

California food company coming to former Androck plant in Watford

Heather Wright
The Independent

There is a promise of jobs to come as a new company sets up shop in Watford bringing new life to an historic plant.

BCFoods is setting up shop in the industrial building with historic roots in the village and Warwick Township Mayor Todd Case could not be happier; “We’re really quite excited about BCFoods making the investment in our community,” he says.

The global food ingredients supplier which specializes in dehydrated vegetables, herbs, spices, fruits, custom blends, and seasonings is setting up shop in the former Androck building.

Androck was a wire product company which opened in 1906 and changed hands a number of times. The plant was replaced with a one story structure in the 1950s. In 2006 the plant was closed by Newell Industries of Illinois.

It will come to life again as a Canadian distribution centre for BCFoods. Mike Bray, the company’s North American president, says Watford was chosen as the company’s first Canadian location because it is close to major transportation routes and two hours from Toronto.

While it will serve as a distribution centre first, it has room for production as well.

SEE COMMUNITY PG 2

No takers for \$392K Wyoming lot

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Town of Wyoming is going to be stuck with a big tax and demolition bill on a Wyoming property.

The town had listed 627 Broadway for tax sale for over \$392,000. The land on the south side of Broadway between A Village Fireplace and a former hair studio, was the subject of controversy in 2018.

At that time, the municipality

had already been dealing with the out-of-town owner for several years, trying to get him to improve the building through the Property Standards Act. The municipality first planned to demolish the building.

The plan changed when officials worried demolition would damage A Village Fireplace’s showroom. In August 2018, the CAO, Carolyn Tripp said demolition wasn’t possible.

SEE \$392K PG 2

Petrolia nursing home sold

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia’s only for-profit long term care home has been sold to one of Ontario’s largest for-profit nursing home chains.

OMNI Health Care took over operations at Fiddick’s Nursing and Retirement Home at the end

of March. The company owns 18 other long term care homes across the province as well as three in Atlantic Canada.

Maxine Fiddick founded the Petrolia home and remained active in its operation for most of her life. She passed away a year ago.

SEE PETROLIA PG 2

PLANTING AN URBAN FOREST



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

The Wyoming Scouts were getting their hands dirty, along with about 45 other community volunteers, as the Town of Plympton-Wyoming planted trees in the Wilpstra Community Park. The trees planted Sunday were only the beginning as officials plan to transform the Erie Street park into an urban forest.



PETROLIA FARMER'S MARKET

GRAND OPENING 2023

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2023

FREE COMMUNITY BBQ @9AM

LIVE MUSIC, GREAT VENDORS



Open this Saturday May 20th

MARKET RUNS EVERY SATURDAY 7:30 AM – NOON THROUGH OCT. 7



READY TO PLANT



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The fields of Lambton County have been humming for the past couple of days and farmers, like this one seen at the corner of Rokeby Line and Tile Yard Road Friday night, are using every bit of light they can to get the fields tilled up and planted.

‘As a community, these are things you hope for’

CON’T FROM PG 1

“We’re thrilled to be opening this new facility, which represents a major investment in the future of our company. With this new facility, we’ll be able to offer our Canadian customers a more local distribution site with regional sales support while also helping to reduce costs and our greenhouse gas emissions by lowering our overall transportation mileage by bringing material directly into Canada vs. our Bolingbrook, IL factory.”

Bray added this will create new jobs in the local community, with positions including production line workers, operations support and quality control technicians.

“BCFoods is committed to hiring

locally and providing opportunities for growth and advancement within the company.”

Case says there is no indication yet how many jobs will be created but says even 25 or 30 new positions makes a big impact in a smaller community.

Case gives much of the credit for landing the new plant to Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership. It had been working with the Ontario Food Cluster on attracting more food businesses to the province. The OFC says it worked with ResearchFDI and met with BCFoods at a trade conference in Chicago last July which eventually led to the deal.

“I think one of the positive things for them was the size of the building

that was available, as well as the 402 corridor, which makes it easy for them to get their product to market throughout North America,” says Case.

“As a community, these are the kinds of things you hope for and again, I give credit to everybody who make this happen.

“We look forward to having those jobs in our community and working with BCFoods into the future for many, many years.”

BCFoods’ head offices are in Santa Rosa, CA, and Bolingbrook, IL and it operates production facilities in China and maintains logistics operations in Europe and India.

\$392K lot due to back taxes, repairs and demo

CON’T FROM PG 1

So the municipality began work to repair the building.

By November, after a substantial amount of repair work was complete, more issues were discovered in the room. Tripp then said the cost of fixing the building was “prohibitive.” Council agreed to demolish the building.

The lot has stood vacant since then with the municipal costs of more than \$392,000 left for the owner of the building to pay. When he didn’t, the town placed the 3,200 square foot lot – assessed at \$35,000 according to the tax sale ad – up for sale with another property. By law, the town has to set a minimum bid for the amount outstanding on the tax bill – \$392,239.25.

Mayor Gary Atkinson said Wednesday – the day before the tender closed – there had been no bids for the property.

Since no one submits a minimum bid for it by

Thursday, council will have to decide whether to try to sell the lot - seen here at the right - again at a lower minimum bid or simply keep the land, according to Deputy Treasurer Christine Joosten. Either way, the municipality will be on the hook for the costs of trying to rebuild and then demolishing the building.

In the meantime, the other building on the block under a tax sale - 597 and 599 Broadway – has sold.

Atkinson says the owner of the building sold the property before the tax sale closed and the new owner paid the tax bill – removing it from the tax sale list.



Petrolia nursing home sold to Peterborough chain


CON’T FROM PG 1

Her son, Michael, worked along side her for 37 years.

Recently he stepped away from the business after being charged assault, sexual assault, mischief and illegally transferring restricted weapons. Those charges are still before the court

as is a liable suit between Fiddick and the family of a former resident.

OMNI Health Care in a letter to residents said; “Our goal is for this transition to be as seamless as possible. Residents will not experience any reductions in the level of care and services provided.”

Petrolia Discovery Foundation

AGM

Annual General Meeting
Saturday May 27th
@ 9:00 am
Petrolia Lions Hall
451 Huggard St
Oil Field History...in **Action**.



SUNSHINE FARMS



FRESH Asparagus
(until approx. June 25th)



A full line of
Gourmet Pickled Products
Year Round

www.picklesplease.ca

30043 Jane Rd, Thamesville
519-692-4416

HAVE YOU HEARD?



At **Lambton Audiology Associates**, we believe that providing exceptional audiological care should be the rule, not the exception. That’s why we work extra hard to provide the highest level of patient care and customer support in our community. After all, **We’re here to help YOU hear better!**®

OUR SERVICES

- Hearing Assessments
- Hearing Aid Batteries and Accessories
- Assistive Listening Devices
- Tinnitus Treatment Program
- Hearing Help Classes
- Home Visits
- Caring for Sarnia-Lambton since 1988

CALL US TODAY TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT!



SARNIA
519-542-0569
102-1433 London Rd.
Sarnia, ON

PETROLIA
226-738-0401
4-4119 Petrolia Line
Petrolia, ON

www.lambtonaudiology.com

RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Protect the personal service business you’ve worked so hard to build.

Talk to us today.



Sarah Colwell
Associate Insurance Agent



Jenny Kearns, BA (HONS)
Associate Insurance Agent
11-4247 Oil Heritage Rd., Petrolia ON, N0N-1R0
(519)-882-4880

Investments. Insurance. Advice.

Pinto Financial Group Inc.

Auto insurance is underwritten by Co-operators General Insurance Company and is not available in all provinces. Co-operators® is a registered trademark of The Co-operators Group Limited. @www.cooperators.ca / 1-800-265-2662 (Quebec 1-877-630-2667); SCH202211 (05/22)



‘Offensive’ PW council videos could be removed

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming residents will be able to watch their local council meetings but - as one councillor puts it - they better “get on it and get it looked at” before it is taken down.

Plympton-Wyoming, like many municipalities, began live streaming its council meetings during the pandemic. The practice continues today but, unlike some other municipalities, Plympton-Wyoming does not save the videos on a platform like YouTube. If you couldn’t watch during the regular 5 pm meeting, you were out of luck.

Councillor Mike Vasey brought up the issue earlier this year and on May 10, town council passed a new policy which will see the videos remain online for a year.

Councillor Alex Boughen says it is important for people to be able to access their local council meetings.

“Before I was sitting here at this table and I didn’t have a good reason to leave work five minutes early to make this meeting, it was difficult for me to watch live. So there is a lot of value in having those recordings available.”

How long they should be available was the subject of debate.

The town’s consultant suggested a year would be long enough to keep the videos

online. But Vasey suggested the videos should be available for the council’s four year term.

Other members of council did not agree. Councillor John Van Klaveren says residents will simply have to be on the ball to see council meetings.

“Their responsibility is, if they’re genuinely interested, to make it happen. The longer that it’s out there isn’t necessarily a bad thing, but those wanting to ... (we’ll) give them an opportunity if they are legitimately busy but get on it and get it looked at if you need to,” he said arguing in favour of making the videos available for just one year.

Lambton County has been recording its council since 2019. They are all still available on the county’s website.

Other councillors weren’t comfortable at all with having the videos shared online. Councillor Bob Woolvett suggested people could tamper them. “What can and will they be used for? For somebody that wants to use them for or whatever they want to use it for?... the video is taken of course (and be) put up in the news media and TV and stuff like that? ...What’s the legalities around that?”

Deputy Clerk Denny Gilles said the town would retain the original copy so any tampering would be exposed and didn’t specifically address how requests from members of

the media would be handled. Clerk Erin Kwarciak suggested copyright laws might apply.

There were also concerns, originally voiced by the town’s lawyers who reviewed the policy, about any liability the municipality would have for what was said during the meetings.

Staff included a clause in the policy which allows the mayor or council - by a majority vote - to direct staff to remove recordings or portions of them “due to the presence of content they deem inappropriate for publication.”

That, according to the policy, could include, false or misleading communication damaging the reputation of a person or organization, infringes copyright laws, provides personal information about a person, “be offensive” or constitutes discrimination.”

Vasey expressed concern about the policy; “I just don’t want that we have this and then we start pulling videos down when they’re controversial or that makes us look bad. If you’re trying to hide something.”

However, the clerk suggested it would be used in exceptional circumstances, such as if there is a medical emergency in the council chamber.

In the end, council approved the policy which included the possibility of removing videos from circulation.

Province’s housing plans spark concern

Blake Ellis &Heather Wright
Local Journalism Initiative &The Independent

There are growing concerns in rural Lambton about the province’s demands for the size of farms and the ability to sever lots for housing.

In the last six months, the Ford government has introduced massive changes to land planning use in Ontario. The Build More Homes Faster Act upended the role of the conservation authorities in planning and cut out much of the public’s opportunity to have a say on new developments in their neighbourhoods. Bill 97 according to Ken Melanson, manager of planning for Lambton County, allows up to three units of housing on lots - using basements and the second storeys of garages for example. It also suggests up to three residential lots could be severed from agriculture land, as long as servicing was available.

Melanson, in an explanation about the changes, worries that could cause conflict as people move into rural areas not understanding the sights, sounds and smells that go with farming. Lambton hasn’t calculated how many new housing lots could be created this way, but nearby Middlesex has the potential to have 21,000 new lots.

At Enniskillen council, Mayor Kevin Marriott said not every farmer would want to sever lots from their land. But in Dawn-Euphemia, Mayor Al Broad suggested it was needed to help the municipality increase its tax base.

“Our county is still dead against rural severances,” Broad said. “We need severances to make our community thrive.”

As the province changes legislation in the

hopes of building 1.5 million homes in 10 years, it is also suggesting changes to the Provincial Policy Statement - the guidelines all municipalities must follow as they plan for growth.

The changes would allow urban municipalities to easily expand their boundaries for housing and would stop municipalities from creating more restrictive policies than the province. That could stop the move by some municipalities, including Dawn-Euphemia and Brooke-Alvinston, from successfully getting smaller farm plot sizes acknowledged. The provincial policy states a farm lot should be 38 hectares (100 acres), but in communities like Dawn-Euphemia and Brooke-Alvinston, many of the farm lots are 50 acres.

Brooke-Alvinston Councillor Don McCabe says there is no reason the province should not continue to allow farmers to buy smaller plots of land. “I would like to ask for further information from the county of Lambton on where and when 38 hectares was determined to be the minimum size,” he asked at the May 11 council meeting.

The provincial policy says the 38 hectares plot is economically viable, but McCabe says a farm as small as an acre can be economically viable depending on the type of crop which is planted.

Both Broad and McCabe plan to push the case at county council.

Meantime, Melanson says councillors have until June to comment on the proposed changes to provincial policy. He recommends they don’t make a comment since the province has yet to set out any rules on how to deal with wetlands and the natural heritage issues.



SEPTIC SOLUTIONS

BY SINCLAIR EXCAVATING

✓ Affordable Septic Systems

✓ Excavating

✓ Drainage

✓ And more!

✓ Trenching

✓ Post Holes

Tom Sinclair Jr
519-918-4449

DRIVE - THRU DINNER

Sunday June 4th

4:30 - 6:00PM
WYOMING FAIRGROUNDS

SLICED ROAST BEEF
GARLIC MASHED POTATOES
COLESLAW
BAKED BEANS
SIDE OF GRAVY
ROLL & BUTTER
FRENCH CHEESECAKE

\$22



tickets available online at **pwtp.weebly.com**
or by calling: **519-384-4098 / 519-332-7977** **VISA M/C DEBIT**



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

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

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

Editorial

The need to know

Technology has transformed everything around us - particularly communication - and it is time local political leaders embrace it.

You can stream just about anything, anytime you want, talk to people around the world in an instant live on social media, yet municipal councils are still coming to grips with the concept.

Plympton-Wyoming councillors recently discussed a policy for posting council meetings on a streaming platform like YouTube. Right now, the town streams the meetings live, but if you can't watch it when it is going on - at 5 on a Wednesday afternoon - you won't get to watch as the people you elected make decisions which affect your life.

The new policy - as flawed as it is - will change that.

Plympton-Wyoming will be leaving council meeting videos on YouTube but leaving them up for viewing for only one year. There seems to be no logical reason for this; it cost the municipality nothing and others, like the County of Lambton, have every council meeting ever streamed still online for anyone to see.

The prevailing thought seemed to be if people REALLY want to know what's going on, they hop to it and tune in. But that will leave out anyone with a new interest in politics. The next time the election rolls around they won't have the full picture of how the council functions.

And that view may be obscured even more.

Plympton-Wyoming's rules allow the mayor or council to take down videos if they are "offensive," contain discriminatory remarks or contained "false or misleading information." We can think of instances where that happens in just about every council meeting. It will be interesting to see just how much council decides exercise their right to censor themselves under the rules.

But what is most troublesome about this discussion around the new rules is, what should be the bedrock of municipal government - transparency - is lost on some councillors. Citizens need to know - have the right to know - what their politicians are doing and it is good for democracy that they do. Elected politicians should be doing everything they can to get as much information to the voters as possible, not finding ways to limit access to 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



LAMBTON HERITAGE MUSEUM PHOTO

This is the grand opening of the Oil Museum of Canada. The oil fields of Oil Springs have held a National Historic Site designation since 1925, but the museum only opened on these grounds in July 1960. There have been many changes including an extensive remodeling of the museum. Over 1,000 people attended the official opening day, and speakers in the ceremony included Lambton County Warden Esli G. Dodge and the Honourable John MacKay, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.

Celebrating sisters who broke barriers simply by running

If you're a runner or are good at trivia, you may know the name Katherine Switzer. She was the first woman to officially compete in the Boston Marathon - a bastion of male athleticism.

It didn't go smoothly that cool day in 1967. The race director tried to haul her right off the street as she was running since he thought it wasn't a good idea for women to be involved.

She finished that day and competed in many more races.

So one might think that two young ladies from Watford planning to run the Watford/Alvinston Road Race just four years later might face some stiff opposition.

There were obstacles for Minnie Scholten Grozelle and Mary Scholten Jansen. The Ontario Racing

Commission didn't allow women to run in sanctioned races. The sisters had a powerful, familiar voice in their corner. Roy Caley - renowned broadcaster and organizer of the race down Highway 79 - got on the phone and pestered people until he had permission for the sisters to lace up for the event. When I talked to Mary the other day, she still seemed grateful for Caley's intervention so they could join the race.

If there was friction because two women were running what had been an all male event, Mary didn't talk much about it. Oh, there were stares as the pair ran down the backroads of Lambton County practicing, but Mary still laughs it off to this day.

It seems to me that Mary and Minnie likely didn't recognize how they were

blazing a trail. It seems to me, they just wanted to run. So, they did. How fantastic is that.

They did shock more than a few people. The organizers hadn't planned a reward for the first women in the race because, it seems, they didn't think they would finish.

I guess Mary and Minnie fooled them. It's probably something they still share a giggle about when they talk about the first time they ran the road race.



Heather Wright

The Independent
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca

4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0 • 226-738-0728

Subscription Rates: \$55.00/year within 50 kms of Petrolia Post Office
\$65.00/year outside of 50 km radius \$75.00/year other provinces
(HST included on all prices) Subscriptions are non-refundable

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

The contents of this newspaper are protected by copyright.
No material from this edition may be reproduced without expressed written consent of The Independent of Petrolia & Central Lambton

Publisher / Editor: Heather Wright • news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca
Reporters: Blake Ellis
Sales Associates: Kyla Goodhand • sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca
Zach Junkin • theindependentjunkin@gmail.com
Classifieds / Graphics: Tyler Viscount • office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514

Proud host of the Local Journalism Initiative

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

Canada

WALKING FOR A CURE



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

The first ever Walk for Alzheimers in Petrolia was a success. About 50 people walked five kilometers through Petrolia Saturday to raise money for research into the disease which affects nearly 600,000 Canadians. The Petrolia Walk was part of a two-phase Lambton walk. Part two is next Sunday in Sarnia. Organizers hope to raise \$65,000 in total.

IESO nixes Enbridges plans for St. Clair power for now

Heather Wright
The Independent

It seems there will not be battery storage operations in Lambton County - at least not anytime soon. Late Tuesday, the Independent Electricity System Operator released the companies which would provide

battery power storage in southern Ontario. The units, made of lithium ion batteries, would hold power until it was needed in the peak usage hours. Enbridge had bid for three storage projects in St. Clair Township, but when the IESO released the successful bidders, Enbridge Gas was not on it. The battery storage operations caused

a stir not only in St. Clair but in Enniskillen Township, where a power company decided not to invest in the rural community after facing stiff opposition. There was one familiar name on the list of power providers. Eastern Power won the right to build a 212 MW gas plant in St. Clair Township.

Crunch time as search continues for sewage leak in Florence

Heather Wright
The Independent

Florence residents could face charges under the Ontario building code if they don't fix septic systems leaking into the Sydenham River. For over a decade, Dawn-Euphemia has been working to solve the problem of seepage into the river. In the last year, the township moved away from a municipal system which would have been far more expensive than the 67 homeowners could afford, to testing each outlet to the municipal drains to determine where the sewage was coming from. In 2022, the township used dye tests

to try to determine the leaks at homes where taxpayers allowed the testing. But there are still septic systems which haven't been assessed yet. So, starting in June, the municipality will be contacting the homeowners to say they'll be digging up the drain and doing the testing. If there is a problem found, according to the Degradation of Water to Municipal Drains in Florence policy, the township will notify the landowner, provide a list of accredited septic installers and give them three months to have the problem fixed. If they have booked repairs that deadline could be extended to six months. If the homeowner doesn't complete

the repairs, the policy states "the drain may be plugged and capped and the Lambton County Building Services will be notified to proceed with enforcement. According to a newsletter sent out to residents, that could mean homeowners would face building code orders to fix the problem. Once the drains are fixed, homeowners will have to prove through testing the problem has been remedied. And they will have to pay for that testing. Clerk Donna Clermont says the policy is being mailed out to the affected homeowners and the testing will begin in June.

Tractor parade, run planned to support new respite cabin

Heather Wright
The Independent

As Three Oaks Cabin takes shape, the Bergsma family is organizing two fundraising events to support the respite cabin for farmers and first responders. The death by suicide in November 2020 of Dalles Bergsma devastated his family and the Dawn-Euphemia firefighting community. Parents Al and Diane Bergsma wanted to reach out to help others in the farming and first responder community dealing with the stress and mental health problems they face. The idea of Three Oaks Cabin - respite for farmers and first responders facing stress and mental health issues - was formed. The planning for the cabin took

some time, but construction is well underway. Diane Bergsma said construction slowed for about a month during the heavy rains. May 10, as the weather cleared, a crane came into the woods to lift the roof trusses onto the walls. Bergsma says they're still on track to open the cabin by October. "We won't be all done...we're planning interactive trails... they're very hands on and bring about this mindfulness. While the construction continues, two fundraisers are being planned. June 17, the Hard Miles 5K Run and Walk will be held in Mitchell's Bay. Aug. 12, farmers will form a tractor parade in Shifting Gears, a 12 km parade which takes people past the cabin on Shetland Road and a honour guard by the Dawn-Euphemia Fire



DIANE BERGSMAS PHOTO

A crane lifts the rafters onto Three Oaks Cabin in Dawn-Euphemia. Department at the cemetery where Dalles Bergsma is buried. Information about the events can be found at www.threeoakscabin.com

True
PERFORMANCE

• Emery Huszka
Florence, ON
226-373-6244

• Julie Maw
Courtright, ON
519-384-2281

www.maizex.com

Watford 150th
Anniversary Dinner

Sunday, June 25, 2023
4:30 p.m. Social ~ 5:30 p.m. Dinner
East Lambton Community Complex - Lambton Mutual Hall
Dress in attire from your favourite decade/era and capture this milestone in our photo booth.
*Each attendee will receive a free commemorative gift.

Meal to be catered by:

Tickets: \$45 per person
Single tickets available for purchase at Township of Warwick
Municipal Office and Wilson's Shell Gas Station
Purchase a table by calling 226-848-3926
or emailing: watford150th@outlook.com
AGE OF MAJORITY ONLY

NEEDS YOUR HELP!
soda crackers • peanut butter • jam • ready-to-serve soups • kraft dinner
sidekicks • rice & pasta • brown beans • kidney beans • canned stew
flakes of chicken • flakes of turkey • salmon • social crackers • cheddar
taco kits • boxed potatoes • boxed stuffing
Any items not listed are accepted, if you use it in your home our clients will use it in theirs

There's a home for
healthy, attractive smiles
in your neighbourhood

Looking for a dentist close to home?
Petrolia Dentistry offers dentistry for the whole family, from cleanings and exams to natural looking fillings, crowns, bridges & more.
With convenient hours and a clean modern office, you'll feel completely comfortable.

Dr. Mike Hoben
Dr. Rudha Al-Rohani
Dr. Rebecca Phillips
519-882-0520
430 Albany Street • petroliadentistry.com

Think Spring: Lawn and Garden

Creating a private oasis in your backyard

Neighbours a little too close or are you a private person? There are a number of ways to make your backyard a personal oasis. Fences will always be the ideal way to block unwanted sights and wandering eyes. The traditional privacy fence is six feet plus tall. Be sure to check with your municipality's current ordinances as many have maximum height requirements. These privacy barriers are made of solid wood fitted together with few gaps in between for optimal blockage of sight and sound. Vinyl and PVC are terrific materials for fencing as they are long wearing, durable and easily maintained. As with wooden fences, many styles are available from white Victorian with ornate finials to simple faux wood slats. Willow in vertical strips bound by wire attach nicely to an existing fence, such as chain link, provides a terrific solution and a more organic, natural alternative to traditional fences. These fences can be made

ornate with a wrought iron decorative frame. Walls can be another essential way to add privacy although they are not as easily accomplished as fences and some other privacy options. Wall materials include concrete, plaster, plastic and wood panels and come in custom styles and heights. There are many types of plantings that when fully grown provide an excellent natural backyard privacy option. If privacy is imperative immediately, many shrubs, trees and greenery can be purchased in more mature states of growth. Bamboo gives the backyard a beautiful look while providing dense covering for privacy as well as shading. It can grow prolifically and quite tall dependent on the variety. It can also be used as thick coverage of the whole property line or grouped for single areas of the yard. Note, it grows quite vigorously and needs to be planted with careful planning.

Trees, shrubs and hedges are a traditional planting approach to backyard privacy with varieties such as Japanese/Texas privet, red tip photinia, podocarpus, junipers, evergreens, viburnum, myrtle, rhododendron and boxwood. When considering plantings for privacy go for greenery that is fast growing, evergreen, dense leafed, and tolerates trimming well. The backyard can be enhanced, activities accommodated and privacy provided by substantial outbuildings in desired areas. These include the modern pergola draped with growing vines or ivy. A latticework enclosed outdoor living structure such as an elegant sitting area will provide a terrific outdoor activity area along with much needed privacy. Gazebos are highly popular and built in many styles and materials to match your home's exterior and interior decoration. Garden arbors bloom in flowering vines.

To prune or not to prune; timing is important

Proper pruning creates more beautiful, healthy trees and can increase the life span and productivity of fruit and shade trees. Unpruned or poorly pruned trees can often be safety hazards that endanger people and property. Pruning is both art and science. Orchard pruning differs from landscape tree pruning. The purpose of pruning in an orchard is to maximize economic return and stimulate early fruit production. Landscape tree pruning is usually intended to maintain a tree's natural form, health and longevity and to minimize hazards that develop from improper pruning and unrestricted branch growth. Consider pruning a branch if it is:

- dead, dying or severely diseased branches
- sprouts forming at the base of the trunk
- branches growing toward or across the tree's center
- crossed limbs that rub together or may rub in the future
- multiple leaders - upright branches that compete as secondary trunks or may develop into additional trunks
- nuisance growth interfering with power lines, sidewalks, buildings,

traffic or traffic visibility. You may prune deciduous trees in the dormant season once leaves have fallen in October or November, but January to March is preferred. Finish pruning in the spring, before color is evident in swelling leaf and flower buds. Evergreens should be pruned late in the dormant season, shortly before new growth begins. Summer pruning is often recommended for spring-flowering trees, which carry preformed flower buds through the winter. This reduces the loss of flowers cut while still in the bud. Summer pruning is appropriate for other trees, but limit summer pruning to removal of deadwood and new branches that have not exceeded the thickness of your thumb. Pruning young trees is preferable to corrective pruning of large trees. Pruning a young tree removes smaller branches removing less food reserves from the tree and creates smaller wounds that close more quickly.



Mulch Matters

Wyoming Tree Service offers beautiful, natural mulches made from locally-sourced wood right here at our Wyoming location. Our **Colorbiotic** options are safe for animals, environmentally friendly, and come in a vibrant array of colours.

Mulching tips:

- 1 cubic yard covers 108 square feet with 3 inches of mulch.
- Mulch should be 2-4 inches thick.
- Make sure the area is weed-free before you mulch.
- Damp mulch will dry quickly once spread.
- Don't pile mulch against stems or tree trunks. Make a donut shape around your trees extending to their dripline.
- Protect your finished surfaces by unloading mulch onto a tarp
- Keep coloured mulch dry for the first 48 hours.
- Rake your mulch now and then to keep the colour looking fresh.

Pick some up today, or contact us to schedule a delivery.



Safe, Professional Tree Service

Wyoming Tree Service provides professional tree care to Lambton County. Our friendly, hardworking team of arborists will get your job done safely and professionally.

Spring tree care tips:

- Remove support stakes and protective wrapping.
- Assess trees for winter damage. Schedule brush chipping to clean-up fallen branches.
- Prune evergreens and hedges to maintain health and form.
- Use a biological insecticides to control spongy moth caterpillars.
- Install fertilizer spikes to ensure a continuous supply of nutrients for tree root systems.
- Avoid unhealthy pruning techniques like "topping" or "lions-tailing".
- Prune flowering trees after blooming for a healthy display next year.
- Grind out old stumps, fill the hole with topsoil, and plant grass seed.

Contact us today for a free tree pruning or removal estimate.



519 845 0847
wyomingtreeservice.ca
499 Plympton Street, Wyoming, ON

519 845 0847
wyomingtreeservice.ca
499 Plympton Street, Wyoming, ON

Think Spring: Lawn and Garden



FILE PHOTO

For gardeners, spring is the most wonderful time of the year but for novices it can be a bit confusing.

The basics of planting a spring garden

This is the year; the price of food is climbing and you want to start growing some of your own veggies. But where to start. Here, you'll find some tips for where and when to plan from Ontario's Master Gardeners.

Using containers, urban residents can grow food just about anywhere there is enough sunlight: on balconies, windowsills, decks and paved spaces. Containers or raised beds also provide more accessibility for elderly or physically challenged gardeners, and they can be used when the underlying soil is too contaminated to be used to grow edible crops.

Many vegetables and herbs are suitable for container gardening. The bigger the container, the longer the list of plants that can be grown. Keep in mind that plants grown in containers are grown in soilless media that drains quickly and must be watered more frequently than their soil-grown counterparts.

Community gardens offer access to land. Whether they're on city-owned land or private property, these community spaces allow a group of people to grow food, either in individual plots or collectively. They also provide a chance to meet your neighbours and make new friends with similar outdoor interests.

To find a community garden near you, contact your municipality.

Keep the growing conditions in mind as you choose what to grow. Full sun (6-8 hours of direct sun a day) is ideal for all vegetable and herb crops and a necessity for fruiting crops like tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins, and squash.

But don't be discouraged if your site gets less.

Most root crops, such as beets, carrots, turnips, and onions will do well with only 4-6 hours of direct sun a day. If your

garden only gets 3-4 hours of direct sun, leafy crops like spinach, lettuce, kale, and chard will still give a respectable harvest.

You may notice that descriptions in plant catalogs or on seed packets list the days to maturity (DTM) for that particular variety.

This tells you approximately the time it will take from seed sowing to harvest or, in the case of crops that are usually planted as transplants like tomatoes or peppers, from transplanting to harvest. This information is helpful in deciding if your growing season is long enough for the crop to mature. For example, if you garden where the growing season is short, choosing tomato varieties that require fewer days to mature will increase your chances of harvesting a good crop before the weather turns cold.

Knowing the DTM can also help you figure out if a crop planted in spring is likely to be ready before school lets out for the summer or when you need to start a crop for fall harvest so that it matures before frost.

When to plant - here's a list of what seeds can be planted after the last frost:

Beans	On last frost date
Beets	2-4 weeks before
Carrots	2-3 weeks before
Corn	On last frost date to 1 week after
Cucumber*	1-2 weeks after
Lettuce*	3-4 weeks before
Melon*	2 weeks after
Peas	6 weeks before
Pumpkin*	2 weeks after
Radish	4-6 weeks before
Spinach	4-6 weeks before
Swiss Chard*	1-2 weeks before
Squash	2 weeks after frost

-ONTARIO MASTER GARDENERS

Preparing for planting One Seed Lambton

Composting is one of the key things gardeners can do to add nutrients to their gardens.

Brian Sipken of Sipken's Nurseries led a gardening workshop at the Wyoming Public Library May 6. A dozen residents were in attendance to learn about starting a garden from seed as part of One Seed Lambton, encouraging everyone to grown their own produce. Sipken says here should be a balance of kitchen and lawn scraps within a compost. It takes six months before a

small twig breaks down in the compost. It is a good idea to water your compost once a week, as it speeds up the process.

One Seed Lambton is encouraging gardeners to plant dwarf grey sugar snow pea this year. The plant should be planted as soon as the soil can be worked in the spring and can be sowed again in the summer for a fall harvest. Sipken said the dwarf grey sugar snow pea takes 65 days between germination to harvest.

Visit Our

Garden Centre

for all your gardening needs.

OWNED & OPERATED BY
HEIDI'S
YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Great Assortment of:

- perennials
- annuals
- hanging baskets
- tropical
- herbs
- planters
- shrubs
- trees
- garden décor

Victoria Day Holiday • Monday, May 22
Garden Centre will be open 10am-5pm • Store will be closed.

Independent

Your Independent Grocer

4136 PETROLIA LINE | PETROLIA | 519-882-2211
STORE HOURS: MON-FRI 8AM-8PM • SAT-SUN 8AM-7PM

YOUR ONE STOP FOR:

- **MECHANICAL REPAIRS**
- **HUNTING/CAMPING/WORK TOOLS AND ESSENTIALS**
- **ARIENS® AND GRAVELY® MOWERS**
- **ECHO OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT FOR LAWN AND GARDEN CARE**

Book an appointment on-line or visit us at:

5271 Nauvoo Rd, Watford, ON
226-390-0057 e: greg@fullytek.ca
Sun: Closed, Mon-Fri: 8 am-5 pm, Sat: Closed

fullytek.ca

Think Spring: Lawn and Garden

Creating a comfy outdoor living space

When the weather is just right for enjoying your outdoor space, you want to be sure that space is perfect for you. In this post you will learn about 5 easy DIY backyard ideas to improve your outdoor space.

LIGHT IT UP

Consider adding lighting in your backyard. It will improve the clarity of the outdoor space and enhance its aesthetic appeal. Ordinary bulbs may brighten up the space, but other options offer more. One DIY backyard idea is to use outdoor pendants and votive candles to create the perfect ambience. Choose the types and colors of lights that blend easily with your outdoor space. Some homeowners prefer modest lighting for the patio rather than extreme brightness. Choose your pendants and candles based on utility and beauty.

GO TO POTS

It is possible to create a visually attractive perimeter around your patio by using potted plants. A group of plants can be arranged in a unique order around the patio to achieve the double advantages of order and beauty in this DIY backyard idea. For maximum effect, the plants can be comprised of a variety of different blooms. If carefully and creatively selected, the perimeter can become an amazing focal point of the patio. In addition, the arrangement can be changed regularly to accommodate other creative ideas and avoid monotony.

PULL UP A CHAIR

With all of these beautiful additions to your backyard, you'll need somewhere to sit and enjoy them. Seating can be added to your backyard in a variety of ways, from a beautiful

set of table and chairs to a backyard gazebo. Gazebos can be a great addition to your outdoor space and a rather easy DIY idea. They are attractive and have a variety of design and utility merits. Seating areas can be used for dining, socializing or simply relaxing. For extra appeal, add a beautiful winding path of decorated gravel or marble that leads to your seating area.

GO GREEN

Every once in a while, it's a good idea to take a look at your overall landscaping and see what needs improvement or what you might want to add or change. Add some gorgeous greenery and vivid colors with plants and flowers. Go with your perennial favorites or try new things. If you're not sure what types of plants thrive in your environment.

Getting the right company for the job

One of the most important jobs when you are renovating comes before anyone lifts a hammer. Hiring the right contractor can make the difference between a successful project and one headache after another.

The Ontario Ministry of Consumer Affairs offers these suggestions when you are looking to hire a contractor:

- ✓ make a list of exactly what you want done. Remember that changing plans in the middle of a project will cost extra money
- ✓ set a clear budget
- ✓ ask for recommendations from friends and neighbours
- ✓ know that workers and independent operators in the construction industry must possess workplace safety and insurance coverage. There are some exceptions. For more information and to check coverage, contact the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB)
- ✓ ask if the tradespeople hired have their certification from the Skilled Trades Ontario
- ✓ consider dealing with a local company. This may make it easier to check references, enforce a warranty or have follow-up work done
- ✓ get written estimates from at least three contractors



✓ never accept an estimate over the phone or without the contractor inspecting the area
Remember that good contractors ask a lot of questions so they can understand and plan out the project. For example, in driveway paving, they should ask if any heavy vehicles will be parked on the driveway
✓ Remember do not go for a deal that sounds too good to be true
If it's a major project, you might need an architect or engineer to draw up plans and give direction. You will also likely have to get a building permit. Ask your city or town hall how much building permits cost and how to get them.

IT'S TIME TO THINK SPRING



YARD/LAWN
MAINTENANCE

DECK & PATIOS

MOBILE
POWERWASHING

BASEMENT
WATERPROOFING

BEAUTIFUL
FENCES

GATEWAYS &
DRIVEWAYS

We provide Property maintenance Services to Residential and Commercial clients throughout the Sarnia and Surrounding Areas.
For a FREE Estimate give us a call.



**MILLER
BROTHERS**

Skid Loader and Mini Excavator
Trenching, Lot Clearing, Interior and Exterior Water Proofing, Foundation Repair, Culverts, Drainage.

(519) 312-7440
millerbrosmini@gmail.com

millerbros.ca
follow us online:   

Sports

Knights down 2-1 in OHL championship

The Independent

The London Knights, with Dale Hunter of Oil Springs at the helm, are down two games to one in the OHL championship series.

The Knights lost 6-5 in overtime to the Petes in Peterborough Monday. Game four is Wednesday in Peterborough with game five back in London on Friday night.

The Knights won the opening game of the best-of-seven series May 11, 3-0 before the Petes rebounded for a 5-3 win in London May 12.

If a sixth game is needed, it'll be played Sunday night in Peterborough, and if the series goes the distance the deciding game will be next Monday night at Budweiser Gardens in London.

Meantime, Sarnia Sting owner David Legwand has posted an open letter thanking the Sarnia-Lambton community for its incredible support and commitment during just completed OHL season.

And Ty Voit has been reassigned to the American Hockey League's Toronto Marlies by the Toronto Maple Leafs and goaltender Ben Gaudreau will not be signing with the San Jose.

LK TRACK MEET



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

LCCVI's Jace McGrail clears a hurdle during heats at the first day of the Lambton-Kent Track and Field meet Tuesday. Results for the meet were not available by press time. Meantime, LCCVI won four events in the girls' division at the final LKSSAA track and field tune up this week in Chatham. Keria Anjema and Brynn Blancher won the novice and junior javelin events respectively, Pavia Gerrits won the senior girls' high jump and Kaiya Greydanus captured the senior girls' 100 metre hurdle race. Olivia McKinlay of North Lambton took first place in the senior girls' long jump. On the boys' side, Charlie Shaw won the senior boys' 800 metre race, James Grant crossed the finish line first in the novice boys' 800 and Hunter Campbell captured the junior boys' discus. North Lambton's Cameron Finch broke the tape first in the boys' open 1500 metre steeplechase.

Doxtator, Bressette earn silver at national tourney

Team Ontario lost 5-2 to Manitoba in the boys U18 gold medal game at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Winnipeg.

Ontario was attempting to defend its title.

Team Ontario, with Corunna's Bo Doxtator on its roster and coached by Sarnia's Brandon Biggers, went 2-1 in the preliminary round before knocking off Alberta, 3-2 in the quarter-final and eliminating previously unbeaten BC,

4-2 in the semi-finals. Doxtator scored against BC and added three assists over the week long event.

Bob Bressette of Kettle and Stony Point and the PJHL's Petrolia Flyers was the trainer for Team Ontario.

LCCVI's Jacklin tosses no hitter with Athletics

Regan Jacklin spun a no-hitter on the weekend and came within a walk of a perfect game leading the Lucan-Ilderton Athletics to a 16-0 win over the Ancaster Angels in Grand

Valley Ladies U17 fastball action last Saturday. Jacklin is a student at LCCVI and a product of the Wyoming Wranglers program. The A's won all four games they

played on the weekend to open the regular season.

Their home games are Tuesday nights at 8:30 at Poplar Hill Park.

Alvinston Aces start the season with two convincing wins

The Alvinston Aces opened defense of its Southwest Middlesex Fastball League title with a 7-0 win over Dutton in Alvinston.

Junior pitcher Dale Schweyer tossed a five-inning no-hitter for the winners.

On Friday, the Aces downed the expansion team from Newbury, 13-1. Pami Madzulukwa was the winning pitcher, and he also helped his own cause with a home run.

Aaron Stocking also went deep for

the Aces.

Alvinston is on the road this week with a game against the Thrashers in Charing Cross on Thursday night. They return home to take on Fingal a week from Thursday at 8 pm.

Hecimovich advances in playoffs

Brett Hecimovich and his Kankakee Community College Cavaliers have advanced to the National Junior College regional baseball tournament this week.

The Cavs went 3-1 this past weekend to capture the sectional event.

The Chicago-area school opens the four-team regional tournament Thursday morning against the host

school from Madison, Wisconsin.

Petrolia's Hecimovich earned his sixth save of the season, striking out the side, in a win over Carl Sandberg Community College last Friday.

Hecimovich has made 21 appearances as a freshman this season with a 3-1 record and the aforementioned six saves. He's struck out 36 batters in 27 innings of work.

Raiders, Giants play Wednesday

The cry of "Play ball" is scheduled to be heard Wednesday when the Petrolia Raiders take on the Corunna Giants at the community park in Courtright to open the 2023 Western Counties senior baseball season.

First pitch is set for 6:30.

Meantime, Wyoming's opener is Friday at Canton Park at 7:30 against the Raiders. Port Lambton takes on the Pirates' 22U squad Saturday afternoon at Van Damme Park. Petrolia's home opener is a week from Saturday, May 27, against Corunna at Morrison Field at 1 pm. The other team in the six-team loop is the Dresden Bulls.

We stand by our reputation
~ over 47 years in business & still growing!

Come talk to our friendly,
knowledgeable and experienced staff

Jim's CARPET WAREHOUSE

Hours Now: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm;
Sat & Sun CLOSED

b beaulieu
C A N A D A

2378 Jane St., Brigden • 519-864-1211 • 519-864-4048

TOTAL ROOFING

Over 30 Years Experience

519-541-0434 519-264-2425

— SARNIA & PETROLIA — — STRATHROY —

ALSO OFFERING
BLOWN-IN INSULATION

**ROOFING • SIDING
FASCIA • SOFFIT**

JEWELS RECYCLING
519-344-9543

BUYERS OF:
• ALUMINUM • BATTERIES • BRASS
• COPPER • STAINLESS • WIRE
• E-WASTE • ETC.

1419 CONFEDERATION STREET, SARNIA
- NEAR MODELAND ROAD
www.jewels-recycling.com

Run or Watch the
62ND ANNUAL
WATFORD-ALVINSTON
ROAD RACE

Victoria Day May 22, 2023

Registration / Race Kit Pick-up at the
East Lambton Community Complex
Mon, May 22nd 6 a.m. - 8 a.m.

or online at:
www.watfordalvinstonroadrace.com

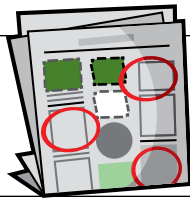
This ad sponsored by:

WATFORD
Home hardware

7885 Industrial Drive, Watford
(519) 849-2219 • Mon-Fri 7-6, Sat 8-5, Sun 10-4

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

May 9 - May 16, 2023

TUESDAY, MAY 9

MANESS, Andrew
Age: 55
Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

MITTON, Robert Ross
Age: 60
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

HIGGINS, Douglas Gordon
Age: 84
Denning's of Watford Funeral Home

TEJERO, Rosario "Rose"
Age: 89
Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, MAY 11

SMITH, Paul
Age: 73
Smith Funeral Home

REID, Joseph William
Age: 39
Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, MAY 12

STEVENSON, Arthur "Rocky" William
Age: 63
Needham Jay Funeral Home

VAN TROOST, Madeline McLaughlin
Age: 99, of Brigden
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel

TAKER, Harold Lorne
Age: 86, of Corunna
Knight Funeral Home

PHADNIS, Chitra

Age: 72
McCormack Funeral Home

MACGREGOR, Barbara Ann

Age: 76
Denning's of Forest Funeral Home

BRAY, Larry Warren

Age: 72
Denning's of Watford Funeral Home

BROWN, Shirley Madeline (nee Bernard)

Age: 94
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, MAY 13

WESTLAKE, Arthur Raymond
Age: 80
Denning's of Forest Funeral Home

SUNDAY, MAY 14

HARDY, Gary
Age: 71, of Petrolia
Needham Jay Funeral Home

TUESDAY, MAY 16

AYRHEART, Janice Marilyn Farr
Age: 87, of Oil Springs
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel

RAHN, Erwin Werner
Age: 58, of Dresden
Badder Funeral Home

Memoriam

John Samuel Duffy

June 30 1978 - May 22 2016

*JOHN, though your smile is gone forever
Your hands we cannot touch
We have so many memories of you "John"
We loved you so very much
Your memory is our keepsake
With which we'll never part
God has you "John" in his keeping
We have you "John" in our hearts*



*Love you "JOHN" Always & Forever xxxooo
Mom & Dad, Sister Myrna (Ron), Daddy of Emily*

Services Offered

BOB'S TAX SERVICE

Celebrating 20 Years of Service
Professional Tax Preparation
• Personal • Self-Employed
• Small Farms • Rentals
• Small Businesses • Prior Years
**519-876-2360
or 519-312-3924**
256 Warwick St,
Watford, ON N0M 2S0
studiotaxman@execulink.com

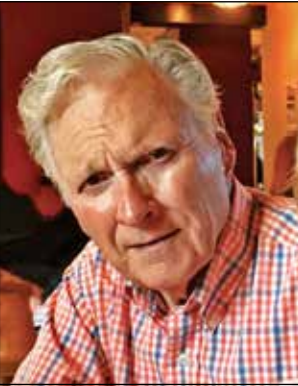
For Sale

Timothy HAY FOR SALE

Small Square Bails

**Call Rob at:
519-384-9717**

Obituary



McGREGOR

Robert "Bob" Edmund

Robert "Bob" Edmund McGregor, 84, of Chatham, surrounded by loving family in his last days, passed on to the nineteenth putting green in the sky on Thursday May 11th at CKHA. He lived his life with a signature charm and quick wit. He can now share his one-liner jokes and famous golf swing to anyone who will listen in Heaven. Bob was born on Oct 3rd, 1938 in Petrolia, Ontario to Frederick Orville McGregor and Dorothy Kettle. He grew up in Petrolia where his mother always proclaimed he was the most handsome boy in town. Bob had a love of cars from the young age of 12. He then bought, restored, and sold a multitude of vehicles over the span of his long self-

made career and developed a wealth of classic car knowledge and a particular fondness for his 55 Chev and 72 Monte Carlo. He enjoyed car talk with his buddies at hundreds of car shows over the years. He also enjoyed "going out among 'em" on snowmobile trips full of fun and adventure. Family trips often involved other friends, golf, and cars. Bob would love to lighten the room with many of his iconic one-liner jokes, and surprising dry wit answers to our predictable boring greetings such as "how are you today Bob?" (*His answer is not printable*). Bob's other passion was golf, amassing numerous tournament wins and trophies, but more importantly friendships, along the way. He would forever hold a love for his dog "Rudy Tudy" for "Grady sakes". There was nobody who could beat him at a game of "name that country music song", especially if it was Ray Price. He loved his music, butter tarts, and sweets. Bob met his wife Karen over 30 years ago and their love for each other is one for the story books. They travelled the world together as tour guides for KL travel. Bob is survived by his beloved and dedicated wife of 30 years Karen McGregor (Trottier) sister Nancy (Fred) Fedosoff, nieces Lisa and Pam. Former wife Gael Cranstons who is mother of his treasured children Susan (Michael) Sheridan, and Bobby (Jody) McGregor. Respected stepsons Michael (Paul), David, and Terry (Robin) McKeon. Adored grandchildren Brittany (Aaron) Gould, Julianne (David) Hubbard, Claire McGregor, Rowan McKeon, Caledonia McKeon. Five much loved great grandchildren Ivy, Finn, and Greta Gould, and Rosie and Harry Hubbard. Brother in law Paul (Annette) Trottier, step nephews Steven and Brian Trottier. A funeral service will be held on Saturday May 27th at St. Ursula Church 205 Tweedsmuir Ave W, Chatham, ON at 11:00 am. Later that day from 1:00-3:00pm, a visitation will be held at McKinley's Funeral home, 459 St Clair St, Chatham. A Celebration of life will be held Sunday May 28th, from 12:30 to 3:00 pm at Links of Kent Golf Club 120 Indian Creek Rd. W. Chatham. The Family would like to express our appreciation for the care they received at CKHA, especially the staff on the third floor. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Alzheimer Society of Chatham Kent. Goodbye Bob, you can finally go on the road with your country music tour you've been threatening for years. Your big heart, bright smile, and everlasting unique sense of humour will be with us forever.

made career and developed a wealth of classic car knowledge and a particular fondness for his 55 Chev and 72 Monte Carlo. He enjoyed car talk with his buddies at hundreds of car shows over the years. He also enjoyed "going out among 'em" on snowmobile trips full of fun and adventure. Family trips often involved other friends, golf, and cars. Bob would love to lighten the room with many of his iconic one-liner jokes, and surprising dry wit answers to our predictable boring greetings such as "how are you today Bob?" (*His answer is not printable*). Bob's other passion was golf, amassing numerous tournament wins and trophies, but more importantly friendships, along the way. He would forever hold a love for his dog "Rudy Tudy" for "Grady sakes". There was nobody who could beat him at a game of "name that country music song", especially if it was Ray Price. He loved his music, butter tarts, and sweets. Bob met his wife Karen over 30 years ago and their love for each other is one for the story books. They travelled the world together as tour guides for KL travel. Bob is survived by his beloved and dedicated wife of 30 years Karen McGregor (Trottier) sister Nancy (Fred) Fedosoff, nieces Lisa and Pam. Former wife Gael Cranstons who is mother of his treasured children Susan (Michael) Sheridan, and Bobby (Jody) McGregor. Respected stepsons Michael (Paul), David, and Terry (Robin) McKeon. Adored grandchildren Brittany (Aaron) Gould, Julianne (David) Hubbard, Claire McGregor, Rowan McKeon, Caledonia McKeon. Five much loved great grandchildren Ivy, Finn, and Greta Gould, and Rosie and Harry Hubbard. Brother in law Paul (Annette) Trottier, step nephews Steven and Brian Trottier. A funeral service will be held on Saturday May 27th at St. Ursula Church 205 Tweedsmuir Ave W, Chatham, ON at 11:00 am. Later that day from 1:00-3:00pm, a visitation will be held at McKinley's Funeral home, 459 St Clair St, Chatham. A Celebration of life will be held Sunday May 28th, from 12:30 to 3:00 pm at Links of Kent Golf Club 120 Indian Creek Rd. W. Chatham. The Family would like to express our appreciation for the care they received at CKHA, especially the staff on the third floor. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Alzheimer Society of Chatham Kent. Goodbye Bob, you can finally go on the road with your country music tour you've been threatening for years. Your big heart, bright smile, and everlasting unique sense of humour will be with us forever.

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.**

Garage Sale

GIANT GARAGE SALE

-- RAIN OR SHINE --
MAY 19 & 20 (FRI & SAT)
8AM-2PM
389- WOOD ST.
(Corner of North St. Petrolia)

GARAGE STUFF:

- Lincoln Arc Welder 225 amp with helmets & rods
- New 24" electric snowblower
- Small Gas Rototiller
- 5 Gallon Powerbuilt Air Compressor
- Electric Leaf Blower
- Mastercraft Impact Gun
- Paint sprayer for interior
- Heavy come along winch
- 2pc. tool box (steel)

(plus much more)

OUTDOOR STUFF:

- Lawn Fertilizer spreaders
- Bristo Lawn Set
- Umbrella & Patio Table
- Lots of O Tile

(plus much more)

CAMPING STUFF:

- Blue Box with hose for camper bathroom
- Coolers
- Men's & Women's Bicycle
- Fishing Supplies
- Lawn chairs

(plus much more)

XMAS & HALLOWEEN STUFF, BOOKS, CDs, baked goods, old car stuff for decorating garage walls.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Obituary



HARDY

Gary Alan

After a valiant battle against Covid pneumonia, Gary Alan Hardy aged 71 of Petrolia, died **Sunday, May 14, 2023** at Bluewater Heath ICU lovingly surrounded and held by his girls. Gary is survived by his wife of over 40 years, Janet (Dillon) Hardy. His daughters, Jacky Hardy of Sarnia and Jordan Hardy (Cody Everett) of Petrolia. Gary is also survived by his brother Kenneth Hardy, sister Doris Cuthbert (much loved late brother-in-law Randy Cobb), brother and sister-in-law Randy and Cindy Hardy, Bruce Hardy, Ric and Kim Hardy, Marty and Dorothy Dillon, Robert and Tracy Horne, Scott Dillon and Corey Dillon (Jessica England). Also survived by father-in-law Robert Dillon as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, close

neighbours, and friends. He will be missed by his furry girl Josie and the Pussy Cats as well as his much loved grand pup Reilly. Gary was literally the nicest man you could ever meet. He had many friends and was loved by all. He was the first person to offer and give anyone help expecting nothing in return. Gary's purpose in life was to make other people happy and see them laugh. At this, he was the richest man on the planet. He loved the simple things in life whether it was just walking Josie down the Sideroad visiting with the neighbours along the way, going on drives to nowhere in particular, sitting in the backyard having a cigar, or watching one of his foreign television shows with subtitles. He loved following the happenings going on around the world and given a little encouragement, was always one to try something new, whether he wanted to or not. He was retired from both Dow Chemical and Nova Moore. We all are richer from having had him in our lives. **A Celebration of Gary's Life will be held on Sunday, June 11, 2023 from 1 to 4 pm at the Petrolia Lions Club, 451 Huggard St., Petrolia.** For those wishing to do a memorial donation in Gary's memory, he was an animal lover and would have appreciated donations to Caregiver's of Petrolia Feral's.

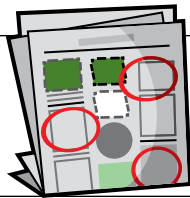
Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 Noon

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.

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

Obituary



CLEMENTS
Donald Eugene
1945-2023

Peacefully at Windsor hospital, Donald Eugene Clements of Alvinston passed on **May 11, 2023 in his 78th year.** He is predeceased by his parents Thomas Eugene (1958) and Mary Lorene (Cook – Clements-Mc Intyre 1968) Don is survived by his wife Kathleen (Marlatt) of Watford Quality Care. Dear father of Kim (Dave) Augustine of Thedford, Dan (Julie) Cle-

ments of Strathroy, Lisa (Dave) Wells of Arkona. Proud papa of Brad (Danyella) ,Tabbatha Augustine Jordana Wells Candis (Clint) Great grandchildren Carsyn, Ryer & Nashville. Brother to Colene Muellejans (late Peter) In-laws Elizabeth and Doug Whitney of Glencoe. Predeceased by his in-laws Grant Marlatt of Thamesville, Lois Winship & Daniel Marlatt. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews. Don worked his full career at Kucera Farm equipment in Alvinston up to his retirement. For many years he enjoyed his annual hunting trips up North with his close friends. Don raced and won many trophies with his modified tractor at the local tractor pulls with his son Dan. He and his family spent each Spring making maple syrup back in the bush on the home farm. **Family and friends are invited to Don's celebration of life at Newbury Legion on May 20th, 2023 from 1 until 4p.m. Light refreshments.** In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Newbury Legion.

REMEMBERING

Bob Chapman

and his Grandson who passed on Family Day, February 20, 2023.
Both are missed more than words can say.
Cheers to their hearts, and to their memories and all who they have touched in life.

Obituary



MARTIN
Sharon

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Sharon Louise (Moore) Martin at Michael Garron Hospital on **May 10th, 2023** at 3:22PM, due to complications with her Cancer Treatment. She is survived by her husband of **54 years** Grev Martin, and her children Craig (Claire Russell), Jessa, and Kyle

(Janna Segal). She was an adoring grandmother to Benjamin, Sadie, Lyndon, Edmond, Lydia and Daphne. A loving sister to Lynn (Maury) Smith, and brother Bill (Cathy) Moore. She is predeceased by her parents, Allen and Marion Moore, and brothers Richard and Brian Moore. She was a loving companion and great friend to her husband. Her love, devotion and generosity to her children and grandchildren simply cannot be measured. Her kindness and compassion endeared her to so many. She will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by family and friends. To know her was to love her. **Family & friends will be received on Saturday May 20 from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Scott Funeral Home, 420 Dundas St. East, Mississauga. Funeral Service will take place at 2 p.m. in Scott Funeral Home.** In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Canadian Mental Health or The Canadian Cancer Society.

Coming Events

Watford Warwick Horticultural Society

Perennial Plant Sale!!!

Victoria Day Weekend **May 19 - 22**

At The Corner Of Confederation St. & Centennial Avenue

FOR INFO OR TO DONATE:

Call 'Lucy' 519-636-1161 or 'Peg' 519-384-5636

Spare Perennials WANTED!

Obituary



STEVENSON
Arthur "Rocky" William

On **Friday, May 12, 2023** at C.E.E. Hospital of Bluewater Health, Petrolia, Arthur "Rocky" William Stevenson passed away at the **age of 63.** Beloved partner and best friend to Joan Baril, loving father to Roxanne Stevenson (Matt Reddick) and her mother, Laura Stevenson. He was the proud papa to Hailey and Hayden Whiting, Lucas and Abby Rae Baril, Jorja, and Sadie Crul and great-grandpa to baby Hudson. He will be missed by Carly (Brandon) Crul and Tyler (Shawni Price) Baril. He will be missed by his siblings, Ellenor (the late Robert) Cole, Bill (Pat) McNeil, June (Russ) Gilliland, Shirley (the late Junior) McDonald, Peggy (Ron) Penfound, Bonnie Broad and Shirley (Donna

Bemma) Walsh. Rocky will be fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews and his Lorne Henderson campground family. Predeceased by his parents, William and Frances Stevenson and his brother, Doug Pyne. Rocky loved camping and taking care of their cat Lucky all the cats, especially Mister, at Lorne Henderson. He was so happy to back at the trailer this season, and was very much looking forward to spending time with his closest friends and family, and hoping to celebrate the Leafs winning the Stanley Cup. Joan wants to thank all their friends and family who supported Rocky this past year, the EMS and First responders who came to his aid and all the medical professionals for their care, and compassion. **A visitation for Rocky will take place on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Wyoming Chapel of Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 650 Broadway St. Wyoming. A Celebration of Life will take place at Lorne Henderson Campground at a later date.** As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations may be made online or by cheque to Canadian Cancer Society (Cancer.ca) or Caregivers of Petrolia Ferals. (e-transfer petroliaferals@gmail.com). Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.NeedhamJay.com

Sarnia Flea Market

OPEN SUNDAYS 9 to 4

112 N. Christina Street
or Parking & Entrance Off Davis

ANTIQUES

Quality Home Furnishings & Collectibles

Royal Doultons to General Housewares and MORE!!

FOR MORE INFO 519-330-6816

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
May17	7pm	Sarnia	SALMON DERBY AWARDS NIGHT @ Pt. Edward Community Hall 210 Monk St. - Awards presentation Start at 7:30pm	
May 19-22	6pm	Watford	PERENNIAL PLANT SALE @ Watford Warwick Horticultural Society - Corner of Confederation St. & Centennial Ave. For info or to donate call: 'Lucy' 519-636-1161 - or - 'Peg' 519-384-5636	
May20	11am-3pm	Wyoming	PICNIC IN THE PARK @ McKay Park. For info search 'Plympton-Wyoming Special Events Committee' on facebook	
May22	1-3pm	Sarnia	SPRING ART ACTIVITY @ JNAGG - Free and fun for all ages. For info visit: www.jnaag.ca or email: anna.miccolis@county-lambton.on.ca	
May27	10am-2pm	Sarnia	KIDS TRAINING DAY @ Bluewater Anglers - Find registration instructions on: www.bluewateranglers.com - For more call: John Klazinga 519-330-9968	
May27	10am-3pm	Sarnia	"INSPIRE" FUNDRAISING EVENT @ SASCSL - Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite	
May29	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	
May30	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 3	8am-12pm	Camlachie	GARAGE/PLANT/BAKE SALE @ Camlachie United Church - 6784 Camlachie Rd. - For info visit: www.camlachieunited.ca	
June 3	12pm-7pm	Petrolia	10TH ANNUAL PETROLIA PIZZAFEST @ Victoria Park	
June 9	9am-1pm	Blenheim	BLenheim SENIOR FAIR @ Blenheim Arena - 199 King St. - For more info visit: www.blenheimseniorscantre.ca - Call: 519-676-3894 or email: Blenheim55@gmail.com	
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	

AIRBORNE



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Phoenix Burns takes a flying leap into the long jump pit at LCCVI May 11. Ecole Hillcrest held its annual track and field day at the high school. The top three in each event will go on to compete at the regional event.

Breaking barriers: the story of the first women road racers

Heather Wright
The Independent

The lore behind the beginnings of the Watford/Alvinston Road Race is well known.

In 1958, six guys were playing cards and started talking about their running skills. Soon, they, along with Hylke VanderWal, would be hoofing it down Highway 79 beginning the Victoria Day tradition.

But few know the trailblazing roles of Minnie Scholten Grozelle, and her sister, Mary Scholten Jansen.

In 1971, Joe and Lambert Minten suggested Minnie should run the Watford Alvinston Road Race. It was an idea that stuck as she told people “Women have two legs and can run, too!”

Minnie enlisted her sister, Mary, and they went to Roy Caley, the organizer. Women didn’t compete in running, so he went to the Ontario Running Commission for permission, according the Jansen. “In the 70s, it was time of women’s rights and we thought we had accomplished that sort of thing. We didn’t know it was still an issue.”

Jansen says Caley went to bat for them working the phones to get permission. While he did, Jansen and her sister practiced. And that drew some looks.

“When we were running, we ran down the (Churchill) line, and a car stopped and like they look so strange at us, because yeah, women just don’t run.”

The sisters got the permission needed



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Minnie Scholten Grozelle, Mary Scholten Jansen and Dinnie Scholten after running the Watford/Alvinston Road Race.

and went the distance. When they crested Watford’s railroad bridge, cheers greeted them. Jansen recalls organizers had to rush out to find a suitable prize since they didn’t think the sisters would finish the race. Jansen, now 73, still has the little jewelry box with the ballerina inside they received.

The sisters continued running the road race and were joined by their sister other sister, Dinnie. The women participated until they had children, took a break and then joined the race again, bringing them along.

Jansen says one of her nephews ran the full course from Watford to Alvinston when he was only eight.

Minnie Grozelle ran the race 24

times and hoped to make it 25, however knee problems will prevent her from lacing up this weekend .

Jansen won’t run either, since her arthritis makes it difficult.

Their run was unusual in 1971 and Jansen can still surprise people with the story of the first women road racers. Organizers of the annual event said in a social media post, the sisters had inspired countless other women to run the race, without needing to ask for permission.

Registration for the Watford/Alvinston Road Race begins Monday at 6 am in Watford. The race begins at 8:30 in Alvinston. Over 300 people have already registered to run.

- ADVERTORIAL -

Father and Son Financial- Sarnia Lambton’s Top Voted Financial Advisors

Steve (Father), and Spencer (Son) are honored to be voted Platinum status as the top financial planning firm in Lambton County. Steve has been a financial planner for over 36 yrs and in 2015 Spencer followed in his footsteps and began his journey in financial planning. In 2021, the two relocated from their Wyoming office to the heart of downtown Petrolia.

Steve and Spencer are proud to be working together combining their expertise and knowledge. They are family oriented and dedicated to providing trusted and reliable financial services to families, business owners, and individuals, helping them to become financially independent. They offer a wide range of financial services and planning which include but are not limited to: health and life insurance, advanced tax planning, RESP and TFSA accounts, retirement planning, and estate planning.

“My husband and I would like to give a big shout out to Spencer Steinman for his high quality and personalized service. We immediately felt a sense of trust, competency and care, especially



LEFT TO RIGHT: Spencer and Steve Steinman

as he took the time to come to us when we couldn’t make it to him (even buying Brownie cookies from our daughter!). Look no further, keep it local. Father & Son Financial - Steve & Spencer Steinman will take good care of you.” - (client testimonial)

Steve and Spencer understand how important it is to feel confident that every detail is being looked after carefully with respect to the ones you love and your business assets. Whether you are looking for education and resources regarding financial planning, or looking for support with succession and estate

planning for your business, Steve and Spencer are with you every step of the way. Steve and Spencer recognize the thriving agricultural community here

“We immediately felt a sense of trust, competency and care” - client testimonial

in Petrolia and surrounding areas, and specialize in farm and business estate planning, making those transitions as simple and tax efficient as possible.

“We have been working with Father and Son Financial for 17 years. Working with Steve Steinman has given me the peace of mind knowing that my Family and Business would be taken care of in the long-term.” - (client testimonial)

To learn more about how Father and Son Financial can best serve you, visit their website today, or give them a call. Consultations are offered completely free of charge.



FATHER & SON
Financial
Unit 3, 4179 Petrolia Line

Steve Steinman CFP® CLU® ChFC® CAFA®
Email: steve@fatherandsonfinancial.com
Phone: 519-339-6885

Spencer Steinman QAFP™ CAFA
Email: spencer@fatherandsonfinancial.com
Phone: 519-339-6882

fatherandsonfinancial.com

@fatherandsonfinancial