

HERITAGE CORNER

Two new interpretive plaques debut at Brander Park

Brander Park south of Port Lambton was the scene of a dedication celebration on Aug. 15. The event, which marked the grand opening of the new pavilion, also saw the official unveiling of two plaques commemorating two forward-thinking local individuals who left very different legacies.

During the event, Heritage St. Clair Chair David Pattenden thanked the Brander Park Splash Pad Committee for allowing his group to “piggy back” on their project, providing ideal placement sites for the two plaques. He also thanked St. Clair Township Council for its ongoing support, as well as the Lambton County Creative Culture Fund and BF Environmental Consultants for their contributions to the project.



Two descendants of Francois Baby were on hand for the unveiling of a commemorative plaque dedicated to their great-great-great grandfather. Here, Heritage St. Clair Chair David Pattenden, left, and St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold watch as Kurrie Storey of Toronto and Patricia Kennedy of London reveal the plaque. *See below. Photos by Bonnie Stevenson*

Musical blueberry social delights patrons



A plethora of pies and pastries at the Sombra Museum Blueberry Social were made even more enjoyable by the sound of music that filled the air. This year’s social, held on Aug. 2, was combined with the popular *Music On The Porch* event. Helping to serve up homemade blueberry confections as well as fruit and other munchies is Sombra Museum volunteer Kailyn Shepley.

Many thanks go out to the volunteers who slaved over hot ovens in the summer heat to produce the sweet selection of goodies we all enjoyed.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP

DR. MAUD MENTEN, M.D., Ph.D. 1879 - 1960

Maud Leonora Menten, was born in Port Lambton on March 20, 1879. This location marks the original Menten property. She graduated in medicine from the University of Toronto in 1911 and became one of the first Canadian women to receive a medical doctorate degree. In 1913, while working with Dr. Leonar Michaelis in Berlin, Germany, they discovered an equation related to enzyme reaction. The Michaelis-Menten Equation laid the foundation for modern drug therapy and biochemistry. From 1918 until 1950, she instructed at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Her many achievements included important co-discoveries relating to blood sugar, hemoglobin and kidney functions. She studied astronomy, played the clarinet, painted, mountain climbed, traveled on arctic expeditions and spoke six languages. She died on July 17, 1960 in Leamington, Ontario.

2015

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These two plaques, dedicated on Aug. 15, are now stationed along the river front walkway at Brander Park.

The Baby Point plaque was unveiled by two of Francois Baby’s (pronounced *Baubee*) descendants, who traveled to Port Lambton to honour their great-great-great grandfather’s legacy. The plaque is especially timely considering that 2015 marks the 200th anniversary of the settlement of Baby Pointe.

Dr. Maud Menten, who spent her early years in Port Lambton, was one of Canada’s first female physicians and a biochemist who had a profound impact in the field of medical research.

ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP

BABY POINT

This area marks the location of the earliest European settlement of the Shawanese Township, which later became Sombra Township. Francis Bâby (pronounced “Baubee”) moved here in 1815 and established a settlement that would be known as Bâby Pointe. His father, Col. Francois Bâby of Sandwich (now Windsor, Ontario), obtained the site in 1828 as a land grant for his service in the War of 1812. Sacré Coeur Roman Catholic Church, Lambton County’s first church, was built in the community ca. 1827. The settlement grew to include two stores, a dock, customs house, post office, tavern and cordwood business. In 1870, the customs moved to Port Lambton where new businesses had been established as had the new Sacred Heart Church, which opened in 1877.

2015

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