



The St. Clair Township

BEACON



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THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

Costly ice damage jeopardizes Sombra ferry operations: *Fundraising effort underway on both sides of river*



Above: In early January, the devastating effects of ice and water combined to completely cut off access to the Sombra ferry dock during a prolonged spell of unprecedented cold weather and heavy ice buildup in the St. Clair River. Three clustered spiles, installed just three years ago as part of a comprehensive ice protection plan meant to protect the access causeway from ice damage, were pushed over by the huge moving ice flow, estimated to be about a mile and a half long. A row of a dozen concrete-filled steel piers were also defeated, effectively clearing a path to the causeway. As it continued moving south, the ice surged over the causeway and scraped the road surface down to its foundation in some places. (Highlighted inset photo shows two of the three ice protection spiles in place on north side of causeway before the ice damage occurred.) Photos submitted

By Bonnie Stevenson

After 138 years of crucial service to communities on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border, the future of the Bluewater Ferry Company in Sombra is in jeopardy. This vital linchpin to the fabric of local river communities is out of service and will remain that way until the access causeway is completely replaced.

Perfect storm of conditions devastate shoreline

In early January, unprecedented ice buildup in the St. Clair River, estimated to be about 11 inches thick and about a mile and a half long, was dislodged from its place in the river north of Sombra village and propelled south by a gale-force north wind. As it moved south, the resulting force of the massive ice floe scoured the east shoreline, causing untold damage to docks and boat lifts along the way. When it reached the Sombra ferry dock causeway, it continued its progress unimpeded in spite of recent ice damage protection measures that had been put in place. "The first day, it took the steel piers out from underneath (the

causeway) and on the second day, the ice went over the causeway," said Rob Dalgety, co-owner of the ferry service.

He says the size and nature of the thick ice floe that defeated the robust ice protection measures was unlike anything the Bluewater Ferry Company had witnessed in its 64 years of operation.

Mr. Dalgety explains a comprehensive ice protection plan was put in place to defend the facility against the worst ice damage the company had experienced. This was done because they deemed the cost of insurance to be prohibitive. "Insurance was astronomical, way too much for us to cover, so we did upgrades to protect the dock against the ice," he said.

He added the dock, which was refurbished in



Rob Dalgety

See Digital age appeal, page 4



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MUNICIPAL NOTES

The extensive ice damage done to the Sombra ferry dock in early January was the subject of a meeting in Ottawa in early February. MP Marilyn Gladu arranged the meeting for Mayor Steve Arnold. In preparation for the meeting, the mayor forwarded photos, a township letter and pledge of support to provide background information. His meeting with Terry Beech, the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, covered a wide range of factors arising from the devastation of the ferry facility.

Of the discussion with Mr. Beech, Mayor Arnold says, "We spoke about the history of the federal sale and mandatory upgrades of the lands to the ferry company, a high level view of potential repairs, joint concern in regards to "in water" work, and First Nations concerns. We spoke about the positives of partnerships even with the private ownership, and the concerns of the extended shipping season and how that has impacted the ferry property by this one catastrophic event."

The meeting also covered the environmental and monetary impacts of ferry closure. "We spoke about the estimated 1.3 litres of fuel that would be consumed by each vehicle driving around to Walpole Island or the Bluewater Bridge," said Mayor Arnold. "Then there are peripherals like Customs officers, import-export business-

Sombra ferry damage discussed in Ottawa

es, and overflow from the Bluewater Bridges...I have also sent additional information regarding duties, taxes, and loss of employment for eight ferry employees, including First Nations people, and the negative impact it will have on their families and locally."

He added there was a positive feel to the meeting. "They were respectful. They asked a lot of questions and I felt the meeting was well received."

MP Gladu spoke about the issue in the House of Commons and urged the reopening of the Sombra-Marine City border crossing. In response, Mr. Beech, also a member of parliament, told the House there was no connection between the operation of the Canadian Coast Guard and the damage to the ferry dock. The Canadian Coast Guard has assigned blame for the movement of the ice and the ensuing damage on a gale-force north wind.

After waiting almost three weeks to hear more about the request, Mayor Arnold sent a follow-up letter to inquire about its status. He eventually received an answer that was not encouraging, but he says he is not giving up and will keep trying.

He recently reported to council that several mayors belonging to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative sent him letters of support after hearing of the Sombra ferry dock destruction.

See Wind turbine by-law, page 3

Council Meeting Schedule

St. Clair Township Council meets every first and third Monday of the month (with exceptions to accommodate holidays). Meetings are slated for Monday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. as well as Monday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. *These times are subject to change.* Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021 for further information.

Municipal Election 2018

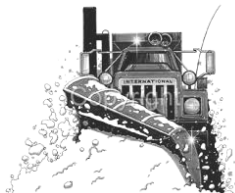
The municipal election is slated for Oct. 22, 2018. St. Clair Township ballots will be mailed out the first week of September. Watch this space for more local information as election day approaches and be sure you are on the voters' list.



Winter parking by-law in effect

The winter parking by-law remains 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 job efficiently without having to slow down to avoid parked vehicles.

Property owners are also reminded that it is against the law to shovel snow out onto public streets. These snow piles create dangerous obstacles that can contribute to needless vehicle collisions.



ST CLAIR TOWNSHIP 2018 PROPERTY TAX TENTATIVE DUE DATES

The 2018 TENTATIVE Interim Tax due dates are

March 1 and May 2, 2018

**Note dates are tentative and may change*

The Interim Tax Notices will be mailed out the last week in January 2018 with both instalments on it.

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

The St. Clair Township Beacon is issued monthly by St. Clair Township as a public service to township residents. Edited by Bonnie Stevenson.



Summer student employment opportunities available

The Township of St. Clair Public Works Department has a variety of summer student employment opportunities in the following areas:

- Four (4) Operations Labourer
- One (1) Engineering Co-Op

The positions will start April 30, 2018 for a period up to August 31, 2018. The location of the Operations Labourer Positions will be the Wilkesport or Moore Operations Centre's with hours of work being Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The location of the cooperative education position is the St. Clair Township Civic Centre in Mooretown with the hours of work being Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The positions are subject to receiving student subsidy funding, therefore applicants must be returning to post-secondary school for the fall 2018 semester and meet the other requirements of the Province of Ontario's Summer Jobs Service Program. Due to the responsibilities of the cooperative education position, preference will be given to students currently enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Civil Engineering.

Please submit a resume with covering letter, clearly marked with the position being applied to, by mail or email no later than 1:00pm on Friday, March 23, 2018 to:

St. Clair Civic Centre
Attn: Public Works Department
1155 Emily Street
Mooretown, ON N0N 1M0
pwresume@twp.stclair.on.ca

Personal information submitted will be used for the sole purpose of this competition. It is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for employment purposes.

Please note this document is available in alternative formats upon request, to accommodate individuals with a disability beginning with the recruitment process. The Township of St. Clair is committed to providing accommodations for people with disabilities. If you require an accommodation, please contact the Clerk's office and we will make all necessary arrangements to meet your needs.

Wind turbine by-law amendment passed

An amendment to the Industrial Wind Turbine By-law 24 of 2013, which prohibits the construction of industrial wind turbines on lands the proponent does not live on and own, was passed at the Feb. 20 meeting of council.

By-law 11 of 2018 was enacted to ensure that St. Clair Township will not be held responsible if problems arise from wind turbines that are essentially unattended by their owners. "They're like absentee landlords. If something goes wrong, there's no one there to answer to the people so it comes back to council," said Mayor Arnold.

During discussions Mayor Arnold had at a recent Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference, he became aware that some Ontario municipalities have been exposed by permitting industrial wind turbines to be constructed on lands not owned by the turbine proponent.

Problems that arose included situations where existing land owners experienced adverse impacts from nearby turbines. Some wind turbine developments were built without consideration for the local neighbourhood in terms of setbacks.

The original by-law put St. Clair Township on record as being an "unwilling host for industrial wind turbines". It provides extensive protection from any prospective wind farm but the amendment adds another level of protection for the municipality's residents.



Notice of 2018 budget meeting

The St. Clair Township draft budget presentation and deliberation is set for Thursday, March 8, 2018 in the council chambers at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street in Mooretown. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m.

The meeting is open to the public and all ratepayers are welcome to attend.

Charles Quenneville
Director of Finance

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- Custom pick-up reminders
- A 'What Goes Where?' search tool
- And more!



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No matter where you are, you can read *The Beacon*. Back issues are also available online. Go to the St. Clair Township Website: www.stclairtownship.ca and click on **Beacon** on the black bar (top right).

Digital age appeal being mounted to help alleviate Sombra ferry crisis

From page 1

1954, has been there for about 64 years without this kind of catastrophic damage. The damage was, in effect, caused by a perfect storm of weather and circumstances.

The comprehensive \$30,000 ice damage protection project that had been carried out included the installation of twelve 40-foot cement-filled heavy steel pipes that were anchored to the north side of the causeway with steel 'I' beams, and three clustered ice protection spiles placed along the north side of the dock's access causeway.

Immediately after the damage occurred, engineers were consulted to determine the extent of the damage and estimate the cost of fixing it. The startling figure the Dalgety family received was \$4 million. Subsequent estimates they received for workable solutions came in at about \$2.5 million.

However, inquiries into other long-term solutions have come to light and are being investigated. Mr. Dalgety noted that whatever the cost of a safe, long-term rebuild may be, it's going to be well beyond the Bluewater Ferry Company's ability to pay. Efforts to obtain funding assistance from government and alternate sources are still underway.

Neither of the local river ferry services could run during the ice jam, but the Walpole Island ferry, a federally funded facility, is still operational. The Sombra ferry is privately owned and has no federal government backing.

Soon after the damage occurred, Mayor Steve Arnold traveled to Ottawa to meet with Terry Beech, the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard. The meeting was arranged by Sarnia-Lambton MP Marilyn Gladu. No financial support was offered at that time and since then, the only information Mayor Arnold has received from Ottawa was not encouraging. "They weren't very hopeful," he said. However, he is determined to keep trying. "I will continue to pursue help for the ferry until those I have requested help from tell me no."

Time crunch hampering repair plans

While the investigation of viable funding options is still in progress, time is running out for repair preparations and activities to begin before July, 2018. The Ministry of Natural Resources "no in-water work" timing restriction will take effect from March 15 to June 30. This restriction is meant to protect fish during critical life stages such as spawning, migration, and/or rearing the young.

Digital age appeal underway

In an effort to expedite the start of the rebuilding project, an online "go fund me" page has been started. Spearheading the effort is volunteer Helen Cole, a well-known Sarnia resident who brings with her 25 years of fundraising and management expertise in positions ranging from manager of the Canadian Cancer Society Sarnia-Lambton branch to ownership of her own business, Cole & Company, a fund development and planning company. She says she heard about the crisis and thought a crowd-sourced fundraising effort was the logical way to gather community support. "I had been following it (the ferry situation) since it first happened," she said. "I was waiting for a "go fund me" page so I could make a donation and nothing happened. So I did it."

Helen set the goal for the fundraiser at \$500K, and in the first two weeks of operation with little to no promotion, the page raised \$700. The total raised as of Feb. 20 was \$6,720. This impressive beginning has led to the formation of a volunteer committee, with the full participation of the Bluewater Ferry Compa-

ny and several community-minded volunteers.

"Nothing happens until the community gets involved. I'm pretty excited to be doing this and all kinds of exciting things are happening," said Helen.

Bailey bridge option offers hope

One of the exciting things Helen was alluding to involves the possible installation of a bailey bridge instead of rebuilding the causeway. The strong, pre-fabricated truss bridge, first developed for military use by the British during WWII, can be erected within a relatively short time frame and is capable of supporting heavy vehicles and equipment. They are used today in many civil engineering projects.

Rob and Rusty Dalgety contacted the 31 Combat Engineer Regiment, known as The Elgins, a Canadian military unit that includes combat engineers and is charged with providing engineering support, which includes bridge construction, in the field. The regiment engineers said today's version of the bailey bridge can last up to 75 years in salt water. Over fresh water, the lifespan can reach up to 150 years. They have been used successfully for many civilian projects.

The Dalgetys are currently working with Acrow Bridge, a Bolton-based company that bought the bailey bridge business from the military. Their MTO-approved bridge would provide a cost-effective solution to a dire situation, but there are still obstacles that could delay the project.

There are several regulating bodies that must be satisfied with the environmental, legal, and structural details of the project before the appropriate permits and paperwork can be issued. And when that is complete, the demolition of the old causeway would have to be done before the new bridge support pilings could be installed. With the March 15 "no in-water work" deadline looming, there is doubt that the project will begin before July.

Why support the Sombra ferry?

The Sombra-based ferry service has played a critical role in the growth and development of communities on both sides of the river. During its long history, the ferry has provided a shorter cross-border route for domestic and commercial vehicles, an environmentally significant service for the reduction of vehicle carbon footprints, and timely support for time-sensitive "just in time" supply chains favoured by today's cost-efficient businesses.

When the Bluewater Bridges are shut down or choked with traffic, the Bluewater Ferry Company ferry is the go-to border crossing alternative for many on both sides of the border. Even community safety is heightened. The St. Clair Township Fire Department and its local Michigan counterparts can respond in a timely manner to assist each other during emergencies when called upon. The ferry has even had occasion to save lives. For instance, a swimmer in danger of drowning was rescued from the river on the Marine City side after she was unable to climb back on shore over the seawall.

The ferry also allows the convenient flow of tourist traffic, providing increased traffic flow and financial benefits to local businesses on both sides of the border. On any given day, a single ferry makes about 40 trips per day, and when both ferries are in operation, the daily crossings can climb to about 60.

The revenue the Sombra ferry service generates is substantial. Rob Dalgety says in 2017, the Bluewater Ferry Company vessels facilitated the generation of \$3,321,000 in Federal revenue as well as \$190,000 in employee wages.

Subsequent cross-border meetings have established that the loss of the Bluewater Ferry Company service would have a devastating effect on communities on both sides of the border.

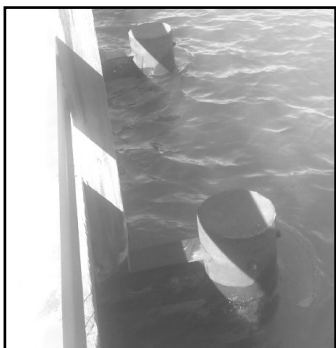
To read more, see "..." funding goes international", page 5. And for more about the history and operation of the Sombra ferry in Heritage Corner on page 10.

To show your support for the continuation of the

Sombra ferry, go online to:

www.gofundme.com/savebluewaterferry

or info@bluewaterferry.ca



Two of the 12 'I' beam-anchored concrete-filled steel pipe ice barriers shown in place along the ferry dock causeway.

Fundraising for ferry dock repair goes international

With files and photo from Helen Cole

A large group of concerned citizens gathered at Anita's Restaurant in Marine City on Feb. 15 in support of the continuation of the Bluewater Ferry Company ferry service and to hear about an online crowd-sourced fundraising effort now being mounted through "gofundme".

Thirty seven business owners, as well as local media, city and state government representatives, attended the meeting, and their concerns were made clear as they discussed the repercussions the loss of ferry service would have to their community. The conclusion was dire; the ripple effect of the closure would be



catastrophic for the city and area employment.

"There is an amazing willingness to work together as neighbours," said Helen Cole, organizer of the "gofundme" page.

Sweet Tooth, a Marine City business, has already started a fundraising campaign for the ferry, and when it is completed, the funds will be donated to the "gofundme" campaign.

More fundraising efforts are now being organized in Marine City.

For more information or to donate, go online to:

www.gofundme.com/savebluewaterferry

This large group of concerned Marine City area residents listen carefully during an information session regarding the current closure and uncertain future of the Sombra ferry service. The event was held at Anita's Restaurant in Marine City, Michigan.

FYI Docks built at owner's peril

All dock owners must be aware of the terms under which their docks are constructed. Mayor Steve Arnold says, "The ice damage of docks is not new. Every year there are dock fatalities. One issue of the docks is that they are installed at the owners' absolute peril, knowing full well they

are in a very vulnerable position. Many (docks) are built on non-owned land and without permission or engineered drawings or sufficient freeboard to the river."

For more information on dock regulations, contact the St. Clair Township municipal office.

LEGION

Legion service officer available

Assistance for Veterans and Spouses available

Do you know someone who is living on the street or who might benefit from the "Soldier On" program? Are you interested in finding out if you qualify for assistance with problems like housekeeping, snow

clearing, grass cutting, hearing aids or other medical assistance? For information call the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch at 519-862-1240 or the Brigden Branch at 519-864-1395, or Veteran Service Officer Shawn MacNeil at 519-383-9386.

Parkway Church in Corunna offering free clothing; taking donations

Parkway Church at 551 Murray Drive in Corunna is requesting that anyone with gently used children's or adults' clothing to donate should bring it to the church, where a free adult and children's clothing room is now in operation. This clothing can be dropped off

at the front door. Clothing rooms are open every Wednesday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This program is not based on income and is available to everyone in the community.

EarlyON

Child and Family Centres

EarlyON Child and Family Centres

The EarlyON Child and Family Centres 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.

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.



Mooretown Skate Club skaters receive awards

Seven motivated young women from the Mooretown Skate Club recently achieved awards in various competitions, including the John McKay in Tillsonburg, Charlie Dover Memorial in Grimsby, and the Abela McPhedran Memorial in Mooretown.

Shown here are: Front - Maddison Cotter, bronze Star 2 Ladies.

Back row: Danika Oakley, silver and gold Bronze Triathlon Ladies and silver Star 6 Ladies; Haley McKellar, Bronze Star 3 Ladies; Ashley Williams, two silvers and a gold Star 5 Ladies, gold Silver Interpretive Ladies; Makenna Oakley, silver and gold Introductory Interpretive Ladies; Ashley Schram, merit Star 2 Ladies; and Isabella Barnet, bronze Introductory Interpretive, silver Star 3 Ladies.

Photo submitted

Library updates

The Lambton County Library has added *Starling* early engagement devices to its collection.

The wearable counting system lets caregivers see how many words their preschooler hears every day, providing children with an educational head start. The device encourages caregivers to say more to their child by talking, reading, and singing to their baby every day. The *Starling* system is available to library card holders for a three-week lending period. Patrons must have their own smart phone to be able to access the app to check word status.

The Cultural Services Division 2017 Annual Report is now available at Lambton County Library branches. The report outlines the achievements accomplished over the past year as per several Council-approved strategic directions previously identified through corporate planning initiatives for Cultural Services.

New pre-schooler sessions begin in March at most Lambton County Library branches. These include Tale for Tots for children age three and under and Story Hour for three to five-year-olds. For complete information on what's happening at your local library branch, visit www.lclibrary.ca or call 1-800-324-6912 with any questions or concerns.

All branches will be closed Friday, March 30, Sunday, April 1, and Monday, April 2.

Brigden firefighters donate defibrillator to Brigden Legion Branch 635



The Brigden station of the St. Clair Township Fire Department recently donated a defibrillator to the Royal Canadian Legion Brigden Branch 635. On hand for the presentation were, from left: Ron Hayward, 2nd vice-president of Brigden Br. 635; Kirt Bridges, Brigden station firemen training officer; C. J. Taylor, Bluewater First Aid and Training; Brigden Branch 635 President Paul Gonerman; and District Chief Marty Dewhirst, Brigden station.

Submitted photo

Brigden Legion fundraiser benefits study tour



The Royal Canadian Legion Brigden Br. 635 recently donated \$500 from a recent fundraiser to Willow MacSorley's La Loche Academic Study Tour. Seen here during the presentation were, left: Willow's parents, Maureen and Al MacSorley, Br. 635 Ways and Means officer Marilyn Krohn, and Br. 635 Treasurer Deanna Mundy.

Submitted photo

Mooretown Flags teams excel in tournament play



Mooretown Jr. Flags Atom AE team won the gold at the 60th annual Peterborough Liftlock Atom Tournament in the D4 division. In the finals, the team beat out the Quinte West Hawks by a close score of 2-1 to bring home the gold.

The triumphant team posed for a trophy shot. Back row, left: Joe Rodrigues; Head Coach Spencer Dalgety; Scott Robinson; Jeff Grant. Middle row, left: Benjamin Grant; Blake Robinson (A); Maximus Maoirat; Austin Dalgety (C); Hudson Rodrigues; Dougal Routley (A); Adam Lane. Front row, left: Jaden Hayward (A); Paxton Burnie; Hunter Oblak; Cohen Harrison; Nolan Stewart; Jace Burgess; Nathan Sylvester. Missing from photo: Zachary Riley; Manager Marilyn Maoirat.

Below: Two Mooretown Minor Hockey teams won Regional Silver Stick championships. The Novice Rep team defeated Lambeth in Parkhill by a score of 4-1 to claim the banner and advance to the International Silver Stick finals. Not to be outdone, the Atom Rep team defeated Ilderton by a score of 3-2 to take home their banner and advance to the finals.

The Atom Rep team was made up of Garry Bennett, John McLaughlin, Charlie McLaughlin, Tucker Ward, Holden Petrie, Reid Whitmarsh, Ethan Rosseel, Liam Hazzard, Teegan Holmes, Ashton Gaulton, Nolan Bourdage, Drew O'Neil, and Dillon McCowan. The Flags were guided by their head coach, Jason Bourdage and coaching staff Mark McCabe, Blair Gaulton, Mark McLaughlin and Mike McLaughlin.



Submitted photos



The Novice Rep team included Liam Lahey, Camden Campbell, Daynen Vanderveeken, Ryan Carlton, Barrett Hands, Graeme Hazzard, Oden Lajoie, Klarke McLaughlin, Drew Mullen, Cole Scott, Ewan Snedden, Chase Free, and Ryan Teschke. The Flags were guided by their head coach, Ross Carlton, whose coaching staff included Todd Free, Ian Snedden, and Mike McLaughlin.

YMCA now hiring Early Childhood Educators



The YMCA is now hiring part-time/casual Early Childhood Educators and support staff in the Sarnia/Lambton County, Chatham-Kent, and Huron regions. For details, visit www.ymcaswo.ca/careers

Stay current with what's happening in St. Clair Township. Find information and The Beacon at:
www.stclairtownship.ca

SCRCA receives donation in support of water quality program



The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) recently received a donation of \$3,500 from Plains Midstream Canada in support of the SCRCA Water Quality Monitoring program. The program, carried out by the biology department, studies and reports on the water quality of streams and rivers in the watershed. Erin Carroll, manager of biology for the SCRCA, says constant monitoring helps identify areas of concern. "We monitor surface water quality by regularly measuring water chemistry and studying aquatic organisms at monitoring stations throughout our region. The data we collect and analyse allows us to track changes to water quality and helps us prioritize areas in need of action."

Nigel Trim, Plains Midstream Canada district manager, says the donation speaks to the company's commitment to environmental responsibility. "As part of our commitment to be an environmentally responsible operator beyond our day-

to-day business, we are proud to support organizations like the SCRCA that have missions to protect and conserve the environment."

Chair Steve Arnold stressed the importance of the PMC donation to the work of the SCRCA. "We are very pleased to partner with Plains Midstream Canada," he said. "These funds will be a great help in our efforts to strive for healthy watersheds."

Above: On hand at the SCRCA laboratory facility in Strathroy for the donation presentation were, from left: Steve Arnold, SCRCA chair; Ian Forster, Plains Mainstream Canada community relations officer; Erin Carroll, SCRCA manager of biology; and Kelli Smith, SCRCA watershed biologist. The laboratory processes samples for its Water Quality Monitoring program. *Photo submitted*

Provincial funds for anti-racism arts project received by Lambton County

A provincial move to address the social challenges of racism and discrimination will encourage Lambton County residents of all ages to express their own views on the subject through the arts.

The Anti-Racism Arts Project (ARAP), funded by the Government of Ontario through the Municipal Innovation Fund (MIF) will consist of three main aspects.

Art workshops

Art workshops will be offered for those in the community who have experienced and/or want to learn more about all forms of racism and discrimination. Artists and professionals in the field of trauma will lead these workshops, and educational sessions will be open to the general public to help define racism. The goals will be to help individuals identify personal practice and create opportunities for positive change and growth in areas of cultural diversity.

Secondary student art challenge

Grade 7-12 students are encouraged to participate in this multi-media art challenge, submitting work that reflects on diversity and anti-racism. Prizes will be awarded and the top three contestants will have an opportunity to showcase their art in the community in county libraries, schools and other public venues. Submissions are due by March 23, 2018. For more information, visit Sarnia

-Lambton LIP's Facebook page: [@SarniaLambtonLIP](https://www.facebook.com/SarniaLambtonLIP).

Sustainable program facilitation

A committee will be formed to oversee an antiracism campaign that features relevant activities to ensure that efforts to educate, inform and promote community solidarity will continue long after the funding agreement with the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration has expired. The committee will consist of local leaders and change makers who have a stake in making Lambton County as safe, culturally aware and welcoming community for all.

The objective of this initiative was outlined by Laura Albanese, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. "Newcomers are a vital and growing part of Ontario's communities. They contribute to the social, economic, and cultural enrichment of our province. The Province of Ontario and Lambton County are investing in a bright future by supporting programs to help engage, support and integrate newcomers into our province so that they can thrive and excel."

Anyone interested in learning more about or joining this initiative can contact Stephanie Ferrera at stephanie.ferrera@county-lambton.on.ca or by visiting the Facebook page [@SarniaLambtonLIP](https://www.facebook.com/SarniaLambtonLIP)

HERITAGE CORNER

History of the Bluewater Ferry Company reaches back into the early days of St. Clair Township

This article first appeared in the July 31, 1998 issue of the Parkway Connection. Reprinted with permission.

Sombra ferry going strong after 118 years of continuous operation

By Bonnie Stevenson

The Sombra ferry has been a thriving operation since 1880. That's when Samuel Whitely began taking passengers across the St. Clair River in a sailboat called *The Silent*.

Of course, when there was no wind, the boat had to be rowed across, an arduous task for the crew. And then, there was the problem of winter ice. Iron runners on the bottom of the boat provided a way to shove the vessel over the top of the ice.

The fare in those early days was ten cents for a round trip.

In 1888, Whitely's son, Tom, took over and eventually brought the small steam ferry, *Comfort*, to Sombra. Since then, a steady progression of powered vessels with names like the Whitely, the Marian, the Ariel, and the Lowell D. have plied the waters between Sombra and Marine City, Michigan, carrying passengers, automobiles and trucks safely to the other side.

The Dalgety family, present owners of the Sombra ferry, didn't get involved in the ferry business until 1948, although they were residents of Sombra before that time. The family originally owned a rubber stamp works, which can still be seen in the heart of Sombra on the east side of the St. Clair Parkway.

The ferry was bought by Morgan Dalgety and George Dean, and it has been operated by the Dalgety family ever since. It's present owner is Morgan's son, Lowell. "I started on the ferry in the summer of 1948 as a deckhand," said Mr. Dalgety. "I bought the ferry around 1970 from the family."

Mr. Dalgety's business, the Bluewater Ferry Company, presently has seven full-time employees, as well as one of his grandsons, who works aboard the ferry. "We're on the fourth generation," said Mr. Dalgety. "My 16-year-old grandson is working as a deckhand, but he goes to school at SCITS in Sarnia." His two sons, Morgan and Robie, also work for the company.

Although he doesn't know the exact number of vehicles the ferry carries each year, Mr. Dalgety offered a rough estimate of the traffic his company services. "In the summertime, it's very busy—about 16,000 to 20,000 per month," he said. "In the winter, there are usually ice problems when we can't make frequent trips, so it's less." He added this past winter offered no ice problems at all because of the mild temperatures.

During the busy season,

the ferry Daldean makes about 50 trips per day, and with the help of the second ferry, Ontimich, as many as 100 trips can be made.

The Dalgetys originally owned two ferry lines. In addition to the one in Sombra, they also ran the ferry from Walpole Island to Alganac, Michigan. Mr. Dalgety says that was his father's first ferry business. "Dad bought that in 1939, the same year the war started," he said. "Then he bought this one so he was running two at one time."

When Morgan Dalgety sold the Walpole Island operation in 1951, he looked at upgrading Sombra. He had the Daldean built in Eriau, Ontario in 1952 to replace the Lowell D. The Daldean can carry 12 cars and 100 people. In 1983, the Ontimich, which originally ran from the Port Lambton docks, was purchased to augment the Sombra service.

The present ferry service has come a long way from the days of sails and paddles. Mr. Dalgety says today's crew is required to be trained in safety measures, making a trip aboard the Sombra ferries safe and enjoyable. "All of the boat crew has safety training," he said. "It's sponsored by the Coast Guard. They instruct on things like lifesaving and firefighting."

The name Dalgety has been synonymous with the Sombra ferry operation and it seems the thriving operation will carry on well into the new millennium. For Lowell Dalgety, it's a life he wouldn't trade and he smiles when he talks about the changing nature of his duties. "I don't know anything else," he said. "I don't work on the boats any more, but I take care of the business and pay the bills."



Aboard the *Daldean of Eriau*, from left: Lowell Dalgety, Morgan Dalgety, Harold Stover, William Laing, and Stuart Clark.

Photo from Sombra Museum archives

Brigden Legion donates in support of community causes



The Royal Canadian Legion Brigden Branch 635 recently made two donations to local community causes. Above left: Branch 635 President Paul Gonerman presented a donation of \$900 to Maria Muscedere, fund development manager for St. Joseph's Hospice in Sarnia.



Above right: Branch 635 President Paul Gonerman presents Laura Nicholls, president of the C.E.E. Hospital-Bluewater Health Auxiliary with a donation of \$1,200 for use toward the group's "Wish List".

Submitted photos



Sombra Museum seeking baseball memorabilia

Sombra Museum Curator Kailyn Shepley says the response to requests for local baseball stories, photos, memorabilia, and artefacts like baseball bats, gloves, pre-1970 girls/women's baseball uniforms and trophies has been good. "There has been an uptick in response and we have recently received some photos from the Waubuno baseball, Courtright, Mooretown, and 8th Liner baseball teams, and the Courtright women's team from the 1920s to 1950/60s," she said. Still in short supply are items and stories from the Sombra, Wilkesport, and Duthil areas, including the Sombra Blue Denims. This memorabilia is being sought to be taken on loan during the 2018 season. Photos and documents can be scanned and returned promptly. If you can help, please call 519-892-3982 or email: sombramuseum@hotmail.com

The staff and volunteers continue to work on this new 2018 exhibit, which explores the history of St. Clair Township baseball.

Left: Examples of the baseball memorabilia that has been donated to date.

LAMBTON SENIORS Association
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PLEASE CALL 519 339 8866
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WLCHC programs

The West Lambton Community Health Centre offers the following programs in St. Clair Township.

Cooking Buddies for kids

This free series of children's cooking classes for ages 6-12 focuses on nutritious recipes, learning to read a recipe, learning to measure, kitchen safety, and clean up, and the get to eat a meal together. Programs are offered in Brigden, Corunna and Port Lambton. Spaces are limited. Call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 for more information to register for these free classes.

Low impact exercise classes

Low impact exercise classes are offered free of charge in two St. Clair Township locations. The classes are now being held at the Mooretown Sports Complex, 1166 Emily Street, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. until April, 2018.

Classes are also being held at the Brigden Fairgrounds exhibition hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Wanted: Motivated youth looking for rewarding challenges

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

COMMUNITY CONTACT

St. Andrew's foodbank evening operation

The food bank at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Corunna will operate on evening hours, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., twice each month beginning in April. Further information will be listed when available.

Brigden Fair advance prize list available now

Now is a great time to start making your projects for the Brigden Fair. The advance prize lists are available at the Brigden Fair office or online at www.brigdenfair.ca. Check out the new Industrial Arts section and the Junior Department High Point classes.

Volunteer hours for secondary students

Secondary school graduation is fast approaching and the Brigden Fair office is the place where students can find many ways to get the volunteer hours they need to graduate. Call the office at 519-864-1197. *Volunteer opportunities are available all year long.*

Donate your loose change to a good cause

Free your pockets of that heavy, noisy change by donating it to the *Pennies for Pavement* program and help support St. Clair River Trail maintenance. 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

Corunna Legion 8th Annual Elimination Draw

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna is now selling tickets for its 8th Annual Elimination Draw. The cost is \$20 per ticket and they can be purchased at the Legion hall. First prize is \$2,400. Weekly draws will be held May 5 through Sept. 15 and chosen tickets will be returned to the drum. The official draw event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 22 and **only 350 tickets will be sold.**

Volunteers needed for 1st Corunna Cub Scouts

The First Corunna Cub Scouts group is looking for volunteers. This would be a great opportunity for high school students to gain their volunteer hours and for retirees to share their experience and skills. The variety of volunteer positions and opportunities include fundraising, administrative tasks, camp cooks, supply coordinators, sewing, and helping run weekly meetings. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Andrea Lane at 519-381-2556 or by email at: andrealane@live.ca

Taoist Tai Chi coming to Corunna

Weekly Taoist Tai Chi classes are held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church hall, 437 Colborne Drive in Corunna on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Beginners are welcome. Tai Chi is a gentle art that can offer health benefits for every age and for many health issues. The group is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the health benefits of the Taoist Tai Chi arts by making them available to all who want to learn. For more information about tai chi or class times, call 519-344-0346.

Be a community builder with the Optimist Club

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 Aarsen at 519-892-3536.

New members welcome - Lambton Cty. 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. Hours spent volunteering with 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.

Down River Jr. Optimist Club seeks members

New members are being sought for the Down River Jr. Optimist Club. Youth between the ages of 10 and 18 are invited to get involved with the community and make a difference for kids. The club meets at the Port Lambton Community Hall on the third Monday of each month. High school students can acquire volunteer hours needed for graduation. For more information, call Carla at 226-402-3870.

Brigden United Church activities/services

Brigden United Church holds regular Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. (10 a.m. July and August). The church also hosts **Messy Church** through May (except December) every last Tuesday of the month from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. And the **Mom and Tots Drop-in** is held at the church every Friday morning from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (excludes July and August). The program is sponsored by Sombra Rural Child Care. For more information, call 519-892-3151. And don't forget to check out Brigden United Church on Facebook.

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 Our Lady of Mercy Church rectory hall at the corner of Christina and London Road (entry off London Road) in Sarnia. For more information, contact Rita at 519-867-2932. **Please note the change of location.**

Local TOPS weight control group meetings

TOPS weight loss groups help members sensibly take off and keep off pounds. Three TOPS groups hold meetings in the St. Clair Township area and everyone (all ages) is welcome to attend. **Brigden TOPS** hold 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. **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. **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. For more information, call Wendy at 519-381-5584.

Get ready for spring at Mooretown Sports Complex

Come boost your endorphins by exercising with us!

Enjoy all this and much more with 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. Or you could get that vacation time feeling while luxuriating in our 86° F pool, soaking in the soothing hot tub, or relaxing in the sauna. Come check us out TODAY!

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 p.m. to 8 p.m. If you're looking for strength training combined with a spin workout, come to the Bikes & Bells class on Monday or Wednesday evenings from 5:00-6:00pm or Friday from 9:00 - 10:00am.

POUND...your way into fitness!

Pound is the world's first cardio jam session inspired by the infectious, energizing and sweat-dripping fun of playing the drums, and we have it at the Mooretown Sports Complex! Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00pm. The cost is \$45 for a 10-visit pass or is included in the full fitness centre membership.

Muscle Mix group fitness classes

The Muscle Mix group fitness class includes kettlebell training to build lean muscles, improve strength and power in the upper body, core, and lower body, and increase coordination, joint mobility, and overall endurance. Classes are Wednesday at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost is \$6 per class or \$5 per class per senior, \$45 for a 10 visit pass, or \$255 per year for a full fitness membership.

Cardio Kick Boxing

The Cardio Kick Boxing fitness class is a high energy cardio workout with martial arts moves to get your metabolism revving. Classes are Monday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost is \$6 per class or \$5 per class per senior, \$45 for a 10 visit pass, or \$255 per year for a full fitness membership.

Shallow and Deep Water Aerobics

Experience and enjoy the rejuvenating power of water. Programs include a variety of exercises that target posture, muscular endurance, strength, cardiovascular, flexibility, and balance. Shallow water classes are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., and Tuesday and Thursday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Deep water classes are Monday and Wednesday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Cost is \$6 per class or \$5 per class per senior, \$45 for a 10 visit pass, \$205 per year or \$195 per year per senior, or included with the full \$255 per year full fitness membership.

Public Skating

Public skating will be held on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. The cost will be \$2.25 per child, \$3.25 per adult, and \$6.50 per family. The last day of public skating will be on March 25.

Free - Indoor walking/low impact exercise program

Indoor walking, low impact exercise is offered each week on Mondays and Wednesdays between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. This program is provided by the West Lambton Community Health Centre. For more information, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237. Begins Oct. 2.

March Break day camp - March 12-16

Children ages five to 12 are invited to participate in the March Break day camp to enjoy swimming, skating, crafts, and games. The program runs 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 is \$27 per child per day or \$110 per week.

NLS - March Break crash course

Become a certified lifeguard by participating in the NLS March Break crash course the week of March 12-16. In order to participate in this one week course, you must be 16 years of age by March 16, hold a Bronze Cross certification, and a Standard First Aid Certification. The course will run from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day at a cost of \$244.75 per person. All course fees are included.

Join today!

This is just a sample of the great programs waiting for you at the Mooretown Sports Complex. A Fitness Centre membership is just \$255, tax included, per person (\$243 per senior). Daily, weekly, or monthly rates are also available and there is no initiation fees to pay. From workouts and recreational interludes to relaxing soaks in the hot tub, the soothing heat of the sauna, or the luxurious feeling of a swim in the 86° F pool, a membership at the Mooretown Sports Complex is the best investment you'll ever make in your health.

Check out the Spring 2018 brochure!

The Spring 2018 brochure for the Mooretown Sports Complex can be found online at:

www.stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca

If you missed registration, don't worry because openings are still available. To get more information or to register for any of these programs, contact the Mooretown Sports Complex at 519-867-2651.

Note of Thanks - Sacred Heart Food Bank

On behalf of the Sacred Heart Food Bank, I would like to thank all the wonderful people and groups who helped with our can food drive and Christmas baskets. The Port Lambton United Church, St. James Anglican Church, the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, also Port Lambton Knights of Columbus, Sombra Township Optimist Club, Riverview School, Sombra Township Best Start, Sacred Heart School, 1st Sombra Township Cubs and Scouts, Wilkesport Fire Department, and Port Lambton Fire Department.

Thank you to the Port Lambton Senior Pirates Baseball team, for the use of their club room from mid-October to mid-December for storing all the Christmas gifts collected.

A special thank you to the Sombra Township Optimist Club, Jen and Mike Baker and family, and the Port Lambton United Church for adopting two needy families in our area and supplying them with much needed winter clothing and Christmas gifts.

Thank you to the St. James Anglican Church for the use of the church basement for year around food storage. We can now dispense all donated food received throughout the year from their basement.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who donated food, gifts and monetary donations, and to all the people who helped collect, sort and deliver. We were able to provide Christmas baskets and gifts to 49 families in our area.

Without the help of these community minded people and service clubs, we could not do what we do. *Again I say thank you!*

Frank Johnston
President

Legion Br. 447 donates to Ltn. Center



The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 recently made a donation of \$425 to the Lambton Centre for its Canoe Program. Legion President John Cormier presented the cheque to Lambton Centre Executive Director Rick Boerkamp.

Photo submitted

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 Registered Nurse Educator, will be held on Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on the following dates: March 20, April 10, May 8, and June 12.

Diabetes Healthy Eating and Keeping Active

This is a two hour session for people who have already attended our Living with Diabetes class or who have had past education on the basics of Diabetes and want more information on diet. We will discuss the basics of healthy eating, what types of food affect your blood sugar levels, reading food labels, when and how much to eat, and how to increase your physical activity level. The next sessions, led by a Registered Dietitian, will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the following dates: Tuesday, March 27; Wednesday, April 25; Tuesday, May 10; Tuesday, June 19.

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/or a Registered Dietitian who 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 sessions will be held on the following dates: Friday, March 23, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Friday, April 13, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Thursday, May 10, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; and Thursday, June 14, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Healthy Eating and You

Healthy Eating and You is a series of four sessions lasting two hours each. The aim of this program is to help you make permanent lifestyle changes. This is not a diet program. You will set your own healthy eating and physical activity goals and learn how to make plans for achieving them. Some topics that will be discussed include: carbohydrates, protein and fats (good and bad); physical activity—what types and amounts are beneficial; emotional eating strategies; sensible portions and portion control strategies; group discussions that will help you learn from the experiences of others. **This program is open to the public and no physician referral is required.** The next programs will begin on Wednesday, May 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and on Wednesday, June 6 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Quit Smoking Workshop

This is a two-hour session for people who are thinking about quitting or are ready to quit using tobacco. The discussion will include strategies and methods for quitting, such as cutting back, using nicotine replacement therapy, and using prescribed medications. The session will also include finding ways to overcome barriers to quitting, how to make a quit plan, managing withdrawal symptoms, and how to prevent a relapse. **This workshop is open to the public; no physician referral is required.** Participants are also welcome to schedule individual appointments to receive further support and information from one of the nurse educators. The next sessions are planned for Tuesdays on the following dates: March 6,

1:30-3:30 p.m.; April 3, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; May 1, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; and June 5, 1:30 a.m. to 3:30 a.m.

Happiness 101

The Happiness 101 Group is a four-week group that focuses on being happy. Adapted from the manual Happiness 101 by Dr. Louise Lambert, the sessions will discuss 12 simple interventions for a happier life using positive psychology for people who are depressed, languishing, or flourishing. The goal of the group is to help participants generate a whole new mindset geared exclusively towards the creation of a greater and more durable state of happiness. No physician referral is necessary, however, participants must have a physician that has referral privileges to the Rapids Family Health Team resources. The group will begin on Wednesday, March 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 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. During the group sessions, 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 the weekly sessions. Topics covered will include: an overview of generalized anxiety; challenging negative and positive beliefs about worrying; developing strategies to challenge worries and accept uncertainty; problem solving and decision making; managing the anxious body, mind and behaviour; exploring and practicing relaxation skills and stress reduction techniques; maintaining the gains and developing a self-management plan. The program will begin on Wednesday, April 25 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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. **Cooking classes are open to the public and no physician referral is required.** The next classes will be held on Wednesdays as follows: Budget Bites, Tuesday, March 20, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Cooking for Your Bones, June 20, 10 a.m. -noon; Spice Makes Everything Nice, Aug. 2, 10 a.m.-noon; Meatless Mondays, Sept. 26, 10 a.m. -noon; Meals For One, Oct. 24, 10 a.m. -noon; Dining with Diabetes, Nov. 21, 10 a.m. to noon; and Healthy Holiday Baking, Dec. 12, 10 a.m. -noon.

Note: Class dates, times, and location within Corunna is subject to change/cancellation depending on number of patient registrations.

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**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 family medical practice is in operation at the Shell Health Centre (Rapids Family Health Team), 233 Cameron Street, in Corunna. Applications are available by calling 519-813-9800.

Rapids Family Health Team seeks volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help with a Boosting Balance program to be held in Corunna through the Rapids Family Health Team this spring. This is a two-hour commitment once a week for four weeks. Anyone interested in volunteering can call Cynthia McColeman at 519-402-5274 or email: cmccoleman@rapidsfhteam.ca. No experience is necessary. Volunteers will be trained.

STILL MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 15

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.

Weekly fun slated for Corunna Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 has four weekly fun events open to everyone. Every Thursday at 1 p.m., fun cribbage is played. On Fridays at 1 p.m., it's time for fun bridge. Don't know how to play? Come on out and learn from those who do. On Friday nights, enjoy Meat Darts starting at 7:30 p.m. And every Saturday at 4 p.m., get in on the meat draw, with all meat coming from Foodland. The cost is \$1 per stick. Join the fun, enjoy a beverage and comradery, and maybe even take home dinner.

Catch the Ace at Corunna Legion

The Catch the Ace lottery is now being played on Wednesdays at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447, 350 Albert Street. Ticket sales will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and the draw will follow. The weekly draws will continue until the game is won. Food will be available and the hall is wheelchair accessible. Proceeds from the lottery will support the work of the Mooretown Optimist Club and the Corunna Legion. Rules are available at the Corunna Legion website, legion447.ca, or at the Legion branch.

LEO exercise for seniors in Sombra

Lambton Elderly Outreach continues to offer Forever Fit exercise classes for seniors at Sombra community 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 age 55 and older are welcome. Shoes

with a good tread are required.

Corunna United Church annual bus trip

The Corunna United Church Women will host the annual bus trip on Tuesday, May 22. This fun-filled trip to Stratford will feature a 2 p.m. matinee of The Music Man and dinner at MacPherson's Family Restaurant in Northville (Port Franks). The bus will leave the Corunna Athletic Park on Hill Street at 9 a.m. The cost will be \$130 per person, including the bus trip, theatre, and dinner. For more information, please call 519-862-3517.

Moore Museum annual events

The Moore Museum have several popular annual events coming up through the spring and summer months.

The **Victorian Tea** is set for Sunday, May 20 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy tea and scones served by Victorian-costumed servers in the charming atmosphere of the museum's turn-of-the-20th century cottage. Then linger on the museum grounds to explore the exhibits that await you in the 11 buildings that make up the museum's heritage village. Admission is \$7.50 per adult, \$3 per child, and \$2 for each preschooler.

The popular **Model Train** event will be held on Sunday, July 8 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Additional model train layouts will be on display at the event, as well as the museum's regular Lionel train exhibit. Volunteers will be on hand to discuss model railroading and all layouts will be operating. Children's activities will also be featured. Admission is \$6 per adult and \$3 per child.

And the 30th annual **Downriver Craft & Gift** sale will be held on Sunday, July 8 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Over 80 tables of handmade crafts, curiosities, and delectable food items will be offered. A food booth will be available to feed hungry shoppers and fuel their continued adventures in delightful shopping. New and familiar craftspeople are invited to participate. Call Moore Museum at 519-867-2020 to be added to the mailing list. Admission is \$2 per adult with children under age 13 admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

Lambton County Jr. Optimists in action

The Lambton County Junior Optimist Club has been a busy, growing group since its inception. **Right:** The group is shown here making a donation to Sarnia-Lambton Rebound. **Lower right:** New Jr. Optimists were recently inducted by Governor Mary Lou Abrams, right, at an inter-club meeting. From left, Jr. Optimist President Jayce, member Isobel, Vice-President Ava, members Addison, Landon, Rachel, Caleb, Adara, and Vice-President Elena. **Lower left:** Jr. Optimist Past Treasurer Bryce Abrams, right, is the first Jr. Optimist to graduate to the senior Optimist Club. He is shown here with Governor Mary Lou Abrams.

Submitted photos



MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 16

Night on Saturday, March 24 at the Port Lambton Community Hall. The licensed event will begin with the cook-off. Contestants need to pre-register for the contest by calling Johanne at 519-331-5737. A People's Choice award will be given to the crowd favourite. Doors open at 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 and includes unlimited sampling of the chili entries. The Junior Optimists will be selling hot dogs and cold drinks. At 7 p.m., the Trivia game will begin for players age 19 and over. Each team will consist of six members. Teams must pre-register for the event by calling or texting Caley at 519-365-5583 or Courtney at 519-792-9209. The cost to enter is \$50 per team. There will be 10 rounds, with 10 questions per round. The winning team will receive a \$200 cash prize. Proceeds go to the Sombra Optimists community youth projects.

Sombra Museum presents *Lost Lambton* lecture

The Sombra Museum will host *Lost Lambton, Found Lecture*, a lecture presented by Steve Loxton from the local Lost Lambton heritage group. The event is slated for Tuesday, March 27 at 7 p.m. The cost is \$10.

Sombra Optimist fish fry

The Sombra Optimist Club will host its annual Good Friday Fish Fry on March 30 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Port Lambton Community Hall. The "eat in or take out" dinner is \$15 for adults, \$6 for children 12 and under, and free for children age three and under. The dinner includes yellow perch, fries, a dinner roll, coleslaw, beverage, and a dessert. Proceeds will go toward local youth and community projects.

Moore Skate Club presents *Musical Time Machine*

The Moore Skate Club ice show, *Musical Time Machine*, will be presented on Saturday, April 7, with a matinee show at 2 p.m. and an evening show at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for the general stands, \$15 for ice seating, and \$5 for students under 12.

Lambton Upland Game Bird annual banquet/auction

The Lambton Upland Game Bird annual banquet and auction, supported by Ontario NativeScape, will be held on Saturday, April 7 at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall. Advance tickets for those interested in attending are available by emailing lambtonuplandgamebird@hotmail.com or calling 519-331-2662.

Taoist Tai Chi open house in Corunna

Here's your opportunity to find out more about the many health benefits of the ancient art of Taoist tai chi. An open house and demonstration will take place at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church hall at 437 Colborne Drive in Corunna on Wednesday, April 11 from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The public is invited to come and see how these gentle arts benefit people of all ages in a compassionate, non-competitive environment. For more information, call 519-344-0346.

Women's & Men's Recreational Non-competitive Hockey Tournament set

The Women's and Men's Recreational Non-competitive hockey tournament will be held at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena in Sarnia on April 22 to 22. This will be the 8th Annual Women's 18 and Over tourney and the 7th Annual Men's 19 and Over tourney. All divisions will have a Friday evening start. The entry deadline will be March 31. For more information contact Ed Marcy at 519-344-8624 (emarcy@sympatico.ca) or Lance Marcy at 519-344-2205 (lmarcy@cogeco.ca). Applications are available at: www.bluewatersharkshockey.com

Weekly Souper Thursdays in Corunna

The Parkway Church, located at 551 Murray Drive in Corunna, hosts a FREE *Souper Thursday* community lunch every week from noon to 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come to the church and enjoy a homemade lunch to eat in or take out. Those who require assistance can call 519-862-3380 to have lunch delivered. For more information, contact the church online at: parkwaychurchmichelle@gmail.com

Cruikshank Community Centre hosts weekly activities

The Cruikshank 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.

Progressive euchre at Brigden Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion hosts progressive euchre on Friday nights with registration set for 6:30 p.m. followed by play at 7 p.m.

Courtright Friendship Club plays cards

The Courtright Friendship Club plays euchre every-

See Still More, page 14

Ltn. Upland Game Bird group donates to Bluewater Anglers



Lambton Upland Game Bird representatives Mike McGee, middle, and Julie Kerr, presented a cheque for \$1,000 to Bluewater Anglers President Ed Holubowicz during a meeting of the Bluewater Anglers Club in Point Edward on Jan. 9. The donation will be used for youth education and conservation.

Submitted photo

Moore Agricultural Society extends greetings

The Moore Agricultural Society, home of the Brigden Fair, wishes everyone a wonderful and prosperous 2018 with hopes that everyone made special memories with family and friends in 2017 and during the Christmas season. MAS appreciates your patronage over the past year at the Brigden Fair, the jamborees, campout weekends, tractor pulls, the demolition derby, brunches, beef dinners, and other special events. We look forward to seeing you this year and we hope you enjoy our 2018 fair theme, "Making Tracks to the Brigden Fair."

Thank you and Happy New Year!

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Brigden Legion hosts meat raffles

The Royal Canadian Legion Brigden Branch 635 will host a series of meat raffles on the following Saturdays: March 3, 17, 31; April 14, 28. Come out and meet old and new friends, relax, and support your local Legion. A free luncheon is provided. The Legion is open to everyone including children supervised by an adult.

Corunna Legion hosts ham bingo

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 will host a ham bingo on Thursday, March 1. Doors open at 6 p.m. and play begins at 7 p.m. There will be 25 regular games with four cards for \$20, plus a special game at \$2 per strip. Refreshments and food will be available and everyone is welcome. For more information call the Legion at 519-862-1240. The hall is wheelchair accessible.

Corunna Legion hosts cribbage tourney

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 will host the Hank Stothers Memorial Cribbage Tournament on Sunday, March 4. Registration is from noon to 12:45 p.m. and play begins at 1 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person and all monies will be returned in prizes. Refreshments and food will be available. Pre-registration can be done at the bar or by calling 519-862-1240. The hall is wheelchair accessible.

Meat raffles in Sombra

The Sombra Optimist Club will host a series of meat raffles at Rum Runners Speakeasy in Sombra from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: March 7, 21; April 4, 18; May 2, 16, 30; June 13, 27. Six draws will be held each night at a cost of \$1 per draw ticket. Each raffle prize is valued at \$25. Proceeds will go to the Optimist Youth projects.

Euchre at Sombra Community Hall

Euchre will be played at Sombra Community Hall on Fridays on the following dates: March 9, 16, 23; April 6, 13, 20, 27; May 4, 11, 18.

Stew supper in Wilkesport

The Wilkesport United Church will host a stew supper on Thursday, March 8 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The supper includes stew, biscuits, dessert, plus tea, coffee and juice. For more information, please contact:

wilkesportunitedchurch@hotmail.com

Nerf Night fun in Courtright

The Junior Optimist Club will host Nerf Night at the Courtright Community Centre on Friday, March 9. Ages seven through nine will play from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and ages 10 through 13 will play from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The cost will be \$2 per player and a snack and Nerf bullets will be provided. Players should bring their own Nerf gun. Registration must be done by March 5. Call Michelle at 519-481-0577.

Conservation Club Big Buck Day

The Farmers and Friends Conservation Club will hold its annual Big Buck Day at the Oil Springs Youth Centre on March 10. Admission is \$5 per person and children under 16 are free.

Fish fry & dance at Corunna Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 will host a pickerel fry and dance on Saturday, March 17 with entertainment by Cornerstone. The cost is \$20 per person and admission is by advanced tickets only. They are available at the Legion, 519-862-1240. The hall is wheelchair accessible.

MAS hosts spring events in Brigden

The Moore Agricultural Society has a great series of events coming up at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall. **Trivia Night** is set for Saturday, March 17 at 7 p.m. Teams of six will play at a cost of \$5 per person. A cash bar and snacks will be available. The **Shamrock Country Jamboree** will be held on Sunday, March 25 beginning at 1 p.m. Music and dancing begin at 1 p.m. so if you sing, play an instrument, or just want to listen to the music, admission is \$5 and a cash bar will be available. And after the music, enjoy a ham and scalloped potato meal. Limited meal tickets will be sold at the door so come early. The **Annual Beef Dinner** will be held on Sunday, March 25 with seating at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Admission is by advance tickets only. The cost is \$17 per adult, \$8 per child aged six through 10, and free for children aged five and under. Tickets are available from any Homecraft Division member, MAS director, Brigden Feed Mill, Always Quilting, My Creative Place, or the Brigden Fair office at 519-864-1197. The 2017 roast beef dinner sold out so **don't delay! Brigden Fair Easter Brunch** is coming up Sunday, April 1, with seating from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per adult, \$6 per child aged six through 10, and free for children under age five. And "**Remember That One**" - **The Kiley Joe Masson Musical Show** is set for Saturday, April 14, with doors open at 6:30 p.m. and show at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door. For tickets contact the fair office (see below).

More information is available at www.brigdenfair.ca or by calling the fair office at 519-864-1197.

Other MAS coming events include: **Trivia Night, Saturday, April 28 at 7 p.m.;** **Mother's Day Brunch, Sunday, May 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. AND vendors are being sought for the Brigden Country Arts and Craft Show on Saturday, Aug. 4. Details at finance@brigdenfair.ca**

More info to come in the April Beacon or check out www.brigdenfair.ca or the Brigden Fair Facebook page.

Chili Cook-Off and Trivia Night planned

The Sombra Optimist Club will host a Chili Cook-Off and Trivia



Keep calm and
**CONTACT
THE BEACON**

If you have a non-profit or charity event or activity coming up in St. Clair Township, or an event that will benefit the residents of the township, don't stress! Promote it free of charge here in The Beacon.

The deadline for Beacon submissions is the third

Monday of each month by noon.

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

Please note: Photos submitted on deadline day cannot be guaranteed a place in the current issue.