



The St. Clair Township BEACON

Discoveries
That Matter

Issue 6

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THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

St. Clair Township gardens receive green thumb treatment



Just minutes after the Dedecker Park fountain was activated for the season, St. Clair Township's "green team", horticultural technician Laura Howlett, right, and summer student assistant Kyra Ritchie, were busy grooming the fountain garden and adding new plants.

Stevenson photo



Have you answered your Census questionnaire?

There is still time to let your voice be heard. Your answers are important. By filling out your census questionnaire, your information will help organizations and communities in Canada plan, develop, and expand programs, services and infrastructure. The information collected is a valuable tool for understanding Canadians across the country and providing the right services for each neighbourhood. Filling out your census online is quick, easy and secure. For more information about how the 2021 census can benefit you, your family, and your community, go to: www.census.gc.ca



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MUNICIPAL NOTES

Rumour of Corunna OPP site false

Social media (Facebook) is once again responsible for circulating bogus information. The latest panic-starter alleged the Lambton OPP Corunna detachment would be closing in June.

OPP Inspector Chris Avery, commander of the OPP Lambton County Detachment, quickly responded to the claim by stating, "I have been doing my best to dispel that information because they are just rumours. **There is no plan to close the Corunna site.**"

Various false claims about the future of the OPP presence at the Corunna satellite office have been circulating for the past two months, causing unnecessary concern within the township.

Mayor Steve Arnold says rumours of the closure were brought to his attention during a telephone discussion with a Corunna resident, who wanted to respond to something he had seen on a social media site. Since that time, several attempts have been made by OPP officials to dispel the lies through the legitimate media, and discussions during virtual online St. Clair Township council meetings have been held within that public forum.

But rumours persist.

At the heart of this rumour lies a simple matter of who pays the rent on the office space. An annual provincial government grant has been used in the past to pay the rental, but that grant was discontinued as part of the OPP reorganization process leaving a shortfall for the local police services board. "The shortfall in the budget the police services board has to make up is an on-going issue," said Mayor Arnold.

He explained, "The contract states the police services board establishes the budget and sends it to the municipalities, who have 30 days to review it and decide if they want to go ahead with it...The board did not include the shortfall caused by the loss of the provincial grant, so now they are eating through any reserves they have, trying to hold on to everything they have...This is something the board has to work through."

At the provincial level, the OPP reorganizations includes amalgamating police boards. If the plan goes ahead, the Petrolia detachment and the Point Edward detachment will have one police services board, and Mayor Arnold says one of the things that may be done in Lambton County will be the expansion of the board to 10 members. "Sixty per cent has to come from local municipalities, 20 per cent from appointees we pick as police mayors' group, and 20 per cent provincial appointees," said Mayor Arnold.

Social media rumour mills might provide juicy fodder for casual discussion, but the misinformation it spews causes problems for those who must cope with the unnecessary backlashes they produce. "This is bad," said Mayor Arnold. "It takes a lot of energy and resources for staff and council to deal with lies that are being publicized."

~ ~ ~

Bunker Avenue/Rokeby high speed project

A 1.2 kilometre stretch of the St. Clair Parkway in St. Clair Township, which was overlooked during the initial SWIFT high-speed broadband service assessment, has been the subject of an initiative by St. Clair Township to make high-speed available there. An acceptable project

Council Meeting Schedule

All regular public council meetings are being held online until the COVID-19 threat has subsided enough to allow public gatherings. 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 Facebook link is added just before the meeting is slated to begin.

Upcoming meetings include: Monday, June 7 at 3 p.m., and Monday, June 21 at 3 p.m.; Monday, July 5 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.

Pay taxes and water online

Ratepayers now have the option to pay 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

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

proposal from COGECO has been advanced with bridge funding from the township, but Mayor Arnold hopes other avenues of funding might be possible.

"We can either get a grant for it or the ratepayers will have to do it," he said. MP Marilyn Gladu is currently working at the Federal level to obtain shortfall funding, since it has been established that the area is truly underserved. Mayor Arnold believes residents of the affected area should not have to suffer financially to receive the same level of high-speed service their neighbours will be able to access as part of the SWIFT project.

"SWIFT did a business case and they were short \$100,000, so somewhere along the line, someone has to make that up," said Mayor Arnold. "SWIFT did the technical work, not the township. They said it (the area in question) did not require anything because they had what was needed to meet the minimum requirement."

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) website crtc.gc.ca states that a fund is being set up to help ensure minimum service levels for broadband Internet across Canada. It goes on to say, "By the end of 2021, we expect 90 per cent of Ca-

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More MUNICIPAL NOTES

From page 2

nadian homes and businesses will have access to broadband speeds of at least 50Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads."

The rationale behind the push to have high-speed service makes good sense; the CRTC website deems it a necessary tool commercial and industrial businesses, as well as small businesses and private citizens, must have to compete on the global stage. The website reads, "...a well-developed broadband infrastructure is essential for Canadians to participate in the digital economy."

SWIFT, an initiative of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus in partnership with member municipalities, provincial and federal governments, was conceived to improve access to high-speed internet services within Southwestern Ontario.

Wellings Corunna reports on new/pending programs

During a virtual Zoom presentation to council, Billy Yurchuk, general manager of Wellings in Corunna, unveiled new programs being offered by Wellings. They include a new hot Meals on Wheels service that will operate through Wellings. Meals on Wheels currently delivers frozen meals to older adults who would not otherwise be able to prepare nutritious meals for themselves. The meals are kept in the freezer and heated as required. Program volunteers currently serve 12 seniors who need the help and Mr. Yurchuk says there is hope the program can be expanded to aid members of the community who can benefit from it.

A public shuttle service using the Wellings transportation vehicle is being considered to take local residents to and from Sarnia. Mr. Yurchuk says, "A nominal fee would be charged for this service."

Several modifications have also been made to the

COVID-19 scams in Lambton County

Lambton Public Health (LPH) reports COVID-19 vaccine scams are making their way around Lambton County.

Please report to police any phone calls that request money be paid in return for community COVID-19 testing or vaccinations. See below for toll-free number.

LPH Health Promotion Supervisor Donna Schmidtmeier says registration does not involve a fee or financial information. "The public should know that Lambton Public Health does not charge a fee to pre-register for the vaccine, nor do we charge a fee for the vaccine itself. We will not ask you for any financial information whatsoever," she said.

For the latest updates on the vaccine and to register in Lambton County, go online to:

[GetTheVaccine.ca/register](https://getthevaccine.ca/register).

NOTE: Other scams may be operating in the community, so if you are contacted out of the blue by anyone who asks for money or to confirm your personal or financial information in any way or for any reason, or threatens you if you don't comply with some vague demand, hang up immediately and call Lambton OPP to report the contact. Provide any details you can about the call and/or the caller.

You can help keep your community secure by calling Lambton OPP to report it at the OPP non-emergency toll-free number at 1-888-310-1122 (or 1-888-310-1133 for TTY). Please do not use 911.

Wellings building to accommodate residential trends.

The positive changes at Wellings were praised by Mayor Arnold, who encouraged Mr. Yurchuk and the Wellings group to continue including the community in its deliberation.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Lambton Public Health recently opened a new Vaccine Call Centre, open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It can be reached by calling 226-254-8222 or going online to the [Contact Us](#) page on the Lambton Public Health website. Anyone who has vaccine inquiries or those who are having difficulty booking their COVID-19 vaccination appointment online can call the new Vaccine Call Centre phone number above to speak directly to an agent.

Individuals aged 12 and older are now eligible for vaccination, and over 2,800 individuals within this age range have already booked their appointments.

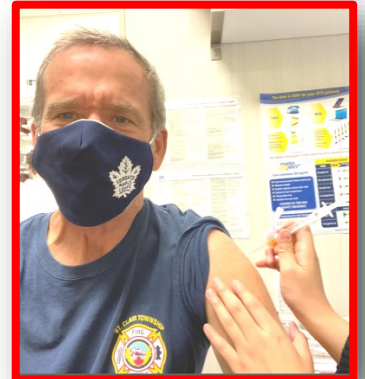
The good vaccine news for Canada is finally good for the people of Lambton County as well.

As reported by CBC Health, the supply of vaccines is finally catching up with local demand and information regarding the effectiveness of even a single dose is "overwhelmingly positive" according to research being done in countries that are far ahead of Canada in vaccine use.

But Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's chief public health officer, cautions everyone, including vaccine recipients, to continue to observe COVID-19 protocols when in public places, especially spaces that are heavily populated. "Individuals with one dose can feel more confident that they're better protected, but you've got to get the second dose for maximal protection." She says even a fully-vaccinated person can still transmit the virus. "It's not absolute. There's a reduction in your risk of transmission, but it doesn't necessarily eliminate your risk of transmission," she said.

Inner Space shot

Commander Chris Hadfield receives his second shot of vaccine. As a man of science, he knows the importance of receiving the vaccine.



Emergency child care for school-aged children of essential worker families is being made available. In St. Clair Township, childcare will be offered at St. Joseph's School, Corunna, and at Sombra Township Child Care, Riverview site, 3926 St. Clair Parkway. Information and updates regarding this new service will be available online at: lambtononline.ca/childcare

COVID-19 vaccination pharmacy sites

To book an appointment for vaccination, here are the participating pharmacies closest to St. Clair Township residents:

SARNIA - Superstore, 600 Murphy Road, call 519-383-8133 or covid19.realcanadiansuperstore.ca/en; Shoppers Drug Mart, 510 Exmouth Street, register online at: www.shoppersdrugmart.ca/covid19; Rexall, 697 Cathcart Blvd., register online at: www.rexall.ca/covid-19/vaccines

BRIGHT'S GROVE - Bright's Grove Pharmacy, 2670 New Lakeshore Road, 519-869-6900, to register online: www.bgfamilyparmacy.com

CHATHAM - Shoppers Drug Mart, 420 Queen Street, call 519-352-3360; Rexall, 401 St. Clair Street, register online at: www.rexall.ca/covid-19/vaccines

More information at: [GetTheVaccine.ca](https://getthevaccine.ca)

If you cannot get a timely doctor's appointment for COVID testing, appointments can be made by going online to:

getcorigan.ca or by calling 510-491-6188.

More MUNICIPAL NOTES

SOME ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP SERVICES SUSPENDED

St. Clair Township complies with provincially-enacted COVID-19 protocols

Some of the Township of St. Clair's services may be 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 resumed but significant delays can be expected:

- a) Issuance of Marriage Licenses
- b) Issuance of Lottery Licenses
- c) Processing of all Planning Act Applications¹

The following Township buildings are closed until further notice:

- a) Moore and Sombra Museums
- b) St. Clair Township Civic Centre²
- c) Emergency Services Building (Fire Department)²

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.

¹ All Planning Applications can be accepted at the Civic Centre by appointment.

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

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



Student summer company grants available

Sarnia-Lambton area students age 15-29 can apply for \$3,000 grants to start and run their own business this summer through the Ontario Summer Company Program.

The Summer Company Program accepts and considers applications as they are submitted, and provides approved participants with a \$1,500 grant to launch a business, as well as mentoring and training in various aspects of entrepreneurship over the course of the summer. Successful completion of the program will make the participants eligible to receive another \$1,500 for a \$3,000 total.

This program is a joint initiative between the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership and the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade.

For more information, go online to:

www.ontario.ca/summercompany or contact Chantelle at:
chantelle@sarnialambton.on.ca

Ontario Small Business Support

Applications are now available for the new Ontario Small Business Support Grant,



which helps small businesses that are required to close or significantly restrict services due to the provincewide shutdown effective December 26, 2020.

Starting at \$10,000, the grant is open to all eligible businesses of less than 100 employees (including restaurants) that have experienced a decrease of at least 20% in revenue because of the 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>

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.

COVID-19: What are the risks & where are they found?

LOW RISK:

Outdoor activities with or without social circle: walking in uncrowded areas, distanced sports activities, camping; grocery/retail shopping where distancing can be observed.

MEDIUM RISK with mask:

Hair salon/barbershop; outdoor restaurants/patios, hotels/b&bs, medical/dental appointments; taxis/ride shares; uncrowded malls/ museums/galleries; schools/camps/daycare; distanced weddings/funerals; movie theatres; working in office; children playing on play structures; visiting elderly or at-risk people.

HIGH RISK with mask:

Bars/night clubs; crowded restaurants/buffets; casinos; amusement parks; indoor parties; gyms/athletic clubs; cruise ships/resorts; hugging, kissing or shaking hands; sexual activity with gatherings; sporting events in arenas and stadiums; crowded public

transit; concerts/places where there is singing and shouting.

Until there is wide-spread vaccination in your community, please use common sense and mask-up when out in public, especially in places where social distancing is not possible.





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 41 of 2017, requires at least 48 hours notice in advance of scheduling appointments with the Public Works department, to avoid service fees.

During COVID-19 Public Works will be responding to emergency calls only until June 14 or a later date.



St. Clair River Trail

The St. Clair River Trail is open now and until Nov. 30.

Please practice social distancing during this time.



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 until June 14 or at a later date.

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



Hydrant Flushing

Public Works will be undertaking annual flushing of fire hydrants connected to the St. Clair Township Water Distribution System, during the hours of:

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
May 2021 - Fall 2021

For current areas affected,
refer to stclairtownship.ca

During this maintenance procedure, you may notice some water discolouration using your taps, flushing toilets, doing laundry etc., as some sediment may be drawn into your residence. We recommend that you run the cold water tap for a few minutes or until the discolouration disappears.

If discolouration of the water continues after 10-15 minutes of normal use, please notify Public Works at 519-867-2993.



Sewer Main Flushing

Public Works will be flushing sewer mains connected to the St. Clair Township Sewer System, during the hours of:

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
May 2021 - Fall 2021

For current areas affected,
refer to stclairtownship.ca

During this maintenance procedure, you may notice some gurgling noises in your drains.

If conditions persist after 24-48 hours of normal use, please notify Public Works at 519-867-2993.



Waste Collection - Bag and Tie Waste

A reminder to bag and tie all waste (garbage) to secure litter, especially napkins, paper towels and tissues.

Also, napkins, paper towels and tissue are not recyclable!

Failure to do so could result in
uncollected waste.

Emergency preparedness starts with you
be prepared



make a plan



build a kit



stay informed

ontario.ca/beprepared



Sanitary backup prevention

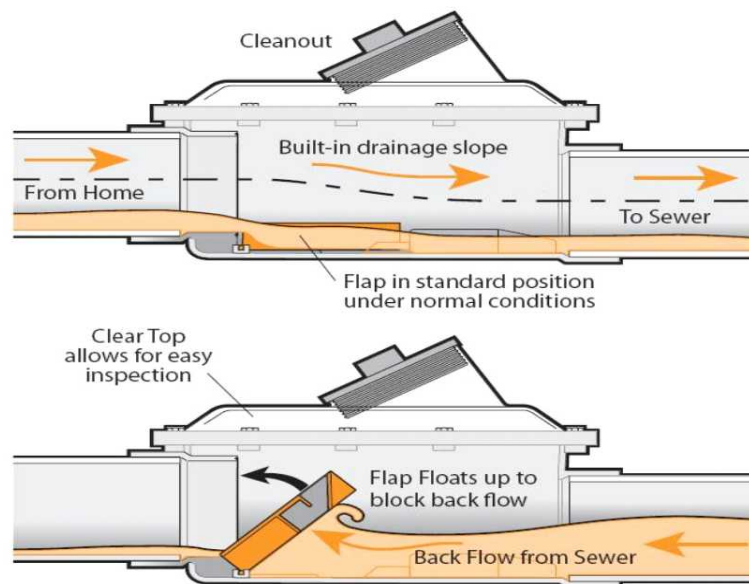
Do you have a backwater valve? A backwater valve, if properly installed and maintained, can prevent sewage from backing up into your home during a blockage or surcharge. It is recommended you follow the backwater valve manufacturer's guidelines and recommendations for maintenance.

Regular maintenance is required to ensure it operates as required during a sanitary backup.

1. Remove cleanout cap on top of the valve and do a visual inspection.
2. Ensure O-ring is in good condition on the cap.
3. Use a flashlight to properly see inside the valve body.
4. Inspect for debris build-up on body, gate (flap) and beneath the gate (flap).
5. If debris build-up is found, flush clean.
6. Inspect the O-ring for deterioration and replace if necessary.
7. Ensure the gate (flap) moves freely up and down.
8. If the backwater valve is a model with floats, check condition of floats and replace as necessary.
9. Reinstall cleanout cap.

The clear top allows for easy inspection to determine if the gate (flap) is open or closed.

Keep in mind, when the backwater valve is closed you **can't** use your plumbing as you normally would. Avoid showering, flushing the toilet, using the washing machine or dishwasher until conditions return to normal and the backwater valve gate is open.



If you have further questions, contact a licensed plumber.



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

Yard Waste Collection 2021

Spring yard waste collection began the week of April 19 and will continue until the week of June 14.

Monday (South Township)

- St. Clair Parkway (South of Emily St., Mooretown)
- Brigden, Courtright, Mooretown, Wilkesport
- Sombra, Port Lambton, Chenal Ecarte, Leeland Gardens

Thursday (North Township)

- St. Clair Parkway (North of Emily St., Mooretown)
- Corunna, Froomfield

Yard Waste includes the following: grass, leaves, garden plants, hay and straw (loose not baled)

Not Permitted in Yard Waste: mixed yard waste with brush, woody stems from ornamental grasses & woody plants, kitchen waste, pet feces, clay, earth, stones, walnuts, pinecones, wood mulch, tree stumps and grindings, logs, body wood, brush of any kind, root ball and whole shrubs with root ball attached.

Sticks and Branches are not permitted in yard waste and could result in a rejected collection.

Yard Waste must be placed in paper bags or open containers with handles and clearly marked with an "X" on both sides (open container does not include recycling bins or cardboard boxes). Yard Waste placed in clear plastic bags will not be collected during yard waste collections dates.

Brush Collection 2021

Brush collection dates for spring 2021 will be May 31st and June 21st for South Township and June 3rd and June 24th for North Township. **Only brush will be collected on these dates.**

Brush Guideline: 4' maximum length, 1" maximum diameter, cut ends all in one direction, neat piles (not tangled), tied and placed at curb by 7am on day of collection. These bundles can include woody ornamental grasses, woody plants, rose bushes, vines and cornstalks. Bundled brush must be tied with compostable material such as jute or twine, brush that is bundled with duct tape is not acceptable.

Please refer to the Works Department 2021 waste calendar (see online April issue of The Beacon) on the St. Clair Township website, or the Recycle Coach app for a full list of items NOT permitted and for your area's collection day and requirements.

For updates on information related to Public Works including Waste and Recycling collection, follow us on Facebook @stclairtwppw.

Gotta' dig? Contact OntarioOneCall first!

Property owners who have to dig anywhere on their property are reminded to know what lies beneath their land BEFORE digging. Damaged or severed cable, power, water, and gas lines can be dangerous and cause major disruptions to service. They can also be costly to repair.

Be sure to call 1-800-400-2255 or visit OntarioOneCall.ca 5 days before you dig.

Find The Beacon online during the pandemic

Email: 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, then click on **The Beacon** on the black, top right corner information bar.

2021 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

The County of Lambton and its partner Clean Harbors Canada Inc. will be holding the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program on Saturday, June 26. These popular events offer Lambton County residents an opportunity to dispose of household hazardous waste at no cost.

To provide additional opportunities for residents to safely dispose of their household hazardous waste, the County of Lambton and Clean Harbors Canada Inc. will also hold hazardous waste collection events on the following dates: ; Saturday, September 25; and Saturday, October 30.

All events will be held at the Clean Harbors Lambton Facility (4090 Telfer Road, St. Clair Township) and will run from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Additionally, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, event attendees are asked to follow physical distancing and safety protocols, including the following:

- > Package materials in disposable containers (i.e. cardboard boxes) as they will not be returned;
- > Place materials in the trunk or back of their vehicle to maximize distancing for event staff when collecting items; and
- > Remain in their vehicle at all times, as event staff will be removing materials from the vehicle.

"Corrosive, toxic, reactive and flammable materials will be collected at these events," says Matt DeLine, Public Works Manager, County of Lambton. "These items should never be placed in a regular landfill because they have the potential to injure workers and damage the environment."

Examples of these types of accepted materials include:

Corrosive

Batteries
Drain Cleaners
Oven Cleaners

Toxic

Pesticides
Rat Poison
Cleaning Fluids
Pharmaceuticals

Reactive

Pool Chemicals
Ammonia
Bleach
Aerosols

Flammable

Gasoline
Paints
BBQ Starter
Oils
Solvents
Propane Cylinders

Items NOT accepted include: PCBs, commercial, industrial, radioactive wastes, electronics, and explosives (flares and ammunition).

For more information visit the County of Lambton's website at:
lambtononline.ca/hhw or call 519-845-0801.

Generous donation will improve trail accessibility at Strathroy C.A.



The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation recently received a generous donation that will improve accessibility along the three kilometre trail at the Strathroy Conservation Area.

Strathroy residents Lynne Lawrence and Marilyn Buttery made their \$10,000 donation to the Foundation to ensure everyone would be able to enjoy the trail system and connect with the outdoors, as they have done on frequent occasions. The women have donated to the Foundation before in support of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority.

SCRCF President Duncan Skinner said, "The trail improvements we will be able to complete will not only benefit our community today, but will also leave a lasting legacy that will serve the community for years to come."

The SCRCF is a registered charity that supports a number of conservation programs and initiatives.

Left: Donors Marilyn Buttery, left, and Lynne Lawrence.

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.

EMERGENCIES HAPPEN!

Are you ready for them? Don't wait to find out what you SHOULD have done to get through a catastrophic wind, rain, or snow storm, a lengthy power outage, or a man-made environmental catastrophe.

Do you have an adequate supply of daily medications, water, flashlights, food, safe drinking water, pet supplies, baby supplies, etc.? Make sure your emergency kit is prepared and ready for unexpected emergencies. **A MINIMUM supply for 72 hours is recommended.**

Go online to: www.getprepared.gc.ca for more information.

HERITAGE CORNER



Duthil Days: Memories of My Hometown: Part III

By G. Wayne Brown

Editor's note: In the April Beacon, we were introduced to life in the hamlet of Duthil by author G. Wayne Brown, who spent the first 22 years of his life there. Part one of the story ended as we learned that, due to a curious twist of fate, Duthil's main street once featured a store located across from a church and a school situated across from a saloon, which led some witty individual to quip it had "...provision, religion, education, and damnation all in one place!"

Enjoy this third installment of Duthil Days: Memories of My Hometown.

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#### The Silent Policeman

Downtown Duthil around the mid 1800's had its earliest beginnings at the intersection of the 10th Concession of Sombra (presently the Holt Line) with the Duthill Road (spelled with two Ls). This would put you beside the North Sydenham River and approximately eight miles north of Wallaceburg. Ordinarily, this intersection would not be unlike any other but, if you took a map of Sombra Township and drew a diagonal across it from each corner, you would find that this intersection is almost at the geographic center of the township! To go one even better, at the very center of this Duthil intersection stood a great elm tree which, at maturity, measured four feet in diameter at "stump height" and was about 70 feet high. (See the Duthil tree below.)

The story goes that when the district was being opened up, surveyors placed some marks on it, and when the road right-of-way was being cleared, this marked tree was left. It was then only a few inches through. The tree prospered while the traffic of generations, beginning with horses and buggies, passed to the right and left. Over time, its limb spread became immense and afforded shade for community gatherings. On the other hand, standing so squarely and firmly in the middle of these intersecting roads caused some folk to suggest that it was a traffic hazard.

In 1939, three local people, whose car windshield

was said to have frosted over, crashed into the trunk injuring two of the occupants. Not surprisingly, in 1940, a group of agitators were prepared to cut the tree down with their saws but the strong voice of the tree's champions came rushing to the rescue.

About a decade later the "silent policeman" was mortally injured when it was unfortunately struck by a lightning bolt and the tree began to die. This is when my connection with this great tree begins.

In the early fall of 1952, when I was five years old and sitting along the far-right row of desks which were designated for Grade 1 students, our teacher, Maxine Johnston, had all of her students line up in front of the three windows facing the north. This was an historic occasion for the Duthil community since this famous tree, which had graced the intersection for 100+ years, was about to be felled! The use of a chainsaw was out of the question due to the fact that there must have been about a keg of nails embedded around the tree's circumference. This was the result of about 50 years worth of people tacking posters, notices, bills, and advertisements for the community's benefit. Therefore, locals such as Ken McKnight and Billy McGee used axes to cut off as many roots as they could.

Then Ron Tulloch, operating a Caterpillar D8 bulldozer owned by my uncle, John Fraser, who was an engineer at the Wallaceburg Brass Factory, toppled the tree over with most of the root system attached. He then pulled the tree westward for several rods paralleling the river until he reached a spot where it could be pushed down the riverbank. Since this activity took up a good part of the morning, we students were more than content to watch the proceedings rather than do school work!

To conclude my coverage of the demise of this once majestic tree, I can say it became part of my life during the rest of my elementary school years. I'll explain why it became a treasure trove for me.

Around the perimeter of the lower part of the trunk were four large tinsplate sheets, each covered with a diamond-shaped collage of green, amber and blue reflectors. I would periodically climb down the riverbank to the tree to remove as many reflectors as I needed for my bicycle's mud flaps. A couple of years ago, I went to the spot where the tree used to lie but it was gone. It either disintegrated completely over time or it had floated to a new resting place, carried by floodwaters held back behind the Darcy McKeough dam.

#### The Brown Ferry and the Duthil Bridge

Even though my home looked down on the Brown ferry for the first four years of my life I don't remember it at all. What I do know is that my great, great, grandfather was the ferryman for a number of years at this crossing while he also farmed acreage butting up to the Sydenham River at this spot until his death in 1905. I should mention that a ferry along the Duthill Road, actually not too far from the aforementioned elm tree, was also in operation. This was known as the Duthil ferry and Mr. McNeil operated it for a period of time. As a kid going to school, I recall an old, rotted-out scow pulled up along the very steep access road leading down to the river there.

Continued on page 11



The stalwart "silent policeman" stands in the middle of the Duthil intersection doing traffic control.



## MORE HERITAGE CORNER

### From page 10

Up until 1951, the only means of crossing the Sydenham River for those living in the Duthil area was by ferry or by Becher or Wilkesport bridges, a distance of five miles. Therefore, Sombra Township made the decision to build a new bridge with a span of 180 feet and at a cost of \$53,000. As a small boy, I distinctly remember watching from our picture window as bulldozers, graders, and dump trucks prepared the new approach on our west side of the bridge. For me, the construction of the Duthil bridge was very timely since I would be crossing it to attend school, along with my brothers, Eldon and Jim, for the next eight years.

For the sake of simplicity we'll call my two brothers and myself the "little Brown boys", a name we were collectively given as we rode the high school bus together in the years to come. But while all of our ages were still in the single digits we made use of the bridge in a variety of ways. With gravel docks situated at the west end of the 10th Concession, along the St. Clair River dump trucks used our road extensively in moving gravel throughout the township. In order to have a little fun, we Brown boys decided to install a speed bump right at the crown of the hill just west of the bridge in front of our laneway.

We tingled with anticipation as these trucks would hit the bump with a loud bang especially when they were returning empty. Late one afternoon, after heaping a ribbon of stones about 8" high across the road, a



**Brown's ferry carries passenger across a placid Sydenham River.**

*Photo courtesy Wayne Brown*

driver hit this obstruction at full speed, not seeing it until he was upon it. We saw him bounce high in the seat as we were hiding in the ditch not too far away, hidden by a few shrubs. We heard him hit the brakes, back his truck up to the pile of stones and, while he was scattering them with his foot, we heard him say, "If I ever catch you little buggers, you'll know it!"

A couple of years after this, during the late 1950's, the Brown boys thought they would be somewhat entrepreneurial. Maybe we figured that we weren't getting enough allowance money so we dragged enough lumber down to the bridge and built a toll gate. One end of the gate was attached to the railing which allowed it to

swing out of the way after a driver paid the toll. We thought 10 cents was a fair price to collect and we did this for several days until we realized that people were getting annoyed and were no longer wanting to humour us. However, it was certainly one way of getting to know our neighbours and vice-versa!

Another escapade, and I hesitate to divulge this one, occurred when a good buddy of mine, Gerald Waring, and I decided to test our climbing abilities. We'd probably be around 14 or 15 years old at the time, old enough to know better but not smart enough to realize the risk involved. The bridge seemed to be like a magnet drawing us to it and it wasn't long before we scrambled up the south main support beam to the top of the bridge. (I measured this beam recently to find that it's a foot and half wide.) At the highest point at the top of the bridge we then sat on this narrow piece of steel enjoying the view. We actually pulled another trick like this later when we had our wives watching us but that's another story. All of a sudden, we heard somebody yelling at us from the top of the hill. It was my grandfather telling us in no uncertain terms that he had never seen such a pair of fools and that we were to get down off there pronto!

Several years later, after Gerald and I had our own cars, the bridge still became somewhat of a drawing card. We, along with our friends, would line up our cars at one end of the bridge in order to see how much rubber we could burn on the white, cement roadbed. The one who laid the longest strip, hopefully all 180 feet across, was deemed the winner.

By 2014, sixty years after the bridge's official opening on August 2, 1951, exposure to the elements was naturally the greatest reason for deterioration. Yet the steel structure and roadbed had survived these years remarkably well. The cement abutments, especially the one on the west side, gave the most concern. Also, the curbs at the base of the railings were badly deteriorated. A decision had to be made - renew the existing bridge or build a new modern one.

St. Clair Township commissioned a Cultural Heritage Value study in 2014 and an Environmental Assessment study in 2015 to arrive at a decision. Thankfully, both studies encouraged the renovation of the historic structure and the green light for the project to begin. The result would be the preservation of a rare example of a Parker truss designed bridge!

In 2020, while the work was being completed, members of the Brown family spoke with the crew of the chosen contractor, McLean Taylor Construction of St. Mary's. They were very interested when we showed them pictures of the ferry crossing prior to the building of the bridge. Also, of interest, they stated that the steel used in the bridge was still as good as some of the steel produced today. A few months later, on Thursday, November 26, at precisely 3:14 pm, it was only fitting that my buddy had the privilege of being the first to cross over the newly reconditioned Holt Line Bridge.

Way to go, Gerald!



**This concludes the third installment of Duthil Days: Memories of My Hometown. The July installment will conclude these tales of Duthil's past.**



## Book proves the St. Clair River boasts its own Piratical doings

In the 1800s, the high seas weren't the only place pirates could be found. After years of research, *Piratical Doings on the St. Clair River* by historian and author Dr. John Carter, historian and author, is ready to set the record straight about the river we know and love.

Heritage St. Clair (HSC) is about to release its long-awaited book titled, *Piratical Doings on the River St. Clair, Some Reflections on the 1838 Upper Canadian Rebellion*, a research-based account of the raids of 1838.

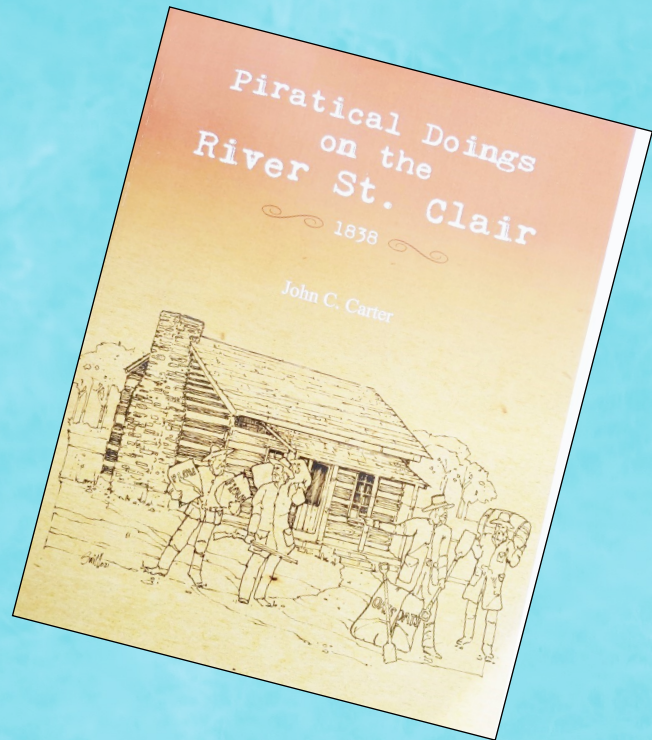
It is hard to imagine that the river where we now sail, swim, fish and boat was once the site where armed invaders from the United States attacked the shores of what is now St. Clair Township. The years 1837-38 were marred by the Upper Canadian Rebellion, also known as the Farmer's Rebellion and the American Patriot Wars. Much has been written about this conflict, with the exception of the raids across our River St. Clair. *Piratical Doings on the River St. Clair* is both entertaining and factual as it brings to life this exciting time of tense conflict between the United States and Canada.

Dr. Carter compiled this account because he felt this element of local history was under-researched and poorly documented. He feared it would soon be forgotten in dusty old file cabinets. Through his friendship with the late Al Anderson, a knowledgeable history buff in his own right and one of the key volunteers with the Sombra Museum, Dr. Carter donated the book to Heritage St. Clair. HSC's mission was to edit it, add some exciting illustrations, publish, and distribute it.

"HSC is grateful to Dr. Carter for trusting the valuable result of his hard work to us," said HSC President Dave Pattenden. History buffs and those who have a curiosity about St. Clair Township's early days can now look forward to sitting back and enjoying *Piratical Doings on the St. Clair River*.

The limited first edition of 120 copies will sell for \$45.00 each, tax included. Postage charges will cost extra. Payments will be processed through St. Clair Township Municipal Office. Local pick ups will be arranged on an individual basis. These arrangements will comply with government mandated COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions.

Details for all orders, delivery methods, and payment instructions can be arranged by contacting Herit-



age St. Clair by email at: [secretaryheritagestclair@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryheritagestclair@gmail.com).

A book signing by author Dr. John Carter, will be held at Sombra Museum after Covid-19 precautionary protocols have been lifted. However, anyone interested in obtaining a copy is strongly encouraged to purchase one as soon as possible due to the book's limited first edition run. Indicate when you order the book if you would like to be contacted when the official book launch date has been determined so that you can have your book signed by Dr. Carter.

Book registration information: John C. Carter, *Piratical Doings on the River St. Clair*, St. Clair Township, ON. Heritage St. Clair, Corporation of the Township of St. Clair, 2020, 100 ills., 174 pgs. ISBN 978-1-7772622-0-4

## Traveling Trunk education kits now sponsored by CAPP

Educators can now reserve a Traveling Trunk education kit from the Oil Museum of Canada at no charge thanks to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP).

For the past two years, the kits have been loaned to educators for a small cost, but the sponsorship now pays for that fee as well as the kits themselves.

Each of the two kits has its own topic: one explores geology and the second explores oil history.

The Traveling Trunks are filled with museum artifacts, reproductions, hands-on activities, and lesson plans that correspond to the Ontario Curriculum. Their purpose is to give teachers the resources they need to tell the story of the Canadian oil industry. In doing so, students and their teachers learn to appreciate the role oil and natural gas plays in their lives.

In addition to free rentals, manuals will be available for teachers to access and download at: [www.oilmuseum.ca](http://www.oilmuseum.ca).

You can sign up for a kit online at: <https://www.lambtonmuseums.ca/en/oil-museum-of-canada/omc-travelling-trunk.aspx>.

Kits must be picked up and returned to the Oil Museum of Canada, National Historic site, 2423 Kelly Road, Oil Springs, Ont. The museum is temporarily closed, but staff can be reached by calling 519-834-2840 or emailing: [oil.museum@county-lambton.on.ca](mailto:oil.museum@county-lambton.on.ca)

**Right: Three-pole oil derricks at Oil Museum of Canada.**





## Sombra Museum seeks information/photos of COVID era

The Sombra Museum is collecting pandemic stories, photos, videos, art work, etc. (family friendly) from St. Clair Township residents to help record and preserve memories of the COVID experience for future generations.; day-to-day memories of life 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/adults occupied during self-isolation.
- \* New or newly rediscovered hobbies or crafts you did
- \* Stories from workers on the front lines/staffing essential services.
- \* Struggles of family/friends infected with the virus.

- \* Stories of everyday heroes, i.e. people helping neighbours/people accepting inconveniences for the greater good.
- \* How daily life and routines have changed.
- \* For those who lived through the 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).

### Submissions can be sent by email to:

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

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

Take care and be well.

~Kailyn Shepley

## Lambton County Library lends passes for Ontario parks

The Lambton County Library has seasonal day-use permits valid library cardholders can borrow to take in the natural beauty of provincial parks like Pinery Provincial Park near Grand Bend. The permit will allow unlimited daily entry for one vehicle plus all of its passengers. The permit will come with a \$5 day-use coupon for future regular day-use, as well as a park guide.

The permits will be valid until Dec. 31, 2021 and may be borrowed for a period of seven days. The vehicle permit must be returned after the lending period but the borrower may keep the coupon and parks guide.

To prepare for your park encounter, the Lambton County Library offers a variety of materials to enhance your visit, including: a collection of wildlife books, trail guides, and children's nature books. The library collections also include snowshoes, pedometers, and GPS units that can be borrowed.

Ontario parks passes and other library materials can be reserved for contactless curbside pickup using the online catalogue at [lclibrary.ca](http://lclibrary.ca) or the Iguana Library mobile app, or by calling a participating curbside loca-

tion during hours of operation.

The Lambton County Library received the passes from Ontario Parks as a part of its library day-use vehicle lending program. The program encourages Ontario residents to enjoy the outdoors and to reap the mental and physical health benefits offered by outdoor activities.

If you haven't got a library card, call 519-845-3324, ext. 5266 or 1-866-324-6912, ext. 5266, or email: [librarytech-help@county-lambton.on.ca](mailto:librarytech-help@county-lambton.on.ca).

For more information on locations, services, and hours of operation, go online to: [www.lclibrary.ca](http://www.lclibrary.ca).



Above: The Ontario Parks pass, park guide and \$5 coupon.

## Moore Museum seeks information about history of old Moore Township schools

Moore Museum is still accepting information for a virtual exhibit for the museum's website. It will feature 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. To see the map that indicates where the schools were located, see the March or April 2021 Beacon. It can be accessed, along with further information, by going online the St. Clair Township website home page. Click on *The Beacon*, top right of the page.

~Laurie Mason, curator, Moore Museum



## 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).

## FINISHED FISHIN' AT MOORETOWN PARK BOAT RAMP



The boat ramp at the Mooretown Park boat ramp, has been one of the few accesses to the St. Clair River available to boaters since high water levels damaged some downriver ramps. This summer should be a lot more boater-friendly as the Wil- lows and Branton-Cundick boat ramps receive their new concrete launch pads and are once more opened for use. This boater made a smooth exit from the river after enjoying a satisfying morning of fishing. *Bonnie Stevenson photo*

### BLUE COAST WALLEYE CHALLENGE SET FOR JUNE

The Carpenter's Local 1256 Blue Coast Walleye Challenge, a COVID-19-safe tournament, will run from June 4 to 13 on the St. Clair River and in Lake Huron within the boundaries of Samia-Lambton.

Tournament participants will use a mobile app called MyCatch. Anglers will take a photo of their fish on a measuring device and the app will do the rest. The app tracks your catch and it also gives fisheries biologists real time data about catch

rates, species distribution, and other research topics. To register, visit [www.AnglersAtlas.com](http://www.AnglersAtlas.com).

The prize board will be determined by the number of anglers that register for the event.

The MyCatch app is designed to help gather information about lakes and rivers across Canada. Results from this project will be published in scientific journals in 2021.

### Lambton County Archives introduce virtual appointments

The Lambton County Archives has been opened to allow its extensive archival resources to be shared via a virtual service. The service also allows patrons access to the researchers and genealogists who can facilitate family, property, and historical searches.

Virtual appointments must be booked in advance with the Archivist. They will include two 15-minute video or telephone meetings, and one hour of research time. The Archivist will also assist by reviewing research and answering questions. The cost is \$20 for members and \$40 for non-members, which includes 1.5 hours of research support. Additional research time can be purchased as required.

Those who wish to be introduced to the various online genealogical and local history resources can ask to be introduced to *AncestryLibrary*, *Onland*, and other programs.

To book appointments or make a reservation, visit the [Lambton County Archives website](http://Lambton County Archives website).

## Rapids Family Health Team

Program information for the Rapids Family Health Team clinic located in the Shell Health Centre, 233 Cameron Street, Corunna, is currently not available. Watch this space for more information as it becomes available. To contact the clinic, go to [www.rapidsfhteam.ca](http://www.rapidsfhteam.ca) or call 519-339-8949 and speak to reception.

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





# Lambton G. S. demolition finally making headway

One of the many excavators on the demolition project uses a powerful claw to break up large components from the station, turning them into rubble for transpiration off-site.

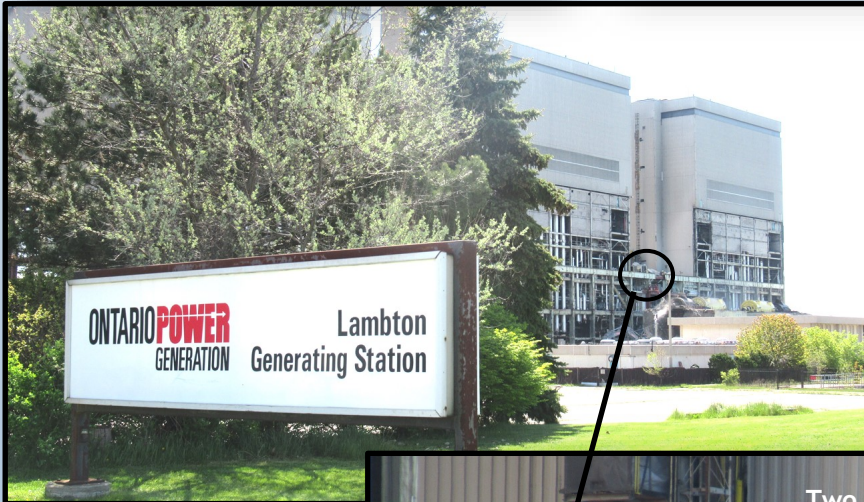


After months of slow or no progress, demolition at the Lambton G.S. site is now proceeding at warp speed.

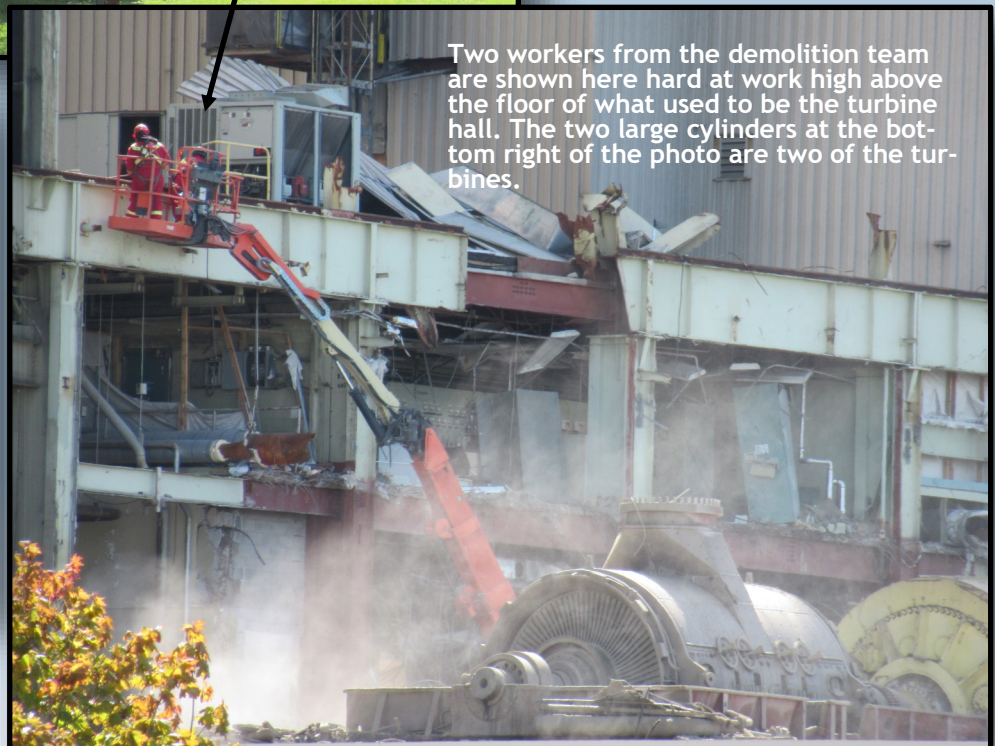
Above: Two Transformer-like grey jackhammer machines chip away at a massive concrete structure, part of the turbine hall floor.

Left: The lower skeleton of Lambton G.S. reveals a forest of piping. The black inset circle shows where the workers in the photo below were located.

*Bonnie Stevenson photos*



The Lambton G. S. switchyard, shown here through the skeleton of the station, will remain in service as part of the Ontario power grid.



Two workers from the demolition team are shown here hard at work high above the floor of what used to be the turbine hall. The two large cylinders at the bottom right of the photo are two of the turbines.





## THE MOORETOWN SPORTS COMPLEX

1166 Emily Street | Mooretown, ON | NON IMO

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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 River**  
**TRAIL**  
*actively connecting communities*

Photos taken along the trail are still in demand, so send us some of the shots you've taken while enjoying the trail and like the St. Clair River Trail on Facebook and message us your pictures.

**Right: A new Canada goose family strolls beside the trail south of Sombra.**



## 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. CLAIR PARKWAY GOLF COURSE

# The Parkway

*happy new year*

**2021**

*"Lambton  
County's  
Best Golf  
Value"*

***After the game,  
recharge on our new  
multilevel patio!***

*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/>



## **Beacon Bits**

*"Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening  
when you'd have preferred to talk."*

*~Doug Larson  
United Press International*

**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

# COMMUNITY CONTACT

## EDITOR'S NOTE TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS

Some groups that contribute notices to Community Contact have not yet submitted updated information for their notices. If the item is no longer current, please notify the editor at:

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

**NOTICES NOT UPDATED FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF THE BEACON WILL BE OMITTED until new notices are submitted.**

## Moore Agricultural Society membership

Interested in becoming a member of the Moore Agricultural Society or need to renew your membership? Memberships can be paid either by dropping off payment and member information (name, telephone number, email address, home address) at the Brigden Fair office or through e-transfer at [Finance@brigdenfair.ca](mailto:Finance@brigdenfair.ca). Memberships are \$10 per person until further notice.

For more information on the membership role, contact [info@brigdenfair.ca](mailto:info@brigdenfair.ca).

## 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 during the pandemic, and the need is still great. Now more than ever, our neighbourhood food banks are called upon to come to the aid of the community. Nourishing food and warm clothing are more important than ever. In Ward 2, The Sacred Heart Food Bank has shelves that constantly need restocking. Please keep the Sacred Heart food bank in mind when you shop for your own groceries.

### 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 Bluewater Health CEE lab, 450 Blanche Street in Petrolia. (Please note there may have been changes to the way samples are received. For a full schedule of access times for these locations, as well as resources on how to take a water sample, visit [Lambton-PublicHealth.ca](http://Lambton-PublicHealth.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 Aarssen at 226-402-3870.

*Please note: The Down River Jr. Optimist group (Sombra) has been disbanded.*

## 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.

## 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 -

See More Community Contact, page 19



## MORE COMMUNITY CONTACT

From page 18

### 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.

### Signs of summer on the parkway



A new outdoor patio at the St. Clair Riverview Bar & Grill took shape in mid May in preparation for the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. Owner George Karas, right, supervised as his son, Dan, installed the rails that define the dining area.

### Virtual Learning funding for Lambton College

Before the pandemic hit, virtual learning was developed out of the need to help educate those who did not have easy access to educational resources. "Night school", which offered online courses when the Internet made it possible, was the option many adults turned to for career or personal enrichment. It was later expanded to offer distance learning to those who were too far removed from brick-and-mortar educational facilities.

The pandemic raised the stakes by making it necessary to deliver effective off-site educational instruction; the need was met with inconsistent educational programs and many students who had little or no access to a computer and/or access to the Internet. Educators also had to adapt their teaching methods, something many of them found difficult and frustrating.

But while computer and Internet access problems persist, virtual learning is being developed and honed at a rate that clearly demonstrates its overwhelming importance.

At Lambton College, virtual learning has received a funding boost through a provincial grant of \$472,234, which will expand access and choice of high-quality post-secondary education and training opportunities for students.

The college, in collaboration with Fanshawe, Mohawk, Niagara, and St. Clair Colleges, is developing a four-module course to prepare educators with the skills they require to educate learners.

"At Lambton College, we recognized early on that the digitization of learning and the adoption of Industry 4.0 concepts was essential for preparing students to succeed in a rapidly changing workforce," said Judith Morris, President and CEO, Lambton College. "Now, more than ever, we see the need for high-quality virtual learning material, and postsecondary educators who can effectively teach in a digital learning environment."

The Ontario government is investing over \$70 million to implement the Ontario Virtual Learning Strategy. MPP Bob Bailey noted the creation of responsive and flexible digital programs, along with the focused training educators will receive to deliver them, will benefit both students and teachers. "We're helping the next generation of workers innovators, researchers, and leaders develop the skills and training they need to succeed in their careers, when and where they need it most," he said.

### Help available for the homeless

If you know anyone facing homelessness, please contact Lambton County Services at 519-344-2062, Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For assistance after hours, contact the Good Shepherd's Lodge at 519-344-1679.

Social Services staff will provide assistance navigating local resources for people in need, assisting with food, shelter, basic needs, income support, and referrals to other social services as required.

# Roadmap to Reopen reveals Ontario's three-step reopening strategy

## ~STEP ONE~

Step One of the road map may begin after 60 per cent of Ontario's adults receive at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and if public health indicators, such as hospitalizations, ICU occupancy and new admissions and case rates indicate the province can safely move to this step of the roadmap. Based on current trends in key health indicators, including the provincial vaccination rate, the government expects to enter Step One of the Roadmap the week of June 14, 2021. The province will confirm closer to the expected start of Step One.

Step One will permit the resumption of more outdoor activities with smaller, well-managed crowds where risk of transmission is minimized and will permit retail, all with restrictions in place, including but not limited to :

- Outdoor gatherings up to 10 people;
- Outdoor dining up to 4 people per table;
- Outdoor fitness classes, personal training and sports training up to 10 people;
- Essential retail at 25 per cent capacity and can sell all goods (including discount and big box);
- Non-essential retail at 15 per cent capacity;
- Retail stores in malls closed unless the stores have a street facing entrance;
- Outdoor religious services, rites and ceremonies with capacity limited to permit 2 metres' physical distancing;
- Horse racing and motor speedways without spectators;
- Outdoor horse riding;
- Outdoor pools and wading pools with capacity limited to permit 2 metres' physical distancing;
- Outdoor zoos, landmarks, historic sites, and botanical gardens with capacity limits;
- Campsites, campgrounds and short-term rentals; and
- Overnight camping at Ontario Parks.

## ~STEP THREE~

Ontario will remain in Step Two for at least 21 days. If at the end of those 21 days the province has vaccinated 70 to 80 per cent of adults with one dose and 25 per cent of adults with two and positive trends in public health and health system indicators continue, Ontario will move to Step Three.

Step Three will permit the resumption of indoor services with larger numbers of people, with restrictions in place, including but not limited to :

- Outdoor gatherings with larger capacity limits;
- Indoor gatherings with larger capacity limits and other restrictions;
- Indoor dining with capacity limits;
- Indoor sports and recreational fitness facilities with capacity limits;
- Indoor meeting and event spaces with capacity limits;
- Essential and non-essential retail capacity expanded;
- Personal care services with capacity expanded and other restrictions;
- Indoor cinemas and performing arts facilities with capacity limits;
- Indoor and outdoor religious services, rites or ceremony gatherings with capacity limited to permit 2 metres' physical distancing;
- Indoor museums and art galleries with capacity limits;
- Indoor zoos, aquariums, waterparks and amusement parks with capacity limits;
- Casinos and bingo halls with capacity limits; and
- Other outdoor activities from Step Two permitted to operate indoors.

This list is not exhaustive. The government will continue to work with sectors on reopening plans, to ensure that they have full awareness of when they can begin to safely reopen and how.

## ~STEP TWO~

Ontario will remain in Step One for at least 21 days. If, at the end of those 21 days, the province has vaccinated 70 per cent of adults with one dose and 20 per cent of adults with two doses, and there are positive trends in public health and health system indicators, Ontario will move to Step Two.

Step Two will further expand outdoor activities and will resume limited indoor services with small numbers of people where face coverings are worn, with other restrictions in place, including but not limited to :

- Outdoor gatherings up to 25 people;
- Indoor gatherings up to 5 people and other restrictions;
- Outdoor dining up to 6 people per table;
- Outdoor sports and leagues;
- Overnight camps;
- Outdoor meeting and event spaces with capacity limits;
- Non-essential retail at 25 per cent capacity; essential retail at 50 per cent capacity;
- Personal care services where face coverings can be worn at all times with capacity limits;
- Outdoor cinemas and performing arts with capacity limits;
- Horse racing and motor speedways for spectators with capacity limits;
- Outdoor tour and guide services with capacity limits;
- Indoor religious services, rites or ceremony gatherings at 15 per cent capacity;
- Public libraries with capacity limits;
- Outdoor waterparks and amusement parks with capacity limits; and
- Fairs and rural exhibitions with capacity limits.

## We all must navigate the Roadmap to Reopen

The Roadmap to Reopen is the latest provincial strategy aimed at getting our daily lives back to the cuddly, maskless days we used to enjoy. It's also a necessary guide to rehabilitating the economy and to restoring our ability to move freely through the world.

Tourism Sarnia-Lambton has supplied the Beacon with this outline of the three-step plan which we hope everyone will read and follow. The list of restrictions listed here is not complete but it answers many common questions about what each step will allow.

As 2021 unfolds, we have a choice. Do we ignore this provincial strategy and carry on as if nothing is wrong? Or do we take to heart the instructions laid out in this 'roadmap' and slay the unseen monster that has sickened and murdered too many of our loved ones?

The choice is ours and we must make the right one. Our alternative is to be trapped in a constant cycle of shut downs, missed family milestones, threatened jobs, and interrupted lives.

**Please get vaccinated when you have the opportunity and keep your eye on the bright future that can only rise beyond this pandemic if we become the fuel that powers our community's recovery.**

**Regardless of your belief, COVID-19 has a very real grip on our community. It will take real action and real commitment by everyone to set us free.**

## Subscribe to the Beacon online

The free monthly subscription list for the St. Clair Township Beacon is still growing.

Add your email to the list is by emailing:

[beacon@stclairtownship.ca](mailto:beacon@stclairtownship.ca) and typing the word "Subscription" in the Subject line.

Please include your name with the email.



## MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 22

### Southwestern Ontario Blue Coast Walleye Challenge slated for June 4-13

The Walleye Challenge will be held on June 4 to 13 within the boundaries of Sarnia and Lambton County, which includes the St. Clair River and Lake Huron. This event will be a fundraiser for the Bluewater Anglers hatchery operation, which annually raises 130,000 Chinook salmon, rainbow and brown trout for release into the river and lower Lake Huron. COVID-19 safety protocols will be observed. To register, go online to: [www.AnglersAtlas.com](http://www.AnglersAtlas.com). The prize board will depend on the number of fishermen who register for the event. Sponsored by Tourism Sarnia-Lambton, Bluewater Anglers, and Angler's Atlas.

### SCRCA camps open for seasonal campers

Seasonal campers with a full-season contract can now access the A. W. Campbell, Lorne C. Henderson, and Warwick Conservation Areas. However, seasonal campers are required to either visit for no more than 24 hours for an essential purpose or for a minimum of 14 consecutive days. Transient camping is NOT permitted at this time.

For more information, visit the SCRCA website at: [www.scrca.on.ca](http://www.scrca.on.ca).

### Drive-through Father's Day Ribfest set for Lambton College

The 22nd annual Kinsmen Drive-through Father's Day Ribfest is set for June 18-20 weekend at Lambton College. For more information, go online to: <http://sarniakinsmenribfest.com/> or follow the club on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/sarniakinsmenribfest/>

### Annual Paint Ontario Art Show Postponed

The 25th annual Paint Ontario Art Show and Sale at the Lambton Heritage Museum south of Grand Bend on Hwy. 21 has been postponed until Sept. 3 to 26. The show will be an in-person event operating with COVID-19 protocols similar to the those employed during the successful September 2020 show. For more information, go online to: [www.paintontario.com](http://www.paintontario.com)

### North Lambton Community Health Centre classes

**(Virtual) Night Light** : Monday and Wednesday until June 23 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Find hope and wellness while managing anxiety and depression. To register, please call 519-344-3017, ext. 237.

**Opening Doors**: Healthy lifestyle program for individuals living with mental illness or seeking mental health support. For information, call 519-344-3017, ext. 277/

**Rise and Shine-10 ways to awaken our resilience**: What is resilience and why do we hear so much about it these days? Join us via Zoom on Tuesday, June 15 at 1:30 p.m. to learn more about the importance of resilience and to explore 10 ways to awaken your resilience in challenging times. To register call Tiffany at 519-786-4545, ext. 250.

**Healthy Eating-Low Sodium Way**: Thursday, June 17 at 9:30 a.m. Join Lynne, our dietitian, for this instructive class. To register call Lynne at 519-786-4545, ext. 231.

**BMI (Body, Mind, Inspired)**: Held every third Thursday, monthly topics focus on nutrition and healthy lifestyle, targeting your best weight. Classes are facilitated by a Registered Dietitian. To register, call 519-786-4545, ext. 307 or email: [ageorge@nlchc.com](mailto:ageorge@nlchc.com)

**Virtual-Let's Be Real**: Get connected about real issues surrounding substance abuse. Join this Zoom drop-in on Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Candace at 519-786-4545 to sign up.

**Virtual-Master Your Health**: Join us on Thursdays until May 6 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom for light exercises to improve strength and flexibility, techniques to deal with stress, pain, depression, and improve sleep, fatigue management, pain medications, and treatments. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 259.

### Postponed MAS beef dinner still pending

Hope springs eternal! The Moore Agricultural Society is still waiting to host its popular beef dinner, which was cancelled in March, 2020. It may be rescheduled when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Tickets purchased for the 2020 dinner will be honoured if the event is held. MAS is looking at refunding the cost of the tickets of those who cannot attend on the rescheduled date.

For more information as the situation changes, watch the Brigden Fair website at [www.brigdenfair.ca](http://www.brigdenfair.ca) or go to the Brigden Fair Facebook page.

### Law seminar to target Labour Trafficking as Youth

The Community Law School of (Sarnia-Lambton) Inc. will host a virtual discussion on the subject Legal Protections for Survivors of Trafficking as Youth on Wednesday, May 12 from 11 a.m. to noon. This session will look at criminal, employment, human rights, immigration, and child protection laws and systems. The presentation will continue an examination of the Geurts Report, which focuses on human trafficking in Sarnia-Lambton. To register for this Zoom presentation, email: [virtualcommunitylawschool@gmail.com](mailto:virtualcommunitylawschool@gmail.com) no later than April 12 at noon. For more information, go to: [virtualcommunitylawschool@email.com](mailto:virtualcommunitylawschool@email.com).

### Beware of Lyme disease carrying ticks

Lambton Public Health reminds everyone it's tick and Lyme disease season. Use DEET bug spray and wear long pants and long sleeved shirts when out in the fields wooded areas. For more information, visit [LambtonPublicHealth.ca](http://LambtonPublicHealth.ca) or [ontario.ca/lyme](http://ontario.ca/lyme). Don't forget to protect your pets from ticks.

### 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: [quilttraffle@brigdenfair.ca](mailto:quilttraffle@brigdenfair.ca) to let the draw organizers how many tickets you wish to purchase, and include names and contact information for the tickets. The cost is \$2 per ticket or three for \$5. They can also be purchased in larger quantities. This gorgeous quilt was lovingly created by members of the Homecraft Division.

The draw will be held on Thanksgiving Monday, Oct. 11, 2021.



**Keep your community strong.  
Please support your local businesses.**

## AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

### MAS annual beef dinner

Attention: All ticket holders for the Moore Agricultural Society beef dinner previously scheduled for March 29, 2020 at the Brigden Fairgrounds.

The dinner has been rescheduled for Wednesday, June 30, 2021 as a "take out" meal. You must pre-register by sending an email to [Homecraft@brigdenfair.ca](mailto:Homecraft@brigdenfair.ca) or call 519-864-4889 by June 8, 2021 to allow for the meal to be planned. Please include: your name, your ticket number, and a telephone number/contact number that can be used to give you a pick up time. You will need to show your ticket at the time of the pick up.

*The Moore Agricultural Society appreciates your ongoing patience while COVID-19 continues to maintain its grip on our plans. Thank you for your continued support.*

### Cancer Society to hold virtual Relay for Life

The annual Canadian Cancer Society's Relay For Life will be held virtually this year on Saturday, June 12. It can be accessed on YouTube and Facebook, and will also be broadcast on YESTV. The event will include an opening ceremony with inspirational stories, entertainment, a virtual luminary celebration, and more to help celebrate survivors and support those who are living with cancer. **Please register at: [relayforlife.ca](http://relayforlife.ca) and keep up with the latest news at [Facebook.com/SarniaRelayForLife](https://Facebook.com/SarniaRelayForLife).**

### Drive-by dinners on hold at Corunna Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 drive-by dinners on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month are on hold in compliance with the current COVID-19 shut-down. This notice will be updated when the situation changes.

See More Around the Township, page 21

**The Beacon is issued online only at least until the community is clear of COVID-19.**

**However, our readers are important to us.**

**For your convenience, your free digital copy can be emailed to you.**

*Email:*

*[beacon@stclairtownship.ca](mailto:beacon@stclairtownship.ca) and type Subscription in Subject line*

**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 St. Clair Twp. Beacon.

**Please note:** Photos submitted close to the deadline may be held until the following issue due to lack of space.

## Vaccination update

The vaccination process has been proceeding well, and with the increased supply of vaccine now available to the Sarnia-Lambton area, the vaccination process has been expanded to include children as young as 12. Some segments of the population will likely be receiving their second doses if the supply continues to remain stable, but those who are eligible will be contacted.

Medical officials are urging everyone to continue to observe all COVID-19 safety protocols, including those who have received a vaccine and those who have had COVID-19 and recovered.

The phenomenon that has been dubbed "COVID fatigue" remains an issue as more and more people become affected by it. Local health officials are concerned that this state of mind will lead to carelessness when observing safety protocols, such as the use of masks and social distancing.

Anyone experiencing mental health issues should contact their family doctor, who can recommend helpful resources and information. Talking to a trusted friend or family member is also a good way to find support but it is NOT a good way to obtain factual, science-based information about the virus or vaccines (unless your trusted friend or family member is a licensed medical professional).

### EDUCATE YOURSELF WISELY

**DO NOT** search for help or information on the Internet! Facebook and other social media sites cannot be trusted. Anyone can access them to spread disinformation, conspiracy theories, and 'horror stories'. The malicious intent of these posts are harmful to the well-being of those who read them. These sites also impede the progress of the global battle to control and eliminate COVID-19.

**If you must surf the Net, here are three sites that provide good, science-based information.**

>Lambton Public Health information is online at: [LambtonPublicHealth.ca](https://LambtonPublicHealth.ca)

>The Government of Canada has an extensive COVID-19 site at: [canada.ca/covid-19/vaccines](https://canada.ca/covid-19/vaccines)

<The World Health Organization (WHO) site can be found at:

<https://www.who.int/covid-19/vaccines>

\* Please wear a mask when social distancing is not possible.  
\*Avoid crowds.

