



The St. Clair Township BEACON



THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

Issue 8

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Simple summer fun on the St. Clair River makes special memories



Summer sunshine, a warm breeze, and a baited hook is the perfect recipe for passing a few hours on the river. This family at Guthrie Park across from Stag Island may not have caught 'the big one', but this is the stuff memories are made of.

Bonnie Stevenson photo

"Vax To School" Program underway

Lambton Public Health encourages students ages 12 to 17 to get their first or second dose of vaccine in order to ensure a safer return to in-person school classes. Those who require a first dose are urged to be vaccinated in time to return to school on September 7.

Appointments are currently available for Aug. 4, 5, and 6.

For more information, visit [GetTheVaccine.ca](https://getthevaccine.ca)
or call LPH Vaccine call centre at 226-254-8222.

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MUNICIPAL NOTES

Unique new subdivision proposed for Courtright

A new concept in subdivision planning is being proposed for a large vacant property in Courtright. At the July 5 virtual public meeting (via Zoom), council heard a presentation from Dave Hannam, agent for the proponent, Southside Construction Management Ltd. (Prior notice of this meeting was given to residents in the affected area.)

The presentation was to aid council's deliberation regarding the rezoning of a large parcel of land bordered by Main and Emi Streets between Eighth Street to the east and Sixth Street to the west. Rezoning would amend the current R1-h2 designation to R1-11-h2, which would provide for an exception to the R1 zone, allowing subordinate stand-alone second dwelling units to be erected. Second dwelling units are currently permitted within an existing primary residence or over a garage if municipal by-laws are observed. However, stand-alone second units are unique to this application, requiring an exemption from current lot coverage requirements. An amendment to the current by-law would allow an increase of up to 40 per cent in lot coverage to accommodate the second dwelling.

Mr. Hannam pointed out the land under discussion is privately owned and already zoned for residential use. He described the project as having 61 detached lots with most having frontages of about 50 feet. Lots will vary in size from 613 square metres to 813 square metres for corner lots. They will accommodate one primary detached unit with two attached enclosed garage ports, each fronted by one additional external driveway space. The back yards will be spacious, allowing for the building of a secondary dwelling or out building such as a garden shed. A 16-foot-wide laneway runs along portions of the northern boundary of the proposed subdivision, a remnant left from a long-demolished former subdivision.

To prepare for the proposed subdivision, Mr. Hannam explained traffic impact, environmental, geotechnical, and archaeological studies and resulting reports had been prepared and submitted. Traffic impact studies on the surrounding neighbourhoods concluded the proposed development would not substantially impact the surrounding area and no extra road improvements would be warranted.

Citing Bill 108, a new provincial planning bill, Mr. Hannam explained the bill has been made to "provide a better range of housing options within the existing stock, including the provision of residential units within buildings, as well as accessory buildings." Stating the rationale behind the Courtright subdivision proposal, Mr. Hannam added, "We're just asking for the definition to reflect the fact that the province now is encouraging them to be provided within accessory structures." He described how the Courtright development would address the intent of Bill 108. "We're seeking a five per cent increase in lot coverage for this subdivision to provide greater flexibility for future homebuilders with regard to the option of

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, Aug. 9 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.

**Final 2021 Tax Due Date
Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021**

constructing a second dwelling unit within the accessory structure," he said.

Several residents from the subject area participated in the open virtual Zoom question period. A concern was raised regarding the adequacy of the 1.2-metre-wide passageways between residences if emergency responders required access to the back of the dwelling. Mr. Hannam responded the building requirements must meet requirements for this type of access.

The privacy of the residences was another concern, and Mr. Hannam admitted some issues might arise. "Some privacy issues may arise but good planning is about balance," he said. Fences will be part of the overall subdivision plan.

When asked if this type of subdivision had been tried in any other municipality, Mr. Hannam said his group had experience with second units within principal buildings, and attached garages, but not in a detached zone. "We haven't had the opportunity to deal specifically with this issue," he said.

The number of families/individuals allowed to inhabit each property was also discussed. County Plan-

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More MUNICIPAL NOTES

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ner Ken Melanson explained the planning act no longer spoke about “families”. “We don’t use the term any more,” he said. “We regulate the use, not the user.”

Mr. Melanson addressed a resident’s concern about the impact of 61 new dwellings attracting a significant number of new residents to the town, which is currently considered low density. He pointed out the applicant had supplied a planning justification report that outlined their rationale for the subdivision. “It’s not actually a high-density form of development,” he said. “When we classify densities of development, additional units like these that are embedded in an existing dwelling or on top of a garage are meant to be what’s called “gentle density”; it’s density that can integrate into the community. It may change the community slightly, but you’re not going from a single detached dwelling to a 20-storey condo building. It’s meant to keep the forms of development in a manner akin to what’s there.”

At the conclusion of the public meeting, several areas of concern were left unexplored, but Mr. Hanam assured Council his group is willing to cooperate with the township and county to resolve them. “We understand this is a big deal for some of the local residents and we’re willing to work with staff and residents to try and refine this,” he said. “This proposed development is supported and encouraged by all levels of current land use planning policy...This will provide a mix of housing types that can help all facets of the market in options for local residents.”

Council was also assured the proponent would provide, in writing, any additional clarification with regard to the functionality and anything derived from the July 5 council meeting.

In light of the new information arising from the open meeting, Council voted to table their vote on the by-law amendment to allow more information to be gathered and outstanding questions addressed.

Information relating to the proposed zoning By-law 33 of 2021, which would amend the Comprehensive Zoning By-law, can be inspected during regular business hours in the Clerk’s office at the St. Clair Township Municipal Office, 1155 Emily Street in Mooretown. It can also be viewed at the County of Lambton Department of Planning and Development, 789 Broadway Street in Wyoming.

Please note: Individuals or public groups who do not make an oral or written submission to the Township of St. Clair before Council makes its decision on the by-law are not entitled to appeal that decision before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT). In addition, these individuals cannot be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the LPAT unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

Skate Park proposed for CAP

A committee comprised of avid local wheeled sport enthusiasts representing skateboarders, inline skaters, scooter and bicycle enthusiasts, as well as their parents, local employees, and business professionals, have united to advocate for a new skate park at the Corunna Athletic Park. The well-used skateboard facility previously available at the park had been on site for many years and had deteriorated, leading to its removal and prompting the formation of a committee to replace it. “I spent many years at that park and it was difficult for all of us to watch it go,” said committee spokesperson Nicole Krohn.

During the group’s July 5 deputation to council,

Nicole presented the rationale for this project and how the group intends to achieve it. The estimated cost of the new park would be approximately \$200,000, with a 50/50 split of the cost between the committee and St. Clair Township.

The east end of the park is the proposed site for the installation of a 7,200 square-foot concrete pad, which will accommodate an above-ground skate park. The design will include: stairs, rails, ramps/half pipe, and a separate pump track (a hilled cycling track used in BMX racing).

“Our hope is to provide opportunities for our wheeled enthusiasts,” said Nicole. She explained the committee consists of people from all sectors of the community. “We have youth who have talked about what their skate park might look like and parents of the youth who have been transporting their kids to either Aamjiwnaang or Port Lambton to utilize their skate park, local employees and business professionals...our committee is comprised of people who actually, genuinely care about what’s going on with youth in Corunna.”

Nicole says the township’s under-30 demographic comprises 32 per cent of the local total population. “This happens to be the generation of skateboarding, rollerblades and bikes; these kids are all craving a place to go that they can call their own community,” said Nicole. “It’s for people of all ages, all skill levels.”

She listed some of the physical and psychological benefits afforded by access to a community skate park. In addition to physical strength and coordination, (studies have shown) wheeled sport enthusiasts build self-reliance, personal control and motivation, confidence, and an outlet to promote mental health. “This is a good outlet for mental health,” said Nicole. “Over the last year and a half, in dealing with COVID-19, we have found that technology has been a huge component of what we’re going to be dealing with in the future. A skate park would be an awesome opportunity (for youth) to find that outlet, find that release, get off their devices and get together to start community and start collaborating with other youth.”

During the discussion that followed Nicole’s presentation, several concerns were raised by council. Insurance exposure and the need for park supervision and set hours of operation are among the items for which council requested more information. The matter was tabled until staff reviews the logistics of the skate board facility project and reports back to council.

Check out www.stclairtownship.ca

Green Hills Garden lotus pond = 25² beauty

Exotic natural beauty is on display daily at the lotus pond in Green Hills Garden off Wilkesport Line near Wilkesport.

The lotus plant’s autumn “death” and annual spring emergence, as well as its daily cycle of immersing its flower below the water at night and re-emerging in the morning, has inspired many cultures through the ages to revere the timeless lotus blossom as a symbol of rebirth, spiritual enlightenment, and unwavering faith.

Stevenson photo



More MUNICIPAL NOTES

SOME ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP SERVICES SUSPENDED

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

The reopening of the municipal office **may** align with Provincial re-opening plan Phase 3 (see page 11)
Up-to-date details for municipal office operations can be found at the St. Clair Township website

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 Applications

The following Township buildings are closed until further notice:

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

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.

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

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

SLEP offers free services to small businesses and entrepreneurs



The Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership now offers local business owners free access to specialized services provided by professional advisors through its Business Enterprise Centre. Services include: human resources, legislative compliance, operations management, marketing, brand development, and sales strategies.

One hour consultation services are now available through video platforms. Confidential consultations are provided by highly-qualified experts in their fields, from a certified Human Resource Professional with 15 years experience to a successful Sales and Marketing innovator who has pitched ideas to the television business pros on *Dragons Den* and *Shark Tank*.

The SLEP Business Enterprise Centre focuses on supporting entrepreneurs who are functioning within the new small business economy. The centre will assist: those who are in start-up mode; purchasing a new business for the

first time; or looking for support to add a new revenue stream as they pivot to meet the evolving needs of their customers.

The Virtual Service Advisor initiative is part of Small Business Centres (SBC) Ontario, launched in February, 2021. It is functioning as the Ontario Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Network. Funding for this network connects 54 Small Business Enterprise Centres (SBEC) locations that have been in operation for 30 years through support from the Ontario Government, as well as local and regional governments.

The formalized network offers local services, events, locations, and e-learning in one web portal- www.sbcontario.ca - to increase awareness and access to supports available for small businesses as they recover from the economic impact of the pandemic.

Don't try to struggle through your small business challenges alone.

To learn more about this program, contact SLEP at 519-332-1820, email: smallbusiness@sarnialambton.on.ca, or go online to: sarnialambton.on.ca/BEC

This enhanced program will be available until Sept. 30, 2021.



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

COVID-19 Measures in Effect

The St. Clair Township Works Department will be continuing to observe **COVID-19** guidelines regarding social distancing for the well-being of employees and the public. Residents will still be able to call for assistance or information. Public Works staff have resumed work that requires entry into a premise, however precautions will

be taken such as pre-screening residents, masks will be worn by staff and 6 feet distance will be maintained between the employee and resident.

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

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.

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.

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.

Road reconstruction - Wilkesport Line to Baby Road

Starting in July, expect intermittent road closures and detours for **6-8 weeks** due to road reconstruction from Wilkesport Line to Baby Road.

Road work scheduled - expect road closures and delays

Starting in August, expect intermittent road closures and delays due to road surface treatment and repairs on Rokeby Line between Telfer and Mandaumin Roads and on Moore Line between Ladysmith and Tecumseh Roads.

Ask Mylo? What Goes Where recycle app

St. Clair Township utilizes the **Recycle Coach app** to keep connected with its residents and reminds residents to download the smartphone app or access their web-app online. Now equipped with the Ask Milo "What Goes Where?" search engine on our website and Recycle Coach App. Residents can search where to properly dispose their items.

Work crews have been doing some much-needed hot mix patching on Plank Road just west of Mandaumin Road. Hot mix is applied over the gravel surface following this preparation work.

Crew members are, from left: Steve Olah, Wayne Bradburn, and Darryl Mallette, plus Supervisor Ryan Duffy, off-camera.



Works photo

Public Works Department

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Sanitary backup prevention

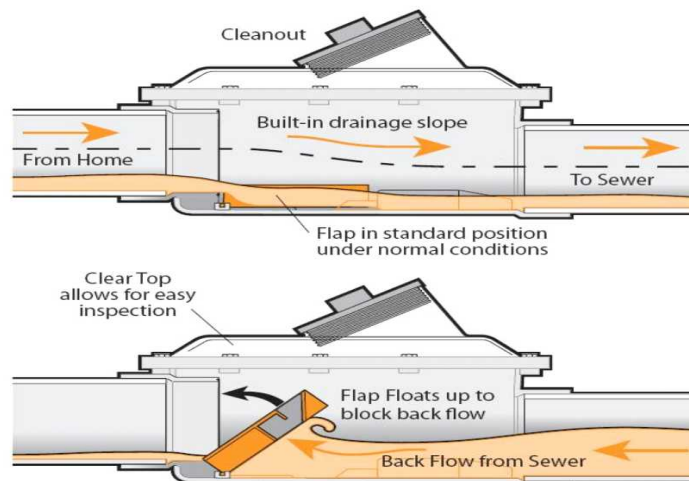
Do you have a backwater valve? A backwater valve, if properly installed and maintained, can prevent sewage from backing up into your home during a blockage or surcharge. It is recommended you follow the backwater valve manufacturer's guidelines and recommendations for maintenance.

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.

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. The can also be costly to repair.

Be sure to call 1-800-400-2255 or visit [OntarioOneCall.ca](https://www.ontarioonecall.ca) 5 days before you dig.



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>

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, Sept. 25. These popular events offer Lambton County residents an opportunity to dispose of household hazardous waste at no cost.

The final opportunity for residents to safely dispose of their household hazardous waste will be held on Saturday, Oct. 30. All events are held at the Clean Harbors Lambton Facility (4090 Telfer Road, St. Clair Township) 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 Decline, 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.

Emergency preparedness starts with you
be prepared



make a plan



build a kit



stay informed

ontario.ca/beprepared



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.

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.

Would you be ready to handle a minimum of 72 hours without outside aid?

Emergencies don't wait for us to be prepared.

Do you have an adequate supply of , water, flashlights, food, safe drinking water, daily medications, a First Aid kit, pet supplies, baby supplies, and a designated safe shelter location in your home? Do you have a fire escape plan in place? Make sure your emergency strategies are prepared and be ready for unexpected emergencies.

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

Applications being accepted for renovation and homeownership programs



The County of Lambton is accepting applications for the Lambton Renovates and Homeownership Down-Payment Assistance Programs.

The Lambton Renovates program provides one-time financial assistance for home repairs, and the Homeownership Down-Payment program offers one-time financial assistance in the form of a 20-year forgivable loan for a 10% down payment to be used towards the purchase of a new or resale home.

Applications can be downloaded at lambtononline.ca/lambtonrenovates and lambtononline.ca/homeownership. Interested applicants can also call the Housing Services Department at 519-344-2062 to request a paper application via mail.

The Lambton Renovates program offers financial assistance to eligible households in one of two ways:

One-time assistance in the form of a 10-year forgivable loan, secured by registration on title, for home repairs to a maximum of \$20,000 per household.

One-time assistance in the form of a grant, which does not require repayment, for accessibility improvements to a maximum of \$5,000 per household.

Eligible repairs under the Lambton Renovates program may include major repairs and rehabilitation required to make your home safe while improving energy

efficiency, or modifications to increase accessibility.

The Homeownership Down Payment Assistance program offers financial assistance to eligible households living in rental accommodations. The program offers one-time assistance in the form of a 20-year forgivable loan, secured by registration on title, for a 10% down payment to be used towards the purchase of a new or resale affordable home.

"Both the Lambton Renovates and Homeownership Down-Payment Assistance programs offer unique funding opportunities to eligible Lambton County residents," says Mackenzie Kada, Project Coordinator. "We encourage all residents to review the eligibility requirements and, if eligible, apply to the program that best suits their needs."

Applicants for these programs must meet a number of qualifications related to residency, income, asset level and home value, which can be found online at lambtononline.ca/lambtonrenovates and lambtononline.ca/homeownership.

Applicants are asked to review the [Lambton Renovates Information Sheet](#) and the [Homeownership Down Payment Assistance Information Sheet](#) prior to completing an application.



St. Clair Region Conservation Authority presents 2021 scholarships

Four deserving students from areas within the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority watershed were recently presented with SCRCA 2021 Scholarships by SCRCA Chair Joe Faas and SCRCA Vice-chair Larry Gordon.

The conservation scholarship program rewards graduating high school students who are pursuing post-secondary studies in a conservation-related field and who have demonstrated high academic standing and involvement in environmental initiatives.

Zachary Zavitz from Strathroy District Collegiate Institute in Strathroy, and Nicole Guthrie from Northern Collegiate Institute and Vocational School in Sarnia, were awarded with the 2021 A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarships. Both will be studying Environmental Science/Studies at Trent University this coming fall.

Johanna Ni Xiu deKoning from Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School in Strathroy was awarded the Tony Stranak

University, while Lucie will be attending Trent University pursuing an Honours Science degree in Conservation Biology.

Two separate in-person scholarship presentations were held to ensure COVID-19 protocols could be observed. SCRCA Chair Joe Faas commented, "It is always such a delight to meet with our scholarship recipients...The young people we have acknowledged today will be our future conservationists and will take an active role in the important environmental issues that face our region."

The scholarships are made possible through trust funds established by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation and its donors. In honour of the SCRCA's 60th Anniversary being celebrated in 2021, the Foundation generously approved additional funding to support all applicants to the 2021 scholarship program. In total, \$5,000 was awarded

Photos counter clockwise from top right: Nicole Guthrie receives A.W. Campbell Memorial Scholarship from Larry Gordon and Joe Faas; Lucie Slakmon receives Mary Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship from Larry Gordon, left, and Joe Faas; Johanna Ni Xiu deKoning receives Tony Stranak Conservation Scholarship from Joe Faas; Joe Faas presents A.W. Campbell Scholarship to Zachary Zavitz.
SCRCA photos



Bird's eye view of new NOVA Corunna / Rokeby polyethylene processing plant



Mike Coene photo

The new NOVA Corunna facility along Rokeby Line, the company's second Advanced SCLAIRTECH technology facility, has been through a few challenges since construction on the new polyethylene plant began in early 2018.

Originally slated for start-up in late 2021, the pandemic hit and a government-directed lockdown led to the majority of the workers on the site being sent home. It is unclear if the project will be completed by late 2021, as originally announced.

In conjunction with the new construction, the crack-

er at the original facility next door has been expanded by about 50 per cent to provide feedstock to the new plant. When completed, NOVA's polyethylene production capacity will increase by about 950 million pounds (450 kilotons) per year.

The combined facilities will make St. Clair Township home to two world-scale plants (the first was the Petrosar plant which is now NOVA Corunna).

This aerial photo of the Rokeby site as of mid-July supplied courtesy of Mike Coene, Bluewater Drone Pix

Tourism Sarnia-Lambton launches "Tour Ontario's Blue Coast App"

Ontario's first Economic Developers Council of Ontario Insider App



recreational experiences.

This free download from the App Store and Google Play will provide a curated guide to Ontario's Blue Coast, along the St. Clair River and Lake Huron, including its many beaches, breweries, museums, restaurants, wineries, and more.

A new marketing campaign and mobile app, Tour Ontario's Blue Coast, will reward people for exploring this region's many culinary, cultural, and

Each time an app user physically visits one of the locations listed on the app, they will collect 10 points. When 100 points have been gathered, they can be redeemed for a \$10 gift certificate to be used at more than 300 local businesses.

An account can be created by downloading the app, then providing name, email address, and postal code; this information will help Tourism Sarnia-Lambton improve the region's offerings to visitors.

For more information, visit: www.ontbluecoast.com/app/

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 TWO~

The Ontario reopening continues with Step Two in most areas of the province on June 30. (Exceptions are hot spots in and around the GTA as well as Waterloo, where municipal officials have chosen to stay in Stage One due to the prevalence of the fast-spreading Delta variant in the community.)

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 15 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.

~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.

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 now hope to soon 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.

Following this three-step plan has brought us success so far. We have taken to heart the instructions laid out in this 'roadmap' and, at least for Lambton County, we can look forward to a cautious version of the summer we remember. Most of us have made the right choices: we've listened to our medical specialists (not conspiracy hacks); acquired our protective vaccinations; and observed the diligent use of masks and hand hygiene.

To those who have not yet been vaccinated, please do so. Vaccinations are now open to most of the general population. A bright future can only replace this pandemic if we become the fuel that powers our community's recovery.

Regardless of your belief, COVID-19 is real. The threat is still real. And 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 and typing the word "Subscription" in the Subject line.

Please include your name with the email.

HERITAGE CORNER

Pirates, scoundrels and war on the St. Clair River?

Bonnie Stevenson

When we look out at the St. Clair River any time of year, we may see grand freighters carrying vital goods and resources that keep our economy humming. We may see pleasure yachts, kayaks, tall ships, or Coast Guard vessels plowing through the ice, fishermen patiently waiting for “the big one”, and all manner of modern water craft in motion.

But in the 1800s, the view would have been vastly different and, perhaps, a lot less pleasant.



Dr. John C. Carter

Historian John C. Carter's book, *Piratical Doings on the River St. Clair*, conjures a much different picture of what we could expect to see, for those were the days when pirates and scoundrels plied the waters, and unrest across the border spilled over onto our shores.

Dr. Carter says he became fascinated with early life on the St. Clair River in 2012, when he was a guest speaker at the Sombra Museum's lecture series. His subject was the Rebellion of 1838, also known as the American Patriot War, the Upper Canadian Rebellion, and the Farmer's Rebellion.

“My talk was about the rebellion in a larger context, but I knew there were some events here (along the river), but when I asked folks at the meeting, no one knew anything about it,” he said. As word spread about John's presentation, it became clear some of the people were anxious to find out. His inquiries soon caught the attention of an avid local historian and member of the Sombra Museum, the late Al Anderson, and an immediate friendship ensued.

“I told Allan ‘I'm going to research more and whatever I get, I'm going to write it up and the historical committee can have it,’” said John. The seeds of John's future book had been sown.

John's academic background in Museum Studies and History, and his subsequent interest in the Rebellion of 1938, began in 1977 when he was appointed curator of the John R. Park Homestead in Colchester, Ontario. (The homestead had been a station on the Underground Railway prior to the U.S. Civil War.) The historical information he uncovered during that time piqued his curiosity as to what was going on along the St. Clair River during that turbulent era. “I had no idea that Pelee Island and Boblo Island had been captured,” he said. “I found 14 incursions from the United States between December, 1837 and December, 1838.”

The lack of record-keeping during the 1800s made fact-finding difficult during John's research and his ef-

forts didn't always bear fruit. “He felt the subject was under researched and poorly documented,” said HSC President Dave Pattenden. “He feared it would soon be forgotten in dusty old filing cabinets.” When he contacted a historical group in Michigan, they had nothing to contribute. “They tried to be helpful, but they knew nothing,” he said. “Much has been

But taking a page from the Indiana Jones play book, John remained determined to continue his inquiries. *Piratical Doings on the River St. Clair* is the result of his deep dive into historical archives, as well as conversations he had with those who are acquainted with rebellion lore. After all of the information had been assembled, John knew it couldn't just be recorded with entries in a notebook; he had enough material, including some photos and illustrations, to write a book.

When the book was complete, Heritage St. Clair (HSC) was tasked with editing and distributing it, and the book's cover art is done by HSC member Paul Smith. Upon completion of the project, John was as good as his word; he generously donated the book to Heritage St. Clair. “HSC is grateful to Dr. Carter for trusting the valuable result of his work to us,” said Dave Pattenden. “Much has been written about this conflict, with the exception of the raids across our St. Clair River.”

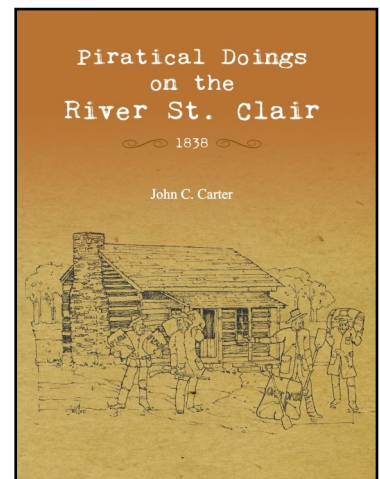
Since the publication of “*Piratical Doings*”, John says he has discovered two more incursions in the St. Clair region, including one on Walpole Island, and he continues to search for information. “I probably have another whole book of stuff I've found since the book was published,” he said.

A book signing by author Dr. John Carter will be held at the Sombra Museum when the COVID-19 pandemic precautionary protocols have been lifted, but books can be purchased ahead of time. A limited run of 120 books will sell for \$45 per copy, tax included. To arrange for delivery by mail or a local pick up, these can be done on an individual basis.

Details for all orders, delivery methods, and payment instructions can be arranged by contacting Heritage St. Clair by email at: secretaryheritagestclair@gmail.com.

**Heritage St. Clair (HSC) is a dedicated committee of serious local historians and history lovers committed to preserving the heritage of St. Clair Township. The committee reports to the township and its hard work can be seen in the many colourful, informative interpretive signs, plaques, and installations that have been erected throughout the township to raise public awareness of the community's past. New members are always welcome and the only qualification you need is a desire to help preserve the history of your community.*

See More Heritage Corner, page 13



**Beacon
Bits**

*“People who make history, know nothing about history.
You can see that in the sort of history they make.”*

~G.K. Chesterton

MORE HERITAGE CORNER

Time to get reacquainted with the Moore and Sombra Museums

From page 12

The much-anticipated reopening of the Moore and Sombra Museums is at hand. Volunteers from both museums have been working hard to prepare the displays and individual exhibits for public viewing, as well as doing the behind-the-scenes work required to operate each facility.

At the Moore Museum, much of the work is related to the management and conservation of the artifact collection, such as cataloguing and inputting of pre-computerized artifact records into the database.

Work is also being done on the reserve collection storage areas.

Some new displays have also been created for our visitors to enjoy.

They include Great Lakes lighthouse art by local artist Phil Miller, a camera and photography equipment display, and a stunning Vaseline glass display featuring beautiful artifacts such as the elegant green koi, left.

There will be COVID-19 safety protocols in place, so please visit www.mooremuseum.ca for more information ahead of time.

Curator, Laurie Mason



Heritage furniture in reserve



Cameras without phones?



See you soon!

See Sombra Museum, page 14

Easing of COVID restrictions allows museums, gallery, and archives to reopen

The Moore and Sombra Museums aren't the only ones in the county preparing for visitors. The move to Ontario's Step 3 COVID restrictions will allow visitors back into Lambton's museums, gallery, and archives in person.

Lambton County Library locations currently offering contactless curbside pickup will open for in-person visits by scheduled appointments for public computer use, Wi-Fi use and academic research. In addition, these 16 locations will re-open for in-person browsing with no requirement for a scheduled appointment; however patrons are asked to limit their visits to once daily, for no longer than 45 minutes. Capacity limits to meet provincial legislation will be posted at entrances and other restrictions will remain in place, including a requirement to wear a face mask.

To book an appointment for public computer use, wi-fi use and academic research, cardholders can call the location they wish to visit, book online at www.lclibrary.ca/appointments or call the central booking line at 519-337-3291 ext. 5900, toll free at 1-866-324-6912 ext. 5900.

All appointments will start on the hour and be limited to 45 minutes. This will provide adequate time to clean the space before the next appointment begins. Cardholders will also be limited to one appointment per day. Upon booking an appointment, all visitors are asked to self-monitor symptoms before entering any cultural facility, and must visit at another time if feeling unwell.

St. Clair Township locations and public hours of operation for curbside, in-person browsing, public computer, and WIFI use, and in-person reference services by scheduled appointment are:

Brigden: 4-7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday.

Corunna: 11 a.m.- 2p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday; 3-6 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

Sombra: 3-6 p.m. on Tuesday; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

For more information on locations, services and hours of operation visit www.lclibrary.ca

More Heritage Corner, page 14

Lambton County Library passes for Ontario parks still available

The Lambton County Library still 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.

Ontario parks passes and other library materials can be reserved for contactless curbside pickup using the online catalogue at lclibrary.ca or the Iguana Library mobile app, or by calling a participating curbside location during hours of operation.

If you haven't got a library card, call 519-845-3324,

ext. 5266 or 1-866-324-6912, ext. 5266, or email: librarytechhelp@county-lambton.on.ca. For more information on locations, services, and hours of operation, go online to: www.lclibrary.ca.



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

MORE HERITAGE CORNER

Sombra Museum polishing up for much-anticipated reopening

From page 13

Sombra Museum volunteers and staff are happy to be able to welcome visitors back into the museum in person. Visitors will be able to drop in any time during open hours, but if demand increases, an appointment booking system will be ready to handle the demand. Everyone will be required to wear COVID safety masks and comply with 2m physical distancing and hand hygiene.



Here are samples of the new displays and exhibits you can expect to see when you visit the Sombra Museum.

Top left: Tourism Assistant Julie Grant puts together two sections of a 1927 sectional canoe. It's new to the museum collection and will be the centre-piece of a new display.

Top right: Curatorial Assistant Mara Garva holds a large fossil of trilobite burrows, part of a recent donation of mid-Devonian period fossils that are over 360 million years old. They were found in the Arkona area.

Left: This collection comes to us from Bob O'Donnell and the Arkona Lions Museum. We appreciate this important new addition to the museum, and are very excited to have this opportunity to expand our collection into new areas.

Kailyn Shepley
Sombra Museum Curator

MORE HERITAGE CORNER

Sombra Museum continues to seek information/photos of COVID era

From page 14

The Sombra Museum continues to collect 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.

Recollections and examples of how social media and technology has impacted life in social isolation (people using technology for the first time or using it differently; experiences when staying in touch with friends and loved ones via Zoom or working from home).

The vaccination process is now part of the story. Photos of the smiles upon receiving the second shot, recorded feelings of hope that we may finally be seeing the end of

the pandemic in sight or your first meeting with family and friends when masks and social distancing are no longer required.

The pandemic of 2020/2021 has affected the entire world; an epic chapter is being written in the book of human history and this project will allow us to make our own entry in that book.

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.

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

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: quilttraffic@brigdenfair.ca to let the draw organizers know 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.

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

Right: This gorgeous quilt was lovingly created by members of the Homecraft Division.



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.

Lambton County Library annual summer reading program underway

Lambton County Library cardholders are invited to enjoy the 2021 Summer Reading Program, a six-week initiative promoting reading and the maintenance of literacy skills for children during summer break. It may also encourage reading as a hobby among adults.

The theme for 2021 is *Every Hero Has A Story*. "The library encourages heroes of all ages from around Lambton County to read stories, participate in activities, and discover online programs," said Greer Macdonnell, Community Library Supervisor. "The more registrants read and participate, the more chances they have to win amazing prizes."

The Summer Reading Program is free and available for Lambton County Library cardholders, who can register now by visiting a curbside pickup location during opening hours. Kids ages 0-12 will receive an age-specific registration package (0-4 years, 5-8 years or 9-12 years) in French or English which will include: a passport, program instructions, stickers, supplies for three DIY activities, activity sheets and recommended reading list. For every five books read, kids will earn one free book prize to a maximum of three book prizes.

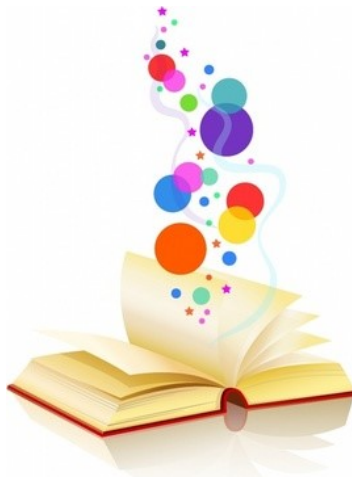
Through July and August participants can take part in

online activities, games, challenges and set reading goals for themselves. Books can be borrowed through the library's curbside pickup service, and eBooks are available through digital platforms found at: www.lclibrary.ca. Online activities, games and challenges will open on July 5, 2021 at www.lclibrary.ca/srp. They include: Herovision; Secret Code Word Scavenger Hunt; Superhero Weekly Online Photo Challenge; and Story Walk. Prizes to be won include: a bike and helmet (Herovision); one of five \$50 Amazon gift cards (Secret Code Word Scavenger Hunt); a movie night prize package (Superhero Weekly Online Photo Challenge); \$50 Discover Sarnia-Lambton gift cards; food prizes; and puzzle prize packages.

This is just a sample of what awaits the summer program readers. For a complete look at the program's activities and special events, visit www.lclibrary.ca/srp and follow @LCLibrary on Facebook and Twitter.

No library card?

If you don't have a library card, just visit www.lclibrary.ca/apply and watch the Lambton County Library heroes make one magically appear.



Virtual appointments offered at Lambton County Archives

The extensive archival resources at the Lambton County Archives can now be accessed 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**.

RAPIDS FAMILY HEALTH TEAM

The **Rapids Family Health Team** clinic, located in the Shell Health Centre at **233 Cameron Street** in Corunna, is not yet offering in-person programs. However, the clinic can be contacted online at www.rapidsfhteam.ca or by calling 519-339-8949 to speak to reception.

Virtual Dining with Diabetes series set

Starting Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021, Rapids Family Health Team will offer a 4-week program on **Dining with Diabetes**. This educational series will run on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00 via Zoom. This program is designed to help people who are newly diagnosed with Diabetes or for people who could use a refresher course. To register ask your physician for a referral or call 519-339-8949.

Virtual Healthy Eating and You

This 6-week program will start on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. A registered dietitian will lead this program, which is designed to help you make permanent lifestyle changes.

You will set your own healthy eating and physical activity goals and learn how to make plans for achieving

them. Some topics include: Carbohydrates, protein and fat; how often to eat/ balancing meals; sensible portions and portion control strategies; physical activity - what types and amounts are beneficial; and emotional eating strategies. Group discussions will help you learn from others' experiences.

Weekly self management goals will help you reach your full potential

All classes will be presented on Zoom. To register call 519-339-8949.

LABORATORY SITE OPEN

Lab services are offered from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Monday through Friday.

The lab is a specimen collection site only. Patients with concerns regarding billing or their online profile for test results, may contact Lifelabs at 1-877-849-3637.



SCRC Foundation awards Enbridge Gas with President's Award

The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation recognized one of its long-standing corporate sponsors on July 26 with the presentation of the Foundation's esteemed President's Award. Enbridge Gas was formally recognized for its outstanding financial support of conservation programs in the St. Clair Region.

While presenting Enbridge with the SCRC Presidents' Award, Duncan Skinner, President of the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation, noted Enbridge Gas (formerly Union Gas) has donated over \$100,000 to the foundation over the past 10 years in support of the SCRC's efforts. "These funds have helped support a number of conservation initiatives and activities in the St. Clair watershed, including education, habitat creation, and upgrades to local conservation areas," he said.



Duncan Skinner (left), President of the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation, presents Steven Jelich (centre), Director of Southwest Operations and Mark Ramsay (right), Supervisor of Sarnia-Lambton Operations at Enbridge with the Foundation's President's Award.



In 2019, Enbridge Gas provided \$5,000 to support safety improvements at the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area in Petrolia. The funding allowed for the construction of a boardwalk (pictured), a dedicated roadside walkway and a trail stabilizing retaining wall.

SCRC Photos

The President's Award is presented to individuals and organizations to recognize their outstanding generosity to the Foundation, whether it be in the form of financial donations or the donation of land or time as a volunteer. Monday's presentation marks the thirteenth time an individual or organization has been recognized by the Foundation for their contributions to conservation in the St. Clair region.

Accepting the award, Steven Jelich, Enbridge Gas Director, Southwest Region Operations, said, "Enbridge Gas and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority have a strong, shared history...We are pleased to receive this award and we share their commitment to ensuring the natural environments where we live and work are not just protected but enhanced."

Celebrating its 60th year in 2021, the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is supported by the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation - a registered, charitable organization that raises funds to support the conservation programs of the Authority. "The success of Authority programs and activities are made possible through the support of donors like Enbridge Gas," said Duncan Skinner, "We truly appreciate their commitment to conservation programs in our watershed."

Wanted: Motivated youth seeking adventure

The Royal Canadian "1st Hussars" Army Cadet Corps Petrolia invites boys and girls ages 12-18 to learn new skills, marksmanship, orienteering, hiking, leadership, pipes and drum band, and teamwork, participate in many new challenges, make new friends and attend great summer camps, all at no cost. Cadets are not required to join the military. Join us today! For more information, call 519-332-6555 or visit: www.petroliacadets.com



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.

ST. CLAIR PARKWAY GOLF COURSE

The Parkway

happy new year

2021

"Lambton County's Best Golf Value"

THE GAME IS ON AND WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU!

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
 Phone: 519-867-2160
 Facebook: @stclairparkwaygolfclub
 Website: <http://www.stclairparkwaygolf.com/>




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2021 HAPPY NEW YEAR

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

@mooretownsportscomplex

www.stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca/ / E-mail: info@stclairtownship.ca

St. Clair River TRAIL

actively connecting communities

Photos taken along the trail continue to be in demand, so use your camera or phone when you see a photo-worthy scene while enjoying the trail and message your photos to us.
 Don't forget to check out the St. Clair River Trail Facebook page, video, & website



New swim team "fun and fitness" proposed for local youth

Bonnie Stevenson

A new swim team will be coming to the Moore Sports Complex this fall if COVID-19 regulations permit operation. The new non-profit St. Clair Current Swim Club will provide a fitness swimming program for children and youth ages seven through 18 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Saturday mornings. Families may choose from one to three sessions per week. And if a competitive swim league is created in this area, club members who are interested in being part of a club swim team will travel to monthly swim meets.

Club spokesperson Stephanie Lobsinger says swimming skills will be taught to enable club members to participate in the swim team. "We're going to teach strokes they wouldn't necessarily learn in swimming lessons at the early ages," she said. "We'll teach all four strokes - front crawl, back stroke, butterfly and breast stroke - if they don't already know them, and our goal is that kids who are interested would go off to monthly swim meets and compete."

She stressed the team competition would be friendly in nature. "We believe in having fun - it's not a highly competitive team. We believe in fun and fitness," said Stephanie. "If the option is there for us to go to swim meets, they're



friendly swim meets...We'd compete against other small community teams, so you get a little bit competitive without the pressure." Such activities would provide an opportunity for team members to socialize and make new friends as well.

Although Chatham and Sarnia both have swim teams, Stephanie believes this would be the first swim team to operate in the St. Clair Township area. Club organizers are hoping to draw in young swimmers from around the municipality as well as the Wallaceburg area, making the program available to youth in rural areas where it hasn't been offered before.

Stephanie says she and her team have years of experience in the operation of swim teams in Sarnia, and that Sue Athanasopoulos, an experienced swim coach, will be training the club members. "It's a great opportunity. We have a great facility that could hold a swim team, a great coach who's looking for a swim team, and an area where we know the families would be happy to see another team activity that they haven't had before," she said. "I think it's going to be a good mix."

More information is available online at: www.teamunify.com/team/canscc/page/home

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

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

The food bank at St. Andrew's Church on Colborne Street in Corunna is 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.

St. Joseph-St. Charles Catholic Church Community to participate in food program

The St. Joseph-St. Charles' Catholic Community in Corunna, along with the Catholic churches in Petrolia, Forest, and Watford, has worked collaboratively with the Boys and Girls Club of Sarnia-Lambton to extend Project Backpack, a food assistance program, into Lambton County. The program provides a bag of nutritious food that can be easily assembled to people ages 14-24 who are in need of a healthy meal. Each bag also contains hygiene items and helpful information from community partners. People who qualify for this program can find these bags at the St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish office at 346 Beresford Street in Corunna during regular office hours (Monday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Tuesday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.). Program organizers say the program will continue into the fall and they hope to continue it as long as there is a need for it.

The Optimist Club supports community youth - new members welcome

The Sombra Optimist Club is looking for new members who want to help their community thrive. This volunteer organization exists to make their community a better place by doing great things for the youth in their area. Be a friend of youth - join the Optimist Club of Sombra. For more information or to become a member, call Carla Aarsen at 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 - 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-

MORE COMMUNITY CONTACT

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464-4400, ext. 5370.

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. Memberships are \$10 per person until further notice. For more information on the membership role, contact info@brigdenfair.ca.

Scholarship offered by Lambton County W. I.

Lambton County Women's Institute is offering a \$1,000 scholarship for students entering their first or second year of full-time studies at any college or university in Ontario. Studies must lead to the student's first degree or diploma, and the applicant's address must be in Lambton County. Previous winners are not eligible.



Complete a typed application with a cover letter and the most recent official transcript of academic results.

Include your program of studies and the starting date of your courses at the college or university you attend, have applied to, or hope to attend.

Include a list of your community activities while attending high school/college, university over the last two years. List all organizations of which you have been an active member, including offices held in your high school/college/or university, leadership activities in organizations, special interests, hobbies and accomplishments. State why you chose this course and what you plan to do after graduation.

Include a typed essay of 250-350 words on this subject: *If the 2020 pandemic has changed your family's food choices, give supporting reasons for changing and reasons why those changes will or will not be sustained.*

Return your completed application with the above, plus:

1. Present complete mailing and email address.
2. Names of your mother/grandmother who is/was a W.I. member, if applicable.
3. Names and telephone numbers of three references who could be contacted to support your involvement in the activities you have listed.



Anne McGugan with a past scholarship recipient.

Inquiries can be emailed to Anne McGugan at amcgugan@hotmail.com. Applications can be emailed in pdf format to the above email address or mailed to: Anne McGugan, 3842 Old Walnut Road, R.R. # 7, Alvinston, Ontario, N0N 1A0.

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 and wooded areas. For more information, visit LambtonPublicHealth.ca or ontario.ca/lyme. Don't forget to protect your pets from ticks.

Black-legged tick is the size of a poppy seed → *

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.

HISTORIC HILLSDALE CEMETERY TOUR

Historic Hillsdale Cemetery west of Petrolia on Petrolia Line will be the scene of the popular guided walking tour on Sept. 18 from noon to 4 p.m. Tickets are just \$20 each and a tour begins every 15 minutes. Walk into Lambton County's past to the days of oil barons, tragic tales, quirky characters, and maybe, even a love story or two. For more information about this intriguing and unusual event, or to obtain tickets, please call 519-882-2350.

MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

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the first-ever St. Clair Challenge virtual fundraiser will encourage all SCRC watershed residents to get out in the fresh air to walk, run, hike, bike, or paddle along the trails and SCRC watershed waterways. The challenge is now on and will run until Aug. 31. To register, go to WWW.RACEROSTER.COM and search for the St. Clair Challenge. Enjoy the summer by supporting this SCRC fundraiser. It's the best way to support and preserve the environment in this regions. #stclairchallenge

North Lambton Community Health Centre classes

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

Pulmonary Rehabilitation: (for existing clients) For people living with lung disease. Learn to self-manage through education and exercise. To register or for more information, call Brenda at 519-786-4545, ext. 265 or Lorie at 519-491-2123, ext. 227.

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

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-Chronic Pain: Techniques to deal with stress, pain, and depression, and improve sleep, learn about fatigue management, pain medications and treatments. Build confidence, create personal action plans, and deal with everyday challenges of living with chronic pain. Light exercises improve strength and flexibility. Join us Thursdays, until Aug. 19 - 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. via Zoom To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 259.

Virtual Breastfeeding support: To learn more about free, virtual NLCHC breastfeeding support, please contact April at 519-786-4545 or email ageorge@nlchc.com for more information.

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

Virtual Chair Exercise: Held Monday at 11 a.m. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 or email adinell@nlchc.com to receive the Zoom link.

Virtual Low Impact Exercise is held Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 or email adinell@nlchc.com to receive the Zoom link.

Low Impact in-person (Mooretown): Held on Thursdays at the Mooretown Sports Complex. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 or email adinell@nlchc.com

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 hon-

oured 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 or go to the Brigden Fair Facebook page.

MAS Annual General Meeting scheduled

The annual general meeting of the Moore Agricultural Society (MAS) will be held on **Thursday, August 12, 2021** at the Brigden Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall. (This meeting was rescheduled from Thursday, January 21, 2021 due to COVID Restrictions.) Membership registration and renewal will take place from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. with meeting at 7 p.m.

All Covid Requirements will be followed (such as mask wearing, self distancing) as prescribed by Health Unit/Government at time of meeting.

DRIVE - IN AT BRIGDEN FAIRGROUNDS

It's drive-in movie night at the Brigden Fairgrounds on Friday, Aug. 27. Check out the Brigden Fair Facebook page for additional information and to vote on the movies you'd like to see. Details and price of admission will be here in the August St. Clair Township Beacon.



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 those employed during the successful September 2020 show. For more information, go online to: www.paintontario.com

United Way SarniaLambton announces fundraising goal

The fundraising goal for the up-coming United Way Sarnia-Lambton fall campaign goal has been set at \$1.75 million and will focus on new funding priority areas.

The three focus areas are: From Poverty to Possibility; All That Kids Can Be; and Healthy People, Strong Communities, addressing the three critical community needs—poverty, youth development, and individual well-being.

A new site, sponsored by Enbridge, will be launched in August - new look; easier navigation!

The campaign kicks off Sept. 7 and runs to Dec. 31, 2021. Please give what you can.



www.theunitedway.on.ca

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

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Swim club to operate at MSC

The newly formed St. Clair Current Swim Club will be operating at the Moore Sports Complex as soon as COVID-19 protocols allow. The registered non-profit club will offer a fitness swimming program for ages seven through 18 on Tuesday/Thursday evenings, and Saturday morning, and families can choose from one to three sessions per week. If the competitive league opens up in this area, club members who are interested will travel to monthly swim meets. **More information will be available in the weeks to come. See page 16.**

Walleye Fishing Derby

The St. Clair River from the bridge to the southern tip of Fawn Island, as well as Lake Huron to North latitude 40°20' (between the Grand Bend water treatment plant and the north end of the trailer park north of Lexington, Michigan, marks the boundaries of the Bluewater Anglers and Point Edward-sponsored 2021 Walleye Fishing Derby the weekend of Aug. 6 at 6 p.m. to Aug. 7 at 9:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15 per person, available at The Outdoorsman and Buck's Bait. Weigh-in will be at the Bluewater Angler's Hatchery on Aug. 7 from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Prizes and draws are up for grabs. **More information is available at: www.bluewateranglers.com/events/summer-walleye-derby.**

Pickleball at C.A.P. courts underway

Pickleball is now being played at the CAP courts in Corunna every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The pickleball/tennis courts have recently been upgraded by the St. Clair Township Parks and Rec crew. All adults are invited to visit the courts to see the game in action. Newcomers are always welcome to join the group and anyone new to the game is invited to learn how to play.

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 shutdown. This notice will be updated when the situation changes.

JNAAG Arts and Ideas activity

Back in Judy's Jungle with Lee Henderson, the second Arts and Ideas presentation through the Judith and Norman Alix Art Gallery, will take place on Thursday, Aug. 5 at 7 p.m. Lee will spin a chronology of military-themed punk, metal, and glam rock in conjunction with his exhibition, *An Abridged Sonic History of Global Conflict*. **For more information or to register for this program, visit the Art & Ideas page of the JNAAG website.**

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. Information on transient and temporary stays can be obtained by visiting the SCRCA website at: www.scrca.on.ca.

St. Clair Township campgrounds

Clients are now able to book online at any St. Clair Township camp ground for up to six consecutive nights for the remainder of the 2021 season and for the 2022 season. (Mooretown-519-867-2951; Cathcart-519-892-3342; or Branton-Cundick-519-892-3968) Seven or more nights can be reserved if you prebook and state the campground where you wish to stay. The usual camping season runs from May 1 through Oct. 20 each year. For more information, go online to: stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca, click on 'camping'.

Hit the road for SCRCA challenge fundraiser

Are you up for a challenge? To celebrate the St. Clair Region Conservation Area's 60th anniversary,

See More Around the Township, page 21

The Beacon is issued online only due to COVID-19.

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

Email:

beacon@stclairtownship.ca

and type Subscription in Subject line
Just type the word 'Subscription' in the Subject line

The DEADLINE for Beacon submissions is the third Monday of each month by noon.

E-mail:

beacon@stclairtownship.ca

If you have a non-profit or charity event or activity coming up in St. Clair Township, or an event that will benefit the residents of the township, put your event in the spotlight free of charge here in The St. Clair Twp. Beacon.

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

Know the truth about vaccination

For those who are still curious about vaccine safety, there are three websites that provide good, science-based information.

>Lambton Public Health information is online at:

LambtonPublicHealth.ca

>The Government of Canada has an extensive COVID-19 site at: **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.

