

**FYI LONDON News**

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**IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK**

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**Parents win fight to speak on cuts**

Under pressure from a London group, the province has reversed its decision to shut parents out of a review of pediatric services in Ontario.

**Woman bomber dies in explosion**

A Palestinian woman yesterday became the first female to launch a bomb attack against Israel, killing herself and an 81-year-old Israeli man and wounding at least a dozen people on a busy Jerusalem street.

**Two Canadians linked to suicide plot**

The RCMP have joined police worldwide in a hunt for two Canadian men alleged to be part of an al-Qaida cell of suicide martyrs planning to stage attacks in the wake of Sept. 11.

**Chamber deplors city's bad planning**

London city hall's failure to ensure it has top management in place when needed is hurting the city's ability to compete, business leaders say.

**Malpass's pay deal shocks other cities**

Jaws dropped in several city halls across Canada yesterday when officials learned of a deal London council gave to its acting city manager.

**Ottawa to review Truscott's conviction**

Steven Truscott and his family are celebrating the first step to what could be his exoneration for a 42-year-old murder he says he didn't commit.

**'He introduced us to each other'**

Canadians have lost the warm, soothing voice that for years comforted and engaged them at the breakfast table and during the morning commute.

**Teacher fondled girl, trial told**

Immediately after having sex with a male student at a party, Canadian-born biology teacher Amy Gehring made advances to a girl of 15, a court heard yesterday.

**Council, Malpass reached fast deal**

London council agreed to every demand by its deputy city manager to fill its top post, The Free Press has learned.

**Chretien honours dumped cabinet minister**

Only one week after dumping Herb Gray from cabinet, Prime Minister Jean Chretien awarded him the title of Right Honourable at Rideau Hall yesterday.

**Malpass's fat raise draws fire**

A \$4,500-a-month raise approved this week for London's new acting city manager has angered the city's outside workers and divided council.

**Home town abuzz about teacher's sex trial**

Friends of an Otterville native now living in Britain were stunned to learn she faces sex charges involving three

**Marina operators, recreational boaters and shipping companies can only stand and watch as their business ? and enjoyment ? of the Great Lakes falls with the levels of Lakes Erie and Huron.**

**Dangerous Waters**

**The breakwater at Stan Speers's Port Stanley marina tells quite a story about the yo-yo rise and fall of Great Lakes water levels during more than 30 years.**

In the mid-1960s, during a period of near record lows, the breakwater was high and dry.

"We had a beach out the front," he says.

In the 1980s, levels soared to the point water was lapping just below the top of the breakwater.

Now, the level is down again, though not as low as it was in the mid-'60s, says Speers. "It's probably a foot (30 centimetres) higher than it was then."

Speers, other marina operators and recreational boaters and shipping companies are victims of a precipitous plunge in Great Lakes levels since 1997.

It means dangerous waters, from shallow shipping lanes to previously unseen rocks and sandbars, some only slightly submerged, making navigation treacherous.

In 1997, Lake Huron waters were lapping within centimetres of the highest levels in history.

Four years later, after prolonged periods of drought and below-average snow in the Great lakes basin, levels had free fallen to within a few centimetres of the record lows hit in the mid-'60s on Lake Huron and the mid-1930s on Lake Erie.

by **Peter Geigen-Miller**  
The London Free Press



Stan Speers, above, owner of Stan's Marina in Port Stanley says water levels once topped the wall surrounding his launch ramp

"If we get an average runoff in the spring, it probably will be pretty close to what the level was in the spring and early summer of 2001." - Environment Canada's Ralph Moulton

underage boys who were her students.

### Father told of deadly crash

The father and husband involved in a deadly crash on Highway 401 now knows the fate of his family.

### U.S. authorities take Church of God baby from charged parents

A 12-day-old baby has been taken by California authorities from a couple, formerly of Aylmer, who are members of the Church of God.

### CRIME DIGEST: Warning issued about indecent acts

A warning was issued by London police for women to make sure doors and windows are locked after a suspicious male was observed performing an indecent act near apartment buildings at Wonderland Road North and Oxford Street West.

### Human genes already being patented in Canada; Commons committee didn't know

Surprise! You may not hold full legal title to some of the genes in your body.

### Man badly burned by Molotov cocktail

London police don't suspect bikers are involved, but a Quebec biker expert says a biker link can't be ruled out.

### London a step closer to total smoking ban

London council has asked the Middlesex-London Health Unit to explore a total ban on smoking in public places.

### Porn suspect's lawyer queries search warrant

VANCOUVER ? The warrant used to search accused child pornographer John Robin Sharpe's home was unconstitutional, his defence lawyer argued yesterday.

### Extra tests may keep unfit seniors off road

Many Ontario seniors shouldn't be driving, but stay behind the wheel in part because doctors are reluctant to play the "bad guy," says a London occupational therapist.

### Web site lists central library as sex setting

London's mayor, acting police chief and library chief executive are outraged, but not surprised Central Public Library is listed on at least one X-rated Web site as a place for men to meet men for sex.

### Hundreds gather to mourn Carnage Alley victims

As a safety group called for tougher regulations for truckers, hundreds of friends and family packed a funeral home here last night to say goodbye to a mother and four children killed in a crash Saturday on Highway 401.

### ' Truly Sorry'

A judicial inquiry lays most of the blame on the Conservative government for a deadly E. coli outbreak that killed seven people here, prompting an apology yesterday from the premier many thought would never come -- and many still don't believe.

### FYI LONDON: War on Terrorism

### FYI LONDON: Crime

The juicy stuff's in here, eh.

### FYI LONDON: Oddities

Weird stuff, eh?

The level of Lake Huron dropped 100 centimetres during those four years.

Now, as Speers's breakwater reflects, lake levels have staged a modest recovery, thanks largely to a rain-sodden fall across the basin.

Modest is the key word, with no prospects for major change.

"We expect Lake Huron to be above the level of last year through the spring and early summer," says Ralph Moulton, manager of Environment Canada's water level information office in Burlington.

The outlook for Lake Erie is more fluid.

"It will depend more on what we get in the way of precipitation," says Moulton. "If we get an average runoff in the spring, it probably will be pretty close to the what the level was in the spring and early summer of 2001."

If conditions remain dry, levels could be even lower than they were last year, he says. "And certainly right now there's not a lot of snow lying around in the basin to melt."

The record snowfalls that hit the Buffalo area near the end of December don't count.

That was lake effect snow, produced when cold air collides with the moisture evaporating from the lake. This kind of snow adds nothing to lake levels, since it returns to where it came from during the spring melt.

The recovery puts the early January level of Lake Huron nearly 23 centimetres above the lows of last year but 38 centimetres below its long-term average, reports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Lake Erie is more than 12 centimetres above last year's low but nearly 10 centimetres below average.

Now, the recovery in levels is being hampered by a mild winter that has left the lakes virtually ice free.

The lack of ice has allowed evaporation, which sucks up millions of litres of water, to continue through the winter months.

Evaporation is at its greatest in the late fall and early winter when the air is cold and the water relatively warm, says Moulton.

Low water is welcomed by shoreline owners,

**FYI LONDON: Social Issues**

More poverty, housing, health, education, environmental and political issues

**FYI LONDON: Print ed.**

This week's edition of the FYI London newspaper

**FYI LONDON: Viewpoint**

Photo galleries

**LONDON FREE PRESS: News**

Good reading inside today.

**BOWES PUBLISHERS: St. Thomas Times-Journal****CANOE: CNEWS**

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**CANOE: CNEWS News Ticker Ontario/Quebec****SPECIAL REPORT****Dangerous Waters**

The breakwater at Stan Speers's Port Stanley marina tells quite a story about the yo-yo rise and fall of Great Lakes water levels during more than 30 years.

**Battle lines**

When London Labatt workers rejected a contract offer to fight against a rising tide of temporary workers, they took on a battle becoming critical for trade unions, analysts say.

**Outlaws and Angels**

In the good and wild days, four top Outlaws drove down the 401 from London to Windsor to teach those Queensmen a lesson.

**The day the music died**

Tom Lawson, whose family created a museum in bandleader Guy Lombardo's honour, says that legacy has been placed in peril by the actions of a London man.

**Hope in Honduras**

Yiiiiiii.

**Mentally ill fall victim to flaws in system**

Alexander Gallant died face-down in his own blood, his body unclaimed by friend or relative -- but his death has not gone unnoticed.

**Walking the walk**

Five years after increased police presence downtown was lauded as the solution to core crime, the plan is coming under fire.

**FYI LONDON: Special Reports**

More special reports from Free Press news

**ROAD WORKS**

Streets under construction in London:

**OPINION**

whose properties are spared the battering and erosion that occurs from spring storms when levels are high and by those who enjoy -- or profit from -- expansive beaches.

But the plunge in levels has hurt marina operators, who've spent millions of dollars for dredging to ensure enough water for customers to berth their boats safely.

A couple of marinas on Kettle Creek in Port Stanley above the railway bridge basically shut down last summer because of shallow water.

That didn't happen to Speers, who operates Stan's Marina on Kettle Creek in Port Stanley.

"It didn't have a big effect on me because we're on the deep side of the river," he says.

Still, a few bigger boats were unable to use the marina because they draw too much water.

And low water is tough on pleasure boaters cruising the lake, he says.

"It makes it unsafe for them to go to a lot of places. They don't have the local knowledge to find out where the sandbars or rocks are. If it's a foot or so higher, it makes a big difference."

The Great Lakes shipping industry also is suffering from lower levels.

Every drop in the lakes means losses for shippers already hurting from declining cargo volumes.

The story is, ships have to reduce loads so boats can make it safely through shallower shipping channels.

The U.S. Great Lakes Shipping Association says that for every 2.5-centimetre drop in the lakes, vessels have to lighten their loads by 90 to 115 metric tonnes.

That translates into losses between \$35,000 and \$45,000 a trip, says the association.

Lower levels also hamper Port Stanley's efforts to attract more cargo ships.

Bob Shewan, general manager of Lakes Terminals, has seen the number of visiting ships drop from 22 a year to five or fewer.

The big blow was the loss of the coal shipments that used to come from the U.S. side of the lake until three years ago.

### AT CITY HALL: Council hit a new low at Monday night's session

That was an appalling performance at London city council Monday night, the worst since it was sworn into office.

### Londoners get chance to party, but wildlife not invited

Silly signs, signs of silliness, anniversaries happy and sad, the poop on poop and insurance blues can be found in this edition of city hall notebook.

### War on terror

Exactly how Canada, a middle power sharing a 8,890-kilometre border with the United States -- the country with which its economy is also inextricably bound -- should respond to terrorism is easily the most important question our nation has faced since the protracted debate over free trade more than a decade ago.

### An untapped resource

I was in a burka shop the other day, chatting with the male proprietor, when two women walked in to browse the latest fashions (powder blue, gold embroidery). They observed silently as the two of us men discussed whether women want to wear burkas. It seemed a bit ridiculous, so I asked the women: "What do you think?"

### Fences needed mending

If you've flown since the terrorist attacks in the U.S., you don't need any pamphlets with red-circled warnings about the tough new security.

### FYI LONDON: Talk, Discuss, Debate

More opinions, and a place to give yours.

### CANOE: CNEWS -- Columns

#### IN BUSINESS THIS WEEK

### Loonie not likely to buck up

If you've postponed a winter trip to Hawaii or Las Vegas in anticipation of a sudden, sharp rebound in the Canadian dollar, you may be wasting your time.

### Merger creates Canadian energy giant

Two of Canada's strongest petroleum companies, Alberta Energy and PanCanadian Energy, will merge to create a \$27-billion oil and gas giant with a large portfolio of enviable assets domestically and internationally.

### Area centres top pollution list

London and Sarnia combined in 2000 to top a watchdog's list of Ontario's top water polluting regions.

### Business is good despite fourth-quarter loss, BCE says

BCE Inc. reported strong revenue growth during the final three months of 2001, although special charges resulted in a \$326-million quarterly loss for the Montreal-based media and communications giant.

### Struggling loonie not indicative of economic recovery, Dodge says

Markets have been kicking sand in the dollar's face for too long without realizing the Canadian economy is no 90-pound weakling, but has been beefing up, Bank of Canada governor David Dodge suggested yesterday.

### Builders donate pavilion at forks

He blames the federal government's tardiness in dredging the harbour for the loss of this business.

It ended after 45 years when a coal boat ran aground trying to enter the harbour.

"The business has gone to Windsor and they haven't been back since," he says.

The harbour has since been dredged, but not in time to lure back the coal boats. "They're gone for good," says Shewan.

The harbour still handles some agriculture products but Shewan has seen the loss of salt shipments, considered a dangerous good, and potash cargoes.

"We used to have 100,000 tonnes of potash a year go out of here," he says. "There's not a drop now. It all goes by rail or by boat to Sarnia or Hamilton."

What happens to lake levels in the next few years depends on precipitation levels over the Great Lakes basin, says Moulton.

Continuing dry conditions will mean levels remain lower than normal in the next few years.

Longer-term, many experts expect global warming to have a major impact, dropping the level of Lake Huron by as much as 100 centimetres and Lake Erie by 80 centimetres in the next 20 to 40 years.

2002-01-26

The London Home Builders Association plans to build a \$50,000 pavilion at the Forks of the Thames to commemorate its 50th anniversary.

### **Labatt brews beer to keep system hopping**

Labatt began brewing beer at its London plant while its locked-out workers picket outside.

### **Loonie continues slide**

The Canadian dollar posted its second record low close in two days yesterday, 62.02 cents US.

### **Locked-out Labatt workers urge brew boycott**

Locked-out Labatt workers in London are calling for a boycott of the brewer's suds until a deal is reached, the union president said yesterday.

### **Loonie at all-time low**

As the Canadian dollar plunged to new lows yesterday, lots of questions were asked, but few solutions offered on what policy-makers could do to protect the battered currency.

### **Trojan on road to profitability**

Shareholders were told \$16.9 million in new contracts indicate the London company is headed in the right direction.

### **Key bank rate hits 41-year low**

The Bank of Canada trimmed short-term interest rates yesterday to their lowest level in more than 41 years, but that hasn't cut all consumer borrowing costs.

### **Rate cut forecast as bonus for realty**

The latest cut in the Bank of Canada's key interest rate will continue the London area's strong real estate market in 2002, says the president of the local real estate board.

### **Consumer confidence needs lift**

With the Bank of Canada widely expected to trim already record-low interest rates even more today, analysts say they hope it will hearten consumers unnerved by a rising jobless rate.

### **Jobless rate hits 8 per cent**

Canada's jobless rate jumped to eight per cent in December, its highest level in almost three years, Statistics Canada says.

### **Ford's Black Friday**

Ford Motor Co., reeling from heavy losses, will announce a massive restructuring today that sources say will include the shutdown of its Ontario truck plant in Oakville next year and other job reductions at Canadian operations.

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## **IN ENTERTAINMENT THIS WEEK**

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### **The Seductress**

Kathleen Turner was turning heads in Canada more than two decades ago in pre-stardom turns in *The Seagull* and *Travesties* at the Manitoba Theatre Centre.

### **Silenced**

Our world can ill afford to lose many more Canadian treasures like writer/broadcaster Peter Gzowski, who died yesterday with far too many stories untold and unwritten.

### **Carey leaves record label with \$49M**

After less than a year and a flop album, Mariah Carey is leaving Virgin Records with a deal giving her \$49 million US.

**Rocking to a world beat**

There must be something about the way the world beats these days.

**A beautiful win**

A Beautiful Mind won the Golden Globe award as the year's best film drama, making it a hot favourite for the Oscar.

**Frank Shuster: 1916-2002**

Frank Shuster, the sunnier, subtler and taller half of the Wayne and Shuster comedy team that performed for more than half a century, has died.

**Soccer player Ethan scores Survivor win**

Proving that nice guys needn't finish last, Ethan Zohn won the "rumble in the jungle" known as Survivor: Africa.

**Keying in for the win**

Newcomer Alicia Keys and soul divas Destiny's Child won two American Music Awards last night, while singer Aaliyah was posthumously honoured as favourite female soul artist.

**Victoria's Furtado thrilled with four Grammy nominations for debut record**

Singer Nelly Furtado bagged four Grammy nominations, a major accomplishment for the rookie Canadian artist.

**Londoners bail out city's New Year's bash**

London's New Year's bash is back.

**Ring leader**

It seems bizarrely appropriate that the enormously risky J. R. R. Tolkien trilogy The Lord Of The Rings is being made by a pot-bellied, barefooted, shaggy-haired Kiwi whose production company is called Wingnut Films.

**Sky has limit**

The Greek philosopher Plato implied that what we consider reality is really a dream from which we'll eventually awaken.

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More entertainment stories

**IN LIFESTYLE THIS WEEK****Game show host 'fashion's weakest link'**

Television host Anne Robinson has been declared fashion's "weakest link" by Mr. Blackwell in his annual worst-dressed list.

**'Dave' was much more than burgers**

Dave Thomas, the portly pitchman whose homespun ads built Wendy's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers into one of the world's most successful fast-food franchises, has died.

**Morton on Madonna**

The celebrity biographer says he is happy with his new book about the pop diva, although she doesn't share his enthusiasm.

### **FYI LONDON: Recreation and Leisure**

More lifestyles stories

### **FYI LONDON: Restaurants**

More lifestyles stories

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### **CANOE: Lifewise**

Lifestyle features for Canadian women

## **IN SPORTS THIS WEEK**

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### **Johansson unlikely Australian champ**

In an Australian Open tournament that set records for early exits by top stars, Sweden's Thomas Johansson wound up as one unlikely Grand Slam champion.

### **Boston falls for fresh face**

Good people, this Joe Thornton.

### **Meet Joe Thornton, rising star**

A young boy growing up in St. Thomas would play road hockey with his chums for hours, the moonlight illuminating their rink of dreams out in front of 91 Crescent Ave.

### **Flag honour wows Le May Doan**

The Winter Olympics will give the world the opportunity to unite in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in the United States, said Catriona Le May Doan, who was named Canada's flag bearer for the opening ceremonies yesterday.

### **Canada's Olympic roster**

Alpine skiing

### **Pins commemorate Team Canada 2002**

The Winter Olympics is weeks away but the puck drops sooner for readers of The London Free Press.

### **Champ takes shots ? but only at work**

Nick Rondinelli gets a little rougher ride at his workplace than in the ring.

### **Londoners pack a mean punch**

A sure sign you've made it in boxing is when everyone is ducking.

### **Sixes wild for ice dancers**

Perfect sixes are an addiction worth having.

### **London skater leads junior women**

At last year's Canadian figure skating championships in Winnipeg, junior women's competitor Lauren Wilson of London was sniffly, stuffed up and full of phlegm.

### **Legally blind, Western runner maintains a focus on winning**

Stuart McGregor came away with a lot more than a bronze medal in track and field at the Sydney Paralympics in the fall of 2000.

### **Tuck puts lock on top two**

It's two down, another in the cross-hairs for Ontario at the Canadian mixed curling championship in Halifax.

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