



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Brooke Fire Rescue Firefighter Trevor Oke stops at his parent’s home on Henry Street in Alvinston to see the damage brought by a brief but intense storm which toppled countless trees including several of the large pines in his parent’s yard. While trees blocked most streets in the community, emergency vehicles were able to get through within hours as neighbours came out with chainsaws to help public works crews and firefighters move trees off the road. There were no injuries reported in what researches now say was a downburst.

‘It was just incredible; the rain was sideways’

Heather Wright
The Independent

A storm which roared through Lambton County may have lasted only 15 minutes, but it has left a mark on Alvinston.

Countless trees were toppled in the Brooke-Alvinston community and with more destroyed in the surrounding rural areas and in Inwood in what tornado researchers now say was a downburst. (See story page 2.)

Sarnia and Point Edward were hit by the storm first and as it moved across all of southwestern Ontario, high winds of up to 130 km/h and hail left a trail through rural Lambton, bringing down a barn in Wilkesport, cutting a path through a cornfield on Petrolia Line and leaving large hail in Courtright.

At 4:16 pm, Kristina Podolinsky was in her Morrell Street home in Alvinston with her two kids when the when the wind started picking up and a tornado warning blared through her phone.

By 4:35 pm, the storm had knocked down her fence and given her quite a scare.

“Between kids screaming and me screaming, it sounded like like like a train,” she told *The Independent* as neighbours cut up a large pine tree which was blocking the street near her home.

The beige siding of a neighbouring home was plastered with little bits of leaves and behind the shed, another large maple toppled into another yard.

It was a scene repeated dozens of times across town.

Several members of Brooke-Alvinston council were at the fire hall for a public meeting when the storm hit. Councillor Jenny Redick says first the antenna at the fire hall fell, hitting the side of the building. Then, she looked out the window.

“There was a little white Volkswagen and it was moving off the ground and I asked whose car it was and the lady goes, ‘That’s mine.’ I said, ‘Well, it’s going.’

It’s going up and up and up (off the ground), she’s like, ‘Oh, my God, my car.’ And it was just like crazy. I was like, ‘Oh, my God, I don’t know what’s happening. Things are just flying across the parking lot at the fire hall just one after another; it was like, crazy,” she says.

“It was just incredible, like the rain was just sideways. You couldn’t see out the window for the rain...The wind was howling and howling.”

The meeting was called off and Redick tried to make her way home to make sure everything there was okay.

Every street had at least one tree blocking the way.

She left her car and made her way home only to find the Memorial Garden next door was decimated. A huge willow tree was uprooted and toppled onto River Street. In the garden, two large oak trees were down, several maple trees lost half of their branches.

Neighbours brought a tractor and

pulled some of the larger branches out of the garden.

Jim Alderman of Camlachie was across the street clearing the laneway of his uncle’s home. Ken Alderman had called him after hearing about the storms asking him to check on the house. The willow tree had fallen in the drive, and a branch dangled from the power line above Alderman as cut the large branch and hauled it off to the grass with the help of his wife.

Brooke volunteer firefighters were among those out in force with chainsaws helping to clear the road. Trevor Oke joined them after driving through the storm to get home from vacation. “It was scary,” he said shaking his head.

Oke stopped for a moment to look at his parent’s home on Henry Street. They had about a half dozen large pine trees in the yard. At least three fell - two onto the house. Oke was hopeful the damage wouldn’t be too extensive. Within hours, the trees had been

pulled off the roof and lay beside the house.

Across from Oke’s home on Elgin Street, volunteers were on the roof at Hope United Church. Several large branches had fallen on the roof of the fellowship hall and a lean-to at the back of the building. Chuck Baresich was using a chainsaw to cut up the largest branches while others used rakes to brush away the small stuff. Pastor Jim Breen said a summer camp would have to move out of the building for its last day because of the damage.

The sounds of chainsaws and generators could be heard constantly, but that was about the only power available. The storm had knocked out electricity to thousands across the region including a large portion of Brooke-Alvinston. The head of Bluewater Power called the damage in Alvinston “traumatic” and the worst to the local power infrastructure she’s ever seen.

SEE DAUNTING PG 2

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HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Chuck Baresich was on the roof of Hope United Church on Elgin Street cutting up large branches and tossing them to the ground July 20.

‘It’s daunting’ said power chief of Alvinston damage

CON’T FROM PG 1

“This is the most devastating localized impact I can recall. It’s the worst damage,” she said Friday morning suggesting it might be Saturday before power returned. Even the impact of Hurricane Sandy – when a Bluewater Power employee lost his life in the aftermath – didn’t destroy as much infrastructure, she said.

“In some of the pockets, everything is completely destroyed. It’s daunting.”

But 28 hours later, the lights switched back on. “And it came with a big, huge sigh of relief let me tell you. There were cheers of celebration in the control room,” McMichael-Dennis tells The Independent.

“The guys truly never stopped. It was a great example of teamwork. I would

have bet money that was not going to happen until the end of day today,” she said Saturday morning.

Brooke-Alvinston Mayor Dave Ferguson says it was amazing no one was injured in the storm and its aftermath. And he applauded the community for stepping up to help. “Everybody in town is chipping and getting the roads cleared off to get vehicles through,” he said shortly after the storm eased. Ferguson brought his tractor into town to help clear some of the damage.

And neighbouring communities also offered help. Crews from St. Clair, Plympton-Wyoming and the County of Lambton arrived Friday morning with wood chippers to help shred the storm damaged trees in the back of Oke’s

Auto car lot.

Brooke-Alvinston Administrator Janet Denkers said they’d hoped to secure an industrial wood chipper, however the company felt it should not be in an urban area. Much of the debris is now being burned.

Municipal workers will be taking trucks around the community to pick up the branches which were not carted off to the temporary wood chipping station or the town works garage in the next few days.

Denkers expects it will be some time before the full extent of the storms damage will be analysed.

For more photos see page 8.

Downburst, not tornado, caused Alvinston damage

Heather Wright
The Independent

Thursday’s devastating storms spawned at least one tornado in Lambton, but it wasn’t in Alvinston or Sarnia.

Heavy storms moved through southwestern Ontario Thursday leaving thousands without power in Lambton and devastating the tree cover. Alvinston was hit particularly hard, with nearly every street in the East Lambton community blocked by a tree at one point.

Power was also out to the community for about 28 hours.

The Northern Tornadoes Project – a research team based at Western University – says and EF0 with wind speeds of up to 115 km/h tore a roof off a barn along Petrolia Line between Forest and Oakdale Road in Enniskillen township, right along Little Bear Creek. There were no injuries.

The group’s preliminary report out Monday says “An NTP ground and drone survey was completed on July 21, 2023, documenting the reported damage along with tree damage, damage to a power pole and some visible tornado damage in crops.”

The swath of damage was about 300 meters wide and lasted about three kilometres stretching into Brooke-Alvinston.

A downburst also damaged the roof of a large shed in Oil



HEATHER WRIGHT/NORTHERN TORNADO PROJECT PHOTO

A barn near Wilkesport is destroyed in the July 20 storm. Below, Brooke firefighters help clear the trees from local roads.



City the researchers said. Wind speeds there were up to 125 km/h.

A microburst with wind speeds of up to 130 km/h also took out a barn near Wilkesport researchers say.

The Northern Tornadoes Project classified the storm in Alvinston as a downburst saying the wind speeds were about 115 km/hour.

“Tree damage and damage to a power pole and antenna was reported in the Alvinston

area after a storm passed through. Damage to farm equipment, grain elevators and a construction trailer was also reported.”

Researchers added the damage in Sarnia was mostly confined to the northern part of the city with wind speeds of up to 130 km/hour.

The storms also produced a tornado in South Buxton in Chatham-Kent which removed part of a home’s roof and cut an 11 km path toward Lake Erie.

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Campbell’s failed bid for freedom

Heather Wright
The Independent

A Wyoming man convicted of killing his wife in 1998 has failed in his bid for more freedom continuing to claim Fenny Campbell died in a car accident.

Campbell has served 26 years in prison after being convicted of first degree murder in the death of his wife, Fenny Campbell in Jan. 1998. Recently, he began working in the community around Kingston under supervision but he wanted more freedom, asking for unescorted temporary absences and day parole at a video conference hearing. Campbell has been making plans for life in a half-way house in Windsor, where his sister and brother live.

Adjudicators from the Parole Board of Canada denied Campbell’s request unescorted temporary absences and day parole July 20.

Fenny Campbell’s family, including her children, all opposed the requests, saying the killer has never taken responsibility nor apologized the murder of their mother, sister and friend.

Fenny’s daughter, Alica, who was just 10 when her mom was murdered, said Donald Campbell hasn’t changed.

“He can take all the rehabilitation courses he wants...Don Campbell is high risk,” she said. “He never once made sure over the years that we were financially taken care of...never once came to us with a confession...never once has he cared about how we muddled through the mess he made.”

Campbell told the parole board he was unaware his children were struggling financially after he went to prison since the children didn’t want contact with him. He said he believed the money which was meant to provide for his children had been stolen by one of his lawyers. No proof was

offered of the claim.

Joel Campbell, speaking against unaccompanied releases, told the parole board how in 1999, after Donald Campbell had been convicted of murdering his mother, he told his sons ““Well, my life is over.’ There was no grief or remorse for anyone but him...From his perspective, he owes no one an apology and it kills me inside.”

Brent Campbell, Fenny’s youngest son, told the parole board “As far as I’m concerned I have no father.”

He added he was strongly opposed to a move to Windsor since he works in the community. Allowing Donald Campbell to go to a halfway house in Windsor would “significantly impact” his career. “I’m begging to you to make him relocate to a different community, preferably another province.”

During the hearing, Donald Campbell again claimed no responsibility for Fenny’s murder, telling the board again how he believes she died in the car accident.

Evidence at his first degree murder trial showed Fenny Campbell had been struck with heavy marble pestle – a kitchen tool used for grinding spices – when she returned from teaching a Friendship Class at her church. Court found he put her body in the driver seat of her car and then crashed it into a transport parked on Broadway Street.

“I did not murder my wife. Everyone thinks I did but I did not murder my wife,” Donald Campbell told the parole board Thursday.

The parole board members questioned Campbell about his lack of remorse, however he evaded their questions saying only that he was “sorry the children had been displaced” and that he “feels for their pain.”

The parole board did not immediately give its reasons for its decision, however it denied all of Donald Campbell’s requests.

Humbled by agricultural honours

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Humbled. That was the feeling of all five of the inductees of the Lambton Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Agnes and George Dickenson, Ann and Don McGugan and Jim Johnson were officially inducted into the Hall of Fame in front of friends and family at the Oil Museum of Canada in Oil Springs on Saturday.

“There are a lot of others who are deserving,” said Anne McGugan. She farmed with her husband Don, in Brooke-Alvinston for 65 years. Don went as far to say he felt inadequate for such an honour, knowing most of the previous inductees. He felt his parents, J.D. and Louise McGugan, would be proud of him if they could see him today.

The couple first met in Junior Farmers and married in the early 1960s, Don purchased his first 50 acres in 1960 and they expanded the farm to its current 450 acres where they cash cropped, growing corn, soy beans, wheat, specialty beans and cover crops. Don has grown identity preserved beans for the international market. Japanese farmers have visited the McGugan’s farm and Don and Anne travelled to Japan to see processing operations.

Don served on municipal council for 20 years including 16 years as mayor of Brooke-Alvinston. He was also active in farm politics, serving as president of the Lambton County Junior Farmers and the Lambton Federation of Agriculture.

Don said the partnership he has with Anne which is the key to their success. Don has had vision problems for the last 50 years and Anne has driven him to every meeting and event.

Agnes and George Dickenson success has been due to the couple’s team work ever since the pair both graduated from Ridgetown College - George taking the production and management program and Agnes majoring in the business and commerce program. They married in 1980 and farmed in the former Sarnia Township on the family farm.

The newlyweds began dairy farming with George’s mother Carol, eventually becoming beef farmers. Their children - Joe, Barb and Pat - all have their own farm operations. .

Jim Johnson was recognized for propelling the ethanol industry forward in Canada. Johnson worked for INCO in Sudbury before returning to the family farm near Inwood in 1973 to become the fourth generation on the land.

He was president of the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association from 1990 to 1999. He was among those who championed the idea of using corn alcohols in gasoline, lobbying the federal government for the change which would become an important market for local farmers. “Ethanol didn’t always look like it would be successful,” said Johnson.

He was a member of the Ontario Corn Producers Association, before it merged with the Grain Farmers of Ontario, one of the largest agricultural organizations in the province.



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



This Month In Lambton

July 2023



Warden Kevin Marriott
@LambtonWarden

Stay up to date on road closures

Temporary closures and detours on County Roads are required due to seasonal construction and events like severe weather or emergency road work.

The County posts information on planned and upcoming road closures at lambtononline.ca/roadclosures, including a real-time map from Municipal511 showing upcoming and current planned closures, and emergency closures from the County and local municipalities. Check your route before you go!

2022 Consolidated Financial Statements

The Corporation of the County of Lambton’s Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 have been completed and audited.

Copies of the Financial Statements are available from the Finance, Facilities and Court Services Division by calling 519-845-0801, toll free 1-866-324-6912 or online at lambtononline.ca/budget.



Office of the County Warden
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Introducing the Lambton Seniors Advisory Committee

The Seniors Advisory Committee reports to the Warden and County Council on issues that affect seniors in Lambton County. To learn more, visit lambtononline.ca/SAC.

Stargazing Party at OMC

Join members of the Sarnia Astronomical Society at the Oil Museum of Canada on Saturday, August 12 from 9 to 11 p.m. for a stargazing party.

Organized by Lambton County Library as part of their Summer Reading Program, you can register online at lclibrary.ca.

Looking Ahead

9 a.m. & 11 a.m., Aug. 16, 2023 – Committee A.M. & P.M. Meetings

9:30 a.m., Sept. 6, 2023 – Council Meeting

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

To read more, go to lambtononline.ca

Editorial

War with Big Tech hits home

We noticed something during the recent severe weather events; our coverage wasn't being seen by nearly as many people as normally would.

It hit home how far Big Tech is willing to go to avoid paying for local news. When Bill C-18 was introduced in April 2022, Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez said it would address the market imbalance between Meta - Facebook and Instagram – and Google and the news organizations who use the sites to promote their product.

The Big Tech companies make billions using news content without paying for it. The Online News Act would force them to negotiate payment deals with Canadian news outlets with \$300 million in revenue likely in play.

Meta and Google don't like the idea, arguing news organizations reap benefit from their free services, which is true. Of course, there is more to it than that; Big Tech is also scooping up the lion's share. It's common for local businesses to respond to advertising pitches with "No thanks, I use Facebook. It's free." You can explain algorithms and question whether all those eyes on their single post every week are from their community or Outer Mongolia but it's pretty hard to beat free. It's also pretty hard to staff a newsroom free. You don't have to look far to see the public has far fewer choices to get their news than before and those news outlets that are still around aren't telling the stories that need to be told.

Newspapers across the country plan to negotiate with Google and Meta together. We're skeptical small, independent newspapers will actually see much revenue since many of these types of deals are struck by the number of clicks. A newspaper in Petrolia won't get nearly the traffic as one in Toronto. Certainly it won't now with Big Tech blocking news content online.

So, we thank you for subscribing to the print edition of *The Independent* so we can continue the important work of journalism, telling your stories and holding your elected officials accountable.

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



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POSTCARD COLLECTION

For many decades, Alvinston's streets have been lined with trees. After a storm Thursday, dozens of trees were destroyed so we thought we'd show you this postcard from what appears to be the late 1800s showcasing the town's tree-lined streets.

The great neighbours of Alvinston

Driving into Alvinston Thursday afternoon was a gut punch. Along Nauvoo Road, tree after old tree - some rotten, yes, but others seemingly strong - were split down the middle, lying in pieces on a lawn or sheared off at the top. The closer you came to Alvinston, the more trees were damaged.

And then, you noticed the corn with the tops dangling down and leaning at a 60 degree angle.

On Morrell Street the first thing I noticed was the walnuts. Many walnut trees remained standing, but they'd lost what seemed to be all of their nuts. It would have been a field day for the squirrels.

And I could smell pine. So many pine trees toppled over. I can only guess that all that rain we've had made

the roots loose and when the 115 km winds blew across town, they didn't stand a chance.

The sound of chainsaws and generators also filled the air. Normally, I find chainsaws annoying; Thursday, it was heartening. Everywhere you looked, people with chainsaws were clearing branches from the roadway. There were a couple of young guys on an ATV with a box on the back which held more chainsaws. These were men on the move, looking to cut up some wood in the disaster.

On Nauvoo, the town's administrator was directing traffic while municipal councillors helped to clear a tree which had fallen over the busy roadway.

I recognized so many of the people who always volunteer at community events out volunteering again, this

time using their tractors to clear away debris.

The storm was indeed a gut-punch for Alvinston, but they rolled with it and rose to meet the challenge. It meant hydro crews could get right to work and power was restored as quickly as possible to the relief of all. It left me thinking, wouldn't it be great to have neighbours like this? Wouldn't it be great to be a neighbour like this?



Heather Wright

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Editorial

Alvinston’s ‘finest hour’ makes community stronger

EDITOR: Try that in a big city. Thursday July 20, 2023 will be a day that Alvinston won’t forget. What started out as a typical hot July day turned into what I believe to be our finest hour.

We had plans to take our daughter out to her favorite restaurant, Armor’s Ale House or as she says Ms. Vicky’s, when a massive weather event uprooted trees, crushed cars, and severed power lines.

As the rain eased I made my way home to find what can only be described as a war zone, I had to weave through a maze of downed tree limbs to make it to our driveway. I set to work on clearing a path to our shed.

Shortly after arriving home, my wife, equally as shocked by the carnage, joined me working toward our goal of getting our tractor and ATV out of the shed.

Once we were able determined that the damage to our home was minimal and manageable, we agreed we were lucky and what mattered most was opening up road access for emergency and utility vehicles. We talked Grandma into staying to watch our little girl. We explained how we will absolutely take the time to celebrate her sixth birthday in a couple days but we needed to help our town right now. I have to say I have never been so proud as I was when she understood we needed pitch in.

My wife and I made our way down Shiloh Line where we cut some limbs off the tops of fallen trees and shoved them off the road with our small but

mighty tractor. We made our way down River Street where we encountered what I can guess was a 100 year-old willow completely blocking the road in both directions.

We realized we weren’t to only ones with the sense of community because the first person we bumped into was Jenny Redick wearing work gloves hiding the bruises from a fresh Integrity Commissioner slap on the wrist.

She skipped the small talk and commandeered one of my chainsaws and set back to her work.

My wife and daughter bought me a slick new system with a pole saw attachment for Father’s Day and it made quick work the branches that were close to the still standing power lines.

Once the limbs were out of the way, we worked from the north side of the tree. A bunch of folks worked from the south, Kevin Tizzard showed up with a million dollar smile and a 15 ton front end loader. Within 30 minutes of starting River Street was clear in both directions.

We cruised around town till nearly dark, helping out where we could and chatting with friends.

Everyone we talked with recognized the scale of this disaster and understood that professional help would be stretched to the limit and it may be days before arriving.

It was up to the people of Brooke Alvinston to do what they could for each other.

This tale can be told over and over from all corners of the community, where neighbors rolled up their sleeves and worked towards a common goal.

No one seemed to feel sorry for them selves, No one was hurt, everyone just did what they could with what they had.

Heck the mayor even made a point of being seen driving around in the air conditioned cab of his freshly waxed tractor.

On Saturday afternoon, while half the county’s kids played on a generator powered bouncy castle at our daughter’s birthday party, a hydro crew worked to restore power to our street. I had a few minutes to talk with one of the linemen about the mess and he told me in 30 years of responding to emergencies like this he has never seen a town more prepared for their arrival and in his opinion given the scale of the devastation, had the people of Brooke Alvinston not cleared the roads for the power crews, their work would have taken and additional three or four days.

We still have a lot to clean up to do, we finished the repairs to our roof Sunday and will slowly work at the mess in our front yard. I can only assume that Advil and Robax will be a big seller at the Alvinston pharmacy for the next few weeks. The scars on our town will take a generation to heal but community is stronger today than it was a week ago.

Greg Hilliard
Alvinston, ON

‘Can we move forward with the honesty, accountability and integrity?’

EDITOR: I was happy to see the reports from the Integrity Commissioner on the front page and page 3. I also appreciate the editorial, ‘If it looks like a duck’.

We have lived in Brooke Township for 35 years.

We have seen four honourable and community-minded mayors during this time. We have seen councilors work tirelessly for the good of this whole community. I would like to point out the good that I know of recently.

We had a really bad storm this past week. Our mayor left a meeting and went home to get a tractor and came back to Alvinston to help.

A local contractor went home and

got chainsaws. He and his son returned to town to help. Friends and family rallied to help clear the debris.

Through the years this community pulls together to be the best they can be. We have a hard working Brooke-Alvinston staff, fire department, fair board members, Legion members, Optimists Club members, churches in Inwood and Alvinston, The Foodbank and libraries in Inwood and Alvinston. A recent example is the Brooke Central School snack program was in need of money immediately. A parent and local business owner cut a cheque the night of the meeting. The following week our Legion ran a meat raffle and sent another sizable cheque and the

Optimists also sent a sizable cheque. The result was hopefully enough money for the year.

I want to stress the goodness in our rural community. My analogy is this: just like a beautiful batch of jam as it bubbles in the pan there is a film that eventually surfaces. You then remove that film and discard. Underneath is 99 percent goodness.

Can we move forward with the honesty, accountability and integrity needed for us to all be who we need to be?

Nancy Fafflak
Brooke-Alvinston, ON

150 years later, Walpole First Nation considers Enniskillen settlement

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

It has been a long time coming. And the local MP says it is an important step to reconciliation.

It has been well over 150 years since the Crown sold the 400 acres in Enniskillen Township which had been set aside for the First Nations of Walpole Island, Aamjiwnaang and Kettle and Stony Point.

Between 1866 and 1918, the government sold the land to oil prospectors.

A land claim was submitted by the three First Nations in 1978 who

negotiated with the federal government until 1983. A \$6 million settlement was proposed in 2001 and went to a vote. Not only did the vote not reach the voter turnout threshold of at least half of all members, but only Aamjiwnaang and Kettle and Stony Point voted in favour of the deal. Kettle and Stony Point as well as Aamjiwnaang later settled for \$2 million for each First Nation. More than two decades later, in February, the feds and Walpole Island First Nation reached a settlement worth \$46 million.

Walpole First Nation has been preparing for a ratification vote. The first step is to inform its members

about the proposed settlement. An information session was set up for July 19, but had to be rescheduled out of respect for a funeral in the community.

Sarnia-Lambton MP Marilyn Gladu said resolving the claim is important for reconciliation although she expects Walpole Island will need time to consider the proposal.

Gladu says there are at least 150 land claims outstanding in Canada, and this process is taking a long time. The question that needs to be asked is how can we do this in less time and not more, she says.

“We have to do what is right,” said Gladu.

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CAPTAIN KIDD DAYS

All events located at the Corunna Athletic Park

Thursday, Aug 3
7:00 - 9:00 pm Face Painting by Dreamweavers
7:00 pm Captain Kidd Ambassador Contest
MOVIE - Super Mario Bros.
Presented by Mainstreet Credit Union
Box Car Making Contest before movie!

Friday, Aug 4
6:00 pm Captain Kidd arrival at Ferry Dock Hill
6:00 pm Two-Pitch Tournament
6:30 pm Best Dressed Pirate Contest
7:30-9:00 pm Corunna's Got Talent
9:30 pm Noah Leonard
10:15 pm Shelly Rastin
11:30 pm Brothers Wilde
Friday entertainment presented by LamSar

Saturday, Aug 5
8:00 am Beach Volleyball Tournament
To benefit Sweeties Rescue
9:00 am Ball Hockey
9:00 am Two-Pitch (continued)
11:00 am PARADE
12:00 pm Kidz Zone Opens
2:00 pm Rebound Rocks!
3:00 pm Bad Men Association
5:00 pm Kidz Zone Closes
9:00 pm A Mighty Fine Mess
10:00 pm Big Shiny Toons
11:30 pm Dave Russell and the Precious Stones
Saturday entertainment presented by Nicole Smith - Exit Realty

Sunday, Aug 6
9:00 am Car Show
Presented by Sarnia Street Cruisers
9:00 am Vendor Sale
12:00-4:00 pm Hoop You Variety Show (multiple shows)
2:00 pm Saidat
Award winning children's entertainer
Presented by Tourism Sarnia-Lambton
3:00 pm Little Ray's Reptiles
8:30 pm Full Disclosure
10:00 pm FIREWORKS
Presented by Riverview Family Dental
"Blame It All On My Roots"
Garth Brooks & Shania Twain Tribute
Sunday entertainment presented by St. Clair Family Dental

For more information contact
Geoff Dale at 519-331-6771
or email captainkiddcorunna@gmail.com

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Friday Aug 4
9:30 pm Noah Leonard
10:15 pm Shelly Rastin
11:30 pm Brothers Wilde
Friday entertainment presented by LamSar

Saturday Aug 5
9:00 pm A Mighty Fine Mess
10:00 pm Big Shiny Toons
11:30 pm Dave Russell and the Precious Stones
Saturday entertainment presented by Nicole Smith - Exit Realty

Sunday Aug 6
8:30 pm Full Disclosure
10:20 pm "Blame It All On My Roots"
Garth Brooks & Shania Twain Tribute
Sunday entertainment presented by St. Clair Family Dental

GATE FEE
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AUGUST 3RD-6TH AT CORUNNA ATHLETIC PARK

Thursday, Aug. 3
7pm The Amazing Captain Corbin
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Friday, Aug. 4
6pm Captain Kidd Arrival at Ferry Dock
6:30pm Best Dressed Pirate Contest
7:30pm Corunna's Got Talent

Saturday, Aug. 5
8am Beach Volleyball Tournament
9am Ball Hockey
11am PARADE

Sunday, Aug. 6
9am Car Show presented by Sarnia Street Cruisers
2pm Saidat - Award Winning Children's Entertainer
10pm FIREWORKS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS

Massive clean up after storm hits Alvinston

Neighbours break out the chainsaws to clear dozens of trees from roads so power workers can get through



Top right, Brodie Hart can hardly be seen working on a tree which fell on Sydenham street. Below, a man pulls a trampoline from a tree on River Street. Neighbours on Morrell Street start cutting a pine which fell. Other trees, like this one on Walnut Street, would take more work.



The series of storms which blew through Alvinston caused damage across Central Lambton. Above, a tree toppled onto a home on Eureka Street in Petrolia. One person was also taken to hospital after an accident on Oil Heritage Road during the storm. It's not clear how seriously they were injured. In Enniskillen, the Northern Tornado Project says a roof was torn from a barn in a tornado spawned in the storm. Most of the damage was caused, they say, by downbursts.

Sports

Broad still throwing strikes after six decades

Heather Wright
The Independent

It was the one thing Ken Broad still wanted to accomplish in baseball. So, when the 64 year-old took to the mound at Canton Park in Wyoming as the Petrolia Raiders took on the Cattlebarons, he completed the dream of playing competitive baseball for six decades. And while he “suffered for a day or so” Broad was excited to talk about his inning on the mound. It all started eight years ago. He was rooming at a tournament with Corey Saunders and they were talking ball. Saunders asked Broad what he had accomplished and what he really looked forward to yet in his baseball career.

“It would be kind of neat to throw in six different decades,” Broad recalls telling him. This year, Saunders told The Raiders’ Tim Martin about Broad’s dream and soon plans were in the works. Broad could have played against the Dresden Bulls - the team he had his first start with - or the Cattlebarons. When the Bulls couldn’t gather enough people for the Sunday start, Broad got the nod to head to the mound in Wyoming. He’d also played there during his six decades in ball and had coached some of the players he was up against Friday night. “All I wanted was one inning,” he tells *The Independent*.

Broad’s passion for the game started as a young boy, going to the ball games with his dad and watching local favourites like Jack Druitt and Eric MacKenzie play. To this day, Broad - who was a catcher as a young boy - lists them among his favourite players. “The thrill of my life was Jack throwing to me and Eric giving me advice,” he says. Broad was behind the plate in his Bantam year

when he first pitched. The regular pitcher for his team was on holidays during the playoffs, and because he had a good arm, the coaches tapped Broad for the job. It stuck. When he moved to Midget play the next year, he switched positions. Broad spent most of his career in local ball in the Western Counties League. He had a chance to play in the more competitive Inter-Counties League, but he was busy raising a family and happy to play closer to home. Broad did once tryout for the Montreal Expos and made quite an impression. The scout, says Broad, was there to see the hitting power of a couple of guys. He told Broad “don’t throw any junk, just fastballs.” So, he did and struck out the scout’s favourites - more than once - to the scout’s disbelief. Friday night, Broad showed even at 64, he can still play, pitching an inning - throwing strikes allowing two hits - one earned. “I didn’t embarrass myself,” he jokes adding for the physical aches after the game, he probably should have thrown a few more innings to make it worth the pain. Broad hopes his appearance in the Senior League game sets an example to pitchers. “Even at my age, I can still throw strikes. It’s not how hard you can throw - it’s whether you can still throw strikes.” And, as his mom told him when he first started on the mound “You can’t strike out everyone but you should just throw strikes.” That’s still some of the best baseball advice he says he’s ever had.



Ken Broad, 64, on the mound Friday.



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Killer Bees sign Memorial Cup champion

Jacob Chantler has signed with the Alvinston Killer Bees of the Western Ontario Super Hockey League. The 20-year-old forward won a Memorial Cup with the St. John Sea Dogs of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League in 2022. After initially being drafted in the first round of

the OHL U18 draft by the London Knights in 2019, he played a handful games with the green and gold but also saw action with the Strathroy Rockets, London Nationals and last season with the St. Marys Lincolns. He had 22 goals and 66 points in 60 regular season and playoff

games with the Lincs last season. Meantime, the Alvinston has also received a commitment from power forward Caden Faulkner. He had 33 goals and 62 points in 54 regular and playoff games last season with the Strathroy Rockets of the GOJHL.

Petrolia’s Kerby named captain of Flags

Ethan Kerby has been named the captain of the PJHL’s Mooretown Flags for the coming season. His assistants will be Jace Dupuis, Masen Flett, Tristen Konrad, and Levi Plain.

The Flags will open training camp in about a month. The home opener will be on Saturday, September 16 against Dresden. In addition to signing the leadership group, the Flags have

also re-signed veterans Kaleb Edlington, Ryan Vidler, Darren Lapointe, Kelly Johnston, Blake Broumpton, Caleb Laframboise and John Chartrand and added Dylan Dupuis from the Sarnia Legionnaires.

Petrolia’s Gage, Team Ontario, win bronze

Brendan Gage was the leading scorer for Team Ontario at the recent State Wars roller hockey tournament in Indiana. The Petrolia product had 13 goals

and 19 points in six games. Ontario went 3-0-1 in the preliminary round with wins against two teams from Illinois and Southern California and

a tie vs. Alberta. Alberta beat Ontario, 3-2 in the semifinals before the Ontario rebounded to beat Team Pennsylvania, 5-2 in the bronze medal game.

Local athletes place in the top 10 at Triathlon

Petrolia’s Darren Degroot and Jared Bourque of Corunna both cracked the top ten in the Olympic Triathlon event at the Bluewater Triathlon in Bright’s Grove. Degroot crossed the

finish line in sixth place. Bourque was tenth. In the Olympic Duathlon, Kristina Frizzle of Camlachie was third among female finishers and Dave Groendyk

of Plympton-Wyoming was sixth in the men’s category. Kristina Case and Alyssa Degroot of Watford and Petrolia respectively were fifth and eighth in the female category.



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Death Notices

July 18 - July 25, 2023

TUESDAY, JULY 18

CARD, Joseph (Joe) David
Age: 83, of Petrolia
Steadman Brothers Funeral Home

DUNN, Sam (Rolef)
Age: 92
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

McIVER, Ann Marie Collette
Age: 60
Smith Funeral Home

DRUIETT, George Edgar
Age: 86
Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

DEACON, David James
Age: 73
Badder Funeral home

PETKO, Debra Nicole
Age: 51
Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, JULY 21

FARLOW, Barb
Age: 66
Smith Funeral Home

VAN REENEN, Jan William "Bill"
Age: 91
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, JULY 22

DAGG, Mary Irviline Ethel
Age: 88
Smith Funeral Home

SUNDAY, JULY 23

CLARK, Carol Susan
(nee Bullard)
Age: 81
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

WINDOVER, Jordan David
Age: 27
Gilpin Funeral Chapel

COOK, John
Age: 83
Smith Funeral Home

PAULLEY, James Douglas
Age: 84
Smith Funeral Home

MONDAY, JULY 24

KLASSEN, Ruby Noreen
(McNeill)
Age: 88, of Bothwell
Badder Funeral Home

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

Anniversary

Happy 70th Anniversary

Donna & Tiny HOSKIN

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Lots of love from your family

Retirement & Graduation

RETIREMENT

After more than 33 rewarding years in the RCMP and deployments in four provinces, LCCVI graduate, Steve Dunn is retiring. Starting out as a constable in rural New Brunswick, Steve's career would eventually lead to National Headquarters in Ottawa and advancement to the rank of chief superintendent where for nearly ten years he oversaw the adjudication of discipline, grievance and discharge appeals of members from across the Force.

GRADUATION

Hard oiler progeny, Sonia Dunn of Ottawa, received her Ontario Secondary School Diploma along with two medals for overall academic achievement and leadership, subject awards in French and Biology, as well as the Bilingual Award in recognition of her outstanding performance over the course of four years in English and French. Sonia will be entering the Pharmaceutical Sciences and Immunology program at McGill University this fall, and is the daughter of Steve and Alexandra, and the granddaughter of longtime Petrolia resident, Shirley Dunn.

We are so proud of your accomplishments and wish you both success in your future endeavours.

Memoriam

In loving memory of

Floyd White

He never looked for praises
He was never one to boast
He just went on quietly working
For the ones he loved the most.
His dreams were seldom spoken
His wants were very few
And most of the time his worries
Went unspoken too.
He was a firm foundation
Through all our storms in life
A sturdy hand to hold on to
In times of stress and strife.
A true friend we could turn to
When times were good or bad
One of our greatest blessings
The man that we called Dad.

Deeply loved and profoundly missed by
Mildred, Janice,
Ross & family, Julie & family

8 years gone but in our hearts he lives on.

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Obituary



CARD

Joseph (Joe) David

It is with great sadness that the family of **Joseph David Card** of **Petrolia** announces his passing in his **83rd year** on **Tuesday July 18, 2023**, at his home in Petrolia surrounded by all his family. Beloved husband and best friend to his beautiful wife Beverley Card (Chapple) and just celebrated their 58th anniversary together this past Sunday. Devoted Father of Brenda (Rick) Dennis, Joseph (Virginia) Card, JoAnn (Robert) Burnley, and John (Amy) Card. Predeceased by parents William and Ellen Card. Brother of Patsy (late Jim) Sharpe, James (Janet) Card, Nancy (late Bruce) Jackson, the late Bill (Mary) Card and the late Ellen Arlene (George) Sharpe.

Obituary

McEACHERN

Shirley Elizabeth

It is with heavy hearts that the family of **Shirley Elizabeth McEachern** announces her passing at Victoria Hospital, London on **Sunday July 16, 2023** in her **79th year**. She was married to her loving husband Archie for almost 58 years. Beloved mother of Dan (Brenda) and Janice (Gerry). Grandmother of Kyle (Sarah) and Felisha. Shirley is predeceased by her parents William McKellar and Montalene Tull and chosen daughter of the late Dorothea

Proud Grandpa of 12 grandchildren and 13 Great Grandchildren. Missed by many nieces, nephews, and friends. Joe had a 30+ years career in the Carpenters Union Local 1256 and spent many hours applying his trade to help his children, grandchildren and friends renovate houses, barns, garages, and sheds for their families. He was also a coach and mentor in the Petrolia minor hockey and minor baseball associations for many years. Joe was farmer and an avid horseman and spent many enjoyable hours trail riding around North America, training and racing quarter horses and teaching family and friends who wanted to learn to ride. A very special thank you to Dr. Daniels, Dr. Dhaliwal, Derek Rauwerda (WSIB), all the VON and Bay Shore nurses and professional HCT staff, CEE Petrolia, and the Hogans Pharmacy staff in Petrolia. **Cremation has taken place and all family and friends are invited to attend a Celebration of Life which will be held on July 29th at the home of Brenda and Rick Dennis at 3352 Shiloh Line, Petrolia, Ont. From 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm.** Sympathy may be expressed through donations through St. Joseph's Hospice Sarnia-Lambton or a charity of your choice. Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.steadmanbrothers.ca. Steadman Brothers 519-864-1193.

Munroe. Survived by her sister Marjorie (Jim) Colnutt. She will be missed by many nieces and nephews. Shirley was an active member of the Brooke Alvinston Ag. Society and Hope United Church. Cremation has taken place and a **Graveside service was held at Kilmartin Cemetery on Wednesday, July 19th.** In Lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Kidney Foundation of Canada or Hope United Church, Alvinston or Charity of your choice. Online condolences can be made at www.vanheckfuneralhome.ca

Classified Deadline:
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Classifieds



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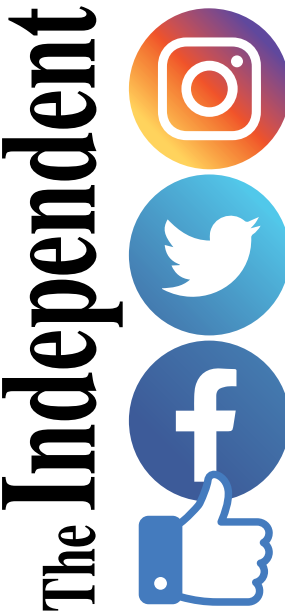
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Calendar of events

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM
DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Events are listed FREE for non-profit groups in Petrolia and Lambton County (space permitting).
To be included in this listing email the required information to: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca
Subject: FREE EVENT LISTING.

UPCOMING EVENTS				
DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT/CONTACT INFO	
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	

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	

The design of the school still has to be approved by the ministry. LKDSB officials said construction is likely to start in the spring 2024. It's not clear when students will move into the building.



The Independent
Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

Big Sister Stacey Charlton and her little sister, Ashlyn, will be serving up some of the best lemonade you've ever tasted at The Independent. We'll also have some sweet treats!

is hosting
THE BIG SQUEEZE
Sarnia-Lambton's 3rd Annual Lemonade Competition
Wednesday, August 9th
10am - 2pm

Come see us at 4156 Petrolia Line!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Sarah Timperley, Kyleigh McFadden & Caleigh Tomkins
student.sarnia@bigbrothers.bigsisters.com
519.336.0460 X. 302

All proceeds in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sarnia Lambton's Youth Mentoring Program

 **Big Brothers Big Sisters OF SARNIA-LAMBTON**

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