THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP



BEACON



Issue 3 Volume 10 March 2017

THE TOWNSHIP OF ST. CLAIR

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Family Day picnic takes advantage of spring -like weather



The close-to-record temperatures St. Clair Township welcomed over the Family Day weekend prompted many families to get a head start on their spring and summer activities. The Dowswell family of Sarnia decided to take a picnic lunch to Courtright Waterfront Park and then take a leisurely stroll along the St. Clair River Trail. Dad Jeff Dowswell says he grew up in Courtright and his parents still live there, so he is familiar with the beauty of the river trail and finds it a good place to enjoy family outings. Here, Jeff is joined by daughter, Saphira, 7, son, Jairus, 9, wife, Doddie, and shih tzu pooch, Gibbs. The family's other dog, Elsa, (under the table) was camera-shy.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson



Sombra community dock project underway

Stage one of the Sombra community dock project, a local Canada 150 project, has been completed. The existing seawall, which had been pushed into the river after its tie-backs broke away, has been expertly repaired by marine contractor Bill Hart of Port Lambton. After discovering that the wall's deterioration had worsened by 10 linear feet since the time he first bid on the job, Mr. Hart generously donated the cost of the extra 10 feet of repair as part of his contribution to this community project. The next phase of the project, slated to begin Feb. 20, will be the installation of spiles.

For more about this important, community-building project, see Sombra dock, page 3.

The Good Neighbour Experience

A local Canada 150 project

St. Clair Township is full of good neighbours and friends. Use the Beacon to let your good neighbours know they're appreciated.

~See page 3 for details~



MUNICIPAL NOTES

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

St. Clair Township Council meets every first and third Monday of the month (with exceptions to accommodate holidays). The next meetings will be held on Monday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, March 20 at 5 p.m. April dates will be Monday, April 3 and Monday, April 17. Times are yet to be announced. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021 for further information.

Winter parking by-law in effect

Until April, the winter parking by-law is still in effect. Motorists are advised that it is against the law to leave vehicles of any kind parked on public streets and roads overnight from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. This by-law ensures that snow plow crews can do their jobs without having to avoid parked cars. Property owners are also reminded that it is against the law to shovel snow out into public streets. These snow piles create dangerous obstacles that can contribute to needless automobile collisions.



St. Clair Township crossing guards sought

The Township of St. Clair requires a crossing guard(s) to assist school children crossing streets in Corunna. The work involves one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon on school days. The current compensation is \$28.95 per day. The Township of St. Clair also requires fill-in crossing guard(s) to assist children crossing at various locations in Corunna. The work involves one hour in the morning and one hour after school in the afternoon. The current compensation is \$28.95 per day. The position will be on a "call in" basis and hours will vary widely depending on the need.

Applications setting out qualifications and experience will be received by the undersigned.

David Neely

Co-ordinator of Operations Phone (519)867-2125 Fax (519)867-3886 St. Clair Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street Mooretown, Ontario, NON 1M0

By-Law for legal medical marihuana grow ops considered

At a public meeting held Feb. 6 during a regular meeting of St. Clair Township Council, a by-law to regulate the location of legal medical marihuana operations within the municipality was discussed.

Planner Barry Uitvlugt reviewed the definition of a medical marihuana facility as it was written in draft zoning by-law #9 of 2017. It stated that such a facility "...shall mean any lands, building, or structure licensed and/or authorized to possess, sell, provide, ship, deliver, transport, destroy, produce, export, and/or import marihuana for medical purposes, including related research under the Marihuana for Medical Purposes regulations or any subsequent legislations..."

Council took issue with two words included in the definition and ordered that the words "sell" and "destroy" be removed from the document. It was noted that the sale of marihuana from a storefront shop was not acceptable for the municipality. The destruction of the plants, if done by burning, was also rejected. A misinterpretation of the word could lead to legal problems since the act of smoking the substance also leads to the destruction of the material. Mayor Arnold directed that the destruction of unwanted plant material must be achieved by other methods, such as grinding it and redistributing it back into soil.

The by-law is being formulated to provide guidelines when marihuana facility operators request permission to operate their business within the municipality. Mayor Arnold noted that three large scale businesses had already approached council. He said an effective by-law is required to ensure that an adequate buffer between such operations and residential or sensitive land uses is maintained. Considerations such as unpleasant odours and noise from the facilities will be some of the issues addressed by the new by-law. Areas that may be used for marihuana facilities include industrial zones and open agricultural areas.

In answer to a question from the audience, Mayor Arnold noted there is no special tax benefit to the township if it hosts a medical marihuana operations. He said the facility would be taxed "just like other industrial facilities" and by the time the taxes are distributed between the township and other sectors such as schools and the county, only 30 per cent of industrial tax payments remain in the municipality. And although the grow operation involves agricultural processes, it also involves other functions such as packaging and processing, which are industrial functions, hence its industrial designation.

The planner's recommendations were accepted providing that the two requested wording changes are made.



Notice of 2017 Budget Meeting

The St. Clair Township 2017 draft budget presentation and deliberation meeting will be held at 5

p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 in the council chambers at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street in Mooretown. The budget meeting is open to the public and all ratepayers are welcome to attend.

Charles Quenneville

Director of Finance

Speeding ships damage shoreline: Report to Transport Canada Damage to the St. Clair River shoreline due to the excessive speed of some passing ships remains a matter of concern for Transport Canada Marine Safety and Security. For more information or to report incidents regarding ship damage, contact Capt. Syed Ali, Senior Marine Safety Inspector/Compliance and Enforcement - Transport Canada Marine Safety and Security for the Government of Canada. Call 519-464-5109; Fax 519-383-1997; Cell 519-384-8657; or email - syed.ali@tc.gc.ca

Information is also available online at:

http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/Marine-Communications/Home



ST CLAIR TOWNSHIP 2017 PROPERTY TAX DUE DATES

The 2017 Interim Tax due date is May 3

The Interim Tax Notices will be mailed out the last week in January 2017.

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).

The following methods of Tax and/or Water 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
- Mail to, or
- Drop Box at 1155 Emily St. Mooretown Ontario NON 1M0

Pre-authorized payment plans are also available free of charge and encouraged. Find the form at http://stclairtownship.ca

St. Clair Township Tax Department 519-867-2024 fax: 519-867-5509 taxes@twp.stclair.on.ca

Sombra dock project receives support

From page 1

The Sombra Sports and Recreation group is currently raising money to fund the Sombra Community Dock with the support of St. Clair Township. In approving the sharing of costs, council acknowledged that past partnerships with the group have worked well and have resulted in successful projects. The latest donation has been received from Enbridge in the amount of \$1,000. The company is the first commercial/industrial firm to help with this community project. When completed, the dock will provide public access to the river for swimmers, fishermen, boaters, boat watchers and serenity seekers.

Below: Sombra Community Dock representative Allan Anderson accepts the donation from Ken Hall, Enbridge Senior Advisor, Community Engagement.

Photo submitted



The Good Neighbour Experience

A local Canada 150 project



The Beacon is currently seeking out the Good Neighbours of St. Clair Township. We want to hear from residents who know people who never seek recognition for the kind things they do for others.

Throughout 2017, The St.

Clair Township Beacon will give St. Clair Township residents a chance to acknowledge the good neighbours who may live next door, down the block, or elsewhere within the township. What better way to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary than with a celebration of our neighbours, friends and, sometimes, complete strangers who help to make our community, and our nation, one we can take pride in.

From now until the end of 2017, we want to hear from YOU. Do you know people who brighten your life with their thoughtfulness and kindness?

If your answer is "yes", please let us know.

Email The Beacon at: <u>beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca</u> and write "Good Neighbour" on the Subject

In a brief message, tell us about your Good Neighbour(s) and how he/she/they makes a positive difference to **you and/or your family**.

As space allows, The Beacon will publish excerpts from these emails in The Good Neighbour Experience column and each month, one good neighbour will be chosen at random to receive a special Good Neighbour certificate from St. Clair Township during a regular meeting of council.

Don't miss this opportunity to acknowledge and thank

the Good Neighbour in your life.

Corunna: The Beacon has been made aware of a kind, thoughtful group of good neighbours in the Corunna area. The Fletchers, Drummonds, and Smiths, along with dear friend, Noreen, have all been a part of our grateful anonymous informant's $Good\ Neighbour\ Experience.$

What's your Good Neighbour story?

Novice and Peewee Lady Flags come home with hardware from tourney

Right: The Novice and Peewee Lady Flags teams both came home from the Cambridge Roadrunners' 23rd Annual New Year's Challenge Girls Hockey Tournament with shiny hardware.

The Novice Lady Flags, right, went a perfect 5-0 at the tourney with three 7-0 wins followed by a 2-0 win over Clarington in the semifinals. In the championship game, the Lady Flags scored a 2-1 victory over the Burlington Purple Bulls. Goalie Charlie Potvin allowed only one goal in the





entire tournament.

Left: The Peewee Lady Flags, left, advanced to the finals after a pair of 2-1 wins and a 4-1 loss in round robin play. It took a four player shootout in the semi-finals for the Peewee Lady Flags to get past Ancaster 5-4. Gracie Cornish was the only player for either team to score in the shootout, while goalie Kameron Roache stopped the four shooters she faced. In the finals, the score was tied 1-1 going into the third period when the Waterloo Ravens pulled away from Mooretown with three more goals for the win.

Congratulations to both teams!

-Report courtesy of Shawn Gladwish

Lambton County Library presents Freedom To Read Week

Lambton County Library will celebrate Freedom To Read Week until March 31. Lambton County residents are invited to participate in the Freedom To Read Challenge by creating a written response as to why a list of selected books may have been banned or contested. The list of challenged titles is available online at www.lclibrary.ca. All submissions will be placed in a draw for a chance to win at \$50 gift card to the Book Keeper. Entries can be submitted online at www.lclibrary.ca or at your local branch library.

To find out what's new at your local library, go online to: <u>www.lclibrary.ca</u> or outside of Wyoming, call toll-free to 1-866-324-6912 with any questions or concerns. Some regularly offered

programs at Lambton County Library branches require registration but drop-in programs can be attended without registration. All programs are free unless otherwise noted. To contact your local St. Clair Township library branch for more information, see below.

St. Clair Township Library Branch listed with Phone Numbers

<u>Brigden</u> (519-864-1142); <u>Corunna</u> (519-862-1132); <u>Courtright</u> (519-867-2712): <u>Mooretown</u> (519-867-2823); <u>Sombra</u> (519-892-3711); <u>Port Lambton</u> (519-677-5217); <u>Wilkesport</u> (519-864-4000)

SCRCA presents conservation awards

At the recent St. Clair Region Conservation Authority annual general meeting, Steve Arnold was re-elected as chairman of the SCRCA for another year. Three conservation awards were also presented. The Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc was acknowledged for its ambitious program to reduce local energy consumption, including the installation of rooftop solar panel systems on 13 municipal facilities, the conversion of about 1,800 street lights with efficient LED technology, and automated controls systems at local facilities to reduce annual energy usage. The Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston has encouraged residents to plant trees on their properties by providing subsidies toward the cost of the trees. And Brandon Jordon, a volunteer with the SCRCA, received the award for his work which focuses on the conservation and monitoring of the Eastern Fox snake, a local species-atrisk currently classified as endangered. Through the monitoring process of photographing and collecting data on the Fox snake, he has made valuable contributions to the SCRCA's snake habitat enhancement project and Eastern Fox snake monitoring program.

In 2017, the work of the SCRCA has included: the planting of over 100,000 seedlings and 800 large-stock trees on both private and public land; the provision of \$322,000 in grant money to local landowners resulting in 32 completed stewardship programs; the establishment of a climate change research plantation in Warwick Conservation Area; the engagement of almost 14,000 students through the SCRCA Conservation Education Program, plus several other important initiatives.



Do you recognize any of these S.S. #13 Sombra students?



Here are some of the people you might meet again at the upcoming SS #13 Sombra second reunion at The Clubhouse at Baldoon, 7018 Dufferin Avenue, Wallaceburg, on Tuesday, April 25 at 6 p.m.

Back row, left: Teacher Iona Davis; Mary Van Watershoot; Susan Pamer; Sharon Bowles; Margaret Workman; Mary Jo Pamer; Linda Johnston; Carol DiRidder.

Second row, left: Brenda Van Damme; Mary Agnes Van Watershoot; Barbara Johnston; Larry Mercer; Janet Rosseel; Loretta Van Damme; Andy Johnston; Joe Workman; Judy (Bido) Johnston.

First row, left: Ted Johnston; Douglas Johnson; Charles Workman; Dick Van Den Dool; Danny Johnston; Ron Rosseel; Jimmy Pamer; David Flynn.

Sitting, left: Barry Pamer; Jimmy Van Damme; Brian Pamer; John Clark; Tim Johnston; Randy Mercer.

Photo submitted by Bev Bradley

Left: Three conservation awards were presented at the SCRCA annual general meeting on Feb. 16, 2017. On hand for the presentation were, from left: SCRCA Chair Steve Arnold; award recipients Joanne Vanderheyden, Mayor of Strathroy-Caradoc; Brandon Jordan; and Don McGugan, mayor of Brooke-Alvinston; and SCRCA Vice-Chair Andy Bruziewicz. Photo submitted

Canada Day Challenge contest invites young Canadians to share their vision of Canada

Young Canadians are encouraged to share their vision of Canada's next 150 years by expressing themselves through art (drawing and painting); photography; and creative writing.

The Canada Day Challenge, an arts contest delivered by the Department of Canadian Heritage, is especially meaningful in 2017, not only because this is the 30th anniversary of

sary of Canada.

Participants will qualify to win an all-expenses paid grand prize trip for two to Ottawa to celebrate Canada Day and to take part in activities marking the 150th anniversary of Confed-



Young filmmakers take note

Young aspiring filmmakers can also compete in the Canada Day Video Challenge entitled Here's My Canada. It is also a Historica Canada project and is also a Canada 150 Signature Initiative. Here's My Canada is a mul-

the Challenge, but because this year marks the 150th anniver- tilingual, nation-wide contest inviting Canadians to express what Canada means to them in a 30-second video. This project is made possible through funding from the Government of Canada and the Bank of Montreal. For more information, go online to: www.heresmvcanada.ca

Be a healthier you with help from 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 next session, led by a Nurse Educator, be held on Wednesday, March 22 from 1:30 -3:30 p.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. Sessions led by a Registered Nurse will be held on the following dates: Friday, March 3 from 9:30 -11:30 a.m. and Wednesday, March 29 from 1:30 -3:30 p.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. The next session will be held on Monday, March 20 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

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 session is slated for Wednesday, March 8 from 9:30 -11:30 a.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 seminar will take place from 9:30 -11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 10.

Anxiety Awareness

The Anxiety Awareness Therapy Group is an eight week program for adults 18 and over who are living with and managing anxiety in day-to-day life. The program is facilitated by Registered Social Workers. Participants will learn how to deal with their anxious thoughts, feelings and behaviours by understanding their anxiety and how to manage their worry. Relaxation skills and stress reduction techniques will be focused on during weekly sessions as well as other topics that will educate group members and teach them coping skills. The program will begin Monday, May 2 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. (except for Victoria Day, Monday, May 23). *Class date, times and location within Corunna are subject to change/cancelation depending on number of patients registered.

Teaching kitchen

Healthy cooking classes will not only help you build your knowledge of healthy eating, but also help you apply them in a friendly group setting. A wide range of health conditions and topics include: heart health, digestive concerns, vegetarian, cooking for one, increasing fruit and vegetables, high blood pressure and more. Classes are open to the public and no physician referral is required. The next class is slated for Wednesday, March 22, 10 a.m. - noon.

Laboratory services offered

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

New patients being accepted

A new family medical practice has opened at the Shell Health Centre (Rapids Family Health Team), 233 Cameron Street, in Corunna. Applications are now available by calling 519-813-9800.

Celebrating Memory: theme of 8th annual Alzheimer awareness month writing contest

Celebrating Memory, the 8th annual Alzheimer Society Lambton writing contest that recognizes Alzheimer Awareness Month in January, is now underway. Writers of all ages are invited to submit a letter, poem, or short story, fiction or non-fiction, inspired by this photograph.

Submissions are intended to be a celebration of the gift of memory; they do not have to be specific to dementia. The objective of the contest is to increase awareness of Alzheimer disease and related dementias.

The entry fee for the age 18 and over category is \$20 (donations of greater value

will be welcomed but will not affect the outcome of the competition) and entries in the age 17 and under category will be accepted free of charge. Contest prizes will be awarded to the top three entries in both categories. The



deadline for entries will be Friday, April 28.

Six judges, nominated from the community, will select the finalists. The winners will be announced on June 13 and results will be posted on the Alzheimer Society website. The award ceremony will be held at Fairwinds Lodge on Thursday, June 22 at 4 p.m.

Contest rules can be found on the Alzheimer Society - Lambton website: www.alzheimer.ca/sarnialambton

More information is available by calling Heather at 519-332-4444.

Sponsors for this contest include: the Organization for Literacy in Lambton; the County of Lambton; Haines Printing; Tony d'Arne; Vicky Ducharme; Kathy D. Milliken, M.A.; Fairwinds Lodge; and author Margaret Bird.

Spring is on the way. Prepare at Mooretown Sports Complex

Don't let winter get you down. Sunny days are on the way! Battle your winter blues at the Mooretown Sports Complex. Boost your endorphins by exercising with us. Why not give yourself the gift of a Fitness Centre membership at a tax-included cost of just \$255 per year (\$243 for seniors). Daily, monthly, three month, and six month rates are also available and there are no initiation fees to pay. From the exhilaration of a good workout to the luxurious vacation feel of time spent in our pool, hot tub, or sauna, do yourself the favour of good health. Join us!

Spinning classes for everyone

Spinning classes are offered here! Join our certified spinning instructors for a great workout to improve your cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, and power. Join any time for a 12 week session for \$10 per class or buy a 10 pass admission for \$80. Morning Spin classes are held on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 7:00-7:45am. If you're a beginner, there are classes designed for you on Tuesday Evenings from 7:15 - 8 p.m. If you're looking for strength training combined with a spin workout, come to the Bikes and Bells class on Monday or Wednesday evenings from 5:00-6:00pm, or Friday from 9:00 - 10:00am.

Kids Dancing Classes - hip-hop and ballet

Hip Hop and Ballet Dance classes are currently being offered. Kids from age 7 to 13 are invited to enjoy training in hip hop and ballet on Thursday evenings. Fun, exciting, and popular Hip Hop dance moves for ages 7-13 years are taught from 5:30-6:15 p.m. at a cost of \$120 for 12 weeks. Ballet for ages 3-5 years is taught from 5:00-5:30 p.m. at a cost of \$110 for 12 weeks. And ballet for ages 6-9 years is taught from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at a cost of \$120 for 12 weeks.

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.

Muscle Mix group classes offered

You can join the Muscle Mix group fitness class any time. These classes include kettlebell training that will build lean muscles, improve strength and power in your upper body, core and lower body, and increase coordination, joint mobility, and overall endurance. Classes are held Tuesday or Thursday from 9:0-10:00 a.m. or Wednesday from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The cost is \$45 for a 10 visit pass, or is included in the full fitness centre membership.

Twice weekly walking exercise program

A FREE indoor/outdoor walking exercise program is offered at the Mooretown Sports Complex by the West Lambton Community Health Centre every Monday and Wednesday morning from 9 - 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come out and walk in this safe, snow-free environment.

March Break program

The March Break Day Camp will be offered Monday, March 13 to Friday, March 17. Children ages 5-12 are invited to participate in this fun, kid-friendly camp. The camp includes: swimming, skating, crafts, and games. The program will operate from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with an early drop-off at 7:30 a.m. and late pickup by 5:30 p.m. available for an extra fee. The program costs \$27 per child per day or \$110 for the week. Fill your child's March Break with exciting, healthy activities and lots of creative fun.

For more information or to register for any of these programs, contact the Mooretown Sports Complex at 519-867-2651. Find us online at: www.stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca

NOTE OF THANKS

Corunna Best Start Hub, along with the YMCA St. Joseph, recently celebrated their 10th anniversary. Thank you to these local businesses for providing door prizes for the celebration: Antonio's; Dollarama; Subway; Corunna Home Hardware; HAL Makeup Artistry; Golden Palace; YMCA; Ontario Early Years; and MC Business Solutions. Your generosity is appreciated. We would also like to thank the families who came to celebrate with us.

Moore Optimist cash calendar error correction

The Optimist Club of Moore 2017 Cash Calendar contains an error regarding the club's website. The website listed on the calendar has been changed since the calendar was printed.

The list of winners can be found at: http://mooreoptimist.com (follow the links).



HERITAGE CORNER



Moore Museum's Canada 150 photo contest now underway

As part of St. Clair Township's celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary, Moore Museum is holding a photography contest that will capture the beauty of the four seasons as township residents experience them. All township residents are invited to submit photographs showing their community throughout 2017.

Rules

- ◆Contest is open to St. Clair Township residents only.
- ♦Photos must be taken in St. Clair Township.
- ♦ All photo entries must be accompanied by the photographer's name, address and phone number, as well as the date the photo was taken.
- ♦ All photos must include the location in St. Clair Township where the photo was taken.
- \blacklozenge All photos must be of a subject matter suited to the family-friendly nature of Moore Museum.
- ♦ If a photo includes a recognizable person, a model release is required. Model releases are the responsibility of the entrant and a copy will be required for any winning photograph. The model release form is available on the museum website at: www.mooremuseum.ca
 - ◆Entries are limited to a maximum of 3 photos per person.
- ◆Cropping of photos and tonal or colour corrections are permitted but neither content alteration of digital files nor addition of graphic elements are allowed.

◆Digital photographs should be at a minimum resolution of 300 dpi at 8 x 12 inches.

By entering a photo or photos, the photographer grants to Moore Museum and the Township of St. Clair a royalty-free, world-wide, perpetual, non-exclusive license to display, distribute, reproduce and create derivative works of the entries, in whole or in part, in any media now existing or subsequently developed, for any Moore Museum purpose, including, but not limited to, advertising and promotional materials, its website, exhibition and commercial products. Moore Museum will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such uses.

At the end of the contest period, the photographs will be judged by a panel of judges chosen by Moore Museum. Prizes for winning entries will be: 1^{st} prize - \$100 cash + a one-year Moore Museum membership; 2^{nd} prize - \$50 cash + a one-year Moore Museum membership; 3^{rd} prize - \$25 cash + a one-year Moore Museum membership.

The top 12 photographs will be used to produce a 2019 calendar which will be made available for sale in mid-2018.

The contest will run from January 1, 2017 to December 15, 2017

Submissions may be made by email to *photocontest@twp.stclair.on.ca* or in print format delivered or sent to Moore Museum, 94 Moore Line, Mooretown, ON NON 1MO. Please note that photos will not be returned. For more information, please call Moore Museum at 519-867-2020 or visit www.mooremuseum.ca

S. S. #13 Sombra (West Becher) second reunion planned

Former students and teachers from S. S. #13 Sombra, also known as West Becher, along with their spouses or guests, are invited to attend the school's second reunion planned for Tuesday, April 25. The event will take place at The Clubhouse at Baldoon, 7018 Dufferin Avenue, Wallaceburg.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and admission, by advance registration only (reply by April 14) will be \$10 per person. Dinner (order from the menu) will begin at 6 p.m. Attendees will be responsible for the cost of his/her own meal, drinks, tips, etc.

To register or for more information, call Elanor at 519-677-1182 or Jim at 519-628-5535, or email: <u>SS13Sombra@hotmail.com</u>

If you know anyone who was a student or teacher at SS#13 and who has left the area, the organizing committee asks that you contact these people to let them know about the second reunion. The committee hopes to see lots of familiar faces at this event.

See page 5 for a photo memory.

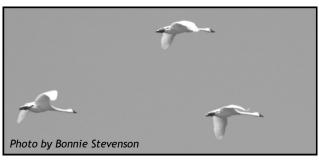
More WWI veterans from Moore/Sombra area discovered

Information for three more WWI veterans from the former Moore and Sombra Townships has become available. New entries to the growing list of veterans include: brothers **Henry Cranston**, born Jan. 17, 1895, drafted April 3, 1918 in London, Reg #3132612; and **Sidney Cranston**, born Nov. 25, 1898, enlisted in Edmonton, March 11, 1917, Reg #2288359 (sons of David J. and Bessie (nee Booth) Cranston of Moore Township; and **George W. Abra**, born in Corunna, Nov. 12, 1894, drafted April 2, 1918 in London, Reg # 3132697, son of James and Catherine (nee Cranston) Abra.

This information will be especially relevant for those who purchased *St. Clair Allies In Arms:* The Men of Sombra and Moore Townships in WWI, a book that was published by the Sombra Museum in 2014 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of WWI. The book was as complete as researchers could make it at the time of publication, but new entries occasionally become available. This is the latest information. Those who own the book are encouraged to clip this item and keep it with the book. As new names are discovered, they will be noted here in The Beacon in Herit-

Lambton Heritage Museum hosts spring activities

The Lambton Heritage Museum will host the *Return of the Swans Festival* from March 11 to April 2. Spring heralds the return of the tundra swans as they pass through the Grand Bend area on their way to nesting grounds in the Arctic Circle. *Hands-On Nature!* is an exciting and interactive exhibit on loan from the Royal On-



Tundra swans return to migration stop over near Grand Bend

tario Museum that will appeal to people of all ages. See it from March 5 to April 28. And the *Paint Ontario Art Competition*, *Exhibition and Sale*, featuring over 200 stunning paintings, will be on from March 11to April 2. The Lambton Heritage Museum is located on Hwy. 21 south of Grand Bend.

COMMUNITY CONTACT

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT TO HELP WITH Canada 150 Celebration



Saturday, July 1, 2017 will mark the

150th anniversary of Canada and St. Clair Township is going to celebrate with a family-friendly party that will be remembered for decades to come. The St. Clair Township Canada 150 Committee is busy planning a day filled with family fun, entertainment, and good food that will be topped off with a truly spectacular display of fireworks.

Volunteers are now being sought to help with a variety of duties, from grounds keepers to parking assistants to helpers that will assist with the set up and tear down of the site. Students are reminded they can acquire volunteer hours this way. For more information or to volunteer, call Michelle at 519-867-2651.

Become a community builder as an Optimist Club member

The Sombra Optimist Club is looking for new members who want to help their community thrive. This volunteer organization exists to make their community a better place by doing great things for the youth in their area. Over the years, the Sombra Optimists have been involved in many projects and activities including improvements to Brander Park, the skate board ramp at Van Damme Park, the annual car show at Brander Park, Bike Safety Rodeo, and many others. Be a friend of youth - join the Optimist Club of Sombra. For more information or to become a member, call Carla Aarssen at 519-892-3536.

7th annual elimination draw underway

Tickets for the 7th annual elimination draw, sponsored by Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447, are now on sale for \$20 per ticket. The grand prize will be \$2,400 and weekly draws begin May 6, 2017, with the final draw slated for Sept. 23, 2017. Tickets are available at the Corunna Legion hall. Call 519-862-1240 for more information or to purchase tickets. Get your tickets early - they make great Christmas gifts.

Brigden United Church services and activities

Brigden United Church holds **regular services** every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to join the congregation for meaningful worship, fellowship, and coffee. In addition to regular services, the church will again host *Messy Church* is underway and will continue through next June from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The weekly event features a relaxed evening of worship, crafts, and a provided supper. Children must be accompanied by an adult; parents and grandparents are welcome. This event introduces children to a faith-based life in a fun and informal way. And the *Moms and Tots Drop Inn* happens at the church every Friday morning from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The program is held under the auspices of Sombra Rural Childcare. For more information, call 519-892-3151.

Your change helps the St. Clair Trail

Donate your spare change 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: stellar.rivertrail.com

New members welcome - Lambton County Jr. Optimists

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 non-profit TOPS Corunna 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. For more information, call Wendy 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. For more information, contact Rita at 519-867-2932.

Lambton Seniors Assoc. Handyman/Handywoman Program helps seniors at home

Seniors, don't struggle with the upkeep of your home. Lambton Seniors Association handy men and handy women can help with everything from yard work to housekeeping. Call 519-339-8866 or 1 -800-219-4717 for info.

Cinderella Story Prom Dress Boutique

The 8th annual Cinderella Story Sarnia-Lambton Prom Dress Boutique is slated for Friday, March 31 from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 100 Christina Street in Sarnia. For more information, email: info@cinderellasarnia.org and to register, go online to: www.cinderellasarnia.org

2017 program sponsor is RBC Wealth Management, The Starek Wealth Management Group. 2017 boutique sponsor is NOVA Chemical.

2nd Corunna Girl Guides give back to community

March 2017



Animals cared for by the Sarnia Humane Society were the big winners when the 2nd Corunna Girl Guides decided to take on a project to give back to the community. Each girl came up with her own fundraising idea and implemented it. Some girls did bottle drives while others made and sold chocolates, and some simply asked friends and neighbours for donations.

When the money was tallied, the 13 girls had raised \$245.38. They split the donation into \$40 cash and used the remainder to acquire items from the "most needed" list on the Humane Society Website.

Left: The girls of the 2nd Corunna Girl Guide troop stand with the items they bought to benefit the Sarnia Humane Society.

Photo submitted

STILL MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 11

Coene at 519-337-0537 or by email at: lcoene@sjhospiceca

Annual native plant sale slated

The Sydenham Field Naturalists suggest you garden in harmony with nature by attending the annual native plant sale on Saturday, May 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Peers Wetland, 29644 Kimball Side Road, Wallaceburg. The plants sell fast, so come early. Tour Peers Wetland while you're there and discover its biodiversity. For more information, like the Sydenham Field Naturalists on Facebook.

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: *parkwaychurch-michelle@gmail.com*

Cruickshank Community Centre hosts weekly activities

The Cruickshank Community Centre hosts two popular activities each week. Moming coffee socials run from Monday to Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. and everyone is welcome. And **euchre nights** are held on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. The cost is \$3 per session, which includes light refreshments.

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.

Indoor walking in Brigden

Indoor walking, offered by the West Lambton Community Health Centre, has resumed in Brigden at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall, 2876 Brigden Road. Sessions are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For more information, call any at 519-344-3017, ext. 237.

LEO offers exercise for seniors in Sombra

Lambton Elderly Outreach continues to offer Forever Fit exercise classes for seniors at Sombra hall. Classes are Mondays and Thursdays at 9 a.m., and Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Chair exercise is offered at 10 a.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. Everyone 55 and older are welcome. Shoes with a good tread on the sole are required.

MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 12

holding a barbecue fundraiser of hot dogs and hamburgers beginning at noon. The Easter egg hunt will begin a 1 p.m. sharp. There will also be a colouring contest and the Easter Bunny will be making a special appearance. Children 12 and under are invited to come and enjoy the event.

Country Jamborees in Brigden

Country Jamborees at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall will continue on the second Sunday of each month until April 9. Doors open at noon and the music starts at 1 p.m. There is a cash bar and supper tickets are available at the door. Singers, musicians, toe tappers and appreciative listeners are all welcome to come and enjoy an afternoon of fun. The afternoon closes with a ham and scalloped potato dinner at 5 p.m. for those who need a break from kitchen duty. Tickets for the dinner are available at the door before each jamboree so come early to make sure you get your tickets. For information, check out the Brigden Fair Facebook page or website, or call the Brigden Fair office at 519-864-1197.

Girl's Gathering benefits disadvantaged women

A benefit Girl's Gathering will be held at Antonio's Pizza on Tuesday, March 28 from 6:30 p.m. to about 8:30 p.m. Attendees can enjoy items from a reduced price sampler menu and admission to the event will be donations of personal care items such as body wash, tampons, tooth paste, etc. Items collected will benefit disadvantaged women in the community.

Sombra Museum lecture series continues

The Sombra Museum's popular lecture series continues on March 28, guest speaker Michael Deery will present *Anticipation and Disappointment*, a look at why some mail was returned to sender during WWII. Using actual correspondence, he will explain the reasons behind a problem that caused untold despair and disappointment to those who send the letters and those who never received them. And on April 25, Jeff Horley will speak about how he built his 38-foot wooden dream boat and why it took 26 years to complete. The beautiful sailboat includes a Jacuzzi tub, stained glass windows, and enough space to sleep six people.

Lions roast beef dinner in Corunna

The Bluewater Lions Club of Sarnia will host a roast beef dinner with entertainment at the Corunna United Church on Friday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Diabetes Research. The cost is \$20 per adult and \$10 for children age 12 and under. For tickets or information, call Allan at 519 -862-1040.

Corunna Legion jam session series continues

Free jam sessions are held at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 on the last Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. Future sessions are planned for: March 25; April 29; and May 27. Enjoy live music featuring local talent with a meat draw at 4 p.m. You don't have to be a member to come out and join the fun - play an instrument, sing, or just listen - it's a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon. The venue is wheelchair accessible. For more information call 519-862-1240.

Free health programs offered by West Lambton Community Health Centre

Several free health programs are offered in St. Clair Township by the West Lambton Community Health Centre. **Cooking Buddies** at the Brigden fairgrounds kitchen (last Monday of each month through April, 2017 or the third Monday of each month until April, 2017) offers free cooking classes for children ages six through 12. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237. **Low impact exercise** at the Mooretown Sports Complex will be held Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. through April, 2017. For more information, call Amy at 519-344-3017, ext. 237. **Low impact exercise** at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Amy at 519-344-3017, ext. 237.

Spring Fashion Show in Brigden

The Rebekah Lodges will host a Spring Fashion Show on Tuesday, April 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Brigden Community Hall, 3016 Brigden Road. Desserts will be served and there will be door prizes. Fashions will be by Sitek & Co., Leisure Lane, and Mister B's. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling Linda at 519-864-1820. The Rebekah Lodges will donate a portion of all proceeds to help foster the needs of our local communities.

Bluewater Sharks Spring Hockey Tourney

The 2017 Women & Men's Recreational "Non-Competitive" hockey tournaments are slated for April 7-9, 2017 at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena in Sarnia. The 7th annual Women's 18 & over, and the 6th annual Men's 19 & over tourneys, all divisions, will begin play on Friday evening. There will be six teams in a division semi-finals and finals will be held on Sunday with a possible five games. Applications are available online at www.bluewatersharkshockey.com and the deadline to enter the tournament will be March 18, 2017. The cost will be \$775 Canadian, \$625 American for the adult tournament weekend. For information, call Ed at 519-344-8624 (email: emarcy@sympatico.ca) or Lance at 519-344-2205 (email: lmarcy@cogeco.ca).

Annual Broasted "Spring" Chicken Dinner

The congregation of the Courtright United Church will host the annual Broasted "Spring" Chicken Dinner, Saturday, April 29 at the Courtright Community Hall. Dinner will be served from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Book a table to celebrate Mother's Day, a special birthday, or other friend and family gatherings. Take out will be available. Tickets are \$18 per person and can be purchased by calling 519-383-1157 or 519-491-5510.

Mad Hatter's Tea Party planned

Don't be late for this very important date! On Sunday, April 30 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Mad Hatter will welcome you to the Mad Hatter's Tea Party at the Gourmet Café, located at the UWO Research Park, 1086 Modeland Road. This extraordinary afternoon of lunch, cakes, silent auction, fun hat contests, and live entertainment is being held in support of St. Joseph's Hospice. Tickets are \$45 and are available at St. Joseph's Hospice, 475 Christina Street N. or by contacting Lesley

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

World Day of Prayer in Corunna

The World Day of Prayer will be hosted by All Saints Anglican Church at the corner of Lyndoch and Hill Streets on Friday, March 3 at 2 p.m. The service will be followed by refreshments and fellowship, and everyone is welcome to attend. The theme of this year's service is *Am I Being Fair To You?* It is written by the women of the Philippines. For more information, call 519-813-9084.

Nerf Mayhem invades Silverdome

The Silverdome (Courtright Community Hall) will be filled with mushy missiles on Friday, March 3 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. as the Lambton County Jr Optimist Club and the Optimist Club of Moore present Nerf Mayhem for youth ages 10 to 15. Participants should bring their own 'guns' and eye protection, and 'bullets' will be provided. Snacks will be provided and admittance will be \$2 each. To register, call Michelle at 519-481-0577.

Wilkesport United to host stew supper

The congregation of Wilkesport United Church will host a stew supper at the church on Thursday, March 9 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Enjoy a hearty beef stew, biscuits, coffee/tea/juice, and dessert. The cost is by donation and proceeds will go to the church.

Weekly euchre in Sombra

Weekly euchre sessions will be held at the Sombra Community Hall on Fridays at 1 p.m. as follows: March 10, 17, 24, 31; April 7, 21, 28; May 5, 12, 19.

Mel Wilkinson Memorial Dart tourney set

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 447 Corunna will host the Mel Wilkinson Memorial Dart Tournament on Saturday, March 11. The tourney will include: men's doubles, ladies doubles, mixed doubles, and mixed teams. Registration will cost \$5 per person and will be held at 11 a.m. with play beginning at noon. All monies will be returned as prizes and food will be available. For more information, call 519-862-1240.

Annual Big Buck Day planned

Local farmers and friends from St. Clair Township and area will be holding the annual Big Buck Day fundraiser on Saturday, March 11 at the Oil Springs Youth Centre in Oil Springs. Admission is \$5 per adult and free for kids age 16 and under. There will be categories for moose deer sheds and turkeys. Proceeds will be used to plant trees for local landowners. For more information call Harold at 519-864-3113 or Jarrod at 519-402-2917.

St. Patrick's Eve corned beef dinner

A St. Patrick's Eve corned beef and cabbage dinner will be held at St. Stephen's Church, 70 Milton Street in Courtright on Thursday, March 16 at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person. For more information or for tickets, email: paul@woolley.com or call 519-464-2055.

Pickerel Fry and Dance in Corunna

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna will host a Pickerel Fry and Dance on Saturday, March 18, with dinner served from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and a dance from 7 p.m. to midnight with music by Christine Storey and The Chapters. The

menu includes Jolly Roger's seafood chowder, pickerel, baked potato, baked beans, Italian bread, coleslaw, vegetable, and pickle tray. Tickets are \$18 per person and admission by advanced tickets only. The venue is wheelchair accessible and everyone is invited. For tickets, call 519-862-1240.

Public invited to hatchery open house

The public is invited to the Bluewater Anglers Hatchery Open House on Saturday, March 18 and Sunday, March 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Major improvements have been made to the hatchery, located in Point Edward adjacent to the water treatment plant at the mouth of the St. Clair River. The hatchery plays an important role in raising a number of different fish species to supply fish stock for local waters. Admission is free

Progressive euchre tourney in Corunna

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna will host a progressive euchre tournament on Sunday, April 2. Registration will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with play beginning at 1 p.m. Registration is \$10 per person and all monies will be returned as prizes. Food will be available and the venue is wheelchair accessible. Pre-registration is available. Call 519-862-1240.

Spaghetti fundraiser in Brigden

A spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be held at the Brigden Fairgrounds exhibition hall on Sunday, April 2 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. This event is being held in support of the 2017 Bridgen 4-H Saskatchewan exchange group. Admission is \$10 per adult and \$5 for children under age 10. The dinner will include: spaghetti, bread, salad, dessert, and a beverage. For tickets, call or email Sandi at 519-864-4030 or <u>sandi.shaw@yahoo.ca</u>

Moore Optimist oratorical contest planned

Young speakers from around southwestern Ontario will be featured as the Optimist Club of Moore hosts the Southwestern Ontario District Oratorical semi-finals on Saturday, April 8 beginning at 10:45 a.m. The competition will be held at the Courtright Community Centre (Silverdome).

Easter In The Park in Corunna

The annual Optimist Club of Moore *Easter In The Park* event is slated for Sunday, April 9 at the Corunna Athletic Park in Corunna on Hill Street. The Junior Optimists will be

See More Around the Township, page 11

Contact The Beacon

If you have a non-profit or charity event or activity coming up in St. Clair Township, or if the event will benefit the residents of the township, you may promote it free of charge in The Beacon.

Deadline for Beacon submissions is every third Monday of each month by noon (including Monday holidays).
E-mail: beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca