



The St. Clair Township BEACON



THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

Issue 8

Volume 13

August 2020



**Thank you to our front line workers-
we appreciate all you continue to do!**



Young artists receive awards in the Optimist Club of Moore *Optimism and Hope* drawing contest



The Optimist Club of Moore's *Optimism and Hope* drawing contest saw some neighbourhood driveways and sidewalks decorated with colourful chalk drawings thanks to the efforts of many young local artists. The originators of the top three designs were recently rewarded with gift cards to the Corunna Dollarama store. Above: Shown at the award presentation are, rear left: Moore Optimist First Vice-President Stan Marsh; Second Vice-President Ethel Kang; and President Michelle Garrie. Winners from left: second prize, \$50, sisters Avery, 8, and Hallie, 6; first prize, \$100, Paige, 10; third prize, \$25, siblings Molly, 9, and Benjamin, 7. For photos of the winning entries, see page 13. For more about the Moore Optimist's upcoming Bicycle Giveaway, see page 12.

Bonnie Stevenson photo

Beacon now online ONLY due to COVID-19

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**.

**Stage 3
reopening
now in effect.
See page 2-4**

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MUNICIPAL NOTES

Township moves into Stage 3 COVID-19 reopening

St. Clair Township met on July 24 to determine how the provincially mandated Stage 3 COVID-19 reopening guidelines would be observed regarding township recreational properties.

Director of Community Services Kendall Lindsay attended the virtual meeting to present his recommendations for reopening recreational properties in compliance with the new guidelines.

Under the Stage 3 guidelines, non-contact sports such as baseball, volleyball, pickleball and tennis will be allowed at township fields on or before Aug. 7. This will depend on the ability of staff to bring ball diamonds, etc. into compliance with Stage 3 provincial guidelines. Baseball and volleyball courts must be used per provincial and Lambton Public Health physical distancing guidelines. Only 50 people per baseball league (10 people per team) and one game per night per ball park will be allowed, and no tournaments can be played this season. Pickle ball and tennis will be played per Ontario Pickle Ball and Tennis guidelines. However, small private user groups may use the fields and courts for casual play provided players maintain physical distancing and avoid contact.

Portable toilets will be put out on the golf course with the condition that they are thoroughly cleaned twice each day by staff.

Campground washrooms will be open, but **showers will not be in operation**. The opening of the buildings will also allow campers to take shelter in the event of severe storms.

The highly anticipated opening of playgrounds and parks will take place in compliance with Lambton County guidelines as of July 31. However, they will be restricted with a maximum occupancy, to be determined by the individual facility's square footage. Those who use these facilities are asked to abide by this restriction and observe physical distancing as required by COVID-19 safety guidelines.

Rink 1 at the Moore Sports Complex has been approved to be installed.

~ ~ ~

At the conclusion of this meeting, Mayor Arnold acknowledged that the reopening of the township's many recreation facilities is a considerable task for the community services department and all associated township staff. "I appreciate

See More, page 3



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.

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.

Upcoming meetings are slated for Monday, Aug. 17 at 3 p.m. and Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 3 p.m. 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 date will be
Tuesday, September 29, 2020
Tax bills were mailed out in July.

****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

More MUNICIPAL NOTES

From page 2

all the work staff is doing," he said. "It hasn't been an easy six or seven months for them."

ATV's not for use on public roads

Owners of ATVs are reminded that ATVs are not allowed on public roads in St. Clair Township. Several complaints have been received by council from ATV operators who have been stopped by police while riding on roads within township limits, but Mayor Arnold noted these stops are well-founded. This measure was enacted to ensure the safety of ATV operators, some of whom are under age and often inexperienced in the vehicle's use, as well as motorists.

Emergency services report

St. Clair Township Fire Chief Walt Anderson reported the department has been kept busy over the past months with responses, some of which he referred to as "unique and challenging calls". Detailed reports of these incidents were not available due to a computer issue but he will elaborate on his statement at the next meeting of council.

Preparation for a second wave of the COVID-19 virus has been in progress and Chief Anderson says the department should be ready if a second wave of the virus hits the area. One of the new additions to the department's emergency supply and management arsenal involves the augmentation of the emergency management trailer that was purchased with funds raised through past golf tournaments. The trailer has been outfitted with two portable wire mesh trolleys that will be stocked with cots, blankets, pillows and other necessities that can be set up at township emergency shelters to accommodate those who are not able to stay in their homes during prolonged emergencies. The trailer will also carry a stock of smaller supplies including pandemic related materials.

The long spell of heat and air quality alerts this spring and summer have led the department to cancel all open burn permits until further notice, with the exception of small campfires.

McKeough Dam Closure cost sharing report

Council received a staff report outlining the potential for cost sharing between St. Clair Township and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority in reference to roads and other municipal property that sustains damage as the result of the closing of the McKeough Dam.

Costs associated with the closure associated with the flooding it causes on lowlands upstream of the dam. The report noted three separate actions that add to the overall cost each time the dam is activated. The first, estimated at about \$1,300 in labour, overhead and equipment, requires a township employee to close the gates and set up Road Closed signs, as well as opening the gates and removing the signs, each time the dam is activated. The second cost arises during about half of the closures and is estimated at about \$2,000 each time. It occurs when there are road washouts that require the replacement of gravel, plus the equipment, labour and overhead associated with the repair. Such an event occurred along Waubano Road north of Bickford during the January, 2019 dam closure. The third cost associated with flooding that causes bank slides such as the one that occurred along the Wilkesport Line bank near Kimball Road.

No agreement currently exists between the township and the SCRC. At the time land for the McKeough dam development was negotiated, compensation to affected landowners was arranged as part of the land expropriation process and the township was not involved.

At this time, road closures due to the closing of the McKeough Dam are communicated through the Municipal 511 program that can be accessed through the St. Clair Township website.

The motion to approve the report was passed by council.

Bridge project completion dates received

An engineering report received by council noted two township bridge projects will be completed this autumn. The bridge over Black Creek along Pretty Road is scheduled for completion in September, while the bridge over the Sydenham River along Holt Line is slated for completion by October. Also underway is St. Clair Parkway rehabilitation work from Bickford to White Lines, where the existing asphalt base is being recycled, and shoulders paved and replaced with a new asphalt surface. The St. Clair River Trail in that area will be improved within the construction limits.

Hubbard Drain project- DFO objections

Council was faced with an environmental quandary at the July 13 meeting when a report stemming from flooding along the Hubbard Drain came to the floor. The Hubbard drain is an open ditch that flows from north of the Brander Park pond and wooded area, underneath Pointe Line and the St. Clair Parkway and east into a watercourse at Indian Road. As a habitat for fish, it now presents an environmental challenge.

Landowners along the drain have been plagued by flooding, especially now that recent high-water levels have made the problem worse. Lucas Depooter, the township's drainage supervisor, told council a petition had been circulated to gain support for a solution and he has been asked if anything could be done to provide a remedy for the flooding. "Many landowners have requested that this work be done...I was talking to a few of them recently about this...they'd really like to get it moving," he said.

A proposed solution to the flooding would require the design of a pump and dam system to improve the drainage and reduce the flooding. But the environmental importance of the drain to fish that live there has caused the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to request that a fisheries biologist be hired to assist with a Fisheries Act Authorization.

According to Superintendent DePooter, DFO reception to the pump and dam solution has not been favourable. "It (the drain) wouldn't be pumped dry but the DFO doesn't care about that. When the dam's there, they don't consider it a habitat any more, so that's why they're saying it needs to be recreated... I can see their point, but the DFO is adamant it does eliminate habitat."

In defence of the proposed project, Mayor Arnold pointed out the drain would still be two or three feet deep, and the fish will be able to live there. He admitted to being frustrated with the process, adding the costly nature of a remedial project such as the one the DFO was suggesting would be unacceptable to the landowners, who would be required to share the cost.

"We're not going to dam it up and close it off, it's just something that can drop the water level. We're going to drop the water flow down so it's not going over the bank all the time, but the drain will still be full. When I read the report from the DFO, they thought we were going to kill all these fish; we were going to dam it up," said Mayor Arnold.

Superintendent DePooter told council the DFO was firm on the need to have the biologist's report; that expense, added to the cost of designing a new habitat for the fish and the cost of the project itself, might be well beyond what the landowners would be able to pay.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans representatives have visited the site only once, according to Secretary DePooter. The Hubbard drain is located on some of the lowest lying land in the township that isn't pumped, but Mayor Arnold noted, "In a low water cycle, it's dry land."

Yard sales - COVID-19 precautions advised

Those who hold yard sales should make sure they are proceeding safely, observing COVID-19 precautions as required by the provincial. They include wearing gloves to handle money, retaining social distancing during transactions, and wearing a mask or-

See More Municipal Notes, page 4



Stage 3 reopening calls for caution; coronavirus still a threat

Bonnie Stevenson

As of July 24, the County of Lambton moved into Stage 3 of the provincially-regulated COVID-19 reopening protocol. Lambton's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Sudit Ranade cautions this phase will see an increase in public activity that will require increased vigilance on the part of all Lambton County/Sarnia residents. "Lambton Public Health (LPH) would like to remind residents Stage 3 will increase activity in the community which, more than ever, requires everyone to be diligent...Following the public health safety measures must be considered at every opportunity."

Stage 3 will allow nearly all businesses and public spaces to reopen **with proper public health safety measures in place**. Caution will need to be exercised as long as Lambton's rate of positivity remains. (At publication time, the rate was 1.8%.)

LPH notes some places and activities that present increased risk will remain closed until further notice.

Subject to physical distancing requirements, social gathering limits will increase to allow for a maximum of 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors. Social circle limits remain at 10. Details about the province's Stage 3 re-opening can be found online at: Ontario.ca/reopen

The Stage 3 reopening does NOT imply the emergency is over. Efforts to observe physical distancing and hand hygiene/sanitization must still be employed for everyone who goes out in public for any reason.

In a July 23 LPH media release, Dr. Ranade noted, "As individuals expand their social networks and gather in indoor spaces, there is increased likelihood of coming into contact with COVID-19 that needs to be considered...It is anticipated that local case numbers will increase during Stage 3 and public health safety measures must remain in place to support this transition."

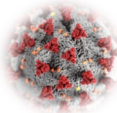
Dr. Ranade's cautionary words have since been substantiated after an increase in COVID-19 cases was registered two weeks after the transition to Stage 2 was approved. "The recent increase in cases over the past two weeks was anticipated to coincide with reopening stages," he wrote in a media release dated July 28. "We expected to see new cases following the transition to Stage 2, however those new cases only started appearing last week."

The two-week list of cases registered from mid- to late July documented 21 new cases divided into the following classifications: 6 cases from rural communities; 7 from urban communities; 1 case with possible link to travel; 4 close contact with infected people; 1 routine screening of long-term care staff; 2 rou-

tine screenings for long-term care visits; 7 unknown exposures.

The COVID-19 virus is far more contagious than any regular flu or virus modern medicine has encountered - it is easily transmitted from one person to another over surprisingly long distances even though the infected person may not be showing symptoms; it is crucial that physical distancing and hand sanitization be observed when in public places, indoors and outside.

Masks or face coverings are also recommended, but not mandated, by Lambton Public Health and are supported by Lambton County Council to prevent "community spread" of the virus. A mask prevents people from unintentionally spreading the virus, and **when worn correctly**, masks offer protection to the wearer if he or she comes in contact with an infected person.



COVID-19 is still here - stay safe

Don't touch the front of the mask while wearing it to avoid transferring virus onto your hands. If you do touch the mask, sanitize your hands as soon as possible. If it is washable, wash it in soapy water, then rinse

and dry it thoroughly. According to Lambton Public Health, mask use is most effective when: 80 per cent of people use them correctly; the masks are used early enough in an outbreak situation; and they are used as an addition to other public health measures

The mask **must cover both mouth AND nose**, and fit well to offer the proper protection and comfort. Masks and hand sanitizers are now readily available at many pharmacies and shops in the community.

LPH recognizes some people may not be able to afford, access, or wear masks. For those of us who are able to wear masks, and especially those who are over age 60 and/or who already have compromised health issues, the wearing of masks in situations where physical distancing is difficult, especially indoors, is something we can do to help fight this pandemic.

Youth immunity myth busted

Recent case studies done across Canada and in the U.S. reveal that people as young as 10 years old are capable of transmitting COVID-19, and cases of the virus are increasing in the age 20-49 age demographic.

Disease transmission has often been linked to parties and social gatherings where people are socializing without observing precautions. Dr. Ranade notes the 20-49 age demographic will be an important target group for increased virus transmission as the community advances into Stage 3 re-opening.

"COVID-19 is in your community, so please be mindful of risk at all times." ~ Dr. Ranade.

-with files from Lambton Public Health, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Oxford health studies, The Lancet.

More MUNICIPAL NOTES

From page 3

face covering when distancing is not possible. These measures are for the safety of everyone involved in the sale and those who attend one.

County Council report supports use of masks

Council reviewed the Lambton County Council highlights for July 8 in which the use of masks and face coverings was encouraged. The use of masks is especially advised in indoor public settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained.



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- **UPDATE**

The St. Clair Township Works Department will be continuing to observe 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. Public Works staff have resumed work that requires entry into a premise, however precautions will be taken such as pre-screening residents, masks will be worn by staff and 6 feet distance will be maintained between the employee and resident.

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.

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 6**



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.

Waste collection - reminders to avoid missed collection



To help ensure collection crews remain healthy, all waste should be bagged and securely tied. Loose garbage bags or garbage bags in cans at the curb will not be collected if they are not tied. Maximum weight per bag is 50 lbs.

As a reminder, ashes (i.e. cigarette butts, cigars and fire pit ash) need to be separately sealed in a bag and placed in waste. Please ensure these items are completely extinguished before placing in the garbage.

As well, napkins, paper towels and tissues are NOT recyclable.



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

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



Mosquito larviciding in progress throughout Lambton County

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 standing/stagnant water around their property; keep eaves clear of debris; and drain water from containers and toys.

When outdoors, the use of insect repellent con-



taining DEET is also advised during the peak times or in locations where mosquitoes are active.

Safe disposal of dead birds

If a dead bird is found, please dispose of it wearing gloves or a plastic 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

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 Stage 3 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.

Exits	Electrical
<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Electrical system is in good repair ➤ Temporary wiring (extension cords) are not used as permanent wiring
Emergency Lighting	Sprinkler System/Standpipe Systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete monthly test and inspections ➤ Emergency lighting units are functioning 	<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
Fire Extinguishers	Exhaust and Fire Protection for Cooking Operations
<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 	<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
Fire Alarm	Annual Inspections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete monthly test and inspections ➤ No trouble, supervisory or alarm signals on panel ➤ Manual pull stations are accessible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure annual inspections for the fire protection and detection systems have been completed by a certified contractor
Fire Route	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Keep fire route clear of obstructions 	
Fire Safety Planning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Staff are familiar with what to do in the event of a fire emergency 	

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

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

HERITAGE CORNER

Sad day for Sombra as The Daldean pulls away from dock for the last time

Early on Monday, July 6, 2020, *The Daldean* pulled away from the Sombra ferry dock and headed downriver for the last time. As it disappeared into the distance, it ended an era that spanned over 70 years and five generations of the Dalgety family.

Kailyn Shepley, curator of the Sombra Museum, was on the shore to witness the dawn departure. "It was quite a sad day, yet it was exciting to hear the thrum of the Daldean's engine again and see her move out into the channel one last time," she said.

She says there were spectators and vehicles lining the river all the way to Brander Park. "I overheard people sharing memories of the ferry and some actually shouted out 'goodbye' to it...Just after 5:30 a.m., they (the Dalgetys aboard the ferry) blasted out a salute on the horn and many vehicles honked and people whistled in response...I was touched to see how many people came out at dawn to see it off." She observed that almost all of the people along the shore maintained physical distancing. The Daldean also sounded its horn as it passed Port Lambton



Kailyn Shepley photo

In the early morning light, *The Daldean* pulls away from the dock for the last time.

on its way to its new home at Boblo Island.

After downloading some of her photos and a video of the ferry leaving the dock to Facebook, Kailyn says the photos were viewed by 2,600 people and the video attracted about 2,400 viewers. "People are sharing memories and commenting quite a bit about our ferry," she said.

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



A bicycle brigade speeds along the St. Clair Parkway near Cathcart Park.

Bonnie Stevenson photo

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

PORT LAMBTON
200
1820-2020

Plant sale a blooming success - seeds available

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.

A St. Clair Township Heritage Moment

Threshing time at John Peter Taylor's farm - 2nd Line of Moore (now Oil Springs Line)



Photo courtesy of Moore Museum

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

Sombra Volunteer Garden Club enjoys their recent beautification efforts



Above: Members of the Sombra Volunteer Garden Club include: seated from left, Shari Robinson, Marg Dalgety; standing from left, Club President Val Foster, Lyn Klompstra, Mary Grimes-Henry, Ethel Armstrong, Jan Anderson, and Anne Stratton.

Bonnie Stevenson photo

These happy members of the Sombra Volunteer Garden Club take time to enjoy the improvements their efforts have made to the Sombra village landscape. Three of their achievements can be seen in this photograph. The beautiful new river trail bench, located in front of the Bury House on Smith Street, left of photo, was purchased with a \$1,500 grant the group received in response to an application to the Moore Community and Recreational Foundation earlier this year. They hope it will become a welcome place to rest and chat with friends in the village. The beautiful planter, right, purchased with the help of St. Clair Township, is one of several decorative pots the group plants and cares for each year. And an example of the 50 banner flags the group purchased to celebrate Sombra's bicentennial year can be seen on the utility pole across the street from the planter. The club set a fundraising goal of \$11,500 to buy the flags and was able to reach that goal thanks to the generosity of the community. (Due to the COVID-19 virus, the bicentennial celebration has been postponed until 2021. The flags will be taken down and stored for the winter months, then reinstalled in time for the celebration next year.

The Sombra Volunteer Garden Club would like to thank all of the generous donors who contributed funds to make their project a success in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks are also extended to the Moore Community and Recreational Foundation and St. Clair Township for their much-appreciated assistance with the club's efforts.

Province approves addition to Sacred Heart Catholic School

Students attending Sacred Heart Catholic School in Port Lambton will soon see their school building expand thanks to a new provincial government program.

The program will see the investment of \$500 million distributed across the province to build 30 new schools and make upgrades to 15 existing schools, including the construction of a new addition to Sacred Heart. The addition will include

the creation of new child care rooms and provide more space to support students with better learning facilities. A total of 900 new licensed child care spaces is being created province-wide.

Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey says the Sacred Heart expansion will create 46 new elementary student spaces, 49 new licensed child care spaces, and three new child care rooms.

LPH joins forces with local health providers to offer mobile testing



Above: Members of the LPH mobile COVID-19 outreach testing team set up to administer COVID-19 tests to a group of temporary foreign workers at a Lambton County farm. *Submitted photo*

Voluntary COVID-19 testing is being offered to all Lambton County farms that hire temporary seasonal foreign workers. A mobile COVID-19 outreach testing team has completed well over 86 tests on area farms in past weeks. Lambton Public Health has joined forces with Bluewater Health, Lambton EMS, and the Central Lambton Family Health Team to accomplish this task.

LPH inspectors routinely inspect local farms to make sure accommodations for temporary seasonal foreign workers meet public health requirements, and the Central Lambton Family Health Team is able to assist with the language needs of the workers.

The Ontario government has issued specific guidelines for farm operators to further protect the workers from COVID-19.

LPH developed the team approach last spring, conducting outreach to determine the number of workers who would be on each farm, discuss isolation plans and screening protocols, and offer support for testing.

In June, LPH issued a letter to local farm operators to ensure they were not knowingly employing a worker who came from an operation where an outbreak of the COVID-19 virus was occurring and that the full 14-day quarantine period would be observed by every worker.

Based on reports from farm operators, LPH says between 200 and 300 temporary foreign workers travel to Lambton County for seasonal work. This information is used to help develop LPH's ongoing risk analysis.

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/](https://cafe.thelottofactory.com/)**



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

- *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 sombra-museum@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

Bicycle giveaway replaces 2020 Moore Optimist bicycle rodeo

The Optimist Club of Moore annual bicycle rodeo will have a different look this year due to the COVID-19 precautions. Although the rodeo will not be held on the street, a bicycle giveaway will still be held. Rodeo-age children can enter the 2020 Optimist Club of Moore Bicycle Giveaway instead.

The club is looking for children under the age of 12 to enter this giveaway. All they have to do is write a story explaining "Why I deserve a new bike".

Kids have to describe how the changes brought about by the COVID-19 virus have affected them and their family, and what they have done, or are doing, to bring joy, optimism, courage and thoughtfulness to their family and/or community during this time.

Parents are allowed to help, and submissions should include photos and hand-drawn pictures to illustrate the stories.

The contest will run through August to Sept. 1. Stories and photos/drawings can be sent to: club4548@gmail.com. Winners will be contacted and their names will be posted on the club's Facebook page and in *The Beacon*.



Friend of Youth



The Optimist Club of Moore is being optimistic in hoping 2021 will see the bicycle rodeo back in operation, but until then, they hope everyone will stay safe and keep their optimism.



Girls and boys under 12 are invited to enter their story to win one of these two new bicycles.

Express Yourself

The Good Neighbour
COVID-19 project

Moore Optimists Club - art contest winning entries

From page 1

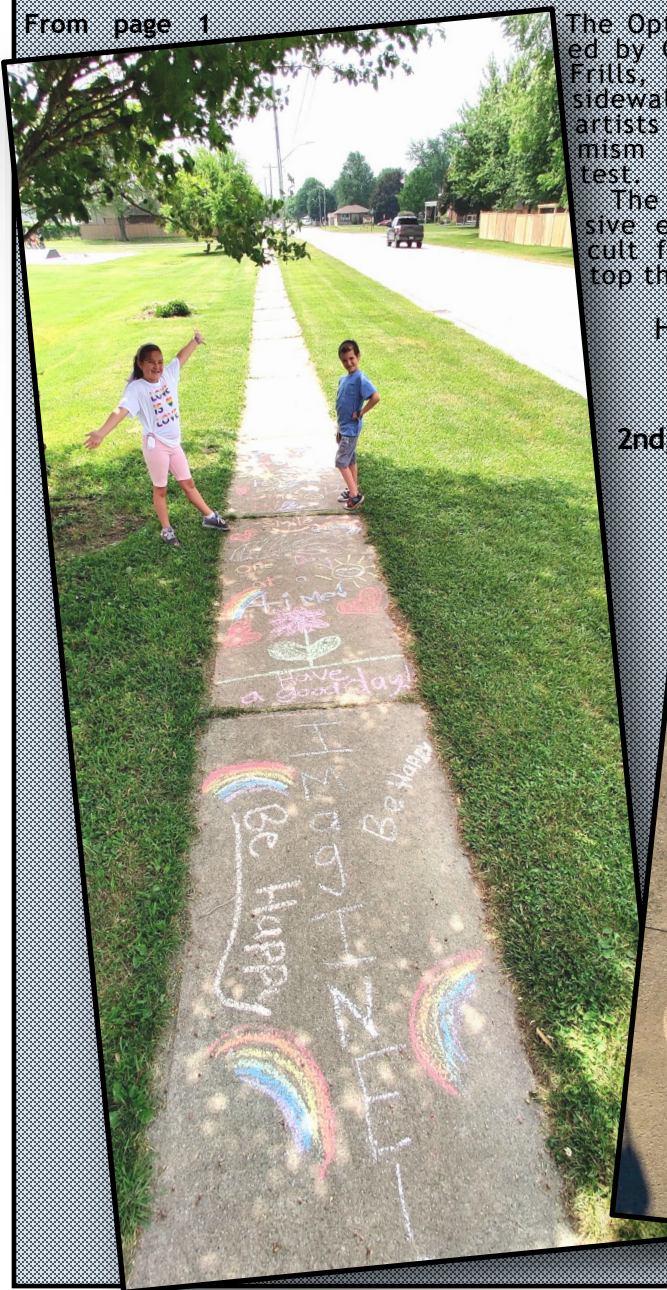
The Optimist Club of Moore, aided by Corunna Foodland and No Frills, handed out 200 boxes of sidewalk chalk to aspiring young artists during its recent Optimism and Hope drawing contest.

The club received 15 expressive entries, making it difficult for judges to choose the top three entries.

Here are those entries, clockwise from right:

1st, Paige;
2nd, sisters Avery and Hallie;
3rd, siblings Molly and Benjamin.

Photos submitted by
Optimist Club of Moore



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 time with creative projects they are proud of. Those who wish to show off their creativity to 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, send a copy of your short story, poem, or happiest memory, talk about your recent achievement or tell the community about someone you know who has done something positive in the last few months, or whatever family-friendly subject is on your mind.

Send submissions to:
beacon@stclairtownship.ca

Express Yourself

Corunna woman's whole-hearted effort yields half-marathon

Story by Bonnie Stevenson

This year has been less than kind to many of us. Everywhere we go we see reminders that an invisible enemy stalks our community, and the resulting cancellations and postponements of the events and activities we look forward to has dashed the summer plans of many.

For Tara Antle, the dream of completing the St. Clair River Run has been a goal she's been training and working towards for years. "After my first-born child, I started running and did a five kilometre run...after my second child, I did a 10 kilometre run," she said. "When the St. Clair River Run was cancelled, I decided to do it anyway."

The grueling training schedule leading up to her July 25 half-marathon run was aided by her nine-year-old son, Ethan, who often rode his bicycle beside her carrying water and offering encouragement as Tara built up the strength and stamina she would need to reach the finish line.

Part of the training came from Tara's participation in an online group doing a 1,000 metre challenge, to be completed by the end of 2020. Notching up an average of 100 metres each month, plus the 150 kilometre challenge she completed in June, she already has over 725 kilometres to her credit, with five more months to go.

Tara's husband, Shaun, says the effort was, at the time, disheartening for her. "She'd say 'I'm going to do this alone and nobody's going to be there.'" She knew the excitement of the event itself, with the sound of onlookers cheering on the runners, and the music and ceremony afterwards, would be missing.

And as she pushed through her disappointment, COVID-19 isolation kicked in to put more stress on the aspiring long-distance runner. "It's been a hard year for her with COVID and with the kids being home...and with her still being able to do this...she's one hell of a mom and an inspiration, and we are so proud of her," said Shaun, emotion evident in his voice.

He also praised his son's commitment to his mother's success. "Ethan's been training with her and now he's finishing the race with her." Citing the powerful example Tara is demonstrating to their son through her commitment to her training, he added, "Ethan's dream is to be a Blue Jay. He's a die hard fan."

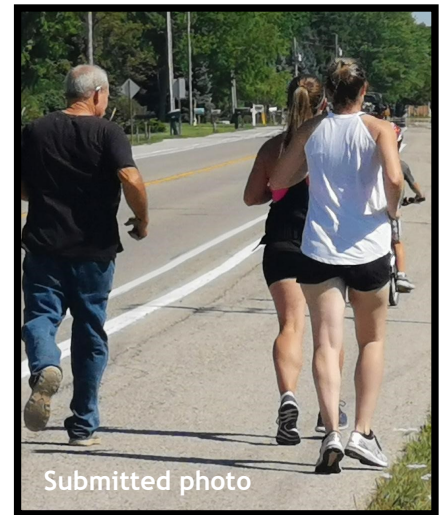
With her busy schedule, Tara had no idea there was a quiet flurry of activity going on behind the scenes as Shaun and Tara's supporters made their best effort to realize her dream.

The sunny, 30C+ degree morning of July 25 found Tara, Shaun, Ethan and his six-year-old sister Callie in Sombra at the starting point near the Sombra Museum on the St. Clair Parkway.

The heat intensified in the hours that followed and Tara ran on, staying in touch with her support team as she traversed the St. Clair River Trail north toward Corunna. Around 11 a.m., with three kilometres left to run, Tara called the support team asking for more to drink. The support team was with her in a matter of minutes with a cold drink. She was able to continue her journey accompanied, for safety, by her good friend and cheerleader, Carley Warner, and her son Ethan, riding his bicycle and carefully monitoring his mom's progress. Just before noon, flanked by her children, Tara and Carley came running into sig. Tara crossed the finish line that had been chalked at the far end of the Corunna Athletic Park's Dallas Court walkway, arms raised in triumph and grinning with happiness and surprise.

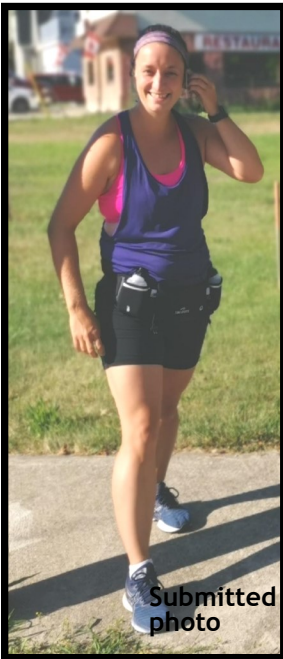
Tara broke the toilet paper finish ribbon (a nod to the COVID-19-inspired toilet paper shortage) to the cheers of her adoring family, friends, and supporters, the sound of her favourite music blasting through the air, and the presentation of a special engraved runner's medal Shaun had acquired for the occasion. Even the family dog, Nash, was on hand to bear witness to Tara's incredible achievement. **The 21.1 kilometre challenge was successfully completed in 2 hours and 46 minutes for an average speed of 7.7 km/hr.**

Praise for the conquering hero was offered by many in the crowd that greeted Tara's victory. "I'm so proud of her," said her mom, Christine Neufeld. "As a little girl she was determined...she always had talent but she didn't push herself to the limit (like this). She's an inspiration."

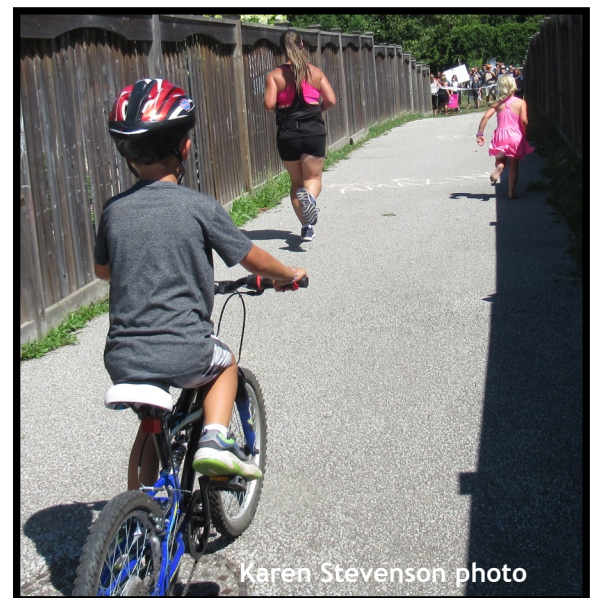


Submitted photo

The dramatic final three kilometres with escorts



Tara ready for Sombra start



Karen Stevenson photo

Ethan Antle keeps an eye on his mom as she completes the final few meters of her run.

Express Yourself



Tara breaks the toilet paper finishing ribbon (a COVID-19 touch), held by mom-in-law Janet Antle, left, and mom Christine Neufeld, with support rider Ethan in background.

Woman fulfills half-marathon dream

From page 14

Mother-in-law, Janet Antle, said, "She's the best. She's beautiful inside and out."

Brother-in-law, Corey Brown noted, "She said lately she doesn't feel there's support from the people around her, but at this time of pandemic, people are gathering around her to share her passion."

The exhausted, but elated Tara Antle spoke about her moment of truth after catching her breath and receiving a round of heart-felt congratulations from the group.

"At three kilo-

metres, I started feeling lightheaded and the water tasted like metal," she said. "I called for Gatorade after I'd used up all I had." She admitted to being genuinely surprised by the reception she received at the finish line and was even more surprised when her husband placed the special engraved runner's medal around neck.

And as satisfying as her half-marathon turned out to be, Tara says she's already looking forward to testing herself next year in the 2021 St. Clair River Run.



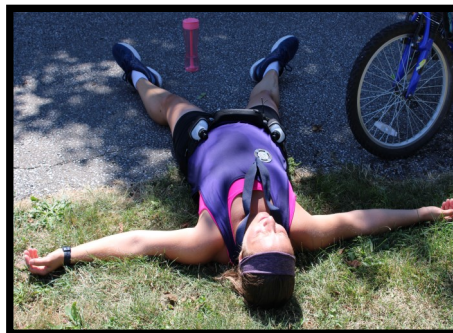
A congratulatory hug from Shaun



Kiss from mom-in-law



Hug from mom



The warrior takes a well-deserved rest



Medal presentation



Family and friends gather in support of Tara Antle, front and centre, seen here with husband, Shaun, right, daughter Callie, and son Ethan.

Bonnie Stevenson photos (unless marked otherwise)

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority 2020 scholarships awarded

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority 2020 scholarships were recently handed out to three deserving students.

Gracie Goodhill, a North Lambton Secondary School graduate, received the Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Award. Trevor McBrayne, a Lambton Kent Composite School graduate, received the Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship. Both students will be attending the University of Guelph in the fall, with Gracie enrolled in the Food and Agriculture program and Trevor pursuing a degree in Landscape Architecture.

Brady Grubb, a graduate of Lambton Kent Com-

posite School, received the 2020 A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship. He will be studying Environmental Engineering at the University of Guelph this fall.

The conservation scholarship program rewards graduating high school students who pursue post-secondary studies in a conservation-related field and who have demonstrated high academic standing and involvement in environmental activities. A total of \$2,000 was awarded.

The scholarships are made possible through trust funds established by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation and its donors.



Scholarship recipients above with SCRCA Chair Joe Faas, from left: Gracie Goodhill, Trevor McBrayne, and Brady Grubb. Submitted photos

National Farmers Union thanks front line workers and businesses

The National Farmers Union recognizes the importance of the industry's front line workers during the COVID-19 pandemic isolation period. Let's add our own thanks to everyone in the the hard-working agricultural industry, from the people who cultivate the fields to those who raise the livestock, and those who support their efforts with supplies and services, THANK YOU from the people who depend on you to help us put food on our tables.

The National Farmers Union would like to take a moment to gratefully acknowledge all of the people and businesses who make farming possible during the COVID-

19 pandemic. You have not wavered in providing the needed web of resources that keep farmers supplied and engaged in farming. The NFU and our members across the country are grateful to each of you that have contributed to our ability to keep working. Our shared work providing food is not only an essential service and a source of prosperity for Canada, it is also a way that we connect with one another, nourishing our communities and providing security in these very uncertain times.

Sincerely,
Stewart Wells, NFU Vice President of Operations

Oak wilt newest threat to our forests - what to look for

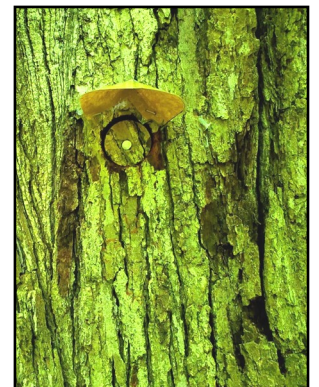
A new pest threatens to cause damage to one of our toughest, common trees; for the second year, the oak is being monitored by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority in partnership with the Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) to monitor the nitidulid beetle (a.k.a. picnic or sap beetle). This pesky insect is responsible for the transmission of the pathogenic fungus that causes *oak wilt*.

Oak wilt is a disease being seen in areas throughout the United States and concerns are growing that it may eventually enter into Canada. It is hoped monitoring and tree maintenance will help defend the Ontario oak population against this damaging disease. The fungus can be transferred from an infected tree to a healthy tree by the nitidulid beetle or if an infected oak's root system grafts with a healthy oak's roots. The fungus causes water and nutrients to become restricted in the tree, eventually leading to the death of the tree.

Left: Two baited traps are set up in St. Clair Township to attract the nitidulid beetle. The traps are checked every two weeks and insects that are found are sent for oak wilt testing.

Right: Intentional "wounding" of 10 oak trees as part of the 2020 monitoring program and insects attracted to their tree sap are being collected for MNR testing.

Photos submitted



Cathcart Park summer residents get festive to shake the COVID-19 blues



This group of volunteers at Cathcart Park didn't let the coronavirus spoil their summer fun. With COVID-19 precautions firmly in place, they recently held *Christmas in the Park*, with many of the seasonal residents decorating their campsites. At the pavilion, a silent auction featuring about 50 items, including some donated by residents as well as some gift cards donated by local businesses, plus activities for the kids, and even a visit from Santa Claus, kept the event lively.

Event spokesperson and organizer Colleen Flowers (nicknamed Mrs. Christmas by her volunteer 'elves') says the group had to modify its plans due to the virus, cancelling a big dinner that had been planned for that evening. She has been camping at the park for the past nine years and she recalls there have been camp-wide events there each year. "We try to do something every two weeks," she said, adding a paint day will soon take place and a Halloween-themed event is planned for the end of August.

Long-time campers at the park include residents from Blenheim, Chatham, Windsor, Wallaceburg, Dutton, London, Dover Centre, Staples, Iona Station, and Shetland.

Bonnie Stevenson photo

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 (top right).



EarlyON Child and Family Centres

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

Best Start Hub - Riverview Central School

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

Hours of Operation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brigden United Church,

2420 Jane Street, Brigden

519-892-3151

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

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



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 lifestyle changes; this is not a "diet" program. You will set your own healthy eating and physical activity goals, and learn how to make plans for achieving them. Some topics that will be discussed include:

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

This four-week series 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.



A not quite "normal", but encouraging summer sight



Bonnie Stevenson photo

Corunna Athletic Park looked almost normal on July 25, the day after Lambton County was approved to proceed to Stage 3 reopening protocols. After months of a deserted landscape, the park was once more alive with activity.

It's a wonderful start, but we all have to do our part to ensure the reopening doesn't lead to a resurgence of the coronavirus. Continue to distance, keep hands sanitized, and consider wearing a mask in situations that bring you into close contact with others.

Beacon Bits

"Nothing in life is to be feared; it is only to be understood.
Now is the time to understand more, so we may fear less."

~ Marie Curie

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

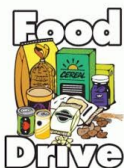
COMMUNITY CONTACT

NOTE: THESE EVENTS, SERVICES, AND ACTIVITIES WILL BE DEPENDENT ON THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.

Sacred Heart food bank - Autumn food drive planned

The community side effects of the coronavirus have resulted in constant need for supplies at our community food banks. In an effort to keep the shelves adequately stocked in the challenging autumn season, the Sacred Heart food bank will hold an bi-weekly food drive beginning in September and running through November.

The collection area will be divided into six zones, with collection starting on Sept. 17 and continuing every two weeks through the fall. All volunteers will be observing the required precautions to keep them and our donors safe. **More information will be released when plans are finalized.**



The need is especially great during the current coronavirus emergency, so please support your local food bank whenever you can.

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.

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.

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 volunteers hours needed for

MORE COMMUNITY CONTACT

From page 19

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.

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. (Dependent upon provincial COVID-19 requirements for places of worship.)

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. (Dependent upon provincial COVID-19 requirements for group gatherings.)



MAS event to be rescheduled as restrictions ease

As coronavirus mitigation measures continue to reduce the viral threat to Lambton County and Sarnia residents, we are witnessing the cautious science-based reopening of our community. The recent move to Stage 3 has raised hopes that some popular community events and activities may soon be able to restart.

The Moore Agricultural Society's popular beef dinner, which was cancelled in March, is one of the events that may be rescheduled to later this year if the appropriate "gathering restrictions" are approved. Everyone who purchased tickets for the March beef dinner is asked to hold their tickets for a future date, even if it is in 2021. When the date is set, MAS is looking at refunding the ticket price for those who cannot attend.

For more information as the situation changes, watch the **Brigden Fair** website at: www.brigdenfair.ca or the Brigden Fair Facebook page.



Ice cream dream

The hot summer weather we endured in July had a lot of people craving something cold and delicious to eat. Four year-old Weston of Corunna found the answer to his cravings with some cotton candy flavoured ice cream at **Rustic Scoops** on Lyndoch Street.

The generous little boy allowed mom, Jesse Freer, to sample the tasty treat before he made it disappear.

Stevenson photo

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Community compliance is the enemy of COVID-19

The past months have been tough for a lot of people in this township. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic can be seen everywhere you look in the community.

But the meager weapons we've been given to do our part in the fight against this virus have given us the strength to beat it down. Social distancing, attention to hand hygiene, and the use of masks in places where social distancing is not possible have been our allies in this fight. Our willingness to comply with these measures has allowed us to help all of our front line workers, from the cashiers at our stores to the medical professionals who confront the virus first hand.

As the township enters Stage 3 of the reopening process, let's continue to do our part to keep our front liners safe; we'll preserve not only their security, but the security of those we love as well.

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### 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:

### 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.*

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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.

The Beacon is now online only until the COVID-19 emergency ends, but our readers are important to us.

We want to hear from you.

While the emergency continues, The Beacon will be bringing you news and information from your community as well as 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.

*Please observe COVID-19
safety this summer so
we all can enjoy a
Merry Christmas!*



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.

2020 Masters curling event postponed

Attention curling fans. The 2020 Masters curling event slated for the Sarnia Golf and Curling Club on Oct. 20-25 of this year has been postponed until Oct. 19-24, 2021. Ticket refunds and roll-over information is available online at: [ticketscene](https://ticketscene.com) ; [Grand Slam of Curling website](https://www.grandlam.com) ; or [Sarnia Golf and Curling Club](https://www.sarniagolfandcurlingclub.com).

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

