

A man with a beard and short dark hair is smiling broadly while playing a violin. He is wearing a bright green suit jacket with orange floral embroidery on the lapels and white fringe on the cuffs. Underneath, he wears a white shirt and an orange patterned tie. A small lapel microphone is clipped to his jacket. The background is dark with a pattern of orange and yellow geometric shapes.

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Future of Mooretown campground up in the air

St. Clair Township staff say the Mooretown Campgrounds either needs a cash injection of up to \$1 million or should be sold.

That in a report from the Director of Community Services Kendall Lindsay in a report to council May 1.

Mooretown is one of three campgrounds the municipality owns. During budget, council asked for an in-depth report on the campground next to the Moore Sports Complex knowing it was aging.

The director says Mooretown Campground has made money in nine of the past 10 years making between \$20,000 and \$56,000 between 2013 and 2019. In 2020, the township lost over \$11,000 running the campsite primarily because of pandemic restriction.

In 2021 and 2022, the township increased the rental fees and the bottomline blossomed making \$80,778 in 2021 and \$82,782 in 2022.

SEE CAMPGROUND PG 2

Heather Wright
The Independent

Bill Reid remembers gathering up the people at his farm market on London Line and heading to the basement of his home.

In a few moments on May 2, 1983, an F3 tornado tore a 200 to 300 foot wide path through the Plympton Township village, seriously damaging 18 homes and businesses and injuring 13 people. Eighteen families were temporarily homeless. Fortunately, no one lost their lives.

“We were we heard we were in the market and we heard it coming and we had some people with us and we went to the house in the

basement. We just got to the basement and that was it.... it just went to the north of where our house was...it went the past us and it took Kerrigan barn, flattened it. They had grain beds behind the barn and they were embedded in cement ...it didn't break the cement, it pulled the steel right out of the cement," says Reid.

Reid recalls looking at the path of the tornado and seeing that on “the north side, everything went back to the west and on the south side, everything went east.”

The Reids were fortunate that day; they lost the roof to a barn and some fruit trees were damaged. "One of them looked like maybe a sheet of steel cut it just

like a friggin' big machete," he recalls.

Bill Davidson was the Wyoming fire chief at the time. He was coming up Highway 40 when he heard the call. Fire crews made it to the scene before he did, checking homes and helping the injured.

Gary Atkinson, now the mayor of Plympton-Wyoming, happened to be at his parents home, just outside of Reece's Corners. They didn't take shelter that day but he recalls the colour of the sky as the storm blew through.

“The sky was a weird color of grayish black, with kind of a light hue like that I’d never ever saw before.”

At his parents home, “there



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

The front page of the Port Huron Times Herald after the storm. There was no sound at all. There was no silence. wind. There was just absolute dead

SEE TORNADO PG 2



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Enbridge locate fees plan panned by Broad

Heather Wright
The Independent

Municipalities could be facing thousands of dollars in new fees if Enbridge Gas decides to charge for construction locates. Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad first raised the alarm about the idea in April when he heard Enbridge was planning to charge \$200 to locate gas lines - a service utility companies and municipalities normally do for free.

“It blows my mind, Enbridge uses our roads free of charge, going to charge us?”

“It is ridiculous they are considering it.”

But Kelly Elliott of the Association of Road Supervisors, in a letter to Dawn-Euphemia’s

public works manager says Enbridge officials told the association providing locates costs the company about \$30 million a year “and therefore they are looking to recoup these costs through locate fees.”

When the issue was first raised, Enbridge officials told *The Independent* it had considered the move. “Enbridge Gas has made the decision to put the implementation of the locate delivery charge on pause. We are using this time to continue our industry consultations and will provide additional information once we have confirmed our approach.”

Elliott, in her email, says she met with Enbridge April 24 and they “have made it clear they are pursuing this charge. They

are currently meeting with the provincial government on how they are going to move forward.”

Broad says Enbridge may find itself paying locate fees from the municipality if it moves ahead with the plan and in Dawn-Euphemia that will be expensive. While Dawn-Euphemia would have to pay about \$9,800 in locate fees, Enbridge would face fees of about \$119,800 in Dawn-Euphemia as it expands its pipeline system.

Lambton’s General Manager of Infrastructure, Jason Cole, was “disturbed by the sudden move” adding “we don’t charge any road work permits. If we need to start reconsidering those options...we can look at those options, too.”

Campground needs \$1M in upgrades says staff

CON’T FROM PG 1

But Lindsay, in his report to council, outlined a litany of problems which need a cash infusion including the replacement of the electrical system, estimated at a cost of \$500,000, and upgrading washrooms to meet accessibility standards as well as replacing the pool on the grounds.

As the facility ages, Lindsay says there are other issues. It’s hard to find replacements for staff members who have retired and finding summer help is also difficult. Add into the mix the rising costs of running the grounds and Lindsay says it’s becoming difficult to keep the campground going.

“We have also increased our pricing 15 per cent over the last two years to try and combat the rising cost of operation, Lindsay writes. “These campgrounds are a strain on the Community Services Department as they get older and need more and more attention with less and less staff. We believe there is a way to keep all three campgrounds, but it is going to take commitment from township in restructuring how they operate and a reinvestment financially to revitalize their potential.”

Lindsay suggested either the municipality should invest up to \$1 million into the campground or sell it and reinvest the money

in the two other campgrounds.

“Branton-Cundick could be expanded to accommodate some of the campers we have at Mooretown. Recently there have been inquiries about its availability,” he added.

Council didn’t discuss the report with Deputy Mayor Steve Miller saying the discussion should be moved to an in camera session, shielded from the public view.

Campground Facts

- 84 seasonal sites
- 57 transient sites
- 4 large camping cabins
- 3 small camping cabins

Campsite cost up to \$3,000 per year with hydro

Tornado alerts more accessible

CON’T FROM PG 1

Once the storm passed, Atkinson returned to his home in Wyoming and only later heard about the tornado and the devastation it left behind.

Atkinson only went to the scene after it was clear the emergency had passed. “It looked like some pictures that you saw in a war where buildings it had been stated like they were hit with a bomb... stuff was strewn all over the yards, and the roadways.

Atkinson also heard some of the stories of the people who survived including a woman who had been next door getting her hair done while her husband was in the basement working when the tornado passed by and destroyed their house. “When she went to come home, she had no house to go back to.”

Both were safe, but homeless.

“I had a young cousin that told me that he saw birds flying backwards, which kind of was a little freaky,” the mayor recalled.

Atkinson says he also remembers the way the community pitched in to help those whose homes had been damaged.

Reid agreed saying people from across southern Ontario came for days to help pick up the pieces of buildings which had blown far and wide.

And while there was an extensive clean up, Reid says his family still

finds scraps of houses in the bush, blown there, he believes by that tornado.

The 40th anniversary of the tornado that devastated Reece’s Corners fall in the middle of Emergency Preparedness week.

Jay VanKlinken, Lambton’s emergency management coordinator, says since 1983, technology has evolved to the point where anyone can hear tornado warnings. Environment Canada and Sarnia Lambton Alerts now has the technology to send out tornado warnings to cellphones - like Amber Alerts.

And he says, Canadians “all love watching the sky and reading the weather. We know when the warning signs are there for a tornado - that dark, sometimes a green or yellow looking sky...extreme thunder and lightning, an eerie calm or a wall of white...the rumbling like a freight train or a jet.”

VanKlinken hopes people “don’t roll the dice” or “take any chances” and head inside and to the basement.

And while for many people the tornado in Reece’s Corners is still a difficult memory, he says it is a good reminder of how quickly severe weather can hit.

VanKlinken says it may even trigger people to put together an emergency kit so they can be ready for anything during tornado season.

News Tip?
Call
226-738-0728

We Love Local

Associate Financial Planner **Jesse Minten** loves his hometown of Watford. He knows how important the local community centre is in the life of his neighbours. Recently, Jesse presented a \$2,000 to the *East Lambton Community Complex Fundraising Campaign* for the Co-operators.





Jesse Minten, QAFP™ Professional, RRC®
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COMMUNITY NOTICE

ANNUAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Every year, CN is required to clear its right-of-way of any vegetation that may pose a safety hazard. Vegetation on railway right-of-way, if left uncontrolled, can contribute to trackside fires, and impair proper inspection of track infrastructure. The spray program is not being done for aesthetic reasons.

For safe railway operations, CN will conduct its annual spray program on its rail lines in the province of Ontario. A certified professional will be applying herbicides on and around the railway tracks (primarily along the 16 – 24 feet graveled area/ballast). All product requirements for setbacks in the vicinity of dwellings, aquatic environments and municipal water supplies will be met.

CN may use the following herbicides and active ingredients: Credit Xtreme (Nufarm), Esplanade (Bayer), Detail (BASF), Arsenal Powerline (BASF), Navius Flex (Bayer), Gateway (Corteva), Hasten NT (Norac), Round Up Weather Pro (Bayer), Glyphosate (540g/L), Indaziflam (200 g/L),

Saflufenacil (29.74%), Imazapyr isopropylamine (26.7%), Metsulfuron-methyl (12.6%), Aminocyclopyrachlor (39.5%), Paraffinic Oil (586 g/L), Alkoxylated alcohol non-ionic surfactants (242 g/L), Methyl and Ethyl oleate (esterified vegetable oil) 75.20%

CN only uses herbicides that have been approved for use in Canada and in the province within which they are applied.

The program is expected to take place from May to October 2023.

Visit www.cn.ca/vegetation to see the list of cities as well as the updated schedule.

For more information, contact the CN Public Inquiry Line at contact@cn.ca or 1-888-888-5909.

CN.CA

SOGGY SALES



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The yard-sale season got off to a soggy start in Petrolia. The event usually draws thousands of people to the community, but rain hampered the sales, particularly on Friday morning where the Findlaysons were taking in their items as the rain poured down. Saturday, bargain hunters had better luck as there were breaks in the rain.

Authority to meet with campers about decks

Heather Wright
The Independent

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority officials will be meeting with campers to talk to them about problems with their decks and gazebos.

In March, the conservation authority board agreed to have about 150 of the 425 campers in the three conservation areas, remove or replace decks and gazebos which don’t meet the building code.

At the time Greg Wilcox, manager of the conservation area, said there was a significant number of trailers which didn’t meet the code particularly decks that are higher than 24 inches off the ground, without railings and roof structures which haven’t been properly constructed.

Wilcox admitted the authority had not been enforcing the building code but St. Clair’s insurance company said allowing the structures that aren’t complying with the building code to remain would mean the conservation authority could be held liable if anything went wrong and people were injured.

The decision anger campers who wrote to councillors about the issue. April 20, several people from the three campgrounds came to the authority’s board meeting to voice concerns.

Pete Fisher has a trailer at AW Campbell Conservation Area. He said the authorities

guidelines which were in place in 2020 allowed campers to build the structures. He estimates the work on his site alone will cost about \$10,000 to bring it up to the building code. Fisher says some people who were trying to sell their trailers are now stuck because buyers want to find out if they’ll be saddled with the cost of repairs.

Conservation Authority Board Chair, Pat Brown, told Fisher staff would be meeting with campers to discuss the problem.

“I believe within two weeks Greg is going to be meeting with the individual on individual sites, a couple days for each different campground, to review the issues.

“And from my understanding, I’m gathering that a lot of these issues are minor. But for whatever sites that are non-compliant, I’m sure we’re willing to work with them.”

That includes working with people who have wheelchair ramps which don’t meet code, says Wilcox.

And while the authority staff has some flexibility over decks that aren’t up to building code, Wilcox says shelters, like roofs and gazebos, are another story. “There’s no way to make them compliant,” he says.

Board member Lorie Scott hoped the personal visits at the campsites would help ease concerns. “They may find that the issues are not as bad as they seem.”

Wyoming man headed to trial on theft

The Independent

A Wyoming man facing over 40 charges is headed to trial later this month.

And Cody Price is out on bail until that trial begins.

Price turned himself in to Lambton OPP after a cruiser was “intentionally damaged” in St. Clair Township Dec. 30. At the time, police said on social media Price was allegedly a repeat offender who “steals trucks daily” and was suspected in the incident.

Price turned himself into police Jan. 8 and was charged with assaulting a peace officer with a weapon, flight from police, dangerous operation of a vehicle, break and enter, two counts of theft of a motor vehicle, two counts of theft over \$5,000, two counts of possession of property obtained by crime and failing to comply with a release order.

Price, at the time, was already facing 31 charges

from an investigation linked to multiple thefts and break and enters throughout Lambton. Police recovered \$500,000 in stolen goods.

Price was arrested in a March 2022 incident.

OPP found a stolen vehicle and trailer on Courtright Line in St. Clair Township. Someone was seen near the pickup and tried to flee from the police. The officers arrested him after a struggle which caused broken bones in the man’s face.

The officers faced an investigation into their conduct during the arrest but the Special Investigations Unit cleared the officers saying they had used reasonable force to arrest Price.

After the officers were cleared, Price faced 31 charges including 13 counts of possession of stolen property and flight from a police officer.

Monday, Price appeared in court for a bail hearing and was granted bail more than four months after he turned himself in. He faces trial on some of the charges May 30.

2023 PETROLIA

Curbyside

WOOD CHIPPING

2023 DATES

April 17 & 18

May 23 & 24

June 12 & 13

September 11 & 12

October 16 & 17

Collection is NOT STREET SPECIFIC, residents can place their brush to the curb on any of these days and it will be processed.

Residents are asked to place the brush no sooner than 4:00pm, the night before a collection date, and to have all brush at the curb by 7:00 am the day of collection, and are requested to not impede sidewalk access.

Tree limbs and branches can not exceed 4" in diameter.

Not permissible items include hedge clippings, vines, roots, perennials and any other compostable materials. Resident will be responsible for removal.

For more information: 519-882-2350 www.town.petrolia.on.ca





The Petrolia & North Enniskillen Fire Department is currently recruiting for **SUPPORT OPERATIONS RESPONSE TEAM MEMBERS**

Volunteering with the Petrolia and North Enniskillen Fire Department is both challenging and rewarding. It will require a very high level of dedicated service to the community and a willingness to always help others.

General Outline: Support Operations Response Team Recruitment

This position will require that you respond to emergency incidents in a support capacity for Petrolia North Enniskillen Fire Department Firefighters mitigating an emergency incident. Responsibilities will include operating an on-scene rehabilitation sector including medical monitoring for all persons on the emergency incident, set-up and provide shelter from weather, SCBA cylinder changes, establish decontamination sector. This position also closely ties in with the Emergency Management Plan for the Town of Petrolia requiring significant support and operations for many aspects of emergency management. Other responsibilities of the SORT member will include medical standby for Town of Petrolia events. The Support Operations Team is also occasionally deployed to neighbouring municipalities for support during emergency incidents and medical standby at events.

Requirements, Preferred Skills, and Preferred Certifications:

- 18 years of age or older and legally entitled to work in Canada;
- An Ontario secondary school diploma (Grade 12) or equivalent;
- Willing to obtain Standard First Aid certificate and a valid CPR for Health Care Providers (Level HCP) certification. Offered in-house.
- Ability to attend meeting and training nights, weekends, and holidays;
- Ability to understand and communicate clearly in English, both oral and written;
- Ability to cope in high stress situations;
- Ability to work as a team member;
- Ability to obtain and provide a satisfactory vulnerable sector criminal record search
- Must be physically fit to handle the sustained, intense, physical effort often required to perform these duties

Interested applicants are invited to visit:

<https://petroliafiredeptca.wordpress.com/>

to view a detailed description, and additional information on requirements when submitting an application, including supporting documents.

Deadline for applications is no later than 4 PM on Monday, May 15, 2023.

Applications & Supporting Documentation clearly marked *Special Operations Response Team* to be directed in confidence to the attention of:

Jay Arns, Director of Public Safety/Fire Chief
Town of Petrolia
411 Greenfield Street
Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0

Applications to be submitted through website or directly to:
pnefiredepartment@gmail.com

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.

Editorial

Diversity survey is important

The Lambton-Kent District School Board is trying to figure out how diverse its community is and the survey says not very.

The board surveyed its 3,377 employees - 66 per cent of them answered it. They asked questions about race, sexuality, and mental and physical disabilities. The findings are not really surprising.

The survey found 88 per cent of its employees are white and half of the employees who answered the survey identified themselves as Christians. Only two per cent said they are religious but not Christian.

Only two per cent of the people employed in public education in Lambton-Kent are Indigenous while Indigenous people make up four per cent of the population of the region.

Seven per cent of the board's employees identify as disabled with 48 per cent saying they have a chronic health condition and 37 per cent saying they have been diagnosed with a mental health issue.

Three per cent of the staff say they are part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Ten per cent of the staff chose not to answer questions about their sexuality.

These are the realities of Lambton County right now. We're still a predominantly white community although that is changing as the region tries to attract immigrants to fuel economic growth.

Why figure out the diversity of the public board here? It's simple really - if we want our kids to know and understand people who aren't like them, they need exposure to them.

Being taught by someone who is Indigenous gives students a real-life perspective on how Canada treats the First Nations. Having a Muslim special education teacher helps students see that while they don't share the same faith, they are alike and can work together. A school secretary with mental health issues could reach out to students having a hard time in a way another staff member couldn't.

The problem in Lambton is this board is not diverse enough for all students to have those experiences and their life is poorer for it.

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 VIA REDDIT

Forty years ago, a tornado barrelled through Lambton County, destroying homes and businesses in Reece's Corners and injuring 18 people. This home was on Lasalle Line between Waterworks and Mandaumin.

There we have the tech, but are we really ready

I spent some time this week looking through old photos and newspaper clippings of the tornado which barrelled through Lambton County 40 years ago.

The pictures of Reece's Corners show the devastation of buildings and the people who lived in them.

I was a high school student in 1983. I was shocked by the affects of the storm both in Reece's Corners and Woodstock where some of my school friends lived.

The stories of the survivors, like Bill Reid, were often told in matter of fact ways. The sky was an unusual colour and then they heard the storm coming. Reid just barely managed to get to the basement of his home next to his business - with some customers in tow - before the force of the storm hit his property.

When he emerged, debris was everywhere although fortunately, his property didn't take the brunt of the storm.

There are things that stick in his mind; the plum tree sliced by a piece of steel, the neighbours steel grain bins ripped right out of the concrete, the Kerrigan's home shifted on its foundation.

When you look at the photos, like the one on this page, it is hard to imagine the heartache that that one storm caused.

The thing that keeps running through my mind is how fortunate the community was not to have lost a single soul during the tornado. And, when they emerged, the neighbourhood pitched in and started cleaning up.

It was hard work, but they got it done.

Today, we have all kinds of technology to let us know when stormy weather - even tornadoes - are coming. Environment Canada can send a blaring alert to your phone if it needs to to get you out of the way of harm.

But, the anniversary of the Reece's Corners tornado is a good time to remember technology isn't everything. Be prepared. Have an emergency kit ready and make sure your family knows what to do during a tornado.



Heather Wright

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The Independent

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News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

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Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514
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COLOURFUL FUN



There were plenty of games and fun as the 1st Petrolia Beavers, Sparks and Embers got together in Victoria Park on a cool Monday night. The clubs played games together including with the parachute and ended the joint meeting with Girl Guide cookies.

Enniskillen looking for a fair fire deal: Krall

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Enniskillen Township is literally paying for Petrolia’s growth when it comes to the funding arrangement for the Petrolia and North Enniskillen Fire Department and Deputy Mayor Judy Krall wants to talk to her urban counter parts about it.

Krall recently told council while Enniskillen Township pays for 40 percent of the costs of the fire department, the percentage of calls received is not hitting that 40 percent threshold. Krall believes rural taxpayers are footing the bill for the growth in Petrolia.

Enniskillen Township Council agreed at its May 1 meeting to request a meeting with the Town of Petrolia to discuss whether the funding arrangement should be changed to better reflect the current situation.

Krall says the percentage of calls in Enniskillen over a period of eight years hovered between 23 and 32 per cent of all the fire calls.

The lowest percentage was in 2016 when there were 23 per cent of calls in Enniskillen with 27 calls in the township, compared to 88 calls in Petrolia.

The highest percentage was in 2020 with 32 per cent of calls being from the township with 41 calls in Enniskillen and 88 calls in Petrolia.

There were 45 calls in Enniskillen in 2022 with 110 calls in Petrolia, good for 29 percent of calls from the township.

Krall points to statistics showing

the population in Petrolia has jumped substantially in the last census compared to its neighbouring municipality. Petrolia had 6,013 residents in 2021, compared to 5,742 in 2016, while Enniskillen had 2,825 residents, rising from 2,796 in 2016. There are a total of 8,838 residents between the two municipalities, with 68 percent living in Petrolia.

Armed with statistics from 2015 to 2022, the Enniskillen council will make its case the percentage of calls the fire department responds to do not match what the municipality is paying, hoping to forge a new agreement which is better for Enniskillen residents.

PW may be part of home composting pilot program

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming may be the latest testing grounds for a home composting unit.

Town council expressed interest in being part of a pilot program for the Food Cyler, a counter top unit that looks like a bread maker but which composts household food waste overnight. The unit, according to Jacob Hanlon of Foodcyler Municipal Solutions, can turn five litres of waste into 200 grams of dry, odourless compost overnight costing just 15 cents in

electricity per cycle.

The move could be a game changer if it catches on. Household wastes, Hanlon says, is between 25 and 50 per cent organic food waste. The average Canadian family spends about \$1,766 a year on food that is wasted and that food heads to the landfills producing 56.6 million tonnes of greenhouse gases.

Forty-seven municipalities have already tested the units, including St. Clair Township. Hanlon says 96 per cent of the people recommend the units and continued using after the pilot project was over.

Hanlon says a municipality the size of Plympton-Wyoming should have a pilot project of about 200 homes.

That’s something Mayor Gary Atkinson said the municipality is interested in. “Programs of this nature with subsidies from the federal government... may be something worth trying. So I think it would be a good idea at least to obtain an official proposal from Foodcyler to see what they have to offer and what the terms are, for councils consideration in the future.”

A pilot project with 200 homes would cost the municipality about \$20,000.

Homecoming event planned for Florence in June

There is a Homecoming being planned in Florence this summer.

The Florence Athletic Association is planning an Alumni Homecoming June 9 to 11.

The group plans a meet and greet Friday night with a Dessert Auction by

the groups from Shetland United and St. Matthews in Florence.

Saturday is filled with kids activities including a ball hockey tournament, children’s programs and a vendors market. There will be a dance in the evening. Sunda, there will be ball

games, another dance and the Odd Fellows will host a chicken barbecue.

“We just want everyone to come home and enjoy themselves,” says Maureen McCutcheon of the organizing committee.

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May 13 • 27

June 10 • 24
July 15

Aug 19
Sept 9 • 23

Oct 14 • 28
Nov 4

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NOT ACCEPTED

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Sticks/Branches (under 4 inches)

Leaves

Mulch and Potting Soil

Rock or Brick

Plastic Pots

Plastic Bags or Linings

Pine Cones

TIPS

1. Yard waste and brush will be separated into two bins - please do not bag it together.

2. Please use paper bags or reusable bins.

3. Brush must be of reasonable size & length.

4. Residents will be asked to take unacceptable items home.

Town of
PETROLIA

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THE LITTLEST VOTER



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Petrolia's Acting Mayor, Joel Field, was talking to one of Petrolia's youngest soon-to-be voters during a Town Hall meeting April 26. Town council members spread out around Victoria Hall to listen to concern from about 75 taxpayers who came to raise issues ranging from development charges to taxes. Field was talking to members of the Petrolia Child Care Advocacy group, including Jenna Simpson (centre) who want the town to build a child care centre.

Petrolia CAO given OK to buy \$85K scissor lift

Heather Wright
The Independent

You can't always get what you want, particularly when you're a municipal government looking for used equipment. That was the gist of the concerns of Petrolia staff as they asked councillors to grant CAO Rick Charlebois the authority to spend up to \$85,000 to buy a scissor lift for Victoria Hall. The lift is used mainly to bring theatre equipment and props to the second floor stage of the building.

During the 2023 budget deliberations, council asked staff to begin searching for a used piece of equipment instead of buying something new, hoping to save taxpayers' dollars. But Director of Parks and Recreation, Dave Menzies, says that hasn't been working very well. The town has lost out on a number of lifts simply because it couldn't get approval to spend the cash quickly enough. Recently, Menzies says, the town had a line on a scissor lift in Bracebridge which looked good. Everything was in place

except for the approval when Menzies got a call. "The gentleman that contacted us back and said it's gone." Menzies says they now have their eyes on a unit in Ohio. "They got our name on it doesn't mean that somebody won't buy it before we get there," he says. Councillors agreed to allow the CAO to purchase the equipment up to the \$85,000 in the budget without council's specific approval.

Public board staff less diverse than Lambton

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Two percent of staff at Lambton Kent District School Board is of Indigenous descent, while three percent identify as part of a racialized community. That is half of what is reflected in the Lambton Kent community with four percent being of Indigenous descent, while six percent are of a racialized community. Eighty-eight percent of staff identified as white. These were just some of the results from a staff census. Out of 3,377 employees, 66 per cent participated. Only 37 per cent of the casual, temporary or occasional staff participated. Other findings included seven percent of respondents identify as individuals living with disabilities. 48 per cent who were have chronic health conditions, while 37 per cent have been diagnosed with a mental health disability. Half of the public board's staff identified as Christians, with 32 percent with no religion or faith, agnostic, atheist or spiritual but not religious. Two percent are of non-

Christian religions. Three per cent identify as part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, with 10 percent of individuals choosing not to answer the sexual orientation question. Director of Education John Howitt said the recommendations from the staff study are very important and should not be put on the shelf, he said. "If we don't follow through, we can't expect success in the future," said Howitt. An equity audit will be completed next, which helps to fill out the full picture with the results expected to come to the board in the new school year. This is a part of the school district's desire to get a handle on its current diversity. A student census was also conducted with its results released to trustees in March. There was a low participation rate among parents of elementary school students at only five per cent and 34 per cent of students at the secondary school level. Howitt chalked up the low participation rate due to timing as it was conducted in March and April 2022, just as the pandemic was winding down.

• THE INDEPENDENT

Cay care gets okay to move to BIACC

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton Rural Childcare will get to stay in Brooke-Alvinston for the summer. The child care centre at Brooke Public School with 85 students was in a bind after being told by the Lambton-Kent District School Board they'd have to move out of the building for the summer. The board is in the middle of a roof repair. In December, the board shuffled the students at the school to other buildings after engineers said the roof would not withstand a large snow load. It was thought the newer part of the building, which the child care centre operates out of, would not need

extensive repairs. But that changed when the board said a sprinkler system would be needed and the repairs would stretch into the summer. Lori Veroude, the executive director of Lambton Rural Childcare, came to Brooke-Alvinston council hoping to rent the Brooke-Inwood-Alvinston Community Centre for the summer. April 27, council gave approval for the move. Clerk Administrator Janet Denkers says details of the arrangement are still being worked out since two events were already scheduled for the space. The child care centre will be paying \$203 per day to use both the auditorium and the upper room until the repairs at the school are complete, says Denkers.

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The Town of Plympton-Wyoming is now accepting applications for the following position:

**Planning Technician
(Six-month Contract)**

Reporting to Corporate Services / Clerks department, the Planning Technician is responsible for assisting the Clerk and Planners in administering the Town's Official Plan, Zoning By-law, Building By-law, processing property requests from lawyers, coordinating the planning approval process (ie. applications, site visits, follow-up, and appeals), acting as Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee of Adjustment and receiving and providing advice to Council, developers and the public as requested. This is a unionized position.

Interested individuals are asked to forward their resume and cover letter no later than **12 p.m. on Friday, May 12th 2023** to Norma Roddick-Preece, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
nroddick-preece@plympton-wyoming.ca

A detailed job description can be found at <https://www.plympton-wyoming.com/en/municipal-office/careers-and-volunteering.aspx>

Spring Home Improvement

Simple home renos for spring

After a winter of snow and cold and an early spring of rain, it's time to freshen up your home. Here are some ideas to improve the look of your home from the professionals at Remax.

Give Your Front Door a Makeover

Replacing your door and adding glass inserts can be an impactful – albeit expensive – proposition. However, a fresh coat of paint or stain for your door will give your home a fresh look without breaking the bank. Add a pop of colour, like a vibrant yellow or red, to really make a statement.

Give the front door some more love by upgrading hardware like the lock, knob or handle and knocker. This will give a tired old door a brand-new look and feel that is sure to turn heads.

Illuminate the Landscaping

Show off the work you have done in the garden and admire it long into the evening with solar-powered outdoor lights. It's easy to do. Just pop them into your garden beds, where they'll soak up the sun to illuminate your plants in the evening. Be sure to illuminate pathways and steps to create ease and add safety when manoeuvring the space.

Reseal the Driveway

Driveways take a beating. A fresh coat of blacktop sealer can work wonders to boost your driveway's appearance. It's a job you can certainly do yourself. Expect that this project will take a whole weekend, but it will also extend the life of your driveway.

Upgrade your Front Walkway

Upgrading an entire patio may be a little out of your price range. But you can turn your attention to your walkways as a doable and affordable DIY project. If you are looking for the most affordable opinion, choose gravel. Crushed gravel and limestone or pea rock are all great choices. You can add a level of sophistication to the path by selecting a higher-end edging material, such as brick or stone.

Allow the path to meander through your gardens. Create built-in seating or a conversation area along the route. Be sure to illuminate the way with some solar-powered outdoor lighting.

Revive Your Old Deck

Those grey, weather-beaten boards can be revived. You can power-wash and hand-scrub that deck back to life. Add a protective coat of semi-transparent stain to shield it from the elements.

Spruce Up Your Windows

We've talked about the door, how about showing your windows some love too? Give shutters a fresh coat of paint and a little more pop. Be sure to fill in any holes with wood filler before you paint.

Add extra visual appeal and more greenery by building flower boxes or a mini pergola outside the window. You'll love looking out the window and admiring fresh flowers through the spring and summer!

Build an Outdoor Fire Pit

An outdoor fire pit is a great place to



gather all summer long. Swap stories, enjoy some drinks, and feel like a kid again by roasting marshmallows under the stars. The good news is that there are affordable DIY options to give you a fire pit that is the centrepiece of your outdoor living.

With a shovel, landscaping stones, masonry adhesive, and a whole lot of elbow grease, you can build a simple fire pit for some unforgettable backyard experiences.

Raised Planters

If your thumb isn't green, give raised planters a try, and you'll finally feel like the gardener you wanted to be. They are easy to build and cost-effective for planting lush displays of veggies or flowers, while offering some protection from hungry garden friends, like rabbits. Fill the planters with high-quality soil and fertilizer to give your seeds or plants a healthy, nutrient-dense home.

Be fire safe this spring at home

Spring is always a good time to make sure your home is fire safe.

Electrical equipment is a leading cause of home fires in Ontario. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has some tips to prevent electrical fires in your home:

- Avoid running cords under rugs which can damage the cord and cause a fire
- Avoid overloading a circuit. If additional outlets or circuits are required, have them installed by a licensed electrician
- Use extension cords only as a temporary connection, if permanent wiring is required, have additional outlets installed by a licensed electrician
- Do not link extension cords together, use an extension cord that is long enough plug air conditioners and other heavy appliances directly into an outlet



- Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in bathrooms, kitchens and garages GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard
- Check electrical cords for damage, such as fraying or nicks as a damaged cord can expose wires and result in a potential shock or fire hazard

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Spring Home Improvement

Bright ideas to cut power use

Does your power bill keep rising. The problem may be phantom power. Many electronics we use every day draw power even when they're not being used. This is called phantom power. You can cut the phantom power used by:

- Unplugging electronics when you're not using them
- Plugging electronics into a power bar and switching it off
- Setting up a charging station with a smart power strip so you can limit charging time

You can also make small changes in your power cost by improving your heat and lights. These can include:

- Replace furnace filters every three months to reduce the energy usage of your furnace fan
- Caulking and weather-stripping around doors and windows to keep heat in and reduce your energy use

- Switching to LED (light emitting diode) bulbs, which are 75 to 90 per cent more energy efficient than an incandescent light bulb
- Taking advantage of natural light during the day instead of relying on overhead lights
- You can also reduce your energy use by changing some of your routines, like the laundry.
- Choose the cold-water setting on your washer for up to a 90 per cent reduction in your appliance's electricity use
- Not using your dryer and trying a drying rack (when the heat's on inside) or clothesline (if you have the space) instead

You can use other appliances in ways that help you reduce energy use and costs, such as opening the door of your dishwasher to let the load air-dry which can cut the total energy use for the wash by 15 per cent each load.

Going green in your home

You would totally save the planet—if you only had the time. You do. Make these simple switches throughout your house, and you'll find it's quite easy being green.

In the Kitchen
Slow Your Roll: If merely thinking about how many paper towels you use makes you squeamish, pick up a few reusable bamboo, microfiber or alternative-fiber towels.

Don't Do the Dishes: Using the dishwasher on a full post-dinner load requires less water than the sink. As you load 'er up, don't waste water rinsing plates; a simple scrape will do.

Defrost It, the Green Way: Thaw that fowl in the fridge instead of under running warm water. A slow, cool thaw also prevents bacterial growth.

In the Bathroom
Solve Your Toilet Situation: Installing a low-flow toilet can mean big bucks off your water bill, but for now, call a plumber and fix the one you've got (or learn how to do it yourself). Toilets that constantly run waste dozens of gallons each day.

Shave Smarter: You already know to turn off the tap when brushing your teeth, but if you do the same thing when you shave, you'll further trim your bill.

Have a Light Bulb Moment: Next time a bulb goes out, replace it with an energy-efficient LED compact fluorescent one. Sure, you'll save energy, but its bright light and natural color temperature may make you like your makeup better in the mirror, too.

- From Delta Faucets Inspired Living Blog

OPERATION
CLEAN SWEEP
A Petrolia Business Association
Town of Petrolia Initiative

Let's beautify Petrolia!

We Need
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to clean up Petrolia!

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Sports

LCCVI TOPS THE WOLFPACK



PHOTO CREDIT

Kaleigh Taylor carries the ball in LCCVI's win over Great Lakes Thursday. The Lancers opened the LKSSAA senior girls' rugby season with a 17-0 win over the Wolfpack. Victoria Varsava, Vanessa Montevideo and Mackenzie Duncan scored tries for the Petrolia school. Ella Taylor had a convert.

Robinson heads to worlds

LCCVI's Marlowe Robinson has qualified for the Canadian Junior Weightlifting Championships by virtue of her performance at the Spring Open event in Scarborough last weekend. The member of the Garage Gym Weightlifting Club in Point Edward was second in her 55-kilo weight class with a 58 kg. snatch and 73 kg. clean and jerk for a 131 kg. total.

McGrail claims three awards

Jace McGrail was a three-time winner at the Sarnia Legionnaires year-end banquet last weekend. The Wyoming product won the People's Choice Award as well as being a co-winner as Rookie of the Year with former Petrolia Flyer Landon Marcy and Scholastic Player of the Year. Lambton Shores Minor Hockey grad Ryan Richardson was the team MVP and was the co-scoring leader with Jaxon Priddle. Former Mooretown Flags goalie Logan Phillips won the Coaches Choice Awards, Lambton Shores' Jake McLean was the co-winner of the Most Improved Player, and Watford's Ty Moffatt was given the Spirit Award.

Another Wrangler now a Lion

The fourth member from Wyoming has committed to the Lambton College women's softball club for the 2023-24 season. Paige Hudson, who attends LCCVI, plays second base. She will become the second member of the Hudson family to play the Lions. Her brother, Cole plays for the Lambton baseball team.



LCCVI track athletes rack up 11 wins in CK

Tyler McGrail and Hunter Mitchell won two events each at the CK Relays in Chatham. McGrail prevailed in the senior boys' 110 metre hurdles and senior boys' triple jump and Mitchell took first place in both the novice boys' 100 and 300 metre hurdles. Elsewhere, Charlie Shaw was first in the senior boys' 1500 metre event, Hunter Duncan won the junior boys' 300 metre hurdles, while Hunter Campbell captured the junior boys' discus. James Grant crossed the finish line first in the novice boys' 1500 metre race. On the girls' side, LCCVI athletes won three events. Rachel Metcalfe took top honours in the junior girls' 300 metre hurdles and Regan Jacklin and Abby Wallace won the junior girls' and senior girls' javelin respectively.

STING SUPPORT



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Sarnia Sting players received some much needed love Monday. Sash Pastujov and Ben Gaudreau visited with local Catholic elementary students Kailee Glassford and McKinnon Woolacott. The schools also sent artwork and words of encouragement which plaster the Sting dressing room. Meantime, the team was in desperate of a victory after 4-1 and 3-1 losses in London's Friday and Sunday. The Sting have two home games to tie up the series. The scores of the games were not available at press time.

DeKoning MVP for Killer Bees


Goalie Nolan DeKoning was recognized as the most valuable player by the Alvinston Killer Bees as the team held its end of the season banquet Saturday. He was given the award by General Manager Brett Case, and Head Coach Joe Rombouts. The Killer Bees placed seventh in the nine team Western Ontario Super Hockey League with six wins, 17 losses and one tie. Alvinston was knocked out of the first round of the playoffs by the Elora Rock. Marnie Cumming (right) was also recognized as the volunteer of the year by Vice President Dan Cumming and President Todd Case.

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WARWICK TOWNSHIP EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Part-Time Parks and Recreation Labourer

2 Positions Available

The Parks and Recreation Labourer is a part-time position that works between 20-35 hours per week seasonally. This position is responsible for maintaining and operating the newly constructed East Lambton Community Complex (formerly the Watford Arena), Warwick Community Hall, Park and Open spaces, Sports Fields and the Townships Recreation facilities. The position maintains and operates all equipment including operation of the ice resurfacer, lawn mower and tractor. The position will deal directly with the General Public, provide event support and promote the use of these facilities.

This position is a Union position, CUPE Local 2393.3

This position requires regular shift availability during weekday, evenings and weekends.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Secondary School Graduation.
- A valid Ontario Driver's License.
- Two years experience in an Arena, Gymnasium, Sports fields and or Parks environment.
- Certificate in recreation and leisure, public administration, park management or related field would be considered an asset.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal and time management skills.
- Excellent customer service skills and ability to work in a public setting.
- Knowledge of Occupational Health and Safety practices and their application in the workplace.
- An equivalent combination of education and experience.

How to Apply:

Interested applicants are asked to apply directly to Ryan Chamney, Manager of Parks, Facilities and Recreation by emailing: rchamney@warwicktownship.ca

Deadline to apply for this position is May 7th at Noon. However, this position will remain Open, with resumes being accepted until the position is filled. The Township of Warwick has partnered with the County of Lambton to advertise this job opportunity.

Questions regarding this exciting opportunity with the Township of Warwick should be directed to:

Ryan Chamney
Manager Parks, Facilities & Recreation
Email: rchamney@warwicktownship.ca
Phone: 519-876-2808

Job Board: www.lambtononline.ca/jobs

For a copy of the job description email: rchamney@warwicktownship.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The Township of Warwick is an equal opportunity employer. The Township of Warwick provides reasonable accommodations throughout the hiring process. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request throughout the hiring process as required under the Township of Warwick's policies and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, and will be used for the purpose of candidate selection.

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 25 - May 2, 2023

TUESDAY, APRIL 25
KERNER, Pavel "Paul"
Age: 84, of London
Van Heck Funeral Home
ABBOTT, Frances Doloros
Age: 96
Smith Funeral Home
WHITBREAD, Rosemary Joyce
Age: 79
Smith Funeral Home
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26
ODRCICH, Mary Jo Edith (nee Lamb)
Age: 78
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home
JAMES, John Malcolm "Mac"
Age: 80
Smith Funeral Home
FRIDAY, APRIL 28
McLAUGHLIN, Fred
Age 86, of Courtright
Knight Funeral Home

YZENBRANDT, Nicholas Lee
Age: 44
Denning's of Forest Funeral Home
KLASSEN, Peter Harms
Age: 66
Badder Funeral Home
SATURDAY, APRIL 29
LEONE, Joseph "Giuseppe" Anthony
Age 76
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home
HOWE, John Kenneth "Kenny"
Age: 54, of Kettle Point
Gilpin Funeral Chapel
GRAHAM, Irene Pearl
Age: 75, of Thamesville
Badder Funeral Home
DUISTER, Leendert "Leo" Jacob
Age: 87
Smith Funeral Home

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

In Memoriam

In Loving Memory
Mary Whiting
July 8, 1936 – May 7, 2022
It's been a year since you left us Mom,
We miss you every day,
Cherished memories are in our hearts forever.
Your Life was a blessing
Your memories a treasure
You are loved beyond words
You are loved beyond measure
Lovingly Remembered by Randy, Ron, Dee, Marilee, Dan, Shrie and families.

Obituary



WHITELY Stephen James

Our family is deeply saddened to announce the death of Stephen James Whitely, age 68, after complications from congestive heart failure. He died on April 8, 2023 in Calgary, Alberta. He was a devoted husband and best friend, to Francie (nee Crnkovich) for 42 years. Steve was born to Norma (nee Houghton) and Don Whitely on July 27, 1954 in Sarnia, Ontario. He was preceded in death by his mother, Norma (2014) and niece Kristin Arndt (1981). Survived by his father, Don Whitely; wife, Francie; children, Benjamin Whitely, Reagan (James) Ellis and Luke (Keira) Whitely; grandchildren, Jack, Frank, Kate, Henry and Rex

Ellis; siblings, Sandy (Manfred) Arndt, Paul (Lorrie) Whitely, Jim (Lynne) Whitely, Margaret (Stan) Klapak; and a large extended family of uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews and nieces. Don and Norma raised Steve on the family farm at Reece's Corners alongside his siblings and uncles, Leo (Lorraine) Whitely and Leonard (Dodie) Whitely. Steve was a talented ball player, enjoying many years in Wyoming Minor Baseball. He was able to make us all laugh with his antics and pranks. His sense of humour is a treasured gift. Steve was a graduate of LCCVI and the University of Western Ontario. He worked at Dow in Sarnia for a short time. After working in London and Orangeville, Ontario, he left for Calgary, Alberta, to have a long, successful career in the oil and gas industry. Here he built his home with Francie and had three beautiful children. Steve's ability to make a connection with others, regardless of background, was a result of his strong faith in God's love for humanity. It shone through in his mannerisms, listening ears and in his compassion for others. We will all miss his warm, gentle and kind nature, and are grateful to have loved, and been loved by such a wonderful man. **A gathering to celebrate Steve's life will be held June 21 at Wyoming Lions Hall from 2-5pm.**

Church Service

151 Anniversary SERVICE
10:30 a.m.
Sunday, May 7th
Celebrate with us!
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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**

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• Corn and Bean meters
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In loving memory of

Bernice Marriott

May 2, 2018

It broke our hearts to lose you but you did not go alone. A part of us went with you the day God called you home.

If tears could build a stairway and heartaches make a lane, we'd walk our way to heaven and bring you back again.

In life we loved you dearly. In death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a place no one could ever fill.

5 years as of May the 2nd, 2023
Always Remembered by Kevin



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Notices

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.

Thank You

Thank You to relatives, friends and neighbors for flowers, cards, food and donations made in Ralph's name. Thanks to CEE Hospital and ICU Bluewater Health & EMS. Thanks to Rev. Gibson & Needham Jay Funeral Home. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

Dorcas & Terri Dolbear

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.**

For Sale

PERENNIAL PLANT SALE
296 Eureka St
Saturday, May 6th

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

COMMUNITY CORNER



SUBMITTED PHOTO



Oil Springs Legion, Branch 535 has donated \$2,400 in proceeds from its annual Super Bowl Draw, to Make a Wish. Make a Wish is an organization that grants life changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. Pictured here are Make a Wish volunteers Brian and Judy Latam, Al Byers Oil Springs Legion President and Jackson Mitchell, Oil Springs resident and Make a Wish recipient. The Oil Springs Legion would like to thank everyone for their continued support and to thank all those who purchased tickets and helped to make this donation possible.

for all classified ads is

Monday at 12 noon

for the paper that prints and distributes Wed-Thurs

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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	Samia	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
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 5	7-9pm	Sarnia	RE VIEW SERIES OPENING @ JNAAG exclusive to members only - contact Yesenia Samuel at 519-336-8127 ext. 3231 or by email: yesenia.samuel@county-lambton.on.ca .	
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	
May 9	7pm	Online	ONTARIO ANCESTORS MEETING - ONLINE ONLY register for Zoom Meeting at lambton.ogs.on.ca For info email: lambton@ogs.on.ca	
May 11	9am-4pm	Petrolia	SPRING CRAFT & GIFT SHOW @ Greenwood Arena - For more info 519-330-1802 or email: d_kohoutek@hotmail.com	
May 12	7:30p	Sarnia	Sarnia Concert Association presents BUZZ BRASS - 519-344-7469	
May 13	11am-3pm	Petrolia	IG WEALTH MANAGEMENT - WALK FOR ALZHEIMER'S @ Black Gold Brewery - Find details online: www.alzheimer.ca	
May 16	1pm	Wyoming	EUCHRE @ Wyoming Fair Building - 519-312-0578	
May 20	11am-3pm	Wyoming	PICNIC IN THE PARK @ McKay Park. For info search 'Plympton-Wyoming Special Events Committee' on facebook	
May 27	10am-3pm	Sarnia	"INSPIRE" FUNDRAISING EVENT @ SASCSL - Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite	
May 29	2-3:30pm	Online	ONTARIO ANCESTORS DROP-IN & CHAT - Zoom Webinar - For a link visit: lambton.ogs.on.ca or email lambton@ogs.on.ca	
May 30	1pm	Wyoming	EUCHRE @ Wyoming Fair Building - 519-312-0578	
June 3	11am-3pm	Camlachie	PICNIC IN THE PARK @ Lakeshore Park. For info search 'Plympton-Wyoming Special Events Committee' on facebook	
June 10	9:30am-3:30pm	Petrolia	"THE SECRETS AMONG US" Exploring Domestic Abuse in Our Community @ First Baptist Church - Pre-Registration encouraged; 519-882-2480 or email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com	

****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

HOT FOOD ON A COLD DAY



PHOTO CREDIT

The Petrolia and North Enniskillen Fire Department was busy on Saturday cooking up burgers, sausages and hot dogs in its fire hall for a fundraising barbecue. Many stopped in for a bite, whether they were checking out the deals during the town-wide garage sale, or just wanted some good food on a wet and dreary day.

Park family honoured for conservation

The Independent

An Inwood family has been recognized for their woodland conservation efforts. The family of Bertha-Rose Parks was recently presented with the South West Woodlot Association’s Management Award at the associations recent meeting held in Alvinston. The Park family have been managing their woodlot since George Annett planted 85 acres of poor pasture between 1939 and 1942. He hoped it would provide a steady supply of timber. Tom Park, Annett’s great grandson, manages the forest now. He maintains the trails, monitors for disease, insects and invasive species and overseeing the harvest of trees. He also builds elf houses for his children and grand children to find in the woodlot. Birds Canada has surveyed the property on occasion.

And a founding member of the association has also been recognized. Donald Craig of Newbury was given the Harry Barr Volunteer Award by the Ontario Woodlot Association. Craig, a Professional Forester, has volunteered his time to encourage the development and maintenance of well managed private forestland in Southwestern Ontario for many years. He organizes tours, writes newsletters, collects native tree seed, and grows seedlings to offer anyone with a place to plant them. He has been involved in many organizations including with the Ontario Professional Foresters’ Association.



Bertha-Rose Park

CELEBRATING SERVICE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Wyoming Lions and Lionesses celebrated some big milestones Saturday. Sarnia Lambton MPP Bob Bailey presented Lions President Mike Vasey with a certificate marking 70 years and Lion/Lioness President Beth Atkinson with a certificate marking the groups 45 years of service to the community.

Kiwanis session points parents to helpers


Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Barb McNaughton is looking for some help to manoeuvre through the system when it comes to her six-year-old son, Cruze, who is a Grade 1 student at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Port Lambton. Cruze has anxiety, but it is not yet known if he has other things like autism or obsessive compulsive disorder. He often gets overwhelmed and has trouble in loud groups. His classroom this school year has been in a portable, something that his mother says has helped him, as there are less distractions. Since her son started school, she has struggled to get him the help he needs, either because of waiting lists or lack of funding. “It seems to be when we get two steps forward, we take another three steps back,” said McNaughton. She hoped by coming to the event on Sunday, she could get more information about getting him the services he needs. She was one of a dozen parents at the Parent Information Session held hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Petrolia April 30. The event was organized by Melissa Duquette, who worked as a communicative disorder assistant for 18 years. She became a member of the Kiwanis Club last summer and approached the club president if she could organize the event with the club’s help. It was parents like McNaughton who Duquette had in mind when she organized the information session. There were eight speakers taking part in the event,

representing each of their different professions. “Eighty percent of learning is visual,” said Dr. Jessica St. Pierre of Petrolia Optometry. She said children should get their first eye exam between the ages of six and nine months, then every year after that. She stressed the importance for parents to get a full eye exam for their child before starting school. Shelly Marui, an early literacy specialist with Petrolia’s EarlyOn Child and Family Centre located at Lambton Central Collegiate and Vocational Institute, talked about the importance of reading to your child at a young age. Parents should be reading at least 20 minutes a day to their child. “Early literacy doesn’t mean early reading,” said Marui. Learning should be unfolding naturally for children, as singing, rhyming, looking at pictures or having the child help to turn pages while having a story read to them is all important in language development. It takes approximately 1,000 books to be read to children before they are ready to begin reading. Other presentations were made by a communicative disorder assistant, a speech and language pathologist, an occupational therapist, a child and youth practitioner, an art therapist, as well as about psychology/ educational testing and mental health.



Charlene Fryfogle talks about communication disorders



PUBLIC NOTICE - PESTICIDE USE

County of Lambton

The Corporation of The County of Lambton intends to control Noxious Weeds under Public Works Exception of the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban for the promotion of public health and safety within its jurisdiction along its rural County Roadsides.

Township of Brooke-Alvinston County Rd #4 - ALL County Rd #8 - ALL County Rd #79 - ALL County Rd #80 – Rd 79	Township of Dawn-Euphemia County Rd #2 - ALL County Rd #8 - ALL County Rd #15 - ALL County Rd #21 - ALL County Rd #26 - ALL County Rd #79 - ALL	Township of Enniskillen County Rd #4 - ALL County Rd #8 - ALL County Rd #14 - ALL County Rd #21 - ALL County Rd #26 - ALL County Rd #80 - ALL	Municipality of Lambton Shores County Rd #5 - ALL County Rd #6 - ALL	County Rd #9 - ALL County Rd #12 - ALL County Rd #18 - ALL County Rd #79 - ALL County Rd #7 - ALL	Township of Warwick County Rd #8 - ALL County Rd #9 - ALL County Rd #12 – ALL	City of Sarnia County Rd. #7 - County Rd 26 West to Telfer Road County Rd #20 - ALL County Rd #26 - ALL County Rd. #27 - Hwy 402 North to Blackwell Road County Rd #31 - ALL	Town of Plympton-Wyoming County Rd #7 - ALL County Rd #8 - ALL County Rd #11 - ALL	County Rd #12 - ALL County Rd #14 - ALL County Rd #21 - ALL County Rd #22 - ALL County Rd #26 - ALL County Rd #30 - ALL	Township of St. Clair County Rd #1 - Marshy Creek - East to Hwy #40. County Rd. #2 - ALL County Rd #4 - ALL County Rd #20 - ALL County Rd #26 - ALL County Rd #28 - ALL County Rd #31 - ALL County Rd #36 - ALL County Rd #80 – ALL	Township of Warwick County Rd #22 - ALL County Rd #39 - ALL County Rd #79 - ALL
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Map can be found at:
<https://www.lambtononline.ca/en/resident-services/resources/Documents/Roads/Lambton-County-Weed-Spray-Areas---2023.pdf>

The County of Lambton will be using the following pesticides registered under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada): Clearview Herbicide (PCP Registration Number 29752), which contains the active ingredients, Aminopyralid present as potassium salt and Metsulfuron-methyl, Navius Flex (PCP Registration Number 30922), which contains the active ingredients, Metsulfuron-methyl and Aminocyclopyrachlor in combination with Hasten NT Spray Adjuvant (PCP Registration Number 28277), which contains active ingredients Methyl and ethyl oleate (esterified vegetable oil).

Application of will commence on May 29, 2023, weather permitting, and ending June 30, 2023.

Online information can be found at:
<https://www.lambtononline.ca/en/resident-services/resources/Documents/Roads/2023-Lambton-County---Weed-Spray-Ad.pdf>

For more information call:

Green Stream - Steve Ford Office: 1-905-510-1229 Collect calls will be accepted Cell: 905-802-3347	County of Lambton - Tom Kelly Operations Manager, Roads 1-866-324-6912 519-845-0801
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