



# The St. Clair Township BEACON

**PLEASE  
SHOP  
LOCALLY**



Issue 2

Volume 14

February 2021

## *New dock under construction - can summer be far behind?*



Early signs of the summer to come are already appearing along the St. Clair River shore. Tug pilot Jerry Peats, standing at the bow of the tug *Mary Ellen I*, and barge hand Dan Lane were spotted dropping off a construction barge in preparation to put in a new dock north of Courtright.

*Bonnie Stevenson*

## SOME ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP SERVICES SUSPENDED

St. Clair Township is now observing the province's latest STAY AT HOME order, which was effective as of Jan. 22, 2021.

Due to this order, some of the Township of St. Clair's services have been suspended.

Those services still being offered can be expected to have a delay.

Several employees are working from home but will have access to their email.

Please email or leave a voicemail and the employee will get back to you as promptly as possible.

**The following services have been suspended until further notice:**

- a) Issuance of Marriage Licenses
- b) Issuance of Lottery Licenses
- c) Processing of all Planning Act Applications<sup>1</sup>

Continued on page 4

Beacon online ONLY due to COVID-19

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

[beacon@stclairtownship.ca](mailto:beacon@stclairtownship.ca)

and type the word "Subscription" in the

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## MUNICIPAL NOTES



### Notice of 2021 Budget Meeting

St. Clair Township 2021 draft budget presentation and deliberation meeting will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2021 in the Council chambers starting at 5 p.m. through Zoom. The public and all ratepayers are welcome to view.

Charles Quenneville

### 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](http://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, Feb. 1 at 3 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 3 p.m.; Operating Budget, Thursday, Feb. 25 at 5 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.

### Observe COVID-19 protocols

The virus is still a significant threat to the people of Lambton County. Please continue to practice COVID-19 prevention protocols and avoid indoor gatherings. The virus spreads easily indoors, especially in buildings that are poorly ventilated, and a new strain of the virus now being studied is said to have a 70 per cent greater transmission rate than the original virus.

Our front-line health care workers are doing all they can to test, trace, diagnose, and treat COVID-19 patients while also taking care of the many other medical issues and emergencies that must be addressed on a daily basis. It is the duty of all responsible residents to avoid becoming infected by employing all COVID-19 safety protocols and modes of behaviour. In this way, we can reduce the stress and potential danger our front line heroes must face.

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. Call your doctor to confirm your symptoms.

**If you cannot get a timely doctor's appointment, appointments can be made by going online to [getcorigan.ca](http://getcorigan.ca) or by calling 510-491-6188.**

### Winter Parking by-law

The winter parking by-law is now in effect. 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.



### 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; Agri Co-operative Ltd., Brigid; 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.

### 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: Thursday, Feb. 25; Thursday, April 29;**

**FINAL: Thursday, July 29; Wednesday, Sept. 29.**





## More MUNICIPAL NOTES



# Mayors Briefing Provincial COVID-19 Strategy



This week marks almost a year since the first deaths from COVID-19 were announced by the main stream media and the ramifications it could have once it arrived in North America were discussed. So much has changed since then with impacts on our lives both nationally and locally.

The latest initiative in the fight to conquer this pandemic is Ontario's **#StayHomeON** (See page 8) which was launched on Jan. 22. Some of Ontario's most talented and prominent athletes, artists, musicians, actors, and elected officials have joined forces to encourage Ontarians to stay home and stay safe. St. Clair Township has agreed to become part of the social media network participating in this initiative.

We need to continue to observe COVID-19 safety protocols to stay safe until vaccines become available in this area. With this in mind, I was recently involved in a conference call with Premier Ford, Minister Clark, Deputy Premier/Minister of Health Elliott, General Hillier, and Solicitor General Jones, discussing the vaccine roll out status.

Total roll out plans are to be completed and approved by Feb. 15. Soon, we will have the first two types of vaccines being rolled out in Lambton County, including St. Clair Township. The tentative date of arrival of the first vaccines, as stated by the provincial government, is Feb. 1.

Lambton Public Health will be in charge of the implementation of the Provincial roll out priority for our residents. We are currently injecting 15,000 people a day in the Province at 196 locations, and within 96 hours, the capacity will be up to 30,000 injections a day.

The Phase 1 group of vaccinations includes over 1.5 million people in Provincial hot spots, including: remote communities; in long-term care homes; health care workers; the most vulnerable and their care givers. They will be among the first in the Province to be vaccinated. Generally, all LTC homes should start the vaccination process by Feb. 15. Vaccinations will be given in fixed facilities as well as mobile facilities, each with professional injection teams. The phase 1 group has now received well over 160,000 first inoculations and 10,000 have received their second injection. The limiting factor in the vaccination process is receiving the Provincial allocation from the Federal Government.

Phase 2 is scheduled to be done in April, May, and June. This will include 7 million people consisting of essential and emergency workers, such as doctors, nurses, paramedics and volunteer firefighters, as well as the previously-released first age dependent groups of 80 years of age and older. The Federal Government has pledged at least 15 million vaccinations for this time frame. In order to ramp up quantities of vaccinations injected, select pharmacies and family physicians, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, medical students and interns will be asked to help administer the injections. This should help increase the injections to between 750,000 and 1 million

a week.

It is projected that Phase 3 will be started in early August depending on the vaccine availability. By that time there could be four or five more types of vaccines available.

It was stated that drive-through injection sites are not part of the grouping at this time because of the logistics of having to monitor a person for 15 minutes after the injection. Those that have had COVID-19 already will still be vaccinated. The vaccination interval between injections will not be increased at this time.

**For those who are not acting in compliance with the Provincial order**, people have been asked to call the OPP and Lambton Public Health in regards to a facility or people not wearing masks if there are more than five people gathering. Under no circumstance are we to call 911 in regards to the Provincial order.

Premier Ford asked us as mayors and councils to do whatever we can to support the rollout of the vaccine with health unit and encourage all our residents to receive the vaccination in order to eliminate the threat of the COVID-19 virus. His final words were for everyone was to **stay home, stay safe, save lives!**

Be assured that critical supply chain infrastructure such as the water and sewer systems, grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies and other commercial venues will stay open for business and will be able to supply the needs of our residents during this time. Patience is the key for all of us. Our emergency response personnel- Fire, Police, Paramedics and Public Works - will also continue to provide assistance as they are needed.

The township office and most of our facilities continue to be closed to the public. However, township staff can be accessed by appointment for urgent planning needs.

We continue to conduct St. Clair Township Council, Lambton County Council, and other committees council is responsible for electronically by Zoom. The province has once again enacted a State of Emergency as of Thursday, Jan. 14. I have asked our Clerk to post the legislation on our COVID-19 site.

On behalf of all of us on St. Clair Township Council, thank you to everyone for doing their part to defeat the coronavirus. I also want to publicly thank all of our senior management team for their leadership, and the employees of St. Clair Township for their care and concern for the health of those around them. They continue to complete their work diligently and safely in a very concerning and stressful time. They, like everyone else, are balancing many emotions and responsibilities during this time. Please be respectful and patient when you call to discuss issues with them.

I also ask the public to call the MPP's office in re-

**See Provincial COVID-19 Strategy, page 4**



## COVID-19

## Provincial COVID-19 Strategy

From page 2

gards to issues caused by restrictions that are in place or for clarifications of any legislation that is affecting us during the COVID-19 crisis. The provincial government controls the openings, closings, and all legislation dealing with the response to this pandemic.

I want to once again say thank you to everyone for their patience and willingness to do whatever is necessary to bring us out of this situation stronger and more resilient than ever before. I would like to encourage everyone to exercise patience when you are out and about. Please be kind and be pleasant with each other; we need to support each other and not be critical at this time. I know it has been a long journey

and yet we are now able to see the tide shifting with the arrival and administering of the vaccines.

Please be sure to thank (indirectly of course) all those around you that are serving us so well and so unselfishly.

Take time to wash your hands often and sanitize them in between washes, look out for each other, wear a mask, and above all, stay safe, stay home as much as possible, stay socially distant, and get the vaccine when it becomes available to us in St. Clair Township.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you!

*On behalf of all of us in St. Clair Township,  
I wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Safe  
2021.*

*Mayor Steve Arnold*

## First batch of vaccine delivered to Lambton County

The first shipment (500 doses) of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine was received in Lambton County on Jan. 25. They have been earmarked for residents of long-term care and high-risk retirement homes, and Indigenous elder care residents. The vaccine is given in two separate doses to each recipient to ensure the body develops an immune response powerful enough to fight the virus. Demand for the vaccines is very high due to the global need for them, but another deliv-

ery is expected in early February. More vaccine shipments are expected as they become available.

Other Phase I eligible groups will be vaccinated as the vaccine becomes available.

**Those who are not included on the eligible list can find out how they can receive the vaccine when it becomes available by going online to: [getthevaccine.ca](http://getthevaccine.ca). The site will be updated frequently as more information becomes available.**

From page 1

## Some St. Clair Township services suspended

The following Township buildings are closed until further notice:

- Moore Sports Complex<sup>2</sup>
- St. Clair Parkway Golf Course
- Moore and Sombra Museums
- St. Clair Township Civic Centre<sup>2</sup>
- Emergency Services Building (Fire Department) <sup>2</sup>

The Township thanks you for your continued patience throughout these difficult times and it remains our priority to offer professional and courteous service when we're able.

<sup>1</sup> All Planning Applications can be accepted at the Civic Centre by appointment, but all public meetings according to the Planning Act are temporarily suspended.

<sup>2</sup> Employees will continue to occupy these buildings and can be reached their email or by phone at:

- Moore Sports Complex 519-867-2651
- Public Works 519-867-2993
- Finance/Drains/Clerks/Building/Planning 519-867-2021
- Fire Department 519-481-0111

## Emergency child care program expanded: Families can apply

Sarnia, Jan. 26 - The provincial government has added more occupations to the eligibility list for Emergency Child Care Program for school-aged children in support of health care and front line workers during school closures. The eligibility list can be found on the [Province of Ontario website](http://Province of Ontario website). Child care spaces in 12 Lambton County locations are limited and eligible families must apply as follows: **Step 1:** From the list of agencies, contact the child care provider of your choice to determine if a space is available. **Step 2:** Complete a simplified application for emergency child care by emailing: [childcareadmin@county-lambton.on.ca](mailto:childcareadmin@county-lambton.on.ca), or call the County of Lambton Children's Services Department at 519-344-2062, ext. 2201. **Step 3:** Within 2 business days, staff from the Children's Services Department will follow up with you and the child care operator to confirm your eligibility. More information is available at: [lambtononline.ca/childcare](http://lambtononline.ca/childcare).



## 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](http://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](http://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.



### St. Clair River Trail winter closure

The St Clair River Trail will be closed annually from November 30 until April 15. No winter maintenance will be completed during this period under By-Law 45 of 2018.



### 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



### COVID-19 Measures in Effect

The St. Clair Township Works Department will be observing 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, but Public Works staff will be suspending

work that requires entry into a premise and will only enter a residence to deal with a water/sanitary related emergency.

Please be patient during this emergency. The health and safety of the community will be the priority for all St. Clair Township staff.

## 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.).



Proper placement



### 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>

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## Public Works Department

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### 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

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### ***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](http://lambtononline.ca/lambtonrenovates) and [lambtononline.ca/homeownership](http://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](http://lambtononline.ca/lambtonrenovates) and [lambtononline.ca/homeownership](http://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](http://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](http://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.





## Beat the silent killer: Prevent CO in your home

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is known as 'The Silent Killer' because you can't see it, taste it or smell it. It is a leading cause of accidental deaths and poisonings in Ontario every year - with over 65% of CO incidents occurring in the home. CO is produced when fuels such as propane, gasoline, natural gas, heating oil, or wood are burned incompletely in fuel-burning appliances or devices.

In Ontario, it is the law to have a working CO alarm adjacent to each sleeping area of the home if your home has a fuel-burning appliance, a fireplace, or an attached garage. Fuel-burning appliances can include furnaces, hot water heaters, gas or wood fireplaces, portable fuel-burning heaters, and generators. If you live in a condo or apartment building with a service room, CO alarms must be installed in the service room and adjacent to each sleeping area of all homes above, below and beside the service room. In condo or apartment buildings that have a garage, CO alarms must be installed adjacent to each sleeping area of all homes above, below and beside the garage.

**You can prevent CO in your home by following these tips:**

\*Ensure fuel-burning appliances, chimneys and vents are cleaned and inspected annually. Visit [COSafety.ca](https://www.cosafety.ca) to find a registered contractor near you.



Check that all outside appliance vents are not blocked.  
\*Gas and charcoal barbecues should only be used outside, away from all doors, windows, vents, and other building openings. Never use barbecues inside garages, even if the garage doors are open.

\*Portable fuel-burning generators should only be used outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from windows, doors, vents, and other building openings.

\*Ensure all portable fuel-burning heaters are vented properly, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

\*Never use the stove or oven to heat your home.

\*Open the flu before using a fireplace for adequate ventilation.

\*Never run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor inside a garage, even if the garage doors are open.

\*Always remove a vehicle from the garage immediately after starting it.

If carbon monoxide poisoning is suspected or a carbon monoxide alarm sounds, people should leave their home immediately and call 911.

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

### More Withdrawal Management beds opened

A temporary 12-bed Phase II facility of the residential withdrawal management services program has been opened at Bluewater Health, a welcome addition to the current seven-bed unit. The current seven-bed facility at Bluewater Health houses Phase I clients who are undergoing the immediate withdrawal process, while the new Phase II unit will see them through a stabilization and transitional phase.

The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to a rise in the number of people turning to drugs and alcohol, and this has resulted in an increase of those who are turning to Bluewater Health for help with their substance abuse.

Those who wish to access Residential Withdrawal Management Services can call 519-464-4487 for more information about these important services.

### Ontario Small Business Support grant offered

Ontario Small Business Support Grant. Applications are open for the new Ontario Small Business Support Grant, which helps small businesses that are required to close or significantly restrict services under the Provincewide Shutdown effective December 26, 2020. Starting at \$10,000, the grant provides all eligible businesses of less than 100 employees, including restaurants, that has experienced a decrease of at least 20% in revenue because of the current lockdown. Many local businesses might also qualify for the property tax and energy rebates.

For more information, go online to: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/businesses-get-help-covid-19-costs>

### Small business grants now available through Starter Company Plus

The Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP) is offering small business grants of up to \$5,000 for successful applicants to the Starter Company Plus program.

This is the third consecutive year SLEP has offered the program, but new for this year are online educational webinars to help entrepreneurs and applicants with business planning.

For the past two years, six local companies have received \$5,000 each and have benefited from the expertise and mentoring available through SLEP and the Starter Company Plus program.

**Applicants chosen for the program will receive:**

- Funding of up to \$5,000 to grow an existing business or start one;
- Mentorship
- Monthly education and networking sessions;
- One-on-one virtual consulting with an experienced business counsellor;
- Assistance with business planning, goal setting; and assessing the progress of your business.

**Qualifications to apply:**

- 18 years of age or older, Canadian citizen, business in, or to be started in Sarnia or Lambton County;
- Not attending post-secondary school;
- Have at least 25% of the requested grant in equity;
- Have never received a Starter Plus Program grant;
- Owner of private, for-profit business;
- Can submit a three-minute video pitch with application.

Anyone interested in learning more can join an online session on Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 2 p.m. Register at: [sarnialambton.on.ca/starter/register](https://sarnialambton.on.ca/starter/register).

More information on how to apply can be found at: [sarnialambton.on.ca/starter](https://sarnialambton.on.ca/starter) or by contacting Chantelle Core at: [chantelle@sarnialambton.on.ca](mailto:chantelle@sarnialambton.on.ca).

*Starter Company Plus is administered by the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Development Partnership's Business Enterprise Centre and funded by the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.*

## COVID-19 slow to conquer: Province launches #StayHomeON

The COVID-19 pandemic is unlike anything we have dealt with in our life time; it has been unforgiving of those who disregard pandemic safety protocols.

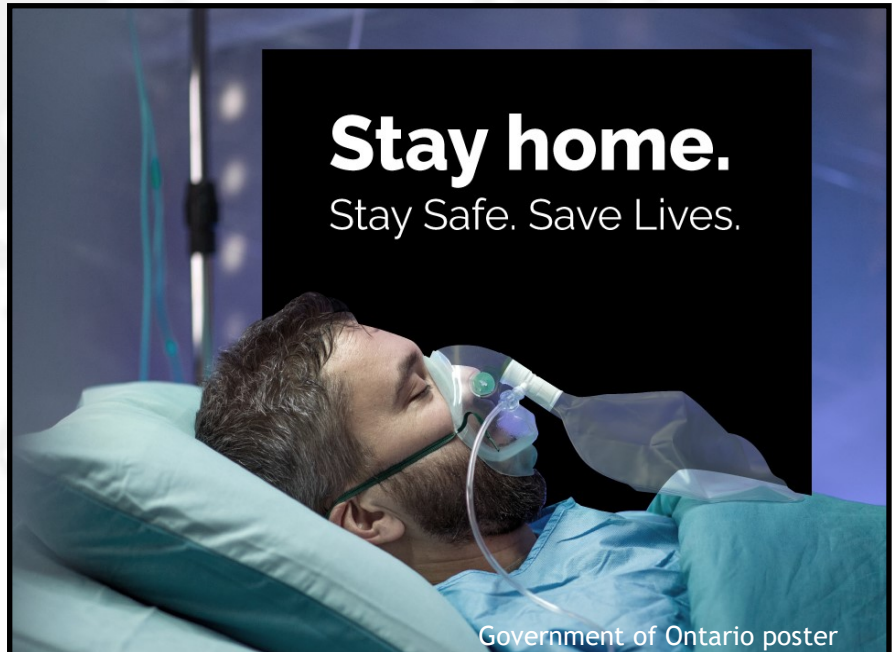
The loss of life and long-term symptoms associated with this pandemic continue to bring misery and grief to thousands of Canadians.

From Sarnia-Lambton's low positivity rate of during the warm weather of 2020, positivity rates have increased substantially, a trend that Bob DeRaab, Bluewater Health Director for Rural Health and Patient Medicine, refers to as Wave Two. "For a while, we were actually one of the lower regions in the province in terms of prevalence. Unfortunately, we are now the third highest in terms of incidents per hundred thousand people...a lot of people are getting pandemic fatigue and they let their guard down, and we are starting to see those effects now, he said."

The increase in cases can legitimately be attributed to holiday celebrations where COVID safety protocols were not observed. DeRaab hopes the public will renew efforts to observe personal safety and bring the positivity rate down again. "We've opened what we call our Med-C (COVID) unit, and we feel we are well positioned to respond to the challenge, but we could very easily get into some issues in terms of capacity if we start seeing large numbers of patients having to transition to the hospital."

Vaccines are slowly becoming available, but even as we wait for them to be delivered and administered, and then become effective, the virus continues to move freely through the population and several concerning mutations have been discovered.

Lambton County received its first shipment of vaccine



Government of Ontario poster

on Jan. 25 and another is expected in early February. The first phase of the vaccine distribution plan calls for the inoculation of long-term care residents, staff and essential workers first. After that, at-risk groups to be vaccinated include: health care workers; other congregate care settings; First Nations communities; and older adults. After the at-risk population is vaccinated, those who wish to receive the vaccine will be able to register for it (see page 4).

Dr. Sundit Ranade, Medical Officer of Health for Lambton County, says that when the most vulnerable citizens are vaccinated, other groups will be vaccinated in order of vulnerability. "It is our goal to have inoculated everyone who wants to receive the vaccine as soon as we can possibly do so," he said.

## 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](http://www.rapidsfhteam.ca) or to register call 519-339-8949 and speak to reception.

### *ZOOM IN ON THESE NEW PROGRAMS*

#### 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.



### Overdose is a community issue

Lambton Public Health (LPH) aid to the victim until help reports an increase in street drug overdoses and urges that the Ontario Good Samaritan's Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 2. 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

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.



# Lambton County health care providers unite to fight virus

By Bonnie Stevenson

A combined county-wide health team that has been operating in Sarnia and Lambton County for over 10 months is now one of about 42 teams included in the Ontario Health Team Network. The OHT's stated purpose is "...to provide a new way of organizing and delivering care that is more connected to patients in their local communities."

Cynthia McColeman, Health Promotion and Communications Director for the Rapids Family Health Team in Sarnia, says the team is doing medical care a little bit differently. "It's the whole community of health care and social services partnerships in this area. Everybody is working together to use their resources to provide, hopefully, seamless care to the patient," she said.

Inclusion in the provincial health team network is just the most recent development in a concerted COVID-19 care strategy that has been growing since March. Bob DeRaab, Bluewater Health Director for Rural Health and Patient Medicine, explained the testing initiative has expanded to include many groups in Lambton County. "We started with Twin Bridges Nurse Practitioners in March, our partners out in Petrolia came on line in April and after that, the Grand Bend family health team came on line. Concurrently, in April, the ministry asked us to ramp up testing." To facilitate the provincial request, community paramedics were brought in to create an outreach team that took testing into long-term care homes.

The group went on to incorporate three Indigenous assessment centres; Stony Point, Aamjiwnaang and Walpole, and most recently, primary care partners at Rapids Family Health Team, where respiratory assessments are also being offered.

To illustrate how the team concept is streamlining the testing process in Lambton County, McColeman described how the team provided service all through the holidays. "(For instance) On New Year's Day, we were able to utilize staff from Bluewater Health and paramedics from local EMS. We also used Rapids Family Health Team staff and our space to provide more testing so that patients weren't waiting until after the holidays to receive care."

Manager of EMS Services Steve Pancino says paramedics are not strangers to this testing method. "Some of our paramedics have been trained and are part of the disciplinary team that supports the COVID assessments and swabbing."

Testing was offered on Christmas Day

when most non-urgent health services are closed. "By having these new partnerships, there's more opportunity to utilize their resources," said McColeman. "It's like a pooling of all these wonderful resources of wonderfully-trained people so we can hit the ground running."

Pancino makes a point of assuring the public that EMS paramedics are always ready to respond to emergencies; their work with the health team is an extension of their ability to better serve the community. "Any of the assessment centre work, or the work we've done with Rapids Health Team or the hospital, is done outside of the regular 911 ambulance system. We're not impacting service to the community," he said.

McColeman says the new [getcorigan.ca](http://getcorigan.ca) website, specifically developed by two Sarnia physicians to enable people to book their own COVID-19 testing appointments, has been a great help in speeding up access to testing. The Lambton Public Health website is another good place to get COVID-19 information and testing centre locations.

"We've done our best to try to expand our hours," said McColeman. "We're now open Sundays (but) there's just not enough hours in the testing day to be able to get everybody in that wants a test right now," she said. "The pharmacies are doing testing as well. As cases rise, people want to make sure they're not unknowingly carrying it (the virus)."

As COVID-19 continues its assault on Ontario, DeRaab reminds the public to maintain diligent safety measures when venturing out into public spaces. "This is a tricky virus and I'm in awe of how quickly and easily it is transmitted," he said. "You really have to keep your guard up."



On New Year's Day, staff from three Sarnia-Lambton area medical groups gather to keep the COVID-19 testing facility open. From left: Lynn Laidler, Executive Director of Rapids Family Health Team; Nadine Neve, Bluewater Health Manager Patient Flow; and Tanisha Evelyn, local EMS paramedic.

Rapids HT photo

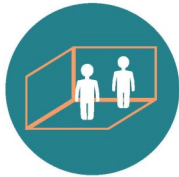
## EMERGENCIES HAPPEN!

Are you ready for them? Don't wait to find out what you SHOULD have done to get through a catastrophic windstorm, 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](http://www.getprepared.ca) and get all the information you need.**



# COVID-19: Going Out Safely

## Settings: Avoid the Three Cs



Closed spaces



Crowded places



Close contact



The risk is higher in places where these settings overlap.

### Low Risk



Getting mail and packages



Restaurant takeout



Grocery and retail shopping



Outdoor parks and beaches



Camping



Running/hiking/biking solo or physically distanced



Driving a car solo or with social circle



Physically distanced picnic



Going for a walk



Physically distanced outdoor sports



Barbecue with social circle

### Medium Risk



Hair salons and barbershops



Outdoor restaurants and patios



Hotels and BnBs



Public pools



Medical and dental appointments



Schools, camps and daycare



Taxis and ride shares



Malls, museums and galleries



Working in an office



Weddings and funerals



Playing on play structures



Visiting elderly or at-risk people



Movie theatres

### High Risk



Bars and nightclubs



Crowded indoor restaurant/buffet



Casinos



Amusement parks



Indoor parties



Conferences



Cruise ships and resorts



Gyms and athletic studios



Hugging, kissing or shaking hands



Sexual activity with new people



Large religious/cultural gatherings



Sporting events in arenas and stadiums



Crowded public transportation



Music concerts and places with singing or shouting



High contact sports with shared equipment

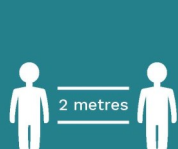
## What You Should Do



Stay home if you're sick



Use good hand hygiene



Practice physical distancing



Wear a face mask (or covering) if required or physical distancing is not possible

Risk levels may vary based on your ability to physically distance, the use of non-medical masks by you and others, and other measures that may decrease risk. Some examples of low, medium, high risk are provided above but depend on whether or not proper public health measures are followed. Risk level for exposure is impacted by closed spaces, prolonged exposure time, crowds, forceful exhalation (yelling, singing, coughing).

Concepts adapted from Public Health Agency of Canada and the World Health Organization.



**Lambton**  
Public Health

Learn more at:  
[LambtonPublicHealth.ca](http://LambtonPublicHealth.ca)

## HOW TO SAFELY WEAR A MASK:



✓ Do wash your hands before putting it on & taking it off

✓ Do make sure it fits to cover your mouth & nose

✓ Do wash your cloth mask in the laundry

✓ Do clean surfaces that a dirty mask touches

✗ Don't touch your face or mask while using it

✗ Don't use masks on children under 2 or those who can't breathe with them on

✗ Don't share your mask with others

✗ Don't wear medical masks, keep them for health care workers

The best protection is

Stay home

Keep 6 feet or 2 metres distance

Wash hands often

**Lambton**  
Public Health

Learn more at:  
[LambtonPublicHealth.ca](http://LambtonPublicHealth.ca)

## Mask recommendations from Gov't of Canada - What works effectively and what doesn't

It's gratifying to see the vast majority of Lambton County residents wearing masks. As the coronavirus continues to be a threat, the variety of colours, constructions, and compositions of these masks reveals true constructive creativity. But masks that put the emphasis on pretty or funny or clever at the expense of being effective are unlikely to deliver the protection they were meant for.

The Canadian government has published a set of guidelines to ensure that masks, both commercial and home-made, are effective at preventing the coronavirus from escaping into the air.

**Fabric, structure, and fit** are the three things that must be considered. A mask made of two layers of tightly woven fabric, such as cotton or linen, and one middle layer of filter-type fabric such as a non-woven polypropylene fabric, must be constructed to offer full coverage of the nose, mouth and chin. It must fit so that the mask fits snugly but comfortably around the edges with no gaps or open areas. It must also allow for easy breathing and not require frequent adjustments (indicates a poor fit).

**Masks with removeable or a non-woven filter layer** should be washed daily. Those who have existing risk factors should wear a non-medical mask or face covering that includes a filter fabric or replaceable filter. The commercially available blue disposable masks are acceptable.

**Children under age two** should not wear masks or face coverings. Between ages two and five, children should be supervised while wearing a mask. Over age five, they should wear a mask in situations/settings where they are recommended for the general public.

**Neck gaiters (scarf-like neck warmers)** are not recommended. They are difficult to remove (without contaminating yourself) and they tend to move and slip out of place. Most are only one layer.

**For the hearing impaired** or those who must interact through lip reading, a clear mask/visor is recommended. It should be stored in a cloth bag or clean paper while not in use. However, face shields **DO NOT** replace masks or face coverings. They protect the eyes of those who wear them; they do not prevent your exhalations from escaping into the air and may infect others if you are COVID positive.

**Masks with exhalation valves** do not protect others from COVID or limit the spread of the virus.

**Those who cannot wear a mask** (illness or disability may make it difficult to put on and take off a mask, the mask may impair their ability to breathe, and it isn't safe for children under age two. *Note: Please be kind.*

### Care of Masks

Fabric masks/reusable masks should be laundered or cleaned frequently and handled with care between cleanings. Deposit disposable masks in proper garbage receptacles or place in a clean plastic bag for future disposal.

## HERITAGE CORNER



**Victorian Valentines** from the Moore Museum archives are always a favourite of our readers. With the pandemic keeping us at home and hampering our ability to shop for the perfect card, you can always try your hand at creating your own card. Many easy and appropriate suggestions can be found at craft sites online.

## 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 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.

## Riverside Cemetery

Riverside Cemetery has submitted by-laws to the Registrar of the Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Any interested parties may contact Dennis Robinson at: 519-892-3316 for information or to make copies. By-laws or amendments may be reviewed or copied at 3164 St. Clair Parkway, Sombra, 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.

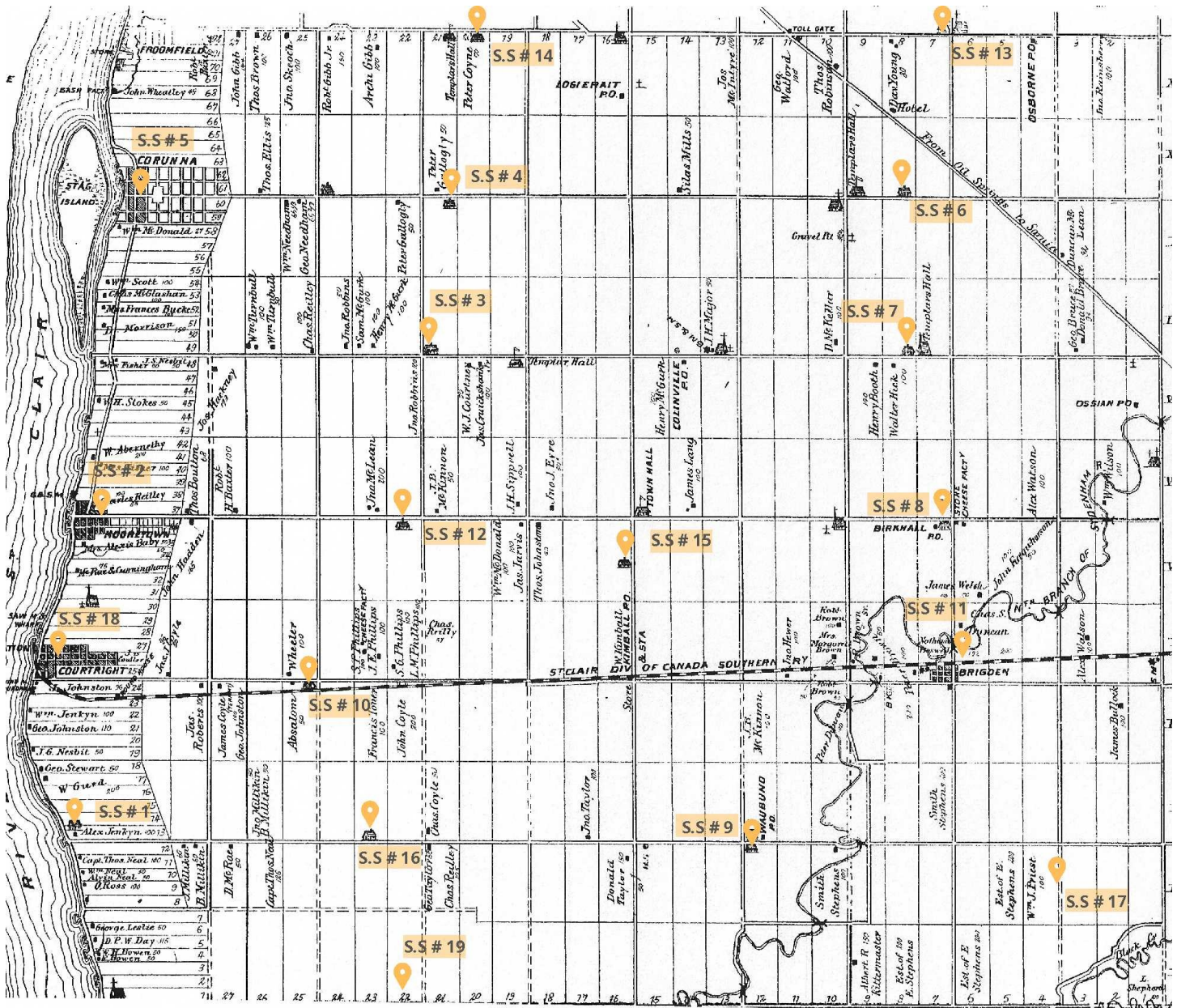
## Bear Creek Cemetery Company

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



## COVID-19 couldn't stop Corunna woman from achieving goal

Corunna resident Tara Antle has realized a goal she's had for the past year; she has successfully completed a 1,000 km challenge in one year.

After the birth of her first child, Corunna resident Tara Antle decided to get active and started training by running. Through the years, she was able to complete a five kilometre run, then a ten kilometre run, and she became so good at long distance running that she was determined to complete the 2020 St. Clair River Run. Unfortunately, that run was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She was disappointed but, determined to do the run alone, she trained harder. Last year, she joined an online group that was engaged in the 1,000 kilometre Great Canadian Running Challenge which had to be accomplished in one year.

When the time came for Tara to head for Sombra to do her personal St. Clair River Run, she had racked up 725 kilometres already. Not only did she complete the 21.1 kilometre challenge that day in 2 hours and 46 minutes, but she continued to run to make up the remainder of her 1,000 km. goal.

Today, Tara still runs, but she is also a workout coach for the Beach Body exercise program. Her goal this time is "...to encourage and challenge others and, hopefully, inspire others."

With winter in progress, Tara says she's still running, but while the cold winds blow, her running is done in a more weather-friendly location. "I much prefer the treadmill in the winter. I'm not brave enough to go out in the snow and the cold," she said. She estimates she has added another 100 kilometres to her total mileage so far this winter.

Physical exercise has been one of the ways Tara copes with the lockdowns that have accompanied the COVID-19 pandemic. "During the lockdown you've got to do some-



Tara Antle with proof of 1,000 km achievement.

S & T Photography

thing or you go a little stir-crazy," she said.

"It's an amazing feeling to know I accomplished what I set out to do and know that I didn't think it was possible when I first signed up for it (the challenge). It was kind of a pipe dream but I went into it thinking we'll see what happens," she said. "I had a lot of fun doing it, too."

Tara attributes her success in large part to her family, who often accompanied her and cheered her on. "Even if they weren't running with me, they were good support."



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Ph: 519-867-2651

2021  
HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR



@mooretownsportscomplex

Follow us on Facebook, or watch our website for further updates including programming.

Contact us by email or phone if you have any questions.

[www.stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca](http://www.stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca) / E-mail: [info@stclairtownship.ca](mailto:info@stclairtownship.ca)



ST. CLAIR PARKWAY GOLF COURSE

# The Parkway

happy new year

2021

"Lambton  
County's  
Best Golf  
Value"

Follow us on Facebook, or watch  
our website for any further  
updates including programming

Contact us by email or phone if you have any questions.



## St. Clair Parkway Golf Club

Email: [kgrant@stclairtownship.ca](mailto:kgrant@stclairtownship.ca)

Phone: 519-867-2160

Facebook: @stclairparkwaygolfclub

Website: <http://www.stclairparkwaygolf.com/>



CANADA

## 2021 Census set for May

Statistics Canada will be doing a country-wide census collection during the month of May, 2021.

The census is carried out to enable government to make important decisions that directly impact families, neighbourhoods, and businesses. Data gathered helps plan, develop and evaluate programs and services such as schools, daycare, family services, housing, emergency services, roads, public transportation, and skills training to benefit employment.

To accomplish the census collection, about 32,000 people across Canada will be hired. Residents from each municipality should be aware of these job opportunities.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the census will be conducted using a safe and secure approach.



## Beacon Bits

You don't have to keep score when you play golf with a bad golfer. You just look back and count the wounded.

~with apologies to  
Bob Hope

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

## A chat with the new general manager at Shell Manufacturing Centre

Last August, the Shell Manufacturing Centre north of Corunna welcomed a new general manager, Pauline Buitink. She brings with her 25 years of experience with Shell in Europe.

In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictive measures it has brought along with it, Buitink has been able to get a positive impression of her new community. "It's a small town but everything you look for, you can find," she said. "Everywhere you go, people are willing to help."

As for her first months at the Shell facility, Buitink is pleased with the operation's constant effort to build on the work that has been done in the plant to advance the company's commitment to the environment. "Over the years, we clearly have been working to make sure we have less emissions from the facility," she said. "There's a drive to get a cleaner operation mode."

The Shell facility, refines crude oil for transportation gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel, including gasoline containing ethanol and low sulphur diesel fuel to comply with future Federal clean fuel standards. It also has a chemical production facility that is vitally important, especially during the pandemic. One of the chemicals produced there is isopropyl alcohol, a key ingredient in hand sanitizers, disinfectants, and other medical applications. It is the only isopropyl alcohol-producing facility in Canada and is a key producer for the rest of North America.

One of the challenges Buitink encountered when she became general manager was the need to keep Shell personnel safe while maintaining production. "A lot of work had been done to see who needs to come to the site (to work) ...many people work at home," she said. "We have a minimum amount of people we need to safely operate and maintain the facility. It was quite an effort, but so far, it's worked well to keep our people safe." She added a few cases of the coronavirus had occurred at the site but all were recovering well.

Regular shutdowns required for the maintenance of the plant are being analyzed to see how they can best be accomplished in a way that will protect those who work on them. "We are looking to see how we can manage them and make sure we can do them within the COVID constraints," said Buitink.

Shell External Relations manager, Olwen Gover, noted a concerted effort has been made at the facility to keep operations running smoothly and with regard to those who work to make that happen. "Everything we're doing here at the plant with regard to the pandemic is about care for our people, the contractors, and the people in the community," she said. "We know what we do to keep the province running; supplying fuel to keep the trucks and deliveries going, and keeping the province moving. We take that responsibility very seriously, as we do the responsibility to keep our people safe."

Gover shares Buitink's enthusiasm for the future of the site and its employees. "It's been great having Pauline join us at the site and have her lead the team as we see how we can build on our past successes and take the site forward."

From her reception to the Shell Manufacturing Centre in August to the present, Buitink says she is moved by the kindness and interest shown by the people around her. "From my interactions with Security as I enter the site, through to meetings I have attended, the individuals I have spoken with, and in the community, everyone has been so friendly," she said.

For more information about the Shell Manufacturing Centre, please visit its website at <http://bit.ly/ShellSarniaSite> or follow them on Facebook.



General Manager Pauline Buitink

## The Jean Collective presents virtual workshops

The Jean Collective, an initiative developed by local women, is committed to providing an educational vehicle for local women who wish to know more about politics and possibly get involved in the process.

The group's latest nine-session program, Run-Win-Lead, offers monthly sessions to provide participants with the foundational skills to claim their place in politics and be a catalyst for change. The next virtual Zoom program, *So You Are Thinking of Running For Office, What Now?*, is slated for Feb. 17 and is being offered for the nominal registration fee of \$10.

For more information on The Jean Collective, go

to: <https://www.facebook.com/womenforpolitics/community/>.

For those who wish to donate to the bursary for students, please go to: [https://www.canadahelps.org/en/chooseSarniaCommunityFoundation;choose the "Jean Macdougall Fund for women in politics"](https://www.canadahelps.org/en/chooseSarniaCommunityFoundation;choose-the-JeanMacdougallFundforwomeninpolitics).

**FYI:** Women comprise 50.38% of the Canadian population, yet hold only 18% of mayoral positions and 28% of councillor seats. Percentages are lower in Sarnia and Lambton County, with some county municipalities' councils comprised solely of men.

## Find The Beacon online during the pandemic

Email: [beacon@stclairtownship.ca](mailto:beacon@stclairtownship.ca) to subscribe—FREE!

Just type the word 'Subscription' in the Subject line

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



## 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.**

~ ~ ~

### **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.*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

### **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 Pe-

troia. (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](http://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/](http://Lambtonpublichealth.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus/service-changes/)

### **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 Aarsen 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**

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

## MORE COMMUNITY CONTACT

From page 17

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.

### MAS event to be rescheduled as restrictions ease

The Moore Agricultural Society is still waiting to host its popular beef dinner, which was cancelled in March, 2020. It is one of the events that may be rescheduled to 2021 if/when the appropriate "gathering restrictions" are approved. Everyone who purchased tickets for the March, 2020 beef dinner is asked to hold their tickets for a future date. When a date is finally 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](http://www.brigdenfair.ca) or the Brigden Fair Facebook page.



### St. Clair River TRAIL

*actively connecting communities*

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

Check out Trail Facebook page, video, & website

### 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.

### 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](http://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.



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

BEACON  
BIT

*Wrinkles should merely indicate where the smiles have been.* ~Mark Twain

### 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](http://www.petroliacadets.com)



# SCRCA celebrates 60 years of conservation

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, which began life as the Sydenham Valley Conservation Authority on Jan. 12, 1961, began in cooperation with the Province of Ontario and local municipalities. On Jan. 12, 2021, it celebrated its 60th birthday. Through the years, it has implemented watershed management principles to ensure development occurs in safe and sustainable locations.

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has expanded its scope and its staff over the years, but its work continues to benefit the Sydenham River watershed and 13 smaller watersheds that drain into Lake Huron, the St. Clair River, and Lake St. Clair.

Due to COVID-19, the SCRCA must limit anniversary celebrations according to the safety protocols requested by the province, but celebrations will take place throughout the year as health and safety requirements permit.

In a video message posted on the Authority's website and on its Youtube channel, SCRCA General Manager Brian McDougall paid tribute to those who have supported the Authority's six decades of environmental progress. "Our success would not have been possible without the support of our watershed communities, our member municipalities, and our local, provincial, and federal partnerships," he said. "Our 60th anniversary will look quite a bit different than originally planned due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, but it is a milestone anniversary and especially now, we need to celebrate sixty years of achievements."

**Above:** The 2017 SCRCA staff gathers in front of the SCRCA administration office in Strathroy for a 60th anniversary photograph.

**Right:** A staff photograph taken in the 1980s, same location, different sign.

St. Clair Region  
Conservation Authority photos



## MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

### From page 20

fundraising commitment is required. Uniform is not included in the registration fee. Players should be prepared to commit to one home game, one away game, and one practice per week. Home games are played in Brigden. For more information or to register, see @BWSGirls Fastball on Facebook, or email: [bluewaterstorm.fastball@gmail.com](mailto:bluewaterstorm.fastball@gmail.com).

### Virtual Community Law School Legal Protections for Your Clients: Cellphone Contracts

**Legal Protections for Your Clients: Cellphone Contracts** will be held virtually on Feb. 10 from 11 a.m. to noon. Those registered will receive a Zoom link and electronic handouts by email before the workshop. To register, email: [virtualcommunitylaw-school@gmail.com](mailto:virtualcommunitylaw-school@gmail.com) not later than Feb. 5 at noon. More virtual workshops are being planned for 2021 for front

line workers and you are encouraged to send your suggestions to the email address listed above.

### Virtual Entrepreneurship Series

The Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership and Lambton County Library will host a **free** four-part webinar series beginning the morning of Feb. 20. **Entrepreneurship 101** will provide participants with the tools they need to enter the world of entrepreneurship while showcasing the Lambton County Library system's resources to support the development of business. It will then show how to research and write your business plan while making use of the free resources available through the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership's Business Enterprise Centre.

Interested participants are required to register in advance for this **free** program through the Lambton County Library's online calendar at [lclibrary.ca](http://lclibrary.ca). Space is limited.



## 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. 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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:adinell@nlchc.com) to receive the Zoom link.

**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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto: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 Yoga:** Thursday, Feb. 18 at 10:15 a.m.

**Virtual Seated Yoga:** Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 11 a.m. To register, call 519-344-3017 ext. 237, or email: [adinell@nlchc.com](mailto:adinell@nlchc.com).

**Virtual Meditation:** Mondays and Thursdays at 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](mailto:adinell@nlchc.com) to receive the Zoom link.

**Virtual Craving Change:** A how-to workshop for changing your relationship with food. To register, call 519-786-4545, ext. 307 or email: [ageorge@nlchc.com](mailto:ageorge@nlchc.com).

**Virtual Night Light:** Continues Thursdays until March 11 at 2 p.m. Find hope and wellness while managing mental illness. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 223.

### Virtual Kids Cooking

On Tuesday, Feb. 9, the 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](mailto:adinell@nlchc.com).

### Bluewater Storm Girls Fastball registration

Bluewater Storm Girls Fastball is holding player registration for the 2021 season. Bluewater Storm Fastball teams compete in the Central Lambton Fastball League. Players ages 10 to 20 who are dedicated and enthusiastic can register for Squirt, Peewee, Bantam, and Midget Division teams, and first-time players are welcome. The cost is \$150, and a \$200

See More Around the Township, page 19

### Help is on the way - be safe!

The COVID-19 vaccine has started to arrive, but until the community is vaccinated, it's important we all observe COVID safety precautions. It's easy to do and crucial to the eradication of this virus.

