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Sombra Community Dock taking shape



Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

The Sombra Community Dock taking shape along the shore in Sombra Park will make its grand debut on July 1. The sturdy structure is engineered to take the worst kind of ice assault Mother Nature can dish out and it features a deck made of slip-resistant material. The structure, spearheaded by the Sombra Sports and Recreation group in partnership with St. Clair Township, has garnered sponsorship from the Sombra Optimist Club and other substantial donors such as Enbridge Pipelines. (See Sombra, page 7)

Above: Checking on the progress of the community dock construction are, left: Sombra Sports and Recreation group member Bob Gray and his springer spaniel, Chip; group secretary Todd Sharpless; and group vice-president Jamie Bogaert.

Special Olympic flag visits St. Clair Township

St. Clair Township Council recently welcomed a visit from one of six Special Olympics flags that is being circulated across Ontario by the Knights of Columbus, one of the game's sponsors. The flags, which are circulated by the Knights to raise awareness and funds for the annual games, will be displayed at the upcoming 2017 Special Olympics Ontario Provincial Summer Games being held this summer at the Terry Fox Stadium in Brampton, Ontario. Members of the local Knights of Columbus 9447 Corunna Council brought the flag in to be signed by council and to garner support for the games.

Left: Councillor Darrell Randell prepares to sign the flag which is being held by Council 9447 Grand Knight Rick Brown, left, and Council 9447 member Jay Alexander. Looking on are Mayor Steve Arnold and Knights of Columbus District Representative Mike Hendricks.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson





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, April 3 at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m. The Committee of the Whole meeting will be held separately on Monday, April 10 at 3 p.m. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021 for further information.

Moore Community & Recreational Foundation - application deadline

The deadline for Moore Community and Recreation Foundation financial assistance is May 31, 2017. For detailed information about the foundation and to obtain a grant request form, visit the St. Clair Township Website at: www.twp.stclair.on.ca For further information, please contact Charles Quenneville, Treasurer, or Mayor Steve Arnold at 519-867-2024 or 1-800-809-0301.

Budget update hints at small increase

Although the 2017 budget will not be finalized and approved until April, the basic impact of the deliberations is now understood. As it stands, the budget will likely result in a 0.76% increase over 2016.

Some factors that make the increase necessary include: the hiring a new health and safety officer; inflationary considerations such as staff wages and contracts for waste, recycling, etc.; the loss of \$1.3 million in Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding (the township received \$1.7 million in 2016); and the hiring of a second Public Works Coordinator who will oversee roads in the municipality. Until 2013, two Public Works Coordinators were on staff and it was thought that one coordinator could look after roads as well as water and sanitary systems. The task has proven too great for a single coordinator to handle.

Mayor Arnold says this budget has been especially dif-

See Lost revenue, page 3



HYDRANT FLUSHING

St. Clair Township Residents

Public Works will be undertaking 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. beginning May, 2017 and continuing into the fall. During this maintenance procedure, you may notice some water discoloration when using 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 discoloration disappears.

If discoloration of the water continues after 10-15 minutes of normal use, please notify Public Works at 519-867-2993.



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 N0N 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



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. and 4:30 p.m. beginning April, 2017 and continuing into the 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 at 519-867-2993.

New energy-efficient streetlights already paying off for township



In late 2015, St. Clair Township approved the replacement of about 1,400 St. Clair Township streetlights with energy-efficient LED units in an effort to take advantage of the Hydro One LED program. The goal was to realize long-term savings on the township's total energy bill. The LED retrofit program resulted in an impressive savings of 812,108 kWh of energy during the initial measurement period.

At the March 6 meeting of council, Hydro One representatives Braedyn Stockfish and Gennaro D'Atri were on hand to congratulate the township with a cheque for \$118,554.85. The cheque represented the first LED program rebate of a multi-year amount.

"We're happy to be part of this program," said Mayor Steve Arnold. "We spent two years evaluating samples of the lighting from eight different suppliers before making

the choice."

He added there are still areas in the township that require better coverage. "We still have a couple of areas where there isn't adequate lighting coverage, but work is being done on solutions to improve the situation," he said.

Above: During the March 6 meeting of council, Hydro One's Conservation Account Manager Braedyn Stockfish, front left, and Hydro One's Lead Technical Reviewer (for the Retrofit Program) Gennaro D'Atri, front right, presented St.

Clair Township with the first LED program rebate cheque for \$118,554.85. Mr. Stockfish also presented St. Clair Township with an Award of Excellence for continued energy conservation efforts. Mayor Steve Arnold accepted on the township's behalf. Rear row left: Looking on were Councillors Steve Miller, Tracey Kingston, Jim DeGurse, Darrell Randell, Township CAO John Rodey, Councillor Jeff Agar, and Deputy Mayor Peter Gilliland.

Photo by Jeff Baranek



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, N0N 1M0

Lost revenue negatively impacts 2017 budget

From page 2

difficult, making it impossible to maintain a zero increase.

"We worked hard to keep increases to a minimum," he said. But once again, the loss of tax revenue from OPG's Lambton Generating Station presented a significant challenge. "It wasn't only the loss of taxes from OPG, but we had to repay some taxes to them to the tune of \$3.8 million."

He said the repayment was due to tax assessments that have been repeatedly challenged and won by OPG.

Now in the final stages of the 2017 budgetary process, Mayor Arnold says council is optimistic that such challenges will be a thing of the past.

"At the end of the budget cycle, we hope that many of these challenges will be behind us and we can celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary by starting the next 150 years on a long-term, stable footing," he said.

Area Legions make donation to 2563 1st Hussars Petrolia Army Cadets

Four local Royal Canadian Legion branches including Corunna, Brigden, Oil Springs, and Petrolia, have come forward to support the many activities and programs of the 2563 "1st Hussars" Petrolia Army Cadets.

The Petrolia Army Cadets group is part of the cadet program of Army Cadet League Canada (Ontario) and the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, and it has had a presence in Petrolia for nearly 30 years. Intended for teens age 12-18, the cadets undertake many activities including camping, developing mapping skills, undergoing survival training, and playing the pipes and drums. The intent of the program is to focus on leadership, team building, community participation, and responsibility.

The Cadet Corps program is founded on the belief in inclusion for all. Zero fees are charged to join, or for equipment and programs. Although dress uniforms and some activities are funded by the Department of Defense, the majority of activities are funded through fundraising by the Support Committee and through generous donations such as those received from the Legions.

Anyone interested in joining the cadets can do so at any time throughout the year once they are age 12. For more information, or to arrange a no-obligation visit, please



contact the Cadet Corp at 519-312-6555 for more information or visit the website at www.petroliacadets.com

Above front left: Captain Russell, Petrolia Army Cadets; Dennis Laker, Petrolia Legion. Standing, left: Dan

Watson and Bob Chamber, Corunna Legion; Master Corporal Winter, Petrolia Army Cadets; Louise Ogilvie, Brigden Legion; Adam Veen and Chris Byers, Oil Springs Legion.

Photo submitted

Ships that violate river speed limit contribute to shoreline and Property damage: please report it

Transport Canada, through the St. Clair and Detroit River Navigation Safety Regulations, regulates the maximum speed of vessels proceeding through certain portions of the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers. When ships exceed that limit, shoreline impacts and other property damage can occur.

If members of the public have any questions or information related to speed limit violations in these rivers, they are urged to call Transport Canada Marine Safety at 519-383-1826.

For more information about Transport Canada Marine Safety, go online to: www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/menu.htm

For more information about St. Clair River and Detroit River Navigation Safety Regulations, go online to: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-84-335/page-1.html>

Attention motivated youth

The Royal Canadian "1st Hussars" Army Cadet Corps Petrolia invites boys and girls ages 12-18 to learn new skills, marksmanship, orienteering, hiking, leadership, pipes and drum band, and teamwork, participate in many new challenges, make

new friends and attend great summer camps, all at no cost. Join us today!

Cadets are not required to join the military. For more information, call 519-332-6555 or visit: www.petroliacadets.com

New cutting-edge alternative energy facility slated for Sombra

By Bonnie Stevenson

An announcement made in chambers during St. Clair Township council's March 6 meeting is a game-changer in the field of alternative fuels. Tim Haig, president and founder of Forge Hydrocarbons, was on hand to talk about a new first-of-its-kind, cutting-edge facility the company is building in Sombra adjacent to the current BIOX plant.

Technology developed at the University of Alberta by Dr. David Bressler will use a revolutionary biomass refining process to convert the dirtiest of cooking oils and animal fats into "green" full-octane gasoline and diesel fuels.

This biofuel technology differs from the current process because it can turn fats into hydrocarbons without the use of carbon or catalytic additives, components that comprise the most expensive parts of the process. The new technology uses a water distillation process which creates fuel molecules without the added cost.

Mr. Haig said the \$25 million facility should be operational in about 18 months, creating about 200 construction jobs and six to eight permanent jobs. The plant will be built in modules off-site and moved onto the site in sections. When in operation, the plant will receive feedstock by truck, with an estimated 10 trucks in and out each day.

Council questioned Mr. Haig about the potential impact the plant's operation will have on surrounding residents. Mr. Haig cited the example of a larger BIOX plant located in Hamilton, Ontario, where residents live right next to the plant. He said the company recognizes its duty to be a good neighbour.

There is no other commercial facility like this in Canada and Mayor Arnold sees it as a significant addition to the municipality's green industrial base. "It's nice to be on the leading edge of this technological advance in the realm of biodiesel products," he said.

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 the Challenge, but because this year marks the 150th anniversary 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 anni-



versary of Confederation.

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 Historical Canada project and is also a Canada 150 Signature Initiative.

Here's My Canada is a multilingual, 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.heresmycanada.ca

Lambton County Library presents Makerspace exhibits

Lambton County Library's Mobile Makerspace exhibits will be making the rounds at St. Clair Township library branches in the next few months. Each will stay for three weeks before being moved to the next location.

Participation in a workshop is required to operate some of the equipment and a valid library card is also required to use the equipment. Here are Makerspace exhibits coming to your local library:

Brigden: April 19 to May 8 - Button Maker and Wacom Tablets; May 12-May 30 - Snap Circuits and Electrical Crafts.

Corunna: April 19 to May 8 - 3D Printer and 3D Pens; May 12-May 30 - Necomimi and Mindwave.

Courtright: April 19 to May 8 - Ozobots (robotics); May 12-May 30 - Sphero and Air Hogs (robotics).

Mooretown: April 19 to May 8 - Sphero and Air Hogs (robotics); May 12-May 30 - 3D Printer and 3D Pen.

Port Lambton: April 19 to May 8 - Dash & Dot (robotics); May 12-May 30 - Sewing Machine and Soft Circuits.

Sombra: April 19 to May 8 - Sewing Machine and Soft Circuits; May 12-May 30 - Ozobots (robotics).

Wilkesport: April 19 to May 8 - Snap Circuits and Electrical Crafts; May 12-May 30 - Dash & Dots (robotics).

To find out what's new at your local library, go online to: www.lclibrary.ca 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 Phone Numbers

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

Annual book sale planned

The Lambton County Library's annual spring used book sale will be held on Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Library headquarters, 787 Broadway Street in Wyoming.

Seed library offers heirloom seeds

For the second year, the LCL Seed Library will offer heirloom variety seed packets at the Camlachie library branch to those with a library card. For more information, go online to: www.lclibrary.ca. Click on Programs, then look for *Seed Library*.



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 someone who brightens your life with their thoughtfulness and kindness? If your answer is "yes", please let us know.

Email The Beacon at:

beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca

and write **"Good Neighbour"** on the Subject line

In a brief message, tell us who your **Good Neighbour** is and how that person 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, a good neighbour nominee will be chosen at random to receive a special **Good Neighbour** certificate from St. Clair Township during a regular meeting of council.

Here are the latest stories we've received:

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Good neighbours care for Duthil Cemetery

Bill Scholtens, chairman of the Duthil Cemetery Board, says Norm and Lois Tulloch have been good neighbours to their community. "The Tullochs have diligently assisted their fellow neighbours by looking after every aspect of the Duthil Cemetery for about 60 years, and their son, Gordon, has also done the same for almost his entire life. They do this quietly, without any fanfare."

Good neighbour's caring efforts cross borders

Corunna resident Charlene Glover's efforts prove her to be a good neighbour, not only to her friends and neighbours, but to people beyond our border. Her friend Sylvia Knight says Charlene prepares meals for shut-ins and the sick, whether they are neighbours, friends, or church members. She also crochets and knits items for anyone in need and drops off goods for immigrant workers at the pepper farm. She recently made over 60 sun dresses to be delivered by a group going on a church mission to the Dominican Republic.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Now it's your turn.
What's YOUR Good Neighbour story?

The sky's the limit for St. Clair Township's Canada 150 celebration

WE'LL BE FLYING HIGH WITH THE 403 HONOUR FLIGHT

Pilots from the 403 Honour Flight will be streaking across the sky over the Mooretown Sports Complex on July 1 at 3:30 p.m. to announce the beginning of the St. Clair Township Canada 150 festivities. The team, comprised of 10 local pilots, was formed several years ago to honour and pay tribute to local Veterans and their families. When requested, the team flies for local military Remembrance Day services, funerals of pilots and Veterans of the RCAF, and other such services. It is a gesture of respect and thanks. "The freedom to fly freely is a privilege we have because of the Veterans' efforts so long ago," said Mark Seibutis, the team's flight leader. "When we fly well and to the best of our ability, with precision and discipline, we honour Veterans from the past, the fallen and the survivors, those who are currently serving, their families, and members of the public who support them in so many ways."

The team wears blue flight suits, the colour and badging of the Canadian Air Force Association. The flight suits represent not only the team, but the Sarnia 403 Wing as well.

As the formation of aircraft passes overhead, Mr. Seibutis says the team hopes the flight will inspire spectators to think about the reason for their flight. "We hope they will stop for a moment to remember the Veterans of all services that fought to give us the Canada we have today," he said.



Sombra Community Dock a Canada 150 project five years in the making

From page 1

The Sombra Community Dock is a Canada 150 project that has been five years in the making. A lot of thought has gone into its design and methods of funding the construction. St. Clair Township has contributed half of the cost of the project and the Sombra Sports and Recreation group has been fundraising to supply the balance. Group spokesperson Allan Anderson says this is not the first project in which the township has agreed to be a partner. "We've had an excellent relationship with the township in the past," he said, citing the ball diamond project and the splash pad project as two other examples of successful partnerships with the township. Since the dock project was approved, the group has been working hard to raise its share of the cost. "We've had Sombra Days donations, held golf tournaments, card parties, beer bottle, can, and wine bottle collection, and conducted a fundraiser of sending out letters to local industries." Mr. Anderson says fundraising is still underway and all donations

are appreciated. However, for a donation of \$1,000 or more, the company or individual donor will be acknowledged on one of two dedication stones that will be erected at the dock site. The second stone will identify the dock as a Canada 150 project.

When complete, the dock will have railings along the walkway, two sets of stairs into the water, ladders on the finger docks to assist boaters, three sets of ice diverting spiles to protect the dock against ice damage, a walkway from the street down to the dock, and an eight-foot bench at the end of the dock.

The dock will be officially dedicated on the morning of July 1. A community breakfast is planned and a Paddlefest event will invite a variety of watercrafts, from kayaks and canoes to row boats and wind surfers, to join the celebration. The group's goal is to have at least 150 "paddlers" out for the occasion. Everyone is invited to attend and help celebrate the completion of a community venue that has been a long time coming.



CANADA 150
1867-2017

Seasons In St. Clair - Canada 150 Photo contest

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



CANADA 150
1867-2017

Canada 150 books available at Moore Museum

Add meaning to Canada's 150 anniversary by treating yourself and your family to *The History of Canada*, now available at the Moore Museum. This new publication by the Museum Retail Consortium is two-book set that highlights Canada's history, with book one covering 30,000 B.C. to 1836, and book two covering 1837 to the present day.

The content is accompanied by pictures to colour and activity pages. Each book sells for \$19.95. Copies are selling quickly and quantities are limited, so call the Moore Museum at 519-867-2020 or drop by from Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to purchase your copies.



CANADA 150
1867-2017

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.

Local Ontario Early Years locations

The OEYC Samia-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.

Shape up for summer at the Mooretown Sports Complex

Greet the summer ready to take on the St. Clair River Trail, rock that new swimsuit, or just feel great! The Mooretown Sports Complex offers a wide range of activities and programs to prepare you for a super summer! Try spinning classes or enjoy the luxurious feel of water as you swim in the pool, ease away the tensions of the day in the hot tub, or relax in the sauna. If getting in shape is your goal, the fitness centre offers a wide variety of equipment that can help you get lean and toned.

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



HERITAGE CORNER



Who do you know from S. S. #13 Sombra?

As the second reunion for former students of S.S. #13 Sombra approaches, here are some of the people who might be in attendance at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25 at The Clubhouse at Baldoon.

Class of 1951-52

Front row: Dorothy Johnston; Tony Johnston; Ronnie Bechard; Jim Hay; Peter Pamer; Leo Johnston; Janet Johnston.

Second row: Agnes Johnston; Deanne Flynn; Joann Workman; Sally Park; Delores Johnston; Betty Flynn; Nancy Park; Beverly Bowles.

Back row: Ronnie Flynn; Lawrence Pratt; Pauline Bechard; Julie Vestrocy; Irene Trelle; Mrs. Vera Fletcher (teacher); Joan Johnston; Helen Trelle; Mary Vestrocy; Allan Johnston.

Photo submitted

Outdoor art creating awareness of community heritage

The Moore Museum is seeking submissions from Lambton County artists for the design and creation of a large outdoor mural to enhance the façade of the museum's main building. The Moore Museum's main building is housed in a re-purposed two-room red brick schoolhouse that was built in 1942 and expanded in 1952. To prevent damage to the artifacts due to light damage from the large windows of the school, the windows have been covered. While beneficial to the artifacts, this has resulted in an outside appearance that leads many people to believe the museum is closed.

The mural will fill a large 28'x8' "boarded up" window that faces the main road. It will attract attention from potential visitors and be an artistic addition to the community. It will raise public awareness of the talent that exists in the local artistic community and will provide a positive, attractive first impression for visitors.

Lambton artists are invited to submit design ideas and bids for the production of this mural. Designs and bids may be submitted to

the Moore Museum, 94 Moore Line, Mooretown, until April 30. Further details are available by calling the museum at 519-867-2020.

The Moore Museum gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Lambton County's Creative County Fund in funding this project. The Creative County Fund invests in new and innovative projects that build cultural capacity, strengthen the creative community, define the County's unique identity, and enrich the quality of life for all residents.



Sombra Museum seeks bedroom wash stand/basin

The Sombra Museum's *Bury House* is in need of two Victorian style bedroom wash stands such as the one shown here. These authentic pieces will be used to further the building's restoration to the fine Victorian home it once was.

The *Bury House* at the corner of Smith Street and the St. Clair Parkway was previously used as the museum's main exhibit building. Its restoration will allow visitors to experience the house as it was in the Victorian Era.

Anyone who has one of these wash stands and is willing to donate it to the museum can call 519-892-3982.

Help us turn back time at the Sombra Museum.

100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge

April 9, 2017 will mark the 100th anniversary of what would become a seminal moment in the history of Canada. Four divisions of Canadian soldiers accomplished the taking of the seven-kilometre long Vimy Ridge in four days, a feat that neither the French nor the British managed to achieve.

Over 10,600 Canadian soldiers were killed or wounded during the battle, but their sacrifice helped to establish Canada's identity as an independent nation.

- Lest we forget -

COMMUNITY CONTACT

Lambton Seniors Assoc. seeks board members

The Lambton Seniors Association is seeking a few motivated retired people over age 50 to fill positions on its Board of Directors. The LSA is a group dedicated to helping Lambton County Seniors maintain their independence and enhance their quality of life. This not-for-profit agency is funded by the United Way of Samia-Lambton, addressing issues facing seniors with programs like the Handyman/Handywoman Program. The group also organizes the annual Seniors Information Fair held each May. Anyone interested in helping to strengthen and further the good work of this important group can call the LSA office at 519-339-8866 or email: lambtonseniors1@gmail.com

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. 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. 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: stclairrivertrail.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 Samia. For more information, contact Rita at 519-867-2932.

LAMBTON SENIORS SENIORS HELPING SENIORS
ASSOCIATION



HANDYMAN/HANDYWOMAN PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

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United Way
Sarnia-Lambton

Access Cancer Therapies (ACT) benefit planned

How would you feel if you or a loved one had cancer and the state-of-the-art treatment that might help was out of reach because of the cost?

ACT (Access Cancer Therapies) was started in 2011 to help patients at London Regional Cancer Program pay for treatments not covered by OHIP and out of their reach financially.

Port Lambton resident Deb Vandendool, who is now battling cancer for the third time in 18 years, and her husband, Wayne, are taking steps to help support this vital program. The couple will host "A Night for Cancer", a fundraiser/auction for the ACT Now Foundation, at the Wilkesport Community Centre on Saturday, April 29, with doors open at 6:30 p.m. The auction will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person or two for \$15. They are available by calling the Vandendools at 519-627-6100 or from any Sombra Optimist member. Donations to the auction can be made by calling the Vandendools.

Please help make cancer history!

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 sessions, led by a Nurse Educator, will be held on Monday, May 1, 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 Monday, May 8, 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 Friday, April 28, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Healthy Eating and You

This program is a series of four sessions of two hours each. It will help you make permanent changes and 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 will include: carbohydrates, protein and fats (good and bad); physical activity; emotional eating strategies; sensible portions and portion control strategies; group discussions to help you learn from the experiences of others. This program is open to the public. No physician referral is required. The session begins Tuesday, April 4 for four weeks from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Patients must attend the first class to attend the final three.

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, April 5 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 seminar will take place Friday, April 7 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

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, April 26 from 2 - 4 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.

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.

STILL MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 11

from Aug. 14 to 18. Details will be released to the Beacon in June or you can call 510-864-1747.



**Canada 150
Celebration - July 1**
This Canada Day isn't just another holiday; it's Canada's 150th anniversary and July 1 in St. Clair Township is going to be

EPIC! Start the day downriver in Sombra, where a beautiful new community dock will be officially opened with a morning community breakfast and a fabulous Paddlefest featuring water craft of every size and description. (See page 1, 7)

Then, be at the Mooretown Sports Complex by 3:30 p.m. so you don't miss a minute of the St. Clair Township Canada 150 celebrations. This family friendly event will feature inflatables and amusements for the kids, free food, entertainment that's sure to please, a seniors' "chill station" (sponsored by the Moore Optimist Club), a place to cool off, rehydrate, rest, and even play a card game or two, plus free admission to the Moore Museum and a variety of heritage demonstrations that will be taking place, and a fireworks finale that will set the sky ablaze with spectacular pyrotechnic displays. (See May Beacon for more information as it becomes available.)

MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 12

page, or go to www.bridgenfair.ca

Bus trip to see "Oliver"

The Cruickshank Centre will host a bus trip on Friday, May 19 to see the musical "Oliver" at the Imperial Theatre preceded by dinner at Stokes Inland. Tickets will be \$50 each and must be purchased on or before Tuesday, April 18. The bus will depart Thompson Gardens at 4:15 p.m. For more information, call Denise at 519-862-1628.

Wilkesport Community Centre annual meeting

The Wilkesport Community Centre annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26 at 7 p.m. at the centre. The meeting will include: receiving the financial statement for the past year; electing directors for a two year term; and discussing business of concern to the community centre. Everyone is welcome to attend. Public support is encouraged to ensure the community centre remains strong and viable for many years to come. If you cannot attend but want further information, call 519-864-4221.

Garage sale at Corunna United Church

The congregation of Corunna United Church will hold a garage sale on Saturday, April 29 from 8 a.m. to noon. Gently used household items will be offered for sale.

Corunna Legion jam session series

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 April 29 and May 27. 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.

Book celebrates Canada 150

Local author Margaret Bird will launch a special anthology celebrating Canada's 150 anniversary on Saturday, May 6 from 1-4 p.m. at the Aamjiwnaang Community Centre, 1972 Virgil Avenue. The book highlights the rich culture and history of Canada, its peoples, languages, arts and cultures.

Mother's Day Brunch in Bridgen

Give Mom a treat by taking her and the whole family to the Mother's Day Brunch at the Bridgen Fairgrounds exhibition hall on Sunday, May 14. Seating will be from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the brunch will include: pancakes, eggs, bacon, hash browns, ham, scalloped potatoes, toast, fruit cocktail, and beverages. The cost is \$10 per adult, \$6 per child ages six to 10, and free for children five and under. For more information, call the fair office at 519-864-1197, check out the fair's Facebook page, or go to www.bridgenfair.ca

Victorian Tea at Moore Museum

Spring is here and the Moore Museum is preparing for its popular annual Victorian Tea, slated for Sunday, May 21 from 1-4 p.m. Enjoy tea and scones served by Victorian-costumed servers in the charming atmosphere of the turn-of-the-20th-century cottage. Then, spend the afternoon exploring the exhibits in the other 11 buildings on the museum's heritage site. Admission is \$7 per adult, \$3 per child, and \$2 per pre-schooler.

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. Morning 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 Bridgen

Indoor walking at the Bridgen fairgrounds exhibition hall, 2876 Bridgen Road, which is offered by the West Lambton Community Health Centre, will finish its winter sessions at the end of April. The 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.

Summer fun is on the way!

Summer Kick-off at Corunna Legion

The 6th Annual Summer Kick-off party at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 hall is slated for Saturday, June 17 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Everyone is invited. More details will be seen here in the Beacon as they become available.

Moore Museum model train event

The Moore Museum's Model Train event is slated for Sunday, July 9 from 1-4 p.m. Additional model train layouts will be on display at this event, as well as the museum's regular Lionel train exhibit. Volunteers will be on hand to discuss model railroading and all of the layouts will be running. The event will be included with the regular admission price.

Summer camp set for Bridgen United Church

Bridgen United Church will host two full-day summer camps this year. There will be a free camp held July 17 to 21 and a theme camp

See Still More, page 10

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Two events slated for Corunna Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna will host a progressive **euchre** tourney 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. An **Easter ham bingo** is slated for April 5 with doors open at 6 p.m. and eyes down at 7 p.m. \$20 for four cards and \$2 per card for the special game. Prizes are: 1st - \$700; 2nd - \$200; 3rd - \$100. The venue is wheelchair accessible. 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 Brigden 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 sandi.shaw@yahoo.ca

Weekly euchre in Sombra

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

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 holding a barbecue fundraiser of hot dogs and hamburgers beginning at noon. The Easter egg hunt will begin at 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 this event.

Brigden UC hosts Messy Church

Messy Church at Brigden United Church is held the last Tuesday of each month until through May from 5-6:30 p.m. Enjoy worship, stories, crafts, and supper. All children are welcome along with a parent, grandparent, or other adult. Or join the congregation for Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. For more information, like us on Facebook.

Country Jamborees in Brigden

The final Country Jamboree of the season at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall will take place on 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. Tickets for the dinner are available at the door before each jamboree. For information, check out the Brigden Fair Facebook page or website, or call the Brigden Fair office at 519-864-1197.

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, held Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m.

to 10 a.m., will finish at the end of April. For more information, call Amy at 519-344-3017, ext. 237. **Low impact exercise** at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall, held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., will finish at the end of April. For information, contact Amy at 519-344-3017, ext. 237.

Blewater 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. Applications are available online at www.blewater sharks hockey.com and the deadline to enter the tournament will be March 18, 2017. For information, call Ed at 519-344-8624 (email: emarcy@sympatico.ca) or Lance at 519-344-2205 (email: lmarcy@cogeco.ca).

Fish fry in Sombra

The Optimist Club of Sombra Township invites everyone to its annual Good Friday Fish Fry on Friday, April 14 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Port Lambton Hall. Dinners to eat in or take out will cost \$12 per adult, \$6 per child aged six to 10, and free for children under age six. The dinners will include yellow perch, fries, dinner roll, cole slaw, beverage, and a dessert. Proceeds will go toward local youth and community projects.

All-You-Can-Eat Pickerel Dinner

An all-you-can-eat pickerel dinner sponsored by St. Joseph-St. Charles Parish will be held at the parish hall on Lyndoch Street in Corunna on Friday, April 14. There will be two seatings at 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. The meal will include pickerel, baked potatoes, cole slaw, baked beans, and more. Admission is by advanced tickets only and takeouts will be available. The cost is \$20 per adult and \$10 for children age 10 and under. To reserve tickets, call Butch at 519-336-6858, Jay at 519-862-3741, or Nancy at 519-481-0337.

Easter Brunch in Brigden

Celebrate Easter with Easter Sunday Brunch at the Brigden Fairgrounds exhibition hall on Sunday, April 16. Seating will be from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the brunch will include: pancakes, eggs, bacon, hashbrowns, ham, scalloped potatoes, toast, fruit cocktail, and beverages. The cost is \$10 per adult, \$6 per child ages six to 10, and free for children five and under. For more information, call the fair office at 519-864-1197, check out the fair's Facebook

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.

E-mail: beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca