

HERITAGE CORNER

Is history lurking in those boxes and bags you're donating?

Spring is a time of renewal and fresh starts, and it's a time when many people start filling boxes and bags with items they no longer find useful. If this is your story, please keep the Moore and Sombra Township Museums in mind.

Don't dispose of your unwanted items without considering whether any of them might be of use to your community museum. Perhaps there are old postcards bearing local scenes, postmarks, or tales contained in the messages they carry. Other written material such as diaries, old documents, and other old papers might hold a wealth of information. You could have household equipment, old clothing, or other items that can tell us more about the lives of past generations. Old photographs, especially those labeled with names, provide a wonderful record of

our community's social history.

You could have items bearing the names of the former Moore or Sombra Townships, which now comprise the Township of St. Clair.

With display and storage space to be considered, the museums will not be able to accept every item that is offered, but they will all be given careful consideration. Whether or not we are able to add your items to the museums' collections, we will appreciate the opportunity to review them. And you won't ever have to utter those terrible words, "Oh, if only I had known the museum could have used them, I wouldn't have thrown them away."

Contact: Moore Museum at 519-867-2020 or email lmason@twp.stclair.on.ca; Sombra Museum at 519-892-3982.



Right: Donated carved wood hatchet commemorates Bridgen Fair of 1922. **Far right:** Donated ribbon from the Waubuno school picnic at Stag Island on June 20, 1900.

Moore Museum collection

VOLUNTEERS are always welcome at the Moore Museum, 519-867-2020, and Sombra Museum, 519-892-3982 (seasonal). Call to find out how you can help and make new friends, too.

OPG sponsors education program improvements at Moore Museum

The Moore Museum is grateful to be the recipient of a contribution from Ontario Power Generation Southwest Operations Lambton for educational programs and equipment.

This support will enable the Museum to purchase: swing arm bracket oil lamps for the schoolhouse, costuming for staff to lend greater authenticity to first-person portrayals of pioneers, and quill pens for students to use in the schoolhouse.

All of these items will serve to further enhance the hands-on experimental learning provided by our educational programming.

Ontario Power Generation is a long-term contributor to our educational programming and we at the Moore Museum very much appreciate the corporation's continued support.

Former Brigden creamery building remembered

The loss of the former Brigden creamery building, once known as the Purity Creamery and Dairy/Dairy Bar, has many Brigden residents feeling nostalgic about the building's past. It is fondly remembered by many as a place where happiness was served up on a hot summer's day in the form of a luscious frozen treat.

According to *Brigden-A Glimpse Into The Past*, a recently-published history of the town, the building was originally constructed as an ice house in 1906. It was eventually bought in 1926 when it became the Mutual Creamery and Produce Co. It had other owners through the years, but it became the Purity Creamery Co. in 1934 and, in 1967, Purity Co-op Dairy of Sarnia bought it. Frances E. Stewart operated the dairy bar until 1986.

The property also accommodated an outdoor two-lane bowling alley in the 1950s. The book notes that many Brigden children earned five cents a frame by setting pins.

The fire that destroyed the building in February did an estimated \$250,000 in damage.

Thank you to the Brigden History Committee for keeping Brigden's heritage alive and to the Moore Museum for sending the information to The Beacon.

NEW BOOK! *Farm Stories, Volume Two* coming to Sombra Museum

The second volume of *Farm Stories* will be available at the Sombra Museum when it opens on May 16 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The book is compiled and issued by the Sombra Historical Society.