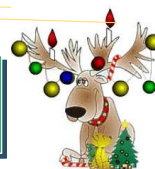




The St. Clair Township BEACON



Discoveries
That Matter

THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

Issue 12

Volume 13

December 2020



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Looking in the windows of the buildings at the Moore Museum site these days is like looking through a portal to another time. COVID-19 may be keeping the museum closed, but within the out buildings, there are scenes that speak of Christmases long ago. When you're in the mood for a walk through the past, go window-gazing at the Moore Museum and enjoy the charming scenes museum staff and volunteers have prepared. The photo above shows one of the many window scenes they have created for holiday visitors.

Photo courtesy of Moore Museum

Beacon online ONLY due to COVID-19

Those who wish to receive *The Beacon* as a free monthly subscription can email:
beacon@stclairtownship.ca

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MUNICIPAL NOTES

How will I carry all
this vaccine...
ELVES!
WE'RE GOING TO
NEED A
BIGGER SLEIGH!



Fine for fireworks - Bylaw #50

By-law #50 of 2020, known as the Fireworks Bylaw, was formally passed by council on Sept. 20 of this year. Anyone guilty of an offence against the bylaw is subject to a penalty under the Provincial Offences Act. However, the bylaw did not stipulate set fines for these offences, so fines could not be determined by a bylaw officer of St. Clair Township. Township staff determined the most suitable approach would be to set fines that township officials could cite when issuing fines to bylaw violators. These fines are approved by the Attorney General's office.

Council approved the set fines at its Nov. 16 meeting. Further, township bylaw enforcement officers, as well as the OPP and fire department members who are trained to enforce the bylaw, can now issue tickets under the new bylaw. Residents who use fireworks are asked to familiarize themselves with Bylaw #50 of 2020, since ignorance of its requirements will not be accepted in defence of a violation. The bylaw has been enacted to ensure fireworks are used safely and at appropriate times only.

See More Municipal Notes, page 3

COVID-19 protocols remain in place

Lambton health officials understand everyone is growing tired of the COVID-19 protocols the community has observed in the past months, but the virus is still active in Lambton County and it will NOT be taking time off to celebrate the holidays.

Please continue to practice COVID-19 prevention protocols and limit indoor celebration attendance. The virus spreads easily indoors, especially in buildings that are poorly ventilated.

Our front-line health care workers deserve time to spend with their families; we can give them that time by making sure we do our best to avoid becoming infected.

If you experience symptoms such as fever, persistent cough, and difficulty breathing, or if you have been exposed to someone has tested positive, please self-isolate immediately and be tested. See page 14 for more information.



Pheasant/rabbit hunting licenses on sale

The Township of St. Clair pheasant/rabbit hunting licenses are on sale now until Feb. 28, 2021. They will be available at the following locations: Corunna Home Hardware; Agris Co-operative Ltd., Brigidon; St. Clair Civic Centre, Mooretown.

The fees will be \$5.00 for a resident license and \$8.00 for a non-resident license.

Applicants must apply in person and multiple licenses will not be issued.

Jeff Baranek
Director of Administration/Clerk
Deputy C.A.O.

Council Meeting Schedule

All regular public council meetings will be held online via ZOOM until the COVID-19 threat has subsided enough to allow public gatherings. However, the public may view these meetings online by going onto the township website at: www.stclairtownship.ca. On the St. Clair Township home page, look for a link to the meeting, top of the page. The link is added just before the meeting is slated to begin.

Upcoming meetings include: Monday, Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 21 at 3 p.m.

St. Clair Township offices at the Civic Centre in Mooretown will remain closed to the public during council meetings. Opening will be considered on a meeting-to-meeting basis until it is safe to reopen the facility. Anyone wishing to contact the municipality can call 519-867-2021 for further information.

Winter Parking by-law

The winter parking by-law will be in effect beginning on Dec. 1, 2020. Under this by-law, it is against the law to leave vehicles of any kind parked on public streets and roads overnight from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. The by-law ensures that snow removal crews can do their jobs efficiently and safely without being hampered by parked cars.

PLEASE NOTE: All boats and trailers parked in laneways **MUST** be set back at least to the front yard set back of the zone in which you reside. In Corunna and all built-up areas, any trailer or boat **MUST** be a minimum of six (6) metres setback from the property line through April 1, 2021.

Property owners are also reminded that it is against the law to shovel snow out onto public streets and roads. These snow piles create dangerous obstacles that can contribute to needless vehicle collisions and mishaps.



Pay taxes and water online

Ratepayers now have the option to pay their taxes or water bills 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.



More MUNICIPAL NOTES

From page 2

Road condition assessment

Council has approved funding for the use of a new road condition evaluation system that will yield more precise information about the state of the township's road infrastructure.

The first assessment in 2014 was done by "windshield" assessment, with evaluators driving along every road in the township and visually assessing the condition of each one using a standard criteria. A report by the township's Coordinator of Engineering, Paul DaSilva, described this process as "highly subjective". He noted that affordable and more accurate road assessment services had been offered to the township by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in partnership with a company called *Streetscan*.

Using vehicles specially equipped with an automated, laser-based evaluation system, Streetscan employs precise evaluation criteria to objectively assess each road. "The electronic process makes for a consistent evaluation every time...the information dumps directly into our Cartegraph system so it's a little more automated, a little quicker to get the information as well as, time over time. It's more consistent in the way it assesses the roads," said Brian Black, Director of Public Works.

Information gathered by the new system will provide Council with a better overview of the township's road infrastructure, allowing a more targeted approach to future capital planning.

Pedestrian crossing at Queen and Hill Streets

In response to letters of support for a pedestrian crossing at Hill Street and Queen/Nash intersection, council has asked staff to consult with Lambton County to see if the project is feasible. Hill Street/Petrolia Line is a county road and is maintained by the county. Council will be informed of the outcome when the county has considered the matter.



Mayor's Christmas Greeting

2020 has been a difficult time for many of us, but as we approach the Christmas season, it offers all of us promise and hope for new beginnings.

Please take the time to count all of our many blessings living here in St. Clair Township. On behalf of your Council and Staff of St. Clair Township, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy, and prosperous 2021.

Mayor Steve Arnold



COVID-19 protocols observed during Remembrance Day service

The Royal Canadian Legion Br. 447 found a way to honour our Canadian service men and women in a solemn service even though the usual public attendance had to be discouraged due to the pandemic. Here, leading the small group in prayer, is Padre Paul Woolley. Insets include, from top left: Piper Tom Rankin; Canadian Aboriginal Veteran Shawn Osborne, Gray and Simcoe Foresters, 'A' Company; and bugler Greg Robbins.

Bonnie Stevenson photos

Need a flu shot?

The need for a flu shot has never been more important. Although it won't protect you from the coronavirus, it may help you avoid the complications that can arise if COVID-19 and the seasonal flu simultaneously infect an individual.

Flu shots are available at pharmacies, Lambton Public Health, or your doctor's office. **Please don't put it off.**



Public Works Department

After hours emergency
~ 1-888-441-4204 ~

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 2020 requires at least 48 hours notice in advance of scheduling appointments with the Public Works Department, to avoid service fees.

COVID-19 measures still 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 closure - 2020 November

Please be advised that the Holt Line bridge over the Sydenham River will be closed until rehabilitation is completed. Please find alternate routes.



Clear the road!

All homeowners are reminded to clear recreational sports equipment (e.g. basketball nets, goalie nets, etc.) off and away from roads and streets. This includes sports nets that are located on the street surface and near the back of the curb. A verbal and/or written warning will be issued to homeowners with sports nets on or near the road.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

If sports nets are not removed, all equipment will be collected by the Public Works Department and stored at the Public Works Operational Centres

Christmas Waste and Recycling Collection 2020

If your regular waste collection is Friday, December 25, collection will be on Monday, Dec. 28.

For waste collection on Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, collection will be Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.

All other collection days remain the same. Christmas Tree Collection will be Monday, Jan. 11, 2021.



PUBLIC WORKS IS NOW LIVE ON FACEBOOK!

Follow or like our page for all the latest updates and notifications. Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/stclairtwppw>



*Wishing Everyone a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
~ From All of Us at Public Works ~*

Please support your local food bank and Christmas hamper program

Public Works Department

FROZEN WATER METERS AND PIPES

Preventative:

It's that time of year again! With the winter weather around the corner, your home is at risk of frozen water meters and pipes. This can stop your flow of water and may be costly to repair. Property owners are responsible for protecting water pipes and meters from damage. Here are a few tips to help prevent frozen water meters and pipes:

- Eliminate cold drafts near water pipes
- Turn off service to external water taps
- Insulate your pipes that are most prone to freezing
- Make frequent use of your water supply
- Know where your shut off valve is inside, in case a pipe bursts

If you suspect your pipes are frozen check the following:

- Most likely the pipes near an outside wall, or where the water service enters the house through a foundation wall are frozen. Start by opening a faucet near the frozen pipe to avoid a burst line, when water starts flowing.
- NEVER use a blowtorch or open flame to thaw a line.
- Begin by warming the pipes using a blow dryer, heating pad or portable heater (Do not leave electrical devices unattended or place near flammable materials)
- Once water starts flowing, allow a small stream of water to continue until heating is restored
- Eliminate drafts and allow heat to circulate to avoid refreezing

Water Department

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
519-867-2128

After Hours Emergency: 1-888-441-4204

Renovation and Home Ownership programs continue to accept applications

The County of Lambton continues to accept applications for the Lambton Renovates and Homeownership Down-Payment Assistance programs. Lambton Renovates is a one-time financial assistance program for home repairs, and the Homeownership Down-Payment program offers one-time financial assistance in the form of a 20-year forgivable loan for a 10% down payment to be used towards the purchase of a new or resale home.

"Both the Lambton Renovates and Homeownership Down-Payment Assistance programs offer a unique funding opportunity to eligible Lambton County residents," says Mackenzie Kada, Project Coordinator.

Applications can be downloaded at lambtononline.ca/lambtonrenovates and lambtononline.ca/homeownership. Interested applicants can also call the Housing Services Department at 519-344-2062 to request a paper application by mail.

The Lambton Renovates program offers financial assistance to eligible households in one of two ways:

- One-time assistance in the form of a 10-year forgivable loan, secured by registration on title, for home repairs to a maximum of \$20,000 per household.
- One-time assistance in the form of a grant, which does not require repayment, for accessibility improvements to a maximum of \$5,000 per household.

Eligible repairs under the Lambton Renovates program may include major repairs and rehabilitation required to make your home safe while improving energy efficiency, or modifications to increase accessibility.

The Homeownership Down-Payment Assistance program offers financial assistance to eligible households living in rental accommodations. The program offers one-time assistance in the form of a 20-year forgivable loan, secured by registration on title, for a 10% down payment to be used towards the purchase of an affordable new or resale home.

Applicants for these programs must meet a number of qualifications related to residency, income, asset level and home value, which can be found online at lambtononline.ca/lambtonrenovates and lambtononline.ca/homeownership.



Township of St. Clair

Public Works Operations

Full-Time 'Operations Water/ Wastewater' Staff

The Township of St. Clair is seeking a proactive energetic individual for the Public Works Operations Department.

Principal responsibilities for this position include all regular operation, maintenance and repair functions of the Public Works Department requiring both manual labour and the operation of equipment.

Qualifications will include Grade 12 diploma, valid Class A-Z Ontario driver's license, Class II Water Distribution System Operator License, and Class II Wastewater Collection System Operator License. Preferred experience relating to the operation and maintenance of: water distribution systems, wastewater collection systems, storm water collection systems, municipal road systems, snow plowing, heavy equipment and commercial vehicle operation. Good verbal and written communication skills, the ability to deal with the public in a courteous and professional manner, mechanical aptitude and computer skills are required. "After hours" work will be required. Compensation will be in accordance with OPSEU Local 123 Collective Agreement. Only those candidates selected for interview will be contacted.

Applications clearly marked Full Time "Operations Water/Wastewater" may be submitted in person or by mail, facsimile or e-mail until:

4:00 p.m., Friday, December 4th, 2020

St. Clair Civic Centre
1155 Emily Street
Mooretown, Ontario
N0N 1M0
Fax: 519-867-3886

Chris Westbrook
Coordinator of Operations Water/Wastewater
Phone: 519-867-2993
pwresumes@stclairtownship.ca

Personal information submitted will be used for the sole purpose of this competition. It is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for employment purposes.

Please note this document is available in alternative formats upon request, to accommodate individuals with a disability beginning with the recruitment process. The Township of St. Clair is committed to providing accommodations for people with disabilities. If you require an accommodation, please contact the Clerk's office and we will make all necessary arrangements to meet your needs.



Township of St. Clair
Public Works Operations
Temporary 'Operations Water' Staff

The Township of St. Clair is seeking a proactive energetic individual for the Public Works Operations Department.

Principal responsibilities for this position include all regular operation, maintenance and repair functions of the Public Works Department requiring both manual labour and the operation of equipment.

Qualifications will include Grade 12 diploma, valid Class A-Z Ontario driver's license, Class II Water Distribution System Operator License, and Class II Wastewater Collection System Operator License. Preferred experience relating to the operation and maintenance of: water distribution systems, wastewater collection systems, storm water collection systems, municipal road systems, snow plowing, heavy equipment and commercial vehicle operation. Good verbal and written communication skills, the ability to deal with the public in a courteous and professional manner, mechanical aptitude and computer skills are required. Compensation will be in accordance with OPSEU Local 123 Collective Agreement. Only those candidates selected for interview will be contacted.

Applications clearly marked "Temporary Operations Water" may be submitted in person or by mail, facsimile or e-mail until:

4:00 p.m., Friday December 4th, 2020

St. Clair Civic Centre
1155 Emily Street
Mooretown, Ontario
N0N 1M0
Fax: 519-867-3886

Chris Westbrook
Coordinator of Operations Water/Wastewater
Phone: 519-867-2993
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St. Clair Fire Department offers safety tips for the holidays

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Fire can happen anywhere, at any time, it most often strikes when we let our guard down; when we're distracted by the hustle and bustle of the holidays; by our cellphones; by the kids; or by the doorbell. All it takes is for a pot to be left on the stove, or a candle left burning unattended, and a family's holiday celebrations can turn into a tragedy.

St. Clair Fire would like to remind you that working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms save lives. Install smoke alarms on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas. For added protection, install smoke alarms inside the bedroom(s) and garage. CO alarms are required outside all bedrooms if your home has a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace or attached garage. Test your smoke and CO alarms every month and install new batteries if needed.

Enjoy a fire safe holiday season by following these tips:

- Always stay in the kitchen when something is cooking on the stove.
- Place lit candles away from anything that can burn and out of the reach of children and pets where they can't be knocked over. Remember to snuff out candles before leaving the room or going to bed. Consider using battery-operated or electric flameless candles.
- Drink responsibly. Attempting to cook or smoke while under the influence of alcohol is too often a contributing factor in fatal fires.
- Make sure the base of any real Christmas tree is immersed in water at all times, to prevent them from getting too dry.
- Check all sets of decorative lights before putting them up and discard any sets that are damaged.



EMERGENCIES HAPPEN! Are you ready for them? Don't wait to find out what you SHOULD have done to get through one. Do you have an adequate supply of daily medications, water, flashlights, food, pet supplies, baby supplies...etc.? Go online to: www.getprepared.ca and get all the information you need.

Small business relief fund now available

On Oct. 21, the federal government announced an investment of \$12 million in support of the Canada United Small Business Relief Fund.

Small businesses comprise the heart of any community. Their success is critical to helping Canada recover from COVID-19 and it is essential to the nation's economic strength.

Canadian small businesses can learn more and apply for the grant online.

To get started, go to:

<https://occ.ca/canada-united-small-business-relief-fund/>

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY - PLEASE SHOP LOCAL



Sarnia library expands contactless curbside pickup service, limited theatre use

As of Nov. 12, the Lambton County expanded its contactless curbside pickup service to the Sarnia Library. However, public access to the library for computer use, wi-fi use, and academic study will not yet be permitted until the HVAC system is replaced.

The rental of the Sarnia Library Theatre will be permitted and can be reserved by individuals and community organizations for digital recording and the broadcast of live performances, as well as practice and instructional purposes. This may include other associated space like dressing rooms, but audiences will not be permitted. To reserve the theatre, call 519-337-3291, ext. 5902 or email: sarniatheatreroombookings@county-lambton.on.ca. Bookings must be accompanied with an attendance list at the time of arrival, clearly listing the name and contact number of each person (for contact tracing purposes). **Everyone attending the library building must self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms before entering and remain at home if symptoms are present, and all COVID-19 safety protocols will be observed within the building. More information for theatre use can be found at: www.lclibrary.ca/theatre.**

NOELLE'S GIFT SUPPORTS STUDENT NUTRITION PROGRAM

Noelle's Gift Foundation recently donated \$14,000 to the Ontario Student Nutrition Program-Lambton (OSNP-Lambton) in support of 38 schools that provide much-needed food to over 7,400 Lambton students each day. The cost to give a child a healthy snack is \$1 per day, with base funding of 12 cents per child coming from the Ontario Student Nutrition Program. For more information, contact Leslie Palimaka at 519-383-8331, ext. 3011 or toll-free at 1-800-667-1839.

Donation points the way with a sure sign of Christmas

Operation Christmas Tree (OCT) is a well-known part of the holiday season in Ward 1 of St. Clair Township. An OCT collection centre has always been available to those who wish to donate to families in need who are served by the program. However, sometimes, it's difficult to find the donation drop-off centre which has, for the past several years, been located in the Emergency Services building at the corner of Lyndoch and Hill Streets.

To remedy this situation, a sturdy, reusable new sign has been designed by Tracy and Derek Manchester of Dynamic Graffix Signs and More, Corunna, to highlight the drop-off centre's location.

Tracy says the most difficult part of the design and execution of the sign came when it was time to find a suitable red ink to use. "They all seemed to be too orange," she said. The pair eventually found a true red and the sign now graces the lawn on the Hill Street side of the Emergency Services building. "We were happy to find beautiful graphics and colours to represent this amazing organization," she said.

The sign was funded by a donation from EXIT Realty Twin Bridges. Company representative Nicole Smith commented that, in keeping with the company's community-oriented approach, it was an honour to support Operation Christmas Tree with the donation of the sign. This is the first year the company has participated in the OCT effort.

OCT President Stan Marsh expressed gratitude to Dynamic Graffix and EXIT Realty Twin Bridges for the donation of the sign, noting it will be helpful in guiding donors, volunteers and those in need who depend on Operation Christmas Tree to the collection and registration site.



Admiring the newly-erected sign are: Tracy Manchester of Dynamic Graffix Signs in Corunna; Nicole Smith of EXIT Realty Twin Bridges; and Stan Marsh, president of Operation Christmas Tree for the Optimist Club of Moore.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Sacred Heart Food Bank accepting donations year 'round

The early Sacred Heart Food Bank home pick-up effort that recently wrapped up proved to be a disappointment to organizers and volunteers who took part in it.

Food bank spokesperson Claudette Johnston believes the pandemic had a lot to do with this year's food drive. She added about 65 families are depending on the food bank this Christmas season, so donations are still being accepted. Canned goods, non-perishable food items and personal hygiene products for both men and women will be greatly appreciated, and financial donations are needed to purchase the fresh food items needed to round out the Christmas hampers.

Items can be dropped off at the Port Lambton Anglican Church, corner of Lambton Line and Merritt Street. Cheques can be mailed to: Sacred

Heart Food Bank, c/o Claudette Johnston, 243 Lambton Line, Port Lambton, Ont., N0P 2B0. Charitable receipts will be issued for donations over \$20.

Claudette says the food bank operates 12 months of the year and is especially grateful for donations during the COVID-19 pandemic because the need is greater than ever.

Please support your local food bank and make Christmas brighter for those in need.



**Wishing everyone a
blessed Christmas
and a
Happy, Healthy New Year!**



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

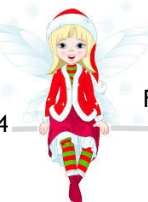
3926 St. Clair Parkway, Port Lambton, 519-892-3151

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.

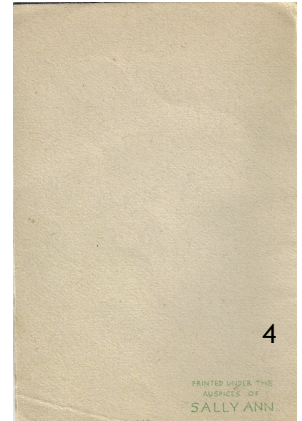
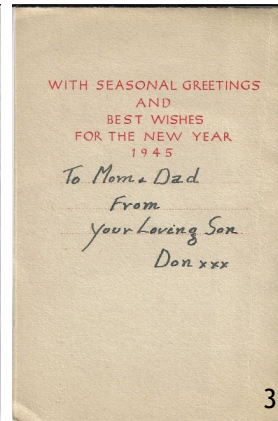
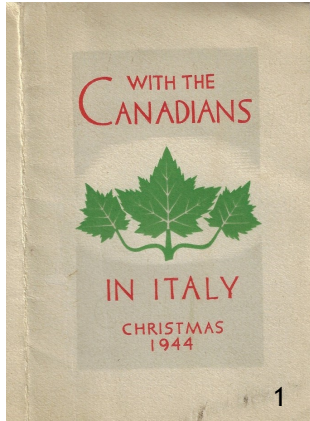
HERITAGE CORNER

MOORE MUSEUM PRESENTS WAR TIME GIFT MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD

As 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, a wartime Christmas memory seems fitting. The accompanying card was sent home by Don MacDermid, who served as a trooper in Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. The back of the card indicates it was "Printed under the auspices of Sally Ann" (the Salvation Army).

Salvation Army Christmas Card

Right: This Christmas card is displayed, left to right, in the page order



it would have been read by the grateful loved ones and friends who would have received it. We can only imagine what a wonderful Christmas gift this would have been for the parents who waited and worried about their son, Don, while he was overseas fighting in a distant war.

MOORE MUSEUM INVITES YOU TO LOOK IN ON CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

When December arrives in a normal year, Moore Museum's main building, log cabin and one-room school-house are all decked out in holiday splendor, as busloads of school children arrive to marvel at the sights and to participate in a taffy pull. But, of course, this is not a normal year, so no busses filled with children will be arriving. Since the Museum remains closed, we cannot share the season with you in person, but we still wanted to bring some holiday spirit to our community.

And so, Christmas is now on the outside - peer into the windows of some of the historic buildings on-site to view the decorations, or stroll through the museum grounds in the evening to enjoy the lights of the gazebo.

(Just remember, if we do get some of the "white stuff", walk carefully as walkways are not cleared). We hope that this will provide opportunities for family memory-making and photo-taking. If you have photos you are sharing on social media, be sure to tag [#mooremuseum](#) so that we are also able to enjoy them.

Curator Laurie Mason

Moore Museum gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the community

Moore Museum gratefully acknowledges the community-minded industries, businesses, organizations and individuals who have supported the ongoing heritage preservation and programming activities of the museum as well as sponsored specific projects:

- Ruby Bailey - in memory of Paul Bailey
- Moore Community & Recreational Foundation - purchase of a wall-mount display case
- Lambton Mutual Insurance Company
- ARLANXEO Canada Inc.
- Bruce & Margaret MacPherson
- Susan, Scott and Laurie Shaw
- donation in memory of Reta Walton
- Sally Townsend - in memory of Eva Dalrymple
- Alice Gibb

**Merry Christmas and
may your 2021
be safe and happy.
From Moore Museum staff**



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 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, sombramuseum@hotmail.com

Sombra Museum seeks information to document COVID-19 era

Please help the Sombra Museum preserve memories of this sad time in our history.

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:
sombramuseum@hotmail.com with the subject line
"COVID-19 History Snapshot".

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

Take care and be well.

~Kailyn Shepley, curator, Sombra Museum

A FROOMFIELD CHRISTMAS, 1890

[Note: Froomefield and Froomfield are both spellings seen in various writings. While Froomefield is the more generally accepted one, Froomfield is used here as in the original from 1948]

This excerpt is from J. M. Warwick's article "Froomfield Christmas, 1890" which appeared in the *Sarnia Canadian Observer* as part of the Lambton Centennial Series in 1948/49. It describes the Christmas feast of the family of James and Mary Ann (Major) Warwick at Froomfield in 1890:

"There was Christmas turkey (and not just one); there was goose, and duck and chicken; to say noth-



ing of the roast beef of Old England and a roasted ham; there were jelloes and jellies of all colors, and celery and radishes and pickles (how many varieties have long been forgotten). There were mince pies and fruit cake, and plum puddings, and nuts and oranges and candies. Two tables were set; one for the grown Warwicks, and the other for the growing and half-grown members of the family.

It was more fun to eat at the latter, for the waitresses were a bevy of aunts and aunts by marriage, and the little grandmother herself with a skirt that swept the ground, hovering over the small fry to see that each one got his share and lots of it. There was another meal at night when young stomachs were empty again after the walk to Christ Church, Corunna, and the skating on the creek."

~Courtesy Moore Museum archives

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

Port Lambton 200th anniversary marked by tree plantings and kindness



Left: Preparing to plant a basswood tree during the Nov. 12 tree-planting in Brander Park are, from left: John DeGroot, representing the Arbor Week Committee; Mayor Steve Arnold; MPP Bob Bailey; 200th anniversary Committee Chair Anne Hazzard; and St. Clair Township Councillor Rose Atkins. Above: During the planting of five more trees on Nov. 21, Lambton Arborists member Brenda and Elizabeth (Betty) Nowakowski bumped elbows as a gesture of thanks.

Brander Park has six newly-planted trees to commemorate Port Lambton's 200th anniversary thanks to the efforts of the Port Lambton 200th Anniversary Committee. Two separate tree-plantings were made possible by the Arbor Week Committee, a group that annually plants a commemorative tree in Sarnia during Arbor Week. This year, the group decided to choose a location outside of Sarnia, according to committee spokesperson and tree donor John DeGroot of DeGroot's Nurseries in Sarnia. The tree-plantings were co-ordinated by 200th Anniversary Committee member Elizabeth (Betty) Nowakowski.

The first commemorative tree to be planted on Nov. 12 is a basswood, an indigenous species native to eastern and central Canada. A further five trees were planted in Brander Park by committee members on Nov. 21.

The pandemic put a stop to most of the activities and events the 200th Anniversary Committee had planned for 2020, but Chair Anne Hazzard explained, "We have had an unusual 200th year but we are able to do this small thing to mark our special occasion."

It is hoped the delayed celebration can resume next year. "As a group, we are planning on going ahead with some of our anniversary plans in 2021 if at all possible," said Anne.

"We plan on having music in Dedecker Park during the summer months as well as one night which would be a vendors' sale. The Sombra Museum will be going ahead with the historical walk throughout Port Lambton, including sign boards at places of interest."

Next autumn, the committee would like to hold a quilt show and church tour as well.

"All these preplanned events, along with others, had to be cancelled this year, but we will try and do whatever we can next year, if possible," said Anne.

She added the committee managed to hold its kick-off pancake breakfast in February and install colourful Port Lambton banners along the St. Clair Parkway and Broadway Street. New signage was also installed on the southbound and westbound side of the St. Clair Parkway to mark the Port Lambton village borders.

The committee's choice of the sunflower as the celebration's symbol was received well by Port Lambton residents. The cheerful flower was in evi-

dence throughout the community. "Thank you to all the residents that participated so enthusiastically in spreading the sunshine via our community flower," said Anne.

She acknowledged the pandemic presented some insurmountable problems for the committee, but it also brought out the community's humanity and kindness.

"I think the true example of this fine village in this challenging year was the coming together of individuals and groups to support residents through the difficult first months of COVID-19," she said. "A group was established to deliver groceries, do wellness checks, deliver soup, do yard work, gather food bank supplies, and make friendly calls to check on vulnerable people in our community. I'm sure there are other things that were done as people reached out to neighbours on their own. People maintained a positive attitude and made the best of an unusual situation."

The 200th anniversary of Port Lambton celebrates the establishment of the first European settlement (called Bâby Point) in what became Sombra Township, and after amalgamation in 2000, St. Clair Township.



The Port Lambton
200th Anniversary
Committee
wishes everyone a
Christmas to remember and
a healthy New Year!



New Port Lambton graphics, including new welcome signs along the St. Clair Parkway and colourful banners bearing the 200th anniversary sunflower motif, were one of the projects undertaken and completed by the 200th Anniversary Committee. Photos submitted

Rapids Family Health Team - *ZOOM in on good health*

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. You must register to participate. Space is limited.

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

ZOOM IN ON THESE NEW PROGRAMS

Diabetes Prevention program

The Diabetes Prevention program will start on Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 6 p.m. online via ZOOM. This interactive program is designed for people who have been told by their primary care providers that they have pre-diabetes. The program will feature two registered dietitian coaches, nutrition guidance specific to your individual needs, physical activity, and stress management led by qualified professionals. There will also be practical strategies to address challenges to a healthy lifestyle to

help you prevent diabetes. To register, ask your primary health care provider for a referral or call 519-339-8949.

Heart Healthy cooking series planned

The Rapids Family Health Team will offer a virtual Heart Healthy cooking series beginning Feb. 10, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. via ZOOM. The interactive one-hour classes will run on three consecutive Wednesdays and include cooking demonstrations with a focus on nutrition advice to reduce your risk of developing heart disease. Series classes are being held online via ZOOM to acknowledge that February is Heart Month. To register, call 519-339-8949.

LAB OPEN

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



Rapids Family Health Team speeds COVID-19 testing process

The newest COVID-19 testing and respiratory assessment centre at the Rapids Family Health Team (Rapids FHT) Pontiac Drive site is now up and running in Sarnia. The dedicated testing facility offers the public prompt access to testing and diagnosis for COVID-19 and upper respiratory infections, without the hassle of a long wait at the ER.

Cynthia McColeman, Rapids FHT Communications Director, says, "With the flu season coming, as well as avoiding even more issues with flu, respiratory and COVID-19, we want to make sure we're getting people the care they need in a very timely manner while utilizing resources, because some doctors may not have their offices open yet."

The facility adheres to strict COVID-19 safety protocols. "Our people are all in full professional PPE so they're well protected and being supported," said McColeman.

"We have a separate entrance here. We try really hard so people can keep to their time for an appointment so they're not waiting around. You're in and you're out. You're not breathing all over your neighbour, your friend, your co-worker, or the other person in the waiting room." Everyone attending the centre is required to wear a mask and sanitize their hands upon entry.

The respiratory assessment centre is open from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. each night and is staffed by local physicians that have family practices, as well as ER doctors, specialists and nurse practitioners, to ensure people are getting the care they need without going to the ER.

"The respiratory test is looking for symptoms of flu, pneumonia, and upper respiratory infections of all shapes and sizes. They would likely do a COVID-19 test at that time, too, if you haven't had one done in the recent past. They can then put you on a course of treatment as well to treat your respiratory distress."

The COVID-19 test uses a simple cotton swab to take a sample from the nose and it is admittedly uncomfortable. "It's an invasive test but it's the most accurate one we have right now," said McColeman. The test begins with the patient filling in a permission form, followed by some simple health questions, after which the test is done. The actual test takes only a moment to do.

Testing results are received between 48 and 72 hours after they are sent for processing.

Another testing centre is located at the Access to Care centre at 481 London Road. "If people are having trouble breathing, if they are getting a super sore throat, nasal congestion, anything respiratory-related, we have a special clinic during the COVID-19 and flu season," said McColeman. The clinic is open from noon to 8 p.m. for those who are symptomatic, and those with respiratory issues can see a doctor between 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Patients should check to see if they can get a timely appointment with their family doctor before seeking an appointment at these clinics. No walk-ins are accepted during the pandemic.

Those who need a test can make their own appointments

**by going online to:
getcorigan.ca or
calling 510-491-6188.**



At the Pontiac Drive testing site, Nurse Practitioner Beth Kelly asks a few health questions and explains the procedure to Brock Armstrong before proceeding with the test.



Mr. Armstrong sits calmly in the midst of his COVID-19 swab test. He came to be tested because he'd had a cough and had not felt well a couple of days prior to coming to the centre, but was not experiencing any symptoms at the time. His boss suggested he be tested for COVID-19 before returning to work. Testing in a crucial step in preventing the spread of the virus.

Photos by Bonnie Stevenson

Monthly drive-by dinners at Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Br. 447

As COVID-19 continues to impact our communities, including non-profit groups, we look for opportunities to remain connected to the greater community and those we serve. Towards this end, the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 is offering drive-by take-out dinners the second and fourth Tuesday of each month except for December, when only one dinner will be offered. The December dinner on Dec. 8 will feature a ham dinner with scalloped potatoes, veggies, a bun and dessert.

Revenue from these events will be used to cover operating expenses and, when applicable, support to community groups.

Our first event in November sold out in three days and our second, in just over 24 hours. The support from our community has been overwhelming.

Although we believe we could successfully offer a drive-by every week, we are sensitive to the challenges businesses in Corunna face, so we chose to limit dinners to twice a month to minimize our impact on their ability to generate revenue.

The good news is that we have sold out the first two dinners. Our kitchen capacity limits the number of meals we can offer each time, so we have to turn away families and individuals once the dinners are sold out.

Branch 447 is open daily Monday to Saturday from noon to 8 p.m. We are following COVID-19 health directives, including visitor sign-in info, wearing masks, social distancing, hand sanitizing, and limiting the number of visitors. We encourage people to follow us on our website and Facebook page.

A special thanks to all the volunteers who help us

Run special events and daily operations.

The members of the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447

wish everyone

a Merry Christmas and a Safe, Happy New Year!

Eric Hancock
1st Vice President

Provincial mask mandate in effect

For those who are not yet aware of Ontario's mandatory mask policy, here's a reminder that masks are to be worn in indoor public spaces and in locations where social distancing cannot be assured. This policy is in force in all municipalities throughout the province. The policy was enacted in response to a resurgence of COVID-19 virus cases within the province.

This second wave of the coronavirus was expected as the cold weather forces people to spend more time indoors, where the virus spreads more easily. Protective measures are being observed, not only for the health of the individual, but for the health of others, and to limit the burden on our health care providers and infrastructure. Please limit indoor gatherings to 10 or less and take steps to ensure the rooms are well-ventilated to reduce the amount of virus circulating in the air.

From our grateful volunteers and food bank clients,
THANK YOU to all of the individuals and businesses
that support our much-needed food bank.
~ Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and a
Safe and Happy New Year! ~



St. Andrew's Corunna food bank is at
437 Colborne Drive, Corunna

Regular hours of operation:

Wednesday evenings
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Thursday mornings
9 a.m. to noon

COVID-19 requirements affect Operation Christmas Tree donations

As in past years, businesses and residents of our community generously supported Operation Christmas Tree (OCT) during the 2019 campaign. We will be asking for that same support for the 2020 OCT campaign as the need will be even greater due to the negative effects the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have on the community.

To comply with COVID-19 protocol, we are currently asking for donations of money or gift cards from Foodland or No Frills. For those who are unfamiliar with our charity, Operation Christmas Tree serves those in need who live in an area bordered by LaSalle Road East to Mandaumin Road, south on Bickford Line, and west to the river, which is known as Ward 1. All donations stay within this area helping our local food bank, providing special hampers to the area's less fortunate families and individuals at Christmas, and providing monetary support to house fire victims.



Canned goods may be dropped off **only** at the Emergency Services Building, corner of Hill Street and Lyndoch Street in Corunna, (please use the Hill Street entrance). Registration dates have been set as Nov. 2-7 and Nov. 9-14 between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. each week. Our delivery date to qualifying recipients will Dec 12th. COVID-19 protocol will be observed for the protection of our volunteers and the public. After these registration dates, donation times may change and will be posted at the Hill Street entrance. The tentative final date for donations will be Dec. 18 but updates may be made through The Beacon or the new Operation Christmas Tree site - St Clair Township Facebook page!

Donations can be mailed to: Operation Christmas Tree,
Box 32, Corunna, Ont., N0N 1G0.

Stan Marsh
President, Operation Christmas Tree

Corunna Legion Br. 447 community support continues

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 continues to support the community with donations to groups that work within the community. Recent donations have included, clockwise from top right: *Br. 447 1st Vice-President Eric Hancock, left, presents \$925 donation to Sue Mathany and Charles Mortley-Wood of St. Andrew's Food Bank; *Moore Optimist members Ken Nimmo, Davida Nimmo, and Moore Optimist President Stan Marsh receive \$1,000 donation from Br. 447 President John Cormier, second from right; * Br. 447 1st Vice-President Eric Hancock presents a \$550 donation to Maria Muscedere, manager of St. Joseph's Hospice.



Br. 447
photos



Museum hosts Holiday Craft activities

The Lambton Heritage Museum is hosting a Holiday Craft Kits event at the museum until Dec. 19. The in-person event will treat visitors to a free Holiday Craft Kit with three crafts as part of their museum admission. The kits are for school-aged children and include interesting information about the history behind the holidays.

The museum is open Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; closed Dec. 20

to Jan. 2, 2021. Visits must be booked at: heritagemuseum.ca/bookyourticket. Admission is \$15 per family; \$5 per adult; \$4 per senior or student; \$3 per child. Children aged three and under are admitted free.

If you can't get to the museum, two of the crafts can be completed with supplies already in the house. A complete list of supplies and instructions can be found at: lambtonmuseums.ca/holiday-crafts.

This special promotion will run until Dec. 19.

Friends of the St. Clair photo contest winners announced

The winners of this year's joint Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR)/St. Clair Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) photo contest are shown here with their award-winning photographic masterpieces. Each winner received a canvas print of their winning photo and a \$500 cash prize.

The contest, now in its third year, is held for Canadian and American amateur photographers with the goal of encouraging them to get outdoors to enjoy the St. Clair River and its connected ecosystems. This year's contest was held in the summer months in the hope that it would bring some joy to the community during the pandemic, as well as raise awareness and appreciation for the St. Clair River.



Photo courtesy FOSCR

A total of 187 photos were received and judged in three categories. An adult and a youth photographer were chosen in each one. They include:

Our Wonderful Waterway: Chris Seager (adult); Lily Hamilton (youth).

Floating Away: Ian Sanderson (adult); Carson Westfal (youth)

Digital Perspectives: Nicole Watson (adult); Madison Lourenco (youth).

Moore Agricultural Society works through an Un-Fair Year

As 2020 draws to a close we look back at a truly UN-FAIR year - a lot of plans made and a lot of plans crushed due to an unseen virus called COVID-19.

How life has changed. Our movements and social lives are defined by the colour of the zone we are in.

At Moore Agricultural Society, we have tried to stay positive and plan for the future; our next FAIR; our next fund-raising event; and the maintenance of our facilities. This year has seen approximately 2,000 loads of clean fill deposited on the grounds courtesy of COPE Construction. This has been levelled and seeded, and will make our parking area more user-friendly in the event of a wet fair. The Ploughman's Kitchen has had the sewer system upgraded, and a new roof, fascia and eavestrough installed. The main office building will be getting a new trussed roof with steel roofing. These projects were identified as necessary by our grounds and building committee, and they were made possible through the generosity and participation of the community and grants obtained from various sources.

As usual, our Homecraft Division "Pie Ladies" were hard at work making an assortment of pre-ordered pies for Thanksgiving and Christmas. This was a great way for these ladies to get together, fundraise, practice social distancing, and produce the best pies in the area. They have also taken their quilt raffle online. Check out the Facebook and webpages for details.

Our fundraising committee came up with the idea of putting our "Pot of Gold" 50/50 draw on line. What a great idea as there were no events at which to sell them. We anticipate the final total will be at least \$50,000 or more, with 50% going to the winner. The winning ticket will be drawn on Dec. 1 at 9 p.m., just in time for Christmas.

We had one 4H club this year- the "Feeder Club". They did everything virtually. Congratulations to all involved.

We were unable to have an auction this year so the majority of cattle were sold at fair market value. Through the efforts of this group and the generosity of some of our local plants, businesses, farmers, and individuals, we were able to distribute beef and pork to several local well-deserving charitable organizations. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Oct. 24 was a memorable day for the "storage team". People were lined up waiting to store their campers, boats and cars at 5:00 a.m. By 2:30 p.m., our buildings were 95 per cent filled and we were turning people away - a busy day for everyone involved.

Life goes on at Moore Ag. It has been a busy year but totally UN-FAIR. Many thanks to all of you who volunteer around the fairgrounds throughout the year. Even though we haven't seen a lot of you, we have been thinking of you and are looking forward to seeing you at the 2021 Brigden Fair. During this festive season we would like you to keep safe, so please plan to celebrate within your "bubble".

**On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Moore Agricultural Society
I would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
We are looking forward to celebrating our 170th Fair in 2021 with our theme,
"Hats off to Brigden Fair".**

As Judy Garland sang, "Meet Me at the Fair"

President Malcolm Rogers

Moore Agricultural Society - Home of the Brigden Fair



Brigden Fair quilt draw tickets on sale

Tickets for the Brigden Fair Homecraft quilt draw are once again on sale. Tickets will be sold by any member of the Brigden Fair Homecraft Division or can be purchased through e-transfer. Email: quiltraffle@brigdenfair.ca to order the tickets you want, including name and contact information for the tickets. The cost is \$2 per ticket or \$5 for three, and they can also be purchased in larger quantities. This gorgeous handmade Queen sized quilt was lovingly created by members of the Homecraft Division.

Find The Beacon online during the pandemic

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

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



Every child
deserves a
loving family



SARNIA-LAMBTON
CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY



Lambton Public Health COVID-19 updates

COVID-19 school and child testing expansion

Lambton Public Health has recently investigated positive cases in three Lambton County schools. This recent increase in the community transmission of COVID-19 has prompted Lambton Public Health to encourage the testing of all symptomatic children.

Since mid-September, Lambton Public Health has offered COVID-19 testing to school-aged children residing and/or attending school in Lambton County, and COVID-19 testing is now available to child care -aged children at most locations.

This School Testing Centre option is currently available for:

- Children who are unable to attend school or child care due to illness, and require a test in order to **return to school or child care**.
- Children and staff from a school or child care who have been notified by Lambton Public Health that they are **close contacts** of a COVID-19 case.
- Symptomatic** child care/school staff, parents and household members of a child who was notified by Lambton Public Health that they are a close contact of a COVID-19 case.

Appointments are required and online options are now available.

- Book online** by going to app.getcorigan.ca. Choose from available times and book a test when it is convenient for you.
- Call Lambton Public Health at 519-383-8331 or toll free 1-800-667-1839.

Please have the following details ready: Child and parent/guardian information; OHIP number; primary care provider; current symptoms; history of contact with other known or suspected COVID-19 positive person.

Hours and locations of our testing centres are listed below:

Sarnia - School Testing Centre
260 Wellington St.
(Former SCITS High School)
Mon-Fri: 9:00am-3:00pm

Petrolia - School Testing Centre (for school-aged children only) 3823 Oil Heritage Rd. (Lambton Centennial School)
Mon-Fri: 9:30am-3:00pm

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New COVID-19 map available to the public

Lambton Public Health recently announced the expansion of the Lambton COVID-19 surveillance report. As of Oct. 19, Lambton Public Health is reporting confirmed COVID-19 cases in Lambton County across five "reporting regions," using the [COVID-19 Case Map](#).

The development of a tool that maps addresses to reporting regions was supported by the County of Lambton's Information Technology department in consultation with a team from Lambton Public Health responsible for surveillance and epidemiology support.

"This new tool allows the public to access additional information about COVID-19 cases in their region while keeping the personal health information of those individuals private," says Siobhan Churchill, Epidemiologist with Lambton Public Health. "This is an important tool for Lambton County, as it allows the public to visualize how case rates vary across our urban and rural regions, accounting for the fact that some regions have more residents than others."

The COVID-19 case map shows where confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lambton County were living at the time of illness. It does not indicate where cases were exposed to COVID-19, and it cannot be used to draw conclusions about personal risk.

The report shows the number and rate per 100,000 of COVID-19 cases by reporting region. Users can choose to view case counts and rates based on the total number of cases since the start of the pandemic, or the number of cases in the past month.

If users are unsure which reporting region they live in, they can look for their municipality in the table below the map or follow the written directions to look up their dissemination area and corresponding reporting region.

Lambton residents are reminded to continue to practice good public health safety measures. Limit social interactions, practice physical distancing, wear a mask when you cannot or are required to do so, wash your hands frequently, and please stay home if you are sick. We all have a role to play at reducing COVID-19 in our community. We can get through this together, because we are stronger, together.

To learn more about how Lambton Public Health manages COVID-19 reporting or about the new surveillance tool visit LambtonPublicHealth.ca, or call Lambton Public Health at 519-383-8331 or toll free 1-800-667-1839.

Overdose is a community issue

Lambton Public Health (LPH) reports an increase in street drug overdoses and urges that the antidote, *Naloxone, be carried at all times by those who use drugs and their caregivers. Those who

call 911, stay at the scene, and render aid to the victim until help arrives are protected under the Ontario Good Samaritan's Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 2.

*Naloxone is available at LPH, local pharmacies, community health centres and several partner agencies.

COMMUNITY CONTACT

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

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Sacred Heart food bank - the need continues

The community side effects of the coronavirus have resulted in constant need for supplies at local food banks. Many people have lost their jobs due to shut downs and closures. Now more than ever, our neighbourhood food banks are called upon to gather more food. And with the weather getting colder, nourishing food and warm clothing are more important than ever. In Ward 2, The Sacred Heart Food Bank recently completed its annual food drive, but the efforts of the volunteers collecting throughout Ward 2 didn't yield nearly as many donations as in past years. (See page 9 for more information).

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 will be open 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. Gift cards to Foodland and No Frills are also welcome.

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.

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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.

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

Virtual Public Legal Education Workshops for Front Line Workers

The Community Law School (Sarnia-Lambton) Inc. will offer free ZOOM online workshops will update front line workers on recent changes in the laws affecting their clients. The following workshops will be held, one per month, from 11 a.m. to noon: Dec. 8, Pay Day Loan Act: New Protections For Your Clients (register by Dec. 4 at noon).

Those who register will receive a ZOOM link by email before each workshop, with electronic handouts on each topic. To register, email: virtualcommunitylawschool@gmail.com

Celebrating over 23 years of public legal education.

MORE COMMUNITY CONTACT

From page 19

the Courtright Community Centre (closed during COVID). For more information, call Mary Lou at 519-862-3950.

Down River Junior Optimist Club **new members ages 10-18**

New members are being sought for the Down River Jr. Optimist Club. Youth between the ages of 10 and 18 are invited to get involved with the community and make a difference for kids. The club meets at the Port Lambton Community Hall on the third Monday of each month. High school students can acquire volunteer hours needed for graduation. For more information, call Carla at 226-402-3870.

Local TOPS weight control group meetings

Local TOPS weight control groups can be contacted for information as follows: **Brigden**—519-864-1865; **Corunna**—519-381-5584. People of all ages are welcome to attend.

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. More information regarding the Brigden United Church schedule is available 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. **More mental health resources include:** Lambton Mental Health Distress Line, 519-336-3445 or 1-800-307-4319; Lambton Public Health mental health and addiction line, 519-464-4400, ext. 5370.

MAS event to be rescheduled **as restrictions ease**

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/when 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.



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

Online learning resources offered by **Lambton County Museums and Archives**

The Oil Museum of Canada, Lambton Heritage Museum, and Lambton County Museums and Archives have developed curriculum-linked lessons covering a variety of topics for students in Grades 2 through 10. Links to these lessons can be found on the Online Learning page at: lambtonmuseums.ca. "The Online Learning page gathers all of our educational offerings for teachers and educators in one place, making it easier to find materials and plan a lesson," said Laurie Webb, manager of the Museum, Gallery, and Archives. She added these materials can be used in the classroom, as well as for asynchronous teaching and at-home learners. Additional lessons and materials will be added as they become available.

Left: Online curriculum-linked lessons are now available through Lambton museums.



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*No one has ever become poor
by giving.*
~Anne Frank

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

Harvest of Gold 50/50 raffle -last draw coming up Dec. 1

The last day to purchase Brigden Fair Harvest of Gold 50/50 raffle tickets will be Tuesday, Dec. 1. Draw is set for 9 p.m. on that night. Don't wait until the last minute to get your tickets in case ticket computers become bogged down. Tickets are: \$5 for one; \$40 for 10; \$75 for 25; and \$100 for 50. Go to: <https://brigdenfair.thelottofactory.com> or check out the link thru the Brigden Fair Facebook and web pages at: <https://www.brigdenfair.ca>.

Corunna Legion offers drive-by dinners

Striving to stay connected with the community they serve so well, Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 now offers drive-by dinners on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Revenue from these events will be used to cover operating expenses and, when applicable, support community groups (see page 16). , and just one dinner is planned for December due to the holidays. On Dec. 8, the menu will feature ham and scalloped potatoes with a veggie, bun, and dessert, and tickets are available right now. Legion kitchen capacity limits the number of dinners that can be produced and both November dinners sold out, so get your tickets soon. Call 519-862-1240.

Operation Christmas Tree drive-thru

The annual OPP Operation Christmas Tree drive-through donation event is on for Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Emergency Services building, corner of Hill and Lyndoch Streets in Corunna. Monetary donations and gift cards from Foodland and No Frills will be appreciated, but canned goods and new unwrapped toys will gladly be accepted. The Operation Christmas Tree donation collection centre is also located at this location and donations can be dropped off there Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. until Dec. 19. In St. Clair Township this holiday season, Ward 1 (north township) will have an estimated 130 families requiring assistance, so please support this cause (or in Ward 2, please support the Sacred Heart food bank Christmas effort). **The need for your support won't end on Jan. 2, 2021. COVID-19 has made life difficult for many**

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

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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.

more families in this community, and any support you can give to your local food banks and assistance organizations will be greatly appreciated.

West Lambton Community Health programs

Meditation - Mondays, 11 a.m. - Increase self-esteem, improve concentration, lower blood pressure, reduce stress and anxiety, and develop emotional balance to increase enjoyment of life. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 or email: adinell@nlhc.com to receive Zoom link.

Overcome holiday stress - Thursday, Dec. 10 at 1:30 p.m. - Learn tips and strategies to navigate stress during the holidays. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 or email: adinell@nlhc.com.

Mooretown Shibashi program

North and West Lambton Community Health Centres' will offer in-person Shibashi classes on the grounds of the Mooretown Sports Complex on Thursdays at 11 a.m. The lawn on the Emily Street side of the building will be used to offer this tai chi/qigong practice of aligning breath and movement for exercise and health. Shibashi consists of 18 simple steps. It is easy to learn and perfect for beginners. Register at your first class or online at:

www.nlhc.com/services/wellness-programs/

Be sure to specify which program you are registering for at the top of the form.

Low impact classes in Mooretown

North and West Lambton Community Health Centres will also offer in-person low impact exercise classes on the grounds of the Mooretown Sports Complex on Thursdays at 10 a.m. The lawn on the Emily Street side of the building will be used. All fitness levels will be welcomed to participate. Register at your first class or online at: www.nlhc.com/services/wellness-programs/

Be sure to specify which program you are registering for at the top of the form.

Online lecture series planned

An online ZOOM lecture series called *Capturing the Moment: Photography in Lambton County*, is being presented by the Lambton Heritage Museum this winter. The series began in October, but three presentations are still to come.

The digital series is being held in conjunction with an exhibit of the same name currently on display at the museum, located at 10035 Museum Road (off Hwy. 21) south of Grand Bend. The exhibit explores the art and science of photography over the past 200 years. To register for one or all of the presentations, use each of the links given with the corresponding titles below.

The ZOOM series includes: *Preserving Your Family Photos*, presented by Nicole Aszalos on Thursday, Nov. 12 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. To register go to: [Register for Preserving Your Family Photos](#).

Iconic Photographers, presented by the Port Franks Camera Club on Thursday, Dec. 10 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. To register go to: [Register for Iconic Photographers](#).

History of Photography, presented by Eugene Pruski, on Thursday, Jan. 14 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. To register, go to: [Register for History of Photography](#).

Visit the Lambton Heritage Museum website or like it on Facebook. The museum is now open with COVID-19 restrictions. Please call 519-243-2600 to reserve a time to visit.

