

HERITAGE CORNER

Looking back in time: old newspapers are history-in-the-making

Newspapers may be a nuisance when they have been read and left lying around the house. These days, they end up in the recycling bin, as a convenient packing material for moving day, or as a cheap alternative to a drop cloth when we're painting.

But stash it away and bring it out a few decades later, and it's a valuable first-hand account of events long past. It may even yield priceless information that has been forgotten through the years.

While it's easy these days to access a lot of the old publications digitally, the brittle feel and musty smell of an old newspaper provides us with a solid connection to the past. Even an advertisement like the one seen here, right, tells us a lot about how radically social norms have evolved.

In St. Clair Township's past, a few of the villages in Moore and Sombra Townships had their own weekly newspapers, but very few copies have survived. They included: the *Brigden Beetle*-1870s; the *Public Opinion* (Brigden)-1880s to early 1900s; *Brigden Progress*-1900 to 1919; *Brigden Banter*-1954 to 1955 (publishers Carmen Holbrough and Bob Ford); *Courtright and Moore Sun*-1909 to 1912; *Tribune* (Courtright) 1912 to 1915; *Sombra Outlook*-1908 to 1917 (Sombra Township's only newspaper); *Outlook Tribune*-1915 to 1917 (combined with the *Sombra Outlook* in 1917).

~Thanks to Laurie and Ian Mason for the vintage newspaper clipping and the information used here.



Do you have any "vintage" local newspapers in your attic or storage trunk? We'd like to know. Email: beacon@stclairtownship.ca

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.



St. Patrick's Day Greeting cards from the Moore Museum archives. **Myth alert:** Historical research tells us Ireland never had snakes for the saint to chase away and the colour originally associated with St. Patrick was blue. (However, it is said that the wise people of Ireland wear green to make themselves invisible to leprechauns, who enjoy sneaking up on visible humans and pinching them.)

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back.

*May the sun shine warm upon your face; may the rains fall softly on your fields,
and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

~An Irish blessing

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).

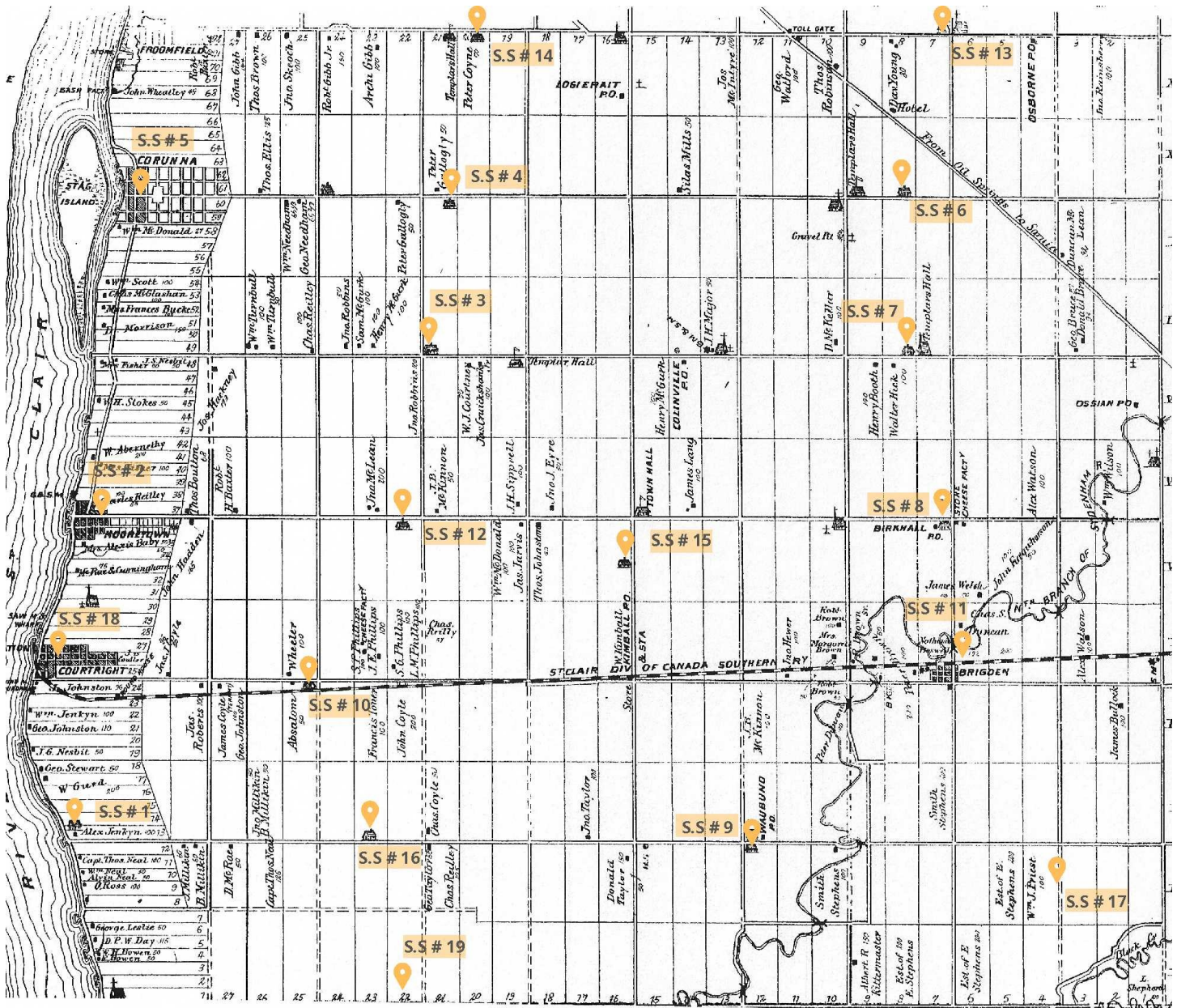
Submissions can be sent by email to:
sombramuseum@hotmail.com with the subject line
"COVID-19 History Snapshot".

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.

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