

## HERITAGE CORNER



General Store windows decorated with vintage toys for good girls and boys.

### Holiday windows

With the pandemic keeping Moore Museum closed, December 2020 was very different from the usual year, when hundreds of students would visit to view the decorations, pull taffy, and create a craft. But COVID-19 wasn't enough to stop the museum staff from sharing some old-school good cheer with the community.

Museum staff simply moved the season outdoors for the community to experience safely. Visitors peering in the windows saw holiday scenes that provided the perfect backdrops for family outings and family photos.

*Moore Museum photo*

## Sombra Museum seeks information/photos to document COVID-19

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

## 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

### 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](mailto: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](http://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](https://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



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### Post card carries inter-provincial good wishes

This post card from the Moore Museum archives once carried good wishes from Bridgen to Wheeler, Ontario.

1910 was an auspicious year for St. Clair Township (then Sombra Township) with the opening of the Pardee post office at Lot 30, Concession 6. During the early 1900s, the opening of a post office was often a sign that a hamlet or village was in the making.

1910 also marked the beginning of a newspaper called the *Courtright and Moore Sun*, published by J.W. Kedwell, publisher of the Petrolia Topic.

All the best for 2021 to everyone in  
St. Clair Township

~From the volunteers and staff at the Moore Museum



## Moore Sports Complex closed again

The COVID-19 pandemic has once again closed down the Moore Sports Complex (due to the latest provincial lockdown), and the closure means that the pool and Rink 2 is out of operation.

But the temporary opening in the fall allowed the restart of some programs, including the Parent and Tot swim.

The Beacon was allowed to document one of these happy sessions in early December. Here's a wet and wild visit with the water babies and their moms.

A group of moms and their babies enjoy some watery fun and exercise during a recent Parent and Tot session (see more on page 11).

Stevenson photo

