

HERITAGE CORNER

Old-Fashioned Christmas sparks creativity in young students



About 700 elementary school students recently enjoyed learning old-school ways of celebrating Christmas at the Moore Museum's annual *Old-Fashioned Christmas* program. Left: Museum program staffer Linda Woods offers freshly-pulled taffy to students who helped do the pulling. Right: Mooretown-Courtright students Taylor and Kaedyn select buttons and trim to create gingerbread decorations. The students were allowed to take their handmade masterpieces home. *Photos submitted*



Moore Museum's Adopt-A-Project campaign well supported in 2015

By Moore Museum Curator Laurie Mason

Each year, the Moore Museum's Adopt-A-Project campaign seeks funding for a variety of projects needed for the Museum's development, programming, and maintenance. Again in 2015, community-minded industries, businesses, organizations, and individuals have generously sponsored the following projects:

TransAlta sponsored the construction of a woodshed to provide dry firewood for programming as well as to allow students to experience "fetching wood".

The Optimist Club of Moore sponsored the purchase of child-sized mannequins to enhance exhibits of children's clothing from various time periods.

The Sarnia-Lambton branch of the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario sponsored improvements to the Museum's school programs with the goal of increasing their learning value.

Diana Colborne and Kay's Petals and Plants sponsored landscaping improvements to the chapel garden for visitors to enjoy and to provide a lovely backdrop for wedding and family photos.

Improvements to the Lionel model train room were sponsored by: Ruby Bailey, who provided materials for a hand-

painted wall mural to enhance the layout; and the Knights of Columbus Council 9447, who provided locomotives and power supplies to reliably operate the trains.

Renovations to the century-old wooden CNR caboose were sponsored by: CN, in recognition of volunteer and CN retiree Leo Griffiths; and the Moore Community and Recreational Fund.

The following donors contributed to the 2015 capital project and operating costs, including preserving artifacts, creating new exhibits, maintaining buildings, and offering interesting programs: Imperial Oil Foundation (in recognition of volunteers and Imperial Oil retirees Dave Beer and Fred Strickland; Lambton Mutual Insurance Company; LANXESS Inc. Donations Committee; Vidal Street Industrial Park Inc.; Eleanor Vargo; Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna; Imperial Roofing (Sarnia) Ltd.; Watson TIM-BR Mart; Wilhemine Mason; Bruce and Margaret MacPherson; Mayflower Rebekah Lodge #324; Optimist Club of Brigden; Earle and Joanne Clysdale; Lady Martha Rebekah Lodge #245; Leopold Lodge #397; Olga Murray; Evelyn Japp; Bonnie Lester; Sally Townsend; and Geraldine Phair.

MAKE 2016 YOUR YEAR TO VOLUNTEER!

VOLUNTEERS are always welcome at the Moore Museum, 519-867-2020, and Sombra Museum, 519-892-3982 (seasonal). Many volunteering opportunities are available, from helping with major projects to staffing the special events that take place throughout the season. Call to find out how you can help and make new friends, too.

MORE HERITAGE CORNER

Busyville among the many tiny hamlets that once populated St. Clair Township

*With files submitted by
Heritage St. Clair*

Busyville is a curious name for a town, but once upon a time, it was a real place. Unfortunately, the only proof that the hamlet of Busyville ever existed can be found in the form of the school's sturdy cement block outhouse.

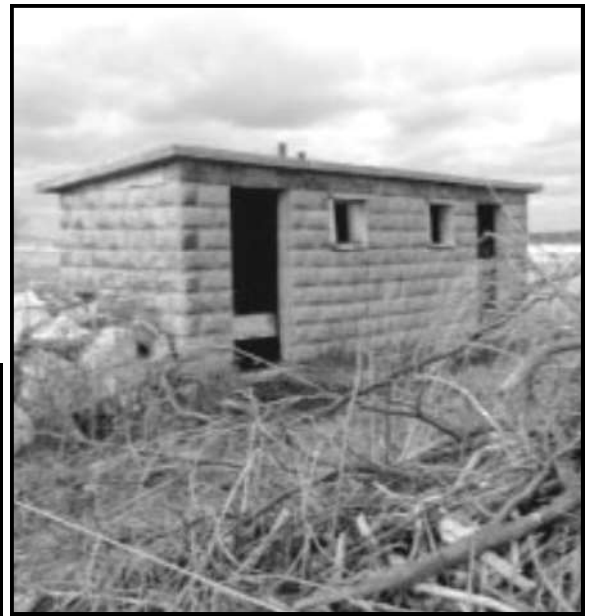
The hamlet in what used to be Sombra Township was a post office from 1911-1914. Located on lot 20 of concession 11, the place was named by a local school teacher.

Busyville is just one of several St. Clair Township hamlets that have faded from memory. Others, like Copleston and Kimball, were just post office locations. Some, like Waubuno and Ladysmith, survive in name only on road signs.

Other hamlets once located in St. Clair Township include: Baby's Point; Blecher; Charlemont; Avonry; Bickford; Duthill; Moore Centre; Osborne; Sykeston; Cromar; Thornyhurst; Colin-

ville; Port Seckerton; Vye's Grove; Bradshaw; and West Becher.

Do you want to find out more about the history of St. Clair Township? The Sombra and Moore Museum archives are filled with documents, photos, and other material that bring the past alive for those who care to know more about their community's past.



Left: A newspaper social column was the Twitter of its day.

Above: Today, the sturdy Busyville School outhouse is all that remains of the hamlet.

Photos courtesy Sombra Museum archives