Vol. 11, Issue 7 Newsstand Price \$1.50 per week Thursday, October 19, 2023

## Climbing costs; Petrolia scales back Y plans

Heather Wright
The Independent

The plan to put soccer fields, a washroom, a splash pad and more parking at the Petrolia Y just got more expensive.

Oct. 12, Petrolia council approved a \$1.7 million plan which will see only some of the work completed for the project.

The town had originally expected to spend a \$700,000 grant, and \$233,000 from a budget surplus to complete the soccer fields, washroom, splash pad - which will be paid for by the Petrolia Kiwanis Club over 10 years - and a new yoga and cycling studio addition on the community centre building.

In a report to council, Dave Menzies, director of parks, recreation and facilities, said 31 companies showed an initial interest in the project and eight bid on it, but the rising cost of construction is pushing the cost of the work up.

He suggested - and council agreed - to put off the yoga/cycling studio and do some of the work this fall.

Cope Construction won the tender to complete the infrastructure work of the project including building a new access off Tank Street to the new, 100-space parking lot which will be between the road and the new soccer fields. The company will also put in the infrastructure for both the splash pad - which is expected to be open in May - and the washroom facility.

SEE Y PROJECT PG 3

#### **STRAINING TO THE FINISH**



BLAKE\_ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Stewart Hamilton of Lambton Centennial School strains toward the finish line at the regional Cross Country meet at Petrolia's Bridgeview Park. Connor MacKellar of Brooke Central won the Grade 8 boys event hosted by the Lambton Central Petrolia Optimist Club. See page 9 for more results.

## Petrolia unveils 'A Party 150 years in the making' for sesquicentennial

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia Acting Mayor Joel Field says 2024 is going to be a "hometown reunion" for the people of Petrolia.

The town marks the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the town and the formal creation of the local fire department in 2024 and volunteers have been putting together a slate of events through the entire year. Wednesday, the

town unveiled the year-long slate of events dubbed "A Party 150 years in the making"

years in the making."
The town kicks off the 150th anniversary with a bang Jan. 1 with an Opening Gala at Victoria Hall - the seat of government since 1889. It includes a special performance and reception. "We have a show that excites and interests people looking backward at some of the more famous people who performed on stage here and give everyone an opportunity to

see what is coming the rest of the year," says Laurissa Ellsworth, director of marketing, arts and communication in Petrolia.

Tickets go on sale for the gala Oct. 23.

There will be no shortage of celebrations after that. Every month, the VPP Foundation will be offering free movies for the family. The Petrolia Y will have free swims each month and a birthday party, complete with cupcakes. And for those who

would rather lace up their skates, there will be free skating at the Greenwood Recreation Centre during the regular ice season with birthday cupcakes for people at the rink.

The big weekend, according to Ellsworth is Aug. 15 to 18 when the town hosts The Hard Oil Music Festival. Ellsworth says the festival will bring "big names" to Petrolia, although the organizing committee is not saying which groups just yet.

The music starts Thursday and runs until Saturday.

Sunday, there will be a community worship service and then the Hard Oil Kids Day which includes a concert, giveaways, and lots of things for the kids to do until 4 pm.

Sat. Aug. 17, there will be a Petrolia 150 parade "with green and white as far as the eye can see" and a flyover by the world famous RCAF Snowbirds.

**SEE PETROLIA PG 2** 



## Petrolia plans an 'unforgettable' party

**CON'T FROM PG 1** 

'We're hoping to bring folks from near and far that once called Petrolia home, says Ellsworth.

"It is a homecoming style weekend with the parade and the large music events and the kids and the church events."

Acting Mayor Field is looking forward to the homecoming.

The Petrolia 150 Committee has been working on the project since 2018, with much of the planning taking place after most of the pandemic restrictions eased. But through it all, Field says he kept his distance from the planning, wanting to be surprised.

"The event in August is so exciting. It's going to be like a hometown reunion year - it's just going to be so exciting for people," he says.

"Now people will be able to plan

out holidays ... around some of these events."

The year also closes out with a 'party Petrolia won't soon forget" on New Years' Eve at the Greenwood Recreation Centre. There will be free skating, fun and games, another birthday cake, a DJ and at 8 pm the party moves outdoors for a fireworks display.

Along with the special events, Field says the town's regular festivals such as Pizzafest, Harvestfest and the Christmas Parade- will have a 150th anniversary theme. Field says the organizing committee has "really basically put all our events on steroids."

Community groups will also get into the act, most notably the Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire department. The first act of the new town in 1874 was to pass a bylaw creating the first fire crews. The department plans to mark its 150th anniversary with a couple of events including Firefighter Days where firefighters from the area will be invited to Petrolia in July for some friendly competitions.

The town will host the provincial Town Criers competitions in June. And the Petrolia Enniskillen



Agriculture Society is hosting a special yet to be revealed - event in June.

The town also hopes to mark the special year by opening two new facilities - a new bandshell with accessible washrooms at Victoria Park and a splash pad at the Petrolia Y which is a project in conjunction with the Petrolia Kiwanis Club. Those are slated for May.

"From start to finish, there's something for everyone," says Field.

Ellsworth says a special website has been set up for people to find all the events - www.petrolia150.com. Residents will be able to purchase Petrolia 150 clothing, coins, signs and flags at the site.

A special Mosaic Mural Project is also in the works and downtown business owners will be displaying the history of the buildings in their front windows all year long.

The Independent will be delivering a special 150th Commemorative Edition in January, filled with the history of the community and a guide to the 150th celebration events in the summer.

And Ellsworth says anyone celebrating a special birthday or anniversary can get a commemorative certificate from the town.

While there is still much work to be done heading up to the events, Ellsworth says the Petrolia 150 committee deserves credit for creating events for the people of Petrolia. "This is a birthday party first and foremost, and the celebration is for the residents," she says.

Committee Chair Denise Thibeault says "we are fortunate to have so many passionate and dedicated representatives from a variety of groups, clubs and community members dedicating their time to celebrate.

#### LIBRARY FUN WITH THE WARDEN



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Lambton County Warden Kevin Marriott got on the floor and played with two-year-old Elizabeth Lachance as part of the Toddler Tales story time at the Oil Springs Library on Tuesday morning. Marriott also read a story to the 10 youngsters and their parents. He was on hand to celebrate Ontario Public Library Week.

#### Some of the Petrolia 150 Events in 2024

Jan. 1 - Petrolia 150 Flag Raising at Victoria Hall - 11 am

Jan. 1 - Opening Gala at Victoria Hall - tickets on sale Oct. 23.

Feb. 16-19 - Family Fun Days

April and May - Order of the Easter Star host High Tea at seniors' homes

May 11 - Band Shell Ribbon Cutting at Victoria Park - 11 am

May 18 - Petrolia Splash Pad Grand Opening

June 1 - Pizzafest at Victoria Park

June 7&8 - Town-Wide Garage Sales

June 14-16 - Provincial Town Criers Competition

June 15-16 - Petrolia/Enniskillen Ag Society Special event

June 22 - Dedication of Indigenous Friendship Garden, Victoria Park 11 am

July 1 - Canada Day celebrations

July 12&13 - Art in the Park at Victoria Park

July 13 - Barn Dance at the Petrolia Market

July 19-20 - Petrolia & North Enniskillen Firefighter Days

July 20 - Petrolia Community Theatre and the United Church present a Victorian Wedding

Aug. 1 -17 - The Hard Oil Music Festival at Greenwood Park

Aug. 17 - Petrolia 150 Parade and Snowbirds Flyover Aug. 18 - Community worship service at Greenwood Park, 10 am

Aug. 18 - Hard Oil Kids Day at Greenwood Park, 11 am

Sept. 14 - Petrolia Harvestfest

Oct. 25&26 - IODE Haunted Home Tours

Dec. 6 - Christmas in the Park, Victoria Park

Dec. 7 - Christmas Market at the Petrolia Farmers' Market

Dec. 31 - New Years' Eve Closing Party with fireworks at the Greenwood

Jan. 1 - Flag lowering at Victoria Hall and community blessings

Monthly events include free movies at the VPP, free in season ice skating at the Greenwood Recreation Centre and free swims at the Petrolia Y For more information see www.petrolia150.com

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#### ISSAC THE PUMPKIN PICKER



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Four-year-old Isaac Martens picks out a pumpkin with the help of his mom, Lena Martens on Saturday afternoon. The Optimist Club of Lambton Central-Petrolia was set up in the parking lot of Heidi's Independent Grocer and had 200 pumpkins to give away. The children were encouraged to decorate and carve their pumpkins for the annual Kiwanis Fiery Faces event at Petrolia Discovery or keep it for their own Halloween display.

## Welsh pitches Glenview/Tile Yard boardwalk

Heather Wright
The Independent

Petrolia Councillor Liz Welsh wants the town to look at the cost of building a board-walk for pedestrians using Glenview Drive.

Residents have asked for sidewalks in the area for years. LCCVI students coming from the subdivision often travel the road. It can be particularly dangerous near the bridge over Bear Creek when cars pass. But reports to council have pegged a solution at least \$500,000.

Welsh believes a boardwalk structure could be built on the east side of Glenview/

Tile Yard Road to cross the creek. "(Town council was )presented with options from BM Ross and they were all going to be quite complex and a lot of road work. This would take it right off the road," she says.

"There are examples out there where they use what is called helical piles; they use them in floodplains on boat docks," Welsh says, noting they would be less expensive than rebuilding a road.

"There's always maintenance costs with anything, but there's lots of examples of this being done. Ajax did a really nice one. They have quite a long one actually." Council agreed to ask staff to investigate the idea.

## **Enniskillen prepares for pot rules appeal**

Blake Ellis

Local Journalism Initiative

Enniskillen officials don't know exactly when it will happen, but they're preparing to go to the Ontario Land Tribunal over the township's new zoning rules for cannabis operations.

Enniskillen Pepper has appealed the passage of the zoning bylaw amendment passed in September to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

Enniskillen Township Council was updated on the next steps in the process at its meeting on Oct. 16 as a memo from Township Administrator and Clerk Duncan McTavish was reviewed.

The appeal package has been given to the tribunal and Attorney Ken Strong will represent the township during the appeal. McTavish doesn't expect a hearing date will be determined until the official plan amendment, which was also passed by Enniskillen Township, will be processed by the County of Lambton.

There will be a meeting set up by the Ontario Land Tribunal to review the matter prior to the hearing, to identify the issues prior to the formal hearing.

Once the timeline is set in regards to the appeal hearing, McTavish will arrange a meeting with Strong to go over the status of the appeal

Enniskillen Pepper, owned by Jack and Christine Greydanus, was denied an exemption to the new bylaw, which spells out where a cannabis operation can be set up in the township. Enniskillen Township was unable to make a decision at its Sept. 22 meeting about an exemption on the Lasalle Line property, which had previously home to High Park Farm.

There is no cannabis processing operation on the property currently, but the Greydanus' hoped the exemption would allow for another cannabis operation on the property if the opportunity presented itself. Not having the exemption could be an impediment to selling the property, which is currently up for sale.

## McNaughton going to the races

Heather Wright
The Independent

Monte McNaughton says he wants to grow horse racing in Ontario to create jobs and benefit rural communities.

The former Labour Minister and MPP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex has been named the executive vice president of industry relations and people experience at Woodbine Entertainment, the company announced Tuesday.

McNaughton stepped down from his position as Labour Minister, after 15 years in provincial politics, just before the Ontario Legislature resumed sitting in September.

Woodbine operates two horse racing tracks, one in Toronto and one in Milton, and owns an off-track betting teletheatre network and remote wagering apps. The company has 1,700 employees.

Woodbine CEO Michael Copeland said the former MPP's "expertise and leadership will guide us toward realizing our ambitious goals" including growing the horse racing industry.

Another Woodbine goal is one of the largest property development projects in Canada. The nearly 400-acre project in North Etobicoke will include a privately-funded mass-transit train station and 29,000 homes. McNaughton seems to be focused on the entertainment side of the business.

"As an eight-year-old boy I stood in the winner's circle with family friends who raced horses," McNaughton was quoted as saying in a news release. "The sport has captivated me ever since.

"Together, we will focus on growing horse racing and revenues associated with it, to create jobs and ultimately benefit our communities and families."

## Y project work to be done in stages

**CON'T FROM PG 1** 

Acting Mayor Joel Field says the new fields will be tiled and levelled with the grass being planted in 2024. The large amounts of soil dislodged by creating the fields will stay on site, saving some cash and creating a toboggan hill down the road.

But the project won't be completed this year with large parts being deferred including "asphalt paving of the new parking lot and driveways, seeding of the grassed areas, mulching of the garden areas, and the installation of the soccer pitch fencing," Menzies writes in his report.

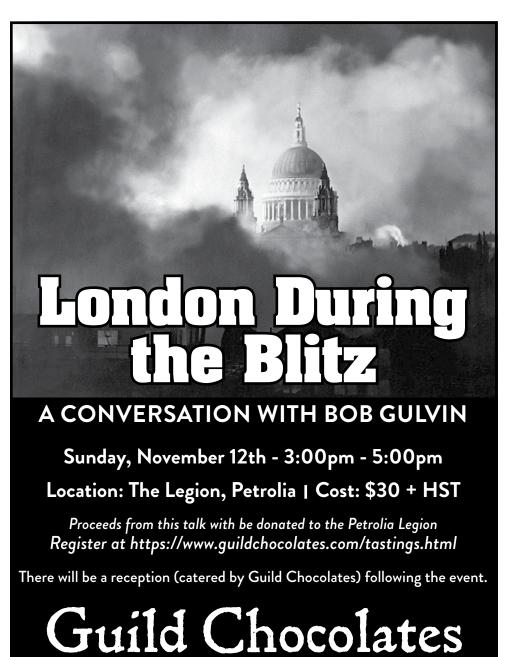
Council agreed that \$1.35 million be spent in the 2023 budget year, with some of the cost of the work done - about \$352,316 -

being paid in the 2024 budget year.

The town will use the grant, the money it originally set aside for the project, \$275,000 from the Tank St. reconstruction budget, and \$145,809 from the service infrastructure budget. The town will use \$273,000 from the Y reserves in 2024 along with \$352,316 in tax dollars to pay the rest of the tab.

Menzies says early in 2024, the project engineers will release another tender for the washroom, pavilion and concession stand with construction expected in the spring. The splash pad will be installed after that.

Menzies says the cost estimates for that work will be discussed during the 2024 budget sessions which normally begin in November.



## **EDITORIAL**

#### The vicious inflation cycle

Even though the rate of inflation rate is on the way down - it's pegged at 3.8 per cent right now everything is still more expensive than it was a couple of years ago.

You need no better example of escalating costs than construction, particularly if it is done on the taxpayer

There are two glaring examples of that in this week's edition.

In Warwick Township - where officials estimate the cost of public construction projects have jumped 60 per cent since the pandemic - a salt shed will cost nearly \$300,000 more than the municipality set aside for the project just a year before.

Warwick had already felt the sticker shock on the project over a year ago and scaled the size of the shed way back. When it went out for tender again this summer, even with extra money in the bank, the scaled back version of the project was over budget.

Officials hope to move ahead by doing the demolition of the old building with staff or another contractor later

In Petrolia, the cost of the new soccer field, washrooms, pavilion, concession stand and splash pad is far more expensive than the town anticipated. It had set aside about \$1 million last year - including about \$700,000 in grant money. Petrolia also scaled back the project, doing a lot of the prep work, but not completing half of what needs to be done and the price still came in at \$1.7 million.

The town is finding money here, there and every where to pay the bill and putting off some of the cost to next year. The rest of the work will also have to be completed next year as well - the cost of that is unknown now.

While we suspect town staff vastly underestimated the scope and cost of the original work, there is no doubt some of the extra costs is due to inflation.

It's a really vicious cycle for taxpayers; we pay for rising costs at home and eventually, municipal governments will have to pass along their additional inflation costs to us as well, making taxpayers pull even more out of their pocket.

It's a never ending cycle, unless municipal governments make a conscious effort to scale back their plans.

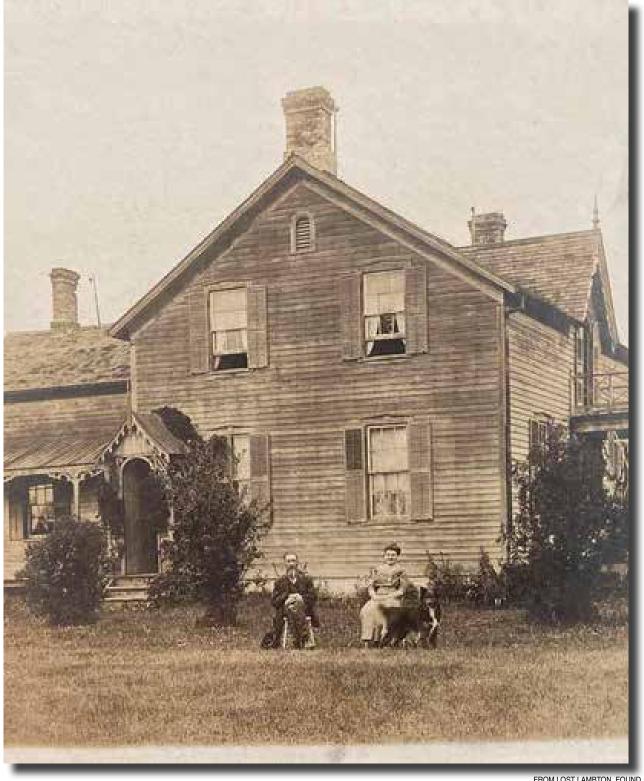
#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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, NON 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**



This photo, from the Facebook group Lost Lambton, Found, is of the Logierait Post office on the Kimball Sideroad just south of Lasalle Line. The home on the west side of the road served the community until the early 1910s with the Sands family serving the community. The building still stands as a private dwelling.

#### CORRECTION

In the Oct. 12, 2023 edition of The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton, the page 11 story about the Bees offer to take over the advertising at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Arena, it was incorrectly stated council turned the request down. Municipal staff recommended the offer be turned down, however council did not discuss the report. It will be reviewed at a later date. The Independent regrets the error and apologizes for any confusion the story caused.



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Iulie Maw

## OPP steps up Oil Springs patrols says Veen

Local Journalism Initiative

Oil Springs Mayor Ian Veen got the face-to-face meeting he was looking for.

Veen and Lambton OPP Inspector Chris Avery have met about increased property crime in Oil Springs and Veen is happy with the outcome.

A public meeting called by Veen was held in September at the Oil Springs Fire Hall. Over 75 people crowded into the back meeting room for the half hour meeting where some anger erupted. People were upset about a couple of vehicle thefts and theft of gasoline from vehicles and at the Oil Springs gas station. Many people came to the meeting and were not aware of the rash of crime.

Some of the ideas that were suggested at the meeting were to create a neighbourhood watch program and to send a petition to the Lambton OPP detachment and Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey, asking for a meeting with Avery. This meeting took place without a petition being sent.

Veen says Lambton OPP stepped up enforcement in Oil Springs and that seems to have lowered the occurrence of crime.

Veen gave a verbal report at the Oct. 10 council meeting, where he said Avery is aware of many of the issues that had led to a spike in property crime in the village in September.

"Things seem to have settled down," said Veen, as not as many complaints have come into the Oil Springs municipal office.

Veen spoke to Avery about the possibility of creating a neighbourhood watch program in Oil Springs. Veen said Avery advised him the program is usually really good for the first few weeks, but over time the program

starts to flatten out and tends to fail. Veen said he was glad the public meeting was held in September, as many people who attended were not aware of the crime that was occurring. With their increased awareness, people have be come more vigilant.

•THE INDEPENDENT

## Warwick bites the bullet, moves ahead on salt shed

**Heather Wright** The Independent

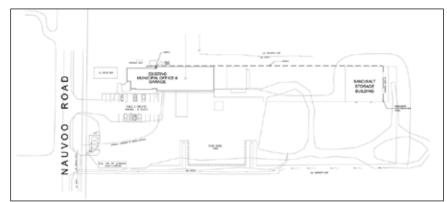
Warwick Township councillors are hoping to shave some of the costs off a new salt garage at the Nauvoo Road yard by putting off the demolition of the current shed.

The township looked at replacing the building during the last term of council, but the cost estimates for the first design were well over budget. So, the staff downsized the building considerably. Council also set aside \$1.1 million for the project in the 2023 budget.

Recently, the tenders came back to council on the building which was 250 per cent smaller than the first plan, and it was still over budget this time by

Treasurer Trevor Jarrett says in the last three years, construction costs have gone up 60 per cent on municipal projects. The salt shed is more expensive because concrete must be used on the bottom half of the building to prevent erosion from the salt. Jarrett says concrete about 50 per cent of the building costs.

Councillor Jerry Westgate suggested the township put off demolishing the old building since the new shed is



The engineers drawing shows where the new salt shed will be located. Township council hopes to lower construction cost by removing the cost of demolition from the contract.

being built on a different spot. "I think the demolition and site work was \$200 or so thousand," he told council. "The demolition can't be done until we have the new one built anyway, so maybe it will be done until next year and we won't have to pay for it until they do the work. So I think we should go ahead and get this done. We've been screwing around with a salt shed for 15 years.

time to replace the aging structure. "Just my two cents worth is that I think this is long overdue as well. As much

as we were all surprised and amazed at this price coming in that much more, I think Councillor Westgate makes a very good point if we can remove that piece of the contract when it comes to dismantling the old building and put it off, it gets it back into that same price range.

Council agreed to let staff try to

completed by April - a new budget year - and it can be paid with 2024 budget dollars.

#### THE INDEPENDENT ONLINE @ negotiate the removal of demolition of the building from the tender. PETROLIALAMBTONINDEPENDENT.CA Mayor Todd Case agreed it was high If that fails, the work is slated to be

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#### Lambton's home for people with dementia may be bigger **Heather Wright** would not fund the renovation of

The Independent

Lambton County hopes to get more provincial funding for its proposed home for people with dementia.

Jane Joris, general manager of long term care for the county, and her staff have been working on the idea of providing a home-like environment for people with dementia to live in community at Meadowview Villa in Petrolia for a number of years.

In March 2021, the province awarded Lambton funding for a unit with 10 long term care beds.

But the development of what is now being called a Small House was put on hold as the county considered whether the entire aging home should be upgraded instead of just completing the

As the need for full renovation was considered, the Small House project planning continued in the background.

When it became clear the province

homes of a certain age, Joris came back to county politicians with the Small House plan.

After visiting a similar project in the US and talking to Ministry of Long Term Care officials in Ontario, Joris suggested the county apply for two more beds for the Small House, so 12 patients could be served.

But that also escalates the price.

The original project was expected to cost between \$7 and \$7.6 million. Joris, in a report to councillors, said the new plan would cost about \$9.8

The costs, she says, are increased because the building will be larger to accommodate more beds, rising construction costs fueled by "post pandemic market conditions" and a "significantly higher volume" of long term care projects being tendered for construction throughout the province.

The Conservative government has promised to building 30,000 new long



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The proposed Small House for people with dementia at Meadowview Villa. Lambton County now hopes to build a 12 bed facility instead of 10.

term care beds to help meet the needs of an aging population in the province.

At its meeting Oct. 4, council agreed to submit a plan increasing the size of the small house to the ministry and to hire a consultant to lead the building project. Joris, in her report to council, says on the small house could begin in the third quarter of 2024.

## Youth summit hears anti-bullying message

**Heather Wright** 

The Independent

"There is a kid bullied every 20 seconds in Canada," said Mike Neuts, who gave an anti-bullying talk at the first ever Youth Engagement Summit on Saturday, Oct. 14, organized by Petrolia's Youth Advisory Committee.

Neuts encouraged the 48 youth between the ages of 12 and 18 who attended the summit to stand up for those being bullied and not be a bystander, saying those who watch bullying taking place without making an effort to stop it are just as guilty as the

Neuts has been giving his anti-bullying message to young people ever since bullying led to the death of his 10 year-old son, Myles.

On Feb. 6, 1998, Myles was found unconscious hanging by his shirt collar and necklace from the hook of a washroom stall at the former St. Agnes Elementary School in Chatham. He died six days later and police determined there were no grounds to lay criminal charges.

An inquest in 2000 was unable to determine how Myles ended up on that washroom stall.

Neuts said it was due to a \$10 bet had made with another student in November about who could colour an assignment about Remembrance Day the fastest.

Myles had won that bet and was still asking for his \$10 from the student shortly before his death.

The reason people often get bullied is because they are different in some way, said

"Do you want to live in a boring world?" Neuts asked those at the summit. "Then why are we picking on people for being different?"

The Youth Advisory Committee, which organized the summit, had its first meeting in May, with the group meeting quarterly. Youth Advisory Committee Co-Chair Ava Horwood was pleased with the summit, saying she would like to have a larger number of youth attending. She is excited for next year's summit, as the

committee

is looking



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO Mike Neuts gave his antibullying message at the Youth Engagement Summit held at the Petrolia YWCA Oct. 14.

to making this an annual event. Horwood wants to see the youth advisory committee become well known in the community. A report will be made to the Petrolia council about the youth summit at a future meeting.

The day long event also had other speakers including Scott Menzies, a graduate of Lambton Central Collegiate and Vocational Institute, who spoke about mental health. Participants also had the chance to talk vendors, as booths were set up for those looking for student employees or volunteers or simply organizations, which serve youth.

Members of the Youth Advisory Committee recognized at the end of the summit included, Breya Burke, Julianna Grant, Debb Pitel, Co-Chair Ava Horwood, Adelaide Close and Co-Chair Matthew Shih.

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## Lambton will foot half the bill for Wyoming light

**Heather Wright** 

The Independent

There will be traffic lights at the corner of Confederation and Broadway Street in Wyoming and Lambton County taxpayers will foot half of the bill. It's now just a question of when.

Plympton-Wyoming council has been trying to have the county recognize the need for the lights because of increased traffic for some time now. But in July, county public works officials sent a letter that the traffic volume at the corner wasn't high enough to install the lights yet and if Plympton-Wyoming wanted them, the town would have to foot the entire bill.

But that didn't sit well with councillors who noted Broadway Street is a county road.

So then Public Works Director - now CAO - Adam Sobanski had Greenlight Consulting do another traffic study of the intersection. What he found led county officials to agree it was time to put signals at the intersection.

"The county has agreed to pay for any costs related to the installation of lights which would include the engineering, the lights themselves and any improvements to the intersection itself to accommodate the new lights," Sobanski told councillors Oct.

"The county has received a rough estimate of the work and they do believe that theyhave the capital funding to accommodate that work through existing budget lines next year. So of course the county budget always has to be endorsed ahead of time, but staff



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lambton County has agreed this intersection at Broadway and Confederation in Wyoming should have traffic signals. Plympton-Wyoming officials hired a consultant to convince the county to foot half the bill.

are comfortable recommending the work moving forward."

Sobanski adds when the lights are installed, drivers on Broadway will have priority.

"A sensing system will have to be put into the asphalt. The asphalt will sense when there are cars sitting at Broadway Street. The lights will not be triggered until the car has sat on Broadway Street for a set amount of time as per the traffic manual and then those lights will be triggered. So through traffic on Broadway will have the predominant right away and the lights won't be activated when there are cars waiting.

The county will likely look at the project during the 2024 budget talks in February.

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## 'It would bring baseball back to Inwood'

**Heather Wright** The Independent

A Brooke-Alvinston councillor says placing a permanent hard-ball pitching mound at a ball diamond in Alvinston would make it impossible for other baseball organizations to use it.

On Oct. 12, staff brought a request to council for a hard-ball mound to be constructed on the south diamond. It was originally purchased by the Alvinston Optimist and was meant to be used for hard ball. According to municipal staff, there are no plans right now for a hard ball team in Alvinston

in 2024

Councillor Jenny Redick voiced her concerns about the project. Redick had been told by locally the diamond could be used for any kind of baseball. But when she visited a diamond in Wyoming, she talked to the president of minor ball there who told her allowing other baseball disiplines to play on the hardball mound would be "dangerous."

Redick is concerned completing the work would mean others would not get to use the diamonds.

"There's a couple people interested in starting a new slow pitch league in Alvinston next year; that would be wiped out. There'd be no tournaments at all." Instead, Redick suggested an alternative.

"My thought ... is for those teams that need a permanent mound for hardball move the hardball to Inwood. Inwood has got a great diamond; we've just got new bleachers over there. They could make that the home of Riverhawks hardball. Put up signage, make that their spot. There's a dugout out there that can leave all their hardball equipment out there. It would bring baseball back to Inwood."

Council asked staff to investigate the idea.



### RHRA steps in at Dresden home

**Pam Wright** 

Local Journalism Initiative

The Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority has appointed its own manager at Dresden's Park Street Place Retirement Residence following a report released Oct. 2.

According to a four-page "management order in extraordinary circumstances" document received by The Voice Oct. 3, short staffing has put the 48 residents who live at the Dresden facility "at risk of harm."

Short staffing has plagued the senior care home for some time, the report stated, but the issue came to a head the morning of Sept. 25 when no staff were available to dispense medications or to provide basic care.

Only a cook, housekeeper and maintenance person were on site as the RPN scheduled to work didn't come in. RHRA officials received a call about the situation at 7 a.m. and an inspector arrived on site at 9:45 a.m.

The report stated that there was "no staff available to care for residents" and that critical medications, such as diabetic insulin, were locked in a cupboard with no key.

Additionally, the report said a resident fell from a wheelchair and was placed back in the chair with no follow-up care.

However, the order said that an RPN who was scheduled to work the afternoon shift came in early to assist.

But Sept. 25 isn't the first time RHRA has been called to Park Street Place. Following an inspection in September 2023, the owners were issued a warning letter Sept. 18 stating residents were not being bathed according to the schedule.

The inspector added in her report that the "licensee's assistant" "knowingly provided false and misleading information" to the investigator about the bathing schedule.

There have been four inspections in 2023; only one was listed as routine.

An anonymous source who has a family member at the home said staff are not to blame.

"There are hardworking people in that building that need some help," the source said, but also noted she may be forced to pull her elderly relative out of Park Street if the situation isn't resolved.

"I clean the bathroom when I visit her," the woman stated. "I noticed that wasn't getting done."

Another source who didn't want her name used said she's heard that staff aren't showing up for work because they are not getting paid.

Phil Norris, communications spokesperson for the Toronto-based RHRA, confirmed that a management order under extraordinary circumstances was made due to critical staff shortages that "may have resulted in harm or risk of harm to residents of the home.

"Whenever there is a situation of harm, or risk of harm, RHRA will not hesitate to take action," Norris told The Voice

Norris said a new manager was appointed with the approval of RHRA on Sept. 26, and will oversee operations at the home until the management order is lifted, noting the manager is retained by the licensee at the company's expense.

According to Norris, the RHRA will continue to monitor the situation to "ensure that residents are receiving the high standard of care that is required under the Retirement Homes Act."

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#### **PLOWING SUCCESS**



Lambton County's Morgan Rombouts was among the best at the International Plowing Match's Queen of the Furrow event. Rombouts, from Warwick Township, placed fifth in the competition at the event in Dufferin County Sept 23.

## **OPP** seize \$37,000 of cocaine in PW

The Independent

Two Sarnia men are facing drug charges after a traffic stop

in Plympton-Wyoming Sunday.

Lambton OPP say officers from the Community Street Crimes Unit had been involved in a drug trafficking investigation that began in September. On Oct. 15, police stopped a vehicle and arrested to two people inside.

When the officers searched the car, they found what they believe was cocaine. It has a street value, according to police of about \$37,000.

Nolan Barr, 22, and Ryan Young, 22, of Sarnia have been charged with possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking. Barr also faces a charge of failing to follow a bail order. The pair were held in custody after a bail hearing Oct.

#### Conagra expands Dresden plant

The Independent

Conagra says it's pumping millions into the Dresden tomato processing plan.

In a news release issued as local farmers were taking this year's crop off the field, Paul Hogan, vice president and general manager of Conagra Brands, said the company has streamlined production and supply chain operations with new software, installed a new evaporator to increase the production of tomato paste and has added the Ro\*tel line of diced tomato and green chili blends.

"These advancements to our Dresden plant represent an investment in Canadians and a continued commitment to expanding our operations in Canada," said Hogan in the news release. "This investment will create more jobs, increase our capacity and ultimately meet the changing needs of our consumers, employees and those of the communities where we live and work.'

The news release goes on to say the changes should allow the company to pack 25 per cent more tomatoes in Dresden.



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## Lambton students improve EQAO scores

**Blake Ellis** 

Local Journalism Initiative

Lambton County students did better in the provincial's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) tests. But some students are still struggling to meet provincial standards, particularly at the elementary level.

The results of the standardized tests were released Oct. 12.

Both the public and separate school board saw improvements in a number of areas.

St. Clair saw a two per cent increase over the previous year's result in Grade 3 reading with 72 percent of students achieving at or above the provincial standard, a two percent increase in writing with 63 per cent at or above

average and a five per cent increase in math with 59 per cent of students at or above the provincial average.

Sixty-five per cent of public students read at or above the provincial average - up four per cent. Fifty-five per cent of students write at or above the standard and 53 per cent are at or above the provincial standard in math - a three per cent increase. .

St. Clair saw a one percent decrease in reading in Grade 6 with 85 percent of students achieving at or above the provincial standard, a three percent increase in writing and an eight percent increase in math, for a total of 47 per cent at or above the provincial standards. Lambton also saw a one percent decrease in Grade 6 reading for a total of 78 percent, with a two percent

increase in writing for a total of 78 percent and a nine percent increase in math for a total of 42 percent.

St. Clair had a one percent increase for Grade 9 math, with a total of 47 percent of students achieving at least a grade of 70 percent or above. In the same category, Lambton Kent had no change in its result as 34 percent achieved at least a 70 percent grade.

There was a seven percent increase in the success rate for St. Clair students taking the Grade 10 Ontario secondary school literacy test, for a total of 88 percent having success. The success rate for Lambton Kent students taking the same test was 78 percent, which was a two percent increase over the previous school year.

### **County of Lambton Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Event**

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County of Lambton Public Works Department 519-845-0801 | 1-866-324-6912 www.lambtononline.ca/HHW



## Public health feeling funding squeeze

The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston Mayor David Ferguson is warning there may have to be cutbacks at Lambton Public Health after the province released funding for the group.

The province has vowed to go back to providing 75 per cent of public health funding, but it is only increasing the funding for health units one per cent in each of the next three years. The county will receive about

\$239,000 more in 2024.

Lambton's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Karalyn Dueck told county councillors Oct. 4. "it will make sustainability difficult." Ferguson suggested that could lead to cutbacks.

And, the province is offering extra funding to health units "voluntarily merging." Lambton opposed forced mergers which were in the works before the pandemic. Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley wants Lambton to continue to operate as it is.

## **SPORTS**

## Petrolia Squires 4-1 after weekend wins BEES SMOKE AEROS

and Steve Farlow recorded two. Sean

Parker was the winning goaltender.

The Petrolia Squires improved to a league-leading 4-1 record on Western Ontario Super Hockey League season with a 6-4 win over the Blitz in Orangeville Saturday.

Ryan Trottier had the hat trick for the winners and added an assist with Kraig Wright adding a goal and two assists. Brendon Merritt and Zach Van Eyk

had the other goals for the Squires. Thomas Moxley had three assists

Trottier now leads the league in scoring with 13 points in five games.

Orangeville scored twice in the final 87 seconds to make the score closer than the game appeared.

Friday at home, the Squires downed the previously unbeaten Strathroy Jets,

The visitors scored first midway

through the first period but the home team never trailed again, scoring twice in each of the three periods.

TJ Harris scored twice for the Squires while Brandon Biggers added a goal and two assists and Cole Harris contributed a goal and a helper. Corey Pawley and Merritt also scored for Petrolia.

The Squires host Delhi Friday at Greenwood at 8:30.

## Flyers score late to beat Irish, Flags lose heartbreaker

Derek Esselment's goal at 16:22 of the third period lifted the Petrolia Flyers to a 2-1 win over Lucan.

Dylan Campbell had the other Petrolia marker Thursday night. Ethan Everaert made 25 stops as the Flyers outshot Lucan, 30-26.

Friday, the Flyers fell 3-0 to the Hawks in Exeter. Petrolia is at home to the North Middlesex Stars Thursday and visit Port Stanley Saturday. The Stars are second in the Yeck division

with an 8-1 record. The Flyers are 2-6 and the Sailors are 1-5.

Meantime, the hometown Blenheim Blades scored a power play goal 57 seconds into overtime to beat the Mooretown Flags, 1-0 in PJHL action Sunday. John Chartrand deserved a better fate after making 52 saves in the loss.

The Blades, with Alvinston's Hayter brothers on its roster, is now 7-0 on the

Chartrand made 42 stops in a 5-4 loss to division-leading Essex Saturday at the Moore Sports Complex.

Kaleb Edlington, Ethan Kerby, Lleyton Ticknor and Tristan Konrad scored for the Flags and Dylan Dupuis added three assists. The goal by Ticknor was his first in the PJHL.

Mooretown has lost five straight games but the last four setbacks have all been by a single goal. The Flags, take on Amherstburg Sunday.

#### RED AND WHITE WIN



Tyler McGrail avoids a Tartan defender during LCCVI's Red and White Game. LCCVI is now 1-1 on LKSSAA AA high school football after a 24-23 homecoming victory over Wallaceburg in Petrolia Thursday. Nolan Patchett, Joey Taylor, and Tyler Collins scored touchdowns for the winners with Tyler McGrail adding a two-point conversion. Hunter Duncan kicked a field goal and added a single. LCCVI hosts Great Lakes on Oct. 25.

#### Redick heads to OCAA tourney

Alvinston's Sydney Redick had a big weekend to close out the OCAA women's softball regular season.

She went 6-for-10 at the plate over the final four games, all victories for the Oshawa-based Durham Lords. She also scored six runs and had 11 RBI.

Redick also improved to 4-0 on the slab with an ERA of 1.01 by going 5.2 innings of work against Seneca. She didn't allow an earned run and struck out six.

Durham ends the regular season with a record of 22-2. They open play at the OCAA tournament this Friday in Etobicoke.

Meantime, Lambton College, with a strong Central Lambton presence on its roster, fell one win short of making the playoffs.

### **Briefly: Sting win Battle of 402**

Jack Helps of LCCVI tied for 48th place in the 70-person field at the Ontario high school golf championships in Windsor. Helps had rounds of 93 and 90.

LCCVI's Yarko Zelenchuk is competing Wednesday at the SWOSSA tennis championships in Chatham. He qualified with a third-place finish at the LKSSAA championships.

The Sarnia Sting has drawn first blood in the battle of the 402. The home team beat the London Knights, 5-3 Saturday. Sandis Vilmanis and captain Cooper Way scored their first goals of the season in the victory. And after helping Canada win gold at the World junior championship as an assistant, Sting's Alan Letang returns to take the reins as head coach this year in Sweden.



Connor MacKellar of Brooke Central claims the Grade 8 Boys title Oct. 11.

### Central Lambton runners win

The Independent

Bright's Grove Public School won five team titles and two individual championships and Central Lambton runners took home some of the top prizes at the Optimist elementary cross country event in Petrolia.

Luke Callendar and Brandon Rawana of Brights Grove captured the boys' Grade 5 and 6 titles. Hudson Veenema of St. Philip in Petrolia, Rhys Marriott of Lambton Centennial and Connor MacKellar of Brooke Central took home individual titles.

On the girls side, the winners were Harper Chapman of Brooke Central, Plympton-Wyoming's Josie Kelders, Taylor Pullen of Queen Elizabeth II, Sarnia, Khloe Baron of Queen Elizabeth II, Petrolia and St. Philip's Kylie Bell.

Other team winners were Hillcrest, Lambton Centennial, Plympton-Wyoming and P.E. MacGibbon.



Brennan Feasey is earning his keep as a rookie with the Alvinston Killer Bees. He notched four goals, including a highlight reel between the legs marker in a 6-3 triumph over Dunnville in Alvinston's WOSHL home opener Saturday which featured the players making a fiery entrance. Feasey now has seven goals in two games and leads the league in goal scoring. Michael Elliston and Zach Berriault also scored for the Bees. Jacob Chandler had three assists and Ethan Lamoureux registered two helpers. Nolan DeKoning made 21 saves. The Bees jumped out to a 3-0 lead after 20 minutes. Dunville cut the gap to 4-3 before Elliston's insurance marker with a second less than five minutes to play in the final frame. Feasey iced the game with an empty net marker. The Bees are on the road this weekend.



**Classified Deadline:** Monday @ 12 noon

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**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10** 

**LUCAS, Golda Bernice** 

Age: 84 D.J. Robb Funeral Home

SELINGER (LaPier), Sarah Ann "Sally"

Age: 88 McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

KREVIAZUK, Catherine "Kay"

Age: 89 Smith Funeral Home

**FERGUSON, Eileen Grace** 

Age: 98

Smith Funeral Home

LYTTLE, Tom Age: 77 Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

**BENOIT, Jacqueline** 

Age: 53 of Sarnia McCormack Funeral Home

**COOPER, Doreen** Age: 85

Denning's Funeral Home

**BARNEVELD, William George** Age: 88

Smith Funeral Home **CAMPBELL, Gerry** 

Age: 70 of Alvinston Van Heck Funeral Home Ltd

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

LECKIE, Robert "Bob" Niel

**Age: 77** Needham-Jay Funeral Home

SERRATORE, Joseph Age: 89

McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home JOHNSTON, Kenneth

Roderick

Age: 68 Smith Funeral Home

RABIDEAU, Wayne Kenneth

Age: 79 Smith Funeral Home

**BARCLAY, Mary Ellen (Smith)** 

Gilpin Funeral Chapel

**CHURCHILL, Michael Keith** Age: 73

McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

SWOBODA, Frank Joseph Age: 64

Denning's Funeral Home **LEONARD, Joyce Eulalie** 

Gilpin Funeral Chapel

Oct. 10 - Oct. 17, 2023 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

> **NEELY, Lila Marie (nee Powell)** Age: 79 Needham-Jay Funeral Home

**BEAUCHAMP, John Louis** Age: 61 of Courtright

Knight Funeral Home McKENNA, John "Jack"

Richard

Age: 92 of Corunna Knight Funeral Home

MINIELLY, Ivan

Age: 80 Denning's Funeral Home

**WHITE, Arthur Robert** 

Age: 89 Smith Funeral Home

KOTANEN, Norma Alma

Age: 93 Smith Funeral Home

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 REDMOND, Richard Whitney** 

Age: 91 of Oil Springs Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

MARTIN, Nadine Age: 68

Smith Funeral Home

LOZON, Leonard "Lenny" Age: 80

Badder Funeral Home

**SACERTY, James Robert Glen** Age: 89

D.J. Robb Funeral Home

**MACEDO, Maria Virginia** 

McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

**LUNDEHN, Elsie Marie** "Omi" (nee Fischer)

Age: 98 Denning's Funeral Home

CLARK, Kathleen

Age 99 of London Gilpin Funeral Chapel

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

SIMPSON, Ruth (nee Busteed)

Age: 95

Van Heck Funeral Home Ltd KRISTIANSEN, John

Age: 86 of Parkhill Gilpin Funeral Chapel

**PARSONS, Liz** 

Smith Funeral Home

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16 **BARTON, Charlotte** 

Age: 91 Smith Funeral Home

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For detailed information, please refer to the funeral home website listing

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#### **Lost And Found**



#### These sunglasses are looking for their owner.

If you had visited The Independent office week of Oct 2nd - 6th you left these behind.



Trevor Reading (left) and Charlie Kelders, product specialists with Forever Furniture present a cheque to Paul Valiquette (right) for \$2,000 to St Vincent De Paul, Petrolia. Valiquette, president of St. Philip's Conference said the funds will be used to help clients pay rent and utilities. St. Vincent's also supports the Petrolia Food Bank, Christmas for Everyone and the Community Refrigerator. Those needing assistance can contact the organizaton at 519-882-2057 ext. 200.

#### ADVERTISING = **POLICY**

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#### **Draw Winners**

#### Moore Agricultural Society would like to announce the winners of two draws at the Brigden Fair.

Marilyn Mullen was the winner of the Homecraft Annual Quilt Raffle. The winner of the Harvest of Gold 50/50 draw was Suzette Doyle \$4347.50

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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

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

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

Rev. Carol Ferguson

## **First Baptist Church**

In Person Church Service Sunday Mornings @10:30 am

Pastor: Alex Craig

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

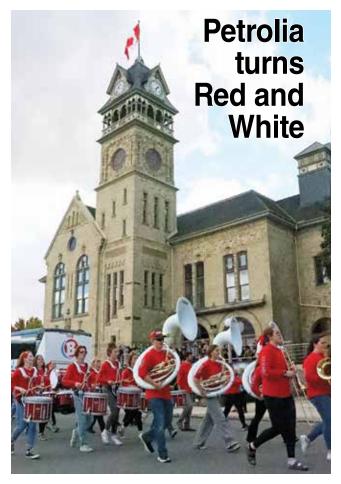


## Calenda DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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** LOCATION EVENT **CONTACT INFO** Darts @ Watford Legion 519-876-2360 Watford Mon 7p Euchre @ Watford Legion Watford lues Tues 7p Petrolia Petrolia Toastmasters @ St. Andrew's Church 519-381-4910 2nd Wed 7p Petrolia Bingo @ Petrolia Lion's Hall 519-882-8728 3rd Wed Monthly Meeting @ Horticultural Society 7p Sarnia 519-332-5837 Music Jam, lunch at noon @ Petrolia Legion 519-882-1557 3rd Wed 1p Petrolia 3rd Thurs 7p Oil Springs Optimist Meat Bingo @ Youth Centre 519-834-2152 Brigden Pool Night @ Brigden Legion 519-864-1395 Fri 7p Meat Raffle, 50-50, CTA @ Watford Legion Fri Watford 519-876-2360 Lunch 12-3 or until sold out @ Petrolia Legion 519-882-1557 Sat 12p Petrolia Meat Raffle @ Petrolia Legion 519-882-1557 Sat 2p Petrolia Sat 3:30p Meat Raffle @ Forest Legion 519-786-5357 Forest 6р Alvinston Catch The Ace @ Alvinston Legion 519-898-2100 Sat NEW LEGION HOURS: Thurs 6-9p; Fri 6-9p; Raffle Saturdays Brigden 4-8p; Non-Raffle Saturdays 6-9p

**UPCOMING EVENTS** START TIME LOCATION **EVENT/ CONTACT INFO** DATE ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARY WEEK: "LIBRARIES FOR LIFE" - for more info visit www.lclibrary.ca or Lambton contact: Darlene Coke - Manager, Library Services 519-845-0809 ext. 5238, email: darlene.coke@county-Oct 20 County lambton.on.ca THE GREAT WAR IN COLOUR WITH ANDREW ROBERTSHAW @ Sarnia Library Theatre - For ages 14+ 11am -For more info visit; www.lclibrary.ca or call: Vanitia Campbell @ 519-845-0809 ext. 5237, email: vanitia. Oct 19 Sarnia 12:30pm campbell@county-lambton.on.ca **CANSCAIP IN THE GROVE: THE ART OF PICTUREBOOKS CONTINUES** @ Gallery in the Grove. In partner-Bright's Oct 21 11am - 2pm Grove ship with CANSCAIP - For more info visit www.galleryinthegrove.com or call 519-869-4643. SYNERGY 150 CONCERTS PRESENTS: "SOMEWHERE IN "OUR" MEMORIES" @ Camlachie United Church For tickets: Phone the church office at 226-776-1222 or Mary Jean at 519-786-3075 or Barb at 519-312-Oct 27 Camlachie 7pm 3618 Or send an Email with your request to: camunitedevents@gmail.com **VENDOR SHOW** @ Wyoming Legion 493 Erie St. Wyoming. Over 30 great vendors, Free Admission, Lunch 9am -Wyoming Oct 28 2pm Available from the Ladies Auxiliary. Hosted By the Wyoming Legion Ladies Auxiliary. SYNERGY 150 CONCERTS PRESENTS: "SOMEWHERE IN "OUR" MEMORIES" @ Camlachie United Church Oct 28 Camlachie For tickets: Phone the church office at 226-776-1222 or Mary Jean at 519-786-3075 or Barb at 519-312-2pm 3618 Or send an Email with your request to: camunitedevents@gmail.com **DROP-IN & CHAT - ZOOM WEBINAR** Presented by Lambton County Branch, Ontario Ancestors. For a link to 2pm -Oct 30 Online the meeting visit lambton.ogs.on.ca or email lambton@ogs.on.ca 3:30pm CRAFT & GIFT SHOW Presented by Optimist Club of Lambton Central - Petrolia. New Life Asembly Church, 9am -Nov 4 Petrolia 421 Oozloffsky St., Petrolia. Lots of vendors! Free admission. Visit @www.lcpetroliaoptimist.org or facebook.



Hundreds of LCCVI students paraded through Petrolia Thursday for the annual Red and White Day. Students and teachers dressed in the school colours - some carrying signs – made a loop through town for a prefootball rally, complete with school clubs (below) and kids sporting their Lancer jerseys. The marching band and drum line entertained school kids and theatre goers at Victoria Hall while passing by and Vice Principal Scott Watson tries to straighten the balloons on Lance's float, which was being pulled by a lawn tractor driven by Principal Greg Nemcek. The LCCVI football team topped off the day with a win over the Tartans.







## Petrolia chocolatier wins national acclaim again

The Independent

Call her the caramel queen. Jaclyn Sanders – the chocolatier behind Petrolia's Guild Chocolates has earned national acclaim winning gold, silver and bronze for her chocolate enrobed caramels the International

Chocolate Awards announced this week.

The Earl Grey variety won gold, the coffee caramel won silver and the passion praline won bronze in the category in the International Chocolate Awards Canadian Craft Chocolatier competition this month.

Sanders also won silver for Haskap, Strawberry, Goat Cheese in the flavoured white chocolate ganaches or truffles category.

Sanders is entering the chocolate creations in the World Finals of the International Chocolate Awards in Italy for judging in October and November.

## Lambton long-term care homes have COVID outbreaks

The Independent

Lambton County's long term care homes are once again dealing with COVID-19 outbreaks.

Six homes have had cases of the virus since mid-September and are still in active outbreak including

Meadowview Villa in Petrolia which has less than five cases in residents and staff members according to statistics from Lambton Public Health Oct.11.

The largest outbreak was at Watford Quality Čare where 33 residents have tested positive as well as some staff members.

Albany Retirement Village in Petrolia also had 23 cases of the virus. Brookside Retirement, Trillium and Sumac Lodge are all also dealing with outbreaks.

There were nine people in hospital with COVID-19 – none in intensive



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