



The St. Clair Township BEACON



Issue 5

Volume 13

May 2020



THANK YOU to all of our front line workers and volunteers!



THE BEACON goes paperless

During the COVID-19 emergency, The St. Clair Township Beacon will be published electronically. The Beacon can be accessed online at the township website, www.stclairtownship.ca. On the home page, top right information bar, click on **The Beacon**.

What do you do when your daily routine is interrupted?



Many house-bound township residents enjoy the bright sunny spring days with walks along the St. Clair River Trail or along country roads when they feel cabin fever setting in. The ever-changing scenery, as well as the opportunity to keep in touch with neighbours (at a distance), helps to ease the monotony of self-isolation. Above: Malcolm Rogers, left, enjoys a chat with neighbours David Hodgson and

Janet Faas. Their Great Danes *Daisy*, left, and *Molly* are also pleased with their daily outings.

For a better look at the good things happening in St. Clair Township during the COVID-19 emergency, see, **EXPRESS YOURSELF**, pages 13-15.

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MUNICIPAL NOTES

Mayor Arnold commends community for response to COVID-19 threat

The St. Clair Township community response to the COVID-19 threat has been remarkable and Mayor Arnold began council's May 20 online meeting by commending everyone for their cooperation. Attention to social distancing and avoiding crowd behaviour was noted, and he praised health workers for their dedication and courage. He also expressed appreciation to front line workers in the township stores and offices, as well as the municipal workers in the field and those who are staffing the municipal office to serve residents during this difficult time.

New Legislation allows virtual meetings

While the COVID-19 threat continues to throw a pall over the township, social distancing has become the order of the day for a majority of people around the world. This protocol, coupled with a warning for people to avoid crowds, made it impossible for St. Clair Township Council, its committees and boards to conduct township business efficiently and safely.

The *Municipal Emergency Act, 2020*, enacted in mid-March, provided a measure that will help municipal governments conduct their required governmental meetings, during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Also enacted was the *Employment Standards Amendment Act (Infectious Disease Emergencies), 2020*. Both received unanimous consent in the Legislature.

The *Municipal Act, 2001* has also been amended to allow members of municipal councils to meet electronically during open and closed meetings, and they may be counted present while attending online for the purpose of forming a quorum. Virtual meetings may be done at the discretion of each municipal council.

The act also allowed the province to over-ride noise by-laws to allow 24-hour delivery of critical goods throughout Ontario for up to 18 months, thereby ensuring the delivery of goods to grocery stores, pharma-

See Municipal Notes, page 3

Moore Community & Recreational Foundation (MCRF) - application deadline

The deadline for the Moore Community & Recreation Foundation financial assistance is May 31, 2020. Please visit the St. Clair Township web site www.twp.stclair.on.ca for detailed information of the foundation along with the grant request form. Should you require further information please contact, Charles Quenneville, Treasurer at : 519-867-2024 or e-mail: cquenneville@twp.stclair.on.ca.

Council Meeting Schedule

All regular in-person public council meetings will be held as virtual, online meetings until the COVID-19 threat has subsided enough to allow public gatherings. Virtual meetings are being held to protect all participants as legislated by the provincial government. **See New legislation, this page.**

However, the public may be able to view the meetings on the township Facebook page. *Eleven viewers attended the meeting of April 20 in this way.*

Upcoming meetings are slated for Monday, May 4 at 3 p.m. and Tuesday, May 19 at 6 p.m.

Although the municipal office is closed to the public, a reduced staff will be there during business hours through the work week. Anyone wishing to contact the municipality can call 519-867-2021 for further information.

ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP 2020 FINAL PROPERTY TAX DUE DATES

The Final tax due dates are
Thursday July 30th and Tuesday September 29th, 2020
Bills will be mailed beginning of July

The final instalment for the Interim bill was April 29th.

****Please note: The office is closed to the public until further notice. To help ratepayers during his time of uncertainty, we are offering credit card payments over the phone. This is only during this pandemic. ****

The following methods of Tax Payments may be utilized:

- Automatic Bank Machines
- Telephone & Internet Payments through your bank
- Post dated cheques
- Mail to, or
- Drop Box at 1155 Emily St. Mooretown Ontario N0N 1M0

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

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

Recommended procedure if symptoms of COVID-19 develop

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, call your health-care provider for assessment or call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000. If symptoms increase in severity, call 9-1-1 or go to the emergency department.

-Lambton Public Health



MORE MUNICIPAL NOTES

From page 2

cies and other key services.

These acts were deemed necessary to allow municipalities to safely manage local services and facilitate the recovery of their respective areas.

Another legislation, the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA), was invoked to give the provincial government the authority to issue emergency orders aimed at containing the spread of the coronavirus and ensuring that essential services are maintained.

The new emergency measures now allow enforcement of these measures by personnel other than police officers and constables appointed under the Act. They include: all those who have been designated in writing by a minister of the Crown as provincial offences officers, municipal law enforcement officers; all by-law enforcement officers of any municipality or any local board; all officers, employees, and agents of the municipality or any local board of the municipality whose responsibilities include the enforcement of a by-law, an Act, or a regulation under an Act.

Municipalities may provide direction to their municipal law enforcement officers on how to exercise these powers, considering the officers' individual training, knowledge and resources. However, but they are not required to if they deem it unnecessary.

The severity of each infraction will be determined in relation to the potential risk to public health and the spread of the virus. Those who do not abide by the guidelines developed to impeded the spread of the COVID-19 VIRUS may be issued a warning or, if the infraction poses a threat to the public, a ticket may be issued under the Provincial Offences Act or a summons may be issued under Part 3 of the Act. A 1-800 number will be available to enforcement personnel who have questions regarding the enforcement of their orders.

The public can view these orders online at: ontario.ca/alert

Daily COVID-19 updates in Lambton County can be found online at: lambtonpublichealth.ca

Open burning by-law reviewed

Property cleanups are in progress and council reviewed the township's open burning by-law in regard to complaints recently received. Clerk Jeff Baranek pointed out the by-law adheres to the Ontario Fire Code, which provides for the prohibition of open air burning unless approved by the local Fire Chief. A permit may be required at that time. Permission is not required from the Fire Chief for the use of a barbecue, as long as the flame is attended at all times and commercially produced charcoal or briquettes, propane or natural gas are used to fuel the flame.

Mayor Arnold says the by-law was developed after much research had been done. "Fire Chief Walt Anderson surveyed the rest of the municipalities in the county and consensus was 50/50 on whether they would invoke no burning of any sort at this time. The Chief also reminded us that a permit must be obtained for all burning; each situation is evaluated to determine whether or not the fires will impact the surrounding residents before permits are approved or denied."

Legally prescribed burns, such as the one that was slated for the Port Lambton lagoon in mid-April, required that the Port Lambton fire station supply a standby fire truck and personnel to ensure that the burn was done properly and stayed under control. Chief Anderson has made it clear that, in order for the burn to take place, it must be done in such a way that no smoke will impact any residences or businesses.

To review the open burning by-law, go online to the St. Clair Township website at www.stclairtownship.ca

Floodway activation a concern

Council heard concerns expressed by ratepayers who are directly affected by the operation of the McKeough floodway dam. The dam has been activated several times without giving these residents adequate warning. Those who farm low-lying areas in the vicinity of the dam need to know if they should plant crops on that land this year.

The frequency of the dam's activation has increased due to the high water levels being experienced in Lake Huron, the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair.

Magnet fishermen urged to clean up

Magnet fishing, a new craze that does not involve fish, is creating a mess on bridges in the Becher area. For those who haven't heard about this curious pastime, a large magnet is tied to a rope and tossed in the water (usually from a bridge) to snag any metal object that lay beneath the surface. Councillor Bill Myers noted that a bridge near Becher has been left littered with items like wire, nails, chunks of iron, tire rims, etc. Removing this material from the water is a good thing but abandoning it at the road side leaves an eyesore, not to mention it can damage tires. Council would like those responsible for this mess to stop littering the road. Let's keep our township beautiful and safe.

St. Clair River Run cancelled

Councillor Rose Atkins informed council the St. Clair River Run, usually slated for July, has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Campgrounds closed for now

Campgrounds operated by St. Clair Township will remain closed pending new orders from the province. Council has agreed to revisit the matter at the first meeting in May.

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority will not grant new seasonal camping requests at this time but will give access to permitted seasonal campers and emergency vehicles, and pump out services will be available. However washroom and recreational facilities will remain closed. Staff will be onsite daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in L.C. Henderson, A.W. Campbell, and Warwick Conservation Areas.

Snowbirds returning to Canada

Snowbirds returning to Canada are reminded that a 14-day self-isolation must be observed before going out into the community. This applies to those who are bringing back a trailer and intend to park anywhere within Lambton County.

Operational boat ramps can be used

St. Clair Township boaters will be able to use three boat ramps along the St. Clair River. They are located in Corunna, Mooretown, and "the willows" one park south of the Lambton G. S. site. The others will remain closed.





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

St. Clair Township By-Law 8 of 2018 of 2020 requires at least 48 hours notice in advance of scheduling appointments with the Public Works Department, to avoid service fees.

During COVID-19 Public Works will be responding to emergency calls only.

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. Director of Public Works Brian Black says, "Public Works staff will be suspending work that requires entry into a premise and will only enter a residence to deal with a water/sanitary related emergency."

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

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.

St. Clair River Trail now open

The St. Clair River Trail is now open for the season. While using the trail, please be courteous to others on the trail and be sure to practice social distancing of two metres.

**Sandbags and sand available,
see page 7**



Yard waste collection cancellation

All Spring Yard Waste Collection (April 20 - June 18, 2020) and Brush Collection (June 1, 4, 22, and 25) for St. Clair Township has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

Yard waste can still be placed with regular waste collection but is subject to the 6-item limit and will be directed to the landfill, not the Sarnia compost site.

Yard waste can continue to be placed in clearly marked containers or compostable bags, but it is **not necessary** at this time, as yard waste will be directed to the landfill.

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 p.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.



Public Works Department

Sanitary Backup Prevention

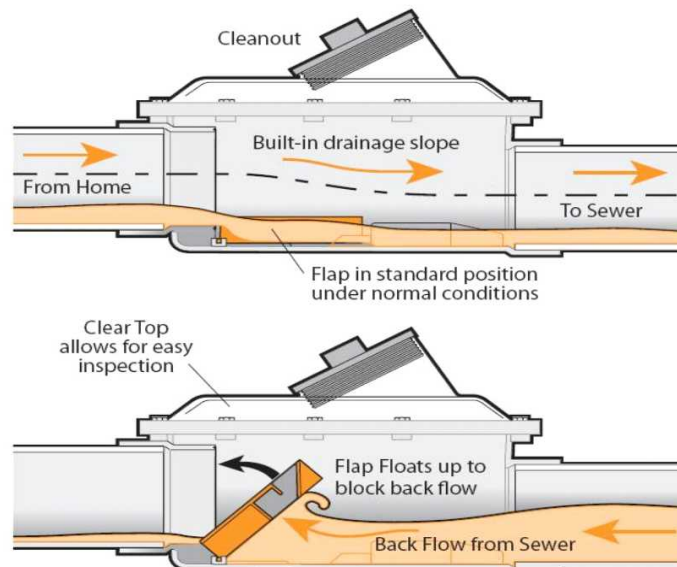
Do you have a backwater valve? A backwater valve, if properly installed and maintained, can prevent sewage from backing up into your home during a blockage or surcharge. It is recommended you follow the backwater valve manufacturer's guidelines and recommendations for maintenance.

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: Sanitary Fixed Fee

St. Clair Township has introduced a 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 ½" to ¾" 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Black".

Brian Black
Director, Public Works
St. Clair Township

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



Sandbags and sand available

St. Clair Township Council has approved emergency relief, free of charge, to residents of the township that are affected by the current flooding / high lake levels.

Sandbags and sand will be provided as follows:

A pile of bulk sand is located in the gravel parking lot at the south end of Brander Park, 4555 St. Clair Parkway.

Please access the site from the driveway off Brander Park Road.

Empty sandbags will be available at this same site (next to sand pile) and will be stored inside a small storage bin. Residents may take up to a maximum of 500 per residential property and 1500 per commercial/industrial property.

Residents must fill and transport their own bags

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this site will not be staffed.

**Township staff will not provide further service.
We do not fill, transport or remove sandbags.**

Enbridge pipeline segment replacement assembly project nears completion



The Enbridge Line 5 St. Clair River segment replacement project is nearing completion. The pipeline, which has been assembled along the south side of LaSalle Line, is expected to be placed under the river in a tunnel (premade using horizontal directional drilling earlier this year) during a pull-back operation. This operation was expected to take about seven days or less, during which LaSalle Line will be closed.

Above: Enbridge pipeline crew members prepare to weld two sections of pipeline together while a crane holds one section in place.

Bonnie Stevenson photo

PUBLIC NOTICE

XPLORNET - Proposed 45m Lattice Tower Site

Xplornet Communications has proposed a 45m tall steel lattice tower and related radio equipment at Wilkesport Community Centre at 1622 Baby Road, Wilkesport, ON. The tower and equipment cabinet is proposed in the northwest corner of the property that will be enclosed within a fenced 10m x 10m compound to prevent public access and gated access off Baby Road. The proposed site will provide wireless internet services to clients in the community.

ANY PERSON may make a written submission or request additional information to the individuals listed below by closing date of Friday, June 5, 2020.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the approval of this site and its design is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Government of Canada through Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED). For more information on the federal process pertaining to these installations please contact the local ISED office at: ic.spectrumswodo-spectrebdsoo.ic@canada.ca

Site ID: WILKESPORT

Coordinates: 42.73216, -82.36465

FORBES BROS. LTD.:

Jay Lewis

Suite 130, 482 South Service Rd E

Oakville, Ontario, L6J 2X6

Tel: (905) 928-9481

Fax: (888) 622-4939

Email: jlewis@forbesbrosltd.ca

TOWNSHIP OF ST. CLAIR

Caroline DeSchutter – Acting Coordinator
of Planning

1155 Emily St.

Mooretown, ON N0N 1M0

Tel: (519) 867-2021

Fax: (519) 867-5509

Email: cdeschutter@stclairtownship.ca

SITE LOCATION MAP



Failure to launch

The boat launch at Branton-Cundick Park has taken a beating from the high water levels this past year and it's in no condition to be used. A few other launches along the river have suffered the same fate, but launches at Mooretown, Corunna, and "the willows" south of Courtright, are still open.



Bonnie Stevenson photo

Covid-19 update; mental health a concern during isolation

Bonnie Stevenson

The rigors of coping with the COVID-19 outbreak have been weighing heavily on most people, but some are having more difficulty than others. The psychological effects of unfamiliar behaviours like self-isolation and social/physical distancing have tempers growing short, feelings of anxiety and depression arising and increasing, and the added stress affecting relationships.

Mental health practitioners around the world are increasingly concerned that these effects will be difficult to overcome once the global pandemic has subsided.

Here in Lambton County, the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Mental Health and Addictions at Bluewater Health, and the Women's Interval Home are seeing an uptick in the need for community assistance. The extreme measures attendant to stopping the spread of the virus are having significant negative repercussions throughout the community.

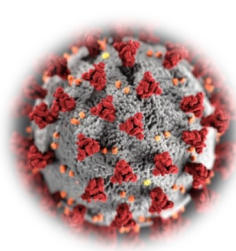
Margaret Eton, CEO of the CMHA, says the label "social distancing" itself is not the correct term for what is being required of people. "The implication of the phrase "social distancing" is that we should be putting space between us socially, but we only need to be distancing ourselves physically. In other words, we should be social and participating in the community at large, just so long as it doesn't require physical proximity."

Ms. Eton notes social connection is essential to mental health. "Social networks...provide emotional support, companionship and opportunities for meaningful social engagement," she said. This connection yields beneficial effects on mental health outcomes, stress reactions, psychological well-being and self-esteem.

Self-care is another factor essential to coping under the circumstances. Paula Reaume-Zimmer, Integrated Vice-President, Mental Health and Addictions for Bluewater Health and the CMHA Lambton-Kent, says, "People need to understand how it is taking a toll on individuals." She advises people to limit their exposure to the news so they can concentrate on more positive influences like pleasing pastimes, and entertainment with positive themes. Other professionals recommend exercise, meditation, and activities that allow the mind to relax and destress.

Ms. Reaume-Zimmer added the pandemic is worsening the local addiction crisis that had been raging well before the virus took centre stage. "Those who are in recovery are not able to access the programs they require to fight their addiction," she said. "They are cut off from the support systems they depend on."

Children may also be stressed by the need to be cut off from their friends, their school, and the regular routines they are familiar with. The CHMA advises parents to lead by example when it comes to keeping hands clean, not touching their faces, and keeping their distance when out in public. Give them clear, child-friendly information about how to stay safe. Children take their emotional cues from the important adults in their lives and they will pick up on any anxiety or worry the



Microscopic image of a single COVID-19 virus

adults exhibit.

This is also a time when children will need extra reassurance and attention to feel secure; it is suggested parents watch or listen to the news after children are in bed. And if children begin to exhibit uncustomary behaviour, have trouble sleeping, or need excessive reassurance, don't hesitate to get help from mental health supports through your family doctor.

The same is true for adults. According to the CMHA, these are some behaviours that may indicate an individual of any age may need help:

- ♦ Anxiety interferes with daily life i.e. fear of leaving the house when the risk is very low.
- ♦ Loss of appetite or disturbed sleep patterns.
- ♦ Inability to think about anything but COVID-19 or related worries.
- ♦ Feelings of hopelessness or anger about the situation.
- ♦ Physical symptoms like frequent headaches or stomach upsets.

If these or other abnormal behaviours become prevalent, Ms. Reaume-Zimmer says help is available locally. "We encourage people to reach out for help. Bluewater Health, Lambton Public Health, and Canadian Mental Health Association offices offer phone and virtual services through the Internet," she said. "Don't suffer in silence. Reach out if you need our help."

CALL FOR HELP

**The Canadian Mental Health Association - 519-337-5411; *Lambton Public Health (LPH) mental health and addiction line - 519-464-4400, ext. 5370; *Withdrawal management line - 519-332-4673; *Addictions Assistance Line (addictions-related help 24/7) - 1-800-721-3232; *Lambton Mental Health Service Distress Line (24/7 help line) - 519-336-3445 or 1-800-307-4319; *Family Counselling Centre Distress Line - 519-336-3000; *Lambton Mental Wellness Centre (Mental health peer support and family support) - 519-344-5602 or email: <http://www.lmwc.ca/>*

Domestic abuse worsens

The self-isolation required to stem the tide of the coronavirus is exacerbating the incidence and intensity of domestic abuse and violence. Mental health agencies across the globe have registered this trend and here in Lambton County, the trend is holding true. Angie Marks, the executive director of the Women's Interval House of Sarnia, says there has been an increase in cases over the past two years but the virus has made the situation worse. "Isolation makes it easy for the abuser to isolate his victim and there's no way for her to get support with the abuser in the house all the time," she said. "Even if the victim has an opportunity to escape the house, considerations such as financial insecurity or the welfare of her children may prevent her from leaving."

Ms. Marks says even happy couples may have

See Domestic, page 10

Domestic abuse worsens

From page 9

trouble coping with self-isolation. "Arguments are bound to increase," she said.

The large modern Women's Interval Home in Sarnia is usually filled to capacity at any given time, and Ms. Marks says it was necessary to seek a secondary location to maintain physical distancing. Its location remains undisclosed for the safety of the staff, and the women and children who take refuge from their abusive circumstances.

The Women's Interval Home remains open through the COVID-19 emergency. It welcomes women and children from all walks of life, including the LGBTQ2 and Indigenous communities that have been recognized as the most vulnerable segment of society with greater rates of violence. They are offered safety, counselling, advocacy, peace, and hopefully, a way out of their dangerous situation. But for some, the "cycle of violence" continues. "Some women are aware abuse isn't right but they will make excuses for the abuser," said Ms. Marks. "Sometimes it takes as many as seven times for her to stay away because the abuser engages in a "honeymoon phase", apologizing and treating her well while subtly blaming his negative behaviour on something she has done. Eventually, the violent behaviour escalates again and it can prove fatal. Ms. Marks pointed out that in southwestern Ontario alone there have been six recent domestic violence-related deaths. Don't

hesitate to call 911 if the violence become life-threatening.

The potentially dangerous times we live in are made even more treacherous for the women and children forced to live in an abusive home. Ms. Marks says it's a difficult thing to contemplate. "It's such a concern. I lay awake at night worrying about it," she said.

Acknowledging the importance of the Women's Interval Homes and shelters throughout Canada, the federal government recently distributed funds to them through the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. Ms. Marks says the Sarnia home's share of the funds has been helpful but more is needed to sustain the home into the future. She is hopeful another infusion of funds will be forthcoming from the provincial government. Regular donors to the home are caught in the financial downturn the virus has caused and donations have fallen off. Provincial funding will help to make up for some of the lost revenue, but donations are always welcome and much appreciated.

CALL FOR HELP

For those experiencing domestic abuse, verbal, emotional or physical, there are confidential and anonymous crisis lines that can help. They include: Women's Interval Home of Sarnia-Lambton 1-519-336-5200 and 1-800-265-1412; Sexual Assault Survivors Centre Sarnia-Lambton, 1-519-337-3320, the Assaulted Women's -Helpline, 1-866-863-0511; Talk4Healing, 1-855-554-HEAL (24/7 hotline specifically for Indigenous women); and Femaid, 1-866-336-2433.

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.

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

HERITAGE CORNER

Arbour Day marked first conservation effort

When the pioneers arrived in the early 19th century in what was then Upper Canada, the forests were so abundant that trees, while useful for buildings, firewood, potash, etc., could also have been considered a nuisance to a settler who wanted to farm. Trees had to be felled, stumps pulled, and underbrush burned off in order to create fields for crops. By later in the 19th century, however, enough clearing and logging had occurred that people began to acknowledge the importance of trees and the need for replanting them.

In North America, the state of Nebraska was the first to declare Arbor Day in 1872. This American origin may explain why Arbor Day in Canada appears to mainly be spelled as Arbor, rather than the more Canadian spelling of Arbour. Interestingly, though, while it is spelled Arbor in printed sources, the handwritten notes on the photos in the Moore Museum collection all indicate it as Arbour Day.

Arbour Day became a school holiday in Ontario in 1885, by declaration of the Education Minister. This day was to be used for planting of flowers, trees or shrubs to enhance the schoolyard. Observed on the first Friday in May, Arbour Day for many schools included a clean-up of the yard and schoolhouse, as well as tree planting. Reminiscences found in the book *I Remember the One-Room School* indicate that it was a day enjoyed by students as something outside their ordinary classes. A good scrubbing of the desks and floors, raking the yard (followed by a bonfire to burn leaves and dead grass), and a walk to study nature seem to have been popular activities for Arbour Day. Tree planting to create shade for the schoolhouse, or as a wind break, would also take place on that day.

Right: Vintage photos show local students exploring the woodland on a warm Arbour Day in May. Thank you to the Moore Museum for this story and these photos.



Arbor Day at S. S. 18 Moore (Courtright School), 1922
 Foreground - Mrs. Radford and Robert Morrison
 Background - Mildred Armstrong

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



Arbor Day at S. S. 15 Moore (Kimball School), approx. 1930
 Aleta Courtney, Lila Blackman, Mabel Courtney, Clarence Arnold

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

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

Photos wanted

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



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.

St. Clair River TRAIL

actively connecting communities

The St. Clair River Trail Facebook page and website has added a new promotional video to its photo archive. The natural beauty of the trail 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.

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

Express Yourself

The Good Neighbour
COVID-19 project

Editor's Commentary

How's it goin', eh?

This social isolation thing is really getting on my nerves. I understand the dire need for it, but all this time spent at home allows me to notice dings in the door jambs and faded paint on the walls; my to-do list is growing by the day. But it also gives me time to catch up on my reading and to write creatively.

While working on this month's Beacon, it occurred to me that many others in the community might be expressing themselves creatively to pass the time. Are you writing stories, poems, maybe venting your frustrations or fears or hopes for the future? You might be painting pictures, doing needlework, rebuilding a car, or helping the kids learn to read or do crafts.

While the COVID-19 virus holds us hostage, let me hear from you. Send me photos of the things you're doing in the house or outside in the yard, or the things you are putting down on paper or composing on the computer screen. Children may be doing creative projects of their own or playing "pretend", developing a talent or keeping up with school work online. And if you are a volunteer, if you're helping a neighbour, or if you're receiving help from someone to get through this

challenging time, I'd also like to hear from you.

Please get in touch with *The Beacon* to share your experiences in this *Express Yourself* column.

This emergency will end at some point and we'll all return to everyday life. When we do, how will we account for our time? Will we have used it well, or wasted it watching TV and feeling sorry for ourselves?

Right now, we need to obey the guidelines we've been given to keep us safe: wash hands thoroughly, don't touch your face unless you're washing it, avoid crowds, keep your distance from others, stay home as much as possible, and have a healthy respect for the virus that is terrorizing our community. But if we allow ourselves to be paralyzed with worry and dulled by boredom, the virus wins. We're tougher than that!

Author Charles R. Swindoll wrote,

**"Life is 10% what happens to me and
90% how I react to it."**

Please let me know what you are doing to make your 90% great!

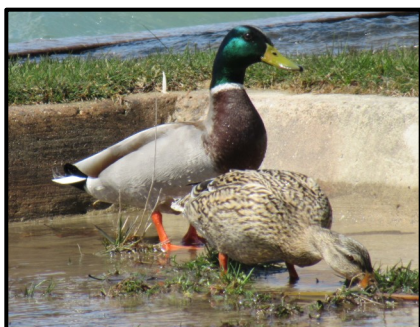
Email: beacon@stclairtownship.ca



Bonnie Stevenson
Editor



Meanwhile, back at Branton-Cundick Park, Mrs. Mallard was having lunch while Mr. Mallard kept an eye the nosey intruder with the camera.



Here's what township residents were doing in April

Good Friday saw a lot of people out enjoying the sunshine while staying close to home. **Left:** In the Hickory area on the Snye River, Ken DeWolf was out waxing the family boat, a Boston Whaler *Impact*. The small but mighty craft, one of only 187 built, is a cousin of the larger Zodiacs used by the Canadian Coast Guard unit stationed at the Port Lambton station. **Below:** Just down the street from the DeWolfe family, 13-year-old Josh Hazzard was practicing his slapshot with a pile of pucks and lots of time to concentrate on his shots. Josh plays defense for the Chatham Cyclone bantam team.

Bonnie Stevenson photos



Express Yourself continues, page 14

Express Yourself

*The Good Neighbour
COVID-19 project*

Continued from page 13

Hello from the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447.

We wanted to take the time to say a big **THANK YOU** to all our front-line workers and volunteers who are working so hard to get us through this pandemic. Their hard work and sacrifice are a lesson to all. And thank you to all our members and the community for doing such a great job of keeping this community healthy by staying home as much as you can and practicing the healthy lifestyle recommendations for getting through these hard times as soon as possible.

Remember that although our branch is closed we are still here for Veterans and their dependents. Please call our Veterans Service Officer Shawn at 519-383-9386.

Please stay home, stay safe, stay strong and stay healthy.



This decorated front yard in Corunna boosts the morale of passers-by.

Food bank receives support

The food bank at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church received another generous \$2,000 donation from the Corunna Foodland. The money will be used to help keep the pantry stocked during this COVID-19 crisis. The food bank remains open to Wednesdays 6 p.m.-7 p.m. and Thursdays 9 a.m.-noon. Donations are always welcome.

Sombra Optimist message of support

During this terrible pandemic, the health and well-being of our community is of utmost importance to the Sombra Optimist Club. Due to self-distancing, our club, like so many others, had to cancel or postpone a number of our Optimist events. When we get to the other side of this emergency, we Sombra Optimists will continue our fundraising to help support out community.

Until that time, please stay healthy and safe.

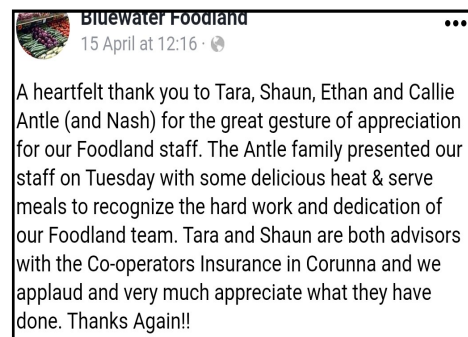
Yours in Optimism, Sombra Twp. Optimist Club

Grocery workers thanked

We know them; they're our friends and our neighbours. They are also the friendly staff at our local grocery stores who have stayed at their posts to make sure we all have access to fresh food and essential items.

Their work has not gone unnoticed. The Beacon is aware that staff members at Corunna Foodland and Rob's No Frills have been receiving the thanks of many shoppers, and one of the expressions of thanks was a meal from Piquette Frozen Meals provided by the Antle family. Along with the meals, Tara and Shaun Antle, operators of the Co-operators insurance branch in Corunna, sent along a note of thanks for the hard work and dedication the staff members bring to their jobs in spite of the difficult times we're experiencing. It read, "Without you, we do not have the opportunity to put food on our table, so we wanted to provide one small token of appreciation for you - a meal on your table."

Right: A note of thanks the Antles received for their kindness.



What lies ahead?

*By Malcolm Rogers, President
Moore Agricultural Society*

Several weeks ago, I started to hand deliver letters to our local businesses in Brigidon telling them about bookings the fairgrounds had for this year. Our hope was this would bring a lot of people to town and hopefully, boost our economy and that of the region.

Little did I know what was about to happen -COVID-19. My hopes and aspirations about our growth for the next four months were to be shattered. Am I disappointed? Yes! Am I broken? No! This is a setback that has meant a change in lifestyle for all of us. Are we going to beat this? Yes! Are we prepared to move ahead and address the challenges that face us? Yes! We had to close the fairgrounds office and lay off staff. Will they be back? Yes! Once this has passed, they will be ready to face the work load ahead of them to be prepared for the 170th Brigidon Fair. Will there be a Brigidon Fair? Yes!

Where does it go from here? Ahead! The Moore Agricultural Society (MAS) had a very ambitious renovation program planned for this year. Some of it will be completed; not everything, but a lot of the essential projects. One of the essential projects that had been started was the upgrading of the sewer line into to Ploughman's Kitchen. This will be completed because this kitchen is a very important part of the fair. It feeds

all of our volunteers.

Now what about you? What have you been doing during your time in solitary confinement? Perhaps you put those hidden skills to work and prepared an item to exhibit at the fair. Good for you. Ever thought about volunteering? The fairgrounds are a great place to do that, and for students, those hours can add up quickly. Maybe you thought about sharing your skills and running for the Board of Directors. It takes a team to run a Fair. Do you think you would like to be a member of such a team? If you haven't purchased your membership yet, don't be concerned as we have extended the shut-off date by at least two months. Watch our website for updates at: www.brigidenfair.ca

MAS has a board of 16 Directors who are all ambitious, team players, dedicated, and determined to put all their efforts into ensuring that we have a well-planned fair. This pandemic has slowed us down, but it can't be allowed to stop us. We have had snow, hail, rain, fog, and great weather at fair time. It didn't matter; the fair went ahead as it will again this year.

This year's theme is "HAT'S OFF TO YOU BRIGIDON". The town has been a great host community for 169 years.

This year won't be any different. 2020 will be a great year. Stay safe, stay healthy, and help flatten the curve.

I am looking forward to seeing each and everyone of you at the fair.

- Malcolm Rogers

Express Yourself

The Good Neighbour
COVID-19 project

Mooretown-Courtright Public School Grade 3/4 students express appreciation

Some Grade 3/4 students at Mooretown-Courtright P.S. send their good wishes to the front line workers who work long hours to let us take shelter from the virus and stay safe. Teacher Marinka Molson says more are on the way.

Dear Community

Thank you for having grocery stores open. So that we can have food and also doctors who give check ups and help you if you get hurt. I would also want to thank police and ambulance drivers and fireman they all work while we get to relax and play at home. And once again thank you!!!!

From
Avery

Dear Paramedics,

Thanks for helping us all when we need it, and keeping us safe.
Thanks for getting people to the hospital to keep us safe.
Thanks for using your PPE equipment.

Dylan

Dear dairy farmer

Thank you for looking after your cows so they produce all the products we love to eat and drink. I now it must be a lot of work. My family and I love milk and cheese. Keep up the good work we appreciate you.

From, Joely

Dear Grocery Store worker

Thank you for working so families can get food and supplies during this coronavirus. If you were not working we wouldn't get food and we couldn't survive without food and water. I hope that you are staying safe and 6 feet apart from people. Keep up the good work and enjoy family time when you are not working.

From,
Jake

Dear Bluewater health hospital staff,

Thank you for risking your lives to save others. I have learned about #flattenthecurve and #stayhomestaysafe so we can get back to life sooner. I also learned on the news how scary the coronavirus is, my hope is you are all staying safe and that everyone does their part.

From, Brooklyn

Dear Aunt Randi and community health care workers,

Thank you! Your job is important because when people are sick or hurt really bad your there to help them get better. Your job is important to me because if I get hurt or sick your there to help me get better. During this time your job is more important than ever. Don't worry I am staying home and social distancing with my family!

From, Camryn

Dear Medical Workers,

Thank you for going to work everyday. Your job is important to our community because you help us get better when we are sick. You are important to me and my family because you help keep people healthy so they don't make us sick. I hope that you stay healthy and safe. Thank you!

From,
Emma

Dear Doctors,

I want to thank you for helping the sick people get better from covid 19. You are awesome for doing this to help save people's lives in our world. I hope you all stay safe and can be with your family soon. From, Rilynn

Dear Chemical valley workers,

Thank you so much for going to work every day.

Your jobs are so important because you help keep cars running so people can go to the store for food. Your job is important to my family because if you did not go to work we could not get food.

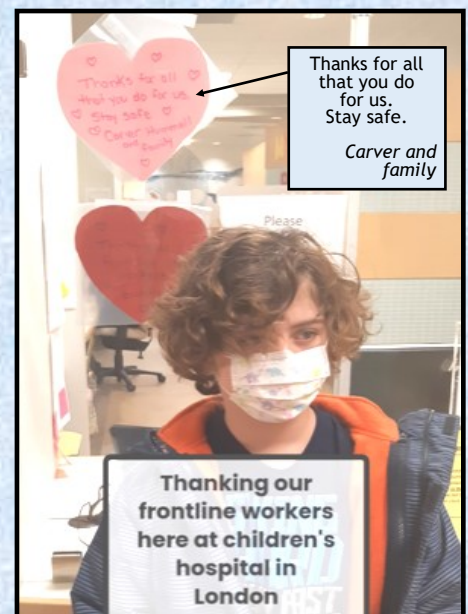
Thank you you so much for going to work and keeping cars working.

From,
Paige

Dear Farmers

Thank you for producing food for us. The food will help us keep our bodies healthy. This will help us fight off the coronavirus. It will also help those who are sick to get stronger.

Corbin



Local volunteers and merchants come together to help their communities



Corunna Foodland owners, left, Roy and Cindy Juschka, shown above with Optimist volunteer Tracy Kingston

The rigors of self-isolation has left some people in need of assistance. Fortunately, volunteers at both ends of St. Clair Township are stepping up to help.

Roy and Cindy Juschka, owners of Corunna Foodland, recently donated \$2,000 to the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church food bank. And for the Optimist Club food delivery service, the Juschka's store employees gather the items on each home delivery list, bag them and have them ready when the volunteers arrive at arranged times during the weekdays.

Moore Optimist Club members have been making weekly deliveries of food and essential items to those who need to steer clear of public places. There is no delivery fee or tipping applied to the service.

In south St. Clair Township, a volunteer community

response team, organized by Jenn Baker, has developed a *Local Love in a Global Crisis* program to address the needs of the community. A set of guidelines was created to ensure the volunteers would remain safe under the circumstances they were likely to encounter in their work.

Team members were tasked with several functions: they do wellness checks by telephone on vulnerable community members to make sure they are OK and to make sure they receive the things they need. They do grocery delivery, set up Meals on Wheels visits, do household care and maintenance for those who need assistance, and connect people with prayer and emotional support contacts when the need arises.

St. Clair Region Conservation Area scholarships available



The St. Clair Region Conservation Area (SCRCA) 2020 scholarship applications are now being accepted. Up to two

\$2,000 and two \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded to successful candidates.

Applicants qualify for these scholarships if they are graduating high school to pursue post-secondary studies in an environmental field (e.g. ecology, biology, geography, forestry, agriculture, fish and wildlife, etc.). Students eligible for a scholarship must live within the boundary of the SCRCA or attend school in one of the following communities: St. Clair Township, Sarnia Forest, Petrolia, Wallaceburg, Dresden, Glencoe, and Strathroy.

These scholarships, established in memory of Archibald W. Campbell, Mary Jo Arnold, and Tony Stranak, are available through donations to trust funds by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation.

Scholarship applications can be obtained by contacting the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority at

519-245-3710 or by visiting the SCRCA website at www.scrca.on.ca/foundation/scholarships

The deadline for applications will be May 31.

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The SCRCA has modified its practices during the COVID-19 emergency with all facilities closed to the public indefinitely. However, the public can still communicate with Authority employees by phone or email. However, the SCRCA Emergency Response Team (ERT) continues to provide services including: flood forecasting and warning; communications; municipal support; general administration and corporate services; payroll and property oversight.

SCRCA Conservation Areas trails will remain open but maintenance will be limited. Washroom facilities will be closed and gates will be locked.

Staff will adhere to COVID-19 safety precautions including hand hygiene and social distancing, and they will continue to respond to inquiries, although some delay in response time should be expected.

## MAS 2020 quilt raffle ticket sales on hold

Below: Moore Agricultural Society (MAS) Homecraft Division has once again created a beautiful quilt for this year's raffle. Unfortunately, tickets sales are on hold until the coronavirus is no longer a danger to those who attend St. Clair Township's many annual events and activities. Tickets will be sold at all MAS events and activities when they resume later this year.



## Quilt tickets not yet available

The coronavirus (COVID-19) has thrown a monkey wrench into a lot of annual summer activities, including the Moore Agricultural Society's annual quilt raffle. This popular fundraiser is on again this year (see above) but tickets sales are on hold. Below: This is a reminder of what a MAS ticket sale table will look like at Brigden Fair time.



Please note that the Brigden Fair office is closed to the public but staff will still be available by telephone or email, and a drop box is available at the front door.

## Patient connectivity now available to Bluewater Health patients

A three-person team at Bluewater Health is now connecting patients with their loved ones through "virtual visits". This seven day-a-week strategy was developed in response to the hospital's COVID-19 no-visitor policy.

The team members carry an iPad, working with staff in the Medical and Rehabilitation programs and expanding to other units as needed.

The team will also help patients who have their own devices (Smartphones, etc.) to download and use an app like Skype or FaceTime. They will also assist those who are not familiar with the technology.

Friends and family members can call Patient Experience at 519-464-4436 or email: [patientexperience@bluewaterhealth.ca](mailto:patientexperience@bluewaterhealth.ca) to schedule a 15 minute connection with their hospitalized loved one.

Loved ones can also request a virtual visit through the hospital's website:

<http://www.bluewaterhealth.ca/form/virtual-visit-request-form>

Other resources available during COVID-19 emergency

There will be no charge for visitor parking or for the bedside TV service. Personal Netflix or other streaming service accounts can be accessed through the hospital's guest wi-fi network. -Information courtesy Bluewater Health media release

**COVID fact:** The '19' in COVID-19 means this strain of the coronavirus was identified in 2019. It does NOT mean there have been 18 previous COVID viruses.

## LPH reduces some services

Lambton Public Health is responding to the COVID-19 emergency by redirecting and reallocating resources. Changes being implemented include:

- ⇒ Lambton Public Health main office at 160 Exmouth in Sarnia is restricted to the public by appointment only. Call-in options are available. The Petrolia and Forest sub-offices will be closed.
- ⇒ Suspended programs and services include: prenatal; Ask A Public Health Nurse: parent drop-in sessions; Early ON drop-in support; school screening for dental or vision; routine/school immunizations; all drop-in clinic visits.

⇒ Modified access to some programs or services: Sexual Health Clinic available for urgent-needs call; Harm Reduction supplies-north entrance (door bell and monitored); Family Health Line-call (breastfeeding or infant feeding support, child growth and development, parenting concerns); Food Handler courses-online options or call; Water Sample Testing-call; Garden Fresh Box-call.

Call for an appointment or for more information at 519-383-8331 or toll free at 1-800-667-1839. Services are provided during standard business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Please note wait times may vary due to a current high volume of calls.

More information at: [LambtonPublicHealth.ca](http://LambtonPublicHealth.ca)

## 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](mailto:alison.dion@brigdenfair.ca) or [finance@brigdenfair.ca](mailto:finance@brigdenfair.ca) if you are interested in being a vendor or message us on Facebook [Brigden Market](https://www.facebook.com/BrigdenMarket)



## COMMUNITY CONTACT

### **St. Andrew's foodbank remains open**

Although St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is closed for worship services due to the COVID-19 emergency closure, the food bank at St. Andrew's Church on Colborne Street in Corunna is still in operation every Wednesday evening 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.

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.

*Donations of non-perishable items are always welcome. These include not only food, but household supplies like laundry soap, household cleaners, and toilet tissue, and personal hygiene items like toothbrushes, soap and shampoo, deodorant, and shaving items. The need is especially great during the current virus emergency so please support your local food bank (Sacred Heart food bank in Port Lambton) if you can.*

### **Free access to Ancestry Online**

Lambton County Library cardholders now have free access to Ancestry Library Edition until May 31. Billions of historical documents are at your finger tips. This popular resource is perfect for those who wish to research their family histories. This online resource is typically only available on-site at library locations and at the Lambton County Archives. In addition to the Ancestry resource, library cardholders can access eBooks and movies to fill those self-isolated hours.

To access the Ancestry Online Library visit [www.lclibrary.ca](http://www.lclibrary.ca) and log-on to your library account using the My Account button. Cardholders who do not have a PIN code can call 519-845-3324, ext. 5266 or email [librarytechhelp@county-lambton.on.ca](mailto:librarytechhelp@county-lambton.on.ca) for help. And to access the Lambton County Museums online catalogue, visit [www.lambtonmuseums.ca](http://www.lambtonmuseums.ca) and follow the link to the Research Catalogue.

### **Lambton Youth Short Film competition**

The 6th annual Lambton Youth Short Film competition, hosted by the Forest Optimist Club, invites students to enter short films up to three minutes in length in the following categories: comedy, documentary, Franco Fier, Mino Bimaaddizwin, and Animation. They must be submitted electronically and students can enter as often as they like in as many categories as they desire. The deadline for submissions will be Friday, May 15 by 4 p.m. The films will be available for online viewing on Friday, May 22 until late Sunday night. The public is invited to watch the movies and vote for their favourite. Public viewing and celebration of all submissions will be held once the social distancing ban has been lifted. For more information, please contact Scott Ferguson, Optimist Club of Forest, at 519-786-4688 or Glen Starkey, Kiwanis Club of Forest, at 519-330-1030.

### **Summer grants offered to student entrepreneurs**

Students of Lambton County and Sarnia will be offered \$3,000 (\$1,500 on start up and \$1,500 if successful) to start and run their own business this summer through the Ontario Summer Company Grant. The program is a joint initiative of the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership and the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade. This is the 21st consecutive year the program has been offered. For more information, students can visit:

[www.ontario.ca/summercompany](http://www.ontario.ca/summercompany) and contact Chantelle at [chantelle@sarnialambton.on.ca](mailto:chantelle@sarnialambton.on.ca).

### **Businesses heard via online survey**

The Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP) is asking businesses to fill out a second online survey that will help shape the way SLEP will advocate for local businesses during the post-COVID-19 economic recovery. An initial survey in March received 144 responses, with 77 per cent of respondents identifying that financial contributions from upper levels of governments would be beneficial. The survey is open to all Lambton County and Sarnia businesses including those who responded to the March survey. Survey can be accessed online at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/TTX2TLM](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TTX2TLM)

### **Brigden Fair advance prize list**

The Brigden Fair advance prize list is now available at [www.Brigdenfair.ca](http://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**

Now more than ever, 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. 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

## MORE COMMUNITY CONTACT

From page 16

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](mailto: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 Aarsen 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 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.

### **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. During the COVID-19 emergency, call 519-344-3017, ext. 259 for more information or see page 9, Call For Help.

### **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](http://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 about support options during the COVID-19 emergency, contact Rita at 519-867-2932 or see page 9, Call For Help.

### **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 donates 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



## Rapids Family Health Team

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](http://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 life-style 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 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.

Please call 519-339-8949 to confirm the May class dates.

### 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

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### LAB OPEN

Just a reminder that our lab  
is open weekdays  
for all residents  
Monday to Friday -



## St. Clair Region Conservation Authority holds general meeting

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRC) held its annual meeting in late February, when 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 on 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 SCRC 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 SCRC'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 SCRC 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.



SCRC 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

## S-L United Way forms COVID-19 Compassion Fund

The Sarnia-Lambton United Way has set up the COVID-19 Compassion Fund to help non-profits in need of assistance during the COVID-19 emergency. As of April 15, the fund has awarded 15 grants to local agencies for a total of \$74,000.

The Compassion Fund supports local agencies with a focus on helping Lambton County's most vulnerable populations. Among the agencies that have received funding so far include: North Lambton Community Health Centre; Huron House Boys Home; St. Clair Child and Youth; Brain Injury Association of Sarnia-Lambton; Inn of the Good Shepherd; Canadian National Institute for the Blind; and North Lambton Community Health Centre.

The Compassion Fund is being supported with community donations from those who want to help our most vulnerable in the wake of COVID-19. Donations can be made online at [www.theunitedway.on.ca](http://www.theunitedway.on.ca) or by calling 519-336-5452.



### Brigden U.C. cancellation

After a meeting of the Brigden United Church official board, it was decided that May meetings will be cancelled. May worship will be announced if the government and safety considerations will allow. And the 2020 Vacation Bible School was cancelled.

### ARLANXEO retiree dinner cancelled

The ARLANXEO Retiree Dinner committee has decided, in light of the COVID-19 emergency, to cancel the dinner that was planned for Friday, May 29. The committee plans to have the dinner in May, 2021. Uncertainty and the danger posed by potential exposure to the virus would unnecessarily endanger our retirees. Polysar/Bayer/LANXESS/ARLANXEO retirees who wish to be added to the database to receive an invitation to the 2021 dinner can call Mike Nagle at 519-845-1004.

Please pass along this information to those who might have missed notice of this cancellation.



### St. Clair Parkway Golf Course

We're looking forward to seeing you later this year.

[sombratownshipoptimistclub@gmail.com](mailto:sombratownshipoptimistclub@gmail.com)

[f SombraTownship OptimistClub](https://www.facebook.com/SombraTownshipOptimistClub)

[@SOptimists](https://twitter.com/SOptimists)

# Saturday Sept. 12th, 2020

At beautiful BRANDER PARK, Port Lambton, Ontario

## 8:00AM to 8:00PM



**Car Show**  
16th Annual

**\$10**  
per car

Pay at gate \* Pick your spot \* Bring receipt to Registration Desk \* You're done!

**SPECTATORS FREE \* BRING THE FAMILY**



REGISTER 9AM  
PRACTICE 10AM  
**519-784-5912**  
**SOAPBOX RACES**

PORT LAMBTON  
**200**  
1820-2020

To honour the 200th Anniversary of the founding of PORT LAMBTON we are striving for 200 cars...we have 200 dash plaques. There will be various displays and events celebrating this major milestone.



Major support from  
**KELLOGG LIMITED, SARNIA**



**8AM - 4PM**

**FOOD TENT**

PEANUT & CHEESE  
HAMBURGERS/HOTDOGS  
WALKING TACO  
BAGGED CHIPS  
COLD DRINKS  
COFFEE IS FREE

**4PM-CLOSE**

**FRY TRUCK**



**DOOR PRIZES**  
**50/50 DRAW**  
**PENNY TABLE**



**LICENCED TENT 11AM-8PM**

**VENDOR/CRAFT SALE AREA \* CANDY BAR**



## AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

### CHECK EVENT-PROGRAM STATUS

*The current COVID-19 (coronavirus) threat has resulted in the cancellation or postponement of coming events slated for May. If the threat continues into June, cancellations and postponements may remain in effect until emergency measures are lifted by the provincial government.*

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Pickleball season DELAYED

The start of the 2019 Pickleball season will be delayed due to COVID-19 spread mitigation restrictions and the closure of the park. "The world's fastest growing sport" is usually played at Corunna Athletic Park courts from May to October. When the park reopens, free beginner lessons/instructions will be offered to anyone interested in learning to play. In the meantime, we encourage all St. Clair Township residents to stay at home as much as possible, wash hands thoroughly or use hand sanitizer frequently, and observe social/physical distancing of two metres until the pandemic is over.

The Beacon is now online only until the COVID-19 emergency ends, but our readers are important to us so we want to hear from you.

While the emergency continues, The Beacon will be bringing you the news from your community as well as "good news" stories and community contributions in the new Good Neighbour feature,

EXPRESS YOURSELF.

See page 13 for information on how you can express yourself in the pages of The St. Clair Township Beacon.



"Challenges are what make life interesting, and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful."

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.

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.

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.

St. Clair River Run cancelled

The 2020 St. Clair River Run has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 emergency.

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

(Celebration events will proceed depending on when provincial self-isolation/social distancing requirements are modified or lifted)

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.

16th annual

Sombra Optimist Car Show

The much-anticipated 16th annual Sombra Optimist Car Show set for Brander Park has been rescheduled for Saturday, Sept. 12. See page 18 for more information.

Sombra Sports and Rec updates available online

Please visit the Sombra Sports and Recreation Facebook page for updates on our annual Golf Tournament, Sombra Days, and community sports leagues.



S.S. & R.