



# Hackers claim patient info now sold

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The criminal organization which hacked into Bluewater Health’s computer system says the patient data it took has been sold.

But cyber security experts say it may just be another ploy to extract cash from people whose information was taken.

Oct. 23, Diaxin broke into the computer systems at Bluewater Health and four other hospitals in the region through TransForm Shared Services.

All the hospitals had some information taken and all hospitals systems were affected delaying everything from surgeries to MRIs and CT scans and routine testing.

But Bluewater Health bore the brunt of the attack with information from over 269,000 patients visits since 1992 and 20,000 social insurance numbers taken.

Diaxin claimed responsibility for the ransomware attack and started dumping the information on the dark web when Bluewater Health and the other hospitals said they would not pay to have their systems restored.

The information had been circling the dark web - including sensitive details of things such as people’s medical and mental health issues with Diaxin peddling it for sale saying the private information can be used to “commit a variety of crimes including opening new financial accounts, taking out loans in, using to obtain medical services, using health information to target other phishing and hacking intrusions based on their individual health needs, using information to obtain government benefits, filing fraudulent tax returns using information, obtaining drivers licences in names but with another person’s photograph and giving false information to police during an arrest,” Diaxin says in a dark web

advertisement trying to sell the info.

It added the information included “names, dates of birth, medical record numbers, patient account numbers, social security number and medical and treatment information.” Recently, Diaxin said the data had been sold.

Brett Callow is a threat analyst with Emsisoft - an international security firm. “The data may not have been sold at all, and Diaxin could simply be making the claim in an attempt to put their future victims under additional pressure,” he said in an email to *The Independent*.

“That said, people (affected should) hope for the best and plan for the worst. In other words, they should assume the data was sold and will be misused and take appropriate steps.”

Bluewater Health has offered credit watch protection for the 20,000 people - mostly people who had WSIB claims - for two years.

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

If someone uses your SIN to commit fraud, it could ruin your credit rating according to the CRA website.

Someone could also use your SIN to work illegally. In this case, the Canada Revenue Agency may expect you to pay tax on income you did not receive.

CRA advises to regularly review your banking and credit card statements, especially after the credit monitoring service ends.

If you notice any suspicious activity, immediately report it to the police, contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, and inform Service Canada to reduce the potential impact.

Bluewater Health is still operating with some restrictions. Patient information is not always available and

over 3,500 people have had procedures and tests postponed.

The hospital says it may be mid-December before the systems return to normal.

Meantime, the office of the Information and Privacy Commission is in the middle of an investigation into the data breach.

In a statement to *The Independent*, officials said Bluewater Health reported the data breach four days after it happened. The investigation is still active, officials said.

“The IPC has dealt with similar breaches of this size, and investigation times vary based on the complexity of the breach,” officials said in the statement.

“When we investigate a privacy breach, we look to establish whether the breach has been contained, the appropriate people have been notified, and whether corrective action has been taken to address the underlying causes of the breach and put in place reasonable safeguards to protect personal health information for the future.”

The IPC can issue order to organizations, such as Bluewater Health, to take corrective measures.

And the IPC has the power to fine those responsible for the breach.

The IPC statement concludes; “Health information custodians need to continually invest in information technology security measures to keep up with evolving risks.

“They need to plan for cyber attacks by having measures in place to enable early detection and ensure that these systems are continually updated to meet security industry standards and best practices.

“They must also continuously invest in and reinforce cyber security awareness education to ensure staff are adequately trained in recognizing and responding to cyber threats.”

## Health Canada would not revoke pot licence over bylaw dispute

CON’T FROM PG 1

The Independent has obtained a copy of the letter sent to local officials about Cannim’s plans.

It’s dated Aug. 28 and says the company began the process of applying for a licence with the federal government Aug. 8.

In the letter, William Worton, who is listed as the ‘Responsible Person’ for Cannim says the licence - which was granted by the federal government Oct. 27 - will allow Cannim to “possess cannabis, obtain dried cannabis, fresh cannabis, cannabis plants or cannabis plant seeds by cultivating, propagating and harvesting cannabis, dry, trim, mill and bulk package cannabis, perform analytical testing of cannabis, perform research and development within the listed authorized activities such as developing new growing procedures and to sell and distribute cannabis in accordance with subsection 11(5) of the Cannabis Regulations.

“All activities will be conducted at 4376 Lasalle Line, Petrolia, Ontario, Canada – NON IRO.”

Worton also added in the letter to officials with the OPP, fire and Enniskillen Township that “our intent to apply for a cannabis licence be kept confidential until Health Canada decides on a disposition for our application.”

Neither Enniskillen councillors Krall or McCallum saw the letter before the municipality voted on the zoning bylaw or the request for an exemption to it from Enniskillen Produce.

While both felt the information should have been shared with council, Krall says “I would not have changed my decision based on what I knew at the time.”

McCallum agreed.

Both voted against the exemption for 4376 Lasalle Line at the Sept. 18 meeting.

The Greydanus’ have already filed an appeal to both the new zoning rules to the Ontario Land Tribunal. It begins the legal process Dec. 11.

But it appears Health Canada won’t be stepping in before that.

“Health Canada cannot suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue a licence because of a bylaw dispute,” says Health Canada Senior Media Relations Advisor Tammy Jarbeau in an email response to *The Independent’s* questions.

“It is outside of Health Canada’s jurisdiction to enforce provincial or municipal legislation and it is the responsibility of municipalities to enforce their bylaws with respect to cannabis production.”

But she says it is a requirement for prospective licence holders to provide a written notice to local authorities about their plans.

“Once licensed, all licensed cultivators and processors are expected to obey all relevant federal, provincial, and municipal laws and by-laws, including municipal by-laws governing zoning, location, odour, and noise. Provinces, territories and municipalities can implement any limitations on zoning, location, or other controls that they feel are appropriate in their jurisdictions,” Jarbeau added.

Worton did not reply to an email from *The Independent* asking about Cannim’s plans in Enniskillen, including whether the Australian company was aware of the pending legal action about the use of the greenhouse, if it was part of the discussions with the County of Lambton to obtain an exemption to the new zoning requirements or if the company asked the municipal leaders and administrators to delay the vote on the zoning changes - the original public meeting was in January and the decision was not made until September - until it could file its paperwork for the licence.



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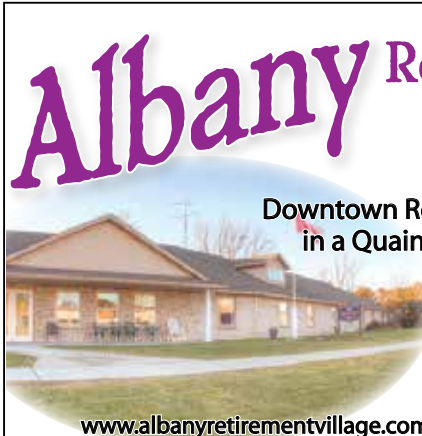
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# Can cannabis and cucumbers be grown at the same site?

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Health Canada regulations may make it difficult for Enniskillen Produce to grow mini-cucumbers along side the cannabis crop planned by Cannim Canada. When *The Independent* first revealed the Australian cannabis company was occupying part of the Lasalle Line greenhouse owned by the then Enniskillen Pepper Company. President Chris-

tine Greydanus sent an email to paper saying the company planned to produce a crop of mini-cucumbers in 2024. A week later, when it was revealed Cannim had been granted a licence in Enniskillen, questions about how the cannabis crop would work with produce bound for human consumption in the same building remained unanswered by Enniskillen Produce. So, *The Independent* went to Health Canada asking if the two

crops could grow in the same facility. Health Canada Senior Media Relations Advisor Tammy Jarbeau in an email said there are “no specific rules under the Cannabis Act or its regulations that would apply to growing vegetables, fruit or flowers in the same greenhouse.” Jarbeau says any site set aside for cannabis cultivation would be controlled by the licensee. Jarbeau adds licence holders must make sure “physical or

other effective means are used to separate incompatible activities in order to prevent contamination of the cannabis.” “Licence holders are not permitted to produce, package, label, or store cannabis at a site if food that is to be sold is also produced, packaged, or labelled at the site, unless it is done in a separate building. They must also ensure that physical or effective means are used to separate cannabis or any ingredients from

anything that presents a risk of contamination.” Neither Cannim nor Enniskillen Produce have answered questions about how much of the greenhouse is slated to grow and process cannabis and whether there is physical separation between the two products. Jarbeau said while there are regulations, “Health Canada does not track non-cannabis activities that a licence holder may conduct at their site.”

# Legal battle looms as Brooke-Alvinston turns down demo permit again

Heather Wright  
The Independent

It appears there will be a legal battle over Campbell House. The fate of the historic farm house at Alvinston’s AW Campbell Conservation Area has been hanging in the balance since Oct. 2021. The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority says the long-neglected home of the man who donated the land for the park is now beyond repair. The conservation authority wanted to demolish it in 2021. But the board of directors put the decision on hold after a community group – Friends of Campbell Park – sprung up hoping to save the historic building. But after waiting two years,

SCRCA board members agreed to ask Brooke-Alvinston for a demolition permit. But the request was turned down by Brooke-Alvinston council. The SCRCA’s board planned to take it to the Ontario Land Tribunal. On Nov. 14, Brooke-Alvinston Mayor Dave Ferguson, the Administrator, Janet Denkers, two members of the Friends of Campbell Park and SCRCA officials met. The conservation authority said it would cost about \$13,000 to secure the building for the three years, so the Friends group could raise money to renovate the building. The authority added it would cost over a half million dollars to repair and maintain the building without public access and over \$1.3

million to turn the building into a museum in the future- both ideas floated by Friends of Campbell Park. The conservation authority said Brooke-Alvinston would have to foot all of those bills. At council Nov. 23, Councillor Frank Nemcek said the conservation authority was basically forcing council to back track and issue the permit to avoid a legal battle – a move he termed as “disgusting.” But when council voted on whether a demolition permit should be issued, only Councillor Don McCabe and Mayor Dave Ferguson were on side with the idea. McCabe made a motion to issue a demolition permit and, when the other councillors would not offer to second the motion

so it could be voted on, Mayor Ferguson did. McCabe said there had been “a long history” of ignoring the building’s maintenance. McCabe criticized the Friends of Campbell Park saying they lacked urgency to find concrete solutions such as setting up a non-profit group to raise money. He added allowing the demolition of a building which had outlived its useful life would avoid a legal battle “where the only people getting rich would be the lawyers.” When the vote was called, Councillors Nemcek, Craig Sanders and Jenny Redick voted against issuing the permit, seemingly putting the wheels in motion for a legal hearing at the

Ontario Land Tribunal. Redick hopes a legal battle can be avoided but she didn’t want to give up a piece of history. “When you think of Alvinston... you think of Campbell’s Park and you think of the Campbells – it’s just something that’s part of us. I would really like to see it restored some how, some way; that you’re not tearing it down right away.” Dawn McNally, the president of the Friends of Campbell Park, was in the council chambers for the decision. “I didn’t think it would go this way. I thought they wouldn’t all just bow down to the conservation authority and say, ‘well, we can’t do anything about it,’” she told *The Independent* after the meeting. “But obviously, those three councillors are speaking for



## Moonlight Madness

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### Watford Library

# Nutcracker Magic

## Wednesday, December 6

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### Sugarplum Storytimes

with ballerina Annabelle Holland  
5:00 and 6:30 p.m.

### Holiday Crafts Photobooth



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# EDITORIAL

## Pot info disconnect

It seems strange to us that Health Canada wouldn't make sure someone applying for a licence to produce cannabis would be in sync with the local bylaws.

That's the essence of the comments from the federal department which is in charge of issuing licences for cannabis production.

We asked Health Canada if it knew when Cannim Canada applied for a licence there was a dispute over the zoning allowing pot to be grown at the location he had chosen.

We didn't get a direct answer. Instead, Health Canada basically said we expect licence holders to follow federal, provincial and municipal regulations, including bylaws when they operate.

And, Health Canada officials said, they would not suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue a licence because of a bylaw dispute.

But it seems to us, this was more than just a dispute. The zoning which would limit how close cannabis production could be to homes should be fundamental to whether or not a licence should be issued.

Under Health Canada's cannabis regulations, prospective licence holders have to ensure the physical location of the operation meets the standards. If there is a potential the licensee won't be able to grow cannabis in the location it chooses, shouldn't Health Canada wait to issue a licence?

But perhaps, it wasn't aware of the contested zoning status - officials never did directly answer that question in the carefully-worded statement which took about five days to write.

It's more likely that it was a 'don't ask, don't tell' situation with Cannim not offering up the information and Health Canada assuming everything was just peachy since the greenhouse on Lasalle Line held a cannabis operation two years before.

There was opportunity for Health Canada to hear about it. Prospective licensees have to notify the local municipalities about their plans. We're guessing if some Enniskillen councillors had seen that letter which landed in local leaders laps Aug. 28, they would have raised a stink about the plan because of the zoning issues.

But of course, those councillors didn't see that letter and therefore Health Canada was none the wiser.

## 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



PETROLIA HERITAGE PHOTO

An interesting advertisement from "The Petrolia Cash Store" in the Vaughn Block. This photo comes via Petrolia Heritage which credits the Jean Bradshaw Collection.

# THE INDEPENDENT

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**Publications Mail Registration No.** 42663514  
*Proud host of the Local Journalism Initiative*

**News Media Canada**  
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Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



# OPINION

## Grandson voices concerns about cannabis greenhouse

**EDITOR:** My name is Aiden Palmer and I am the grandson of Catherine Brand. I often enjoy spending time at my grandmother’s farm. Lately, there has been a lot of stress and emotion around this greenhouse. I personally notice it affects my family and the way my grandmother and uncle live their lives.

Since September 2021, it has all been questioned as to what was going to happen just 200 feet from my grandma’s front door. We watched the property go up for sale, get taken off the market, had township meetings regarding the future of the greenhouse, noticed the security fence was removed and rebuilt.

We had all thought that we would never have to worry about the strong “skunk” odour, extremely bright lights and noise. But now, we are all questioning if it is going to be a part of our lives once again.

Aiden Palmer  
Enniskillen, ON

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## Warwick residents can apply for disaster assistance

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

Watford residents who are still dealing with the effects of a once in a century storm may get some help from the provincial government. Warwick Township heard Tuesday residents can now apply for the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians fund to help pay some of their cleanup costs. The municipality applied for DRAO after declaring a state of emergency in August on the heels of an extreme rainfall that caused significant flooding throughout the municipality. Environment Canada reported that nearly 180mm of rain fell between Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie during that event. Highway 402 was closed for a number of hours as rain covered the highway causing some accidents. Campers at conservation areas in Warwick and Alvinston were left stranded when the deluge washed out lanes to the main roads. In Dawn-

Euphemia, trailers were pulled from the Shetland Conservation Area as the Sydenham River rose. All over Watford, signs of the storm could be seen as disaster restoration companies worked to help homeowners deal with water and sewage in their basements. For some, it took weeks for the work to be completed. At the time, Mayor Todd Case said the state of emergency was called even though there was not a threat to public safety the “financial loss is going to be huge,” Mayor Case said. “By declaring an emergency, we can raise public awareness and provide flexibility to call on partners to assist in the response if necessary. Just days after the incident, council apply to the province hoping residents would be able to access the fund for victims. The DRAO program helps with emergency expenses and the cost to repair or replace essential property not covered by insurance following a

natural disaster. The program is not a substitute for homeowners insurance but the provincial government says it can help homeowners with the cost of items such as clean up expenses costs to repair or replace essential property, basic emergency expenses like evacuation travel costs. Homeowners, tenants, small business owners, small farm operations and non profit organizations can apply under the program. It may cover up to 90 per cent of your eligible costs for emergency expenses, appliances and furnishings up to \$250,000. Homeowners with more than \$275,000 in insurance coverage are not likely to be eligible under the program. The application deadline is March 27, 2024. Warwick plans some public information sessions to explain the program. Residents in several other hard hit municipalities can apply for the program including Kingsville, Lakeshore and Southwest Middlesex.

## Developer has ‘never experienced such a backlash’

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent


The developer of a Wyoming subdivision says constant complaints by neighbours has him reconsidering building in the community again. Mike Radcliffe, the developer of Silver Springs subdivision on Wyoming’s south side came to Plympton-Wyoming’s planning meeting Monday voicing frustration about complaints stemming from the construction of the new housing. Since the construction began, neighbours have complained about large amounts of dirt left on streets leading up to the development. There have also been complaints about standing water on the lots and weeds. Each time the municipality gets a complaint, it contacts Radcliffe or the builders – Colden Homes, Parry Homes or Vander Molen Homes – to deal with the issue. In a letter sent to the town, Radcliffe says the builders bought a street sweeper attachment to keep the roads clean and the developer has fixed some of the standing water concerns to be a good neighbour. But, the constant complaints and follow up from the municipality under the Tidy Yards bylaw led to frustration. “We feel that we are being unfairly targeted by certain members of the community who possibly are against new developments or change in general,” the developer and builders wrote

in a letter to council. “If you drive around town, there are many established properties with standing water and weeds in excess of the allowed eight inches.” Radcliffe and the builders want council to be more flexible when applying the bylaw to an active construction site. “It is in our best interests as the developer and builders to keep the lots aesthetically pleasing in order to attract new homebuyers to the area and we feel that we have put in a great deal of effort to date,” they wrote. “Continually making our two-hour drives to the subdivision to deal with these frivolous complaints cost us unnecessary time and money which in turn we have to pass on to any potential new customers in their house pricing. “We have never experienced such backlash from members of a small community before and we are perplexed. We understand that we are not locals however we really have tried to become a part of the community and were very excited to build new connections with the people of Wyoming.” The letter goes on to say that Radcliffe owns other property in the community and “is seriously considering not moving forward with them due to the complaints that we have received and how difficult some members of this community have been to work or even coexist with. “The builders are very hesitant to

sign up for another development as well due to the difficulties we have had with some residents.” Radcliffe, who came to Wyoming to talk to council in person about the issue added; “What it comes down to is this is a construction site - we all understand that, and we are being held to the same standards as every house with tidy bylaw that you guys have. And we’re just looking for maybe some alterations to it or some grace or some sort of clarity.” While council asked staff to look at whether a compromise could be worked out, councillors were pointed in some of their comments to Radcliffe. Councillor Bob Woolvett said sometimes the dust and mud on the roads was “out of control” at the subdivision. “I don’t know how those people sometimes lived in that situation.” Woolvett added some people called complaining of up to two-and-a-half feet of water in nearby lots. Councillor John VanKlaveren seemed somewhat sympathetic asking how many people are actually launching the complaints. Staff wouldn’t respond to the question in an open council meeting. VanKlaveren said some of the complaints may be coming because “you are kind of visible and you are the new guys in town, and you’re not you’re more than just a mom and pop operation; and sometimes that comes with a bit of target.”

**TOWN OF PETROLIA**

**Development Charges Study and By-law**



**Notice of Public Meeting**

The Town of Petrolia is holding a public meeting to discuss implementing a Development Charges By-law. Development charges are fees on new developments that fund growth-related costs to the Township, as governed by the Development Charges Act, 1997. This By-law will set out the new development charge rates. A virtual and in-person public meeting will be held via Zoom on:

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 6:30 PM**

**In person at Victoria Hall, Council Chambers, 411 Greenfield St.**

**Online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89227651902?pwd=U1R6djFFVTNlNenM1SWJVVSTdCY0JTdz09>**

**Meeting ID: 892 2765 1902**


**Passcode: 422990**

Those interested in attending are encouraged to pre-register by emailing [lcourtney@bmross.net](mailto:lcourtney@bmross.net). The Draft Background Report is available for review at <https://town.petrolia.on.ca>. Copies of the proposed By-law will be available 2 weeks ahead of the meeting. Representatives of B. M. Ross and Associates Limited will be at the meeting to present details of the Draft Background Report and answer questions.

**This Notice issued November 16, 2023**

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# Tradition marks new fire truck arrival

Blake Ellis  
Local Journalism Initiative

Members of Brooke Fire Rescue officially welcomed their newest fire truck into the fleet at the Alvinston station.

Fire Chief Steve Knight said the truck arrived Oct. 23 and the members of the department received training.

The new truck has been used even before members of the fire department officially pushed it into the station on Saturday morning.

Brooke-Alvinston Mayor David Ferguson said in the last three days, the fire department has responded to two calls including a medical assist and a fire at a grain bin.

Knight said this is first time the fire department had conducted a traditional push in ceremony, even though the department has welcomed other vehicles into the department in the past.

The need to push a fire engine into the station dates back to the 1800s when fire engines were pulled by horses. Horses would be unhitched and the fire engine would need to be pushed into the station.



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Members of the Brooke Fire Service get some help from Mayor Dave Ferguson to push the new fire truck into the hall in Alvinston Saturday.

Even though, horse drawn fire engines are no longer used, when a fire department obtains a new fire truck, it is pushed into the station, just like the old days.

The process to purchase a new fire engine began in 2021, when a committee was formed.

# Petrolia’s parks and rec director retires

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Petrolia’s director of parks, recreation and facilities has retired.

Word of Dave Menzies retirement came during the Petrolia budget talks Monday.

Laurissa Ellsworth, director of marketing, arts and communi-

cations, says Menzies stepped down in October.

Menzies was in charge of some of the largest projects in the community including the expansion of services at the Oil Heritage District Community Centre property and the replacements of dugouts at the local ball diamonds after one collapsed when teens climbed

on top of it earlier this year.

Ellsworth says for the time being she and Mike Thompson, director of operations for the town, will be overseeing the department.

The town has begun the internal search for a replacement already, said Ellsworth. An external search may follow.

# Stolen Christmas trees, vehicle seized

The Independent

A Dawn-Euphemia man is facing 13 charges after OPP investigated a complaint from someone who had been threatened.

Lambton OPP went to a home on Downie Road Nov. 14 after getting a call about threats being made. Officers found the man at the home and took him into custody.

Officers recovered “a number of

suspected stolen Christmas Trees,” a stolen vehicle and firearms.

Harley King, 45, has been charged with uttering death threats, possession of stolen property and eight counts of possession of a fire arm or ammunition contrary to a bail order.

Was also charged with careless storage of a firearm.

He was held in custody after a bail hearing.

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# MENTAL HEALTH BOOST



PHOTO CREDIT

A walk to draw attention to the mental health needs of veterans raised \$15,000 for two organizations which provide help to veterans and first responders. Over 70 people were part of the Operation Talk to Me Johnny Ruck in honour of Wyoming native Sgt. John R Little walk earlier in November. Sgt. Little died by suicide while suffering from post traumatic stress disorder. Here, Little’s sons present cheques to two foundations. Jack Little, Lisa Mason, Andrew Gough, Greg Wing, of From Veterans & Everyday Heroes and Joshua Little presents a cheque to Carly Moore on behalf of Cameron Bennett from Forging Ahead. The family of Sgt. Little hopes to hold another Ruck Walk in Edmonton next year.

This Month In Lambton  
November 2023

f t

Warden Kevin Marriott  
@LambtonWarden

### Unique gift ideas for everyone in the Oil Museum of Canada gift shop

The Oil Museum of Canada gift shop is stocked up for the holiday season and there are plenty of unique items for the historians, oil industry workers, or museum lovers on your list!

We have books on local and Canadian oil history, oil-scented candles, historic toys, branded items including hats and tea towels, and plenty of stocking stuffer ideas.

New to the shop this year are our Oil Museum of Canada ornaments. Each three-dimensional lacquered brass ornament comes with its own story box that tells a brief history of the Canadian oil pioneering spirit.

The gift shop is open during regular museum hours for all your easy last-minute gifting needs. The museum is open in December every Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

### Lambton County Library holiday hours

Lambton County Library is adjusting its hours during the holiday season. All book return bins and libraries will be closed on the following dates:

- Sunday, December 24, 2023
- Monday, December 25, 2023
- Tuesday, December 26, 2023
- Sunday, December 31, 2023
- Monday, January 1, 2024

Lambton County Library’s virtual library is always open. Visit [lclibrary.ca](http://lclibrary.ca) to borrow electronic books, magazines, and newspapers, listen to audiobooks, stream movies and music, and more.

### Looking Ahead

**9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m., Jan. 17, 2024** – Committee A.M. & P.M. Meetings

**9:30 a.m., Feb. 7, 2024** – Council Meeting

Agendas, minutes and links to meeting live stream videos can be found at [lambtononline.ca/meetings](http://lambtononline.ca/meetings).

Office of the County Warden  
519-845-0801 | 1-866-324-6912  
[www.lambtononline.ca](http://www.lambtononline.ca)

To read more, go to [lambtononline.ca](http://lambtononline.ca)

# PETROLIA BUDGET

## Spending up 5.6 per cent, taxes up 1.5 per cent

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Petrolia Councillor Liz Welsh says during tough economic times, she has a tough time selling the idea of a \$75,000 entrance sign.

And council agreed.

Welsh made the comment during a four-and-a half hour council meeting Tuesday discussing the 2024 budget.

The town plans to spend \$4,152,227 in capital projects, with about \$1,761,784 coming from grants.

The south end gateway sign has been planned for nearly a decade. The town built the first sign near the Waterville plant at a cost of \$50,000.

Over the years, the request has returned to council, only to be approved and delayed during the course of the year or put off during budget.

Monday, Welsh says this is not the time to spend thousands on a sign.

“A lot of people are still experiencing some troubles with debt,” she said.

“I have a hard time selling this to residents - I don’t disagree that we need a sign of some sort. Do we need to spend \$75,000 on a sign?”

“\$75,000 is a lot of money for a sign.”

She suggested putting up a simpler sign for the time being. “Once you get here we sell ourselves anyway.”

Deputy Mayor Joel Field agreed.

“That south west quadrant is going to be developed in the next couple of years and as that’s developed and there’s a lot of activity, it then becomes our front door for a lot of people coming in and out. I think that might be the timing for it.”

The rest of council agreed.

Council also agreed to spend \$150,000 to replace the dugouts at three Petrolia ball diamonds in the wake of the collapse of one of the concrete structure over the summer. Two teens who had climbed on top of the building were injured in the incident at Greenwood Park.

That dugout has already been replaced with only benches to be installed.

Councillor Ross O’Hara questioned whether the town needed to do all the diamonds in 2024 after hearing that while the dugouts are aging, there is no immediate problems.

“It (the collapsed dugout) didn’t just fail and it was vandalized.”

Field bristled at the suggestion saying “that should not be said.

“It was an unfortunate situation where some young people got up onto a dugout, there was no intent that they planned on knocking it down,” Field said.

“This is not an act of vandalism and I think using that word is pretty impactful within the community.”

He added that replacing all the dugouts at one time might bring costs savings to the municipality. And Field said service clubs had already expressed a desire to help pay for the work at the parks.

Councillor Bill Clark says council needs to move ahead on the repairs.

“The fact that one failed and they’re all the same vintage, I think it’s responsible to move ahead and get them replaced and if it ends up costing us less because someone comes forward with a contribution then that’s great for us.”

Council also expressed concern about spending \$20,000 to study the idea of a boardwalk on Glenview Dr/Tile Yard Road. Welsh suggested the move earlier this year saying it would not need to be a complicated rebuilding of the road and the slopes in the area, but a walkway allowing pedestrians to use the road safely. Neighbours on First Ave have been asking for safety measures in the area for years.

But Councillor Chad Hyatt noted the issue has been studied before and questioned the need for another look.

Council asked staff to bring more information back before it approves the spending.

Other items in the capital budget include:

- \$891,156 for washrooms, change rooms, fencing paving and seeding for the Y community recreation project. The town is currently spending \$1.3 million to prepare the soccer fields and build a 100-car parking lot.
- \$1,245,000 on repairing Tank Street from the north end of the Petrolia Y to Discovery Line.
- \$35,000 to replace lights at the Farmers’ Market pavilion and wash and stain the cedar ceiling
- \$5,000 to replace the chairs councilors use in the council chambers
- \$11,000 for IT, specifically a firewall device replacement to avoid hackers from gaining access to town information.

- \$180,000 to construct a walking path beneath the Bridgeview Park Bridge. The town is apply for a grant to cover half the costs.
- \$125,000 for sidewalks as recommended in the sidewalk connectivity report
- \$140,000 to replace a public works backhoe
- \$70,000 to replace a parks and recreation pickup with nearly 400,000 kms on it
- \$10,000 for central air for the rehearsal hall beside Victoria Hall.

The \$6,466,823 operating budget is a 5.6 per cent increase in spending from 2023. There is a six per cent increase in the expense line for council and boards and includes an extra \$7,000 in the salary line for councillors and nearly doubling the amount of money council is able to grant to community causes from \$6,150 this year to \$14,600 in 2024.

Insurance costs were expected to rise about 15 per cent across the board, but CAO/Treasurer Rick Charlebois said they had just received word that the increase will be more along the lines of nine per cent - \$20,000 less than expected.

The cost of policing will go up about \$20,000 in 2024. The OPP gives all municipalities their costs for service without opportunity for input.

The cost of garbage collection is up nearly \$100,000. That is offset by an expected \$100,000 saving when the province officially turns over the cost for recycling to producers in 2024.

The town has also set aside \$30,000 to run the transfer station although the budget shows only \$6,737 had been spend on the station and leaf collection by the end of October.

It will cost \$547,051 to run the arena in 2024 - a \$68,610 increase over 2023’s budget. The town anticipates taxpayers will have to contribute \$262,751 to run the Greenwood. That’s a 27 per cent increase.

The fire department’s budget is also up 20 per cent, in part as it tries to put away money for a new washroom.

Before the budget session, town council had already passed a three per cent increase in water rates and a three per cent increase in sewage rates.

The public will get a chance to hear about the budget during a public meeting Dec. 11 with council approving the spending plan Jan. 8.



### TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATION

**TAKE NOTICE** that a presentation of the 2024 budget will be presented to Council on **Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.** The meeting will take place in person in Council Chambers at the Township of Warwick Municipal Office located at 5280 Nauvoo Road Watford and will also be livestreamed to the Warwick Township YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel.>

To be added as a delegation at the meeting, please contact the Township office at 226-848-3926 **by noon on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

The agenda for the meeting will be available on the Township’s website at [www.warwicktownship.ca](http://www.warwicktownship.ca).

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,** contact the Township Office at 226-848-3926 or [info@warwicktownship.ca](mailto:info@warwicktownship.ca)

# THE INDEPENDENT

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ALL EVENTS FREE

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

Plympton-Wyoming

## DECEMBER 9th 2023 5:30 - 9:00

### Lions Hall Grounds, Main Street WYOMING

Lighted Tractor Parade

Visit with Santa

Smores

Vendor Market

Horse Drawn Carriage Rides

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- at -

VICTORIA HALL

411 GREENFIELD STREET, PETROLIA, ONTARIO

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024

Admission \$30 - [www.thevpp.ca](http://www.thevpp.ca) - 519.882.1221

DOORS 7:30PM / SHOW 8:00PM

Brought to you by:

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J E W E L L E R S



This is an LLBO Mudmen Inc. Event. Visit: [www.mudmen.ca](http://www.mudmen.ca)

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Sherry Hamilton was dressed for the part, showcasing a Victorian period dress, which would have been fashionable in the 1870s during the Victorian Christmas Home Tour, on Saturday, Nov. 25 in Petrolia. Five period homes, along with St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church and Christ Anglican Church, where participants could finish off the evening with some refreshments. There were approximately 300 people visiting the homes decorated for Christmas in the 1800s. The house tour is an annual fundraiser for the Christ Anglican Church.



*Tickets are on sale now!*

PETROLIA 150 OPENING

**GALA**

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024

*Victoria Hall, Petrolia*

7:30 P.M.

**\$50**

TICKETS:  
WWW.THEVPP.CA/TICKETS  
(519)882-1221, IN PERSON AT  
THE VPP BOX OFFICE (411  
GREENFIELD STREET)



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Now accepting your perishable  
& non-perishable items

**5 days a week**  
**9am-3pm**

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4156 Petrolia Line

Schools ditch virtual snow days

The Lambton-Kent District School Board is ditching virtual snow days. Post pandemic, the board opted to close school buildings and have virtual classes instead. But a new study says that wasn’t working. The Student Attendance Strategy says “students can easily slip into habitual absence of more than 10 per cent of the time –two or more days per month ...The more frequently a student is absent from school, the more difficult it is for the student to be re-engaged. Addressing student absences

early may be able to prevent the downward spiral into greater disengagement.” Director of Education John Howitt said virtual learning wasn’t engaging students. “Rural internet limitations across our district, among other issues, provided great challenges and many students were unable to participate fully, if at all,” said Howitt in a news release. “Expecting our staff, parents and families to make the necessary preparations for their students and children to attend online, with little to no notice ahead of time is unreasonable.”

Public board chair wants moratorium lifted

Blake Ellis  
Local Journalism Initiative

The chair of the Lambton-Kent District School Board is hoping the province will lift the moratorium on school closures during his next term. Trustee Randy Campbell was again installed as board chair with Trustee Kelley Robertson being this year’s vice chair. This is Campbell’s fourth term as chair. There were only a single nomination for both positions, there were no need for any votes. As he listed the board’s accomplishments and challenges, Campbell pointed out The board has been experiencing declining enrollment, Campbell told trustees, enrollment has declined seven percent over nine school years, losing 1,673 pupils since the 2012-13 school year. There are currently two secondary schools under 30 percent of its capacity and five elementary schools under 50 percent capacity in the district. Campbell hoped the provincial government would eliminate its moratorium on the closure of schools. The

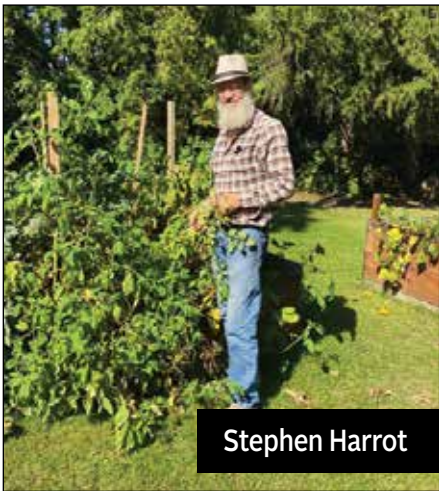
board has stated several times over the last decade that closing small schools will mean more resources for the schools that are left and better opportunities for students. Campbell added it is always important to put students first. He pointed to the accomplishments the board has made over the last year on standardized testing. The EQAO results are headed in the right direction, he said. The board also conducted an equity audit that was recently presented to the trustees, Campbell said while listing the accomplishments adding the name of the new consolidated Kindergarten to Grade 12 school in Forest, Lambton Shores Community School, was recently accepted. Construction on the school is expected to start in 2024. Campbell also said the school board can’t let its guard down which he says happened during the pandemic. “Where we focus, we improve,” said Director of Education John Howitt, as he gave remarks before a chair was chosen at the organizational meeting of Lambton Kent District School Board.

Inwood  
...a caring community

Stephen Harrott, a friendly plantsman, resident and community volunteer is leading exciting change in the village of Inwood. With his in-depth knowledge of the science behind plants, his gardening experience and his green thumb he has realized the first step in a larger vision for community gardening, a design that features an edible landscape.

In the spring, volunteers built 2 raised beds behind the Inwood church and readied soil for the first planting. Over the summer months the garden produced zucchini, beans, strawberries, a variety of tomatoes, Red Russian kale, beets, corn and more. The rain and wind storm in July took its’ toll on the corn stalks however the fruit and vegetable plants produced healthy crops. Where possible, seeds were dried and preserved for next season’s planting.

Stephen believes there are many benefits to community gardening. It invites neighbouring and connectedness through social interaction and a collective satisfaction in working together for a common good. He hopes that community gardens can be used as teaching demonstrations for all ages. Recently, he shared the idea of companion plant gardening with the Sunday school children. Here, they learned about the 3 sister planting technique. Corn, beans and squash are planted in clusters to support and nourish each other in growth. Corn provides



Stephen Harrot

a tall stalk for beans to climb. Beans supply nitrogen to fertilize the soil and to stabilize the corn. Large squash leaves render shade to the soil to lock in moisture and help control weeds. As Stephen’s vision gains momentum in community garden seasons to come he hopes to make improvements and expansions to bring success and enjoyment to edible landscaping. The inclusion of rain barrels and backyard planters are being considered as next steps. He is working in partnership with North Lambton Community Health Care to bring Community Food Cafés to Inwood where healthy ingredients are used to prepare, cook and consume new recipes.

Thank you for your care in growing our community, Stephen!

This community ad made possible thanks to:

**THE INDEPENDENT**  
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Wreaths were placed with honour prior to the November 5th service.  
We want to thank the veterans, their families, and the merchants who participated in the November 5th service.

 **LIST OF VETERANS** 

Russell McCullum	Victor Dolson	Art Woodcock
Alfred Powell	Nelson Bill	Keith Ritchie
William Russell	Don Gibson	Joe Robbins
Fred Davidson	Walt Nichols Sr.	Albert Roche
Patrick O’Connell	George Mills	Ross Richardson
John Kerby	George McMahon	Earle Trevail
George Seymour	Eli Dupuis	John Nelson
Reg Grandis	Orville Russell	James Clarence Monteith
Gord Parsons	Joe Bourassa	Jack Font
John Crawford Sinclair	Derwood Bradley	Roy Gibson
Jim Paisley	Owen Hill	George Stephens
Ted Paisley	Jean Hammond	Charles Arthur Nash
Ed Parsons	Robert McFarlane	Harry Mosieanko
John Duff	Eric Maguire	Norm White
Lloyd McArthur	G. Schanz	Charlie Stevenson
Eugene Smith	Bruce Whitelaw	E. S. Parker
George Bunyan	Ken Whitlock	Mac Pauling
Anthony Beaulieu	Bruce Whitlock	

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IODE	Boy Scouts
Wise Guy Pizza	Wallace Lang - Lawyer
Fiddick’s	Knights of Columbus
Street Cartage	Lambton Youth Theatre



*THANK You*  
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# Christmas comes to Corunna

Corunna came alive with Christmas Saturday as one of the first communities in Lambton to hold a Santa Claus parade. Floats and walkers made their way down the Lyndoch Street for a half hour delighting the crowds. This weekend, Petrolia, Alvinston and Watford all hold their Christmas parades and events.

BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS



PETROLIA FARMERS'

# Producers MARKET

DECEMBER 2, 2023

7:30AM TO 12:00PM

*Fresh produce, baked goods, canning and more!*

396 FLETCHER STREET, PETROLIA  
BEHIND THE LIBRARY



## TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK PUBLIC NOTICE - WATER AND SEWER RATES

### SCHEDULE "Ai" PART 1 - RURAL METERED WATER/SEWER

In accordance with Provincial Legislation, Water & Waste Water Rates need to be increased in order to be sustainable; therefore effective **January 1, 2024** increases will be adjusted as follows:

- a) Rural water rates will increase by 5% in 2024 which means a difference of **\$6.58** per **quarterly** billing on **minimum** water charges.
- b) Sewer rates will increase by 5% in 2024 which means a difference of **\$6.21** per **quarterly** billing on **minimum** sewer charges.

#### Effective January 1, 2024

#### RURAL AREA WATER RATES (billed quarterly) \*\*

Minimum Water Charge: up to 33 cubic metres quarterly	\$138.09 *
33.00001 to 171 cubic metres quarterly	2.1678/m3
Over 171 cubic metres quarterly	1.8944/m3

\*Minimum water rate = \$4.1846/m3

#### RURAL AREA SEWER RATES (billed quarterly) \*\*

Minimum Sewer Rate: up to 33 cubic metres quarterly	\$130.41 *
33.00001 to 171 cubic metres quarterly	2.0463/m3
Over 171 cubic metres quarterly	1.7883/m3

\* Minimum sewer rate = \$3.9517/m3 \*\* Subject to rounding on billing

### SCHEDULE "Ai" PART 1 - URBAN METERED WATER/SEWER

In accordance with Provincial Legislation, Water & Waste Water Rates need to be increased in order to be sustainable; therefore effective **January 1, 2024** increases will be adjusted as follows:

- a) Urban water rates will increase by 5% in 2024 which means a difference of **\$2.19** per **monthly** billing on **minimum** water charges.
- b) Urban rates will increase by 5% in 2024 which means a difference of **\$2.07** per **monthly** billing on **minimum** sewer charges.

#### Effective January 1, 2024

#### URBAN WATER RATES (billed monthly) \*\*

Minimum Water Charge: up to 11 cubic metres monthly	\$46.03*
11.00001 to 57 cubic metres monthly	2.1678/m3
Over 57 cubic metres monthly	1.8944/m3

\*Minimum water rate = \$4.1846/m3

#### URBAN SEWER RATES (billed monthly) \*\*

Minimum Sewer Rate: up to 11 cubic metres monthly	\$43.47*
11.00001 to 57 cubic metres monthly	2.0463/m3
Over 57 cubic metres monthly	1.7883m3

\* Minimum sewer rate = \$3.9517/m3 or \*\* Subject to rounding on billings.

# Brooke-Alvinston staring down double digit budget increases

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston councillors are facing the realities of high inflation, rising costs and fewer government grants. Treasurer Stephen Ikert is expected to present the 2024 draft budget Thursday which shows a potential 10.8 per cent increase in operating costs.

“Please do not infer from my report that I am recommending a 10 per cent increase in taxes,” Ikert told *The Independent*. “I am not. This is merely a starting point to get the councillors engaged and to get their direction.

“However, as you can see, as costs increase and revenues flat line or fall, it gets more difficult each year to balance the budget and to fund desired and needed capital work.”

Ikert says inflation is running over three percent right now. Wages are also up by \$134,000 at the municipality. The 10.6 per cent increase was approved by council in pay grid adjustments and cost of living increases as well as performance appraisal raises.

Brooke-Alvinston also hired more full time parks and recreation staff this year, since it is difficult to find part timers to work just weekends and evenings.

Ikert says insurance costs are likely to increase 10 per cent in 2024. That in the face of yet another decrease in the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund. The municipality lost another \$56,200 from the provincial pot this year - that’s about 12 per cent than last year.

The cost of running the community centre is also high, with about \$420,000 coming from taxpayers to cover the shortfall in revenue. That’s compared to Petrolia’s arena, which needs about \$260,000 taxpayer dollars to support it. Ikert says there is a 21 per cent increase in costs at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood arena.

There is also the looming costs of a legal battle with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority. Brooke-Alvinston council has denied a demolition permit for Campbell House, the turn of the century home which was the birthplace of Archie Campbell, who donated the 300 plus acres for the park. The conservation authority has vowed to take the matter to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

Ikert says council has to decide if it wants service cuts to cover the increasing costs or continue to “deplete reserves” to cover any shortfalls.

Meantime, there is some brighter news. Brooke-Alvinston will record a healthy surplus in 2023.

But there are issues, in the 2023 budget, too. Ikert says council spent 40 per cent more than expected in 2023, due to a number of factors including unexpected legal costs do to Conflict of Interest complaints against Councillors Jenny Redick and Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek. Ikert says the general government expenses are expected be on target in 2023, despite rising council costs.

Ikert estimates there will be a \$440,000 surplus in 2023, mostly because several projects were delayed including the purchase of a snow plow and the deferral of some of the work on the reconstruction of Lasalle Line.

All of that surplus has already been poured into the 2024 budget to reduce the spending increase.

## CRAFT SHOW SEASON



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

It’s the most wonderful time of the year for people who enjoy craft shows. This weekend, people were out looking for Christmas gifts at the St. Paul’s United Church craft and bake sale on Saturday.

# New school bears Lambton Shores name

Blake Ellis  
Local Journalism Initiative

The new Kindergarten to Grade 12 school in Forest will be called Lambton Shores Community School. Even though this was passed at the Lambton Kent District School Board at its Nov. 14 meeting, it did not come without an objection. Trustee Roberta Northmore, who represents the four First Nations in the school district, disagreed with the choice of the new school name. She honed in on the use of Lambton. John George

Lambton, the first Earl of Durham, is the namesake of Lambton County. “It is old colonial thinking,” said Northmore, adding Lambton was known as Radical Jack during his lifetime.

According to the Lambton County Museums website, Lambton was known as Radical Jack because he supported liberal causes and helped draft the Reform Bill of 1832, which resulting in changing the British electoral system and expanded the right to vote to more people. He has also been criticized because of his

desire to assimilate French Canadians into the English Canadian population.

Lambton authored a controversial report in January 1839, which recommended a framework for responsible government and the union of Upper and Lower Canada.

Over 30 people looked at 176 suggested names, including Trustee Jack Fletcher who admitted “it is not necessarily my first choice,” although he accepts it.

The \$39.8 million school will be built next to the Forest arena with construction beginning in 2024.

# CHRISTMAS

on Film

Town of PETROLIA

will be accepted at Petrolia YMCA

E-mails to Santa are being accepted at [LETTERSTOSANTA@PETROLIA.CA](mailto:LETTERSTOSANTA@PETROLIA.CA)

LETTERS TO Santa

SANTA MAIL

- SPONSORS -

**FRI DEC 1**

JOIN US FOR  
**CHRISTMAS**  
*in Victoria Park*  
6PM-8PM

**LIGHTING OF THE LIGHTS**  
6PM

**CHILI**  
6PM

LAMBTON CENTRAL  
PETROLIA OPTIMIST  
**THE ANGEL TREE**

IODE  
**HOT DRINKS AND FREE COOKIES**  
**WAGON RIDES**

**SAT DEC 2**

7:30AM-NOON  
**Petrolia Farmers' Producer Market**  
AT PETROLIA FARMERS MARKET  
396 Fletcher Street

11AM-2PM  
*Victorian Christmas*  
**CAROLLERS**  
Throughout Downtown

2:00PM  
**SANTA CLAUS PARADE**  
THEME: CHRISTMAS ON FILM  
Throughout Downtown

During the Parade...  
Petrolia & North Enniskillen Fire Department  
will be collecting cans for a  
**FOOD DRIVE**  
for the Petrolia Food Bank  
Please bring a food item to the Parade

Immediately after the Parade  
**SANTA AT PETROLIA YMCA**  
360 Tank Street  
Get your picture taken with  
*Santa*  
The Petrolia Camera Club will be there to take photos!

# SPORTS

## Brigden native Ultra Marathon champ

The Independent

Amy Robitaille is the World Ultra Marathon Champion after a big finish in Hawaii.

The Brigden native was the top female finisher and second overall at the Ultraman World Championships on Hawaii over the weekend.

The event features more than 500 km of biking, swimming and running over three days of ultra endurance racing.

In Day 1, the 44 year-old swam 10 km in 3:41:46, then biked 145 km in 5:41:20.

In Day Two, Robitaille rode 275 km in 7:32:37. The final day Robitaille (nee Thompson) ran a double marathon in 6:09:47.

Robitaille, who now lives near Guelph, told interviewers after the event that “there were lots of times out there today that I was hurting a lot and I just thought, I just had to get there.”

Robitaille added becoming the World Ultra Marathon Champion was “icing on the cake” after the exhaustive event.

Robitaille also won the Ultraman Canada championship in July.

## Ferguson’s four leads Squires to victory

The Independent

Jesse Ferguson scored four times and Brendon Merritt chipped in a goal and two assists to lead the Petrolia Squires to a 6-2 home ice win over Dunnville in Western Ontario Super Hockey League action on Friday night. Kyler Keating had the other Petrolia goal and Kraig Wright and Ryan Fraser had three and two assists respectively.

Daniel Eichel made his Squire debut between the pipes stopping 34 of 36 shots.

On Saturday in Stratford, the Fighting Irish scored a trio of unanswered third period goals to beat the Squires, 5-2.

Dylan Quale and TJ Harris scored for the Squires.

Petrolia is now 8-3 and tied with Tillsonburg for the league lead with 16 points in the standings but the Thunder has a game in hand.

The Squires are off until they host Elora a week from Friday, Dec. 8 at Greenwood. The following night the Squires travel to Alvinston and the much anticipated first ever meeting with the Killer Bees. The teams will square off again on January 12 in Petrolia.

Petrolia is at Stratford Saturday.

## Flags lose four straight

The Independent

The Lakeshore Canadiens broke a 1-1 tie with a power play goal seven minutes into the second period and went on to beat the Mooretown Flags, 7-1

Friday night in PJHL action at Lakeshore.

Mooretown has now lost four straight and has only one victory in its last eight meetings. They are now 5-11-3 on the campaign.

Jace Dupuis had his team-leading 16th goal of the season for the Flags. He’s tied for 15th in provincial league scoring with 34 points in 18 games.

The Corunna native is now just one point shy of the top ten in Flags’ scoring since the team transitioned to the PJHL eight seasons ago.

The Sharks downed the Flags, 6-1 last Wednesday in Wheatley. Dracen Campbell had the lone goal for the Mooretown in the loss. The Wallaceburg native and Lambton Jr. Sting grad is the top scoring rookie defenceman in the province with 24 points in 19 games.



Amy Robitaille cross the finish line Sunday.

## Petrolia Flyer extend winning ways

The Independent

The Petrolia Flyers ran its winning streak to four games with a 4-3 win over Aylmer before a season high crowd of 512 fans on alumni night Saturday at the Greenwood Recreation Centre.

The Flyers were celebrating the 35th anniversary of the franchise since its inception as a junior D team in Alvinston in 1988. The team moved to Petrolia in 2016.

Against the Spitfires, Andrew Jaques had the game-winning goal at 8:37 of the final period. He scored just 17 seconds after the visitors had tied the contest, rallying from 2-0 and 3-1

deficits.

The other Petrolia goals - off the sticks of Daniel Gibson, Jake MacLean and Parker Davidson - were all power play tallies. Gibson and MacLean also each had two assists.

Ethan Everaert made 18 saves the Flyers who outshot the Spits, 36-21.

With a record of 7-10-1, the Flyers have crept to within three points of fifth place Exeter in the PJHL’s Yeck division standings with a game in hand.

Petrolia is at home to Dorchester Thursday at 7:30 before visiting the first place North Middlesex Stars in Parkhill on Saturday at 8.

# BATTLE OF LAMBTON

## MINOR HOCKEY NIGHT

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>

at Alvinston Arena

**ALVINSTON KILLER BEES**  
**VS. PETROLIA SQUIRES**



#### EVENT EXCLUSIVES

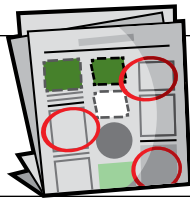
- **ALL MINOR HOCKEY PLAYERS** wearing their team jersey will be admitted **FREE OF CHARGE**
- **PLUS THE FIRST 50 KIDS** through the gate with their jersey on (except U18 participants) will receive a free souvenir Alvinston Killer Bees hockey puck.
- **FREE POPCORN, POP/WATER** FOR ALL KIDS UNDER 18, Pizza Slices by donation only, sponsored by Jardine Farm Drainage.
- **50/50 DRAW** GUARANTEED TO BE A MINIMUM OF \$1000 TAKE HOME
- **IN THE AUDITORIUM;** East Lambton Minor Hockey Raffle Table, area food bank drop off, games including; corn hole, target shooting & mini stick blow up rink
- **MINOR HOCKEY TEAM** with the most players at the Bee’s game will win a **FREE Pizza Party** From the Alvinston Killer Bees Hockey Club

#### GAME SCHEDULE

2:30 PM	Petrolia U18 LL VS. East Lambton U18 LL Hockey Game
4:00 PM	Petrolia U18 AE VS. East Lambton U18 AE Hockey Game
5:30 PM	Minor Hockey team representative shoot out U7- U18
6:30 PM	<b>Petrolia Squires VS. Alvinston Killer Bees Game,</b> <i>sponsored by MNP LLP &amp; Alvinston Optimist Club</i>
7:30 PM	East Lambton, Lambton Attack & Petrolia U7 team mini games during intermission
9:00 PM	Petrolia U18 Rep. VS. East Lambton U18 Rep Hockey Game

Classified Deadline:  
Monday @ 12 noon

# Classifieds



Word Classifieds: \$10 plus tax for up to 40 words  
Stop in at the office 9am-3pm – Monday to Friday  
4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728  
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

## Death Notices

Nov. 21 - Nov. 28, 2023

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

**POWER, Francis J. "Frank"**  
Age: 84

McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

**HENTSCHEL, Hartfried**  
"Hart"

Age: 92

McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

**LEHRBASS, Carol Louise**

Age: 72

Van Heck Funeral Home Ltd.

**GROVER, James C. "Jim/ Junior"**

Age: 88

Van Heck Funeral Home Ltd.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

**DASS, Samdai**

Age: 92

Denning's Funeral Homes

**LATHER, Faye Eileen**

Age: 84

Badder Funeral Home

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

**HERTLE-COOK, Beverly**  
(Bev) Ann

Age: 66

McCormack Funeral Home

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

**BLAKE, Edward "Ted"**

Age: 69

Smith Funeral Home

**MANDL, Richard Anthony**

Age: 87, of Brigden

Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

**KYKSA, Anna (nee Mrnik)**

Age: 88

Smith Funeral Home

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

**WESTAGE, Edward**  
Raymond

Age: 75, of Inwood

Needham-Jay Funeral Home

**HARTLE, Howard Charles**

Age: 82

Denning's Funeral Homes

**MANNING, Douglas Kelly**

Age: 65

Denning's Funeral Homes

**MOLE, Kaye Elaine**  
(Kaercher)

Age: 79

Knight Funeral Home

**LUNDIE, John M.**

Age: 92

McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

**BOND, John "Johnny"**  
William

Age: 95

Smith Funeral Home

**DARWISH, Riah Zaki**

Age: 75

Gilpin Funeral Chapel

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27

**JOHNSON, Delmar "Del"**

Age: 65

Needham-Jay Funeral Home

**LALONDE, John Emery**

Age: 93

D.J. Robb Funeral Home

**ORESKOVICH, Marco**

Age: 92

Smith Funeral Home

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

### Celebration of Life



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

## Celebration of Life

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

**PAUL MCGREGOR**

JULY 29, 1945 - NOVEMBER 4, 2023

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2023  
OPEN HOUSE 4-7PM, REMARKS AT 5PM

WYOMING LEGION

493 ERIE STREET

WYOMING, ONTARIO N0N 1T0

WE WILL BE GATHERING TO SHARE MEMORIES OF PAUL  
IN HIS HONOUR, WE WILL SERVE HIS FAVOURITE SNACKS AND DRINKS.

### In Memoriam

In Loving Memory of

## Bonnie Howes

who left us December 2, 2017

*What would we give her hand to clasp,  
Her patient face to see,  
To hear her voice, to see her smile,  
As in the days that used to be.  
But some sweet day we'll meet again  
Beyond the toil and strife,  
And clasp each other's hand once more,  
In Heaven, that happy life.*

Love Mom & Dad, son Josh & Destiny, Devyn and Eli

### Births



**Dennis and Renata**  
Wieczorek

wish to announce the arrival  
of their first child and son,  
**Benjamin Martin**,  
on November 18th at 1:49am  
weighing 7lbs 4oz.  
We wish to thank  
Allison Virtue, Dr. Hoover,  
the nursing staff, and  
our midwife team.

### Wanted To Buy

**ANTIQUES, ART & COLLECTIBLES**  
**Buying Antiques, Vintage Items, Estates**  
Buying anything old: Signs, pottery, toys, comics, knives, Coleman lanterns, lighters, advertising, razors & much more! Single items, contents of attics, garages, barns & entire estates.  
**Call Chad: 519-639-9102**  
**chadnlynds@yahoo.ca**

### For Sale

**FOR SALE:** Wooden toboggans & sleds. LIKE NEW CONDITION. Great for Christmas gifts. Assortment of sizes. **ALSO:** Huge Supply of Avon Decanters & Hockey cards for sale. Call: 'Dave' at 519-882-2548

### Support Our Troops

**When filling out your Christmas cards this year, take one card and send it to this address:**

Any Canadian Forces Member  
PO Box 5140 Stn Forces  
Belleville ON K8N 5W6

No postage required!!!  
If we pass this on and everyone sends one card, think of how many cards will be sent overseas to these wonderful, special, brave people, who have sacrificed so much.



### Hall Rentals

## Wyoming Lions

**554 Main Street**

**Reception Hall Rentals**

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Anniversaries

Funerals

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Bookings and information

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### Real Estate

**156 John St., Watford**

Investors or Buyers!! This low-priced, 2 bedroom, 1 bath with spacious eat in kitchen, large living room and primary bedroom would be ideal for your needs. The home has a full basement, ready for you to finish, ideal for children to play on rainy dates, all hookups set up for laundry. Situated on a large double lot 133'x128' with the potential for an addition to expand the home to 3 or bedrooms. Plus, there is still plenty of space for children and pets to play. Enjoy the 20'x12' pine board and batten shed in the rear yard for extra storage. Walking distance to all amenities, low taxes of \$1225 (2023), high-speed fibre optic internet available to work from home.

**\$399,900**

MLS#23023668

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*Leo Shanahan* Sales Representative  
Direct: 519-878-5981 • leo@shanahanrealty.com • Office: 226-848-6684

### Public Notice

**\*\*\* PUBLIC NOTICE \*\*\***

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**WYOMING COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

**Wednesday, December 5th, 2023, 5:00pm**  
**Wyoming Lions Hall, 554 Main St., Wyoming ON**

Members of the public are very welcome to attend.

**Caroline DeSchutter, Secretary**  
**519-330-5978 • cdeschutter123@gmail.com**

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**5 days a week 9am-3pm**

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4156 Petrolia Line

### Obituary



**WESTGATE**  
Edward

Passed away with family by his side on Sunday, November 26, 2023 at Bluewater Health, Sarnia. Edward Raymond Westgate, of Inwood, was in his 75th year. He will be missed by his wife of 50 years Sandra (nee Marley), his children Izak (Sheila) Westgate, Darwin (Julie Hewitt-Dubuque) Westgate, Sarah (Cory Vermeiren) Westgate, Ed Westgate Jr., and

Natasha (Bentley Foley) Westgate, his grandchildren Braydon, Landyn, Keldan, Rylin, Mackenzie, Alexis, Hunter, Marley, Elizabeth, Olan, Wolfe, and Edie. He will also be missed by his daughters-in-law Michelle Westgate and Carrie Westgate. Edward was the brother of John (Francis) Westgate, Brian (Laurie) Westgate and Jane Brown, he was predeceased by his parents Raymond and Doris Westgate and a sister Trudy (Bill) Vanderzwaart. He was a proud retired member of Local 663. He was an avid fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. **A Memorial Service will be held on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. from the Wyoming Chapel of Needham-Jay Funeral Home, 640 Broadway St., Wyoming visitors will be received prior to the service from 11:00 a.m. to the service time.** Interment will follow in Hillsdale Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (www.ceehf.ca). Memories and condolences may be shared [www.needhamjay.com](http://www.needhamjay.com).

Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 Noon

### 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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Classifieds



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

Upcoming Event

**WYOMING LION'S MEAT BINCO**

**Tues., Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm**

Doors open 6:00pm

**NOTE: DATE CHANGE**



Upcoming Event

**ROYAL PETROLIA LEGION - BRANCH 216**

**New Years Eve Celebration**

LIVE MUSIC FROM 7-10PM FEATURING:  
~ **NEWPORT ELECTRIC** ~

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM - DJ PLAYING MUSICAL FAVS FROM 10PM-1AM  
BUFFET STYLE DINNER FROM 6-7PM - LATE NIGHT SNACKS AVAILABLE

**Only \$25/person**

*Includes Admission, Buffett Dinner & 1 Glass of Sparkling Wine to toast in the New Year!*

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**NEWS ALERTS**



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Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 Noon

**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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:fbcpetrolia@gmail.com) | website: [www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca](http://www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca)  
*Find us on Facebook! [www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia](https://www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia)*



**Calendar**

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

*of events*

Events are listed FREE for non-profit groups in Petrolia and Lambton County (space permitting).  
To be included in this listing email the required information to: [office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](mailto: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 &amp; FRANKLIN ARBUCKLE</b> Acting as a purposeful feminist recovery project, the exhibition focuses more deeply on Frances-anne. For more info, please visit: <a href="http://www.jnaag.ca">www.jnaag.ca</a> .	
Nov 3 - Jan 12	Gallery Hours	Sarnia	<b>RE VIEW - EXHIBITION 4:</b> 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> 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.	
Dec 2	1:30pm	Sarnia	<b>THE SARNIA BLUEWATER CHORDSMEN: ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BENEFIT CONCERT</b> @ New Horizons Church. 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 9	5:30-9pm	Wyoming	<b>CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE PLYMPTON-WYOMING</b> @ Lions Hall - All Events FREE.	
Dec 12	7-8:30pm	Sarnia	<b>GENEALOGY DISCOVERIES</b> @ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1400 Murphy Rd. Meetings are free and open to the public - all welcome. For more info @ <a href="mailto:lambton@ogs.on.ca">lambton@ogs.on.ca</a> . Note: No drop in & chat session in December.	
Dec 13	7pm	Petrolia	<b>SING FOR JOY</b> An evening of Carol singing, refreshments and fellowship. First Baptist Church, 418 Greenfield St. Free of charge, everyone welcome. Info @ 519-882-2480.	
Dec 21	6-8pm	Sarnia	<b>FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM - COZY CANDLE MAKING</b> Free - Space Limited. Just in time for the holiday season. Register @ <a href="https://www.jnaag.ca/en/programs-and-events/holiday-art-drop-in.aspx?_mid_=106002">https://www.jnaag.ca/en/programs-and-events/holiday-art-drop-in.aspx?_mid_=106002</a>	

CLUBS AND REGULAR EVENTS				
DAY	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Mon	7p	Watford	Darts @ Watford Legion	519-876-2360
Mon	1-4p	Watford	Shuffle Up and Deal Bid Euchre @ E. Lambton CC	519-786-2808
Tues	7p	Watford	Euchre @ Watford Legion	519-876-2660
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	7p	Sarnia	Monthly Meeting @ Horticultural Society	519-332-5837
3rd Wed	1p	Petrolia	Music Jam, lunch at noon @ Petrolia Legion	519-882-1557
3rd Thurs	7p	Oil Springs	Optimist Meat Bingo @ Youth Centre	519-834-2152
Thurs	7p	Brigden	Pool Night @ Brigden Legion	
Fri	7p	Brigden	Pool Night @ Brigden Legion	519-864-1395
Fri		Watford	Meat Raffle, 50-50, CTA @ Watford Legion	519-876-2360
Sat	12p	Petrolia	Lunch 12-3 or until sold out @ Petrolia Legion	519-882-1557
Sat	2p	Petrolia	Meat Raffle @ Petrolia Legion	519-882-1557
Sat	3:30p	Forest	Meat Raffle @ Forest Legion	519-786-5357
Sat	6p	Alvinston	Catch The Ace @ Alvinston Legion	519-898-2100
Sat	4:30p	Brigden	Meat Raffle @ Brigden Legion.	Dec. 2nd and Dec. 16
		Brigden	NEW LEGION HOURS: Thurs 6-9p; Fri 6-9p; Raffle Saturdays 4-8p; Non-Raffle Saturdays 6-9p	

# SPORTS

## Killer Bees buzzing again

The Independent

After a three-week hiatus in the Alvinston schedule, the Woodstock Lakers and Tilbury Bluebirds provide the opposition for the Killer Bees in Western Ontario Super Hockey League action this weekend. Alvinston is home to the Lakers on Friday night at 8:30 at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Complex and then travel to Tilbury for a 7:30 game on Saturday. The three teams are bunched up the middle of the standings. The Bluebirds are 5-4, the Killer Bees are 4-3 and the Lakers are 4-5. Alvinston, who has played the fewest games in the league, last played on Nov. 10, losing 7-6 to Tilbury in east Lambton.

## Brandon MVP at AAA Silverstick

Petrolia’s Michael Leighton has stepped down as goaltending coach with the OHL’s Windsor Spitfires. The former Petrolia Jet announced his resignation the day after ex-Sting Andy Delmore stepped down from the Spits’ coaching staff. The resignations came after head coach Jerrod Smith was fired by the Spits.

The Sting’s losing streak has reached seven games following losses to the Spirit in Saginaw and Guelph at home last weekend. Sarnia entertains Brantford Friday and welcomes Kitchener for the annual Teddy Bear Toss game on Sunday afternoon..

Oil Springs’ William Hull equaled a GOJHL career high with three points, all assists, in Strathroy’s 5-2 win over St. Thomas last weekend. The Rockets are just two points back of conference co-leaders London and LaSalle. Strathroy is home to LaSalle this Saturday. The Rockets visit Sarnia next Thursday.

Gage Brandon has been chosen the most valuable player of the Whitby AAA U16 Silver Stick tournament. The 15-year old, from Petrolia, led the Vaughan Kings at the weekend event with eight goals and two assists in seven games. The Kings went 6-0-1, including a 5-3 win over the Toronto Marlboros in the final. Brandon, who played minor hockey with both the Petrolia Oilers and Lambton Jr. Sting, is eligible for the 2024 OHL draft next April.

The Mooretown Lady Flags U15 team went 5-0 on the weekend at the Rivalry Cup tournament in Detroit but missed reaching the final on goals for and against differential. The tournament featured games between teams from Canada against American teams exclusively.

The Lambton Jr. Sting reached the final in the U18 division at the Blueline tournament in Kitchener on the weekend. The Jr. Sting roster includes goalies Sean Shanahan and Blake Verberne and defenceman Mason Pomoransky, all from Watford, blueliner Logan Crummy of Oil Springs along with forwards Roen Douglas and Brayden Kominick of Petrolia. Lambton is 18-4-1 on the season.

Tecumseh’s L’Essor kicked a single through the end zone with 7.6 seconds remaining for a 22-21 win over Great Lakes in the SWOSSA AA football final Nov. 23. The Wolfpack advanced with a 7-1 win over LCCVI in the Lambton Kent AA final two weeks ago.

Connor Black of Forest finished second in his 25-29 year old age group and fifth overall in the men’s 10k open division at the Canadian cross country championships last weekend in Ottawa. Black was the defending champion. His team, the London Western Track and Field Club, took the silver medals in the team standings.

The winter season of Lambton Kent high school athletics began last weekend with a pre-season wrestling event in Windsor. The season also includes boys and girls’ hockey, boys’ basketball, girls’ volleyball, swimming and curling.

St. Pat’s lost a heartbreaker in the bronze medal in OFSAA girls’ AAA basketball tournament in Hamilton. Pickering rallied from a third quarter deficit to beat the Irish, 55-53 in the bronze medal contest.

## Legionnaires close to last year’s win mark

The Independent

The Sarnia Legionnaires will have three chances this week to equal its win total from last season but it won’t be easy.

The Legion is at LaSalle Wednesday and host the London Nationals on Thursday night at the Pat Stapleton Arena at 7:10.

The Vipers and Nats are tied atop the conference standings.

Sarnia takes on the Stars in St. Thomas on Sunday.

Sarnia improved to 10-11-1 on the season with a win and a loss last week.

On Saturday in Komoka, Jack Martin stopped 30 shots for his fourth straight goaltending



Jack Martin

decision in the Legionnaires’ 4-1 win over the Kings. Lambton Jr. Sting grad Ethan Matthews had the lone goal for Komoka. The win came following a 7-5 loss to St. Marys Nov. 23.

Plympton-Wyoming’s Austin Harper had two goals and an assist for Sarnia and Watford’s Ty Moffatt had a goal and a helper.

Plympton-Wyoming’s Ryan Richardson contributed a pair of assists.



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