

WYOMING’S GOLDEN GIRLS



The faces on Megan Johnston and Katelyn Finch of Wyoming say it all after the Canadian Junior Dragon Boat team dominated at the World Championships in Thailand. The members of the Lambton Shores Dragon Boat Club were among five Lambton County residents on the team which captured 24 gold medals and the over all world championship. See more on page 9.

Building Boom: St. Clair has more people than 2031 projections

Heather Wright
The Independent

St. Clair Township has blown past growth projections.

The township is in the middle of a review of its Official Plan. It is the map which guides where housing, industry and farming goes in the community.

It’s something every municipality must do, once a decade; often, there are only minor changes to the document.

But Mary Lou Tanner of NPG Planning says the council is going to require some major changes to meet the growing demands

for housing.

Tanner told council Monday that in 2017, Lambton County looked at population growth in St. Clair and expected there would be up to 13,876 people living in the riverside community by 2031.

But the 2021 Census shows there are already 14,600 people in St. Clair Township.

And the township has already issued 111 single-family home building permits in the first half of 2023 - seven more than 2022 - with a total value of over \$25 million.

Tanner’s report to council says Lambton County did look at the land supply in St. Clair in 2017 and found there was enough

supply beyond 2046.

But Tanner says with the rapid growth, that has to be re-examined.

“We also know that you’ve had a number of requests for boundary expansion and settlement area expansion,” she says.

“We’re cognizant of that and we’re working to figure out a way that we can work with you and the community and the county to make sure that you can plan for growth for the next 25 years and address what you’re seeing in terms of the highly-attractive community and population growth that you’re seeing.”

SEE ST. CLAIR PG 2

Two for one deal: Petrolia Fire wants \$1.47M truck

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia/North Enniskillen’s fire chief says a new, \$1.47 million pumper/tanker truck would improve fire protection and could save money in the long run for both Petrolia and Enniskillen Township.

Jay Arns will be pitching the idea to Petrolia Council Wednesday during a special virtual meeting.

The department’s current tanker - the truck which brings water to the scene of a fire in rural areas where there aren’t fire hydrants - is 27 years old. At 25 years, the repairs on the trucks and the insurance costs start to rise.

So, the department has been looking at equipment and has pitched the idea of the dual pumper/tanker truck to the fire board.

In a report to Petrolia council, Arns says the pumper/tanker will pour more water on fast-burning fires quicker.

“Modern constructed homes, the furnishings contained within buildings combined with new building materials and building open concept designs have significantly reduced the amount of time from ignition to fully involved in a structure fire.”

Arns says because the department covers a large rural area without hydrants, it takes longer to pump the large amounts of water necessary to knock down the fires. Until recently it could take up to 12 minutes to set up the water supply and have trucks ferry the water to the scene from the nearest hydrant.

Recently, the town has purchased a new system that allows water to flow just two minutes after the truck arrives.

And while that’s better, Arns says the tanker/pumper truck could push 70 per cent more water - 170 gallons per minute - than the current equipment “increased volume allows for quicker time to get the fire under control and extinguish,” he wrote.

But some members, particularly from Enniskillen which will bear about 40 per cent of the cost, have balked at the higher cost.

SEE FIRE PG 2

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PAW PATROL PALS



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Halle Gould, 6, Ivy Alderson, 5, and Brooks Alderson, 4, were some of the many children who had a chat with Marshall from Paw Patrol when he arrived on an Oil Springs and South Enniskillen fire truck on Saturday. The characters from Paw Patrol were visiting the Oil Springs Summer Family Funfest.

Fire tanker approval would reserve unit for 2026

CON'T FROM PG 1

In 2021, the South Enniskillen/Oil Springs department purchased a pumper for \$565,000. But, that was before glitches in supply chains and rising material costs caused by the pandemic and inflation. When the truck arrived in 2022, the chief in Oil Springs said a pumper truck was now about \$800,000 to \$1 million.

Enniskillen Mayor Kevin Marriott says the proposed price includes a 17 per cent discount of \$304,000 for ordering the equipment well in advance.

Fire board representatives have told Marriott that locks the price in for the

communities, although he’s concerned costs will still escalate. “I can see (the company) locking it in for a year - maybe.”

But Arns, in his report to council, says purchasing the pumper/tanker may actually reduce the amount of money spent on fire vehicles in the long run.

“With a replacement tanker currently required and a replacement engine (needed) in 2029 based on its 25-year life in our capital long term plan a fiscal consideration would be to replace one Tanker/Pumper for both Tanker 6 and Engine 10. Engine 10 would

remain in service as a front-line apparatus until its 25 year life (is complete) when it would be moved to a second out, backup only apparatus.

“This option will eliminate the need to purchase two trucks with an approximate value, as of time of writing this document, of \$2.4 million. This amount would drop to approximately \$1.4 million.”

Petrolia council was expected to make a decision on the purchase Wednesday. The result was not available at press time.

Enniskillen will deal with the issue at Monday’s council meeting.

St Clair Township plan to deal with population boom

CON'T FROM PG 1

“The county will be doing an update of the growth management study and looking at the need for housing and jobs and land for both,” Tanner said.

“We are going to work with your staff and you to set you up, so that once the county determines what land is needed for housing and jobs, you’ll be in a position with this Official Plan to immediately move to start implementing that.”

And while population growth is fueling the need to change the township’s planning document, Tanner says there are a number of other issues which need to be addressed.

Tanner wants St. Clair to consider changes which might allow more economic investments on agricultural land.

“We’re strong believers in the importance of letting farmers do their farming,” she says. “But we also believe that there is an ability in the Official Plan to support farmers making investment whether it’s in farm-related businesses or investment in the land or doing things like farm markets, wineries... but also things like Bed and Breakfast and picking up on agri-tourism.

“Fundamentally it’s about protecting land but it’s also making sure that the

local farm economy, and the opportunities that come with that, are embedded in the Official Plan, so that you, in the farming community have that opportunity to capitalize on it.”

Tanner told council the draft Official Plan expected in September will also limit cannabis production to indoors in industrial areas and will put limits on the operation of short-term rental properties.

Tanner says the rental policies “will limit their size and really get control in a way that supports this part of the tourism economy, but doesn’t allow housing to become subservient to short term vacation rental units.”

Redick Memorial ball tournament raises \$50K

The Independent

Jenny Redick says she is overwhelmed.

The third annual Tanner Redick Memorial Two Pitch Tournament held at the end of July in Alvinston raised \$50,595 this year.

That brings the three year total for the event which honours her late son and brings community together to over \$111,000.

The money raised goes to scholar-

ships and community organizations including the local fire department and the Alvinston Optimists.

Tanner was a member of both organizations before he died in a traffic accident Dec. 13, 2019.

“I am so full of emotions and we could not be this successful with out all of you.

“Tanner’s memory is kept alive because of people like you,” said Redick in a social media post announcing the total raised.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Jace McGrail and Laine Shaw accept the 2023 Tanner Redick Memorial Scholarship from his family at the tournament July 28.

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‘Hard time’ for farmers watching it rain ‘over and over’

Farm leader urges ‘mental wellness checks’ after a very soggy July

Heather Wright
The Independent

Julie Maw says after one of the wettest Julys on record, it’s time to check on the mental wellness of your Lambton farm friends.

Maw, the local director of the Grain Farmers of Ontario, says Lambton County had one of the wettest Julys on record with 172 mm of rain according to Environment Canada. That’s almost seven inches.

Historically, Lambton gets about 33.1 mm of rain in July - just a little over an inch.

Statistics from Environment Canada show it has been a decade since July was so wet; in 2013 about 131 mm fell.

In some places, including at Maw’s Brigden home, farmers recorded far more rain than the official record. Both Maw and Enniskillen Township Mayor Kevin Marriott - a former GFO local director - say they received 12 inches of rain in July.

“Lambton County is just not on the same page as Mother Nature is a nice way of saying it,” says

Maw. Farmers, particularly in south Lambton are “struggling” with lots of water which damaged some wheat crops.

“They just can’t seem to turn the tap off,” Maw says adding once the wheat harvest rolled around the rain kept falling and “they just couldn’t seem to catch a break.”

Maw says the quality of some grain was downgraded because it began to sprout. People growing wheat for seed ended up selling it to feed livestock because it didn’t meet seed quality standards.

“If you’re sending it off for feed you’re not getting your top dollar and it takes a lot – that tractor is going to go down the field the same amount of time. The guy that had the best wheat has the same cost involved as the guy that whose (wheat) didn’t make it.”

Maw says there are also consequences for livestock farmers. For some, the hay they need for their animals is still lying wet in the field.

Marriott considers himself fortunate. His wheat was damaged, but not enough to lose money on his contracts. It was close, though.

“We were only one rain away from a total disaster,” he tells *The Independent*.

“Everybody was so diligent to get out and do it when they could ...everybody’s so scared that they were doing it every minute they



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Haggerty Creek’s silos are reflected in pooled rainwater in the fields of Dawn-Euphemia July 28. Environment Canada says Lambton had 172 mm of rainfall in July - close to the record set in 1892 when 192 mm fell.

could and that’s what saved you from total disaster.”

Marriott - like many other farmers - ended up drying grain, increasing the price of production. For someone who sold on contract, like Marriott, the price was still considered good. But farmers trying to sell their grain now are facing the lowest wheat prices since Russia invaded Ukraine, the world’s largest wheat producer.

The low prices coupled with the constant rain is taking its toll according to Maw.

“I call farming one heck of a gambling game,” she says. “You’re gambling with crops and the weather, and you just got to kind of wait it out.”

And that, Maw says, take a toll on farmers’ mental health.

“These are the prime times you need to check on your fellow farmers.

“It’s a hard time when you’re sitting there watching it rain over and over. It puts a lot of stress on the mental health of farmers. And I think how everyone can help each other and their community is looking out for your farmer.

“That’s a phone call, that’s a coffee, but I think now is the time we need to check in on our farmers.”



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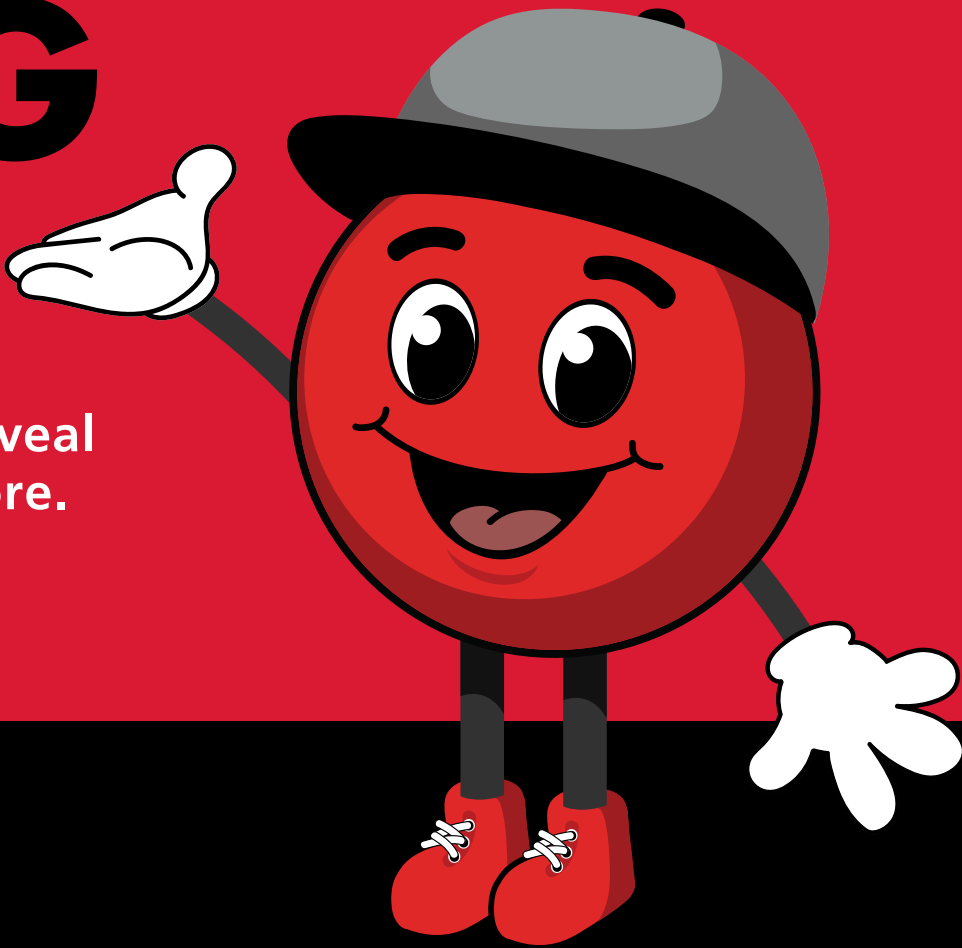
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Editorial

Greenbelt controversy a warning to rural areas

Perhaps to no one’s surprise, the MPP for Sarnia-Lambton is standing with his government after a scathing report by the Auditor General about Ontario’s Greenbelt.

Bonnie Lysyk found over a course of three weeks, a political staffer in the Ministry of Housing who was handpicked by Premier Doug Ford decided to remove 3,000 hectares of land from a vast swath of land around the Greater Toronto Area known as the Greenbelt. A decade ago, the Greenbelt was designated as land which could not be developed. It was - and is right now - mostly prime agricultural farmland, wildlife and wetland habitats.

In his first term, the Premier told developers he would open up the Greenbelt. It was caught on tape. He quickly promised not to do it, after a major public outcry. But in his second term - with an increased majority - the Premier set his political staffers to work. The auditor found they met with mainly two key developers who wanted the lands open for building. Just before the Premier announced housing would given the green light on the Greenbelt, they bought it. Lysyk says the value of the land increased by \$8 billion.

Lysyk wanted the Ford government to reverse its decision and protect the land again. But the Premier said no. And Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey agrees, echoing the government’s talking point that it’s needed to build housing for the large number of immigrants coming to the area. Lysyk says those needs can be met now in the urban area.

Bailey, in an interview with *The Independent*, voiced concerns about a solar farm which took over agricultural land, but “supports the Premier” in his quest to see the formerly protected Greenland - prime farmland - developed.

Farm groups across this province are staunchly against this move. Municipalities in rural areas should be as well. With the new powers the province has granted itself, any farm field could become housing with the stroke of a Minister’s pen. And it’s likely the Premier and the local MPP won’t oppose the move particularly if it suits their political purposes.

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

An early photo of the Presbyterian Church in Petrolia which is still used by the congregation to this day.

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Editorial

Why should we pay CN’s Freight asks reader

EDITOR: In 2020, CN suddenly decided that “as a federally regulated company”, they didn’t have to adhere to provincial laws. CN is governed by the Canadian Transportation Act and the Railway Safety Act. They believe that they are not governed by all other laws of lower jurisdictions and thus, have refused to pay their assessed costs under the Ontario Drainage Act.

This Act has been around since before the railways were built (first one in 1835, most recent 1990). It sets out a procedure whereby a municipality may provide a legal outlet for surface and subsurface waters not attainable under common law. In return, the landowners within the defined drainage watershed pay for the privilege of the drainage outlet.

Conflict over drainage has been constant with the national railways since they first came to exist. The matter was decided, and the prevailing practices have relied on the case of Canadian Pacific R.W. Co. v. Notre Dame de Bonsicours, 1899. This is a Canadian constitutional law decision, dealing with the powers of the provinces under the Constitution Act, 1867. The point

at issue was whether the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, a federally regulated railway, was required to comply with an order issued by a municipality under provincial law. The municipal order required the CPR Co. to clean a ditch beside its rail line, which had become blocked and flooded neighbouring land. The Judicial Committee held that the provincial law applied to the railway provided it did not regulate the structure or operation of the railway. The case is a foundational case for the scope of provincial legislation over federally regulated works and undertakings, and continues to be cited regularly by the Supreme Court of Canada. (source, Wikipedia)

CN has further added insult to injury to the good people of the City of Sarnia in taking a farmer’s request to have updated drainage works completed and pleading their case for dollar relief to the Canadian Transportation Agency, rather than exhausting all proceedings through the Drainage Act. The report under this particular drain has not been completed and as a consequence, the work has not been completed and no charges have been levied against

CN. There is no justification for using Sarnia as the case study when other municipalities in Ontario are holding the financial bag for CN to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

CN, as part of an Association whose tagline is “Do the Right Thing and Be Seen Doing the Right Thing”, does not uphold this sentiment. But here we are – a farmer cannot get the much needed update to the drain thus causing flooding and other damages to the fields all because CN doesn’t want to pay their share. This is even more abhorrent when one reads CN’s revenue reports of C\$4,057 million in the 2nd quarter of this year.

Millions of dollars in projects are being held up because municipalities don’t want to be out of pocket CN’s share of drainage costs. Warwick is owed \$160K, Plympton-Wyoming is owed \$80K, and now Sarnia must incur legal costs to defend this action before the CTA.

Nope, this just isn’t right – the citizens of Ontario shouldn’t have to pay CN’s freight.

Debbie Krukowski
Sarnia, ON

‘I certainly support the Premier on this’ says MPP

Heather Wright
The Independent

Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey is backing Premier Doug Ford’s decision to allow 3,000 hectares of prime farm land in the Greenbelt to be developed. And he’s downplaying the amount of prime agricultural land which will be lost as the province allows developers to build homes on the previously protected land despite calls from the province’s auditor general to protect them once more.

In 2005, The Greenbelt was created to protect some two million acres of unique habitats, wetlands and some of the best farmland in Ontario from being enveloped into the GTA for housing and industry. In Nov. 2022, the province announced it would be removing 3,000 hectares of the land out of the protected zone to allow the province to meet its goal of building 1.5 million homes in a decade.

But Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk found a handful of developers - donors to the Conservative Party - had the most to gain from the move - making an estimated \$8.3 billion based on 2016 - as the value of the land exploded with the announcement.

Lysyk found the decision to allow development on the land took only three weeks and was spearheaded by a political appointee in the Minister of Housing’s office who had been appointed by Premier Ford.

“We found that how the land sites were selected was not transparent, fair, objective, or fully informed. She recounted how the appointee met with some of the developers who bought the land just before the provincial announcement. Lysyk says the developers had influence on what land was

removed from the Greenbelt.

“About 92 per cent of the approximately 7,400 acres ultimately removed from the Greenbelt are five land sites put forward by two developers who had access to the Chief of Staff in September 2022.”

Lysyk called the process “seriously flawed” and informed the OPP of the irregularities she found.

The auditor general made 15 recommendations in her report, including returning the 3,000 hectares to the Greenbelt. That’s the only recommendation the premier won’t follow.

And Bailey says he backs the premier. “We need to build more housing; I certainly support the Premier on that,” Bailey told *The Independent* suggesting people may not understand the Greenbelt issue “unless you live around Toronto.”

The Premier has said the development of the Greenbelt is needed as the federal government rapidly increases immigration with many people settling in Toronto.

The Auditor General refutes that argument.

“It also can be shown that there was sufficient land for the target of 1.5 million homes to be built without the need to build on the Greenbelt,” Lysyk wrote.

“She’s entitled, to her own opinion, there’ll be other people’s who differ from hers,” said the Sarnia-Lambton MPP.

Bailey says while there have been concerns raised to his office staff, no one has talked to him about the auditor’s report.

One of the biggest opponents of the move was the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, which called for the “permanent protections from the threat

of urban development” in a submission to the Environmental Registry of Ontario before the decision was made.

“When agricultural land is developed, it is lost forever. Ontario is losing some of its most productive agricultural land to pressures for urbanization and growth enabled by provincial policies and tools.”

But Bailey downplayed the concern saying “There’s land in there that’s not prime farmland” and “it’s less than one per cent of the two million acres (of protected lands) and we’re adding another 2,400 acres into the Greenbelt land.

“We need to remember too, this is all private land. It’s not government land. It’s not public land. This is private land, being developed by developers,” said Bailey failing to address the fact the province is making it possible for developers to start building on the once protected agricultural land.

“I think the farm community have gotten more innovative. They’re producing more food on even less land because of agricultural practices.”

Bailey says as he drives around Lambton he notes a lot of construction in farm areas particularly in Plympton-Wyoming as well. And he says the solar farm in Sarnia is also built on prime agricultural land.

“In my opinion, that should have never happened, but it’s there now. I don’t see that ever changing.”

The Independent asked Bailey if he’s concerned about the solar farm on agricultural land, why not housing in the Greenbelt?

“That’s where people want to live in that area around Toronto,” Bailey said.

“If they’re going to live down there, we have to develop (it) for them to live on.”

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Celebrating community - and corn - in Watford



It was a celebration of community - and corn - at the annual Watford Cornfest. Two-year-old Tommy Firley of Watford (top) chomps down on a cob of corn on Sunday. Alvinston Killer Bees Board President Dan Cumming was one of the volunteers from the club cooking the corn which was free to all. Officials say they go through “thousands of dozens of corn” for the event. Aside from eating corn, there were a lot of activities to keep people busy. Jay Irwin makes a toss during the Cornhole Tournament. More than 50 vehicles lined back parking lot of the East Lambton Community Centre. A the friendly two-pitch tournament - with some intense competition - kept baseball diamond busy throughout the Cornfest weekend. And there was lots of music, too, with George Noll and his band NDR&C entertaining the crowds.



BLAKE ELLIS/
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Nemcek says \$11K bill for ‘witch hunt’ a ‘disgrace’

Heather Wright
The Independent

Two Brooke-Alvinston council members are railing against the cost of an investigation by the Integrity Commissioner.

Recently, the municipality’s IC ruled both Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek and Councillor Jenny Redick were guilty of breaching the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. Nemcek and Redick were both members of the Alvinston Optimist Club when they voted on a contract between the municipality and the club for the rental of the pavilion. The commissioner found they had indirect interests in the contract and should not have voted.

But the Integrity Commissioner chose not to bring charges against the pair before a judge.

Aug. 10, council got the first part of the bill for the investigation - \$11,500. And Treasurer Stephen Ikert was expecting another invoice for the investigation.

“This a disgrace \$11,000 for that witch hunt...I think all the taxpayers need to know how much money was spent,” said Nemcek during the meeting.

Redick, who has since resigned from the Optimist Club citing a busy schedule, agreed. “I think it is disgraceful this is costing the taxpayers \$12,000 plus when we are put in this position to represent our municipality and our residents,”

she said adding whomever filed the complaint had been “misled.”

Redick added the contract included \$500 more in fees which went to the municipality.

“All we did is gain more money for the municipality as counselors and we got our hands slapped and now the municipality is on the hook for \$12,000 plus,” she said.

But Mayor Dave Ferguson, who cautioned Nemcek and Redick during the last meeting not to vote on Optimist business, disagreed saying councillors asked questions about that very issue during an education session with the Integrity Commissioner just weeks before they voted on the contract. .

“You were educated twice.”

Timmies truck parking \$116K

The Independent

A new report says it will cost over \$115,000 to put a parking spot for transports on Nauvoo Line near the Watford Tim Hortons.

Warwick Township council asked Lambton County to consider putting up traffic lights at Nauvoo and Confederation and creating transport parking on both sides of the road.

At Monday’s council meeting, Steven Taylor, of BT Engineering which was working on the project for the county said the intersection doesn’t

meet provincial standards for traffic lights. Taylor added having trucks park on both sides of the street “may result in reduced sightlines” for drivers.

Taylor estimated it would cost \$116,211 to build an over-sized parking spot on the west side of Nauvoo and extending the sidewalk to the spot. It would cost \$206,000 to create spots on both sides.

Warwick Mayor Todd Case said the trucks are parking in the area now, and if there were a designated parking spot, there could be enforcement to limit the practice.

Lambton Christian farmers group hears ‘there is no climate emergency’

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

“There is no climate emergency,” said Thomas Bailey of the Creation Ministries International told Lambton members of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario.

Bailey was guest speaker at its Lambton District summer gathering, in Reeces Corners Saturday where more than 50 people - including Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MP Lianne Rood - gathered to hear Bailey speak on Christians and Climate Change.

Bailey says there is water and

air pollution and it is something which people need to look after. But he encouraged people to stop fear mongering about climate change.

“We have young people who are scared for their futures,” Bailey said.

Bailey said there are no clear trends and those who are talking about climate change are just manipulating data.

There are no clear trends in an increase in forest fires and flooding, where environmental scientists say climate change is to blame, he told the crowd.

He continued there have been

a number of failed climate conditions which have failed over the years, contends Bailey. Pointing to one in the 1970s, which said the climate would be cooling.

Former United States Vice President Al Gore also said in 2008 that the world would be ice free in 2013. Of course, that didn’t come true, said Bailey.

“Why the panic?” said Bailey. “The data doesn’t stack up.”

Bailey promotes the Biblical view of creation saying the earth is not millions of years old like many scientists say.

Bailey says before the global

flood, or as the Bible describes it, Noah’s flood, there was 10 to 15 times more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere because of the greater amount of vegetation, said Bailey. There was a rebirth of vegetation after the flood, but it never reached pre-flood levels, he said, believing there was an ice age a few hundred years after the flood.

“The world has been relatively stable since the flood, which is God’s plan,” said Bailey.

He criticized those who believe the world population needs to be reduced by 10 percent. This is not a solution said Bailey, saying the same people who believe in the

reduction of the population also believe in euthanasia and abortion

“We know ever since the Garden of Eden, that man likes to be in control,” said Bailey adding God is in control of the climate.

Before Bailey spoke, CFFO President Ed Scharringa addressed the membership.

“There is never a dull moment,” he said of his work with CFFO. The organization is deadset against the carbon tax and is pushing back against the tariff on fertilizer imported from Russia in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine.

• THE INDEPENDENT

\$8,000 raised to help Bluewater Centre rehabilitate birds of prey in Plympton-Wyoming

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Expectations were surpassed even before the syrup was poured.

It was hoped the fundraiser for the Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation would raise \$3,000 and that was easily reached with \$8,000 being raised at the breakfast Sunday in Camlachie.

“This is wonderful,” said

Founder Lynn Eves of the Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation, who said the centre is run totally with volunteers and private donations and without government funding.

There are birds coming in constantly, with between 30 and 50 injured birds being looked after at one time.

The centre is full right now, said Eves, with the birds are gradually

released when they heal.

Eves opened the centre in 1991 on Egremont Road to meet the needs of injured and displaced birds of prey in Lambton County. It has grown to include loons, herons and some waterfowl.

“I always had a love for nature,” said Eves, saying this is her passion. The centre has expanded over the years and now includes 20 large flight cages.

She doesn’t have time to fundraise so she relies on volunteers to organize events like the pancake breakfast. Isabelle Thiffeault, a volunteer with the centre organized the pancake breakfast.

She has a goal of becoming a veterinarian and was accumulating volunteer hours for her veterinarian application.

Thiffeault was ecstatic about

reaching the fundraising goal, saying she also wanted to raise awareness about the centre.

She will be going back to the University of Ottawa to continue her undergraduate studies.

Eves currently has two other individuals helping her with the rehabilitation work. She hopes when the time comes to hand over this very important work, someone will be able to carry on.



The **Terri Fisher**

Memorial Dart Tournament

Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 216
4129 Glenview Rd., Petrolia
519-882-1557

Sunday, September 24, 2023

\$20 Per Player (includes Beef on a Bun lunch)
Registration 9:00 a.m. – Single Darts start at 9:30 a.m.
Lunch after Singles Play, Doubles start after – (approx 1:00 p.m.)
Silent Auction & 50/50
Pre-Registration (recommended) by Sept. 15 to
519-882-1201, 519-882-1557 or email: lakerphillip@hotmail.com
NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINK



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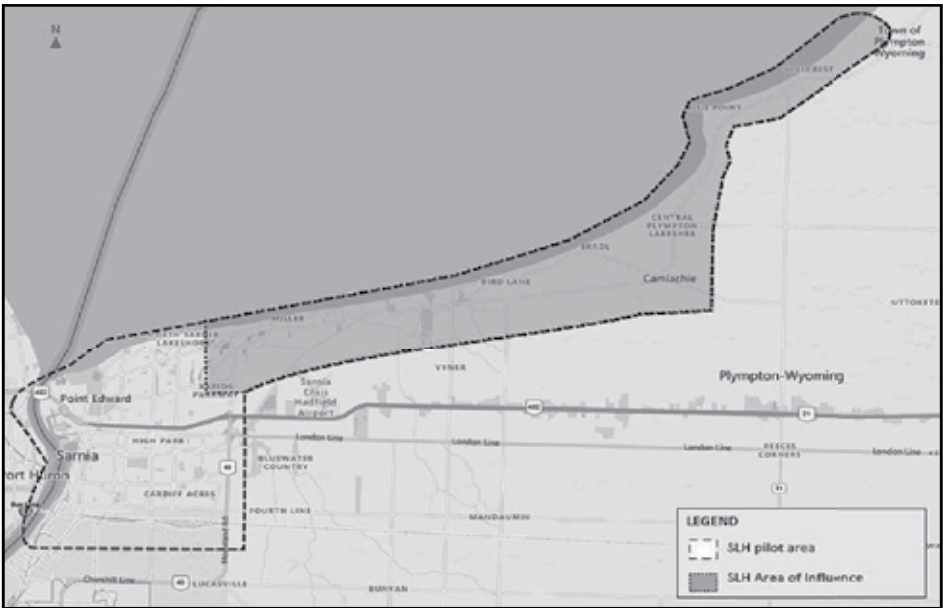
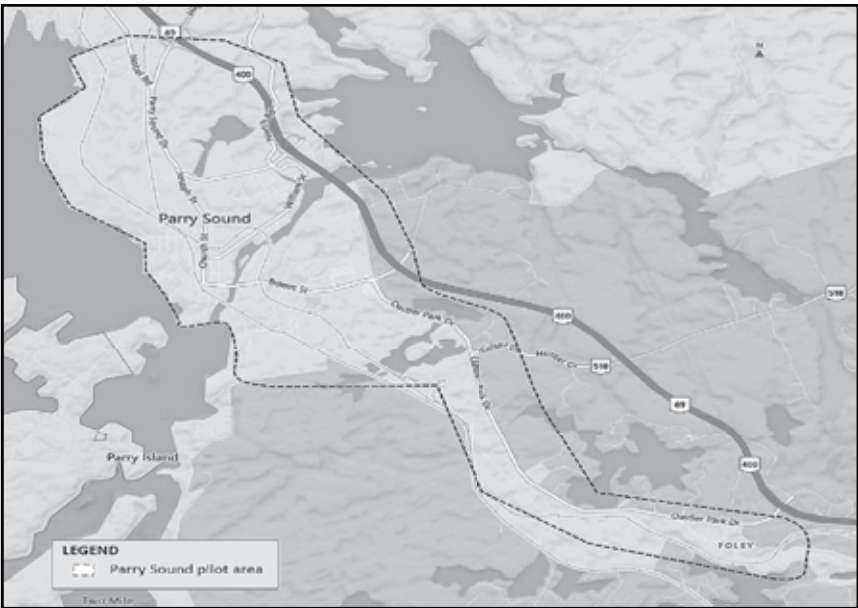
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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE

Enbridge Gas Inc. has applied for approval of costs and the accounting treatment of costs, associated with two Integrated Resource Planning Pilot Projects.

Learn more. Have your say.



Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) is a natural gas system planning process that identifies and evaluates the potential for various alternatives to traditional pipeline infrastructure to meet natural gas system needs. Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) has identified two areas where deploying IRP alternatives can help meet a system need (IRP Pilot Projects) and has applied to the Ontario Energy Board for an order or orders approving the cost consequences of these two IRP Pilot Projects. Enbridge Gas has also applied for approval of the proposed accounting treatment to record costs of the same in Enbridge Gas’s IRP costs deferral accounts for later disposition and recovery.

Enbridge Gas is bringing forward these two IRP Pilot Projects pursuant to Appendix A of the IRP Framework (issued in OEB File No. EB-2020-0091), which noted “Enbridge Gas is expected to develop and implement two IRP pilot projects. The pilots are expected to be an effective approach to understand and evaluate how IRP can be implemented to avoid, delay, or reduce facility projects.” In response, Enbridge Gas designed two IRP Pilot Projects to implement demand-side IRP Alternatives (“IRPAs”) in combination with supply-side IRPAs in the communities of Parry Sound (the “Parry Sound Pilot Project”) and the City of Sarnia and Town of Plympton Wyoming (the “Southern Lake Huron Pilot Project”). These IRP Pilot Projects aim to mitigate identified system constraints and associated facility reinforcement projects, and are also intended to provide learnings regarding future IRPA design, performance, and potential for scalability.

A map of the two proposed IRP Pilot Project Areas is provided above.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider Enbridge Gas’s application. During the hearing, which could be an oral or written hearing, we will question Enbridge Gas on the case. We will also hear questions and arguments from individual consumers, municipalities and others whose interests would be affected. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide whether to approve the application.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review the application filed by Enbridge Gas on the OEB’s website now
- You can find information on the OEB’s website at www.oeb.ca/participate
- You can file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing
- You can become an intervenor. As an intervenor you can ask questions about Enbridge Gas’s application and make arguments on whether the OEB should approve Enbridge Gas’s request. Apply by **Monday, August 28, 2023** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB’s decision and its reasons on our website

LEARN MORE

Our file number for this case is **EB-2022-0335**. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file a letter with your comments or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please enter the file number **EB-2022-0335** on the OEB website: www.oeb.ca/participate. You can also phone our Public Information Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. Enbridge Gas has applied for a written hearing. The OEB is considering this request. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **Monday, August 28, 2023**.

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and email address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This hearing will be held under section 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c.15, Schedule B.

Ontario Energy Board
P.O. Box 2319, 27th Floor
2300 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Attention: Registrar
Filings: <https://p-pes.ontarioenergyboard.ca/PivotalUX/>.
E-mail: registrar@oeb.ca



Ontario Energy Board | Commission de l’énergie de l’Ontario

Sports



The Canadian Team, which includes four Lambton residents, celebrates in Thailand

The World Dragon Boat champions

The Independent

Five members of the Lambton Shores Dragon Boat Club are home with gold medals from the World Dragon Boat Racing Championships in Thailand. Megan Johnston and Katelyn Finch of Wyoming along with Jase and Georgia

Peters of Forest were part of Canada’s junior team that won the Junior Cup beating out competitors from Australia, the USA, Thailand, the Ukraine, India and China for the top team prize. The other member was Julia Chagnon from Clinton. The juniors won 21 medals

in 24 races, including seven gold medals, 13 silver and a bronze. Team Canada also won the Nations Cup as the overall team champion including all age groups and classifications. The world championships in 2024 are scheduled for Germany.

Flyers, Flags ready for 2023-2024 season

The Petrolia Flyers will begin the new PJHL regular season on the road in Thamesford on Friday, September 15. The home opener will be Thursday, September 21 against Aylmer. All but one of Petrolia’s home games will be on Thursdays. The Flyers have a Saturday home game scheduled for late November. All game times at the Greenwood Recreation Centre are 7:30. The Mooretown Flags will open the 2023-24 PJHL season at home against the Dresden Jr. Kings on Saturday, September 16.

Game time at the Moore Sports Complex at 7:30. All of Mooretown’s home games are on Saturday night with one exception when the team will play at home on a Wednesday night in early December. Petrolia’s preseason opener is in Dresden on August 25. The Flyers visit the Flags the following night to open Mooretown’s exhibition schedule. Meantime, the Sarnia Legionnaires open their exhibition schedule on Sunday against the Strathroy Rockets at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena. Game time is 6:40 pm.

Mueller, Mustangs third at national tournament

Matt Mueller and his Western Mustangs teammates finished third in the four team men’s division at the Canadian University Tennis Championships in conjunction with the National Bank Open in Montreal. Mueller lost his opening round doubles match to an opponent from the University of Montreal, 8-7 on Saturday and was beaten in straight sets, 6-2 and 6-4 in a singles

match against Montreal. The Petrolia native and LCCVI grad then rebounded for a 7-2 win over Dalhousie in the third place match on Sunday. This is his second tournament since being sidelined for a year after a car accident. Mueller won his first tournament in St. Thomas.

Silver at nationals

Hunter Campbell continues to add to his track and field medal haul. The Petrolia thrower, representing the Athletics Southwest Club in Sarnia, took silver Friday in the under-18 discus event at the Canadian Legion Track and Field Championships in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

His throw of 49.16 metres was more than three metres farther than his previous best set at the Athletics Ontario championships earlier this month in London. Campbell also set a personal best with a throw of 45.32 metres in the under-18 hammer throw. He finished in sixth place.



Hunter Campbell

Robinson going to provincials

The Independent

Marlowe Robinson has secured her spot at the Ontario Senior Weightlifting Championships in November by winning her weight class at Summerfest in Toronto. The Wyoming teen, a graduate of LCCVI, had a combined score of 132 kilos. Her younger sister, Mikalylie also won her weight class as she continues to attempt to qualify for the Ontario Winter Games in Thunder Bay next February. Mikaylie attends Franco-Jeunesse in Sarnia and Marlowe will begin post-secondary classes at Hamilton’s McMaster University next month. Meantime, Forest’s Bradyn Santavy finished second in his weight class at the same event and in the process set a new Canadian junior record with a clean and jerk of 184 kilos breaking the previous mark that had stood for about 20 years. With his silver medal performance, he qualifies for the upcoming Junior World



Marlowe Robinson with her sister Mikalylie, secures her spot to the Championships in Guadalajara Mexico in November.

Triple Threat: Hayters sign with Blenheim Blades

The PJHL’s Blenheim Blades will have a definite Alvinston vibe to its roster this season. The Hayter brothers, Joe, Matt and Ryan, have all signed with the Chatham-Kent club for the 2023-24 season. The trio is a product of the East Lambton

minor system. Matt played the past two seasons in Alberta while Joe played two games last season with the Petrolia Flyers. Blenheim opened its training camp this week and will play their first exhibition game a week from Saturday.

Central Lambton lacrossers help win title

Players from Plympton-Wyoming and Enniskillen Township were part of the Sarnia Pacer U9 championship roster that recently won their division with a dramatic 2-1 win over Cornwall at the Ontario

Lacrosse Association festival in Whitby. The local players were Hendrix McDonald of Wyoming, Hunter Henderson of Oil City as well Cooper Webb, Gavin Thurtell and Jackson Thompson all from

Camlachie. Brady McDonald of Wyoming along with Jesse Thompson and Riley Thompson from Camlachie were part of the coaching staff.

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Death Notices

August 6 - August 15, 2023

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

PARKER, Margaret “Pat”
(nee Gardner)
Age: 95
Smith Funeral Home

MONDAY, AUGUST 7

AUBIN, Joseph “Paul”
Age: 85, of Corunna
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

READ, Lauretta
Age: 68
McKenzie-Blundy Funeral Home

VANDERBURGT, Nellie
Age: 87
Denning’s Funeral Home

MOZINA, Gladys “Pat” Jean
Age: 80, of Wardsville
Badder Funeral Home

HUMPHREY, Shirley
Age: 102 ½
Smith Funeral Home

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

WEBSTER, Elizabeth “Betty”
Age: 95, of Wallaceburg
Badder Funeral Home

TOMLINSON, Eldon Johnston
Age: 91
Smith Funeral Home

DUNN, Daniel Jacob
Age: 68
Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

ANDREWS, Myrna Lee
(Hing)
Age: 92
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

SAVAGE, Ronald
Age: 83
McKenzie-Blundy Funeral Home

BLACK, Doug
Age: 80, of Glencoe
Van Heck Funeral Home

GLADWISH, Patrick John
Age: 70
Smith Funeral Home

LAPOINTE, René Jacque
Age: 78
Smith Funeral Home

ROUTHEAUX, Patricia Ann
Age: 71
Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

TAYLOR, Colin Mackinnon
Age: 69
McCormack Funeral Home

LAPENSÉE, Ray Delphis
Age: 80
McCormack Funeral Home

BANKS, Derek “Banksy”
Age: 84
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

DAM, Jane
(nee Siestma)
Age: 86
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

CUTHBERT, Helen
Age: 95
Van Heck Funeral Home

DUNCAN-SMITH, Pippa
Age: 59, of Parkhill
Gilpin Funeral Chapel

BEALE, Alice
Age: 94
Smith Funeral Home

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

Anniversary Open House

Chester & Colleen Meredith

Are Celebrating

50 YEARS

Please join them
Sat, Aug. 26
OPEN HOUSE
1 – 5 pm
Wyoming Legion
493 Erie Street
Cash Bar
“Best Wishes” Only



Coming Events

The **Friends of the Bothwell Catholic Cemetery Board** invite everyone to attend our **Annual Meeting on Sunday, August 20, 2023 at 1:30 pm** at the St. Ignatius Cemetery, Bothwell. There will be no memorial service this year. Please bring your lawn chair.

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Thank You

I would like to thank all of the people that wished me a Happy 95th Birthday - I had a wonderful day.

Thank you,
Fern Baker

Wanted To Buy

WANTED TO BUY - Adult bicycles womens & mens, boys & girls. All sizes. Good to fair condition. All types of bikes wanted. Please call **519-882-2548** and ask for **Dave**. *ALSO, will pick up scrap bikes.*

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The publisher of this newspaper, *The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton*, reserves the right to clarify or refuse any advertisement based on its sole discretion. The publisher reserves the right to reject, discontinue or omit any advertisement without notice or penalty to either party. Liability for errors or non-insertion is limited to the amount paid for the cost of space occupied by the error. Claims of errors must be made prior to the next publication date.


Obituary

HUMPHREY

Shirley (née Skelton)

Peacefully, surrounded by loving family, on **Monday, August 7, 2023, Shirley Humphrey** passed away at the **age of 102.5**. Beloved wife of the late Charles Humphrey (1990). Loving mother of Catherine Tyrie (late Doug), Donna and Len Derbyshire, and Lorna Ryan (late Tom). Cherished grandmother of Mary, Doug (Annie), late Larry, late Deborah, late Alan, Jeff (Stephanie), Pam (Curtis), Hilary (Jim), Tammy (Brian), Holly, and Mark. Treasured great-grandmother of 30 and great-great-grandmother of 19. Dear sister-in-law of Ruth Skelton in Calgary. Predeceased by her parents Richard (1949) and Catherine (1981) Skelton, and her brothers and sisters-in-law Walter and Jessie Skelton, Jimmy and Pat Skelton, Arnold (Fred), Mary and Dorothea Skelton, Alan and Frances Skelton, Pauline Humphrey and her husband Reg Marks, Lola Humphrey and Wm Smith, Clarence and Doris Humphrey, Catherine Humphrey, and Alvin and Susanne Humphrey. Survived by many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews. A life member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion Br #388 Wyoming, she was a super great seamstress sewing all her daughters clothes when they were young and made wedding and bridesmaids dresses for them. She worked in the Bomb Room at Muellers during the war and was a cashier at Loblaws. She made many children's clothes and coats for many. She made uniforms for the Buccaneers marching band and refitted-old Police uniforms into tunics for the Forest legion Pipe Band. She also travelled to United Kingdom with her husband who was a member of the Forest Pipe Band and they played at the Edinburgh tattoo and also inside the gates of Buckingham Palace for the Queen. She continued to live in her own home to the end and still gave the LA good advice on many subjects. **A funeral service was held at Smith Funeral Home on Monday, August 14, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. with visitation held prior from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.** Interment to follow in Wyoming Cemetery. Sympathy may be expressed through donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, The War Amps or St. Joseph's Hospice (cheques only at the funeral home please). Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.smithfuneral-home.ca

Public Notice



PUBLIC NOTICE

WATFORD CEMETERY ANNUAL DECORATION DAY SERVICE
5606 Nauvoo Rd.

Sunday, August 27, 2023 at 2:30 P.M.

EVERYONE IS CORDIALLY INVITED
(Bring your lawn chairs)

In case of rain the service will be held at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 5378 Nauvoo Road, Watford

Your donations are important to keep our cemeteries looking great. Cheques can be made out to the **Warwick Township Cemetery Board** and sent to the **Warwick Township Office, 5280 Nauvoo Road, PO Box 10, Watford ON N0M 2S0**

Income Tax exemption receipts will be issued for **\$25.00 or more.**

Open House

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BUSINESS CARD SIZED: \$50.00 plus HST per issue
OR
EIGHTH PAGE: \$100.00 plus HST per issue

Choose one or all of our upcoming dates:

August 31: Petrolia Fall Fair | Sept. 7: Wyoming Fall Fair
Sept. 14: Forest Fall Fair | Sept. 21: Brooke Alvinston Watford Fall Fair
Sept. 29: Brigden Fall Fair



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Church DIRECTORY



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

416 Queen Street, Petrolia (Behind the Post Office)

In-Person Service
Sundays @ 10:00 am

Services also available online: www.standrews-petrolia.ca
Pastor Katherine Hawley

Christ Anglican Church

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

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

Everyone Welcome

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

Rev. Dave Hewett



St. Paul's United Church

4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

No Sunday Service on Aug. 20, Aug. 27 & Sept. 3
Service will resume: Sunday, Sept. 10 at 10:30 am

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

Rev. Carol Ferguson

First Baptist Church

In Person Church Service
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Pastor: Alex Craig

418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia | Church Office 519-882-2480
email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com | website: www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca
Find us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia



Calendar

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM
DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

of events

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	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
Aug 19	7pm	Petrolia	LADIES NIGHT OUT @ R.C. LEGION Honour Hall - 4129 Glenview Rd. - Dining, Dancing, Live Music, DJ Music, Cocktails & Wine! Tickets are \$55 (plus taxes) - Available at: https://ladiesnight-out.square.site/
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.
Aug 28	2pm - 3:30pm	Online	LAMBTON COUNTY BRANCH, ONTARIO ANCESTORS - Drop-In & Chat - Zoom Webinar Open to the public, all welcome. For a link to the meeting email: lambton@ogs.on.ca
Sept 1 - Sept 29	7pm	Petrolia	CARD PARTIES @ St. Phillip's Hall - 415 King St. - September 1, 8, 22, and 29th. Cost: \$5 per person. Lunch provided. For more information, please call; Margaret 519-882-4840
Sept 2	10am - 3:30pm	Sarnia	LAMBTON PLOWING MATCH @ Southwest corner of Waterworks Rd. and Confederation Line
Sept 2-3	10am - 4pm	Wallacetown	19TH ANNUAL HERITAGE FARM SHOW @ Backus-Page House Museum - 29424 Lakeview Line. (South of Wallacetown.) \$10 for adults. Full details available online: http://www.backuspagehouse.ca
Sept 8 & 10	5pm	Petrolia	PETROLIA OPTIMIST TOONIE TABLE DRAW FUNDRAISER @ The Petrolia & Enniskillen Fall Fair
Sept 10	12:30pm - 3:30pm	Wallacetown	VICTORIAN PAINTING WORKSHOP CONTINUES @ Backus-Page House Museum - 29424 Lakeview Line. Pre-register on our website: www.backuspagehouse.ca/events/
Sept 12 - Oct 17	12:30pm - 1:30pm	Online	VIRTUAL SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY SERIES - Fall 2023 free workshops. Meet on Zoom weekly. To register, email: virtualcommunitylawschool@gmail.com no later than September 11, at 12 noon.
Sept 15-16	2pm	Petrolia	QUILT SHOW hosted by IODE Margaret Stokes @ the Christ Church Anglican 414 Oil St. - Trunk show Friday Sept. 15 @ 2pm. For more info contact: dawnmcnally@hotmail.com
Sept 24	9am	Petrolia	THE TERRI FISHER MEMORIAL DART TOURNAMENT @ Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 216, 4129 Glenview Rd., Petrolia. Pre-register by September 15 to; 519-882-1201 - OR - 519-882-1557 or email: lakerphillip@hotmail.com

Shifting Gears draws over 70 tractors

Heather Wright
The Independent

Over 70 tractors drove through Dawn-Euphemia this weekend - a tribute and a fundraiser for a new mental health initiative in the community.

Three Oaks Respite Cabin is being built by the Bergsma family for farmers and first responders struggling with mental health issues.

The family is building the cabin in memory of their son and brother Dalles who died by suicide in November 2020. He was a farmer and volunteer firefighter.

Farmers are twice more likely to die by suicide than the general population. Twenty-five percent of first responders have thought about suicide.

The tractors travelled in the rain Saturday afternoon as a salute to Dalles and to raise money for the Three Oaks Respite Cabin, a place where farmers and first responders can recover from daily stresses and anxieties and have access to mental health support.

The parade wound its way around the Florence and Shetland area and past the cemetery where Dalles is buried where the members of the Dawn-Euphemia Fire Department were standing in tribute.



A glimpse back in time at the Steam Threshing show in Forest



Marcel Tremblay of Petrolia was pulling in the Ontario Vintage Tractor Pullers Association event as part of the Western Ontario Steam Threshers Association event held at the Forest fairgrounds on Saturday afternoon. He pulled 292.29 feet with his Oliver 88 tractor. The pull to beat in the class was 296 feet. Ray Levasseur of Oil City with his 1955 Mini Moline tractor (top right) pulled 292.85 feet. The show also featured steam engines and lots of things for the kids to do..



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