

HERITAGE CORNER

Hands of Time exhibit looking for timely donation of clocks



Your "timely" donation of a wind-up clock will help the Moore Museum expand the *Hands of Time* exhibit, seen above.

The Moore Museum's clock repair shop exhibit features fine examples of clocks from by-gone days. Donations of wind-up clocks are now being sought to round out the museum's collection. Anyone who has a clock they would be willing to offer should call the museum at 519-867-2020.

The clocks do not need to be in working order as the museum is fortunate to have a clock repair person on its roster of enthusiastic volunteers. Although space limitations will not allow the museum to accept all clocks offered, each will be carefully considered to provide the best possible variety of timepieces for the exhibit. It is hoped that a well-considered exhibit of clocks will help visitors learn more about this essential part of daily routines.

Moore Museum on *Doors Open Lambton* tour

The Moore Museum will be one of Lambton County's interesting public and private locations that will be featured on the 2016 *Doors Open Lambton* tour, set for Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12. Admission to the site will be free and there will be lots of heritage demonstrations to engage and delight the entire family. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. For more information, call the Moore Museum at 519-867-2020.

CIBC Bank closure in Sombra sparks memories of the facility's past

As of September this year, the CIBC Bank in Sombra will be but a fading memory. According to CIBC management, telephone and online banking are to blame for the closure, but many are wondering how local needs like ATM banking and currency exchange will be done in the bank's absence. It is clear that the absence of a bank in the area will pose hardships to those who live in the area and to those who are traveling across the border.

Heritage St. Clair says there has been a CIBC in Sombra since 1928, although the first bank was called the Sterling Bank of Canada. It was housed in what is now the Aft Cabin Restaurant. It moved across the street in 1917 to the Logan Tailors building at the corner of King and the St. Clair Parkway. However, its operation was short-lived when, in 1920, a gas explosion put an end to the whole building.

The Sterling Bank quickly rebuilt on the same site and the little building remains. It is now known as the Old Bank. In the early 1920s, Sterling amalgamated with the Standard Bank, which was bought by the CIBC in 1928. It operated until 1968, when the current bank building was built on the site of the Sombra Hotel, (also known as the St. Clair Hotel and the Washburn Hotel during its lifetime), which burned down on New Year's Day, 1961.

The CIBC has seen some excitement over the years. In 1959, it was the site of a mid-afternoon robbery that resulted in the loss of a whopping \$1,000 in small bills.

To date, all efforts by individuals and the township have failed to keep the bank operating. And after 90 years, technology will now rob the Village of Sombra once again, and this time, the thief is taking the whole bank.

Anyone for tea?

The popular Victorian Tea at the Moore Museum is slated for Sunday, May 22 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. This annual rite of spring features Victorian-costumed servers delivering delectable home-baked scones and tea, coffee, or juice to your table, served up in elegant china. The event setting, a charming turn-of-the-20th century cottage, provides just the right atmosphere for an oh-so-proper tea time. Admission is \$7 per adult/senior, \$3 per child, and \$2 for preschoolers. For more information call 519-867-2020.

