

Wyoming fire victims ‘grateful’ to community

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

“I don’t have words,” said Allison Lortie. The Wyoming woman is talking about the outpouring of generosity which she and her husband, Brad Nelson experienced since fire destroyed their Broadway St. home, displacing them.

“I am absolutely humbled and grateful.” Lortie and Nelson have lived in Wyoming since 2011. On Nov. 20, she was home by herself with the couple’s dogs, Mason and Jagger while Nelson was working a night shift.

Lortie happened to be awake, scrolling on her phone when the smoke detector went off at 2:03 am..

She got out of bed and noticed the door to the garage already had black smoke billowing through the cracks.

Nelson is a platoon captain with the Wyoming Fire Department and she knew she should not open that door, so she left the house through the sunroom instead, she said, reliving the moment she made her escape in an interview with *The Independent*.

Lortie got out but only had one of her two dogs with her, so, she said tearfully, she went back through the sunroom to find the other.

Lortie says when she went back to get her second dog, she could feel the heat from the flames.

By 2:11 am, the garage was gone. The windows in the house were breaking and the tires of the vehicles which were parked in the garage were popping.

A neighbour called 911, at basically the same time Lortie was making the call as she was standing outside with her pajamas, housecoat and flip flops. The neighbour gave her a couple of coats to keep her warm and got her dogs, Mason and Jagger situated in the neighbouring home. “It was absolutely devastating,” Lortie said.

SEE COMMUNITY PG 2

SILVER STICK STRETCH



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

East Lambton Eagles’ Tyler Wilson stretches to make the save with Tyler Vanlieshout (12) and Jacob Davidson (10) coming in to defend with two members of the Huron-Bruce Blizzard bearing down on the net. East Lambton won the Under 15 C International Silver Stick Championship 5-1 in Forest Sunday. **SEE MORE ON PAGES 7&8**

Plans for new PW deputy training chief turned down

Heather Wright
The Independent

There will not be a third deputy fire chief in Plympton-Wyoming – at least not for now.

Monday, Fire Chief Erik Campbell requested the fire committee approve a third deputy chief who would be responsible for training. Right now, there are two training officers, one in Wyoming, the other in Camlachie, and the training is supervised by the district chiefs. Campbell suggested

a new chief would be responsible for the entire curriculum including better training for the more seasoned officers. The training officers would then be able to spend more time doing the actual training.


He says the province is demanding more training for volunteer firefighters and there is emerging technology – such as electric cars – which will require specialized skills.

But the Plympton-Wyoming councillors who make up the fire board were not keen on the idea. Fire Chair Bob Woolvett says the municipality originally hired a full-time

chief “so that we could meet a lot of those expectations in training.” He was concerned about spending another \$10,000 to \$15,000 to a deputy chief when the town envisioned that would part of the chief’s job.

Councillor Kristen Rodrigues agreed saying “I think we’re just I think we’re jumping very far ahead with that without getting a real picture.” Campbell has been on the job since November.

The fire committee deferred the decision, allowing the chief to bring the issue up again in the future.



THE

Independent

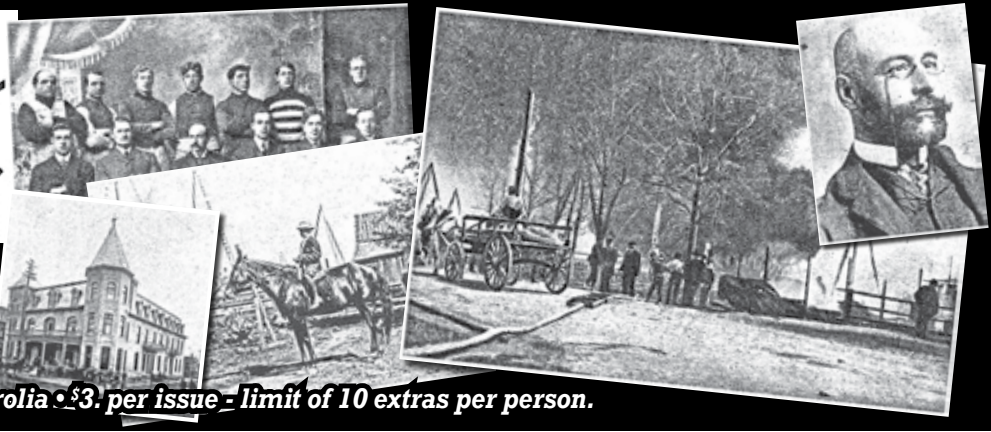
of Petrolia and Central Lambton

Learn more about the Town of Petrolia’s history with

The Independent’s Special Petrolia 150 Edition

Delivered to every home in Petrolia and to our subscribers across Canada

Extra copies will be available at The Independent office - 4156 Petrolia Line, Petrolia • \$3. per issue - limit of 10 extras per person.





BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Allison Lortie and Brad Nelson, with their dogs, Mason, left and Jagger, are thankful to the many people who gave them assistance when they were displaced from their home in Wyoming in November.

Community help ‘humbling:’ fire victims

CON’T FROM PG 1

“I was in shock for days and days and days,” says Lortie adding she knows how lucky she was. “The smoke detector saved my life,” said Lortie. Nelson said they had just changed the batteries the week before the fire. Nelson said Plympton-Wyoming Fire Chief Erik Campbell was quick to ask what did the couple need. The next night, donations started to come in by volunteers at the fire hall, including clothing and pet supplies for the dogs.

“There was more than we can use,” said Lortie. The couple only took what they needed and what was left was donated to the Inn of the Good Shepherd in Sarnia. There are many who helped the couple in their time of need including the fire department, OPP, EMS, Victim Services, wives and families of the fire department. People offered home cooked meals and there were invitations to eat at people’s homes. Many gave handwritten notes, which the couple cherish. “We made a

lot of new friends,” said Lortie. The couple had to stay in a hotel for over 30 days but are now settled in a home in Point Edward as they are plan to rebuild their home in Wyoming. The experience of losing their home has changed the couple’s outlook on life. “This is a second chance,” said Lortie, saying she used to care too much about what other people thought. And Lortie says after this fire, she realizes you shouldn’t sweat the small stuff.

• THE INDEPENDENT



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK

A truck driver at the Flying J Truck Stop in Reeces Corners captured this photo of the trailer in flames before Wyoming firefighters arrived.

Trailer destroyed at truck stop fire

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming Fire Chief Erik Campbell says a quick response by Wyoming firefighters contained a blaze at the Flying J truck stop over the weekend.

Saturday, a trailer near the popular Highway 402 truck stop caught fire Saturday afternoon. Campbell says the fire was so intense the cause of the fire cannot be determined. Campbell says the intense heat from the flames also damaged a nearby walk in freezer. He says

a total of about \$15,000 damage was done. The fire chief added the trailer was far enough away from the gas pumps and the firefighters responded quickly enough that there was not any danger of the pumps catching fire.

Lambton looks for hockey memories

The Independent

Sit in the stands of any hockey game in Lambton County and you’re bound to hear a hockey story or two. Now, the Lambton County Archive and the Lambton Heritage Museum want to preserve some of those memories. It’s asking people to share their stories for an upcoming exhibit. “Hockey has a strong history here in Lambton County, between our formal and recreational leagues and the natural environment that provides ample ice surface in the winter months,” said Nicole Aszalos, Archivist/Supervisor with Lambton County Archives. “There are fantastic stories out there of youth leagues, playing pond hockey with friends, and notable hockey players or teams with roots in Lambton County and we aim to capture these memorable moments before they are lost to time. Together we will preserve Lambton County’s hockey history including what this sport means to our community.” Aszalos is looking for “stories related to playing or watching hockey in Lambton County, including tales of organized leagues, recreational teams, and casual pick-up games with friends.” They’ll also include stories



The 1979 and 1981 Petrolia Squires are two of Central Lambton’s storied hockey teams.

about outstanding individuals with ties to Lambton County. You can find the form for submission at www.lambtonmuseums.ca/hockey. The museum is looking for skates, sticks, jerseys and trophies and medals with local ties which could be included in the exhibit. If you only have photos, the archives can help scan them for use. Call the Archives at 519-845-5426 or book an appointment online at lambtonarchives.ca. Some of the submitted stories and photos will be displayed as part of a larger exhibition at the Lambton Heritage Museum from July to October. Stories, photos and artifacts should be submitted by Feb. 29 and the museum staff will be following up with the people whose objects they want to use in the exhibit.

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.

RRSP or TFSA?

Choose your way to save.

Whatever you're saving for, a TFSA or an RRSP can help you reach your goals sooner.

Talk to us today.

Santiago Pinto, QAFP™ Professional
Owner/Financial Planner

Jesse Minten, CFP®
Associate Financial Planner
11-4247 Oil Heritage Rd., Petrolia ON, N0N-1R0
(519)-882-4880

Investments. Insurance. Advice.

Pinto Financial Group Inc.

co-operators

Not all products are available in all provinces. Mutual funds are offered through Co-operators Financial Investment Services Inc. to Canadian residents except those in Quebec and the territories. Segregated funds are administered by Co-operators Life Insurance Company. © 2022 Co-operators Life Insurance Company and Co-operators Financial Investment Services Inc. W2047 (03/22)

2023 ‘tough year’ for many says MP

Blake Ellis
Local Journalism Initiative

“It was a really tough year,” says Marilyn Gladu.

The Sarnia Lambton MP spoke to The Independent a week into the New Year about 2023 and what is ahead in 2024.

Gladu points to the rising inflation and interest rates, which are continuing to make food and housing less affordable.

Gladu pointed to the 2023 Canadian Poverty and Socioeconomic Analysis completed by the Salvation Army which showed one in five Canadians are either skipping or reducing the amount eaten for at least one meal a day to deal with the rising costs of groceries.

The study concluded if you are a single parent, the situation is more dire with 40 percent fearing they do not have enough income to cover their basic needs.

Gladu contends inflation is due to the “out-of-control spending” by the governing Liberals, even though rising inflation has happened globally since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. One way other G-7 nations have worked to curb inflation is to reduce taxes on groceries and Gladu called on the Canadian government to do the same. Basic groceries are tax free in Ontario, according to the Canada Revenue Agency, with things such as carbonated drinks, candy and snack food taxed.

Gladu also wants the Liberals to eliminate the carbon tax.

Gladu’s counterpart at Queen’s Park, Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey points to what his government has done to help those in need including

more than a \$2 million increase for Lambton homelessness prevention initiatives. The province provided a total of \$5.6 million in 2023. Estimates suggest there are up to 250 without stable housing in Lambton County. Homelessness has escalated in Sarnia-Lambton since the end of the pandemic, much like the rest of Ontario.

Gladu agrees there is a high amount of homelessness, and pointed to the federal government’s plan to increase its immigration levels to 500,000 annually by 2025. While Gladu understands Canada needs immigration, she said the government doesn’t have a plan to settle many immigrants in Canada. Until a plan is in place, she wants immigration to slow down to avoid burdening resources. Since the start of war between Russia and the Ukraine, there have been many Ukrainians immigrating to Canada, fleeing the situation in their own country.

Given the conflicts in the world, Gladu feels military spending should increase to support the Canadian Armed Forces. General Wayne Eyre, the chief of the Canadian defence staff, told a House of Commons committee in October that if Canadian troops were called on to fire their large artillery at the same rate as Ukrainian troops currently battling Russia, their supply of shells would only last a few days. Gladu also believes Israel has the right to defend itself against Hamas, a war which erupted in October.

Closer to home, Bailey is proud of the investment the provincial Progressive Conservative government has made in nursing education. A new School of Nursing was launched at Lambton College in 2023, aligning

its programs to better meet the needs of students. This includes a new Honours Bachelor of Science-Nursing Program, which began last September.

Bailey said the Ontario government’s plan to have hip and knee surgeries done in private clinics is a way to reduce surgical wait lists. Critics of the plan have said this will just shift away resources from publicly-funded hospitals while doing little to shorten wait lists.

One of the things Bailey wants to see for Sarnia Lambton is more job creation. A \$14 billion plan for electric vehicle production in Canada has Bailey excited, as he hopes something will be happening in Sarnia-Lambton. There are other projects he is excited about including Diageo’s plans to build a \$245 million distillery in St. Clair Township where Crown Royal whiskey brand is to be produced. Both Gladu and Bailey are excited for the 150th anniversary celebration of the founding of Petrolia. Bailey suggested there might be some high profile members of the provincial government coming to take part in the celebrations.



Marilyn Gladu



PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that the Town of Plympton-Wyoming 2024 Draft Budget and the Water/Sewer Rates By-law will be considered for adoption at a

Special Budget Council Meeting to be held
Thursday, January 18th 2024 at 5 p.m.

If needed, a second date for further consideration will be on
Thursday, January 25th 2024 at 5 p.m.

Please monitor the Town’s Website and Facebook page for updates.

Members of the public are welcome to attend in Council Chambers or watch a live stream of the meeting via the Town’s YouTube channel using the following link:

www.youtube.com/@townofplymptonwyoming

Copies of the draft Budget and By-law will be made available upon request after January 8th 2024.

For any questions or additional information, please contact:

Erin Kwarciak, Clerk
Town of Plympton-Wyoming
(519) 845-3939
ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca

Petrolia group ‘rescues’ 14 tonnes of food

Heather Wright
The Independent

Over 14 tonnes of food worth about \$121,000 was ‘rescued’ to be used at the Petrolia Community Refrigerator in 2023.

That from a report from Larry Leckie, one of the 40 volunteers behind the project which provides 24 hour access to food in Petrolia.

In his report, Leckie says 27,512 meals were rescued – the term used for food which normally would have been thrown out due to expiry dates guidelines at restaurants and grocery stores. There was 27,628 pounds of food recovered including 5,552 kilograms of meat and fish, 2,590 kgs of dairy products and 2,028 kgs of bread in the course of a

year.

The Community Fridge receives donations from local food retailers, such as Heidi’s Independent and Hogan’s Pharmacy as well as donations from groups. This year alone, elementary school students provided 2,000 pounds of food to the project.

The effort has also been good for the environment, according to Leckie. Almost 114,000 kgs of greenhouse gases were diverted from the environment — the equivalent of taking 25 cars off the road.

Food that isn’t used by humans is used by local farm animals. Organic waste goes to Williams farm and is composted and any breads or bakery items which are stale or moldy are taken to feed bison and cattle.

Leckie says the group has also been able to organize tax preparation clinics with the help of the Inn of the Good Shepherd, helping 38 people.

And its worked with organizations such as the Red Cross, helping food insecure seniors coming home from the hospital and the Salvation Army which provided a free hot lunch on the second and fourth Friday of every month. Ruth’s Place – Lambton County program for people with developmental disabilities – prepares meals two Thursdays a month using many of the food items from the community fridge.

Leckie says in all, the volunteer group has raised over \$40,000 to purchase groceries and food to keep the fridge stocked.

• THE INDEPENDENT

STAY STANDING THIS Winter!

Slippery sidewalks, driveways and icy parking lots can be risk factors for falls in winter. Avoid a bad fall with these top tips!

WALK LIKE A PENGUIN

The penguin waddle helps you keep a centre of gravity over the front leg as you step, instead of split between the legs. Short strides also help keep your centre of gravity, which help avoid falls. Don't keep your hands in your pockets! Walk slowly, with short strides and try to land your steps with a flat foot.

KEEP WALKWAYS CLEAR

Shovel snow and scrape ice as soon as possible. Liberally sprinkle ice melt product or sand onto walkways to provide foot traction and to make sure surfaces don't turn to ice. This is not only protects you and your family, but also postal carries and others when they're walking around your property. Where possible install or use handrails for extra support.

TAKE ALL PRECAUTIONS

Be extra cautious walking after a storm. Tap your foot on partially icy areas to see if it is slippery. Hold a railing while walking on icy steps. Stay steady by wearing proper winter footwear. lightweight boots with a thick, non-slip tread sole will provide good traction on ice. If a sidewalk is icy down the missile, walk on the snow beside it to avoid slips.



431 King Street, Petrolia | 519-882-1880



Dr. Derek Martyniuk



Dr. Kevin Storozuk

www.lambtonchiropractic.ca

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

Drunk drivers in Lambton charged in RIDE stops

The Independent

Lambton OPP laid more impaired driving charges than just about any detachment in southwestern Ontario.

OPP recently released its Holiday RIDE program statistics showing Lambton laid

44 charges and gave 12 warning suspensions. Only Essex County laid more charges – 56.

But the Lambton OPP and Essex detachments also had more RIDE traffic stops than other jurisdictions – 246 and 247 respectively. Nearby Huron County did the most RIDE

traffic stops, 332 but only laid 26 charges.

Overall 353 impaired driving charges were laid in the West Region over the Christmas period this year compared to 278 last year. Over 13,000 vehicles were checked in 2,446 events.

EDITORIAL

What we can save

Ten per cent of Canadians – about four million people including over 1,200,000 children – don’t know if they will have enough food on any given day.

That’s a staggering statistic. Here’s something else which boggles the mind. Around the world 1.3 billion tonnes of edible food is wasted and lost each year. About 45 per cent of that is fruits and vegetables.

Canadians create over 50 million tonnes of food waste every year. Each home produces about 79 kilograms of food waste per year according to the United Nations. That’s about the same weight as the average man.

What is sad is 60 per cent of that waste could be avoided if we planned better and took better care of what we buy.

We all could do more to cut our food waste, but there is another solution - food rescuing. Our page 3 story about the Petrolia Community Refrigerator shows just how much of the food many people consider is waste can be put to good use.

The volunteer group rescued 12,558 kilograms – 27,686 pounds – of food worth over \$121,000 in 2023. That’s enough for over 27,000 meals.

The group of volunteers doesn’t get government cash to do this work, but raises money and coordinates “food rescues” from local businesses and offers it to anyone who needs it 24 hours a day at a shed behind St. Paul’s United Church.

What they’re doing doesn’t just help those who are hungry, it helps the environment.

The volunteer group estimates the food they’ve saved to be used again has cut enough greenhouse gases to take 25 cars off the road.

The UN says redirecting or rescuing food could save 3.82 tonnes of emissions for every tonne of food saved. In Canada, that would likely erase the green house gases emitted by our 26 million cars.

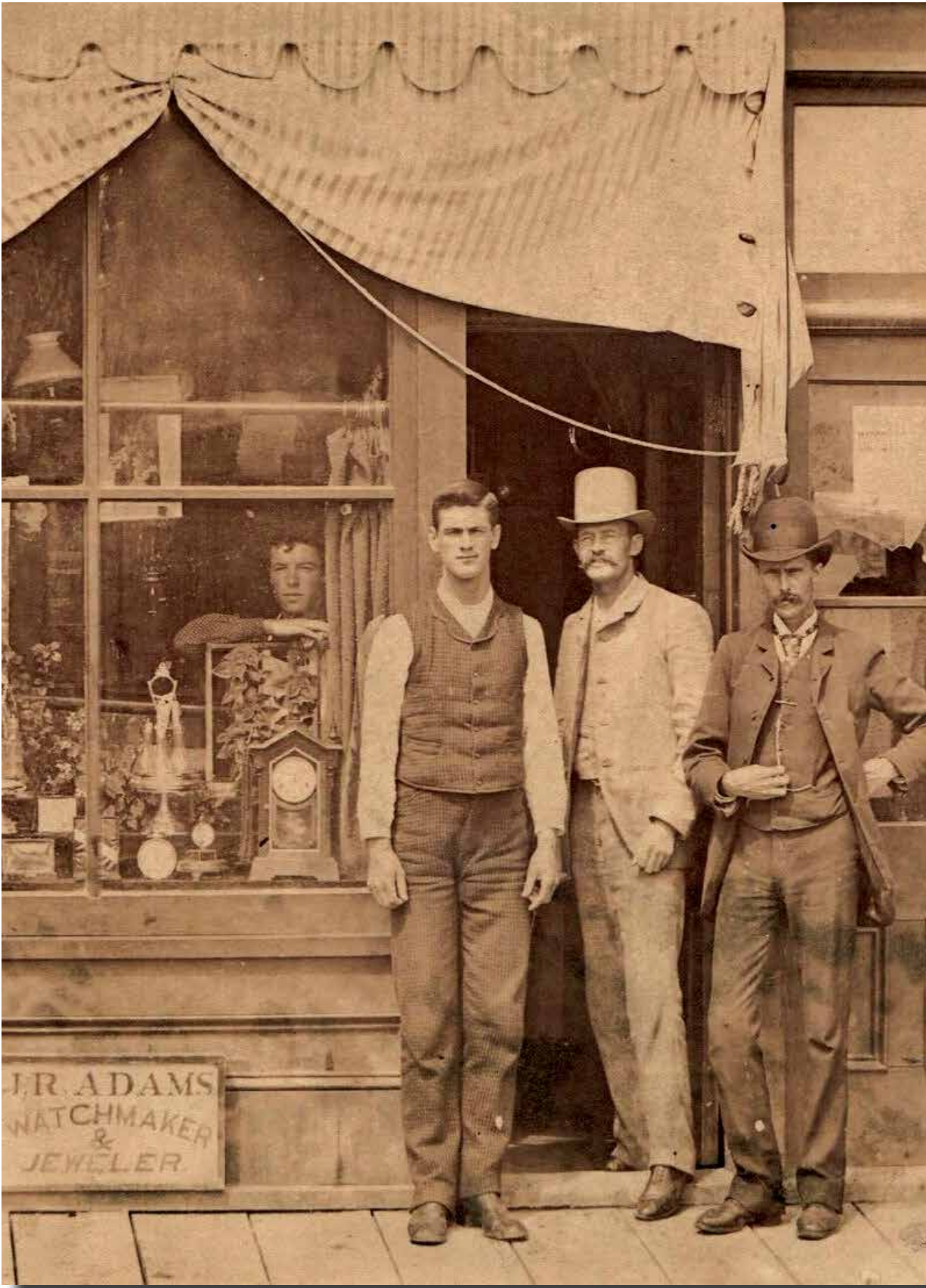
Using the food we produce instead of throwing it into landfills is such a simple, effective concept, we wonder why all levels of government don’t put some cash into promoting the idea.

It would feed our hungry and save our planet at the same time. Imagine what we could save.

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


The gentlemen of J.R. Adams Watchmaker & Jeweler in Brigden pose for a photo outside their business as another young man peers out the window.

THE INDEPENDENT 
SERVING PETROLIA AND CENTRAL LAMBTON

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

Subscription Rates: \$55.00/year within 50 kms of Petrolia Post Office
\$65.00/year outside of 50 km radius \$75.00/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
L.J.I. Reporter: **Blake Ellis**
Sales Associate: sales@petrolialambtonindependent.ca
Classifieds / Graphics: **Tyler Viscount / Lauren Wright**
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



No plans to build new Watford fire hall

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick Township politicians want to make it clear they aren't planning to build a new Watford fire hall anytime soon.

The issue arose Monday as Administrator Amanda Gubbels tabled a yearly service delivery review plan. One line in the document which listed dozens of priorities said finding land for a new fire hall in Watford was a high priority, something Councillor Jerry Westgate questioned. "I do not believe that at anytime a council said that was the thing that we want to do," he said noting it was a suggestion in the Fire

Master Plan which may have been the reason it was on the priorities list. "I don't think I was on the council that approved that."

Gubbels said the idea of finding a new home for the Watford fire hall was part of the fire master plan several years ago.

"The plan did have an action to move the addition of the current Watford station to a new location." The action item, she says, was placed in a Projects and Priorities list several years ago which was approved by the council of the day. But council never acted on the idea.

Gubbels said the last few remaining items of that fire master plan will come

to council in the coming weeks.

But both Westgate and Mayor Todd Case made it clear, there was no need for a new hall now that plans are being made to fix the current hall.

An engineer has said it will take between \$200,000 and \$250,000 to repair the brickwork of the hall.

Council had set aside \$600,000 for the work.

"This council has not endorsed such a plan period and I have not heard anybody on council say they're in favor of doing such a thing...But this council never endorsed – just to be very clear so the public knows – building a new fire hall at this particular time," says Mayor Todd Case.

6,000 Lambton students need to update vaccine records

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton Public Health is mailing out three times the number of notices it normally does to try to get student vaccination records up to date.

Shaun Bisson, public relations coordinator for LPH, says 4,000 elementary school students and 2,000 secondary school students have been sent notices of incomplete immunization records.

To attend school in Ontario, the Immunization of School Pupils Act,

1990 requires students to be vaccinated against Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Meningococcal disease, and Varicella, according to Bisson.

Immunization records are not automatically reported to LPH so parents and guardians are required to let public health know the immunizations are up to date.

Before the pandemic, public health would send out letters reminding parents and eventually issuing suspensions from school to get the students either vaccinated or have

parents provide a notice of exemption. That has not been done since 2020 when 2,614 first notices were issued.

Parents and students have until Jan. 24 to call in their vaccination records or a second letter – a notice of suspension – will be sent out.

If the families don't respond, the students will be suspended March 5.

There is more information on how to file your records or to find out what records Lambton Public Health has on the organizations website.

Vaccinations can also be booked through LPH.

OPP plans to charge for answering 'habitual' false alarms

The Independent

Homeowners may soon be getting a bill if Lambton OPP have to respond to a false alarm at their home.

That from the Lambton Policing Group board.

During the December board meeting,

officers reported there were 79 security alarm calls in October and September. All were false alarms. Nine addresses had multiple false alarms in that time frame. There were a number of reasons for the false alarms, according to the report, including kids coming home and not deactivating the alarm, broken

systems, doors left open, or people simply forgetting their alarm code to get in.

The OPP will send letters to people with multiple alarms advising them that starting in 2024, all "habitual false alarm calls" will receive a charge for service.

VIGIL FOR CHERYL



PHOTO CREDIT

The daughter of a Corunna woman who died three years ago says a large vigil in Sarnia "really strengthens our belief in the compassion that thrives in our community." Alyssa VanHuizen at the vigil for her late mother, Cheryl, who died Dec. 31, 2020. Her common-law-partner was recently found not guilty in his first degree murder trial. The jury believed Shawn Trowbridge's version of VanHuizen's death that the mother of two had died after a fall and aggressive sex. The family was stunned by the verdict saying VanHuizen had been a victim of domestic violence. Saturday, hundreds of people gathered at Sarnia City Hall in a walk in VanHuizen's memory and to "express our deep sorrow that justice was not served." Many people carried signs saying 'No Justice.' "To those who have faced the terrors of sexual assault and domestic violence, your bravery joining us is both seen and admired," said Alyssa VanHuizen during a statement paying tribute to her mother. "I know she is looking down on all of us and so thankful for everyone's support. Having everyone here tonight truly is our closure," said VanHuizen. "Our mom was such a bright light in this dark world." She added the woman was more than just a parent; she was our best friend, our number one fan. She deserved a life far richer than the way hers ended, but I know she would not want us to live the rest of our lives and sorrow." Connor VanHuizen added. "We carry her in our hearts every single day and miss her dearly. Not only was she the most loving mother I know she would have been a wonderful grandma to my son Carter."

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

Conservation authority wants more weather stations

Heather Wright
The Independent

Emery Huzska wants better water monitoring in the Sydenham River watershed to reduce the amount of crop damage caused when the McKeough Dam is used.

Huzska, a member of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority board, made the comments at the December meeting. They come after SCRCA employees suggested more monitoring would allow them to have better information when trying to determine if they should activate the McKeough Dam, flooding hundreds of acres of St. Clair Township farmland to avoid flooding in Wallaceburg.

The authority currently uses 12 stream gauges, five snow sampling stations, ice monitoring and meteorological data to track conditions before making any decisions to open the floodway.

Huzska pointed out that while the dam does stop millions of dollars damage being done in Wallaceburg, it still damages St. Clair Township farmland and whatever crops may be growing on them at the time.

“Injuries is injury; damages are damage; and while you’re improving the lives of 99 per cent of other people, it doesn’t negate the fact that maybe one per cent are paying for (the damage) themselves in their own loss. And that means while this was really good for everybody else, doesn’t always necessarily make that one per cent forgivable.”

The authority is asking the federal environment minister to “consider investing in weather networks/stations to provide greater accuracy in flood forecasting and warning” to provide a more “effective response” during weather events caused by climate change.

Huzska says understanding the damage to crops could help convince the feds. “This may help prioritize our ask to the government to either partially fund or help us as we redesigned (the system) ... to make continuous improvements to a very important piece of infrastructure that we control.”

Subdivision developers may face new fee in Warwick

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick administrators want to make sure the township isn’t left paying the bills for developers.

Township staff is proposing a new \$10,000 deposit for people coming to the township to develop a new subdivision who haven’t submitted a plan of subdivision.

Administrator Amanda Gubbels said

township staff would hold a meeting with the developer to explain Warwick’s process. That would be without cost. But often, before the developer submits an official application, the town has to hire engineers. Warwick pays the fee until the developer has submitted an application of subdivision. “That gap in time, depending on the developer, can be long and can create a lot of municipal fees. In one case, the municipality is holding almost \$35,000 in fees,” she told council.

Developers would provide the deposit after the initial meeting. All or part of it would be returned – depending on what fees the township incurred – if the subdivision didn’t move ahead.

Township staff says the Town of Petrolia has a similar deposit.

Council wanted to know how often Warwick is paying the fees before it makes a decision on the new deposit.

LUCKY LARRY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Larry Lawlor of Camlachie found out by text that he’d won a new hybrid BMW in the Bluewater Health Foundation draw. “I got a text from a friends saying ‘congrats on your new wheels!’ says Lawlor. “I said, I didn’t get a new car! The story has been going around since and I’ve been getting emails from friends all over the place.” He did win the early bird draw for the car and is taking a week to decide whether he wants to claim the car or \$30,000 cash instead. The lottery is now 70 per cent sold out with the Dreamhome Draw on Feb. 15.

Paint Ontario on the move after renovations to the Lambton Heritage Museum

Heather Wright
The Independent

Paint Ontario is looking for a new home after renovations at the Lambton Heritage Museum cut their exhibition space in half.

Pat Shores of the Grand Bend Arts Centre and artist Barbara Pickett recently asked Lambton Shores council to contribute about

\$31,000 to help the art centre purchase \$94,000 in equipment for a portable exhibit space.

Pickett told council the arts centre decided it should move after the renovations.

Pickett says normally 700 pieces of art are submitted with 200 chosen for Paint Ontario. Last year, some of the 3,000 people who went to the show asked “Is there another room with more art?”

“We had a show with half the size of the previous shows, therefore half the size means half the amount of artwork and half the potential sales there for half the fundraising money we need to run our programs.”

About 35 per cent of the show’s revenue goes to support the centres programs. The rest goes to artists.

Pickett says the plan is to set up a temporary gallery in the upper hall of the Grand Bend Legion for three weeks in May.

The equipment is “professional, reusable, flexible for this year and years to come and we want to bring it with us to the Grand Bend Community Center when that comes to fruition.”

The arts centre has already raised

\$50,000 for the projects and is hoping Lambton Shores will pitch in to help.

The municipality has a Vibrancy Fund – money from host agreements from wind farms - which accepts grant applications for both large and small projects.

The request for funds for Paint Ontario group will be considered at the next council meeting.

FIRE-Y BREAKFAST



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

Dawn-Euphemia firefighters were cooking up breakfast at the Rutherford Hall Sunday. The department holds the fundraiser once a month to raise money for equipment.

1 Year For Only \$60 **\$45**
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: ☐

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

SNOWBIRD
Combination of
Print/Email Edition

\$40
Email Edition
Only



SPORTS

Battle of Lambton Part 2 is Friday

Barry Wright
The Independent

The Petrolia Squires will be looking for revenge Friday night when they host the Alvinston Killer Bees in the second installment of the Western Ontario Super Hockey League’s Battle of Lambton County. The Bees beat the Squires, 5-2 in the first of the two-game season series a month ago in Alvinston.

The Squires lead the league with a 13-5 record but the Bees are just seven points behind Petrolia with three games in hand.

Meantime; Ryan Fraser’s goal with 35 seconds left in overtime sent the Squire fans home happy Friday as Petrolia edged Tilbury, 5-4.

TJ Harris scored twice for Petrolia and Jesse Ferguson added a goal and two assists. Curtis Helps had the other goal for the Squires.

Newly signed Adam Craievich registered two assists. Sean Parker made 39 saves for goaltending win.

The Killer Bees hope they have some goals left in their arsenal after putting up a baker’s dozen in a 13-1 home ice win over Orangeville Saturday.

James McEwan led the Bees with four goals and two assists and is now fourth in league scoring with 34 points in 13 games.

Rylan Bowers and Aidan Preuter both had two goals and three assists, Carson Perry scored and added four assists and Caden

Faulkner registered five assists. Josh Jamieson, Cam Rombouts, Michael McArthur and Ethan Lamoureux also scored for the Bees.

Alvinston fell behind early in Strathroy Friday and lost to the Jets, 8-5.

Alvinston is home to Tilbury on Saturday for Student Night. All students 25 and under are admitted free. Puck drop is 6:30. The Alvinston Ice Angels will be performing and music during stoppages will be provided by the LCCVI slam band and drum lines.

And Brandon Biggers, Ryan Trottier, Ryan Fraser, Steve Farlow and Sean Parker of the Squires and Alvinston’s Carson Perry, James McEwan, Bayly Fryfogle, Josh Tidgwell and Nolan DeKoning



DAVE MACGEE PHOTO

Nolan Dekoning stopped the shot while getting snowed in the Killer Bees 13-1 win over Orangeville.

are all on the ballot for the 2024 WOSHL virtual all-star game roster. Online voting continues

until Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Another road win, Petrolia Flyers on a roll take on Aylmer Thursday

The Petrolia Flyers scored a trio of unanswered goals in the third period including the game-winning goal by Noel Sanderson early in the frame in beating Lucan, 4-2 on the road Saturday.

Caleb Kennedy, Wil O’Leary-Dilosa and Cam Davidson also scored for the Flyers.

Ethan Everaert made 26 saves. Last Thursday at home, the Flyers doubled North Middlesex,

8-4. Cam Davidson and Andrew Jaques each had two goals and two assists for the winners. Petrolia is now 12-13-3 on the season after picking up points in seven of its last eight games.

The Flyers are home to Aylmer on Thursday at 7:30, and take on the Trojans in Thamesford on Friday.

Duncan stops 26 in win for Rockets

The Independent

Making his first start in more than a month, Alvinston’s Hayden Duncan stopped 26 of 28 shots to backstop the Strathroy Rockets to a 6-2 win over the Legionnaires Saturday at the West Middlesex Arena.

Strathroy converted five power plays and added a shorthanded goal in the victory.

Oil Springs’ William Hull assisted on the game-winning goal.

Alexander Akena and Wyoming’s Austin Harper scored for Sarnia.

Hull also drew an assist, his tenth of the season, in a 6-2 win by the Rockets against Chatham Sunday. Strathroy is 19-9-3 on the season. Sarnia falls to 13-15-4.

The Rockets next game is at St. Marys Friday night. The Legionnaires host London on Thursday in Sarnia.

Meantime, Legionnaires defenceman Jace McGrail of Wyoming was part of the GOJHL 2005 all-star team that played at Ridley College in St. Catharines on Tuesday.



Hayden Duncan

BRIEFLY: Flags earn eight points in eight games

The Mooretown Flags has now earned points in eight straight PJHL games after a 4-3 overtime loss to the Blades in Blenheim on Sunday night. John Chartrand made 57 saves as the home team peppered the Flags’ net with 61 shots. Dylan Dupuis scored twice for Mooretown and Dane Nesbit had his first of the season. Alvinston’s Matt Hayter assisted on two Blenheim power play markers in the third period to erase a 3-1 Mooretown lead. The Flags beat the Kings, 5-3 in Dresden Friday. The Flags take on the Canadiens in Lakeshore on Friday and entertain Walpole Island on Saturday at 7:30.

...

The Sarnia Sting got younger last week by trading the LeBlanc twins and Sandis Vilmanis to the North Bay Battalion. The Sting got 2023 first round pick Carter Kostuch, import rearguard Alex Cajkovic and six draft choices in exchange. The Sting, unbeaten in its last four games, is at home to London tonight. The Knights have won nine straight games. Watford’s Evan Van Gorp scored his first OHL goal for the Knights last Wednesday in a win over Erie. He added another, a shorthanded tally, against Barrie last Friday.

...

The Alvinston Ice Angels have five medals to their credit from the Mid-America synchronized skating competition in Fraser, Michigan last weekend. The Adult team as well as the Star 4-elementary and intro squads all won gold medals in their respective competitions. The pre-Novice and beginners both captured silver medals.

...

The Sarnia Sting is now unbeaten in four games for the first time this season. They picked up a point in a 3-2 overtime loss to the Storm on Sunday in Guelph. Marko Sikic notched his tenth goal of the season off a nice feed from Zach Filak to open the scoring in the first period and Ryan Brown scored his eighth to tie the contest early in the second. Sarnia, now 14-21-2 on the season, is three points back of Flint for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference with a game in hand.

WE REPLACE SOLES

ON COWBOY & WORK BOOTS

WITH ORIGINAL VIBRAM RUBBER

OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED

SOLE REPLACEMENT DEALER

• ARIAT

• LAMMELES

• TONY LAMA

• ROYER

• BOULET

• KEEN

• JUSTIN

• SWAT

• TIMBERLAND

• SIDEWINDER

• CAT

• ROPER

• MELLOW WALK

• KODIAK

• BLUNDSTONE

• 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

Coupon Expires Feb. 28th, 2024

\$10 OFF

WITH THIS AD

ANY SOLE OR

HEEL REPLACEMENT

SHOEMAKER

4496 Petrolia Line (Inside 21 Shell Gas Bar)

5 19-868-9829

Looking for extra copies of

The Independent 150 Special Edition?

We will have extra copies at The Independent office @ \$3 per copy.

Limit of 10 per person.

Available at:

4156 Petrolia Line

Petrolia

THE

Independent

of Petrolia and Central Lambton

Happy New Year

Petrolia celebrates

its 150th anniversary

on Jan. 11, 2024

Petrolia's

Beginnings

Durand,

Ennis first

settlements

King Well in

1874 led to

Bees Time

150

1874 - 2024

Turn of PETROLIA

A PARTY 150 YEARS IN THE MAKING

Don't miss the celebration's Main Event:

RD OIL MUSIC FESTIVAL

W SALE AT:

rk, Petrolia

oday,

V. 17 & 18

2024

Events & Signature Town Events:

JUNE

Friday, June 14 & 15

Special Live-in Concerts (Park to be

announced soon)

Friday 14, 15 & 17

Friday 15: 15:00 Live Choir Concert

JULY

Friday 14

11:00 Live Choir Concert

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 14

11:00 Live Choir Concert

DECEMBER

Saturday 14

11:00 Live Choir Concert

SPORTS

East Lambton, Lady Flags capture International Silver Stick titles



The East Lambton U15 C Eagles



BLAKE ELLIS/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTOS

There were four International Silver Stick champions in rural Lambton this weekend, including two teams from St. Clair Township. The U13 Mooretown Lady Flags claimed the B title and the U11's took on the Silver Stick as well. East Lambton U15 Boys captured Silver Stick glory at the International Finals in Forest and the Lambton Predators won the U18 B tournament also in Forest.



The Mooretown U13 Lady Flags



The Mooretown U11 Lady Flags

Four Silver Stick champions in rural Lambton

Heather Wright
The Independent

The East Lambton Eagles are the International Silver Stick U15 C champions

The Eagles were undefeated during the Forest Finals this weekend, beating the Lucan Irish 4-0 to head to the finals against Huron Bruce.

The Eagles beat the Blizzard 5-1 in the final.

Meantime, the Petrolia Oiler U18 team was 1-3 on the tournament beating Mitchell 1-0 Saturday but falling to Niagara, Metcalfe, and Lambton Shores in round robin play

...

The Mooretown Lady Flags U11 and U13 were flawless to win two International Silver Stick titles at

the Sarnia finals.

The Lady Flag U11 team beat Sarnia Jr Lady Sting 4-1 to open the tournament and never looked back. They beat St. Marys 5-0, Sylvania 6-0, and the Lambton Attack 4-0 to move to the semi finals where they beat the Sarnia Jr. Lady Sting 4-1.

The Lady Flags then beat undefeated South Huron 1-0 in the final.

In the U13 B division, the Lady Flags beat Halton Hills 7-0 in the opening game – the first of four round robin wins. The Flags topped Seattle 12-1, the Lambton Attack 6-2 and downed St. Marys Rock in the semi finals 7-0.

It was an all Lambton final, with Mooretown scoring the lone goal to beat the Lambton Attack 1-0 and take the Silver stick title.

The host Lambton Shores Predators are International Silver Stick U18 B champs.

The Preds lost their first game against Mitchell 3-1 and then went on to beat Niagara 6-2, and Mooretown 2-0 before heading to the finals where the Preds defeated Metcalfe 3-2 .

The Mooretown Flags finished 0-4 on the tournament and the Petrolia Oilers finished 1-3 over the weekend.

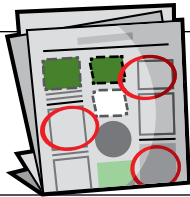
Meantime at the U21 B tournament in Mooretown, both the hometown Jr. Flags and the Lambton Shores Predators were 2-1 in the tournament. The Preds lost to Thorold in the semi 5-4 and the Mooretown Jr Flags were blacked by Haldimand 3-0.



The Lambton U18 Predators

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 2 - 9, 2024

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

GARRISON, Audrey Eleaine (nee Lewis)

Age: 96
Smith Funeral Home

DUNSWORTH, Martha (nee Grandy)

Age: 95
Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

WALKER, June H.

Age: 81, of Corunna
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

FITZPATRICK, Gary George

Age: 87, of Corunna
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

AUGER, Maurice George

Age: 92, of Sarnia
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

ZIMMER, Richard "Richie" Joseph

Age: 72
McCormack Funeral Home

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

URQUHART, Elizabeth "Ruthanne" (nee Wolsey)

Age: 77
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

WITHERS, Norman Fraser

Age: 76
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel

GRAY, Diana Faith

Age: 23
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

MAJOR, Frederick Randle (Fred)

Age: 86
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

WELLINGTON, Bonnie Barbara

Age: 71
Denning's Forest Funeral Home

McCREADY, Wendy Lynn (Richmond)

Age: 65
Van Heck Funeral Home

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

SIMMONS, Jacqueline "Jackie"

Age: 93
Knight Funeral Home

GRUNTE, Peter Edward

Age: 84 of Corunna
Knight Funeral Home

MESSHAM, Donald James

Age: 87
Smith Funeral Home

SMITH, Florence May

Age: 70
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

MURTON, Dorothy Catherine

Age: 100
McCormack Funeral Home

WALKER, Susanne Lorraine (Holland)

Age: 68
Van Heck Funeral Home

RUSSELL, Carlyle (Carl) David

Age: 59
Smith Funeral Home

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

HARVEY, Vera Marilyn

Age: 86
Badder Funeral Home Dresden

BURNSIDE, Brent James

Age: 56
Smith Funeral Home

COLLOP, Robert Howard

Age: 82
Smith Funeral Home

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

RONDEAU, Patricia Ann

Age: 75
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

HEYNEN, Peter Marinus

Age: 79
Van Heck Funeral Home

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

Obituary



WITHERS

Norman Fraser

WITHERS, Norman Fraser, passed away after a year long illness on January 4, 2024 at his home in St.Clair township with his family present. He is survived by his wife of 56 years Lynne (Firby), their children-Amy (Edward)

Mazey, Andrew (Christie), Alan (Keri), Aaron (Leah) and Adam (Kyla) and their 23 grandchildren: Kyra (Dekker) Smith, Mikaela Stocking, Malachi, Eliana and Lyle Mazey; Jordan, Ashley (Cole) Oswald, Hunter and Tyler; Spencer (Natasha), Savannah (Gregory) Taylor, Emma, Ethan, Eliza and Benson; Abigail, Anna, Lilly and Brooklyn; Carter, Haley, Tate and Dak; their 3 great grandchildren-Merrick and Mazey Smith and Callahan Withers. Sisters-Anne (late Pete) Gowrie and Linda (Charles) Perry, brother in law Douglas (Lisa) Firby, 19 nieces and nephews and their families, special cousin Jayne Miles and step brother John (Marion) Ford. Predeceased by his parents Margaret (Kennedy, Ford) and brother in law Leo (Jean) Bradshaw. Norm was a graduate of the University of Waterloo and worked for Imperial Oil Limited for 27 years and then Sarnia Propane. As an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints all of his life, Norm

served in many callings including Branch President and Bishop. Over the years he made many close friends through the church. He was involved as a leader in the Cub Scout program for over 25 years. He loved to go hunting and fishing and is remembered by his hunting buddies especially Neil Gorton and Brian Savidant. However, he most enjoyed going up north and hunting and fishing with his children and grandchildren. Another favorite activity was traveling, especially cruises, with Lynne and their traveling/adventure companions Alan and Margaret Lester. Faith, family and the farm were his main loves. He was a good friend to many and touched a lot of people's hearts. He will be missed by all who knew him. The family would like to thank all the members and friends of the Sarnia ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the Lambton palliative care team Dr. David Kim, VON eshift especially Gloria, Shayne and Coni, Care

Partners especially Adrian, Beth from VON respite, the VON nursing staff especially Danielle and all the staff at Twin Bridges Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic, for all their care and support which enabled Norm to stay at home. **A visitation took place at Steadman Brothers Funeral Home in Brigden on Monday, January 8, 2024 from 4:00-8:00pm followed by a visitation at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1400 Murphy Road in Sarnia, from 9:30 to 10:30am on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 were a funeral service at 11:00am was held.** Burial will be in Bear Creek Cemetery, St. Clair township, just down the road from home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association or the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.steadmanbrothers.ca. Arrangements entrusted to STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME, Brigden 519-864-1193.

Obituary



HEATH

William Percival "Percy"

Peacefully, surrounded by family at Watford Quality Care Center on December 29, 2023, William Percival "Percy" Heath passed away at the age of 94. Percy was predeceased by beloved wife, Marilyne Heath. He was the proud father of Kathy (Nathan) Ikert, Bill (Shirley) Heath, and John (Audrey) Heath. He was the loving Grandfather of Karyn (Dustin) Font, Zack (Kristina) Ikert, Elise (Eric) Soepboer, and Juliette Heath. He is also survived by his great-grandchildren Maya, Lucy, Grace, Lyla, Astrid, Alden, and Oriana. After more than three decades as a lawyer in Lambton County, Percy retired and remained active in the Watford-Warwick Community. He served multiple terms on the Warwick Township council. He was a longtime member of the Masonic Lodge and the Watford Rotary Club. The family wishes to thank the staff of Watford Quality Care Center for the wonderful care Percy received in the last few years of his life. **Visitation was held at DENNING'S OF WATFORD on Friday January 5, 2024, from 12:00pm until 2:00pm.** A funeral service followed immediately after at 2:00 pm at the funeral home. Interment to follow at Watford Cemetery. In memory of Percival, donations may be made to Watford Quality Care Centre, the Bluewater Health Foundation, or to a charity of your choice.

In Memoriam



In loving
memory
of

JOAN VANITA RUNDLE

Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother.

Missing you always and forever.

The Rundle Family

Two years ago on January 9, 2022, we lost a piece of our hearts.

We miss the twinkle in your eyes, your smile, your infectious laughter, and your love.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of a dear husband,
father, grandfather and friend.

Antonio Libreiro

May 28, 1942 - January 6, 1992

*When we lose someone we love,
we must learn not to live without them, but
live with the love they left behind.*

Sadly missed & lovingly remembered by Bea

*Joe, Bernadine, Tony, Emma & Jesse,
Mike, Maria & Alyssa*

Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 Noon

ADVERTISING POLICY

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



In Memoriam

In Loving Memory of
James Frederick Garrett

October 8, 1956 - January 12, 2023

*Our thoughts are ever with you
Though you have passed away
And those who have loved you dearly
Are thinking of you today.*

Love: Dorine, Bill & Coralie, Katie, Rachel & Jodi

Upcoming Events

**Jan/Feb Free Events
for Petrolia 150th
Birthday Party!**

**January 21st
Greenwood Rec.
Centre Free Skate!
1:50-2:50pm**

**February 4th
Come out to the
Petrolia YMCA
from 1-3:30pm
Free swim!**

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon

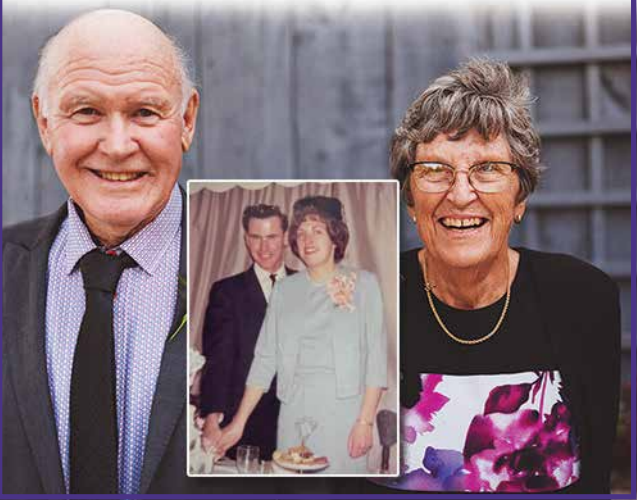
Classifieds



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


Happy Anniversary

Happy 60th Anniversary
Ed and Karen Walsh!



Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday!



Let's Celebrate:
Janie Webster
is turning 75!!
January 13, 2024 • 2pm to 6pm
Wyoming Legion
Best wishes only, entertainment
and food provided, cash bar.

Wanted To Buy

BUYING • CASH PAID

GOLD
SILVER
ALL COINS
FREE ESTIMATES

WED JAN 17
Petrolia Lions Hall
451 Huggard st
Petrolia • 9am-5pm

SUN JAN 21
CK TOY SHOW
Bradley Centre
565 Richmond St.
Chatham
(just left of entrance)
9am-3pm

CASH PAID FOR ALL GOLD, Silver,
Old Coins, Canada, USA, Mint Sets,
World War Medals, Paper Money.

Dan W. Jones B.A.B.Ed. • 519-818-1805
55 Years of Satisfied Customers!

For Sale

HAY FOR SALE:

4X5 rounds.
519-882-0564.
Bygrove Farms

BE IN THE KNOW
AS NEWS HAPPENS
SIGN UP FOR:
NEWS
ALERTS

Email to:
petroliaindie@gmail.com



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.

Annual General Meeting

AGM: The Petrolia & Enniskillen Agricultural Society will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday January 16, 2024 at the Petrolia Lions Hall. Potluck dinner begins at 6:30pm, meeting starts at 7:30pm. All are welcome.

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

Legion Poppy Fund


The Royal Canadian Legion BRANCH 172 - WATFORD
5275 Nauvoo Road, P.O. Box 651
Watford, Ontario NOM 2S0




The Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 172 - Watford Poppy Trust Fund Branch Status Report January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023		
Balance in Branch Poppy Fund Trusts as of January 1, 2023		\$8,110.84
Income from Campaigns & all other Sources	\$8,891.90	
Sub Total		\$17,002.74
Campaign Expenses & Youth Education Program	\$4,795.84	
Donations from Fund (Homeless Vets)	\$4,000.00	
Total Expenses & Donations		\$8,795.84
Closing Balance as of December 31, 2023		\$8,206.90


Note: Branch 172 - Watford will be making another donation to Ontario Campaign in Spring 2024.

LOCAL MATTERS.






Remember that time when Amazon sponsored your church fundraiser?





Remember when Facebook bought a case of Girl Guide cookies to support your daughter?



Remember when Google provided free pizza to your child's soccer team when they won the championship?

Neither do we!
Local businesses live here. They play here. They invest here.
They need our support, now more than ever.



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



3218 Inwood Road
Inwood

1 floor living awaits, charming 2 bedroom bungalow on a large landscaped lot, with updated bath and freshly painted kitchen. Enjoy relaxing in the sunroom or lounging on one of 2 patios. Single car garage with work area, which is easily accessed from the rear alley plenty of room for parking motorhome, boat etc. A greenhouse is included for the gardener in the family. High-Speed fibre optic Internet, great for seniors or a starter for first-time buyers.

MLS#23022180
\$359,900

SHANAHAN REALTY INC. BROKERAGE
177 John Street, P.O. Box 561, Watford, Ontario, NOM 2S0 • www.shanahanrealty.com
Leo Shanahan Sales Representative
Direct: 519-878-5981 • leo@shanahanrealty.com • Office: 226-848-6684

Real Estate

WELCOME TO: 474 Oozloffsky Street, Petrolia



\$684,900 incl. HST

*SAT JAN 13TH 1-3 P.M. OPEN HOUSE

NEW MODEL HOME, RAISED RANCH IN PETROLIA'S NEWEST SUBDIVISION. 3 BEDROOMS UP & 2 BEDROOMS DOWN. 16X11 COVERED BACK DECK. HUGE FINISHED REC ROOM AND BATH FINISHED DOWN. OTHER LOTS & PLANS AVAILABLE. Built by Spectra Construction a local family owned business specializing in quality built custom homes in Petrolia and area for over 35 years.



BOB LEAPER
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
CELL 519-331-1142
OFFICE 519-882-3242
bleaper@rivernet.net
petroliaareahomes.ca

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.



Legion Members
See us on Facebook at
Royal Canadian Legion Br 216 Petrolia, ON

Ladies Auxiliary
- Or -
At the 216 Lounge
4129 Glenview Rd, Petrolia



PETROLIA FOOD BANK

Now accepting your perishable & non-perishable items
5 days a week
9am-3pm
at The Independent office,
4156 Petrolia Line



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



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

VOLUNTEER



Advertise your personal
advertsing here

for as little as

\$25.00 per week.

Call Lauren and find out more
226-738-0728

Lambton County Library announces
One Book Lambton title for 2024

Lambton County Library has announced *Women Talking* by Miriam Toews as the selected One Book Lambton title for 2024. One Book Lambton is a literary event, designed to celebrate Canadian authors and to unite people from around Lambton County through reading the same book. People are invited to read *Women Talking* and participate in discussions and activities that explore the book’s themes.

Reserve a copy of *Women Talking* through the online catalogue at lclibrary.ca or by calling or visiting any Lambton County Library location. eBooks and eAudiobooks are available to borrow through the Libby app using your Lambton County Library card.
Visit onebooklambton.ca and follow @LCLibraryca on Facebook and X to stay up to date on upcoming programs and events.

Church DIRECTORY



St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church

416 Queen Street, Petrolia (Behind the Post Office)

In-Person Service
Sundays @ 10:00 am

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

Pastor Katherine Hawley



Christ Anglican Church

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

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

Everyone Welcome

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

Rev. Dave Hewett



St. Paul’s United Church

4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

In-Person Services
Sundays @ 10:30 am

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

Rev. Carol Ferguson



First Baptist Church

In Person Church Service
Sunday Mornings @10:30 am

Pastor: Alex Craig

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

Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 Noon

Calendar

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM
DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

of events

Events are listed FREE for non-profit groups in Petrolia and Lambton County (space permitting).

To be included in this listing email the required information to:
office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca
Subject: FREE EVENT LISTING.

CLUBS AND REGULAR EVENTS				
DAY	START TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	CONTACT INFO
Mon	7p	Watford	Darts @ Watford Legion	519-876-2360
Mon	1-4p	Watford	Shuffle Up and Deal Bid Euchre @ E. Lambton CC	519-786-2808
Tues	7p	Watford	Euchre @ Watford Legion	519-876-2660
Tues	7p	Petrolia	Petrolia Toastmasters @ St. Andrew's Church	519-339-6606
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
Oct 6 - Mar 16	Gallery Hours	Sarnia	A FAMILY PALETTE: FRANCES-ANNE JOHNSTON, FRANZ JOHNSTON & FRANKLIN ARBUCKLE Acting as a purposeful feminist recovery project, the exhibition focuses more deeply on Frances-Anne. For more info, please visit: www.jnaag.ca .
Nov 3 - Jan 12	Gallery Hours	Sarnia	RE VIEW - EXHIBITION 4: A series of exhibitions over the next year and a half titled Re View. For more info on the Re View exhibition series, please visit our 10 Year Anniversary page.
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 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 12 - Pool 7pm, January 13- Meat Raffle 4:30pm, 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.

2023 home sales lowest in a decade

Heather Wright
The Independent

2023 was not a banner year for home sales in Sarnia Lambton with the lowest number of homes sold in a decade.

The Sarnia-Lambton Realtors' Association released the year-end statistics Monday showing there are more homes on the market than the last 10 years and they're taking longer to sell.

President Jeremy Guerette says there were fewer homes sold in December reflecting the downturn in the market. Sales decreased by 6.8 per cent in compared to 2022 and the median price of a single

family home is down about one per cent to \$486,000.

"However the Bank of Canada seemed to change their tone in regards to interest rates, opening the door for a potential decrease in rates in 2024. Things seem to be stabilizing," Guerette said in a news release.

"We are optimistic that 2024 will see the market further stabilize and even hopeful to see a slight uptick in median sale price and sales volume by the end of the year."

Statistics show 1,412 homes were sold in 2023, down 6.8 per cent from last year and down 27 per cent from 2021.

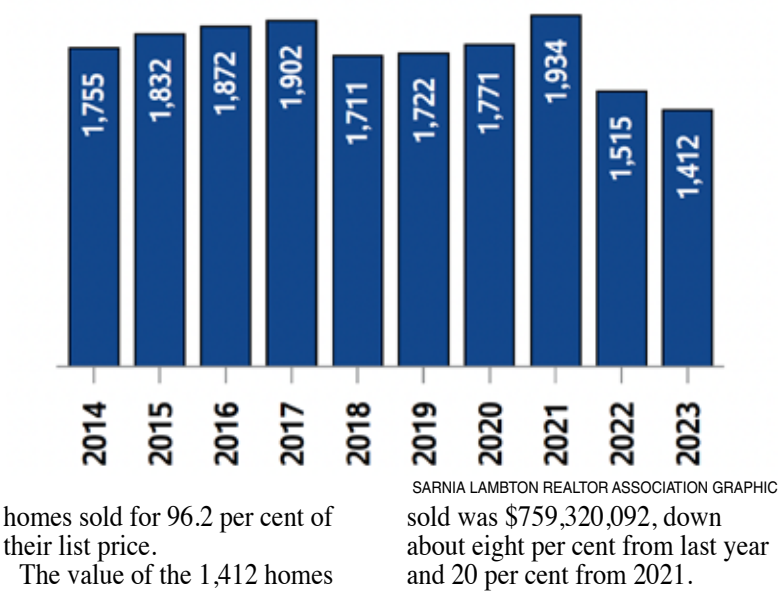
It was the lowest

number of homes sold in the last decade.

There were more people trying to sell there homes in 2023, with 2,595 homes put on the market - about six per cent more than last year. There were 383 active listings in December.

On average, it took about 20 days to sell a home in Sarnia-Lambton, although a home listed in December would take 35 days.

Compare that to the housing boom market of 2021, when a home was on the market for nine days and sold for 107 per cent of its list price. In December, most



United Way prioritizes funding to help ease poverty, homelessness

The Independent

The United Way is giving much of the \$1.4 million raised this year to help lift people from poverty or homelessness.

The Sarnia-Lambton funding agency announced it had reached its goal in late December. Tuesday, it announced where the money would be going, with about 47 per cent of the funds directed to programs helping people living in poverty or who are homeless.

Part of that money will go to help the RiverCity Vineyard - which just opened 40 more beds at its Sarnia shelter - hire a security guard.

Big Brothers and Sisters are also getting cash for mentoring programs for the first time.

Some organizations are getting less funding this year, mainly due to the way their services are funded. Sarnia-Lambton Suicide Prevention will not receive funding this year because a new federally funded 9-8-8 Suicide Crisis Helpline is up and running. The Family Counselling Center will also get \$37,800 less saying they did not need to fund their Distress Line. The United Way will provide \$13,000 for the Centers Tel-Check service.

And there will be less money going to the Salvation Army Dental program because the federal government recently set up a Canadian Dental Care plan. It came into effect in December, giving low income earners free dental care.

The Inn of the Good Shepherd has also been given another \$5,000 for its tax clinics. Last year, 3,280 people received over \$9.5 million in refunds they otherwise would have not received.

Past Warwick councillor remembered

The Independent

The municipal flags in Warwick have been lowered to half mast after the death of former councillor Percy Heath. He passed away at the age of 94 on Dec. 29.

Health was elected to Warwick Township Council after he retired from his law practice of 30 years. He served multiple terms on council. He was also a long-time member of the Masonic Lodge and the Watford Rotary Club.

Visitation and a funeral for Heath were held Friday.



Percy Heath

OPP watch car crash; lay charges

The Independent

A 42 year-old woman is facing two charges after a single car crash.

Lambton OPP were on Lambton Line near Mandaumin Road Jan. 2 around 8:15 and watched as the vehicle crashed.

Officers spoke to the driver and believed she was impaired. She was arrested and taken to the Petrolia detachment where she provided two breath samples which registered over the legal limit.

A 42 year-old Wallaceburg woman has been charged with two counts of impaired driving.



Connecting You to the World

360M

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!

\$

79.95

From

plus tax per month



CANQUEST

Connecting You to the World

235 St. Clair St., Chatham

1-844-333-2220 | canquest.com





360M download 30M upload. Where available. One time activation fee \$59.95 or \$19.95 transfer fee. Modem fee \$143.95 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 \$89.95.

ORDER TODAY & SAVE!

NO CONTRACT