



The St. Clair Township

BEACON

Discoveries
That Matter

Issue 4

Volume 13

April 2020

THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

Honorary citizen honored for special donation to Port Lambton bicentennial



The ceremony naming Holland native Jos Groen as an honorary citizen of Port Lambton was attended by a welcoming group of family, friends, and township representatives. He received a custom made plaque commemorating the occasion from the 200th Anniversary Committee and a certificate of welcome from St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold. Shown above from left: Port Lambton 200th Anniversary committee members Phil Johnston, Anne Hazzard, and Chris Dobbelaar; honouree Jos Groen; Mayor Steve Arnold; Deputy Mayor Steve Miller; and Councillors Pat Brown and Rose Atkins. The group is holding one of the reusable banners Mr. Groen made and another one is on the wall behind them.

Bonnie Stevenson photo

Riddle: What do the Port Lambton 200th Anniversary and the Super Bowl have in common? Read on to find the answer.

The Port Lambton 200th Anniversary committee has been doing a great job making sure the village's bicentennial celebrations will include the entire community. Their

process has been so successful that it has expanded across the sea to Holland, where a committee member's over-seas family contact made and donated signage that will

See Port Lambton, page 9

Township strategies address COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) threat

The Township of St. Clair Council has taken drastic steps to address the dire threat posed by the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). Public event and activity cancellations and postponements are township-wide measures to ensure "social distancing", one of the strategies put forward by health agencies and virus researchers at all levels of government.

These strong measures were enacted on Monday, March 16 by a meeting of the Emergency Operations Committee

(EOC) of St. Clair Township. The committee is comprised of the mayor and council, plus representatives from the major township departments.

During the meeting, the EOC enacted the policy to immediately close all township public spaces and cancel all events/activities slated for them until mid-April and beyond, if the virus is not under control by that time. This

See Novel, page 2

INSIDE



Municipal
Notes
Page 2, 3

Works Dept.
Notices
Pages 4-6

Moore
Sports
Complex
Page 8

Heritage
Corner
Page 12, 13

Community
Contact
Pages 14, 15

Around
The
Township
Pages 20-17



MUNICIPAL NOTES

Novel Coronavirus threat prompts decision to shut down public spaces

From front page

includes: the Moore Sports Complex; Moore and Sombra Museums; all community centres; all library branches; the St. Clair Township Civic Centre; and the St. Clair Township Golf Course. Lambton County has since called for "enhanced social distancing" which expanded the closures to include: all indoor recreation programs, all libraries, all private schools, all licensed child care centres, all bars and restaurants (except those offering takeout and delivery service), all live and cinematic theatres, and concert venues.

All levels of government are also discouraging non-essential travel outside of the Canadian border. Those who must travel outside of the country will be asked to self-isolate for a period of 14 days upon returning to Canada even if symptoms are not present.

Lambton Public Health advises that testing is limited due to the limited number of test kits currently available.

Residents should be aware that the municipal office will be accessible by phone, but public access will be restricted for the safety of township employees. In a statement released by township CAO John Rodey at the conclusion of the EOC meeting, "It is the intent that the public who required access to staff for building permits or planning applications can do so by appointment where access to staff can be controlled."

Lambton County has also called for the closure of all 25 library locations, the mobile library, Lambton Archives, museums, and the Judith and Norman Alix Art Gallery. However, library patrons can still access the library's digital resources at www.lclibrary.ca to obtain eBooks, eAudio-books, eNewspapers, eMagazines, movies, music, online learning, and more. No fines will be levied for overdue materials until April 6.

What makes COVID-19 different from regular flu?

As our readers are now well aware, this isn't a run-of-the-mill virus that's causing world-wide misery. The complete name for this monster is the "novel" coronavirus. It's novel because this strain of virus has never been identified before, but it is in the same viral family as SARS. It is a "zoonotic" virus, meaning it is an animal virus that has been transmitted to humans. This makes it more difficult to easily diagnose and harder to treat because there is no medical protocol, vaccine, or cure for this strain, except to treat its symptoms. A vaccine is in the development stage but researchers estimate it will be months before an effective formula will be ready for public use.

The Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health David Williams says the majority of patients with COVID-19 will experience relatively mild illness but they should remain at home while sick to avoid spreading the virus to others, especially seniors, the most vulnerable populations. There are also people who can carry the virus without ever developing symptoms. Carriers are particularly dangerous to

Council Meeting Schedule

All regular public council meetings have been **CANCELLED** through April and will resume when the COVID1-19 threat has subsided enough to allow public gatherings. Council will meet as necessary to address time sensitive and emergency matters. Other routine matters will be done with conference calls.

However, the municipal office will still be staffed and anyone wishing to contact the municipality can still call 519-867-2021 for further information.

Township residents are urged to obey the restrictions enacted by the township, county, and health authorities, and observe self-isolation for 14 days if symptoms such as fever, coughing/sneezing, and difficulty breathing, arise. If symptoms become severe, please seek medical attention.

ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP 2019 FINAL PROPERTY TAX DUE DATES

The Interim tax due dates are
Tuesday July 30, 2019 and Monday September 30, 2019

The following methods of Tax Payments may be utilized:

- Automatic Bank Machines
- Telephone & Internet Payments through your bank
- Payment at most Financial Institutions (*any bank charges will be the responsibility of the ratepayer*)
- Post dated cheques

No counter service will be available at the municipal office. See "Drop Box" option below.

- Drop Box at 1155 Emily St. Mooretown Ontario N0N 1M0

Pre-authorized payment plans are also available and encouraged; please visit our website at <http://stclairtownship.ca/>

St. Clair Township Tax Department

519-867-2024

fax: 519-867-5509

taxes@twp.stclair.on.ca

population and everyone is urged to take precautions (see page 3) as if they had the virus so they won't infect others. Cases that have been assessed so far by the American CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) indicate the virus poses a very real threat for seniors, especially those

Continued on page 3



Coronavirus information you should know

From page 2


seniors and adults with already compromised immune systems/pre-existing conditions. Pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, heart and lung disease, asthma, and hypertension can put vulnerable populations at higher risk for severe symptoms and could prove fatal. Young adults and children with congenital and pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, asthma or immune deficiencies are also at risk. Although early findings indicate healthy children are more resilient, in general, than adults, they are also vulnerable to this virus. Care is advised regardless of an individual's age.

Long story short: the virus triggers ARDS (Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome) in the lungs, whose job it is to put oxygen into the blood. The coronavirus causes inflammation in the lungs and creates a situation that makes it difficult for the lungs to function. Their inability to convey enough oxygen into the blood stream causes the infected individual to become short of breath. Medical assistance should be sought if symptoms become severe.


How can I fight COVID-19?


According to public health officials, the precautions stated in the following article have been found to be the best defense against contracting the virus, offering a greatly increased chance of avoiding infection.


The number one weapon in the battle to fight COVID-19 is thorough hand washing. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend using soap (any hand soap will do) and water to wash hands for at least 20 seconds (the time it takes to sing *Happy Birthday*), especially after sneezing, coughing or blowing your nose, or when you have been out in a public place.

 1. Be sure to wash between fingers and around your thumb, and use fingernails to gently "itch" the palms of your hands to free any virus that might be trapped in the creases. Rinse and dry hands thoroughly, and clean under fingernails with a nail brush as well when possible. When soap and water is not available, hand sanitizer containing at least 70 per cent alcohol is an alternative as long as hands are well covered with it and rubbed until dry.


Observe coughing/sneezing etiquette: Be sure to cover mouth and nose with a bent elbow held close to your face. NEVER cough into your hand, especially with the clenched-fist-to-mouth manoeuvre - it is useless and will permit the spread of viral droplets to a distance of about two metres (6 feet). Coughing into your open hand will facilitate the spread of the virus onto everything you touch and it can remain contagious for up to three days.

 2. Keep your hands away from your face, specifically eyes, nose, and mouth. As mentioned, droplets expelled from mouth and nose can land on surfaces that others may touch such as door knobs and handles, faucets, door jams, and hand rails. Keyboards and telephones are among the worst carriers of pathogens. A small container of hand sanitizer is handy when venturing out into public areas - use it often.

 3. Avoid close contact with those who are symptomatic (but be kind about it). Researchers note some people tend to stigmatize those who are infected. However, the coronavirus is easily transmitted and can be difficult to avoid. It doesn't mean a person is in any way negligent or careless.

 4. Avoid crowds and practice "social distancing", which requires that you maintain a distance of six feet (about two metres) between yourself and the people around you. Avoidance of at-risk populations in places like long-term care facilities and retirement homes is also advised for the safety of their residents. Be aware that many businesses and stores may be closed or operating with

altered hours or purchase alternatives.

 5. Keep surfaces including door knobs, light switches, faucets, sinks, toilets, telephones, keyboards, table and countertops, etc. clean and disinfected. Use soap and water followed by an approved disinfectant. The CDC suggests a simple disinfectant can be made using household bleach and water - 4 teaspoons of bleach per quart of water (adjust slightly to use metric measurements).

Those who are sick with COVID-19 or any contagious illness are advised to stay at home and wear a face mask when in close quarters with anyone who isn't infected or when entering your healthcare provider's office or hospital.

What's being done?

An assessment centre for COVID-19 began operating in Sarnia on March 14. At that time, no confirmed cases of the virus had been reported in all of Lambton County. The criteria for being tested apply to those who have been exposed to others with confirmed cases and who are symptomatic, plus people in long-term care facilities and retirement homes who have respiratory illness, and those who are hospitalized. A rural assessment centre near C.E.E. Hospital in Petrolia is also in the works as of Beacon publication time.

The global outbreak of the novel coronavirus continues will continue to be monitored by Lambton Public Health (LPH) as cases in Ontario continue to increase.

The province is actively working with municipal and health partners to plan for the possibility of local cases. Locally, LPH is encouraging all residents to remain informed about this situation through credible information sources such as the LPH website, LambtonPublicHealth.ca. Find out more about the virus itself, travel, how to protect yourself, and when to see a health care provider.

Employers and businesses are being urged to have strategies in place to protect employees from COVID-19 while trying maintain their operations. The province has promised assistance so that employees who must stay home with their children who are home due to school closings.

The County of Lambton Emergency Control Group is also working to review the latest updates from the province and Lambton Public Health. Medical Officer of Health Dr. Sudit Ranade is providing guidance on appropriate actions to be taken as the situation progresses. Updates can be found online at lambtononline.ca or on Facebook and Twitter.

Lambton County residents who have necessary business with the county are encouraged to complete it over the phone or by email when possible to limit social interaction with county staff until this emergency situation subsides.

What can I do?

First and foremost, **DO NOT IGNORE** the instructions you receive from health and community officials. They are for your protection. Use the time at home to reconnect with family: play a game, go for a walk and take care to remain at least two metres from those you meet. Do things that will calm the anxiety you may be feeling.

And remember there may be others in your community who are alone, perhaps elderly or disabled. Take time to check on them; see if you can assist them in some way. Knowing a neighbour is willing to help might make their day a little brighter.

Note: Poverty doesn't take time off and local food banks will still need to operate. Please support these important community organizations as much as possible.

Resources: Lambton Public Health; Ontario Medical Officer of Health; Centres for Disease Control; World Health Organization; Mayo Clinic.



Public Works Department

After hours emergency
~ 519-344-9318 ~

Public Works/Roads...519-867-2993

Engineering.....519-867-2125

Website..... www.stclairtownship.ca

Water Utility.....519-867-2128

Fax.....519-867-3886

Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street, Mooretown

Water Utility appointments Require 48 hours notification

To avoid service fees, St. Clair Township By-Law 8 of 2020 requires at least 48 hours notice in advance of scheduling appointments with the Public Works.



Foil lined food delivery boxes

Foil lined boxes like the ones that are used for fresh or frozen food delivery are not recyclable and are considered waste. Many food delivery companies will pick them up when they drop off your new order.



Bridge closures

Please be advised that the Holt Line bridge over the Sydenham River and the Pretty Road bridge over Black Creek will be closed until rehabilitation can commence in 2020. Please find alternate routes.



Spring yard waste 2020

Spring yard waste collection will begin the week of April 20. The South Township area will remain on Mondays and the North Township area will change from Wednesdays to Thursdays. Please refer to: our 2020 waste calendar (see April); St. Clair Township website; or Recycle Coach app for your area's collection day and requirements. **Reminder: Yard waste in plastic bags will not be accepted during yard waste periods.**

COVID-19 measures in effect

The St. Clair Township Works Department will be observing COVID-19 guidelines regarding social distancing for the well-being of employees and the public.

Residents will still be able to call for assistance or information, but in the case of basement leaks or other inside water issues, Director of Public Works Brian Black says, "They would try to fix it from the outside."

Please be patient during this emergency. The health and safety of the community will be the first priority for all St. Clair Township staff.



Sewer main flushing

Public Works will be flushing sewer mains connected to the St. Clair Township Sewer System, during the hours of:

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

May 2020 - Fall 2020

For current areas affected,
refer to stclairtownship.ca

During this maintenance procedure, you may notice some gurgling noises in your drains.

If conditions persist after 24-48 hours of normal use, please notify Public Works at 519-867-2993.



Hydrant flushing

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. to 4:30 a.m.

May 2020 - Fall 2020

For current areas affected,
refer to stclairtownship.ca

During this maintenance procedure, you may notice some water discolouration using your taps, flushing toilets, doing laundry etc., as some sediment may be drawn into your residence. We recommend that you run the cold water tap for a few minutes or until the discolouration disappears.

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



St. Clair River Trail winter closure

The St. Clair River Trail is now closed until April 15. No winter maintenance will be completed during this period under By-Law 45 of 2018.

Public Works Department

Sanitary Backup Prevention

Do you have a backwater valve?

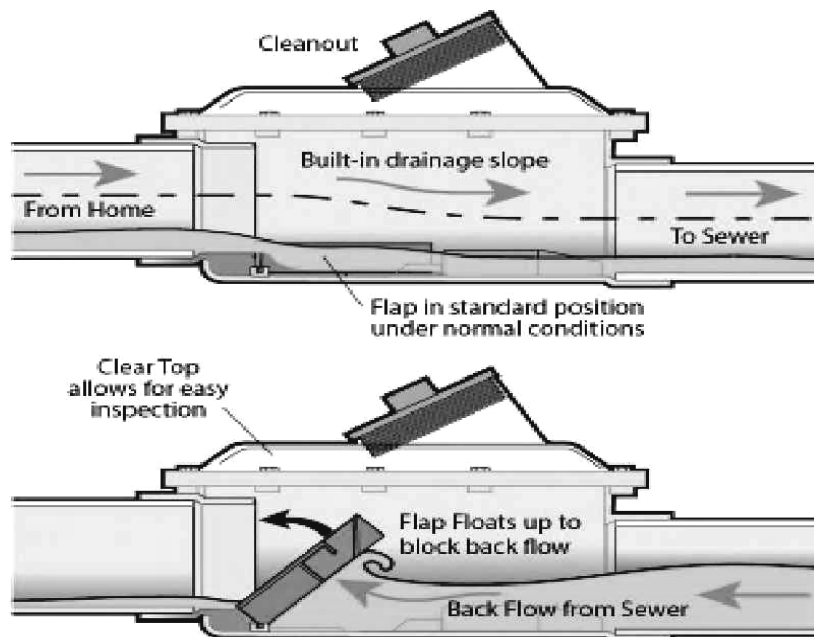
A backwater valve, if properly installed and maintained, can prevent sewage from backing up into your home during a blockage or surcharge. It is recommended you follow the backwater valve manufacturer's guidelines and recommendations for maintenance.

Regular maintenance is required to ensure it operates as required during a sanitary backup.

1. Remove cleanout cap on top of the valve and do a visual inspection.
2. Ensure O-ring is in good condition on the cap.
3. Use a flashlight to properly see inside the valve body.
4. Inspect for debris build-up on body, gate (flap) and beneath the gate (flap).
5. If debris build-up is found, flush clean.
6. Inspect the O-ring for deterioration and replace if necessary.
7. Ensure the gate (flap) moves freely up and down.
8. If the backwater valve is a model with floats, check condition of floats and replace as necessary.
9. Reinstall cleanout cap.

The clear top allows for easy inspection to determine if the gate (flap) is open or closed.

Keep in mind, when the backwater valve is closed you *can't* use your plumbing as you normally would. Avoid showering, flushing the toilet, using the washing machine or dishwasher until conditions return to normal and the backwater valve gate is open.



If you have further questions, contact a licensed plumber.

Public Works Department



Chief Administrative Officer -----(519) 867-2021
Administration/Clerks Dept.----- (519) 867-2021
Finance & Treasury Dept. -----(519) 867-2024
Water Dept. -----(519) 867-2128
Engineering Dept.----- (519) 867-2125
Public Works Dept. -----(519) 867-2993
Fire Dept. - Admin. -----(519) 481-0111

January 1, 2020

Dear Homeowner/ Business Owner / Tenant,

Re: NEW Sanitary Fixed Fee

St. Clair Township has introduced a new fixed sanitary fee that now appears on your water/sanitary bill. The new sanitary fee is being introduced to help the municipality pay for costs related to sanitary infrastructure required to improve the operational effectiveness of the Township's sanitary system and to meet provincial regulations. The existing sanitary charges on your bill will continue to pay for the operation & maintenance of the sanitary system within the Township.

You will notice a new line item on your bill containing the Sanitary Fixed Fee information. An average residential customer with a half inch water service will see "Sanitary Fixed Fee Res Qtly < 1 inch" including the additional sanitary charge. The fee is based on your service size and rate class. For example, residential customers with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter service will receive a monthly sanitary fee of \$1.50 in 2020. The sanitary fee will be adjusted over the next 3 years until infrastructure costs are being financially balanced.

St. Clair Township will continue to ensure that its Municipal customers receive safe, reliable and effective service related to each of its systems and infrastructure.

Please contact us at 519-867-2128 for more information or to further discuss the new fee.

Sincerely,

Brian Black
Director, Public Works
St. Clair Township

St. Clair Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street, Mooretown, Ontario N0N 1M0

Mayor speaks out on need to mitigate effects of environmental abuse

We are living in times of Great Lakes water natural level cycles and the human impact to our world's climate; we are actually dealing with a double-edged climate sword.

We are seeing rises in lake and river levels at a sustained level similar to what we experienced in 1986-1988 along with the flooding it brought. However, it was only a couple of years ago we had low water levels in the Great Lakes that almost matched 1964 low levels.

We have had some 2"-3" rain events recently but that is not unusual for our area. The current issue is that, with the river and lake levels at record or close to record levels, every major rain event becomes a flood event.

Shore line protections, proper drainage, and development outside of flood prone areas will all positively influence short term/long term solutions to high water levels.

But we need to address the reasons behind the increase in abnormal environmental events.

Each of us has a part to play toward mitigating the negative impacts of our industrialized modern world. We can minimize our fossil fuel and hydro consumption; eliminate unnecessary driving trips; eat locally grown produce when available and preserve or freeze it in reusable containers before the growing season ends. We can recycle as much as possible; use and wash real dishes instead of regularly eating out of prepackaged or take-out packaging containers; buy as many items as possible in bulk instead of in small, wasteful cardboard or plastic packaging; and utilize minimum tillage practices on the farm.

Things like this may seem small - things that won't make much difference - but if these measures are used collectively by the majority of earth's population, our strength in numbers can reduce our environmental impact and help preserve our world for future generations. The push for environmental responsibility needs to start with every one of us.



Maintain your smoke and CO detectors: Your life may depend on them

Early detection and warning of a fire or carbon monoxide (CO) emergency is crucial to your chance of survival. It's the law to have a working smoke alarm on every storey of your home and outside the sleeping areas. If your home has a fuel-burning appliance or attached garage, you require a CO alarm adjacent to the sleeping area as well. CO is colourless and odorless, so you may not know there is a problem until it's too late. This is especially important when everyone in the residence is asleep.

A disconnected power supply, missing batteries, dead batteries and improperly installed batteries are common reasons for alarm failure during a fire or CO emergency. Carefully read the instructions that come with each unit to educate yourself about the conditions under which the unit will sound.

Tips:

- * It is recommended to test smoke alarms and CO alarms weekly. Battery life varies from unit to unit and every unit has an expiry date. Be sure to check all of your alarms and replace them as recommended.
- * Smoke alarms and CO alarms are required to be replaced within the timeframe indicated in the manufacturer's instructions. Generally, this "end of life" timeframe is ten years for smoke alarms and seven to ten years for CO alarms
- * Develop and practice a home escape plan so that everyone in your home knows what to do if the smoke or co alarm sounds



Landlords, did you know that it is your responsibility to install and maintain smoke and CO alarms at your rental property? The Ontario Fire Code requires landlords to install smoke alarms and CO alarms where required and to test the alarms annually, after a change of tenancy, and following the installation of a new battery.

As a landlord, the Ontario Fire Code also requires that written records of smoke alarm and CO alarm tests be maintained noting what was done and the time and date the test was done. In addition, landlords are also required to provide a copy of the smoke alarm and CO alarm manufacturer's maintenance instructions, or approved alternative maintenance instructions, to the occupant in each rental unit.



St. Clair Township building owners, property managers and tenants that require assistance in determining whether they are in compliance are encouraged to contact St. Clair Fire Department at 519-481-0111.

Andrew McMillan
Deputy Fire Chief
St. Clair Fire Department

Moore Sports Complex closed due to COVID-19 threat

MSC programs cancelled Until at least mid-April

Spring is here and those nifty shorts and light shirts may feel a bit snug. Moore Sports Complex can help you dispose of the unpleasant inches before the summer shirts come out. Find a program you'll enjoy and get information ranging from registration times and program schedules to last-minute cancellations by consulting our Facebook page. Like us on Facebook and we'll do our best to keep you informed and ready to wear those summer clothes.

Spinning Classes

Join the certified spinning instructors for a great workout that improves cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and power! Join any time for a 10 week session for \$10 per class or buy a 10 pass admission for \$50. Morning spinning classes are held on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. Beginner classes are held on Tuesday evenings from 7:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Strength training combined with a spinning workout is offered with the Bikes & Bells classes on Monday or Wednesday evenings from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. or Friday from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Drum away the pounds with POUND®!

POUND® is the world's first cardio jam session inspired by the infectious, energizing and sweat-dripping fun of playing the drums. Classes are Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost is \$7 per class, or \$5.50 per class per senior; \$55 for a 10-visit pass; or \$275 per year for full fitness center membership.

Shibashi

Tai chi/qigong is a practice of aligning breath and movement for exercise and health. Shibashi consists of 18 simple steps. It is easy to learn and perfect for beginners. Classes are being held Wednesdays until May at 10:15 a.m. Register at the first class. This class is sponsored by the West

Lambton Community Health Centre.

Low impact exercise offered

The West Lambton Community Health Centre will offer low impact exercise on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Register at your first class

Youth POUND®!

Kids ages 10 to 15 can get in on the fun now with the new youth POUND classes on Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Registration is required at a cost of \$55 for a 10-week session. Call today for more information at 519-867-2651.

Generation POUND®!

Kids ages five to nine will enjoy the Generation POUND classes on Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Registration is required at a cost of \$55 for a 10-week session. Call today for information at 519-867-2651.

***For more information or to register
for any of these programs, contact the
Moore Sports Complex
at 519-867-2651
or email: info@stclairtownship.ca***

**St. Clair
Parkway
Golf Course
will be
closed
until
at least
mid-April**



Starter Company Plus program accepting second round of applications

Small business owners and entrepreneurs seeking grants to help fund a business startup or growth are invited to apply for the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership's (SLEP) Starter Company Plus program.

The program, now in its second year, will award six grants of \$5,000 to successful applicants to start a business or grow an existing one. The award will also provide grant recipients with personalized business coaching and access to peer-led support sessions.

This program is administered by SLEP's Business Enterprise Centre, and it is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

To be eligible for the program, appli-

cants must be over age 18 and not currently enrolled in a post-secondary institution. They must have at least 25 per cent of the requested grant amount in equity and have not received a Starter Company Plus Grant in the past.

Applicants for the grant must meet with a Business Enterprise Centre counsellor prior to the application submission due date Monday, April 6.

For more information on how to apply, contact Chantelle Core at chantelle@sarnialambton.on.ca

SARNIA-LAMBTON
Economic Partnership
Powering a Sustainable World®

Port Lambton honours first “honorary citizen”

From page 1

grace every 200th anniversary event this year. Committee member Chris Dobbelaar’s second cousin, Jos Groen, came to the rescue when the committee identified the need for event posters. Mr. Groen, who owns a printing shop near Amsterdam, has made and donated signage in the past, including the event posters for Port Lambton Gala Days, and he obtained the committee’s online domain name and got it up and running. It is now being looked after by the committee.

His latest contributions for the committee could be seen at the anniversary celebration’s pancake breakfast event on Saturday, Feb. 22. The posters were on display at the door and in the hall. “They added a lot to our first event,” said committee member Anne Hazzard. She added the honorary citizen title was bestowed upon Mr. Groen as a way to thank him for the generous donation of his time and efforts through the years and for his fast response to the committee’s need for event posters. “It’s a way to thank Jos for his involvement and quick response to our requests,” she said.

Mayor Steve Arnold added his appreciation on behalf of the township. “I was very proud of the committee for taking the initiative to recognize Jos and his contributions to our local volunteer initiatives in Port Lambton,” he said. “His generosity continues to demonstrate the kind heart of another great volunteer for our community.”

Just as noteworthy is the fact that 800 square metres of banners made by Mr. Groen’s company were seen at the Super Bowl on Feb. 2. He says the U.S. company originally hired to do the work had botched it. He took on the job knowing he only had a week and a half to produce the material and get it to Miami. He grinned as he noted, “We didn’t get a lot of sleep.”

Mr. Groen’s recent visit to Port Lambton was one of many he has made over the years. Chris says he and his cousin have been close since their late teen

years when Jos and his family started to come over for Thanksgiving. The visit became an annual trip and today, Jos continues to visit about twice each year. In between visits, the men keep touch with daily texts.



Jos Groen with his plaque of appreciation.

St. Clair River
TRAIL
actively connecting communities

**Check out
Trail
Facebook
page, video,
&
website**

The St. Clair River Trail Facebook page and website has added a new promotional video to its photo archive. The natural beauty the trail is known for comes alive on the screen.

And while you’re looking at the video and submitted photographs, why not send us some of the shots you’ve taken while enjoying the trail?

Like the St. Clair River Trail on Facebook and message us your pictures.



Ice fishing near Sombra

Rapids Family Health Team

April sessions CANCELLED

The following sessions are being offered at the **Rapids Family Health Team** clinic located in the Shell Health Centre, 233 Cameron Street, Corunna. There is **no charge** for participation and all classes are open to the public - **no physician referral required**. You must register to participate. Please note space is limited.

For more information go to www.rapidsfhteam.ca or to register call 519-339-8949 and speak to reception.

Healthy Eating and YOU

A series of **four** sessions, each lasting two hours. The aim of the program is to help you make permanent lifestyle changes; this is not a "diet" program. You will set your own healthy eating and physical activity goals, and learn how to make plans for achieving them. Some topics that will be discussed include:

- ♦ Carbohydrates, protein and fats (the good and the bad)
- ♦ Physical activity: What types and amounts are beneficial
- ♦ Emotional eating strategies
- ♦ Sensible portions and portion control strategies
- ♦ Group discussions will help you learn from others experiences.

This four-week series will be repeated two more times this year.

The **second series** is set for Thursdays, April 30, May 7, 14 & 21 from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

And the **third series** is planned for Wednesdays, Sept. 16, 23, 30 & Oct. 7 from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

FREE Cooking Classes: Love Your Heart - Eat Smart!

These classes focus on nutrition advice to reduce your risk of developing heart disease and stroke.

This three-week series will be held on Thursdays, Sept. 17, 24 & Oct. 1 from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

FREE Cooking Classes: Dining with Diabetes

These classes are geared for anyone looking to prevent or manage their diabetes or support a loved one diagnosed with diabetes. We'll explore some delicious recipes to help manage your blood sugar.

This four-week series will be repeated twice through the year.

The **first series** is set for Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

The **second series** will be held on Wednesdays Nov. 18, 25, Dec 2 & 9 from 10 a.m. to noon.

FREE Cooking Class: Eating Comfortably with IBS

IBS is pain and bloating in your stomach followed by diarrhea/constipation. If you are suffering from Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), this is the class for you. Nutrition interventions have been proven to help manage symptoms. Join us as we cook up IBS-friendly recipes!

This class will be held on Thursday, June 18 from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

*Class date, times and location within Corunna subject to change/ cancellation depending upon number of patient registrants

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

LAB OPEN

Just a reminder
that our lab
is open weekdays
for all residents

Monday to Friday -
7:30a.m. - 11:15 a.m.



Lambton County 2020 budget unanimously approved

Lambton County's 2020 budget was unanimously approved after an agonizing struggle with the latest round of provincial downloading of services. This amounted to a 3.42 per cent property tax increase, double the 1.75 per cent tax increase approved for 2019. The budget will fund spending of \$220.7 million, with \$80.2 million to be raised from local property taxes.

To prepare for possible unforeseen future expenditures, \$12.1 million was directed to various reserves and reserve funds that are used to finance necessary major projects and take advantage of unexpected opportunities.

Lambton County Warden Bill Weber applauded the work of county staff for the budget they put before council. "Staff brought forward a budget that is both reasonable and responsible," he said. "The budget allows us to maintain our current levels of service while taking the provincial downloading pressures into account."

The 2020 budget break down is as follows: \$15.9 mil-

lion for general government/council activities; \$712,000 for the office of the Chief Administrative Officer; \$6 million for Corporate Services Division; \$11.7 million for Cultural Services Division; \$14.5 million for Finance, Facilities and Court Services Division; \$29.7 million for Infrastructure and Development Services Division; \$35.3 million for Long-Term Care Division; \$28.5 million for Public Health Services Division; and \$78.5 million for Social Services Division.

Mayor Steve Arnold say he is satisfied with the approved budget in light of the challenges the county faces, such as the provincial downloading of services to individual counties, and infrastructure needs. "To reduce costs, we must review programs we offer and implement locally. Lambton County has tried to do that with an increase of 3.42 per cent," he said.

He added that prudence must be observed when handling a budget that must be shared by the community. "We have seen how fragile our financial infrastructure is. We need to live within our budgets and be prepared to survive both natural and man-made crises," he said. "That includes budgets made by counties and municipalities."

Notes United year-end production was Something Big

By Bonnie Stevenson

The members of Notes United, the Courtright-based youth entertainment group that wowed their audience with their first show, *Unexpected*, in December, had another treat in store for their end-of-season offering before the COVID-19 social isolation protocol was put in place. *Something Big* featured more unique takes on tunes both secular and sacred. Their practice and performance space at Courtright United Church gave them lots of room to test their creativity.

In addition to Notes United, *Something Big* featured the church's Worship Team (several members belong to both groups). Director Beth McDonald said, "This show will be totally different from the Christmas show." New presentations included songs that used recorders, body percussion, and sign language accompaniment. The group members agreed that performing is an exciting way to express themselves. "I like seeing the smiles on people's faces when we perform for them," said Kennidie Westbrook. The positive feelings the girls receive from their audiences during their performances is something they all enjoy and they work as a team to make sure they do their personal best.

A love of music is also cultivated through Beth's teaching of the skills required to understand music. Member Catrice Westbrook said, "Beth teaches us how to read music and play the recorder. She has also taught us sign language." "It's a team effort," says Director Beth McDonald. "We're a family."

The camaraderie the group shares is also apparent. Shyla Vickard says, "I enjoy being part of a (performing) family." Joely Brown's mom, Kimberley says her daughter



Members of Notes United hold a brainstorming session with their director, Beth McDonald, right. Seated from left are: Shyla Vickard, 11; Joely Brown, 8; Kennidie Westbrook, 14; and Tessa Wheeler, 14.

ter is enthusiastic about her time with Notes United. "She wants to be on stage. She loves it."

Although Notes United has been forced to end their season without performing their show for the public, we can only hope the group will resume activities in September. New members will be welcome at that time.

The Notes United will not go on as planned due to the COVID-19 threat.

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



EarlyON Child and Family Centres

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

Best Start Hub - Riverview Central School

3926 St. Clair Parkway, Port Lambton, 519-892-3151

Hours of Operation:

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

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

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

Hours of Operation: Monday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.;

Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

& 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Friday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Brigden United Church,

2420 Jane Street, Brigden

519-892-3151

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

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

Find The Beacon online

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).

HERITAGE CORNER

Moore Museum celebrates 45 years of community heritage preservation

by Museum Assistant Fiona Doherty

On a bright summer's day in 1975, the then Minister of Culture and Recreation Robert Welch stood in front of Moore Museum with a broadhead axe in hand. With one swift movement he brought it down to cut through a thick nautical rope.

The breaking of this hawser marked the opening of Moore Museum in a fitting tribute to the local marine heritage that the museum would preserve over its next few decades. It was the culmination of the efforts of dozens of volunteers, council, and committee members finally paying off.

The idea for the museum was sparked by the suggestion of Roy Murray, a local process worker and antique enthusiast. Murray, concerned that local history was "being sold out of the township", petitioned the council to form a committee that could organize and manage the process of opening a museum. After much consideration, the committee decided to develop the museum on the site of the old SS#2 Moore School.

Charles Reilley had donated the land in 1867, stipulating it was to be used for the creation of the school as well as a jail-house. In a letter to the museum, Reilley's grandson, Kenneth Yates, recalled his experiences attending the school. They included: throwing stones at the outhouse when his teacher was inside; storing his gum on the entrance wall as he arrived in the mornings; and filling a crock for water from the pump outside. He also remembered other nearby buildings; the Reilley cottage to the north of the school; the blacksmith shop his grandfather used; and the Congregational Church, which was then abandoned but still standing. Over the last 45 years, the property has grown to include many of these essential parts of a community, giving visitors an in-depth representation of what community life was like in the past.



At the 1975 opening of the Moore Museum, Minister of Culture and Recreation Robert Welch chops the ribbon at the opening ceremony, with Reeve Don Beaton, left, and Roy Murray holding the ribbon.

Gazette photo

Vendor registration forms available

The Moore Museum is now accepting vendor registrations for the annual Downriver Craft and Gift Sale on Sept. 20. Registration forms have gone out by email or by mail to the craftspersons on the mailing list. Potential vendors who have not received their form should contact the Moore Museum at 519-867-2020. Registration forms are also available on the museum's website at: www.mooremuseum.ca

This glass isn't as tame as it looks

Right: A unique display of lovely glass presents an air of innocence even though it hides a sinister secret that can only be revealed with a special piece of equipment.

The secret is revealed at the Moore Museum.



Notice Bear Creek Cemetery Company

Bear Creek Cemetery has submitted by-laws to the Registrar of the Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Any interested parties may contact Russell Marsh at 519-331-1798 for information or to make copies. By-laws or amendments may be reviewed or copied at 3393 Telfer Road, Mooretown, Ontario.

These by-laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar, Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Contact can be made by telephone to: Bereavement Authority of Ontario, 647-483-2645 or 1-844-493-6356.

MORE HERITAGE CORNER

Port Lambton 200th Anniversary Committee seeking photographs

The Port Lambton 200th Committee is seeking photographs and information that will help illuminate the area's heritage. To donate, please email the Port Lambton 200th Anniversary Historical Committee at portlambtonhistory@gmail.com or contact Kailyn at the Sombra Museum, sombramuseum@hotmail.com



In the early 1900s, the porch at Waddell General Store in Port Lambton's business section presented a place for residents to meet and exchange the latest community news. *Sombra Museum photo*

WANTED

PORT LAMBTON

FAMILY

VISITORS

CHURCHES

SCHOOLS

MILITARY

SPORTS

BUILDINGS

NATURE

• **PHOTOS**

• **DOCUMENTS**

• **STORIES**

• **MEMORIES**

• **HISTORICAL
INFORMATION**

• **HISTORICAL
ITEMS**

ORGANIZATIONS

TRANSPORTATION

AGRICULTURE

BUSINESSES

NATURE

**SCOUTING
GUIDING**

**SOCIAL
ACTIVITIES**



Summer Student Employment Opportunities Available

Department of Community Services - Moore Museum

PROGRAMS AND PROMOTIONS

ASSISTANT

at a rate of \$14.50 per hour

The position will involve:

- assisting in the development of pre- and post-visit school program information
- scanning negatives in the Museum's collection for research and exhibition
- enhancing the Museum's social media presence through regular posts

This position is anticipated through funding from the Canada Summer Jobs program therefore all candidates must youth between the ages of 15 and 30 years.

Ideal candidates will be post-secondary students in museum studies, history, art, education or a related field. Required skills include demonstrated research skills, creativity, organizational skills and excellent written English. Experience in a museum setting would be a valuable asset.

Start dates vary so applications should be directed as soon as possible to:
Laurie Mason - Moore Museum 519-867-2020 lmason@stclairtownship.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 Museum and we will make all necessary arrangements to meet your needs.

Only those candidates selected for an interview will be acknowledged. We thank all candidates for their interest.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

ASSISTANT

at a rate of \$14.50 per hour

The position will involve:

- exhibit design and installation
- assisting with school programs and events
- creating interpretive materials

This position is anticipated through funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage in support of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment and Skills Strategy, through the Young Canada Works in Heritage Organizations Program, therefore, all applicants must be full-time students who are 16 to 30 years of age.



Timely exhibit at Moore Museum

Moore Museum volunteer Dave Pattenden shows off part of the new vintage clock and clockworks exhibit set to debut when the museum opens its doors later this year. The "banjo clocks" get their name from their shape and all have American eagles perched on top. The exhibit boasts about 32 donated clocks, some of which have been cleaned and/or repaired for the show. Some have been refurbished as well to restore their original but only a few are kept running. Mr. Pattenden says they all have to be wound with a key, making it a time consuming chore to try to keep all of them running at once.

Stevenson photo

COMMUNITY CONTACT

Brigden Fair advance prize list

The Brigden Fair advance prize list is now available at www.Brigdenfair.ca

Don't let the weather get you down. This is a great time to start putting together your entries for the 2020 Brigden Fair.

This year's theme is "Hats Off to Brigden Fair." Don't wait. Begin your prize-worthy entries today.

~~~~~

### MAS Harvest of Gold 2020 raffle

The 2020 Harvest of Gold raffle tickets will now be available for sale at all Brigden Fairground events. The cost will be \$5 per ticket or 3 for \$10.

### Well water safety still a concern

Lambton Public Health (LPH) is encouraging residents with private water wells to test their water supply as soon as possible if the well is flooded by excessively high water levels and flood conditions caused by rain and snow melt.

Harmful bacteria may enter the drinking water supply making it unsafe for consumption.

LPH Public Health Inspector Vicky MacTavish cautions, "Until you can test your well water, use bottled water for daily use including drinking, making infant formula or juices, cooking, making ice washing fruits and vegetables, and brushing teeth."

Once floods have receded, the well should be disinfected and tested at least three times at one week intervals before the water is used for drinking. The test for bacteria (total coliform and E. coli) and water sample kits are free. Water samples must be dropped off within 24 hours of being taken. Local drop-off centres are at Lambton Public Health, 160 Exmouth Street, Point Edward, and at Bluewater Health CEE lab, 450 Blanche Street in Petrolia.

For a full schedule of access times for these locations and resources on how to take a water sample, visit [LambtonPublicHealth.ca](http://LambtonPublicHealth.ca)

It is recommended well water be tested three to four times per year whether or not there has been flooding to ensure the water supply is not contaminated.

~~~~~

Volunteers needed for telephone support

Volunteers are being sought to provide check-in calls to seniors through the Tel-Check program. Volunteers are also needed to staff the Distress Line to ensure that when people reach out to this telephone help line, their call will be answered. For more information or to volunteer, call Donna at the Family Counselling Centre, 519-336-0120. This service is funded by the United Way of Sarnia-Lambton.

St. Andrew's foodbank needs supplies

The food bank at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Colborne Street in Corunna is in operation every Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and every Thursday morning from 9 a.m. to noon. It operates in association with the Inn of the Good Shepherd in Sarnia. Thanks are extended to all local individuals and groups who support the food bank with donations. Your generous support is critical to the ongoing success of the food bank. In the first 10 months of 2019, it has helped 73 different client families from our community, offering a variety of healthy food including milk, eggs. The food bank offers

a variety of food products to help people eat healthily, including milk, eggs, bread, and meat. The fresh food supplied at the food bank costs approximately \$75 per week to purchase. Anyone wishing to make a financial donation to the food bank can do so through Food Bank, C/O St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 437 Colborne Drive, Corunna, Ontario, N0N 1G0.

Please be generous this year. As winter progresses, more people turn to the food bank for help with utility bills rise, taking away money that would allow them to purchase healthy food choices. Donations of non-perishable items are also welcome, including household supplies like laundry soap, household cleaners, and toilet tissue, and personal hygiene items like toothbrushes, soap and shampoo, deodorant, and shaving items.

St. Joseph-St. Charles Catholic Church Community to participate in food program

The St. Joseph-St. Charles' Catholic Community in Corunna, along with the Catholic churches in Petrolia, Forest, and Watford, has worked collaboratively with the Boys and Girls Club of Sarnia-Lambton to extend Project Backpack, a food assistance program, into Lambton County. The program provides a bag of nutritious food that can be easily assembled to people ages 14-24 who are in need of a healthy meal. Each bag also contains hygiene items and helpful information from community partners. People who qualify for this program can find these bags at the St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish office at 346 Beresford Street in Corunna during regular office hours (Monday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Tuesday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.). Program organizers say the program will continue into the fall and they hope to continue it as long as there is a need for it.

New young voices invited to join Lambton Youth Choir

The Lambton Youth Choir is accepting new members in Grade 4 and older. Rehearsals are held every Wednesday during the school year from 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at LCCVI in Petrolia. For more information, email Diane O'Dell at odelld@cogeco.ca You can also check out the Lambton Youth Choir Facebook page.

The Optimist Club supports community youth - new members welcome

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.

New members welcome - Lambton County Junior Optimist Club

The Lambton County Junior Optimist Club is always on the lookout for youth who want to make a difference in their community. Club members ages 10 through 18 volunteer in the community and fundraise to put on their own programs and to donate to other youth programs. 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 Junior Optimist Club new members ages 10-18

New members are being sought for the Down River

MORE COMMUNITY CONTACT

From page 16

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 volunteers hours needed for graduation. For more information, call Carla at 226-402-3870.

Good listeners wanted - Family Counselling Centre

Good listeners are needed by the Family Counselling Centre to staff the Distress Line, speaking with individuals who need support and need to feel connected. Volunteers are also needed to staff the Tel-Check program line, placing daily calls to seniors and persons with disabilities who live alone and are feeling isolated. **To register or to find out more about this effort, call Donna at the Family Counselling Centre, 519-336-0120, ext. 251.**

Opening Doors mental health support

The West Lambton Community Health Centre offers Opening Doors, a healthy lifestyle program for individuals living with mental illness or seeking mental health support. For more information, call 519-344-3017, ext. 259.

Brigden United Church activities/service

Brigden United Church holds regular Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. 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.

St. Clair Community Church services

St. Clair Community Church, 3435 John Street, holds services every Sunday at 10 a.m. The congregation invites you to join in to praise God through song, prayer and hearing the Word taught by Pastor Wendy Beasley or one of the church's other speakers. For more information, call 519-542-4447 or visit the church website at www.stclaircc.ca

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.

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. **TOPS Corunna** meets every Tuesday at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 437 Colborne Street in Corunna. Weigh-in is at 6 p.m. with a meeting at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Wendy at 519-381-5584.

Farm Credit Corporation presents donation to Moore Agricultural Society

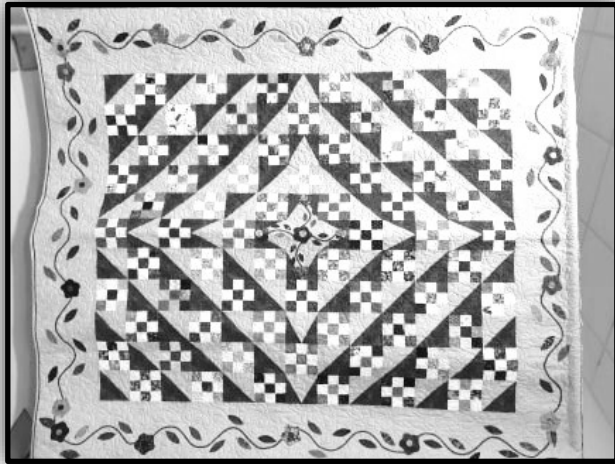


Representatives from the Farm Credit Corporation recently presented the Moore Agricultural Society (MAS) with a donation of \$13,500 through the corporation's FCC AgriSpirit Program. The funding will help with the Brigden Fair/MAS administration building roof project. FCC supports projects that make positive changes in the communities where they live and work. On hand for the presentation were, from left: Michelle Evanitski (MAS Homecraft President); Tilda Brouwer, FCC Relationship Management Associate-Wyoming office; Malcolm Rogers (MAS President); Ken Taylor (MAS Director); Ryan Clubb, FCC Relationship Manager-Wyoming office.

Submitted photo

MAS 2020 quilt raffle tickets on sale

Moore Agricultural Society Homecraft Division has once again created a beautiful quilt for this year's raffle. Tickets can be purchased from Homecraft members and at events held at the Brigden Fairgrounds. Don't miss the chance to purchase your chance to own this beautiful piece of art. *See below.*



Description: Tan background with rich colourful patchwork

Vendors for Brigden Market sought

Vendors of all types are being sought for the 2020 Brigden Market to be held at the Brigden Fairgrounds on August 1. Farmers market, yard sellers, antique vendors, crafters, direct sales, and other vendors are welcome; if you want to sell it (and it's legal), let us know.

We're trying to create an event where there is something for everyone. There are many buildings/indoor spaces to accommodate your products and showcases so the weather won't dampen this sale. Vendor spaces are available for \$35 each. Inside spaces are 10'x6' and outside spaces are 10'x10'. (Outside vendors will supply their own tent/canopy.)

Please email alison.dion@brigdenfair.ca or finance@brigdenfair.ca if you are interested in being a vendor or message us on Facebook [Brigden Market](#)

Income tax clinics planned

Income tax preparation can be a daunting task, but there are volunteers ready to help you navigate the process. The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program volunteers can help you prepare your income tax and benefit return if you have modest income and a simple tax situation.

The volunteers are not employees or volunteers from the Canada Revenue Agency, but the program can be found listed at: www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/community-volunteer-income-tax-program.html

Community Volunteer Income Tax Clinics will be held in St. Clair Township in at the Corunna library, 142 Lyndoch Street, (519-862-1132), and at the Sombra Library, 3536 St. Clair Parkway, (519-862-3711) at the following dates and times: Corunna - Saturdays, March 14, April 18 and 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Fridays, March 27, April 17 and 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At the Sombra library, 3536 St. Clair Parkway in Sombra (519-862-3711) on Thursday, March 26 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.



SOMBRA TOWNSHIP
OPTIMIST CLUB



Good Friday, April 10, 2020
4PM to 6:30PM
Port Lambton Community Hall

Adults \$15 - 12 & under \$6 - 3 & under FREE

TAKE OUT AVAILABLE
Includes: French Fries,
Coleslaw, Roll & Dessert

Photographic club welcomes new members

The Sarnia Photographic Club welcomes new members from all around Lambton County. The club holds two meetings per month, with one featuring a guest speaker and the other focusing on camera information and photography techniques. There are also two workshop sessions per month at the Lawrence House, and a variety of photographic outings to enjoy throughout the year. Visitors are welcome to attend up to two meetings to learn more about the club.

The club will meet Tuesday, March 3 at the Sarnia Public Library Theatre with a social time at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting beginning at 7 p.m. Club member Jim Norman will make a presentation entitled *Stones and Crosses*.

For more information, go online to: www.sarniaphotoclub.com

Open house set for Rev. Jill Rogers

An retirement open house is planned for Rev. Jill Rogers, minister of the Courtright and Sixth Line United Churches. Everyone is welcome to attend and extend best wishes on Saturday, April 25 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The event will be held at the St. Clair Parkway Golf Course clubhouse in Mooretown.

First event marking the 200th anniversary of Port Lambton a great success

The inaugural event for the year-long bicentennial celebration in Port Lambton got the celebration off to a winning start.

The Port Lambton Community Centre was filled to capacity with hungry diners who enjoyed the pancake breakfast, good music and the company of friends and neighbours.

Photos clockwise from top right: * Pancakes and sausages were deftly distributed by volunteers including Kevin DePooter, left, and Riverview Public School representative Liam Hazzard. * Lachlan, 8, left, and Mylie, 7, make decorative buttons with the library's Maker Space machine as part of the event's craft program.

* A steady stream of hungry patrons attended the event.

* Roy Wade digs into a hearty breakfast before heading back to his boat shop in Port Lambton.



PORT LAMBTON
200
1820-2020

Children's Aid Society launches Kids Matter campaign

The Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society has launched the Kids Matter campaign. Its purpose is to ensure there are enough homes "so all children and young people can remain in their communities and with families. The campaign goal is to find 20 new foster homes in 2020 - 10 for teens and 10 for tots. The CAS will welcome people and homes that represent the diversity of their communities all around Lambton County and Sarnia and the children/young people served by the Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid Society.

Anyone interested in providing a foster home for children and young people can contact the CAS at 519-336-0623. For more information about the Kids Matter

campaign, please contact Executive Director Dawn Flegel at 519-336-0623, ext. 255, or text 519-384-3984, or email dflegel@slcas.on.ca



SARNIA-LAMBTON
CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

Even MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 18

June 20 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free to spectators. Exhibitors can register at the gate, with \$10 for the first entry and \$5 each for every additional entry. To celebrate the 200th anniversary of Port Lambton, organizers are hoping to have 200 vehicles on site for the occasion. Various displays and events will take place as well in celebration of this major milestone. The day will begin with a peameal bacon & cheese on a bun breakfast, plus all day food in the food tent (including hamburgers, hot dogs, bagged chips, cold drinks and coffee) and at the fry truck. A licenced tent will operate from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Entertainment will be by *Timeless*, belting out the oldies all day, and by Pull 5 in the late afternoon. Other attractions include a penny table, a 50/50 draw, and a soapbox derby for the kids, with registration at 9 a.m. and practice at 10 a.m. Those who don't have a derby car can use one of the spare vehicles on site to get in on the fun. To register for derby, call 519-784-5912. This is a family-friendly event not to be missed.

Model Train event at Moore Museum

All aboard! The Moore Museum will present the popular Model Train event on Sunday, July 5 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Special features will include guest model train layouts, volunteers available to discuss model railroading, and activities for the kids, including trains that visitors can 'drive'. Admission will be \$6 per adult and \$3 per child.

Vacation Bible School in Brigden

The Brigden United Church is planning its summer

Vacation Bible School from July 6 to July 10.

~Mark your calendar~

Port Lambton Gala Days will celebrate village's 200th anniversary

The theme of this year's 2020 Port Lambton Gala Days parade on Aug. 1 will celebrate Port Lambton's 200th anniversary. In an effort to reflect this spirit of celebration for the town's bicentennial, the Gala Days committee is seeking ideas and support that will help to make the parade one to be remembered through the generations. **Anyone interested in making this happen can contact Jordan Lane at 519-312-7499 to register.**

The grand prize for this year's Gala Days will be a 2020 Can-Am Maverick Trail, with all proceeds going towards the Port Lambton Athletic Association. Tickets can be purchased online at: <http://go.rallyup.com/plgaladays>

Gala Days Parade - general information

The parade on Saturday, Aug. 1 at 11 a.m. will include floats, trucks, classic cars, farm equipment, walking entries and whatever else is entered. Entry is **free** so get creative and join the fun. *(For safety reasons, no water balloons or water guns are allowed and candy cannot be thrown. Please distribute it by hand.)*

Downriver Craft and Gift sale

The Moore Museum's Annual Downriver Craft and Gift sale is slated for Sunday, Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Watch the Beacon for more information on this and other events planned for later this year.

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority holds general meeting

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) held its annual meeting on Feb. 24, high water levels and the subsequent damage it has been doing to shorelines was discussed. St. Clair Township Deputy Mayor Steve Miller noted it was of concern to everyone in attendance. "High water levels are a concern to everyone and certainly to St. Clair Township," he said. "They could have adverse effects, not only to areas along the St. Clair River but to low-lying areas in the southern portion of the township. Another concern is the effects on farmland and roads if the (McKeough) dam has to be operated more frequently due to more flooding in Wallaceburg. These issues will be closely monitored by the township."

St. Clair Township couple Lisa and Al Noguiera were presented with a Conservation Award for their dedication to the cause of conservation. They have planted 6,000 trees on their property on-going fight with the invasive grass, phragmites, is also cause for congratulations.

The SCRCA has been busy with positive environmental projects over the last year. Board of Directors Chair Joe Faas highlighted the following work that has been done: 40 flood bulletins issued during 15 different flood events; 68,000 trees planted throughout the watershed; over 12,000 students took part in the SCRCA's Conservation Education programs; \$8 million in federal funding received to support shoreline protection projects along the St. Clair River and Lake Huron and over \$3 million in additional funding secured to support SCRCA initiatives; 800 turtle hatchlings released into the Sydenham River; moved towards a more streamlined regulatory process to support provincial priorities and lower permit approval times; provided technical and financial support to local landowners interested in implementing stewardship projects on their property; and began detailed engineering and design plan phase for management of remaining areas of contaminated sediment in the St. Clair River.



SCRCA Board of Directors Chair Joe Faas speaks to board members including St. Clair Township Councillor Pat Brown and Deputy Mayor Steve Miller (second and third chair on right side of table).
Bonnie Stevenson photo

MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 20

Mental Health Laws and Advocacy workshop

A *Mental Health Laws and Advocacy* workshop will be held on Saturday, May 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lambton Mental Wellness Centre, 109 Durand Street in Sarnia (lower level). The workshop is for family and friends of those with mental health challenges. Co-facilitators will be Margaret Capes, Community Law School, and Jennifer O'Neil, Lambton Mental Wellness Centre. Topics will include: consent to treatment; community treatment orders, privacy rights and mental health care; social assistance (OW and ODSP) and Henson Trusts; and it will answer the question, "What is substitute decision making?" Participants must register for the workshop by emailing staff@lmwc.ca or by calling 519-344-5602.

Shibashi in Mooretown CANCELLED FOR APRIL

Shibashi, a tai chi/qigong practice that aligns breath and movement for exercise and health, is being offered at the Moore Sports Complex on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. until May. (See page 13 for more information).

Sombra senior fitness exercise classes CANCELLED FOR APRIL

The Sombra Senior Fitness chair exercise classes at Sombra Community Hall, sponsored by Lambton Elderly Outreach, have been changed to Mondays and Thursdays at **1:15 p.m.** (Please note the time change from 1:30 p.m.) The Forever Fit classes are held at 9 a.m. on Monday and Thursday mornings, and at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays.

LEO fitness classes in Corunna CANCELLED FOR APRIL

The LEO Forever Fit class for seniors 55 and over is held at Thompson Gardens/Cruickshank Centre on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Weekly Souper Thursdays CANCELLED FOR APRIL

The FREE *Souper Thursday* hot lunch hosted by Parkway Church, located at 551 Murray Drive in Corunna, is now offered on Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come to the church and enjoy a homemade lunch to eat in, take out, or even delivery. 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 weekly activities CANCELLED FOR APRIL

The Cruickshank Community Centre at Thompson Gardens in Corunna hosts several activities each week including: *The Coffee Social, Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$1 for unlimited coffee and good company. *Fun Bingo is played Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. Cost is a \$1 fee to participate and \$1 per card played. *Euchre games are being held at 1 p.m. on Thursday afternoons. The cost is \$2 to play. On the last Thursday of the month, proceeds are donated to a charity. The April proceeds will benefit the Corun-

na Group Home. Everyone is welcome. For additional information please call 519-862-1628.

Courtright Friendship Club plays cards

CANCELLED FOR APRIL

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

Activities offered at Wellings in Corunna

PLAY CANCELLED FOR APRIL

Wellings Corunna, 180 Bunker Avenue in Corunna, will hold several weekly activities offering people enjoyable afternoons to socialize and meet new friends. Euchre will be held every second and fourth Monday of each month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for a \$2 fee, and bridge will be offered every Tuesday at 1 p.m. Call 226-778-0539 to register.

Low impact exercise offered in Briden and Mooretown

NO CLASSES IN APRIL

The West Lambton Community Health Centre (WLCHC) will offer low impact exercise at the Briden Fairgrounds exhibition hall, 2976 Briden Road, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Register at your first class.

WLCHC classes will also be offered at the Moore Sports Complex, 1166 Emily Street in Mooretown, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Register at your first class.

Cribbage played at Corunna United Church PLAY CANCELLED FOR APRIL

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.

Pickleball will resume in May/June with beginner classes

The 2019 Pickleball season is on the way. Known as "the fastest growing sport in the world", new adult players will be able to join the fun at the Corunna Athletic Park courts in May or June to take lessons. Watch the Beacon for details when pickleball season approaches.

~MARK YOUR CALENDAR~

Celebrate the 45th anniversary of Moore Museum free admission in June

In celebration of the Moore Museum's 45th anniversary, free regular admission will be offered on Sundays through the month of June. Come and explore the intriguing exhibits and historic buildings at no cost.

16th annual Sombra Optimist Car Show

The much-anticipated 16th annual Sombra Optimist Car Show is set for Brander Park on Saturday,

See Even More, page 18

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

CHECK EVENT –PROGRAM STATUS

The current COVID-19 (coronavirus) threat has resulted in the cancellation or postponement of all coming events slated for April. If the threat continues beyond that, cancellations and postponements may remain in effect. See below for a list of current Cancellations/Postponements.

The County of Lambton Cultural Services Division has cancelled all public programs scheduled at its cultural services facilities (includes Brigden and Grand Bend branch libraries) until at least April 5, but this date could be extended if the COVID-19 situation worsens. No library fines will accumulate during this period until April 6. Patrons may renew materials online. Decisions regarding future programming commitments beyond April 5 will be made as the situation unfolds.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Cancellations/postponements

- *Corunna Legion events for April/early May
 - Moore Skate Club Show
 - Moore Optimists annual egg hunt
 - Photographic club to meet
 - Taoist tai chi in Corunna
- Sombra Optimists hold annual fish fry
- Good Friday prayer meeting in Corunna
 - Easter Sunday Brunch in Brigden
- LEO volunteer appreciation event
- Mayflower Lodge to host fashion show
- Notes United presents *Something Big!*

- Paint Ontario at Lambton
 - Heritage Museum

- Spring Renewal Gala fundraiser for April
 - Housing laws workshop series
- Corunna Legion hosts regular events
- 5th Annual St. Clair River Science Symposium

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

May proceed as planned

Electronic waste collection day

May be cancelled-call contact number

The Bluewater Lions Club of Sarnia will host an electronic waste recycling day on Saturday, April 18. The collection will be held at Premier Recycling, 325 Gladwish Drive off Plank Road from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. For those who cannot get to the collection site, pick up is available in St. Clair Township by calling Bluewater Lion member Allan Knight at 519-862-1040.

MSC Renewal Concert Fundraiser - Come and See Spot Run

See Spot Run is Canada's #1 indie band and it's coming to St. Clair Township for one concert only as the Moore Sports Complex Renewal Committee presents the Raise The Rink fundraiser. The concert, slated for Friday, May 1 at 8:30 p.m., will take place at the Moore Sports Complex on Rink 1. Popular local band *Full Disclosure* will open for the headliners and general admission will apply, with food and a cash bar available. Tickets will be \$20 per person. Details are now being finalized and more information will soon be released.

Celebrate Mother's Day in Brigden

The Moore Agricultural Society - Home of the Brigden Fair invites you and your family to treat mom to the Mother's Day Brunch at the Brigden Fairgrounds exhibition hall on Sunday, May 10, with seating from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. No reservations are required. The menu will include: pancakes, eggs, hash browns, bacon, scalloped potatoes, ham, baked beans, toast, and beverage. Give mom the day off; treat her to brunch.

Victorian Tea at Moore Museum

On Sunday, May 17 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., enjoy warm homemade scones and tea (or coffee, juice) served by Victorian-clad servers in the charming atmosphere of the museum's turn of the century cottage. Then, explore the exhibits in the other 12 buildings that make up the heritage village. The cost will be \$7.50 per adult, \$3 per child, and \$2 per pre-schooler.

10 Solo Cup Tournament set

The 10 Solo Cup Tournament will be held at the Courtright Community Centre (Silverdome) on Saturday, May 23 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost will be \$20 per two-person teams and players must be 19 or over to register. A registration form can be obtained at Ken's Mini Mart (south of Corunna on the St. Clair Parkway) and filled out with: the team name (please choose two names); email address; and phone number. For more information please contact Audrey at 226-886-3553 or email audrey-taylorcassidy@gmail.com



**Want a
brilliant idea?
Promote your coming
non-profit or charity
events right here in
The Beacon**

The DEADLINE for Beacon
submissions is the third Monday
of each month by noon.
E-mail:
beacon@stclairtownship.ca

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, put your event in the spotlight free of charge here in The Beacon.

Please note: Photos submitted close to the deadline may be held until the following issue due to lack of space.