

# THE EVOLUTION OF OUR COMMUNITY

	This list is a continuation of the 150th Anniversary Events List that was compiled in 2017. It will continue to expand, to add events that were not included in the 150th Anniversary Events List.
	<b>FACTS THAT SHAPED ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP, timeline begun during Canada's 150th Anniversary Year</b>
1679	Lake St. Clair and St. Clair River named by René-Robert Cavalier de La Salle.
1796	The Crown purchased Shawanese Township from the Chippewa First Nation.
1800	John Courtney and Bertha Traxler, the first recorded settlers of the area that would become Moore Township.
1802	1802 John Courtney, Jr. was the first European child born in what would later become Moore Township.
1811	Shawanese Township was partially surveyed.
1815	Bâby Pointe was established as Shawanese Township's first settlement.
1820	Shawanese Township was fully surveyed and renamed Sombra.
1820	John MacDonald built the first house in what would later become Port Lambton.
1821	The Smith and Burnham families arrived in Sombra Township.
1823	Corunna surveyed to be the Capital of Upper Canada and Lower Canada.
1827	Sacre Coeur Roman Catholic Church, Lambton County's first church, was built at Bâby's Point.
1829	Moore Township was surveyed and named.
1830	Wilkesport's first pioneer, Paul Sturdevant, arrived.
1830	First school in Lambton County, Concession 9, lot 1, Sombra Township opened.
1833	Sutherland's Landing established by Thomas Sutherland along the St. Clair River between Courtright and Mooretown.
1836	Froome and Field Talfourd establish a riverfront community, later known as Froomefield at the corner of St. Clair Parkway and Lasalle Line.
1837	First Post Office in Moore Township and one of the first in Lambton County opened in Mooretown.
1838	St. Clair raids, the area around Bâby's Point and Sombra were attacked during June by members of the American Hunters' Lodges and disaffected Canadians during the Rebellion of 1838.
1838	Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church was built on lot 43 of Moore (Mooretown).
1838	Colonel Tom Fisher, purchased land on the St. Clair River in Moore Township. First reeve of Moore Township in 1850 and first warden of Lambton County in 1852.
1840	John Aston Wilkes Sr. arrived and built a sawmill at the forks of the Sydenham River at what would later become the village of Wilkesport.
1841	Holy Trinity Anglican Church at Sutherland's Landing was built. Torn down in 1881 due to rotting wood foundations. This was the first Anglican Church built in Moore Township.
1846	William Kimball arrived and built the first store in what would later become Wilkesport.
1850	Moore Township Agriculture Fair established. Later became known as Brigden Fair.
1851	First Post Office in Sombra Township opened in Sombra.
1852	Colinville Post Office established on 8th Line, Moore Township (Rokeby Line) between Kimball Road and Waubuno Road.
1852	Wilkesburg Post Office established.
1854	Sombra Village surveyed by Henry Winter.
1856	Wilkesburg Post Office changed to Wilkesport.
1856	Father Michel Moncoq, the first settled priest of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Mooretown, drowned in the St. Clair River January 1, after administering last rites to a woman dying in Algonac, Michigan.
1858	Birkhall Post Office established at the corner of Brigden Road and 6th Line, Moore Township (Moore Line).
1859	Ossian Post Office established at the corner of 8th Line, Moore Township (Rokeby Line) and Town Line (Moore / Enniskillen).
1862	St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Corunna built. (oldest church building in township). Most architecturally significant building in the township, uniquely designed in the Frankish Romanesque style.
1863	Logjerait Post Office established at the corner of Kimball Road and 12th Line, Moore Township, (LaSalle Line).
1863	Trinity Anglican Church, Sutherland's built on the south side of Mooretown. Struck by lightning in 1918 and burned down.
1865	St. John's Roman Catholic Church was built in Sombra.
1865	Bradshaw established, Lot 26. Near the intersection of Stanley Line and Brigden Sideroad.
1866	Mooretown Troop of Cavalry was organized as an infantry company. The troop was re-organized as a cavalry company in 1871 known as Number 3 Troop of the 1st Hussars Regiment of St. Thomas. The troop was locally known as the Moore Mounted Militia.
1867	Canada became its own country.

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1867	The abduction of Sombra resident Allan MacDonald from a pub in Sutherland's Landing by Sheriff Dunphy of St. Clair Michigan, created the first Canada / US diplomatic crisis.
1869	The <i>Kate Bully</i> , a schooner built in Corunna sank in a Lake Michigan storm.
1871	Port Lambton Post Office established.
1871	Becher Post Office established, Lot 18 Concession 1, Sombra Township, where Lambton Line crosses the Sydenham River. An alternate spelling of the community was Beecher.
1872	Courtright Post Office established.
1872	Waubuno Post Office established at the corner of 2nd Line, Moore Township (Oil Springs Line) and Waubuno Road.
1873	First train on St. Clair Railway Branch of the Canada Southern Railway. It was intended to link New York and Chicago by way of the St. Thomas line that terminated at Courtright. Its stations in Moore Township were East Brigden, Brigden, Kimball and Courtright.
1874	Osborne Post Office established on the 12th Line, Moore Township (LaSalle Line), between Brigden Road and Waterworks Road
1874	Thornhurst Post Office established, Lot 6 Concession 8, Sombra Township at the intersection of French Line and the sideroad that would later become Highway 40.
1878	Kimball Post Office established at the corner of Kimball Road and 4th Line, Moore Township (Courtright Line).
1878	Cromar established, the community was also known as Plum Creek, on Waterworks Road between 4th Line, Moore Township (Courtright Line) and 2nd Line, Moore Township (Oil Springs Line).
1880	Sykeston Post Office established at the corner of 10th Line, Moore Township (Petrolia Line) and Plank Road.
1880	Leckie Post Office established at the corner of 10th Line, Moore Township (Petrolia Line) and Telfer Road.
1880	Duthil Post Office established, Lot 12 Concession 9, Sombra Township at the intersection of Holt Line and Duthill Road.
1880	First ferry from Port Lambton to Roberts Landing.
1882	Seckerton Post Office established at the corner of 6th Line, Moore Township (Moore Line) and Ladysmith Road.
1882	Avonroy Post Office established, Lot 16 Concession 14, Sombra Township west of Kimball Road and Stanley Line.
1884	Presbyterian Church was built in Guthrie at the corner of Kimball Road and 2nd Line, Moore Township (Oil Springs Line). The namesake of the hamlet was Rev. Dr. Thomas Guthrie (1803-1873), a popular Scottish Presbyterian minister who founded the Ragged Schools movement to educate destitute children in the cities of Scotland.
1885	Tug, <i>Frank Moffat</i> , blew up at Sombra dock, killing 5 crew.
1886	Erie and Huron Railway crossed St. Clair Branch of the Canada Southern Railway at Courtright, the Erie and Huron Railway became Chesapeake & Ohio in time, then later CSX.
1888	Bickford Post Office established, Lot 2 Concession 15, Townline (Bickford Line), Sombra Township at the Erie and Huron Railway. The community was first called Watson, the name of the E. & H. station, but was later changed because there was another post office with the same name.
1890	Nelson Mills of Marysville. Michigan developed Stag Island into a summer resort.
1892	Terminus Post Office established, Lot 19 Concession 8, Sombra Township at the intersection of Kerr Line and Pretty Sideroad.
1892	Charlemont Post Office established, Lot 25 Concession 5, Sombra Township at the intersection of Charlemont Line and Brigden Sideroad.
1892	The Stag Island / Corunna range lights were put into operation.
1898	First Courtright train station was destroyed by fire.
1900	Ladysmith Post Office established at the corner of 2nd Line, Moore Township (Oil Springs Line) and Ladysmith Road.
1900	Henry's Corners Post Office established, Lot 6 Concession 13, Sombra Township at the intersection of Wilkesport Line and the sideroad that would become Highway 40.
1901	Major fire destroyed many buildings on the west side of Brigden's downtown Main St. between Boswell & Jane Sts.
1903	Stag Island Resort opened.
1904	Balmoral Hotel in Brigden opened. After World War II, it was renovated into the Brigden Community Memorial Hall (now the Optimist Hall). From 1956 until 1990, Moore Township Council Chambers and offices were located here.
1906	Steamer <i>Erin</i> is rammed in the fog by the <i>John B Cowle</i> across from Frog Point. killing 5 people.
1908	Payne Post Office established at the side road that would later become Highway 40 and 8th Line, Moore Township (Rokeby Line).
1910	Pardee Post Office established, Lot 30 Concession 6, Sombra Township at the intersection of Lambton Line and Mandaumin Sideroad.
1911	Busyville Post Office established, Lot 20 Concession 11, Sombra Township at the intersection of Bentpath Line and Pretty Road.
1912	Washington Hotel in Port Lambton opened.
1913	Dr. Maud Menten co-discovered a foundational equation with Dr. Michaelis, related to enzyme reactions.
1916	Lambton 149th Regiment created, recruiting all along the St. Clair River.

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1919	Trinity Anglican Church, Mooretown was built on the same site as the previous church which was struck by lightning and burned down in 1918. The church closed and was re-located to Moore Museum and opened in 2000 as the Trinity St. Clair Chapel.
1920	Steamer, <i>William H. Wolfe</i> , burned in St. Clair River, 2 men died. Hulk still remains south of Fawn Island.
1920	Prohibition introduced in the US. The St. Clair River became a funnel for thirsty US citizens wanting booze. At the height of this illegal trade, there were as many as 13 beer scows lined up in Port Lambton.
1920	Sterling Bank in Sombra exploded and was destroyed on Christmas Day.
1926	Stewart James of Courtright published his first magic trick and went on to invent over 1000 more.
1926	Brigden's first motorized fire truck was purchased, a 1926 Model T Ford. Now used for parade duty.
1929	Sombra rum runner, Vet Brown, killed US Border Agent while unloading booze in Algonac, Michigan.
1931	Becher Bridge on the Lambton Line was completed.
1933	Harmsworth speed boat races were held in St. Clair River opposite Sombra.
1936	Original Highway 40, now called St. Clair Parkway, was paved.
1946	Corunna Branch #447 of the Royal Canadian Legion is organized and is named in honour of Leslie Sutherland, an RCAF pilot and the first resident of Moore Township to be a WW II casualty.
1947	Russell Hazzard purchased a grain mill in Becher and developed a network of grain elevators.
1948	Leslie Sutherland Branch of the Corunna Legion #447 opened its first building on Beresford St. at the foot of Hill St.
1948	Port Lambton Community Hall opened.
1948	Port Lambton Fire Dept. established.
1951	At Duthil, the "traffic cop", the elm tree in the centre of the hamlet's only intersection, was cut down.
1952	Robert C. Dennis, a former Courtright resident, begins writing scripts for television shows. From 1952 to 1984, he wrote more than 500 scripts for dozens of television shows.
1952	Ferry, <i>Daldean</i> , arrived at her berth in Sombra.
1952	Canadian Oil Company, now Shell, opened at its present site south of Froomefield.
1955	Fawn Island cottage development began.
1956	Moore Township office moved to Brigden from the Moore Centre Hall at the corner of Kimball Road and 6th Line, Moore Township (Moore Line).
1956	Ethyl Corporation, producer of tetraethyl lead anti-knock compound for gasoline, began production south of Shell. Ethyl later added a pharmaceutical production unit. In 2013 it ceased production after 57 years of operation.
1957	Sombra Community Hall opened.
1957	Goodfellow Waste Disposal plant, began operation in a lagoon and landfill site near Corunna. In 1960, the plant was re-located to its present site on Telfer Road between Petrolia Line and Rokeby Line and in 1972 Tricil took over from Goodfellow. This plant was renamed Clean Harbors.
1958	The "ship cemetery" at the north end of Stag Island disappeared when old derelict boats were removed.
1959	Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip sailed the St. Clair River aboard the Royal Yacht <i>Britannia</i> .
1959	Sombra Museum opened.
1959	Brigden Volunteer Fire Department established.
1959	Dupont, producer of polyethylene resins, opened.
1960	Clay Creek Provincial Park, now Cathcart Park opened.
1960	St. Clair Branch of the New York Central Railway was abandoned.
1961	Allied Chemical built on the old Highway 40 south of the 8th Concessionession, Moore Township (now Rokeby Line).
1963	East Sombra School opened.
1963	Mooretown-Courtright School in Mooretown opened.
1963	Brigden Volunteer Fire Department Kiltie Band formed.
1964	Riverview School opened.
1964	Brigden School opened.
1964	Brigden Veterans' Association was formed.
1966	OPP Station opened in Sombra.
1966	St. Clair Parkway Commission was formed. It developed our present network of riverfront parks. In 2006 it was disbanded.
1966	German freighter <i>Emsstein</i> collided with Greek ship, <i>Olympic Pearl</i> . The <i>Emsstein</i> sank in front of the Lambton Generating Station.

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1967	CIL, now CF Industries, went into production.
1967	Centennial Park in Mooretown was created to celebrate Canada's centennial year.
1968	Wilkesport Fire Dept. established.
1968	Lambton Generating Station south of Courtright began production.
1968	Former Courtright Railway station was destroyed by fire.
1968	Brigden cenotaph was unveiled by the Brigden Veterans' Association, Moore Township and the village of Brigden on November 17th.
1969	Moore Township arena opened in Mooretown. In 1975 was expanded with the addition of a swimming pool and renamed Moore Sports Complex.
1972	Moore Museum Board was established and in 1975 the Museum opened.
1973	Corunna and Sombra Village gave up their status as police villages and became a part of Moore Township and Sombra Township, respectively.
1975	Brigden and Courtright gave up their police village status and became a part of Moore Township.
1975	Becher Fire Dept. established.
1976	Petrosar, now Nova Chemicals, was built.
1977	The new Highway 40 opened. The old Highway 40 became known as the St. Clair Parkway.
1977	The last Sydenham River Ferry service, and the last pull ferry in Ontario, ended with the retirement of Ernest "Ernie" Smith. He had been the ferry operator since 1959.
1979	Wilkesport Hall opened.
1984	Darcy McKeough Floodway opened. The floodway diverts water from the Sydenham River to prevent flooding in Wallaceburg.
1984	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 635, Brigden established.
1986	Port Lambton ferry service closed after more than 100 years of business.
1987	and 1988, Mooretown Comets won Ontario Intermediate Hockey Championship.
1988	Mooretown Flags won Junior C Hockey Championship.
1988	Corunna Legion Branch #447 officially opened its new building on Albert Street on April 30th.
1990	Moore Township office moved from Brigden to a new facility in Mooretown.
1990	Brigden Legion Branch #635 on Main Street was officially opened on June 1st.
1999	Hill St. School, Corunna closed. Renovated into OPP station.
1999	Murray St. School, Corunna closed and Sir John Moore School opened.
2001	Moore Township and Sombra Township amalgamate to form St. Clair Township on January 1st.
2003	Colborne St. School, Corunna closed.
2003	Colonel John Cameron School, Corunna opened.
2011	Sombra Cultural Centre opened.
2013	Heritage St. Clair Committee formed as a standing committee of Council.
2016	Derek Drouin won Olympic Gold in the High Jump at Rio Olympics in Brazil.
2016	Lambton Generating Station, not in production since 2014, was officially delisted.
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