



Issue 8

THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP

BEACON



Volume 9

August 2016

**Discoveries
That Matter**

THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

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Restored reed organ concert charms capacity crowd



Lovely tunes both sacred and secular were on tap as the Moore Museum's newly restored 1881 Dominion reed organ made its public debut on July 8. The instrument sang sweetly under the talented touch of two experienced organists: Jeff Searson, Moore Museum's resident volunteer organist, and Rodney Jantzi, the man who undertook the daunting task of restoring the severely damaged organ. During the presentation, there were several moving moments as the sound of soft human voices joined the sweet melodic voice of the organ. During an especially poignant hymn, *Peace Like A River*, the audience was invited to rise and sing along with the final chorus. Later in the program, the audience was once again invited to rise and sing a World War II era patriotic anthem, "I'm Proud of Canada", an original piece written by Rev. A. Earle Wagnhorn of Riverside, Ontario and dedicated to Lt. Col. Wm Griesinger, area commandant, St. Luke's Barracks, Windsor, Ontario. Other musical treats included several classical offerings, sentimental favourites like "Let The Rest Of The World Go By", the WWII Glenn Miller classic *In The Mood*, and a few whimsical numbers including the 1960s pop music classic, "Alley Cat".

Above: Rodney Jantzi plays *Peace Like A River* while the audience sings. In the foreground, left, emcee Ian Mason and organist Jeff Searson also lend their voices to the song.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

Hot weather a danger if preventative measures ignored

There is still plenty of summer on the way and Lambton Public Health (LPH) is urging everyone to heed the dangers that accompany hot weather, especially when heat warnings are issued. Be sure to seek cool places whenever possible and drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration. If you know of any disabled or elderly friends and neighbours who may need assistance to cope with the heat, be sure to check in on them. And remember that pets feel the heat as acutely as we do, so be sure they have an ample supply of fresh, cool water to drink and a shady or air-conditioned place to take shelter. For more information about symptoms and treatment of heat-related illness or other related topics, call LPH at 519-383-8331 or toll-free at 1-800-667-1830, or go online to: www.lambtonhealth.on.ca



MUNICIPAL NOTES

The former Methis plant in Sombra was recently purchased by BIOX. A deputation from the facility were on hand at the July 18 meeting of council to speak about the work that will be done at the plant.

BIOX CEO Alan Rickard told council the BIOX Corporation has been in operation since 2000, going public in 2010, and it currently has a site operating in Hamilton. The sale of the Sombra site closed in mid-June and Mr. Rickard says the company is hoping to have the facility running by this fall and fully operational by next year, employing 15-20 people at that time. At full production, the plant will produce 50 million litres per year of biodiesel from used fats and oils.

Mr. Rickard says the Sombra plant has a phenomenal rail facility that will be used to transport much of the product to the U.S. Product that is shipped to the GTA will be transported by rail to Hamilton and then carried by transport truck into Toronto.

He said the Sombra plant will observe a 24/7 work schedule. When asked if neighbours of the BIOX Hamilton facility had regis-

Council welcomes Sombra BIOX facility deputation

tered any complaints against the company, Mr. Rickard said there had been a noise problem that had been mitigated by the installation of noise barriers and that the Hamilton site employed some older technology from the new Sombra site. He noted that the older facility had more components capable of producing noise than the Sombra facility will have.

The Sombra facility is the first of two plants BIOX will be purchasing. Mr. Rickard noted the second will be located in Huston, Texas. "Huston is ground zero for the petroleum industry," he said.

St. Clair River Run organizers commended

Council commended the organizers of this year's 7th annual St. Clair River Run, held on July 16. Councillor Miller noted the race, "...couldn't have gone smoother." Councillor Randell praised the self-sustaining nature of the race, which helps support the river trail through funds raised. "Everyone did a super job," said Mayor Arnold. The race continues to grow in popularity and participation each year.



HYDRANT FLUSHING

St. Clair Township Residents

Public Works will be undertaking the annual flushing of fire hydrants connected to the St. Clair Township water distribution system during the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. until this fall. During this maintenance procedure, you may notice some water discolouration using your taps, flushing toilets, doing laundry, etc. as some sediment may be drawn into your residence. We recommend that you run the cold water tap for a few minutes or until the discolouration disappears. If discolouration of the water continues after 10-15 minutes of normal use please notify Public Works at 519-867-2993.

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

St. Clair Township Council meets every first and third Mondays of the month (with exceptions to accommodate holidays). The next meetings will be held on Monday, Aug. 8 at 6:30 p.m. and on Monday, Aug. 22 at 5 p.m. following the Committee of the Whole meeting at 3 p.m. The September meetings are slated for Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 5 p.m. following the Committee of the Whole at 3 p.m., and Monday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021 for further information.



SEWER MAIN FLUSHING

St. Clair Township Residents

Public Works will be flushing sewer mains connected to the St. Clair Township sewer system during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until this fall. During this maintenance procedure you may notice some gurgling noises in drains. If conditions persist after 24-48 hours of normal use, please notify *Public Works* @ 519-867-2993.



Notice to property owners to destroy weeds

Notice is hereby given to all persons in possession of land, in accordance with the Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter W.5, Sections 3, 16, and 23, that unless noxious weeds growing on their lands within the municipality of the Township of St. Clair are destroyed throughout the season, the municipality may enter upon said lands and have the weeds destroyed, charging the cost against the land, plus an administration charge as set out in the Act. (Minimum charge per parcel is \$80.)

The cooperation of all land owners is earnestly solicited.

Eric Bezanson
Weed Inspector

J. Baranek
Clerk



ST CLAIR TOWNSHIP

2016 FINAL PROPERTY TAX DUE DATES

The final tax due dates will be

August 3, 2016 and October 5, 2016

The 2016 *Final Tax Notices* for non-capped properties were mailed out at the beginning of July, 2016.

Most chartered banks and financial institutions will accept payment of your current taxes on or before the due date.

Any bank charges will be the responsibility of the ratepayer.

Tax payments by cheque can be mailed to the return address provided on the tax notice.

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The following methods of Tax Payments may be utilized:

- ◆ Automatic Bank Machines
- ◆ Telephone & Internet Payments through Bank
- ◆ Payment at most Financial Institutions
- ◆ Post dated cheques
- ◆ Counter services, cash, cheque or debit (credit cards not accepted)

Mail to, or Drop Box, at:

1155 Emily St., Mooretown, Ontario N0N 1M0

Pre-authorized payment plans are also available and encouraged. Please visit our website at:

<http://stclairtownship.ca/>

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St. Clair Township Tax Department

Phone: 519-867-2024 Fax: 519-867-5509

taxes@twp.stclair.on.ca

Public meeting to discuss draft county official plan

The County of Lambton will hold a public meeting to discuss the County's draft official plan on Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 9:30 a.m. This meeting will be followed by the regular meeting of Lambton County Council.

Individuals and organizations interested in presenting at the public meeting should contact the County's Legal Services/Clerk's Department in writing by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 17 or by emailing: clerk@county-lambton.on.ca

The draft plan can be found online at: www.lambtononline.ca. Click on the *Official Plan Review* tab.

New Website in effect for Township of St. Clair

Please use

<http://stclairtownship.ca>

The old township Website at www.twp.stclair.on.ca will no longer be updated, so users are urged to update all links to the site noted above. Any questions, concerns, or suggestions should be addressed to webmaster@twp.stclair.on.ca. Please note that the new website is a work in progress so we apologize for any problems that might arise when accessing information, etc., but when complete, it should be an improvement over the older website. We ask for your patience during this transition.

How safe will your community event be?



Event organizers and food/beverage vendors are urged to contact Lambton Public Health (LPH) in advance of any event they have planned. LPH inspectors and tobacco enforcement officers will provide guidance to ensure compliance with food handling regulations and Smoke-Free Ontario Act regulations.

Lori Lucas, Health Protection supervisor at LPH says this information is crucial to the safe operation of public events. "Whether you're an event organizer or a food and/or beverage vendor, it's your responsibility to minimize the risks of food-borne illness and to ensure the event is Smoke-Free Ontario Act compliant." Just download and complete the *Community Special Events Package* at www.lambtonhealth.on.ca. The package includes all of the required forms for food service. These must be completed and returned to the LPH at least two weeks before the event takes place. For more information, call 519-383-8331, ext. 3575 or toll-free at 1-800-667-1839.

Township firefighters carry out training exercise



Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

Volunteer firefighters from the St. Clair Township Fire Department carried out a thrilling training exercise at Guthrie Park recently. One of the two new Rosenbauer T-Rex fire trucks that went into service in May was used to carry out a difficult rescue scenario. The T-Rex's negative altitude boom deployment feature was used during the exercise; this is a function the average fire truck is unable to achieve. The powerful T-Rex boom enables firefighters to effect water rescues and rescues from difficult sub-level elevations. It is also capable of righting an overturned vehicle when used as a crane. Township firefighters have already received training on the new vehicles, but ongoing training is used to maintain and hone the knowledge and skills required to effectively use all equipment.

Public invited to St. Clair River Celebration

The public is invited to join Friends of the St. Clair River and the Binational Public Advisory Council for the St. Clair River for the celebration of a momentous landmark in environmental restoration. This event will celebrate the removal of the beach closing and degradation of Benthos impairments for the U.S. side of the St. Clair River and the completion of the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management actions.

These St. Clair River projects are shining examples of how community investment and partnership can create healthy, environmentally successful places and are significant steps towards delisting the St. Clair River as an Area of Concern.

During the celebration, officials from the U.S. EPA and

Michigan DEQ will speak and partner awards will be presented. Refreshments will be provided and golf cart tours of completed nearby Great Lakes Restoration Initiative-funded programs will be offered.

To attend, please register online at: BlueWaterRiver-Walk@gmail.com. For more information about this event or about the Friends of the St. Clair River, go online to: www.scriver.org

The Canadian side of the St. Clair River is undergoing final investigations with the goal of delisting in 2017 if these investigations are satisfactory.

Household Hazardous Waste collection days

The County of Lambton, in conjunction with Clean Harbors Canada Inc., hosts several Household Hazardous Waste collection days each year. The events give Lambton County residents an opportunity to properly dispose of potentially dangerous waste from their homes and protect the environment at the same time. If hazardous products are thrown in with regular waste, they can injure sanitation workers and cause long-term environmental problems.

Materials accepted include: batteries, drain and oven cleaners, pesticides, rat poison, pharmaceuticals, cleaning fluids, pool chemicals, ammonia, bleach, aerosols, gasoline, paints, barbecue starter, oil, solvents, and propane cylinders.

Collection days at the Clean Harbors Canada facility at 4090 Telfer Road (just south of Petrolia Line) are slated for Saturday, Sept. 24 and Saturday, Oct. 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Take ownership of your health with the Rapids Family Health Team

The following sessions are being offered at the Rapids Family Health Team clinic, located at the Shell Health Centre, 233 Cameron Street in Corunna. There is no charge for participation but you must register for each one you take. Please note that space is limited. If we are unable to accommodate you for the day of your choice, we will put you on a waiting list for future sessions.

For more information, go online to: www.rapidsfhteam.ca or to register, call 519-813-9800 and speak to reception.

Living With Diabetes

This is a two hour session that provides a general overview of diabetes. We will discuss some of the most common myths about diabetes, learn what “good control” is, and discuss some of the things you can do to manage diabetes. The session is led by a Nurse Educator. Sessions will be held on 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the following Wednesdays: Sept. 19 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; Oct. 12 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Nov. 9 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; and Dec. 7 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Diabetes Healthy Eating and Keeping Active

This is a two hour session for people who have already attended our Living with Diabetes class or who have had past education on the basics of Diabetes and want more information on diet. We will discuss the basics of healthy eating, what types of food affect your blood sugar levels, reading food labels, when and how much to eat, and how to increase your physical activity level. The session is led by a Registered Nurse. Sessions will be held on: Tuesday, Sept. 27 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; and on Wednesdays on Oct. 19 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Nov. 16 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; and Dec. 14 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

A Guide To Diabetes Prevention

This is a 1.5 hour group session for those who want to learn about diabetes and how to prevent it, or for those who have been told they are at risk of getting diabetes. This session is led by a Registered Nurse and a Registered Dietitian. They will discuss what diabetes is, risk factors for getting diabetes, and how to decrease blood sugar levels through lifestyle changes. The program is open to the public and no physician referral is required. Sessions will be held on: Tuesday, Sept. 16 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Monday, Oct. 24 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; and Wednesday, Nov. 23 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Healthy Weights by Healthy Means

This is a series of five sessions lasting two hours each. The aim of the program is to help you make permanent lifestyle changes; this is not a “diet” program. You will set your own healthy eating and physical activity goals, and learn how to make plans for achieving them. Some topics that will be discussed with include: carbohydrates, proteins and fats (the good and the bad); physical activity - what types and amounts are beneficial; emotional eating strategies; sensible portions and portion control strategies; and group discussions that will help you learn from others’ experiences. Weekly assignments will help you reach your goals. Sessions will begin on the following dates: Tuesday, Sept. 6 for five weeks from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Tuesday, Oct. 25 for five weeks from 9:30-11:30 a.m. *Patients must attend the first class in order to attend the final four clas-*

ses. This program is open to the public and no physician referral is required.

Quit Smoking Workshop

This is a two hour session for those who are thinking about quitting or are ready to quit using tobacco. We will discuss strategies and methods for quitting, such as cutting back, using nicotine replacement therapy, and using prescribed medications. We will also work on finding ways to overcome barriers to quitting, how to make a quit plan, managing withdrawal symptoms, and how to prevent a relapse. The workshop is open to the public and no physician referral is required. Participants are also welcome to schedule individual appointments to receive further support and information from one of our Nurse Educators. The next Quit Smoking sessions will be held on Wednesdays on: Sept. 21 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Oct. 26 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; and Nov. 30 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Stress Management Workshop

Created by our registered Social Worker, this two-hour seminar, offered monthly, will provide you with information on how to effectively manage stress through: regulating the stress response; goal-setting; problem-solving; challenging unhelpful thinking; and communicating assertively. This seminar is open to the public and no physician referral is required. The next workshops will take place Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on: Aug. 12; Sept. 9; Oct. 7; and Dec. 2.

Note: Class date, times and locations within Corunna are subject to change or cancelation depending upon the number of patient registrants.

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Kids Chef Summer Camp

Registration is now open for the Raids Family Health Team *Kids Chef Summer Camp*, which will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 437 Colborne Street in Corunna the week of Aug. 8-12. This free camp is designed for kids ages seven through 11 who are interested in cooking and nutrition. They will eat the lunch they make. To register for the camp, call 519-813-9800 or email: skidd@rapidsfhteam.ca We are also recruiting volunteers interested in helping out. Anyone interested in volunteering can email: cmccoleman@rapidsfhteam.ca

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Teaching Kitchen

Healthy cooking classes will not only help you build your knowledge of healthy eating, but will also help you be able to apply them in a friendly group setting. Classes will cover a wide range of healthy conditions/topics including: heart health, digestive concerns, vegetarian, cooking for one, increasing fruit and vegetables, high blood pressure, and more. Cooking classes are open to the public and no physician referral is required. The next class will be held on Thursday, July 28 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Laboratory Services offered

Laboratory services at the clinic are available
Monday through Friday from
7:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Mooretown Sports Complex wants to get you moving

Community Services Website

Check out our summer brochure at:
www.stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca

Spring Into Fitness

Join Fitness Kick Boxing, Muscle Mix, or Water Aerobics any time. The cost is \$6 per class (\$5 per senior) or \$45 per 10 visit pass. Spin classes are also available. Join any time.

Summer Swim Lesson Session

Daytime classes of four sessions each will be held: Aug. 2-Aug. 12; and Aug. 15-26. The cost is \$48 per child for group lessons and \$90 per person for private lessons.

Summer Water Aerobics/Therapy/Adult Swims

Shallow water aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9-10 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 7-8 p.m. Deep water aerobics: Monday and Wednesday from 7-8 p.m. Water therapy: Tuesday and Thursday from 9-10 a.m. Adult swim: Monday through Friday from 7:30-9 a.m., and noon to 1 p.m.; and Monday to Thursday from 7-8 p.m.

Tim Horton's sponsored free swims

Tim Horton's Café and Bake Shop will sponsor free swims every Friday from 5:30-7 p.m. through Aug. 12. Reminder: Any children unable to comfortably swim two widths of the Mooretown Sports Complex pool, all children under age 7, or under 48 inches tall, non-swimmers or weak swimmers, must be directly supervised in the water by an adult. A maximum of two children per adult is allowed.



Summer Day Camp

Summer day camp for children ages 5 and over is now underway and will continue until Sept. 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. (Early drop off at 7:30 a.m. and late pickup by 5:30 p.m. will be available for an additional \$15 per week.) Fees are \$27 per day, \$110 per week, or \$861 per summer. Family rates are also available.

Sports Camps

For the young sports enthusiasts in the house, sports camps for chil-

dren ages 7 and over will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays with early drop off and late pickup available. Camps will be held as follows: Golf - Aug. 8-12; Sports Combo - Aug. 15-19; Track & Field - Aug. 2-5. Fee will be \$110 per week.

Fitness Centre

Enjoy a feel-good summer by treating yourself to the many health benefits of regular visits to the fitness centre. Try it out with a 10-visit pass for just \$45 or a year's membership for \$225. With your membership, you can get in on special workouts like the Muscle Mix classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 a.m., and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.; and Fitness Kick Boxing on Mondays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Spin classes are held Tuesdays from 7:15 to 8 a.m.; Bikes and Bells Spin classes are held Monday and Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Arena Floor Rentals/Summer Ice

Arena floor rentals are available for \$55 per hour for adults and \$45 per hour for minor, with special event rates available. Call now to book your lacrosse, ball hockey, or special event. Summer ice is now available: Prime time on Monday through Friday after 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday all day, will cost \$130 per hour. Non-prime time on Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. will cost \$100 per hour.

St. Clair Township Park rentals

If you'd like to book space at any St. Clair Township park for your wedding, family reunion or other special event just call 519-867-2651.

Mooretown, Cathcart, or Branton-Cundick campground reservations

Call to book your campsites at any of these beautiful St. Clair Township campgrounds: Mooretown - 519-867-2951; Cathcart - 519-892-3342; Branton-Cundick - 519-892-3968.

Fall schedule available soon

The fall schedule will be available beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 6. Check out the MSC fall brochure online at: www.stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca

For more information or to register for any of these programs, contact the Mooretown Sports Complex at 519-867-2651.

West Nile Virus dead bird surveillance underway

Lambton Public Health (LPH) has begun its West Nile Virus dead bird surveillance program. The public is encouraged to report the sighting of all dead birds to LPH by calling 519-383-3824, toll-free at 1-800-667-1839, ext. 3824, or online at: www.lambtonhealth.on.ca More information about the West Nile Virus is available at these contact locations as well.

DO NOT handle the dead birds without wearing gloves.

Help keep your
community
beautiful—
Please recycle

You don't have to go to extremes to do your part when it comes to keeping your community beautiful, not just for now, but for generations to come. All you have to do is recycle; get recyclables to the curb on collection day and take your hazardous materials to Clean Harbors on Hazardous Waste Day. See page 4 for more information.



Lambton County Library's summer reading program underway

Lambton County Library's *eLibrary* digital resources are perfect for on-the-go vacationing this summer and to entertain your family on long road trips or at the cottage. Download or stream books, audiobooks, newspapers, movies, and TV shows. Add to your playlists with the abundance of music available for downloading or streaming at *eLibrary*.

Freegal offers three hours of free music streaming per day and three mp3 downloads per week. Browse over nine million songs and keep your MP3s.

Hoopla offers over 264,000 albums that can be borrowed for seven days. Use your library card number and pin code and the Internet to get started at www.library.ca

Lambton County Library's Summer Reading Program continues at all branches. There is still time for children to pick up a passport from their local branch to record their reading and earn prizes as well as participate in the LEGO challenge (voting takes place Aug. 15-22) and Books In Wild Places, Aug. 15-28. See your library or www.lclibrary.ca for details.

Please note that the Brigden library branch is expected to be closed Aug. 12-26 for renovations. It will reopen to the public on Aug. 27. However, a computer assistant student will be available for one-on-one instruction until Aug. 11. Call the library (see below for number) for times and dates available, and to book your appointment.

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Here are some of the programs and activities coming up at your Lambton County Library branch:

**Brigden (519-864-1142):** Summer reading program for children (pre-register) from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.—Wednesdays, Aug. 3, 10. Come for the fun, prizes and books.

**Corunna (519-862-1132):** Note: Computer assistant student is available for one-on-one instruction until Aug. 19. Call the library (see below for number) for times and dates available, and to book your appointment. \*Drop-in make and take crafts for children will be offered all month for all ages any time during open hours. \*Tales for Tots, ages 18 months to three years with caregiver, is a drop-in program that includes games, songs, and

activities - Monday, Aug. 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., and Thursday, Aug. 4, and 11, from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. \*Thompson Gardens Book Club for seniors is a drop-in program slated for Monday, Aug. 8 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. \*YMCA Settlement Services for adults is a drop-in program slated for Monday, Aug. 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. \*Adult book club, pre-registration required, will be held Monday, Aug. 29 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Courtright (519-867-2712):** Drop-in programs - Make and Take Crafts, and Scavenger Hunt - all month for all ages any time during open hours. \*Tween Scene for ages 7-12 is a drop-in on Thursday, Aug. 11 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. \*Adolescence for teens ages 12-17 is a drop-in to be held on Thursday, Aug. 4.

**Mooretown (519-867-2823):** call for information

**Port Lambton (519-677-5217):** Summer reading program for children, Monday, Aug. 8, 15. \*Discover activities - hemp jewelry for ages six through 12 drop-in on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to noon.

**Sombra (519-892-3711):** Tales for Tots for pre-school kids - drop-in on Wednesdays, Aug. 3, 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. \* Summer reading program for children - drop-in on Wednesday, Aug. 3, 10 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Wilkesport (519-864-4000):** Children's crafts - drop-in on Saturday, Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. \*Games day for all ages - drop-in Wednesday, Aug. 17 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. \*End of Summer carnival for all ages - drop-in Wednesday, Aug. 31 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. \*Life sized Jenga for all ages - drop-in Thursday, Aug. 25 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. \*Light saber games for teens - drop-in Thursday, Aug. 4 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. \*Cup games for teens - drop-in on Thursday, Aug. 11 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. \*Adult book club discussion - drop-in on Saturday, Aug. 27 from 11 a.m. to noon.

## St. Clair Township Fire Department's Becher station hosts open house

The Becher fire hall's recent open house proved to be a great success. Visitors filled the station to get a closer look at the new addition to the fire hall, some of the equipment the firefighters use, and the fire department's newest fire truck, the remarkable T-Rex.

The occasion gave the firefighters an opportunity to unveil a new sign that bears the insignia of the Becher Firefighters Association. It was donated by Joe Krogman and his family. Joe is currently the association president. The association was formed when the station was established as Sombra Township Station 2 in 1973. It was originally located in Towell's Garage. Two years later, it moved to its present location and with the new addition that has been built onto the original building, the station has doubled in square footage. It boasts a full complement of 23 volunteer firefighters and three auxiliary firefighters.



Displaying new sign are Becher firefighters Joe Krogman, left, training officer and Becher Firefighters Association president, Dan Gonyou, district chief, and Andrew McMillan, district deputy chief.  
Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

## Local *Ride Don't Hide* bike ride breaks event record!

The people of Lambton and Kent Counties joined riders in communities across Canada on June 26 to participate in the fifth annual *Ride Don't Hide* bike ride for mental health fundraiser. The national total of funds raised amounted to a record-breaking \$1.329 million for Canadian Mental Health Association's (CMHA) programs and services.

Launching from the Mooretown Sports Complex, 330 riders braved the heat and humidity to raise \$42,000 which will be used locally to help fund mental health programs and services.

In a media release, the CMHA noted that, in any given year, about seven million Canadians (one in five) experience a mental health problem or illness, but only one-third will seek help because of the discrimination and stigma that surrounds this illness.

The *Ride Don't Hide* event brings this often debilitating and frightening illness out of the shadows and educates the public about the realities of mental illness. It is championed by many high-profile sports figures and celebrities who have either personally



Some of the 330 riders entered in the Lambton and Kent *Ride Don't Hide* event set off from the Mooretown Sports Complex. *Photo courtesy of the CMHA*

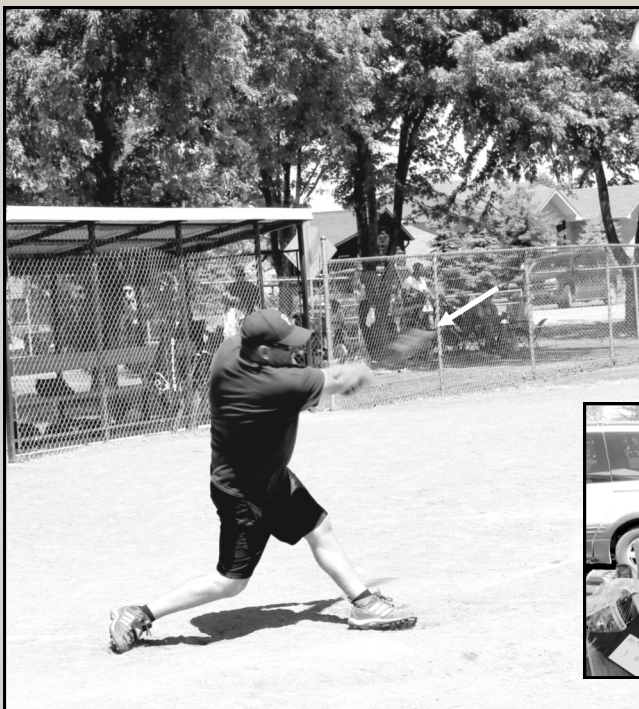
experienced mental illness or who have been touched by it in other ways.

### CMHA Background

Founded in 1918, the CMHA is a national charity that helps to maintain and

improve mental health outcomes for all Canadians. This organization helps people access the community resources they need to build resilience and to support recovery from mental illness. The CMHA website can be found at: [www.cmha.ca](http://www.cmha.ca)

## Memories of summer fun under the Sombra sun



Sombra Days under the summer sun provided lots of excitement and fun for all ages. Counter-clockwise from left: \*At the ball diamond, Mike Baker of The Baker Team takes a lightning fast swing (see arrow where bat is blurred) during the two-pitch tourney that featured 20 teams in four divisions. \*At the loonie table, Krista Kelley of Sarnia tries to decide which items she will try to win. \*And in a frightening display of aggression, the bouncy castle attempts to swallow an unsuspecting bouncer while the victim's friend tries to liberate him. When the victim emerged from the bouncy trap, the incident was celebrated with an outburst of giggles and continued vigorous bouncing.

*Photos by  
Bonnie Stevenson*





## College celebrates ground breaking for new addition



Above front: Andy Brandt, chair of the college foundation, wielded a silver shovel to move the first clod of earth from the future building site with the encouragement of College President Judith Morris and Sandy Marshall, chair of the college board of governors, as well as about 400 dignitaries, community leaders, funding stakeholders, and college students both past and present. Visible in the front row to the left of the Lambton College Lion mascot are local political figures, left to right: Don McGugan (Dawn-Euphemia), Steve Arnold (St. Clair Township), Warden Bev McDougall, Lonny Napper (Plympton-Wyoming), Ann Marie Gillis (Sarnia), and Pat Davidson (retired Sarnia-Lambton MP). Current MP Marilyn Gladu and MPP Bob Bailey were also in attendance.

*Photo by Bonnie Stevenson*

Lambton College celebrated the beginning of construction on the new NOVA Chemicals Health and Research Centre and the Athletics and Fitness Complex with a gala ground breaking ceremony on June 22.

Construction on the new facility is slated to start this September with completion estimated at fall 2018. The 60,000 square foot health and research centre will house interactive learning studios, health simulation labs and research space. The athletic and fitness complex will be a 40,000 square foot facility containing fitness studios and a double gymnasium.

The cost of the new addition is estimated at \$45 million and over \$34 million has already been raised. The

Township of St. Clair recently pledged a donation of \$100,000 to be paid over a five-year period in \$20,000 increments. Council agreed this donation is warranted due to the high number of township students who attend the college each year. The funds will be drawn from the township's Education and Environment Fund. Major funding for the project includes \$10 million from the province, \$5 million from Lambton County, and \$2 million from NOVA Chemicals.

*Donations to the project are still being sought and can be made through the college's Envision Tomorrow Capital Campaign.*

### 90-year-old township artist to exhibit work in Corunna

The Corunna branch of the Lambton County Library will play host to an exhibit of paintings by St. Clair Township artist Annie McLaughlin throughout the month of September. Noted for her work in the folk art style, Mrs. McLaughlin was previously featured for the first time last March in the *Look and See* program at the Judith and Normal Alix Gallery in Sarnia.

For the past 40 years, Mrs. McLaughlin has been painting almost every day. Her daughter, Joan, says her 90-year-old mom lived on a farm along Petrolia Line for 50 years and many of her paintings are based on rural subjects. Her studio is confined to one end of her dining room table and her work truly speaks of a love for rural life.

Twenty-three paintings by Annie McLaughlin will be shown during the September exhibit. Don't miss the opportunity to see this talented woman's perspective and interpretation of everyday life as she has experienced it throughout the years.

## HERITAGE CORNER

### *SOMBRA RAID OF 1838 COMMEMORATED WITH NEW PLAQUE*



Canada's early days were a time of turbulence and dissent as Canadian patriots fought to free the land from British rule. The St. Clair River bore witness to several of the raids the dissenters, living in the U.S. to avoid arrest by the British, made into Canada. The Sombra Raid has been commemorated with the installation of a brass plaque that describes the raid and its outcome.

Dr. John C. Carter, PhD., an authority on this era and author of *Piratical Doings On The St. Clair River*, was on hand at the plaque's dedication on June 25. He spoke briefly about the circumstances and results of the raid, giving the event historical context.

*The following article about the Sombra Raid was written by Dr. John C. Carter. Dr. Carter is a Research Associate at the University of Tasmania, and can be contacted at [drjohncarter@bell.net](mailto:drjohncarter@bell.net).*

#### **Remembering the Sombra Raid**

By John C. Carter

Between December 1837 and December 1838, at least 14 armed incursions from United States into Canada were recorded. These unsanctioned raids constituted the Patriot War/1838 Upper Canadian Rebellion. After the evacuation of Navy Island in the Niagara River on January 14, 1838, many members of the Patriot Army moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and then subsequently to Detroit, Michigan. There plans were made to launch more

incursions into Canada from the Detroit frontier.

The first occurred at Bois Blanc Island and included the schooner *Anne* incident on January 8/9. Next was the Battle of Fighting Island on February 23-25. Pelee Island was invaded on February 25 and the Battle of Pelee Island took place on March 3. The first episode of the St. Clair Raids happened on June 26, when Patriot forces sailed from Palmer, Michigan and plundered Goderich. This set the stage for the Sombra Raid.

Henry Grant, editor of the [Sandwich] *Western Herald*, vividly described the June 28th attack in an article entitled "Piratical Doings on the River St. Clair." He pointed out that for some time "Pirates-Rebels" were "...hatching mischief in Michigan," and added that "...scoundrels were skulking about the villages of Newport [now Marine City], Palmer and Port Huron." Their goal was to effect a landing on the Canadian side of the St. Clair River. In the June 30 edition of the *Cleveland Herald*, reiterated this threat; "Rumors of refugee movements, in the vicinity of St. Clair, have been current for some days, and strengthens the probability of this fresh outbreak."

The actual incursion began on the morning of June 28, 1838. A sloop belonging to Charles (Bourman) Bowerman landed an armed party at Sombra near the general store kept by local Justice of the Peace, Claude (Govin) Gouin. Stock was plundered and the raiders proceeded to the commissariat under the charge of Captain McDonald. There they stole eight barrels of flour and fifteen bushels of oats. Captain McDonald and Port Lambton tanner Angus McDonald were taken prisoner. With the booty and captives stowed aboard the sloop, the Patriots sailed back to

See Sombra Raid, page 11



## MORE HERITAGE CORNER

# Sombra Raid remembered

Continued from page 10

the American side. Because of calm winds and sailing against the current, the invaders couldn't return to their point of departure. They were forced to ground and then abandon the vessel south of Palmer, Michigan at Reemer's Point.

United States Deputy Marshal Cornwall had crossed the river from Palmer to Sutherland's Landing [now between the present day Courtright and Mooretown]. Cornwall's mission was to assure commander of the Moore Militia, Lieutenant-Colonel William Wright, that he would do all he could to preserve the peace and to maintain neutrality. Cornwall revealed to Canadian authorities that the American steamer *Gratiot* would soon arrive from Detroit. It would be pressed into service to capture the rogue schooner and take the invaders into custody. In the meantime, 17 Moore Militia volunteers and 7 Chippewa warriors, likely from the Thames and Bear Creek Reserves, procured 4 log canoes and pursued the rebels. Shots were fired and the rebels ran their vessel aground. An international crisis was diffused by action taken by American Captain John Clarke, and the potential of war between United States and England was narrowly averted.

Period first-hand accounts of the raid were brief but to the point. Writing from the St. Clair Mission, interpreter and assistant missionary George Henry (Maungwudas), noted that a few Indians "...drove the unfortunate fellows [Patriots] over [the border] again, and chased them to the other side [of the St. Clair River]." Captain Richard Emeric Vidal simply said of the day in his written diary account for June 28; "The whole day occupied fortifying the village [Port Sarnia]. The magistrates called out the militia...Mr. Gouin's Store plundered by the patriots." In his July 1 diary entry, Vidal recorded that; "The *Gratoit* (sic) called and too down 8 prisoners [to Detroit]." The *Detroit Daily Advertiser* of July 3, noted the fate of Patriots captured by American authorities; "We learn that of the prisoners brought down Sunday night from St. Clair, and examined yesterday by Judge [Ross] Wilkins, that two were bound over to appear at the next Session of the District Court, and the other four were released." The official position of the American federal government was spelled out in an article published in the July 3 edition of the [Sandwich] *Western Herald*; "President [Martin] Van Buren, evinces a firm determination to preserve our neutral relations with Great Britain. He has issued instructions to all subordinate officers, demanding of them vigilance and energy in the preservation of peace, and the suppression of violence on the frontier."

The July 3 issue of the *Detroit Daily Advertiser* provided a local response and gave a positive prediction for the future; "But so confident are we that our authorities will be faithful in the discharge of their duties, so decidedly is public opinion arrayed against them [the Patriots], that we do not apprehend any serious difficulties in this quarter." A re-printed article in the July 7 edition of the [Philadelphia] *Inquirer & Daily Courier* published additional information, and proffered another prediction about the future; "We are advised that most, if not all, the crew [of the schooner] were Canadians. The promptness on the part of officers and citizens of St. Clair, will, it is confidently hoped, crush another of those incipient piratical expeditions which have from time to time annoyed our frontier."

The Sombra Raid would be followed by an incident at Nugent's Landing on June 27, and action at Bear Creek at Chenal Ecarte on June 28. All these incursions were unsuccessful. The St. Clair

area returned to relative calm and normal conditions prevailed after the excitement of June 1838. Interaction and harmony between international neighbours resumed. American General Hugh Brady's July 17 letter to his superior General Roger Jones, described the prevailing mood; "As this section of the country is again restored to quietness, I have discharged the Steamboat which for some days has been running on the St. Clair river under the command of Capt. Jamison...The conviction that military aid was at hand tended to encourage the deputy marshals in the performance of their duties and, gave palpable evidence to the desperate men on this border, whose wish it was to embroil our Government in a war with Great Britain, that the Government of the United States was determined at all hazards to maintain the supremacy of the laws." British authorities agreed. Later in the year, Governor-General Sir John Colborne wrote to Lieutenant-Governor Sir George Arthur expressing an optimistic tone for what was expected in the future; "With respect to the further schemes of the Brigands and their associates and supporters in United States, it is probable that their failures and inability to make aggressions with any prospect of success will leave the Province quiet."

Peace had come not only to the St. Clair Region but to the rest of Upper Canada!

See Still More...Page 12

### Perfect ending to volunteer dinner



The Moore Museum volunteer dinner on July 12 treated the dedicated, hard-working museum volunteers to a sumptuous meal followed by about 15 different kinds of dessert. Keeping the dessert table stocked proved quite a challenge, but the kitchen volunteers managed to keep up with demand. Volunteer kitchen staffer Melissa Westbrook is shown here restocking servings of carrot cake that seem to have disappeared. Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

## STILL MORE HERITAGE CORNER

From Page 11

### Letter to the Editor - April 29, 1857

-With files from Heritage St. Clair

Anyone who lives or travels within the borders of St. Clair Township will find the following Letter to the Editor fascinating. It was written by a traveler from Swanton, Vermont and published in the April 29, 1857 issue of the Christian Guardian. (The archaic turn of phrase and composition of the letter has not been altered from the original.)

*Mr. Editor - Just another word about Western Canada. I was struck in passing down the river St. Clair from Port Sarnia, with the improvement that had been made on the British side in the course of a few months; but I could see in my imagination the doings of future years, on a scale far exceeding anything hitherto accomplished in these parts.*

*I put into Newport, and thence by ferry, crossed over to Sombra. Here I found the nucleus of a town, a cluster of houses, several stores of various kinds, a post office, a respectable hotel, a blacksmith's shop, etc., and last, but not least, a school house and a "House of Prayer". The prospect from this place is quite picturesque, with a thriving town of Newport exactly opposite, and all sorts of craft enlivening the limpid waters of the soft-flowing river.*

*I went down one of the concessions right into the midst of a dense forest, O, the solemn stillness of a woody solitude in its primitive and unbroken massive-*

*ness. Never yet was I in a more sequestered position for suggestive meditation, than when walking down this concession, walled in on either hand by the serried ranks of gigantic trees, planted by Gods own hands in the wild profusion of his infinite prolificness. For miles I could hear the scream of the steamboats plying upon the river St. Clair, which was nearly the only sound to be heard, except the whistle of the birds - little songsters that seem to have it all their own way.*

*After a walk of six or eight miles, I came to a place of the name of Wilkesport, where I found quite a settlement, another log school house, a post office, a store, and even vessels on the creek. The creek, I believe, is called Bear Creek, a somewhat ominous name, but suitable to the sombre character of the name of the township itself.*

*But \*maugre name, or no name, this part of the country is destined to become a flourishing farming district. The superstratum of the soil is formed of an alluvial deposit, doubtless from the lakes at some far-gone period; the substrata, of a gray glutinous marl, and clay of the first quality for mixing with the upper mould, or for building purposes, when formed into brick. If the projected canal from St. Clair to Lake Erie, should ever become a reality, villages and flourishing towns, and it may be, a city like Detroit itself, will grace the neighbourhood of this now wild but strong-textured country of heavy lands...*

*Yours, very truly,  
Swanton, Vermont, April 22nd, 1857 W.H.B.*

\*Footnote: Maugre - archaic word meaning "to defy" or "to exhibit ill will" - *The Complete Oxford Dictionary*

## Canada Post rural delivery changed the face of rural Canada

*The recent threat of a postal strike prompted Heritage St. Clair to look back on the important role rural delivery played in the growth of St. Clair Township. This article was contributed by Heritage St. Clair.*

It's been over 100 years since Canada Post introduced rural mail delivery across the nation. The effects of this new policy ultimately changed the face of rural Canada, as evidenced in the townships of Moore and Sombra. Dotted across both townships were small hamlets which were found at the intersection of concessions and side roads. These hamlets were the site of a post office, a school, a church, and a general store.

The beginning of the end of these hamlets was announced in 1911 by Prime Minister Robert Borden, who pledged to provide rural mail delivery. This was achieved in 1914. It eventually led to the closing of small post offices across the nation.

Letter-writing was an important communication skill at that time. People wrote to have contact with the world beyond their small communities and access to a nearby postal outlet was important to their daily lives. Mail order, the old-time version of

Amazon, allowed them to bring in goods from fabric for dresses to machinery and tools to work the land without having to make lengthy journeys to larger centres of commerce. The convenience of rural delivery opened many new doors for the farming community.

The hamlets were still viable through the Great Depression and WWII because of the other important services they offered to local residents. But as cheap, dependable vehicles, central schools, and shopping malls became commonplace after WWII, the hamlets of Moore and Sombra, as well as small villages across the country, were no longer viable as a rural focal point.

Today, most of these hamlets exist only as names and memories, slowly fading into the history and lore of days gone by. Communities such as Avonry, Bickford, Henry's Corners and Charlemont in the former Sombra Township, and Ladysmith, Kimball, Cromar, and Sykeston in the former Moore Township, are long gone, while Beecher (Becher) and Lucasville (also known as Beehive or Cole's Corners) are now just crossroads.

### **EmergenciesLambton website helps you prepare for the worst**

Lambton County has launched a new website to provide information on how to be prepared for a wide variety of emergency situations. [EmergenciesLambton.ca](http://EmergenciesLambton.ca) covers topics like emergency preparedness and hazards in the Lambton County community.

The website outlines the Emergency Response plans of

Lambton County and various local municipalities. It also features notable historic local emergencies such as the 1902 Wanstead train wreck, the 1913 Great Lakes White Hurricane, the 1953 Sarnia and 1983 Reece's Corners tornadoes, and the 2010 snowsquall emergency, locally known as "Snowmageddon".

**Emergencies happen - be prepared!**



# COMMUNITY CONTACT

## **Play Pickleball at CAP park**

The sport of pickleball has arrived in Corunna. The game is played with table tennis-like racquets on a marked tennis court and organizers Audrey and Michael Hill say the Corunna Athletic Park now has three courts available to play on. Up to 15 players are now enjoying the game and Mr. Hill says new players are welcome. The schedule for play has been set for Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday from 9 a.m. to about noon. More play days will be added when the need arises.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the game can go online to: [www.usapa.org](http://www.usapa.org) or [www.pickleballcanada.com](http://www.pickleballcanada.com). For more information about Corunna Pickleball, call Michael Hill at 519-813-9274 or Keith Adams at 519-918-5359.

## **160th anniversary cookbook on sale now**

Members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Corunna have compiled a new cookbook to celebrate the church's 160th anniversary - 1855 to 2015. The book, priced at \$15, contains 244 delicious recipes. It can be purchased by calling Ruth at 519-862-4119.

## **Corunna Legion's Elimination Draw supports community activities**

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 is currently selling elimination draw tickets to benefit the many community activities and initiatives it supports. The final draw will be held on Sept. 24 and tickets are going fast, so get yours now. Tickets cost \$20 each and can be obtained at the Legion hall at the corner of Albert and Beckwith Streets, or at the Corunna fire station on Hill Street. The first prize will be \$2,400. For more information, call the Legion hall at 519-862-1240.

## **Your change helps the St. Clair Trail**

That spare change that puts holes in your pockets, clutters up the floor of your car, and makes you jingle when you walk can help support the upkeep of one of the most scenic trails in Ontario when you donate it to the St. Clair Trail through the Pennies for Pavement program. Just drop it off at the following locations: Shaykin Bait Variety in Port Lambton (*the Canada Post office no longer accepts donations*) or the Pic-N-Pay in Sombra Village. Every penny will be matched 2:1 by St. Clair Township Council. Bricks, benches, and blocks can still be ordered to commemorate a special occasion or to provide a lasting memorial to departed loved ones. To place an order, contact Laura at 519-862-2442 (north end of trail) or Janis at 519-892-3223 (south end of trail). You can also visit the trail Website at: [stclairrivertrail.com](http://stclairrivertrail.com)

## **Brigden Fair student volunteer opportunities**

Student volunteer opportunities are available at the

Brigden fairgrounds in Brigden all year long, so call the Brigden Fairgrounds Fair Office at 519-864-1197 for more information.

## **Photo I.D. cards available**

Anyone over age 16 who does not have a valid driver's license can obtain a government-issued photo I.D. card at the Corunna Motor Vehicle License office at 379 Lyndoch Street.

## **New members welcome -**

## **Lambton County Jr. Optimist Club**

The Lambton County Junior Optimist Club is always on the lookout for youth who want to make a difference in their community. Club members ages 10 through 18 volunteer in the community and fundraise to put on their own programs and to donate to other youth programs. All hours spent volunteering through the club can be used toward members' volunteer hours at school. The club meets the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Courtright Community Centre. For more information, call Mary Lou at 519-862-3950.

## **Brigden TOPS group meetings**

Brigden TOPS hold their meetings every Tuesday night at the Brigden Optimist Hall. Weigh-ins are from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Meetings are from 6:45 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call 519-864-1865. The TOPS mission is to help our members to sensibly take off and keep off pounds.

## **TOPS group meets in Port Lambton**

The Port Lambton TOPS weight loss group meets every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. the Port Lambton Community Hall. For more information, call Margaret Ann at 519-677-5665 or just come out on Thursday nights. Everyone is welcome.

## **Let Corunna TOPS group help you reach your goal**

The TOPS Corunna group offers helpful weight-loss information and friendly support to help you reach your weight loss goal. The non-profit group meets every Tuesday at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 437 Colborne Street in Corunna. Weigh-in is 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. with a short meeting from 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All ages are welcome to attend so drop in for a meeting. NOTE: Wendy has now taken over the leadership of the group and she can be reached at 519-862-2808.

## **Recovery support group meets weekly**

Recovery International, a self-help group for those who struggle with mental health issues, meets on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at St. Luke's United Church in Sarnia. Issues that are covered include phobias, depression, anxiety, sleeplessness, and several others. For more information, contact Rita at 519-867-2932.

# Share the road this summer

Cycling is one of the simple joys of summer, but it can quickly result in tragedy if motorists and cyclists don't exercise courtesy and a willingness to share the road.

**Motorists** are urged to share the road with cyclists at all times. Drivers must maintain a minimum distance of one metre when passing cyclists when possible. Failure to do so can result in a fine of \$85. **Cyclists** are reminded that they must also be mindful of their own safety when sharing the road with vehicle traffic. Their bicycles must have front and rear lights, as well as reflective tape, or face a \$110 fine. More information on bicycle safety can be found at: [www.lambtonhealth.on.ca](http://www.lambtonhealth.on.ca) or [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca). More information on cycling tourism can be found on [www.ontariobybike.ca](http://www.ontariobybike.ca). More information on these and other great cycling opportunities can be found online at [www.bikefriendlylambton.com](http://www.bikefriendlylambton.com).

## CORUNNA LEGION BRANCH 447 ELECTS 2016-2017 BOARD OF OFFICERS



The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 447, Corunna recently elected its new Board of Officers for 2016-2017. Standing left: Doug Heath, Jon Neely, Jim Mitchell, Florence Winger, Lyn Boczek, Bob Churchill, Gerry Den Hartogh. Seated left: Secretary Pam Scott, Treasurer George Scott, President Dan Watson, 1st Vice John Cormier, 2nd Vice Marg Emery. Absent from photo: Bob Chambers, Tracy MacPherson. *Photo submitted*

*The Corunna Legion supports the local community and the Legion hall is available for weddings and dinner functions. By request, non-profit organizations may use the facilities at no cost. For more information, call the Legion hall at 519-862-1240.*

### U12 Lady Giants prepare for provincial qualifying tourney

Layne Fleming gets ready to play defence for the U12 Lady Giants. The team is preparing for the provincial qualifying tournament, slated for August 5 through 7 at the Courtright ball diamond.

*Everyone is encouraged to come out for the tournament to cheer on the home team.*

**Go Giants!**



*Photo by Marc Greenwood*

## Local Ontario Early Years locations

The OEYC Sarnia-Lambton is a free family drop-in program operated by Sombra Township Child Care Inc. for families with children ages 0 to 6.

**Best Start Hub - Riverview Central School**  
3926 St. Clair Parkway, Port Lambton  
519-892-3151

**Hours of Operation:**

Tuesday, & Thursday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Best Start Hub - St. Joseph's School,  
Corunna**

535 Birchbank Drive, Corunna  
519-862-5071, ext. 224

**Hours of Operation:** Monday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. & 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Friday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Brigden United Church,**  
2420 Jane Street, Brigden  
519-892-3151

**Hours of Operation:** Friday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

For a complete listing of hours and parent/caregiver workshops, go online to:  
[www.ontarioearlyyears.ca](http://www.ontarioearlyyears.ca).

# MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 16

## Sportsman Club hosts archery

The Lambton Sportsman Club will host archery sessions on Saturday mornings (not Tuesday evening) from 9 a.m. to noon continuing every Saturday morning until Sept. 24. An archery committee member will be on-site during these sessions. Please note that archery is open to the public but a club member must be present. All ages are welcome and children up to the age of 15 will be admitted free when accompanied by an adult. Ages 16 and over must pay a \$5 fee for the use of the range. For more information, please call Len at 519-344-7009 or Elsie at 519-867-3940.

## Weekly Souper Thursdays in Corunna

The Parkway Church, located at 551 Murray Drive in Corunna, hosts a FREE **Souper Thursday** community lunch every week from noon to 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come to the church and enjoy a homemade lunch to eat in or take out. Those who require assistance can call 519-862-3380 to have lunch delivered. For more information, contact the church online at: [parkwaychurchmichelle@gmail.com](mailto:parkwaychurchmichelle@gmail.com). Michelle Lariviere, a spokesperson for the lunch event, says the program has been quite successful so far, with about 50 lunches are delivered to shut-ins every Thursday.

## Ongoing activities offered at Cruickshank Community Centre

Several ongoing activities take place at the Cruickshank Community Centre each week. These include: **morning coffee socials** from Monday to Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. - everyone is welcome; **euchre nights** on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. - cost is \$3 per session which includes light refreshments; and **bridge** on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

## Courtright Friendship Club plays cards

The Courtright Friendship Club plays euchre every Wednesday afternoon at 1 p.m. and Pepper every Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the hall located at 1533 Fourth Street in Courtright. Everyone is welcome to attend and try out their card skills.

## Cribbage played at Corunna United Church

Cribbage is played every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Corunna United Church on Hill Street. Come out, test your skills, and enjoy a morning of fun.

## ~HEADS UP! Mark your calendar~

### Coming soon to the Brigden fairgrounds...

The Brigden fairgrounds will be the site of several great events and activities in the second half of 2016.

They include: **Oct. 7-10 - Brigden Fair** (Go online to [www.brigdenfair.ca](http://www.brigdenfair.ca) for the Brigden fair prize book. If you require a hard copy, contact the fair office at 519-864-1197); **Oct. 15 - Brigden Demolition Derby** (For details go online to: [www.brigdenfair.ca](http://www.brigdenfair.ca)); **Saturday, Oct. 22 - Storage** for boats, trailers, and motor homes begins (Call 519-864-1197 for information); **Sunday, Nov. 20 - CKNX Barn Dance** (see below); Sunday, Dec. 11 - Country Christmas Jamboree.

**On-going:** The 2016 Brigden Fair Harvest the Gold 50/50 Raffle tickets are on sale at the Brigden Fair office and at events held at the fairgrounds. Proceeds go to Agricultural/Education features and are available for \$5 each or three for \$10. The draw will be on Monday, Oct. 10 at the fair. **And** tickets for the annual handmade quilt draw are available at events at the Brigden fairgrounds or from any Homecraft member. The winning ticket will be drawn on Thanksgiving Monday. **More information will appear here in The Beacon and in local papers as it becomes available.**

## Hypnotic Comedy and Dinner set

The congregations of the Courtright and Sixth Line Churches will hold a joint fundraiser at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall on Friday, Nov. 4. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner begins at 6 p.m., and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. The Hypnotic Comedy and Dinner event will feature a beef and chicken supper with all the trimmings and entertainment with the Hypnotic Comedy of Jeff West. The event will also include a silent auction and door prizes. Tickets will be \$40 per person and will be available in September. For more information, call 519-864-1161 or 519-491-5510.

## CKNX Barn Dance Radio Show presents

### A Classic Country Christmas

If you remember the CKNX Barn Dance Radio Show, you won't want to miss this event. The Brigden Fair and the Barn Dance Historical Society presents A Classic Country Christmas at the Brigden Fairgrounds exhibition hall on Sunday, Nov. 20. Doors open at 1:45 p.m. with the show starting at 2:30 p.m. Admission is by advance tickets only. Tickets are on sale now at \$25 per person.



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**NOTE: DEADLINE FOR THE BEACON IS THE THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

Please **double-check** each submission for accuracy before sending.

Email: [beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca](mailto:beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca)

# AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

## Walleye Derby set

A walleye derby will be held on Aug. 5 and 6 in the St. Clair River from the south end of Fawn Island north to Grand Bend harbour and north to the trailer park north of Lexington. A valid fishing license is required to enter and tickets must be acquired by Aug. 5 at 5:30 p.m. from The Outdoorsman or Buck's Baits. The derby start time will be Aug. 5 at 6 p.m. The weigh-in will be at the hatchery in Point Edward at Waterfront Park from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6. Entrants must be in line by 10 a.m. to qualify. The event is sponsored by the Village of Point Edward and the Bluewater Anglers.

## Brigden Fair Ambassador Competition event



Current Brigden Fair Ambassador Esther Thomson takes her final bow when the Brigden Fair Ambassador Competition for 2016-2017 takes place on Sunday, Aug. 7 at 2 p.m. in the exhibition hall at the Brigden fairgrounds. Everyone is invited to attend this exciting annual event. Who will be the next ambassador? Come out and root for your favourite candidate! The competition is a leadership program open to males and females ages 17-24 and entries are being accepted until Aug. 1.

## Blueberry Social in Sombra

The Sombra Museum will host its popular annual Blueberry Social on Sunday, Aug. 7 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The event will feature fresh baked blueberry desserts and *The Resolutions* will be performing on the porch from 1-1:30 p.m. This group currently holds the Senior Champion title for the Ontario District. Special guest Dave Burwell will be displaying his Pesha Postcard collection of Lambton County. This family event will also have activities for the kids. Admission is by free will donation at the door. For more information, call the museum at 519-892-3982.

*And while you're at the social, be sure to visit the two new exhibits the museum is featuring this season: Wood-Glory-Tragedy takes a look at ship wrecks and ship-building along the St. Clair River; House Calls and Old Tyme Medicine is a glimpse at how the medical system functioned in "the good old days". In addition, a popular exhibit from 2015, All Dolled Up: Downtown, is back for an encore showing. It features a collection of 106 composition dolls dating back to 1913-1950. Collection owners, the late Marlene Robbell and her husband, Bob, spent many hours painstakingly restoring many of the dolls to their original condition.*

## Brigden Day Camp offered

Summer fun will be on the agenda as the Brigden United Church offers Day Camp for children in SK to Grade 7 the week of Aug. 15-19. The cost will be \$50 for the week and snacks will be provided, but children must bring a bag lunch. The camp program will feature one of these themes each day: Sports, Science, Adventure, Cooking, and Crafts. To register in advance, call 519-882-1575 or email: [brigdenpc@gmail.com](mailto:brigdenpc@gmail.com)

## Legion motorcycle poker run planned

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 447, Corunna will host a Veterans Legion to Legion Motorcycle Poker Run on Saturday, Aug. 27 beginning with registration at 9 a.m. and breakfast will be available. The event is open to veterans and non-veterans alike.

This annual event, which is held in support of our local Legions, tours Lambton County and St. Clair Township going branch to branch. For more information, call the Corunna Legion at 519-862-1240.

## Lambton Outdoor Club river rides

The Lambton Outdoor Club will host an easy ride on Saturday, Aug. 27 from Courtright to Sombra, proceeding across the river by ferry to Marine City where the group will have lunch and return. The difficulty level of this ride is classified as easy. For details and to sign up online, go to: <http://lambtonoutdoorclub.org/cycling/> A second ride slated for Sunday, Sept. 18 is a 100 km. ride that is classified as difficult. The group will ride along Hwy. 40 to Wallaceburg and return via the St. Clair Parkway. For details and to sign up online, go to: <http://lambtonoutdoorclub.org/cycling/>

## Creative Workshops offered at Moore Museum

The Moore Museum's Creative Workshops series held earlier this year was so successful that another series of workshops has been finalized. On Saturday, Aug. 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., basket weaving will be presented through a partnership with the Sarnia Hand weavers and Spinners Guild. Cost is \$50 per person (HST incl.) including all materials needed to make and take home a bun or "catch all" basket. Bring a lunch. On Sunday, Aug. 28 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., try 3D needle felting, taught by artist Amanda Moorehouse. Cost to be announced. On Sunday, Sept 25 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Watercolour Part II will be presented. And on Sunday, Oct. 16 from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., enjoy Introduction to Crochet. Pre-registration is required and places are limited. Further details and costs will be available soon on the museum's website: [www.mooremuseum.ca](http://www.mooremuseum.ca) You can also call 519-867-2020.

## Sip & See Tea Party in Courtright

The Moore Junior Optimist Club invites all princesses and princes to a Sip & See Tea Party on Sunday, Sept. 11 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Courtright Community Centre (Silverdome). Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. at a cost of \$5 per person. To attend, **please register by Aug. 30** by calling 226-886-3553 or online at: [sipandseeteaparty@gmail.com](mailto:sipandseeteaparty@gmail.com)



## 28th Annual Downriver Craft & Gift Sale

The Moore Museum at the corner of Moore Line and Emily Street in Mooretown, will present its 28th Annual Downriver Craft and Gift Sale on Sunday, Sept. 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Moore Museum site. Get an early start on your holiday shopping or treat yourself. The event will feature over 80 tables of crafts and a food booth will be on-site. Admission is \$2 per adult and free for children. Craftspeople interested in selling their creations can call the Moore Museum at 519-867-2020 to request a registration package or download forms at: [www.mooremuseum.ca/events/downriver-craft-gift-sale](http://www.mooremuseum.ca/events/downriver-craft-gift-sale)

For more information go online to: [www.mooremuseum.ca](http://www.mooremuseum.ca)