

The

Independent

Serving Petrolia and Central Lambton

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CONCENTRATION



Colin Campbell of the Wyoming Wranglers U11 team was winding up at Centennial Park during a league game against London Friday night.

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Developer fees coming to Petrolia?

PW, Petrolia hope for housing cash

Heather Wright
The Independent

It looks like Petrolia politicians are willing to approve development fees if it means federal funding to build affordable homes.

Petrolia, unlike the majority of municipalities in Ontario, does not charge fees to pay for new infrastructure needed because of development.

For example, when new homes are built, municipalities often put parks in the community, including equipment which costs money to buy and maintain; development fees can help pay that cost instead of existing taxpayers.

The issue was first brought to council in Nov. 2021, with a number of councillors at the time, firmly against the idea concerned it would inhibit growth.

But after the Oct. 2022 election, councillors agreed to commission a study

on fees charged to developers, without committing to the concept. That study is expected to be complete before the end of 2023.

But during a special council meeting Aug. 16, councillors gave approval for staff to apply for the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Accelerator Action Plan, which will provide cash to encourage affordable housing alternatives.

In his report to council, Chief Administrative Officer, Rick Charlebois said the town would have to commit to five initiatives including “aligning development charges with the costs of infrastructure and servicing.” Council gave administration approval to apply for the funding.

Charlebois said that even though is not complete, the funding program will cover the \$50,000 cost of the development fee study. The federal government will decide on the housing funding this fall.

Heather Wright
The Independent

Both Plympton-Wyoming and Petrolia hope to cash in on a federal program to build affordable housing.

And in Plympton-Wyoming, it could mean up to \$10 million to make it easier for developers to build duplexes to help younger homeowners get into the market and seniors move out of their larger homes.

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation is offering a Housing Accelerator Program for municipalities under 10,000 and both Plympton-Wyoming and Petrolia are applying for the funds. Warwick Township decided to pass.

In Plympton-Wyoming, council agreed to hire the project management company Colliers to apply for the grant which could create nearly 300 more homes than already forecast in one of the fastest growing

municipalities in Lambton.

Jonathan Lampman told council Aug. 9, that under the program, the municipality would be eligible for up to \$10 million should it meet the federal government’s main target of increasing housing production by 10 per cent.

Lampman’s report suggests developers have already signalled interest in creating higher density housing such as garden suites, secondary suites, duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, row houses, courtyard housing, and low-rise apartments with no more than four storeys.

He estimates an additional 296 units could be built in Plympton-Wyoming, more than doubling the 210 homes projected to be built without the program.

Adam Sobanski, the town’s director of public works, says many developers want to build this type of housing.

SEE HOUSING PG 3

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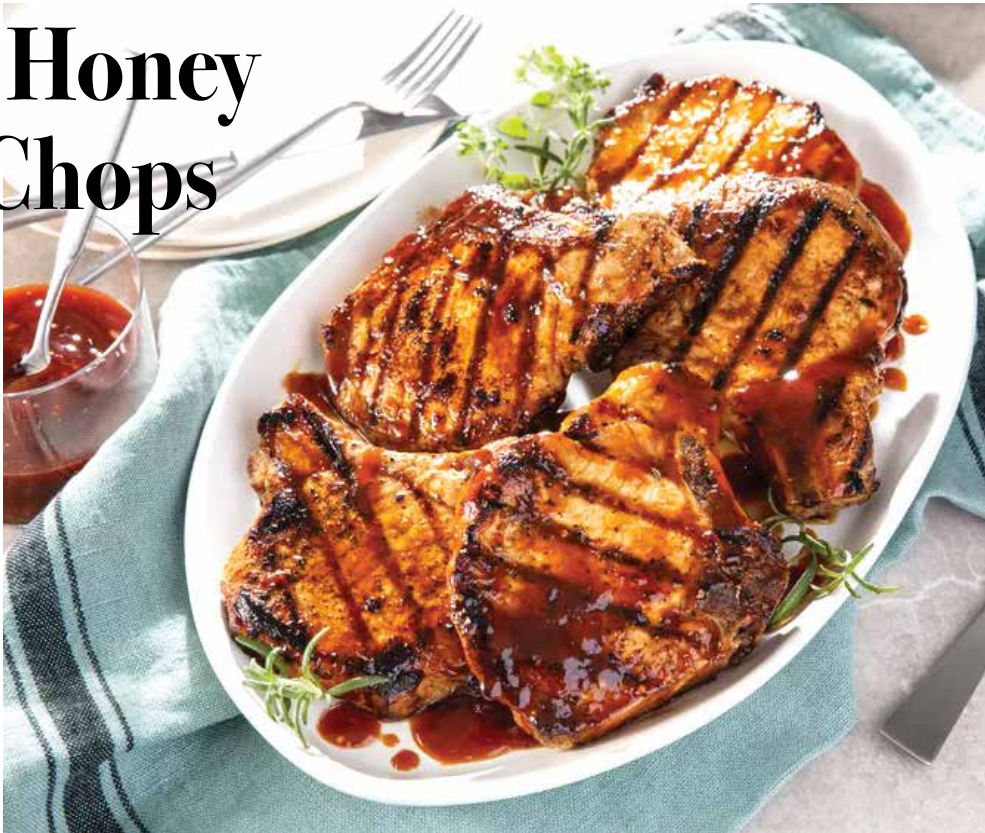
Ingredients

- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 2 tbsp honey
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- two crushed cloves of garlic
- 6 one-inch thick pork chops

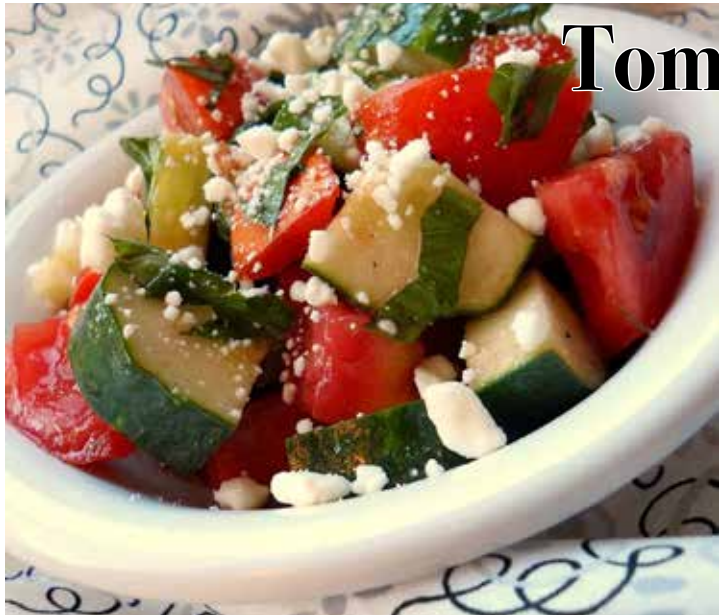
Directions

Preheat grill for medium heat
Whisk ketchup, honey, soy sauce, and garlic together in a bowl to make a glaze.

Sear the pork chops on both sides on the preheated grill. Lightly brush glaze onto each side of the chops as they cook; grill until no longer pink in the center, about 7 to 9 minutes per side. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read 145 degrees F



• From All Recipies.com



Tomato, Basil & Feta Salad


Ingredients

- 6 roma tomatoes, diced
- one small cucumber, peeled, quartered lengthwise and chopped
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh basil leaves cut into thin strips
- 3 tbsp crumbled feta cheese
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- salt and pepper to taste

Directions

Toss tomatoes, cucumber, green onions, basil, feta, oil and vinegar together in a large bowl. Season with salt and pepper

• From All Recipies.com



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Victory for Mooretown cancer patient

Pharmaceutical company to pay for life-saving drug

Cathy Dobson
For The Independent

Denise Wade says she is “over the moon” after a sudden decision this week by AstraZeneca to cover the \$10,000-a-month cost of her cancer-fighting drug.

The good news arrived just as Wade was ramping up a public campaign to find funding for the pricey drug she says is extending her life with very few side-effects.

“I don’t have the details yet but I’m in total shock,” she said. “I only have nine pills left and AstraZeneca is telling me they’ll deliver more to my door.

“I’m freaking out. This is out of the blue.”

Wade is a 69-year-old St. Clair Township resident and has been battling cancer since 2017 and taking Tagrisso for the past two years. It’s a prescription drug used to treat Stage 4 non-small cell lung carcinomas with specific mutations.

Her results since taking Tagrisso daily have been encouraging, shrinking tumours in her brain from eight to one and stopping growth in the cancer that’s impacting both lungs.

But her insurance coverage that is paying the \$9,981 monthly cost of Tagrisso expires in November and Wade has been appealing to the provincial government to pick up the cost.

In the past month, she has worked with family and friends on a petition that attracted more than 16,000 signatures. She also reached out to the media. After the provincial government turned down her request for coverage three times, she started organizing a protest outside MPP Bob Bailey’s office.

But everything changed last Wednesday.

Wade says she is “in total shock” after learning that AstraZeneca agreed to pay for her Tagrisso indefinitely.

“I got a call from the pharmacy and they asked

me if I was sitting down, then said that AstraZeneca has approved my Tagrisso for the rest of my life,” said Wade.

On the day she heard the good news, things hadn’t started well at all, she explained.

“First thing in the morning, even before my coffee, the pharmacist from Bluewater Health called with terrible news and said my Sunlife benefits expired early without notice this month.

“I was just shaking my head. I couldn’t understand that.”

But the pharmacist called back a bit later and said Wade’s oncologists were talking with the Tagrisso rep and AstraZeneca agreed to cover the drug cost.

Wade said her oncologist had previously asked AstraZeneca for financial assistance on her behalf and was turned down.

“I don’t know what happened to turn it all around but I really do think that going public with this helped,” she said. “AstraZeneca must have caught wind of the campaign.”

Wade spent the evening on the phone and social media alerting her many nephews and nieces about the good news. Her maiden name is Coutu and she grew up in Sarnia with 15 siblings.

“I have a lot of family who want to know what’s going on,” she said.

Wade thanked her doctors, her friends, family and many people she’s never met for supporting her during her campaign and said she still believes the provincial government should step up when live saving drugs are so expensive and people have no benefits.

The protest outside Bailey’s office has been cancelled.



Denise Wade

Housing cash targeted to build multi unit homes

CON’T FROM PG 1

Sobanski says until now, it hasn’t been attractive to them to start building the units.

“When there are good times, they’re hesitant to build these because their profit margins are lower.

“Well, if there’s government incentives involved that will help better those profit margins,” he told council.

Lampman says the multi-unit homes would help fill a gap in the market with younger people unable to afford a single family home to start out and retirees who not ready for retirement homes yet but are also not able to find a smaller home.

Councillor Mike Vasey says he knows people who are facing exactly that situation and is excited about the possibility of federal money helping to entice builders to provide it.

“This fits the bill...it is right up the alley of what we want... it’s a solution to an issue we’re trying to solve.”

But some councillors questioned where the semis and duplexes would go in a municipality which has been building hundreds of single family homes along the lakeshore.

Sobanski says they would be built in “transition areas” such as near major roadways or in the center of a development or beside commercial and agricultural properties. He says that is where builders normally put lower cost homes anyway.

And he says the additional 296 homes is an attainable goal.

“Many of the developers’ (plans) already have those types of housing and stock. They work well around along existing road allowances. So we won’t have to build interior private roads, they can just build them along existing roadways, so that would likely be the most common...”

“I would suggest that row housing would be your highest percentage of units created.”

Plympton-Wyoming council approved a \$60,000 contract with Colliers to write the grant, which had to be submitted by Aug. 18, and then to help implement the plan.

It would include developing incentives for developers to create affordable housing units and possibly giving “pre-approval” to certain home designs so developers could move quickly to get shovels in the ground. It would also

“encourage” developers to partner with non-profit agencies to create affordable housing.

Meantime, Petrolia also approved an application for the Housing Accelerator Fund Aug. 16.

The town’s staff suggested Petrolia commit to encouraging accessory units on properties - commonly known as granny suites. It also suggested creating new processes like e-permitting to cut down on the time it takes to approve development, and creating consistent development charges to cover the cost of growth.

Town staff did not provide an analysis of how many more homes could be created, however the federal program requires municipalities to commit to a 10 per cent increase in housing starts.

In 2022, the town issued building permits for 44 new homes, down from 56 in 2021.

Currently, there is only one subdivision under development.

Acting Mayor Joel Field has said there are subdivisions with up to 700 new homes in various stages of the planning process.

Figures estimating how much grant money the town could expect were not provided.

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Editorial

Getting their cake and eating it, too

For younger people longing to move out of their parents basements and seniors looking to downsize, this is good news.

Even if it is putting cash in the pockets of developers.

The federal government is offering funding to municipalities - through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation - to build more homes in smaller municipalities. And not just the now, very pricey single family homes; duplexes, semis, row housing and granny suites.

It's all in an effort to help ease the housing shortage across the country.

A 2022 report by the CMHC says Canada needs to build 3.5 million additional housing units – on top of what is normally built – to bring housing back to affordable levels by 2030.

That's going to require more than just single-family homes.

But in small municipalities, multi-unit projects are often panned. In Petrolia, for example, a \$33 million townhouse development got a rough ride at council as neighbours voiced concerns about drainage and density in the predominantly single-family area.

And in Plympton-Wyoming, officials say developers do have plans for multi-unit homes, but in a hot housing market, they just won't turn a big profit. Instead, they go for the cash and building single family homes.

So the federal government's Housing Accelerator Plan offers cash to municipalities to create incentives for developers to build more homes faster with multi-unit dwellings. There is a nod in Plympton-Wyoming's application for the fund to "encourage developers" work with non-profit entities to build affordable housing. Encouraging is not a guarantee of actual affordable housing.

While we applaud the idea of municipalities encouraging more housing units in the same space, it seems the developers will have their cake and eat it, too - building homes which they sell for profit and having their profit topped up by taxpayers dollars.

Letters to the Editor

The Independent welcomes Letters to the Editor. Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca. You can also deliver letters to *The Independent* at 4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia or drop them in the mail at *The Independent*, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0. *The Independent* reserves the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity. All letters need to be signed and must have a phone number for verification.

Our Story



LAMBTON COUNTY ARCHIVE PHOTO

The Wyoming Horticultural Society established several flower beds on Broadway Street in the 1930s and along the railroad tracks. Those shown in this picture from the Lambton County Archives were cared for by Robert Waterfield, a watchman at the railway crossing. In the background of this image is the Commercial Hotel, situated on the south side of the railroad, west side of Broadway. This hotel was owned by Robert Riddel, Alex Scharf, and later the Thomas family. The hotel was eventually sold and demolished.

The horrifying reality of wildfires in Canada's north

I've been horrified watching the photos out of the Northwest Territories and Kelowna BC.

People packing up their belongings and getting a glimpse of their home in the rear-view mirror, wondering if it will withstanding the raging wildfires heading toward it. That long line of cars down the only road out of Yellowknife. Or the unimaginable reality of a fire jumping a lake and heading straight for a tourist town.

It's the stuff nightmares are made of and the people in Canada's north are living it.

As I was watching and listening to news reports, two articles made

me think. First, *The National Post* wrote how the federal government is pleading with Meta to allow news outlets to use Facebook. The feds and Big Tech are locked in a battle over legislation forcing the companies to pay for the content they use from news outlets. Meta has chosen to simply block all Canadian news content.

With 50 per cent of the people in this country accessing news from social media, in a wildfire, that's dangerous. But Meta simply said - meh.

And then, there was the Maclean's article about our changing climate that made me stop in my tracks.

While often people say 'we can't

keep burning fossil fuels like this because it will cause environmental damage' the Macleans article made one simple point that made me pause. What's happening now is our reality; even if we hit every climate target possible, the damage is done and we are now living with it.



Heather Wright

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The Independent

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BRICK WORK WEATHER



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Employees of Doktor Masonry were taking advantage of a sunny day Aug. 17 to repair some of the brickwork on the historic Petrolia St Paul's United Church.

Warwick wants to pay ELCC loan quickly

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick Township hopes to pay off the \$8 million construction costs of the East Lambton Community Complex in five years.

Warwick Township Council approved a plan Aug. 14 which refinances the construction debt from the \$11 million project which opened in October.

The township has a \$9 million construction loan with Infrastructure Ontario but needs to convert it to a secured fixed loan.

A community fundraising campaign raised over \$2 million to help finance the project. Some of that money was donated immediately, the rest was pledged to be given over the next four years.

Treasurer/Deputy CAO Trevor Jarrett, in a report to council said, if

the goal is to pay off the loan as soon as possible, it would be better to look at a loan with bank instead of the government agency.

He talked to Libro Credit Union which has a five year loan with a 20 year amortization period which could give the township the chance to pay off large lump sums to pay down the debt in five years.

The interest rate would be higher, but, Jarrett said, if the town would pay 10 per cent of the loan's principal-\$800,000 - in each of the five years, and perhaps a final principal payment at the end of the year, it would cost the town about \$2.26 million in interest.

A 10-year loan from Infrastructure Ontario would cost \$2.14 million in interest, but the township would be tied to the \$1.01 million yearly payment instead of the \$692,768 which would be mandatory each year

in the Libro loan.

Councillor Wayne Morris said while the Libro plan has a the higher interest rates, it is the better option for taxpayers.

"It's a little bit higher interest, but interest is going up. I think we should lock something in for sure.

"And I liked the idea of being able to pay the extra 10 per cent down and have this thing paid for in seven eight years," says Morris.

Councillor Jerry Westgate wondered if the plan was a bit ambitious. "Are you confident we can do it?"

"I'm 100 per cent confident as long as you scale back your capital projects," Jarrett replied.

That would mean a fire rescue vehicle and some road improvements would have to be put on hold for the next five years.

Council agreed to the Libro loan.

Big Squeeze raises big bucks for Big Brothers/Sisters

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Big Squeeze has given the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program in Sarnia-Lambton a big boost.

Over 60 organizations and businesses raised \$27,109.60 by selling lemonade and treats Aug. 9

MacFarlane Chevrolet Buick GMC raised the most money of anything of the competitors, \$2,200 in total, with the Wyoming Legion and the Lambton OPP also making the top five fundraisers with \$1,270.95 and \$1,250 respectively.

The Imperial City Brew House in Sarnia had the Best Lemonade according to the Big Brother/Big Sister judges. The Central Lambton Family Health Team placed third in that



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Jim Smith at *The Independent's* Big Squeeze Lemonade stand Aug 9.

category.

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LEGION SHADOW



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Bobby ‘The Painter’ Gentile was busy giving the Petrolia Legion branch a new look on Glenview Drive Saturday. Donations paid for the cost of the paint and a mural of the Legion’s Poppies will be completed on the walls in the near future. It’s part of the Legion’s ongoing efforts to upgrade the building.

Petrolia says yes to \$1.5 million tanker/pumper

Enniskillen also needs to approve purchase

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia has given the green light for the local fire department to purchase a new \$1.47 million pumper/tanker truck.

Chief Jay Arns says the pumper/tanker truck would improve fire protection and could save money in the long run for both Petrolia and Enniskillen Township.

Jay Arns pitched the idea Aug. 16 since the current tanker truck is now 25 years old.

At 25 years, the repairs on the trucks and the insurance costs start to rise.

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

“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 slows the flow of water to those 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. The town has a new system with a two minute setup time.

Arns says the new tanker/pumper truck could push 70 per cent more

water - 170 gallons per minute - than the current equipment and “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. But costs have climbed for heavy equipment in the last two years.

In 2022, the Oil Springs department purchased a pumper for \$565,000. 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 now costs \$800,000.

Enniskillen Mayor Kevin Marriott says the proposed price of \$1,479,822.67 is after a 17 per cent discount of \$304,000 for ordering the equipment in advance through a purchasing program with other Ontario municipalities.

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.”

Arns told Petrolia council the pumper/tanker truck would actually save money in the long run.

“This truck will actually replace both trucks permanently,” he says.

“The idea was, instead of having to spend a million dollars now on a tanker and then \$ 1.3 million down the road when we get our replacement the engine, this will put two trucks into one and it will save us the replacement.

“So we will not be replacing the

engine down the road.”

Arns added in his report, “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.”

Councillors wanted to be assured reducing the number of vehicles available wouldn’t harm fire response. Councillor Liz Welsh wondered if the new pumper/tanker broke down, would the department have enough equipment to respond to a fire?

“This will be our first-to (the scene) truck,” said Arns. “But should the truck be disabled? Then, absolutely, we still have a contingency plan in place - that’s not going to slow us down at all.

“Our setup time will be better plus we’ll get the same or more manpower on the scene than we’re already doing now through two trucks” the chief added.

“So, the capabilities will certainly increase our ability to extinguish a fire with that volume of water on a scene initially.”

While Petrolia council gave the okay for the vehicle, Enniskillen Township, which will be on the hook for \$591,929.67 in all, still has to give its stamp of approval. Enniskillen was to have dealt with the issue Monday night however details of the decision were not available at press time.

If Enniskillen agrees, the truck is expected to be completed and delivered to Petrolia by 2026. That’s also when the municipalities would have to pay for the new equipment.

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TINY HELPER



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Felicia Nicol of Sycamore Farms had a tiny helper at the Petrolia Farmers’ Market Saturday. Baby Violet was snuggled up to mom as she served her customers.

Warwick wonders why it doesn’t get job funding

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick Township wants to know why it hasn’t been able to get grants to help pay for the salaries of summer students from the federal government for the past three or four years.

During the Aug. 14 Warwick Township council meeting, Ryan Chamney, manager of parks and recreation, said it had been a minimum of three to four years since the township had received funding for summer students.

And it appears Warwick is not alone; Chamney says there were no summer job grants for municipal governments in Lambton-Kent-Middlesex.

“It’s my understanding it’s been a few years since we have received funding through this funding portal.

But we will submit again for next season... I think it’s also worth noting that there are no municipalities, towns, villages, cities granted funding through the Lambton-Kent-Middlesex stream,” he said.

That compares to Sarnia-Lambton where nine municipalities received funding.

“I think almost everybody over there that asked for funding pretty much got their funding and a great deal with them did,” said Mayor Todd Case.

“And again, when Ryan mentions that nobody in Lambton-Kent-Middlesex riding received funding for students, it seems a little weird and funny at the same time - how next door they would receive funding and we didn’t - I think it’s a question that we need to ask.”

The Independent reached out to the MPs office and received an email which said simply “The decision for funding is made by Service Canada.” But the answer is incomplete.

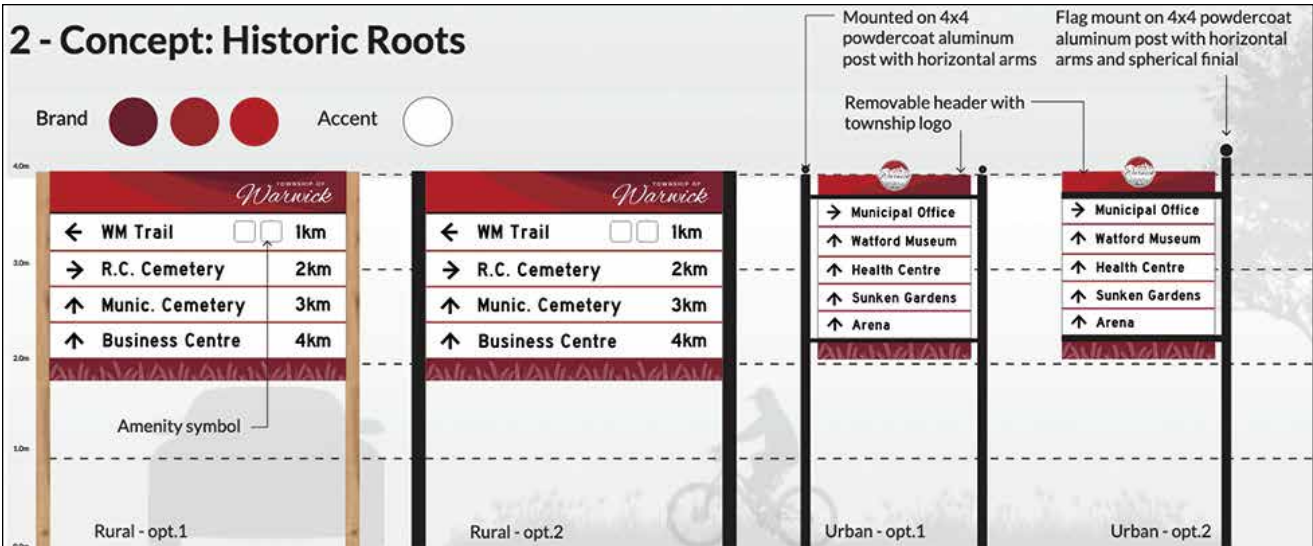
According to the Employment and Social Development Canada website, about the grants, the government says the local MP has a large say in the where the grants go.

“Each Member of Parliament will receive the list of eligible projects for their constituency.

“Based on their knowledge of local priorities and circumstances, Members of Parliament have the opportunity to review the list of assessed projects for their constituencies and to provide feedback to help ensure local priorities are met.”

Council agreed to send a letter to Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Lianne Rood about the issue.

SIGNS HERE



WARWICK TOWNSHIP PHOTO

Warwick Township councillors have chosen the above signs to be placed around the municipality. In 2019, the municipality started talking about putting up wayfinding signs in the community. In 2021, after the municipality was successful in getting a Rural Economic Development grant from the province for up to \$18,000, the planning moved ahead. Aug. 14, council reviewed the choices and picked this group saying the white made it easier to read them. The consultant will now revise the proposal and bring the final product to council Sept. 11.

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SARNIA LAMBTON SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMITTEE, Sarnia Community Foundation, United Way Sarnia-Lambton, GREAT LAKES NEUROFEEDBACK & CONSULTING

PW asked to foot part of tree planting bill

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming Deputy Mayor Netty McEwen says it seems like the municipality will be picking up the tab for provincial spending cuts.

Ken Phillips of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has been meeting with municipal councils talking about the funding shortfall it is facing for its education and tree planting programs.

At Plympton-Wyoming council recently, he explained the conservation authority has spent \$712,227 on the programs in the town over the past five years.

But those programs are now in jeopardy after the provincial government declared they weren't part of conservation authorities mandates anymore and stopped funding them.

"It did come as a big surprise that all theses programs that we've done for years and years were cut so suddenly," Phillips said.

Phillips suggested to Plympton-Wyoming - like the other municipalities he has already visited - the municipality consider contributing about five per cent of the cost to run the programs in the community back to the conservation authority.

In Plympton-Wyoming's case, that would be about \$40,700.

"It just feels like we have to pick up the tab that the province has taken away," said McEwen adding the conservation authority's programs are important and now "somebody else will have to foot the tab."

Councillor Bob Woolvett agreed.

"You guys do a great job and I support everything you do, but here we are again, representing the taxpayers of Plympton-Wyoming and it seems as though, not just with your organization but other organizations too, are coming here with their hands out."

Council did commit to looking at the request during the 2024 budget deliberations.

Gazing into Petrolia's future with survey

Petrolia wants residents to look into their crystal ball.

The town is working on a strategic plan for 2023-2028 and it is asking residents to answer some questions about what they think the town's goals should be. The survey will be shaped into a plan which the council will use "to guide decision making."

The survey asks how people see Petrolia in the next five years and what they would like to see change. It also asks what people like most about their hometown.

Kate Graham of Colliers Project

Leaders is helping to the town to develop the plan.

"The resident feedback is incredibly important to the process as the plan impacts them directly, and we want something that is the very best direction for Petrolia for the next four years." The town's CAO says its also a good time to revisit the vision of Petrolia.

A print copy of the survey is available at town hall and links for the electronic versions can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/PetroliaStrategicPlan.

Brooke-Alvinston doesn't have to give demo OK

Heather Wright
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston doesn't have to create a new policy to stop heritage buildings from being torn down according to its top administrator.

Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek asked council to look into a policy after the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority said it would be tearing down Campbell House - the home of AW Campbell who donated the land for the local conservation area.

It was designated as a heritage home and The Friends of Campbell Park felt that designation was the key to keeping the demolition ball from

leveling one of the oldest homes in the community.

Administrator Janet Denkers said there is already a process in place for repealing historic designations.

"Council at the final stay - yes or no - whether to repeal the act and they cannot tear it down unless we repeal it," added Nemcek. Denkers agreed.

So far, while the conservation authority board approved the demolition, a request to repeal the heritage designation has not come to Brooke-Alvinston. The Friends of Campbell House would like a three year moratorium on demolition to raise funds to repair the historic home.

Stats Can setting up temporary shop in Florence

Heather Wright
The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia will play host to a mobile examination center for Statistics Canada.

Statistics Canada is setting up a mobile examination centre for Canadian Health Measures Survey at the Florence Community Centre starting Feb. 5.

In a letter submitted to council, Jessica Schurm, Advanced Arrangements Officer, wrote the health measures survey has been collecting data since 2007 in 96 cities across the country.

"Through fitness tests, measurements of height, weight, and blood pressure, as well as analysis of blood and urine specimens, Statistics Canada is

producing health indicators which are important tools for Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

To collect the required data, Statistics Canada brings along its own mobile centre and parks it at a collection site where people come to participate in the survey, Schurm wrote.

"The mobile centre requires utilities and services for the safe and successful collection of its data while on site."

The mobile examination centre is three trailers, parked together and connected by corridors creating a single clinic.

Council approved the use of the community centre for the data collection point for the Stats Can survey.

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FAIREST OF THE FAIRS



PHOTO CREDIT

While we're soaking up the last moments of summer, local agricultural societies are getting ready for fall fairs. Emma Wheeler (left) was crowned the 2023-2024 Brigden Fair Ambassador Aug. 13. And in Brooke-Alvinston & Watford, Ashley Podolinsky turned over her crown to Kate Denkers Aug. 15.


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Sports

‘Wow! We really just did that!’

The Independent

“A gold medal with my best friend - it was pretty cool.”

That from Katelyn Finch who along with best friend, Megan Johnston, helped Team Canada win the team championship at the World Dragon Boat competition in Thailand.

They along with Jase and Georgia Peters of Forest were part of the Canadian Junior team that won the Junior Cup beating out competitors from Australia, the US, Thailand, Ukraine, India and China for the top team prize.

The juniors dominated, winning 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.

Finch got started in the sport because of Johnston. Finch had been involved

in sports for years but didn’t find the one thing she loved to do until Johnston suggested she come out to try dragon boat racing.

“I did baseball. I did Taekwondo and stuff, but I didn’t really feel like sticking with it. And then when I saw dragon boats, I just like, fell in love with it. I like being outside and in the water,” she told *The Independent* after returning home from Thailand.

Johnston says they worked together and both tried out for the national team. And she was excited in the spring when they were both named to Canada’s national junior team. “It’s such an exciting thing to actually be achieving our goal.”

Their first race at the competition, the pair struck gold with the women’s team and then posed for the picture of pure joy with their medals. Finch recalls thinking “Wow! We really just did that!”



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Megan Johnston and Katelyn Finch celebrate after their first gold medal win in Thailand.

Johnston and Finch say they plan to continue competing in the sport. There are a couple of more Ontario competitions this year and possibly the next world championship in 2025 in Germany. “If I’m wanting to try out for that again, to be on the national team, I’m going to have to start working for it again soon,” says Johnston.

Drouin named to Hall of Fame

The Independent

Derek Drouin is being inducted to the Indiana University Hall of Fame.

The Corunna high jumper was one of the most dominant athletes to ever wear Hoosiers’ colours.

He is the only student-athlete to ever win five NCAA high jump titles – three indoor and two outdoor.

He also won seven Big Ten titles, was a seven-time All-American, and a three-time IU Male Athlete of the Year.

In his senior season in 2013, he won

the Bowerman Award as college track and field’s top performer, regardless of event, as well as the Jesse Owens Big Ten Male Athlete of the Year.

Drouin, a graduate of St. Pat’s and a member of the Sarnia Athletics Southwest Track and Field Club, attended Indiana from 2010-13.

The Corunna product went on to win a bronze medal for Canada at the 2012 Olympic Games in London and a gold medal in Rio at the 2016 Games.

The induction will take place at the Hall of Fame dinner Sept. 22.



Derek Drouin

Bees sign ex Sting Sproviero

The Independent

The Alvinston Killer Bees of the Western Ontario Super Hockey League has made a big splash with the signing of former Sting fan favourite Franco Sproviero.

The 25 year-old is coming off an MVP season with the Western University Mustangs. He also played a handful of games last year with

Kalamazoo of the ECHL.

The Lambton Jr. Sting grad had 149 regular season and playoff points with the Sting over parts of five seasons in the OHL.

Before jumping to the Sting, he played two season with the Lambton Shores Predators before the Forest-based club relocated to Komoka.

Franco Sproviero



MVP IN NATIONAL TOURNEY

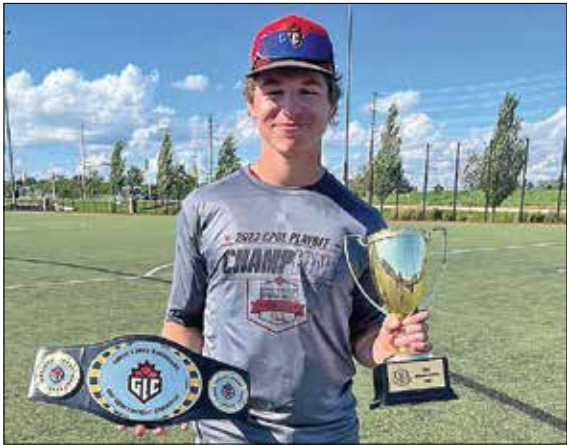


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Petrolia’s Roen Douglas led the Great Lake Canadians to a Canadian Premier Baseball League title. The LCCVI student was named Most Valuable Player in the 15U championship.

McLean named to Firefit squad

Petrolia’s Isaac McLean will be part of the Firefit team at Lambton College for the 2023-24 season.

Lambton will take part in the Lake Huron regional in

Port Elgin on August 26 and 27 as a tune up before hosting the Canadian and World Championships at the Sarnia college from September 13-17.

Sting go back to the future

The Sarnia Sting will turn back the clock to help celebrate its 30th anniversary season in the Ontario Hockey League with a preseason game against the Windsor Spitfires next month.

The teams will tangle at the Pat Stapleton Arena on Wednesday, September 20 at

7:05. What was then the Sarnia Arena (Brock St. barn) was the original home of the Sting for the first three seasons after the team relocated from Newmarket.



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Death Notices

August 13 - August 20, 2023

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

MACKINNON, George “Seymore”
Age: 88, of Watford
Gilpin Funeral Chapel

BORIS, Marissa Elizabeth (nee MacKenzie)
Age: 37
Gilpin Funeral Chapel

ROBERTS, Judith “Judy” Isabel Mitchell
Age: 83
Smith Funeral Home

FRASER, Margaret “Jean”
Age: 94
Smith Funeral Home

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

IAFRATE, Giuseppa (nee Riggi)
Age: 83
McKenzie-Blundy Funeral Home

DA SILVA, Christopher Ferreira
Age: 42
McKenzie-Blundy Funeral Home

DONATO, Fedora Concetta (nee Scarpelli)
Age: 96
McKenzie-Blundy Funeral Home

KAPALA, Doreen Joy
Age: 100
Smith Funeral Home

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

SMITH, Peter “Pete” Herbert
Age: 82
McCormack Funeral Home

LEPAGE, Jean-Guy
Age: 76
McKenzie-Blundy Funeral Home

FERGUSON, Marilyn Lois
Age: 77, of Forest
Denning’s Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

BROAD, Melvin John Raymond
Age: 87, of Sarnia
Steadman Brothers Funeral Home

FRENKOWSKI, Marie
Age: 96
McKenzie-Blundy Funeral Home

BOUCHER, Jean-Pierre
Age: 73
McKenzie-Blundy Funeral Home

BEINTEMA, Andy
Age: 71, of Thamesville
Badder Funeral Home

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

KLAUKA, John Fredrick
Age: 67, of Petrolia
Steadman Brothers Funeral Home

O’BRIEN, Norma Eleanor
Age: 96
McKenzie-Blundy Funeral Home

SHAWNOO, Kevin
Age: 64, of Kettle Point
Denning’s Funeral Home

CHANDLER, Margaret
Age: 84
Badder Funeral Home

HILL, Jessie Irene
Age: 102
Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

EDGAR, Mary Kathleen (nee Bowman)
Age: 93, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

MILNER, Alan Ronald
Age: 96, of London
Smith Funeral Home

VAN VUGT, Kenneth Allan
Age: 80
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

TINLINE, Jim
Age: 85, of Thamesville
Badder Funeral Home

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

WELTEN, Mary (nee Cochrane)
Age: 80, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

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

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Obituary



PIETZ
Waylon Sam

Waylon Sam Pietz, age 4, died a hero on **August 14, 2023**, after battling for several days in the Pediatric Critical Care Unit in London. The world became a brighter place on August 9th, 2019, when Waylon was born. He was a lively, curious, happy boy who viewed life through his own unique lens. His love of windmills will never be forgotten and will be memorialized through Windmills for Waylon. Family and friends of Waylon will remember his contagious laugh, infectious smile, and beautiful blue eyes. Though his life was brief, he leaves a forever lasting impact on those that knew him, and an even larger impact on those who received his gift of life through organ donation. We feel blessed that Waylon was able to help three children and we know his legacy will live on. Waylon is survived by his parents, Madison and Andrew, his brothers Cade and Dallas, Aunt’s Keera, Cassidy and Phoenix, Uncle Kingston and Grandparents Kirsty, Mike, Tedd and Carrie. **Waylon’s family would like to invite our friends and community to join us as we celebrate his life at New Life Assembly (421 Oozloffsky St, Petrolia) on Sunday August 27. Visitation will be from 2:00-4:00, and a service and reception with refreshments to follow at 5:00.** In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Ronald McDonald House in Memory of Waylon at <https://www.rmhc-swo.ca/donate/donate-now>

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Brooke Alvinston Watford Fall Fair

Brigden Fall Fair

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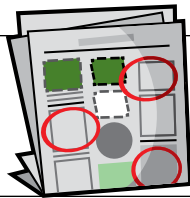
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Pastor Katherine Hawley

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St. Paul's United Church
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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
Sunday Mornings @10:30 am
Pastor: Alex Craig
418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia | Church Office 519-882-2480
email: fbcpetrolia@gmail.com | website: www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca
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Calendar of events

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

CLUBS AND REGULAR EVENTS				
DAY	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Mon	7p	Watford	Darts @ Watford Legion	519-876-2360
Tues	7p	Watford	Euchre @ Watford Legion	519-876-2660
Tues	7p	Petrolia	Petrolia Toastmasters @ St. Andrew's Church	519-381-4910
Wed	6:30p	Oil Springs	Legion Open - cards, pool, darts - 6:30-10pm	519-834-2537
2nd Wed	7p	Petrolia	Bingo @ Petrolia Lion's Hall	519-882-8728
3rd Wed	7p	Sarnia	Monthly Meeting @ Horticultural Society	519-332-5837
3rd 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 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	7pm	Online	LAMBTON BRANCH, ONTARIO ANCESTORS MEETING - Speaker: David R. Elliott- register for Zoom Meeting at lambton.ogs.on.ca – All welcome. For more information email: lambton@ogs.on.ca
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
Sept 25	2pm - 3:30pm	Online	LAMBTON COUNTY BRANCH, ONTARIO ANCESTORS - DROP-IN & CHAT - Zoom Webinar - Everyone welcome. For a link to the meeting visit: lambton.ogs.on.ca - or email: lambton@ogs.on.ca



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FOOD, FASHION,
HOME and more

GRAND OPENING

Fri, Aug 25 - Sun, Aug 27

FREE

\$10 Shopping Card & Laundry Basket*

*Friday only for first 100 customers

Shopping Tote**

**While quantities last



Puritan Stew
Beef, Irish Stew,
Meatball, 410G
\$1.99
ea
LIMIT: 8



Campbell's Soup
Tomato, Cream
of Mushroom,
Vegetable,
Chicken Noodle
284mL
3/\$4
or reg.
price ea.
LIMIT: 9



Burns
Flaked Meat
156G
3/\$5
or reg.
price ea.
LIMIT: 9



Folgers
Ground Coffee
816G-865G
\$8.99
ea
LIMIT: 3

Tub Candy
325G-700G

\$3.99
ea

LIMIT: 6



Beaver
Mix Nuts,
80% Peanuts
190G
\$1.88
ea
LIMIT: 6



Coca-Cola
12x355mL
\$6.29
ea
LIMIT: 3



Bear Paws
Assorted Flavours
168G - 240G
2/\$5
or reg.
price ea.
LIMIT: 6



Arm & Hammer
Liquid Detergent
1.42L - 1.63L
\$6.99
ea
LIMIT: 3

Scotties
Facial Tissue,
2ply 126 Sheets

3/\$4
or reg.
price ea.
LIMIT: 3



Cascades
Enviro Bath Tissue
8 Double Roll
\$5.99
LIMIT: 3

25% OFF

Blankets & Throws

*Regular Priced Merchandise



Storage Totes
68L - 72L
\$12.99
ea



Cesar
Assorted
Dog Food
100G
3/\$5
or reg.
price ea.
LIMIT: 9



See in store for
more daily savings



Breaktime
Assorted
Cookies
250G
3/\$5
or reg.
price ea.

Westinghouse
Batteries
Dynamo
24pk, AA,
AAA
Super HD
48pk, AA,
AAA



\$11.99
ea

Live Comfortably
Essential Silky
Soft Pillow
Standard, 20"x26"

\$6.99



Revlon
Colorsilk
Hair Colour
\$4

While it is our intention to have every advertised item in stock, occasionally an item may not be available due to unforeseen circumstances.