

Petrolia Y needs more revenue says Hyatt

Heather Wright
The Independent

Chad Hyatt says the Petrolia Y has to do something to bring in more revenue to run the community centre.

The Petrolia councillor made the comments as council officially passed the \$6.5 million operating and \$4.2 million capital budgets Monday.

The Y started managing the Oil Heritage District Community Centre in 2017. At the time, taxpayers paid about \$450,000 each year to cover the difference between the cost to run the facility and the membership revenue. The deal was supposed to lower that by to about \$325,000 a year.

The cost to taxpayers dipped below \$385,000 in both 2019 and 2020, but climbed again as the pandemic forced the closure of the facility. Budget documents show about \$435,000 of taxpayers' money went into the facility in 2022, \$487,000 in 2023 and the town is budgeting another deficit of \$480,000 for 2024 which taxpayer dollars will cover.

"Is there any ideas for how we can you know, you know, bring in more revenue to that facility or try and make the deficits I guess smaller?" Hyatt asked Monday.

SEE Y PG 2

BIRTHDAY BAND STAND IN PETROLIA



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Workers from Westhoek Construction were digging in the cold and the muck to lay the footings of the new band shell at Victoria Park in Petrolia Friday. The band shell, complete with an accessible washroom, is expected to open late this spring and is considered a "Legacy Project" during the town's anniversary year. The municipality set aside \$200,000 for the band shell. The tender came in at over \$439,000. The difference will be made up through revenue made during some of the 150 events and community donations.

St. Clair buying four new fire vehicles for \$2.67 million from Ontario company

Heather Wright
The Independent

St. Clair Township will place a \$2.67 million order for four fire trucks, without an official tender process.

Fire Chief Richard Boyes told council Monday the department was in need of four vehicles, a pumper, a tanker, a rescue vehicle and a pickup truck. All are either close to or coming up to 25 years of service; after that time frame, municipalities run into problems

with insuring vehicles for full replacement value.

Normally, a purchase like this would be put out for tender. This time Boyes contacted four fire equipment companies to obtain quotes. He recommended to council to buy all four vehicles from Dependable Emergency Vehicles, a company based in Ontario.

The chief, in a report to council, recommended the purchase based on the speed the company could provide the vehicles.

"The fire apparatus industry is experiencing supply chain issues, resulting in unprecedented cost increases and extremely long truck delivery dates. One year was the norm for building and delivering a fire truck. We are being quoted timelines of two to three years for delivery," he said. DEV manufactures both the body of the vehicle and the engine at the same time, where other companies build the engine first and then add the body.

Boyes adds new safety standards mean the engines of the trucks are now about \$140,000 more than they used to be.

The chief did contact four companies about the vehicles, but told council American companies don't place a high priority on Ontario departments. "They do a lot of large American cities so we kind of get slotted in for the one-off where you get a little more priority here in Ontario."

Of the four trucks to be purchased,

DEV had the lowest tender for all but two vehicles. One - the tanker - was lower by about \$46,000 than the DEV quote however Boyes says the Ontario company was providing over \$60,000 of needed equipment with the quote.

Boyes added getting all of the fire vehicles from DEV means they will be ready for service sooner. "Both the pumper and tanker will be delivered between 425 to 545 days. The next compliant supplier is 900 days for a pumper."

Heritage Open House

Saturday, February 17, 2024
11:00-4:00pm
Victoria Hall, 411 Greenfield St.

All Things Petrolia

Bring your artifacts to be photographed by Petrolia Camera Club.
Document scanning & family searches - bring your paper memorabilia.
Displays of Petrolia Churches & Schools, and from local historians.

Self powered

Enbridge says battery storage would be backup for the Dawn site

Heather Wright
The Independent

Enbridge is trying to clear up some misconceptions about a proposal to build a solar and battery electric storage project in Dawn-Euphemia.

The company sent out a letter late in December, informing the municipality it is was working on the BESS project and would soon hold a public meeting. The storage facility would be paired with one mega watt solar project at Bentpath and Cuthbert Roads.

Battery storage for energy has been a touchy subject in Lambton County. Enbridge was among the first companies to apply for the projects to hold energy in lithium batteries until it was needed during peak usage. Three projects planned in St. Clair Township drew criticism of the neighbours and failed to get approval from the Independent Energy System Operator.

Two projects by other companies were proposed in Enniskillen. One



ENBRIDGE PHOTO

Enbridge's photo illustration of what a proposed solar and battery storage project on Bentpath Line will look like. The company is seeking approval for the project and plans a public meeting Jan. 24.

was withdrawn after complaints from people in Oil Springs.

When Enbridge wrote to Dawn-Euphemia about the solar and battery project last month, the mayor said there wasn't many details available.

That prompted Enbridge to offer more information about the project including that the Dawn project would not feed into the province's electricity grid but would rather be used on site.

"We will undertake environmental studies and land use

studies to ensure the project can be built safely for employees, the community, and the environment," wrote Denise Heckbert of Enbridge.

"Construction would likely begin in 2025 and would include minimal grading of the land for the solar installation and laying foundations for the batteries to rest on at the site. The solar racking and modules would then be installed, and the batteries would be trucked in assembled and would be installed in place," she added

Enbridge says there would be increased traffic on the road and some related noise and dust, but relatively little compared to other major construction work.

"This work would offer jobs opportunities to local vendors for the studies required, site preparation, fencing, substation construction, foundation work and other civil work at the site," Heckbert wrote to Dawn-Euphemia council adding "We cannot yet discuss dollar amounts, due to the project being

in the early stages."

Mayor Al Broad says the information should help ease some concerns. He says the company was trying to keep the plans quiet initially and "everybody jumped to conclusions."

He feels the explanation given to council, and the information which is to be shared at a public meeting planned for Jan. 24 in Oil Springs, will help ease many concerns. But he added, if the company had planned a bigger operation "it would be a lot different story."

Support for young family of Petrolia accident victim

The Independent

The community is stepping up to help a young family rocked by tragedy.

Jan. 12, Lambton OPP were called to a single car accident on Aberfeldy Line near Cairo Road where the driver, a 31 year-old Petrolia man, died.

Matt Nuyten was a heavy equipment operator and "an amazing friend to so many" according to his obituary.

Nuyten left behind his wife, Rebecca and his young daughter.

"His greatest source of pride and joy was his daughter, Blaire...he couldn't resist tell-

ing everyone about the sheer amazingness of his little girl," family added.

The community rallied around Nuyten's wife, Rebecca and their daughter, setting up an online fundraiser to help with daily living expenses, such as the family's mortgage, utilities, childcare and funeral costs. "Your contributions can provide Rebecca with the emotional and financial support needed to cope with this profound loss...and show Rebecca that she is not alone in this journey."

In four days, the fundraiser topped \$62,000 to help the young family.

Meantime, Nuyten, will be remembered during a funeral Saturday.

Y should offer swim memberships: Hyatt

CON'T FROM PG 1

Aside from the large deficit to run the Y, the town pays for the capital costs of upkeep on the building and improving the facility. In 2024, the town will provide over \$1.4 million to pay for capital.

The councillor thinks adding a membership which would allow users just to use the pool could help.

"People talk about having access to the pool, and they can't really have access to the pool unless they're paying for this Platinum membership at the YMCA which gives them that access," Hyatt continued. "So maybe that's an opportunity; that more people could have access to the pool if there are some programs offered by the YMCA or some memberships specifically designed to aquatics," he said.

The town had an aquatics membership before the Y took over the operation of the centre, however, the organization did not want to offer a membership solely for that use, saying at all other Ys users must pay full membership costs to use the pool.

Mayor Brad Loosley said some seniors he spoke with are now traveling to Forest to use the pool there because they cannot get a membership for just aquatics.

"I think we can pass this on to (CAO Rick) Charlebois to see if there's a way we can try to promote to the seniors to stay here...to use our pool rather than going somewhere else," he said adding "I think it is a real challenge to get more memberships every year."

Deputy Mayor Joel Field is hopeful the number of people using the facility will increase as soccer fields and splash pad develops.

"There was some consideration when we originally talked about the backyard project in community services, that once we start bringing the soccer field and the splash pad – bringing things there that it would definitely complement the center and hopefully have growth. So I think there's a good opportunity there, as we're bringing more and more people to the facility with what's going on outside," says Field.



Township of Warwick Fire & Rescue (Watford Station) Firefighter Recruitment Opportunity

The Township of Warwick Fire & Rescue Department is currently recruiting for qualified firefighters to join the Watford Station. Applicants wishing to seek potential employment with the Township of Warwick Fire & Rescue Department (Watford Station) shall meet the following requirements:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Live or work in close proximity to the fire station.
- Capable of attaining and maintaining a "DZ" classification driver's license within 1 year.
- Ideally be available during daytime hours and able to leave your place of employment to respond to calls for service.
- Possess a valid Ontario driver's license, with acceptable driver's abstract.
- Be fluent in written and spoken English.
- Be legally entitled to work in Canada.
- Submit an acceptable criminal record check.
- Pass a comprehensive medical exam.
- Successfully complete a written and physical test.

Successful applicants should be:

- Comfortable with small or tight spaces.
- Comfortable with heights.
- Calm under pressure.
- Good at following and understanding direction given.
- Willing to wear a pager 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- Able to respond to calls for service at all hours of the day or night, in all weather conditions.
- Be aware of the physical demands of the job, including wearing approximately 45 kg (100 lbs) of gear at an incident.
- Be aware of the psychological/cognitive demands of the job, including exposure to emotional situations, including witnessing people in distress, severe injury, or death.
- Be prepared to attend training sessions two times per month.
- Willing to attend and complete NFPA 1001 firefighter 1 & 2 training within Lambton County which could possibly be held on weekends.
- Willing to assist with community activities relating to Fire Prevention.

Written resumes will be received until **4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 29, 2024** and should be addressed to: Township of Warwick, ATTN: Chief Sitlington, 5280 Nauvoo Road, PO Box 10, Watford, ON N0M 2S0 or dropped off to the Municipal Office. Email submissions can be sent to: MEsselment@warwicktownship.ca.

All questions can be directed to Chief Sitlington at 519-490-4337.

www.warwicktownship.ca

8K appointments cancelled since hack

Heather Wright
The Independent

Eight thousand medical procedures have now been cancelled in Lambton and there is still no word when lab services will be back to normal in the wake of a cyber attack which crippled Bluewater Health.

The Oct.23 attack locked five southwestern Ontario hospitals out of their computers leading to surgeries, appointments and cancer treatment being delayed or cancelled.

Bluewater Health’s Sarnia and Petrolia locations were particularly hard hit with information from 267,000 patients dating back to 1992, being stolen and now being shopped around on the dark web.

The names, birth dates and personal information can be used for identity theft.

Another 20,000 people – mainly people with WSIB claims – had their social insurance numbers taken.

Since the attack, Bluewater Health and its IT provider, Transform Services, have been rebuilding the network.

Jan. 10, the hospital announced it would begin using Oracle Cerner, a hospital information system which is know as one of

the most secure in the industry. Bluewater Health will be using a system which will allow health care professionals anywhere in southwestern Ontario to link into patient data.

Hospital officials say the system is “now recognized as one of the most advanced and secure” in the province.

Officials did not say how much the new system costs.

Meantime, officials say the deliberately slow rebuilding of the computer system continues to take its toll on the services provided.

Tara Young, communications business partner, in an email to The Independent says there is no change to patient care yet.

“Our focus at Bluewater Health remains on the restoration of our core clinical systems” she said.

“Our diagnostic imaging department has had to cancel approximately 8,000 appointments to date. This number does not include referrals made since October 23, 2023,” says Young.

“We don’t yet have a date for the return of walk-ins at the labs, but we will reach out when we have that date.”

Alvinston hockey club wants ice in longer

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Alvinston Killer Bees are hoping to go deep into the playoffs this year and that means they’ll need ice in their home arena.

The club approached Brooke Alvinston council with a number of requests, including the opportunity to use ice at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre until April if the club gets through the first round of playoffs. Right now, the ice is removed from the arena in March.

The hockey club also wants to set up an ATM in the arena. The Killer Bees manage-

ment approached municipal council with the idea, suggesting it would not only be helpful for hockey patrons but would be well used during large community events like the Alvinston Pro Rodeo.

The club is also looking to set up a camera so it can livestream its hockey games.

It’s something the Western Ontario Super League had suggested when it first set up two years ago but now, with 11 teams in the league, is hoping to complete.

Administrator Janet Denkers will be meeting with the club’s president, to talk about the ideas before bringing a report on the issue back to council.

Mobile food trucks can bid to set up in PW

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming is looking for vendors who want to set up shop in Lamrecton Park.

Last year, Anita Coffee opened a coffee cart at the Lake Huron Park. The vendor liked the location so much, she tried to convince council to allow her to continue using it throughout the winter and expand the services to include vendor markets.

Even before those discussions, staff suggested the town may have to look at offering the opportunity to other private operators.

Jan. 10, council reviewed a new policy which creates a process to hire a food truck for the park area.

The request for proposal sets out a \$3,000 yearly fee to cover the utilities and rent for the space. The vendor will also have to pay for licensing costs.

Councillor Bob Woolvett questioned whether a vendor like Anita Coffee would be able to afford that. Town staff said the vendor was planning to apply to set up in Lamrecton again. She paid the same fee last year.

Staff told councillors the fee is meant to cover the cost of the staff time.

Mobile food trucks will also be able to bid on other park locations in Plympton-Wyoming.

Town staff hopes to have the request for proposals complete for council in late March.

Bailey warns of green energy scams

The Independent

Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey is warning residents to be on the lookout for green energy scams.

Bailey warned residents Tuesday of a company calling homes in Petrolia saying they worked for the government and needed to come in and inspect the homeowners’ heating and cooling systems for a carbon tax rebate.

“This is scam. The government has not employed any companies and this is not something they do,” he said.

He says green energy or other names with energy in them are used frequently.

Bailey says you should watch for green energy companies which contact you right out of the blue, if the caller or the email asks for personal details if the details of the deal are blurry or if the caller is pressuring you to decide to take the deal as quickly as possible, it is likely a scam.

Bailey warns never to give your information over the phone to callers and to take your time to have someone you trust look over any contract before you sign it.



392 Broadway Street
Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0
519-845-3346

2024  **Bobcat® RENTALS**

Model	Attachments Included	Day	Week	Month
Compact Track Loader T62	Bucket 68”	\$391	\$1564	\$4692
Compact Tracker Loaded T76	Bucket 80”	\$485	\$1940	\$5820
Mini Tracker Loaded MT100	Bucket or Pallet Forks	\$260	\$1038	\$3114
Mini Excavator E35	1 Bucket Additional Buckets Extra Charge	\$403	\$1612	\$4836



Skid Steer Attachments	Day	Week	Month
Soil Conditioner 72” hydraulic for high flow	\$300	\$1250	\$3500
Pallet Fork 48” Tine 5500 LBS	\$40	\$150	\$500
Brush Cat Rotary Cutter 66” for high flow	\$275	\$1100	\$3400
Bucket Sweeper 72” *Every Inch of Bristle Wear \$100	\$275	\$1100	\$3400


Customer will be charged 2 days for Weekend Rentals

Clean + Wash \$90/hour

Pick up and Delivery Available with Additional Cost

Fuel Charge will be Evaluated at Time of Return

All Rentals are based on 8hrs/day, 40hrs/week, 160hr/month



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING A PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petrolia will hold a Public Meeting on **Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** to consider a proposed Zoning By-law Amendment under Section 36 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended.

THE PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT would amend the Town’s Zoning By-law 63 of 2017 as it applies to the property, municipally known as 322 Eureka Street, and described as Part Lot 29, Plan 14. The intent of the proposed amendment is to amend the site-specific “Residential-3 Exception 3 (R3-3) Zone to permit four (4) Townhouse Dwellings, with each Townhouse Dwelling to include six (6) dwelling units.

THE PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT would also permit the reduction of the minimum lot frontage from 30 metres to 20.5 metres to accommodate the property’s existing undersized lot frontage.

THE KEY MAP shows more particularly the lands affected.

ANY PERSON may attend the public hearing and/or make written or oral representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. If you wish to submit a written or make an oral presentation at the public hearing, please contact the Town of Petrolia no later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2024. The public hearing will be held in person at Victoria Hall, 411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS in respect of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment can be made to the Clerk of the Town of Petrolia.

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Petrolia before the By-law Amendment is passed the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Town of Petrolia to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Petrolia before the By-law Amendment is passed the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.


IF YOU WISH to be notified of the passing of the proposed Amendment, you must make a written request to the Clerk of the Town of Petrolia at the address below.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS will be available for public inspection during regular office hours at the Town of Petrolia Office, located at 411 Greenfield Street in Petrolia and at the public meeting.

Mandi Pearson
Clerk/Operations Clerk
Town of Petrolia
411 Greenfield Street
Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0

Telephone: 519-882-2350
Fax: 519-882-3373
Email: mpearson@petrolia.ca

Dated: January 9, 2024



EDITORIAL

Swim pass could cut Y deficit

Petrolia Councillor Chad Hyatt has a very good point; Petrolia’s Y needs to generate more revenue.

And his solution to the problem – a membership just for aquatics – is a good one.

But it’s not likely to happen even though taxpayers contribute more to the cost of running the community centre today than they ever have.

When the Oil Heritage District Community Centre was first proposed, the biggest argument against it was it could never be self sustaining. Construction went ahead, the centre opened and the naysayers were proven right. The taxpayer dollars used to support the recreation centre were even higher than the support needed for the centre.

So in 2017, administrators came to council with a deal to see the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario take over the management of the facility. The hook – the Y would be able to lower the operating costs and attract more members, saving the town an estimated \$125,000 a year. With the operating deficit running at about \$450,000 at the time, it would have cut the taxpayer cost to about \$325,000.

That didn’t happen, although in 2018 and 2019, the Y did bring the deficits under \$385,000. When the pandemic hit that changed. Government lockdowns meant members couldn’t visit. Even though the doors have been open for over a year, the memberships still haven’t returned to pre-pandemic levels. And the taxpayers are likely to be on the hook for about \$480,000 in 2024.

One of the bones of contention with the Y operating plan is the lack of a swim pass. The town used to allow people to pay to use only the pool. The Y has been quite clear that’s not how they operate. Everyone has to purchase a full membership, they’ve told town leaders before. It’s a Y policy.

We look at it a different way. The Y is a contractor and the town should be able to direct the contractor to do as it wishes, including offering a separate pass for swimming to bring people back to the facility and generate much needed revenue. Even lowering the membership rates across the board could bring in more people. It might not be something the Y would recommend, but we think it would be worth a shot to generate more revenues from users instead of relying so heavily on the taxpayers.

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



FROM THE DAVE BURWELL POST CARD COLLECTION

This photo shows the community of Pithole “a community within a community” according to Dave and Lyn Dennis in a short history of the area posted recently on the Petrolia Heritage Committee’s social media pages as part of its daily offerings of the history of Petrolia during its 150th anniversary. We thought we would share some of the article here. Lew Gleeson of the Petrolia Advertiser wrote about Pithole, referring to newspapers from 1873, saying “innumerable rigs and shanties, the abode of the labourers employed in the various wells in the vicinity.” The author painted a rather dismal picture of Pit Hole, Ontario. In contrast, Petrolia was designated “Quality Hill”. According to some sources, Pit Hole was named by American drillers who had flocked to the area upon learning there was oil here. Perhaps some had come from Pit Hole, Pennsylvania and decided to name their new community after the one they had left. By 1873, an estimated 2,000 oil wells had been sunk in or around Petrolia and many iron storage tanks were evident at Pit Hole. Some of these were connected directly to the wells by iron pipes 1.5 inches in diameter. The wells themselves were anywhere from one to two miles away. Petrolia’s first suburb grew so quickly that the school trustees appealed to town council for \$200 to buy a house and furnish it as a school. Pit Hole residents petitioned to have the Blind Line opened because the oil fields were spreading further and ever further west out of the “flats”. The first school apparently did not stay open long since, according to records, the residents asked for a second school in 1885...Pit Hole’s “new” school became an old newspaper building...Pit Hole, Ontario faded into history with scant mention even in the books written about this area. The last reference to it that could be dredged up from books by local historians (Phelps/Whipp) was that in 1887 Pit Hole “remained strong in spirit” but its industry “had long since moved into the central area”. Some doubt exists as to the accurate location of Pit Hole but most references situate it with the boundaries of (Oil Heritage Line), the (Discovery) Blind Line and Centre Street...While the history books record virtually nothing on the settlement beyond 1887, Pit Hole does, in a way, live on. One part of Pit Hole’s past sits at 359 Garfield... In 1888 this property was purchased by R. C. Marwick who, with his wife Catherine, constructed a single dwelling from two houses moved in from Pit Hole. This residence was designated in April, 1992 under the Ontario Heritage Act. Two other Petrolia homes were once the church in Pit Hole. 414 and 416 Huggard Street were constructed from the two halves of this church, the Dennis’ wrote in 1992. Several other Pithole homes were moved to Catherine Street.

www.petrolialambtonindependent.ca

THE INDEPENDENT

SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0 • 226-738-0728

Subscription Rates: \$60.00/year within 50 kms of Petrolia Post Office
\$70.00/year outside of 50 km radius \$80.00/year other provinces
(HST included on all prices) Subscriptions are non-refundable

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

The contents of this newspaper are protected by copyright.
No material from this edition may be reproduced without expressed
written consent of The Independent of Petrolia & Central Lambton

Publisher / Editor: **Heather Wright**
news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca
Reporters: **Blake Ellis**
Sales Associates: sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca
Classifieds / Graphics: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Publications Mail Registration No. 42663514

Proud host of the Local Journalism Initiative

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

Canada

Film of Warwick’s history ready for viewing

Heather Wright
The Independent

Paul and Mary Janes are ready to share their five-year labour of love, telling the story of Warwick Township. The Janes are local historians and have worked on a number of local history projects including the epic book chronicling Warwick Township’s history called The Township of Warwick – A Story Through Time. After the Warwick Historical Society finished the book, Janes began thinking about how to turn the information into a movie to share the township’s history further. “I created a fictional family, the Thompsons, of Scottish and English background, brought them across the Atlantic to Byron 1832,” Paul Janes says. “They were established in Warwick in the 1840s, then I follow them

through up until 1952 including the huge immigration after the Second World War, especially the Dutch families coming in.” Janes says the fictional family’s story weaves in with Warwick residents from the past as restored photographs show as much detail as possible about life in early Warwick. “The photos represent the period but they’re not all from the period. If I needed a country scene, I had to find a country scene.” And Janes, whose passion is photo restoration - took hours to colourize “a couple thousand” photographs to bring the nearly two-hour film to life. Janes is now working with the township to set up screenings, first in the village of Warwick and then in Watford. Janes says the Warwick film is likely his last. “I wanted to make it about this area,” the Warwick Township resident



HUCTWITH FAMILY PHOTO

says “because this area has been so good to us.” The Janes’ film about the Kineto Theater will also be screened Sunday as the theatre honours its donors. It tells the story of the Rumford family who ran the theatre for decades. “The Rumford family started showing films in Forest in 1910 using an old Ford to power the show.”

Municipal politicians to take a seat on OPP board

Heather Wright
The Independent

Municipal politicians will soon have more say on policing matters with the OPP. The province is changing Community Safety and Policing Act to have municipal representation on the OPPs community police boards. Right now, the boards are appointed by the

province and selected from community applications. While municipalities pay for the cost of policing, the municipal politicians have had no representation on the OPP boards. That has posed some communications issues, particularly in 2022, when the OPP requested extra cash from municipalities to cover the cleaning costs of the St. Clair Township facility. The elected leaders will have better

lines of communication in April when the boards will consist of six municipal leaders, two community members appointed by the mayors of Lambton and two provincial members, appointed by the province’s Solicitor General. The municipal leaders are now in the process of who will sit on that committee. They’ll also help select another community member. Greg Nemcek already serves as the board’s chair.

Enniskillen councillors approve three per cent wage increase

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Enniskillen Township councillors have approved a three per cent increase themselves at their first meeting of the New Year on Jan. 15. The annual stipend for the mayor will be \$6,685, with the deputy mayor receiving \$5,305 and councillors taking home \$3,840. To attend a regular meeting of council or a committee of adjustment, they will be paid \$175 while a committee or a special meeting of council will be \$113

while a conference telephone call will be \$59. A convention per diem is \$254 a day and mileage is set at 50 cents a kilometre. The committee meeting pay will apply to a meeting up to three hours. If the meeting goes past three hours, the council member will be given regular council meeting pay. If a council meeting runs longer than six hours, the convention per diem will be paid. Administrator-Clerk Duncan McTavish said a council member’s convention expense would be limited to \$3,500 annually. This is an increase

from \$2,500. McTavish said the cost to attend a convention is not in line with the old \$2,500 limit, when you include the conference registration, accommodations, transportation and per diem. “In my mind, conventions are becoming less useful,” said Mayor Kevin Marriott, calling them “a dog and pony show.” This pay increase will be retroactive to Jan. 1.

• THE INDEPENDENT

Enniskillen says no to Y support, gives cash to plowmen

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Enniskillen Township will give grants to a couple new community groups this year. Jan. 15, council began its budget deliberations, approving all the grants it previously given in 2023, while added two more, \$500 to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and \$100 to the Lambton County Plowman’s Association. A total of \$26,742 was distributed in 2023, with \$27,000 being budgeted. The budgeted amount for 2024 will be increased to \$27,500. St. Clair Region Conservation Authority was making presentations in 2023 to all of its member

municipalities asking for support for its tree planting program. Councillor Mary Lynne McCallum said the conservation authority was doing a great job with its tree planting program and felt Enniskillen Township should support it. McCallum did not feel the same way about the funding request from the Lambton County’s Plowman’s Association which organizes the Lambton County Plowing Match. A request was made last year and it was turned down. She felt council members could support Lambton County Plowman’s Association by attending the dinner, which is held on the same day as the county’s plowing match. Councillor Wally Van Dun thought the township should support

the plowman’s association, suggesting a \$100 grant, which passed. The one request, which was turned down was from the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario for \$500 to go towards YMCA financial assistance plan. McCallum was not prepared to support this request saying this organization is supported through user pay. “If you want to go there, you support it,” she said. All of the other grants did not change from 2023. Among them was \$11,600 to the Petrolia arena, \$9,000 to Hillsdale Cemetery, \$1,300 to the Oil Springs Cemetery, \$1,000 to the Wyoming Cemetery, \$700 to the Petrolia Fair and \$500 to the Lambton 4H Association. All the other grants were \$300 or less.


True PERFORMANCE

• Emery Huszka
Florence, ON
226-373-6244

• Julie Maw
Courtright, ON
519-384-2281

www.maizex.com






**PUBLIC NOTICE
WARWICK TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL COUNCIL
MEETING ON PROPOSED
2024 BUDGET**


TAKE NOTICE that a Special Meeting of Council will take place on:
Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.
for presentation and discussion on the proposed 2024 Budget for the Township of Warwick.

The meeting will take place in Council Chambers at
5280 Nauvoo Road in Watford
and will be livestreamed to the Warwick Township YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/@warwicktownship1934/streams>.

The agenda for the meeting will be available on the Township’s website at
www.warwicktownship.ca.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, contact the Township Office at 519-849-3926 or
info@warwicktownship.ca.

Petrolia Dentistry



**There’s a home for
healthy, attractive smiles
in your neighbourhood**

Looking for a dentist close to home?
Petrolia Dentistry offers dentistry for the whole family, from cleanings and exams to natural looking fillings, crowns, bridges & more.
With convenient hours and a clean modern office, you’ll feel completely comfortable.

**Dr. Mike Hoben
Dr. Rudha Al-Rohani
Dr. Rebecca Phillips**

519-882-0520

430 Albany Street • petroliadentistry.com

CORRECTION

In the January 11, 2024 edition of *The Independent of Petrolia and Central Lambton*, in the front page article titled “Wyoming fire victims grateful to community” Brad Lortie was named incorrectly. *The Independent* apologizes for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

DOWN HILL WEATHER



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

While the weather was cold, there were still plenty of people scoping out Big Bird Hill at the end of Gem Street in Petrolia Saturday after the first significant snowfall of the season.

Martinrea closes Dresden plant; 60 people out of work

Heather Wright
The Independent

Up to 60 long-term employees are losing their jobs as Martinrea International closes its auto parts plant in Dresden.

Unifor Local 127 National Representative Jeff McFadden says the company notified workers several weeks ago but only went public with the information Monday.

McFadden was “shocked” by the news when the company informed him a year and a half ago.

Workers at the plant were providing parts to Stellantis in Windsor. The

company, in a statement to the media, said three contracts including the Jeep Grand Cherokee and Chrysler 300C ended. It supplied most of the work at the Dresden facility. McFadden says the vehicles were “coming to the end of their run” and Stellantis is making major changes, most notably moving into the electric vehicle market. “They did not renew their contract,” says McFadden.

“There was no new work to go into Dresden to replace the work that they had,” he said adding he believed the company did try to find more work to keep the facility open.

Any remaining contracts from Dres-

den will be transferred to the company’s Ridgetown facility.

McFadden says the tradespeople in Dresden were long-time employees and made what would be considered mid-range wages for the auto parts industry.

Unifor has not yet set up a help center for the workers. McFadden says there are a number of companies hiring in the area and he’s passing along the opportunities to the workers.

Most of the workers were laid off just before Christmas. A little more than a dozen people continue to work inside the plant to wrap up production. It’s not clear how long they will be there.

SHARING WITH ALVINSTON



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Alvinston Optimists gave a big boost - \$30,000 in all - to a number of community causes Monday. The club provided a \$10,000 donation to the Alvinston Legion’s building fund from money it has raised throughout the year. It also gave \$10,000 to continue organizing the annual Christmas event in the community. The club donated another \$10,000 to three community groups - the Brooke-Alvinston-Watford Fall Fair received \$4,000 as did the Canada Day Committee. The club also provided \$2,000 to Hope Alvinston Ministries to run their summer camps.

WE REPLACE SOLES ON COWBOY & WORK BOOTS

WITH ORIGINAL VIBRAM RUBBER
OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED SOLE REPLACEMENT DEALER

• ARIAT	• BOULET	• TIMBERLAND	• MELLOW WALK
• LAMMELES	• KEEN	• SIDEWINDER	• KODIAK
• TONY LAMA	• JUSTIN	• CAT	• BLUNDSTONE
• ROYER	• SWAT	• ROPER	• REDWING

- Quality Shoe Repair
- Sole Protector
- Orthopedic Repairs
- RX Build Ups
- Rocker Soles

- Affordable Pricing
- Quality Workmanship
- Custom Leather Dye Work
- Hand Stitched
- Excellent Customer Service

Clip n Save

\$10 OFF

WITH THIS AD ANY SOLE OR HEEL REPLACEMENT

SHOEMAKER

4496 Petrolia Line (Inside 21 Shell Gas Bar)

5 19-868-9829

THE INDEPENDENT

SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

HAVE YOU HEARD?



At **Lambton Audiology Associates**, we believe that providing exceptional audiological care should be the rule, not the exception. That’s why we work extra hard to provide the highest level of patient care and customer support in our community. After all, **We’re here to help YOU hear better!**®

OUR SERVICES

- Hearing Assessments
- Hearing Aid Batteries and Accessories
- Assistive Listening Devices
- Tinnitus Treatment Program

- Hearing Help Classes
- Home Visits
- Caring for Sarnia-Lambton since 1988

CALL US TODAY TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT!



SARNIA

519-542-0569
102-1433 London Rd.
Sarnia, ON

PETROLIA

226-738-0401
4-4119 Petrolia Line
Petrolia, ON

www.lambtonaudiology.com

NEWS TIP?
226-738-0728

THE INDEPENDENT

SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

Advertisers and Readers;

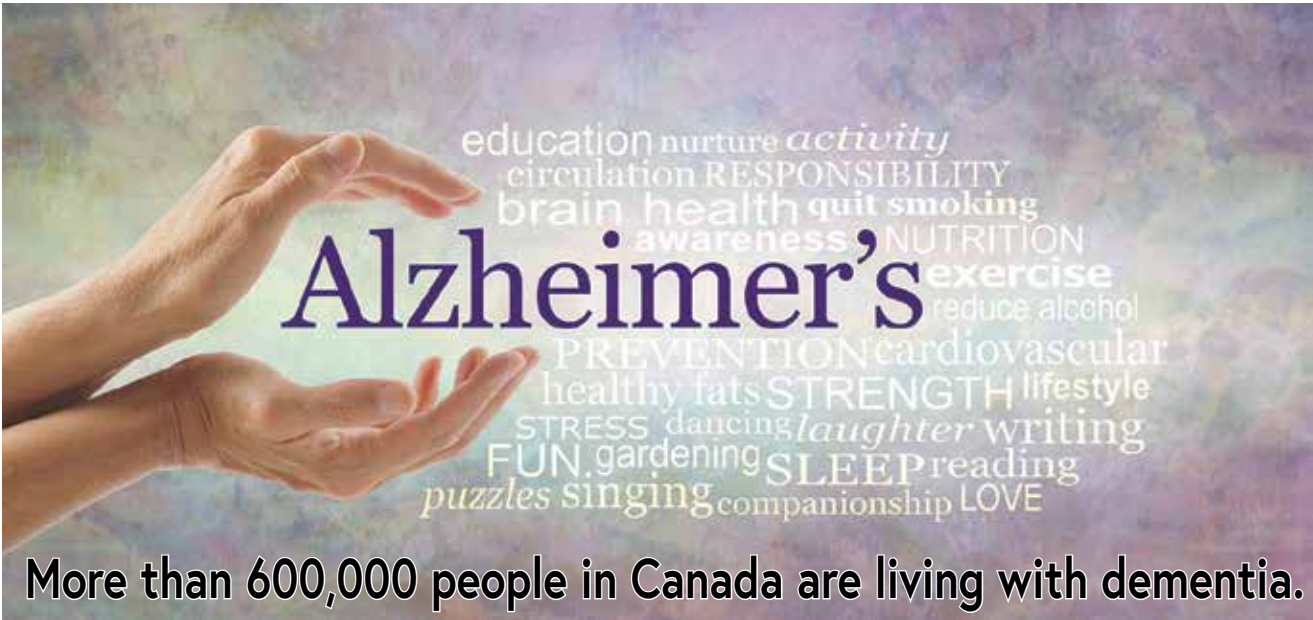
In the face of rising costs The Independent has decided to maintain its advertising rates at the current level for at least the next six months; the same rates we've had since opening in 2013.

However, over the past three years, many businesses and customers began paying their bills with credit cards. While we appreciate the timeliness of prompt payment, bank fees are increasing taking a large bite out of our income.

Therefore, instead of raising advertising rates, effective immediately, those who wish to pay with a credit card will be charged a fee of three per cent to cover credit card fees imposed.

We will continue to accept cheques, either in person or by mail, cash in person, bank transfers and e-transfers to the email address news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca.

Thank you for your understanding.



education nurture activity
circulation RESPONSIBILITY
brain health quit smoking
awareness NUTRITION
exercise
reduce alcohol
PREVENTION cardiovascular
healthy fats STRENGTH lifestyle
STRESS dancing laughter writing
FUN gardening SLEEP reading
puzzles singing companionship LOVE

Alzheimer's

More than 600,000 people in Canada are living with dementia.

Every day, 350 people in Canada develop dementia - more than 15 every hour.

More than **25 different diseases** and conditions can cause dementia. **Alzheimer's** disease is the **most common** cause of dementia. Vascular dementia, frontotemporal dementia and Lewy body dementia are some other major types.

There is still no cure for most types of dementia worldwide and in Canada. By 2030, nearly 1 million people in Canada could live with dementia. 6.3 million people in Canada will develop, live with and ultimately die with dementia between 2020 and 2050.

Care partners of older adults with dementia provide **26 hours of care a week**, on average providing more than **470 million hours of care** to people living with dementia. This is equivalent to **235,000 full-time jobs**. Dementia **care provided** by family and friends in 2022 would equal more than **\$7.3 billion dollars in Canada alone**.

Forty-five per cent of caregivers for seniors living with dementia show symptoms of distress.

Join our Caregiver Support Group

- Are you caring for a loved one living with dementia? You're not alone on this journey
- **When: Third Friday of every month 10 - 11:30 am**
 - **Where: Central Lambton Family Health Team, Petrolia**

Our support group provides a safe space to share experiences, learn coping strategies, and find emotional support from others who understand. A Social Worker from the Alzheimer Society Sarnia Lambton will facilitate, provide guidance and information. Together, we can navigate this challenging path with compassion and resilience.

Don't face dementia caregiving alone.

Join us and connect with a community that cares

For more information, call **519-332-4444**. We're here for you!



BLUEWATER POWER
GROUP OF COMPANIES

Over 100 Years!

Proudly Serving Our Communities

POWER ELECTERPOWER POWER ENERGY bluewater REGIONAL NETWORKS



SARNIA—LAMBTON SUPPORTS THE **ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY**

January is Alzheimer's Awareness Month

MARILYN GLADU MP
SARNIA—LAMBTON
MARILYN.GLADU@PARL.GC.CA • 519-383-6600



We stand by our reputation
~ over 47 years in business & still growing!

Come talk to our friendly, knowledgeable and experienced staff

Jim's CARPET WAREHOUSE

Hours Now: Mon-Fri 9am-6pm; Sat & Sun CLOSED

beaulieu CANADA

2378 Jane St., Brigden • 519-864-1211 • 519-864-4048



Strive to understand **Alzheimer's and Dementia.**
Support those afflicted and those assisting with their care.

LAMBTON MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

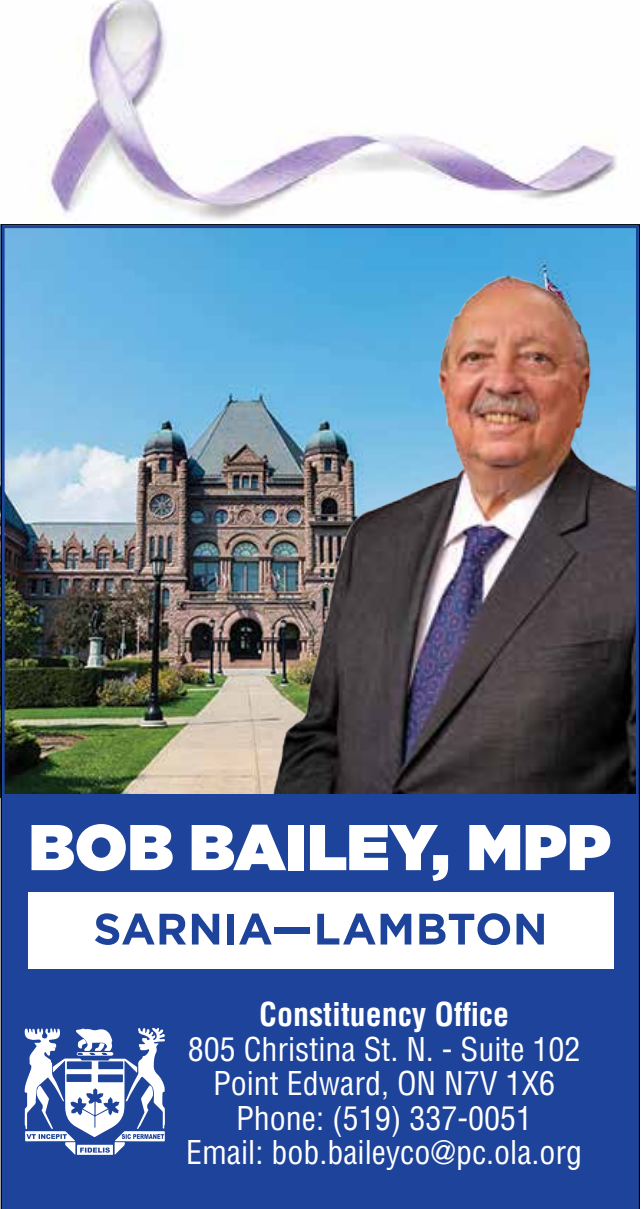
Proudly representing Lambton Mutual Insurance Company

Beth Hackett
INSURANCE AGENCY LTD.

AUTO - HOME - FARM - COMMERCIAL INSURANCE

beth@bethhackettins.ca

663 Broadway, Wyoming, ON
519-845-3212



BOB BAILEY, MPP
SARNIA—LAMBTON

Constituency Office
805 Christina St. N. - Suite 102
Point Edward, ON N7V 1X6
Phone: (519) 337-0051
Email: bob.baileyco@pc.ola.org

Donation expands Oil Museum’s foreign driller collection

The Independent

Charlie Fairbank was relaxing reading the newspaper at his home in Oil Springs, when his wife Pat McGee entered the room holding up a tightly-woven textile of one meter in length having three sections sewn together with thick braiding and a design that seemed somewhat Middle Eastern. It was heavy, and was rough to the touch. “Do you know what this might be?” she asked. Charlie peered over the top of his newspaper and said, “Oh that’s a camel rug,” and promptly went back to reading. “Why do we have a camel rug stored in our basement?” she asked. “Oh it was my grandmother’s.” Putting down his newspaper Fairbank explained the camel rug always was draped over his grandmother’s footstool by the chair in her living room where she sat reading by the fireplace

in Petrolia. His grandmother was Clara Fairbank, (1877-1956), who married his grandfather Dr. Charles Fairbank in 1900, when Petrolia was the oil capital of Canada. She was the last Fairbank to live in the family mansion. She had lived through the heady times of Lambton’s famous International Drillers, who regularly returned from foreign lands, sometimes just stopping briefly before setting off again. Numbering more than 500, these drillers took their expertise, tools and technology to work in 86 countries on six continents as the new energy source, petroleum, was being sought everywhere. Clara may have simply bought it somewhere for she was a wealthy woman known for her exquisite tastes who embraced art objects from a wide variety of countries. Or, she may have had a connection to one of the drillers

who brought it back from the Middle East. Fairbank has donated the camel rug to the Oil Museum of Canada in Oil Springs, for its extensive collection of artifacts from the Lambton International Drillers. “We’re pleased to add the camel rug,” said museum Curator/Supervisor Erin Dee Richard. “We know that Lambton drillers were in Persia (now Iran) when the first oil well of the Middle East was drilled in 1906. Our collection has many items from early drillers in more than 20 countries in the Middle East and Africa. These highly skilled drillers introduced Lambton to whole worlds they did not know existed.” How Clara Fairbank came to have a camel carpet in her home is likely unknowable. What is known is that this was made far away and long ago but found a home in the small town of Petrolia.

• BY PAT MCGEE

Oil City residents face second increase to sewage rates

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

Oil City residents will pay \$5.50 more a month for their sewage services. Enniskillen Township hiked the sewer rate in Oil City from \$31.50 to \$37 a month. Council had approved last October an increase of \$1 a month for 2024, but both Councillor Mary Lynne McCallum and Councillor Wally Van Dun were concerned if the first increase was enough, while council reviewed the financials on the Oil City sewer system It was Van Dun who suggested an additional \$5 increase on top of the \$1, which had previously been approved. He then suggested

making the monthly fee an even \$37. “We can’t keep losing money,” said McCallum. “It is user pay.” The amount in the Oil City sewer reserves has been decreasing since 2020. It was over \$90,000 in 2020 but now sits at \$62,000 in 2023. With the \$1 increase, the reserve is expected to further decrease to \$59,000 in 2024. The first bills for 2024 are set to go out to residents with the price of \$32.50 a month, which had been approved by council in October. The new increase will be phased in and will not apply until mid year. The \$5.50 monthly increase will bring in \$6,875 in revenue. There was \$38,000 collected from residents in 2023 but there were over \$50,000 in expenses.

The cash is used to pay for capital projects. Some of the work done in 2023 involved replacing a float in the pumping station which had failed at a cost of \$5,500. Last spring, a smoke test was conducted at cost of \$4,700, which located a sewer cap, which had surface water entering the sewer system. The sewer cap was replaced. An alarm system was also replaced at the pumping station. There is a discussion that has begun regarding the repairs to the lagoon outlet chamber, said Administrator-Clerk Duncan McTavish in his memo to council. The discharge chamber values require some work, but the scope of the work has not been determined yet, he said.

PRO-TAX

(Pro-Tax is a division of Teogotha Inc.)

Professional INCOME TAX SERVICES

519-882-2966

3927 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON

Appointments ** Drop-Offs ** Contactless

MARK AND JOANNE JAMIESON

jam_jo11@hotmail.com | www.protaxpetrolia.com

BREAK THE ICE-OLATION

LEO

THEATRE NIGHT

Join us to watch the Imperial Theatre’s performance of, Halfway There. 20 tickets available. \$20 each.

FEB 04

2PM

BRIDGING GENERATIONS

Break the Ice and converse with the YMCA’s Youth Newcomers! Activities, refreshments, and snacks provided by the Sarnia Library, YMCA, and LEO! 30 spots available. FREE!

MAR 13

130PM

SPRING LUNCHEON

Fairwinds Lodge in Sarnia is providing a craft and luncheon! 20 spots available. \$10. All proceeds donated to LEO!

APR 15

12PM

AGE-FRIENDLY EXPO

The Age-Friendly Expo provides a unique opportunity for guests to explore and navigate local health and social support services. No registration Required. Location: Point Edward Arena

MAY 01

10AM-6PM

YMCA of Southwestern Ontario

LAGBTON COUNTY LIBRARY

Fairwinds Lodge Retirement Residence

AGE-FRIENDLY SARNIA-LAMBTON

Wellings

To Register: aweiler@lambtonelderlyoutreach.org • 519-845-1353 Ext 310

COMMUNITY AWARD

LCCVI student Sonja Minten was recently awarded the Community Living Sarnia-Lambton Earle Kilner Memorial Award by his son, Adam Kilner. The award recognizes students who volunteer with agencies that support people who have intellectual or developmental disabilities and in doing so have realized their potential within the school and the community.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

1 Year For Only \$60

including tax (mail delivery within 50kms of Petrolia)
A 3% surcharge will be added for debit or credit by phone or in person.
No surcharge on cheques, cash or etransfers.

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City/Town: _____ NEW: ☐
Postal Code: _____ RENEWAL: ☐

\$45

SNOWBIRD
Combination of Print/Email Edition

\$40

Email Edition Only

THE INDEPENDENT

SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

Please send cheques for subscriptions to:
The Independent
4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0
or etransfers to: news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Get LOCAL

Killer Bees sting Squires at home

The Independent

The loss was only the second on home ice this

Ryan Polidori made 33

HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Curtis Helps goes flying after colliding with Caden Faulkner of the Killer Bees.



Flyers golden at Greenwood

The Independent

The Flyers are at home to Port Stanley Thursday at 7:30.

Mooretown notches 10th win

Mooretown, now 10-14-7 on the season, takes on Amherstburg Saturday at home. Game time is 7:30.

2ND LAST GAME OF REGULAR SEASON

DON'T MISS THE ACTION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH

at Alvinston Arena





ALVINSTON KILLER BEES VS. DELHI FLAMES @ 6:30PM

EVENT EXCLUSIVES

Charity & Non-Profit Night
brought to you by
Canadian Farmer - YouTube

Guaranteed Minimum 50/50
take home of \$1000

Every person in attendance gets
their name in a random draw to win
\$500. plus an additional \$1000
for the charity of their choice

Supported by
CommonWealth Financial Equity Associates Inc.

\$300. SHOOT OUT COMPETITION

BEEF ON A BUN
By Donation Only.
Sponsored by Nates Neck of the Woods - Wood Processing.

All proceeds to the charity/nonprofit with
the most people in attendance.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Jason Wagner Fundraiser
Dance & Silent Auction
Jan. 27th - 8pm to 1am • \$25 pp
Fundraiser is to help support Jason's family
Buy a ticket for this fundraiser and get into the Bees game
for FREE. Fundraiser starts immediately after game.

ON ICE BOWLING **FOR CHANCE TO WIN**
A KRISTA SHEPLEY RMT
GIFT CERTIFICATE

SPECIAL RAFFLE

2 Toronto Maple Leaf Tickets
& a Matthews Jersey
\$5 EA OR 5 FOR \$20
All proceeds to Jason Wagner Fund

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

January 9 - 16, 2024

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

STONER, Ben
Age: 45, of Sarnia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

MILLER, Louise Ann (nee Tresoor)
Age: 86
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

TESSIER, Merle Lee Roy "Boomer"
Age: 75
Denning's Watford Funeral Home

McKELLAR, Ian Carman
Age: 89, of Alvinston
Van Heck Funeral Home

CORBETT, Alice Margaret (Stinson)
Age: 92
Smith Funeral Home

FAIRBANKS, Mary Virginia
Age: 94
Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

NISBET, Charles Stuart
Age: 95, of Moore Township
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

PEDE, Ruth Evelyn (Girvitz)
Age: 92
Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

BRIDGMAN, Sharon Dianne (nee Parker)
Age: 80
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

GRIFFIN, Gail Anne
Age: 61
Smith Funeral Home

GARRETT, Robert "Lorne"
Age: 92
Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

BROWN, Terry Wayne
Age: 78, of Corunna
Knight Funeral Home

WHITE, Shirley Anne (Pedden)
Age: 82, of Arkona
Gilpin Funeral Chapel

NUYTEN, Mathieu "Matt" Richard John
Age: 31
Smith Funeral Home

CLARKE, John (Jack) Newton
Age: 87
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

VANOS, Theodore Adrianus
Age: 87
Denning's Forest Funeral Home

HAGGITH, Kenneth Clarence
Age: 91, of Glencoe
Van Heck Funeral Home

PAYNE, Ruth Cavell (nee Hart)
Age: 88
Smith Funeral Home

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

WILLIAMS, Dawn Cheryl
Age: 62
Smith Funeral Home

KEMBER, Donald Robert
Age: 71
Smith Funeral Home

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

Members Wanted

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 216 Petrolia

Join the Royal Canadian Legion because you care about our veterans and Community, and you can!

Membership is open to all Canadian citizens or commonwealth subject of federal voting age.

See us on Facebook at [Royal Canadian Legion Br 216 Petrolia, ON](#) - Or - At the 216 Lounge 4129 Glenview Rd, Petrolia



Legion Members

Ladies Auxiliary

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.

Annual General Meeting



AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

tuesday
JAN 23
7:30pm



PLYMPTON & WYOMING AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

All Members Welcome!

Wyoming Fair Grounds
595 Main Street • Wyoming

\$5.00 membership available.
Meetings held 1st Tuesday of every month.

For Sale

HAY FOR SALE:
4X5 rounds.
519-882-0564.
Bygrove Farms

For Sale

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

Volunteers Wanted



VOLUNTEERS

WE NEED YOU!

TO JOIN OUR TEAM

COLOUR PARTY

SICK & VISITING

POPPY

SPORTS

LADIES AUXILIARY

YOUTH & EDUCATION

Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 216 Petrolia
4129 Glenview Rd., Petrolia





NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Jam • Manwich • Soda Crackers • Small Soups • All Canned Veggies • Canned Potatoes • Side Kicks • Canned Fruit Large And Small • Mixed Canned Meats • Instant Potatoes • Dry Pastas • Rice • Canned Pasta • Cake, Cookie And Muffin Mixes • Cookies • Pancake Mix & Syrup • Baking Supplies • Jello Mix • Mr Noodles • Juice Crystals • Household Cleaning Supplies • Laundry Pods / Detergent Etc • Lunch Snack, Snack Foods

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

Classified

Deadline: Monday @ 12 Noon

Hall Rentals

Wyoming Lions

554 Main Street

Reception Hall Rentals

Weddings
Anniversaries
Funerals
Business Meetings



Up to 150 seating capacity
Fully licensed by AGCO
Bookings and information
call: (519) 466 7806 or 845 3333

Real Estate



SHANAHAN

REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

3234 Elgin St.,
Alvinston

Beautiful, 3 bed, 2 full baths, open concept home awaits your family. Located on a quiet street in Alvinston with an extra deep lot 165' & a fenced yard for children & pets to play. This spacious 1800 sq ft, 2 storey home with numerous renovations, is move-in ready. New roof shingles, recent vinyl & laminate flooring, updated kitchen with a breakfast bar, main floor laundry, hiefficiency furnace, central air, ductwork, on demand water heater, most windows, & much more. Low taxes \$1,499.00 (2023), close to all amenities, school bus route, children's park, dog park, walking trails, recreation facility, & the nearby Sydenham River.

\$389,900

MLS#23021742

SHANAHAN REALTY INC. BROKERAGE
177 John Street, P.O. Box 561, Watford, Ontario, NOM 250 • www.shanahanrealty.com
Leo Shanahan Sales Representative
Direct: 519-878-5981 • leo@shanahanrealty.com • Office: 226-848-6684

Scholarships



Sarnia Community Foundation

Sarnia Community Foundation announces three scholarships are open for applications:

The Norma and Don Moore Scholarship supports doctors or nurse practitioners enrolled in a program leading to a license to practice in Ontario. Preference will be given to candidates who have indicated an intent to practice in Lambton County.
Applications are due by March 1.

Society of St Vincent de Paul / J&JY Trades Scholarship supporting students entering or continuing a trade education.
The deadline is March 31.

Joanne Klauke-Labelle Scholarship has been awarded to a student who is entering a post-secondary education program focused on drama, music, dance or visual arts.
Application deadline is April 15.

More information can be found at [www.sarniacommunityfoundation.ca](#)

LOCAL MATTERS.





News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada



CANADA'S NEW MEDIA
CHAMPION
THE TRUTH.



Check your expiry date

don't miss an issue... RENEW today!

\$60 within 50 kms of Petrolia

TAXES INCLUDED IN PRICE

\$70 outside the 50 km radius

\$80 Other Provinces

▼issue date▼

PTRPINDY 2024-01-05 (892)

subscriber, name **LAST ISSUE**

4156 Petrolia Line

Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0

▲expiry date▲

THE INDEPENDENT

SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

Name on Subscription:

Mailing Address:

In Town: P.O. Box # OR Rural: 911 - Civic Address

In Town: Street Address OR Rural: RR#

TOWN Postal Code

[] Renewal

Please - make cheques payable to: **The Independent** or **etransfer** using [news@petrolialambtonindependent.ca](#). Credit cards by phone or credit cards & debit in office, a 3% admin fee will be added.

4156 Petrolia Line Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0

Vol. 11, Issue 20

Newsstand Price \$1.50 per week

Thursday, January 18, 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

Upcoming Events

Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 216 Petrolia

- Weekly Events -

MEAT & 50/50 DRAWS

Saturday at 2:00pm (Legion opens at noon)

EUCHRE Wednesdays at 7:00pm

FUN DARTS Thursdays at 7:00pm

KARAOKE Fridays at 8:00pm





NEEDS
YOUR
HELP!

Jam • Manwich • Soda Crackers • Small Soups • All Canned Veggies • Canned Potatoes • Side Kicks • Canned Fruit • Large And Small • Mixed Canned Meats • Instant Potatoes • Dry Pastas • Rice • Canned Pasta • Cake, Cookie And Muffin Mixes • Cookies • Pancake Mix & Syrup • Baking Supplies • Jello Mix • Mr Noodles • Juice Crystals • Household Cleaning Supplies • Laundry Pods / Detergent Etc • Lunch Snack, Snack Foods

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



THE INDEPENDENT

SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

Winter Office Hours

Monday • 9am - 5pm

Tuesday • 9am - 5pm

Wednesday • 9am-3pm

Thursday • 9am-3pm

Friday • 9am-3pm

Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 Noon

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	519-876-2808
Tues	7p	Watford	Euchre @ Watford Legion	519-876-2660
Tues	7p	Petrolia	Petrolia Toastmasters @ St. Andrew's Church	519-339-6606
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
Jan 6 - Feb 3	Gallery Hours	Bright's Grove	Looking Through Their Lens Exhibit at Gallery in the Grove consists of a diverse collection of photographs by Glenn Ogilvie, Shaun Antle, Mary Kilbreath and Scott Clarke. The exhibit runs Jan 6 until Feb 3rd. Visit www.galleryinthegrove.com or 519-869-4643
Jan 27	9:00am-3:00pm	Sarnia	FAMILY LITERACY DAY FESTIVAL , a free family party, with a day full of activities including a concert, movie, face painting, retro gaming, a maker activity on the laser cutter and more at Sarnia Library. Activities will also take place at the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery beginning at 12:00 p.m. For more info @ library.ca/family-literacy-day .
Jan 29	2-3:30pm	Online	DROP-IN & CHAT - ZOOM WEBINAR Lambton County Branch, Ontario Ancestors. Working on your Lambton County Genealogy? Have questions? Meet with others to share ideas, or to discuss obstacles & new discoveries. For a link to the meeting email lambton@ogs.on.ca
Jan	Gallery Hours	Sarnia	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 further information on Family Saturday Studio Drop-Ins, visit the program and events page on the JNAAG website.
Jan	Various	Brigden	BRIGDEN LEGION JANUARY EVENTS: January 19- Trivia 7pm, January 20- Hosting District Pool tournament at Brigden Optimist Hall - Pool starts at 10:30am, January 26- Pool, January 27- Meat Raffle 4:30pm. Legion is Open Thursday Friday and Saturday from 6-9. Meat Raffle Saturdays we open at 4.
Feb 10	6pm	Point Edward	23RD ANNUAL HEARTS OF YOUTH GALA For Sarnia-Lambton Rebound at the Four Points by Sheraton. For more info: www.reboundonline.com .
Feb 12	1:00pm	Petrolia	IODE MARGARET STOKES CHAPTER next meeting at First Baptist Church. New members always welcome.

“If we don’t get it fixed up, we might as well shut it down,” says Van Dun

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

A revamped plan for a washroom at Enniskillen’s Krall Park will still meet grant guidelines. Administrator-Clerk Duncan McTavish reported at the Jan. 15 meeting the municipality is safe to proceed with the preparation of designs for a building with a smaller pavilion. Township staff reviewed the contract with the Ontario Trillium Foundation and found there are no specific dimensions for the building. Council had

been presented with drawings of the washroom and pavilions at the Wallacetown fairgrounds as a model for what could be constructed at Krall Park. A local contractor has estimated this structure could be built for \$194,000 with an additional \$30,000 for a septic system. The entire project is expected to come in at \$330,000 with the construction of accessible walkways, a protective screening on the ball diamond and a cement floor in each dugout. Deputy Mayor Judy Krall had suggested at the December meeting that the

pavilion be made smaller. Mayor Kevin Marriott is bothered by the \$30,000 price tag for a septic system, feeling it is too much. The only other option besides a septic system is to put in a holding tank. Deputy Clerk Christine Poland said the building inspector is hesitant to approve a holding tank because they are really not what should be out there now. They are only looked at as a last resort option. “If we think we had push back on other issues last year, I had more push back on this issue than

any other issue,” said Marriott. The mayor said people questioned why the municipality would spend so much money when there are fewer kids playing ball. “To spend so much money on something that is going to sit idle is not good financial planning,” he said. Councillor Mary Lynne McCallum said there are two girls’ teams that are going to play at the ball diamond next summer. She feels people will rent the park for picnics and get together. “I don’t think it is a waste,” said McCallum. “If we don’t get it fixed up, we

might as well shut it down,” said Councillor Wally Van Dun adding It doesn’t sound bad when you consider that the township has received a \$200,000 grant. With up to \$40,000 coming from reserves, only \$75,000 will be financed through the 2024 taxes. Councillor Chad Burke agreed with Van Dun. “This will only keep increasing in cost the longer we keep kicking it to the curb,” said Deputy Mayor Judy Krall. McTavish added the township can do the design work and they still have the ability to stop the project during the tendering.

SPORTS

Lancer hockey teams on a roll

The Independent

The Lancer high school boys’ hockey team closes out the pre-exam portion of its schedule with a game against the winless Northern Vikings Wednesday at Sarnia’s Clearwater Arena at 3:30. LCCVI is in second place in the A/AA standings with a 2-1-2 record after a 5-1 win over St. Pat’s last week. Roen Douglas led the Lancers with a hat trick and two assists. Brayden Kominick added two goals and two helpers. Luke Laevens scored a third period goal for the Irish. St. Pat’s fell to 2-2-1. North Lambton leads the division with a 4-0-1 record after a 4-2 win over the Vikings last week. Meantime, in the girls’ play, Tanner Himba-Powell, Lauren Harvey, Noelle Edgar, and Leanne Minten scored as LCCVI improved to 2-0-1 with a 4-0 win at Forest. The Eagles and Lancers play Thursday at Greenwood at 2:30.

McGrail scores All Star goal

Wyoming’s Jace McGrail scored the lone goal in regulation time for the GOJHL U18 all-stars in a 2-1 shootout victory at Ridley College in St. Catharines last week. McGrail and his Sarnia Legionnaires are now winless in seven games after a trio of GOJHL losses last week. They host the Strathroy Rockets Thursday at 7:10. The Rockets roster includes Alvinston’s Hayden Duncan, William Hull of Oil Springs and Jackson Dobbin. Dobbin, the son of Petrolia’s Brian Dobbin, was acquired from St. Thomas at the trade deadline last week.

Donations are be accepted for a former member of the Petrolia Jets, Petrolia Squires and London Knights who is struggling with his health. A GoFundMe page has been set up for Logan Hunter. The 39-year-old from Oil Springs was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last month.

Watford’s Evan Van Gorp continues to shine for the OHL’s London Knights. He had a goal in two of three games for the Knights last week after London officially added him to their full-time roster for the balance of the season at the trade deadline. The gritty winger now has four goals and four assists in 21 games this season with London.

The host Lambton Shores Predators will have teams competing in the U11, U13 AND U15 divisions this weekend at the North American Silver Stick finals in Forest. The three-day tournament begins Thursday morning at 7:30. The finals begin on Sunday at 11 am at the Shores Recreation Centre. Meantime, the Preds U13 and U15 A/E squads both won finalist banners last weekend at the Silver Stick event in Pelham.

LCCVI’s Chase Porteous is heading to Florida in hopes of making an impression with U.S. college football recruiters. The 6’5”, 290 lb. offensive lineman will be part of the College Football Prospect Showcase in Fort Lauderdale on Jan. 28.



60M

Unlimited High Speed

INTERNET

The new year is all about new beginnings! What a better beginning than a world connected with unlimited high speed internet. Here's to a new year filled with unlimited streaming and endless connections. Call us today!

\$49.95

From

plus tax per month



CANQUEST

Connecting You to the World

235 St. Clair St., Chatham

1-844-333-2220 | canquest.com





60M download 10M upload. Where available. One time activation fee \$59.95 or \$19.95 transfer fee. Modem fee \$79.95 or use existing approved or rental available. Router is \$59.95 or bring your own we will program or rental available. Price based on self installations. After 3 months price is \$59.95.



ORDER TODAY & SAVE!

NO CONTRACT