



The St. Clair Township BEACON

Discoveries
That Matter

THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

Issue 7

Volume 13

July 2020



**Thank you to our front line workers-
our 24/7 HEROS!**



Gardens at Thompson Gardens blooming with hope



Bonnie Stevenson photo

When the residents of Thompson Gardens look out in their back yard these days, they can forget about the viral threat that is keeping them isolated. The gardens they see are blooming with life and colour thanks to some residents who are using their green thumbs to create beauty and inspire hope. Above: Some of the residents out in the gardens on a sunny spring day include, from left: Katherine Sullivan, Judy Murren, Mark Gagnier, Wayne Pettit, Sally Townsend, and Art Long. Several other residents take care of the gardens, including Norma Dollbaar, who planted a nearby flower garden in addition to helping tend the three main gardens, and Joan and Ron Fewster. Ron built a latticed sitting area at the south end of the gardens. Retired gardener Charlie Nesbit was also an avid Thompson Gardens green thumb for many years. For more, see *Green thumbs*, page 8.

Beacon now online ONLY due to COVID-19 threat

The St. Clair Township Beacon is currently published monthly online ONLY at the township website, www.stclairtownship.ca - on the home page, top right black information bar, click on **The Beacon**.

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MUNICIPAL NOTES

Community Input Survey RFP approved

A Community Input Survey will be undertaken in St. Clair Township to gather opinions from residents regarding the township's core assets. This information will be applied to the upcoming Asset Management Plan and Level of Service document this fall. The telephone and online survey is being conducted by Probe Research Inc. this summer, and results will be analyzed and reported early this fall.

Request for concurrence approved

A request for concurrence in regard to the location of an Xplornet tower in Wilkesport at 1622 Baby Road was approved by council during the June 15 meeting. The approval was given after public consultation with the community and according to the township's own policy for establishing telecommunications sites.

Amended exotic animal by-law approved

The amended exotic animal by-law submitted to council at its June 15 meeting was approved. The updated bylaw does not include the further prohibition for pitbulls or any other breed of dog and is in accordance with Ontario Reg. 157/05. The update also removes minks from the prohibited animals list. And a new section entitled "Exceptions" was added to the bylaw to allow case-by-case consideration of a request by a local landowner to permit any of the animals currently listed as 'prohibited'.

Phase 2 opening in effect

The further opening of businesses under Phase 2 of the province's COVID-19 reopening framework is now underway in St. Clair Township. Phase 2 allows gatherings of up to 10 people with the understanding that people observe the two metre physical distancing requirement when interacting with individuals from outside of their household.

Outdoor patio installations and extensions temporarily approved by council will also be allowed subject to compliance with all Provincial orders and applicable liquor licensing. This consideration will be in effect as long as indoor eating facilities remain closed and it does not contravene the restaurant's zoning bylaw.

See More Municipal Notes, page 4

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. However, the public may view the meetings online by going onto the township website at: www.stclairtownship.ca. On the home page, look for the link to the meeting.

The July meeting is slated for Monday, July 13 at 3 p.m. The August meeting is yet to be set. Should emergency or timely matters arise, meetings will be held as required.

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



Pay taxes and water online by credit card or PayPal

Ratepayers now have the option to pay their taxes or water online with any major credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Amex) or PayPal with PaySimply, a secure third-party provider.

Visit the St. Clair Township website and simply click on 'property taxes payment' or 'water payment'.

Please allow three business days for processing. A convenience fee will be applied to cover payment handling and processing charges.

Congratulations

2020 St. Clair Township Graduates

On behalf of all of us on Council, our Staff, and the residents of St. Clair Township, I offer my heartfelt congratulations and positive hope for the future to all of our Township's graduating students.

It is an exciting time to be entering the next phase of your life journey, with so many opportunities to make the world better, stronger, and more positive, as well as an environmentally cleaner place for the generations following you.

Whether you go directly into the workforce, or attend post-secondary education, do it with a positive attitude, showing love for your community and those who live in it, and do try to make a positive difference, keeping a gentle spirit in all you do. Know also that there are many people here to support you.

Always remember, there is no one quite like you
who has the talents that you do.

Good luck!



Mayor Steve Arnold
St. Clair Township

MORE MUNICIPAL NOTES

From page 2

Phase 2 openings (continued)

Faith communities will be allowed to open to 30 per cent capacity for indoor services, with congregation members observing social distancing between individuals who are not from their households. Active screening and attendance lists will be required to allow tracing in the event an attendee should test positive for COVID-10, and increased cleaning and disinfecting of the premises will be expected. Sunday School attendance will be limited to a total of 10 people. Attendees are asked to avoid exchanges with others, and chronic or high risk individuals are cautioned to weigh the risks before attending a service.

For more information about reopening procedures and requirements, go online to LambtonPublicHealth.ca

Use of "sea cans" for outside storage discussed by council

A discussion regarding the use of shipping containers (sea cans) for permanent outside storage was discussed at the June 15 meeting of council. Municipal staff has been asked to look into provincial and municipal precedents for this practice and report back

to council.

Measures recommended to prevent heat-related illness

The hot weather being experienced in Lambton County has prompted several heat warnings to be issued recently by Lambton Public Health. Heat-related illness can be dangerous and should not be ignored. Symptoms to watch for include: rapid breathing, dizziness or fainting, vomiting, rapid heartbeat, extreme thirst and decreased urination with unusually dark urine. In extreme cases, it can raise body temperature to dangerous levels, cause confusion, stop sweating, and cause the victim to lose consciousness. If any of these symptoms are experienced, the following steps should be taken as soon as possible: move victim to a shaded or air-conditioned area; give victim plenty of non-alcoholic fluids (alcohol can act as a diuretic and cause dehydration); and rest. Contact your health care provider, a family member or a friend immediately. If symptoms worsen, call 91.

And remember to NEVER leave people or pets in a parked car. Pets are affected by heat just like humans; they need a cool location to rest and fresh water throughout the day.

Due to COVID-19, cooling centers are limited. Anyone who requires assistance due to heat should call Lambton Public Health at 519-383-8331 or 1-800-667-1839 to inquire about possible access.

Mosquito larviciding has started

Lambton Public Health reports mosquito control larviciding has begun in the county. This effort is designed to impede mosquito breeding and control adult mosquito populations with the goal of reducing the incidence of West Nile Virus in the Lambton County.

In addition to the larviciding effort, property owners are asked to take the following steps: Remove stagnant water around their property; keep eaves clear of debris; and drain water from containers and toys.

When outdoors, the use of insect repellent containing DEET is also advised during the peak times or in locations where mosquitoes are active.

Safe disposal of dead birds

If dead birds are found, please dispose of it wearing gloves or a bag and discard it in a garbage container to put out with regular trash collection. The dead birds will not be collected by LPH.

For more information about West Nile Virus or dead bird disposal, call the West Nile Virus information line at 519-383-3824, toll free at 1-800-1839, ext. 3824, or visit LambtonPublicHealth.ca

Libraries now offers curbside pickup

Selected branches of the Lambton County Library, including **Corunna** and **Sombra**, are now offering curbside pickup of library materials following the recent easing of some provincial restrictions. This step will mark the gradual reactivation of services at cultural facilities.

To access this service, library card holders can view materials by using the library's catalogue at lclibrary.ca. By calling a library offering curbside pickup, the card holder can reserve a particular title. The card holder will receive a phone call when the material is ready for pickup. Patrons will be instructed to park in spaces that are designated with signage for curbside pickup. All materials can be returned to a drop box at any Lambton County Library location. Returned materials will be quarantined for 72 hours after drop boxes are emptied and before they are marked returned. Materials may still appear on your account for up to 10 days and late fees will not accrue.

Andrew Meyer, general manager of the Lambton County's Cultural Services, says library employees have been trained to understand how COVID-19 is spread and how to protect themselves and others against the virus. Library branches offering services have received enhanced cleaning and disinfecting.

For questions about cultural services or assistance accessing online services, please call 519-845-3324, ext. 5266 or email: librarytechhelp@county-lambton.on.ca

COVID-19 update from Lambton County Emergency Control Group (ECG)

The Lambton County ECG, comprised of representatives from all municipalities, meets regularly to gather COVID-19 related data and determine how to proceed under provincial guidelines.

The county received provincial approval to proceed to Stage 2 of the reopening process in mid-June. Local businesses were encouraged to view guidelines and resources to assist with their openings (ontario.ca/covidsafety). Residents frequenting these businesses are asked to continue to observe physical distancing and proper hand hy-

giene, cough and sneeze into your elbow, sleeve, or other face covering, and remain at home if sick.

The group has also discussed the effects of severe weather and high temperatures. Currently, most designated cooling stations are closed, but **more information on emergency preparation can be found online at:**

emergencieslambton.ca

Further information and guidelines can be found at:
lambtonpublichealth.ca



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.

Waste collection - bag and tie waste

Please remember to bag and tie all waste (garbage) to secure litter, especially napkins, paper towels, and tissues. *Napkins, paper towels and tissues are NOT recyclable.*

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.

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.

New *What Goes Where?* app feature

The *Recycle Coach* app is used by St. Clair Township to stay connected with its residents, who are reminded to download the Smartphone app or access their web app online.

It is now equipped with the *Ask Milo* "What Goes Where?" search engine on the township website and on the *Recycle Coach* app. Residents can search for information regarding where to properly dispose their items.

Sandbags and sand available,
see page 8



Yard Waste update

In order to reduce the amount of compostable material directed to landfill, St. Clair Township provides yard waste collection (directed to the compost site) in the spring and fall (see calendar for dates). During this collection period, paper bags or containers clearly marked with a large X must be used.

During the summer months, yard waste will be collected with the regular waste collection, subject to the 6-item limit. During this period of time, compost will be directed to landfill, not the compost site.

Residents will no longer be able to take yard waste directly to Sarnia Compost.

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.



St. Clair Township conducting Community Survey

St. Clair Township is gathering residents' opinions about its services through a community survey.

From July 8 to 19, Probe Research, an independent public opinion research firm, will be randomly calling households on behalf of the Township and asking residents to complete a 10 to 12-minute survey.

This survey will be used by the Township to measure its performance in delivering key services, as well as identify citizens' spending priorities and areas for improvement.

Your feedback is very important and valuable. If you are contacted, we hope you will take the opportunity to provide your feedback.

All Township residents can share their views by completing an online version of the survey that will be available on the Township's website, www.stclairtownship.ca, between July 8 and 19.



Public Works Department

Sanitary Backup Prevention

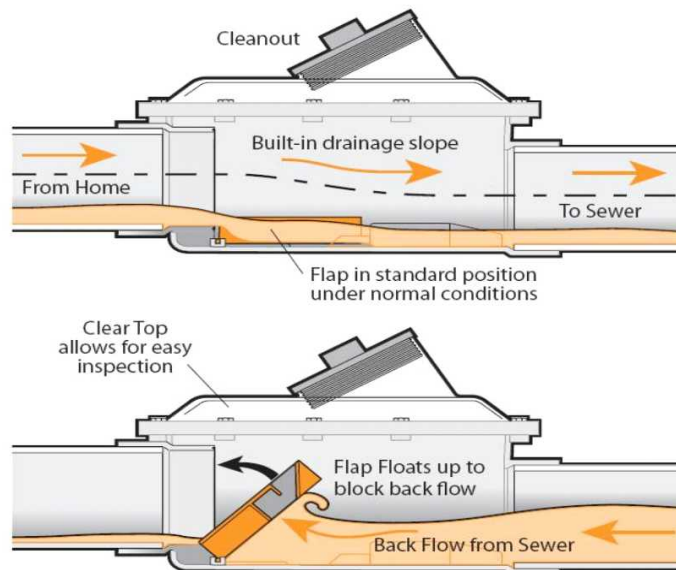
Do you have a backwater valve? A backwater valve, if properly installed and maintained, can prevent sewage from backing up into your home during a blockage or surcharge. It is recommended you follow the backwater valve manufacturer's guidelines and recommendations for maintenance.

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,

Brian Black
 Director, Public Works
 St. Clair Township

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



Corunna Legion donates to food bank

Not even a global pandemic can prevent our local Legions from coming to the aid of their communities. The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 recently donated \$750 to the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Food Bank. With the pandemic causing job loss and individual crises, the need for donations to the food bank and other community aid organizations has never been greater. Here, Branch 447 President John Cormier presents the donation cheque to food bank representatives Sue Mathany and Charles Mortley-Wood, with social distancing in effect.

Submitted photo



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. Please bring a shovel.

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.**



2020 Hazardous waste collections resume

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection program has resumed, allowing Lambton County residents an opportunity to dispose of household hazardous waste at no cost. Early program events in March, April and May were cancelled due to concerns raised by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program resumed in June at the Clean Harbors Lambton facility at 4090 Telfer Road off Petrolia Line in St. Clair Township. Several future dates are planned for Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on: Sept. 12 and 26; and Oct. 17 and 31.

Corrosive items including batteries, drain and oven cleaners, as well as toxic, reactive, and flammable materials will be accepted. **Items that will NOT be accepted include: PCBs, commercial, industrial, or radioactive wastes, electronics, and explosives such as flares and ammunition.**

This program is offered in partnership between Lambton County and Clean Harbors Canada Inc.

For more information, visit the County of Lambton website at: lambtononline.ca or call 519-845-0809, ext. 5370, or email: matt.deline@county-lambton.on.ca



Green thumbs of Thompson Gardens

From page 1

Thompson Gardens has three beautifully-manicured gardens gracing the property this season. It has been growing in size and beauty for many years thanks to the efforts of the green thumbs who reside at TG. A few residents have special plantings they tend, while many others tend a communal garden. "We share it with all the residents here," said Sally Townsend, who has been helping with the garden for 17 years. "(When it is ready to pick) we leave it on the dining room table."

The day *The Beacon* visited the immaculate garden site, vegetables from corn, lettuce, and tomatoes to herbs, garlic and mixed greens were thriving, and garlic scapes were being harvested by gardeners Katherine Sullivan and Mark Gagnier. "The scapes have to be removed to allow more of the nutrients to be used for the formation of the garlic bulbs," said Katherine. She added the scapes, small white bulges along the length of the green

garlic stalks, are a delicacy often pickled.

One of the features that adds grace to the three garden plots is the presence of a marigold border. Katherine explained the border is not only attractive, but it helps to discourage the attentions of the local rabbit and deer populations.

The gardeners are keenly aware that many of the Thompson Gardens residents are from rural communities and the gardens have become a focal point for them. "They love to walk around the garden," said gardener Mark Gagnier. Noting the neatly-mowed lawns that frame the gardens, Mark explained the short length of the grass allows access for residents with wheeled walkers and wheel chairs.

The many years of gardening experience the gardeners bring to their labour of love has created a showplace of Mother Nature's best work for the benefit of all Thompson Gardens residents.



Garlic scapes

SCTFD urges businesses preparing to open do complete safety check

A St. Clair Township Fire Department bulletin

As more businesses reopen according to the province's Phase 2 program, they will be operating under the "new normal" conditions. And as part of their preparations, fire and life safety requirements must still be considered.

The St. Clair Township Fire Department has created this list to help business owners check their buildings and keep their staff, customers, and property safe. Please note this is not a comprehensive list of requirements; it is a guide.

<p>Exits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All exits are unobstructed ➤ All exit doors are working properly and can be opened from the inside ➤ Exit signs are properly illuminated <p>Emergency Lighting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete monthly test and inspections ➤ Emergency lighting units are functioning <p>Fire Extinguishers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete monthly inspection ➤ Pressure gauge is in the operable range (green) ➤ Fire extinguishers are not damaged ➤ Fire extinguishers are accessible <p>Fire Alarm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete monthly test and inspections ➤ No trouble, supervisory or alarm signals on panel ➤ Manual pull stations are accessible <p>Fire Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Keep fire route clear of obstructions <p>Fire Safety Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Staff are familiar with what to do in the event of a fire emergency 	<p>Electrical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Electrical system is in good repair ➤ Temporary wiring (extension cords) are not used as permanent wiring <p>Sprinkler System/Standpipe Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete monthly and bi-monthly inspections ➤ Sprinkler heads are unobstructed ➤ Fire Department connections are accessible and not blocked by curb side pick up items or storage ➤ Standpipe hoses and hose connections are accessible <p>Exhaust and Fire Protection for Cooking Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Filters are clean and undamaged ➤ Suppression system nozzles are clean and aimed correctly at appliances ➤ Fire extinguishing system has been serviced within the last 6 months ➤ Exhaust fan is clean and undamaged <p>Annual Inspections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure annual inspections for the fire protection and detection systems have been completed by a certified contractor
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St. Clair Township building owners, property managers and tenants that require assistance in determining whether they are in compliance with fire code requirements are encouraged to contact St. Clair Fire at 519-481-0111.

Andrew McMillan
Deputy Fire Chief
St. Clair Township Fire Department
519-481-0111



Community beautification in Port Lambton

The coronavirus hasn't stopped township communities from beautifying their surroundings. In Port Lambton, for the third year, the Port Lambton Bi-Centennial committee has been filling planters with beautiful floral arrangements that include the humble sunflower. This cheery addition to the mix is a nod to the committee's decision to use the sunflower as the designated floral symbol of the bi-centennial. Funding for the beautification effort is from St. Clair Township. Here, Janet and Ed Sterling inspect the planter they have just completed as Councillor Rose Atkins joins them to admire their work.

Submitted photo



HERITAGE CORNER

Track inspection bus used to monitor and service New York Central Railway tracks

The track inspection bus from the New York Central Railway line was a frequent visitor to the Courtright railway terminal in the 1940s. These pictures from the Sirman Collection clearly show the wheels that transformed the road-worthy bus into a rail car. The photo, below left, shows the bus moving over the railway trestle west of Brigden.

The Courtright station was originally chosen as the western terminus of the Canada Southern Railway in 1869 and Courtright was named in honour of the company's president, Milton Courtright.



Courtesy of: Sirman Collection. canadasouthern.com

W. Darcy McKeough Floodway comes in handy during these high water days

Many St. Clair Township residents have never known a time before the W. Darcy McKeough Floodway was constructed, but it has become an important part of the region's flood control system.

The massive project was undertaken to reduce the threat of flooding in Wallaceburg but the journey from proposal of the floodway to its completion was a long, contentious one.

Originally called the Wilkesport Dam and Diversion Project, it became the Sydenham Valley Conservation Authority's Project No. 65 in early 1970. A feasibility report that came to be known as the Dillon Report was undertaken and funded by a provincial grant of \$25,000.

In the course of getting the project underway, there was dissent by a group of Sombra ratepayer who called themselves Save Our Sydenham, (SOS). The group believed the project would affect thousands of acres of prime bottomland, taking it out of production, disrupting drains and encouraging the growth of cattails and stagnant water.

The authority was presented with a petition opposing the project and offering an alternate flood control plan for Wallaceburg. It was rejected as being too costly and ineffective.

Official word that the project had been postponed indefinitely was received from Toronto in

July, 1973.

In the months that followed, disputes over properties, easements, and what share of the total cost of the project, which was up to \$10 million by January, 1975, would be pay by the various stakeholders, delayed the project further.

Flash forward to Sept. 8, 1978, the project got underway with a ceremonial sod-turning at the west end of the proposed channel. It wasn't without incident, as several landowners showed up to demonstrate peacefully because the authority was not willing to listen to their concerns before the construction began. Shortly afterward, more delays ensued as and it was 1984 before the project was completed.

Today, the seven-kilometre long grassy diversion channel runs west to the St. Clair River. It is controlled by two vertical sluice gates that remain open during normal flow conditions, but when river levels rise, the gates are closed to divert flow down the diversion channel. The floodway controls about 37 per cent of the East and North Sydenham River drainage basins upstream of Wallaceburg.

The W. Darcy McKeough Floodway is the largest flood diversion project in Ontario, controlling about 37 per cent of the drainage basins upstream of Wallaceburg.

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
GUIDINGSOCIAL
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

JULY 1 IN BRIGDEN - PARTY LIKE IT'S 1899!

The nattily-attired gentlemen of Armstrong Stores celebrate Canada's birthday during Brigden's July 1 parade.



PORT LAMBTON 200 Plant sale a blooming success

1820-2020

The Port Lambton 200th Anniversary celebration plant sale has been a blooming success! Over 400 miniature sunflower plants and 550 sunflower seed packets have been sold and the remaining packets are at Shaykin Bait Variety Store. Anyone wishing to obtain a free packet can drop in and get one. The committee would appreciate having photos of the plants that have bloomed sent in to be shared on the Port Lambton Facebook page.

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

170th Brigden Fair postponed until 2021 due to COVID-19

MOORE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Home of the Brigden Fair Since 1850



It is with sincere regret that the Moore Agricultural Society is announcing the postponement of the 2020 Brigden Fall Fair to the Fall of 2021.

Each year over the Thanksgiving Weekend our fairgrounds, as well as the small community in which we reside, welcomes upwards of fifty thousand people to our four day celebration of agriculture. Unfortunately as a result of the ongoing global pandemic, the Moore Agricultural Society does not feel that an event such as the Brigden Fair can be successfully held without compromising the safety of the volunteers, exhibitors, staff, judges, vendors, sponsors, community, and patrons that are relied upon. Enhancement of both rural and urban life is central to the mission of the Moore Agricultural Society, and because of the way this year has progressed, the possible benefits of moving forward with the fair are outweighed by the risks involved.

In addition to the individual health risks, the financial considerations of moving forward with the Brigden Fair have weighed heavily on the minds of the organizers. The operation of the Moore Agricultural Society largely relies on donations provided through the generosity of local individuals and businesses. We recognize that many, if not all of our sponsors have been hit hard over the past few months by the economic repercussions of the ongoing global pandemic. The Moore Agricultural Society refuses to let the 170th Brigden Fall Fair become a financial burden to our sponsors and to the community that supports us.

However, make no mistake, the seriousness of the decision to postpone the fair is not taken for granted. Please monitor the official Brigden Fair website (WWW.BRIGDENFAIR.CA) along with its various social media accounts for news regarding any ongoing activities that we may be able to host once restrictions are adjusted. We recognize that the Brigden Fair has far reaching social and economic impacts, and in the coming months we will do our best to mitigate the losses felt across the community.

The Moore Agricultural Society membership will take this time to complete projects around our property and work with our committees (while social distancing), to come back stronger and even more creative next year.

Please continue to work on your exhibits using the theme "Hats Off to Brigden Fair", hone your prize winning recipes and plan for a time when we can all meet again and truly give "thanks" that together we have endured.

All the best to everyone.

Stay healthy, stay safe and we will see you Thanksgiving Weekend 2021.

Malcolm Rogers, President

On behalf of the Moore Agricultural Society Board of Directors



Follow the Brigden plowman to page 13

BRIGDEN FAIR POSTPONED BUT THE WORK STILL GOES ON



2020 was supposed to mark the 170th anniversary of the Brigden Fair. Plans were made and the celebration would have been epic. But COVID-19 has affected the entire summer season. Now, the 2020 Brigden Bluegrass and Country Campout, as well as the Brigden Market, have been postponed

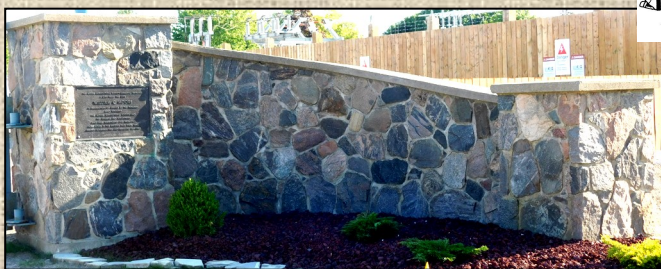
until the Civic long weekend of 2021.

In the words of John Lennon, "Life is what happens to you when you're busy making other plans." The Moore Agricultural Society (MAS), the remarkable organization that brings the Brigden Fair to life year after year, is making the best of this challenging time by developing a Plan B.

The group has turned its attention to the fairgrounds, making improvements all around the site. New cement work has been done to rehabilitate worn pedestrian paths, new signage is in place, and the parking area to the east of the site is being improved.



Above: The waterlogged parking lot of two years ago is being improved, with the first order of business being to walk the grounds harvesting the 'rock crop'. Right: MAS 2nd Vice-President Jason VanEsse and St. Clair Township Councillor Bill Myers precede the stone wagon looking for rocks to load. Left: A plow spreads and levels the truckloads of soil that were put



A new welcome sign, left, and a grand new stone entry gate, above, is now on display. The gate, a gift from the late William C. Moore, was erected in recognition of service by the pioneers who founded the Moore Agricultural Society.



over the field to make it more car friendly.

Submitted photos

For updates and information regarding the current status of activities in progress at the Brigden fairgrounds, visit the Brigden Fair website or Facebook pages.

Brigden Fair / Moore Agricultural Society fundraiser supports fair and offers jackpot

The gloomy prospect of having no community fall fairs this year has prompted the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions to launch an online 50/50 draw to raise funds that will benefit the organizations that operate these events. The Moore Agricultural Society (Brigden Fair) is one of the organizations participating in the CAFE Online 50/50 draw.

Those wishing to support the fair can simply buy a numbered ticket good for a whole year. At the time of purchase, you will be able to tell the purchase agent that you

would like to support the Moore Agricultural Society (Brigden Fair). With the ticket, you can play your number every week and if you win, the "pot" for that week will be split between you and the Brigden Fair. If you do not to play your number and your number is drawn, the money will be added to the next week's 'pot'.

This is the first of the ideas the MAS board of directors is working on. MAS Home Craft President Michelle Evanitski says other ideas are being considered. "The board of directors has some ideas in the works for activities and events both online and in-person, and we hope we can count on community support when we announce these plans," she said.

For more information or to get tickets, go online to:
<https://cafe.thelottofactory.com/>



Express Yourself

The Good Neighbour
COVID-19 project

The Empathy Gap for Seniors

Dear Editor

Once again, our armed forces have saved us, this time from our blindness to the plight of seniors living in long term care (LTC) homes. Often referred to as nursing homes, these facilities house our most medically vulnerable seniors, those who require the most care.

The forces report submitted to the federal government describes a merciless state of affairs wherein the oldest of our society are subjected to the most suffering and depraved conditions. It describes social isolation akin to solitary confinement, personal care tantamount to abuse and fatality rates of about 80% of all COVID-19 cases nationally.

For too long an empathy gap has existed in our treatment of seniors. The adage "out of sight, out of mind" evolved for more than 25 years. This gap is reflected in a recent international study of long-term care in Canada wherein the highest proportion of virus deaths ranks us as the worst of 14 countries globally.

Corroboration of this desperate state of affairs is found in a Toronto area LTC home where the police are now investigating criminal negligence for failing to provide the necessities to residents.

The necessity of having to bring in the army and the police is an odious indicator of elder care in Canada.

As a local senior care advocacy group, we join with others across the province calling for a full public inquiry into the state of LTC homes. It has been a cumulative lack of accountability from experts within government ministries who have shepherded the care of vulnerable elderly to this disastrous state. The time is now to close the empathy gap.

Premier Ford, show you care. Create a full public inquiry.

Yours truly,

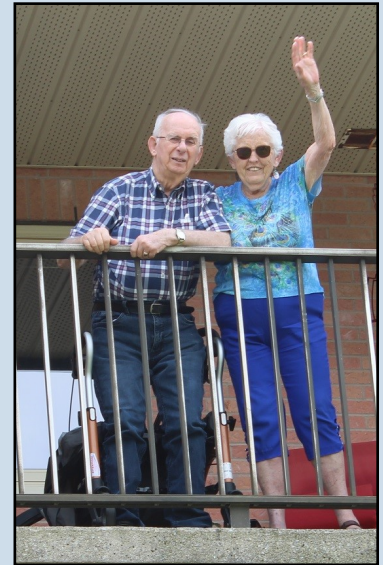
*Roger Gallaway, Arlene Patterson, Andrew Bolter,
Margaret Bell, Jennifer Mullins
NSCL Steering Committee*

Drive-by celebrates double occasions

Don and Donna Pierce, long-time members of the Moore Agricultural Society, recently celebrated two important occasions; a 65th wedding anniversary and an 89th birthday.

A drive-by celebration was held in lieu of a party when members of MAS paraded by the couple's Petrolia apartment building with cars decorated for the occasion. The couple enjoyed the playful pageantry from the safety of their apartment balcony.

Drive-by celebrations have been taking place throughout Lambton County as people mark special occasions in a COVID-19-safe way. *Stevenson photo*



TOURISM
Sarnia-Lambton

Don't miss the show!

Download the **snapd HUB** App today!

CANADA DAY
2020
virtual FIREWORKS

EXPRESS YOURSELF HERE

While the coronavirus is still causing concern and considerable disruption in St. Clair Township, many children and adults have been filling their isolation time with creative projects they are proud of. Those who wish to share their creativity with the community can do so here in the pages of The Beacon's *Express Yourself* column.

Simply take a picture of your artwork or building project, or send a copy of your short story, poem, happiest memory, or whatever family-friendly subject is on your mind.

Send submissions to:
beacon@stclairtownship.ca

Express Yourself

*The Good Neighbour
COVID-19 project*

Sombra Museum seeks information to document COVID-19 era

Working in a museum, we tend to be concerned about documenting and preserving the past, but right now we are living through an event that is unlike any we have experienced in the last century, if ever before, so the focus is very much on the present. So often, when looking through the archives we get very excited to find the shortest photo caption, post card, note, or on rare occasions, a diary recording daily life.

Looking for local accounts of the 1919 Spanish Flu pandemic and finding very little from the local perspective, we realized that we need our St. Clair Township residents to help us record and preserve memories of the present time for future generations. What is going on day-to-day in Sombra, Wilkesport, Port Lambton, Mooretown, Lambton County, Canada, and elsewhere in the world?

Information we hope you will share includes:

- *Shopping conditions and how they changed over time
- *Adapting to working at home, and any challenges or creative solutions that were needed
- *Financial challenges
- *Feelings caused by the outbreak and thoughts about social distancing
- *Keeping children occupied during self-isolation
- *Keeping adults occupied during self-isolation
- *What new or newly rediscovered hobbies or crafts were taken up
- *Stories from workers on the front lines and staffing essential services

tial services

*Struggles of family members or friends infected with the virus

*Stories of everyday heroes, i.e. people helping neighbours during self-isolation or people accepting inconveniences for the greater good

*How daily life and routines have changed

*For those who lived through the Great Depression, World War II, etc., are there similarities to those experiences?

*How social media and technology is impacting life in social isolation (using technology for the first time, using it differently)

Photos, videos, drawings, anecdotes, a few jotted thoughts - we want all the family-friendly material you feel comfortable sharing (no explicit material)

Submissions can be sent by email to sombramuseum@hotmail.com with the subject line "COVID-19 History Snapshot".

Please share this request for community life memories with as many people as possible. We encourage everyone to document this time, if not to share publicly, then for yourself and your family to look back and reflect on in years to come.

Take care and be well.

~Kailyn Shepley, curator, Sombra Museum

Moore Optimists hold Optimism and Hope Drawing Contest

The Moore Optimist Club is inviting kids and their families to brighten up their communities with driveway/sidewalk chalk art.

From June 1 through July 1, the club invites families to draw pictures that will bring hope and smiles to their communities. When the pictures are finished, they can take pictures of their masterpieces and send the pictures to club4548@gmail.com before midnight on July 1. The picture should be sent with the following information: family name (e.g. the Smith family); children's ages; address and phone number so that if they win, they can be reached with the good news.

Club members will judge the entries and the winning family's name and drawing will be posted on the club Facebook page and here in The Beacon. The rest of the drawings will also be posted on the club website so everyone can enjoy the artwork.

PRIZES? YES! There will be prizes awarded for the first, second and third place entries: \$100 for first; \$50 for second; and a \$25 gift certificate to the Dollar Store for third.

This contest is being held to offer something positive and fun for the community to enjoy in place of the summer events the club has had to cancel due to COVID-19 restrictions. For more information, visit the Optimist Club of Moore website at <http://www.facebook.com/Club4548> or email: club4548@gmail.com.

Freighters to toot horns for Pt. Lambton 200th

The *Algoma*, the *Ojibway*, and freighters from the *Great Lakes Shipping Company* will be sounding their horns when they pass the Port Lambton Coast Guard station this summer in honour of the village's 200th anniversary.

Right: The *St. Laurent* glides south on the St. Clair River.

Bonnie Stevenson photo



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.



Wellings of Corunna helping people stay connected

The negative effects of self-isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic have been showing up in many disturbing ways. Depression and anxiety over a lack of contact with family and friends has become a problem for many, especially seniors. One Corunna apartment complex has found a way to virtually connect people via the Internet.

Wellings of Corunna has been providing iPads to their residents so they can chat face-to-face via Internet programs including Skype, Facetime, Zoom, and other virtual meeting sites. Shelly Rogers, the leasing and community consultant for Wellings of Corunna, first identified the problem while speaking to Wellings community members.

See iPad donations, page 17

Left: Wellings of Corunna residents take to their balconies to show support for community front line organizations. **Inset:** Wellings rep Shelly Rogers, masked, and Bluewater Health rep Kathy Alexander during iPad presentations to community organizations.

Submitted photos



Stay Connected service now available to Bluewater Health patients

Friends and family members who wish to communicate with loved ones being treated for the coronavirus at Bluewater Health can call Patient Experience at 519-464-4436 or email:

patientexperience@bluewaterhealth.ca to schedule a 15 minute online virtual visit.

Hospitalized 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



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 home page, click on **The Beacon** on the black, top right corner information bar

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 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 next series is slated for Wednesdays Nov. 18, 25, Dec 2 & 9 from 10 a.m. to noon.

LAB OPEN

Just a reminder that our lab
is open weekdays
for all residents
Monday to Friday -
7:30a.m. - 11:15 a.m.



iPad donations help connect families

From page 16

Ms. Rodgers explained how this effort began and how it has expanded. "When the pandemic broke out, I had a couple of community members who were separated from their spouses (one in hospital and one moved on to LTC). The one couple had a staff worker who had an iPad so they could still see each other and talk. The other was not able to do that, so they chatted as best they could under the circumstances. Both partners have since passed (on). At that time, I thought, 'This is terrible. What can we do to help?' So we ordered a bunch of iPads to donate to various organizations to help families stay connected."

Two months later, \$12,000 worth of iPads arrived at the Wellings of Corunna complex and they were distributed to people and organizations that required them. Recipients included: Bluewater Health, Charlotte Englehart Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospice, Vision Nursing Home, Meadowview Nursing Home, Huron Boys Home, and the Sarnia Women's Interval Home.

Ms. Rogers says the iPads have made a positive difference to the Wellings residents who received them. "Staying connected is an integral part of living well and our residents tell us that their Wellings iPads have been a life changer during the unsettling times we are living through," she said. "Our hope is that this gesture of kindness will continue to multiply and deliver many smiles to many people living in the area, for many months to come."

Beacon Bits

"I shall pass through this world but once; any good things, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being or dumb animal, let me do it now. Let me not deter or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

~John Galsworthy, British author and 1932 Nobel prize winner

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

COMMUNITY CONTACT

NOTE: THESE EVENTS, SERVICES, AND ACTIVITIES WILL BE DEPENDENT ON THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS THAT ARE CURRENTLY IN EFFECT.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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 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 library-techhelp@county-lambton.on.ca for help. And to access the Lambton County Museums online catalogue, visit www.lambtonmuseums.ca and follow the link to the Research Catalogue.

MAS Harvest of Gold 2020 raffle

The 2020 Harvest of Gold raffle tickets will 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 about three to four times per year, and also in the event of the well being flooded by excessive rainfall or high water levels. 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 (after flooding), use bottled water for daily use including drinking, making infant formula or juices, cooking, making ice, washing fruits and vegetables, and brushing teeth."

If your well is flooded, it should be disinfected and tested as soon as the water recedes and at one-week intervals for three weeks afterwards to ensure the water is safe 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. (Please note there may have been changes to the way samples are received. For a full schedule of access times for these locations, as well as resources on how to take a water sample, visit LambtonPublicHealth.ca

During the COVID-19 pandemic, access restrictions are in place. Please call before visiting the office. Learn more about testing options at Lambtonpublichealth.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus/service-changes/

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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 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.

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.

MORE COMMUNITY CONTACT

From page 16

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

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.

Nature still thrives at Lambton G.S. site

The Lambton G.S. site may be coming down, but work still continues on keeping the grounds groomed and ensuring that the large wildlife habitat east of the site continues to thrive.

St. Clair Township resident Jamie Dreveny of OPG Engineering and Tech Services, below left, is currently overseeing the site. But he's also using his landscaping skills to keep the north berm boxwood planting in immaculate shape, below centre.

Behind the station site, the wild habitat is still thriving with new life. Below right: This female snapping tur-

tle was in the process of laying eggs when she was discovered. Mr. Dreveny says the crew was quick to ensure the safety of the turtle's maternity site.

"We saw this snapper by Lake Lambton this morning," he said. "After she laid her eggs, we put a screen over the mound to keep the raccoons, skunks and foxes out, but the newborn turtles will be able to squeeze through and carry on."

Neal Kelly, Director of Media, Issues, for OPG Information Management said, "The wetlands and the wildlife habitat still exist on the Lambton site. None of these have been removed as a result of demolition. We are managing and monitoring for the near future."



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

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

PLEASE CHECK EVENT PROGRAM STATUS

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

Corunna Legion cancels events

Another summer of fun has been cancelled due to COVID-19. The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 has announced the following:

A refund for the cost of tickets for the March 21 Pickerel Fry and Dance and the May 2 Elvis/Patsy Cline event will be made. Since the branch is closed due to COVID-19, call 519-862-3368 OR 519-862-1240 to set up an ap-

pointment for refund.

The following events have been cancelled:

- ⇒ 10th annual Legion to Legion Veterans' Motorcycle Poker Run scheduled for Labour Day.
- ⇒ Veterans' Memorial Golf Tournament (aka the Toilet Seat Open) slated for Sept. 13.
- ⇒ The Annual Fall Pickerel Fry and Dance slated for Oct. 3.

The Corunna Legion thanks all past participants for their support of these events and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

*From everyone at the Royal Canadian Legion
Branch 447 Corunna, please stay safe.*

Pickleball season DELAYED

The 2019 Pickleball season will be delayed due to COVID-19 spread mitigation restrictions. "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 continue to observe all COVID-19 safety precautions.

**PLEASE SEND IN ANY EVENT DATES, CANCELLATIONS, OR POSTPONEMENT ITEMS FOR
THE AUGUST BEACON
BY MONDAY, JULY 20 BY NOON.**

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 stories and community contributions in the new Good Neighbour feature,

EXPRESS YOURSELF.

See page 14 for information on how you can express yourself in the pages of The St. Clair Township Beacon.



"The secret of happiness is not doing what one likes, but in liking what one has to do."
-James M. Barry
(author of Peter Pan)

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.

Beach quality monitoring St. Clair River beaches excluded

Lambton Public Health reports all beaches are open but water quality reports will indicate if the water is safe to enter.

Note: No sampling will be done along the St. Clair River. A caution sign advising of high bacteria levels following heavy rainfall are permanently placed at:

- Branton-Cundick Park
- Brander Park
- Seager Park

Beaches to be monitored daily include:

- Grand Bend - north beach and south beach
- Ipperwash main beach
- Bright's Grove - including Mike Weir Park
- Canatara Park

Beaches monitored weekly include:

- Pinery Provincial Park
- C.J. McEwen Beach

Lambton's beach water quality monitoring program can be found online at:

lambtonpublichealth.ca/public-reports/disclaimer/#beaches

