



The St. Clair Township BEACON



THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

Issue 9

Volume 13

September 2020



**Thank you to everyone who is doing
their part to fight COVID-19!**



*Late summer at
Greenhill Gardens*

Greenhill Gardens near Wilkesport is one of the most beautiful places in St. Clair Township throughout the summer season. Although its magnificent lotus pond is now choked with stalks of flower pods, some of the huge flowers are still in bloom. Above: A couple enjoys a late summer stroll through the garden. **See more Gardens, page 14**

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**.

Those who wish to receive **The Beacon** as a free monthly subscription can email beacon@stclairtownship.ca and in the 'Subject' box, type the word "Subscription" to be put on the subscription list.

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MUNICIPAL NOTES

Masks not mandatory but recommended for close or crowded spaces

The use of masks while in public was discussed at the Aug. 17 meeting of council and varying opinions were considered. Masks are already required to be worn in most commercial buildings and all medical offices and sites. However, Deputy Mayor Miller noted that neither the county's Medical Officer of Health or the W.H.O. (World Health Organization) supports a mandatory mask order.

Mayor Arnold pointed out the virus had not been responsible for hospitalization or death in Lambton County for several weeks. And Councillor Rose Atkins, a retired public health nurse, emphasized the importance of 2-metre social distancing and the need for frequent hand washing or sanitizing to prevent contact with the virus.

However, there was general agreement that masks had merit when it was impossible to social distance or when indoors in a space other than your home.

Given the easy transmission of the virus and the uncertainty of when cases of viral infection might increase again, as has been predicted by many notable infectious disease experts, masks worn properly with nose and mouth covered, and made of non-stretch cloth like close-woven cotton (not thin bandanas or single-layer stretch fabric) have been identified as a cautionary measure anyone can take to lessen the chance of being infected.

"There are lots of things to think about," said Mayor Arnold. "Times are changing and we don't know how things will work out in the future."

Masks are especially important to the safety of people over 60, and for people of any age having one or more conditions that make them more vulnerable to infection, such as those with diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, asthma, or COPD.

Cannabis retail stores reconsidered

Council reconsidered a prior decision (by a former council) that rejected the location of cannabis stores in St. Clair Township. The discussion was held in response to several requests from businesses requesting permission to open cannabis retail stores in St. Clair

See More Municipal Notes, 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 St. Clair Township home page, look for the link to the meeting top left side of the page highlighted in blue.

Upcoming meetings include: Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 3 p.m. and Monday, Sept. 21 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

Township.

Concerns were raised over the number of stores that might locate in the township if they are allowed to do so. Mayor Arnold said he would not support a motion to approve the stores unless council was permitted to limit the number of such stores in the township. Staff was asked to find out if the number of shops could be limited.

In a recorded vote, council voted unanimously to not allow cannabis shops in the township, at least until staff reports its findings.

Joint parking plan explored for Lyndoch Street development

The former Rose's Variety property on Lyndoch Street is set to undergo changes that are expected to create parking problems in the parking lot it shares with the OPP and St. Clair Fire Department Emergency Services building to the south.

An online delegation representing the property owner addressed council via Zoom on Aug. 17 to offer solutions aimed at alleviating parking problems in the lot.

The proponent tendered engineering diagrams of the lot showing two parking options using diagonal parking and one way access to enter and exit the lot. A 45-stall lot design used 10-foot wide parking stalls to accommodate the large vehicles and trucks used by the emergency services personnel. A prior proposed lot design had 55 parking spaces that were insufficient to the requirements of the large vehicles.

Both parking plans were deemed inadequate to accommodate the maximum occupancy of both buildings.

The project proposed for the Rose's Variety property includes a real estate office and a law office in the existing building, with a new small detached building behind it.

Council has asked the property owner to work with municipal planners to develop a plan that would offer adequate parking for both buildings. The matter has been tabled until further options and information are presented.

Township logo cannot be modified for individual use

The St. Clair Township logo is the branding symbol that was developed at the turn of the millennium when Moore and Sombra Townships amalgamated, and it has since become synonymous with this community. A request to coun-

cil from the summer residents of Cathcart Park asked that the logo be used on t-shirts and hats they wanted to have made to show the pride they feel for their park. They asked permission to alter the logo to read "Cathcart Park" instead of "St. Clair Township".

Although the basic idea to create souvenir items was well-received by council, it was made clear that the logo was not to be modified in any way.

With this restriction, council approved the use of the logo with the "Cathcart Park" notation printed underneath.

Mayor Arnold commented that the logo is a source of pride for the township and uses such as the one requested by the Cathcart Park summer residents are a good way to promote the township. *Anyone who wishes to use the logo should receive the approval of council before proceeding.*

Openings delayed for museums and community halls

The opening of the Moore Museum, Sombra Museum, and all St. Clair Township community halls has been delayed in the interest of safety until council meets again on Sept. 8. At that time, the COVID-19 situation will be reviewed and reopening will be reconsidered.

Moore Sports Complex "Return to Play Plan" approved

The gradual reopening of the Moore Sports Complex as outlined in an extensive report to council by Kendall Lindsay, Director of Community Services, was approved by council at the Aug. 17 meeting.

The opening is to be carried out in accordance with guidelines from the province, with COVID-19 safety protocols to be observed in every part of the complex.

Examples of the measures being taken to ensure the safety of MSC staff and the public include: masks of cloth or surgical type will be mandatory for use while moving through the facility; floors and benches clearly marked to ensure one-way directional throughout most of the facility; social distancing and limited occupancy in rinks, public areas, change rooms, etc.; one person at a time in washrooms; hockey/ice skating participants should arrive 15 minutes before scheduled ice time; pool capacity limited to 40 people maximum; social distancing to be maintained; rinks will have a maximum capacity of 30 people for hockey and 25 for rentals; no spectators will be allowed during initial phase of reopening; there are no immediate plans to reopen the Mooretown library branch.



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



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





Public Works Department

After hours emergency
~ 519-344-9318 ~

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

Engineering.....519-867-2125

Website..... www.stclairtownship.ca

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

Fax.....519-867-3886

Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street, Mooretown

Water utility appointments require 48 hours notification

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

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

COVID-19 measures in effect

The St. Clair Township Works Department will be 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 5**



Wanted: Crossing guard fill-in

The Township of St. Clair requires a fill-in crossing guard to assist school children crossing in Corunna. The work involves one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon on school days.

The current compensation is \$33.05 per day. This position will be on a "call in" basis and hours will vary widely depending on need.

Please send applications to public-works@twp.stclair.on.ca with 'crossing guard' in the subject line or drop off application in secure drop box at St. Clair Township Civic Centre.

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 (this does not apply to recycling and yard 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.

Public Works Department

Fall Yard Waste/Brush Collection

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 time periods outside of yard waste collection dates, 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.

Fall Yard Waste Collection will begin the week of October 19th, 2020.

Collection Days:

MONDAY

- St Clair Parkway (South of Emily St., Mooretown)
- Brigden, Courtright, Mooretown, Wilkesport
- Sombra, Port Lambton, Chenal Ecarte, Leeland Garden

THURSDAY

- St Clair Parkway (North of Emily St., Mooretown)
- Corunna (including Froomfield)



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.**



**COMING
SOON!**



Public Works is getting Facebook!
Follow us for all the latest updates and notifications. Check out our page at <https://www.facebook.com/stclairtwppw>



YOU'RE INVITED!

**ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP ~ WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
OPEN HOUSE**

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2020

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Wastewater Treatment Plant – 1464 St. Clair Parkway

Come and join us for a BBQ and refreshments at our Wastewater Treatment Plant. Tour the facility and learn more about the new Odour Control upgrades that have recently been completed.

Please call 519-867-2993 for further information.

2020 Hazardous waste collections

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection 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.



County Emergency Control Group advises caution while community reopens

The Lambton County Emergency Control Group recently issued a statement regarding the recent local uptick in positive COVID-19 cases. The increase, attributed to the increase in socialization allowed in the latest stage of the reopening process, indicates the public has been less careful about observing COVID-19 safety measures. Everyone is urged to remain cautious, using proper hand washing and sanitizing, observing social/physical distancing, and wearing a mask when distancing is not possible or in areas where masks are required.

Those who feel ill in any way are asked to stay at home and isolate until the cause of the illness is known.

Symptoms that have been noted with the coronavirus include: fever; shortness of breath; cough; and loss of sense of smell and taste.

The Emergency Control Group also heard concerns about the state of mental health and wellbeing in the community, including the alarming rise in substance abuse. Those who require assistance with any of these issues can obtain information about local resources and supports they can access on line at the [Lambton Public Health](#) website and the [COVID-19 Supports and Resources](#) page of the Lambton County website.

Lambton Public Health releases COVID-19 impact survey results

A recent Lambton Public Health COVID-19 impact survey of Lambton County residents yielded several significant findings about the emotional, social and financial impacts of the pandemic. Lambton's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Sudit Ranade, says the telephone survey, carried out by the Ipsos market research company, provided greater insight into the key challenges being faced locally and revealed the strengths the community has demonstrated in response to the virus.

*Regarding overall community mental health, a primary concern when the pandemic first presented itself, the survey revealed over one in four survey respondents said their mental health had become worse since COVID-19 arrived in Lambton County. *The survey showed that 90

per cent of respondents were observing COVID-19 safety measures, maintaining social distancing and avoiding large gatherings. *About a third of parents sought accommodations for their children at work to allow for their care. *The majority of respondents felt they had adequate access to health care, although 40 per cent noted they had to cancel or postpone appointments because of the virus. *Several groups that were more vulnerable to the impacts of the virus included those who were unemployed, had a lower income, or had mental health issues.

To view the full Lambton Public Health COVID-19 Survey, to online to:

LambtonPublicHealth.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus

Environmental assessment team sifting soil to reveal hidden clues



An environmental assessment team from Stantec Inc. use sifting screens to check soil samples at a site along Kimball Road near Wilkesport. Data acquired from this process will supply information about the environment in that area and also unearth any artifacts that might remain from past habitation of the area. **See inset showing the screening process.** This screening process is also

used at archaeological dig sites and forensic investigation sites to unearth artifacts or gather information.

The study is being done in advance of an Enbridge Pipelines project that will require the temporary placement of a modular building and two temporary modular storage units.

Bonnie Stevenson photos

HERITAGE CORNER

Artifact displays for 2020 bring back simpler times - Moore Museum

Curator Laurie Mason

While we cannot welcome you to the Moore Museum in person until we re-open, we wanted to highlight some interesting artifacts from the museum's collection. Summer students Cassidy Jaques and Gabriella McGregor have selected a few noteworthy items to feature in this column.

Fire Bucket

The earliest type of firefighting equipment in Moore Museum's fire hall is the rounded-bottom fire bucket. This rounded bottom was important for many reasons. In having no flat bottom, the bucket was not able to be set on the ground, but had to be hung, allowing the user to keep easy track of the bucket's location when needed.

The lack of flat bottom also meant that the bucket was unsuited for other tasks so thus was guaranteed to not be in use when needed for a fire. The rounded bottom (see inset right) also allowed for a straighter stream of water to be thrown at the fire because of the angle of the curve. These buckets date back to the days of the bucket brigade, which involved a line of people passing buckets forward in the line and the last man in line throwing the water from the bucket onto the fire.

People generally wrote their family name on the bucket to ensure that it was returned to them after being used by the fire brigade.



Laundry Sprinklers

Before the steam iron was invented, the laundry sprinkler was a necessary tool. By sprinkling water onto the fabric, the heat of the iron created steam to smooth the fabric.

Frequently, these were made using a small metal or plastic piece stuck into an old soft drink or ketchup bottle filled with water. Other laundry sprinklers were made for that purpose and were more decorative.

The two sprinklers pictured here are on display in the laundry exhibit at Moore Museum.

A sprinkler was the best way to lightly spread water on the fabric so the heat of the iron could then steam the clothes and achieve a smoother look. These sprinklers were also handy for watering seedlings or other plants that needed a light drizzle.



'blue lady'
sprinkler



'soda bottle'
sprinkler

DID YOU ATTEND SCHOOL IN THE FORMER MOORE TOWNSHIP PRIOR TO 1963?

Moore Museum is developing another virtual exhibit for our website, this one featuring brief histories and photos of the schools in the former Moore Township prior to centralization in 1963. There were 19 school sections in Moore, four of which were union schools - two shared with Sombra Township and two with Sarnia Township. The accompanying map shows the location of the schools.

If you have information on the history of any of these schools, or photos (or scans of photos) that you would be willing to share with us, we'd love to hear from you. We would appreciate details about any school in the township, but especially School Sections #6, #13 and #19 Moore as our research files contain some information for most of the school sections in the township, but we have no information at all for those three. Information can be sent to lmason@stclairtownship.ca. We look forward to hearing from you!

CONNECT WITH MOORE MUSEUM

We invite you to follow the link on the home page of www.mooremuseum.ca to our online survey. We very much appreciate input from our community and, as a thanks for your assistance, survey respondents will be entered in a draw (to be held on November 13, 2020) to win a 2021 family membership and \$25 gift shop gift certificate. In addition to our website and our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mooremuseum, we are now also on Instagram @mooremuseum so you can watch for news from Moore Museum.

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

MEMORIES OF DAYS PAST: LABOUR-INTENSIVE THRESHING WAS HUNGRY WORK



A threshing machine separates grain from its stalks while the threshing gang work up a hearty appetite keeping the machine supplied with the new harvest.

Moore Museum archive photo

Moore Museum Curator Laurie Mason takes us back to the days before modern agricultural machines, when farming required elbow-grease and sweat powered by a plentiful supply of good country cooking.

"Driving through the country and seeing the golden wheat ready for harvest brings to mind the threshing bees of an earlier time. My mother's family farmed at Waubuno, and my mother (Helen Burr Fournie) and her sisters (Allena and Kathleen Burr) recalled that the threshing gang would travel from farm to farm throughout the district pulling the huge threshing machine with them. The photo above, from Moore Museum's collection, shows the type of machinery and crews involved in the process of threshing grain.

What is not shown in the photo, however, is the basis on which each farm got its turn to have its harvest threshed; it's the quality and quantity of the meals provided by the women on that farm! A wonderful noontime dinner, and supper later in the day, would move that farm up the threshing list. While there is no doubt that threshing was hot, hard work, so too was the making of a huge meal on hot summer days with a wood-burning cookstove. My aunt Allena recalled that, even as a child, she was appalled that the men would have a contest of who could eat the most pie, shoveling in a half or even a whole pie, made through someone's hard work and baking skills, in a single sitting. My husband recalls that his maternal grandmother (Evelyn Wagborne) was helping prepare for a threshing bee at a farm at Invercairn in Plympton Township. She told the woman hosting the meal that they were ready, as they had a pie per man. The hostess replied that they would need double that - two pies per worker for a single day, as well as gargantuan servings of meat, potatoes and vegetables!"

WANTED

PORT LAMBTON

FAMILY

VISITORS

CHURCHES

SCHOOLS

MILITARY

SPORTS

BUILDINGS

NATURE

• **PHOTOS**

• **DOCUMENTS**

• **STORIES**

• **MEMORIES**

• **HISTORICAL
INFORMATION**

• **HISTORICAL
ITEMS**

ORGANIZATIONS

TRANSPORTATION

AGRICULTURE

BUSINESSES

NATURE

**SCOUTING
GUIDING**

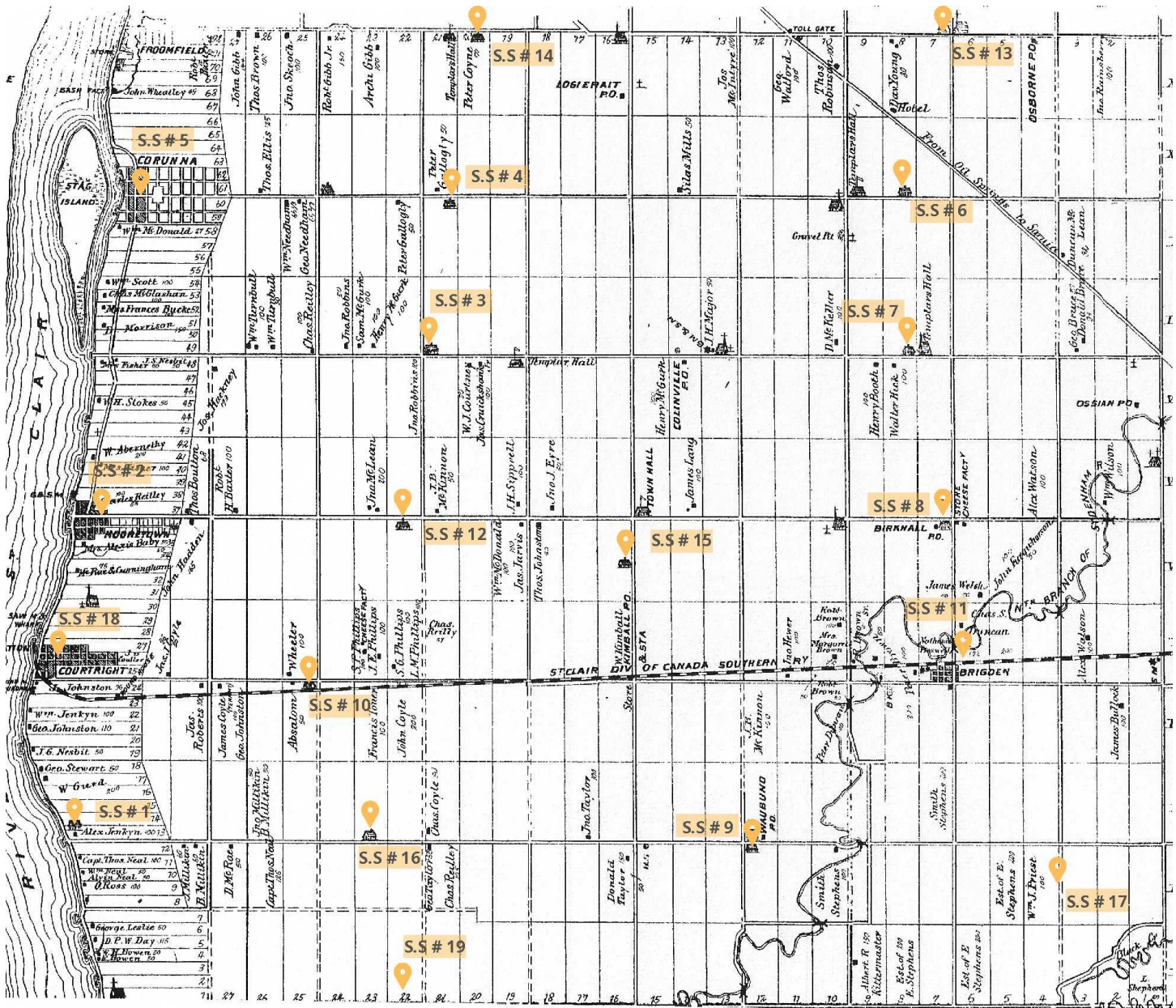
**SOCIAL
ACTIVITIES**

**Photos
still
being
sought**

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, sombramuse-

MORE HERITAGE CORNER

Moore Museum seeks information about history of former Moore Twp. schools



Did you attend a school in the former Moore Township prior to 1963?

Moore Museum is developing another virtual exhibit for our website, this one featuring brief histories and photos of the schools in the former Moore Township prior to centralization in 1963. There were 19 school sections in Moore, four of which were union schools - two shared with Sombra Township and two with Sarnia Township. The map, shown above, indicates the location of these schools.

If you have information on the history of any of these schools, or photos (or scans of photos) that you would be willing to share with us, we'd love to hear from you. We would appreciate details about any school in the township, but especially School Sections #6, #13 and #19 Moore, as our research files contain some information for most of the school sections in the township, but we have no information at all for those three. Information can be sent to lmason@stclairtownship.ca. We look forward to hearing from you!

Connect with Moore Museum

We want to hear from you. Please follow the link on the home page of www.mooremuseum.ca to our online survey. We very much appreciate input from our community and, as a thanks for your assistance, survey respondents will be entered in a draw (to be held on November 13, 2020) to win a 2021 family membership and \$25 gift shop gift certificate. In addition to our website and our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mooremuseum, we are now also on Instagram @mooremuseum so you can watch for news from Moore Museum.

~Laurie Mason, curator, Moore Museum

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

St. Clair River watercraft - from the sublime to the ridiculous



Summer tends to bring out the whimsy in some people, while others yearn for more serious fun on the water. No matter what kind of floating you choose to do, there's a watercraft for that. This wild mixture of fun floats, personal water craft and a 740-foot freighter was seen south of Port Lambton near Brander Park.

Stevenson photo

Express Yourself

The Good Neighbour
COVID-19 project

Summer scenes in Brander Park

The parks are open and Brander Park has been a busy place with people making up for lost time in the outdoors.

Top right: *A shady tree and a warm river breeze provide the perfect place to picnic. **Middle right:** * Erin Hill of Wallaceburg is happy to enjoy the shade with her sleepy four month-old daughter, Addison, while keeping a careful eye on her other children while they splash and squeal with excitement at the splash pad, **below left.** **Below:** *Families enjoy the sunshine and the occasional sight of a freighter like the Algoma Mariner passing by.



Stevenson photos

EXPRESS YOURSELF HERE

While the coronavirus is still circulating 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, 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

Special early food bank collection in Ward 2

Sacred Heart Food Bank Annual Food Drive

Non-Perishable items needed:

- canned goods • non-perishable food items
- personal hygiene items



“Home Pick-up”

Volunteers will safely accept donations of
food items and personal hygiene items
each of the five dates listed on this flyer.

1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

on the date indicated for your Zone

**Please check expiry dates.*

*Please leave donated items on your porch
or at the end of your driveway before 1 p.m.*

“Drop Off Opportunity”

Drop donated items on any
of the five dates listed below at
Port Lambton Anglican Church
at the corner of
Lambton Line and Merritt Street
(tent will be set up)

Cheques can be mailed to
Sacred Heart Food Bank, c/o Claudette Johnston
243 Lambton Line, Port Lambton, ON N0P 2B0

ZONE 1 – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH – 1PM TO 3PM

1. Kimball Road - Bickford Line to Bentpath Line
2. St. Clair Parkway - Bickford Line to Bentpath Line
3. Stanley Line
4. White Line
5. Wilkesport Line & Village of Wilkesport
6. Bentpath Line

ZONE 2 – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH – 1PM TO 3PM

1. Kimball Road - Bentpath Line to Holt Line
2. St. Clair Parkway - Smith Line to Holt Line
3. All Sombra Village

ZONE 3 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH – 1PM TO 3PM

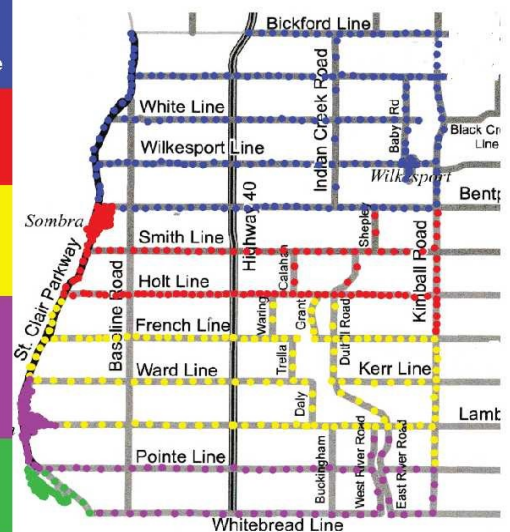
1. Kimball Road - Holt Line to Pointe Line
2. St. Clair Parkway - Holt Line to French Line Incl. Leeland Gardens
3. French Line
4. Ward Line
5. Lambton Line to Salisbury Street

ZONE 4 – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH – 1PM TO 3PM

1. Kimball Road - Pointe Line to Whitebread Line
2. St. Clair Parkway - Ward Line to Point Line
3. Village of Port Lambton (North of Brander Park)
4. Ward Line
5. Pointe Line
6. Whitebread Line

ZONE 5 – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND – 1PM TO 3PM

1. Village of Port Lambton (South of Brander Park)
2. Chenal Ecarte Area
3. St. Clair Parkway - Pointe Line to Whitebread Line



**Sacred Heart
FOOD BANK**

For information contact:

Frank Johnston - 519-677-5328

Claudette Johnston - 519-677-5609

Financial Donations will receive charitable receipt.

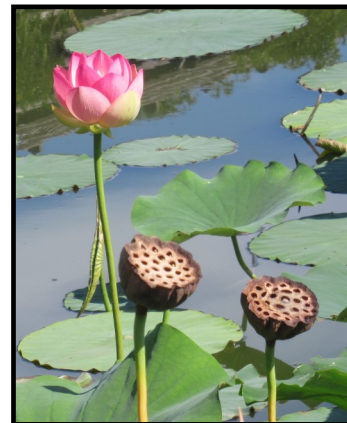


Late summer at Greenhill Gardens offers food for the soul

Greenhill Gardens west of Wilkesport is a natural treasure where there is food for the soul just waiting to be discovered. The brainchild of Joy and Bill Robson of Sombra, the garden began modestly in 2008, when the couple decided to convert a six-acre piece of swampy agricultural land at the corner of Wilkesport Line and Indian Creek Road. Over a period of years, the garden was expanded to include water features, bridges, cabins, benches, magnificent plantings, and places to pause and take in the scenery. It was Joy Robson's idea to create the garden as a way of giving back to the community.

One of the stunning examples of Greenhill Gardens' varied and unique selection of flowers, shrubs and water features is the lotus pond. A pond full of these exquisite giant water lilies blooms each summer and, as the season winds down, the plants drop thousands of seeds to the bottom of the pond to germinate the following year. Some of the late-blooming lotus flowers, as well as hundreds of seed pods, are currently on display at the garden.

The lotus flower is not only a beautiful thing to see, it has a history that extends back over 1,300 years. It is revered in many countries, including India and China.



Right: Lotus in full bloom. Above: Lotus flower blooming, with seed pods, lower right.

Stevenson photos



Greenhill Gardens boasts a number of breathtaking vistas that can be enjoyed all summer long.

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)

Email: beacon@stclairtownship.ca to subscribe—FREE!

Just type the word 'Subscription' in the Subject line



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.



Provincial Smoke-Free Ontario Act Amendment to protect youth from vaping

The provincial Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017 (SFOA, 2017) has been strengthened to include new restrictions on vaping, with the goal of reducing the appeal and access to these products by under-age youth.

The new restrictions include: restricting the sale of flavoured vaping products to specialty stores (SVS) and licensed cannabis retail stores. Other retail stores will only be allowed to sell mint and menthol flavoured vapour products, along with the conventional tobacco products; restricting the sale of vapour products with high nicotine concentrations (greater than 20 mg/ml) to SVS; SVS will not be permitted to have indoor displays and promotions that are visible from outside the stores.



Vaping is not a ‘safe’ substitute for cigarettes. Research has shown that youth are particularly vulnerable to the effects of nicotine, which causes nicotine dependence and alters brain development. High nicotine concentration products have doses of this component similar to cigarettes. Youth who use vaping products are more likely to advance to using tobacco later on. The SFOA, 2017 is enforced by Lambton Public Health enforcement officers who conduct inspections and provide education to ensure that retailers comply with the law. For more information or to report concerns, contact 519-383-3810 or go online to the website at: tobaccofree@county-lambton.on.ca and for more about smoking and vaping laws, visit LambtonPublicHealth.ca

Children’s Aid Society ensures that “Kids Matter”

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

Autumn harvesting and land prep a common sight



This is a common sight along most of the rural roads in Ontario these days. In St. Clair Township, the heavy machinery is out in full force as harvesting and land preparation for future crops keeps local farmers occupied. This cultivator was spotted while on a drive down Kimball Road.

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 want to

play your number on any given week and your number is drawn, the money from that draw 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/>



Friends of the St. Clair photo contest “Celebrating the St. Clair” underway

The Friends of the St. Clair (FOSCR) and the St. Clair River Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) are inviting all amateur digital photographers in Canada and the United States to focus on the majestic St. Clair River this summer. The goal is to capture images of how an appreciation of nature has provided some relief from the stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Celebrating the St. Clair During Stressful Times is the theme of this third digital photography contest organized by FOSCR since 2006. Organizers hope the contest will raise awareness and appreciation for this beautiful body of water just steps from our door. It can also provide some fun and motivation that will help cope with this stressful time in our community.

Contestants may submit a maximum of three photographs in three categories:

- **Our Wonderful Waterway:** a focus on the St. Clair River’s natural features including: water, flora, fish, and wildlife.
- **Floating Away:** a tribute to the St. Clair River’s benefits to residents and tourists for recreation, transportation, and commerce.
- **Digital Perspectives:** an opportunity for digital editors to add an artistic touch and present a new perspective of the St. Clair River during the current

pandemic.

The contest will continue until September 26, 2020, when a panel of judges will select the winning photos. Cash prizes totalling \$3,000 will be awarded.

For complete contest rules and details, please visit the FOSCR website at: www.friendsofstclair.ca.

Photos can be submitted to this website as well.

All entries must include the photographer’s name, address, and phone number.

File size cannot exceed five megabytes. Photographers will receive credit for photos used in FOSCR and BPAC materials to promote greater public awareness of environmental conditions on the St. Clair River.

Submitted photos will be posted in a special “Celebrating the St. Clair” photo gallery on the FOSCR website shortly after they are received and for the duration of the contest.

Stag Island sunset



Friends of the St. Clair

The Friends of the St. Clair is an all-volunteer Canadian charitable organization that assists the St. Clair River Binational Public Advisory (BCAP) in the development and implementation of the St. Clair River Remedial Action Plan by promoting conservation, beautification, and environmental activities associated with the St. Clair River.

Binational Public Advisory Council

The Binational Public Advisory Committee consists of citizens living in the U.S. and Canada who are concerned about the health of the St. Clair River. Collectively, BPAC members represent all society sectors. BPAC formed in 1988 after environmental degradation caused the International Joint Commission, a binational Great Lakes advisory agency, to “list” the St. Clair River as an Area of Concern (AOC). BPAC’s role is to help implement a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) that is doing much to improve the quality of the St. Clair River. BPAC also elicits citizen involvement and advises governments about environmental issues within the St. Clair River watershed.

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, first signed by Canada and the United States in 1972 and updated in 1978, 1987, and 2012, commits both countries to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes. The agreement set out 14 Beneficial Use Impairments (BUI) to assess the status of the OACs. BUIs are common uses or features of the river that were significantly impacted by pollution or that degraded environmental quality. They included several items that adversely impact fish and wildlife populations; address undesirable algae growth; adversely affect drinking water, agriculture, or industry; and degrade desirable flora and fauna and their habitats.

“Industries, all levels of government, First Nations, and local landowners must be commended for their efforts to improve the overall quality of the St. Clair River,” said FOSCR President Craig Griffiths, who added the efforts of these groups, plus organizations like the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, FOSCR, and BPAC will soon allow the river to be reclassified as an Area in Recovery.

De-stress like a goat?



If you’re fed up with the troubles of the world, take a ride out in the country and find out how the animals chill. If you’re a goat, you eat a nice patch of pasture and follow that up with a nice romp through the tall grass.

If you’re human, and if you eat a bag of chips or left-overs from the fridge and follow that up with a nice nap, try this kind of “goat yoga” instead.

Walk along the beautiful St. Clair River Trail, romp along your favourite forest trail, or take a stroll through your own neighbourhood.

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. See page 13 for further details.

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 for food and personal hygiene items continues for many St. Clair Township families throughout the year.

Please donate whenever you can.

Well water safety remains a concern during high water levels

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

MORE COMMUNITY CONTACT

From page 18
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 re-

quirements 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.

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

BEACON BITS

"All the great things are simple,
and many can be expressed in a
single word: freedom, justice,
honour, duty, mercy, hope."

~Winston Churchill

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](http://ticketscene.com); [Grand Slam of Curling website](http://GrandSlamofCurling.com); or [Sarnia Golf and Curling Club](http://SarniaGolfandCurlingClub.com).

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

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 continues opening during the Stage 3 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.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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.*

~ ~ ~

Bluewater Anglers membership mtg. cancelled

The general membership meeting of the Bluewater Anglers, planned for Sept. 15, has been cancelled for safety reasons due to COVID-19.

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

*Please observe COVID-19
safety recommendations -
Do your part to help banish
the virus from our community.*



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.

In spite of virus, life goes on



Momma robin's hungry offspring left her no time to worry about the coronavirus; she and her mate worked non-stop to meet the demands of their twin hatchlings.

Bonnie Stevenson photo

