



HERITAGE CORNER



Heritage St. Clair making invaluable contributions to township's Canada 150 legacy

In this sesquicentennial year, you will be learning a lot about the growth of Canada and the evolution of St. Clair Township: how Canada began, how it grew, and what the future may hold for it in the next 150 years. This information didn't just appear out of nowhere; it was preserved through the efforts of history scholars, journalists, diarists, witnesses, and the work of interested citizens and groups that took the time to document and preserve the information.

Heritage St. Clair, a committee authorized by St. Clair Township Council to identify and promote this municipality's heritage, has been especially busy in the months leading up to the Canada 150 Celebration. Their mission is to ensure that the rich, and often surprising, history of St. Clair Township will be available for everyone to enjoy throughout 2017.

The members of Heritage St. Clair seek out forgotten sites, research the history of the people and places that set St. Clair Township apart from other communities, and reveal the hidden local stories behind pivotal historical events that helped to shape our community and our nation. With this information in hand, they write stories and contribute to the wealth of knowledge that is often used to illuminate the public through interpretive signs and displays such as those on public view in Brander Park, Courtright Riverside Park, or in other locations around the township.

The group's efforts this year will become part of the enduring history of this municipality and their names will be associated with the lasting legacy they are helping to provide for future generations.

Heritage St. Clair Canada 150 prep

As part of its Canada 150 preparations, Heritage St. Clair is busy finalizing a series of eight interpretive story boards - two bronze plaques and six coloured informational boards - that will take their places as integral parts of the new Sesquicentennial Fountain Park project that is now taking shape at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre along Emily Street in Mooretown. The signs will border a horseshoe-shaped walkway, which encloses a custom-designed stone fountain.

The two bronze plaques reveal the genesis of St. Clair Township. The first plaque traces its roots, from the Crown's acquisition of the land from the Chippewa First Nations in 1792 to 1823, when



a site in Corunna was surveyed as a possible location for the capital of the united provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. The second elaborates on the story to provide insights into the historic elements that played a role in creating the modern municipality we now call home.

The six coloured story boards provide captivating illustrations by St. Clair Township artist Paul Smith, as well as details about some of the events and features that make St. Clair Township so unique and appealing. Three of the story boards create a topographical time capsule, displaying heritage maps of Sombra and Moore Townships as they were rendered around 1880, plus a fabulous satellite view of the township that was taken this year. Other story boards highlight famous and noteworthy township residents, past and present, information about the former Sombra and Moore Townships, and *Foundations of Freedom*, a look at the role the Royal Canadian Legion has played in this community. And at the head of the walkway, a plaque commemorating the sesquicentennial year council will be erected.

An added feature that is sure to capture the imagination of those who pass through the new park is the addition of a QR chip (quick response chip) to each story board and plaque. Visitors can scan the chips to acquire additional information pertinent to the subject of each storyboard.

Mayor Arnold has been watching the development of the story boards with great interest. He says Heritage St. Clair has invested a great deal of time and effort into the work and the result is nothing short of remarkable. "The story boards are beautiful," he said, adding they will perpetuate the history of the township well into the future and be a source of pride for those who call St. Clair Township home.

New members welcome

Anyone with an interest in history, heritage, and the excitement of discovering long-forgotten, perhaps startling, revelations about their community are invited to join Heritage St. Clair in its quest for knowledge. The group meets on the third Wednesday evening of each month at various locations throughout the township. For more information about Heritage St. Clair, go online to: stclairtownship.ca/heritage or email: secretaryheritagestclair@gmail.com



Seasons In St. Clair—Canada 150 Photo contest

Until Dec. 15, 2017, St. Clair Township residents are invited to photograph their favourite spots in the township and enter up to three photos in Seasons In St. Clair, a photo contest celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary. Details are available online at: www.mooremuseum.ca

149th Lambton Battalion photo graces Lambton County Council chambers

On March 28, 1917, over 400 men of the 149th Lambton Battalion boarded a ship in Halifax harbour bound for the battlefields of Europe. They endured the horrors of WWI in the service of King and Country, and many did not survive the conflict. To mark the 100th anniversary of this departure, staff from the Lambton County Cultural Services Division prepared a brief presentation of the names of these men, accompanied by a nearly life-sized enlargement of a group photo taken while the men were in training at Camp Borden in September, 2016. The image, which stretches over 50 linear feet, is now on display in the County Council chambers and will remain there until Remembrance Day. Members of the public are invited to view this poignant photograph.