

Nemcek, Redick broke Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

Heather Wright
The Independent

Two Brooke-Alvinston council members who are also members of a local service club were in conflict when they voted on the club’s lease with the municipality. That from the Integrity Commissioner who investigated a complaint against Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek and Councillor Jenny Redick - both members of the Alvinston Optimists. They voted in favour of a rental agreement before council in April prompting the complaint to the Integrity Commissioner. Redick said in June she read a decision from the municipality’s former Integrity Commissioner, Robert Swayze, who ruled in 2021 that Nemcek and former councillor Jamie Armstrong didn’t have a conflict under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act in a vote to approve the pavilion at the community centre. “In my opinion, the two members do not have a pecuniary interest in the construction of the building and therefore do not contravene the MCIA. It is not required that they declare a conflict on any related matter coming before council,” Swayze wrote then.

Redick felt it was the same situation in April and decided cast a vote at council. But Swayze is no longer Brooke-Alvinston’s Integrity Commissioner and the new IC - Laura Dean of Aird Berlis - says while Nemcek and Redick clearly did not benefit at all financially from the contract which gives the Optimists rights to the pavilion, Swayze’s opinion was wrong. John Mascarin, who spoke on behalf of Dean, told council Swayze should have advised the councillors they did have an indirect interest in the matter because of their ties to the service club. “It appeared that the Integrity Commissioner took the position that integrity that the peculiar interests have to be direct. That is just not the case,” he said Thursday.

SEE COUNCILLORS PG 3

A TASTE OF SUMMER



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Rowan DeGroot, 3, was doing her part to water the lawn at McKay Park in Wyoming Tuesday by getting a drink at the splash pad near the pool and then walking over to water the nearby grass.

Petrolia Legion facing thousands in extra reno costs

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

The Petrolia Legion has been dealt a financial blow in the middle of an \$800,000 renovation campaign. The effort to make the Legion hall more accessible began last year and so far \$22,000 has been raised. The Legion has partnered with the Petrolia Community Foundation and the Town of Petrolia to allow the project to take in donation and give tax receipts to any donation over \$25 to the Petrolia Legion’s building fund.

The work, which needs to be completed by the summer of 2025, includes updating the washrooms on both levels to make them accessible, installing an elevator which will be able to move powered wheelchairs and refreshing the exterior of the building. Members painted portions of the outside of the building in June, with also some areas inside the building seeing a new coat of paint. But in January, officials from the Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire Department conducted a routine inspection and found the sprinkler system wasn’t adequate for the building. The inspectors said the Legion

needs a complete pull station fire alarm system with a \$60,000 price tag. Because the system can’t be purchased immediately, the department reduced the capacity of the building from 390 to 150 people until it is installed. President Robert White is frustrated, saying not only does it add another thing to the list to fix, the building can’t to function to its full potential as one of the largest spaces in Petrolia for gatherings. That will make it difficult to raise both the \$60,000 needed for the alarm system as well as the \$800,000 for renovations.

SEE LEGION PG 3

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 - 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

- Kabobs:**
- 8 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - cut into 1 inch cubes
 - 5 small onion, cut into 2-inch pieces
 - 2 medium red bell peppers, cut into 2-inch pieces
 - 2 cloves garlic
 - 12 bamboo skewers, or as needed, soaked in water for 30 minutes

Make the marinade: Whisk honey, soy sauce, oil, and black pepper together in a large glass bowl.

Remove 1/4 cup of the marinade to a small jar; seal and set aside to use while cooking.

Add chicken, onions, bell peppers, and garlic to the marinade in the large bowl. Cover and marinate in the refrigerator for 2 hours or overnight.

When ready to cook, preheat an outdoor grill for high heat and lightly oil the grate.

Drain marinade from chicken and vegetables; discard marinade. Thread chicken and vegetables alternately onto skewers.

Place kabobs on the preheated grill. Cook, turning frequently and brushing with reserved marinade, until nicely browned on all sides and chicken is no longer pink in the center, about 12 to 15 minutes.

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HARDER THAN IT LOOKS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

You would think it wouldn't be that hard to push a ball across a line with some water but it's not as easy as it seems. Angela Kusnir, the mom of junior firefighter, Nathaniel, got more than a little wet during the water ball games at the Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire Department Friday. The department hosts three junior firefighter camps teaching some of the skills used by volunteers. Kusnir, who was backed up by Skylar Saunders, the department's summer student, was able to move the ball but when the opposing team started spraying back, she let someone else take the lead.

Councillors not penalized: ‘shedding of light’ on issue enough: IC

CON'T FROM PG 1

“They can be members of the club, but then they cannot make decisions when it affects and impacts materially significantly, indirectly, a financial interest of the Optimist Club, that is the law that is absolutely clear,” said Mascarin.

“If you have a an association or connection or reach to any of those entities, the corporations or partnerships, the employers or the body that are referred to in section two (of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act), any reasonable person would be likely to believe that you would have a conflict at law and that is the evil that section two seeks to safeguard.”

And Mascarin added the councillors should have known voting on Optimists business at a council meeting would have repercussions. “What’s disappointing in this particular case is, not the weeks before (the vote) I appeared before council, and I made these statements....that was actually discussed at the conclusion (of an

education session) during the questions and answer period at that presentation to council. So, there was a little bit of blinders going on.”

Nemcek was angry with the decision asking Mascarin “who made you God?”

“Our last Integrity Commission said that we had no conflict of interest. So he left and you came along and now you say that we do have a pecuniary interest. What if you leave and then somebody else comes in and says we don’t got to conflict? Who do we believe at all?”

Mascarin says the decision was based on a number of similar cases across the province where councillors were not directly benefitting financially but it could be believed by the public there was a benefit because of their ties to an organization.

Nemcek says he’s been a council member for four terms and has done what is best for Brooke-Alvinston. “I think I always take the municipal side first, and then my personal side. So, for somebody to do this against

Councillor Redick, and myself, I think it’s shameful and that’s my opinion.”

“I find that an extraordinary comment,” the lawyer responded. “It is the law...I’ve mentioned this before. I cast no aspersions on the good work that you do for this very beneficial social organization that seeks to help your community, I do not have a problem with that.

“You cannot, though, be the master at both points. You’re either are a member or you are a council member, you can’t make a decision wearing both hats at the same simultaneous time.

“And my determination is made in accordance with the law...I stand by what I said and I don’t think it is at all shameful.”

The Integrity Commissioner could have ordered a judge to review the case and impose a penalty but Mascarin says “the shedding a light” on the issue was enough. But he cautioned council “indirect pecuniary interests are a real thing.”

Legion faces \$60,000 bill for new fire alarms

CON'T FROM PG 1

White says there are currently 135 Legion members in the branch, but there is only a small core of active members, like many other volunteer organizations.

White called on members to become more active, as the branch needs everyone’s talents to raise the cash needed for the renovations and the new alarm system.

The Legion remains active. First Vice President Alex Billings said the bar has been rebranded as the 216 Lounge. Karaoke is being held every Friday evening.

Fun dart nights are being held every Thursday with card groups playing on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week.

The Country Soft Rock Music Jamboree is held on the third Wednesday of every month. Ladies Night is being planned for Aug. 19.

White said usually these regular events take a break in the summer, but the Legion has decided to continue to help with fundraising.

Billings and White are hoping an application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation to cover the cost of the alarm system will be successful.



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

First Vice President Alex Billings, left, and President Robert White with a rendering of what the Legion Hall will look like when work is expected to be complete in 2025.

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Editorial

If it looks like a duck

When the founder of the UAW, Walter Reuther, was facing down communists within his union, he rephrased the comments of a colleague who admitted she couldn't prove someone was a communist. Reuther said "If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, then it just may be a duck."

Now during many discussions, you'll hear someone start that phrase and know exactly what they mean: you may not have the hard proof about something, but if something appears to be - say like a duck - it likely is. It's probably a test municipal councillors should use when it comes to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

Brooke-Alvinston's Integrity Commissioner has ruled two councillors who are also service club members, had an indirect pecuniary (financial) interest in a contract between their club and the municipality. They didn't have any money in their hands but to the average voter, according to the ruling, it would appear they would be benefitting from the deal. Therefore, they shouldn't have voted.

If it looks like a conflict, it probably is, or at least you should declare one and not vote.

What's interesting about this ruling is it contradicts another decision on almost exactly the same subject in the same municipality less than two years ago. It seems, according to the current Integrity Commissioner, the last IC made a mistake or at least didn't look at the whole scope of the law. That seems like a problem to us.

Integrity Commissioners are paid by taxpayers to keep politicians honest and following the rules. If they don't do their jobs well, what's the point? Do municipalities do more than just a cursory look at who will actually be doing the adjudicating of their behavior? Or do they actually care? Perhaps it's better to have a IC who seems to agree more often with politicians. Whatever the case, there seems to be a flaw in the requirements.

After all, if it looks like a duck....

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



PETROLIA HERITAGE PHOTO

In a building on Petrolia's main street, which now houses a dance studio, hundreds of young trained at the Petrolia Business College. The college offered courses in short hand, commerce and secretarial courses.

Mea culpa; I don't even know how that happened

I don't like to make mistakes but I do make them. You know that if you read this newspaper. Try as I might, there will be a misspelled word or a their that should have been a they're in each edition. Spell check is a wonderful tool, but it can't catch every mistake. No one can. There really has only been one human who never made a mistake and while He talked about the 'good news' he wasn't a journalist. The problem with being a journalist is your mistakes are very public and sometimes very spectacular. Think of all those headlines the late night TV shows used to feature - giant mistakes in big bold letters, an editor's worst nightmare. So recently, when John and Jeannie

Minten contacted us about a story I wrote during Watford's 150th, my heart sank. I got it wrong. Not just a spelling mistake or incorrect grammar, I simply didn't catch the Minten's explanation of how they met a woman from Watford, North Dakota. I thought he'd said they met on an Alaskan cruise. Nope. The Mintens had been travelling out west by truck to Alaska and went to North Dakota to see Watford City. I had a tape recorder going at the time but the sound of the old sawmill and the steam engines drown out anything John said about the travels and how they landed in Watford, North Dakota. John tells me now they actually met at a tourist information booth. And there was not a cruise ship in sight.

The Mintens were more than a little confused. I can't blame them. I'm kind of confused too, since I recall going over the tape a number of times hear what he said. I really don't understand how I made the mistake, but there it is. My apologies to the Mintens and to our readers. Moral of the story; find a quiet place to do interviews and admit when you have it wrong and try to make it right.



Heather Wright

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WHEAT WEATHER?



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Lambton County farmers have had to dodge the rain to try to bring in this year's wheat crop. This farmer in Dawn-Euphemia was taking off his wheat July 11 before a heavy rainfall. Friday, the Petrolia area was hit with a large storm which kept many farmers off the fields until Monday and Tuesday. Lambton County is the third largest wheat producer in Ontario with nearly 90,000 acres planted in 2022.

Fenny Campbell's killer has parole hearing Thursday

Heather Wright
The Independent

The children of Fenny Campbell say their mother's murderer will be before a parole board Thursday.

More than 25 years ago, Donald Campbell murdered the Wyoming woman in their home and then tried to cover it up. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Joel Campbell, Fenny's son, in a social media post says Campbell continues to deny responsibility for his actions and has not ever expressed any remorse nor apologized for what he did.

Joel Campbell says it's likely Donald Campbell will request a parole placement in southwestern Ontario Thursday, specifically in the Windsor area. "A convicted murderer with no sense of personal responsibility or accountability for his actions and zero expressed regret or remorse wishes to rejoin our communities as if nothing ever happened and life should go on as normally and efficiently as possible for him, in a placement that suits his personal preferences, with no thought for anyone's well being but his own," Joel writes.

"This is not just. This is not right. This is not human. But this

is the reality of what we face this Thursday—and every time he requests and is granted another parole hearing."

Joel Campbell is asking friends to keep the family in prayer this week and to "join us in crying out for continued justice and standing up against the injustices that have become an epidemic in a system that caters to offenders with minimal consideration of the past and ongoing trauma experienced by victims." He asked people write to their local MP about parole issue.

"As long as we have breath, we will continue to fight for justice for our mother."

Vandals break into buildings at Petrolia Discovery

Heather Wright
The Independent

Volunteers at Petrolia Discovery are discouraged after vandals damaged several buildings at the historic oil production site.

Board Chair Liz Welsh says in a news release sometime between 4 pm Sunday July 9 and 7:30 am Monday, July 11, several buildings were vandalized and a small amount of cash was taken.

Every building at the site had been

"compromised." Board member Richard Poore says it appeared doors had been kicked in.

Lambton OPP is investigating.

Welsh says there is no damage to the equipment or the artifacts but board members "are extremely disappointed that our volunteers and tradespeople, who have spent thousands of hours restoring buildings, equipment and artifacts and would be focusing their time on new projects at the site, will now be spending that time repairing and securing buildings."

Welsh says volunteers have put long hours over seven years into improving the site and "it's upsetting to see some of that undone and the disregard for our historic property."

Poore says much of the damage should be repaired in the coming days.

If you want to help support the repairs financially, Welsh asks you donate via e-transfer to petroliadiscovery@outlook.com adding your contact information in the notes section of the transfer.

Lakeshore Road repairs likely to be complete Thursday

Repairs on Lakeshore Road near Kettle and Stony Point are taking longer than expected, because of the rain.

July 7, a culvert underneath the busy

road collapsed after several heavy rainfalls around Canada Day.

Matt Deline, Lambton's manager of public works, says work to replace a culvert which created a sinkhole

in front of Indian Hills Golf Course was slowed because of more rain this week. The work was expected to be completed last week. The road is now expected to open Thursday.

CORRECTION

In the June 29, 2023 edition of *The Independent* in the page 7 article 'People from 'the other Watford' join the 150th party' there were a number of errors. The Mintens and the Olsons met in Watford City, North Dakota while the Mintens were driving in the west, including to Alaska, the first name of the Watford man who founded Watford City North Dakota was Dr. Vaughn Morris, and the Mintens and Olsons did not keep in touch after the chance meeting, the Mintens found the couple through the Watford City Museum. The Independent apologizes for the errors and the confusion they may have caused.

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Friend of Campbell Park wants moritorium on demolition of historic house

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Friends of Campbell Park want a three year moratorium on the demolition of Campbell House. The group plans to save the historic home which the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority wants to demolish. The house sits at the entrance of AW Campbell Conservation Area. It was built in 1867 by Neil Campbell. Archie Campbell, who donated the land for the park and the family’s home, was born there in 1888 and lived in the building until he passed away in 1965. Campbell, an original member of the local conservation authority, wanted the land to be preserved including the home his family lived in. In the 1990s, Alvinston service clubs and local governments raised the money to renovate the building and it was turned into a museum. It remained open until 2001. But Dawn McNally, a member of the Friends of Campbell Park, told Brooke-Alvinston council July 13, since then, the conservation authority has let the home deteriorate. “Campbell House has sat locked up, inaccessible to the public except as the popular backdrop to wedding photos, and unmaintained,” she said in her presentation adding the house is

now “in a sorry state of neglect.” Two years ago, the conservation authority had an architectural engineer look at the building. He concluded it was not worth saving. “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,” wrote Dejan Popovic, a senior structural engineer at VPN Engineering in a July 2022 report. He suggested building a replica home which authority staff estimates will cost \$520,000. The report drew criticism from Brooke-Alvinston Mayor Frank Nemcek who convinced the authority board of directors to see what the community would do. The Friends of Campbell Park went to work, improving the roof. But McNally said the conservation authority never approached them to see what else could be done to save the building. At the June SCRCA board meeting a motion to ask for a demolition permit was approved without much comment. That demolition permit has to come from Brooke-Alvinston and McNally and Vanessa Benoit urged council not to approve the destruction of the historic home. “The goal of the Friends of Campbell Park is to ensure the board’s direction to demolish the



This photo of Neil Campbell, which includes young Archie Campbell, hangs on the walls of Campbell House at AW Campbell Conservation Area near Alvinston. The Friends of Campbell Park is hoping to stave off the demolition of the property.

Campbell House be rescinded. That’s what gives us certainty to start fundraising and invest in the homes restoration,” McNally says. Benoit says the group wants a three-year moratorium on the demolition of the house so it can work with heritage groups to determine what can be done and to figure out how to raise the money to do it.

“The cost will likely be significant,” said Benoit, “but the benefits to the wider community are more significant...the loss would be enormous and irrevocable.” Several councillors voiced their support to stop demolition. “The only thing we have power over is whether we lift the heritage designation on it,” said Councillor Don McCabe adding council needs

to know exactly what has to happen to lift the heritage designation. “We can theoretically delay this thing, we can buy time...until you can deal with the authority and let the board know what is going on here,” he added. “But you’re bucking up hill.” July 27, council will decide whether to grant the three-year moratorium.

The Independent

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HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Heavy rain July 14 lead to flooding along Bear Creek in Petrolia including at Kingswell Glen. This photo is taken from Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hosptial Saturday morning. The club had to limit play, a charity tournament was cancelled and carts were only used again Tuesday on nine holes which were not flooded.

PW nixes traffic lights at Broadway and Confed

Heather Wright
The Independent

There won't be traffic lights at the corner of Broadway Street and Confederation Line in Wyoming; at least not yet.

Plympton-Wyoming's Director of Public Works, Adam Sobanski, in a report to council recommended the town begin the process of putting traffic signals at the busy corner noting "staff have also received complaints regarding the intersection in the past and there have been occasional collisions at the intersection."

The interesection has been under scrutiny for some time. In 2017, a pedestrain traffic study recommended pedestrain crossings be installed there to help children at Holy Rosary get across the road safely.

But the council of the day decided to move the crossing to Huron Street instead. It wasn't signalized and instead a crossing guard is on duty during the school year.

Sobanski notes that "over the next four years both the town and the county carried out independent studies of the intersection's performance." Both found that according to Ministry of Transportation standards, traffic lights were not yet warranted.

"Both studies suggested that the warrant for street lights could be met within the next 10 to 20 years if growth continues," Sobanski added.

He recommended starting work on the installation of the lights now. "The traffic light would allow for the elimination of the existing crossing guard at Huron Street, increase pedestrian safety at the intersection, calm traffic along Broadway Street through Wyoming and prepare for future growth."

Mayor Gary Atkinson lives near by. "I know the traffic that goes through, I know there are near misses all day long," he said speaking in favour of the idea.

But council felt the town shouldn't install the lights on a county road.

Councillor Alex Boughen compared it to "building a house on someone elses property."

Councillors did express concern about the student drop off on Broadway Street near the corner, saying something needed to be done to address the hazards of bringing small children to the school from a busy roadway.

Sobanski suggested if Holy Rosary were ever to build, more parking would be required on site.

PW 'opens the channel of communication' with ag

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming Councillor Alex Boughen wants to "open the channel of communication between council and the agriculture community."

Boughen brought the idea of an agricultural advisory committee to council July 12 saying a lot of the regulations in officials documents such as the Official Plan have implications on agriculture. The committee, he says, will give council and members of the agriculture community an avenue to discuss issues.

The committee, with up to 10 members from council and different sectors of the agriculture community, will "provide advice, comments and recommendations on issues or concerns of farmers and agriculture organizations...identify key issues which can be addressed by municipal govern-

ment...and alternative solutions, approaches, plans, or studies dealing with agriculture and related rural issues," Boughen's terms of reference state.

He also hopes the group could "implement educational programs that encourage public awareness, land stewardship, and understanding of agricultural practices and rural issues."

Councillor Bob Woolvett was one of the only members of council to voice concern that the committee could pit rural residents against those in urban areas. "We want advice on issues."

Councillor John VanKlaveren liked the idea and suggested he could see other community groups, like the commercial sector, looking for a similar input.

Lambton County already has an agricultural advisory committee which Mayor Gary Atkinson says will be restarted in the fall.

INWOOD

18731502023

THANK YOU

The weekend of Inwood's 150th anniversary celebration was a memorable showcase of teamwork, energy, local talent and fellowship.

Thank-you to all who financially sponsored the celebration, to all who donated items for the live auction and memorabilia displays and to those who voluntarily lent a hand or some time for this occasion.


Thanks to all who purchased tickets for the roast beef dinner in support of the community.

(Thank- you, Fred! Same time next year?)

Positive comments about the celebration continue to circulate in the community as another year goes down in the history books!

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being part of this milestone anniversary!

– Inwood's 150th Committee



PUBLIC NOTICE

Changes to Dog Licensing Program and Animal Control Fees in Warwick Township

Changes to Dog Licensing Program

In an effort to improve customer service and encourage participation from all dog owners, the Township of Warwick has elected to revise our dog licensing program.

Warwick's new dog licensing program now has a one-time registration, which is free of charge. This registration is permanent, and dogs registered will remain in our licensing system for the duration of the dog's life. As a result of this change there will no longer be a need for renewals or associated renewal fees.

All known dog owners will receive a letter with a new dog registration tag in the mail.

If you have a dog, and don't receive a letter with a new tag, please contact the Municipal Office to register your dog free of charge.

Changes to Animal Control Fees

Animal Control fees will be updated as a result of this program change to remove dog licensing fees and increase fees associated with kennel licensing.

More Information

The updated Animal Control by-law and fee schedule will be considered by Council at the August 14, 2023, Council meeting.

Please visit:

www.warwicktownship.ca for more information on proposed changes or contact the Municipal Office.

Warwick Municipal Office
5280 Nauvoo Road, Watford
P: 226-848-3926
E: info@warwicktownship.ca

BLOCKING THE TRACKS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Oil Heritage Road between Confederation and Churchill Line was quiet Tuesday. The road was closed so CN Rail could remove a siding which crosses Broadway street in the community of Wyoming. The repair work is expected to block vehicle traffic until Friday however rail traffic is still able to pass in the area.

Brooke-Alvinston to look at Shiloh fix

Heather Wright
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston Councillor Craig Sanders says something has to be done to help prevent traffic accidents on Shiloh Line near Campbell Park. Sanders made the comments July 13, after another vehicle crested the hill heading east June 26 and failed to make the sharp curve heading to the park, landing in the field instead. In a social media post, Chris Wygergangs who lives at the corner said the driver told her husband, Tony he wasn't familiar with the area leading her to conclude more signage or lights might have helped in this case.

"I just want to do something there, either a stop sign or groves - can we do that just to wake people going through there, because it happened again," said Sanders introducing his notice of motion to discuss upgrades to the road. "Or put a sign with a solar light - something - because right now it's just like a wall." Mayor Dave Ferguson said neighbours usually don't want rumble strips. "I liked doing there even a flashing light... So you can take a look to see what they cost can we put them in there. Sometimes you can't put things in certain places for reasons; we'll look into that first." Staff is expecting to bring back a report prepared for the last council so this council can review its options July 27.

Child care group urges Petrolia to seize funding

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Petrolia Childcare Advocacy group wants to make sure the town doesn't miss out on "the historic opportunity" for a new day care center. The group has been in the forefront of the conversation about the lack of day care for parents in the community. It estimates there are about 340 children who are of day care age in the Town of Petrolia and 85 spaces for them to go. Young families say they applied for day care in licensed programs as soon as they found out they were expecting, but still didn't have a spot by the time the child was born and the parental leave was over. There is more childcare options on the way. A new federal/provincial program will create 541 new day care spaces in Lambton – 67 are slated for Petrolia and Wyoming. County officials are now focusing their efforts on licensing home day care providers since the upper levels of government 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. So the advocacy group urged the town to consider setting up its own day care center as Goderich had done in the past. But after studying the Goderich model, the town concluded it would cost up to \$6 million to build

a day care with 49 spaces for children. And, the report said, taxpayers would have to foot the bill for an \$850,000 deficit over 10 years. That could translate into a 15 per cent tax increase, a recent report suggested. Instead, the town will lobby the provincial government to allow licensed providers to give care to two children for before and after school care and offer land to Lambton County at the Oil Heritage Community Centre to build a child care centre if they needed it. At the July 10 meeting, the advocacy group came to council to urge them to continue exploring the idea and to be creative in finding a way to provide child care spaces in the community. Chief Administrative Officer Rick Charlebois says the federal government has just released the cash for building day cares and he expects the county will soon be issuing a request for proposals for new centres. Jenna Simpson of the advocacy group urged the town to stay on top of the issue. "Once the RFP is issued, it is up to the town, including councillors, to make sure Petrolia doesn't miss out on this historic opportunity. "As a community we need a spirit of innovation and relentlessness to solve this complex and persistent issue," Simpson added. "This problem is not going away but the opportunity to seize this historic federal and provincial investment in childcare is right in front of us."



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Date: July 24 – 29 Time: 9:30 -12:30

Address: First Baptist Church 418 Greenfield St.

Contact: 519-882-2480 to register



Sports

Petrolia’s Shaw cracks top 10 at provincial event

The Independent

Charlie Shaw finished seventh in the boys U20 800 metre race last weekend at the Athletics Ontario U20 and open championships in Toronto.

The LCCVI grad crossed the finish line in a time of 1:55.06, a fraction of a second faster than his bronze medal winning time in the same race

at the Ontario high school track and field championships in Ottawa last month. The race featured more than 60 runners.

Shaw, who is heading for the University of Guelph to continue his academic and athletics career, was also 21st in a field of 71 in the U20 1500 metre competition.



Charlie Shaw competing at OFSAA

Local hockey coach heading back to the OHL

The Independent

Garrett Rutledge is returning to the OHL’s Saginaw Spirit as an assistant coach.

The Wyoming native was an assistant/video coach with the Spirit between 2019-21.

For the past two seasons, he has

been head coach of the Carolina Thunderbirds of the Federal Prospects Hockey League. He is the reigning coach of the year in the FPHL.

His team came within one victory of claiming the league championship this season.

The 42 year-old was also a scout and assistant coach with the OHL’s

Flint Firebirds prior to his first stint in Saginaw.

Rutledge played two seasons with the former Petrolia Jets between 2000 and 2002.

As the host team, the Spirit will be one of two teams from the OHL to compete in the Memorial Cup next spring.

Staubitz leaves Sting staff; Dillingham goes to Leafs farm club

The Independent

Brad Staubitz has stepped down as associate coach of the Sarnia Sting to relocate his family to the United States.

“This was certainly a very difficult decision for our family, we have loved our time in Sarnia and with the Sting.” commented Staubitz in a statement announcing his decision Monday.

“I want to thank the entire organization, the staff, and players

both past and present over my eight years, and of course the fans. We have some special memories both on and off the ice and will hold this community and the Sting close to our hearts. We look forward to this next chapter and journey for our family.”

Following a 10-year NHL career, the Lambton AAA grad joined the Sting as its strength and conditioning coach in 2015. He was promoted to an assistant coach in 2016 and become Sarnia’s associate coach in 2020.

Sting GM Dylan Seca says the search for a replacement is “well underway.”

Meantime, former Sting captain Nolan Dillingham has signed a one-year AHL contract with the Toronto Marlies, the top farm club for the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Dillingham becomes the third and most recent of the 2022-23 Sting overage players to sign pro contracts. Ethan Ritchie signed an AHL contract with Boston’s top farm club earlier this month

Wyoming’s Myers comes out quickly in second half

The Independent

Noah Myers had three hits and two walks in the first three games back with the Evansville Otters following his last-minute appearance in Frontier

League all-star baseball game last week. The hits for the LCCVI grad included a double and his ninth home run of the season. He also stole is 19th base of the campaign. The Wyoming Wranglers product is

currently on an eight-game hitting streak. The Otters, with a record of 30-23, are in eighth place in the 16-team league. The regular season continues through the first weekend in September.

Corunna’s Thomson, National League wins MLB all-star game

The Independent

Rob Thomson followed up last year’s appearance in the World Series with a win last week in the Major League Baseball All-Star game in Seattle.

The National League rallied for a 3-2

win over the American League with Thomson as the NL skipper. It was the senior circuit’s first win at the mid-summer classic since 2012.

Thomson, born in Sarnia and raised in Corunna, is the first Canadian to

manage in an all-star contest.

Thomson’s Philadelphia Phillies is in third place in the NL East with a record of 51-42 and on the cusp of a wildcard playoff berth in the NL.

Florence golfer wins Jamieson Tour event in Belle River

The Independent

Kassandra Rombouts carded an even par 72 to capture the junior girls title at the recent Jamieson Tour event in Belle River.

The golfer, from the Florence area, who plays out of Maple City in Chatham, is third in the

overall standings for the season. She followed up her victory with a second-place finish at Willow Creek in Blenheim last Sunday.

The tour continues with events through August leading up the CJCA junior tour championships at the Blenheim course in early September.



Kassandra Rombouts

Local lacrosse players looking to punch their ticket to provincials

The Independent

Petrolia’s Brayer Vanderburgt and Bryson Bell along with Emmett Stephenson of Oil Springs are heading

to Kitchener-Waterloo this weekend for the second leg of the OLA tier one U13 lacrosse qualifying tournament with the Sarnia Pacers.

Sarnia went 2-1-1 in its

opening weekend of action two weeks ago.

The top six teams from the nine-team tournament advance to the provincial finals early next month.

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PACKING YOUR LUGGAGE



In the flurry of packing for a vacation or business trip, it's easy to get carried away and pack everything but the kitchen sink into your suitcase and carry-on. But over-packed luggage is a common cause of injury to the back, neck and shoulders.

The good news is many of these injuries can be easily prevented. The following tips can help take the pain out of your vacation:

PACKING YOUR LUGGAGE

Over-packing is an easy pitfall, but consider that the larger and heavier the luggage, the more susceptible a traveller is to neck, back and shoulder injuries. Try to only pack what you absolutely need.

When possible, place items in a few smaller bags, instead of one large luggage piece.

Ensure your carry-on luggage does not weigh more than 10 to 15 per cent of your body weight.

Keep the contents of any carry-on luggage to a minimum, pack heavy items at the bottom of the bag and make efficient use of the bag's pockets.



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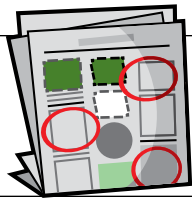
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4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca



Death Notices

July 10, - July 17 , 2023

MONDAY, JULY 10

BAAS, Casper Johannes
Age 86, of Sarnia
DJ Robb Funeral Home

BROWN, Kathleen Helen
Age 94, of Arkona
Gilpin Funeral Home

HEYBLOM, Annie Elizabeth
(n Rombouts)
Age 78, of Watford
Dennings of Forest

TIPPING, David Harold
Age 58, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

FRIDAY, JULY 14

LUMLEY, Darrell James
Age 64, of Wardsville
VanHeck Funeral Home

SATURDAY, JULY 15

EMERY, John Herman
Age 87, formerly of Wallaceburg
Knight Funeral Home

SUNDAY, JULY 16

CAJKA, Amalia "Toni"
(n Bobkova)
Age 100, formerly of Tupperville
Badder Funeral Home & Reception
Centre

**McEACHERN, Shirley
Elizabeth**
Age 78
VanHeck Funeral Home

TUESDAY, JULY 11

BIRD, Kevin Lee
Age 66
DJ Robb Funeral Home

HAWKINS, Allen Smith
Age 85, of Thedford
Gilpin Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

**MICHELSEN, Gerarda
"Gerda" Adriana**
Age 74
Gilpin Funeral Home

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

Anniversary

Kathryn & Jim Annett

OPEN HOUSE

40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

July 23rd from 2-4p.m.
8041 Railroad Line, Alvinston
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John Arthur Griffith

Jan. 20 1941 – July 20, 2008

In memory of a loving, kind husband, father and grandfather.

*In every memory, old and new
Our hearts will always look for you.
In spirit heart and memory,
Love lives forever!*

*Carolynne, Mandy,
John, and Ann Marie
Julia, Brett and Katie*



Employment



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The Petrolia Fair Board is looking for
A TREASURER.

Please send resumes to:
KellyHumphrey1966@gmail.com

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 Noon


IN MEMORIAM


Arthur Griffith

*In fond memory of Arthur
who passed away July 20th, 2008.
A page in our book of memories
is gently turned today.
Still greatly missed after 15 years.*

**Bill & Karen
Ray & Linda**


**Bill & Sharon
Ross & Gayle**





*In Memory of
dear brother and
devoted uncle*

Gary BRIDEKIRK



**Lovingly remembered
by Sandi, Marie and
Nieces & Nephews**

Memoriam

♦ **GASCO** ♦

In loving memory of our dear
Father, Grandfather
and Great Grandfather,
Raymond
who passed away July 5, 1994.
- And -
Our dear Mother, Grandmother
and Great Grandmother
Vivian
who passed away July 17, 1998.

*There will always be heartache
And often a silent tear.
We shall cherish these precious
memories
Of the days when you were here.*

**Lovingly remembered
and missed by,
Bob & Gloria, Lloyd & Donna,
Marilyn & Families**

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Church DIRECTORY



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416 Queen Street, Petrolia (Behind the Post Office)

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

Pastor Katherine Hawley

Christ Anglican Church

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Join us for In-Person Services
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Everyone Welcome

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

Rev. Dave Hewett



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4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

In-Person Services
Sundays @ 10:30 am

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

Rev. Carol Ferguson

First Baptist Church

In Person Church Service
Sunday Mornings @10:30 am

Pastor: Alex Craig

418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia | Church Office 519-882-2480
email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com | website: www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca
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Calendar

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM
DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

of events

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 Wed	1p	Petrolia	Music Jam, lunch at noon @ Petrolia Legion	519-882-1557
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
July 22	11am - 2pm	Bright's Grove	OFF YOUR WALL ART SALE FUNDRAISER CONTINUES @ Gallery in the Grove. For more info visit: www.galleryinthegrove.com or call 519-869-4643.
July 24-28	9:30am - 12pm	Petrolia	FREE BIBLE CAMP @ First Baptist Church - For kids from 5 - 12. Register at 519-882-2480 or online at https://forms.gle/BGobjiCG8Jwj85uA6
July 28-30	TBA	Petrolia	LCCVI 50TH REUNION OF GRADE 12 Class of 1972 & the Grade 13 Class of 1973. Everyone welcome. Contact: Eileen (Kerrigan) Jackson 519-383-8637 or Joe Joosten 519-845-3918 for details.
July 31	2pm - 3:30 pm	Online	LAMBTON COUNTY BRANCH, ONTARIO ANCESTORS - Drop-In & Chat - Zoom Webinar - Working on your family genealogy this summer? Have questions? Open to the public, all welcome. For a link email: lambton@ogs.on.ca
Aug 2	5pm - 7pm	Alvinston	39TH ANNUAL LAMBTON CATTLEMEN'S BEEF BBQ @ Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Arena. Advance tickets only. Takeout available. For tickets contact: Hanneke Mills 519-318-0897 or email: lambtoncattlemens@hotmail.ca
Aug 11-13	TBA	Sarnia	SARNIA ONTARIO AVIATION RALLY (SOAR) FLY-IN @ Chris Hadfield Airport. Free to the public. For more information, please follow them on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/copaflight7
Aug 12	TBA	Wyoming	WATERBALL TOURNAMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DAY @ Wyoming Fair Grounds. Contact the PW Events Committee 519-384-4098 for details.
Aug 13	2pm - 4pm	Alvinston	WINE & CHEESE OPEN HOUSE @ Alvinston Legion Branch 249, Formal invitations will be sent out in July.
Aug 20	4:30 - 6:30pm	Camlachie	8TH ANNUAL FISH AND CHIPS DINNER @ Camlachie United Church - Served buffet style. Advance tickets only. Call the Church: 226-776-1222 or Audrey 519-383-5662 Email: camunitedevents@gmail.com
Aug 26	2pm	Wyoming	9TH ANNUAL PW TRUCK AND TRACTOR PULL @ Wyoming Fairgrounds.
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



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

Matt Mueller made an unexpected comeback, winning the Men's Open 350 Tournament in St. Thomas, after a car accident sidelined him last year.

Mueller returns to tennis with tournament win

Heather Wright
The Independent

Doctors told Petrolia's Matt Mueller he might not play tennis again after being severely injured in a car accident. But, he wasn't having that. Sunday, the Western University student made his comeback to tennis after a year, winning the Ontario Tennis Association sanctioned Men's Open 350 Tournament in St. Thomas. "It was a grind, but I loved it," Mueller tells *The Independent*. Mueller's talent for tennis came to the fore when he was in high school. He won regularly and had big goals, including building an indoor tennis facility that could double as a school for gifted athletes which he floated to Petrolia council. After graduating from LCCVI, Mueller was recruited to join Western's Tennis team. The pandemic ground university sports to a halt as he started school, but in 2021, Mueller helped the team to both provincial and national tennis titles. Then in August 2022, Mueller hit a road block; he tore his ACL playing tennis. Not long after, the car he was driving was hit by a transport. He suffered serious back, hip, leg and head injuries and was sidelined for six or seven months, he says. "I'm lucky to be here," Mueller admits. That was a "really rough winter" he says. He was going to class and going

home, a big change for a guy who spent hours not just on the tennis court but playing any sport he could in high school. "I had a lot of time to think and get perspective on life...It was a big life adjustment," Mueller admitted adding it was tough mentally particularly when doctors voiced concerns about his ability to play the sport he loved. "I was told I was not going to be able to play sports again. That was tough. "I wasn't really going to take that." Mueller spent time on his studies, started a small business and went to every practice of Western's tennis team as his body healed. "I wanted to be there for the team but it sucked for me because I really wanted to be out there." Eventually, he was back on the court and last weekend, he entered his first tournament in St. Thomas. His family, friends from university and his coach at Western were all there to cheer him on. The moral support was appreciated because for the first time in his tennis career, he had a bad case of nerves before he took to the court. Mueller was unseeded. Friday, he beat Joaquin Karl Libre Palo 6-1, 6-3. Saturday he defeated the third seed of the tourney - his university teammate who he plays almost daily - Shane Bulitka - 6-0, 6-3. Sunday, Mueller had three matches including a hard fought semi final against the tournament's number one

seed, Alessandro Sant' Angelo. Mueller defeated him 7-5, 6-2 in a tough match in the muggy weather. It was so hot, Mueller changed shirts eight times. The final was a bit anti-climatic with number two seed Adrian Catahan falling victim to cramps in the first set, giving Mueller a 4-1 victory. Mueller was a bit surprised by the comeback win. "I shouldn't say this but I definitely was not expecting to win the tournament. I just did my best and I played pretty well in the first game...I was happy with my play," he said adding he was dealing with a lot of emotions. "It was really, really weird," Mueller says of the weekend tournament. "I had so many different emotions but I'm just happy to be out playing again." With the win, Mueller is now seeded 75th in Ontario. His next big challenge is the national championships with Western in August in Montreal. And it is likely to be a challenge. Mueller is still dealing with pain from the accident which sidelined him. He had an MRI Tuesday to try to determine why his back and hips are still giving him problems. But the pain won't likely stop him from heading to Montreal for his first university play in over a year particularly after getting the win this weekend. "It was so nice to be back playing again...I definitely feel prepared for nationals after this."

Marthaville park pavilion post to be replaced this fall

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

The Marthaville park pavilion is getting some improvements. The pavilion was built in 1991 and the original wooden posts are rotting, said Enniskillen Township

Administrator Clerk/Treasurer Duncan McTavish. Enniskillen Township Council approved the project July 17 allowing for the work to go ahead. Sixteen posts will be replaced and placed in cement pilings. It is expected to be done over two days in early fall.

It will cost \$7,000 will \$3,000 being materials, said McTavish. The project will be paid for through the \$218,800 Trillium Foundation grant which was received and saw the washrooms being upgraded and made accessible. The accessible washrooms were officially opened in May.

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