
HERITAGE CORNER

Local history lives again as museums reopen



Moore Museum at 94 Moore Line in Mooretown re-opened to the public on Friday, August 6, after the pandemic forced authorities to close all public spaces for safety. The first visitors to arrive were Karen Burns and her grandchildren. The one-room schoolhouse was of particular interest to her grandkids, because this former S. S. #13 Dawn was the school Mrs. Burns attended as a child. During the fall, Moore Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, so there is plenty of time to plan a visit; enjoy the refreshing autumn weather while strolling through the 13-building site.

-Moore Museum Curator Laurie Mason

Newly updated Heritage St. Clair page features map showing historic plaques and storyboards situated throughout the township

Heritage St. Clair has updated its page on the St. Clair Township website, and one of the features now on view St. Clair Township's Historic Points of Interest map. This interactive map points out the locations of these colourful and educational installations and includes photographs of them so you'll be sure not to miss them. Here's a link you can use to go directly to St. Clair Township's Historical Points of Interest page:

<http://stclairtownship.ca/st-clair-townships-historical-points-of-interest/>

See more Heritage, page 13

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Long-awaited reopening of Moore Museum shows off new exhibits and additions



The cabinet of attractive yellow-green glassware to the left is pretty, but it hides a secret that can only be revealed when the lights go out.

To the right, the same cabinet is illuminated with UV light to reveal the fabulous luminescence of Vaseline glass. The colour is created when molten glass is mixed with as little as 0.1% to 0.2% uranium oxide during the manufacturing process.

This may sound like new technology, but the first examples of this technique have been found in glass murals from a first century AD Imperial Roman villa near Naples, Italy.

The label, "Vaseline glass" was given to this incredible glassware because it resembled the colour of petroleum jelly.

Don't let the uranium content of the glass frighten you. Although the glass is minimally radioactive, the display case provides a safe viewing environment for visitors.

This is a new display that will welcome back Moore Museum visitors, but there are many others waiting to enchant and delight, whether you're a first timer or a returning friend.

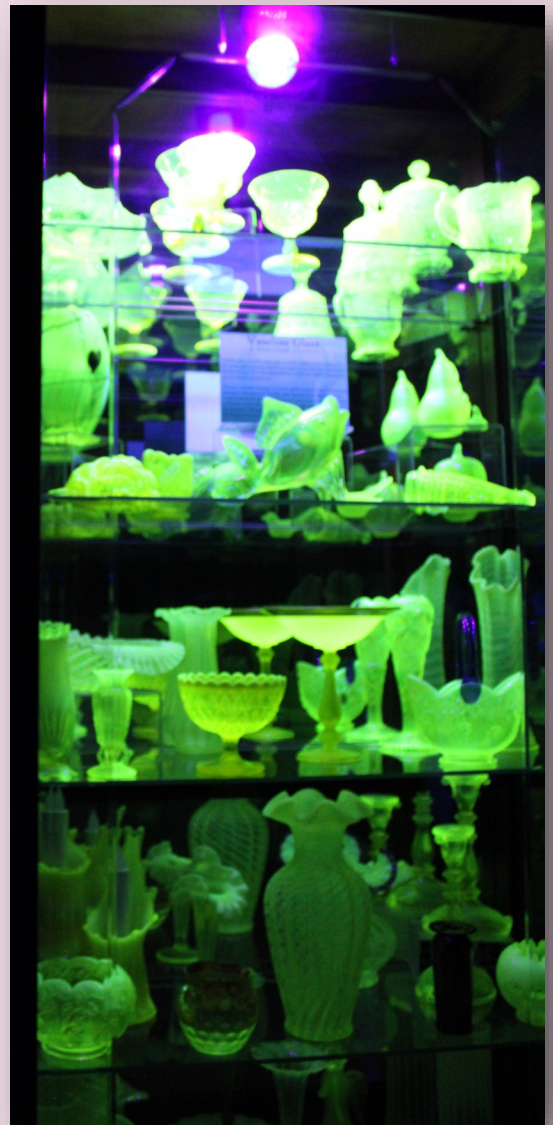
The local Moore Township baseball scene is documented through the decades with many donated artifacts and photographs, bottom left. The baseball tradition continues today in St. Clair Township, which boasts a thriving sports culture, with baseball, hockey, and soccer teams that take to the fields and rinks throughout the year.

One of the old favourites that still thrills those who come to the Moore Museum is the assembly of mastodon bones. These 10,000 year old bones were discovered on a property along the Second Line of Moore over a century ago while farmer Thomas Little was digging a water well for his cattle. The bones created a sensation then and continue to fascinate museum visitors of all ages.

If you're curious about the 13 beautifully restored outbuildings on the Moore Museum site, treat yourself to a self-guided tour. Booklets detailing the provenance of these grand old buildings, as well as the displays inside the main museum building, are free with admission.

September hours of operation will be Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Don't miss this chance to get reconnect with your community's living history. Strict COVID-19 safety measures are in effect, so please wear a mask and observe social distancing.

Bonnie Stevenson photos



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Sombra Museum reopens; relive the 'good old days' of Sombra

By Curator Kailyn Shepley



Do you remember your phone service being on the party line? Perhaps you would hear your neighbours ring signal and pick up to hear the latest gossip in the neighbourhood. Or do you remember the neighbourhood wives taking turns ringing the families on the line in the morning, like a community alarm clock?

In the former Sombra Township, party lines remained in use into the 1960s and 1970s, even as magneto box crank phones, like the one pictured left, went out of service in the 1950s.

The local list to the right of the old phone shows a list of the 22 people who subscribed to one-party line. Users couldn't make or receive any calls if the line was in use by someone else, even in an emergency. If your lengthy subscriber list included the town doctor, as this one does, it may have taken some time to place a call.

This year at Sombra Museum, take a step back through the years to learn how the people of the Sombra Township (now St. Clair Township Ward 2) communicated with each other and the world. From handwritten letters to records, to the first televisions and cell-phones, we've dug into our extensive collections to share our community's story with our visitors.

We look forward to welcoming you soon!

Hours of operation for the remainder of August are Monday to Wednesday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. until Sept. 5 (closed Labour Day weekend on Sunday and Monday). September Hours: Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; October Hours: Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. until Oct. 25, and don't forget our Halloween Hours from Oct. 27 to 30.

Thank you to our first visitors of 2021, Deirdre and Jean, who enjoyed a tour on August 15.

Sombra Museum is now open to visitors and for artifact donation in Sombra village on the St. Clair Parkway at Smith Street. Please call 519-892-3982 for more information.

All Lambton County Library locations open; hours of operation adjusted

All 25 Lambton County Library locations will be open to the public beginning on Sept. 7. They will all offer in-person browsing according to each site's provincially designated capacity limit, and scheduled computer use, wi-fi use, and academic research. Curbside pickup will continue.

Library COVID-19 protocols require visitors over the age of two must wear masks or face coverings and no food or beverage is permitted. Computer appointments are limited to 45 minutes once per day, patrons browsing may spend no more than 45 minutes in the library, and capacity limits are in effect at all sites.

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. Walk-in appointments will be accommodated as space and time allows.

Library hours of operation have been adjusted to better align with individual community and operational needs. St.

Clair Township locations and public hours of operation are as follows:

Brigden (519-864-1142): Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesday, Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Corunna (519-862-1132): Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Courtright (519-867-2712): Tuesday, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursday, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Mooretown (519-867-2823): Monday, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Wednesday, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sombra (519-892-3711): Tuesday, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday, Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Port Lambton (519-677-5217): Monday, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

To become a Lambton County Library cardholder, call or visit your local library during open hours.

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

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 loca-

tion 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.

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



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Moore Museum seeks information about history of old Moore Township schools

Moore Museum continues to accept 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 (can be found on the St. Clair Township website- click on *The 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.

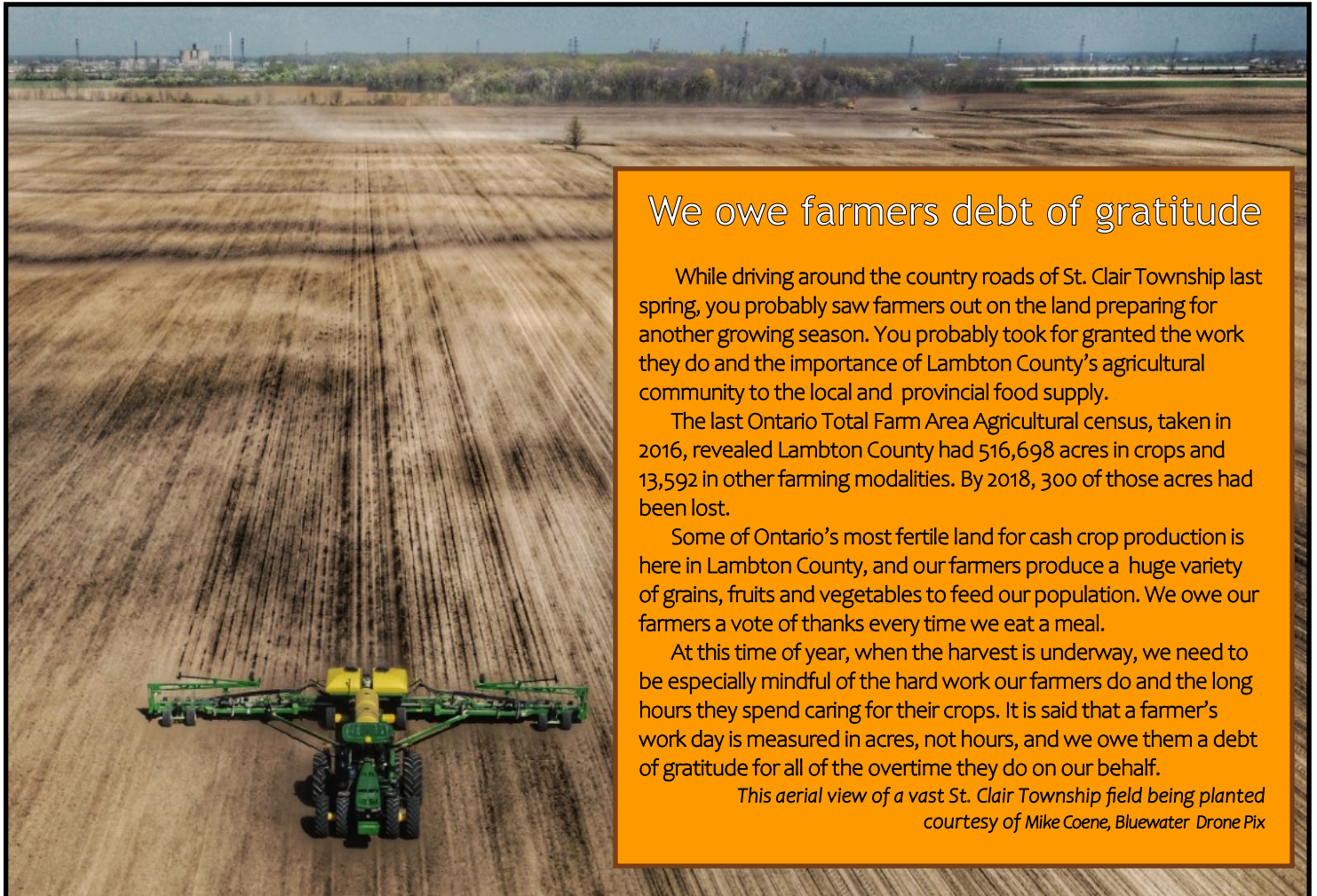
~Laurie Mason, curator, Moore Museum

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.



We owe farmers debt of gratitude

While driving around the country roads of St. Clair Township last spring, you probably saw farmers out on the land preparing for another growing season. You probably took for granted the work they do and the importance of Lambton County's agricultural community to the local and provincial food supply.

The last Ontario Total Farm Area Agricultural census, taken in 2016, revealed Lambton County had 516,698 acres in crops and 13,592 in other farming modalities. By 2018, 300 of those acres had been lost.

Some of Ontario's most fertile land for cash crop production is here in Lambton County, and our farmers produce a huge variety of grains, fruits and vegetables to feed our population. We owe our farmers a vote of thanks every time we eat a meal.

At this time of year, when the harvest is underway, we need to be especially mindful of the hard work our farmers do and the long hours they spend caring for their crops. It is said that a farmer's work day is measured in acres, not hours, and we owe them a debt of gratitude for all of the overtime they do on our behalf.

*This aerial view of a vast St. Clair Township field being planted
courtesy of Mike Coene, Bluewater Drone Pix*