

BIG FISH, BIG FUN



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

It was hard to tell what was bigger, the fish or the smile of Wyatt Deelstra. The six-year-old from Petrolia reeled in a 27 inch Catfish during the Petrolia Kid’s Fishing Derby on Canada Day. Wyatt and his family went to the fishing derby in 2023 and didn’t catch anything, so, they spent the winter researching how to catch at Bridgeview Park. Aside from worms, they made their own bait of corn, bread crumbs and jello powder. And it paid off. For more of the Canada Day fun in Petrolia see pages 14 &15. And look through the whole issue for celebrations across the county.

Province okays York1 Environmental Assessment

Heather Wright
The Independent

York1 Environmental Solutions will have to go through a full Environmental Assessment to gain approval for the revival of the dormant Dresden Dump. The news of the in depth investigation was posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario late Friday. York1 wants to build a new landfill on the Irish School Road site and create a construction and soil waste recycling centre. It would bring up to 6,000 tonnes of construction waste and soil in up to 700 trucks a day to the site. The move has faced fierce opposition from Dresden residents. The former landfill, which was most recently used as a waste wood

recycling is just 800 meters from the town. It’s also surrounded by homes. The proposal first came to light when York1 filed for approval under the Environmental Compliance Approvals process. The land already had ECA designation and the process to expand an existing site under the compliance approval process takes far less time than a full Environmental Assessment a new landfills require. Dresden residents, Chatham-Kent and Lambton politicians and environmental groups all argued the project needed more scrutiny considering during the 1970s, when the approval was first given, there were few environmental rules for landfills. March 15 , the Environment Minister Andrea Khanjin said the province would ask for a full Environmental Assessment of the project. Friday, in the ERO posting, the ministry said “We recognize the potential impact that a project of this size could have on the local residents and the surrounding environment. That’s why, after consulting with the public, we are requiring a comprehensive environmental assessment for the proposed project before it can be implemented. “The environmental assessment process requires the company to identify potential impacts from the proposed project, possible mitigation measures to address any impacts and opportunities for the local community to submit comments.”

SEE YORK1 PG 2

Early wheat, wet ground

Heather Wright
The Independent

Farmers in Central Lambton are facing an unusual situation; this year’s wheat crop will be coming off early while some farmers are still trying to finish their spring crops. Lambton County Warden Kevin Marriott who has been a grain farmer for decades, says a heavy rain of about two inches in 20 minutes, led to a lot of ponding on fields particularly in south Lambton. He and other farmers he knows are still completing the last of their work on the spring plant – mostly spraying – while they’re watching the wheat fields which are likely going to be harvested this week. “Wheat is going to be at least 10 days early if not more,” he tells *The Independent* adding if the weather warms up dramatically, farmers will be out in the field even sooner. But, Marriott says there are also farmers who have just finished planting their corn crops and the shoots are just coming out of the ground. Many are not sitting in water. Julie Maw is the Lambton Director for the Grain Farmers of Ontario. She says south Lambton is particularly bad.

SEE CROP PG 2

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Old bank could be community space, youth centre

Blake Ellis
The Independent

A youth drop in centre or a community space for meetings and a place exhibits can be displayed were just two of the ideas brought forward for the future of the former Scotia Bank building, nestled in Petrolia’s downtown on Petrolia Line.

The Town of Petrolia recently purchased the bank building, which was first built in 1911, after Scotia Bank closed the branch. The building was appraised at \$1.2 million but the property was sold to the municipality for \$200,000. There are conditions placed on the municipality in this deal including not being able to sell the property to another financial institution for 10 years, and allowing Scotia Bank to have its automated teller machine at the building as well as bank staff be allowed to access office space.

June 26, the town held a public meeting to hear from taxpayers what they think could be done with the building.

Curiosity brought Ken Johnson out to the open house. What the building should be used for is what alluded him.

One of the difficulties of the property, he said, is having the washrooms and the kitchen situated on the second floor, causing

accessibility problems for many people. The other is the conditions put on by the former owner.

Despite this Johnson feels the municipality buying the property was a good one, especially given the price. “We just can’t leave it empty,” said Johnson, acknowledging it was a big step for the town but it was caught between a rock and a hard place.

Another Petrolia resident, Wendy Scott thought the building could be turned into a youth centre, a no-cost alternative to the Y.

Scott who is trained as both an educational assistant and a personal support worker, said the youth centre could include a pool table or ping pong, as well as board games. Speakers could come in to talk about such topics as cyber bullying and suicide prevention. Counselling could also be offered.

Another Petrolia Resident Nick Salaris thought the building could be turned into a community space. It could not only have meeting rooms but also have a space where local residents could exhibit their talents such as art and photography.

He said the building could also be used for municipal office space, moving some of the employees out of the town hall and into the former Scotia Bank building.

The additional space at



FILE PHOTO

Scotiabank is now in the hands of the Town of Petrolia. The town held a public meeting to talk about what the building might be used for in the future.

town hall could then be used as a community space.

“It is the same idea, just flip it,” said Salaris.

As to whether town council should have purchased the building, Salaris believes it is a good investment, calling it a good deal. In 10 years if the building isn’t deemed to be surplus, the municipality has an asset it can sell.

Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosely said there were a variety of good ideas that have been submitted by residents during the open house. He didn’t want to highlight any suggestions and show his preference. All of these suggestions will be given to a committee made

up of two council members and three senior staff. It will give recommendations to council before a decision is made.

One of the key things the committee will do is to cost each suggestion before making a decision to determine if any of the ideas are a financial drain on the municipality.

He expects the recommendations to come back to council by September. Those who have an idea of what should be done with the building, but were unable to make the open house can still submit their suggestions to the municipality for consideration, said Loosely.

Crop insurance deadline passes as some continue to plant

CON’T FROM PG 1

“Typically where the farmers have really struggled across Ontario is the heavy clays, because it’s been so wet so often, that they’re just not getting a time to dry.

“A lot of those heavy clay ground have really struggled to even get a plant or on the ground to plant without, you know, causing issues with the soil,” she tells *The Independent*.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Agricorp – which provides crop insurance – have recognized the problems the weather has caused and extended the time farmers are able to plant their

crops and still be ensured against future losses. Maw says some farmers would be working right up until Monday’s midnight deadline to get the last of the soybean crop in. Others are likely to take some risks and continue planting knowing they can’t get insurance.

“It’s hard for them to walk away and leave those unseeded acres and just leave it for the summer, right?

“There’s a big risk you plant after that deadline, and you don’t get a crop and inputs –the fertilizers, the seed, are expensive, and so these are large expenses that maybe they’ve already paid

for, that they need to use,” says Maw. “Or they’ve put the fertilizer down on the ground a month ago, and so they want to take advantage of what they’ve already put down. So they’re in kind of a bind to make it happen.”

It is a gamble with big money at stake.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture estimates it costs between \$755 to \$800 to plant just one acre of corn and \$365 to \$440 per acre of soybeans. If the weather turns bad, on a 100-acre farm that can lead to losses between \$36,000 and \$80,000 just from the inputs.

York1 Environmental Assessment ‘Awesome’ news: Broad

CON’T FROM PG 1

Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Steve Pinsonneault, who was vocally opposed to the site as a municipal councillor, is pleased the full Environmental Assessment will move forward. “I have been in talks with the minister over the last three weeks,” Pinsonneault told *The Independent* via text message. “She was in the riding with me this week and agreed with me that this EA does need to move forward.

“I’m really happy to see all the

proper procedures are being followed regarding this expansion. This should bring some peace of mind to the residents.”

Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad also called the news “awesome” for his township residents who are worried about what the traffic generated by the landfill – possibly as much as 700 trucks daily – will do to the roads.

As the news of the full Environmental Assessment was released, the community group struck to fight the landfill expansion

– Dresden CARED – announced it has hired the Canadian Environmental Law Association to represent the group through the multi-year Environmental Assessment Process.

Officials from the Ontario Waste Management Association have said it can take up to 10 years for approval of waste management projects under the Environmental Assessment process. *The Independent* contacted York1 Environmental Solutions about the decision. It had not responded by press time.



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Shell Refinery Production manager Craig McEwen, turnaround manager Jason Woodward and senior block coordinator Tim Passingham talked to St. Clair Township Councillor Pat Brown at a recent open house about the company's fall turnaround.

Shell aims to cut turnaround congestion

Marie Wright
The Independent

Plans for a large maintenance turnaround this fall at the Shell Refinery are in full swing.

At an information open house held recently at the Corunna Legion, company officials were on hand to offer details about the project that will see an additional 1,000 workers on site.

According to Shell Manufacturing Centre turnaround manager Jason Woodward, staff is prepping to ensure the project has as little impact on the community as possible.

“We have a very unique situation at Shell,” Woodward explained. “We’re smack in the middle of communities. We don’t have the luxury of being in the Chemical Valley where we’re out of the way. We’re right smack in the middle so everything we do has more of an impact than other sites.”

The Shell Refinery, officially known as the Sarnia Shell Manufacturing Centre, is located 10 kilometres south of Sarnia. Just north of Corunna, the facility has 340 regular employees working to produce gasoline, diesel fuel and jet fuel.

Traffic congestion is one of the main turnaround concerns, Woodward explained, noting Shell will be staggering shift times, creating two major parking lot entrance points, and hire police officers to assist with traffic flow.

“We offset our shift starts to get everybody out before the next shift comes

in," he added. "We get everybody out and an hour later get everybody in. We do things like that to help and that's been working really successfully for us."

Lessening the impact on Aamjiwnaang First Nation is also part of the plan, he added, noting the north entrance on LaSalle Line has traditionally been the main turnaround entry point. But in order to lessen congestion, worker parking lots will be split between LaSalle and one on St. Clair Parkway.

"That's a major difference from previous turnarounds," Woodward said, adding that it takes about 15 minutes to clear each parking lot.

“We understand our responsibility as a refinery that’s smack in the middle of a community,” Woodward added. “We totally get it. We’ve had 70 years to understand that responsibility. Part of that responsibility is allowing the community to let us know what they need.”

Also factoring in are disruptions to operations, Woodward said, which could include increased flaring and loud noise. The public will be informed when that occurs, he said. Members of the community are welcome to call the site or email Woodward. “Our commitment during a turnaround is that if you ask a question, you’ll get an answer,” he explained.

An exact start date has not been chosen yet, Woodward said, but noted the company hopes to finish the "strictly maintenance" work in under two months' time.

GOOD CITIZENS



The Watford Optimists have honoured Joe and Nancy Manning as Citizens of the Year. The award was presented to the couple at a recent meeting. The Mannings were active in the committee which organized the community's 150th anniversary celebrations in 2023.

HOGAN

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EDITORIAL

The best place

If you read the newspaper, watch the news or spend time on social media, you know there are things wrong with our country.

Food costs are rising causing families and seniors to head to the local food bank.

Housing costs are much higher than they were even five years ago leaving some without a home of their own or forced to live with people they’d rather not live with.

And there are huge problems with addiction and the lack of treatment options for those who need it.

Governments seem either unwilling or unable to do anything to change things and even if they try, somehow their efforts end up as a bureaucratic nightmare which delays any of the good their ideas might have brought.

It’s easy to become pessimistic.

But, then comes Canada Day and a ray of sunshine – literally and figuratively – breaks through.

The Independent is fortunate to have a student reporting for us this summer and it is interesting to see Canada Day in Lambton County through her eyes. “I can’t believe all the celebrations here,” was her comment post fireworks. “That doesn’t happen in my hometown.”

Why is it that almost every Lambton municipality tries to do something on Canada Day? Is it because we’re so close to the border and we watch our American neighbours wave the flag? That may be part of it. Is it because we like a good party? We know that’s true.

We think it is more about gathering as a community. At each of the celebrations we went to this weekend, neighbours greeted neighbours, caught up on each others lives and likely shared barbecue or pancakes with maple syrup or a beverage.

Those moments are a good reminder of what Canada can be – a very large community which despite our differences still has a lot in common. And we have to admit many of us still enjoy a good life, taking holidays, going out to the beach or on the boat or travelling, even if it isn’t as frequently. There are a lot of people talking about Canada being “broken” and sure we have problems; but this is still the best place in the world to live. And we have the parties to prove it.

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



LAMBTON COUNTY ARCHIVE PHOTO

George Denham was a druggist who operated a business in Chatham starting in 1854. He moved to Oil Springs, and finally to Petrolia in 1869. He was among some of the first business owners in the town’s west end when he bought his lot there in 1877. In 1896, he took out a loan for \$7,000 and enlisted the services of local building contractors R & J Jackson to construct a permanent block for his pharmaceutical business. The Denham block, constructed of red brick, is two stories and features an ornate, three-sided window on the second floor, just above the main entrance. The doorway is flanked by brick columns with alternating stone sections which create a striped effect. Two groups of three windows flank the bay window. A noteworthy feature is the stained-glass section located within the arched tops of each centre window on the second floor. George Denham operated his drug store at this location until his death in 1903, when the business was taken over by his son, William Denham, and then by Jackson’s Drug Store starting in 1920. In 1966 Gordon Jackson purchased the building from Denham’s granddaughters and the building was occupied by Tony’s Restaurant, Jackson’s drug store and two apartments upstairs.

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Canada

Warwick building fees could go up 33 per cent

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick Mayor Todd Case wants to stop losing money on building permits. The township has created a new building permit bylaw which boosts the costs of permits for everything from building a new house, enlarging the house you already have and adds new fees for items which had not been in the 2010 building permit fee bylaw including swimming pools and putting up a Special Occasion Tent. In a report to council, CAO/Clerk Amanda Gubbels says the municipality has lost over \$45,000 because the amount of the current building permits falls short of the amount Lambton County charges Warwick to complete building inspections. “This loss represents a two per cent tax increase over the period,” she wrote. Gubbels says staff looked at the building fees of all Lambton municipalities and found the township’s fees

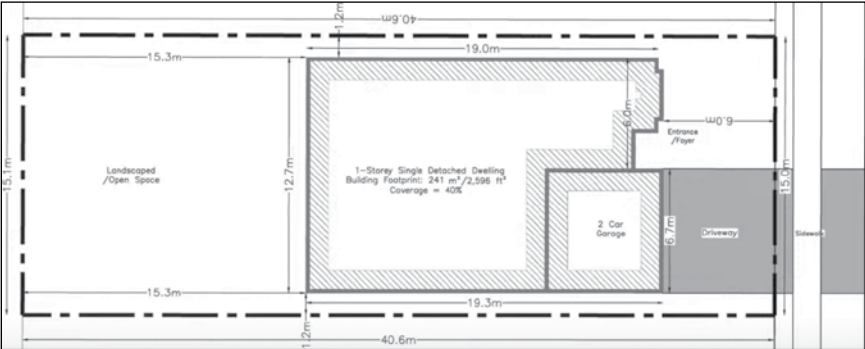
now are the lowest in county at \$1,200 for a permit to build a single family home with a garage. Enniskillen is next with fees of \$1,525. Plympton-Wyoming charges the most at nearly \$2,400. The average in the county is \$1,965. And that’s a lot lower than the surrounding communities. Sarnia’s building permit for a single-family home tops \$3,800. Southwest Middlesex (Glencoe area) charges over \$2,600 as does Adelaide-Metcalf. Warwick is proposing some big increases in building permit fees. That \$1,200 single-family home permit may rise to \$1,800. The permit to build a new pole barn on a farm will go from \$400 to \$850. Permits to build a new restaurant rise from \$1,050 to \$2,500. Gubbels, in her report to council, says staff considered not only the fees charged by surrounding municipalities but the number of inspections which are required by the county and the time they might take.

“All we really try to do here is to not lose money,” he said. “That’s one of the reasons why we adjust our fees. So, as our rates go up, we’ll take a look at that fee structure. You can’t be providing a service and losing money. The whole idea is to try to recover the cost of doing it.” The township also wants to increase the deposits placed with the fees. “This is becoming a relatively common practice,” says Gubbels. “Deposits serve as a security against damages to municipal roads and property and encourage timely completion of the project, she said adding if a final inspection isn’t completed in two years, the deposit is forfeited. Many of the deposits listed in the proposed bylaw are around \$2,000 with some of the money being returned to the builder after various inspections. The township plans a public meeting on the fees July 29 at 4 pm at the township office. If it is passed it will go into effect at the end of September.

Southside wins right to build larger homes on smaller lots

Heather Wright
The Independent

Southside Construction will be able to build larger homes on smaller lots in Courtright. In Dec. 2023, St. Clair Township council turned down the company’s bid to build 61 homes which covered about 40 per cent of the lot instead of the 35 per cent allowed by the townships regulations. The developer said the lots would be 41 by 15 meters in size, allow 1,600 square foot homes with a two car garage. Southside originally wanted to build homes with granny suites in 2021, but that, too, was nixed by council. In both cases, neighbours said the design would change the character of the area. Fire officials worried the homes



Southside’s drawing of a 1,600 square foot home on the Courtright lots.

would be too close together and could be an issue in the case of a fire. Council sided with the neighbours and rejected the second attempt to develop the land. But Southside brought the case to the Ontario Land Tribunal. A development

expert said the builders’ design met the Ontario Building Code and doesn’t pose a fire risk. The township did not contest any of Southside’s arguments. The OLT granted the company the right to build on 40 per cent of the lot.

EARNING THEIR BEER STORE MONEY



The band Beer Store Money performed for the crowds at the Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre Canada Day treating the crowd to their take on Love Shack.

SYDNEY GOODREAU PHOTO

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A young person with glasses and a red 'CANADA' sweatshirt is speaking into a microphone. Two men are blurred in the background.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTOS

There was lots of red and white and all things Canadian in Alvinston for the annual Canada Day celebrations. Top, Jane Baresich sings the national anthem with Brooke-Alvinston Mayor Dave Ferguson and Lambton Warden Kevin Marriot looking on. There was birthday cake, colourful hair and hockey, of course. The Bilingual Bronco Beauties got a pep talk during the annual Ball Hockey tournament. There was joy when the Red Busters scored. The chicken bbq was a hit with Gwen MacDougall and the fireworks rounded out the day.

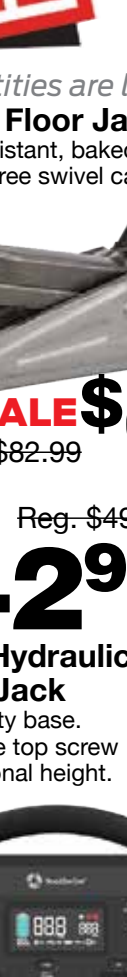


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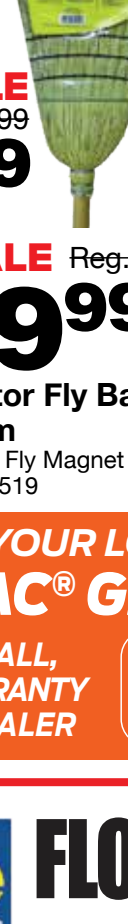
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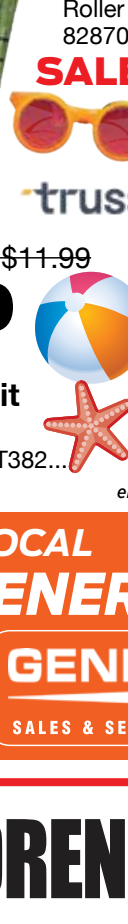
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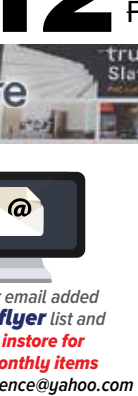
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Food bank flooded again

The Independent

A sudden downpour in Brooke-Alvinston once again flooded the local food bank, prompting more discussions about a fix for the drainage issue causing the problem.

The food bank, housed in the basement of the River Street municipal office, has been dealing with flooding for a number of years, since the county worked on the apartment building across the road. The food bank volunteers have adapted, building shelving to keep items off the floor and putting some items in plastic storage tubs. But the June 29, two-hour, two-inch rainfall, still caused problems. Clerk/Administrator Janet Denkers says there was 10 inches of water in the food bank. The flooding is becoming such a regular occurrence, township staff now waits till Tuesday - the day before the food bank opens – so they only have to clean up debris once.

The township is looking for a solution to the problem, however it appears the street will have to be excavated to fix the problem and the municipality doesn't have the cash for that and may need grants for the fix.

Changes 'not needed' Camlachie corner

The Independent

Lambton County says a busy Plympton-Wyoming corner doesn't need safety improvements yet.

Anne and Mike Stewardson of Camlachie voiced concerns about the Lakeshore and Egremont Road corner saying crossing Lakeshore can be "tricky with the bend in the road and the angle the car has to be to see oncoming traffic." The couple suggested a roundabout at the corner near Sawmill Creek.

The town sent the concern to the county however Jason Cole, general manager of infrastructure, says county officials did a "cursory" review and determined changes "were not found to be needed, at this time."

Cole says as the area develops, the county is willing to work with Plympton-Wyoming to improve the intersection for traffic safety.

HONOURING THE CHIEF



Warwick Township council took the time to honour Watford Fire Chief Rick Sitlington for his service during the 150th anniversary celebrations of the department recently. Sitlington has served the community for 25 years. He's pictured here with Mayor Todd Case, Deputy Mayor John Couwenberg, and Councillors Jerry Westgate and Joe Manning.

OPP concerned about 'shocking increase' in seat belt tickets

Lambton OPP say officers are seeing a "shocking increase" in the number of passengers not wearing seat belts.

Ontario was the first province to pass seat belt laws in 1976. If you or any passenger under 16 in your car is found unbelted, you could face fines between \$240 and \$1,000.

You could also be given two demerit points.

Since the May long weekend, Lambton OPP have issued 229 passenger seat belt violations compared to 35 in the same time frame

one year ago.

The OPP wants to remind drivers and passengers "properly wearing a seat belt provides you, your family and other passengers your best chance of surviving a collision and reducing fatalities and injuries on our roads."

LAMBTON 175
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Family photos, diaries, or documents
Objects from local businesses
Local sports or music memorabilia
Items that commemorate community celebrations
Please note: firearms are not permitted.

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HONOURING WYOMING SENIOR



BLAKE ELLIS PHOTO

Sue Wright is Plympton-Wyoming’s Senior of the Year. The award was presented by Plympton-Wyoming Mayor Gary Atkinson before the start of the June 26 council meeting. “I have a mantra since I retired, I do what I like and I like what I do,” said an emotional Wright. “It is all fun what I do.” Before retiring, Wright was a City of Sarnia employee who operated senior programs. Atkinson knew some of those seniors who took part in the programs Wright oversaw and said they were appreciative of her and her work. She is the owner of ArtWorks Picture Framing and Art in Wyoming, while also being the author of a two part series of children’s books. She is a volunteer instructor of low impact exercise through the North Lambton Health Unit and a coordinator of a summer group for water aerobics. She is also a member of the Synergy 150 Choir. In the past, Wright has served on the Lambton United Church Centre board of directors and Sarnia Humane Society board of directors. She has also hosted an Ukrainian refugee, who she made feel very welcoming in the community. “I have been in Wyoming for 47 years and I love this town, every part of it,” said Wright. “I have never heard anyone say anything against Wyoming.”

Survey to gauge support for PW ice pad

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming wants to know what you think about a plan to build an outdoor ice rink in Camlachie. Huron Shores Optimist Club first floated the idea of an outdoor ice rink – at a cost of \$400,000 – in July 2021. In Oct. 2023, the club laid out its formal and much larger \$1.6 million plan. It included a 60 by 120 refrigerated concrete slab and office, changing rooms, a washroom facility, a viewing area, a confection area and it will be covered during the months of December till March. After the presentation, councillors expressed concern about the “mini-arena” and its long term costs to the municipality. Some were concerned the town would get stuck footing the bill to staff the facility and possibly even help pay to build it.

In a report to council in February, CAO Adam Sobanski wrote; “Staff, legal counsel and council have all expressed apprehension concerning the increasing scale of the proposed facility, the legal ability of the town to provide a loan (to help fund the building)... the ability of the Huron Shores Optimists to repay the loan...the project causing property tax increases, increased expenses due to high inflation.” After several discussions about the project, council agreed to form a steering committee to work with the Optimist to formulate a project with an outdoor rink that the entire community would enjoy. Now, Mayor Gary Atkinson says the municipality is looking for public input “to get a feeling of what residents out there want as far as a rink goes. “There have been a number of proposals and we felt it only

right to check with our residents because it could be a cost factor (to taxpayers). Atkinson says the Optimists’ plan is a basis for upgrades to the park but “what can we do to enhance it and make it all blend in and work together.” The town has put together a survey which is available on the town’s website until July 30. Residents can also complete a paper copy of the survey, picking it up at the municipal office. Plympton-Wyoming will also be holding an open house on the proposal July 23 at the Camlachie Community Centre. Staff says the surveys and public open house will help “in developing a funding plan, seeking grants, refining the facility design, obtaining formal quotations, and finalizing a budget.” The results of the consultation will go to the committee to look over and report to council.

Warwick looking for CAO as Gubbels leaves

Heather Wright
The Independent

Warwick Township is looking for a new administrator. Amanda Gubbels, the Chief Administrative Officer and Clerk of the municipality has resigned to accept another job. Gubbels won’t be going far; she will be moving to South-

west Middlesex which includes Glencoe, Wardsville and the Townships of Ekfrid and Mosa, which is adjacent to Brooke-Alvinston. “During her time in Warwick, Amanda has been a dedicated and supportive leader, contributing significantly to the community’s progress and well-being. Council appreci-

ates Amanda’s hard work and dedication and extends their congratulations as she embarks on this new chapter,” officials wrote on the municipality’s website. Mayor Todd Case also thanked the CAO for her “numerous contributions to our municipality.” Gubbels last day is Thursday.

TALES THROUGH TIME

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July 2 - August 11

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The faith community of

Shiloh-Inwood United Church

announces the upcoming closure of its Shiloh site.

All are welcome to join the final worship services at 10:00 in the little country church.

July - Shiloh site
~~~~~  
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~~~~~  
**A closing service is planned for Thanksgiving Sunday, October 13th**

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SYDNEY GOODREAU PHOTO

Warwick celebrated Canada Day Saturday and moved the celebrations indoors because of threatening weather. That didn't seem to bother the kids who, like Adele Lichty above, took to the bouncy rides or stopped for a snack like Riley Van Aert (left) who took advantage of the free hotdogs.

## Dawn-Euphemia's Canada Day BBQ gets two thumbs up

SYDNEY GOODREAU PHOTO  
Rutherford volunteer firefighter Cameron Trepanier gives a thumbs up with Sparky at the Dawn-Euphemia firefighters' annual Canada Day BBQ. Friends, and neighbours enjoyed each other's company at the sold-out community event.



### Township of Warwick NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Concerning Proposed Building Permit By-law Fee Amendment

**TAKE NOTICE THAT** the Council of the Township of Warwick will hold a Public Meeting on **Monday, July 29, 2024**, regarding amendments to the Building Permit By-law's Fee Schedule 'A'.

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

Copies of the proposed Fee Schedule 'A', as well as a background report, will be available on June 20, 2024 at the Municipal Office, on the Township website, or they can be emailed upon request.

#### Public Participation

The Public Meeting on this matter will be held:

**Date:** Monday, July 29, 2024  
**Time:** 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Warwick Council Chambers  
5280 Nauvoo Road, Watford, ON

Any person may attend this public meeting or make written or verbal representation in support of or in opposition to the proposed amendment to the by-law. Please note that any written representations will need to be received by the Clerk no later than Friday, July 19, 2024.

For further information regarding the Public Meeting or the proposed amendment to the by-law, please contact Heather Willemse, Acting Clerk, at 226-848-3926 or by email at [hwillemse@warwicktownship.ca](mailto:hwillemse@warwicktownship.ca).

Dated at the Township of Warwick, this 28th day of June 2024.

Heather Willemse  
Acting Clerk  
Township of Warwick

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details at: [www.artintheparkpetrolia.com](http://www.artintheparkpetrolia.com)

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SENIOR OF THE YEAR



SYDNEY GOODREAU PHOTO

Jeannette Douglas from Brooke-Alvinston was named Brooke-Alvinston's Senior of the Year. Brooke-Alvinston Councillor Frank Nemcek presented the award to Douglas during the Canada Day Ecumenical Service Sunday. He says, "Jeanette is quiet in the background. People don't realize that she's been running today's committee for years. Last month, she was given the Women of Excellence' award. The Seniors Advisory Committee – Jeanette is on that. The Christmas dinner – again – Jeanette organizes and does that. This is what Jeannette does, quiet in the background. She works for everybody in the community." The Senior of the Year award was a complete surprise for Douglas. She was unaware of being the recipient until it her name was announced. "I couldn't do it without my family and all the people who answer the phone when I call," said Douglas. "And Brooke-Alvinston has an amazing amount of volunteers. All you have to do is ask. If you ask people, people will help... So I just want to thank the people who helped me do the things that we do in Brooke-Alvinston."

Driver smashes into cars in Wyoming

A Petrolia man is facing two charges after an accident in Wyoming. Lambton OPP say around 2:30 am July 1, police were called to Broadway Street after a car smashed into two parked cars. No one was hurt and police arrested a man at the scene. The 47 year-old Petrolia man faces two drunk driving charges. He'll be in court July 30.

# 2nd Annual Petrolia Art Crawl

JULY 2 -15, 2024

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# YOUR INVITATION TO OUTDOOR CHURCH SERVICES!

**Sunday Evenings, July 7 through to Sunday August 25**

**Time:** 7:00 PM      **Location:** Victoria Park Petrolia

**Sponsored By:** St Andrews, St Pauls, First Baptist and Christ Church Churches

## Highlights:

- Uplifting Worship:** Join us for a time of praise and worship.
- Inspirational Message:** Hear an encouraging sermon that will uplift your spirit.
- Community Fellowship:** Connect with friends in a safe, welcoming environment.
- What to Bring:** Your favourite lawn chair and a heart ready to worship

# IODE celebrates 75 years of work in Petrolia

**Sydney Goodreau**  
The Independent

IODE members from across Ontario came to Petrolia to help the Margaret Stokes Chapter celebrate its 75th Anniversary.

The club held a special luncheon Saturday to mark the occasion at Victoria Hall.

In 1900, Margaret Polson Murray formed the first IODE chapter in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Since then, branches formed all over Canada. Its original goal was to aid Canadian veterans and their families through community support during the war. The club has since changed to meet the needs of all Canadians with a special focus given to children and youth.

The Margaret Stokes Chapter was formed in Petrolia in 1949 and named after a woman who worked tirelessly in the community — Margaret Stokes. The Stokes family was well known as developers in the Petrolia District. Samuel Cole Stokes, Margaret’s husband, settled in Petrolia in 1866 as a contractor and was involved in the construction of underground oil storage tanks and the original

St. Clair River tunnel. Both he and Margaret were actively involved in the community, politics, and their church throughout their lives.

Margaret served as the Honorary Regent of the Chapter from 1949 until her death in 1951. To honour Margaret and her daughter-in-law, the IODE Stokes award was established in 1974 and is still presented annual in June to one student graduating from each Petrolia elementary school.

When asked what projects the Margaret Stokes Chapter is most proud of during its long history, Chapter President Dawn McNally mentioned the IODE’s donation of \$25,000 to the Victoria Playhouse elevator and the creation of the drinking fountain in Victoria Park.

McNally says, “We also give over \$3,000 to LCCVI students and about \$600 annually to Petrolia elementary schools. We’ve done stuff at the hospital, the Legion, the YMCA, the town itself, and just try to better our community.”

More recently, the Chapter has donated \$5,000 to the new band shell in Victoria Park.

IODE Ontario Chapter President



SYDNEY GOODREAU PHOTO

Ontario IODE President Helen Danby was recognized during the Petrolia chapter’s 75th anniversary.

Helen Danby came to support the Margaret Stokes Chapter and honoured several IODE members during the 75-anniversary luncheon. Also in attendance was Petrolia Mayor Brad Loosley.

## MODEL TRAIN DAY

Sunday July 7th, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Cost: Adults \$6, Children \$3

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# Lambton-Kent wants the words ‘day term’ dumped

**Blake Ellis**  
The Independent

Day school is a term, which harkens back to the days of the Indigenous residential school system, should not be in a document from the provincial government about core funding.

Board Chair Randy Campbell and Director of Education John Howitt sent to Ontario Education Minister Todd Smith asking the ministry stop using the term..

The term day school were used to the 2024/2025 core education

funding technical guide for school boards received from the ministry of education. Trustee Roberta Northmore brought the use of the term day schools to attention of trustees at its June 11 meeting and asked that a letter be sent to the education minister asking the term not be used.

Day school was used during the residential school era when Indigenous children were sent to schools where they were not allowed to speak their language or practise their culture. There was physical, mental and sexual abuse at the schools, with some

children dying at the schools, which was evident when First Nations began searching the grounds of these schools and finding graves of children. While residential schools had students stay at the schools, day schools were near the children’s home and students could continue to live with their families.

Northmore contacted each of the four First Nations which are part of the school board’s Indigenous Liaison Committee and it was agreed the terminology has a bad connotation for Indigenous people and should not be used.

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# Aamjiwnaang to have status at INEOS OLT hearing

**Heather Wright**  
The Independent

The Aamjiwnaang First Nation will have status at a hearing about INEOS Styrolutions.

Fifteen days after high levels of benzene in the air sickened members of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation, the Ministry of the Environment pulled the company’s Environmental Compliance Approval shutting the plant down. The order required benzene removed from the site.

The province also ordered installation of full vapour control equipment which were later mirrored by the federal government which announced an interim order May 17.

INEOS Styrolutions filed an appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal – which now hears cases regarding MECP orders. Styrolutions called the ministry’s new standards “crippling.”

The case will be heard July 12. OLT documents show the Aamjiwnaang First Nation will be a part of it. The OLT, in a written decision May 31, said Aamjiwnaang said “its members have experienced significant health and safety impacts due to benzene emissions from the site” and had “a direct and genuine interest” in Styrolutions appeal. Neither the OLT nor Styrolutions objected to the First Nation’s standing at the coming hearing. July 12, there will be a conference to work out the details of the tribunal hearing. The hearing itself is to be held Oct. 31.

INEOS Styrolutions said earlier this month it is closing the Sarnia Plant in 2025 citing changes in the styrene market. Most manufacturers in North America are running at 70 per cent capacity after producers in China scaled up production there.

# BLACK GOLD FEST

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# Petrolia Celebrates

Music, fish, food and some good old fashioned fun was on tap Canada Day in Petrolia. Bridgeview and Greenwood Park were flooded with Red and White to mark the founding of the country. The day started with a Kid's Fishing Derby at Bridgeview Park. Alex Core, 5, walked along the shoreline at Bridgeview Park with her fish in the net (centre right) while Brayden Kitchen performed 'surgery' on a fish the Wright family caught (bottom right). Sierra Ayris, Ashley Anderson, Justin, Richards, Donny Campbell, Jason Anderson - aka The Heavy Weights - were the Bed Racing champs in the annual event. The Action Figures were playing for the crowd and Addison Hext, was dancing along to the music at Greenwood Park. Lyla Dunn was sitting with her family watching the BlackTop Baseball game in the afternoon.



# Canada Day



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Baseball ruled the diamonds Canada Day afternoon. The Wyoming Cattlebarrons took on the Petrolia Raiders, with a flag being held while the anthem was played. And Emergency Responders and Petrolia's Blacktop Baseball players from Lambton Development Services hit the diamond, too, with the Blacktop team winning the game. Justin Bacchus who is in this month's Sweet Soul Music at Victoria Playhouse Petrolia, sings just before the fireworks.



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

# SPORTS



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The Raiders Tim Martin connects to get on base during Petrolia’s loss to Wyoming at home Canada Day.

## Cattlebarons round up a Canada Day win

Barry Wright  
The Independent

The bottom of the lineup helped the Wyoming Cattlebarons capture a 5-2 victory over the Petrolia Raiders before a larger than usual crowd on Canada Day at Morrison Field in P-town.

Justin Grift, Jason Eberlin, and Brock Morgan led the winners with four hits, two runs scored and what turned out to be a game-winning RBI by Grift in the fourth inning to break a 2-2 tie.

Curtis Helps put the icing on the cake for the Barons with a two-run homer in the

fifth inning.

Mitch Robb with a solo shot and Travis Helps with a sacrifice fly had the other Wyoming RBI’s earlier in the contest.

Jace Dupuis and Trevor McCormick drove in the runs for the Raiders.

McCormick and Tim Martin had three hits each for Petrolia.

Corey Saunders picked up the win for the Cattlebarons and Jeremy Park earned the save. Chris Cluness took the loss for the Raiders.

Wyoming is now 6-2 on the season. Petrolia falls to 2-5.

## Killer Bees building roster for 2024-25

The Independent

The Alvinston Killer Bees of the Western Ontario Super Hockey League has begun to fill out its roster for the 2024-25 campaign.

The team has announced the signing of defencemen Matt Watson and Chays Ruddy and forward Grant Spence.

Watson played in the OHL with Kingston and Plymouth and had professional stints in the ECHL and Germany. Ruddy has more than 100 games of professional experience in both the ECHL and SPHL and Spence returns to Alvinston where he had 21 points in 13 games in 2021-22.

## Memorial Cup comes to Wyoming

The Independent

Wyoming’s Garrett Rutledge is bringing the Memorial Cup Home home to Wyoming.

The assistant coach with the Canadian Championship winning Saginaw Spirit will be bringing the trophy to the Wyoming Legion Hall July 19 from 5 pm to 8 pm.

Rutledge grew up in Wyoming attended Wyoming Public School and played baseball there. He graduated from LCCVI and played hockey with Petrolia Minor Hockey Association and then the Petrolia Jets.

Rutledge then moved on to coaching. His first head coaching gig came with the Caledon Golden Hawks of the Provincial Junior Hockey League in 2012. In the Jr. B circuit, Rutledge spent a year each as the assistant coach/assistant GM of the Cambridge Winter Hawks and Brampton Bombers, both of the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League. He was assistant coach with the Flint Firebirds during the 2018-2019 season. He served two seasons as a Firebirds area scout before that while also working as the assistant coach of the Oakville Blades in the Ontario Junior Hockey League. Rutledge’s Saginaw Spirit



FILE PHOTO

Garrett Rutledge of the Saginaw Spirit with the Memorial Cup.

won the Memorial Cup this year beating London Knights in the Final.

All are welcome to see the Memorial cup, take some photos with it, congratulate Rutledge and visit a while.

## Triest scores dramatic run in Aces win

The Independent



SYDNEY GOODREAU PHOTO

Bailey Whiteye struck out five in the Aces win Sunday.

Andy Triest had two hits and scored the walk off run in the bottom of the seventh to give the Alvinston Aces a hard fought 2-1 win over Chippewa in Southwest Middlesex men’s fastball league action.

Triest reached first on a bunt single in the seventh, stole second with two outs, reached third on an overthrow and scored on a razor thin play at the plate.

Aaron Stocking also had two hits for the winners, including a solo bomb in the bottom of the fourth inning after the visitors had struck first in the top half of the inning.

Bailey Whiteye went the distance for the win, scattering seven hits and striking out five. Former Aces pitcher Pamidzani Mazulugwa of Botswana took the loss for the Chiefs. His team could not deliver the key hit, leaving 12 runners on base.

Alvinston has now three straight contests and is 9-1 overall. They are scheduled to host St. Thomas this Sunday at 7 p.m.

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# Flyer sign familiar face

The PJHL’s Petrolia Flyers are welcoming home a former Flyer. Elijah Grant has re-signed with the team after appearing in 29 games with Petrolia in the 2022-23 season, winning nine times and posting a save percentage of .903. He appeared in 41 games last season with French River of the Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League with a goals-against average of 4.60 and a .905 save percentage. The 19-year-old from Mooretown is a graduate of the Lambton Jr. Sting.

## Lambton component to NHL draft

The Hunter and Verbeek clans had their imprint on the early first round of the NHL draft Friday in Vegas. Chicago, with Oil Springs’ Meghan Hunter as its assistant general manager, chose Michigan State blueliner Artyom Levshunov with the second overall pick after San Jose selected Macklin Celebrini of Boston University with the first overall choice. Levshunov’s defense partner with the Spartans this past season was Sarnia’s Nash Nienhuis.

Meantime, Plympton-Wyoming’s Pat Verbeek, the general manager of the Anaheim Ducks, used the third selection to take Beckett Sennecke of the Oshawa Generals. Sting d-man Lukas Fischer, the son of former Red Wing and Stanley Cup champion Jiri Fischer, was taken late in the second round by Sarnia’s Doug Armstrong and the St. Louis Blues.

## Stamkos bolts Tampa becomes a Predator

Steven Stamkos will be hunting his next Stanley Cup in Nashville. The former Sting agreed to a four-year/\$32 million deal with the Predators Monday. “When I became GM of the Predators, I said many times that I was looking to add ‘serial winners’ to our franchise, and there is perhaps no one who fits that mold more than Steven Stamkos,” Preds GM Barry Trotz said. “We’re incredibly excited to sign a Hall of Fame player and person on what is now a massive day for the future of our organization. Having twice won the Stanley Cup as a captain, Steven is a proven winner and leader who will make us a better team on the ice with his production and in the locker room as someone for our younger players to learn from.” The two-time NHL champion scored 555 regular season goals and added 582 assists for 1,137 points in 1,082 games over 16 seasons for the Tampa Bay Lightning after being selected first overall by the Bolts from the Sting in 2008. He also has 101 points in 128 playoff contests.

Among other Sting news from a busy weekend, Jakob Chychrun was traded from Ottawa to Washington, Ben Gaudreau agreed to an AHL contract with Chicago’s top farm club and Mitch Young was invited to Colorado Avalanche development camp.

# BRIEFLY: Wranglers win bronze

The Wyoming Wranglers 13U PWSA squad won bronze at the Summer Gold tournament in Chatham last weekend. The Wranglers beat LaSalle, 4-2 in the third place contest late Sunday. Wyoming played five games on Sunday after weather delays earlier in the weekend.

The Sarnia Brigade, with Wyoming’s Core Jackson and Kaden Gray on its roster, has qualified for Ontario 22U Eliminations in Kitchener in two weeks. The Brigade punched its ticket to the provincial championship with three wins at the qualifying tournament in Sarnia last weekend. They registered wins against Brampton, Whitby, and Toronto-High Park.

Kaiya Greydanus is one of four commits to the Brock University women’s volleyball side for the 2024-25 season and beyond. The 5’9” left side from Wyoming is a graduate of LCCVI in Petrolia. “I’m excited about the amazing atmosphere I felt once I stepped into the gym at Brock,” said Greydanus, who also played soccer and was on the track and field team for the Lancers. “I’m looking forward to creating relationships with my new teammates.” Greydanus is also a member of the Twin Bridges Volleyball Club in Sarnia.

Petrolia’s Charlie Shaw won a bronze medal in the men’s 4 x 400 metre relay at Canadian Track and Field Championship in Montreal. Shaw, a graduate of LCCVI, attends the University of Guelph and was running for the Royal City Athletics Club. The Royal City club finished a little more than a second behind the winner in a time of 3:15.07. Meantime, Shaw missed qualifying for the U20 800 metre final by a whisker. His time of 1:54.44 was 1/100th of a second from a top eight finish and a spot in the final.

Nine golfers from the Lambton Jr. Golf Tour will represent the area at the Ontario Summer Games in London in early August. The list includes Tayt Stonehouse of Petrolia and Kettle and Stony Point’s Lucas Rogers. The others are Narisse Daye, Jadelina Tep-Chhun and Andrea Lai in the female division along with Logan Woodiwiss,, Gabriel Alexi Turno, , Ryan Ladouceur and Andrew Sudicky competing in the male division. The junior tour continues at Huron Oaks July 14.

Mike Weir was forced to withdraw from the US Senior Open Golf Tournament last weekend due to a wrist injury. He hurt his wrist trying to play out of deep grass Friday. Weir was tied for 58th place at plus one at the time of mishap. It’s not immediately known how long the injury will keep the lefty on the sidelines.



BLAKE ELLIS PHOTO

Memorabilia from the Petrolia Squires Allan Cup Championship years will displayed at the Lambton Heritage Museum in Grand Bend starting July 17. A travelling exhibition from the Canadian Museum of History is opening at Lambton Heritage Museum called Hockey opens that day and runs until Nov. 9.

# Petrolia’s hockey past part of exhibit

**Blake Ellis**  
The Independent

It was a magical time for Petrolia, as the Squires hoisted the Allan Cup, claiming the top senior hockey championship in the country. The team not only won in 1979 but hoisted the championship trophy again in 1981 – the second time in three years. Those wanting to take a look at the memorabilia from those two special championships and get a glimpse of those years again can do so starting July 17 at Lambton Heritage Museum near Grand Bend. A travelling exhibition from the Canadian Museum of History will open at the museum, which will explore how hockey has shaped Canada throughout the years.

Along with it, the museum put out a call for memorabilia from throughout Lambton County to tell the story locally, said Lambton Heritage Museum Curator Dana Thorne. The museum received several pieces, which highlighted hockey from the professional ranks, to junior hockey, senior hockey, as well as minor hockey.

The Allan Cup Petrolia Squires memorabilia comes from Team Manager Ira Downer and includes a team photo, jerseys, hats and mugs.

The Squires won its first Allan Cup on home ice on May 4, 1979 in the Sarnia Arena, winning a five game series against the Steinbach Huskies of Manitoba. The Squires were playing their home games in Sarnia during their Allan Cup run because the arena’s bigger than the Greenwood Arena.

Two years later, the format changed as the championship was decided during a four team tournament held in Thunder Bay. The Squires faced off against the St. Boniface Mohawks, again from Manitoba, winning 5-1 in the tournament final, as the Squires were the best senior men’s amateur hockey team in Canada for a second time.

Thorne said people from Petrolia were sending telegrams to Thunder Bay to wish the team well and offer their congratulations as they made their way through the tournament. Some of those telegrams will be also be on

display. Everyone sent telegrams, even the owner of the hardware store in Petrolia, said Thorne.

And while Petrolia’s hockey glory will be featured, there is plenty of fame to go around.

A stick and signed puck of Pat Stapleton from the 1972 Summit Series is also among the collection found locally. The home grown defenseman played 15 seasons in the NHL and the World Hockey Association, most notably for the Chicago Blackhawks.

John McIntyre, who was born in Ravenswood had an NHL career lasting seven years from 1989 to 1996. During the 1993-94 season, he was playing for the Vancouver Canucks when he was featured on a Cornflakes cereal box. A signed copy of that box will be part of the exhibit.

In the 1950s, the Detroit Red Wings would barnstorm playing many southern Ontario teams. On different occasions, members of the team would travel to Forest to play an exhibition game during a local squad.

Thorne said the Red Wing players would take their own cars from Detroit to travel for these games. These exhibition contests would often be during the NHL season. Some of the programs from these games are on display.

No local display would be complete without a silver stick from those annual minor hockey tournaments. Included in the exhibits are the silver sticks from Forest, Petrolia and Watford.

The hockey exhibit will be on display until Nov. 9.

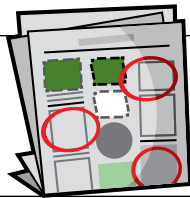


BLAKE ELLIS PHOTO

Memorabilia from the Detroit Red Wings ‘Barnstorming’ tours of southern Ontario, including Forest, are part of the displays at the Lambton Heritage Museum.

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

June 25 - July 2, 2024

TUESDAY, JUNE 25TH

**McRAE, Helen Dorothy**  
Age: 88  
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

**SIEBERT, Elsie (Matiation)**  
Age: 88  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

**LEWIS, Arthur John Jr.**  
Age: 91  
Smith Funeral Home

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH

**VAN ROOYEN, Tammy (nee Pool)**  
Age: 49  
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

**BUCKINGHAM, William Eldon**  
Age: 76  
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

**BRACE, Harvey**  
Age: 72  
Smith Funeral Home

**DILLION, Mary**  
Age: 96  
Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, JUNE 27TH

**TYCZYNSKI, Angela (Rodak)**  
Age: 92  
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

**VERDON, Gail**  
Age: 80  
McKenzie Blundy Funeral Home

**BRANDON, Freida Munro (Lyall)**  
Age: 96  
Gilpin Funeral Chapel

**HOWLEY, Patrick Joseph**  
Age: 45  
Smith Funeral Home

**McCASKILL, Deborah Ann (Debby)**  
Age: 66  
Smith Funeral Home

**COOPER, Roy Cecil**  
Age: 89  
Smith Funeral Home

**MAUTI, Roy**  
Age: 61  
Smith Funeral Home

**WILLIAMSON, Keith Robert**  
Age: 94  
Smith Funeral Home

**WAGNER, Betsy**  
Age: 72  
Smith Funeral Home

FRIDAY, JUNE 28TH

**DODGE, Bill**  
Age: 93  
Denning's Watford Funeral Home

**McLACHLIN, Debra "Debbie" Marlene**  
Age: 70  
Smith Funeral Home

**LAMB, Evelyn Ethel**  
Age: 86  
Smith Funeral Home

SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH

**MILLIKEN, Patricia Elaine (nee Miner)**  
Age: 75  
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

**McDONALD, Betty Louise (VanKoughnett)**  
Age: 75  
Badder Funeral Home

SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH

**SCOTT, Linda "Lynn" Marie**  
Age: 67, of Brigden  
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapels

**WALKER, Kenneth Nelson**  
Age: 91  
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

**HARRETT, Evelyn Jean Stanley**  
Age: 101  
Badder Funeral Home

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

### Obituary



#### MILLIKEN

Patricia Elaine (nee Miner)

With sorrow the family of Patricia Elaine Milliken (nee Miner) announce the death of mother, grandmother, sister and friend. Predeceased by her loving husband of 50 years David Milliken (2021). Mother to Sarah Milliken-Tomlinson and Scott Tomlinson and Rev. Wendy Milliken and Evan "Jay" Lucas,

doting grandmother to Virginia, Charles and Nathaniel. Spending her childhood throughout Southwestern Ontario moving with her family, father Rev. W. S. Miner and mother Cora Lillian, elder sister Ethel Miner-Clare and younger brothers Charles and John. Pat attended Teachers college and taught kindergarten until her marriage and continued to supply teach until the birth of her first child. Farming with her husband she also worked as a conference minister in the United Church of Canada, later achieving her master's degree from Huron College. She taught 4-H, craft classes, wrote liturgy, and was proficient in many types of handcrafts. *She was well loved by family and friends, a memorial potluck picnic celebrating the lives of Pat and Dave will be held on Saturday, August 24, 2024 (Lunch will be at 12:30), 6914 Petrolia Line, Alvinston.* In lieu of flowers, you can plant a tree, hug a friend or donate to the Mennonite Central Committee (mcc.org). Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.

### In Memoriam



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*John F. Hull*

Who passed away on July 12, 2018

*We want you to know that though you're out of sight, You'll always be in our hearts.*

*We want you to know that we'll always cherish you, we'll always love you and always remember you.*

*We'll continue to cherish all our memories of you.*

Love and miss you.

Myrtle, Kathy, Paul & Family



### In Memoriam

#### MITCHELL

In loving memory of **Mildred Mitchell** who passed away July 3, 1984 - And -

**Gerald Mitchell** who passed away Aug. 9, 2007

*You left us treasured memories that often make us smile.*

*The little things you said and did are with us all the while.*

*You both meant so very much to us that nothing one can say, can tell the sadness in our hearts as we think of you each day.*

*Always loved and never forgotten*  
**The Mitchell Families**

### For Sale

**2012 DODGE JOURNEY:**  
330,000 KMS, runs, \$800  
OBO. 519-882-1868

### Perennials For Sale

#### PERENNIAL PLANT SALE

- FERNS • HOSTAS
- HERBS
- ROSE OF SHARON & PUSSY WILLOW BUSHES

**458 Ignatiefna Petrolia**

*We will recycle the pots.*

### Wanting To Buy

**Buying Antiques, Vintage Items, Estates**

Buying anything old: Signs, pottery, toys, comics, knives, coins, jewelry, lighters, advertising, bottles, & much more! Single items, contents of attics, garages, barns & entire estates.

**Call Chad at 519-639-9102**  
chadnlyndsay@yahoo.ca

### Anniversary



Happy 65th Anniversary!

The family of **Carl & Catherine Dewhirst** is hosting an **Open House** in honour of their **65th Wedding Anniversary.**

Please join us  
**Saturday, July 6, 2024**  
from 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Wyoming Legion  
493 Erie Street  
Best Wishes only

### Birthday Announcement



Stormin Norman

**Happy Birthday**

BEEN THERE  
DONE IT ALL IN  
**90 YEARS**

Norm Sitzes

### Real Estate



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**4734 Nauvoo Rd., Brooke-Alvinston Twp**

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO OWN A COUNTRY HOME WITH FARMLAND? Enjoy this 20 acres farm with modern almost new 3 bedroom bungalow, with open concept living, kitchen, dining, 2 bathrooms and main floor laundry. 4 spacious out buildings, workshop, drive shed, with natural gas heating the house and shop! 15 workable acres of level very high-yielding farmland! Call today for more details. Don't miss this fantastic opportunity!

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Direct: 519-878-5981 • leo@shanahanrealty.com • Office: 226-848-6684

### Upcoming Event

PLYMPTON-WYOMING AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY presents their annual

**BROASTED CHICKEN DINNER**

**SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2024**  
4:00-6:30PM  
WYOMING FAIRGROUNDS  
595 Main St., Wyoming

**\$25 EA**  
Advance Tickets Only  
**THE CAR BARN**

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS**  
**519-845-3161 or 519-845-0302**

Broasted Chicken  
Baked Potato  
Coleslaw • Baked Beans  
Roll and Butter Dessert

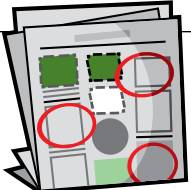
### ADVERTISING POLICY

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

Classified Deadline:  
Monday @ 12 Noon

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  
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Royal Canadian Legion Branch 216 Petrolia



Legion Members



Ladies Auxiliary

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



Lost and Found

LOST BOOK

Low Gleeson's archival collection contained a Sports Journal which contained the names and records of Petrolia sport teams.

The book was a hard, black covered, 8-1/2" x 5-1/2" x 2" in size.

It may have been loaned out to someone.

Please contact:  
Norm Sutherland  
519-818-2787  
[nesutherland33@gmail.com](mailto:nesutherland33@gmail.com)  
385 Egan Ave ,Petrolia

Advertise your personal advertising here for as little as \$25.00 per week. Call The Independent office and find out more 226-738-0728

Classified Deadline: Monday @ 12 Noon

Rentals

Wyoming Lions Club RECEPTION HALL RENTALS - 554 Main Street, Wyoming. Fully licensed by AGCO, up to 150 seating capacity and wheelchair accessible.Now With Wifi. Book for your upcoming wedding, anniversary or business meeting. For bookings and information call 519-466-7806 or 519-845-3333.

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WANTED TO BUY - Adult bicycles womens & mens, boys & girls. All sizes. Good to fair condition. All types of bikes wanted. Please call 519-882-2548 and ask for Dave. ALSO, will pick up scrap bikes.

Church DIRECTORY



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

416 Queen Street, Petrolia (Behind the Post Office)

In-Person Service  
Sundays @ 10:00 am

Services also available online: [www.standrews-petrolia.ca](http://www.standrews-petrolia.ca)

Pastor Katherine Hawley

Christ Anglican Church

414 Oil Street, Petrolia

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



Church Office: 519-882-1430 | [christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com) Rev. Dave Hewett

St. Paul's United Church

4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

In-Person Services  
Sundays @ 10:30 am



Church Office: 519-882-1390 [www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net](http://www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net) Rev. Carol Ferguson

First Baptist Church

In Person Church Service  
Sunday Mornings @10:30 am

Pastor: Alex Craig

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





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Calendar of events

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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     | 6pm        | Petrolia    | Meat Raffle @ Crabby Joe's                     |              |
| 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       | 4:30p      | Brigden     | Meat Raffle @ Brigden Legion                   |              |
| Sat       | 3:30p      | Forest      | Meat Raffle @ Forest Legion                    | 519-786-5357 |
| Sat       | 6p         | Alvinston   | Catch The Ace @ Alvinston Legion               | 519-898-2100 |

UPCOMING EVENTS

| DATE                    | START TIME                         | LOCATION       | EVENT/ CONTACT INFO                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July                    | Various                            | Brigden        | <b>BRIGDEN LEGION JULY EVENTS:</b> Catch the Ace is on Thursday nights. Legion opens at 6pm. Tickets available up til 6:30 and draw at 7pm July 4-11-18-25. Meat Raffles - July 6th and 20th Legion opens at 3:30 and raffle starts at 4:30                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Now                     | Tues. & Thurs. 6pm Wed. 9:30am     | Forest         | <b>FOREST LAWN BOWLING CLUB</b> 2 free days to try it before paying \$100 2024 membership. We play Tuesday and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30am. Bring your family, friends, neighbours or co-workers with you. Wear flat soled running shoes. Info. contact Brian Blair at 519-386-5201.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| July, August, September | During Participating Museums Hours | Lambton County | <b>HERITAGE SARNIA-LAMBTON LAUNCHES PASSPORT CHALLENGE</b> Summer 2024. Heritage Sarnia-Lambton, a network of eight local museums, invites visitors to celebrate 175 years of Lambton County history by participating. Residents can visit all participating Heritage Sarnia-Lambton museums, correctly answer a trivia question, and collect a stamp/sticker at each site. Once completed, participants can turn in their completed booklet for a chance to win the grand prize of a Tourism Sarnia-Lambton gift certificate and a heritage swag bag. Passports are available at all participating sites. Contest ends September 30, 2024. Admission rates apply, where applicable. Participating museums include: Arkona Lions Museum, Forest Museum, Lambton County Archives, Lambton Heritage Museum, Moore Museum, Oil Museum of Canada, Plympton-Wyoming Museum & Sombra Museum & Cultural Centre. |
| Now - August 11         | Various                            | Lambton County | <b>LAMBTON COUNTY LIBRARY'S 2024 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE:</b> Tales Through Time. Registration is now open. People of all ages, and incentivizes people to read and take part in free activities and games for a chance to win prizes. To register, participants can sign up online with Beanstack, a user-friendly platform with a website and mobile app, or visit any Lambton County Library location during operating hours. Visit <a href="http://lclibrary.ca/SRC">lclibrary.ca/SRC</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| July 6                  | 1-4pm                              | Sombra         | <b>2024 BLUEBERRY SOCIAL,</b> Sombra Museum Cultural Centre (3476 St. Clair Pkwy). The event will entail the serving of fresh blueberry desserts, live music provided by the Clearwater Chordsmen, and ample opportunity to view some of our new exhibits. Admission: \$8 for adults, \$3 for children, \$2 for preschool and \$4 for members.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| July 6, 13, 20, 27      | 1-3pm                              | Sarnia         | <b>FAMILY SATURDAY STUDIO DROP-IN</b> All ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free - Suggested donation \$5/family. Discover, create and get curious — every Saturday afternoon we are working on something in the art studio. <b>Botanical Prints</b> - July 6, 13, 20, 27. Capture the delicate details of flowers and leaves using Gelli plate mono printing techniques.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| July 6                  | 8-11am                             | Sarnia         | <b>ANNUAL FAMILY FUN FISHING DAY:</b> FREE activity for families. You do not need an Ontario fishing license during the June 29-July 7, 2024 Ontario Family Fishing Week. Sign-in will be at a booth set up by the Bluewater Anglers in Centennial Park near the "fishy" fountain in the parking lot just south of the end of London Rd. Sat Front St. Everyone must sign in to receive a bucket that can be used to collect your gobies and get your ticket for a free hot dog & pop back at the weigh-in at the hatchery Weigh-in is at the hatchery (Waterfront Park - north of Bluewater Bridge between 11:00 and 11:30am More details <a href="https://Bluewater.anglers.com">https://Bluewater.anglers.com</a>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| July 7                  | 7pm                                | Petrolia       | <b>INTERFAITH CHURCH SERVICE</b> in Victoria Park, hosted by First Baptist Petrolia.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| July 7                  | 1:30pm                             | Brigden        | <b>FAMILY FUN DAY</b> Brigden Community Church. Burgers, hotdogs, fresh cut fries and more. Family games. 2389 Courtright Line, Brigden. Fundraiser for Brigden Public School Tablet Program.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| July 8-12               | 9:30am-noon12pm                    | Petrolia       | <b>FREE FIVE DAY VACATION BIBLE CAMP</b> Grades 1 — 6 First Baptist Church 418 Greenfield St. Petrolia. Registration: Sara 519-330-7178                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Now                     | Gallery Hours                      | Sarnia         | <b>SIOBHÁN HUMSTON'S IN THE GARDEN OF EXQUISITE UNKNOWN (NOW - SEPT. 1); JON SASAKI'S HOMAGE (NOW - SEPT. 1); TOM THOMSON AND THE GROUP OF SEVEN (NOW - SEPT. 1); AND RE VIEW EXHIBITION 6 (NOW - JULY 14).</b> Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery (JNAAG) - Learn more about the exhibitions by visiting <a href="http://jnaag.ca">jnaag.ca</a> . Gallery open Wednesday to Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with extended hours on Thursday until 8:30 p.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| July 14                 | 7pm                                | Petrolia       | <b>INTERFAITH CHURCH SERVICE</b> in Victoria Park, hosted by St. Paul's United.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

# Lambton Shores celebrates



SYDNEY GOODREAU AND FILE PHOTOS  
Remi De Gois enjoys the blow-up slide set up at the Port Franks Community Centre during Canada Day. The celebration had live music, bouncy houses, a hot dog BBQ, and face painting. An estimated 400 people turned out. Adrianna Sanger gets her face painted during the Canada Day Celebration at EarlyON Centre in Forest Friday morning. And fireworks lit up the sky over the Elsi Dodge Conservation Area Monday courtesy of the local firefighters who set up the display all Canada Day.



# Dresden singer topping Indie charts

**Sydney Goodreau**  
The Independent

A Dresden singer is climbing the Canadian Indie Country Countdown.  
Jacklyn Wills’ song “I Hate That I Can’t Hate You” was number four on the list – quite a feat for the singer/songwriter’s first commercial release.  
Wills has been writing music since she was very young and went to Fanshawe College for the Music Industry Arts program. She plays gigs across southern Ontario and released her first single

in June.  
“I’m super picky about what I want to put out; I want to be super proud of what I officially commercially released.”  
Wills says the hook for the song came to her the day before she went on a date.  
After the date was finished, the words ‘I hate that I can’t hate you’ continually ran through her mind as she failed to find any red flags about the man she met. Soon after, the lyrics for the song fell into place. Wills met with songwriter Ali Dutton from the Niagara region to help with the

song.  
Wills says, “With this being my first actual commercial release, I honestly had no idea what the song was going to do. I had no expectations...But the song has done way more than I ever could have imagined.”  
Wills says the song is found on two Spotify editorial playlists, country radio stations all across Canada, even Sirius XM “which was super, super cool.”  
Wills will continue performing over the summer and plans another single release to follow her first success up.

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