

HELLO YOU, HAPPY 150TH BIRTHDAY WATFORD



Lauren Wade, Remi Minten, Brynlee Downey and Kate Sanders were part of opening ceremonies of the Watford 150 celebrations Friday. The St Peter Canisius students sang Hello You – a song written for Watford’s 50th anniversary. You can see more photos from the celebration and from the Inwood 150th celebrations inside.

Waylon’s mom launches \$9M lawsuit

Heather Wright
The Independent

The mother of the Petrolia toddler who nearly drowned after falling into a pool at day care says he has “suffered permanent impairment and significant disability” when doors in the Petrolia home were left open to air out a basement after a flood. Gillian Burnett has filed a \$9 million lawsuit on behalf of her son, Waylon Saunders, and her family in the wake of the incident. Waylon was 20 months old when he returned to daycare as his mom went back to work. Burnett placed the toddler and his sister in care with Paula Maness Slaght at a home on Juniper Crescent.

On Jan. 24, Waylon went out of a door in the back of the home and ended up in the pool for about five minutes. Firefighters and health care providers at Petrolia’s Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital worked for three hours to revive him. When this heart began to beat again, he was transferred to hospital in London where he was placed in a coma in the hopes he would recover. Waylon was given just a 10 per cent chance to live. After two weeks, he was up and walking and released. The lawsuit filed in court last week, says the affects of the near drowning will be long lasting. “There are many unknowns about his

immediate and long-term health as a result of the brain trauma he suffered,” writes lawyer Matthew Dale in the suit naming Slaght, the owners of the home, Dani, Brooklyn, Robert and Maria Maola, and the Sarnia-Lambton Childrens’ Aid Society. “He has suffered deterioration of behaviour, cognition and communicative skills. He has been left with paralysis on his left side, potential blindness in his left eye, communications changes, and issues with his fine motor skills,” the suit alleges adding the toddler has “suffered permanent impairment and significant disability.”

SEE LAWSUIT PG 2

Petrolia won’t build child care center

Heather Wright
The Independent

If there is to be a new child care center built in Petrolia, Lambton County will have to do it. But the town would offer land to get the job done. That’s from a report to council from staff on a request from parents for the town to open a facility to ease the day care crisis in the community. The Petrolia Advocacy Group came to council in March saying there are about 340 children in the town of day care age but only 85 child care spaces. Parents, they said, were applying for day care as soon as they found out they were expecting however a space wasn’t available by the time the child was born and parental leave was over. They advocated building a centre similar to what Goderich built 35 years ago. There are more childcare options on the

way. A new federal/provincial program will create 541 new day care spaces in Lambton – 67 are slated for Petrolia and Wyoming. County officials say they will focus on licensing home day care providers since the province is offering only \$90 per square foot to build new child care centres when the going construction rate is up to \$400 per square foot. Monday, in an extensive report to council, staff estimates it would cost between \$3 and \$5 million to build a child care center for 49 children. It’s also estimated the center would run at a deficit of about \$850,000 for the first ten years requiring a 15 per cent tax increase to cover the costs. Staff added there are no specific programs for child care centers for municipalities, that money is funnelled through the County of Lambton. Instead, staff suggested a number of ways Petrolia could help ease the crisis.

SEE TOWN PG 2

SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2023

BARN DANCE

LIVE MUSIC featuring **Scott Manery** and The Barnburners

LIONS FOODTRUCK OPTIMIST BBQ

6:00 TO 11:00 PM

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

AT THE FARMERS’ MARKET 396 FLETCHER ST., PETROLIA

Town of PETROLIA
you'll be surprised!

Town-run day care not feasible

Day care advocates say building not the only solution to child care crisis in Petrolia

CON'T FROM PG 1

Staff suggested, and council agreed, to lobby the provincial government to allow licensed providers to give care to two children for before and after school care. That, says the report, would provide much needed care and also encourage unlicensed day cares to become licensed subject to the county’s regulation system.

Council also agreed to offer land to Lambton County at the Oil Heritage Community Centre to build a child care centre if they needed it.

Chief Administrative Officer, Rick Charlebois, says Lambton County’s first question to him when he inquired about day care sites was “do you have land?”

Councillor Ross O’Hara expressed concern about the plan saying the town should not take over any building for child care since it would incur an operating deficit which would have to be paid by local taxpayers.

Kate Wagar of the advocacy group was sitting in the council chambers. She was disappointed the town decided against moving forward with a municipal centre but had some hope.

“Anything that has the potential to come to fruition, I’m going to support. Obviously, timing is of the essence, though, I mean, the situation is getting literally worse by the month. ... A build would take a really, really long time - minimum of five years - before

we would see something. So, it’s just a little bit discouraging,” she says.

And Wagar says the situation for families looking for child care gets worse by the month.

As for the new spaces for before and after school care, Wagar says “I do appreciate that being looked into, however, they did say specifically for licensed ...if you think of how many licensed home childcare providers are within our town, does that even do anything for Petrolia? Yeah, maybe 10 students, maybe 12?”

Wagar says the advocacy group is not about to give up on the idea of more child care in Petrolia. She says the town needs to think about repurposing other buildings or working in concert with the Petrolia Y to provide spaces sooner rather than later.

Wagar says county officials at a May 16 presentation about licensed home day cares said “their big word was creativity. ‘We can work creatively, we can make any home a home daycare.’ If you’re that creative, okay, let’s take those creativity wheels and let’s look at what other options we have.”

Wagar says the advocacy group wants the town to help move the issue forward.

“I think we just have to let them know like, ‘okay, the county says, we can’t do it this way.’ But we’ve thought maybe we can offer it this way and see if that’s a workaround.

“We’re not looking to do something, you know, illegal or unsafe or anything; we don’t want to go against legislation or anything but there has to be another way,” says Wagar.

“We can’t just do things the way that we’ve always done because we’ve always done them that way, if that way isn’t working anymore.”

Lawsuit filed after toddler falls in pool

CON'T FROM PG 1

The lawsuit adds the boy’s care is expected to cost \$1 million.

The legal action sheds some light on what may have happened that day. “It appears Ms Slaght left the doors of the home open to the backyard swimming pool to air out the defendant premises following a basement flood,” it contends.

Slaght has also been charged with criminal negligence causing bodily harm in the incident. The allegations in the lawsuit and criminal charges have not been proven in court yet.

Burnett’s suit, which was filed on behalf of Waylon, his father, siblings and grandparents, says Slaght failed to provide “adequate supervision, allowing for apparent hazards to exist, failing to prevent or attempt to prevent injury to Waylon.

It also accuses the 50 year-old of “being an incompetent childcare service provider, lacking in reasonable skill, judgement, education, training or experience and who ought not to have attempted to operate a child care service and supervise children... and creating a perpetuating a situation of danger from which Waylon was unable to extricate himself.”

The civil suit also says Maolas - the owners of the home - “failed to maintain the premises in a reasonably safe condition” and failed “to take any active measures to address the cause of the unsafe condition, failing to take reasonable care to prevent injury to Waylon when they knew or ought to have known of the unsafe condition caused by the unsecured swimming pool.”

The lawsuit also accuses them of “failing to inspect the premises” since they are “responsible for its physical maintenance

and ensure the safety of people there.”

And there was a troubling accusation leveled against the Sarnia-Lambton Children’s Aid Society. The lawsuit alleges the CAS failed “to conduct any or any adequate investigation of Ms Slaght and her suitability to provide care for children” and failing to inspect the premises, to ensure there was in an environment free of neglect and danger, failing to investigate or otherwise act in response to previous complaints or reports of child neglect.”

Burnett’s lawsuit calls that a “gross dereliction of duty.”

CAS Executive Director Dawn Flegel tells *The Independent* the organization has not yet received the lawsuit but will file a statement of defense when it does.

Flegel could not speak to the allegations of failing to investigate previous complaints from the same day care provider.



FILE PHOTO

Waylon Saunders of Petrolia seen here in the photo from February, survived a near drowning at a Petrolia day care. A lawsuit has been launched on his behalf

The Petrolia Business Association presents

THE 1ST ANNUAL

Petrolia Downtown Art Crawl

JUNE 28TH – JULY 8TH

Discover what our local arts community has to offer with a stroll along our storefronts featuring original exhibits by local artists and artisans.

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Dee Ford - Window Painting @ Home Hardware

Tracy Biliiecki - Acrylic @ Brooke Tel

Judy Robinson - Glasswork @ Staffy’s Sandwich Shop

Karen Benusik - Acrylic @ Leisure Lane

Sheila Tiernay - Mixed Media @ Petrolia Mercantile & Tea

Deborah Stewardson - Mixed Media @ Total Hair & Body Care

Dorothea Vince - Glasswork @ Grandis Jewellers

Robbyn Syer - Mixed Media @ Elite Dance Academy

Susan Leenhouts - Textile Art @ The Cottage

Susan Perry - Mixed Media @ The ArtzDen*

Judy Brady - Watercolour @ Gray’s Floral Market*

Craig Boudreau - Intarsia Woodwork @ Actor’s Casual Dining*

Dawn Stilwell - Acrylic @ Petrolia Optometry

Myra Turner - Acrylic @ Gramma’s Candy Store*

DON'T MISS:

*Meet the Artist Night

On Friday, July 7th 6-8pm at these participating merchants:

Susan Perry - Mixed Media @ The ArtzDen

Judy Brady - Watercolour @ Gray’s Floral Market

Craig Boudreau - Intarsia Woodwork @ Actor’s Casual Dining

Myra Turner - Acrylic @ Gramma’s Candy Store

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Centennial Park
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Watford, ON

SCHEDULE

2:00-5:00 p.m. Activities and Live Music

3:30 p.m. Free Hotdogs and Cupcakes served by Warwick Township Mayor and Council

FIREWORKS

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parksandrecreation@warwicktownship.ca



Campbell House may be demolished

Heather Wright
The Independent

It appears time may be running out for the original home of the man who donated the land for the AW Campbell Conservation Area.

Nearly two years after a structural engineer told the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority the home perched at the top of the hill near the entry to the Alvinston area park needed extensive work done so it wouldn't collapse, the board of directors agreed to ask Brooke-Alvinston council for a permit to demolish the house.

And it's not sitting well with local councilors.

In July 2022, Dejan Popovic, a senior structural engineer at VPN Engineering completed a report of the historic home of Archie Campbell, the man who donated 308 acres for the AW Campbell Conservation Area. He said : “Leaving the house in the current condition is not an option. It will inevitably lead to further gradual deterioration and eventual collapse of the structure. The collapse, partial or overall, will likely happen abruptly and without a warning once the remaining residual strength, or the integrity, or the stability of the system are exhausted... significant parts of the structural system like, foundation walls and roof structure need to be completely replaced.”

But the community, including some of Campbell's relatives, asked for time to raise money to restore the home, saying it was a registered historic building and one of the last original farmhouses in the area.

Friends of Campbell Park organized the repair of the roof and sealed up some of the problem areas shortly after the board of directors gave a reprieve to the property. But Thursday, staff returned to the board with the same report and a history of the fight to save the building. The report also outlined that replacing the heritage structure with

a replica building would likely cost up to \$520,000.

“The building has no current or future planned use and the cost of restoration or constructing a replica is not feasible for the authority,” said Greg Wilcox, manager of conservation areas.

Without much discussion, the board agreed to apply for a permit to demolish the house.

At Brooke-Alvinston council the same day, Councillor Don McCabe talked about the decision.

"I'm extremely disappointed that Campbell House has gotten to the state it is in because to me, it's just a complete disregard for the heritage designation that was placed by Ross McCabe and council of the day at that time plus all the demolition of anything further west ...everything back up in there now is toast," he says.

Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek - who served on the conservation authority board when the issue came up - said this is the latest in a series of buildings at the park which have been neglected then torn down.

“We tried to save the old sugar shack, they tore it down. We tried to keep the old train station; its gone,” Nemcek says.

"So, the only thing we had left was the Campbell House and when that first came to the board, what two three or a couple years ago now, it was set in stone, they just let us talk on."

Nemcek says the authority still has to ask for the demolition permit and both he and McCabe believe there should be some conditions on it to ensure Archie Campbell's legacy is not forgotten.

Nemcek says even though the building is in tough shape, people still come to the area to have their photos taken in front of the historic home.

"It's such a beautiful spot there and now I guess, it's gonna be all grass," he says. "When the time comes, I'd like to see some stipulations put down on it."

PW officially owns Highland Glen, McEwen

Heather Wright
The Independent

It's official; Plympton-Wyoming now owns both Highland Glen and McEwen Park - pending any appeals.

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority approved two agreements which see the municipality take over the Lake Huron parks in their jurisdiction for just one dollar.

It is a deal which is four years in the making.

The former township of Plympton turned over McEwen Park - it was then called Plympton Park - to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority in the 1980s for \$1. It also turned over Highland Glen. The idea was the conservation authority was better equipped to care for the lakefront park.

But in May 2019, the town council wasn't satisfied with the condition of McEwen Conservation Area and started negotiations to take over the management and eventually the ownership of the park.

Then, the conservation authority shut down the boat

ramp at Highland Glen. After two seasons without lake access, councillors decided the municipality should ask for control at Highland Glen as well so the town could fix the boat launch - something the conservation authority said was going to be too expensive.

The authority agreed to the ideas and operating agreements were worked out which allowed Plympton-Wyoming to complete repairs on the boat launch earlier this year.

But the official ownership of the land remained with the conservation authority; the deal needed the approval of the provincial government and that was taking some time.

Thursday, the board of directors was finally able to sign the agreements. Provincial legislation changed; the minister's approval was no longer necessary.

The agreements do, however, restrict what the town will be able to do with the land. The sale aims to protect the naturalized state of the land. No commercial, residential or industrial development will

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2023



PETROLIA CANADA DAY CELEBRATION



FLAG RAISING

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
PETROLIA BRANCH 216

BRIDGEVIEW PARK 7AM-10AM

CUPE
Canadian Union of Public Employees

Outdoorsman kids fishing derby



11AM

PARADE

2:00pm Downtown Petrolia



To register for the parade email twagner@petrolia.ca or call 519-882-2350

Pancake Breakfast



\$6 per person

Legion

GREENWOOD PARK DIAMOND 1 1PM

PETROLIA Raiders vs **Wyoming Senior Cattlebarons**



Live Music Bouncies Games and more!

ROCK the Park

3PM GREENWOOD PARK

Food Booths



Ice Cream

SOFTY CANADA SELLING

BUS SHUTTLES

STARTS AT 6PM

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Watch for Schedule



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Fireworks

STARTING AT 10PM

GREENWOOD PARK



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**BUS
1**

Eureka & Gables
 Eureka & Catherine
 Eureka & Ernest
 Ernest & Ernest (stop sign)
 Catherine & Pine
 Catherine & Garfield
 Evergreen & Applewood
 Applewood & Parkside
 Parkside & Parkside
 Parkside & Garfield
 Garfield & Maple
 Garfield & Florence



Starting at 6:00pm Saturday, July 1st

Buses will run from 6 p.m. until
30 minutes after the fireworks end.
They will return residents to their
original bus stops.

**BUS
2**

Farmers Market
 Oil St & Henry St
 Walnut & Greenfield St
 Greenfield St & Dufferin
 Albany & Walnut
 Center St & Robert St
 Center St & James
 James & Eureka
 Sycamore & Maple
 Juniper & Juniper (Cul-de-sac)
 Juniper & Catherine St
 Catherine & Pine
 Catherine & Garfield
 Evergreen & Applewood
 Applewood & Parkside
 Parkside & Parkside
 Parkside & Garfield
 Garfield & Maple
 Garfield & Florence



For more info please call
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www.town.petrolia.on.ca
 or find us on Facebook

**BUS
3**

Princess St & Grove
 Kerr St & Glenview Rd
 Tile Yard & 1st Ave
 1st Ave & Garden Cres
 1st Ave & 487 First Ave
 1st Ave & Garden Cres
 1st Ave & 6th St
 1st Ave & 3rd St
 3rd St & 4th St
 Mutual & Derby St
 Mutual & Petrolia Line
 Petrolia Line & Kentall St
 Petrolia Line & Northridge Place

Buses will be marked with signs: Bus 1, 2, or 3

Editorial

There has to be a less expensive day care alternative

Penny Kearney knows there are families who may never find a space at the Petrolia nursery school she runs.

The wait list at the Petrolia cooperative is so long, a family can apply the minute they learn they’re expecting a child and still not have a place to bring their child once parental leave ends nearly two years later.

The situation at Kiddies Korner isn’t unusual in Lambton. There are few options for families other than begging family to help out when both parents want or need to work.

So, it’s not surprising there was disappointment when the Town of Petrolia came to the conclusion it was too expensive to build a municipal child care centre.

The staff looked at a facility in Goderich which has been providing service for over 30 years and found they ran a deficit - similar to what the town’s arena and community centre run each year - which is covered by taxpayers money. The report said that deficit would likely mean a double digit tax increase. Not something politicians nor taxpayers really want to hear.

But, perhaps what town staff envisioned wasn’t completely necessary. We’ve often seen municipal governments build offices, arenas and community centers far more elaborate than necessary. We’d suggest that building a brand new building is beyond our means, but that doesn’t mean a municipally run centre is out of the question.

The town already contracts out services to the Southwestern Ontario YMCA at the Oil Heritage Centre, they run child care centers all over the province. Perhaps they would have ideas on how the town could use an existing space or well build modules to set up a day care.

While we appreciate a multi-million dollar facility is out of Petrolia taxpayers price range, there should be more exploration of alternatives. Without that, it will become harder to attract young families to Petrolia and to keep those who are already here.

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 COUNTY ARCHIVE PHOTO

While there were some very high profile 150th anniversary celebrations this month, Wyoming is also marking its 150th anniversary this week. It was another Lambton County village proclaimed by Lambton County Council in 1873. This parade dates back to 1895, and was likely held Victoria Day. In the background there is the Blaquier and Jones Cash Store - a general store. It’s now an Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall near the Home Hardware. This block was also home to E. C. Rice’s Popular Book Store and eventually, Wyoming’s first public library.

Sorry, but I am unapologetically Canada eh

Sorry, it is likely me all those American TV shows are imitating. I am the Canadian saying ‘Eh?’ all the time.

My family and I sit down each night to watch episodes of a show which includes a Canadian living in the US. Her friends tease her mercilessly about her accent, the cold weather, bagged milk, hockey, beavers and even her favourite coffee shop - Tim Horton’s.

It doesn’t take long for someone to comment about how no one they know says ‘about’ or ‘eh.’

I’ll agree with them about ‘about’ - I can honestly say I have absolutely

never hear that uttered by any Canadian I met. But....I found myself saying ‘eh’ occasionally lately.

I’m writing it off to being Canadian.

And while it is very Canadian to say sorry for saying ‘eh’ all the time, I think I’m going to buck the trend, shake off our usual Canadian politeness, and stand my ground.

I really have nothing to be sorry about eh?

We have lots of unusual little Canadian foibles - bagged milk, poutine, toques, colourful cash - and I think they’re much more interesting than bottled milk, regular French Fries,

hats, and plan old greenbacks in the good ol’ US of A.

So, while I try to limit my ‘eh’s to the same number of double-doubles I have a day, I will not apologize.

Sorry, but I guess I am unapologetically Canadian and you’ll have to deal with it. If that’s okay - eh?



Heather Wright

The Independent
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton
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Canada

KEEPING AN EYE OUT



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Gord Dawson of the Moore Optimists keeps his eyes open as Brooklynn Bewsky, 8, and Adalynn Bressette, 6, take to the Bike Rodeo course in Corunna on Saturday morning. The Optimist have been holding a bike rodeo for decades to help kids understand the rules of the road.

Back to Brooke Central in September

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Students and staff at Brooke Central Public School will be back in their classes in Alvinston when the next school year begins again on Sept. 5. Lambton Kent District School Board trustees were given the good news at its meeting June 20. Associate Director Brian McKay said the emergency project will cost \$1.3 million, within the budget set aside for the project. Work on the sections of Brooke Central built in 1960 and 1967 was completed by the end of May. Superintendent Gary Girardi said the school board consulted with staff, the

community and the school council to decide on what would be the best time to officially return to the school. While a return in June was an option it was decided to have the last day of school on June 27 with the remaining three days in June used to packing up classrooms and moving materials back to Brooke Central. “I believe the community will be happy to back in their school,” said Trustee Jane Bryce. Physical education classes moved outside in June for the senior students who remained at the newer section of the school as the gym was closed for further roof repair. The main office at Brooke Central was also reopened in early June.

There will be the closure of classrooms in the newer section of the school on July 3 to allow for roof work over the summer. Lambton Kent District School Board moved classes out of the building in November when an engineer’s report revealed the roof in the older sections of the school map would collapse if there is a snowfall greater than 12 inches of snow. The school board was preparing for routine summer roof maintenance at the school at the time of the discovery. Students have been attended classes at Lambton Central and East Lambton public schools with students in Grade 6 to 8 remaining at Brooke Central.

Lightning strike likely cause of Croton fire

Heather Wright
The Independent

A lightning strike is the likely cause of an early morning fire Monday which destroyed a hay barn in Croton near Dresden. Emma Butler of J&E Meats said in a social media post this morning they received a call around 4 am that their hay and straw barn was on fire. “We were all holding our breath that the burning debris wouldn’t get carried to the nearby barn where our cattle and sheep are,” she said. Crews from the Dresden and Thamesville fire departments arrived and were able to contain the damage to the hay and straw barn. Butler calls it a “devastating loss for our farm” since the barn contained the “entire crop of hay and all of our straw for our animals. “There was no salvaging of any of the hundreds of bales of hay or straw and the equipment inside the shed. “The only silver lining to this is that it is almost wheat season so we should soon hopefully get some more



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

A hay barn in Croton caught fire after a lightning Monday. hay crop,” Butler added. The family has been encouraged by the concern of neighbours. “We are so grateful to the Dresden and Thamesville fire departments for controlling the burn and doing all they could to manage it.”

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Vandalism caused dugout collapse: Menzies

Heather Wright
The Independent

Vandalism appears to have been the cause of the collapse of dugouts at Greenwood Park in Petrolia.

Lambton OPP are investigating after two dugouts the diamond south of the Petrolia Lion’s hall collapsed sometime around the May long weekend.

Sources have told *The Independent* that children were on the roof of the dugouts. Teens can often be seen climbing on top of the dugouts during town events such as fireworks. But this time, sources say, at least one of the concrete dugouts collapsed. It’s believed two of the people involved were injured and taken to hospital.

The dugouts have been removed and two wooden benches remain.

Petrolia’s Chief Administrative Officer, Rick Charlebois, in an email to *The Independent*, said last week “We have no comment, as it is an active police investigation.



FILE PHOTO

A bench remains where a concrete dugout once stood at Greenwood Park. OPP are investigating vandalism which led to the collapse according to town staff.

“It is true that there are benches in place of the dugouts currently, and as we can obtain quotes and more detailed information regarding replacement options we will be coming to council with a report for their consideration.”

Minutes of the Petrolia Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee in Monday night’s council package show committee members were also concerned, asking questions about the collapse of the dugouts as well.

“Nicole Gould asked about the rumour regarding the dugout collapse at Greenoowd Diamond #2,” the minutes state “and inquired about the proper inspection for the dugouts.”

The minutes continued saying Dave Menzies, the director of parks, recreation and facilities, told the group about the incident saying “vandalism occurred causing the dugout collapse.

“Dave (Menzies) explained that dugouts and playground equipment is inspected on a monthly basis and that new more modern dugouts will be installed in the near future.”

The status of the police investigation is not clear.

The Independent has inquired three times by email to the Lambton OPP about the incident over the past week and have yet to receive any information about the investigation.

WM wants to bring excess soil to Watford

Heather Wright
The Independent

It remains to be seen if Warwick Township has hit pay dirt again with the Twin Creeks landfill.

Waste Management officials have approached council asking it to start discussions about allowing up to 11 million tons of soil over the course of a number of years, to be accepted at the Watford area site. That would be above and beyond the 1.4 millions of tonnes of household waste it already accepts each year. Warwick Township has an agreement with WM which sees it paid per tonne of garbage brought into the landfill and the bringing in soil would add to it.

Wayne Jenken, WM Landfill Engineering Manager, says it is looking to forge an agreement in a new area - excess soil.

Jenken told council Monday the province has recently changed regulations surround-

ing soils, how it can be used at the landfill site and how it can be reused in the community.

WM uses excess soil - which includes contaminated soils, shredded auto parts and wood chips to help cover the household waste which comes to the site. But Jenken says the company has a hard time attracting the soil it needs for the job.

Waste Management wants to reduce the rate it charges for excess soil to attract more for its daily cover needs. Jenken says it wants to bring in about 168,000 metric tonnes a year. And new provincial regulations will allow the landfill to use the excess soil for things such as screening berms as well.

The company estimates it could bring in up to 11 million metric tonnes to use on site, if the municipality would approve the move, a “site specific fill management plan in consideration of non-potable groundwater standards” and negotiate

a new revenue sharing agreement to allow the Twin Creeks landfill to accept the excess soils for reuse.

Jenken says there is a need in central Ontario for the service and there is a real market opportunity for WM to provide it.

And Jenken says there is a possibility the company could resell up to five million metric tonnes of the excess soil to other users.

Jenken says the plan is in the very early stages of development and proposed township representatives would meet with WM officials to work out revenue sharing agreements first. Then the company would put together a plan for the municipality to review.

If Warwick approved the move, Waste Management would need a site plan amendment to accept the excess soil in Watford and an amendment to the Environmental Certificate of Approval.

‘Selfless contributor’ remembered in Brooke-Alvinston

Heather Wright
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston is mourning the loss of a man whose name is synonymous with sports and The Optimist Club.

Norm Triest passed away Monday.

Triest was a charter member of the Alvinston Optimist Club and could often be found around the rink watching the Alvinston Flyers Jr C club before it moved to Petrolia in 2016. Triest was a member of the hockey clubs board.

He also spent many hours at the ball diamonds in Alvinston

with both the Alvinston Jr and Sr Aces.

In his obituary, the family said Triest was a life-long proud farmer and later in life loved meeting his friends at the local co-op for coffee in the morning.

And, the obituary notes, he was a member of the Alvinston Ecumenical Choir, the St. Matthew’s Choir and the St. Charles Choir for 71 years.

Warwick Mayor Todd Case, who grew up in Brooke, said in a social media post; “He was a good man who truly cared about his family and community.”

And Dan Cumming, an active

Optimist member added; “Norm will be greatly missed and fondly remembered as a dedicated Optimist and selfless contributor to the betterment of our community.”

A funeral for Triest will be held at the Catholic church in Glencoe Thursday.



Norm Triest

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BROOKE-ALVINSTON CANADA DAY CELEBRATION

At the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre Complex

150th INWOOD CELEBRATION JUNE 24-25, 2023

- 2 Pitch
- Cornhole
- Displays
- Parades
- Face Painting
- Car Show
- Entertainment
- Roast Beef Dinner
- And More!!

Brooke Alvinston Senior Of The Year Presentation

JUNE 30TH, 2023

12:00 pm	Alvinston Optimist Refreshment Gardens
6:00 pm	Co-ed Two-pitch Tournament
8:30 pm	Free Entertainment by COLT & DAVE

JULY 1ST, 2023

9:00 am	The 23rd Annual Canada Day Kids Ball Hockey Tournament
10:00 am	Co-ed Two-Pitch Tournament
11:45 pm	Official Opening and Free Lunch for Everyone
12:00 pm	Alvinston Optimist Refreshment Gardens
12:30 pm	Water Fun with Brooke Fire Rescue (Bring a towel)
1:00 pm	Fun & Games for the Kids with Redline Inflatables
1:30 pm	The 23rd Annual Legion Card Party (Upstairs hall of arena)
3:30 pm	Free Entertainment with SILVER SOUL
4:30 pm	PINERIDGE BBQ Chicken Dinner (Limited number of tickets available)
6:00 pm	Co-ed Two-Pitch Championship Games
6:40 pm	Free Entertainment with JAY ALLAN
8:00 pm	Free Entertainment with BEER STORE MONEY
9:00 pm	Retire the Flag
Dusk	Fireworks

JULY 2ND, 2023

10:30 am	Ecumenical Church Service <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaker is Dr Daniel• Music by Dulce Quartet• Lunch available
11:30 am - 4:00 pm	River Street Car Show, Free Registration

COLT & DAVE @ 8:30 pm JUNE 30th, 2023

SILVER SOUL @ 3:30 pm JULY 1st, 2023

JAY ALLAN @ 6:40 pm JULY 1st, 2023 jayallan.ca

Beer Store Money @ 8:00 pm JULY 1st, 2023

To Register your team for Co-ed Two-Pitch Andy Triest at 519-381-8914 or tootaltriest@hotmail.com

To register your team for Kids Ball Hockey Contact Adam & Katie MacKellar at katiemackellar@gmail.com

For information or to register for the River Street Car Show Contact Janice Phillips at 519-878-8143

Tickets for the BBQ Chicken Dinner can be purchased at the Brooke-Alvinston Municipal Office or by calling 519-898-2173

Special thanks to the following groups for volunteering their time to make this event such a success:

People from ‘the other Watford’ join the 150th party

Heather Wright
The Independent

John and Jeannie Minten met Kelly and Frances Olson by chance during an Alaskan cruise. Little did the couples know they had a hometown in common - kind of.

The Mintens, from Watford, Ontario, were talking to the Olsons of North Dakota on that cruise ship in 2019 when they found out they, too, were from Watford but in the US.

They were delighted by the coincidence. “They told us where they were from and when we told them where we were from, we were just going like, ‘whoa, we gotta take pictures,’” says John.

But that was just the beginning of the story. It turned out the two towns shared more than just a name connection.

Frances later told the Mintens, Watford, North Dakota was actually named by a man from Watford, Ontario.

“North Dakota was about 40 years behind Watford, Ontario,” she said. “There were similarities because you ended up here because the railroad, we ended up because of the railroad.

“The railroad was supposed to be going from Lewistown, Montana to Rockford, North Dakota, got to what’s now Watford and stopped because of

the gearing up for the war effort needing the steel and all that kind of stuff and it never did go any further. So, the county seat was five miles east town called Schafer. And gradually people started moving from Schafer to the end of the railroad.

“Well, you had we had a doctor in Schafer, his name was Bob Morris. He was born here and this Watford and he suggested the name for the new village of Watson, which was accepted. And then this post was approved it but then a few years later, they’re added city because mail was getting mixed up between white and Woolford.”

Olson adds the towns were quite similar, farm communities with some trades and eventually the oil industry.

Olson also found a photo of Dr Morris’ office which eventually moved to Watford, although its not clear how the Ontario man ended up in North Dakota in the early 1900s.

The Olsons and Mintens kept in touch and Frances sent the Minten’s a copy about her Watford’s history. When the Watford 150 Committee was set up to plan the party, John set out to connect with Frances - who is a history buff. After a little sleuthing, he found her number and invited her to come for the weekend.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Frances and Kelly Olson sit beneath their umbrella during the opening ceremonies of the Watford 150 celebration. They came from Watford, North Dakota for the event.

So, Frances and Kelly drove 22 hours to be part of Watford, Ontario’s 150th celebration.

“I love this kind of stuff,” says Frances, who works at her local museum.

The North Dakota couple arrived in time for the Friday opening ceremonies and Saturday took in all the sites, particularly enjoying watching the Searson Sawmill at work.

Sunday night, they were the guests of honour at the final community banquet before they started making their way back to the other, much younger Watford.

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Township of Warwick Strategic Plan Open House Thursday, July 6 from 6:00 - 8:00pm Warwick Municipal Office 5280 Nauvoo Road, Watford

Council has started developing a new Strategic Plan to guide the Township’s priorities for the 2022-2026 term.

Contribution from residents is integral to the success of the Strategic Plan process.

What is most important to you in your Township?
What are the Township’s strengths and weaknesses?
What do you see as priorities for your Township over the next 3 years?

Residents are also encouraged to provide input through this Community Survey:

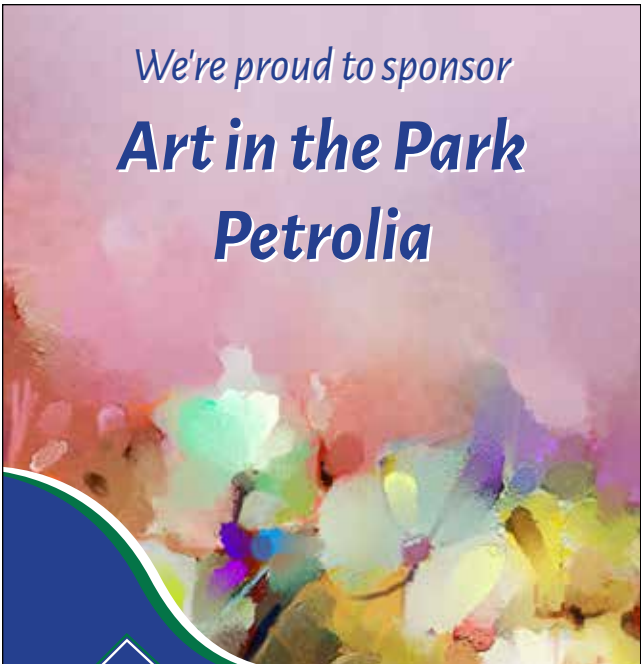
www.surveymonkey.com/r/WarwickStrategicPlan


*if you would like a paper version of this survey, please contact: info@warwicktownship.ca

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2023

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VICTORIA PARK, PETROLIA



Friday, July 7 - 11 to 7

Saturday, July 8 - 9 to 5


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details at: www.artintheparkpetrolia.com



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named
Senior of
the Year
in Brooke-
Alvinston

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

It just made sense Donna Oriet would receive the Senior of the Year Award in Brooke-Alvinston, especially with the presentation being made at the Inwood 150th Celebration on Sunday. It was the last day of the celebration, which marked the founding of Inwood, and Oriet chaired the committee which pulled the weekend event together. "I don't feel like a senior," said Oriet, upon accepting the award, looking a little shocked. "I got the best committee that I have ever found," she said of the Inwood 150 Celebration Committee.




Donna Oriet was surprised to be named the Brooke-Alvinston Senior of the Year by former mayor Don McGugan.

Former Brooke-Alvinston Mayor Don McGugan did his best to keep the name under wraps, but with every detail revealed during his lengthy introduction, there were a few knowing nods as Oriet's name was called. Oriet moved to the Village of Inwood 36 years ago and right from the start was playing a major role in the community. Just a year after arriving, she helped to start a women's softball league. Oriet knows the name of every child in Inwood, said McGugan, giving some of them work at the Inwood Grocery store, as well as a little bit of motherly advice. She would also step forward if a sponsorship was needed to help the youth and activities within the community. Oriet also volunteers at the Inwood Public Library and is also known for her annual Halloween display, where there are pumpkins to no end. McGugan described her during his remarks as a builder of confidence, kind hearted, safe and one who always has a welcoming smile. The crowd gave her three cheers for receiving such a well-deserved honour.


Petrolia to spend \$65K for streaming, includes hybrid meetings

Petrolia councillors could soon be able to attend meetings remotely. The town has agreed to move ahead with a new audio/visual system in the council chambers to broadcast meetings live to YouTube. Town staff originally estimated the equipment would cost \$60,000. The town budgetted \$40,000 this year and planned to complete it in 2024. But Monday, Laurissa Ellsworth, manager of marketing arts and communications, told council the contractor's final cost for phase one would be about \$41,000. However, adding equipment to allow presentations to be shown and allow hybrid meetings - the second phase - would cost an additional \$15,000. Council agreed to move ahead with the full project with the money coming from the 2022 budget surplus. Council would have to change its official procedures if it wishes to have hybrid meetings.

HAPPY
Canada
DAY



BOB BAILEY
MPP - SARNIA-LAMBTON



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Watford's big bash celebrating 150 years of community

HEATHER WRIGHT AND BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS

There was lots to see and do as Watford marked the 150th anniversary of the town. Friday's opening ceremonies were soggy, but that didn't diminish the crowds even if it did make the cupcakes a little wet (right). Indigenous dancers opened the event, leading the crowd in a circle dance (bottom right) and Rae Parker and Claire Soetemans were taking in the celebrations under the cover of an umbrella. The organizing committee and volunteers also posed for a slightly wet photo. By Saturday, the sun came out and the downtown was alive with activity. Hundreds of people came to Searson's Sawmill to see the steampowered operation in action. Jason Searson led a crew cutting plank (center bottom). The Petrolia Community Players were stopped by some young fans on the street. Chris and Hilja Deuzman were celebrating their golden anniversary at the museum as the Lucky Barber entertained the kids with his comedy juggling act. And Kate Sanders was among the people posing as a butterfly in the downtown. Sunday, the Watford firement fed a hungry crowd of 700 people outdoors as the Forest Excelsior Band entertained. Classic Cars covered the entire field at the East Lambton Community Complex for a car show and artists and artisans like Gale Mosher were on hand for the Art in the Park event. Sunday's big finale was the community dinner at the East Lambton Community Complex.



Canada Day celebrations planned across Lambton

Lauren Wright
The Independent

If you’re looking for something to do Canada Day, look no further because the municipalities in Central Lambton have lots of events on tap.

In Petrolia, there is some some friendly competition planned.

Kids can compete in the annual Fishing Derby from 7am to 10 am on the southside of Bridgeview Park. Or you gather your team and head over to Greenwood Park for Petrolia’s Famous Bed Races at 4 pm. The annual parade starts at 2 pm downtown.

There will also be live music and games at there during Rock in the

Park staring at 3 pm until 10 pm when the town presents the Canada Day Fireworks Show.

In Brooke-Alvinston, kids will be playing some ball hockey on Saturday in the 23rd Annual Canada Day Kids Ball Hockey Tournament starting at 9 am. They can cool off after with some water fun with the Brooke Fire rescue at 12:30 pm. There are also free hotdogs and cake at noon as well as activites throughout the day before the free fireworks show starting at dusk.

The celebration continues Sunday with the River Street Car Show from 11:30 am to 4:00 pm.

In Watford you can enjoy free food for lunch with Free Hotdogs and

Cupcakes served by the Warwick Council starting at 3:30 pm and stay until dusk for the annual fireworks show at the Warwick Conservation Arena.

The Dawn-Euphemia firefighters will be barbecuing chicken from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm for the community. Tickets to Annual Canada Day Chicken Barbeque are being sold in advance.

And in Plympton-Wyoming, the fun starts at McKay Park at 11am and watch the Canada Day Parade. Once you’ve reached the fairgrounds, enjoy some free cupcakes, kid’s activities, and a dog-agility demonstration.



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is having their

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SMOKEY PETROLIA



LAUREN WRIGHT PHOTO

Running lights came on Tuesday as smoke from wildfires in northern Ontario and Quebec drifted south to Petrolia. Lambton Public Health said the air was rated as ‘very high risk’ for people with respiratory problems.

THANK YOU!





To be selected as the Brooke-Alvinston Senior of the Year during Inwood’s special 150th celebration is an honour.

I would like to thank all of my family. Cheryl has always been at the store to help us. She and her committee did an outstanding job with the car show and I can never thank her enough for what she does. I want to thank Gerry and Amy for helping Dad at the store. We would have never got through the celebration without them.

I’d like to thank my family who came to see the presentation, my brother Carl and his wife, Cathy, and my sister-in-laws and their families.

A special thank you to Thomas and David Lee for their help for our weekend. They did an awesome job!

Thank you *Donna Oriet*

HAPPY CANADA DAY



This Month In Lambton

June 2023





Warden Kevin Marriott
@LambtonWarden

Summer Reading Program launches on July 3

Read all summer long with Lambton County Library! Kids, teens, and adults can participate in activities, complete reading challenges, and enter to win prizes! Participate at home, online, or wherever your summer takes you.

See lclibrary.ca/srp for the full list of Summer Reading Program events, activities, reading recommendations, and instructions on how to register.

Black Gold Fest at the Oil Museum of Canada

Visit the Oil Museum of Canada on Saturday, July 8, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for Black Gold Fest, a family-friendly event celebrating oil heritage with a variety of activities and demonstrations for all ages.

Don’t miss our special guest, a historical reenactor of Jacob Lewis Englehart, the man behind Imperial Oil!

Admission is FREE. For more information, visit oilmuseum.ca.

Used Book Sale

Lambton County Library is hosting its annual Used Book Sale on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. (or while supplies last) at the Wyoming Fairgrounds, 595 Main Street, Wyoming.


A variety of books, audiobooks, and DVDs in all categories will be available. Items are priced to sell at \$1 for adult titles and \$0.50 for children’s titles. Alternatively, shoppers can fill their own standard-sized shopping bag for \$5, with a limit of six bags per person.

Only cash payments will be accepted and all proceeds from the sale will go towards offsetting the library’s operating costs.

Looking Ahead

9:30 a.m., July 5, 2023 – Council Meeting
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m., July 19, 2023 – Committee A.M. & P.M. Meetings
*** Tentative*

Agendas, minutes and links to meeting live stream videos can be found at www.lambtononline.ca/meetings.



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MARKET FOR KIDS



Harper Osgood, 4, was busy concentrating on stuffing her plush pig at the Petrolia Farmers' Market Saturday. The town hosted a Kid's Day with lots of crafts and displays for families.



Penny Kearney of the Kiddies Korner Co-Op Nursery School talks with members of the Masonic Lodge in Brigden. They came to an open house Saturday to see how their old building has become a new child care centre in the community.

New Brigden day care fills a big need

The Independent

Penny Kearney knows there is a big need for day care. That's why the director of the Kiddies Korner Co-Op from Petrolia was smiling widely Saturday as the school showed off its new building in Brigden. Board members Ross George and Mark Steadman, both members of the Masonic Lodge in Brigden, told Kearney the group was selling their building and Kiddies Korner should expand into the community which

has a large number of young families. The board agreed and a two-year project began. Funding for the \$300,000 renovation came from Lambton County. "It was literally gutted, top to bottom... completely gutted right down to the bare walls and bones." The first floor, which can have 16 children a day, opened in November with 28 families finding spots for their children. Saturday, Kearney and board members showed the community the upstairs of the new

facility with 16 more spaces which will be ready for another 28 families once the furniture arrives. And while a large number of families are finding a place for their children with the Brigden opening, Kearney knows more needs to be done. "We have an a huge waitlist at both sites. Petrolia is full," she says adding there are more than 60 families on the Petrolia waiting list which likely will never get a spot because the list is simply too long.

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Prevent the BITE

Mosquito Larviciding set to begin in Lambton County

Catch basin larviciding is set to begin late June and will continue until September 2023. Lambton Public Health will be monitoring and larviciding catch basins on public property, under the authority of the local Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Karolyn Dueck, to control vector mosquito larvae that have the ability to transmit West Nile virus.

Larvicide will be applied by Pestalto Environmental Health Services Inc., a Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks licensed operator with licensed pesticide exterminators and qualified pesticide technicians, contracted by Lambton Public Health.

Within this time period three separate applications of the pellet formula of the larvicide: Altosid Pellets (PCP#21809, pellet), Mosquiron 0.12 CRD (PCP#31079, ingot) will be applied at 21+ day intervals. It will be placed in up to 16,500 catch basins in urban settings in Lambton County.

The Larvicide B.t.i (Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis): VectoBac 200G (PCP#18158, granule), VectoBac 1200L (PCP#21062, liquid), will be used in affected stagnant water on public lands in Urban areas in Lambton County where there is ample evidence of vector mosquito larvae present.

Please Prepare to Stop

Pestalto technicians wearing safety vests, will apply larvicide by hand to roadside catch basins while on a motorized scooter that has a "Slow-Moving Vehicle" sign, along with an MOECP 2023 Applicator sticker on the vehicle. Passenger vehicles may also be used and will be equipped with the same signage, along with a flashing beacon and Pestalto insignia.

Applicators will be drive along the right side of the lanes close to the curb, making frequent stops, and apply a paint dot to the catch basin grate to indicate a treatment has occurred. We ask that if you see an applicator along the side of the road, you slow down, and move over if safe to do so.

Prevention - Reduce Mosquito Breeding Sites

- Reduce the amount of stagnant water on your property
- Keep roof eaves clear of debris
- Drain water from containers or toys

Personal protection includes the use of insect repellent (DEET or Icaridin) during peak times or locations where mosquitoes are active.

Lambton Public Health

519-383-8331
1-800-667-1839
LambtonPublicHealth.ca



HEATHER WRIGHT & BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS



It was a time to look back and celebrate with friends and neighbours in Inwood this weekend at the 150th anniversary event. The beginning of the celebration Friday started out a bit wet with the slow pitch tournament getting started in the rain. By Saturday, the sun came out and so did the people. Children packed the Inwood Library to have their face painted, have a picture taken in front of a green screen so their picture could be inserted into an historic photo, or to decorate their bike for the parade at the opening ceremonies. Dignitaries - including some life-long residents of Inwood, Bertha-Rose Parks, Wayne Deans, Donna Oriet and Ruth Campbell - wished the community a happy anniversary and the games went on as people took in the historic displays and the car show. Sunday, a live auction raised \$6,300 to help pay for the event. And Sunday evening, the community gathered again at the Brooke-Telecom garage for a roast beef dinner.





Baseball has always been a big part of Inwood's history so a two-pitch tournament was held throughout the weekend. This old 1950s uniform was also on display along with yardsticks from Inwood area companies.



Sparky the Fire Safety Dog was a hit Sunday. Ray Lloyd explained some of the displays to Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey Saturday. The Inwood Fire Department display was also popular. There were lots of games for the kids, including the water balloon toss. And the Brooke Telecom garage was a busy place Sunday for a Roast Beef dinner attended by nearly 400 people.



Community Corner

BOTTLE DRIVE SUCCESS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

On behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 535 in Oil Springs and The Lambton Centennial Panther Playground Project committee we would like to send a big thank you out to everyone who supported our Bottle Drive May 6 in Oil Springs raising \$2,786 to go towards our playground project. We also want to thank Gary Patel and his family from Oil Springs Service Centre for all their help at the event, students past and present and the Legion members who volunteered their time to make this happen. We couldn't have done it without you

PIZZA MONEY



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Acting Petrolia Mayor Joel Field presented a cheque to Mike Baron of the Petrolia Community Foundation from Pizzafest. Bud's Pizza, Dominos, Johnny G's, Petrolia Pizza and Subs, Pizza Hut and Wise Guys contributed over \$1,680 to the fund after the one-day event in Victoria Park. Organizers said slightly under 7,000 slices were consumed in the festival. The money is used for grants for community groups providing services in Petrolia.

IODE PRESENT AWARDS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Margaret Stokes Chapter of the IODE recently recognized members for their dedication to service in the community. Phyllis Sutherland, Pat Traichevich, Suzanne Sutherland and Barb Stewart were given their 20 year service pins from Monica Deighton. Linda Shannon has also served 20 years. Earlier, Eula Evans was presented with her 50 year pin.

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Thursday June 29th at The Petrolia Lions Hall from 4-6pm

MPP Bob Bailey's ANNUAL COMMUNITY Barbeque

Rain or Shine!

Please Join us for **FREE**

Hotdogs & Hamburgers

and some lively conversation

ALL ARE WELCOME





Sports

Cattlebarons take on Petrolia in Raiders home opener

The Independent

The Wyoming Cattlebarons improved to 5-0 in Western Counties senior baseball action with a 14-3 win over the Corunna Giants last week in Courtright.

Several other games last week were cancelled due to

inclement weather and poor field conditions.

The Petrolia Raiders were hoping to extend the winning streak to four games against Wyoming Friday night but the game was rained out.

Among games this week, Wyoming is scheduled to take on the Raiders in

the traditional Canada Day (Saturday) contest at Morrison Field in Petrolia at 1 pm.

Because of rainouts and cancellations because other teams couldn't field a team, the Canada Day game turns out to be the Raiders first home game of the year.

With multiple activities

at Greenwood Park, the Raiders are likely to attract a few more fans to the diamonds.

Port Lambton takes on Corunna Wednesday at 7 pm in Courtright and the Giants travel to Wyoming to take on the Cattlebarons at Canton Park on Friday at 7:30.

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Wyoming's McGrail wins OHL bursary

Heather Wright
The Independent

Wyoming high school student Jace McGrail is one of eight winners of the Ontario Hockey League/Dairy Farmer of Ontario bursary awards.

McGrail says he learned to skate on a backyard rink his dad, Steve, built when he was just three with mom, Lisa, teaching him how to skate backwards.

McGrail says he "logged a lot of hours on that backyard rink."

McGrail started playing organized hockey in Petrolia and then with the Lambton Jr Sting. He was drafted by the Peterborough Petes of the OHL and was at the development camp this weekend. He also plays for the



Jace McGrail

Sarnia Legionnaires.

McGrail says over the years being in hockey has helped teach him the important skills of "time management, communication, collaboration, and goal setting."

McGrail has a 93 average at school saying his family "instilled in me how much of priority education should be."

McGrail will use the \$6,000 bursary at Lambton College for the Instrumentation Control Engineering Technician program.

Broad heads to Brockville's EOJHL this season

Defenceman Adam Broad has committed to the Brockville Tikis of the Eastern Ontario Junior Hockey League for the coming season.

The Petrolia native and

Lambton Jr. Sting grad also played high school hockey with the LKSSAA and SWOSSA champion LCCVI Lancers during the 2022-23 season.

Meantime, Sarnia

Legionnaires' forward Jaxon Priddle is Alberta bound. He has signed with the Whitecourt Wolverines of the AJHL after two seasons in the GOJHL.

Sarnia Sting release 2023-24 OHL schedule

Friday night and Sunday afternoons will again be the majority of home games for the Sarnia Sting for the upcoming 2023-24 campaign.

The Sting will host 15 games on Friday nights and nine on Sunday afternoons.

The team will also host five games on Wednesday nights and one each on Monday,

Tuesday and Thursday.

Sarnia will open the new season at home against the Windsor Spitfires on Friday, Sept. 29.

Other highlights include the London Knights visiting the Sting on Sat. Oct. 14 for the first time since the two teams met in the conference finals last season, Sarnia hosting Saginaw

for its first ever school day game on Nov. 7 at 11 am, and the Sting and Knights playing their traditional back-to-back games over the holidays. Sarnia will host London on Dec. 28 before the teams reconvene at Budweiser Gardens the following night. The Sting welcomes the OHL champion Peterborough Petes Jan. 3.

Brigade national ranked with help of Jackson, McLean

Wyoming's Core Jackson and Alex McLean of Petrolia are the team leaders in hitting and pitching for the nationally ranked Sarnia Brigade this season. Jackson is hitting

.500 with six doubles, five home runs, 23 runs scored and 27 RBI. McLean leads the pitching staff with a 7-0 record and 35 strikeouts in 35 innings pitched. He is also hitting .492.

The Brigade is ranked as the third best senior AAA baseball team in Canada by Canadian Amateur Baseball Central News this week.

Aces at home in Southwest Middlesex Fastball Thursday

The expansion Newbury club pays its first visit to Alvinston in Southwest Middlesex Fastball League action Thursday. Game time is 8 pm.

The Aces improved to 8-0 last week with an 11-3 win over Charing Cross. Aaron Stocking left the yard twice for Alvinston.

Meantime, the Jr. Aces are playing in the U23 elimination tournament this weekend in Grafton. The first game is Saturday at 3 pm.

Brigden's Heath cracks top ten at men's invitational

Heath McCormick carded round of 73 and 72 to finish in a tie for seventh place at the annual men's invitational golf tournament at the Sarnia Golf and Curling. Adam Graham of

the host club won the event in a three-hole playoff over Graham Hill last weekend.

Adam Thompson of Thedford's Widder Station tied for fourth place in the

3-5 handicap flight, one shot better than Liam Crummy of Oil Springs. Tyler Clarke of Petrolia's Kingswell Glen tied for fifth place in the 6-8 handicap flight.



Blessed are the undefiled, in the way,
Who walk in the law of the Lord, day by day.
His precepts and statutes they faithfully keep,
Unashamed, His commandments they diligently seek.
Bible in hand, our fore-fathers, settled this "great" land,
Fearing God, our constitution reflected, their stand.
Prayer and God's Word, guided our courts and school,
Respect and humility, governed their rule.

Have we become so morally insensitive, we can't discern the way?
Do the gods of materialism, egotism and power, rule the day?
Have we deceived our next generation, being politically correct?
Are the statistics of divorce and suicide, the future's effect?

Life has many choices, but eternity only two,
Who will you be found serving, when your life, is thru.
You see, "repentance" is required, for you and for me,
Bringing Jesus unending "forgiveness", to set us free.

If we "humble" ourselves and "pray", God promises to heal our land,
His righteousness exalts a Nation, with one accord, we will stand.
So we say, "God Bless Canada" and earnestly pray,
Forever, your mercy endures Lord, change our hearts to-day.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humblethemselves, and pray,
and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear
from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."
2 Chronicles 7:14

INVITATION:

**Dear Lord Jesus, "thank-you" for the price that you paid for me.
Because of the sin in my life, I find myself separated from you.
I ask for your forgiveness and invite you into my heart, to be Lord
of all the areas of my life. Thank-you for the "gift" of salvation
and the assurance of an eternal home in Heaven with you. Amen**

Grogan Classics – Watford

**AN INVITATION
TO PRAY**

THURSDAY EVENINGS 7-8 PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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COME AND GO AS YOUR TIME PERMITS

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

June 18 - June 26, 2023

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

MADACSI, Paul Martin
Age: 67
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

WRIGHT, Gerald "Jerry" Frank
Age: 79, of Corunna
Knight Funeral Home

MONDAY, JUNE 19

BOURGET, Gregory Michael
Age: 52
McCormack Funeral Home

REDMOND, June Victoria (Goldsmith)
Age: 92
Smith Funeral Home

WALKER, Lloyd Carl
Age: 69
Smith Funeral Home

TUESDAY, JUNE 20

BEACHLEY, Ann (nee Kavanagh)
Age: 89
Denning's Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

WATERFIELD, Marvel Ann
Age: 91
McCormack Funeral Home

HARVEY, Loretta Sarah
Age: 82
McCormack Funeral Home

DIMARIA, Rosaria "Rosa"
Age: 101
Smith Funeral Home

ROGERS, Allan "Senior" Dale
Age: 73
Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, JUNE 22

SNELGROVE, Trevor John
Age: 37, of Sarnia
Steadman Brothers Funeral Home

ATKIN, Marjorie Jean
Age: 93
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

MUNRO, Russell Andrew "Andy"
Age: 61
Van Heck Funeral Home

HOOPER, Lawrence Herbert "Larry"
Age: 76, of Dresden
Badder Funeral Home

HIGHT, Roger Paul
Age: 69, of London
Smith Funeral Home

TINKHAM, Nancy Joyce
Age: 76
Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

SAUNDERS, Ron Stanley "Snuffy"
Age: 83
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

SCRIMGEOUR, William Robert "Bob"
Age: 72
Gilpin Funeral Chapel

JANOVICEK, Kenneth John B.S.M.S
Age: 57, of Guelph
Badder Funeral Home

FENNELL, Robert "Bob" George

Age: 93, of Newbury
Badder Funeral Home

RUSSELL, Fredrick James
Age: 74
Smith Funeral Home

McKINLEY, Robert "Rob"
Age: 57
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

THERRIEN, Margaret Irene
Age: 91, of Newbury
Van Heck Funeral Home

MONDAY, JUNE 26

TRiest, Norman Joseph
Age: 81
Van Heck Funeral Home

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

Anniversary

Happy 50th Golden Anniversary

Brian & Pam
IRWIN

JUNE 30TH

We love you and appreciate you more than you know.
We hope you have a wonderful year ahead celebrating this incredible milestone!

Love from your kids, Leigh and Lindsay & families.



Congratulations



Commemoration Ceremony



GRACE EILEEN WHITING
April 29, 1954 - June 10, 2023

Commemoration Ceremony

Family and friends are invited to participate in any, or all of the following gatherings to commemorate the life of GRACE WHITING.

Friday 7 July, 2023

VISITATION: 12:00 -2:00 pm
Steadman Brothers' Funeral Home
Brigden, Ontario

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE: 2:00 pm
Steadman Brothers' Funeral Home
Brigden, Ontario

INTERMENT: 3:00 pm
Oil Springs Cemetery
Oil Springs, Ontario

RECEPTION: 3:30 pm
Oil Springs United Church
Main St., Oil Springs, Ontario.

In lieu of flowers, the family invite donations to:
St. Paul's United Church, Petrolia,
Community Fridge Project *
or Charity of Choice

*Tax receipts available on request

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.

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Coming Event

MODEL TRAIN EVENT

Sunday, July 2nd at Moore Museum, Mooretown

for more information visit:

www.mooremuseum.ca

Watch and learn about model trains, crafts for kids many things to see and do.

Admission:

Adults \$6⁰⁰ • Children \$3⁰⁰

In Memoriam

MITCHELL

In loving memory of
Mildred Mitchell
who passed away July 3, 1984
- And -
Gerald Mitchell
who passed away Aug. 9, 2007

*Time slips by & life goes on,
But from our hearts,
You're never gone.
We think about you always,
We talk about you too.
We have so many memories,
But wish we still had you.
We never ask for miracles,
But today just one would do.
To have the door push open,
And see you walking through.
Goodbyes are not forever,
Goodbyes are not the end,
They simply mean we miss you,
Until we meet again.*

Love always,
Mitchell Families

FOLLOW US
ONLINE: The Independent



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.**

WANTED!

VINTAGE FURNITURE & HOCKEY CARDS FROM THE 1950's - 1970's

IN NICE CONDITION!

Esp. Teak & Walnut Chairs, Tables, Lamps, Etc...

PLEASE SEND PHOTOS AND PRICE INFO TO:
lancejlane@outlook.com

Thank You!

IT'S GOT TO GO! YARD SALE

JUNE 28TH & 29TH, JULY 1ST

8 AM - 4 PM

Table Saw, Dry Sink, Wash Stands, Blanket Box, Garden Decor & much more!

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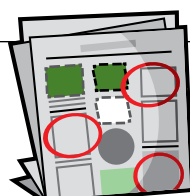
For Sale

PLANT SALE - Perennial Plants and Tomato Plants, Vegetables, Plants, Rose of Sharon Bushes @ 458 Ignatiefna St, Petrolia. We recycle old pots.

FOR SALE: OLD ANTIQUE BICYCLES

Great for landscaping or vintage garden décor. Excellent for brightening up your yard! Different sizes available. Call: 519-882-2548

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

Singers Wanted

All submitted designs will be displayed at the Sarnia Library from Sept. 22 to Oct. 22, 2023.

For more information call
David at (226) 402-3060

When social media blocks your access to the news, turn to your local newspaper.



Church DIRECTORY



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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

Pastor Katherine Hawley

Christ Anglican Church

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

Everyone Welcome



Rev. Dave Hewett

St. Paul's United Church

***In-Person Services
Sundays @ 10:30 am***

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

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM
DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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 @ St. Andrew's Church	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
June 30	2pm - 5pm	Bright's Grove	KINDRED SPIRITS , @ Gallery in the Grove until July 8th. For more information visit www.galleryinthegrove.com or call 519-869-4643.	
July - August	TBA	Lambton County	LAMBTON COUNTY LIBRARY'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM - For children 0-12, teens 13-17, and adults. Registration now open online. Details at: www.lclibrary.ca/srp Contact: Vanitia Campbell 519-845-0801 ext. 5237 email: vanitia.campbell@county-lambton.on.ca	
July 1	11am - 3pm	Wyoming	CANADA DAY IN WYOMING @ Wyoming Fairgrounds - Hosted by the PW Events Committee, for info call: 519-384-4098	
July 4, 5 & 6	11am - 3pm	Sarnia	RAAW: PHOTOGRAPHY @ JNAAG - Three-day photography workshop To register, please visit the 'program and events' page on jnaag.ca	
July 8	8 am - 11am	Sarnia	FAMILY FUN FISHING DAY @ Centennial Park - Free for families. Licence not required for this event. More details on https://bluewateranglers.com Contact: Lou Dallaire 519 541 1856 or email: ldallaire1@cogeco.ca	
July 8	1pm - 4pm	Sombra	BLUEBERRY SOCIAL @ The Sombra Museum - 3476 St. Clair Pkwy. Suggested donation of \$5 per person. For info call: 519-892-3982	
July 10-14	11am - 3pm	Sarnia	RAAW: MAKE IT BIG @ JNAAG - Create giant sculptures inspired by everyday small objects using reclaimed materials. To register, please visit the 'program and events' page on jnaag.ca	
July 17-21	11am - 4pm	Sarnia	RAAW: MURAL CREATION @ JNAAG - Experience the creative process of mural painting from start to finish. To register, please visit the 'program and events' page on jnaag.ca	
Aug 13	2pm - 4pm	Alvinston	WINE & CHEESE OPEN HOUSE @ Alvinston Legion Branch 249, Formal invitations will be sent out in July.	
Sept 2	10am - 3:30pm	Sarnia	LAMBTON PLOWING MATCH @ Southwest corner of Waterworks Rd. and Confederation Line	
Sept 15-16	2pm	Petrolia	QUILT SHOW hosted by IODE Margaret Stokes @ the Christ Church Anglican 414 Oil St. - Trunk show Friday Sept. 15 @ 2pm. For more info contact: dawnmcnally@hotmail.com	
Sept 24	10am	Petrolia	THE TERRI FISHER MEMORIAL DART TOURNAMENT @ Royal Canadian Legion Branch 216. Registration @ 10am \$20/person, Silent Auction and 50/50. Call for info: 519-882-1557.	

early deadline



for the
June 30
2023
issue



The Independent
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

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office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

A photograph of two men working on electronic equipment. The man on the left, with white hair and a beard, wears a light green t-shirt with 'GTU KOSCIUSKO UNIVERSITY 2017' printed on it. He is looking towards the right. The man on the right, with glasses and a dark shirt, is focused on adjusting a component on a black electronic device. Both devices are on a wooden table, and various cables are connected to them. The background is a corrugated metal wall.

BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

near Wallaceburg. The accident occurred between Baseline and Highway 40 around 5:30 pm Monday. Police say no further information will be released.

HAPPY
Canada Day

MARILYN GLADU MP
 SARNIA-LAMBTON

- 519-383-6600
- MPMARILYNGLADU.CA
- MARILYN.GLADU@PARLGC.CA