

PACKING UP CHRISTMAS FOR EVERYONE



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Bubba Lyon, Steve McLean Karen McGrail and Ron Vandenberg of the Misfit Elves - a volunteer group from Wyoming which raises money for Christmas for Everyone - packs boxes at New Life Community Church in Petrolia Saturday. Christmas for Everyone, with the help of volunteer firefighters from across Lambton and the Misfit Elves - delivered the Christmas Hampers and toys to 431 families.

Enbridge eyes new battery storage/solar operation in Dawn-Euphemia

Heather Wright
The Independent

Enbridge Gas wants to put a energy storage facility at its Dawn-Euphemia complex on Bentpath Line.

In a letter to local councils, Denise Heckbert of Enbridge says the company is planning a one to two megawatt solar operation along side a one to two megawatt Battery Energy Storage System.

“The project will operate as an internal, off-grid energy system with plans to operate starting May 2025,” she wrote.

The project will be bound by Bentpath Line to the south, a backlot line and the Dawn facility to the north, Dawn Valley Road to the west, and Cuthbert Road to the east.

Heckbert rights it “will include solar panels and racking, inverters and transformers, electrical interconnection, a substation and communications tower, access roads, buildings and structures, perimeter fencing, temporary storage and staging areas, battery cells and modules, battery racks, and battery and power systems.”

Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad says the municipality has received no information other than the letter which was included in the public agenda. He plans to attend a public meeting planned for Oil Springs Jan. 24 starting at 6 pm.

This is not the first time Enbridge has proposed a Battery Energy Storage Project. In December 2022, the company began pitching three projects in St. Clair Township, one on Tecumseh Road, one on Ladysmith Line

and one on Petrolia Line. They’re all to the east and south of Nova Chemical’s plant at the corner of Petrolia Line and Highway 40.

Each of the three sites could produce up to 200 MW of power, enough to power 200,000 homes.

Neighbours voiced concerns over the project citing fires at similar projects in California which burned out of control in the past.

The Independent Energy System Operator did not approve the plans.

There have also been plans to build the storage units near Oil City and Wyoming. Oil City was turned down by Enniskillen council after a public outcry. The Wyoming area project was shelved because the power grid in the area couldn’t handle the new system.

Greater need; fewer donations as volunteers ensure Christmas for Everyone

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

As volunteers packed egg boxes full of food at New Life Community Church, the phone was still ringing at Christmas For Everyone’s office in downtown Petrolia.

Volunteers spent days packing 431 hampers said Program Coordinator Sandra Hartman.

Demand is increasing as inflation and the price of groceries are hitting many families hard over the last year, she says. Requests for hampers are still coming in as Christmas approaches and Hartman is doing her best to accommodate these requests.

While the demand is increasing, she is also seeing the number of donations being cut in half. “We just give what we have and make the best of it,” said Hartman, about the difficulty of meeting the demand with shrinking donations.

Hampers include many staples from cereal, jams, canned veggies, canned pasta, pancake mix and ingredients for a family to prepare a pot of chilli. Fresh cheese, bread and eggs are given, as well as gift cards to buy further groceries.

This is not meant to replace food a family may get from the food bank, but is an addition to help families get through the holiday season. Close to 400 children, between newborn to 16 years of age, are provided with toys, as well as hats, mitts and candy bags.

Christmas for Everyone covers 22 communities in Lambton County. The hampers were delivered by 15 fire departments on Saturday. Christmas for Everyone doesn’t cover Sarnia or St. Clair Township. **SEE CHRISTMAS PG 2**

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Six people homeless after massive Courtright fire

Heather Wright
The Independent

Two homes, a fifth wheel trailer and a couple of pickups were destroyed in a massive fire in Courtright.

Saturday evening, firefighters were called to Templeton Crescent where they found two homes and a trailer in flames.

St. Clair Fire Chief Richard Boyes says the fire was an accident.

The homeowner “was cooking chicken wings in the garage and went into the kitchen and then came back and it was fully engulfed.

“It started in the garage became fully involved in the garage then it worked its way out; set the fifth wheel trailer on fire that was in the driveway because it was backed right tight to the garage. And then between the two of them there was enough radiant heat that it set the second house on fire,” says Boyes.

“Everybody got out, which was the best news of the night,” before the firefighters arrived the chief said.

It took 50 firefighters from the four St. Clair departments to bring the fire under control.

The heat from the blaze meant the pumper truck had to be parked out on the street, well away from the fire.

And Boyes says, they worked hard to contain the blaze to the two homes. “Our primary goal was knocking the fire down the other was protecting the other two exposures on each side of the two burning homes. So that was where some of the additional actions went is to get a Water Curtain up to make sure it didn’t spread to house three and four.”

After the fire was out, firefighters rescued three dogs who were in crates in the basement. One cat died in the blaze.

Boyes says the cause of the fire will be listed as accidental. He estimates about \$1.5 million in damage was done.

Boyes says as people prepare for holiday parties, they should remember to “never leave any cooking appliance on a stove or barbecue or anything on unattended and if you are cooking with oil, deep frying etc. Please be especially careful of the temperature of the oil.”

Boyes adds “extreme caution is needed

“The heat and the flames get higher and then it will start to boil and get over the edge of the pan and then once the oil spreads out, it’s burning. So it doesn’t take long and that’s why we tell you to never take a pot off a stove and throw it in the sink because if you spread the burning oil then you spread the fire.”

Meantime, donation jars have been set up at the Courtright Variety Store, the local restaurant and Watson TimbrMart until the end of the week to help the families who are now homeless according to organizer Cathy Vickerd.

“I’m sure they’re insured but I wouldn’t want to go through this either. So, just because so many people have reached out I said, ‘Okay, I’m going to do something here for a week.’ We’ll put jars out at Watson’s here at the variety store. People want to transfer they can to me, then at the end of the week, I’m going to split what I have and I’m going to split it for the families.”

Vickerd says a couple in their 60s and a older couple with two teens have been displaced by the fire. Both families have found temporary housing with family and friends.

And Mayor Jeff Agar mentioned the fire during Monday’s council meeting



SUBMITTED PHOTO

St. Clair firefighters give air to one of three dogs which were rescued from the basement of one of two homes which were destroyed by fire Saturday. The animals were in the basement and were retrieved after the fire was extinguished.

offering his “heartfelt thoughts and prayers” to the families who lost their homes and words of thanks to volunteer firefighters.

“Without your heroics, it could have been far worse. Thank you for serving, for doing a job that puts others first.”

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BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Melinda Welch talks with a volunteer at New Life Church Saturday. Christmas for Everyone packed food and toy hampers for 431 families across Lambton County this year. Operation Christmas Tree in Corunna and the food bank in Port Lambton delivered in St. Clair.

More Christmas hampers going out this year

CON’T FROM PG 1

Operation Christmas Tree covers the north part of St. Clair Township. There were 116 families who received hampers, which were delivered by fire fighters on Saturday morning. This is about the same amount as what was provided to those in need in the community last year, said Operation Christmas Tree President Stan Marsh, who has headed the organization the last three years.


Marsh said the program always has a lot of volunteers. “I am always amazed at just how giving this community is,” he said. Operation Christmas Tree began in 1985 as

part of the Yule Glow program. Operation Christmas Tree came under the direction of the Optimist Club of Moore in 1989 and became a charitable organization.

Christmas for Everyone has been in place for over 50 years. Hartman said people could donate to the program anytime of the year. A notice is provided in every hamper to remind families to remember to submit their application forms for a hamper by early November.

Volunteers in Port Lambton also provide Christmas Hampers for members of that community.


• THE INDEPENDENT



This Month In Lambton

December 2023

f t



Warden Kevin Marriott
@LambtonWarden

Prepare for winter travel

Winter travel season is arriving and, with it, the need to be prepared for emergencies on the road.

Here are some tips to help you prepare for potential winter weather emergencies before you leave the house:

- Check 511 Ontario at **511on.ca** before you start your trip.
- Always dress for the weather. Bring along suitable clothing in case you have to walk or remain in your vehicle for a long period of time.
- If you encounter inclement weather or reduced visibility, slow down and allow plenty of space between yourself and other vehicles. Turn your headlights on to ensure you can be seen by other motorists.
- If you become stranded, it is often best to stay with your vehicle and wait for help. Make sure you have an emergency supplies kit for these situations. Visit **EmergenciesLambton.ca** for details on what to include in your kit.

One Book Lambton

One Book Lambton aims to unite people across Lambton County with a shared reading experience and activities that explore the chosen title’s theme.

This year’s title will be announced on January 8, 2024. Stay tuned for this exciting announcement!

Family Literacy Day Festival


Join the celebration of Family Literacy Day on Saturday, January 27 and participate in family-friendly activities at the Sarnia Library from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and at the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery from 12 to 3 p.m.

Family Literacy Day promotes family reading and literacy-related activities. Learn more about the activities planned at **lclibrary.ca**.


Looking Ahead

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**.

To read more, go to **lambtononline.ca**



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WAGON TRAIN FOR COMMUNITY FRIDGE



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Students from Queen Elizabeth II Public School make their way into St. Paul's United Church Tuesday. Kindergarten Teacher Laurel Mailloux challenged the school to collect 14 wagonloads of food for the Petrolia Community Refrigerator - double the amount collected last year. The students answered the call, gathering 15 wagonloads and several baskets of food. After walking from the school to St. Paul's, where the Community Fridge is located, they unloaded the haul and brought it into the church for sorting.

Petrolia's 150th party starts on the first day of 2024

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Petrolia is not wasting anytime in staging its first event as the town celebrates its 150th anniversary of its founding.

A gala will be held in Victoria Hall beginning at 7:30 p.m. One of the highlights of the evening will be a digitalized video, which includes much of the old film, which has been found tucked away in attics and basements and is connected to the history of Petrolia.

Town of Petrolia's Director of Marketing, Arts and Communications Laurissa Ellsworth, said much of this old footage has not been seen publicly before.

The evening will include speeches from dignitaries, a performance from a choir as well as other performing artists. There are going to be receptions before and after the show. People will be able to enjoy a special 150th anniversary beer before the show.

Black Gold Brewery has created a collectible eight-pack to celebrate its hometown pride. The company has crafted a unique series of labels, inspired by Petrolia's history, for its flagship beer, Liquid Gold. The cans complete with historic images of the town, spell out Petrolia. The brand was launched Sunday and will be available at many of the Petrolia 150 events, including the gala on New Years' Day.

Local restaurants are also contributing to the gala, preparing their favourites for the crowd on hand.

There is already much interest in the gala, as Ellsworth has heard of people who are returning to Petrolia to celebrate the holidays who are former residents. Many have purchased tickets and are going to partake in the gala as part of their holiday celebrations.

There has never been a New Year's Day gala before, said Ellsworth, saying the anniversary organizers wanted something special to mark the beginning of the 150th year.

Tickets are \$50 and can be picked up



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Laurissa Ellsworth, director of marketing, arts and communications for Petrolia, at the unveiling of Black Gold Brewery's Petrolia 150 inspired beer cans. They'll be available at all of the 2024 celebrations including The Gala being held New Years' Day.

from the Victoria Hall box office or can be purchased online.

Warwick Township retains its Lambton's lowest taxed title

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick Township has the lowest tax rate in Lambton County.

And the Village of Oil Springs has the highest.

That from the township's Treasurer, Trevor Jarrett, during the recent budget meetings.

Each year, Jarrett provides Warwick council with a comparison of the tax rate based on a home assessed at \$300,000. Warwick, despite an effort

to have property taxes paying for the operations of the township instead of the revenue which comes from the local landfill, still has the lowest tax rate in the county.

According to Jarrett's figures, Oil Springs, with a population under 700 people, has the highest taxes. A home assessed at \$300,000 there would pay \$3,109.49 in municipal taxes. Petrolia taxpayer would pay \$2,953.40 for that same home while Sarnia homeowners would pay \$2,915.32.

Warwick taxpayers with a house

assessed at \$300,000 would pay \$1,408.11. In fact, Warwick's municipal taxes are lower than what residents pay for county services - about \$1,415 per house.

Lambton Shores residents pay the second lowest municipal taxes at \$1,545 while St. Clair Township taxpayers shell out \$2,023. Plympton-Wyoming taxpayers pay just \$45 more. Enniskillen's taxes on the \$300,000 home would be \$2,187, Dawn Euphemia's would be \$2,494 and Brooke-Alvinston's \$2,760.



Village of Oil Springs NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Concerning Proposed Building Permit By-law Fee Amendment

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Village of Oil Springs will hold a Public Meeting on **Wednesday, January 17, 2024** regarding amendments to the Building Permit By-law's Fee Schedule 'A'.

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

The Public Meeting on this matter will be held:
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024
Time: 6:45 p.m.
Location: Municipal Office
4591 Oil Springs Line, Oil Springs ON

Any person may attend this public meeting or make written or verbal representation in support of or in opposition to the proposed amendment to the by-law. Please note that any written representations will need to be received by the Clerk no later than Friday January 12, 2024.

For further information regarding the Public Meeting or the proposed amendment to the by-law, please contact Martha Gawley, Clerk, at 519-834-2939 or by email at clerk@oilsprings.ca.

Dated at the Village of Oil Springs, this 15th day of December 2023.

Martha Gawley,
Clerk-Treasurer
Village of Oil Springs

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HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday, December 25th (Christmas Day): Closed

Tuesday, December 26th (Boxing Day): Closed

Saturday, December 30th:
7am-3pm

Monday, January 1st (New Year's Day): Closed

If a day is not listed it is regular hours
7 am – 4 pm

Wishing Everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season



EDITORIAL

Christmas call for help

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we want to thank the men and women across Lambton County who work tirelessly to make sure as many people as possible can enjoy good food and open some presents this season.

It's hard to estimate how many families need help this time of year. Petrolia's Christmas for Everyone has been serving all corners of Lambton County for 50 years. This year, volunteers who literally work all year to provide a happy Christmas, gathered supplies, packed them into boxes and delivered 431 food and toy hampers.

In St. Clair Township, Operation Christmas Tree, run by the local Optimist, helped about 116 more families.

In Port Lambton, the Sacred Heart Food Bank worked to provide food boxes and toys to those in need on the southern end of the municipality.

Forest food bank volunteers also helped spread Christmas cheer.

And many people across the county donated something to help fill all those boxes, although this year donations were down across the county as people struggled with rising food prices themselves and couldn't be as generous as normal.

It's a familiar story that is also told in a Feed Ontario report. The November study says 800,822 adults and children used food banks between April 2022 and March 2023 - a 38 per cent increase over last year and 60 per cent more than pre-pandemic levels. And March 2023 was before food prices really started to soar.

Governments have traditionally relied on the generosity of the community to help those who are in need. That's becoming increasingly difficult and governments - particularly provincially and federally - need to do more than offer hopes and prayers for a better 2024.

Increasingly, agencies are calling for the province to increase social assistance and disability program rates which now won't even pay for the average rent in this province. It is our Christmas wish this call is heard and the province responds to ease some of the suffering of those who make real choices every day whether to pay their rent or buy food.

Realistically, the province won't do that without pressure. So, it is also our Christmas wish that members of this community actively call for increased help so our neighbours live with dignity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

OUR STORY



PETROLIA HERITAGE PHOTO

Tis the season for the time honoured tradition of office Christmas parties. These ladies worked for Bell in Petrolia in the 1950s and appear to be celebrating the Christmas season together as you can see by the tree on the left of this Petrolia Heritage photo.

A good idea that is a shame in our county in 2023

Larry Leckie was more than happy to talk to me about the telephone installed at the Petrolia Community Refrigerator.

Volunteers Marie and Dave Currie wanted to set up a voice over internet protocol phone in the small shed which provides food 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the St. Paul's United Church parking lot.

People can call anywhere in North America for as long as they like as many times as they like.

The phone, says Leckie, is needed by the people who use the community refrigerator. If they can't afford rent and food, it's unlikely they can afford a

cellphone.

Makes sense.

But then, Leckie said it wasn't just local users who needed the phone. "We just thought there is a lot of people around the community, they don't have the ways and means to get home. We get them from Sarnia all the time. They show up here with no way to get back to Sarnia. Really. They show up over at the town hall, they're hungry and they send them over to us. So, the idea is that if you weren't going home, at least you could phone home or touch base with your friends or whatever."

Leckie says people coming from

Sarnia, who had tapped into all the resources they could and ran out of options. They heard about Petrolia's community fridge and make their way here just to get food.

It once again shocks me the level of need there is. It makes me proud Petrolia's volunteers are helping beyond our borders. But it also makes me ashamed the help is needed.



Heather Wright

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Canada

Hospital computer recovery slow going

Heather Wright
The Independent

Officials say over 5,200 people have now missed appointments, including CT Scans and MRIs, because of the computer hack at Bluewater Health. The Petrolia and Sarnia hospitals, along with four other southwestern Ontario organizations who were hacked Oct. 23, gave an update on the rebuilding of the computer systems, this week. Diaxin gained access into the hospitals computers in a ransomware attack which has paralyzed the computer systems of the five hospitals and other health care agencies in southwestern Ontario for months. Officials had hoped to be up and running again by mid December. But Dec. 14, officials said the work continues to make sure the systems are

repaired. “Our diagnostic imaging department, which is prioritizing emergency and inpatient cases, has had to cancel approximately 5,200 appointments up until Dec. 14, causing a significant and growing backlog,” the hospital said in an email to The Independent. That doesn’t include the number of referrals that have been made since the hack. The health care facilities still “do not have a specific timeline for restoring services. Our most critical systems are being prioritized in the first phases of restoration, while lower priority systems will take months to return.” The charting systems have started coming back online as officials check the integrity of the new system. Officials added, “We have encountered complexities during this process, which means that various

core clinical applications will be coming back online for our hospital as they become available, rather than our entire system all at once. It’s a deliberate strategy aimed at ensuring the highest level of security.” That, they say is affecting how quickly the hospitals can bring the systems online. “At this point in time, we do not have a specific timeline for restoring services. Our most critical systems are being prioritized in the first phases of restoration, while lower priority systems will take months to return,” officials said. The hospitals labs are still not accepting non-urgent appointments and patients coming to the hospital for services will need critical information like health cards, past records and medical history, a current medication list and reports from other doctors involved in their cases.

Brooke-Alvinston to reconsider Campbell House demo

Heather Wright
The Independent

Brooke-Alvinston councillors will take another look at the legal battle surrounding the AW Campbell House. The municipality voted to turn down a request for a demolition permit from the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority to bring the turn of the century farmhouse. The authority has been trying to demolish the building

since Oct. 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 house of the man who donated the land for the park. After waiting two years, SCRCA board members agreed to ask Brooke-Alvinston for a demolition permit. The municipality has now turned it down twice. The conservation authority has warned the municipality any costs for

securing or maintaining the building will be borne by Brooke-Alvinston. The conservation authority also is considering filing an appeal of the decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal. On Nov. 30, Councillor Craig Sanders and Jenny Redick - who previously voted to save the house - said they wanted to discuss the matter again. Council will discuss the issue again Thursday.

Dawn-Euphemia first look at 11.8 per cent budget increase

Heather Wright
The Independent

Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad is hoping to pare down the 2024 budget to ensure a more “reasonable” tax increase. Treasurer Marc Seguin presented the draft budget Monday. The \$4.9 million budget, as it stands, would require a 11.8 per cent tax increase. Included in this budget is a new

\$130,000 generator to improve the Dawn-Euphemia Community Centre as an emergency center. It also included over \$300,000 to replace structures serving as bridges. The township may also have to set aside \$140,000 to pay for the clean up on the former Florence high school. Broad says council has yet to fully review the budget. “I think when counsel gets done going through the budget, coming

back and reviewing the information, I would hope that we would be five per cent. At the end of the day would be a more reasonable number - it’s never reasonable, but it’s a number that we got to deal with,” he says. “We know we have a number of issues mainly to do with structures, bridges, culverts, that kind of stuff, and it’s nothing but huge money at the end of the day.” Council reviews the budget again in January.

Lambton wants to study merging Port Lambton Library with Sombra

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton County has its eye on the former Sombra Township building. Andrew Myer, head of cultural services, and Darlene Coke, the manager of library services, came to council Dec. 4 asking it to “reserve a place” for an expanded library there. The child care centre which is currently a tenant will soon be moving to the renovated Sacred Heart School in Port Lambton. The county wants to explore the option of merging the Port Lambton Li-

brary in an expanded Sombra facility. He says it would provide more hours and programs for residents. St. Clair councillors agreed to let the county explore the option but are concerned about closing the Port Lambton facility. Mayor Jeff Agar suggested the county consider some alternative services for the community. Recently, a 10-year planning report suggested some of St. Clair’s five libraries were too small to provide programing for the community. It suggested some should be merged together

and book vending machines be placed in communities without a library. Agar said St. Clair would like the county to consider placing the libraries in an under used school as it did in Brigden. “We certainly recognize the value of being integrated in schools; it has tremendous mutual benefit for the school and for the library.” Myer says the goal of a larger library in Sombra would be to “enhance library service to your residents.” The county will seek approval from county councillors for a study before returning to St. Clair with a proposal.

Second candidate in Lambton-Kent-Middlesex nomination race

Heather Wright
The Independent

There is another person in the race to be the Progressive Conservative candidate when a by-election is called for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex. Neal Roberts, who is the chief of the Middlesex London Paramedic Service, announced his candidacy for the job via news release Saturday. Roberts has worked for Middlesex County

since 2011 and heads up the paramedic service. He also served on Doug Ford’s Council on Improving Health Care and Ending Hallway Medicine in 2019. Roberts is a former business owner and past president of the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs and has spent his life in public service. Roberts says his priorities would be expanding broadband services, improving the access to timely quality health care and increasing the

availability of natural gas. Roberts joins Chatham-Kent Councillor Steve Pinsonneault as a candidate for the nomination to fill the seat left vacant when Monte McNaughton left his job as Labour Minister to work for Woodbine Entertainment earlier this year. The party will be vetting candidates until Dec. 24. A nomination meeting is slated for Jan. 27.

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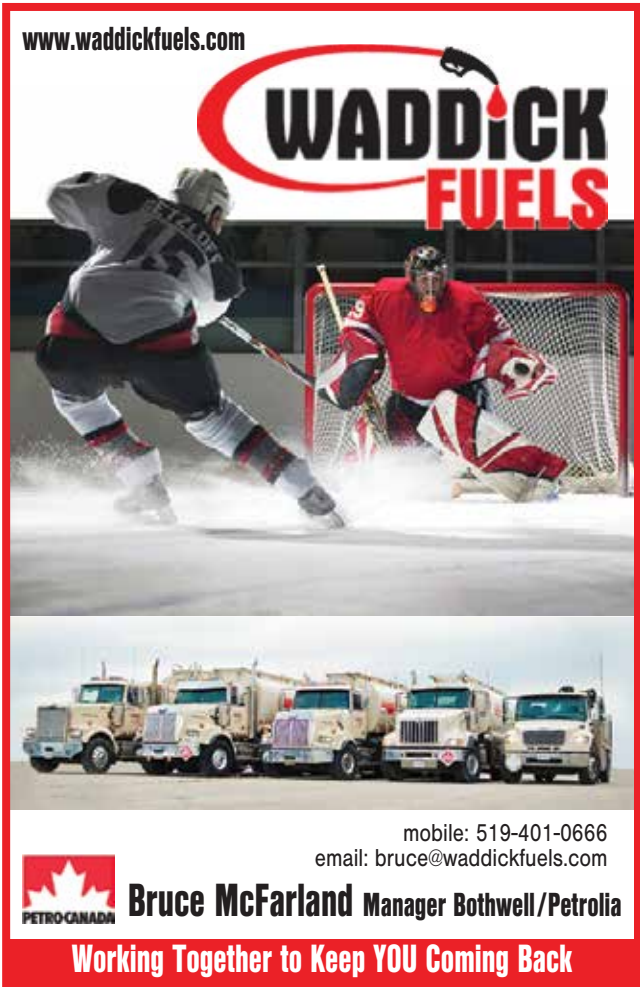
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SilverStick Players
stop by for breakfast, lunch, dinner or an after the game snack.

We are serving up all the fan favourites.

Good Luck To All Participants!

2023 Petrolia Regional Silver Stick Tournament

U18A

Thursday, December 28, 2023

8:00 AM	POOL A	Chatham-Kent Cobras	@ Strathroy Rockets	10
9:30 AM	POOL A	London Jr Mustangs Purple	@ St. Thomas Stars	11
2:00 PM	POOL A	St. Thomas Stars	@ Chatham-Kent Cobras	14
3:30 PM	POOL A	Strathroy Rockets	@ London Jr Mustangs Purple	15

Friday, December 29, 2023

9:30 AM	SEMI FINAL	Seed #4	@ Seed #1	20 A SF #1
11:00 AM	SEMI FINAL	Seed #3	@ Seed #2	21 A SF #2

Saturday, December 30, 2023

2:00 PM	POOL A	Seed #2	@ Seed #1	31 - A FINAL
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U18B

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

9:30 AM	POOL A	Lambton Shores Predators	@ Lambeth Lancers	2
12:30 PM	POOL A	Petrolia Oilers	@ Ilderton Jets	4
2:00 PM	POOL A	Lambeth Lancers	@ Mooretown Jr Flags	5
6:30 PM	POOL A	Ilderton Jets	@ Lambton Shores Predators	8
8:00 PM	POOL A	Mooretown Jr Flags	@ Petrolia Oilers	9

Friday, December 29, 2023

8:00 AM	POOL A	Seed #5	@ Seed #4	19 - B Elim
2:00 PM	SEMI FINAL	Winner Game #19	@ Seed #1	23 - B SF #1
3:30 PM	SEMI FINAL	Seed #3	@ Seed #2	24 - B SF #2

Saturday, December 30, 2023

4:00 PM	CHAMPIONSHIPS	Seed #2	@ Seed #1	B FINAL
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U18C

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

8:00 AM	POOL A	Dresden Jr. Kings	@ East Lambton Eagles	1
11:00 AM	POOL A	Lucan Irish	@ South Kent Lightning	3
3:30 PM	POOL A	East Lambton Eagles	@ Lucan Irish	6
5:00 PM	POOL A	Wallaceburg Lakers	@ Dresden Jr. Kings	7

Thursday, December 28, 2023

11:00 AM	POOL A	Strathroy Rockets	@ Haldimand River Kings	12
12:30 PM	POOL A	Port Colborne Sailors	@ Twin Centre Jr. Jacks	13
5:00 PM	POOL A	South Kent Lightning	@ Port Colborne Sailors	16
6:30 PM	POOL A	Twin Centre Jr. Jacks	@ Strathroy Rockets	17
8:00 PM	POOL A	Haldimand River Kings	@ Wallaceburg Lakers	18

Friday, December 29, 2023

12:30 PM	PLAY-IN ROUND	Seed #9	@ Seed #8	22 - Elim
5:00 PM	QUARTER FINALS	Seed #8	@ Seed #1	25 - C QF#1
6:30 PM	QUARTER FINALS	Seed #7	@ Seed #2	26 - C QF#2
8:00 PM	QUARTER FINALS	Seed #6	@ Seed #3	27 - C QF#3
9:30 PM	QUARTER FINALS	Seed #5	@ Seed #4	28 - C QF#4

Saturday, December 30, 2023

10:30 AM	SEMI FINAL	Seed #4	@ Seed #1	29 C SF#1
12:00 PM	SEMI FINAL	Seed #3	@ Seed #2	23 C SF#2
6:00 PM	CHAMPIONSHIPS	Seed #2	@ Seed #1	33 C FINAL



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519-845-1353
info@lambtonelderlyoutreach.org
www.lambtonelderlyoutreach.org



Good luck!

Wishing the very best of luck to all those competing in Silver Stick 2023/2024!

MARILYN GLADU MP
SARNIA - SARNIA
519-864-0000 - MARILYN@LAMBTONBMR.CA

PETROLIA REGIONAL



Dec 27 - 30
U18 A, U18 B, U18 C

Games listed are played at:
Greenwood Recreation Centre,
4065 Dufferin Avenue, Petrolia

The Reverend Canon George Menzies Scholarship

The Reverend Canon George Menzies 1926-2001

As the former Rector of Christ Anglican Church, Petrolia and St John's Church, Wyoming he served these parishes with the same unconditional commitment and loyalty that he showed his Country, his Community and his Family.

Canon George as many knew him, was one of the original organizers of the Petrolia Midget Silver Stick Tournament and remained an active member of the tournaments executive committee until 1999. A life-long supporter of Education and Minor sports his dedication and service to these areas was evident in his involvement. Canon George served as Chairman of the Petrolia District School Board in the 1970's and was an original member of the Helen Kavanaugh Nicol Scholarship Fund selection committee. During his very active 40 years involvement with the Petrolia Minor Hockey Association, he was twice awarded the distinction of "Mr. Hockey". He was also an avid fan and supporter of local Junior 'B' and Senior 'A' hockey teams for many years. Canon George was often heard explaining to people that he had two congregations . . .

*"The one I see on Sundays,
and the one I see at the arena! "*

The Earl Travail Memorial Midget Silver Stick Tournament Committee is pleased to have the opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of Reverend Canon George Menzies through the offering of this Scholarship, named in his memory

Hockey Hall of Fame

Visit the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto and see the original Silver Stick on display!

Named after the Ottawa Silver Seven team of the early 1900s, the Silver Stick was created by Jack Kinsella in 1957. The International Silver Stick Association has been honoured by having the original Silver Stick used for the opening ceremonies in 1958 displayed in the Hockey Hall of Fame since 1982, thanks to the efforts of, Silver Stick Honorary



Life Member Mr. Bill Williams and the late Silver Stick Honorary Life Member, Mr. Bill Glover.

Each year, after the International Silver Stick Finals, a plaque is placed in the Hockey Hall of Fame's Silver Stick display listing the team names of all the new champions. Team names have been updated for the 2021-2022 Tournament Season.

Due to limited space, only team names are listed on the plaque (not individual players and staff).

The Hall of Fame is located at 30 Yonge Street, Brookfield Place, Toronto, Ontario. Group Rates available. Plan your visit today! <https://www.hhof.com/>

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2023 Alvinston Regional Silver Stick Tournament

U11 A

Thursday, December 28, 2023

1:20 PM	ROUND ROBIN	Strathroy Rockets	@ Belle River Canadians	14
4:35 PM	ROUND ROBIN	Mt. Brydges Cougars	@ Burlington Eagles	17

Friday, December 29, 2023

12:15 PM	ROUND ROBIN	Strathroy Rockets	@ Mt. Brydges Cougars	23
1:20 PM	ROUND ROBIN	Burlington Eagles	@ Belle River Canadians	24
4:35 PM	ROUND ROBIN	Belle River Canadians	@ Mt. Brydges Cougars	27
5:40 PM	ROUND ROBIN	Burlington Eagles	@ Strathroy Rockets	28

Saturday, December 30, 2023

1:20 PM	CHAMPIONSHIPS	2nd in Round Robin	@ 1st in Round Robin	33
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U11 B

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

1:20 PM	ROUND ROBIN	Paris Wolfpack	@ Lambeth Lancers	5
2:25 PM	ROUND ROBIN	Petrolia Oilers	@ Lambton Shores Predators	6
6:10 PM	ROUND ROBIN	Mooretown Jr. Flags	@ West London Hawks	9

Thursday, December 28, 2023

9:00 AM	ROUND ROBIN	Lambeth Lancers	@ Petrolia Oilers	10
10:05 AM	ROUND ROBIN	Lambton Shores Predators	@ Ilderton Jets	11
5:40 PM	ROUND ROBIN	West London Hawks	@ Paris Wolfpack	18
6:45 PM	ROUND ROBIN	Ilderton Jets	@ Mooretown Jr. Flags	19

Friday, December 29, 2023

11:10 AM	QUARTER FINALS	7th Seed	@ 6th Seed	22
2:25 PM	QUARTER FINALS	4th Seed	@ 3rd Seed	25
3:30 PM	QUARTER FINALS	5th Seed	@ 2nd Seed	26

Saturday, December 30, 2023

9:00 AM	SEMI FINALS	Winner of 22	@ 1st Seed	29
10:05 AM	SEMI FINALS	Winner of 25	@ Winner of 26	30
2:35 PM	CHAMPIONSHIPS	Winner of 30	@ Winner of 29	34

U11C

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

9:00 AM	GROUP 2	North Middlesex Jr. Stars	@ Dresden Jr. Kings	1
10:05 AM	GROUP 1	Wallaceburg Lakers	@ St. Thomas Stars	2
11:10 AM	GROUP 2	Lucan Irish	@ Central Perth Predators	3
12:15 PM	GROUP 1	Minto Mad Dogs	@ East Lambton Eagles	4
4:00 PM	GROUP 1	St. Thomas Stars	@ East Lambton Eagles	7
5:05 PM	GROUP 2	North Middlesex Jr. Stars	@ Lucan Irish	8

Thursday, December 28, 2023

11:10 AM	GROUP 2	Central Perth Predators	@ North Middlesex Jr. Stars	12
12:15 PM	GROUP 1	St. Thomas Stars	@ Minto Mad Dogs	13
2:25 PM	GROUP 2	Dresden Jr. Kings	@ Central Perth Predators	15
3:30 PM	GROUP 1	Minto Mad Dogs	@ Wallaceburg Lakers	16

Friday, December 29, 2023

9:00 AM	GROUP 1	East Lambton Eagles	@ Wallaceburg Lakers	20
10:05 AM	GROUP 2	Dresden Jr. Kings	@ Lucan Irish	21

Saturday, December 30, 2023

11:10 AM	SEMI FINALS	2nd of Group 2	@ 1st of Group 1	31
12:15 PM	SEMI FINALS	2nd of Group 1	@ 1st of Group 2	32
3:40 PM	CHAMPIONSHIPS	Winner of 32	@ Winner of 31	35

ALVINSTON REGIONAL



Dec 27 - 30
Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre,
3310 Walnut Street, Alvinston

Best of luck to all the players.



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Good Luck To All The Teams!

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SPORTS

WATFORD SILVER STICK WINNERS



East Lambton (above) went 4-0 to capture the coveted regional Silver Stick crown in the U15 C division in Watford. After beating Wallaceburg, 3-0 and St. Thomas-White, 9-0 in the preliminary round, the host team downed Wallaceburg, 4-1 in the semi-finals and then prevailed 3-1 against St. Thomas-Green in the final Sunday. Meantime, in the B division, Mooretown (below) made it to the finals but lost 2-0 to South Huron in the title game. The Flags advanced with a 4-0 win over Petrolia in the semi-finals. Regional Silver Stick action continues with tournaments in Alvinston and Petrolia beginning on Dec. 27.



Dupuis lifts Mooretown Flags to tie

The Independent

Dylan Dupuis' second goal of the game with less than two minutes to play in regulation time earned the Mooretown Flags a 5-5 overtime tie with Essex on Saturday at the Moore Sports Complex.

Dupuis also had two assists and now has a team-leading 40 points on the season.

Landon Marcy also scored twice for the Flags and Ethan Kerby had the other.

John Chartrand was again sharp between the pipes with 45 saves for the Mooretown. He also blocked 55 shots in a 4-3 overtime loss to the 73's in Essex Dec. 12.

Xander Blair had his first of the season for the Flags in the road contest and Brady Hutton and Jace Dupuis added the others.

Mooretown, now 7-13-5 on the season, visits Walpole Island Thursday and hosts Blenheim Saturday in its final game before the holiday break.

Flyers soar over Spits

The Independent

Andrew Jaques' power play goal late in the first period was the game-winner for the Petrolia Flyers in a 3-1 PJHL win over the Spitfires Sunday in Aylmer.

Evan Morningstar and Derek Esselment also scored for Petrolia which is now riding a four-game unbeaten streak. Ethan Everaert made 32 saves in the Flyer cage and the game's first star.

Petrolia, with a record of 9-12-3, is now six points behind the Exeter Hawks for the fifth place in the Yeck Division; the Flyers have two games in hand.

The Port Stanley Sailors converted a penalty shot with just a minute left in regulation time for a 3-3 tie at Greenwood. Jake MacLean, Wil O'Leary-Dilosa and Cam Davidson scored for the Flyers.

The Hawks visit Petrolia on Thursday at 7:30 and the Flyers close out the pre-Christmas portion of its schedule at Mt. Brydges on Friday.

HOW TO STAY IN THE GAME

PART 2 POST GAME STRETCHES

QUAD STRETCH
Stand with back to a wall or the rink boards. Kneel onto right knee (use a pad for cushioning) with right foot flat against a wall. Left knee should be bent in front of you at a 90-degree angle for support. Place hand on left knee for balance and lean back slightly to stretch right quad muscle. Hold the stretch for ten seconds. Switch legs and do three stretches on each side.

GLUTE STRETCH
Sit on the ground with one leg slightly bent behind and one leg slightly bent in front. Lower chest toward knee keeping back straight and holding chin up. Hold the stretch for 10 seconds. Switch legs and repeat three times on each side.

HIP STRETCH
Lay on back with knees bent and feet flat apart on the floor slightly more than shoulder width apart. Lower right knee to the floor and place left ankle on top of it pushing the knee towards the ground. Keep hips on the floor. Hold the stretch for 10 seconds. Switch sides and do three stretches on each side.

Dr. Storozuk
Dr. Martyniuk

Lambton Chiropractic Centre
www.lambtonchiropractic.ca
431 King Street, Petrolia 519-882-1880

Pick up the Jan. 4, 2024 edition of The Independent for Silver Stick coverage

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Monday, Dec. 25 MOVED TO Saturday, Dec. 23
Monday, Jan. 1 MOVED TO Saturday, Dec. 30
the rest of the schedule remains the same.

Please remember to flatten all cardboard to no larger than 32" by 32", and to be mindful of the three-bag, and the 50lb. weight limit.

We ask that Christmas trees be placed at the curb, with all ornaments and tinsel removed and staff will be around to collect them beginning Tuesday, January 2.

From Mayor Loosley, Council and Staff we wish you all the best this holiday season, and send warm wishes to you and yours for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

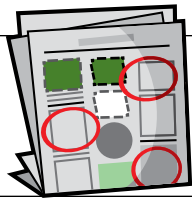
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you'll be surprised!

The Municipal Office will be Closed Dec. 25 and will re-open on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024.

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

Dec. 12 - Dec. 19, 2023

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

JACKMAN, Gordon Michael

Age: 66
Steadman Brothers Funeral Homes

McELREA, Larry Arrell James

Age: 90
McCormack Funeral Home

PRETTY, Wilma

Age: 94
Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

PRETTY, Ralph

Age: 83
Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

MARTIN, Clara Marie (nee Jubenville)

Age: 102, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

WISEMAN, George Alexander

Age: 86
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

CAMPBELL, Elizabeth "Beth"

Age: 62
Smith Funeral Home

CAPEAU, Lenore Alice

Age: 97
Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

MARTIN, Robert "Bob" Vincent

Age: 88
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

BURNS, Robin Lynn (nee Barclay)

Age: 64
Badder Funeral Home

McEACHRAN, Ross Harry

Age: 77, of Sarnia (Mooretown)
Smith Funeral Home

LEVITT, Harley Earl

Age: 78
Smith Funeral Home

LUTH, Hartwig

Age: 86
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

WELLS, Christopher Joseph

Age: 55
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

WILLIAMS, Fernand Joseph "Chico"

Age: 69, of Wyoming
Denning's Forest Funeral Home

SULLIVAN, Paul Alexander

Age: 55
Smith Funeral Home

FOURNIE, Barbara "Eloise"

Age: 90
Smith Funeral Home

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

CAMANO, Dorothy Mary

Age: 90
Smith Funeral Home

SPINNATO, Francesca

Age: 92
Smith Funeral Home

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

WILSON, Edythe Willena (nee Mills)


Age: 91, formerly of Brigden
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

CAREY, Mary Anne Susan (nee Smythe)

Age: 78
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

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

In Memoriam



In Memory

John Stewart

Mar. 19/51-Dec. 20/21

*A lot has changed
In the two years you've been gone.
But what remains the same is
We love and miss you John.*

Darlene and the Stewart family



In Memoriam



In Loving Memory of John F. Hull

*Your life was a blessing
Your memory a treasure...
You are loved beyond words
and missed beyond measure*

*You are loved,
You are missed,
You are remembered,
especially at Christmas.*

With much love, Myrtle, Kathy, Paul & family

In Memoriam

Missing Each of You

Each of you are missed at Christmas and each and every day. For each of you were someone special, who meant more than words can say.

Mom - **Sarah (Wagner) Rees** - Dec. 10, 1989
Dad - **Samuel Rees** - Oct. 5, 1977
Sister - **Delores Broad** - Dec. 23, 2009
Brother - **Gerald Rees** - Aug. 5, 2002
Brother - **Sam Jr. Rees** - Jun. 5, 2013
Sister - **Ilene Campbell** - Dec. 31, 2021

Luv & Hugs Geraldine Duffy

Our Loving Son

John Duffy - May 22, 2016

Of all the special gifts in life, However great or small.
To have you "John" as our son,
Was the greatest gift of all.
A special time.
A special place.
A special son,
We can't replace.
With an aching heart,
We whisper low,
We miss you "John",
We love you so!!!

Mom & Dad, Myrna Duffy



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In Memoriam



In Loving Memory of my Precious Furbabies at Christmas Time and Always,

GORDIE, BUDDY, JASMINE, SMOKEY-FAITH and LUCKY-DUKE at RAINBOW BRIDGE

Snowflakes to Rainbow Bridge at Christmas Time, mommy sends these snowflakes with lots of hugs and kisses to all my precious furbabies who I love and miss so much. Your mommy thinks about you all every day. Mommy will never forget the memories you all gave me tucked inside my heart to cherish.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL AT RAINBOW BRIDGE.
Plenty of unconditional love, your mommy, Lynn, Dreamer, Destiny and Autumn-Raine.

Retirement Announcement

Retirement Announcement

Dr D Gail Tanner

is pleased to announce her retirement from the practice of Optometry effective 31 December 2023.

All patient records will be maintained at 413 Wingfield Street by Kniaziew Optometry.

There will be an
Open House Meet & Greet
held at the Petrolia Lions Hall on
January 3, 2024 from 4 pm to 7 pm
"Best Wishes Only"

Used Eyeglass donations for upcoming Rayjon Eyeglass Clinic trips will be gratefully accepted.

"I opened two gifts this morning. They were my eyes"
- Zig Ziglar



Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 Noon

Obituary



MARTIN
Clara Marie

Clara Marie Martin (nee Jubenville), 102 years, of Petrolia passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at Bear Creek Terrace, Petrolia. The daughter of the late Alfred (1990) and Florida (2002) (nee Sterling) Jubenville. Clara was predeceased by her husband Euclid (1995). She was the loving mother

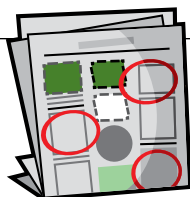
to Robert and Gertie Martin, Ronald and Fran Martin, Carl and Sandra Martin, Laura Martin, Angeline Martin, and Michael and Cathy Martin. She was the proud grandmother to twelve grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren. She was predeceased by a granddaughter Angela (2004). She is survived by a brother Leonard and his wife Sharon. Clara moved to Lambton County in 1960, where she farmed until moving into a retirement home in 2011. A private funeral will be held with interment in Mount Calvary Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Society (alzheimer.ca/sarnialambton) or the C.E.E. Hospital Foundation (ceehf.ca). Thanks to all the staff and management at Fiddick's Nursing Home, as well as to her special caregivers who for the last 10 years saw to her personal needs and kept her active. Arrangements entrusted to Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.

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.

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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Christmas
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Blue Christmas - December 21 at 6:00pm

Christmas Eve Service - December 24
6:00pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day Service - December 25
10:00am Holy Communion

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Pastor Katherine Hawley

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



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
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Annual Christmas Draw
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1st \$1,200 Alice Hawke

2nd \$800 Carly Egan

3rd \$500 Dave Russell

Thank you for supporting this project
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in our community!

Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 Noon

Holiday Hours

To enjoy this festive season
with our families and friends,
we will be closing for the week of
December 23-January 1st.

We are closing December 22nd, 2023 @ noon
and reopening @ 9am January 2nd, 2024.

THE INDEPENDENT

SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

Messages will be answered while we are closed.

Thanks for a great 2023
and looking to 2024!

SPORTS

Killer Bees stung

It was an afternoon to forget for the Alvinston Killer Bees, bowing 7-1 to the Fighting Irish in Western Ontario Super Hockey League action.

Newly signed Ben Hawerchuk, the son of the late NHLer Dale Hawerchuk, had a hat trick for the Irish. Carson Perry notched his sixth of the year for the Bees.

The home team jumped out to a 3-0 lead through twenty minutes of action, including a pair of goals within 31 seconds of each other midway through the period. The teams split a pair of goals in the middle frame before the Irish iced the game with a trio of unanswered goals in the final period. Stratford outshot the Bees, 46-21.

Alvinston, now 6-4-1 on the campaign, will hit the halfway point of the regular season with a home game against Elora this Saturday. Face off is 6:30. The Bees play the Aeros in Dunnville on Dec. 30.

Locals named Top Prospects

The Listowel Cyclones peppered Corunna’s Logan Phillips with 59 shots in a 5-2 win over the Sarnia Legionnaires in GOJHL inter-conference action. Phillips has stopped 95 of 101 shots directed his way since returning from an short stint with the Sarnia Sting, including 41 saves in a 2-1 win over Kitchener-Waterloo. Sarnia, now 13-13-3 on the season, will close out the 2023 portion of its schedule with a home game against St. Marys Thursday at 7:10. Meantime, four members of the Legionnaires, Matthew Anderson, Jack Martin, Lucas Durham and Ty Therrien, have been chosen to play in the league’s Top Prospects game next week in Ayr. Grand Bend’s Luke Bogart of St. Marys has also been named.

LCCVI’s James Grant, and Mike Belan and Northern’s Alex Pretty were all at the top of the leaderboard at the recent Jingle Bell 5K road race in New Baltimore, Michigan. The Sarnia Athletics Southwest Track and Field Club teammates and high school rivals placed second, fifth and seventh respectively out of 668 competitors. Meantime, Lily Bressette was the top local female finisher in 21st place. Zoe Alexander was 38th.

The Sting earned three of a possible four points to close out the pre-holiday portion of its OHL schedule. Following a 2-1 overtime loss to Saginaw in Sarnia, the Sting rebounded for a 5-2 win over the Firebirds a night later in Flint. The Sting is now four points back of the Firebirds for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Sarnia’s next game is at home against the London Knights on Dec. 28.

Marie Phillip Poulin had the game-winner in the shootout and Canadian goalie Ann Renee Desbiens stopped all five shootout attempts as the Team Canada beat Team USA, 3-2 before a sellout crowd at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena Saturday. It was Canada’s first win after three straight losses to the US in the Rivalry Series. The series continues with games in Saskatoon, Regina and St. Paul, Minnesota in February. Both teams are preparing for the Women’s World Championships in Utica, New York in April.

Corunna’s Ryan Carlton of the Lambton Jr. Sting was chosen player of the game for Team Navy in a 7-5 loss in the Alliance U15 AAA all-star game Sunday in Komoka. Watford’s Wyatt Ferguson and Sarnia’s Ethan Glavin of the Jr. Sting also competed in the contest. Meantime, Watford’s Sean Shanahan, Petrolia’s Roen Douglas and Logan Crummy of Oil Springs are among those from the Jr. Sting chosen to participate in the Alliance U18 AAA all-star game. The U16 roster includes Corunna’s Blake Barnes of the Jr. Sting. Both games will take place Jan. 7 in Komoka. Petrolia’s Brian Dobbins from the Elgin-Middlesex Chiefs will coach Team White in the U18 contest and Kevin Devine and his Jr. Sting staff will guide Team Navy.

Sean Van Gorp scored twice and Ben Hodgins earned the shutout as North Lambton blanked St. Pat’s, 4-0 in boys’ high school hockey last week. Jack Rombouts and Lucas George also scored for the Eagles who improve to 3-0 on the season. Elsewhere, LCCVI downed Northern, 4-1 and Wallaceburg skated to a 2-all tie with Dresden’s Lambton Kent Composite. LCCVI was scheduled to play the Eagles in Forest on Tuesday afternoon but the score was not available prior to our press time.

Squires 8-1 on home ice after win over Stratford

The Petrolia Squires improved to 8-1 on home ice this season with a 9-3 victory over Stratford at the Greenwood Recreation Center.

Curtis Helps had two goals for Petrolia and Brandon Biggers added a goal and two assists.

The other goals went to Joey Ferrera, TJ Harris, Kyler Keating, Brendon Merritt, Kraig Wright and Ryan Trottier.

Adam Arsenault had four assists while Eric Marsh contributed three helpers.

Saturday, playing with a short bench, the Squires lost a 9-7 contest to the Lakers in Woodstock despite peppering the Lakers goal with 57 shots.

Ryan Trottier led the Squires with a career high six points on two goals and four assists.

Brandon Biggers and Brenden Trottier, playing his first game with the Squires, both had two goals and an assist and Wright scored a goal and had two helpers.

Petrolia, now 10-5 on the season, close out the 2023 portion of the schedule with road games in Strathroy and Tilbury on Dec. 29 and 30.

The Petrolia Squires are helping out one of their own. The team is also collected funds during the Friday home game for Craig Laframboise’s family. The former Squire died earlier this month at the age of 44.





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