



The St. Clair Township BEACON

Discoveries
That Matter

THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

Issue 1

Volume 14

January 2021



Window shopping? Mairín Ring and Joe Doherty were among the many visitors who enjoyed a stroll through the Moore Museum grounds over the holidays to safely enjoy a museum experience without going through even one door. Each window of the out-buildings at the site was decorated with scenes from Christmases past, using many of the museum's many Christmas artifacts to tell a different story. *Moore Museum photo*

Beacon online ONLY due to COVID-19

Those who wish to receive *The Beacon* as a free monthly subscription can email:

beacon@stclairtownship.ca

and type the word "Subscription" in the

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MUNICIPAL NOTES

COVID-19 Lockdown closes MSC

The province ordered a province-wide lockdown to begin on Dec. 24 at midnight after overall provincial COVID-19 cases rose to twice the "red" level (a threshold that has been set to indicate the need for this extreme measure). It is hoped a united lockdown will stop the inter-provincial spread of the virus and decrease the current numbers of hospitalized and intensive care patients. MPP Bob Bailey commented, "This shutdown will limit travel across the province to help prevent the potential spread of infection and protect health care capacity throughout Ontario."

At the Monday, Dec. 21 meeting of council, the lockdown, as it applies to the Moore Sports Complex, was discussed. The complex is now closed until the lockdown is lifted. Rink 2 will be removed to convert the rink to an indirect system, which will also require the construction of a new plant room. In-floor infrastructure will also be installed to allow the ice pad to be retained all year long. The work depends on the availability of an experienced contractor that can handle the project. It is hoped the project can be completed by September, 2021.

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 who 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., Brigiden; 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 are being 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 at the top of the page. The link is added just before the meeting is slated to begin.

Upcoming meetings include: Monday, Jan. 4 at 3 p.m. (tentative); Monday, Jan. 18 at 3 p.m., Monday, Feb. 1 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 lane-ways **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.

2021 Tax Due Dates

INTERIM: Friday, Feb. 26; Thursday, April 29;
FINAL: Thursday, July 29; Wednesday, Sept. 29.



More MUNICIPAL NOTES

From page 2

The pool is also closed due to the lockdown. Lifeguard training will be delayed until the pool is reopened.

Mayor Arnold commended the MSC staff for the work they did to prepare for the reopening of the facility earlier this fall and for reopening the facility safely when the first shut down ended.

Bylaw 73 of 2020 discussed: off-road vehicle use of municipal roads

As of January 1, 2021, Ontario's Highway Traffic Act (HTA) will be amended to allow the use of off-road vehicles (ORV) on municipal roads if a municipality does not already have a by-law that places prohibitions on their use.

Citing safety concerns associated with the provincial amendment, St. Clair Township is developing Bylaw 73 of 2020, which prohibits the use of ORVs on municipal roads.

A bylaw will allow the OPP to police the roads the same way they currently enforce Highway Traffic Act requirements to confirm licensing and insurance, and to enforce HTA safety measures. It will also provide exemptions to allow work ORVs and all-terrain vehicles to be used by farmers, rural residents, and trappers on municipal roads as part of their general practice.

Further, the public meeting that was to be held before the coronavirus safety protocols were put in place will still take place when the COVID-19 protocols are lifted. The bylaw will be revisited at that time and the public will have an opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions. If necessary, the bylaw can be amended.

Bylaw 73 of 2020, the Off-Road Vehicles Bylaw, is still in the development stage and details have not yet been finalized.

Earlier in 2020, a group of hobbyists asked council to consider permitting the use of ORVs on municipal roads. The request was made before COVID-19 safety measures prevented the public from attending and participating in a public input meeting. Council postponed the bylaw discussion until the public could attend.

The situation changed when council was informed the Highway Traffic Act would be amended on January 1, 2021 to permit the use of ORVs on municipal roads if an ORV by-law was not already in place.

The Clerk's report to council on Dec. 7 explained that, in the absence of a specific municipal ORV bylaw authorizing or restricting the use of ORVs on municipal roads, the provincial amendment would automatically permit the use of ORVs on all township roads. But owners would still be subject to the licensing, insurance, and safety requirements enshrined in the Highway Traffic Act.

At that time, Mayor Arnold asked staff if Lambton County and other municipalities in the county had made any decisions regarding the provincial amendment, and he noted the Ontario Provincial Police might like to see all of the municipalities adopt a uniform approach. Staff was directed to acquire information from other parts of the county and report back to council's Dec. 21 meeting.

The staff report received by council at the Dec. 21 meeting revealed that a majority of Lambton's 11 municipalities already had some form of ban or were considering one.

Council receives vaccine distribution implementation plan

Ontario's vaccine program is a three-phase plan that will give first priority to populations at risk including: residents, essential caregivers, and staff at seniors congregate care facilities; health care workers; Indigenous adults; and adult recipients of chronic home care. An estimated combined total of two million doses of vaccine from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna are expected to be used in this phase. The second phase will be carried out when the stock of vaccines increases. Recipients will be an expanded range of those who are in the same category as the first phase. The third phase will be vaccines available to every Ontarian who wants to be immunized.

A firm schedule has not yet been released and will depend upon the on-going availability of vaccines.

Lockdown sparks modified COVID-19 control procedures

The lockdown currently underway has raised the need to adjust local control procedures. "Shifting resources to priority areas is a critical step in our COVID-19 response," said Dr. Sudit Ranade, Medical Officer of Lambton County. "Our staff continues to meet the goals of reaching cases within 24 hours. These changes will continue to make that goal a priority." This includes early identification and notification of COVID-19 cases and contact exposure.

Information will be provided during the initial contact with a case to support a referral pathway if an individual has symptoms. Higher-risk individuals will also be identified and may be referred to the COVID-19 Remote Patient Monitoring program to receive additional support.

The Christmas/New Year holiday traditionally presents an opportunity for family and friends to gather, but in 2020, gatherings that ignored safety precautions continue to contribute to the spread of the coronavirus.

"Limiting all non-essential social activities and staying home when you are sick continue to be critical steps you can take in our fight against this COVID-19 pandemic," said Dr. Ranade.

According to a media release from Lambton Public Health, the impact of the tightened restrictions surrounding the provincial lockdown should begin to have an impact on the surge of cases in about two weeks, but the 28-day limit imposed by the Ontario government will hopefully reverse the trend.

Failure to do so will also put an undue strain on our health care system and on the medical professionals who must cope with this pandemic on a daily basis.

To learn more about public health's COVID-19 response in Lambton County, visit:

LambtonPublicHealth.ca.



EarlyON Child and Family Centres

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

Best Start Hub - Riverview Central School

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

Hours of Operation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brigden United Church,

2420 Jane Street, Brigden

519-892-3151

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

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



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 Now Open

Please be advised that the rehabilitation of the Holt Line bridge over the Sydenham River is complete and the bridge is now open.



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

New Year's Waste and Recycling Collection 2021

If your regular waste collection is Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, collection will be on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.

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



Waste & Recycling Placement

This is a reminder to all residents to place waste & recycling on the boulevard approximately one metre from the curb, or where no curb exists, one metre from the shoulder of the road.

Waste should not be placed on road or over any portion of the curb, it should not be placed any further than one metre to ensure it is collected. Waste that is placed on the road or curb can affect public works operations (street sweeping, snowplows, etc.).



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>

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.

Emergency Preparedness

FACT SHEET



for COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS

March 2020

How to Contact Hydro One

In the case of an emergency or power outage you can reach us by calling one of our emergency numbers below.

- **Hydro One Power Outage & Emergency Line:**

1-800-434-1235

Use this number to report a power outage, fallen tree hazard or emergency (24 hours, 7 days a week)

- **Hydro One Media Relations:**

416-345-6868 or 1-877-506-7584

After-hours, on weekends and holidays: 1-888-254-3992

- **Hydro One Community Relations**

Hydro One's Media and Community Relations staff members are available to answer questions and concerns from elected officials (e.g. MPP's, Mayors, Reeves)

Monday - Friday: 1-877-345-6799

For More Information

In the event of an emergency or power interruption we encourage you to take a moment to visit www.HydroOne.com, follow [Hydro One on Twitter](#) or check any one of the links below for more information:

- [Power Outages & Safety Information](#)
- [Interactive Power Outage Map Outlining Planned & Unplanned Power Outages](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Hydro One transmits and distributes electricity in the province of Ontario however; there are other local distribution companies that may serve your community. Visit the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) website at www.ieso.ca to find your local utility.

Hydro One's Emergency Preparedness Team

- Emergency Preparedness
416-603-4308 / 1-844-791-1155

Hydro One's Business Continuity & Emergency Preparedness team plans for and assists with Hydro One's internal response to any significant disruptions to our electricity system. Please use the communication resources listed above for power outage and restoration information. In the event of an extraordinary situation, contact the team and special arrangements will be made to facilitate appropriate levels of support to you and your community.



St. Clair Fire urges residents to keep fire safety top of mind

St. Clair Fire is warning people to stay diligent in 2021 as fire fatalities reached a high in 2020; between Jan. 1 and Dec. 8, 2020, 97 people died in fires in Ontario.

There are simple things you can do to prevent a fire from happening in your home, starting by making sure everyone knows what to do if a fire starts.

How to protect yourself and your loved ones

Reduce fire risks in your home:

- Always stay in the kitchen when you are cooking. Unattended cooking is a leading cause of home fires.
- Keep a close eye on anyone drinking alcohol and attempting to cook or smoke.
- Encourage smokers to smoke outside the home and outside the garage. Thoroughly extinguish all smoking materials in water or sand.
- Always blow out candles before leaving the room.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets. Extension cords should be used only as a temporary connection. Avoid running electrical cords under rugs, which can damage the cords and cause a fire.
- Ensure items that can burn are at least one metre away from space heaters.
- Do not attempt to sterilize or decontaminate face masks for re-use by heating them in a microwave oven. Various fabric or metal components can overheat or create sparks and cause a fire if heated in a microwave.

Practice your home fire escape plan:

- Ensure everyone knows two ways out of each room, if possible.
- All exits must be unobstructed and easy to use.
- Determine who will be responsible for helping young children, older adults and anyone who needs assistance to escape.
- Choose a meeting place outside, such as a tree or a lamppost, where everyone can be accounted for.
- Call the fire department from outside the home, from a cell phone or a neighbour's home.
- Once out, stay out. Never re-enter a burning building.
- If you live in an apartment, talk to the building superintendent to learn about the emergency procedures
- outlined in the building's fire safety plan.

And make sure your smoke alarms work by testing them monthly; just press the test button. Only working smoke alarms can give you the early warning you need to safely escape a fire in your home.

For more information on fire and life safety, please contact St. Clair Fire at 519-481-0111 or on Facebook @stclairfire.



EMERGENCIES HAPPEN!

Are you ready for them? Don't wait to find out what you **SHOULD** have done to get through a catastrophic windstorm or snowstorm, a lengthy power outage, or a man-made incident. Do you have an adequate supply of daily medications, water, flashlights, food, drinking water, pet supplies, baby supplies, etc.? Make sure your emergency kit is prepared and ready for unexpected emergencies. **Go online to: www.getprepared.ca and get all the information you need.**

Sarnia library expands contactless curbside pickup service, limited theatre use

Lambton County has 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.**

HERITAGE CORNER



Holiday windows

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

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:

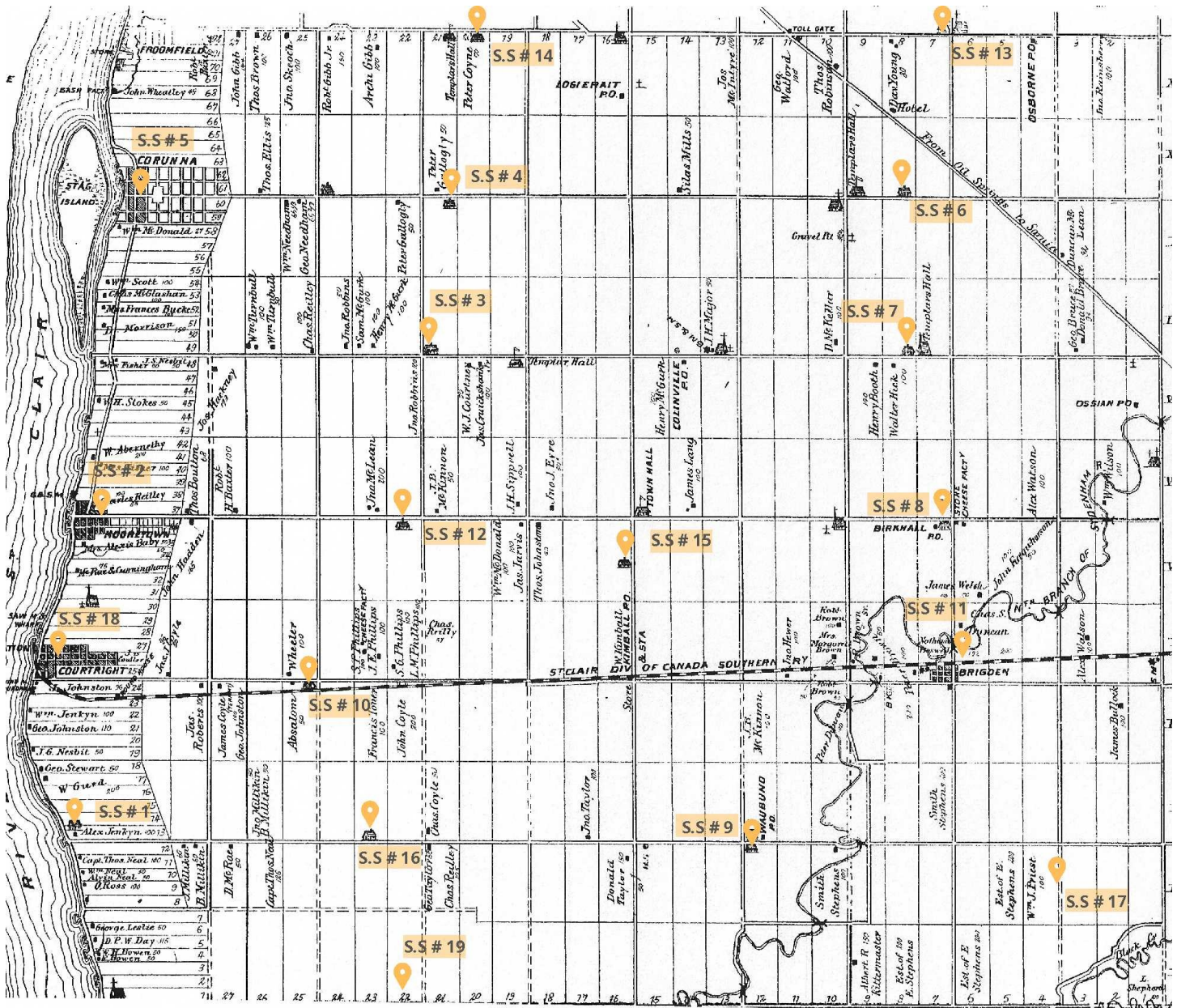
sombmuseum@hotmail.com with the subject line "COVID-19 History Snapshot".

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. 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

MORE HERITAGE CORNER



Post card carries inter-provincial good wishes

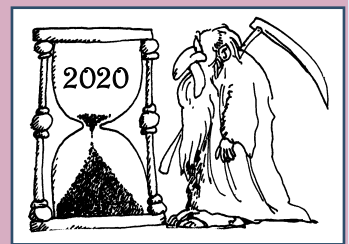
This post card from the Moore Museum archives once carried good wishes from Bridgen to Wheeler, Ontario.

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



Moms and tots bond over water activities at MSC pool



The Parent and Tot class gets underway for a half-hour of bonding and water play. Water play has been found to develop hand-eye coordination as well as math and science concepts. Foreground: Mom Jennifer, and Nora, 9 months.



Mom, Megan, and 8-month old Milo retrieve the ball for water play.



Above clockwise from left: "Swim teams" Megan/Milo, 8 months Jessica/Beau, 16 months; Rachel/Daniel, 6 months; Laura/Theo, 7 months.

Left: Emma, 9 months, gives the photographer a moment of her time to pose with her ball while mom, Jess, waits patiently.



Mom, Kristi, and 15-month Gatlin play shower with a toy watering can.



The water babies return to the deck to learn how to jump into the water, with mom standing by, of course.

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 pre-

vent 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.

The site has a separate entrance and testing is done quickly provided patients make an appointment. No walk-ins are accepted. Testing ensures infected patients will be able to isolate to prevent their friends, co-workers, and members of the public they come in contact with from becoming infected. 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.

Respiratory tests look for symptoms of flu, pneumonia, and upper respiratory infections of all kinds. A COVID-19 test may be done at that time as well if the patient has not had one done in the recent past.

The COVID-19 test uses a simple cotton swab to take a sample from the nose and it is admittedly uncomfortable. It 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. Symptoms include: difficulty breathing, a severely sore throat, nasal congestion, and anything respiratory-related. A special clinic will be in operation during the COVID-19 and flu season. 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.

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LAMBTON COUNTY VACCINE PLANNING IN PROGRESS

The Lambton County Emergency Control Group recently continued discussing the merits of the vaccine candidates currently available. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is already being distributed to priority populations in Ontario, and the Moderna vaccine is under review for use in Canada. **The general public is urged to continue observing COVID-19 safety precautions. Priority will be given to front line medical professionals and high risk segments of the population.**

The group, comprised of representatives from all municipalities in Lambton County, has been meeting since the pandemic arrived. Updates on the local coronavirus spread have been heard from the County's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Ranade have been received on a regular basis. The group has also kept an eye on the level of personal protection equipment (PPE) available within the county and has discussed measures to be taken if the county's positivity rate increases. Up-to-date information on COVID-19 is available on the Lambton Public Health and Province of Ontario websites. Facility closures and a list of financial supports and resources are listed on the Lambton County website.

OCT alters operation to ensure Christmas for those in need



The needs of the less fortunate in St. Clair Township did not take a holiday this year; in the north township (Ward 1) Operation Christmas Tree (OCT) made sure food and children's toys were available to them, with the Sacred Heart Food Bank (Ward 2) performing the same important function.

OCT President Stan Marsh said donations were good this year in spite of the pandemic. The annual Christmas effort received \$11,000 cash, gift cards, as well as toys and canned goods from Sir John Moore Community School, and other sources. **Left:** Busy sorting donations are, from left: Pres. Stan Marsh, Optimist volunteers Ken Nimmo, Jayce Abrams, and Mary Lou Abrams.

The annual OPP drive-through donation event for OCT was one event that needed very little tweaking to conform to COVID-19 safety protocols. The outcome was a steady stream of generous donations from the community. Helping out in the sally port (donation reception area) were, from left: Police Auxiliary members Dawson Nethercott and Darien Primeau; Cst. Katie Hill; volunteers Kate Harding; Lilly Lassaline; Elisa Priala; Selina Lesenciuc; and Alina Irvine.



St. Clair Township Rec Club donation in lieu of party

Operation Christmas Tree was also the recipient of a donation from the St. Clair Township Rec Club. With COVID-19 restrictions in place, a Gift Card option was used instead of a social event. Employees had an option to receive a \$150 gift card to a local business, or to donate part or all of that total to a 'pot'.

Spokesperson Julie Dolbear says the Rec Club raised \$925 for Operation Christmas Tree as a result of the donations.

OCT President Stan Marsh commented, "St. Clair Township can be proud of the fact that they support Operation Christmas Tree. People need to realize there is a definite support in the township." He noted donations had been received from locations outside of Lambton County.

Left: Rec Club representative/administrative assistant for Community Services Julie Dolbear, right, presents Mr. Marsh with the donation cheque. Sue Knight, Coordinator of Facilities and Parks, was also on hand for the presentation.

Bonnie Stevenson photos



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

Regular hours of operation: Wednesday evenings, 6 p.m. -7 p.m. and
Thursday mornings, 9 a.m. to noon

Dow donation to Corunna school part of community support effort

The St. Clair River DOW site employees were recently part of a company-wide effort to provide community support at its locations across Canada. Many local organizations, charities, and schools were the recipients of this support effort.

In Corunna, Colonel Cameron Public School received 50 STEM kits to help further Grade K-12 students' studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

This year, Dow's St. Clair River site in Corunna was proud to support the following organizations: Mike Weir Foundation in support of ACCESS Open Minds Project in Sarnia-Lambton, Operation Christmas Tree, Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447, St. Joseph's Hospice, Corunna Volunteer Firefighters' Association, United Way of Sarnia-Lambton, Captain Kidd Days, Bluewater Health Foundation, Indspire, Let's Talk Science, Enactus and Green Learning.

Dow's community support is focused in three areas: Developing tomorrow's innovators by supporting science, technology, engineering and math programs; advancing sustainable solutions to drive progress toward a more circular economy; and building inclusive communities by partnering with local organizations to create more inclusive places to live and work.

In a media release, Tyler Edgington, president of Dow Canada, said, "This year, 400 Dow Canada employees volunteered



During a recent donation of 50 STEM kits, St. Clair River site Dow employees Paula McLean, centre, and Amy Cunningham, right, presented the kits to Principal Kathy Myers

close to 3,000 hours to support non-profits, schools and municipalities."

"Amazing generosity" of the community brings joy to many: Operation Christmas Tree

Operation Christmas Tree is delighted to announce that, despite 2020 pandemic fundraising challenges, our team is able to report that fundraising results have surpassed our goal. Due to community generosity, Operation Christmas Tree assisted 85 local families and 100 children through our annual food and toy collection program in St. Clair Township Ward 1 (Corunna, Courtright, Mooretown, Brigden, and surrounding areas). This couldn't have been done without the amazing generosity of individual, business and corporate donors and the Optimist Club of Moore volunteers for their time. Thank you to our community supporters: the OPP for their annual drive-through collection, Corunna Volunteer Firefighter

fundraisers, Corunna Legion, as well as those who provided creative ways to help: Knights of Columbus for their sold-out drive-through breakfast, and to local elementary schools for initiating their can drives and family donations. Thank you all for stepping up and recognizing the need for this valuable cause, and enabling us to provide for those that need it most during the holiday season.

For a complete list of business and corporate donors visit: www.operationchristmastree.com.

Stan Marsh,
President Operation Christmas Tree
operationchristmastree@outlook.com

Modern changes helped Sacred Heart Food Bank (Ward 2) continue service to community during COVID-19

The Sacred Heart Food Bank was originally formed in the late 1960's and was known at that time as St. Vincent de Paul. St. Vincent de Paul was founded by Henry Faubert and Bernard Sterling of Pain Court, who recruited local assistance from Joe Reedy, Joe Johnston and Father Les Horvath of Sacred Heart Parish. Mr. Faubert and Mr. Sterling loaned the group \$200 to get the group started. (Joe Johnston remains an active member of the group as a committee member as well as a director within the Sacred Heart Food Bank.)

The food bank is a non-denominational group; religion has no influence on who receives assistance from it. The continued generosity and contributions from our local Anglican, United and Catholic Church in Port Lambton range from monetary donations to supplies, and includes the use of the Anglican Church basement as a storage space for non-perishable food items throughout the year.

On average, the Sacred Heart Food Bank supports between 50-70 families with food hampers at Christmas and 15-20 families on a more regular basis throughout the year. All of these families reside within St. Clair Township, Ward 2 (formerly known as Sombra Township). Our group provides these individuals and families with gift cards to purchase their own groceries, along with any food items that are available through community donations.

Over the course of the last 60 years, there have been many

different initiatives and fundraising efforts to help support the growth of the food bank. A Fowl Bingo, Charity Auction, and Cookie Walk are three of our annual fundraisers that experience great success. Our largest scale annual event is our canned food drive which typically takes place every November. Last year as a group, we were able to collect and distribute over five tons of food and hygiene items to our local families in need.

This year, due to COVID-19, the Sacred Heart Food Bank collectively decided that, for the health and safety of canvassers and residents, there had to be significant changes to the format of the food drive. The area to be canvassed, which extended east from the St Clair River to the Kimball Road (as the east border) and from Stanley Line to Whitebread Line (as the south border) would be divided into smaller zones. These zones were canvassed over a span of weeks allowing time for distancing and safety protocols to be met. The food drives were spaced out from Sunday, Sept. 13 to Sunday, Nov. 22. Flyers were distributed in mailboxes notifying residents when their specific zone would be canvassed. Residents were asked to place their non-perishable food items out for contactless, porch pick up. We are grateful for the wonderful support we received during this difficult time.

Jenn Johnston
Director with the current Sacred Heart Food Bank.

The creative process can come to us at any time in our life. For Annie McLaughlin of Corunna, the creative process was with her for much of her life, but she didn't have time to put it into practice until she was 87 years old.

The self-taught artist, now 94 years old, has developed her own kind of folk art to perfectly capture the subject she knows very well - rural life in Lambton County. Although her painting career has been relatively short, it has been prolific, and nobody is more qualified to weigh in on the subject.

She has been a life-long resident of the land. Born in Wallaceburg in 1926, and by the age of 16 she was working in a factory that made airplane parts.

She and her family worked hard to save up for a farm. By 1944, they had enough to buy a farm in Corunna. Annie says the move north was because the land in Wallaceburg was expensive and Corunna was more affordable. The move turned out to be a good one for Annie, who eventually met her husband-to-be living at the neighbouring farm across the road. "I guess you could say I married the boy next door," she said.

She married her husband, Ted, in 1952 and they lived "on the homeplace" for 47 years. "It was a peaceful and quiet way of life," she said.

She moved into Corunna in 1999 after the death of her husband and since then, the homeplace has been torn down, with only the silo and a few trees remaining on the property.

Annie's knack of projecting her

Corunna artist featured at *Memories of Rural Life* exhibit at Lambton Heritage Museum



Annie McLaughlin during the opening of the *Memories of Rural Life* art exhibit.

unique knowledge and love of the land and nature is evident in her work, which has been exhibited in many locations throughout Lambton County. They include: the Corunna Library; Victoria Hall (Victoria Playhouse Petrolia); the Judith and Norman Alix Art Gallery in Sarnia; the Oil Museum of Canada; and the Gallery In The Grove in Bright's Grove, which held her first exhibit when she was 90 years old.

Memories of Rural Life runs until April 10, 2021. A virtual slide show of the exhibit and more about the

life of Annie McLaughlin is featured online at heritagemuseum.ca

In-person visits can be reserved online at heritagemuseum.ca/bookyourticket. Admission is \$15 per family; \$5 per adult; \$4 per senior/student; and \$3 for children, with children under age three and under admitted free.

Museum hours are: Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Museum CLOSED Dec. 20 to Jan. 1, 2021.

Find The Beacon online during the pandemic

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Find the St. Clair Township home page at: www.stclairtownship.ca, then click on *The Beacon* on the black, top right corner information bar.

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



SARNIA-LAMBTON
CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

COMMUNITY CONTACT

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

**PROVINCE-WIDE LOCK-DOWN
NOW IN EFFECT.**

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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 it's annual food drive, but the efforts of the volunteers collecting throughout Ward 2 didn't yield nearly as many donations as in past years.

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 Blue-water Health CEE lab, 450 Blanche Street in Petrolia. (Please note there may have been chang-

es 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 (closed during COVID-19 shutdown). For more information, call Mary Lou at 519-862-3950.

Down River Junior Optimist Club new members ages 10-18

MORE COMMUNITY CONTACT

From page 16

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 shut down 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. 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.



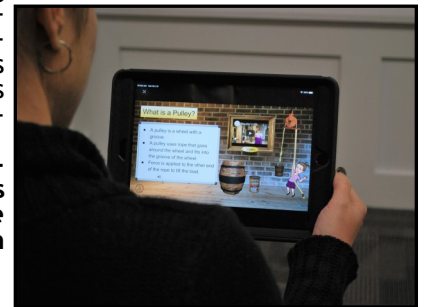
The St. Clair River Trail Facebook page and website has added a new promotional video to its photo archive. The natural beauty of the trail comes alive on the screen. And while you're looking at the video and submitted photographs, why not send us some of the shots you've taken while enjoying the trail? 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.



BEACON
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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

BRIGDEN FAIR 50/50 DRAW YIELDS BIG PRIZE; HELP FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

Giving Back to the Community

In spite of the lack of the 2020 Brigden Fair, Moore Agricultural Society (MAS) continued to give back to the community.

Due to COVID-19, Brigden Fair hosted a private treaty sale of Feeder Club Calves and Lambs, and offered sides of pork to previous buyers and donors. Meat product packages from three beef and seven market hogs were donated to Wallaceburg Salvation Army, Inn of the Good Shepherd, Petrolia Food Bank, LCDS Group Homes, Huron House Boys Home, Women's Interval Home and OHANA Landing. Thank you to Weiland Meats and Dresden Meat Packers for preparing the donated meat. Special thanks to our buyers and donors: Unifor Local 848 of Sarnia; Brigden Feed Mill & Cash & Carry Feed Bin, Petrolia; Dresden Meat Packers; B&A Langstaff Farms; World's Finest Shows; George Langstaff & Sons Construction; Great West Auction Company; Kelly's Construction Services; Lorne & Theresa Pumfrey; Adam and Randa Harris; John Langstaff; Riedl Farms; Horsemen Motorcycle Club; Wilbur Farms; Scotia Bank Petrolia; FCC - Farm Credit Corporation; Brad Langstaff - Country Seeds; Childs Farms; VanEsse Show Cattle; COMA Crossbred Cattle; Weiland Meats; CF Industries; Domenic Eramo and Murphy Acres.

Moore Agricultural Society would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a prosperous and joyous 2021. May you enjoy and create amazing memories during the time spent with family and friends as we all traverse thru the changes COVID-19 has brought into our lives.

We will see you soon and wish you all the best.

Your Brigden Fair Family!



Photos clockwise from top right: *At the Brigden Fair office, last-minute 50/50 ticket sales were brisk when the office held a one-day in-person sale. Customers Connie McCorkle of Sombra and Howard McKellar of Mooretown wait MAS President Malcolm Rogers, left, and family Jack and Cara Philipson, husband Ian Philipson, Nia and Gideon Philipson. The children were allowed to choose one charity each to receive a donation from the winnings. Chosen charities included: Operation Christmas Tree; Vineyard homeless shelter in Sarnia; Inn of the Good Shepherd; and the Angel Tree in Petrolia. *MAS members Shari and Dennis Robinson, who deliver packages of meat products to various charities on behalf of MAS, unload a delivery.

MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Online lecture series planned

An online ZOOM lecture series called *Capturing the Moment: Photography in Lambton County*, is being held in conjunction with an exhibit of the same name currently on display at the Lambton Heritage 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 continues with *History of Photography*, presented by Eugene Pruski, on Thursday, Jan. 14 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. To register for this presentation, visit the Lambton Heritage Museum website and go to: Register for History of Photography. You can also like the museum on Facebook. It is now open with COVID-19 restrictions. Please call 519-243-2600 to reserve a time to visit.

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Corunna Legion continues drive-by dinners in 2021

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. January, 2021 meals include:

Jan. 12: Lasagna, Caesar salad, garlic bread, and dessert. The cut-off date for orders is Jan. 5.

Jan. 26: Chicken Cordon blue, potatoes, veggies, and dessert. Orders will be taken Jan. 12 to Jan. 19.

Please call in and book your pickup time, as the Legion kitchen capacity limits the number of dinners that can be produced.

Contact the Legion at (519) 862-1240.

Moore Ag Society general meeting

The Moore Agricultural Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021, at the Brigden Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall. Current members will be notified of meeting details and additional information will be sent by email or regular mail.

Brigden Fair quilt draw tickets on sale

Tickets for the Brigden Fair Quilt Draw are on sale now and are available from any member of the Brigden Fair Homecraft Division or can be purchased through e-transfer. Email quiltraffle@brigdenfair.ca to tell us how many tickets you want to purchase, including names and contact information for the tickets. The cost is \$2 per ticket or three for \$5, and can also be purchased in larger quantities. This gorgeous, handmade quilt was lovingly created by members of the Homecraft Division. Draw Date is Thanksgiving Monday, Oct. 11, 2021.

West Lambton Community Health programs

The following VIRTUAL programs are being offered by the West Lambton Community Health Centre. Note: Due to safety concerns, exercise classes

will be virtual until spring, 2021 (or when COVID-19 is no longer a threat).

Virtual Low Impact: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, at 9:30 a.m., and Thursday at 9 a.m. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237, or email: adinell@nlchc.com to receive the ZOOM link.

Virtual Chair Exercise: Monday at 1:30 p.m. To register, call 519-344-3017 ext. 237, or email: adinell@nlchc.com to receive the Zoom link.

Virtual Shibashi, SET 1: Friday, 11 a.m. Tai chi/qigong is a 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. To register call 519-344-3017 ext. 237, or email: adinell@nlchc.com to receive the Zoom link.

Virtual Shibashi, SET 2: Wednesday, 11 a.m. Shibashi Set 2 also consists of 18 more advanced steps. It is perfect for those who are familiar with Shibashi Set 1.

Virtual Seated Yoga: Tuesday, Jan. 19; Tuesday, Feb. 23 @11a.m. To register, call 519-344-3017 ext. 237, or email: adinell@nlchc.com.

Virtual Meditation: Mondays, 11 a.m. Increase self esteem, improve concentration, lower blood pressure, reduce stress and anxiety, emotional balance. Helps you appreciate life more.

To register call 519-344-3017, ext. 237, or email: adinell@nlchc.com to receive the Zoom link.

Virtual Night Light: Taking registration for winter program. Find hope and wellness while managing mental illness.

Virtual Kids Cooking: Tuesday, Jan. 12. Our Registered Dietitian has recorded some exciting recipes and uploaded the videos to the North Lambton Community Health Centre YouTube page for everyone to enjoy. The first five families to register will also get free groceries to cook the recipes. To register call 519-344-3017, ext. 237, or email: adinell@nlchc.com. To register, please call 519-344-3017 ext. 223.

Virtual Me, My Mask & I: Wednesday Jan. 20 @ 1:30 p.m. A session created for those with questions, frustrations and/or personal challenges surrounding the sudden need to wear a mask. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237, or email: adinell@nlchc.com.

See More Around the Township, page 18

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.

Help is on the way - be safe!
The COVID-19 vaccine is real and it will eventually be available to everyone. In the meantime, it's more important than ever that we observe all safety precautions - our community is depending on it!

