

LEANING INTO THE FINALS



Joey Taylor has some resistance while crossing the goal line during the Lambton-Kent Varsity Football semi finals against Wallaceburg Friday. Taylor had two rushing touchdowns in the LCCVI Lancers win over the Tartans. For more on the game see page 13.

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Aussie cannabis growers in Enniskillen

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The Independent has learned a major Australian cannabis producer is renovating the Lasalle Line greenhouse in Enniskillen which once housed High Park Farms. That is despite the fact Enniskillen Township failed to pass new zoning rules which would allow cannabis production to continue in the Enniskillen Pepper Company greenhouse. Tilray - the parent company of High Park farms - moved out in September 2021. Jack and Christine Greydanus - who own the greenhouse - put it up for sale and it had been on the market a year when the signs came down in mid-October. In the last two weeks, vehicles have been parked in the lot and fencing had been removed and replaced.

SEE CANNABIS PG 2

Nepotism ‘embedded’ at public board: report

Blake Ellis  
Local Journalism Initiative

Nepotism and favouritism is embedded in the culture of the Lambton District School Board. That’s just one of the findings in an 124- page Equity Audit Report commissioned by the board. Earlier this year, LKDSB hired Turner Consulting Group to conduct an equity audit, in an effort to strengthen inclusion, diversity and champion an anti-oppressive education. The stated goal of the report - released at the Nov. 14 board meeting - is to “increase diversity, develop equitable policies and practices and create a truly inclusive organization.” And while the recommendations are there to reach the goals, the audit shows there is a long way to go, particularly in the minds of the board’s own employees.

SEE NEPOTISM PG 2

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# ‘Nepotism and favouritism impact hiring...pervasive’ at public board says report

## CON’T FROM PG 1

Employees interviewed by the consultant said it was not uncommon to work beside the child of a senior administrator and they felt the board was only going through the motions to appear to be equitable and inclusive.

The equity audit involved consultant-led focus groups, an online workplace equity and inclusion survey, and one-on-one interviews with nine senior leaders and four union representatives. In total 650 employees participated in these consultations, representing about 20 percent of the board’s approximately 3,300 employees. “At this level of participation, there is a high level perspective of the board’s policies, practices and organizational culture and their impact on employees,” states the report.

It found that the public board employees felt there are “gaps in the representation of Indigenous peoples, racialized people, persons with disabilities and 2SLGBTQ+ individuals in the LKDSB

workforce. Employees also shared their concern that the board’s workforce does not reflect the diversity of its students.”

Employees also believe “nepotism and favouritism impact hiring and advancement at the LKDSB and that they are in fact pervasive in the organization’s culture.

“In addition, many shared their perception that the hiring process is unfair, difficult to navigate, and creates barriers to the hiring of candidates from Indigenous communities and the equity-seeking groups

“Some felt the nepotism and favouritism was so embedded within the culture of the board that these employees believe ‘that’s what the board is known for.’”

The report found many believed because the board is smaller in size, it is easier for these relationships to become known by staff and those in the community. Some employees also believe being a former student at LKDSB or having family or

another personal relationship had a positive impact on their ability to secure a position at the board.

Some also shared stories of people getting hired because of relatives at LKDSB or that it is not uncommon to be working along side the child of a senior leader.

“In addition, Indigenous and racialized employees also noted that while working in small communities is a positive, they are perpetually seen as outsiders and are not always welcomed in the community or within all LKDSB work environments.”

Some employees shared that they believed that LKDSB’s “commitment to equity is performative” and the current equity efforts have made little real change.

The report cites employees who felt the senior leaders do not demonstrate the support for equity and leadership needed to create change at the board.

This also impacts those who are supported to advance in the organization according to Turner

Consulting.

People who do advance feel the focus is on building relationships rather than skills and knowledge. This is a disadvantage to Indigenous and racialized employees who may not be in the same social circles or may be excluded from social networks at the public board.

The consultants also found LKDSB staff says the administration does not listen to its employees. Employees feel disrespected and are upset that decisions are made without consulting with the workforce.

The equity audit also found there are employees who are not supportive of the board’s equity efforts, believing it is wasteful and unnecessary and divisive in the workforce.

“Some shared that this resistance to equity from staff and community, coupled with the lack of diversity in the community, contributes to the difficulty the board experiences in attracting and retaining Indigenous staff and staff

from the equity-seeking groups.”

The consultants made 83 recommendations to the board including calls for LKDSB to develop an employee equity strategy, particularly in hiring practices, which will diversify the workforce.

“Those involved in the hiring process must be supported to recognize and mitigate their unconscious biases and to understand the value that diversity brings to the workplace and to students,” the consultant says, adding they need tools including “policies to ensure that hiring is not based on who you know, but rather what you know.”

In his action plan report to trustees, Superintendent Gary Girardi said “Creating an inclusive organization is therefore no longer the “nice” thing to do but rather the smart thing to do ... to attract, retain, and benefit from the best talent and to create inclusive learning environments for students.”

•THE INDEPENDENT

# Cannabis grower at work on Lasalle Line

## CON’T FROM PG 1

While there is no signage on the building, but *The Independent* has recently seen proof Cannim Canada has taken up residence - letters addressed to Cannim Canada at 4376 Lasalle Line.

Enniskillen Township politicians were surprised to hear another cannabis producer appears to be setting up shop.

Councillor Mary Lynne McCallum spoke out about light and smell issues when High Park was the greenhouse tenant. She also pushed to have the municipality pass new rules forcing cannabis greenhouses at least 300 meters from housing.

The Lasalle Line greenhouse is directly across the road from the Brand farm. They have actively fought against the light and smell issues with High Park.

Trevor Brand also recently spoke out against a proposed site specific zoning for the property which would have allowed cannabis to continue to be grown there.

That proposal failed - by a two-two vote - in September.

McCallum was floored by word Cannim is working inside the greenhouse.

“It’s extremely frustrating,” she tells *The Independent*. “It doesn’t belong there. It’s never belonged there with residential so close.

“It’s been an issue since the day it opened and I do not want to see it back there.”

McCallum is also wondering how the company can begin work since the Greydanus’ have launched an appeal to the zoning changes which would have stopped cannabis production at the site. The Ontario Land Tribunal will begin meetings on that case Dec. 11.

“Everything is stalled, like building permits and everything is stalled until it goes to the OLT. So, I don’t know how they’re getting... around that to be honest.”

Mayor Kevin Marriott also said he was not aware another cannabis company was at work in the greenhouse. He’d heard Enniskillen Pepper Company was going to grow mini-cucumbers there.

“I said to myself, ‘well, that’s weird because to grow any vegetable, it was gonna take millions of dollars to convert it.’”

The Greydanus’ told council earlier this year without the site specific zoning to allow them to bring a cannabis producer in, they may be unable to find a buyer since vegetable growers cannot use former cannabis greenhouses without a lot of costly renovations.

Marriott said Enniskillen Pepper Company had not told them about Cannim and he’s surprised the company appears to be doing renovations to the property.

“If they are renovating (they) must be pretty confident” that they’ll win the appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal. “Or they’re taking a chance.”

Cannim is not a stranger to southwestern Ontario. In Dec. 2021, it announced a merger with Chatham-Kent based Medisun in a \$12 million deal. The company produced 1,000 kg of medicinal quality cannabis a week from its five acre greenhouse in Grande Point.

A news release at the time said “significant orders” had been secured from the company and were expected to be delivered in the first quarter of 2022.

But the relationship soured and Medisun closed the greenhouse. Sources say Cannim “was not good at paying” for their products.

*The Independent* has reached out the Australian cannabis producer over the last two weeks, including five calls to the Cannim Canada number which goes directly to voice mail.

Several emails requesting comment have gone unanswered.

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# Hackers have 20k Lambton SINs

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Bluewater Health says up to 20,000 patients’ social insurance numbers taken in the ransomware attack.

The Oct.23 attack by the ransomware gang Daixin locked five southwestern Ontario hospitals out of their computers leading to surgeries, appointments and cancer treatment being delayed or cancelled. While the hackers made their way into the systems of five southwestern Ontario hospitals and multiple health care agencies, Bluewater Health bore the brunt of the impact.

After refusing to pay a ransom for information to unlock the systems, Daixin started releasing the information on the dark web.

The hospital, in a news release Nov. 9 confirmed the theft of a database report containing information about 267,000 patients dating to 1992. Included in that breach, 20,000 social insurance numbers of patients who used the Lambton county facilities.

Officials said the report included information about every patient seen since February 24, 1992 at Bluewater Health; Lambton Hospitals Group; Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital; Sarnia General Hospital; and St. Joseph’s Hospital. The database report may include patients’ names, address, contact information, date of birth, demographic information, the reason for their visit and notes on prior visits as well as the social insurance numbers.

People whose SINs were taken will hear directly from the hospital as required by laws governing the privacy of health information.

The hospitals have been in contact with the Ontario’s Information and Privacy office as required by the Personal Health Information Privacy Act. It also requires health care providers to take precautions to safeguard against theft, loss, as well as

unauthorized collection, use, disclosure, copying, modification or disposal of your personal health information. Health care organizations must “notify you, at the first reasonable opportunity, of the theft or loss or of the unauthorized use or disclosure of personal health information” and “of any uses and disclosures of your personal health information that occurred outside of their information practices and without your consent.”

Bluewater Health will directly notify all those whose SIN was included in the database report, and will provide them with two years of credit monitoring.

Cyber security experts say personal data, including SINs, is plentiful and cheap on the dark web and is easily found by criminals who either want to extort money from people or who are trying to set up new identities.

Under regular circumstances, Canada Revenue Agency warns people not to provide SIN numbers on job applications or rental agreements saying in the wrong hands, your SIN could lead to an invasion of privacy, identify theft, loss of government benefits, tax refunds or bank credits. The CRA says if someone uses your SIN to commit fraud, it could ruin your credit rating or someone could also use your SIN to work illegally and the CRA would come looking for the income tax on the income you did not receive.

The CRA recommends people use a credit bureau to track your banking and credit card statements and if you notice any suspicious activity, CRA says to contact police and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre immediately.

If you have been affected by the data breach you have the right to file a complaint online with Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner.

A patient cyber security hotline has been established at 519-437-6212 (8 am to 11 pm Monday through Friday). Staff questions can be directed to their HR teams.

## Hack delaying long-awaited health care

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Chrissy Jackson had been waiting since July for an MRI to figure out the extent of the damage in her shoulder. But she, like many other Lambton County patients, will have to wait a lot longer to get the answers they need.

The Petrolia area woman had an MRI scheduled for Nov. 17 but got a call Nov. 12 saying it had been cancelled after the ransomware attack at Bluewater Health.

And Jackson hasn’t been given a time when she might be scheduled for another appointment. “All she said was ‘I’ll keep your request and call you when we can reschedule.’ No time line what so ever.”

Jackson is not alone. TransForm Shared Services - the IT manager for area hospitals - says many appointments, cancer treatments and surgeries have been delayed in the wake of the attack. In a news release, TransForm says because of the shutdown of the system, doctors may not have access to past patient records, medical histories, medication lists, reports from specialists on the case or pre-admission blood work.

“To ensure safe care, some physicians will have to cancel procedures if, in the absence of important information, they feel it is unsafe to proceed. If this is required, physicians will do their very best to reschedule as quickly as possible,” Transform said.

However, as quickly as possible seems to be over a month away.

TransForm says it will take some time to bring hospital computer systems back up to speed.

“We can confirm that the restoration process is on track. While it will still take some time before all affected critical systems are completely online, our teams are working around the clock to ensure the process is progressing as quickly and safely as possible. We are also working with leads at each hospital for a seamless return to service.

“This restoration is expected to be complete by mid-December. Delays will be reduced for patients once digital charting is restored. Please note that some patients and families may still experience diagnostic and treatment delays while we work to restore all systems.”


Jackson says she was told by her physiotherapy provider it may be mid-December before she hears when she might have a new appointment for an MRI on her shoulder. And she’s been told some people are being sent to regional hospitals not affected by the hack for help.

“Sadly, I don’t know anything at this point. I’m going to call my surgeon because I’m hearing that some patients are being sent to London, Strathroy and even over to the US,” she said.

But even with all the confusion and delays, Jackson says she’s better off than most.

“My MRI isn’t a life or death situation, but I feel for those whose is.”

### Notice of Public Information Session 2



### Twin Creeks Environmental Centre Landfill Optimization Project Environmental Assessment

November 29 & December 5, 2023 | 4 - 8 PM

Twin Creeks Environmental Centre  
5768 Nauvoo Road, Watford, ON N0M 2S0

WM Canada (WM), the owner and operator of the Twin Creeks Environmental Centre (TCEC) in Watford, Ontario, will be hosting **Public Information Session 2** for the TCEC Landfill Optimization Project Environmental Assessment (EA).

There are approximately 8 years of approved landfill airspace capacity remaining at the TCEC (i.e., capacity will be reached in approximately 2031). The Project would provide additional airspace of approximately 14 million cubic metres, which could extend the site life by approximately 12 years (from 2031 to 2043), and may be achieved through alternative landfill configurations or alternative methods within the existing 301 ha TCEC site area. No changes are proposed to the size of the TCEC site area, approved service area, or annual fill rate.

The purpose of the EA is to assess the potential effects of the Project on the environment.

For additional information on the project, please visit the project website:  
[www.wm.com/ca/en/twin-creeks-landfill/landfill-optimization-project](http://www.wm.com/ca/en/twin-creeks-landfill/landfill-optimization-project).

**Public Information Session 2** is being held to:

- Provide an update on the EA
- Present a screening of Alternative Methods
- Provide a summary of Existing Conditions
- Present next steps in the EA Process
- Obtain your input

We value your engagement and look forward to discussing the project with you. You are welcome any time from 4 - 8 PM on November 29 and December 5.

If you have questions, please contact:

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# EDITORIAL

## Cyber wake up call

The massive hack at southwestern Ontario hospitals should be a wake up call to government and citizens alike.

Oct. 23, a ransomware gang - Daixin - hacked into the server at TransForm Services. It's a non-profit organization which does provides accounting, supply and IT services for hospitals and health care organizations in the region. Daixin froze up all the computers connected to TransForm and demanded a ransom to reopen it. Computer security experts hailed the health care organizations for not paying. There was no guarantee that ponying up would have kept things like personal health information, social insurance numbers and payroll information from making it to the dark web. As it stands now, the entire computer network is being rebuilt.

But the damage extends far beyond just computers. Literally thousands of patients' data - including nearly 270,000 who used Bluewater Health hospitals in Sarnia and Petrolia - is floating around the dark web. People can scoop it up to secure fake IDs. Criminals can use the more sensitive information - much of which the patients wanted no one but their doctors to know - to extort people.

And of course, the health care institutions reputations are tarnished as well; they are the protectors of this sensitive data and it's very clear they failed to protect it.

The fact is public institutions rarely spend what they should to protect sensitive personal and health information. If it is a choice between spending millions on cyber security or health care, many people would say pump that money into more surgeries or family doctors. That's understandable.

But, without that layer of solid cyber security, money which should have been bound for health care will eventually be used recover from a hack.

And there is the human costs of this cyber attack; long awaited surgeries, CT Scans and appointments delayed at a time when waiting lists which ballooned during the pandemic were becoming more manageable. It's a big price to pay.

We urge both the federal and provincial governments to do more about cyber security than just pass manifestoes saying they won't pay ransom for data. They need to provide adequate funding to secure our private information. Because governments haven't, that duty is now in the hands employees and patients. And they'll have to be vigilant. Hackers don't care who you are or what your medical needs say - they're looking for cash. In this case, it seems, the door to the information they needed to get it was wide open.

We need governments to step forward to shut that door and make sure it is locked tight, even if it is too late for thousands in southwestern Ontario.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Independent welcomes Letters to the Editor. Our preferred methods to receive letters are via email to [news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca) (please use Letter in the subject line) or through our website [www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca](http://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



DAVID MCLEAN PHOTO

This photo George Ladell (1868-1940), and his brother Will Ladell (1869-1955) seated atop their meat delivery wagon in 1898 out front of the Central Hotel in Wyoming. The brothers had a butcher shop in the village at the time. Will later moved to Winnipeg, while George, who also farmed in Warwick, Enniskillen and Plympton Townships at various times, moved to Forest where he operated a butcher shop.

## The beginning of change at the public school board

What a damning report. "Nepotism and favouritism impact hiring and advancement" and are "pervasive."

Indigenous teachers "perpetually seen as outsiders" wherever they go.

That's just some of the things a consultant, hired by the Lambton-Kent District School Board to complete an equity report, found after talking with about 20 per cent of the 3,000 plus education workers.

Employees told the consultant of working along side the children of senior administrators, knowing they had been hired because of who their parents are.

They told the consultants that the public board had a reputation for nepotism and favouritism.

Indigenous people who advanced in their careers said they were taught more about building relationships with coworkers than trained - something that didn't help them much because they didn't travel in the same circles as managers.

Over the years, I've heard friends talk about being on the supply list at the Lambton public board for long periods of time. That's changed somewhat because of aging teachers are retiring. But, if you walk into your local school, my guess is you'll still see mostly white faces at the front of the classroom even as more of the students in the seats are immigrants or Indigenous.

The consultants gave the board some pretty blunt advice; change

your hiring practices.


"Those involved in the hiring process must be supported to recognize and mitigate their unconscious biases and to understand the value that diversity brings to the workplace and to students," the consultant says adding they need tools including "policies to ensure that hiring is not based on who you know, but rather what you know."

It will be a long road to do that, but hopefully bringing the issue to the light will be the beginning of change.



Heather Wright

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# OPINION

## Not surprising Scotiabank is leaving Petrolia

**EDITOR:** In 2008 I was the Executive Director of Lambton County Developmental Services (LCDS). We were in the midst of restoring The Old Post Office in downtown Petrolia. The building was being repurposed into affordable apartments and retail space for Petrolia Enterprises.

At the time we were a customer of Scotiabank - a 50-year customer.

The project was over-budget as is common with restoring heritage buildings. We felt confident the project was under control and the existing assets of LCDS provided more than ample collateral for Scotiabank.

Then, the financial market collapsed and Scotiabank cut off our construction loan.

No negotiation or acknowledgement of our long relationship or that our assets more than covered the loan.

It was devastating to us and put our entire agency in jeopardy.

While Scotiabank did not have faith in our project three other financial institutions did and by the time the dust settled, we had better service, more favourable interest rates and a relationship with a bank that went far beyond what Scotiabank ever provided us.

Scotiabank leaving Petrolia comes as no surprise to me.

They have no loyalty to their customers or the communities in which they operate.

With Scotiabank leaving Petrolia

I strongly urge people to consider other financial institutions – including credit unions. Other big banks invest into local communities and credit unions have a long history of being community minded.

In addition, you might be pleasantly surprised at the money you will save by switching to another institution. As for The Old Post Office, I still take a great deal of pride when I see how LCDS took a risk that led to affordable housing for people with disabilities and also gave new life to an important historical landmark in downtown Petrolia.

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## Enniskillen policing cost climb 24 per cent

**Blake Ellis**  
Local Journalism Initiative

Enniskillen Township will need to increase its policing costs about \$96,000 in its 2024 budget after two major police investigations.

Township Administrator-Clerk Duncan McTavish met recently with Lambton OPP Inspector Chris Avery where he learned there will be a 24 percent increase in policing costs in 2024, compared to the previous year.

McTavish told council at its Nov. 6 meeting this increase is almost entirely

related to two homicides, which were investigated in 2022. The first investigation began when the remains of 18-year-old Jelani Byer-Coates of Ajax was found on Dec. 28, 2021 on a property on Crooked Road in Enniskillen Township near Oil Springs.

Police are still looking for his killer.

The second murder investigation was triggered when the body of Andrew Chute was found in the early morning of April 14 near the entrance of the Marthaville Habitat Management Area in Enniskillen Township. Two people have plead guilty to accessory to

murder and await sentencing.

The reconciliation of the 2022 policing costs requires a payment of \$75,745, said McTavish.

The 2024 budget also has an increase of \$20,569, which is directly related to a formula which calculates the four year average of overtime to build into the budget.

The OPP gives municipal governments an estimate of yearly policing costs, then refunds any overpayments and tacks any extra costs on budgets two years later.

•THE INDEPENDENT

## Improved ventilation coming to LCCVI shops

**Blake Ellis**  
Local Journalism Initiative

The skilled trade shops at LCCVI are being upgraded as the provincial government urges young people to consider a career in the trades.

The Lambton Kent District School Board awarded a tender for the work to improve ventilation Oct. 24.

There will be 14 exhaust fans replaced at the high school, said Lambton Kent’s Associate Director Brian McKay.

McKay said duct work is also included in the tender. There are

also six exhaust fans, which will be abandoned as part of the renovation. Funding will be coming out the school board’s school condition improvement reserve.

The successful bid by Wellington Builders of Forest was for \$389,000 with the final price coming in just over \$429,000 when design fees and HST were added.

The Wellington Builder’s bid was the lowest of the three bids submitted. McKay verified the work was part of this year’s budget and it is coming in at what was budgeted for this work.

The provincial government has

put an emphasis in recent years of encouraging students to look at careers in the trades.

It is estimated 72,000 new workers are needed by 2027 to fill positions left open by retirements and expected job growth. Just to deliver on the provincial government’s plan to build 1.5 million homes by 2031, more people are needed in the skilled trades.

The government projects there are nearly 285,000 jobs in Ontario which are going unfilled, while approximately one in five job openings are projected in the skilled trades by 2026.

## Technical investigation into midway accident continues

**Blake Ellis**  
Local Journalism Initiative

The investigation into the midway ride accident at Brigden Fair is ongoing and may take some time before it is complete.

The accident happened Friday, Oct. 6, with five children on board the midway ride. The ride rotated twice before it began to shake and the wheels dropped down in the whale-shaped car.

The car then hit the ground, as

bystanders yelled to stop the ride, before an employee of World’s Finest Midways stopped the machine

A three-year-old girl hit her head “several times,” said her grandmother Sherry Wood, but she was not sure how many.

The little girl was taken to hospital by ambulance for evaluation. A large bump had formed above the girl’s eyebrow according to Wood.

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) are conducting the

investigation into the accident, TSSA’s Director of Communications Lisa Hall confirmed the investigation is ongoing and the midway ride remains out of service.

Hall said there is no set timeline for the completion of the investigation and the organization does not have a date when it expects to have it completed. She suggested to *The Independent* that it check back in January for any updates.

•THE INDEPENDENT

## Nine arrested, fentanyl and cocaine seized in Lambton, Middlesex

Nine people – including three from Sarnia – have been arrested and are facing an array of drug and weapons charges.

Around 4:45 pm Nov. 8, OPP stopped a vehicle on London Line, arresting

two people and seizing fentanyl and methamphetamines.

Police then went to a house on George Street with a warrant, where they took another person into custody.

OPP also went to a home on

Creamery Road in Ailsa Craig and arrested six people without incident.

Police seized fentanyl, cocaine, methamphetamine, five weapons, cell phones, drug trafficking paraphernalia and cash.

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# Lest We Forget

People in Petrolia and Watford mark Remembrance Day



Lambton County residents joined Canadians across the country to mark Remembrance Day Saturday. A brief service of remembrance was held in Victoria Park in Petrolia. About 200 people attended the service and laid their poppies at the foot of the cenotaph after the service. Left Korean War Vet Wally Cavan salutes. After the brief ceremony, people lay their poppies at the cenotaph in Victoria Park (top right).

## ‘We all hope their suffering was not in vain - I’m not so sure’

In Watford, a large crowd gathered around the cenotaph (above and right) to mark Remembrance Day Saturday. Former Legion President Robert Alcock spoke. Here is, in part, what he said; “In the past, it seems, that wars were about religion and trade routes. Today they are about religion and oil supply. There is one common thread. “Watching the 6:00 o’clock news is sickening. We are now able to see live and in colour the destruction of human life like never before. Atrocities in the Ukraine and the Gaza strip boggle the mind. All people need to get over past slights and land loss and deal with the realities of today to insure a better future for all. World Wars One and Two started slowly, step by step. Is Ukraine the first step, Is Gaza the second step? Let’s stop it there. “We are here to honour the memories of the men and women who fought for our freedom – many died – many wish they had. We all hope their suffering was not in vain – I’m not so sure. “As we go forward as a society, the best way to honour them is to improve our society. To quote the Optimist Creed, Forget the mistakes of the past and press on to greater achievements in the future. It’s the only way.”





# A time to Remember

Wyoming, Enniskillen, Brigden, Corunna and Alvinston mark Remembrance Day

BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS  
People across Lambton stopped to honour those who served. In Wyoming, a piper and colour guard led members to the cenotaph in McKay Park on a bright Saturday morning. Plympton-Wyoming Mayor Gary Atkinson laid a wreath on behalf of the town. President Connor Weed also placed a wreath for the Wyoming Legion. Below, members of the Brigden Legion lay wreaths of Remembrance Saturday.



BARRY WRIGHT PHOTO  
Enniskillen Township Clerk Duncan McTavish (left) laid a wreath at the Petrolia cenotaph Saturday in honour of the municipalities service men and women.

PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK  
In Corunna, people gathered at the clock tower at the 11th hour of the 11th day to mark Remembrance Day. The Corunna Legion livestreamed the service for those who could not attend.



LIANA RUSSWORM PHOTO  
Reverend Robert Wilson, pictured here with Judi Wilson was the speaker at the Alvinston Legion's Honours and Awards banquet. Wilson, who served in the Royal Canadian Navy for 30 years, is the padre and poppy chairman of the Strathroy Legion. He spoke about his early years and how he came to join the Navy. He was hesitant about speaking even though he experienced many things over his 30 years of service he was never participated in any battles. Wilson was part of about the Navy's humanitarian mission at a Russian orphanage. Also at the banquets, President Jack MacDonald then presented the RCL, Branch 249's Affiliate Service including three 20-year Affiliate Service pins went to John Griffith, Ray Lloyd and the late Dick Hunter who name brought tears to many's eyes. A number of Associates also received service pins including John Timmers and Lee Patterson who received 30 year pins. Jerry Crul received his 40-year pin and Jerry Marchand received his 50-year Associate Service Pin. Ladies Auxiliary President Carol Ann White presented a 35-year Ladies Auxiliary pin to Sandie Older.





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CRASH AFTERMATH



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

Repair crews were hard at work Friday at Petrolia Mercantile and Tea cleaning up the damage left behind when a car struck the front window of the business. OPP were on the scene Thursday night after a vehicle with two people crashed into the front window. At press time it was not clear if charges had been laid.

Oil Springs and Oil Museum team up for grant

Blake Ellis  
Local Journalism Initiative

Oil Springs and the Oil Museum of Canada are hoping showcase the history of the area during two very big anniversary years.

Lambton County celebrates its 175th anniversary in 2024 and Oil Springs celebrates its 160th anniversary as a village one year later.

So, they’ve decided to work together to showcase the oil history of the area, hoping to win a Creative County grant to do it.

Former Oil Springs Mayor Gordon Perry came before Oil Springs Council on Nov. 7, saying the museum wants to replace 10 interpretive signs, as well as information signs, one which is in the village’s downtown. The information signs will have a map to the Oil Museum.

The museum will also be updating its audio tour. Currently visitors turn their radios to hear information on the history of oil as they drive through the area around the museum. When this project is completed, visitors will be able to use their cell phones. A QR code will be placed on the information signs to allow access to the tour.

“I feel it is a good project,” said Perry. “It is historical. It fits into why we are here and the county is here.”

The project will be completed in April, during the County of Lambton’s 175th anniversary year. Perry estimated the project will be approximately \$7,500 and if the grant application is successful, the Creative County Grant will pay for half of the project.

Oil Springs Councillor Adam Veen suggested the municipality pool its resources with the oil museum and make one submission to the grant for a project it is working to avoid two competing heritage projects from the community.

The municipality is looking at purchasing 10 hanging banners to be placed on the light standards in the downtown. Veen suggested these banners highlight the history of Oil Springs.

The cost for the banners is just over \$1,750, while the cost of the poles, which will be placed on the light standards are not known yet. The money needed for this project can be budgeted for in 2024, said Councillor Connie McFadden. Council decided to double its efforts and have 20 banners. The total cost of the project was not known at the Nov. 7 meeting.

The deadline for the applications for the creative county grant is Nov. 14.

The County of Lambton has allotted \$75,000 of funding for 2024.

•THE INDEPENDENT



TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK  
NOTICE OF INTENTION  
SITE PLAN CONTROL BY-LAW AMENDMENT  
- MUNICIPAL PROJECTS EXEMPTION

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Warwick will consider a proposed Site Plan Control By-law Amendment to exempt projects undertaken by the Township from Site Plan Control. The amendment is being considered under Section 41(2) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended. The meeting will take place on **December 11, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.** in Council Chambers at the Township Office at 5280 Nauvoo Road in Watford and will be livestreamed to the Warwick Township YouTube channel.

**THE PROPOSED SITE PLAN CONTROL BY-LAW AMENDMENT** would exempt projects undertaken by the Township from Site Plan Control. As a result of Bill 109, this exemption allows the town not to undertake a Site Plan Agreement within “itself”. This does not exempt the Township from any other applicable Provincial or Federal regulation, including the Building Code. As this amendment affects all properties within the Township, **no key map has been provided as this amendment is Township wide. NO OTHER APPLICATIONS** have been received at this time.

**ANY PERSON** may attend the council meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed Site Plan Control By-law Amendment. **If you wish to participate or speak to the proposed Site Plan Control By-law Amendment electronically or in person, you must register with the Township Office by Friday, December 8, at 12 noon to receive the login information for the meeting.** You may also register by calling 226-848-3926 or emailing info@warwick-township.ca.

**WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS** in respect of the proposed Site Plan Control By-law Amendment can be made to the Deputy Clerk or Clerk of the Township of Warwick. Submissions can be provided in person at the Township Office, by mail or by e-mail to info@warwicktownship.ca.

**IF A PERSON** or public body would otherwise have the ability to appeal the decision of the Township of Warwick to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Warwick before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision. **IF A PERSON** or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Warwick before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

**IF YOU WISH** to be notified of the adoption of the proposed Amendment, you must make a written request to the Township of Warwick, 5280 Nauvoo Road, PO Box10, Watford, ON NOM 2S0.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** about this matter, including information about appeal rights and the proposed Amendment is available for inspection during regular office hours at the Municipal Offices at 5280 Nauvoo Road, Watford, ON, NOM 2S0.

[www.warwicktownship.ca](http://www.warwicktownship.ca)

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# Walking to get soldiers and their families talking

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Sharon Little isn't sure why her son stopped talking.

Sgt. John R. Little, who grew up just outside of Wyoming and joined the Canadian Armed Forces at 18, had long used his parents, Sharon and John, as sounding boards as he battled post traumatic stress disorder after two tours of duty in Afghanistan and through a divorce and custody issues over his four sons.

But on Nov. 22, 2021, instead of calling his parents, the veteran went into the bathroom in his Owen Sound home, locked the door and died by suicide.

Saturday, the family hopes a military march from the Sarnia Armories, where he finished his military testing in 2003, to the Wyoming Cemetery, where he's buried will help bring an end to the stigma surrounding the mental health issues veterans face. And they hope it will encourage families with military members to openly talk about the mental battles they're facing.

John Little was still in school when the idea of military service grabbed his attention. He'd heard a local veteran talk about his service in Bosnia and started considering the move. By 18, he'd signed up. Little was part of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry when the government announced it was sending troops to Afghanistan. His parents were terrified.

Little gave Sharon and his sister, Lisa Mason, a book, - A Thousand Splendid Suns - written by an Afghan girl about what it was like to live under the Taliban. "He said, 'this is why I'm going.'"

So, the family supported him. John Sr. would get calls while he was out driving his truck where his son would talk about his day. Sometimes, his son relayed stories of their close calls, leaving Little Sr. to worry about what was going on so far away.

The sergeant returned from his first tour of duty and his family noticed a change. There was a twitch and he was jumpy said his sister.

While he was home, Mason and her brother went to Bayfest. "You can tell something's kind of off. And as we were leaving somebody let off fireworks behind us and he dropped to the ground. And I was like, What the hell are you doing?"

Later Mason tried to convince him not to return to Afghanistan. "You're not going back. Like there's something wrong with you."

His mom, Sharon, says he was proud of what he was doing, so they watched again as he left for overseas.

When he returned, everyone noticed he had changed. What wasn't as obvious, Mason says, was his drinking. It's one of the common problems returning servicemen face as they try to deal with their post traumatic stress disorder.

Little was diagnosed with PTSD, got treatment in BC and then "settled back nicely into regimental life," she says.

He was married and welcomed the first of four boys while he lived in Edmonton.

Before long, Little and his wife and boys moved to Owen Sound, so he could realize his life-long dream of becoming a sergeant in the military.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sgt. John R. Little in Afghanistan will be remembered Saturday with a walk from Sarnia to Wyoming in the hopes of raising awareness about mental health for veterans.

But Mason says military life in Owen Sound was much different than Edmonton. And he was no longer with the men and women he went with to Afghanistan - the support system he needed, says Mason.

When his marriage broke up and his children moved with their mom back to Lambton County, Little turned to his parents and siblings to vent his frustrations.

"The stress of that was just too much of a toll with what he was already coping with," says Sharon. "It would be harder to calm him down every time," added John Sr.

Sharon says Little drove hours three hours, three times a month to spend the weekend with his kids at his parents home.

In late 2021, things were far from perfect but Little seemed happy. He had a fiancé and he was about to sign a mortgage for a home. Days before he went to the bank, Little took his own life.

"I think that's one of the hardest things that we deal with is why we didn't get that phone call that day to just you know, (scream) instead of closing the door," says Sharon. "Last time we spoke it was on the Friday. That's a wonderful conversation. "Things were starting to sort of go his way a little bit. And you know, he just needed some time to take just a little reflection on life. He had a fiancé ... they were going to spend time together."

"He was as happy as he could be," added John.

"It never really occurred to us that this (suicide) was ever a possibility," Sharon said.

After his death, the military investigated Little's death as they do with all active service members. They found his death was due to his post traumatic stress disorder and therefore he died in the line of duty.

The investigation also found that when Little's long-time therapist went on leave, he wasn't assigned another one.

At the time, all military members receiving mental health care had only one therapist assigned to their case.

After Little's death, the Canadian military ordered that two people must be assigned to each member to avoid the loss of service.

While the family is glad the military made the change, they want to do their part to make sure veterans get the help they need.

The family formed an organization to talk about mental health and support organizations which support military members and first responders.

"So, Operation Talk to Me Johnny is to make it first responders and veterans and military personnel aware that there are people out there that care and that we have to look after our mental health because we can't let it get to a point where it's beyond their control because then they're pain just gets dispersed to the family that they leave behind," Sharon said through tears.

Saturday's walk will see nearly 50 people walking with 25 to 45 pounds on their back starting at the Armories at 9 am and arriving in Wyoming at the cemetery around 3 pm.

Mason says they wanted to hold the walk close to the memorial day of Little's death and near Remembrance Day, noting often people stand at a service on that day, but don't think about veterans any other time of the year.

The family plans to make the walk an annual event, holding the next one in Edmonton where Little spent much of his career.

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### Town of Plympton-Wyoming NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Concerning Proposed Building Permit By-law Fee Amendment

**TAKE NOTICE THAT** the Council of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming will hold a Public Meeting on **Monday, December 11th 2023**, regarding amendments to the Building Permit By-law's Fee Schedule 'A'.

The Town is proposing to amend the costs of Building Permit Fees following a review of the building permit fees under Section 7(b) of the Building Code Act. The effect will be to increase the existing fee structure. Information will be provided at the meeting on the estimated costs of enforcing and administering the Building Code Act, the amount of the proposed fee(s) and the rationale for changing fees.

Copies of the proposed Fee Schedule 'A', as well as a background report, will be available on Thursday, December 7th 2023 at the Municipal Office, on the Town's website, or they can be emailed upon request.

#### Public Participation

The Public Meeting on this matter will be held:

**Date:** Monday, December 11th 2023  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Plympton-Wyoming Council Chambers  
546 Niagara Street, Wyoming, ON

Any person may attend this public meeting or make written or verbal representation in support of or in opposition to the proposed amendment to the by-law. Please note that any written representations will need to be received by the Clerk no later than Friday December 1st 2023.

*Note, Council Chambers has a limited capacity for in-person participation. Should you wish to participate virtually, you must register in advance to [lsmeekens@plympton-wyoming.ca](mailto:lsmeekens@plympton-wyoming.ca) by Friday, December 8th 2023 to receive instructions on virtual attendance.*

For further information regarding the Public Meeting or the proposed amendment to the by-law, please contact Erin Kwarciak, Clerk, at 519-845-3939 or by email at [ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca](mailto:ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca)

Dated at the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, this 16th day of November, 2023.

Erin Kwarciak  
Clerk  
Town of Plympton-Wyoming



IF THE SHOE FITS



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Prince Charming Adam Hobbs swept Cinderella Alya Coates off her feet during the ball at Victoria Hall on Saturday afternoon, as the Petrolia Community Theatre staged an entertaining rendition of Cinderella with several local references, which kept the audience laughing throughout.

Recruiters want to bring doctors to Watford

Heather Wright  
The Independent

There is going to be a concerted effort to bring doctors to Watford. But the recruitment agency says it may cost the township some money to do it.

Carly Cox of Bluecoast Primary Care Recruitment was in Warwick Township Monday asking council to consider increasing its funding of the group from \$1 per person in the township to \$1.50.

Cox told councillors she is working to place physicians in smaller communities and trying to recruit successors for three physicians who plan to retire in 2024. She wants

to work with both the Central Lambton and North Lambton Family Health teams to bring up to three physicians to Warwick. Under new provincial rules, physicians must work with a health team in an office with three other physicians.

Cox says the question becomes “do we have the infrastructure here to support a potential clinic that will hold three physicians? And do we have the numbers of patients so the numbers of patients is not overly a concern? Because we know people drive for health care.”

Cox added the municipality may face additional fees if the recruitment is successful.

Warwick officials will consider the request for additional funding during budget deliberations.

Park St. Place ‘failed to protect from neglect’

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority says not only did residents at Park Street Place miss baths, they missed medication.

That from the final report posted to the authorities website from an incident which caused so much concern, the RHRA installed its own manager at the home under a “management order in extraordinary circumstances.”

On Sept. 25, an RHRA inspector arrived at the home after complaints that chronic short staffing problems reached a head with only a cook, housekeeper and maintenance person on sight when the scheduled Registered Practical Nurse didn’t come to work. 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.

The final report, dated Oct. 23, found the home didn’t have individual care plans for residents - which is a requirement for retirement homes.

And Inspector Angela Butler found residents were neglected; “There was evidence that residents had not received

breakfast at the scheduled or reasonable time.

“The inspector found that the Licensee had failed to ensure that medications were administered to all residents in the home at the appropriate scheduled medication times,” she wrote in her report.

“Also, two residents who are diabetic and require insulin and diabetic oral medication did not eat as their blood glucose levels could not be taken.”Another resident did not receive migraine medication resulting in the resident having a migraine.

“As a result, the Licensee’s inactions jeopardized the health and safety of the residents, and the Licensee failed to protect the residents from neglect.”

Butler found the home had broken regulations in both complaints of incompetent care and neglect.

The only “outcome” of the report was that the home needed to come into compliance.

The RHRA appointed general manager is still in place, and the owner - a numbered company which states Pushpinder Brah as its main contact - must follow the manager’s instructions on hiring staff.

RHRA officials did not say how many staff members have been hired since the investigation.

• WITH FILES FROM THE CHATHAM VOICE

Join Petrolia Merchants Saturday for  
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See pages 8 & 9 for more!

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Fundraiser for Christ Anglican Church

WM

WARWICK PUBLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE

Twin Creeks Landfill

WM

AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, November 22, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Twin Creeks Office Boardroom

1. Call to order – Chair Mary Lynn Metras
2. Approval of/Additions to Agenda
3. Acceptance of September 13, 2023, Minutes
4. Business Arising
  - a. TRT Annual Review - 2022 Year
  - b. Full Time Inspector from MECP
  - c. RWDI:
    - Q3 2023 Exceedances and Monitoring
    - Q4 2023 Correspondence
    - Complaint report as per 11.4
5. New Business
  - a. Motion for return of prior Member Holly Watson
  - b. Landfill Optimization EA - PIS 2 (Existing Conditions) - Nov 29, 2023 and Dec 5, 2023
6. Reports
  - a. Twin Creeks Landfill Operational Report from John McDonald
    - Tonnage reports (Sept, Oct)
  - b. Twin Creeks Operational Report from Wayne Jenken
    - Construction Update
    - Landfill Optimization Update
      - PIS 2 (Existing Conditions) - Nov 29, 2023 and Dec 5, 2023
  - c. MECP Inspector - Review of MECP Inspections
7. Open Session
8. Next Meeting Date/Agenda
  - a. Wednesday, March 6 or 20, 2024
9. Adjournment



# SPORTS

## Flyers ground Hawks, Irish

Barry Wright  
The Independent

Andrew Jaques' goal at 2:48 of overtime capped a four-point week for the Petrolia Flyers as the visitors downed the Hawks, 4-3 Friday in Exeter. Jaques and Noah Harse both had a goal and an assist for the Flyers with the others going to Evan Morningstar and Cameron Davidson.

Ethan Everaert made 34 stops for the goaltending win. The home team outshot Petrolia, 37-30. The Flyers are now in sixth place in the PJHL's Yeck Division with a record of 5-10-1. They host Thamesford Thursday at 7:30. Nov. 9 at home, Parker Davidson had two goals and an assist to power the Flyers to a 6-2 win over Lucan.

Noel Sanderson and Jake MacLean both added a goal and a helper for the winners with the other goals coming from Cameron Davidson and Evan Morningstar. Daniel Gibson contributed three assists and Jaques and Caleb Kennedy both had two assists. Everaert made 20 saves for the goaltending win as the home team outshot Lucan, 44-22.

## ON TO THE FINALS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Gabriel Ardell and Hunter Duncan gave chase as the LCCVI Lancer's Varsity football team is heading to the finals. The team moved on beating Wallaceburg 42-0 Friday. Joey Taylor and Nolan Patchett had two rushing touchdowns. The Lancers now take on Great Lakes in Sarnia Thursday at 2:30 pm.

## Flags crown Kings in Mooretown

The Independent

After spotting the visitors the opening goal, the Mooretown Flags scored four consecutive times in the first period en route to a 5-2 win. Tristen Konrad had two

goals and an assist for the winners and Jace Dupuis added an empty net goal and two assists in PJHL action Saturday at the Moore Sports Complex. Dylan Dupuis and Brady Hutton had the others. Dracen Campbell

contributed three assists. John Chartrand turned aside 32 shots as the Flags outshot Dresden, 42-34. Mooretown, now 5-7-3 on the season, is home to Wheatley Saturday and then travel to Blenheim to take on the Blades on Sunday.

## Birds beat the Killer Bees in Alvinston

The Independent

Ryan Polidori made 56 saves to backstop the Tilbury Bluebirds to a 7-6 win over the Killer Bees Friday in Alvinston. The Bees struck for five goals in the third period

including goals within 17 seconds of each other late in the frame but eventually ran out of runway. Josh Tidwell and James McEwan each scored twice for the Bees and Franco Sproviero had three assists in his home debut in

Alvinston. Rylan Bowers and Josh Jamieson also scored for the Bees who are now 4-3 on the season. Tilbury is 4-2. Alvinston now has an extended break until they host the Woodstock Lakers on Dec. 1.

## Squires host Tilbury Friday at Greenwood

Coming off a two-week break in its schedule, the Petrolia Squires are back on home ice Friday against the Tilbury Bluebirds in Western Ontario Senior Hockey League action at Greenwood. Puck drop is 8:30.

Petrolia is coming off its first home loss of the season bowing 7-6 to Tillsonburg two weeks ago. The Squires are 4-1 at home this season and 6-2 overall. The Squires have three players in the top ten in league scoring. Ryan

Trottier is tied for the league lead, one point ahead of Brandon Biggers. Ryan Fraser is the league's top scoring defenceman and is tenth overall. Sean Parker and Brandon Campbell are statistically among the top goalies in the WOSHL.

## CYCLING GOLD



CYCLING CANADA PHOTO

Bothwell's Nick Wammes (far left) has a gold medal to his credit after teaming up with James Hedgecock and Tyler Rorke to win the men's team sprint championship at the Pan Am Games in Chile late last month. "We wanted this one so bad, it's been a long season and this kind of feels like we're putting icing on the cake," said Wammes. "It seems like honestly, whenever we race together we keep getting faster and faster, just better as a team." The Canadian team beat Colombia in the championship final. Wammes just missed a second medal at the Games when he finished fourth in the men's individual sprint.

### Local Supporting Local.

## Community Giving

## Habitat Golf Tournament

(Left to right:)

**Nathan Miller** - Lawyer, **Jace Felton**,  
**Santiago Pinto** - QAFP Financial Planner,  
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Stop in at the office 9am-3pm – Monday to Friday  
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or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca



## Death Notices

Nov. 7 - Nov. 14, 2023

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

**GAMBLE, David Julius**  
Age: 74  
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel

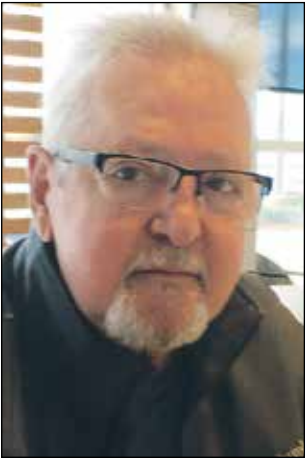
**STONEHOUSE, Jean Norma (nee Scanlon)**  
Age: 85  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

**HENRY, Wesley Keith**  
Age: 46  
Gilpin Funeral Chapel

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

### Obituary



**TOUZIN**  
Gaetan

Surrounded by his family at Bluewater Health Sarnia, Gaetan Touzin passed away on Thursday, November 2, 2023, after a long illness, at the age of 72. He was born in Nedelec, Quebec. In his early childhood, his family moved to Haileybury, a small town in Northern Ontario where he lived and worked for most of his life. A few years after retirement, Carole and Gaetan moved to Petrolia to be close to his son. Gaetan was the loving husband of Carole (Loranger), and the proud father and grandfather of his son Marc Andre Touzin (Heather Fulton), his beloved granddaughter Lillian Touzin, and his daughter Amy-Anne Touzin (Ryan Kerr). He is predeceased by his father Emilien Touzin, his mother Cecile, his sister Micheline (Mike Savard), and his brother Ghislain Touzin (Sandra). He is survived by sisters Lisette Gauthier (Marcel), Joanne Layne, Suzanne Cheung (John), brothers-in-law, Yvon, Philippe, Mario (Patricia), and Bruno Loranger along with sisters-in-law,

Lorraine and Francyne Loranger as well as many much-loved nieces and nephews from both families. Gaetan was a loving, gentle, modest man, dedicated to his family and friends. An avid outdoor enthusiast, he enjoyed fishing, hunting, canoeing, downhill, and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ski-doing the trails as well as kayaking the lakes and rivers of Northern Ontario, Lambton County's St. Clair River, and the Pinery Provincial Park's Old Ausable River Channel. The Touzin family travelled coast to coast over several summers, camping along the way, as well as winter travels to Mexico, Cuba, and several islands. He was particularly fond of woodworking and built several pieces of furniture and toys for kids. He enjoyed reading, cooking, and making bread. He attended school at NLSS New Liskeard and Northern College in South Porcupine. He started his career as an electrician before attending Sheridan College in Oakville. He obtained a Diploma in Technical Education from Queen's University in Kingston. He then taught adults and high school students at TDSS in New Liskeard, achieving a specialist in trades as well as being the head of the technical department for several years prior to retirement. He will be missed by all who knew him. **A celebration of life will take place in his hometown of Haileybury at a later date.** Donations to the Bluewater Health Foundation for the intensive care and palliative care unites are appreciated. The family sincerely thanks the doctors and nurses who very diligently cared for him during his last days. Memories and condolences may be shared online at [www.NeedhamJay.com](http://www.NeedhamJay.com)

### Card Of Thanks


## Thank You

I want to thank all the staff at Sarnia Bluewater Health and London University Hospital that took such good care of me during my stay.

Also I want to thank everyone for the cards, flowers and well wishes on my return home.

Rita Hewitt  
Petrolia

### In Memoriam



## In Memoriam

In loving memory of a very special husband and step father,  
**Wes Coke,**  
who left us one year ago, November 19, 2022.

*A heart of gold stopped beating, working hands at rest,  
God broke our hearts to prove to us, he only takes the best.  
The hearts that loved you dearly, are the ones that won't forget.*

*Dearly loved and missed by,  
Pat, Shari and Shauna*

### In Memoriam

In Loving Memory of

## CHRISTINE Jaques

July 21 1944 - Nov 17 2020

*It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone, a part of us went with you, the day God took you home. If tears could build a stairway and heartaches make a lane, we would walk our way to heaven and bring you back again. In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a place, no one could ever fill.*

Love Ken, Brian, Wayne & Leslie,  
Keith & Justyna and Families

### Card Of Thanks

## Thank You...

**“Live, Laugh and Love”**  
*During a time like this we learn how much our family and friends really mean to us.*

**Celebrating our 65th Anniversary has been a great milestone.**  
*Sincere thanks to everyone for the beautiful cards, flowers, and good wishes.*

*Special thanks to our family for “The Great Night Outing”.*

**It was all greatly appreciated.**  
*Love - Bill and Ev Thomas*

### Card Of Thanks



## Thank You

Thanks for all my family & friends for the wonderful afternoon of music and picture fun with the photo booth to celebrate my 80th birthday!

Also for the gifts, cards & flowers.

*Cherished memories forever,  
All my love Marie Scott*

### ADVERTISING POLICY

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

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**\*SAT NOV 18<sup>TH</sup> 1-3 P.M.**

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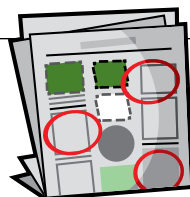
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**or email: [office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto:office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca)**

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# Church DIRECTORY

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414 Oil Street, Petrolia

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*Sundays @ 10:00am*

Everyone Welcome

Church Office: 519-882-1430 | [christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com)




Rev. Dave Hewett

## Coming Events

## Watford Warwick Horticultural Society

**Christmas Home Tours**  
**Sat. Nov. 18, Sun. Nov 19**

 **12-4** 

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workshop 5306 Nauvoo Rd.

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## Buying or Selling

**WANTED TO BUY - Adult bicycles womens & mens, boys & girls.** All sizes. Good to fair condition. All types of bikes wanted. Please call **519-882-2548** and ask for **Dave**.  
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**chadnlyndsav@yahoo.ca**

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E, Lot 20, Grave 10. \$1,800.  
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## Church

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

Everyone Welcome

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Rev. Dave Hewett

# St. Paul's United Church

### 4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

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Sundays @ 10:30 am***

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www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

Rev. Carol Ferguson

# First Baptist Church

***In Person Church Service  
Sunday Mornings @10:30 a***

Pastor: Alex Craig

418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia | Church Office 519-882-2480  
email: [fbcpetrolia@gmail.com](mailto:fbcpetrolia@gmail.com) | website: [www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca](http://www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca)  
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# Calendar *of events*

**PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM  
DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

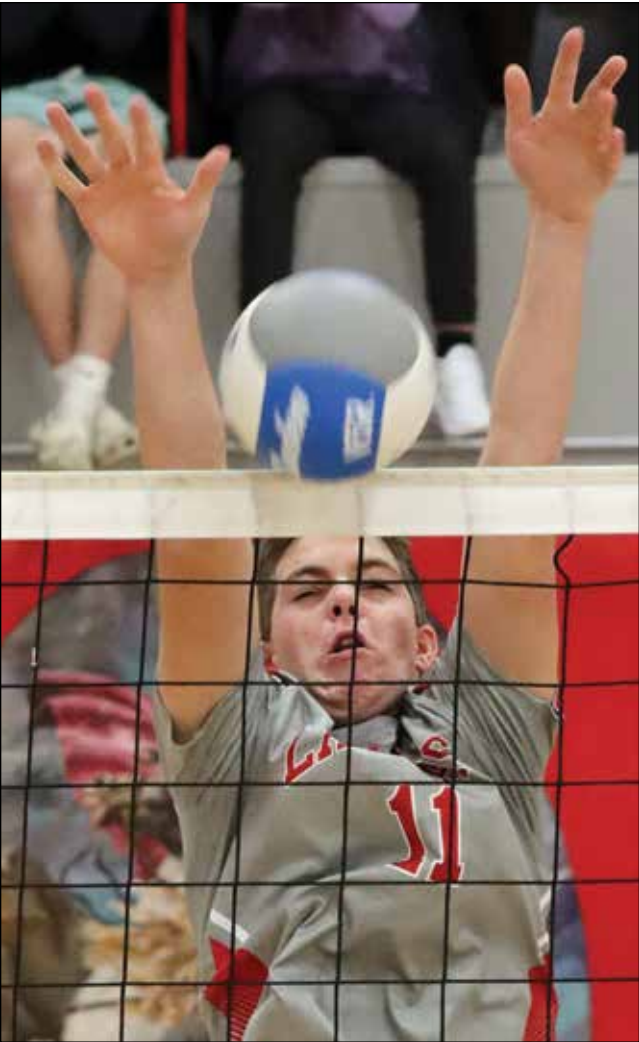
Events are listed FREE for non-profit groups in Petrolia and Lambton County (space permitting). *To be included in this listing email the required information to: **office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca** Subject: FREE EVENT LISTING.*

UPCOMING EVENTS			
DATE	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT/ CONTACT INFO
Oct 6 - Mar 16	Gallery Hours	Sarnia	<b>A FAMILY PALETTE: FRANCES-ANNE JOHNSTON, FRANZ JOHNSTON, AND FRANKLIN ARBUCKLE</b> Three artists from the same family. Acting as a purposeful feminist recovery project, the exhibition focuses more deeply on Frances-anne. For info @ <a href="http://www.jnaag.ca">www.jnaag.ca</a> .
Nov 3 - Jan 12	Gallery Hours	Sarnia	<b>RE VIEW - EXHIBITION 4</b> To honour its first decade the gallery is installing a series of exhibitions over the next year and a half titled Re View. For more info on the Re View exhibition series, please visit our 10 Year Anniversary page.
Nov 4 - Dec 16	Gallery Hours	Bright's Grove	<b>GALLERY IN THE GROVE'S ANNUAL GIFTS OF THE SEASON</b> November 4- December 16. Showcasing 15 local artists with a wide range of beautifully handmade pieces for sale. Gallery hours Mon-Thurs 2pm-5pm and Fri & Sat 11am-2pm. For more info visit <a href="http://www.galleryinthegrove.com">www.galleryinthegrove.com</a> or call 519-869-4643.
Nov 18	10am - 1pm	Port Lambton	<b>SACRED HEART FOOD BANK ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE</b> Non-perishable items needed. Drop Off Opportunity Nov 18 10am-1pm @ Port Lambton Anglican Church basement - rear door. Door to Door Pick Up Nov 19 1-3pm.
Nov 18	6:30pm	Wyoming	<b>GREAT CANADIAN DUELING PIANOS FOR CHRISTMAS FOR EVERYONE</b> @Wyoming Fair Bldg. Tickets \$30: call Bubba 312-3200, Mike 402-1761 or Conner 226-964-1225 or at Wyoming Legion.
Dec 2	1:30pm	Sarnia	<b>THE SARNIA BLUEWATER CHORDSMEN PRESENTING ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BENEFIT CONCERT</b> @ New Horizons Church (corner of Maxwell and Russell Streets.) The concert will feature choruses from Sarnia, Seaforth, Strathroy and London. Free Will donations - all proceeds going to the Youth Wellness Hub of Sarnia. Call David @ 226-402-3060 for more information.
Dec 2	7-10pm	Wyoming	<b>COUNTRY DANCE</b> Music by Joan Spalding & Doug. Wyoming Legion. \$10.00 per person. Net proceeds going to St. Joseph's Hospice Sarnia Lambton. Come out to hear live country music and dance the night away!!
Dec 5	7:00pm	Wyoming	<b>WYOMING LION'S MEAT BINGO</b> @ Wyoming Lion's Hall, Doors open 6:00pm. Turkey Prizes. <i>NOTE DATE CHANGE.</i>



# SPORTS

## THE STOP



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO  
Elijah Robinson of the LCCVI Jr Boys' Volleyball team makes the stop at the net against Great Lakes in the Lambton-Kent final. The Wolfpack defeated LCCVI 3-2.

## Briefs: Marlow takes home silver

Sarnia Legionnaires split a pair of GOJHL inter-conference games last week. Plympton-Wyoming's Austin Harper and Ryan Richardson both had three points as the Legion came from behind to beat Brantford, 9-7 last Thursday before losing 7-2 in Elmira on Sunday. Sarnia is home to LaSalle Thursday and take on the Kings and Maroons in Komoka and Chatham Saturday and Sunday.

Hayden Duncan is now 3-0 since recently joining the Strathroy Rockets. He turned aside 31 shots and stopped five of seven shootout opportunities to lead the Rockets to a 4-3 win over Kitchener-Waterloo. The Alvinston product has a save percentage of .925 since joining the Rockets from the Ottawa 67's top affiliate. Strathroy is now 12-4-1 and tied for first place in the Western Conference with London and LaSalle. The Rockets play the Nationals in London Wednesday.

Marlowe Robinson of Wyoming won a silver medal in her weight class at her first Ontario Senior Weightlifting Championships. The LCCVI grad, who now attends McMaster in Hamilton, had a lift of 72 kg (158 lbs) and came within a whisker of winning gold by just missing her third attempt at 74 kg.

Plympton-Wyoming's Justine Abbott was part of the eighth place team from Windsor's St. Clair College at the Canadian College cross country championships in Truro, Nova Scotia. Individually, she placed 68th.

A one-time member of the Alvinston Indians (now Aces) has been named the male fastpitch player of the year by Softball Canada. Ty Sebastian won a national championship this season with the Toronto Batmen where he was named both the MVP of the round-robin portion of the tournament and top player in the playoffs. He won a silver medal with Team Canada at the Softball World Cup in New Zealand. Sebastian played with the Indians and had a stint with the then Alvinston Flyers hockey team a decade ago.

## Watford's Van Gorp registers first OHL point

Evan Van Gorp picked up his first point in the OHL as the London Knights outgunned the Spitfires 10-7.

The Watford native beat

his man to the puck behind the Spitfire net and threaded a backhand pass to Ryder Boulton seven minutes into the contest.

In his league debut, Van

Gorp had a shot on goal, was a plus one and won seven of 12 faceoffs he took. He also played Saturday in a 4-0 win over Guelph but was held off the scoresheet.

The 17-year-old was signed by the Knights in early September and had been playing primarily with the GOJHL's Strathroy Rockets.

## Lancers win Jr Girls AA basketball title over Great Lakes

The Independent

LCCVI and North Lambton both won LKSSAA junior girls'

basketball crowns.

The Lancers beat Great Lakes, 53-23 to win the AA championship.

The Eagles downed

Dresden 31-20 for the A crown.

Alexis Wise had 13 points and Abby Rops added eight to lead North Lambton.

Great Lakes prevailed in the Senior Girls' AA basketball final over LCCVI. Abby Robinson had seven points in the loss.



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