

## A BABY IN THE ALVINSTON MANGER



“Baby Jesus” aka Rawlins Keating, was looking pretty comfy with his real life father, Cole, in the live nativity at the Alvinston Optimists It’s a Hallmark Christmas event Saturday night. **SEE MORE PHOTOS PAGE 7.**

## Petrolia/North Enniskillen fire chief retiring

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

Petrolia is on the hunt for another top manager.  
Petrolia North Enniskillen Fire Chief Jay Arns, who is also the town’s director of protective services, is retiring. Arns made the announcement Monday at the year-end swearing in ceremony for new

recruits at the fire hall where “things got a little emotional” according to a social media post.  
Arns says it was an “incredibly hard decision to say the least, but it was time.”  
Arns says he’s “leaving with lots of great memories and the residents of Petrolia have been nothing but fantastic.” And he’s proud of the team he’s built at the department.

“We’ve developed a good training program, a good all-around inspection program and built a good team,” he says adding he’s leaving the department in good hands.  
And while Arns says it is time to retire he’s going to miss the work. “It’s who I’ve been - who I am,” he says of answering fire calls.

**SEE FIRE CHIEF PG 2**

## Cannim had letter of intent to rent in Enniskillen in 2022

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

While Enniskillen councillors were moving to limit how close commercial cannabis operations could be to homes, the wheels were already in motion for an Australian company to set up shop on Lasalle Line.  
The information comes from reports of a trustee who oversaw the bankruptcy of Cannim Group’s operation in Chatham-Kent and as the issue heads to the Ontario Land Tribunal Dec. 11.  
The Independent first reported Cannim Canada was in the Lasalle Line greenhouse in November. Enniskillen officials expressed surprise a cannabis company was working out of the greenhouse, particularly since the municipality had just passed new zoning rules designed to keep cannabis from being produced there.  
Tilray had operated High Park Farms from the location since 2018. The Brand family, who lives just across the road, and other neighbours, complained of odour and light pollution. Trevor Brand had taken his concerns to the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board just before Tilray moved to Leamington in 2021.  
On Dec. 5, 2022, Councillor Mary-Lynne McCallum asked staff to prepare new rules to limit where cannabis could be grown, unaware that Cannim Canada - a new company formed as Cannim worked out its financial issues in Chatham-Kent - already had an agreement to open up shop on Lasalle Line.

**SEE CANNIM PG 2**

## Hospitals ‘recklessly failed:’ \$480M lawsuit

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

A \$480 million class action suit says local hospitals either “knowingly or recklessly failed” to protect the personal information it collected.  
The suit, filed in Sarnia Court Nov. 15 by lawyers for Robert Smith takes aim at five southwestern Ontario hospitals and their IT provider, TransForm Services, after hackers took down computers Oct. 23 in a ransomware attack. Services were curtailed and thousands of procedures, including MRIs, CT Scans and surgeries, were delayed. They are still are not back to normal.  
Bluewater Health was the primary target of the hack with over 267,000 patients personal information taken by the hacks known as Diaxin. That information has now been sold, the group claims.  
Hospital executives during a news conference Nov. 30, decried the criminal act with Bluewater Health President Paula Reaume Zimmer calling the cyber attack “sickening” on the heels of the pandemic.

**SEE LAWSUIT PG 2**

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# Cannim moved pot equipment to Enniskillen in February

CON'T FROM PG 1

Cannim bought into the Canadian market, becoming a partner with SunMaster Produce which had been growing cannabis in Grande Pointe since 2018.

But the small producer had big debts and on Sept. 7, 2022, William Worton, chairman of Medisun Inc - the same person who applied to Health Canada for the licence Cannim Canada now holds in Enniskillen - filed for bankruptcy protection so the CK company could work out a deal for its creditors.

The company had \$48 million of debt with Cannim Group Ptd Ltd holding the largest amount - about \$15 million.

Twenty-one days after filing for protection, Trustee Robert Stelzer of Grant Thornton Ltd wrote in a court filing that Worton was already looking at two possible greenhouses to relocate a scaled-down operation - one was the former Enniskillen Pepper greenhouse on Lasalle Line.

Three days after McCallum and her fellow Enniskillen council members put the wheels in motion to change the zoning rules for cannabis production, Stelzer was in court with another report, saying Cannim - now called Cannim Canada - had an agreement to rent the former High Park Farms operation.

January 16, Lambton County's Manager of Planning and Development, Ken Melanson, was leading a meeting in Enniskillen about the proposed new rules which would keep cannabis production of any kind 300 meters from homes. At the time, the greenhouse owners, Jack and Christine Greydanus, voiced concern the rules would limit their opportunity to rent their building.

On Feb. 17, Medisun asked the courts for another extension to come up with a bankruptcy plan. In her ruling granting the extension, Justice Grace said the company had "signed a letter of intent" and was working out a lease on Lasalle Line.

By July 28, the courts declared Medisun bankrupt.

Minutes from the first creditors meeting that day report, Trustee Robert Stelzer told the group the remaining cannabis at Med-

isun's Grande Pointe location had either been sold or destroyed and "most of the equipment was moved to Enniskillen. It was likely that Cannim Canada (a new entity) would purchase back the inventory and purchase the equipment."

By Aug. 8, Worton had sent letters to officials at Enniskillen Township, the OPP and the Petrolia/North Enniskillen Fire Department that it planned to apply to Health Canada for a licence. Enniskillen councillors didn't see that letter until after *The Independent* reported Nov. 23. It had been delivered to the municipal office.

But the political process to limit cannabis production near homes in Enniskillen seemingly stalled - at least in the public eye. It's not clear exactly why after the Jan. 16 public meeting the issue didn't return to council until Aug. 21. Then council approved the zoning changes limiting cannabis production 300 meters from homes but decided to seek more information about an exemption the Greydanus family wanted.

By Aug. 28, Cannim filed the paperwork for a new cannabis production license in Enniskillen, according to Worton's letter.

Sept. 13, just five days before Enniskillen Council was to meet about the exemption again - Greydanus' lawyer Scott Snider filed an appeal of the zoning rules to the Ontario Land Tribunal saying: "Since 2017, it was and continues to be the full intention of Enniskillen Pepper to make full use of the property as a cannabis production facility."

While council was aware an appeal was filed, its not clear whether they had seen the body of the complaint when the four members present couldn't agree whether to grant the exemption.

By the end of that month, Health Canada granted Cannim Canada a licence to produce cannabis at the facility. Dec. 11, the issue goes before the OLT for the first time. The tribunal will hold a pre-merit hearing via Zoom on the case. Monday, Enniskillen council, during an in camera meeting, appointed Clerk Duncan McTavish as the contact for the municipality's lawyer.

# Fire chief retiring at the end of December

CON'T FROM PG 1

The chief is also proud of the new JH Fairbank Fire Training Centre in Petrolia. It came to life in a repurposed building at the waste water treatment plant last year and has offered training to departments in rural Lambton County.

Arns is looking forward to spending time with his family after his Dec. 31st retirement.

Arns says the search for the new fire chief will begin with an internal search.

Arns is the second senior executive to retire in the last three months. Dave Menzies, the director of parks, recreation and facilities also retired in late October, it was revealed during budget deliberations last week. Julie Bullock, a 17-year employee of the town with experience in recreation, has been

# Lawsuit says hospital wasn't protected from hack

CON'T FROM PG 1

But the lawsuit filed by the Sarnia man says "given the sensitivity of the personal information, the known increase in cyber attacks on custodians of personal information such as large medical corporations, the defendants knew or ought to have known that their computer systems would be a prime target for unauthorized access or theft."

The lawsuit claims the hospitals had "inadequate" safeguards including storing unencrypted personal information, storing more information than necessary, storing old passwords and user names, and providing more access rights to users than necessary.

The lawsuit also alleges the hospitals and IT provider failed to use network segmentation and segregation, which would have thrown up obstacles and prevented the

hackers from being able to access as much information as they did.

The defendants "negligently, deliberately, and/or recklessly chose not to implement appropriate IT security to protect the personal information," the court document says.

Because of the security breach, the legal document says Brown and others joining the action have a "real, substantial and imminent risk" of future privacy breaches, identity theft and fraud. The lawsuit says they also "have suffered mental injuries" from "anxiety and distress" adding the information leaked is "highly sensitive and personal" and can cause "anguish, humiliation and distress."

The hospitals and TransForm Services have 20 days to respond to the lawsuit. As of Tuesday, a response had not yet been filed.



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# County politicians acknowledge child care issues

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Jenna Simpson is cautiously optimistic after hearing the child care stories of some Lambton politicians. Simpson is one of the members of the Petrolia Child Care Advocacy Group. They have been pressing Petrolia council to set up a municipally run child care facility since the spring to address what she says is an economic and child care crisis. There are about 340 daycare-aged children in Petrolia and 85 spaces available. Many parents get on waiting lists for child care as soon as they know they’re expecting and still don’t have a spot by the time the baby is born and parents return to work. A federal/provincial plan will create 541 spaces in the region with 67 slated for Petrolia but the County of Lambton, which is responsible for child care, is working with private operators to provide the service. Simpson says it is an economic issue politicians need to address even though they’re already dealing with big issues like the growing need for long term care for seniors and the housing crisis. The lack of daycare will make those issues even worse. “We can’t staff long term care without child care and how do we pay for homelessness if people can’t work?” “People want to work. I know so

many people who want to work and this crisis has a stranglehold on the economy.” The group told county councillors Nov. 29 about children on waitlists for care for more than two years, parents giving up jobs because day care couldn’t be found, and grandparents spending their retirement years taking care of their grandchildren. And the advocates said only 16 per cent of children have access to child care in Lambton. Privately run and public/private partnership day cares often run at about 70 per cent capacity because they can’t find Early Childhood Educators willing to work for \$18 per hour, the group added. “Even if existing operators within Lambton county are functioning at 100 per cent capacity, our access to child care rate isn’t conducive to facilitating a thriving economy,” Kate Wagner told councillors. “You are all elected advocates. We are here to hold you accountable for the needs of your constituents.” “Your performance on this file is appalling,” added Simpson. “It’s time to stop strangling the economy with your inaction. “We’re asking you to fund licensed childcare in Lambton county because there isn’t any way around it.” Simpson suggested the county should be putting aside \$1,000 per child care space to help pay increase wages in existing areas to attract

more workers and ultimately open more spaces. And Simpson says the county has to invest in building child care centers. “Choosing not to fund childcare is like choosing not to fund other critical infrastructure. Childcare is a sort of transportation network that gets parents to work and brings children from point A to point B safely and securely. Our children deserve dignity, protection and education” Several councillors recounted how their family has been impacted, with Warwick Mayor Todd Case saying he has been helping with his grandchildren because of lack of child care. Councillors asked the county for a report. But some councillors had warning. Samia City/County Councillor Bill Dennis says the ask would mean “a substantial increase in taxes” from taxpayers “who are hurting desperately.” But Simpson noted many councillors shared their child care experiences and hopes that translates into action. “We are cautiously optimistic. We realize that what councillor statements said is that this requires a paradigm shift. We think that’s a great way to explain what’s required here. “We think that there’s going to be a lot of work ahead, but I do feel like we’re going see some movement on this.”

# Little cash for cat care, big results

Heather Wright  
The Independent

It seems a relatively small amount of money can make a big difference when it comes to the cat population in Petrolia. During recent budget talks, council noted it would contribute \$2,000 to help Caregivers of Petrolia Ferals continue to spay and neuter stray cats in the community. Councillor Ross O’Hara expressed frustration that “we have to spend taxpayers’ dollars for cats that used to belong to someone.”

But Councillor Liz Welsh said the money provided by the town goes directly to veterinarians who sterilize the animals. Last year, 34 cats were sterilized. When the group started its work there were 122 cats in Petrolia’s downtown. Now there are about 69. Welsh says the group guestimates every year, they are preventing about 1,200 kittens from inhabiting the area. “The value of their food (for the strays) alone is \$19,000 a year. “It’s a valuable service they are providing and they are completely volunteer,” she added.

# Trial date for Fiddick to be set Friday

A former Petrolia nursing home owner has been committed to stand trial on six criminal charges. Michael Fiddick was charged May 22 by Lambton OPP with three charges of assault, sexual assault, overcoming resistance by attempt to choke or strangle and mischief. Since July 2022, the charges have made their way through the court system and on Nov. 30 he was committed to stand trial in

the case. Friday, he will be in assignment court where a date for the trial will be set. Fiddick retired from the long term care business in the spring after taking a leave of absence around the time the charges were laid. The charges did not stem from his work at the home. Fiddick’s Nursing Home is now owned by Omni Quality Living.

# Water main break causes boil water advisory

The Independent

There was a few tense moments after a water main break near Errol Village. Lambton Public Health issued a boil water advisory Thursday after a water main break on Egremont Road between Mandamin (near Bright’s Grove) and Schram Road (west of Errol Village Public School). Plympton-Wyoming CAO Adam Sobanski says construction crews in the area appeared to have hit the main causing the water pres-

sure to plummet. The break was repaired Thursday night, but “under legislation, the samples have to be taken 24 hours apart and the samples take approximately 24 hours to test. So you’re looking at anywhere from around 48 hours to before you will have official results,” said Sobanski Friday. By Sunday, town employees and local firefighters were delivering flyers giving the okay to use the water from the tap again.

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# EDITORIAL

## Child care need great; cost to fix it high

These two statements are both true; more child care is needed in Lambton County, and more child care will be expensive to provide.

That was, and will be, the crux of the debate spurred on by a group from Petrolia trying to hold Lambton County’s feet to the fire.

There are 340 daycare-aged children in Petrolia and just 85 spaces available. Many parents get on waiting lists for child care as soon as they know they’re expecting and don’t have a spot by new parents return to work.

Lambton County officials are working to change that. A federal/provincial plan will create 541 spaces in the region with 67 slated for Petrolia. The county says the most efficient way to get them up and running the relatively short time frame the federal government wants is by creating private day care spaces.

It does make some semblance of sense - if government is to build and operate new day care spaces it would take years, not months as the county is trying to accomplish now.

But expanding private day care is not a fail safe method. Many operators can’t provide competitive wages and that - says the Petrolia Child Care Advocacy Group - means the private child cares don’t operate at full capacity.

The advocacy group says Lambton County needs to provide money to top up wages for those centres, so they can hire more people and get spaces opened soon.

That too comes with issues, since there aren’t that many people graduating from ECE programs and competition for workers in the field is fierce.

The advocacy group also wants Lambton to build its own centers in the long run. One councillor pointed out that will mean big, taxpayer-funded bucks in a time when most people are squeezed. And there is no doubt about that.

It may be a tough nut to crack, but politicians have to find the will and the funds for more day care spaces.

The issues are many, but this truth remains; if families can’t find child care, someone will be staying home to take care of children. That will only make our labour shortage worse.

## 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

This is a typical group for the period of ca. 1918. Someone is home from war and everyone poses with the brother, husband or father in various stages of his uniform. These are always great pics with even greater stories. The back of the pic reads left to right, Ivan Hopper-Petrolia, at rear Emmeline and Art Colborne. Next to Ivan Hopper, Mrs Dora McMillen 4074 Petrolia Street. Mable (Watson) Wright, Mrs George Deacon 1918. In front of Dara McMillan’s home on Petrolia Line.

THE INDEPENDENT

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# Calls for action after long-awaited air quality report

**Cathy Dobson**  
For The Independent

Calls for industry to clean up its act are escalating after long-awaited study was released linking certain chemicals in south Sarnia and Aamjiwnaang First Nation to increased health risks.

Provincial government researchers found elevated airborne concentrations of cancer-causing benzene and sulphur dioxide that they say are particularly concerning in the study which looked at health risks in data collected over four years.

Risk of leukemia is increased by higher levels of benzene, according to the study known as the Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project. Elevated health risks are also associated with sulphur dioxide levels, especially for asthma sufferers and particularly during industrial flaring events.

“We understand these are upsetting results and our hope is that they set the stage for very powerful action and that the air will be much better and much safer,” said Rachel Melzer, manager of human toxicology and air standards with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and the lead manager for the Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project. Melzer called the project the most extensive study of its kind ever undertaken in Ontario. It was launched by the ministry in 2018 after a group of Sarnians known as the

Lambton Community Health Study committee demanded to know if there was a link between pollutants and local health outcomes. They advocated for a study since 2007.

Several members of the original health study committee were at the ministry’s announcement Thursday.

Sandy Kinart of Victims of Chemical Valley, said the study is a good start to cleaning up Sarnia’s air quality. “If this is what we need to push change, then hopefully change is going to come and it will benefit the community,” she said.

“This all just makes sense,” Kinart said. “My question is, what about the people who work at the plants?”

Kinart said she has no interest in shutting industry down but wants to make the workplace and the community safer.

“When the wind blows, we are being dosed and we don’t know with what,” she said. “We’re being dosed daily and I think we can do better in alerting (the community).”

Sarnia City Councillor Anne Marie Gillis, who was also on the original health study committee, was pleasantly surprised the new study has a number of recommendations that could lead to action. “We have to be patient a little bit longer,” she said. “But we want action.”

Researchers made numerous recommendations that include more monitoring, reductions in benzene concentrations, improved ministry

regulatory enforcement to reduce emissions from local industry, pollution control improvements, new government guidelines for benzene monitoring and abatement, flare minimization plans, only one flare at a time, and better communication with the First Nations and others living close to the plants.

A day prior to the Nov. 29 community information meeting, members of Aamjiwnaang First Nation were provided with the study results.

Reaction from Chief Chris Plain was swift. “We’ve been calling for action to reduce pollution in our community for more than 100 years...We need governments to take the necessary steps to ensure the standards are protective of our health and to enforce the rules in place and reduce pollution in our community.”

He called a lack of enforcement “environmental racism.”

Melzer said the government study remains relevant today even though it focused on data collected prior to 2019. New modelling shows spikes of benzene have been detected by a newer monitor known as the Ada Lockridge station on Tashmoo Avenue. “The highest one-hour concentration that monitor has ever picked up over the five years that it’s been in place was in 2023,” she said. “So our feeling is that the air exposure around reducing benzene...and protecting people from those one-hour spikes continues to be relevant today.”

# US commission gives Line 5 replacement green light

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

Enbridge has cleared a hurdle to replace Line 5 in the Straits of Mackinac.

The Michigan Public Services Commission said Friday there is a public need for the replacement of Line 5 – including that “without the pipeline’s operation, suppliers would need to use higher-risk and costlier alternative fuel supply sources and transportation for Michigan customers, including those who use propane for

home heating.”

It added in a news release replacing the dual pipes which are close to the surface will help protect the ecological, natural and cultural resources of the Great Lakes since the current pipes are exposed to the elements and risks including ship anchor strikes.

“The Commission found, and there are no feasible and prudent alternatives to the replacement project.”

The project has faced much opposition, including from Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer who filed legal action to stop use of the pipeline

which was built in 1954 and brings product to Sarnia’s petrochemical industry. The pipeline also provides propane for heating in Michigan, Ontario and Quebec. A number of US Indigenous and environmental groups intervened at the Michigan Public Service Commission’s hearing.

The commission said Enbridge still needs the required government permits and approvals and can’t make any “significant changes to the route and locations” of the replacement.

Enbridge must also submit a detailed risk management plan to the state.

# St. Clair to spend \$4.27 million on capital works in 2024

**Blake Ellis**  
Local Journalism Initiative

St. Clair Township will see a increase of 4.59 per cent in taxes just for the 2024 capital budget. This amounts to a \$59.49 increase for an average home of \$221,000.

St. Clair Township council went into Thursday’s budget meeting with a 7.31 per cent increase just for capital spending, amounting to \$94.87 a year increase on the same average home.

But Mayor Jeff Agar suggested for the second year in a row to push the Polymoore Drive rehabilitation until 2025. This would eliminate the \$470,000 project in the 2024 budget. Agar added the \$182,800 which was to be taken out of reserves for Polymoore Drive be used instead for the Cameron Street reconstruction project in Corunna.

Administrators had placed \$709,000

in the budget for the project - using the reserve money would shrink the tax hit to \$527,000.

Cameron Street will see a complete reconstruction from Lyndock to Bentinck streets. The entire project will be done in 2024.

Councillor Pat Brown attempted further reductions to the capital budget but every time he suggested changes, he was not able to get his council colleagues to agree.

With the one major change approved, St. Clair Township will spend \$4.7 million in 2024 on capital projects. About \$1.9 million will come from the 2024 municipal taxes - \$709,000 more than last year.

Other projects to take place in 2024 include the rehabilitation of the Marshy Creek bridge on the St. Clair Parkway. This project was to be completed in 2023 but the project was delayed due to some design challenges.

The \$3 million project was budgeted in 2023 and is expected to begin next July.

The White Line bridge over Clay Creek will also see some repairs done to it in 2024 with \$760,000 being set aside for it.

The St. Clair Fire Department will put \$550,000 into the reserves for future vehicle and equipment purchases. The department will also replace the pumper and rescue vehicles at the Corunna station, a tanker in Brigden and a rescue vehicle at Wilkesport in 2024.

Some recreation projects for 2024 include an overhaul of the change rooms for the pool and the rinks at the Moore Sports Complex.

The front reception area at the sports complex is also to be rebuilt in 2024.

The drainage system in the sports complex parking lot is also scheduled to be replaced next year.

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# Christmas arrives in Petrolia

Hundreds line the streets for the annual Santa Parade

Petrolia's downtown was filled with Christmas as the annual Santa Claus Parade was held on Saturday, Dec. 2. With the theme, Christmas on Film, the half hour parade including the Elite Star Dance Academy, (middle right) the Petrolia Flyers (middle left) and LCCVI marching band, the YMCA (below left) and the Petrolia Fair Ambassador Ava Horwood (bottom center) among others with everything culminating in the arrival of Santa Claus. Friday night, (bottom right) people crowded onto Fletcher Street to watch as the lights in rain-soaked Victoria Park were turned on for the season.



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS







Fire and camels and a baby  
in the manger at

*Alvinston's  
Hallmark Christmas*

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS



Alvinston was filled with people Saturday for the Optimist Christmas extravaganza – It's a Hallmark Christmas in Alvinston. Fifty-five volunteers transformed the community centre and downtown Alvinston into a Christmas wonderland. There were dozens of vendors and lots to see and do including fire performers, jugglers, a live nativity scene, roasting chestnuts, and wagon rides. Kaydance Mitchell, 2, of Sarnia, bottom left, sits in Santa's sleigh eating her cookie and Mikaela Myers of Alvinston was having a good talk with Santa, center left. Averiana Hoyerbrugge, 10, watches the lights go on, center bottom, and the LCCVI Band was on hand playing Christmas music while Cole, Becca and little Rawlins Keating were part of the live nativity scene which included camels which charmed visitors.





# County may set up EMS station in Camlachie

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Camlachie may get an ambulance station in the future.

That’s one of the recommendations from the Lambton EMS’ proposed Master Plan for the next four years. Steven Turner, the manager of EMS, told Lambton County Councillors Nov. 29 response time for paramedics has been gradually slowing over the past five years as call demands rise because of an aging population. Turner says 25 per cent of Lambton’s population is over 65 and generated about 52 per cent of the 21,000 calls in 2022.

And there are some long waits for service because paramedics based in the county must go to Sarnia to help with calls. Turner says 62 per cent of all 9-1-1 calls are in the city. “Resources from across the county are drawn into Sarnia to service call demand while leaving other areas unguarded,” Turner says, adding Bright’s Grove and Corunna are usually called in. Bridgen provides about 25 per cent of all standby coverage which Turner says, slows response time in places like Watford, Alvinston and Dawn-Euphemia.

Turner is suggesting in the next four years the county increase the number of ambulances serving the area from 11 to 15 and increasing the level of service in Sarnia.

The master plan suggests moving the Bright’s Grove station to Sarnia, the Grand Bend station to Port Franks to be closer to Pinery Park, where many summer calls originate.

“Relocation closer to the Pinery addresses a significant service gap at the park and Port Frank’s will maintain cover-

age to Grand bend within 10 minutes,” says Turner. He adds backup coverage for Grand Bend can arrive from Parkhill within 15 minutes.

The plan also calls for the closure of the Thedford station. Turner says it has an average of 1.2 calls per day and the community is within the 10 minute service guidelines from Forest.

That would free up services for Camlachie. “We’re seeing service demand growth and slower response times along the lakeshore,” says Turner.

“Positioning an EMS/ambulance in Camlachie helps to fill the service gap while providing backup coverage for both Sarnia and Forest stations.”

Plympton-Wyoming Mayor Gary Atkinson was surprised by the suggestion. “This is a first we really heard about it and when we hear about it on the street, it’s kind of a shock to us. So, I look forward to the consultation and the communication between us as we move forward.”

County councillors sent the report to the municipal governments to make comments.

Turner didn’t provide costing for the upgraded services. That’s expected to be announced during the February budget discussions.

But the EMS manager added increasing the number of ambulances cannot be the only solution to the areas health care issues. “Emergency care is one of the most expensive areas in health systems. So it’ll be essential for us to do a better job of getting people connected with the care they need in the time they needed,” he says that means using community paramedics more often and increasing the number of family doctors in the area.

# Camlachie man fined \$7K for hunting on road

Heather Wright  
The Independent

A Camlachie man has been fined and his hunting licence has been suspended after shooting at a bull moose on a hunting trip.

The Ministry of Natural Resources says on Oct. 9, 2022, a conservation officer investigated a moose being killed on a road near Ear Falls. Justice of the Peace Jerry Woods presided over the case in Red Lake Oct. 11 and heard Remo Iacobelli

of Camlachie fired several shots at a bull moose while he and the moose were on the road.

Officials say Iacobelli failed to “take reasonable consideration for people in the area and anyone that could have been travelling on the roadway.”

Iacobelli plead guilty to careless use of a firearm while hunting. He was fined \$7,000, had his hunting licence suspended for two years and is required to retake the hunter education course.



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Auction

## Estate of Robert Patterson 7315 Shiloh Line, Alvinston, ON Farm Machinery Online Auction

**AUCTION OPENS:**  
**Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 8 am**  
**Preview Saturday, December 9, 2023**  
**- 10 am - 2 pm at 7315 Shiloh Line, Alvinston, ON**

**Auction begins to close**  
**Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 8 pm - 5 minute soft close**

**Pick-up Saturday, December 16, 2023**  
**- 10 am - 3 pm at 7315 Shiloh Line, Alvinston, ON**

**Online auction features:** Case IH MXM120 2WD Tractor (4799 +/- hours), Leyland 272 Tractor (5530 +/- hours), John Deere 7000 4 row planter with dry fertilizer, Owatonna MFG 95 Grinder Mixer, International 550 manure spreader, 15’6” Benn Iron Packer, 18’ Harrowgater, 14’ 6” Glencoe Soil Saver, Ford model 503 hay rake, Gehl Bros MFG co model FB86 forage blowers, cattle chute, Westfield 70-41 auger, 5 furrow semi mount plow, White 348 Three furrow plow, 5’ Model M5 Rotary Chopper, and much more!



**Lot 80 - Case IH MXM120 2WD Tractor**  
- 4799+/- Hours - Firestone 11.00-16 front tires  
- 6x 100lb front weights - Firestone 18.4R38 rear tires  
- 3 rear wheel weights



**Lot 90 - Leyland 272 Tractor**  
- 5530+/- hours as it reads - 8 front suit case weights  
- Firestone 7.5-16 front tires - 18.4-30/15-30 rear tires  
- 3pt hitch

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## 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	1.7883/m3

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

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# SPORTS

## The Battle of Lambton set for Saturday

Barry Wright  
The Independent

The clock is ticking to the much anticipated first ever senior hockey meeting between the Killer Bees and Petrolia Squires Saturday night at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Complex.

Game time is 6:30.

The Squires joined the Western Ontario Super Hockey League this season after several seasons in the WOAA, while the Bees have been part of the WOSHL since its inception in the 2021-22 season.

While the crowd will likely be

predominantly pro-Alvinston, the Squires are hosting a fan bus from Wyoming and Petrolia to try to even out the noise.

In addition to the main event, there are minor hockey games involving teams from Petrolia and East Lambton beginning at 2:30 and continuing to a U18 contest following the Bees and Squires game. It’s scheduled for 9 pm.

There’s also a minor hockey shootout for various age categories beginning at 5:30.

The Bees, coming off a three-point weekend, are in seventh place in the tightly bunch standings with a record of 5-3-1, including a 4-1 record on

home ice.

Alvinston rallied with four late goals Friday to outscore Woodstock, 9-6 and fell 4-3 in overtime at Tilbury Saturday.

Petrolia, 8-3 and in second place in the standings, has been idle since a loss at Stratford two weeks ago.

Prior to the game with the Killer Bees, the Squires host Elora in its annual Turkey Night on Friday at Greenwood. Puck drop is 8:30.

Alvinston and the Squires will meet again on Friday, Jan. 12 in Petrolia.



CRYSTAL BRESSETTE PHOTO

Sam MacGee delivers a hit in the Bees 9-6 win over Woodstock Friday.

## Flyers rally falls just short against Parkhill

The Independent

Second period power play goals by Andrew Jaques and Dylan Demeulenaere narrowed a 3-0 lead by North Middlesex in PJHL play Saturday in Parkhill but the Petrolia Flyers ran out of runway in a 3-2 loss to the Stars.

Jaques also had an assist and Parker Davidson earned a pair

of helpers. Ethan Everaert made 28 saves.

Demeulenaere had Petrolia’s lone goal in a 5-1 home ice loss to Dorchester Nov. 23. Sam Dobroski made his Flyer goaltending debut with 30 stops.

Petrolia, now 7-12-1 on the season, is home to Mt. Brydges Thursday at 7:30. and take on the Irish in Lucan on Saturday.

The Flyers are five points back of Exeter for fifth place in the league’s Yeck Division with a game in hand on the Hawks.



## Flags continue to struggle; lose fifth straight

Brady Hutton’s goal was the lone marker for the Mooretown Flags in a 2-1 loss to the Wheatley Sharks in Stobbs division action Saturday. John Chartrand made 33 stops for the Flags.

Former Flyer Landon Marcy made his debut for

Mooretown against the Sharks but was held off the scoresheet.

Mooretown has now lost five straight games and have only scored three times the last three games. The Flags are 0-for-15 with the man advantage. The Flags have a

narrow two-point lead over Dresden for fifth place in the eight-team division.

Mooretown is home to Lakeshore Wednesday and entertains Amherstburg Saturday, both games at 7:30. The Flags visit the Admirals Sunday.

## Briefly: Teddy’s fly before the first goal

The 2023 version of the Sarnia Sting teddy bear toss on Sunday afternoon was one for the record books. The stuffies came raining down at 3:01 of the second period when it appeared Andrew LeBlanc had scored the first goal of the game for the Sting. The problem is the puck became lodged in the pad of Kitchener Rangers goalie Tristan Malbouef and never entered the net. The goal was immediately waved off but once the four thousand plus furry friends were released, there was no turning back. Sandis Vilmanis scored what was technically the teddy bear toss goal with little fanfare with 6.1 seconds left in the second period. Kitchener won the game, 6-3.

Wyoming’s Austin Harper scored twice and added an assist to lead the Sarnia Legionnaires to a 4-2 win over London in GOJHL action Nov. 23 at Pat Stapleton Arena. With the win, the Legionnaires equal their win total from last season at 11. Subsequently, they lost 6-3 to the Stars in St. Thomas on Sunday. The Legionnaires are at London Wednesday and host the Strathroy Rockets Thursday at 7:10.

East Lambton won the U18 division and Mooretown captured the U15 banner at the Andy Fassero Memorial tournament at Fort Erie last weekend. The Eagles beat

Tavistock, 5-1 in the championship final and the Flags downed the host team, 8-1 to capture its division.

Meantime, the Eagles won two silver stick banners at the regional tournament on the weekend in Ayr capturing both the U13 and U15 tier two titles.

Captain Tyler McGregor is tied for second place in scoring at the Para Cup in New Brunswick with six points in two games. The Forest product had a goal and three assists on Sunday in Canada’s 4-1 win over China and he added two assists in a 3-0 win over Czechia on Monday. Canada closes the preliminary round against the Americans Wednesday. Team USA is also 2-0.

The Lambton Jr. Sting reached the semi-finals but fell 5-2 to Elgin Middlesex Canucks in the U18 division at the Sarnia AAA Silver Stick tournament on the weekend. The Sting beat Huron Perth and Windsor earlier in the tournament and finished 2-3 overall. The Canucks won the title with a 4-1 win over the Southern Tier Admirals in the final. Meantime, in U11 AAA play, Lambton went 2-2 with win over Sun County and Burlington. Team Illinois beat the Toronto Marlboros, 2-1 in the championship contest.

4

## REASONS FOR ORTHOTICS

There are some situations that require extra foot support.

### ONGOING FOOT PAIN

It's Important to have a thorough assessment to rule out certain issues. When serious issues have been ruled out, orthotics can be beneficial by removing pressure and stress from painful areas.

### YOU HAVE A FALLEN ARCH

While orthotics don't correct a fallen arch, they can reposition structures in the foot to improve biomechanical function and reduce chance of injury. There a few different conditions that contribute to, and are aggravated by fallen arches such as plantar fasciitis, heel spurs, bunions and arthritis.



### YOU STAND FOR LONG PERIODS AT YOUR JOB

If you are spending long periods of time on your feet, you will need extra support because your muscles will fatigue. It's important to move around and give your feet a break.

### DIABETES

If you suffer from diabetes, you have an increased risk of corns and calluses, especially if your foot alignment altered. Orthotics can be helpful in reducing these key pressure areas of the foot.

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

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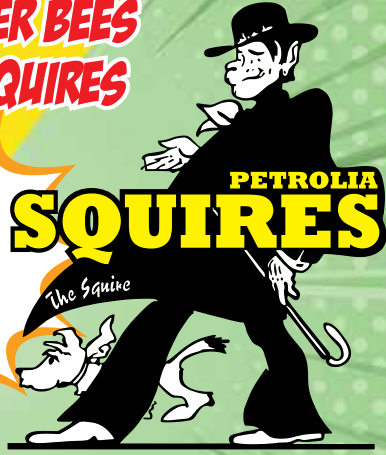
Dr. Martyniuk

## 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

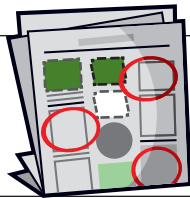
### GAME SCHEDULE

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. 28 - Dec. 4, 2023

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

**VAN DEN OUWELAND, Joseph "Joe"**

Age: 90  
Denning's Home Home

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

**LALONGE, Lyle Edward**

Age: 79  
Knight Funeral Home

**ROY, Kenneth**

Age: 88  
McCormack Funeral Home

**CLAIRMONT, Steven Dell**

Age: 53  
Gilpin Funeral Chapel

**BURROWS, Thomas Albert**

Age: 78  
Gilpin Funeral Chapel

**FLETCHER-PETTIT, Virginia "Ginny"**

Age: 70  
Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

**BAILEY, Nancy Suzanne**

Age: 68  
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

**GILBERT, Dianne Marie**

Age: 69  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

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

**LUSK, Lorna Joan (nee McNiece)**

Age: 90  
Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

**HENRY, James Allan "Stainless"**

Age: 65, of Sarnia  
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

**BARR, William "Bill"**

Age: 88  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

**DOWNIE, Sandra Yvonne**

Age: 68  
Gilpin Funeral Chapel

**BURKHART, Orvie**

Age: 100  
Smith Funeral Home

**TIMPERLEY, John Ernest**

Age: 94  
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

**BROWN, Wendy Lorraine**

Age: 79  
Denning's Funeral Home

**GIFFELS, John**

Age: 76  
Smith Funeral Home

### Obituary



#### BURKHART

Orvie

May 11, 1923 – December 1, 2023  
Peacefully, surrounded by loving family, on December 1, 2023, at Lambton Meadowview Villa, Orvie Burkhart passed away at the age of 100. Orvie leaves behind his wife of 75 years, Naomi Nora (nee Martin) and 5 children, Ray (Anje) Burkhart, Becky (Bob) Woolvett, Erma Burkhart (Kathleen Holmes), Albert (Deb) Burkhart and Barb Burkhart (Nadine Noseworthy), daughter-in-law Wendy Burkhart, 14 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren. Orvie was predeceased by his son Robert, daughters Susan and Esther,

son-in-law Wayne Wanner and grandson Daryl Wanner. A life of one hundred years in a few words? Faithful, believer in The Lord Jesus, as Saviour and Provider of life; Eternal! Faithful, hardworking, husband, father, friend and neighbour. Orvie grew up with 6 siblings on a Mennonite farm northwest of Elmira, ON. He married Naomi of Northern Michigan and raised 7 children in Brights Grove, ON. From a young man Orvie's talent of carpentry and being Mr. Fix It, was used as a career of 30 years; then he retired to helping family for 25 years. Orvie served others often and enjoyed hunting and fishing. As a close friend said, "He lived a great, good life. It was an honour to have known him." Orvie's family truly appreciates the staff, volunteers and service providers of Lambton Meadowview Villa for giving Orvie five good years with Naomi. Their loving professional care during his end of days was evident. **A private family service will be held.** Sympathy may be expressed through donations to Lambton Meadowview Auxiliary, which used funds to help residents enjoy life even better (cheques only at the funeral home please or online at [www.lambtoncares.ca](http://www.lambtoncares.ca)). Arrangements entrusted to Smith Funeral Home, 1576 London Line, Sarnia. Memories and condolences may be sent online at [www.smithfuneralhome.ca](http://www.smithfuneralhome.ca)

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### Obituary



#### TIMPERLEY

John Ernest

Passed peacefully on Friday December 1, 2023, at Lambton Meadowview Villa, Petrolia, John Ernest Timperley was 94. Ernie was married to his beloved Isabelle (nee Tremain) for 75 years. Predeceased by his eldest daughter Cheryl (2018) and he leaves behind his loving children, Deborra (George) Singletary, Lauren (Gregory) Clarke, John Ernest Timperley (Karla Baxter), and Brenda (Robert) Rogers. He was the proud grandpa to Nikki (John) Maxwell, Bobby (DK) Brittain, Jennifer (Matthew) Wemple, Rebecca Bailey, Scott (Jenny) Bailey, Sarah Singletary, Jessica Singletary, Michael (Jackie) Patterson, Krista Murphy, Daniel (Nicole) Patterson, Amy Timperley, Ashley Crevier, Megan

(Spencer) Mangum, and Ryan Rogers. Ernie was blessed with 27 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. Survived by his loving sister, Carol (Steve) Doyle. Predeceased by his parents John E. and Hannah (nee Pugh) Timperley, and his siblings Betsy (Ron), Benjamin (Margaret), and Joan (Bob). Ernie was in the in the Canadian Naval Reserve in the 1960's and worked for Imperial Oil for 40+ years. He was past president of the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 216, Petrolia, and past master of the Burns Lodge No. 153 AF & AM. He loved flea markets and owned an antique store in Petrolia called The Trunk in the Attic. He would do anything for his kids and grandkids, tinkering, woodworking, apple picking... he was a jack of all trades. Ernie played violin and piano, and he and his brother, Ben, played for the opening of the Bluewater bridge on October 10, 1938 – they walked to the middle of the bridge and played for a crowd of people, of which Isabelle, age 7, was in attendance. They were married less than 10 years later, on October 2, 1948. She was his greatest love. [www.NeedhamJay.com](http://www.NeedhamJay.com) **Please come and share your condolences, memories, and stories with Ernie's family on Thursday, December 14, from 1-4pm at the Wyoming Chapel of Needham-Jay Funeral Home 650 Broadway St. Wyoming.** Memories and condolences may be shared online at [www.NeedhamJay.com](http://www.NeedhamJay.com)

### In Memoriam

In Memory of  
**Joan R. (Joanne) Wagner**

April 8, 1936 – Dec. 2, 2022, Sarasota, Florida

A year has passed  
A silent thought  
A silent tear

Keeps your memory ever near  
Love leaves a memory no one can steal.

*Gone but not forgotten.*

Missed & Loved,  
Sisters: Barb (Bill) McNeil  
Sylvia Knight, Pat Dawson,  
& Lynne Howes  
Sister-in-law: Betty Wagner

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Classifieds



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Any items not listed are accepted, if you use it in your home our clients will use it in theirs

Church DIRECTORY



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

416 Queen Street, Petrolia (Behind the Post Office)

In-Person Service  
Sundays @ 10:00 am

Services also available online: www.standrews-petrolia.ca

Pastor Katherine Hawley



Christ Anglican Church

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

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

Everyone Welcome

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

Rev. Dave Hewett



St. Paul's United Church

4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

In-Person Services  
Sundays @ 10:30 am

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

Rev. Carol Ferguson



First Baptist Church

In Person Church Service  
Sunday Mornings @10:30 am

Pastor: Alex Craig

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

Calendar

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM  
DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

of events

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

CLUBS AND REGULAR EVENTS

DAY	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Mon	7p	Watford	Darts @ Watford Legion	519-876-2360
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	

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: www.jnaag.ca.
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 www.galleryinthegrove.com or call 519-869-4643.
Dec	Various	Brigden	<b>BRIGDEN LEGION DECEMBER EVENTS:</b> December 7th - Euchre 7, December 15th - Pool at 7, December 16th - meat Raffle at 4:30M, December 22nd - Pool, December 29th - Trivia, We are open Thursday Friday and Saturdays 6-9pm. On meat Raffle Saturdays we open at 4-9pm. 9:00 closing only if there are no patrons.
Dec	Check online or at Gallery	Sarnia	<b>FAMILY SATURDAY OFFERS ART-INSPIRED FUN AT JNAAG THIS DECEMBER</b> Family Saturdays take place year-round with changing themes each month. The program is free and open to everyone, though children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information on Family Saturday Studio Drop-Ins, visit the program and events page on the JNAAG website.
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 @ lambton@ogs.on.ca. 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.



# Santa stops in Watford



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS  
Watford was the first community to herald the arrival of Santa Claus on Saturday with parades in Petrolia and Alvinston through out the day. With more than 40 entries including the Watford Youth Activity Club, Watford Optimist Club and Watford Scouting, the theme throughout the parade was Watford’s 150th anniversary. Families and children lined the downtown in anticipation of Santa Claus who was riding aboard a vintage fire engine from the Warwick Fire Department driven by Chief Rick Sitlington.



# CK politician wants LKM Conservative nomination

Heather Wright  
The Independent

The Lambton-Kent-Middlesex Conservative Association is calling for candidates for a coming by-election to replace former Labour Minister Monte McNaughton. And a Chatham-Kent councillor is interested in the job.  
McNaughton – the long-time MPP for the area – stepped down Sept. 22 to work at Woodbine Raceway.  
Friday, the local riding association sent an email to its members calling for potential candidates to submit their papers by Dec. 10. The association will begin the vetting process the next day and by Dec. 24, the list of qualified candidates for the nomination

meeting will be ready. The qualified candidates will have until Jan 8 to sell memberships for the Jan. 27 nomination meeting.  
Steve Pinsonneault, who represents East Kent in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, says he will be putting his hat into the ring. “I think sitting on municipal council for 17 years, that I can bring the municipal perspective to the Queen’s Park,” he says.  
Pinsonneault, who lives in Thamesville, adds getting infrastructure dollars to Lambton-Kent-Middlesex will be a priority. “The province has just given some money to the city of Toronto, understanding their infrastructure needs there – I’d like to see maybe

that spread out through the rest of the municipalities within Ontario.”  
Pinsonneault says his family is excited by the prospect of a run for the PC nomination.  
“I’m at a point in my life where my children are growing up. I have grandchildren which I can see when I’m home. So, it’s a perfect time in my life. It’s a perfect time in my career too; I have good guys in my shop that can take that over and I can move on to the next step.  
“It’s going to be a bit of a challenge... but it also was when I got on council 17 years ago. It was a great big learning curve, but you know what, in a very short time you’re on your feet and running.”



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