worked hard and deserve to have options available so they can continue to earn

a wage and continue supporting their communities.

Every age group is feeling a squeeze right now. Petrolia is a very progressive town and offers opportunities for a variety of groups and recreation opportunities but the struggle with finding child care options needs attention.

We will continue to support our family during this transition but it is not an ideal arrangement for the long term and not available to everyone.

Parents and caregivers deserve options.

Mark and Cheryl Cole
Petrolia, ON

Farmland needs better protections says farmland trust

EDITOR: This is an open letter to Premier Doug Ford.

I, on behalf of the Ontario Farmland Trust, am writing to you today to express our organization’s concern about the future of Ontario’s agri-food system. As you may be aware, Ontario farmland is being lost at a rate of 319 acres per day, a tragic loss given the limited amount of prime farmland in the province.

Equally concerning is the projection that 40 per cent of Canadian farmers are going to retire in the next 10 years. These are significant concerns. Not only are we losing the knowledge and expertise of our farmers, but also the next generation of farmers may not have the land base and resources needed to provide a sustainable and prosperous agricultural sector and local food supply.

A robust agricultural sector is the foundation that ensures resiliency of our communities.

It plays a critical role in food supply, economies, and ecological services critical for adapting to impending

climate challenges. Food production and a secure society are inextricably linked. However, we are at a critical moment where the future of our agricultural system is at stake.

I am urging you to pay attention to this risk to our society and to take immediate action to protect agriculture and invest in farmers.

Farmland needs better protection. The path of permitting urban sprawl on farmland should not be taken lightly, as this will have long-lasting impacts on the availability and quality of our food supply.

It is crucial that we protect an agricultural systems approach to land use planning. This means ensuring that farmland is used for agricultural purposes and not converted for other uses. By protecting our farmland, we can ensure that we have a reliable and sustainable source of food for future generations.

The future of agriculture needs you to think and act for the long-term by investing in the next generation of farmers. Food production and

equitable distribution is what allows civilizations to remain resilient.

The Ontario Farmland Trust would welcome an opportunity to present how we are uniquely positioned to help. These are big challenges and we must face them in a collaborative manner.

There are opportunities and new pathways that can be explored to assist young farmers with education, training, land access, housing, and financial support. Now is the time for innovative solutions from a range of stakeholders willing to collaborate to tackle the complex issues we are facing.

The future of Ontario’s agri-food system is at stake, and we cannot afford to delay action any longer. Immediate action is needed to protect our farmland, invest in farmers, and support the next generation of farmers.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Martin Straathof
Executive Director
Ontario Farmland Trust

More help for homeless in Lambton County

Heather Wright
The Independent

There is more help on the way for people in Lambton County without homes.

The province is adding \$202 million to Ontario’s Homelessness Prevention Program and Indigenous Supportive Housing Programs. That includes more than \$2 million more in to help people in Lambton county - a 57 per cent increase and brings the total provincial homelessness funding to over \$5.6 million.

There are between 200 and 250 people without homes in Lambton; many find their way to three homeless shelters in Sarnia.

Officials say up to 50 people a night may sleep outside.

Valerie Colasanti, general manager of social services, says the additional money announced by the province April 13 will help people without homes or who are on the verge of losing their homes.

“These funds will be used to provide the support services that individuals and families experiencing homelessness need to find housing, including rent supplements and the ‘wrap around’ supports required to ensure they remain housed, including mental health supports, harm reduction and self-sufficiency supports,” says Colasanti.

“Some of the funds will go towards the development of a plan to build more affordable and supportive housing.

“Additional capital funding will be required for that.”

Lambton has one housing project in the works on London Line and recently approved a plan to place 24 tiny homes on a green space on Kathleen Street. That development could be fully funded by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Still, the county hopes to build 75 units by 2024 to begin to help meet the housing needs in the community.

Lambton’s funding boost from the

province is larger than many other communities. “I am not sure what the funding formula was to determine the allocation,” said Colasanti, “but there has been a significant increase in the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the County within the last two years.”

“As the cost of living rises, our government is building a stronger Ontario that leaves no one behind,” said Monte McNaughton, MPP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex in a news release. “This investment will ensure some of the most vulnerable members of our community will have access to the support they need to have a roof over their heads and a place they can call home.”

Provincial officials add they met with communities to talk about what was needed and looked at the Auditor General’s 2021 report which called for a better funding model for homelessness programs targeting areas where funding is needed the most.

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Health coalition wants one million to say no to private health care

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

The Sarnia Lambton Health Care Coalition is holding a citizen-led referendum on May 26 and 27 in a province-wide effort to send a message to the government of Ontario Premier Doug Ford to stop privatizing health services.

Chair Shirley Roebuck, Co-Chair June Weiss, and Executive Member Lorraine Cameron officially launched the effort in front of the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia April 18.

The Sarnia Lambton Health Care Coalition has asked several businesses and organizations to set up voting locations throughout the county. Heidi's Your Independent Grocer will have the one voting station in Petrolia.

Recently, Lambton County councillors supported the Ontario Health Coalition privatization vote urging citizens in the area to cast a ballot.

Roebuck hopes as many as one million Ontarians vote no to privatization across the province.

The results will be presented to the Ontario government.

This effort comes after the Ford announced the government has plans to have 14,000 cataract surgeries conducted in private

facilities. This is 25 percent of the wait list created during the pandemic.

The next phase of the government's plan will have private clinics offer MRI, CT scans, colonoscopies and endoscopies, with hips and knee surgeries in private clinics by 2024.

The province plans private facilities in Windsor, Waterloo and Ottawa as cataract centres.

Roebuck said there could be a disruption when the private clinics open, as she suspects private clinic staff will be paid higher and might be poached from the public sector system.

She pointed to Riverside campus of the Ottawa Hospital. "There are some strange partnerships being built," said Roebuck. CBC reported a group of surgeons are performing hip and knee surgeries Saturdays in operating rooms, which are not being used by the hospitals.

It is not clear how these surgeons are paying for the use of the operating rooms, equipment and supplies.

Registered nurses who agree to work on Saturdays are being offered double then what they would normally make.

Roebuck said this higher level of pay being offered to staff in a

private setting could make it more difficult for the public system to fill jobs.

This might affect services at CEEH.

Bluewater Health operates the The Pat Mailloux Eye Centre at CEEH. It performs 1,300 cataract surgeries annually, operating only two days a week.

Officials there say they have no plans to scale back services at the clinic. The Mailloux Clinic operates with existing hospital staff.

While the private clinics set up, Dr. Michel Haddad, Bluewater Health's chief of staff, says they're trying to ramp up the services in Petrolia to provide 300 more operations a year.

Meantime, Cameron, a mother of three from Corunna, spoke about when her daughter was born at St. Joseph's Hospital in Sarnia. Hours after her birth, she was transferred to Children's Hospital in London, because it was found the baby had neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer.

"Our daughter spent 48 days in hospital, 17 of those in the paediatric critical care unit," said Cameron. "For the next eight months, she spent four days each month in hospital receiving chemotherapy treatments."

"We did not worry if we could



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

June Weiss and Shirley Roebuck of the Sarnia Lambton Health Care Coalition were in front of Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital under the Pat Mailloux Eye Centre sign on Tuesday to launch the citizen-led referendum on May 26 and 27. They urge people to cast a vote against the privatization of the health care system and the use of privately run facilities.

afford to have our child's illness treated," said Cameron.

"We did not worry if medical debt would bankrupt our family."

She called on the government to maintain single-tier publicly funded health care in Ontario.

• THE INDEPENDENT

Oil Springs faces accessibility issues

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

If Oil Springs wants to bring its parks up to accessibility standards, it will have to shell out thousands of dollars.

Oil Springs council heard the village uses peastone under playground equipment but this will not pass inspection to be classified as an accessible park.

Any piece of playground equipment constructed after 2007 must meet the standards. Putting in rubber mats or mulch meets the standards. The mulch is priced at \$76 a yard or about \$16,000 for mulch at Oil Spring's three parks.

Oil Springs Clerk Martha Gawley said the Brooke-Alvinston will be spending \$20,000 for one park in comparison. Councillor Connie McFadden even if mulch is added, the playground equipment such as the swing sets are not wheelchair accessible, which could be a further expense. Mayor Ian Veen added some children might need paths leading into the park and to the playground equipment.

Councillor Larry Wagner suggested the old pea stone be used on the paths at the cemetery, once changes have been made at the parks.

"It is sad," said Veen. "We have done a lot of work in the parks to get them to where they are at." He suggested the municipality talk to the Optimist Club to see if it would help with the costs.

Mobile unit considered to help deal with drug abuse

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

A new mobile unit could help rural Lambton deal with the drug crisis.

Recently, Lambton Public Health introduced its Drug and Alcohol Strategy to the public. The strategy, which was six years in the making, will help deal with drug overdoses in the community.

The highest number of opioid deaths in Sarnia Lambton happened in 2020 with 43. This number was exasperated by the pandemic, said Lambton's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Karalyn Dueck. There were 38 deaths in 2021 and 21 deaths in 2022 between the months of January and October

"It shows how critical this issue is," said Lambton's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Karalyn Dueck, as she helped to officially launched the strategy.

The strategy focuses on three pillars, demand reduction, harm reduction, and supply reduction.

"This strategy is fit to suit local needs and will work on multiple levels including with individuals, local



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Lambton's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Karalyn Dueck, left, and Michelle Holbrook, executive director of Rebound in Sarnia helped launch the 10-year Lambton Drug and Alcohol Strategy on April 12.

settings and on key policies," said Dr. Dueck.

Kathy Bresette, of North Lambton Community Health in Forest said one of ways services could be increased for those dealing with a drug and alcohol addiction would be to have mobile services that could travel on a bus from community to community to reach the rural parts of the county. Bresette serves as the harm reduction pillar chair

Some of the statistics in the report point to the need of the drug and alcohol strategy. There were 78 percent of people surveyed during a homelessness enumeration study said that substance use was preventing them from finding housing. Twenty percent of 18 and 34 year olds report using cannabis at least weekly, while 21 percent were considered heavy

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Warwick approves development charges, could generate \$10M in 15 years

Heather Wright
The Independent

People building homes in Warwick will soon be paying development charges. Township council approved the plan April 11 after reducing the cost of the fees.. Town administrators say Warwick is the only municipality in Southern Ontario with a 400 series highway passing through that does not have development charges. The only fees collected from development by the township are for water and sewer connection. Originally, township staff suggested rural homes would face fees starting at \$10,658 while

urban homes, which have sewer and water connections, would pay \$18,948. Several councillors suggested that was too high, however Treasurer Trevor Jarrett reminded councillors that under the new system, developers wouldn't be charged to connect to the water and sewage system. Warwick can charge up to \$16,500 for sewer, storm and water connections now. Councillors Wayne Morris, John Manning and Deputy Mayor Jerry Westgate also expressed concern about the impact on agricultural buildings. "We're getting more developers coming in to Warwick and at the end of the day, I believe the

developers...will be swallowing the costs of the fees," says Manning. But he added farm buildings affect "our ratepayers directly." Jarrett says agricultural buildings wouldn't face the development charges under the bylaw. Still, councillors voiced concern the rate of the fees were too high with Councillor John Couwenberg suggesting the fees be reduced by about \$450. Jarrett and Ken Melanson, the manager of planning services for Lambton, cautioned the councillors they were already getting less money because of the provincial rules surrounding development fees. Under the Building More Homes

Faster Act, the township will collect 80 per cent of the fee the first year, slowly increasing it to 100 per cent in year five. "If you start discounting your rates you have to remember, they're discounting your rates already" Melanson warned. Mayor Todd Case added he'd recently spoken to one of the developers working in Warwick who was in favour of the charges which help fund the services required because of growth. He also said it was time for Warwick to implement the charges. Council agreed move ahead with development charges but at the suggested lower rate. That means by the end of five years, a rural homebuilder will face just under

\$13,000 in development charges while an urban developer will pay about \$23,500. With the introduction of development charges, Warwick could collect as much as \$10 million in the next 15 years. Jarrett expects if the subdivisions planned move ahead, the town will need at least \$6 million to extend water services to the new homes. Without the charges, the township would have to find another way to fund that growth. And Jarrett added that given the rate of inflation, developers could have been facing higher costs to connect to water, sewers and storm sewers, suggesting their cost could increase to nearly \$24,000 in five years.

McNaughton blacklisted by Russia


Heather Wright
The Independent

Ontario's Labour Minister has been banned from going to Russia. Monte McNaughton, the MPP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex, in a letter emailed to supporters said he's been blacklisted by the Russian government. In January, McNaughton, who as minister of labour, immigration, training and skills development, responded to a question from CBC News about provincial support for refugees from Ukraine saying "Russia is a terrorist state...Ontario will always support our Ukrainian community and the refugees fleeing Putin's war of aggression." McNaughton and 333 other high profile Canadians were banned from Russia for allegedly spreading "rabid Russophobia" after Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine April 11. The Russian Federation says the latest

blacklist is in retaliation for Canadian sanctions. "Back in January, I called Putin's war illegal and genocidal. I said that Putin was a terrorist for invading Ukraine – a strong and free democracy," McNaughton wrote to supporters "My colleagues and I have been banned from entering Russia. Apparently, Putin and his gang of war criminal thugs don't like it when people stand up to them; they don't like it when people speak honestly. Well, that's exactly what I'm going to continue to do, each and every day. "I am proud to stand with Ukraine against Putin's war of aggression." More than 205,000 refugees from Ukraine have settled in Canada since the Feb. 24, 2022 invasion. By January, the Ontario government had provided more than \$300 million to support those moving to the province.

Town of Petrolia

Town Hall Meeting



you'll be surprised!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023

at Victoria Hall
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Bring your questions, meet and chat with Petrolia Council!

More information:

(519) 882-2350
clerkdepartment@petrolia.ca

Unmatched plates tip off OPP

Two Middlesex County residents are facing a host of charges after a traffic stop on Camlachie Road. Lambton OPP spotted a vehicle with mismatched plates and learned the vehicle was stolen in Sarnia earlier in the month. Police arrested both people in the car without incident. A search after the arrest found methamphetamine, cocaine, crack cocaine, fentanyl, oxycodone, hydromorphone prohibited weapons, ammunition, and other stolen property. Joseph Kennedy, 51, of Chippewas of the Thames First Nation faces seven charges including possession for the purpose of trafficking while Zandalee Murphy, 30, of Chippewa of the Thames First Nation faces five charges including possession for the purpose of trafficking.

Highland Glen launch fee set

Boaters setting sail from the newly renovated Highland Glen launch will be paying \$15. Plympton-Wyoming council has agreed to charge a daily launch fee of \$15 or a yearly pass of \$200 to help pay for the upkeep of the launch which recently reopened after three years. Boaters will have to go to the town's website to pay the fee in advance. The passes will also be available at town hall. The town needs approval for the fees from the Ministry of the Solicitor General and that can take months, according to town staff. So, if someone fails to pay the fee, they town will not be able to issue a fine or force payment. Instead officials agreed to provide pamphlets explaining why the town is charging for use. Councillors expect bylaw enforcement of the launch fees will likely be possible in 2024.

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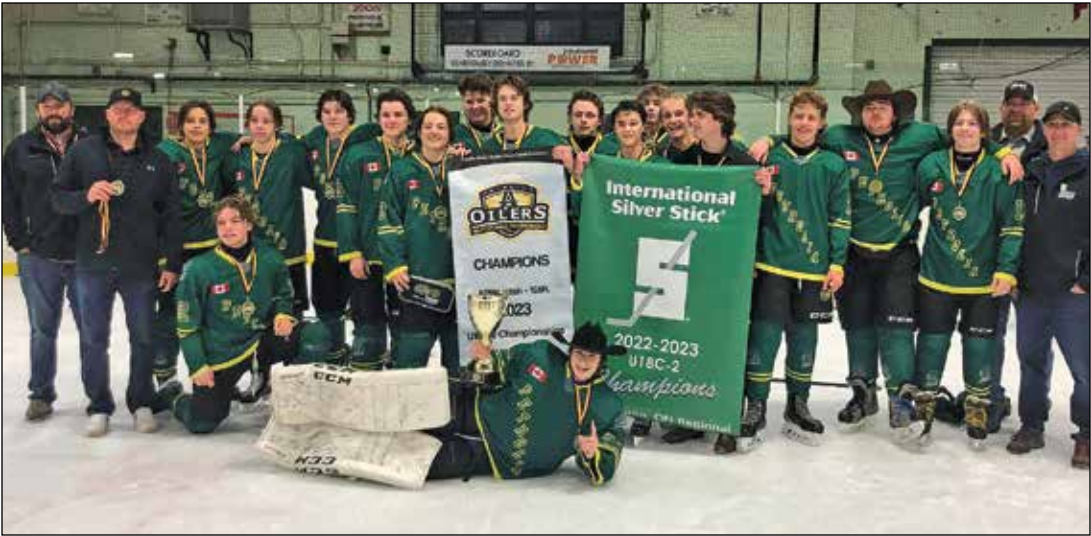
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Sports



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

The Petrolia U18 AEs won the Oilers Invitational Cup this weekend. The tournament hosted by the PMHA, is a finale for the U18 teams who did not have an international tournament. At the left, one of the Oilers dives in front of the net during the 4-3 win over Mid Huron.

Oilers ‘Champions of Champions’

Barry Wright
The Independent

The Petrolia Oilers U18 AE’s won its inaugural invitational hockey tournament last weekend to bring the curtain down on the PMHA season on the ice.

The tournament was organized for teams that won or qualified in Regional Silver Sticks but no International was available.

The Oilers (pictured at the left) started the tournament with a 2-1 overtime loss to Parry Sound. The team came back to beat East Lambton 2-1 and then topped

Mid-Huron 4-3 before blanking East Lambton, 3-0 to capture the four-team event.

As the season ends, the Petrolia Minor Hockey Association will host its annual award evening on Thursday at New Life Assembly church.

Awards for U9-U13 teams will be handed out from 6-7:30 pm, and U15-U18 awards will be presented from 7:30-9 pm. Meantime, the East Lambton association will host its year-end banquet Saturday at 5 pm and the Lambton Shores association has its banquet set for April 28 at the Legacy Centre.

Local teams fare well at provincials

Barry Wright
The Independent

The Lambton Attack and Mooretown Lady Flags both registered top eight finishes at the Ontario Women’s Hockey Association (OWHA) provincials on the weekend.

The Attack won its three preliminary games in the U18 division but fell short, 2-1 against Whitby in the quarter finals.

The Flags went 2-0-1 in the U11 round robin but it too lost a one-goal decision in the quarterfinals, bowing 2-1 to Carleton Place, near Ottawa.

Elsewhere, Wyoming’s Ella McCallum and her London Devilettes won the

bronze medal in the U15 category beating Oakville, 5-4 in double overtime in the third-place contest and Petrolia’s Gracie Harse reached the quarter finals with the Bluewater Hawks in the U18 division.

Meantime, a pair local senior teams both qualified for quarterfinals too. The Watford-based Lambton Lightning went 2-1 in the preliminary round in the Senior C division but lost 3-1 to Stone Mills, near Kingston in the first round of the playoffs.

And, Point Edward made the final eight in the Senior B category before losing 4-0 to Woolwich in the quarter finals.

More than 450 teams took part in the four-day event around the GTA.

Gaudreau leads Sting to two playoff wins

Barry Wright
The Independent

Coming within 39.6 seconds of back-to-back shutouts has earned Sarnia Sting goalie Ben Gaudreau the OHL goaltender of the week honour.

The 19-year-old San Jose Sharks draft choice was 2-0 last week against the Saginaw Spirit with a 0.47 goals-against average and a .983 save percentage. Gaudreau blocked 26 shots in a 3-0 win over the Spirit in the series opener last Friday.

The Sting held serve with a 2-1 win by virtue of a Luca Del Bel Belluz overtime winner on Sunday afternoon.

Sarnia led the best-of-seven conference semifinal, two games to none going into game three last night in Saginaw. The



SARNIA STING PHOTO

Ben Gaudreau celebrates Sunday after a win in Sarnia.

game three score was not available prior to our press time.

Game four is Thursday night in Michigan.

If a fifth game is necessary, it’ll be in Sarnia Saturday night at 7 pm



“Celebrating our Heritage,
Investing in our Future”

The Corporation of the Town of Petrolia
is hiring for the position of
**PUBLIC WORKS
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(Full Time, union)
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The Town of Petrolia is nestled in the heart of Southwestern Ontario’s Lambton County and framed by Lake Huron and the St. Clair River. The Town’s commitment to the preservation of its history supports a quality of life that energizes its residents and inspires its visitors. Petrolia boasts excellent schools, a hospital and an outstanding community and wellness centre offering competitive salary and benefit packages.

Department/Location: Operations, Public Works Yard
Type: Permanent, Full time
Union/Non-Union: Union
Benefits offering: extensive medical and dental coverage, OMERS pension, RWAM
Salary: \$27.78 - 30.07 per hour, per collective agreement Local 2393

General Outline:
Reporting to the Lead Works Foreman, the successful candidate will support the Public Works Department in areas of infrastructure, road maintenance, snow removal and general operations maintenance.

- Responsible for the safe operation of Roads and Works equipment, and the performance of physical labour as required. Repairs, replaces and installs road signs;
- Operate Snow Plow during winter maintenance and Backhoe all year-round;
- Maintains equipment, vehicles and tools in safe operating condition by following acceptable maintenance and servicing schedules;
- Assists with maintenance projects, including water main and sanitary sewer, as required;
- Maintains pavement. Applies cold patching to fill holes in pavement and hot patching for the treatment of cracks and holes;
- 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);
 - Computer literate (Microsoft Word, e-mail, internet, etc.);
 - Strong oral and written communications skills;
 - Valid DZ licence;
 - Familiar with Road repair and Maintenance;
 - CRS certification an asset;
 - First Aid & CPR;

Detailed job description can be found at
<https://town.petrolia.on.ca/town-hall/employment/>

Qualified applicants interested in this career opportunity are invited to submit a resume no later than Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at noon.

Resumes clearly marked Public Works Operator to be directed in confidence to the attention of:
Mandi Pearson, Clerk/Operations Clerk
411 Greenfield Street Petrolia, Ontario N0N 1R0
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.

Truman scores, Jr Sting fall short

The Independent

Isaac Truman notched his 34th goal of the season in the final minute of regulation time but it was very much too little, too late as the Lambton Jr. Sting lost 5-1 to the Windsor Jr. Spitfires in the deciding game of its best-of-three U16 Alliance playoff (consolation) final Saturday in Sarnia.

The Petrolia native had seven games in his last six games and ended the season with 69 points in 74 games this

season.

The Jr. Sting lost 5-1 in Windsor last Thursday to set up the one-game showdown.

Lambton had won nine straight games before the two decisive setbacks.

Lambton was without highly touted power forward Jack Nesbitt who was away at the OHL Combine in Oshawa. He's expected to be a high selection when the OHL Priority Selection convenes online this Friday.

Wyoming's Turnbull Lambton Lions MVP

Caden Turnbull won a pair of awards at the Lambton College athletics banquet in Sarnia.

The Wyoming product was chosen as the Lions' baseball squad MVP and was also named the hitter of the

year. Teammate and fellow Wyoming native Cole Hudson was honoured as the defensive player of the year. And, Wyoming's Sarah Sanders was chosen as Lambton's indoor soccer player of the year.

Soccer rugby season start next week

The Independent

High school sports is back in action with girls soccer first up.

The North Lambton Eagles traveled to Pain Court Monday to open the LKSSAA soccer season and came away with two clean sheets. The girls scored twice in the first half and counted three more times in the second half beating the home team, 5-nil . The boys blanked Pain Court, 3-nil.

Felix Schoeley, Tyson Buis, and Trevor Vandenberg scored for North Lambton.

In the girls' game, Lilly Heynsbergen and Brenna Scott each scored twice with Hailey Leyten adding the other. Natalie Scott earned the shutout.

The Eagles continue their season Wednesday at Tilbury with a doubleheader.

Elsewhere on Monday, Dresden blanked Tilbury, 3-nil in girls' action and Tilbury turned the table beating LKCS, 2-1 in the boys' contest.

The LCCVI openers are Monday at Ursuline in Chatham at 4:30 and 6 pm. The home openers are next Wednesday against St. Pat's. The girls kick off at 3:30, followed by the boys at 5 pm.

The Lancers senior boy's rugby side lifts the curtain on its season Tuesday with home games against St. Pats and Ursuline beginning at 3 pm.

The girl's opener is next Thursday at Great Lakes.

Flags hosting spring evaluation camp

For those wanting to play PJHL hockey with the Mooretown Flags, mark Saturday, May 6 on your calendar. The Flags will hold a spring evaluation camp on that date between 3 and 5 pm at the Moore Sports

Complex. Interested players should contact John Baker at flagsgm@gmail.com or at 519-464-8809. Registration is \$20 per player. Participants need permission to skate from your home centre in order to take part in the camp.



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS

The Watford Skating Club took to the ice Saturday as the young skaters showcased their talents to a packed arena at the annual skating carnival called What A Weekend! The program featured grocery shoppers Victoria Walden, Ella O'Quinn, Harper Chapman, Gillian Cran, Rayah Bressette and Vanessa Peters; a pool party which included, Zoey Chisholm, Riley McLean and Jody Johnson; some chores with, left to right, Dodge Van Kessel, Millie Huyben and Brooke Verberne and Ethan Hogervost driving his car.



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2023 MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
The Township is now receiving applications for the **\$1,000 "Municipal Scholarship"** awarded to one student of Dawn-Euphemia Township, that is pursuing a minimum 2-year, full-time post-secondary education.
The application is available on the homepage at **www.dawneuphemia.ca** under "Upcoming Events", or by contacting the Municipal Office (519) 692-5148.
Deadline for submission is April 30, 2023.

The Victoria Petrolia Playhouse is hosting a
VOLUNTEER TRAINING
day

April 20, 2023 at 1:00pm
at Victoria Hall
411 Greenfield St.

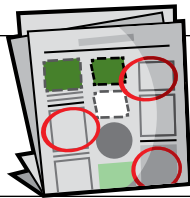
We ask that volunteers be over 16 years of age and can apply the hours for the high school volunteer program requirements.
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Death Notices

April 12 - April 18 , 2023

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

CADOGAN, Lori
Age 64, of Glencoe
Van Heck Funeral Home

MORNINGSTAR, Alex "Albo"
Age 31, of Petrolia
Needham Jay Funeral Home

TERRELL, Nancy Lee
Age 64, of Sarnia
McCormack Funeral Home

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

TRANMER , Movreen Linea Ann
Age 81
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

DODDS, Dorothy June
(nee Dawson)
Age 90, of Forest
Denning's of Forest Funeral Home

ROSS, Mary "Grace"
(nee Fleming)
Age 96, of Alvinston
Van Heck Funeral Home

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

SMART, Elizabeth "Beth" Diane
Age 68, of Chatham
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel

DEGRAW, Donald Wallace
Age 88
Denning's of Watford Funeral Home

O'LEARY, Mark
Age 71
Smith Funeral Home

BAIN, Karen Irene
Age 74
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

DOLBEAR, Ralph
Age 82, of Sarnia
Needham Jay Funeral Home

BOS, Daniel Christopher
Age 51, of Chatham
John C. Badder Funeral Home

WHALING, Barbara Ann
Age 80, of Dresden
John C. Badder Funeral Home

MILLER, Marjorie Alma
Age 79, of Thamesville
John C. Badder Funeral Home

BOYNTON, Helen Evelyn
Age 93
Smith Funeral Home

SHACKLETON, Angela Karen
Age 51
Smith Funeral Home

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

HOLDEN, James
Age 84, of Sarnia
Needham Jay Funeral Home

HAUSPIE, Terry
Age 55, of Glencoe
Van Heck Funeral Home

WILLIAMS, Gwendolyn Ann
(nee Huff)
Age 76
Smith Funeral Home

DOUGLAS, Gordon William Walter
Age 80
Smith Funeral Home

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023

MURRAY, Dennis Joseph
Age 66
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

McCORMICK, James Lawrence
"Elvis"
Age 69
Smith Funeral Home

HOPE, Annie Edith (nee Clysdale)
Age 99
Smith Funeral Home

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

ADVERTISING POLICY

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

Obituary



ROSS
Mary "Grace"

Peacefully at her home in Alvinston, on Thursday April 13, 2023, with her family by her side, Mary "Grace" Ross (nee Fleming) passed away in her 96th year. Predeceased by her husband Tom (1999). Dear mother of Roy (Monica) Ross, Donna (Dave) Cook and Marilyn (Kevin) Graham. Loved by her grandchildren Peter (Teresa), David (Megan), Jonathan (Rebecca), Kimberley (Bryan), Allan, Taylor, Lauren (Luc), Jenna (Dave) and Lindsay (Jeremy) and 6 great-grandchildren. Also survived by

one brother Sam Fleming. Predeceased by 2 sisters Ilene Dobson and Marguerite Gowing and 6 brothers Peter, Ivan, Leonard, Archie, Arnold and Jim Fleming. Grace was an active member of Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Alvinston for many years, Sunny Brooke Women's Institute, Alvinston Book Club and Alvinston Senior's Club. She enjoyed travelling, Saturday night dances with Tom, many years of quilting, playing cards at the Alvinston Legion and participated in many euchre tournaments throughout the county. Visitation will be held at Guthrie Presbyterian Church, Alvinston on Tuesday April 18 from 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. where the memorial service will be held on Wednesday at 11 a.m. Rev. Jo-Anne Symington officiating. Inurnment to follow at Alvinston Cemetery. In lieu of memorial donations, consider doing an act of kindness or good deed for someone in Grace's memory. Special thanks to Dr. Butler and staff, palliative care nurses, PSW Dianne from Bayshore Homecare Service and Rev. Jo-Anne. Online condolences may be left at www.vanheck-funeralhome.ca.

In Memoriam



Freer

In loving memory of Ray, a dear Husband, Dad, Gramps & Great Grampa who passed away August 17, 2013.

Time slips by and life goes on,
But in our hearts you have never gone.
We think about you all the time
We talk about you too,
We have so many memories
But we wish we still had you.
Missed every day by Kay & Family

Obituary



DOLBEAR
Ralph

On Saturday, April 15, 2023 RALPH DOLBEAR, of Wyoming, passed away at Bluewater Health, Sarnia in his 82nd year. Ralph is survived by his wife of 61 years Dorcas (nee Cooper) and his daughter Terri Dolbear. He was the son of the late Harry (1994) and Nora (1994) Dolbear and his brother Jim Cotterill (2004). Visitors will be received on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Wyoming Chapel of Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 650 Broadway St., Wyoming where a service will be held on the Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 11 a.m. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.ceehf.ca) or Big Brothers Big Sisters Sarnia Lambton (sarnia.bigbrothers-bigsisters.ca). Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.needhamjay.com.

Notice To Patients

EFFECTIVE APRIL 24, 2023, Drs. Chaudhary, Gall, MacDonald, Suffoletta and Vanderzwan, and Thames Valley Family Health Team Nurse Practitioners Lindsay Huehn and Susan Jurjevich Thames Valley Family Health Team health care providers – dietitians, nurses, occupational therapists, pharmacists, respiratory therapists and social workers will begin seeing patients at a **NEW LOCATION: 351 Frances Street, Strathroy.** The current location at 31 Caradoc Street North, Strathroy, will close for all health services at end of day on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. There will be no after hours service on Thursday, April 20 and Friday, April 21. **Patients are encouraged to go the nearest Emergency Department if they need urgent care.**



DOUGLAS
Gordon William Walter

Peacefully, on Sunday, April 16, 2023, at Lambton Meadowview Villa, Petrolia, Gordon William Walter Douglas passed away at the age of 80. Beloved son of the late Alfred (1984) and the late Fanny Bella Douglas (nee Kimble) (2013). Treasured cousin of Clayton and Linda McLaughlin, their children Hailey and Colton, Connie, David and Jesse and Nicole Braswell and Family and Tammy and Jeff Ditmars. Gordon will be deeply missed by his extended family, and fondly remembered by his many friends, neighbours and relatives. All those who knew him will miss his regular phone calls and cards. A special thank you to Yvonne V., Connie C., John L., the staff at Lambton Meadowview Villa and the many health care providers for their constant support. A funeral service will be held at Smith Funeral Home on Friday, April 21, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., with family and friends being received one hour prior to the service. Burial to follow in Hillsdale cemetery. Sympathy may be expressed through donations to the Children's Health Foundation or New Life Assembly (cheques only at the funeral home please). Arrangements entrusted to Smith Funeral Home, 1576 London Line, Sarnia. Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.smithfuneralhome.ca

Services Offered

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Royal Canadian Legion • Ladies Auxiliary Petrolia

IT'S TEA TIME

Sunday, April 30, 2023
1 pm - 3 pm

Join us for - Assorted finger sandwiches & decadent desserts,
Variety of teas, including Iced Tea, non-alcoholic punch,
Games with prizes, Cash Bar, Socializing with Friends

Adults: \$15 - Children age 6-10: \$7
Ages 5 and under: FREE

Tickets Available: 519-882-1201 or at
the Legion, Thurs 7am-9pm, Sat Noon, 4pm
4129 Clearview Road, Petrolia



Property For Sale



21648 Simpson Rd

Glencoe

Welcome to a little piece of paradise



\$749,900

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Leo Shanahan Sales Representative
Direct: 519-878-5981 • leo@shanahanrealty.com • Office: 226-848-6684

THIS LITTLE HOBBY FARM includes a 30x40 shop w/ oversized garage doors. A garden shed & plenty of grounds for gardening. Country at it's best w/ a covered front porch, back deck & an enclosed porch to watch the sunrise. Prepare your coffee & enjoy the countryside from the second story balcony off the primary bedroom suite. Oversized family room with wood burning fireplace. Property has a Geothermal heating and cooling system. House was completely renovated since the owners purchased the property in 2008. All plumbing, electrical & geothermal was updated in the last 10 years. Metal roof (2021), Basement foam insulated, infrared UV system; water softener rented at \$30.00 per month

Obituary



HOLDEN-CADMAN
James Ivor

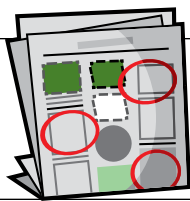
James Ivor Holden-Cadman passed from this life on April 16th, 2023 after a brief illness. James was born on October 28, 1939 in Sarnia Ontario, the third son of Beryl and Stewart Cadman. Jim graduated from high school in 1959 and moved to California to work. In 1962, Jim was drafted into the United States Army and served four years, stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky and Fort Hood, Texas. Jim married Yvonne Krenek in 1965 and entered civilian life by working for Hartford Insurance in Houston, Texas. Jim, Yvonne, and their three boys moved to

Canada in 1979, working a farm in McKague, Saskatchewan for several years. Jim joined John Bob Farm Equipment in the early 1980's and enjoyed a 25 year career selling farm equipment in the Tisdale area until his retirement in 2005. Jim and Yvonne moved back to Jim's hometown of Sarnia, Ontario in 2005 and lived by Lake Huron until a year ago, when they moved into a Senior community in Petrolia. Jim is survived by his wife, Yvonne and their three sons, Shannon, Clinton, and Danton. Jim is also survived by brothers Bill, Fred, Jack, Gary and Denny, and sisters Denise and Deanna. Jim and Yvonne have seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needham-jay.com.

Wanted To Buy

WANTED TO BUY - Adult bicycles womens & mens, boys & girls. All sizes. Good to fair condition. All types of bikes wanted. Please call **519-882-2548** and ask for **Dave**. **ALSO, will pick up scrap bikes.**

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

Fun!

PETROLIA TOWN-WIDE

Garage

SALES

Town-wide Garage Sale ads - \$25.00 taxes included • Deadline: Thursday April 21 @ noon

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, APRIL 28 & 29 for only **\$25.00**
advertise your garage sale in

stop by the office today: 4156 Petrolia Line - open Monday-Friday 9-3

The Independent
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

Church DIRECTORY



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

416 Queen Street, Petrolia (Behind the Post Office)

In-Person Service
Sundays @ 10:00 am

Services also available online: www.standrews-petrolia.ca
Pastor Katherine Hawley

Christ Anglican Church

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

Join us for In-Person Services
Sundays @ 10:00am

Everyone Welcome

Church Office: 519-882-1430 | christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com

Rev. Dave Hewett



St. Paul's United Church

4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

In-Person Services
Sundays @ 10:30 am

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

Rev. Carol Ferguson

First Baptist Church

In Person Church Service
Sunday Mornings @10:30 am

Pastor: Alex Craig

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



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 |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|---|--------------|
| 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 | 12:01am | Sarnia | CLUB SPRING DERBY @ Bluewater Anglers - for info visit: www.Bluewateranglers.com | |
| Apr22 | 4:30pm | Brigden | MEAT RAFFLE @ the Brigden Legion - 519-864-1395 | |
| Apr23 | 1-3pm | Petrolia | PET FOOD DRIVE @ St. Paul's United Church - 519-882-1390 or email: office@stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net | |
| Apr24 | 2-3:30p | Online | Lambton County Branch, Ontario Ancestors Drop-in & Chat - Zoom Webinar - link to meeting lambton.ogs.on.ca | |
| Apr 25 | 7-8:30pm | Sarnia | SPECIAL IN-PERSON WORKSHOP @ JCLDS Church - Lambton County Branch Ontario Ancestors, email: 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 | |
| May2 | 1pm | Wyoming | EUCHRE @ Wyoming Fair Building - 519-312-0578 | |
| May 3 | 4:30 - 6:30pm | Camlachie | FISH FRY DINNER @ Camlachie United Church - 226-776-1222 or Sue 519-312-7323, email: camunitedevents@gmail.com | |
| May 6 | 9am-2pm | Wyoming | VENDOR SHOW @ Wyoming Legion - 519-845-0072 | |
| May 7 | 3pm | Camlachie | ROCK N ROLL CONCERT @ Camlachie United Church - 226-776-1222 or Terry 519-869-4103, email: camunitedevents@gmail.com | |
| May 9 | 11am-1pm | Petrolia | SOUP LUNCH @ St. Philip's parish Hall - 519-882-2057 | |
| May12 | 7:30p | Sarnia | Sarnia Concert Association presents BUZZ BRASS - 519-344-7469 | |
| May16 | 1pm | Wyoming | EUCHRE @ Wyoming Fair Building - 519-312-0578 | |
| May30 | 1pm | Wyoming | EUCHRE @ Wyoming Fair Building - 519-312-0578 | |

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

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

Date: _____

Time: _____

Town: _____

Event Title: _____

Phone # / website: _____

You can drop this off at our office or email the info to us at office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

SHARING THE TRACTOR TRADITION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

LCCVI held its annual Tractor Day April 14. This year, instead of just parading in Petrolia for children at the Early Years Program at St. Philips, the teens drove their tractors over to Lambton Centennial School where the entire school watched the tractors parade around the driveway.

PW wants opinions on AirBnBs

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming wants to know what residents think about regulating short term rentals. The town is considering licensing the rentals which are predominantly along the shores of Lake Huron. The town’s planner, Sarah Baldwin, estimates there are about 54 homes – 24 along the lakeshore – which are for rent. The short-term rentals have been a problem for some time with Blue Point residents sending a petition in 2020 to council, asking they be banned. The town has put together an online survey to find out what sort of regulations residents feel will help keep disturbances to a minimum. It can be found on the town’s website. Plympton-Wyoming has already heard some feedback. Recently Monica Cameron, who has been operating an Air-bnb in Wyoming for four years, came to council concerned about regulation. She said if regulations are imposed, they need to be fair to all operators and not all rental styles should be treated the same. Cameron, who stays in her home with the renter, believes absentee landlords should have different rules.

Wyoming says goodbye to longtime baseball coach and supporter Dave Willis

Heather Wright
The Independent

Dave Willis is being remembered as a passionate sportsman who contributed to his community. “Dave was a pillar in Wyoming,” said friend Steve McGrail from the Wyoming Minor Baseball Association about Dave Willis, who was remembered at a Celebration of Life in Wyoming Saturday. Willis passed away on Feb. 28

at the age of 77. Born in Sarnia, Willis was involved in coaching, managing and serving as a trainer for 40 years in baseball, hockey and football. He was inducted into the Sarnia Sports Hall of Fame in 2006 and the Wyoming Sports Hall of Fame in 2019. McGrail first met Willis in the late 1980s when he first coached him in Wyoming. McGrail said the coaches are often parents, but Willis was one of those rare coaches who coached for the love of the game anywhere he was needed, said McGrail. “Often, it was just him at the diamond,” said McGrail, as he would put his team through their paces during a practice. Willis always wanted to know how the kids he had coached over the years were doing in their lives. Willis coached hockey in Petrolia in the 1970s and was also a trainer for the Petrolia Jets.

He also scouted for the hockey teams with the Western Michigan University Broncos and Bowling Green University in the 1970s and early 1980s, where he help secure scholarships for local athletes. Outside of athletics, Willis served as a Big Brother and was a military veteran serving in the Canadian Navy from 1963 to 1966. His most memorable moment in the navy was when he served on the HMCS Kootenay

when they chased a Soviet submarine across the Atlantic Ocean at the height of the Cold War. Recently, Willis moved into an apartment in Wyoming - close to the ball diamonds - and could often be found at the park, watching the teams play. And McGrail says he was quick to chat about his favourite teams, the Maple Leafs, Detroit Tigers and Hamilton Tiger Cats.

Award Winning Local News

FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN FIVE YEARS,
The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton has been named the best small newspaper in Ontario by the Ontario Community Newspaper Award. The Independent also placed second in Sports Photography and third for a story about racism in hockey in the Sports and Recreation category.

JUDGES COMMENTS:

The Independent serving Petrolia and Central Lambton emerged as number one in this category for its extensive coverage, strong photography, clean design and effective advertising...providing the people the information they need about their community.



Local News First
The Independent
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