

HERITAGE CORNER

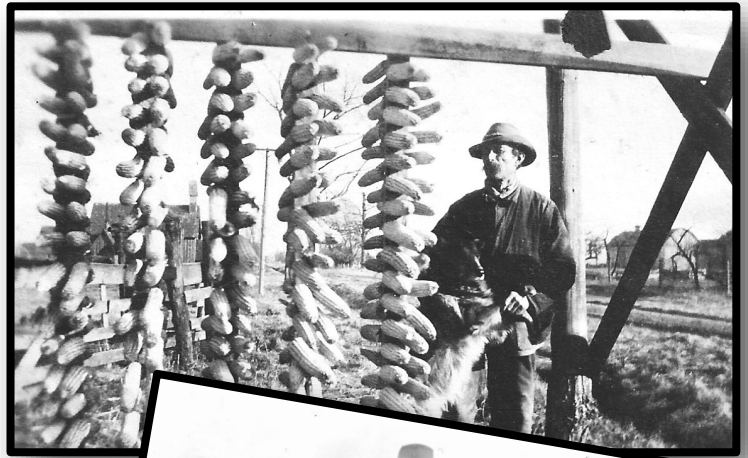
Fall harvest methods have changed, but the need for food does not

As a fall drive through St. Clair Township shows so clearly, our community is a wonderful agricultural area. An account of the former Township of Moore in 1861 indicates that farm production was important to this area for the settlers from the time of their arrival onward. This record indicates that while only 1,901 acres were under cultivation in the township in 1846, by 1861, this had increased to 10,998 acres.

A wide variety of crops were listed in 1861 -- fall wheat, spring wheat, oats, corn, potatoes, beans, clover, and many others, including a less familiar name - mangel-wurzel. This crop, related to the sugar beet, was grown for livestock feed.

Above: Corn being dried for storage.

Right: Grain being bagged. ~Moore Museum Archives
~Laurie Mason, Curator, Moore Museum



Modern re-enactments of the way the harvest used to be in the early days of St. Clair Township can still be seen at agricultural shows and fairs. Fortunately, the Moore and Sombra Museums have preserved photographs taken during the township's early days to help us understand how much our agricultural industry has changed. It also makes us appreciate how lucky we are that farming has progressed so much over the years. Without modern machines and advancements in agricultural practices and machinery, we would not have access to the abundance of food we enjoy today.

~ Editor



This post card from the Sombra Museum Archives, which shows a Sombra farmer and his son at harvest time, was labeled "Milo and Nach with a load of beets".

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/>

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Spooky family fun awaits visitors in Sombra Museum's Halloween house



HALLOWEEN HOUSE
SOMBRA MUSEUM

October 27th-30th 6 pm-9 pm

Admission:  Adults \$5
Kids \$3

Reserve your time slot at:
<https://sombramuseumshop.square.site>

Get in the Halloween spirit with a guided tour through the Sombra Museum's 140 year old Victorian House. Your tour will take you past creepy artifacts. You'll cringe as the spirits play with the lights and you'll be chilled when you encounter tales of witchcraft, funerals, Victorian medical practices, and more...

Note: This creepy guided tour has an eerie atmosphere but it is family friendly. There are no sudden jump scares and, for young children, we will be turning on the lights and focusing the tour on less scary topics.

The Sombra Fair was held in Wilkesport every autumn. Thousands of people from the township and beyond, dressed in their Sunday best, attended the fair to enjoy the food and games, and to take in the livestock, vegetable, and preserves competitions.

-From Sombra Museum archives



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All Lambton County Library locations open; hours of operation adjusted

All 25 Lambton County Library locations are now open to the public. They 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.

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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.

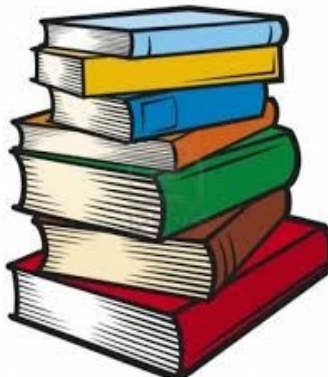
**Mooretown** (519-867-2823): Monday, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Wednesday, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**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](http://www.lclibrary.ca)





## MORE HERITAGE CORNER

From page 13

### Copies dwindling as *Piratical Doings* fascinates readers

*Piratical Doings on the River St. Clair*, our book about the 1838 raids across the St. Clair River, is selling across the oceans.

This new and exciting account of the history of armed attacks from the United States coming across the river, to what is now St. Clair Township, is being well received, even to the far corners of the world.

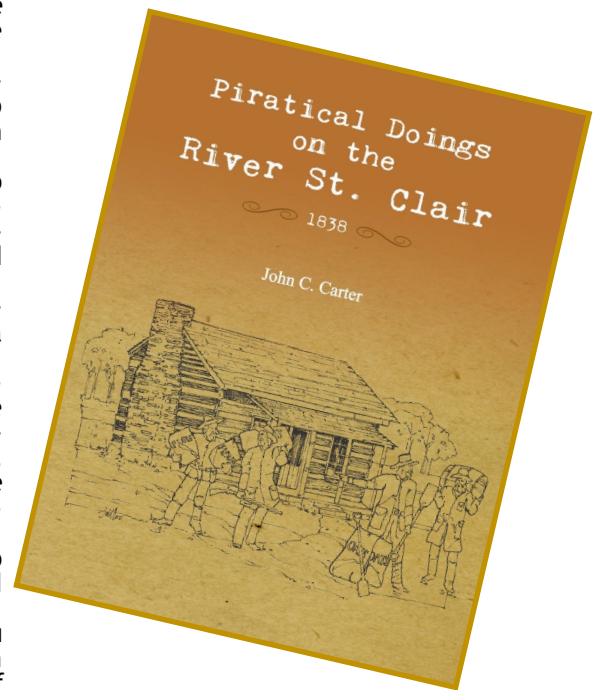
Heritage St. Clair members have sent out book orders to England and Australia. Curious readers from British Columbia and all parts of Ontario are also now enjoying this account, authored by Dr. John Carter. We have also filled many local orders for *Piratical Doings on the River St. Clair*.

The Heritage Committee, as part of our outreach, has donated copies of the book to many organizations. To list a few: Moore and Sombra Museums, Lambton Country Archives, Lambton County Library, Library and Archives Canada, Toronto Reference Library and Ontario Historical Society. We also have planned, but are yet to deliver copies to our various sponsors, Corunna Legion's Leslie Sutherland Branch 447, Sombra Optimist and Creative County Committee. We are also donating copies to all the local St. Clair Township Elementary Schools.

Of course, a copy will go to St. Clair Township Council to show our appreciation for their continued support in this and all our projects.

The sad news is that we have only 40 books left. If you are interested in local history, do not wait; order your own copy now. Then sit back and relive the exciting "doings" of 1838 when our Township lands were under attack by armed invaders from the United States.

Order your own copy by e-mailing the St. Clair Township's Heritage Committee at [secretaryheritagestclair@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryheritagestclair@gmail.com). You will receive information on payment and delivery or pick up.



~Dave Pattenden, Heritage St. Clair Committee  
*Discovering and preserving our heritage.*

### 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.