

# THE PETROLIA CONNECTION

A monthly publication of all things Petrolia!



**WINTER RESTRICTIONS FOR  
OVERNIGHT STREET PARKING  
ENDS MARCH 31,  
STREET PARKING WILL RESUME  
ON APRIL 1.**

The Victoria Playhouse Petrolia is  
hosting a

# VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

*day*

**April 1, 2026**  
**1:00PM & 6:00PM**  
(please attend one session)  
at Victoria Hall  
**411 Greenfield St.**

We ask that volunteers be over 16 years of age and  
can apply the hours for the high school volunteer  
program requirements.  
Questions?  
Please call Thera at  
519-882-2350 ext. 253  
or by email  
twagner@petrolia.ca



Town of Petrolia Municipal office will  
be closed on Friday, April 3 and  
Monday, April 6 in observation of the  
Easter Holiday. Regular hours  
resume on Tuesday, April 7

Waste and recycling collection  
remains unchanged.



### BY-LAW CONTACTS

Water related Emergency, call 1-888-522-0117, Public Works  
Emergency (non water), call 519-882-2351  
General By-Law Enforcement, call 519-845-5420,  
Parking Enforcement, call 519-845-5420, Animal Control, call  
or text -519-312-1322, or reach us through our online portal  
<https://petrolia.civicweb.net/Portal/CitizenEngagement.aspx>

**We are always here to answer your questions!**

Please call us at (519)882-2350 from Monday—Friday, reach  
out to us on Facebook or Twitter or send an e-mail to

**petrolia@petrolia.ca!**

Do you want the monthly Petrolia Connection delivered to  
your e-mail inbox? Send an e-mail to twagner@petrolia.ca!

# THE PETROLIA CONNECTION

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**Petrolia & District Lions 38th Annual EASTER EGG HUNT**



**Good Friday, April 3, 2026**  
 Greenwood Pavillion,  
 Huggard St., Petrolia  
 (beside the arena)

Registration from 11:30  
 For children ages 0-8 years old  
 All Hunts begin at 12:30 SHARP  
*Please bring an adult for each child requiring supervision*



**PRIZES FOR ALL**

There is No Admission Charge

Donations of non-perishable goods or cash will be gratefully accepted

For More Information,  
 Phone Lion Cheryl (519) 330-1621

**JOIN US FOR LUNCH**



**PETROLIA LIONS CLUB**



**COME & JOIN US**

at the Lions Hall  
 Wednesday, April 8, 2026  
 DOORS OPEN 6:00 p.m.  
 BINGO 7:00 p.m.  
 REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

INFORMATION  
 519 882-8728

*Proceeds to Local Projects*



**PETROLIA & DISTRICT SKATING CLUB PRESENTS**

**SUGAR! SUGAR!**

Sunday April, 5<sup>th</sup> 2026  
 1:00pm - 3:00pm



Royal Canadian Legion  
 Petrolia, Branch 216

*Easter Ham and Roast Beef Raffle*

2:00 pm, Saturday, April 4, 2026

Draws: 5 Ham; 5 Roast Beef; 3 - 50/50 and some surprises!

*Everyone Welcome!*  
 4129 Glenview Rd., Petrolia



Royal Canadian Legion Petrolia Branch 216  
 assisted by the Ladies Auxiliary

**PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE TOURNAMENT**  
 APRIL 25, 2026

1:00 p.m. \$10.00 per player  
 Lunch \$8.00 at Noon  
**EVERYONE WELCOME**

For more information call 519-331-3143  
 4129 Glenview, Petrolia




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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1-2 IODE– Buttertrats
- 1– VPP Volunteer Information Sessions 1:00 & 6:00pm
- 3 Petrolia Lions– Easter Egg Hunt, 11:30am
- 4 Pop Up Market, Kerr Building 8:00am-12:00pm
- 5 Petrolia & District Skating Club presents Sugar! Sugar! 1:00pm
- 8 Petrolia Lions– Gift Card Bingo, 7:00pm
- 12 Order of the Eastern Star– Victorian Tea, 2:00pm
- 18 Pop Up Market, Kerr Building 8:00am– 12:00pm
- 19 Kiwanis Club of Petrolia & Area-Fashion Show at the YMCA
- 21– May 1– Victoria Playhouse Petrolia presents Divine Women on stage at Vicotria Hall
- 26 Order of the Eastern Star– Victorian Tea, 2:00pm

## RECURRING EVENTS

- Every Monday and Thursday– Royal Canadian Legion Zumba with Lisa– 7-8 p.m.
- Every Tuesday—Petrolia & Area Kiwanis Meat Raffles at Black Gold Brewery
- Every Tuesday—Toastmasters, 7-8 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Church, 416 Queen Street
- Every Tuesday– Royal Canadian Legion Yoga with Adina– 7-8p.m.
- Third Wednesday– Royal Canadian Legion– Jamboree’s 12-4p.m. Lunch Available \$10
- Every Wednesday– Royal Canadian Legion Euchre 7p.m.
- Every Wednesday– Royal Canadian Legion Cornhole 7 p.m.
- Every Thursday– Petrolia Lions Meat Raffle at Bull Wheel 6-8pm
- Every Thursday– Royal Canadian Legion afternoon Pepper 1-4 p.m. and Darts 7-10p.m.
- Every Friday– Royal Canadian Legion Karaoke– 8pm
- Second & Fourth Friday—Petrolia Community Refrigerator— Salvation Army complimentary hot meals served
- Every Saturday – Royal Canadian Legion Lunches – 12-2p.m. with the meat draw starting at 2p.m.
- Fourth Saturday– Royal Canadian Legion Progressive Euchre Tournament– Lunch at noon and Euchre from 1-5p.m.
- First Saturday– Royal Canadian Legion– Kids Karaoke from 5-8p.m.
- Third Sunday– Royal Canadian Legion & LA Breakfast –11:30a.m.



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION  
PETROLIA BRANCH 216  
(assisted by the LADIES AUXILIARY)

**SUNDAY,  
April 19, 2026**

**9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Scrambled eggs, quiche, bacon, sausage, pancakes, fresh made home fries, baked beans, toast, fresh fruit, dessert breads, juice, coffee, tea**



*Tasty Food*

Adults \$12.00 per serving  
Ages 6 - 10 \$6.00 per serving  
Under age 6 - free

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

4129 Glenview Road, Petrolia



**SWIM  
PASSES**



10 youth passes \$70  
10 adult passes \$110  
10 senior passes \$100  
10 family passes \$225

Learn all about it!

[www.town.petrolia.on.ca/residents/ymca/](http://www.town.petrolia.on.ca/residents/ymca/)



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## DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

LET US HELP YOU!

THIS IS THE FIRST STEP TO FINDING AN ANSWER FOR YOUR QUESTIONS!

Please ask your question to our friendly administrative staff.



**Call Town Hall • 519.882.2350**  
or visit [www.town.petrolia.on.ca](http://www.town.petrolia.on.ca) or find us on Facebook

If you have further questions:



**Ask for the Department Director or the Clerk**

If you don't know the department you need, our friendly staff can help direct you.



Do you still need more information?

**Please ask for the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)**



**Contact Your Members of Council**

Their contact information is available by visiting [www.town.petrolia.on.ca/town-hall/mayor-council/](http://www.town.petrolia.on.ca/town-hall/mayor-council/)



you'll be surprised!

**Town Hall Business Hours**  
Monday to Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

If you are still not pleased with the response you are welcome to **Attend a Town Council Meeting**

## CORNHOLE NIGHT

Petrolia Legion



Every Wednesday  
**7:00 pm – 10:00 pm**  
**\$5 per player**

All skill levels welcome



## COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

▶ Looking for a Job? **FREE** Employment Consultation



This Employment Ontario program is funded in part by the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the Windsor Regional Employment Network.



## KARAOKE Night

EVERYONE WELCOME

Come On Out & Enjoy!

**EVERY FRIDAY**

8 PM - CLOSE



IT'S HAPPENING AT THE 216



ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 010

## DART NIGHT

OPEN DARTS / EVERYONE WELCOME

EVERY **THURSDAY**  
7 PM

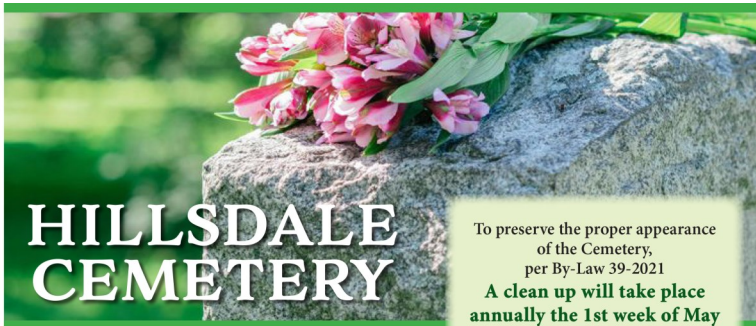


4129 GLENVIEW RD, PETROLIA

Meet new people!  
Play for fun!  
Enjoy!

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## HILLSDALE CEMETERY

· NOTICE OF ·

# SPRING CLEANUP

To preserve the proper appearance of the Cemetery, per By-Law 39-2021

**A clean up will take place annually the 1st week of May prior to Mother's Day.**

All Interment Right Holders are required to remove wreaths, flowers, etc. to facilitate the clean-up.

**Please remove all items prior to April 30th**

### As a reminder these items are not permitted:

- Glass or pottery containers of any kind
- Hanging baskets, trees, hedges, shrubs, flowering or other plants
- Borders, fences, railings, walls or cut-stone coping
- Trellises, arches, or iron rods of any kind
- Home made of hand constructed decorative markers ie: metal signage, bird houses, etc.

Thank you for your co-operation, if you have any questions please feel free to contact the Municipal Office at 519-882-2350.

Mandi Pearson  
Clerk/Operations Clerk  
Cemetery Manager

We appreciate your assistance with this clean up, please be advised that all wreaths, saddles, flowers, etc. placed at the grave are to be removed before these dates to facilitate the clean up.

Any wreaths, saddles, flowers, etc.... that are not weathered or worn will not be removed, this includes items placed for Easter Remembrance. The Cemetery Manager retains final discretion on what is determined as weathered or worn.

Removed items will be held for thirty (30) days at the cemetery office for collection. Items not collected within thirty (30) days will be discarded. The Corporation shall not be responsible for loss or damage to any removed items.

#### Items Placed on Graves after the 1st week of May:

Artificial wreaths and monument saddles *without* glass or plastic covers may be placed on the lot after the 1st week of May, provided they are securely fastened to the monument. Where there is no monument, it shall be mounted on a stand of at least 30 inches (76.2cm) high and securely anchored to the ground.

#### Solar Lights:

All solar lights must be removed by April 1st of each year. Solar Lights are only permitted at the cemetery from November 1st – April 1st.

### Request for Proposals RFP - PKS - 01 - 2026 CONCESSION OPERATOR – TANK STREET HERITAGE FIELD

The Town of Petrolia is seeking Proposals for the supply of Concession Operator- Tank Street Heritage Field

Proposals will be received at the Petrolia Municipal Office, 411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, Ontario until 2:00pm local time on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

The primary objective for this RFP is to obtain proposals for the operation of the concession at Tank Street Heritage Field in the Town of Petrolia.

Proposals must be submitted in conjunction with the prescribed forms. The RFP document is available for pick up at the Municipal Office at 411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Late proposals will not be accepted. The Town of Petrolia reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. The highest or any proposal will not necessarily be accepted.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026

Mandi Pearson  
Clerk/Operations Clerk



Oil Field History... in Action.



## Petrolia Discovery

1860s Working Oil Field Historic Site

### Antique & Unique Sale

Saturday June 27th  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

### Open for Tours:

JUNE: Sat and Sun 10-4  
JULY & AUG: Wed to Sun 10-4

Other tour times available by appointment - 519-882-0897  
petroliadiscovery@outlook.com



4281 Discovery Line, PETROLIA • [www.PetroliaDiscovery.org](http://www.PetroliaDiscovery.org)  
Please use entrance off Petrolia Line through Bridgeview Park north.



## PETROLIA LIONS

# FRESH PICKEREL



# FISH FRY

Friday, May 8, 2026

Petrolia Lions Hall, by the Arena, Rain or Shine

**COLE SLAW - FRESH CUT FRIES - BAKED BEANS**

**4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.      \$30.00**



TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM LION MEMBERS OR CALL 519 882-8728  
EAT IN OR TAKE OUT  
CASH, DEBIT OR CREDIT  
INSIDE SEATING AND PICNIC TABLES AVAILABLE  
BEER, WINE AND COOLERS AVAILABLE



PROCEEDS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

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**KIDS KARAOKE**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 4**  
**5-8 PM**  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**BRING OUT YOUR YOUNG STARS**  
**THE PETROLIA LEGION**  
**216 LOUNGE**

**OPERATION CLEAN SWEEP**

**Let's beautify Petrolia!**  
**We need Your Help**  
**to clean up Petrolia!**

No one has to be reminded of the long, hard winter we have had. It has left it's mark with leaves, fallen branches and garbage of all sorts.

Our mission is to give the town a good spring clean up!

If you accept this challenge and would like to help, please join us...

**Saturday, May 2, 2026**  
**9 am - 12 noon**

Meet at the **Farmers' Market** at 8:45 am... so we can organize the clean up crews

Please bring your work gloves, rakes & brooms

Please contact Thera with any questions - [twagner@petrolia.ca](mailto:twagner@petrolia.ca) (519)882-2350

A Town of Petrolia & Petrolia Business Association Initiative

**2026 PETROLIA RESIDENT \$30 COMPOST TRANSFER SITE!**

**Maude Street Transfer Site- 546 Maude Street**

**2026 RESIDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A PASS TO ACCESS THE SITE**

Passes are available at Town Hall now, and at the Petrolia Farmers' Market during the 2026 season

**-8AM UNTIL NOON-**

<b>April 11 &amp; 25</b>	<b>June 13 &amp; 27</b>	<b>Aug. 15</b>	<b>Oct. 10 &amp; 24</b>
<b>May 9 &amp; 23</b>	<b>July 11 &amp; 25</b>	<b>Sept. 12 &amp; 26</b>	<b>Nov. 7</b>

**NEW FOR 2026!**

Street Party  
 Shopping  
 Cocktails  
 Food  
 Live Music  
 Kids Zone & More!

Vendor Applications Now Available!

**Save the date!**  
**Saturday, June 6**  
**1-9pm**  
**Downtown Petrolia**  
**[www.visitpetrolia.ca](http://www.visitpetrolia.ca)**

Do you know what is acceptable to recycle in Petrolia? Have you ever wondered if something you are recycling is supposed to be recycled or thrown away?

Check out [www.circularmaterials.ca/resident-provinces/ontario](http://www.circularmaterials.ca/resident-provinces/ontario) and find out all about it! PS—You can even recycle this newsletter when you're finished reading and sharing it!

**PETROLIA COMPOST DEPOT REQUIREMENTS**

ACCEPTED	NOT ACCEPTED
 Gross Clippings  Dead Plants  Sticks/Branches (under 4 inches)  Leaves	 Mulch and Fertilizer Bags  Rock or Brick  Plastic Pots  Dirt/Sod  Plastic Barriers or Fencing  Pine Cones

Depot staff reserve the right to refuse any materials that do not conform to the requirements. Paper bags are required to dispose of compost materials.

**TIPS**

1. Yard waste and brush will be separated into two bins - please do not bag it together.
2. Please use paper bags or reusable bins.
3. Brush must be of reasonable size & length.
4. Residents will be asked to take unacceptable items home.

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**Pop Up Saturday Market**  
396 Fletcher Street, Petrolia- in the Kerr Building

8:00am-Noon

Watch for the vendors for each date!

November 1 & 15  
December 20  
January 3 & 17  
February 7 & 21  
March 7 & 21  
April 4 & 18

*Farmers market*

Town of Petrolia, ON

## Text the town to find information and report issues!

Text **Hi** To:  
**289.769.9799**

Additional Keyword Options:

- Contact
- Water Issue
- Events
- FAQ
- Taxes
- Waste Services
- Report
- Council
- By-Laws

Visit: [textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions](https://textmygov.com/opt-in-terms-conditions) to view terms and privacy policy info. Msg & Data rates apply. Msg frequency varies. Text STOP at any time to opt-out.

Powered by



**MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2026**

Visit: <https://www.registertovoteon.ca/> & make sure you're on the list!

T-shirts are now available!



Order by going to our website <https://town.petrolia.on.ca/news> or come into Town Hall for assistance. Cost is \$20.00 per shirt!

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## Optimist Club of Lambton Central ~ Petrolia

# Weekly Meat Raffles



at **CHUCK'S ROADHOUSE** Every Thursday Starting at 6pm 6 Rounds  
BAR AND GRILL Petrolia

**COME & JOIN US ON THURSDAYS!**

**Tickets ONLY \$1 each**

**1 of 3 - \$40 Meat Packages OR 1 of 3 - \$40 Gift Cards**

Meat Packages & Gift Cards, supplied by Wyoming Foodland

1st Ticket drawn: Choice of Meat Package or Gift Card  
2nd Ticket drawn: \$5 Chuck's Roadhouse Gift card

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CLUB AND ALL THAT WE DO!**

# Tuesday Night MEAT RAFFLES

IN SUPPORT OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF PETROLIA AND AREA



Every Tuesday 6:00-8:00 PM



Lunch starts at NOON

Join us in the Petrolia Legion 216 Lounge for prizes, fun, food and drink

**PETROLIA FARMERS MARKET**  
EVERY SATURDAY  
MAY 16 - OCT 17, 2026  
from 7:30 AM - NOON

**Petrolia Farmers Market**  
396 Fletcher Street, Behind the Library

*Proudly Local.*  
**PROUDLY CANADIAN**

PETROLIA LEGION BRANCH 216

# Saturday MEAT RAFFLES BACK ON!

10 MEAT DRAWS!  
3 50/50 DRAWS!

**\$2 PER TICKET**

**DONT MISS OUT!**

EVERY SATURDAY FROM 2-5PM

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Commemorating Parkinson's Awareness Day by raising the Parkinson's flag is a visible show of unity—reminding everyone affected by Parkinson's that they are seen, supported, and surrounded by a caring community.

## PSSO Parkinson's Awareness

PETROLIA FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY

10 APRIL 2026

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Victoria Hall, 411 Greenfield St,  
Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0

[www.pssso.ca](http://www.pssso.ca)

519-652-9437

parkinson SOCIETY SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Please use the carts for your regular waste and bins for recycling. LARGE ITEMS can be placed on the curb as that collection has not changed.

## 2026 LARGE ITEM COLLECTION

### KEY DATES FOR WASTE COLLECTION

**JUNE 15 - 19** Large Item Collection

**OCT. 19-23** Large Item Collection

Please do not place items at the curb prior to 7:00 p.m. the night before, and no later than 7:00 a.m. the day of collection.

For More information and details about what will be collected:

[www.town.petrolia.on.ca](http://www.town.petrolia.on.ca)



**IODE MEETINGS:** Second Monday of the month, except July and August. Please contact Dawn McNally at 519-882-4919 for more information! Visit us at [www.iodemargaretstokespetrolia.ca](http://www.iodemargaretstokespetrolia.ca) or find us on Facebook!



**IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter** **Annual PLANT SALE**

*For-Sale* • Order Deadline April 1, 2026 •

<b>Geraniums</b> pink, red, salmon, white, magenta	<b>\$4.50ea</b>
<b>Marigolds - flat of 48 plants</b> orange, yellow or mixed	<b>\$25flat</b>
<b>Petunias - flat of 48 plants</b> white, red, pink, purple or mixed	<b>\$25flat</b>
<b>11" Baskets</b> boston fern, fuchsia, million bells, mixed sun	<b>\$25ea</b>
<b>12" Mixed Patio Planter</b> please specify either shade OR sun	<b>\$35ea</b>

**PLANT PICK UP DATE**  
Thurs., May 7, 2026  
9:00am - 11:00am  
@ Windover Nurseries

*Gift Certificates in any denomination are available for*  
**Windover Nurseries**

*All available for Mother's Day May 10, 2026*

*To Order*  
Call: Wendy 519.882.2073 | Pauline 519.312.3167  
or Email: [iodemargaretstokes@gmail.com](mailto:iodemargaretstokes@gmail.com) • Please no calls after 9pm

**BE PART OF GOVERNING YOUR COMMUNITY**

**HOSPITAL**

**Join Our Board of Directors**

**Serving Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia and Bluewater Health in Sarnia**

**We invite applicants who bring expertise in:**

- Finance & accounting
- Information technology
- Healthcare system & patient care
- Legal/law

We encourage applicants from individuals who identify as Indigenous, 2SLGBTQIA+, visible minorities, women, rural residents, persons with disabilities, and those who are bilingual in English and French — reflecting our commitment to inclusive and diverse leadership.



Application form and information at [www.bluewaterhealth.ca/board-recruitment](http://www.bluewaterhealth.ca/board-recruitment)

APPLICATIONS DUE BY March 29, 2026

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LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED

2026

HERE'S TO THE LADIES WE LOVE

*Divine*  
**WOMEN**

APRIL 21 - MAY 1

A LIFETIME OF MUSIC & LOVE

**I DO! I DO!**

MAY 12 - 29

IF YOU LOVED WINGFIELD...

*Ed's*  
**GARAGE**

JUNE 9 - 26

SUN, SURF, AND SUMMER LOVE

**GOOD VIBRATIONS**

JULY 7 - 24

LOVE FOR THE GREATS ON THE 88's

**PIANO LEGENDS**

AUGUST 11 - 28

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

Music of **THE BEATLES**

SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 2

**STARBRIGHT CHRISTMAS**

NOV 17 to DEC 6, 2026

**THE VPP HOLIDAY JAMBOREE**

DEC 11 to 13, 2026

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

**VICTORIA PLAYHOUSE PETROLIA** **1.800.717.7694** **thevpp.ca**

Volunteer Firefighter's use Green Flashing Lights while responding to the Fire Station

WATCH FOR FLASHING GREEN LIGHT FIREFIGHTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE

ontario.ca/firemarshal

Optimist Club of Lambton Central-Petrolia and Petrolia & Enniskillen Agricultural Society

**Craft & Gift Show and Tart Festival**

**Saturday, May 9th**  
9am - 4pm

**L.C.C.V.I. (High School)**  
4441 Dufferin Ave., Petrolia  
Enter the show from the back parking lot

*FREE Admission ~ FREE Door Prize Draws*  
*Tonic Table Raffle ~ Optimist BBQ Food Booth*

FOR MORE INFO: DEB KOHOUTEK  
Phone: 519-330-1802 Email: d\_kohoutek@hotmail.com

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR EVENT & OUR COMMUNITY!**

**2026 PETROLIA** *Curbside*  
**WOOD CHIPPING**

Collection will be divided with off-setting days, with NORTH side of Petrolia Line being picked up on Monday's and the SOUTH side of Petrolia Line being picked up on Tuesdays.

Collection is NOT STREET SPECIFIC, residents can place their bush to the curb on any of these days and it will be processed.

Residents are asked to place the brush no sooner than 4:00pm, the night before a collection date, and to have all brush at the curb by 7:00am the day of collection and are requested to not impede sidewalk access.

Tree limbs and branches can not exceed 4" in diameter.

Not permissible items include hedge clippings, vines, roots, perennials and any other compostable materials. Resident will be responsible for removal.

It is not meant to replace the cost of professional arborist services, to offset your business expenses for branch disposal, or to provide service to non-residents.

<b>NORTH</b> SIDE OF PETROLIA PICK UP ON <b>MON</b>	<b>SOUTH</b> SIDE OF PETROLIA PICK UP ON <b>TUES</b>
APRIL 13	APRIL 14
MAY 11	MAY 12
JUNE 15	JUNE 16
SEPT 14	SEPT 15
OCT 19	OCT 20

For more information :  
519-882-2350  
www.town.petrolia.on.ca



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## CAO's Corner

### 2026 Municipal Budget – Sewer System

Hello everyone! I hope you are finding my CAO's Corner articles interesting and informative. I know that municipal government plays many important aspects in our daily lives and that municipal affairs can sometimes seem complicated and foreign which can lead to misunderstandings. The purpose of my articles is to help demystify the municipal level of government.



This is the second article of three highlighting Council's 2026 Budget which was adopted at the end of November 2025. This was our Town's first Budget using the new provincially legislated "Strong Mayor Powers". Our municipality has three separate budget entities: Water System (includes all water capital and operating budgets which are funded by water rates); Sewer System (includes all sanitary and storm capital and operating budgets which are funded by sewer rates); and Town General (all the other services provided by our Town which is funded mostly by property taxes). Today, I am writing about our Sewer system which includes our sanitary sewer that is very important as it collects and treats all our wastewater before releasing it into the environment. Our sewer system also includes our storm sewer which is essential in collecting our storm water and releasing it into the local water table. You are likely most interested in the changes to our sewer rates over the past few years. The graphic below depicts the inflation (Consumer Price Index – CPI for Ontario – All Items) from 2018 to 2024. The cumulative inflation over the past six years was 23.2%. The cumulative increases to our Sewer rates over these six years was negative 3.8%. Therefore, our sewer rates are 27.0% lower than inflation. It is important to know that over the past ten years Council has also completed significant critical Sewer system capital replacements: replaced our Wastewater Treatment Plant (largest capital project in our history at about \$21M); refurbished and modernized all our sanitary sewer pumping stations (12); the sewer portion of several major road reconstructions; and others. Our Town has been very successful with federal and provincial grant applications. For example, we received \$14M in grant funding towards our \$21M Wastewater Treatment Plant replacement.

Petrolia supplies sanitary sewer and safe drinking water services to the County operated Lambton Meadowview Villa and Lambtonian Apartments. As you may know, Lambton Meadowview Villa is adding 73 new childcare spaces; 12 dementia beds; and 3 rural hospice beds. These new services will receive their water and wastewater support from the Town of Petrolia.

JACOBS operates our Wastewater system with Town staff. JACOBS is very professional and are experts in this important and complicated industry. Our storm water system is operated by Town staff only.

Over the past 12 years, Councils have focused on revitalizing our Sewer system infrastructure as most of this critical infrastructure was beyond its useful life and needed to be replaced and/or modernized. Councils focused on improving our Asset Management planning which has been a key provincial priority over the past decade. Petrolia is seen as leader in Asset Management Planning. This strategic focus by Councils will result in the major pieces of our wastewater infrastructure being replaced by the end of 2028. We are working towards having a modern and resilient wastewater system. In addition, our major road reconstructions have replaced and upsized our storm sewer pipes as they are not large enough to handle the impacts of climate change and spring run offs.

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Council also foresaw the need for extra wastewater production capacity to accommodate future residential growth. Our Town could double in size and still have extra capacity for commercial and industry growth.

Our sewer rate increase for 2026 was 4%. This includes spending \$103K on Sewer capital. However, in the next year or two, our long term capital plan includes spending \$1.3M on replacing our filtration equipment Wastewater Treatment Plant.

As mentioned before, I welcome any feedback my articles including suggestions for topics. Have a great day!

Link to 2026 Budget on Town website: <https://town.petrolia.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Adopted-Budget-2026-final.pdf>

