

TRAILER TROUBLES NEAR PETROLIA



ALEX KURIAL/LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE PHOTO

A 50 year-old Petrolia man is facing charges after a trailer holding a boat detached from his pickup truck and struck an SUV on Oil Heritage Line Friday. Two people were pulled from the SUV after they slammed into the trailer near Discovery Line. Both were alert and talking to emergency personnel as firefighters removed them and helped them to the ambulance. The driver told The Independent he hit a dip in the pavement, the trailer hitch smacked the road and then the trailer let go, sending the boat into the other lane where the SUV was struck. The man faces three charges including having an improper braking system and an insecure load.

Everything is not okay

Heather Wright
The Independent

Lambton’s mental health and addictions leaders are calling for an immediate injection of cash to ease ‘the worst mental health crisis Ontario has ever seen.’ There is a 96 per cent increase in young people reporting suicide attempts in Lambton. There has been a 110 per cent increase in calls to crisis lines from kids. There’s been a 61 per cent increase in calls to children’s mental health services in Lambton. Deaths from overdose have risen 59 per cent in Ontario. Every week, there are over 4,500 visits to Ontario’s emergency department for mental health and addiction problems. Those are some of the sobering statistics which paint the picture of parallel pandemics of addiction and mental health during the COVID-19 crisis in Lambton

County and across the province. Five leaders in the field talked to reporters on Thursday about how some of the urgent problems which existed before COVID-19 changed the world are being made worse by the restrictions during the pandemic. “Before the pandemic wait times for services were too long,” says Adrienne Spafford, the CEO of Addictions and Mental Health Ontario. “It was too hard for people to find access to the services they need...the pandemic has only made things worse.” Craig McKenzie, the director of operations at St. Clair Child and Youth Services says young people are facing enormous pressures. “Kids are experiencing unprecedented upheaval in their own lives. The on again-off again stay at home orders, social restrictions, school disruptions, result in feelings of isolation and loneliness,” he says.

SEE PANDEMIC PG 2

New PW fire chief to start in June

Heather Wright
The Independent

Plympton-Wyoming has picked its new fire chief. A draft bylaw on the Wednesday council agenda shows Darryl Thompson will be appointed as Director of Fire and Emergency Services and Fire Chief for the Plympton-Wyoming Fire Department, with council’s approval. The Independent has learned Thompson’s tentative start date is June 1 and he’s

expected to be in the region to meet with firefighters before that. Thompson has 15 years experience as a firefighter and has served as the president of the Caledon Professional Firefighters Association. Thompson, if approved by council, takes over for Chris Freer who has been acting fire chief since Steve Clemens resigned in October after three years dogged by controversies such as a video camera surveillance in the Wyoming station and the firing of three senior firefighters.

The Independent named best Ontario newspaper

The Independent has been named best newspaper in its class. The newspaper captured the prize and six others during the Ontario Community Newspaper Association Better Newspaper Competition online ceremony Friday. Judges for the category said The Independent “demonstrated a commitment to excellence throughout” and is a “great read from

front to back.” It received the highest marks of all 80 papers evaluated including the largest community newspapers in the province. Editor Heather Wright also placed first in the Best Investigative News Story for her series on the firing of three Plympton-Wyoming firefighters. Judges said the story had “long reaching impact in the community.”

SEE AWARDS PAGE 3

Recognizing

FIRST RESPONDERS DAY

ON MAY 1



Urgent mental health, addictions funding needed

CON’T FROM PG 1

“And for those kids where home is not a safe place, stay-at-home orders – the social isolation – only exacerbate an already dangerous situation, increasing the risk of violence and other forms of abuse.”

And the statistics show the toll it is taking. “We witnessed a 61 per cent increase in new referrals since the start of the pandemic, with our top three presenting issues being emotional difficulties, anxiety and behaviour problems,” says McKenzie.

“We’ve seen a 58 per cent increase in those reporting chronic stress, 54 per cent increase in those who’ve been victims of sexual abuse, and a 32 per cent increase in the prevalence of eating disorders.

“And even more alarming... we’ve seen a 96 per cent increase in those reporting suicide attempts.

“Knowing that suicide is the second leading cause of death for young people in Canada, it’s a trend we just can’t ignore.”

McKenzie says St. Clair Child and Youth Services can see people within 48 hours for an initial evaluation and help, but often their anxiety or depression has been left untreated and now needs extensive care.

Those teens can wait from six months to a year to get treatment.

Dr. Cheryl Willisie, a psychiatrist at Bluewater Health, sees those young people in crisis who couldn’t get care at the hospital in Sarnia.

“We’re seeing huge increases in the rates of admissions to the child and adolescent unit,” says Willisie.

“A couple of weeks ago, it was more than three times over capacity; so there just isn’t even room in the hospital for all of these kids that are presenting in crisis.”

When that happens, she says, people begin to self-medicate with drugs or alcohol.

“We’re seeing huge rates of substance-induced psychosis from both crystal meth and from cannabis,” Willisie says.

Paula Reaume-Zimmer, vice president of Mental Health & Addictions, Bluewater Health and Canadian Mental Health Association Lambton-Kent, says adult addiction services are also feeling pressure.

The newly opened Ryan’s House, a residential withdrawal management facility, is turning people who want help away.

“Our seven beds are full every day,” says Reaume-Zimmer.

“In the last two months, we are turning down more individuals that were accepted into those beds.”

Spafford says it is clear “everything is not okay.

“What we are asking the government to do is prioritize access to consistent high quality services with a focus on reducing wait times for those services.”

The province has committed \$3.8 billion over the next 10 years for new and expanded mental health services, but Willisie says so far that money isn’t flowing to current services.

“On the front lines of what I would consider to be the worst mental health crisis Ontario has ever seen, I have not seen any increased ability to access services in the community. If anything, it might be more of a challenge just because of the increasing need,” she says.

Reaume-Zimmer agrees.

“We know that the ongoing burden of mental illness is staring at us and we cannot delay the expansion of core services. It’s so necessary for us to respond,” she says.

“We know that we can change the trajectory of mental illness and substance use disorder when people can access us sooner and time is of the essence right now.

It’s just so critical to put these resources in place...we needed to be doing that work yesterday.”

The head of Addictions and Mental Health Ontario wants the public to understand “we really are in a crisis situation.

“We are the place where people’s health is deteriorating while they’re on a waitlist. And we also are experiencing deaths while people are on a wait list. This is very much a crisis situation,” says Spafford.

The mental health professionals are urging the province to start flowing some of the promised mental health and addictions cash now to existing programs.

Reaume-Zimmer says they have the programs in place and there are professionals ready to work if there is money to increase capacity.

“If we had the funding, we have people – we have resumes lined up – who want to help,” she says. “We have individuals trained in this sector... and there’s definitely resources available for if and when we received the funding.”

Spafford says there are many people who could be reached if the province and the federal government act now. “Are things going to be perfect overnight? No. But could things get a lot better very quickly if strategic investments were made? Absolutely.”

In the meantime, the Lambton mental health and addictions leaders are urging residents not to let the prospect of long wait times stop you from reaching out for help.

Reaume-Zimmer says the groups work together to help as many people as they can with the resources they have.

And McKenzie at St. Clair Child and Youth wants people to call his office or to the new youth crisis line for help.

“No matter how insignificant you feel it is, if you’re struggling, if you’re having trouble sleeping and not regulating your emotions, reach out to us and get connected sooner than later because quite often, we can deal with some of those issues and some of the low range anxiety and emerging depression when we get them sooner. They’re not as complex and they don’t have all the other risk factors that are disrupting people’s lives.”

“We make our best effort to meet the demand,” says McKenzie, “but despite our best efforts, our kids are at a brink right now.”

MENTAL AND ADDICTIONS RESOURCES

- Distress Line provides phone support to those seeking help. If you are struggling or just need to talk our volunteers are here for you 24/7 at 1-888-DISTRES (347-8737)
- Lambton Mental Health Service Distress Line – 519-336-3445 or
- Lambton Child and Youth Crisis Line 1-800-622-1320
- Addictions and Problem Gambling Services at Bluewater Health – 519-464-4400, Ext. 5370
- Addictions related help 24/7 800-721-3232
- Needle exchange program – 519-383-8331, Ext. 3547
- Substance abuse information – 519-383-8331, Ext. 3537
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Ten hens a-laying can stay three years at Needham family’s home

Heather Wright
The Independent

The Needham family chickens live to see another day. The Plympton-Wyoming family, who bought 10 chicks during the pandemic, raised them in their home on Gordon Road and then built a coop outside for them, faced the prospect of having to find new homes for the birds after a neighbour complained. The town has a bylaw which prohibits backyard farm animals including chickens. But Jonathan Needham told councillors earlier in the year that the hens were not

only a great learning experience for his family but had become like pets. And he says, they are therapy animals for his son, who is autistic. Council deferred the matter until “after the pandemic” giving the family a temporary reprieve. But on April 22, council passed a temporary use bylaw for the family’s home to allow the coop and the birds to remain for the next three years. There was some concern as council considered how many chickens to allow. The Needhams have 10 birds but council considered limiting them to six.

“The children named all of them and love them dearly, Juniper, tiny Elvis,” Needham told councillors as they tried to decide. “They’re all very much pets within our family.” Council opted to allow the family to keep all the birds but not to replace them as the flock depletes. Needham also asked council waive the \$1,000 fee, since the birds are therapy animals, an essential item as deemed by the Ontario Human Rights Code. Councillors waived the town’s portion of the fee, but not the \$600 Lambton county portion. Councillor Tim Wilkins didn’t

want any fee charged: “Is he going to literally spend \$600 here tonight to have 10 chickens in his yard over a bylaw that shouldn’t even be in place?” That raised the ire of Mayor Lonny Napper. “I take exception to you coming on here and telling us how stupid it is,” he said noting it was a very controversial issue when the bylaw first passed. Wilkins apologized but added; “I’ve been in people’s backyards every day in Wyoming and there is a lot of people that have chickens in Wyoming, so they’re not really abiding by your bylaw now.”

Napper said council is obligated to act when a neighbour complains. If it doesn’t, he says, the neighbours can sue. “If you don’t like it, when it comes time, get rid of that bylaw,” he added. Needham is glad the hens can stay for the next three years. And he hopes one day, council will consider making it permanent. “People are wanting to do this. I appreciate your consideration with this temporary license. I also look forward to being able to speak in the future regarding the keeping of a small number of hens permanently on residential property,” Needham told council.

Extra food truck at Bridgeview given the green light

Heather Wright
The Independent

It may take a while, but Petrolia councillors have cleared the way for another food truck at Bridgeview Park. At Monday’s meeting, council approved a new Concession Mobile Refreshment Truck bylaw, without any comment.

It will see up to four trucks on the north and south sides of Bridgeview Park. The licences for the north side of the park will not be offered for the time being. And Dave Menzies, director of community services, says it may be a while before another food truck appears on the southside. “There is no rush to get the second unit in Bridgeview at this time, espe-

cially given COVID restrictions,” he said in an email. Menzies says the area has to be prepared for a truck. There have been some inquiries about the space but a time frame to offer the \$5,000 licence hasn’t been set yet. The new bylaw also removes the option of food trucks setting up in parking lots in the downtown with council approval.

The Independent named top paper, claims seven provincial awards

CON’T FROM PG 1 “The people at The Independent work hard every day to produce the best product we possibly can. It’s nice to see the entire crew be recognized for its daily work to serve the community,” says Wright, who is also the publisher of *The Independent*. “The community of Plympton-Wyoming deserves much credit for the Best Investigative News Story award,” says Wright. “Without whistleblowers willing to speak about what was going on - even though it could put them in jeopardy

- this story would not have come to light. So, I thank them for standing up for their community.” Wright also placed second in the Feature Writing category for her story on personal support workers in long term care called *What would they do without us*. Judges said Wright’s “craftsmanship - that awareness of what it takes to tell a compelling story” earned second place. The editor also placed second in the Columnist of the Year category with the judge saying her writing is “like sitting next to a friend at the pub and

having a conversation.” The newspaper’s photography was also awarded with a third in the Photojournalist of the Year category and an honourable mention for Wright for her picture of a take down by the OPP’s Canine unit in Petrolia. The newspaper’s sports section placed third in the provincial competition with judges saying it had “great content and excellent writing.” *The Independent’s* sister paper, *The Herald* serving Thamesville, Dresden and Bothwell placed second in the feature photo category.

MP Marilyn Gladu

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Editorial

Help Now

It is not a surprise that the most vulnerable in our community are hurting. The depth of the hurt however is stunning.

Nearly twice as many young people reporting suicide attempts. Sixty per cent more drug overdoses. A 61 per cent increase in calls to help lines - a 110 per cent increase in calls to kids' crisis lines. And so many teens and people with addictions - 4,500 - heading to hospitals for help for mental health and addiction crisis every week. EVERY WEEK.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to grief and loss, for people who have died, celebrations never celebrated, a loss of hope for a future for many.

And, in our efforts to contain a virus, we've devised solutions that isolate, which compounds these problems; amplifies them until they are all consuming.

Teens see no way out and try to take their own lives or self medicate. They end up on the road to addiction, like so many others in the hospital beds near them when they are in crisis.

The problems are vast. And they are compounded by the fact that governments in the past have chronically underfunded mental health and addiction services in this province. Long before anyone coined the word COVID-19, there were families desperate for help for their teens and people with addictions who had no hope of a way out.

Lambton has been working for 15 years to get something as important as a withdrawal management site approved, never mind being built.

Children's mental health needs have always had to wait; only the most critical receive immediate intense help.

Governments have promised more help; the province is setting aside \$3.8 billion over 10 years for new programs and services. The most vulnerable can't wait for the latest program 10 years down the road.

It is time for the province to shell out that cash to service providers now. Let them help as many people as humanly possible doing what they already know how to do. It is the only hope we won't lose teens to suicide or people with addictions to overdose.

It's not rocket science. The money could flow tomorrow and make a lasting, lifesaving difference.

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



This is SS #5 in Enniskillen which was at one point known as Braemore School. A number of the residents of Enniskillen came from Braemore in Northern Scotland and named the school in its honour. The one room school house was built on land purchased from Thomas McCallum for \$50 on July 18, 1881.

Why we should want the province to put resources into the GTA

You may have heard the story of the tragic death of Emily Viegas.

The 13 year-old lived in a two bedroom apartment with her parents and brother in Brampton. Dad worked in a warehouse - one of those essential workers without paid sick time we're hearing about so much.

Despite the family staying at home, except for Dad's work, COVID-19 came calling. First mom was sick - sent to hospital and living on oxygen in the ICU. Then the new teenager who loved Frozen and teased her dad and brother developed a cough.

As it got worse, Dad, who was under strict quarantine rules, thought about taking her to the hospital. He knew it was full and was worried she would be shipped far from home. Before he could intervene, she died in her bed. Paramedics tried to revive her, they tried at the hospital, too. But she was gone. At 13.

A tragedy for this family and a tragedy for our province. Emily Viegas' death amplifies how we are not all in this together.

In Lambton County, we rail at government restrictions because some of us don't know anyone who has COVID or who has not died from it. We blame the pandemic on people in the GTA.

The damage of the pandemic is real here too, of course, but the pain is felt much deeper just a few hours down the highway.

The truth of the pandemic is unless the provincial government does more in the GTA to stop the spread of COVID-19 and support those who have it, the pandemic will continue to drag on. The premier's refusal to make employers implement paid sick days now instead of waiting for the perfect plan is taking lives.

The vaccines sent here mean someone working in that Brampton warehouse who has a 20 per cent chance of getting COVID-19 won't be vaccinated.

We need to press the government to help the GTA get this under control to save lives and to conquer COVID-19.

It's the humane thing to do and it will put an end to this misery.



Heather Wright

The Independent
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Opinion

Frustration as the provincial government closes golf courses

EDITOR’S NOTE: The Independent reached out to the owner of Kingswell Golf Course when the province revised its Stay-at-Home order April 16, which included closing golf courses - a move that was widely criticized. She responded with this letter to the editor.

EDITOR: Over the last year, we have seen unprecedented actions taken by the government of Ontario and Canada to “keep us safe”. From my perspective, those actions have done something much different.

I own Crabby Joe’s in Petrolia. Ten years ago, we built the restaurant from the ground up. Petrolia didn’t have a full-service restaurant that was open past 8 pm, let alone seven days a week. The goal was to help revitalize and build business on the main street so that one day it could support my childhood dream of building a hotel in downtown Petrolia.

A lot has happened since then, and I have been very intentional about using my experience as a foundation to grow and pursue new challenges. The hotel was originally scheduled to be built by 2020, but the universe had a different plan. In September of 2019, my husband Joe and I were blessed with our third son in four years, which extended the hotel build timelines longer than originally planned. Six months later we found ourselves at the doorstep of a pandemic. The quoted price of the hotel build increased by 40 per cent, which rendered the project unrealistic for the foreseeable future.

After so much time, money and effort, this was definitely a blow. At the same time, we were experiencing huge government restrictions at the restaurant, forcing us to lay off most of our staff while experiencing plummeting sales. It really was devastating. Amidst that turmoil, the opportunity to buy the golf course

presented itself. Although the timing seemed crazy (April 2020), we felt strongly that this was the right thing to do. We got creative and made it happen, and we are so grateful that we did. To improve and revitalize this hallowed and historic piece of land felt like the opportunity of a lifetime.

Friday, the government of Ontario thought it would be wise to shut down golf courses, along with another list “non-essential” businesses and services. Having already experienced these crushing measures for over a year, we know what this really means for our business. We still have a property to maintain, work to do. We need people to do that. Without any cash coming in, it can be difficult. We’re diving into the reserves to make these things happen, because we know that it is essential – that we are all essential. The golf course is a healthy and safe space, where we encourage people to clear their minds and get in touch with Mother Nature. It’s a welcome break to the fear-based narrative that we hear every moment on many mainstream media outlets. It’s a place where we want our community to feel relaxed and open.

From my perspective, these shutdowns are not protecting us from harm. They’ve created a huge divide between us. To mask or not to mask? To vaccinate or not to vaccinate? To stay closed during shutdown or defy the government and open? Questions like these are creating so much damage – in our country, in our community, but worst of all right within our own families. On one hand, I want to defy the government regulations and stay open, to stand up and set an example for those who can’t.

On the other hand, I understand that the trust and goodwill that I’ve been so intentional about fostering

is paramount. I don’t want to do anything to compromise that. What’s the right decision? I feel like I’m being squeezed tighter and tighter, and soon I’m going to burst. I can’t express to you enough how exhausting it is pivoting the business every time Doug Ford gets on the mic. When everything you have built can be so easily ruined at the whim of a tyrannical politician, I wonder what country and decade we are living in.

So, to answer your question – how do I feel about the recent shutdown of the golf course?

I feel sick about it. I want to open the doors and let the people choose what is right for them. I highly value freedom of choice and am incredulous that I am the one telling our friends and neighbours they are not allowed to enjoy the places and spaces we have to offer, for fear I will be fined or arrested. I am in disbelief that we are living in times where the police have special privileges to ensure that we’re abiding by these laws. It’s not right, and something must change.

I commit to staying positive and finding the opportunity within the adversity. I commit to thinking critically before making a decision that could further impact my businesses – the ones that I have loved, grown, and sacrificed for. I commit to putting love and kindness over anything else. I commit to keep trying to figure this out, even if the path is not clear. I commit to doing my best, and am so grateful for the years of support from this strong, dynamic community. Here, we will find the support we need to rise up, because commUNITY is the only way.

Jenna Gorzeman
Owner
Kingswell Glen Golf Club &
Crabby Joe’s Petrolia

Petrolia accident leads to two month jail sentence

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Petrolia man hoped he’d escape jail after a fourth drunk driving conviction.

But Justice Krista Leszczynski decided Lewis Boyd wasn’t getting the anti drinking and driving message and needed some convincing.

“You are before the court for the fourth time... which indicates to me that you have not yet effectively received the message that you cannot drink to the point of impairment and get behind the wheel of a motor vehicle,” says Leszczynski.

Boyd’s latest charge came after a March accident in Petrolia last year where Boyd blew through a stop sign on Robert Street and hit a truck. “Go ahead and arrest me, I know I’m impaired,” Boyd said to police when they arrived, adding his last drink was

“five minutes ago.” Boyd tested a .248 on the blood alcohol test at the Petrolia OPP station. His licence had a condition that he have no alcohol while driving.

Crown Attorney Suzanne LaSha took the step of asking for a jail sentence due to Boyd’s status as a repeat offender. His previous convictions for the same offence were in 1984, 1993 and 2003. A multi-year driving ban was also requested.

Boyd plead guilty in February and a pre-sentence report was written for the April 20 sentencing. Leszczynski wasn’t impressed with the findings.

“Although you have some insights with respect to the poor choices that you made on this particular occasion and in the past, there still seems to be a lack of insight with respect to the issue you may have in your use of alcohol,” she says. “What is positive however

is that you are amenable to receiving treatment.”

Boyd made his final pitch to stay a free man. “I do not think jail time is appropriate at all especially since I am working again,” he says in the courtroom. Boyd, representing himself, appeared in person since jail time was on the table.

“What happened that day was a very bad choice, there’s no excuse for it, none whatsoever... I received some very bad news about a lifelong friend that day and just made a very bad decision,” says Boyd. “I’m truly sorry for it and I’m willing to accept whatever you think is appropriate.”

Leszczynski ordered Boyd across the street to Sarnia Jail for two months. On his release Boyd is banned from driving for three years. He’ll also be on probation for 12 months.

- THE INDEPENDENT

CORRECTIONS

In a story which appeared in the April 15, 2021 edition, the story *Another food truck still a possibility* the article incorrectly stated under the proposed bylaw food trucks would be allowed to set up in parking lots downtown. The bylaw puts an end to the practice.

And in a story on the new Petrolia Kiwanis Club, *The Independent* inadvertently forgot to list the Local Petrolia Lions Club as an active service club. It is, in fact, the largest club and has been operating 50 years. We regret the errors.

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HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

VPP Music Director Mark Payne gets his vaccine at a special clinic run by the Central Lambton Family Health Team Friday at the Greenwood Recreation Centre.

More vaccine clinics to come?

Heather Wright
The Independent

It was all hands on deck as the Central Lambton Family Health Team hosted a large vaccination clinic at the Greenwood Recreation Centre in Petrolia.

The town suggested the doctors use the vacant arena to hold a clinic which was first expected to give about 200 people their vaccine against COVID-19. The first batch of doses was spoken for quickly. Lambton Public Health offered another 100 doses and they too, were claimed early.

By the time the clinic opened Friday, there were 400 doses available. Around 5:30 pm, the health team put out the word there were 40 additional doses available as health team staff were able to get 11 doses out of each vial instead of 10.

In all, 440 people were given their first dose of the vaccine.

Executive Director, Sarah Milner, was thrilled with the turnout and the town’s help getting the clinic set up. She said the infrastructure will remain in the hopes more clinics will be possible in the future.

About 34 per cent of eligible Lambton residents have now had their first vaccine.

Lambton Public Health said April 22 that 40,103 people have been vaccinated including 2,340 who have had both doses.

Dr. Sudit Ranade told Lambton County councillors public health is getting a steady supply of about 5,000 doses per week, however the mass vaccination clinic has been scaled back to three days a week. He says it is more efficient to deliver the available doses in three days.

The clinic has the capacity to deliver 2,500

per day.

A number of weekly data points from public health show a downward trend in the pandemic in Lambton. The region now has 59 cases of COVID-19 for every 100,000 people – that’s down from 68 last week. However it is still in the red or grey lockdown region of the provincial reopening framework.

Officials say 1.9 per cent of the tests being done are now positive; that’s down from 2.8 per cent last week.

Dr. David Williams told reporters Thursday, after the number of new cases dipped below 3,700, that while Ontario is in a “precarious position.”

“All indications show we might be starting to bend the curve a bit, there has not been enough time yet, but we’re just starting to see the effect of the stay-at-home order, but we’re not there yet.”

Meantime, 10 students at the Lambton College Residence have now tested positive for COVID-19.

It’s the largest outbreak in the county right now, as the number of active cases continues to ease.

Tuesday, Lambton Public Health reported there were eight people who tested positive for the virus, with 69 people ill right now. Since Friday, there have been 39 new cases in the community.

An outbreak was also declared at the North Lambton Childcare Centre-St. Peter Canisius Site in Watford, where a staff and child tested positive.

Across the province, the number of people infected with COVID-19 has again dropped – today the province is reporting 3,265 people testing positive. Another 29 died.

McNaughton leans on feds to run sick leave plan

The Independent

Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Monte McNaughton says the province is asking the federal government to run a paid sick leave program.

The Conservative government has refused to implement paid sick leave for provincially regulated businesses. It’s voted against the idea 25 times in the legislature.

Ontario’s COVID-19 Science Table has been calling for the move for weeks. It says making sure essential workers won’t miss pay is key to them staying home when sick.

McNaughton, who is the Minister of

Labour, said Tuesday it has asked the federal government to run a paid sick day where Ontario would top up the federal benefit so workers could make \$1,000 per week - \$25 per hour - for up to four weeks.

He also said in the legislature the province is asking it be made retroactive so people who have already used the program get topped up.

McNaughton added 80 per cent of the people who claimed the benefit have it in three to five days.

Both McNaughton and Sarnia Lambton MPP Bob Bailey have voted against a provincially mandated paid sick leave.

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

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petrolia will hold a **Public Meeting on Tuesday, May 25th, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.** to consider a proposed Zoning By-law Amendment under Section 36 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended.

THE PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT would amend the Town's Zoning By-law 63 of 2017 as it applies to a property described as Part Lot 12, Concession 10. The subject property has a municipal address of 432 Albany Street. The property is located on the east side of Albany Street, between Walnut Street and Dufferin Avenue. The intent of the proposed amendment is to rezone the property from "General Commercial (C1)" to "Residential - 3 (R3)". The proposed amendment would allow the main floor of a building on the property to be converted into two apartment dwelling units. There are currently three existing apartment dwelling units in the building.

ANY PERSON may attend the public hearing and/or make written or oral representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. If you wish to submit a written or make an oral presentation at the public hearing, please contact the Town of Petrolia no later than 4:30 p.m. on May 21, 2021. The public hearing will be held via a ZOOM Teleconference format.

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

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



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

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

THE KEY MAP shows more particularly the lands affected.

DATED at the TOWN OF PETROLIA this 26th DAY of April, 2021.

Mandi Pearson
Clerk
Town of Petrolia
411 Greenfield Street
Petrolia, ON,
N0N 1R0
Telephone: 882-2350
Fax: 882-3373
Email: mpearson@petrolia.ca



Subject Property

New rules to protect Bird Lane lots

Heather Wright
The Independent

It’s not what Lambton County officials wanted, but there may soon be new rules in place to stop developers from buying homes with large lots in the Bird Lanes and putting up another house. Developer Tim Dillion was given permission by Plympton-Wyoming council to do that very thing, much to the disappointment of people living in the subdivision. They argued the beauty of what is officially called Limberlost Estates, is the spacious lots. Ninety per cent of the neighbourhood said they didn’t want the severance to be approved. Council said it could not find a legal reason to stop the lot splitting. So, it’s now passed an amendment to the zoning bylaw which puts a stop to the practice so the character of the neighbourhood is maintained. Council received 76 letters in support of the move. But Ken Melanson, the manager of planning with Lambton County, disagreed with the move. He says the province’s planning rules encourage

“infilling” where housing is built on land where services already exist. “The county Official Plan encourages a wide variety of tools, residential growth to utilize the infill developments in order to provide widest range of housing, which is consistent with the provincial policy statement,” he told council April 21. But councillors rejected his arguments. “I don’t understand the theory when we’ve got hundreds of empty lots that are now available for residential use, that we need to start infilling. We’ve provided all kinds of areas for growth,” says Councillor Mike Vasey. Plympton-Wyoming has enough property approved for housing to last for nearly five decades. Council approved the zoning change, however the decision can be appealed. Dillion was one of two people who opposed the idea and would be eligible to file an appeal. The Limberlost Neighbours, meantime, have asked the Local Planning Advisory Tribunal to overturn town council’s approval of Dillion’s development in the community. A date for the hearing has not been set yet.

Greenfield construction to start in June

Heather Wright
The Independent

Construction on one of Petrolia’s busiest streets is slated to start in June. Petrolia Council approved a contract allowing Cope Construction to rebuild Greenfield Street this summer. The contractor, which is already working at the GoldLeaf Subdivision project connecting Valentina Street before a seniors’ complex is built, says it will do the job for about \$1.6 million, according to Rick Charlebois, CAO of Petrolia. That’s within the estimate staff gave to council

earlier during budget. “We should be just under budget as we have to add on project management and engineering costs,” says Charlebois in an email, “unless we run into some unforeseen construction issues.” Charlebois says a public meeting for the residents of the street will be held May 10 virtually. Construction is expected to begin in June. Mayor Brad Loosley earlier had advocated for the construction to be done during 2020 since the Victoria Playhouse could not hold its season. As the construction is being planned, VPP officials are still waiting to see what will happen in 2021.

Green grants given for gardening, Discovery

Heather Wright
The Independent

A new service club and one of the oldest industries in Petrolia have won grants to green the community. Waste Management and the Town of Petrolia offer up to \$15,000 to a community group each year for a green program to encourage environmental sustainability. This year, the grants were awarded to Petrolia Discovery Foundation and the new Kiwanis Club of Petrolia. Petrolia Discovery will use \$10,000 to rehabilitate The North Battery – a large horizontal

receiving/separator tank, and smaller tanks for oil overflow, and water underflow to protect the natural environment in the area. The board has been trying to rebuild the infrastructure of the historic site including the oil fields which have not produced at peak capacity for more than a decade. The Kiwanis Club of Petrolia will use \$5,000 to provide preschool and school-aged programs to learn about gardening and composting. The grant will help buy materials. This is the second year for the program. Last year, the Petrolia Enniskillen Agricultural Society received a \$5,000 grant to plant trees on the fairgrounds at the Greenwood Recreation Centre.

COVID-19 limiting local camping opportunities

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

St. Clair campgrounds are getting the green light to open for the season, albeit in reduced fashion. Starting Saturday the Mooretown, Cathcart and Branton Cundick sites will be available to move in. All campsites must comply with federal, provincial and Lambton Public Health protocols. Demand has boomed following the most recent lockdown. “Over the last two weeks the campground calls have continued to ramp up to a state of non-stop all day,” says Director of Community Services Kendall Lindsay. Right now spaces are only available to snowbirds and seasonal campers. Transient camping is not permitted under Ontario’s current stay-at-home orders. There are 122 transient spots between St. Clair’s three campgrounds. All campground facilities and shared areas aside from washrooms and showers will remain closed

or off-limits. The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is also planning for another COVID-19 restricted spring camping season. Seasonal campers (those with a full-season contract) will be permitted access to the A.W. Campbell, Lorne C. Henderson, and Warwick Conservation Areas beginning May 1. “Due to the current Stay-at-Home order issued by the Ontario Government on April 8, our seasonal campers are required to either visit their site for no more than 24 hours for an essential purpose or for a minimum of 14 consecutive days,” said Greg Wilcox, Manager of Conservation Areas, “At this time transient camping is not permitted.” Transient camping fees will be automatically returned, says Wilcox. Staff added they’re working to clarify the rules at campgrounds for the summer and pools will be open when possible.

- THE INDEPENDENT

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TOWNSHIP OF ENNISKILLEN

MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR BEAR CREEK EROSION AT ROKEBY LINE

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT

THE PROJECT:

The Township of Enniskillen is initiating a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) process to address an ongoing issue with slope instability adjacent to Rokeby Line and Bear Creek, west of Plowing Match Road. The bank area adjacent to the roadway is showing evidence of active slumping and is threatening the long-term stability of the road. A number of approaches will be investigated to address the erosion and slope instability, including erosion protection installed at the toe of the slope, stabilization of the slope through regrading and use of vegetation, relocation of Rokeby Line adjacent to the creek, or a combination of the above.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING PROCESS:

The planning for this project is following the environmental screening process set out for Schedule B activities under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process. The purpose of the screening process is to identify potential environmental impacts associated with the project and to plan for appropriate mitigation of any impacts. The process includes consultation with the public, stakeholders, First Nation and Métis communities, and government review agencies.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

Public input and comments are invited for incorporation into the planning and design of this project. Initial comments are welcomed and will be received until **May 28, 2021**, at the address listed below. Any comments collected in conjunction with the study, will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

For further information on this project, or to review the Municipal Class EA process, please contact the consulting engineers: B.M. Ross and Associates: 62 North Street, Goderich, Ontario, N7A 2T4. Telephone (519) 524-2641. Fax (519) 524-4403. Kelly Vader, Environmental Planner (e-mail: kvader@bmross.net).

Duncan McTavish, Administrator Clerk/Treasurer
Township of Enniskillen

This Notice issued April 28, 2021

Kindness in a difficult time

Heather Wright
The Independent

Jenelle Appleby has had a very difficult time during the pandemic, but her mom says the kindness of her Petrolia school has made all the difference in the world - not just to the Grade 8 student but to her family as well.

Before the pandemic, the Petrolia girl attended classes at Queen Elizabeth II School in Petrolia. Life had challenges but she liked school and the people there.

When the schools closed in March 2020, Jennelle was one of the students able to get support while others learned online. “She had pretty much one-on-one care...and they did a ton of activities with her,” says her mom, Brandy Charlton. “They bought supplies to make necklaces with her. And they did origami with her, so many activities that she really loved. And so she was able to just basically play with someone - one-on-one playing with her - all day, which was fantastic.”

But Charlton says going back to learning in the classroom was tough. She missed getting up close and personal with her friends or hugging her favourite teachers in a time when social distancing was mandatory.

“It has been absolutely the complete deterioration of her world,” she says. Right now, Jennelle is in hospital getting the help she needs.

And while she’s there, the staff at Queen E II - particularly Principal Kevin Chambers - is keeping in constant contact, asking how she is, giving gifts to help keep Jennelle busy.

One particularly thoughtful gift was a craft kit to make a blanket. Charlton says they made it together.

“In a time when it’s really challenging for people to get out... people really did go out of their way and found a way to make sure we know they were thinking about us.

“It’s such an amazing community we live in, and everybody’s just been so wonderful.”

Charlton says plans are being made now for Jenelle to return home, soon.

DOG DAYS OF APRIL



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

Chriss Vansickle and her dog, Mason, were out for a morning walk in the beautiful weather on Tuesday in downtown Petrolia. Mason wears eye protection and a jaunty red hat during his sunny day walks. Vansickle says it gives people joy. “When we pass by someone, they smile and I say ‘Hey Mason, you made someone happy.’”

\$607K surplus in Lambton for 2020

Heather Wright
The Independent

2020 is a year many people would like to forget, but at least for the County of Lambton, it won’t be a year that puts them in debt.

In fact, it has a \$607,000 surplus despite a full year of turbulence.

Many of the local costs of dealing with COVID-19 fall within the county’s budget - things like public health which has led the response, social services, which provided housing and help for those falling between the cracks and long

term care, which shouldered the burden of caring for the most vulnerable. A report to county councillors showed those three areas spent \$11.8 million more than expected in 2020 because of the pandemic. That was all covered by federal and provincial grants.

Other departments spent less - libraries and museums were shuttered for long periods of time saving \$903,000 over the year. The county also received \$454,000 more than expected because the province didn’t cut public health funding as expected.

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- Township of Dawn-Euphemia

County Rd #2 - ALL

County Rd #8 - ALL

County Rd #15 - ALL

County Rd #21 - ALL

County Rd #26 - ALL

County Rd #79 - ALL
- Township of Enniskillen

County Rd #4 - ALL

County Rd #8 - ALL

County Rd #14 - ALL

County Rd #21 - ALL

County Rd #26 - ALL

County Rd #80 - ALL
- Municipality of Lambton Shores

County Rd #5 - ALL

County Rd #6 - ALL

County Rd #9 - ALL

County Rd #12 - ALL

County Rd #18 - ALL

County Rd #79 - ALL

County Rd #7 - ALL
- City of Sarnia

County Rd. #7 - County Rd 26 West to Telfer Road

County Rd #20 - ALL

County Rd #26 - ALL

County Rd. #27 - Hwy 402 North to Blackwell Road

County Rd #31 - ALL
- Town of Plympton-Wyoming

County Rd #7 - ALL

County Rd #8 - ALL

County Rd #11 - ALL

County Rd #12 - ALL

County Rd #14 - ALL

County Rd #21 - ALL

County Rd #22 - ALL

County Rd #26 - ALL

County Rd #30 - ALL
- Township of St. Clair

County Rd #1 - Marshy Creek - East to Hwy #40.

County Rd. #2 - ALL

County Rd #4 - ALL

County Rd #20 - ALL

County Rd #26 - ALL

County Rd #28 - ALL

County Rd #31 - ALL

County Rd #36 - ALL

County Rd #80 - ALL
- Township of Warwick

County Rd #8 - ALL

County Rd #9 - ALL

County Rd #12 - ALL

County Rd #22 - ALL

County Rd #39 - ALL

County Rd #79 - ALL

The Corporation of The County of Lambton intends to control Noxious Weeds under Public Works Exception of the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban for the promotion of public health and safety within its jurisdiction along its rural County Roadsides using Clearview Herbicide, which contains the active ingredients, Aminopyralid present as potassium salt and Metsulfuron-methyl. PCP Registration Number 29752 in combination with Hasten NT Spray Adjuvant, which contains active ingredients Methyl and ethyl oleate (esterified vegetable oil). PCP Registration Number 28277.

All of the above products are registered under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada)

Application will commence on May 31, 2021, weather permitting, and ending June 30, 2021

<http://www.lambtononline.ca/home/residents/publicworks/roads/Documents/2020%20Lambton%20County%20Weed%20Ad.pdf>

For more information call:

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Sports



Brigden's Kaden Fulcher backstops Griffins to win over Cleveland in his first AHL win.

Kaden Fulcher registers first AHL victory

Barry Wright
The Independent

It's been a long time coming, Brigden's Kaden Fulcher turned aside 27 of 28 shots and was chosen the first star of the game after backstopping the Grand Rapids Griffins to a 2-1 win over Cleveland in American Hockey League action last week. The Griffins scored twice in 95 seconds in the third period to erase a 1-0 deficit.

It was Fulcher's first-ever AHL victory and his first pro goaltending triumph in more than two years.

Prior to the win against Cleveland, his latest was a shutout win for the ECHL's Toledo Walleye over the Indy Fuel in March 2019.

"It was good to get back in the win column," said Fulcher with a wide grin during post game comments. "It's kind of funny that it has been that long."

The Brigden native was limited to just two games with the Walleye last season due to

injury and the pandemic and he has only played three games for the Griffins this year. He has spent a lot of time this season on the Detroit Red Wings' taxi squad, including being recalled by the NHL club on Tuesday.

Fulcher credits Jeff Salajko and Brian Mahoney-Wilson, the goaltending coaches with the Wings and Griffins respectively, with helping him to slow the game down and he's leaned on the experience of Wings' veteran goalie Jonathan Bernier as well.

"When I was up in Detroit, he told me to always have your eyes locked on that puck. If you watch him, he's one of the best guys in the league, I believe, at finding those pucks. It's really helped me to get dialed in."

Following a 5-1 loss to the Chicago Wolves Monday, the former OHL champion is now 1-1-1 on the season with a 3.30 goals-against average.

Two of Chicago's three first-period goals were on the powerplay less than a minute apart late in the period, including one on a five-on-three.

Oil City's Peer heading west for hockey

Barry Wright
The Independent

Carson Peer is going west. The former Sarnia Legionnaire has committed to the Battlefords North Stars of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League for the 2021-22 campaign.

The Oil City native, 17, was the Legionnaires' Rookie of the Year in 2019-20 registering seven goals and six assists in 49 games. He added two assists in four playoff contests.

He did not play any official games this season because of the cancellation of the GOJHL campaign due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

After discussions with other Junior A squads in Ontario and Alberta, Peer and his family landed on the Saskatchewan town of some 14,000 people about a 90-minute drive northwest of Saskatoon.

"My family and I felt comfortable with Brayden and his vision," said Peer, referring to North Stars Coach and General Manager Brayden Klimosko, a former player and assistant coach with the Humboldt Broncos. "They felt I would be a good fit on their

team moving forward," added Peer.

Battlefords is the defending champions having won the league title in 2019. The league played a handful of games before its season ended.

The Lambton Jr. Sting grad says training camp in the SJHL typically begins in late August with the regular season spanning September to April. Depending on ice availability, he may head west in early August to get some extra work in.

As for his first trip to Humboldt, the LCCVI student expects to be "excited and emotional," but doesn't want to be overwhelmed by the moment. "I'll just prepare myself mentally and physically for another game against another team."

While helping his team succeed, Peer hopes his time on the Prairies will attract the attention of scouts from US college hockey programs. "My goal right now is to get a scholarship to the NCAA."



Carson Peer

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This Month In Lambton

April 2021



Warden Kevin Marriott
@LambtonWarden

Lakeshore Road Closure

Lakeshore Road (County Road #7) between Modeland Road and Telfer Road in the City of Sarnia is closed for reconstruction for approximately four months, weather permitting.

Detours are in place using Modeland Road, Blackwell Road and Telfer Road to access Lakeshore Road east and west.

Motorists are advised to follow all traffic control signage and to drive in a manner that respects the health and safety of road crews. Cyclists are also expected to follow the posted detour and should avoid the construction zone.

Please visit Municipal511.ca for additional road closure information.

Paint Ontario Postponed

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic public health restrictions and the ongoing closure of Lambton Heritage Museum, the Paint Ontario Art Show & Sale is being postponed until September 3 - 26, 2021. The 25th anniversary show will be a live, in-person show - not a virtual show - operating with similar COVID protocols to the successful show that took place in September 2020.

For more details visit paintontario.com.

Emergency Child Care

On April 12, 2021, the Ontario Premier announced that all schools in the province will revert to Remote Learning. At this time, there is no indication of how long schools will remain closed to in-person learning.

To support frontline workers, the Ministry of Education has implemented a targeted emergency child care program for school-aged children, at no cost to eligible parents, until schools reopen for in-person instruction, or until emergency child care is terminated by the Ministry.

A comprehensive list of individuals eligible for emergency childcare, participating child care providers, and the steps on how to apply, can be found in the information sheet and application available at lambtononline.ca/childcare.

Looking Ahead

9:30 a.m., May 5, 2021 - Lambton County Council Meeting

9 a.m. & 11 a.m., May 19, 2021 - Committee A.M. & Committee P.M.

Agendas, minutes and links to meeting live stream videos can be found at lambtononline.ca/meetings.

To read more, go to lambtononline.ca



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www.lambtononline.ca



Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon

Classifieds



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Coming Events

ST. PAUL’S UNITED CHURCH PETROLIA - Online Silent Auction. June 12th at 10am until June 18th at 8pm. All proceeds to St. Paul’s & Lambton Centre. Online auction on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/867305777448106> . If you would like more information or wish to donate an item for the auction, please contact: Carl Watt email StPaulsFundraising@hotmail.com call/text 519-312-6505. Thank your for your support!!

Wanted to Buy

WANTED TO BUY - **ANYTHING OLD** including signs, bottles, canning jars, jewelry, tins, paper items, pottery, old lighters, old razors, rustic pieces, etc. Single items to entire estates. **CALL CHAD 519-639-9102.**

NOTICE

LFA POST SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIP - The Lambton Federation of Agriculture will be offering ten scholarships this year for the 2022 school year, for both college and university students. For the regular scholarships: Applicants need to be from a family actively farming in Lambton County: While you do not need to be an LFA/OFA member, it is required that you (or parents or grandparents or guardian) have a valid FBR number registered in Lambton County. The **deadline to apply for the scholarships is July 15th 2021.** For a list of the scholarships and their individual criteria, please see the LFA Website scholarships page at <https://lambtonfederation.ca/scholarships/>

NOTICE

CANCELATION - The Bluewater Anglers have canceled their Annual Kids Training Day on Saturday May 19 at the Hatchery in Point Edward due to Covid 19 restrictions.

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY - Adult bicycles Women & Men. All sizes. Good to fair condition. All types of bikes wanted. Please call 519-882-2548 and ask for Dave.

Obituary



LUMLEY
Stuart Wayne

It is with unimaginable sadness that we share the passing of one of the best! Surrounded by his family at home, Stuart Lumley passed away on **April 20, 2021** in his **81st year**. He loved his wife Jean for over 20 years, with every ounce of his being. He cherished his children, Marvin (Annette) Lumley, Brian Lumley, Beverley (Scott) Jones, Susan (Eugene) Packet and stepdaughter Laura (Steve) Welch. But we all knew his heart was most full when he was surrounded by his grandchildren. He loved, and was so incredibly proud of all of them, Karla, Paige, Ryan, Tyler, Mark, Dustin, Shane, Bailey, Jake, Megan and especially his special ones Jada, Alex and Austin. Stu is survived by his mother Mary Doherty, as well as his brother Phil (Joan) Lumley and Sean (Helena) Doherty. He was a beloved brother-in-law and uncle to many who loved him dearly. Stuart spent most of his life in the trucking business working most of his years with Bulk Carriers, Provost and Harold Marcus. He was a proud and long-standing member of both the Knights of Pythias and the local Legions. Most will remember him as an avid baseball fan and coach. He started his coaching in Wallaceburg minor system with his son at Tyke age through Senior. His proudest moments came when he and Marvin went on to win 5 Golds, and watching his grandson play all over the country. Although our hearts our broken, we know he is not suffering anymore. We are forever grateful for those that were a blessing in his life. A special thank you goes out to the VON and Dr. Kim, we can never thank you enough for making his last hours comfortable and peaceful. **Keeping with Stu’s wishes, cremation has taken place and there will be no visitation or services at STEADMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL CHAPELS, Brigiden.** Sympathy may be expressed through donations to Canadian Cancer Society www.cancer.ca (Cheques only at funeral home). Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.steadmanbrothers.ca. Steadman Brothers 519-864-1193.

NOTICE

CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 12 - Join the Canadian Cancer Society on Saturday, June 12 to Relay for Life from the comfort of your own home! Sarnia-Lambton residents of all ages are welcome to attend our virtual event, which will be hosted on Facebook and Youtube and broadcasted on YESTV. This Year’s virtual Relay will include all the signature components of our in-person events, including an opening ceremony with inspirational stories, performances from incredible entertainers, a virtual luminary celebration and more to help celebrate survivors and support those living with cancer. Even though this year we are physically apart, we still Relay together. Join us - register today at relayforlife.ca/sarnia. Stay up to date with the latest news at Facebook.com/SarniaRelayForLife.

Obituary



AIKIN
Don Minto Jerome

Peacefully, surrounded by loving family, on **Thursday, April 22, 2021**, at Bluewater Health, Don Aikin went home to be with his Lord and Saviour at the age of **81**. Beloved husband and best friend of Jan for 53 years. Loving father of Darryl J. (Mary) Aikin and Stephanie Don (Jeff) Wicks. Cherished grandfather of Jamie (Kyla), Jeremy (Amber), Emma, James, and Shawna. Survived by great-grandchildren, and a baby boy on the way. Dear brother of John (Kathy), Jeannie and Joanne. Remembered by his nieces, nephews and cousins and many treasured friends. Predeceased by his parents, Nellie and Nettie Aikin, and by his brother Jimmy. Don was deeply involved in many areas of the community, including Junior Farmers, he played football for Sarnia Central Highschool #17, he was a part of the Saddle Club, but his music was his true passion. He was involved in many bands as a talented drummer while he was in high school and throughout his life, notably the House Band at Bunson Burner: Steve/ Steele and Somebody Else, Hank Williams Sr. Band: Driftin’ Cowboys, Stephanie and the Aikin Hearts, and a headliner at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas for two weeks. Later in life, he was a founding member of the Huron Shores Optimist Club, where he was the organizer of the Cam-Jam in Camlachie and the Youth Activities. Don was passionately involved within the Church Community, especially People’s Church and Sovereign Grace. Don was a member of the Single Action Shooting Society (cowboy shooting), and his SASS registered name is Texas Turkey. Don was president Christian Motorcycle



Association - Port Huron Chapter. He was a member of HOG Harley Owners Group and travelled over 200,000 miles on his Harley. He was also a member of “Sons of Confederate Veterans” of Fredericksburg, VA chapter #1722. Don organized the Sarnia Biker Blessing for ten years and had the Golden Helmet’s come to take part and was honoured to have the Oakridge Boys for dinner at their house. He was thoroughly active in the hockey community, up until 4 years ago. Don not only played, but he coached and refereed as well, including players that went on to play for the NHL. Anyone who knew Don, loved him dearly, and he left a huge footprint in their lives. **Cremation has taken place. A celebration of Don’s life will be held at a later date.** Sympathy may be expressed through donations to your favourite charity in Don’s name (cheques mailed to the funeral home or made online, please). Memories and condolences may be sent online at www.smithfuneralhome.ca Arrangements entrusted to SMITH FUNERAL HOME, 1576 London Line, Sarnia.

Notice



NOTICE
FLUSHING OF HYDRANTS AND WATERMAINS
April 19th to May 7th, 2021
7:30am to 4:30pm

The Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) will be flushing watermains throughout Petrolia, as part of the annual flushing program.

You may experience discoloured water coming from your tap. If this happens, we suggest you try the following:

- Remove the aerators from your taps and flush all the house lines until the water runs clear.
- You may also decide to refrain from doing laundry during this period to avoid staining of your clothing.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

OCWA will continue to work on the flushing programs to ensure consumer satisfaction. Any concerns, please contact OCWA at the phone numbers below.

Town of Petrolia 411 Greenfels St. Petrolia, Ontario N0N 1R0 519-882-2350 www.town.petrolia.on.ca	Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) Southwest Region 9210 Graham Rd. West Elgin, Ontario N0L 2P0
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OCWA's 24 hour Emergency Contact # 1-888-522-0117

Employment



WARWICK TOWNSHIP
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION SPECIALIST

The Economic Development Promotion Specialist is responsible for developing programs and initiatives to encourage business growth and tourism activity in the Township of Warwick. Includes marketing campaigns from concept to implementation, of print and virtual media. This position reports to the Treasurer/Deputy CAO and works with all departments, Township Council, stakeholder groups, and various committees to develop strategic plans for economic development.

How to Apply:

Interested applicants are asked to apply online at www.lambtononline.ca/jobs and select **Job # J0421-0565**. The deadline to apply is **Thursday, May 6, 2021**. The Township of Warwick has partnered with the County of Lambton to advertise this job opportunity. The job description can be found in the job posting from the link above.

Any questions regarding this job opportunity with the Township of Warwick should be directed to:

Trevor Jarrett
Email: tjarrett@warwicktownship.ca
Phone: 519-849-3926

Job Board: www.lambtononline.ca/jobs

Notice

COMMUNITY LAW SCHOOL (SARNIA-LAMBTON) INC. - Virtual Community Law School. May 12, 2021 virtual on zoom from 11-12am. “Legal Protections for Survivors of Trafficking as Youth” Please send any questions to sign up email virtualcommnitylawschool@gmail.com.

Death Notices

April 17 - April 23, 2021

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

CAPEK, Anthony
Age 81, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

LYONS, Frances
Age 97, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Fuenral Home

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

AIKMAN, D’Arcy
Age 75, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

SWIFT, Robert
Age 78, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

TRAQUAIR, Robert
Age 88, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

MONDAY, APRIL 19

BEAUVAIS, Beverley
Age 68, of Brigiden
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel

WHITE, Gertrude “Trudy”
Age 76, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

PEARSON, Ann Louise
Age 77, of Forest
Gilpin Funeral Home

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

WHEELER, Donald
Age 71, of Brigiden
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel

COOPER, Robert
Age 75, of Petrolia
Needham-Jay Funeral Home

LUMLEY, Stuart
Age 81, of Brigiden
Steadman Brothers Funeral Chapel

KROESBERGEN, Gray
Age 82, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

PRENTICE, Sara
Age 46, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

AIKIN, Don
Age 81, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

SERRATORE, Angela
Age 90, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

WILSON, Graham
Age 65, of Camlachie
D.J. Robb Funeral Home

BARTOS, Karol
Age 84, of Sarnia
McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home

PHIBBS, Joseph
Age 92, of Sarnia
Smith Funeral Home

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

Classified Deadline:
Monday @ 12 noon



Classifieds

Word Classifieds: \$10 plus tax for up to 40 words
Stop in at the office 9a-5p Mon-Fri
4156 Petrolia Line – Call 226-738-0728
or email: office@petrolialambtonindependent.ca

Obituary



ELLIOTT
Roy

Elliott, Roy - passed away peacefully on **Monday, April 26, 2021** at Fiddicks Nursing Home, Petrolia. Roy Elliott, of Petrolia, was just shy of his **95th Birthday**. Roy is the loving husband of Florence Catherine (nee McKay). He will be missed by his daughter Sharon and her husband Andrew Butt, his son Ken Elliott, and his granddaughter Piper Elliott. He is survived by sister Doreen and Jack Smith, brother Andrew and Marion Elliott, and brother-in-law Leroy and Stella McKay. He was predeceased by his parents Ken and Ena Elliott and mother and father-in-law of Archie and Reta McKay. A lifelong farmer, he ran Roy Elliott Tiling. Roy was active in the Lambton Federation of Agriculture and the Farm Safety Association. He was also a lifelong member of Mandaumin United Church. **A private graveside service will be held at Hillsdale Cemetery.** As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to Heart and Stroke Foundation (www.heartandstroke.ca) or Lambton Farm Safety Association. Arrangements by Needham-Jay Funeral Home www.needhamjay.com.

Notice

ONTARIO PARKS DAY PASSES - Lambton County Library has added Ontario Parks day-use passes to its collection. With a library card you can now borrow a seasonal day-use permit for up to seven days and gain entry into any provincial park in Ontario.

Notice

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.

Service

BOB'S TAX SERVICE - 256 Warwick Street, Watford, Personal, Small Farm, Small Business, Rentals, Self Employed, Prior Years, e-filer, Fast Dependable Service, Reasonable Rates, **Call Robert Alcock for Appointment - 519-876-2360.**

NOTICE

Women's Institute Scholarship - Again this year the Women's Institute Scholarship is available to Lambton County students entering their first or second year at any Ontario college or university. **Application deadline is August 10, 2021.** Contact amcgugan@hotmail.com for complete details.

Notice

CANCELLED - The 2021 ARLANX-EO Retiree Dinner is cancelled. We will try again in 2022 (COVID permitting).

Notice

Household Hazardous Waste Collection: The County of Lambton, in conjunction with Clean Harbors Canada Inc., hosts several HHW collections events each year. The events give Lambton County residents an opportunity to properly dispose of potentially dangerous waste from their homes and protect our environment at the same time. If hazardous products are thrown in with the regular garbage, it can injure sanitation workers and cause long-term environmental problems. HHW Days take place at the Clean Harbors Canada Inc. site, 4090 Telfer Road in St. Clair Township the last Saturdays of April, May, June, September, and October.

Notice

Get creative at home with Lambton County Library. Pick up a DIY kit at one of our participating curbside pickup locations to make a Pull Spinner. Register by Sunday, May 2, 2021 to reserve your kit here: <https://lclibrary.libnet.info/event/4946335>

Real Estate

**7145 Courtright Line ALVINSTON**


Brick ranch home with a huge shop in the country on 2 acres located on Highway 80, only 25 minutes to the city. This magnificent 2150 sq. ft. 3 bedroom 2 bath brick ranch awaits you. This home has it all! A dream kitchen with custom cabinets, a formal dining room, a spacious living room, a cosey main floor family room with a gas fireplace, main floor laundry all on one floor plus a 2 car garage and cement driveway, lower level finished den or man cave. Numerous updates. The 40 x 30 insulated gas heated shop is ideal for the car collector or hobbyist.

\$749,900

SHANAHAN REALTY INC. BROKERAGE
7963 Egremont Road, Watford • 519.849.6783 www.shanahanrealty.com
Leo Shanahan Sales Representative
Direct: 519-878-5981 • leo@shanahanrealty.com • Fax: 519.849.6683

Card of Thanks

THANK YOU

The family of **ROY LUKER** would like to thank all those who helped to ease the passing of our dad, grandfather and brother. To those who sent cards, flowers, charitable donations the calls received and the wonderful food that showed up at the door. The neighbours who were so helpful and a special thank you to Dr. Daniel for all his care over the years. Roy learned to think of him as a friend. A big thank you goes to Tim Hortons. Thank you also to Steven and his staff at Needham-Jay who went far beyond their service to make the process go as smoothly as possible during these times. The streaming of the service so that our extended families in Alberta, B.C., Washington State and Great Britain could share our celebration of Roy's life was a real bonus.

Jackie, Joel, Jose, & Jorja. Craig, Melanie, Jordan, & Marcus. Jean & Leo



Church DIRECTORY

Christ Anglican Church
414 Oil Street, Petrolia

We are closed due to Covid-19 at this time.

Rev. Michelle Collins-Wongkee
Church Office 519-882-1430
christchurchpetrolia@gmail.com

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
416 Queen Street, Petrolia
(Behind the Post Office)

In this time of Social distancing we invite you to join a virtual congregation and watch the Sunday morning worship at St. Andrew's. 10am Service - Live

www.standrews-petrolia.ca

St. Paul's United Church
4169 Petrolia Line at Centre Street

In-person services have been suspended. Services can be viewed on our facebook page, youtube page, or website.

View us on YouTube at St Paul's United Church Petrolia AV 10:30am Service

Rev. Carey Wagner
Church Office: 519-882-1390
www.stpaulsunitedpetrolia.net

First Baptist Church
418 Greenfield Street, Petrolia

WORSHIP SERVICES Via ZOOM
Sunday Mornings 10:30am

Pastor: Alex Craig
Church Office 519-882-2480
fbcpetrolia@gmail.com
www.firstbaptistpetrolia.ca

Find us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/First-Baptist-Church-Petrolia

Wyoming United Church
730 Second Street, Wyoming

In-person services suspended at this time. Please contact our office at wyming_united@outlook.com to be sent the Zoom link to join us for our 10am live service.

Rev. Steven Longmoore
Church Office 519-845-3963
Find us on Facebook



Business & Service Directory

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

Professional INCOME TAX SERVICES

519-882-2966

3927 Petrolia Line, Petrolia, ON

*Appointments ** Drop-Offs ** Contactless*

MARK AND JOANNE JAMIESON
jam_jo11@hotmail.com | www.protaxpetrolia.com



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Lights out leads to driving ban

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

A Sarnia man who wiped out power to an entire neighbourhood after a drunken crash has been taken off the road.

Andrew Croteau, 20, was in Sarnia Court April 20 answering for a Nov. 25 offence that court heard was lucky not to injure anyone.

Just before 8 pm, Croteau was driving his black Chevy pickup truck on Lakeshore Road when he spun out of control after a curve.

The truck smashed through a hydro pole before crashing into the front lawn of a house.

Emergency services arrived to treat the truck’s occupants and attend to sparks from the severed pole.

Neither Croteau or his two passengers had any injuries. Aside from the truck and pole the only damage was nearby residents left in the dark for a few hours.

But police did notice Croteau had red and watery eyes, was unsteady on his

feet and smelled of alcohol.

After failing a breath test Croteau was arrested and taken to the Sarnia Police station where he registered a .120 blood alcohol reading.

Crown Attorney Suzanne LaSha asked for a \$1,600 fine and one year driving ban. She cited the aggravating factor of the crash in requesting an elevated fine, despite Croteau’s alcohol level being on the lower end.

“I’m completely okay with the charges brought against me,” says Croteau, representing himself. “I’m just glad nobody got hurt.”

“These penalties are significant and severe and they are that way to ensure that you don’t do this again and also to deter others from doing this,” says Justice Krista Leszczynski as she accepted the Crown’s proposal.

“As you’ve acknowledged you’re very lucky that you didn’t hurt yourself or get killed as a result of the collision while you were impaired or that you didn’t hurt or kill someone else.”

- THE INDEPENDENT

More jail time after Christmas meltdown

Alex Kurial
Local Journalism Initiative

An American man has booked himself more time in the Canadian penal system after threatening and assaulting a pair of jail guards.

Wisteria Walker, 22, appeared in Sarnia Court April 23 via video from the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre. The London facility is his new home following an out-of-the-blue holiday attack last year.

Walker was spending Christmas Eve in the Sarnia Jail after being arrested on drug charges.

Late in the morning he began causing a scene in his cell which prompted a move to an isolated area. During the walk Walker told a guard “I’ll knock you out.”

When they arrived at the isolation room another inmate was inside. This made Walker upset and he had to be restrained. Walker yelled “Don’t (expletive) touch me,” and sent a guard flying five feet to the floor with a two-handed shove.

A nearby guard quickly pepper sprayed Walker to get him under control.

As he decontaminated in the shower Walker saw the guard he pushed and said “Just you wait.”

Walker was transferred to the London jail later that day.

“There was no reason for this to have occurred,” says Crown Attorney Sarah Carmody. “Both workers were just performing their duties and the actions of Mr. Walker were uncalled for.”

Carmody says the attack was “completely unprovoked” and that guards are already “working in an incredibly stressful situation with

COVID concerns as well as trying to ensure that inmates of the facility are well cared for.”

For these reasons she asked for a six month jail sentence.

Defence Lawyer Luigi Perzia agreed that jail time was necessary but countered with an offer in the 30 to 45 day range. He says his client experienced “frustrations that would arise from being in jail in a foreign country in the middle of a pandemic without any family or friends nearby.

“That doesn’t justify pushing a guard but that’s just where he was in his mind and that’s where his frustrations were.”

“He simply hopes to go home as soon as possible,” says Perzia. “He’s a foreign man in a foreign land.”

For his part Walker says “I apologize for my actions and I take full responsibility for my actions. Pushing someone is not the way to go about anything and I’m really sorry.”

Justice Anne McFadyen decided against a meet in the middle approach and instead accepted the full 180 days proposed by the Crown as punishment. She took off 21 days for lockdown credit.

“There has to be a message sent to inmates of any institution that this behaviour is not appropriate, will not be tolerated and that there will be consequences,” she says.

Walker also cannot contact either guard he assaulted and received a 10 year weapons ban and DNA order.

Walker’s 159 remaining days are covered by time served. But he won’t be leaving jail. Walker’s been denied bail on his outstanding drug charges while he awaits future court dates.

- THE INDEPENDENT

Citizens lead OPP to erratic driver in Wyoming

A string of concerned citizens led the OPP to a stoned driver in Wyoming.

Lambton OPP received multiple calls Saturday about an erratic driver coming off the 402 at the Oil Heritage Road exit.

Officers found the vehicle, southbound, heading toward Wyoming.

When they tried to stop the vehicle, it nearly hit the cruiser.

Police say the driver was “displaying signs of impairment.” He was arrested and taken to the OPP detachment for a drug recognition evaluation.

A 40 year-old man from London has been charged.



Your turn
is coming
soon.

Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine plan is helping to stop the spread and save lives. Thousands of people across the province are getting vaccinated every day.

As vaccinations continue, we need to stay the course to protect those we love. Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Keep your distance.

Find out when, where and how to get vaccinated at ontario.ca/covidvaccineplan or call 1-888-999-6488 for assistance in more than 300 languages.

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