

Employees of Weiland Meats try to corral a cow on Centre Street in Petrolia Thursday morning.

## Causing a Cow-motion in Petrolia

**Heather Wright** The Independent

There was a little cow-motion on Centre Street in Petrolia.

Drivers were shocked to see a black cow being chased near Weiland Meats March 6 around 9:30 am.

Owner Bill Sipken says a farmer was delivering his cattle to the store to be butchered but didn't back up quite far enough. The animal made a run for it.

"If they see even just a crack they jump over the gate,"

Sipken says.
"The farmer came into the store and said 'My beef is out." Sipken's staff sprang into action trying to corral the animal. Lambton OPP were on hand to help as well as a number of bystanders.

"There are so many good people in town who tried to help...it was a matter of trying to contain him because if that thing got out on the road in town, that could have been a disaster," he says.

As it was, the runaway did

have a fairly good jaunt.

Sipken says staff tried to rein in the animal for nearly an hour. At one point he was running down James Street.

Weiland's staff eventually rounded him up on Eureka Street.

"We cornered him and lassoed him," Sipken says. "He's in the freezer now."

Sipken can't say enough about the help they received.

"The police were fantastic and in a time like this, everybody kind of comes together to help."



### Campers may have to tear down decks

**Heather Wright** 

The Independent

Campers at the parks owned by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority may have to get their hammers out.

The board of directors has approved a plan which would see about 150 of the 425 campers in the region replace any decks that don't meet the building code.

Greg Wilcox, the manager of the conservation areas says over the years decks, sheds, porch roofs, and gazebo have been built at AW Campbell, Lorne C Henderson and Warwick Conservation ares - some with approval and some without. Wilcox says "a significant number of structures existing on Authority property would have required building permits to construct." But Lambton County officials say none have been issued.

The main problems are decks which are higher than 24 inches and any structure with a roof. They require posts to be rooted in the ground in cement. Wilcox says all seem to be built using deck blocks or patio stones.

Wilcox says allowing the structures that aren't complying with the building code to remain would mean the conservation authority could be held liable if anything went wrong and people were injured.

Wilcox suggested the staff inspect each seasonal campsite before the campgrounds open for the season. Campers whose structures don't comply with the building code will get a letter early in the season saying they'll have a three year grace period to get their structures in compliance with the building code. In the meantime, they'll have to sign a waiver to minimize the conservation authority's legal risks.

Dawn-Euphemia Mayor Al Broad wasn't

in favour of the plan since the conservation authority didn't enforce the rules in the past, which Wilcox acknowledged.

"I don't think it's fair to the campers that they were building these structures and no one was saying anything. If we don't have a bylaw in effect, or requirement for a permit or whatever, you know, shame on us really at that point that we seen or we should have that what was been built was oversized. That we didn't stop and then not wait to 10,15, 20 years to come back upon them."

Broad would "100 per cent" support putting the rules in place as of 2023.

The majority of the board of directors didn't agree, approving a plan to bring all the seasonal sites into compliance with the building code by 2025.

Wilcox, in his report to the board, says all constructed roofs will have to be removed although manufactured steel gazebos attached to the deck will be allowed.

Campers will have to fill out a request form if they want to build a structure and will need approval from both the superintendent and the senior manager before

Wilcox acknowledges this won't be a popular move.

"Seasonal camping accounts for approximately 70 per cent or \$1,000,000 of revenues at AW Campbell, LC Henderson, and Warwick Conservation Areas," he writes.

"This decision will not be popular among affected seasonal campers - more than 150 sites," he adds.

"Campers have spent money to build these structures and will be frustrated that they must modify or remove them. Some seasonal campers may choose not to continue camping with SCRCA."

### **Notice of Public Information Session**



**Proposed Renewable Natural Gas Facility Twin Creeks Environmental Centre** 

> March 30, 2023 | 4 - 7 PM **Twin Creeks Site Office** 5768 Nauvoo Road | Watford, ON NOM 2S0

WM Canada (WM), the owner and operator of the Twin Creeks Environmental Centre (TCEC) in Watford, Ontario, will be hosting a Public Information Session to discuss the development of a Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) facility at the TCEC. The community is welcome any time from 4 - 7 PM to learn more.

We value your engagement and look forward to discussing the project with you.

- John McDonald, WM Senior District Manager imcdon10@wm.com
- Luiza Adsett, WM Public Affairs Manager lfurtado@wm.com
- Larry Fedec, HDR Corporation Program Lead larry.fedec@hdrinc.com

This **Public Information Session** is being held to answer the following questions:

- Why is WM undertaking this project?
- What is Renewable Natural Gas?
- What is the design of the RNG facility?
- What are the potential environmental effects of the RNG facility?
- What approvals are required?



Vol. 10, Issue 35 Newsstand Price \$1.50 per week Thursday, April 27, 2023

## Coming Soon Spring Soccer Fling to a farm field near you: Cricket poop

**Heather Wright** The Independent

There's a new kind of fertilizer about to hit the market and a Petrolia company is instrumental in making it happen.

SureSource Commodities is working with Aspire - a London company growing billions of crickets for food - to create a new source of fertilizer from cricket poop and their exoskeletons.

Rob Wallbridge, the Agronomy Sales Lead at SureSource, says this is the first time a Canadian company scientist could look at the value of using insect poop and exoskeletons - known as frass in the science world - for fertilizer.

"The crickets poop as they're growing and then they also shed their exoskeleton. The exoskeleton contains a substance called chitin, which has some benefits in terms of plant growth in plant health and so that's really where our research is kind of focused on, seeing exactly what unique benefits the frass can provide," says Wallbridge.

The Petrolia company recently received a \$199,000 grant as part of the Ontario government's Fertilizer Challenge to take a look at the possilbities of using cricket waste to improve domestic fertilizer production.



Kaitlyn Van Den Nieuwenhuizen takes a tumble as an Ursuline College player dives for the ball during a soccer match Monday in Chatham. UCC defeated LCCVI 4-0.

**SEE CRICKETS PG 3** 

### 'What saved his life initially was the fact that he was wearing a helmet' **Heather Wright** The Independent

An Alvinston area mother says her son survived a horrible ATV crash on Shiloh Line because he was wearing a helmet.

Vickie Armstrong says her son, Tyler, was severely injured in a "devastating ATV accident' early April 16 as he was heading down Shiloh Line near the AW Campbell Conservation Area. It's a road neighbours had called for

improvements since 2020 saying the sharp curve at the bottom of the hill can't be seen by drivers.

Armstrong's ATV crashed into the field after missing the turn early Sunday morning.

Armstrong says after the crash, Tyler could only move his left arm. He used it to call his brother, Jordan, over and over again until he picked up in the early morning

Tyler was "pretty confused and thought he was on our trails still in the bush" says Armstrong. Jordan urged him on and eventually Tyler was able to hit the location tool on his phone. Jordan and Brooke Fire Rescue raced to the scene to find Tyler.

"He sustained broken orbital bones, nose, jaw, clavicle, ribs, femur, neck (C1-4 and C7) and also his thoracic area of the spine. He also has a bruised lung, kidney, and currently his right arm is not

"He is slightly able to move his

left arm and both legs thankfully," Armstrong, who is married to former Brooke-Alvinston Councillor Jamie Armstrong, wrote on a GoFundMe page.

"What saved his life initially was the fact that he was wearing a helmet."

Armstrong told *The Independent* in the past, she would watch her sons head out on the trail without helmets. But this time, Tyler was wearing one. She believes that will make a world of difference in his

recovery.

Armstrong is thankful for Tyler's brother and the local volunteer firefighters for their quick response and using "their extensive knowledge" to help her son. She adds the medical professions at Four Counties Hospital in Newbury and others at the London Health Sciences Centre are amazing.

"Without all of you, we wouldn't be where we are today."

**SEE ATV PG 7** 



All community members are welcome

Limited child minding

is available, registration is required to guarante

ot. Visit our websit scan this QR code

### A SALUTE TO EARTH DAY



Petrolia's Parks and Recreation Committee celebrated Earth Day by planting two new Celebration Maple trees at Bridgeview Park. Here Dave Menzies, director of Parks and Recreation, Councillor Chad Hyatt and committee members Kiera Maw and Ava Sylvester finish planting the tree near the playground equipment.

## Petrolia getting wheelie bins

**Heather Wright** 

The Independent

Petrolia's recycling is about to get rolling. The town will be switching over to wheelie bins in January.

Officials from Waste Management came to Petrolia council recently to talk about the new program which will replace the familiar blue boxes.

Waste Management won a contract to provide waste diversion programs in the region under a new recycling system which is paid by the producers who create packaging instead of the municipalities.

Homes in Petrolia will receive two 64

gallon carts but there will be no blue to be found. Recycling will be put in a bin with a yellow lid now; household garbage will go into the bin with the green lid.

The bins will be dropped off at homes in the late fall and the town and waste management are planning public open houses in the fall as well.

Any new homes in the community will get the bins delivered to their homes once they have been given an occupancy permit.

The new bins are expected to boost the town's recycling rate which well below the provincial target of 60 per cent.

The program will cost \$115,000 saving Petrolia \$34,000 a year.

#### This Month In Lambton April 2023



LAMBTON'S CHILDREN

LAMBTON'S FUTURE

"By laws differ by location "Satary dispends on a per child per hour grid

#### Lakeshore Road closure

Lakeshore Road (County Road # 7) is now closed between Aberarder Line and Hillcrest Road in the Town of Plympton-Wyoming for major rehabilitation of the Bonnie Doon Creek bridge. The work is expected to be completed by late September 2023, weather permitting. Detours routes are posted. No through

Do you love working with children?

Information Night &

DATE, TIME & LOCATION: Tuesday, May 16 5-5:30pm: Food & Beverages 5:30-7pm: Presentation and Q&A **Lambton Central Collegiate** 

CARE BUSINESS:

Lifelong relationships

& Vocational Institute (LCCVI)

4141 Dufferin Ave, Petrolia

Home child care agencies will be present, as well as

Choose clients that are right for your schedule Guidance & support from a licensed agency

ECE registration is not required

PERKS OF OWNING A LICENSED HOME CHILD

Earning an income while working from your own home Most providers earn a salary of \$30,000-\$60,000\*

Have you thought about running a business' Let's find child care solutions together! Learn how you can support families with your own licensed home child care business.

Licensed Home Child Care

**Community Conversation:** Finding Solutions Together

traffic is permitted during construction. Please visit www.municipal511.ca and www.lambtononline.ca/roadclosures for more road closure information.

#### Recycle your used batteries with **Lambton County Library**

Lambton County Library has partnered with Call2Recycle Canada, Inc. to host battery recycling collection boxes in select library locations, to encourage the proper disposal of used batteries

Lambton County residents can drop off their used single-use and rechargeable household batteries (weighing up to 5 kg each) at the Alvinston, Brigden, Bright's Grove, Corunna, Forest, Grand Bend, Mallroad, Petrolia, Point Edward, Sarnia, Watford, and Wyoming libraries.

#### Emergency Preparedness Week

Do you know what to do when disaster strikes? Emergency Preparedness Week is May 7-13, 2023.

www.lambtonchildcare.ca

Readying your family to be selfsufficient for up to 72 hours after the onset of an emergency is critical to your own personal needs and safety, while waiting for first responders to arrive.

You can prepare in advance by knowing the risks in your community, making a plan for your household, assembling a 72-hour home preparedness kit, and signing up to receive free emergency

Visit www.EmergenciesLambton.ca to learn more.

#### **Looking Ahead**

9:30 a.m., May 3, 2023 – Council Meeting 9 a.m. & 11 a.m., May 17, 2023 -

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

Committee A.M. & P.M. Meetings

To read more, go to lambtononline.ca



Office of the County Warden 519-845-0801 | 1-866-324-6912 www.lambtononline.ca



### Cricket fertilizer may soon be on Lambton fields

#### **CON'T FROM PG 1**

Crickets - like every living creature - produce waste naturally in the wild. Researcher Rhoda deJonge of Vineland Research which is working with SureSource says turning large amounts of it into fertilizer just makes sense.

"Bugs have been doing this forever, it's just we don't necessarily appreciate it when it's something that's happening in our gardens," she says. "It's just harnessing it for a very specific purpose.'

The commercial production of insects has been around for decades however it's never happened at a large scale in Canada.

"So it hasn't really been an input that is commercially viable or something that a large scale farmer would even consider" Wallbridge tells The Independent.

But Aspire creates about 15,000 tonnes a year of cricket frass which could be used on upwards of 30,000 acres of land, either on

vegetable and fruit crops or in greenhouses, Wallbridge says.

What's interesting about what Aspire is doing in London is they're actually scaling it up to a point where they're going to be producing significant volumes of the frass. So it actually becomes something that helps, we're going to have enough of it that it's going to be of interest to the different growers," he says.

Wallbridge says there has been some interest from farmers and SureSource hopes to start trials with the fertilizer in Lambton county this spring.

deJonge says SureSource and Vineland Research have been working together on a formulation which produces a fertilizer that breaks down quickly giving plants access to nutrients faster. And "it doesn't smell to bad" - far better than animal manure although there might be a faint odour if the fertilizer is wet, deJonge adds.



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### **SWAMPED**



GRANT HIBBERT PHOTO

Heavy rains caused flooding in Central Lambton. While the majority of the Aug. 23 downpour was in Warwick Township, by Aug. 24, much of the estimated 5 to 7 inches of rain had made its way to Bridgeview Park in Petrolia where Bear Creek rose to heights not seen in recent memory. For more photos see page 7.

### **Enniskillen tanks fire truck deal**

**Blake Ellis** 

Local Journalism Initiative

The purchase of a \$1.47 million pumper/ tanker truck for the Petrolia and North Enniskillen Fire Department will not be going ahead. And it's not clear what happens next.

Petrolia approved the purchase of the dual purpose fire truck Aug. 16. But Enniskillen Township rejected the purchase at its Aug. 21 meeting.

The municipalities jointly fund the department and Enniskillen would foot 40 per cent of the bill.

The cost of the truck was one of the big issues.

"We can't just go to the money tree. We need to budget for it," said Councillor Mary-Lynne McCallum, noting the tanker was to be replaced in 2026 while the pumper is to be replaced in 2029

The management committee of the Petrolia and North Enniskillen Fire Department recommend replacing two aging trucks, the tanker and pumper, with one unit. The truck would have been ordered now and delivered in 2026. The old trucks are to be sold within six months of the new unit in 2026.

The concern for some councillors was the additional cost of purchasing a dual use vehicle instead of simply buying what is traditionally the lower cost tanker.

**SEE FIRE TRUCK PG 3** 

### Historic rain leaves extensive damage

**Heather Wright** The Independent

Roads buckled, basements flooded with rain and sewage, and campers were left stranded after a historic rainfall dumped up to eight inches of rain in Central Lambton. And officials in Warwick Township will be looking at provincial funding saying the Aug. 23 rain caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage.

Environment Canada had predicted significant rain for Aug. 23, but the first sign of now much rain was actually falling was a call to Warwick Fire Rescue. A car hit the ditch in heavy flooding on Highway 402 and the couple couldn't get out. Chief

Brad Goodhill had never seen anything like it; the major highway at Arkona Road was covered.

"The water kept rising, faster than I could ever imagine," he tells *The Independent*.

Firefighters were able to help the couple out of their partially submerged car without special equipment. But to the west, the water was a meter deep on the east and westbound lanes at Sexton Line according to Goodhill.

There, vehicles had stalled out trying to get through the water. "To this day I can't believe we didn't have more accidents because vehicles were coming in there at 100 km/h," he says.

**SEE STORM PG 3** 



## Storm dropped eight inches of rain in Warwick

#### **CON'T FROM PG 1**

An estimated 180 mm of rain fell Aug. 23 in heavy downpours. Ditches in Brooke-Alvinston near Forest Road were filled to the top of their culverts the next day and, in some places, water could be seen running off the surface of fields making small waterfalls.

In other spots including Ebenezer Line, water pooled in corn and bean fields. The extent of damage to agricultural crops isn't known yet.

On Lasalle Line near Old Walnut Road, some crops were still covered in water from a nearby creek a day later. By the dirt on the leaves, it appears the water rose about half way

The flooding is a scenario playing out across Sydenham's water shed. Ken Phillips of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority said people camping at AW Campbell Conservation Area were unable to drive out of the park for days. The main road flooded and engineers were brought in Friday to make sure the water had not damaged the road or bridge. It reopened Monday.

At the Warwick Conservation Area, Warwick Fire Rescue and Township workers helped clear the water from the road which stranded half the campground. They were able to get out of the conservation area Thursday afternoon.

The Sydenham also caused problems at the Shetland Conservation Area as the river overflowed into the campground. Some people towed their trailers to higher ground. Others watched as the water swamped their units.

Peggy King operates the Bentpath Getaway next to the conservation area. She estimates the water was at least five feet deep in the field adjacent to the river near the park.

Warwick Township sustained the biggest hit of the storm. Mayor Todd Case declared a state of emergency Aug. 24.

Case says hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage has been done to roads in the community. Almost every gravel road in the township was damaged by the rain. Many were washed out. The newly paved Zion Line had a major buckle in the roadway which will likely need to be rebuilt. Engineers were assessing the damage Monday.

The damage is much higher when you consider the countless homeowners in the municipality whose basements filled with water and raw sewage.

Case heard from more than 60 homeowners Aug. 23 and 24 who either had floods in their homes or roads in their neighbourhood in need of repairs.

During the heaviest rainfall, the Ontario Clean Water Agency, which operates the townships sewage treatment plant, completed a controlled release of sewage onto Lasalle Line fields to help deal with the volume of water flooding the community. But that still wasn't enough to stop sewage from seeping into some Watford basements.

The mayor said disaster restoration companies were in town helping those affected, but with major storms in

nearby Glencoe and Essex, many people waited days to even get a call back to set an appointment.

That concerned Councillor Wayne Morris who raised the issude during an special council meeting Monday. He said there may be homeowners unable to get proper disaster restoration services, either because they didn't have insurance or because they couldn't find someone to do the

There may be some added assistance for homeowners in the offing. Amanda Gubbels, CAO of Warwick Township, says the municipality learned of a program for homeowners - Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians - which may apply in Warwick. Provincial officials were in the community Monday assessing the damage, however at press time, Gubbels said it wasn't clear yet whether the province

would declare Warwick residents eligible for the program which helps cover some of the costs of disasters.

Case says by declaring the state of emergency, the township will likely be able to access funding from the provincial government to help ease the financial burden of the storm.

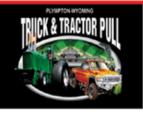
Warwick is tracking its expenses at the municipal level to take advantage of the Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance program. The township will need to spend three per cent of its budget on storm related damage - about \$80,000 to access the provincial funding.

Town officials are sure there will be far more spent than that, with the mayor pegging the damage at hundreds of thousands of dollars.

While there is a lot of damage yet to be fixed, Case paid tribute Monday to everyone who pitched in to help during the emergency saying firefighters, town employees and residents worked together. "The community really did come together."

And he thanked Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Monte McNaughton who helped guide the municipality to provincial assistance and neighbouring communities - such as Plympton-Wyoming - which offered the use of equipment and staff to help repair the roads

**READ MORE ON THIS** STORY ON PAGES 6&7.



# **Thank You**

On behalf of the Truck & Tractor Pull Committee. we would like to simply say Thank You for the tremendous turnout at this years Pull. A special Thank You to all the generous Sponsors.

We look forward to 2024 - our 10th Year!







### THE WALK OF DOWNTOWN PETROLIA



#### This Month In Lambton August 2023





## Fire truck deal tanked by Enniskillen

#### **CON'T FROM PG 1**

Enniskillen Councillor Wally Van Dun was also against the purchase of the truck, saying he had tried to research the cost of just a tanker by talking to sales representatives and looking at websites. He hasn't received a price yet.

Petrolia and North Enniskillen Fire Chief Jay Arns told council it would cost \$975,000 to purchase a tanker.

He believes it is fiscally responsible to purchase the combined unit. Buying two fire trucks would be significantly more money in the end, – an estimated \$1.4 million – while prices have increased by 40 percent in the past year due to inflation, he said.

Van Dun couldn't believe the fire department couldn't get a tanker that would be lower than \$975,000.

Arns said the department's existing 1996 tanker is past its expected 25 year life cycle. In terms of the bigger picture, purchasing the new unit would increase safety, as the new combined unit would be better up to date with safety regulations.

Aside from the cost of the new tanker/ pumper unit, there is still concern Enniskillen is paying more than its fair share of the fire costs.

Enniskillen Township currently pays 40

percent of the cost of the fire department and Deputy Mayor Judy Krall wants to see Enniskillen's portion lowered to better reflect the number of calls in the municipality compared to Petrolia. Over the past five years it varied from 25 to 35 per cent of the calls.

Had Enniskillen approved the new vehicle, it would have been on the hook for 40 percent of the cost of the new truck, which would be just over \$600,000.

Petrolia's Acting Mayor Joel Field is disappointed Enniskillen's decision. The town was aware of Enniskillen's concerns about the cost sharing agreement.

The councils of Petrolia and Enniskillen have met once about the fire department's funding but there were no follow-up meetings set up.

Field says there was no indication the concerns might scuttle the plans to buy more equipment.

"I wish we knew that prior to getting to this point," said Field.

While it's clear the purchase can't go ahead without Enniskillen's approval, it's not clear what the fire department will do now. The tanker truck is due to be retired from the fleet in 2026 and Arns says it will take three years to order a new vehicle.

#### Stay up to date on road closures

Temporary closures and detours on County Roads are required due to construction and other events, like severe weather or emergency road work.

The County posts information on planned and upcoming road closures at www.lambtononline.ca/roadclosures,

including a real-time map from Municipal511 showing upcoming and current planned closures, and emergency closures from the County and local municipalities.

#### Spend your PA Day in the new gallery at LHM

Looking for something fun to do for the PA Day on Friday, September 15? Why not visit Lambton Heritage Museum and see the new permanent exhibit in the Lambton Gallery!

The Museum's Curator/Supervisor Dana Thorne will give guided tours of the new space at 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30. Don't forget to head outside and explore the seven outbuildings too!

#### LHM hosting First World War Historical Reenactment Event

Join Lambton Heritage Museum and local reenactment group Dominion of Canada Reenactment Corps for the special event Experience the First World War on Saturday, September 9, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This event features weapons, simulated gunfire, and discussions of battle that may not be suitable for all ages.

For more information, please visit the event page on

www.heritagemuseum.ca.

#### **Looking Ahead**

9:30 a.m., Sept. 6, 2023 - Council Meeting

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m., Sept. 20, 2023 -Committee A.M. & P.M. Meetings

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

To read more, go to lambtononline.ca



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