



The St. Clair Township BEACON

Discoveries
That Matter

Issue 2

Volume 15

February 2022

THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

Seamanship shows during challenging tight turn in river



A demonstration of exceptional seamanship can occasionally be seen when huge ships like the 1004-foot long *James R. Barker* do a 180° turn in the St. Clair River. The self-discharging bulk carrier is executing this move to unload a shipment of coal at the Detroit Edison generating station dock across the river north of Sombra. The *Barker*, capable of carrying up to 52,000 gross tons of coal or 59,000 tons of iron ore pellets, approached the plant from the north and made the turn to fill a space at the dock recently vacated by the equally huge freighter, *Paul Tregurtha*.

Karen Stevenson photo



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MUNICIPAL NOTES

Lambton G.S. implosion set for February

Council has been informed that the former Lambton Generating Station and its stacks will be imploded in early February on a day when weather and wind conditions are favourable. Delsan-AIM, the company in charge of the project, continues to track weather conditions and has indicated the implosion will take place sometime between February 1 and 18.

The blasts will require the wind to be blowing from the Northwest at speeds from 20 km to 50 km per hour. On the chosen day, roads around the blast zone will be temporarily closed 1.45 hours before the implosion time and they will reopen as soon as it is safe to do so, about 1 to 2 hours later.

The Delsan-AIM Health and Safety Manager assured council that a two to three day advance notice should be possible due to the close monitoring of the weather conditions. He said the company will be ready to im-

See More Municipal Notes, page 3

Township office opening not set

The Township of St. Clair office, 1155 Emily Street in Mooretown, is slated to reopen in April, 2022. Reopening was delayed due to the uptick in COVID-19–Omicron variant cases in the area and may change as provincial guidelines ease.

Staff will be available during normal business hours by phone or via email and appointments are suggested, as social distancing, masking, and screening will be required. Contact the office at 519-867-2021 or see website www.stclairtownship.ca for individual department phone and email information.

The Township of St. Clair thanks you for your patience as we navigate the uncertainties of this pandemic. We continue to encourage everyone to stay safe and follow the public health measures as set out by Lambton Public Health related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are all in this together and look forward to welcoming you back to the Civic Centre when it is safe to do so.

~Jeff Baranek

Director of Administration/Clerk



Pheasant/rabbit hunting licenses on sale

The Township of St. Clair pheasant/rabbit hunting licenses are on sale now until Feb. 28, 2022. They will be available at the following locations: Corunna Home Hardware; Agris Co-operative Ltd., Brigden; St. Clair Civic Centre, Mooretown.

The fees will be \$5.00 for a resident license and \$8.00 for a non-resident license.

Applicants must apply in person and multiple licenses will not be issued.

Jeff Baranek

Director of Administration/Clerk

Council Meeting Schedule

All regular public council meetings will continue to be available to the public 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 near the top of the page. The Facebook link is added just before each meeting is slated to begin. Upcoming meetings include: Monday, Feb. 7 at 3 p.m., Monday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m.; Operating Budget, Thursday, Feb. 24 at 5 p.m. Anyone wishing to contact the municipality or to find out more about making a presentation via Zoom meetings, can call 519-867-2021 for further information.



ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP 2022 INTERIM PROPERTY TAX DUE DATES

Thursday February 24th and Thursday April 28th

****Please note: The office is closed to the public until further notice****
All bills will be mailed by Jan 31st

Payment Options available are as follows:

- ☒ Monthly Pre-Authorized
- ☒ Due Date Pre-Authorized (4x per year)
- ☒ Pay online or by telephone with your bank
- ☒ In person at your bank branch
- ☒ Drop a cheque into the secure drop box at Civic Center doors
- ☒ Mail a cheque
- ☒ Credit card, debit available for a fee on www.paysimply.ca

If you did not receive your tax bill(s) in the mail by Feb 11th, please email to taxes@twp.stclair.on.ca
www.stclairtownship.ca

Winter Parking by-law

The **amended** St. Clair Township winter parking by-law is now in effect and will continue until April 1, 2022. Under the amended by-law, it is against the law to leave vehicles or obstructions of any kind parked on public streets and roads overnight from **midnight to 7 a.m.** The by-law ensures that snow removal crews can do their jobs efficiently and safely without being hampered by parked vehicles.

Keep laneways clear

All boats and trailers parked in laneways **MUST** be set back at least to the front yard set back of the zone in which you reside. In Corunna and all built-up areas, any trailer or boat **MUST** be a minimum of six (6) metres setback from the property line through April 1, 2022.

Note: According to the Ontario Highway Traffic Act, it is against the law to shovel snow onto a public street, highway, or roadway, and anyone caught doing it can be fined under that law.

See More Municipal Notes, page 3



MORE MUNICIPAL NOTES

From page 2

plode the structures on Feb. 1 if the weather cooperates and approval is received from council.

St. Clair Township residents who regularly travel the St. Clair Parkway, Courtright Line, Oil Springs Line, or Bickford Line should be aware that these roads will be closed for a total of about 3.45 hours before, during, and after the implosion. A traffic control plan employing police presence and security personnel will be used to ensure public safety and discourage trespassing.

Delsan-AIM will be keeping council apprised of the situation and expects to be able to provide a 48 hour notice before the implosion takes place. When this warning is received, information will be put on the St. Clair Township website— www.stclairtownship.ca

Those who choose to watch the implosion near the blast zone should be mindful of the hazards attendant to any major explosion. No designated viewing areas will be available to the public due to COVID-19 restrictions. Although Delsan-AIM reports it has taken extraordinary precautions to prevent excessive dust clouds and debris scatter, this is still an extremely dangerous process and spectators are urged to exercise common sense and remain well back from the blast zone. *See page 10 for visual of the blast zone and the road closure plan.*

2022 municipal election registration

The nomination and registration period for the upcoming municipal election will begin on Monday, May 2. At the time of registration, the clerk will provide aspiring candidates with the documents and information required to confirm and guide their campaign efforts. **Nomination Day will be Friday, August 19.** Nominations may be filed between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. On this day, a registered candidate who wishes to withdraw their nomination must notify the clerk in writing before 2 p.m. **Voting Day will be Monday, October 24 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.** unless earlier opening or reduced voting hours have been established by the clerk. This is also the deadline for having a name added to or removed from the voters' list.

Dedecker Park Shoreline project

Dedecker Park in Port Lambton is the site of the latest shoreline protection project. Work was expected to begin on Monday, Jan. 22 and take about six weeks to complete, depending on weather conditions. DiCocco General Contracting, the same company that carried out the final phase of the Courtright Park project, will be doing the work. Motorists should look out for construction personnel and heavy equipment while passing the project site.

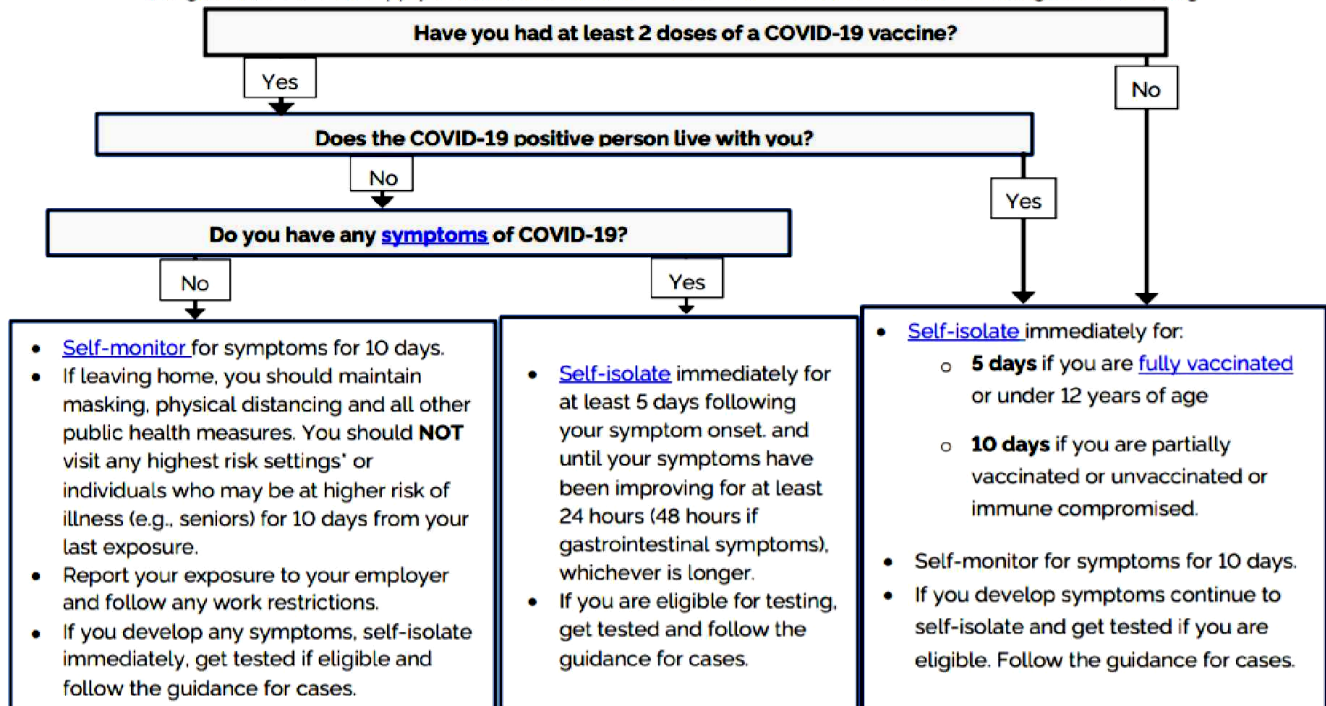
More Municipal Notes, page 4

Government of Ontario issues isolation guidelines



You've been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 on PCR, rapid molecular, or rapid antigen test. Now what?

This guidance does not apply to individuals who live, work, volunteer or are admitted in a highest risk setting*



*Highest risk settings include hospitals, Long-Term Care, retirement homes, health care workers providing care to immunocompromised, congregate living settings

Note: In the context of Omicron, individuals who are previously positive in the last 90 days and not fully vaccinated are **not** considered equivalent to fully vaccinated.

More MUNICIPAL NOTES

From page 3

County Emergency Control Group update

At the Jan. 19 meeting of the County of Lambton Emergency Control Group (CECG) the increase in demand for a third vaccination was discussed, noting that the highly-transmissible Omicron variant of the virus is now confirmed in Lambton County. New clinics

and appointment opportunities have been added and residents are asked to check [GetTheVaccine.ca](https://getthevaccine.ca) frequently for updates and to book their appointments. Local pharmacies and primary care providers may also have appointments available.

The changing status of County operations due to the fluctuating nature of the pandemic was also discussed. Any service changes will be shared as they are implemented and details will be available on the Lambton County website on the [Changes, Closures, and Cancellations page](#).



Keep fire safety in mind as temperatures drop!

By Andrew McMillan, St. Clair Township Deputy Fire Chief

St. Clair Fire is urging everyone to keep fire safety in mind as the temperatures turn colder. These are some simple things people can do to stay fire safe during the colder months:

- Have all fuel-burning appliances inspected annually by a registered fuel contractor. Go to [COSafety.ca](https://cosafety.ca) to find a contractor near you.
- Keep chimneys and intake/exhaust vents for furnaces and heating appliances free of debris, ice and snow accumulations to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) build-up from inefficient combustion.
- Burn dry, well-seasoned wood in fireplaces and woodstoves to reduce the risk of excessive creosote build-up in chimneys.
- Allow ashes from your fireplace or woodstove to cool before emptying them into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Keep the container outside.
- Keep space heaters at least one metre (3 feet) away from anything that can burn, including curtains, upholstery and clothing.
- Replace worn or damaged electrical wires and connections on vehicles and extension cords and use the proper gauge extension cord for vehicle block heaters.
- Consider using approved timers for vehicle block heaters rather than leaving heaters on all night.
- Ensure that vehicles are not left running inside any garage or building.
- Ensure there is a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas of your home. Install CO alarms to alert you to the presence of this deadly gas.

St. Clair Fire reminds everyone that the Ontario Fire Code requires smoke alarms to be installed on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Carbon monoxide alarms are required outside all sleeping areas if the home has a fuel-burning appliance, a fireplace or an attached garage.

For more information about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, or fire safety, contact St. Clair Fire at 519-481-0111 or follow us on Facebook.



**St. Clair Township Council in-person meetings delayed-
Civic Centre remains closed through March, 2022 due to COVID-19
Up-to-dated details for municipal office operations will be
posted at: www.stclairtownship.ca**

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) St. Clair Township Civic Centre
- b) 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 are able.

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

Employees will continue to occupy these buildings and can be reached via their email or by calling:

- 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



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/Recycling Calendar

Calendars were mailed out. Check your mail box or you can view online at www.stclairtownship.ca

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.

Amended Overnight Parking

The amended St. Clair Township winter parking by-law will be in effect as of Dec.1,2021 and continuing until April 1, 2022. Under this by-law, it is against the law to leave vehicles of any kind parked on public streets and roads overnight from 1 a.m. to 7 a.m.

Asset Management Plan

IN DECEMBER 2021, Our Municipality finalized an update to our Asset Management Plan, meeting new requirements of O. Reg 588/17 for core assets.

This project was partially funded under FCM's Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) grant application and achieved through collaboration with Dillon Consulting. The Asset Management Plan has now been approved by Council.

AMSC - Asset Management Steering Committee

State of Infrastructure (a component of the Asset Management Plan)

State of Infrastructure

Roads

			Service Level	2021	Target	Rating
Asset Type	Inventory	Asset Value	Urban Collector	69	70	Fair
			Rural Collector	67	65	Fair
Surfaced	235 km	\$ 141 M	Urban Local	73	70	Good
			Rural Local	49	60	Fair
Unsurfaced	328 km	\$ 70.8 M	LCB Local	69	60	Fair

In Summary

- 25% (59km) of our Paved Road system is in Poor to Serious Condition
- If we had Unlimited \$ it would take \$79M to address backlog
- To maintain a Network Avg. Condition of Fair is \$41M, over 10 years
- Current Budget over 10 years is \$14M, leaving a Funding Gap of \$27M

The Asset Management Plan is posted on the Municipal Website

<http://stclairtownship.ca/asset-management/>

AMSC - Asset Management Steering Committee



Public Works Water/Wastewater operators Scott Barnes and Aaron Jardine performing sanitary sewer flushing in Port Lambton. Works photo

Public Works Department

From page 5

FROZEN WATER METER AND PIPES

Preventative:

It's that time of year again! With the winter weather around the corner, your home is at risk of frozen water meters and pipes. This can stop your flow of water and may be costly to repair. Property owners are responsible for protecting water pipes and meters from damage. Here are a few tips to help prevent frozen water meters and pipes:

- Eliminate cold drafts near water pipes
- Turn off service to external water taps
- Insulate your pipes that are most prone to freezing
- Make frequent use of your water supply
- Know where your shut off valve is inside, in case a pipe bursts

If you suspect your pipes are frozen check the following:

- Most likely the pipes near an outside wall, or where the water service enters the house through a foundation wall are frozen. Start by opening a faucet near the frozen pipe to avoid a burst line, when water starts flowing
- NEVER use a blowtorch or open flame to thaw a line
- Begin by warming the pipes using a blow dryer, heating pad or portable heater (Do not leave electrical devices unattended or place near flammable materials)
- Once water starts flowing, allow a small stream of water to continue until heating is restored
- Eliminate drafts and allow heat to circulate to avoid refreezing

Water Department

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

519-867-2128

After Hours Emergency: 1-888-441-4204

Gotta' dig? Contact *OntarioOneCall* first!

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



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>

Emergency preparedness starts with you
be prepared



make a plan



build a kit



stay informed

ontario.ca/beprepared



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 warm blankets and clothing, flashlights, food, safe drinking water, daily medications, a First Aid kit, *pet supplies, *baby supplies, and a designated safe shelter? Do you have a fire escape plan in place? Make sure your emergency strategies are prepared and be ready for unexpected emergencies. * if applicable

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

Third shot / 'booster' recommended when vaccine is available

Residents can register for their vaccination or attend a drop-in clinic. Full details are available online at getthevaccine.ca.

Several local pharmacies are administering vaccinations, including third 'booster' shots. Information is available at the Lambton Public Health website where a new dedicated "Pharmacy page" can direct individuals to these options.

Transportation to vaccination sites is available for people age 50 and over who do not have any other transportation options to use. Contact Lambton Elderly Outreach (LEO) at 519-845-1353, ext. 360, or the Canadian Red Cross at 519-332-6380.

Individuals over age 70 are urged to get a third "booster" shot of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna), health workers, designated essential caregivers in congregate settings, retirement home staff, and designated caregivers, and anyone who received two doses of AstraZeneca or one dose of Janssen. You must be at least 168 days past your second dose to receive the third, and everyone is urged to get the booster when they become eligible.

Boosters are especially important as more is learned about the most recent Omicron variant, the

most easily transmitted variant to date. Data is still being collected, but Omicron is already known to pose a threat to children and adults even if they have already been fully vaccinated. Note: Boosters are being recommended by infectious disease experts, who say it is a good way to strengthen the potency of the first two vaccinations as we encounter Omicron and future variants. In addition, vaccinations are still the best way to arm yourself against hospitalization or worse.

Now is NOT the time to give up! For the good of everyone you love and your community, and for a future free of this pandemic, please keep observing COVID-19 safety protocols and, if a booster is an option for you, please have one as soon as possible. If you have concerns about the vaccine, talk to your doctor or another licensed medical professional who has the accurate information you need to know. (See "Know the truth about vaccination", page 20).

Provincial Emergency Child Care Program for frontline workers

The Ministry of Education has implemented a targeted no-cost emergency child care program for school-aged children only (ages 4 through 12 years of age) to eligible parents until schools reopen for in-class instruction or until child care is terminated by the Ministry. A comprehensive list of individuals eligible for emergency child care, as well as how to apply, can be found online at Emergency Childcare Information Sheet at lambtononline.ca/childcare.

Child care will be offered in St. Clair Township at: Sombra Child Care, Riverview Site, 3926 St. Clair Parkway, Port Lambton, 519-892-3151 ext. 201 or email: nderoeven@stccadmin.ca OR YMCA-St. Joseph's Corunna School, 535 Birchbank Drive, Corunna, 519-862-5071 ext. 221 or email: kelly.graham@sw.ymca.ca

Sites are limited on "first-come-first-served" basis

Businesses benefit from Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP) programs

Grant received for Digital Service Squad

Small businesses have experienced challenges during the pandemic that have made it difficult to thrive. Traditional methods of conducting business have given way to new ones through the use of digital technologies.

Small businesses now have access to the assistance of trained DSS digital specialists who can help them cope with online technologies and digitally transform their sales, marketing and back-office operations, all at no cost. The squad is already visiting businesses in Sarnia and Lambton County.

This is the third year SLEP has been able to offer OGP, which is administered by the Ontario BIA Association in partnership with the Toronto Association of BIAs. Locally, the program will provide

3,000 Digital Transformation Grants to qualified brick-and-mortar small businesses. It will include support for basic website setup, Google My Business profiles, 360° photos, social media presence, and more. Where COVID-19 restrictions are in place, DSS members can provide support through phone and video tools such as Zoom.

The SLEP Apprentice Job Match tool can connect Sarnia-Lambton employers with apprentices seeking available opportunities. Registration is free and can be found at www.sarnialambtonapprentice.ca.

More information about the Job Match Program can be found by calling 519-332-1820, ext. 225 or online at: apprentice@sarnialambton.on.ca

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.

LABORATORY SITE OPEN

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

Monday through Friday

The lab is a specimen collection site only. Patients with concerns regarding billing may contact LifeLabs at 1-877-849-3637.

Province program offers supports for small businesses and families

MPP Bob Bailey recently announced a series of supports for small businesses, workers, and families. This includes: a Business Costs Rebate Program; Cash Flow Program; Electricity Rate Relief Program; and a Small Business Relief Grant (details listed below).

"Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy," said Bob Bailey, MPP for Sarnia-Lambton. "Because of COVID-19, many businesses continue to struggle. Throughout the pandemic, the government has provided unprecedented supports for small businesses. And with these new programs, we will continue to provide relief for many of our small businesses that create jobs across Sarnia-Lambton."

Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program - Provides Energy and Tax Rebates

Eligible businesses required to close or reduce capacity due to the current public health measures put in place to blunt the spread of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 can apply for the new **Ontario Business Costs Rebate Program**.

Through the new program, the government will provide eligible businesses with a rebate payment of up to 100% for property tax and energy costs they incur while subject to these restrictions.

Eligible businesses required to close for indoor activities, such as restaurants and gyms, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 100% of their costs. Those required to reduce capacity to 50%, such as smaller retail stores, will receive a rebate payment equivalent to 50% of their costs. Businesses will be required to submit proof of costs associated with property tax and energy bills as part of the application process. All eligible businesses must submit an application to be considered, including those that received previous COVID-19 support payments. To learn more, including to find a full list of eligible businesses, visit the online application portal.

Cash-Flow Program - Provides 6-month Tax Relief

The government is also improving cash flows for Ontario businesses by making up to \$7.5 billion available through a six-month interest- and penalty-free period for Ontario businesses to make payments for most provincially administered taxes. This penalty and interest-free period started on January 1, 2022. This supports businesses now and provides the flexibility they will need for long-term planning.

Electricity Rate Relief Program - Reduced-Cost Energy Program includes Families

The government is providing 21 days of electricity rate relief to support families and workers spending more time at home, as well as small businesses. To help Ontarians get through this difficult time, electricity rates have been lowered to the lowest price, the off-peak rate of 8.2 cents, 24 hours a day. Ratepayers don't need to do anything: this change will happen automatically for anyone who is currently paying regulated rates set by the Ontario Energy Board and gets a bill from a utility, whether they are a Time-of-Use customer or a Tiered rate customer. The goal of this program is to help reduce costs for all residential, small business and farm customers as Ontarians spend some more time at home.

Ontario COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant - Provides \$10,000 to Eligible Closed Businesses

As part of a comprehensive plan to support workers and businesses, the government is announcing an Ontario COVID-19 Small Business Relief Grant for small businesses that are subject to closure under the modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen. It will provide eligible small businesses with a grant payment of \$10,000.

Eligible small businesses include: Restaurants and bars; Facilities for indoor sports and recreational fitness activities (including fitness centres and gyms); Performing arts and cinemas; Museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions; Meeting or event spaces; Tour and guide services; Conference centres and convention centres; Driving instruction for individuals; and Before-and after-school programs.

Eligible businesses that qualified for the Ontario Small Business Support Grant and that are subject to closure under modified Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen will be pre-screened to verify eligibility and will not need to apply to the new program.

Newly established and newly eligible small businesses will need to apply once the application portal opens in the coming weeks. Small businesses that qualify can expect to receive their payment in February.

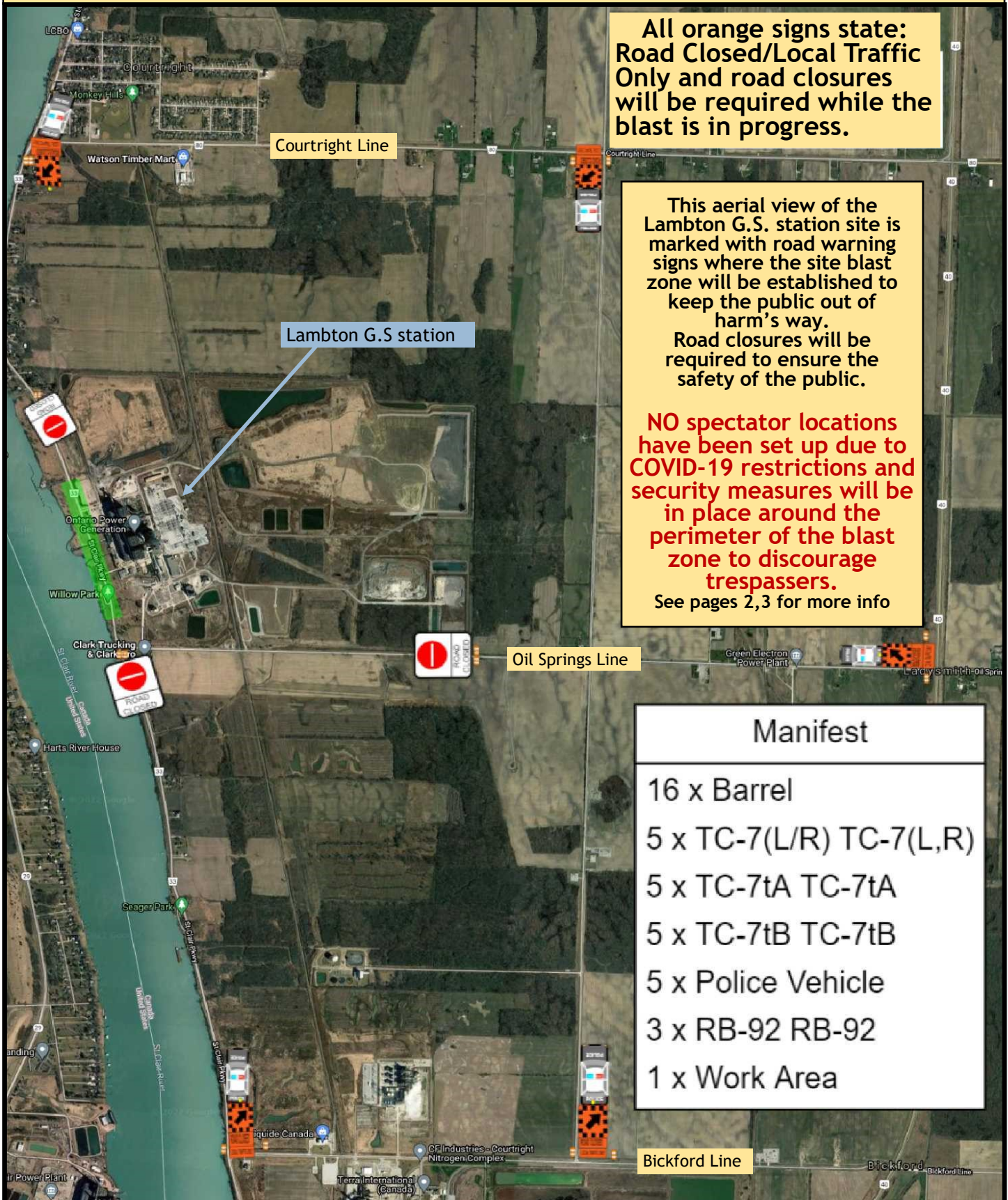
Previous Supports

These measures will build on Ontario's support for businesses and workers, including:

- **Cutting wholesale alcohol prices** to provide approximately \$60 million in annual support to restaurants, bars and other businesses, as well as making it easier for businesses to create and extend patios and permanently allowing licenced restaurants and bars to include alcohol with food as part of a takeout or delivery order.
- **Extending COVID-19 paid sick days** until July 31, 2022 to keep workers safe and ensure they do not lose pay if they need to miss work for reasons related to COVID-19.
- Enabling an estimated \$10.1 billion in cost savings and support to Ontario businesses in 2021, with more than 60 per cent, or \$6.3 billion, going to small businesses, including:
- Supporting a reduction in Workplace Safety and Insurance Board premiums; Allowing businesses to accelerate write-offs of capital investments for tax purposes.
- Reducing the small business Corporate Income Tax rate to 3.2 per cent.
- Providing the Digital Main Street program, which helped more than 20,000 businesses across the province to increase their digital presence in 2020-21.
- Introducing and temporarily enhancing the Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit to encourage investments in certain regions of Ontario that have lagged in employment growth in the past.
- Providing targeted COVID-19 support through the Ontario Tourism and Travel Small Business Support Grant.
- Lowering high Business Education Tax rates for job creators.
- Increasing the Employer Health Tax exemption from \$490,000 to \$1 million.
- Lowering electricity bills through measures such as the Comprehensive Electricity Plan, with the Province paying for a portion of high-priced, non-hydro renewable energy contracts.
- Providing targeted COVID-19 support through the Ontario Small Business Support Grant, which delivered \$3 billion in urgent and unprecedented support to over 110,000 small businesses across the province.

Lambton G.S. blast prep and road closures

The implosion of the former Lambton Generating Station building and stacks will be done between February 1 and Feb. 18. The demolition will depend on favourable weather conditions.



January ice brings the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker/buoy tender *Samuel Risley* downriver



Anyone who has lived in St. Clair Township for any length of time has seen the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker/buoy tender *CCGS Samuel Risley* plying the waters of the St. Clair River.

The *Risley*, based at CCG Base Parry Sound, is an CAS-PPR Arctic Class 2 vessel named after the 19th century maritime inspector and first head of the Board of Steamship Inspectors of Upper Canada and Ontario.

Ice breakers are crucial to the maintenance of a navigable channel in the St. Clair River. The unimpeded flow of ice prevents heavy ice floes from blocking the river with “ice dams” which halt the progress of winter shipping and increase the threat of flooding downriver.

This aerial view of the *Risley* on ice patrol in the St. Clair River was taken in early January, 2022 by drone pilot, Mike Coene.

SCRCA continues tree planting tradition with great results

This photo series shows how the tree planting program turned a plot of bare land and into a natural wooded area that provides habitat for many wild birds and animals, and a beautiful place to enjoy a walk in the woods.

2014: spring of planting



2016: 3rd growing season



2018: 5th growing season

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) will continue its tree planting program in 2022 and tree orders are currently being accepted for this season until March 25. Funding for eligible conservation projects is still available to help offset the cost to landowners. Order online at: <https://shop.scrca.on.ca/order-trees/>.

The program has been in progress since 1980 and has assisted rural landowners with ordering trees, tree planting services, and by controlling weed competition around newly planted trees.

The program originally focused on restoring forests and habitat on newly established conservation areas. Plantings were done by volunteers and community groups like Scouts Canada. Millions of high-quality tree seedlings have been planted each year, provided to landowners and conservation groups for a nominal fee.

Trees improve our lives by: filtering pollutants from the air; stabilizing soil to reduce erosion and improve water quality; remove carbon from the air; act like sponges and help regulate stream flows and protect the land from drought in the summer; beautify the landscape and increase property value; provide habitat for wildlife; help improve environmental health and help fight against the impacts of climate change.

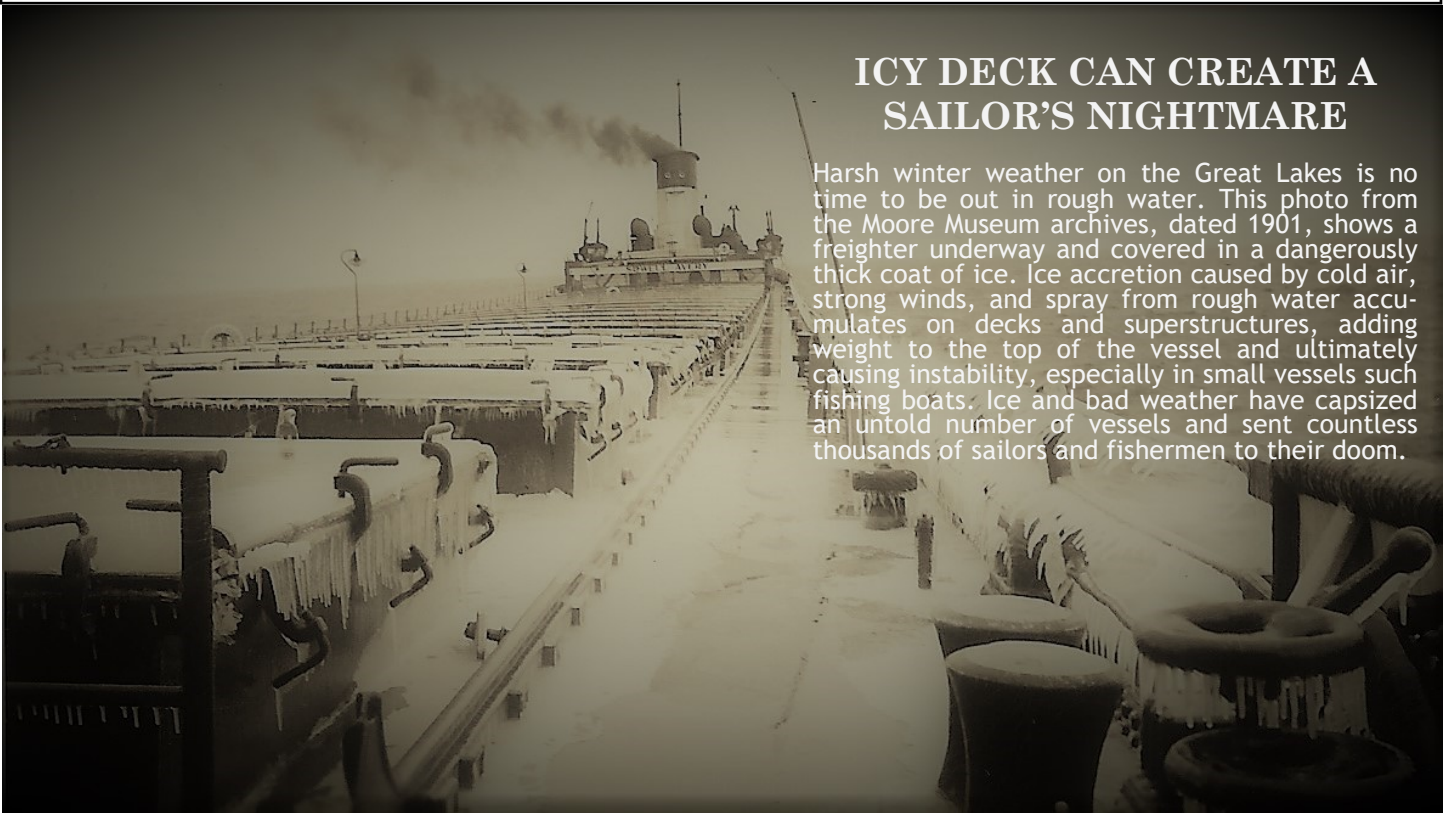
Trees are also used by agricultural producers to create wind breaks that help prevent the loss of soil and improve crop yields.

SCRCA photos

HERITAGE CORNER

ICY DECK CAN CREATE A SAILOR'S NIGHTMARE

Harsh winter weather on the Great Lakes is no time to be out in rough water. This photo from the Moore Museum archives, dated 1901, shows a freighter underway and covered in a dangerously thick coat of ice. Ice accretion caused by cold air, strong winds, and spray from rough water accumulates on decks and superstructures, adding weight to the top of the vessel and ultimately causing instability, especially in small vessels such as fishing boats. Ice and bad weather have capsized an untold number of vessels and sent countless thousands of sailors and fishermen to their doom.



STEAMERS
UNITED EMPIRE.
MONARCH.

North West Transportation Company Limited.

STEAMERS

UNITED EMPIRE 1,500 Tons **MONARCH 1,600 Tons**

RUNNING BETWEEN
**Windsor, Sarnia, Sault Ste. Marie,
Fort William and Duluth.**

Connecting at Sault Ste. Marie with steamer lines for Georgian Bay and Lake Michigan points; at Fort William with C. P. R. for all points in Canadian Northwest and British Columbia and at Duluth with N. P. R., G. N. R., St. P. & D., C., St. P. M. & O. R. for all points in American West and Northwest.

Classed by Lloyd's higher than any other Canadian passenger steamers on the lakes.

Every stateroom electric lighted and fitted up especially for this route.

Leave Sarnia on Tuesdays and Fridays as per sailing list. For Routes and Rates apply to all G. T. R. and E. & H. ticket agents, or to Head Office, Sarnia.

JAMES H. BEATTY, PRES. AND GEN'L MGR. J. D. BEATTY, ASST. MGR. AND SEC.-TREAS. WM. ASKIN, GEN'L AGENT.

Left: Passenger steamers like the ones mentioned in this advertisement provided a touch of luxury and an adventure to remember for the average land-lubber in the mid-1800s. Although Moore and Sombra Townships were sparsely populated, river traffic was booming and numerous hotels were built to accommodate summer holiday-makers who traveled the St. Clair River on their way to and from cities like Windsor, Sarnia, Fort William, and Duluth, Minnesota. Corunna alone welcomed travelers to Francis House, the Fitzgibbon, Campbell House, McNeil House, and the Rising Sun.

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/>

Improving public health and health care indicators spur gradual easing of public health measures

Citing the improvement of key public health and health care indicators, and in consultation with the Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Premier Doug Ford recently announced the steps that will be taken over the next two months to ease public health measures.

If the two key indicators continue to improve, here is an overview of the way this reopening strategy will progress.

January 31, 2022

Effective January 31, 2022 at 12:01 a.m. Ontario will begin the process of gradually easing restrictions, while maintaining protective measures, including but not limited to:

- Increasing social gathering limits to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors.
- Increasing or maintaining capacity limits at 50 per cent in indoor public settings, including but not limited to:
 - Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments without dance facilities;
 - Retailers (including grocery stores and pharmacies)
 - Shopping malls;
 - Non-spectator areas of sports and recreational fitness facilities, including gyms;
 - Cinemas;
 - Meeting and event spaces;
 - Recreational amenities and amusement parks, including water parks;
 - Museums, galleries, aquariums, zoos and similar attractions; and
 - Casinos, bingo halls and other gaming establishments
 - Religious services, rites, or ceremonies.
- Allowing spectator areas of facilities such as sporting events, concert venues and theatres to operate at 50 per cent seated capacity or 500 people, whichever is less.

Enhanced proof of vaccination, and other requirements would continue to apply in existing settings.

February 21, 2022

Effective February 21, 2022, Ontario will lift public health measures, including:

- Increasing social gathering limits to 25 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.
- Removing capacity limits in indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is required, including but not limited to restaurants, indoor sports and recrea-

tional facilities, cinemas, as well as other settings that choose to opt-in to proof of vaccination requirements.

- Permitting spectator capacity at sporting events, concert venues, and theatres at 50 per cent capacity.
- Limiting capacity in most remaining indoor public settings where proof of vaccination is not required to the number of people that can maintain two metres of physical distance.
- Indoor religious services, rites or ceremonies limited to the number that can maintain two metres of physical distance, with no limit if proof of vaccination is required.
- Increasing indoor capacity limits to 25 per cent in the remaining higher-risk settings where proof of vaccination is required, including nightclubs, wedding receptions in meeting or event spaces where there is dancing, as well as bathhouses and sex clubs.

Enhanced proof of vaccination, and other requirements would continue to apply in existing settings.

March 14, 2022

Effective March 14, 2022, Ontario will take additional steps to ease public health measures, including:

- Lifting capacity limits in all indoor public settings. Proof of vaccination will be maintained in existing settings in addition to other regular measures.
- Lifting remaining capacity limits on religious services, rites, or ceremonies.
- Increase social gathering limits to 50 people indoors with no limits for outdoor gatherings.

To manage COVID-19 over the long-term, local and regional responses by public health units may be deployed based on local context and conditions.

Dr. Kieran Moore attributed the gradual easing of the strict safety measures put in place to stem the spread of COVID-19 and its variants to the sacrifices of Ontario residents who obeyed those safety measures, wore masks, and got vaccinated (including a booster). But he warned that it is too early to stop fighting. "The months ahead will require continued vigilance, as we don't want to cause any further disruption to people's everyday lives," he said. "We must continue to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in our communities by following the measures in place and by vaccinating those who have not yet received their doses."

Ontario community organizations benefit from 2021 Hydro One Energizing Life Fund donations

The Hydro One 2021 Energizing Life Community Fund recently provided 35 Ontario charities and organizations with up to \$25,000 to help make a difference in their local communities. In Lambton County, the winner was the North Lambton Community Health Centre.

Through the *Energizing Life* initiative, community charities and local organizations receive this financial boost to help put the safety and wellbeing of Ontarians at the forefront.

Due to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, 68 per cent of charities have seen a decline in donations since the onset of the pandemic. Yet, 46% of charities are reporting an increase in demand for services and programs.

Past winners were nominated by their communities for doing critical work to drive positive change. For a complete list of the contest winners, visit:

[#EnergizingLifeON Contest Winners](#)

We are encouraging all Ontarians to raise awareness of organizations in their community who are making a positive impact. Applications for the 2022 Energizing Life Community Fund are now being accepted. Charitable organizations, Indigenous communities, and municipalities are invited to apply for the opportunity to receive \$25,000 in funding. Applications close on January 31, 2022. Go online to: [hydro one energizing life](#) to apply.

Maximum excitement at SHL all-stars showcase

The best U18 (Midget) rep talent from the Ontario Minor Hockey Association's Area 1A and Area 1B teams, designated the Shamrock Hockey League, met in an epic test of skill during the January 2 SHL All-Stars event at the Moore Sports Complex. Contributing their best players to the event were teams from: Mooretown, Petrolia, St. Mary's, Strathroy, Dresden, West Lorne, Ilderton, South Huron, Lucan, Lambton Shores, Wallaceburg, South Kent, Belmont, East Lambton, and Lambeth. The players were divided into four teams, with two Minor teams for players 15 years of age, led by coaching teams from the Strathroy Rockets (central - green team) and the Wallaceburg Lakers (north/south - black team), and two Major teams for 17 and 18 year-olds, led by coaching teams from the Mooretown Jr. Flags (central - green team) and the Lambton Shores Predators (north/south - black team).

Minor Green Team goalie Josh Ballantyne receives MVP award

Competition was fierce during all four games, with every player making the most of their talents. High calibre play continued throughout the afternoon while hockey scouts carefully assessed every performance and made an occasional note.

In the Minor game, the final score was Black Team-3 and Green Team-2, as the goalies strived to cope with the constant onslaught of their opponents. Game MVP honours went to Green Team goalie Josh Ballantyne (St. Mary's Rock) and to Black Team player Jack Nieuwenhuizen (Lambton Shores Predators). The Major game ended in a 6-6 tie, with both teams demon-



Major Black Team players line up for game opener, "Oh, Canada".



Goalies warm up while waiting for play to begin.

See SHL, page 15



A shot on goal by Major Green Team #19, Karter Rowsom, misses the net by mere inches.

SHL all-star players put on a great show

From page 14

strating a relentless drive to best their rival. Game MVP honours went to Green Team player Hugh Graham (Petrolia Oilers) and to Black Team player Ty Morrison (Lucan Irish).

Mooretown Jr. Flags players participating in the SHL All-Star event included: Minor - Jayden Dewhirst, Jordan Muir, and Colin Haskins. Major - Goalie Jack Samson, Kelly Johnson, Graham Armstrong, and Matty Anderson.

SHL all-star games provide opportunities for PJHL (Jr. C) and GOJHL (Jr. B) hockey scouts to see and assess players in action. The event was organized by Adam Oblak, SHL Second Vice-President and Mooretown Shamrock Representative.

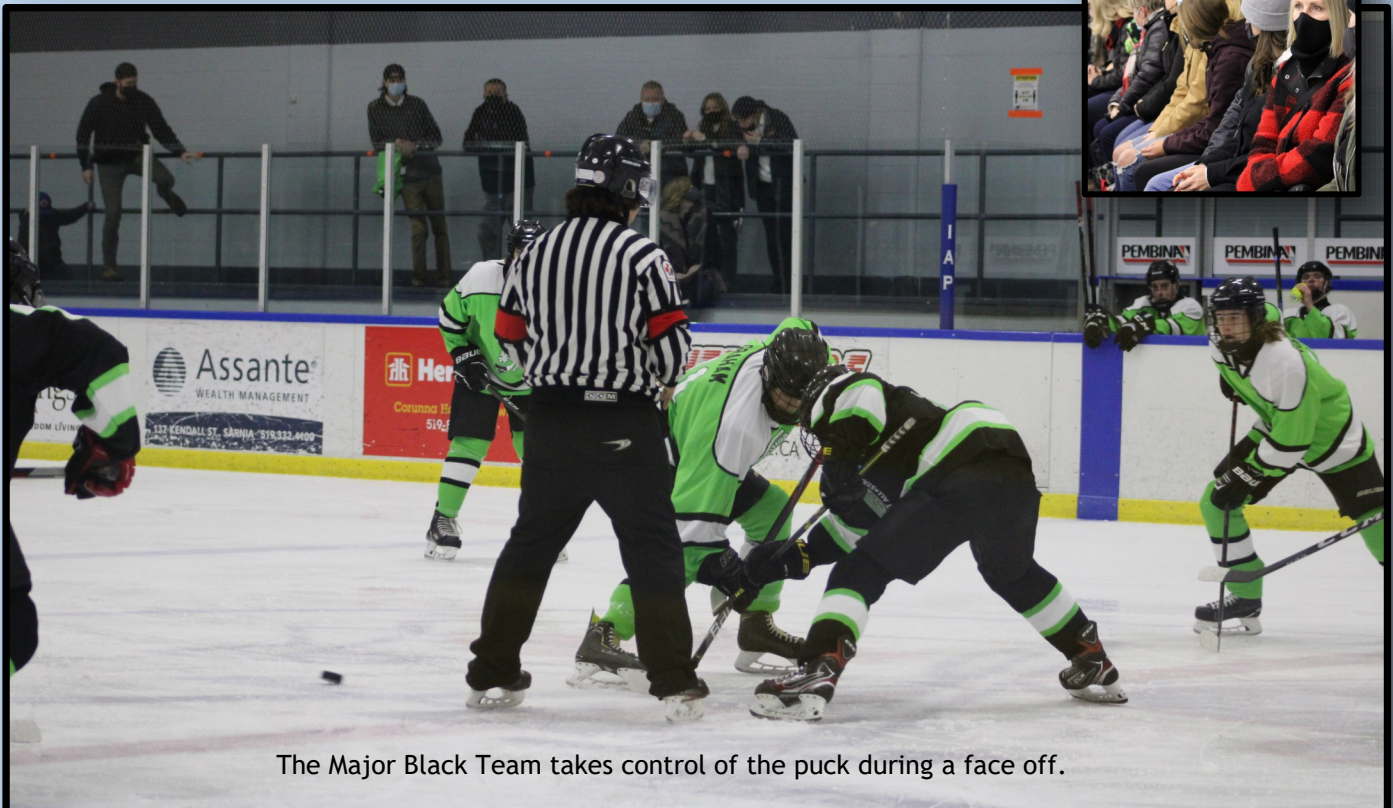
The event was sponsored by 40 Fuel (Minor game) and the Corunna Home Hardware (Majors game). Ice time was donated by St. Clair Township. Other event supporters included: jerseys by Planet Stitch, poster by Electric Marketing; and program by Blue Monster Creative.

Left: All-star players on the Shamrock Hockey League Major Green Team listen as a member of their coaching team, Shannon LeBlanc from the Mooretown Jr. Flags, gives them a pre-game pep talk.

Below: A COVID-aware group of fans enjoy high-calibre hockey.



Bonnie Stevenson photos



The Major Black Team takes control of the puck during a face off.

Omicron variant in Lambton: vaccinations crucial

The Omicron variant of COVID-19 was first detected on the African continent in November, 2021 and now it is here in Lambton County. This should provide an adequate warning about how contagious this variant is and how likely it is that yet another potentially more deadly variant could rear its ugly head at any time.

And still there are people who choose to ignore the threat and remain unvaccinated. These are the people most at risk of contracting the virus and ending up hospitalized, adding to the strain on health care facilities and personnel, and to the entire health care system.

Lambton's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Sudit Ranade says the Omicron variant is "taking off" and that there are likely to be "lots and lots" of cases. He noted the variant is so transmissible that "...the risk profile has gone from preventable to inevitable." He added the virus is going to move very quickly through the population no matter what restrictions are put in place. But the capacity limits, the closure of places where people gather, and online learning for students ordered by the provincial government could help to slow the infection.

This variant can also affect those who have been vaccinated, especially those over the age of 70, but they are

a lot less likely to require hospitalization.

A chilling development in this wave of the COVID-19 virus is that infected patients of all ages who are not vaccinated are in mortal danger. "We are having end-of-life discussions with families of patients in all age categories, not just older ages," said Dr. Ranade.

Children affected by pandemic

The Canadian Pediatric Society and Mental Health Commission of Canada are urging parents to monitor their children carefully for signs of emotional and behavioural issues. Families experiencing job loss, financial hardship, or other stressful pandemic-related problems, as well as school-aged children cut off from their social groups and the experiences they would normally gain from school and community interactions, have been identified as the cause of steep increases in depression and negative behaviours.

Lambton County has programs to help parents cope with these issues. Contact your family doctor to advise you or get in touch with Lambton Public Health for more information online at: lambtonpublichealth.ca>health-info>mentalhealth



SLEP Apprenticeship Network provides employer/apprentice connection

Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership has launched the Apprenticeship Network in an effort to help keep recent graduates in Sarnia and Lambton County and grow the local economy.

The goal of the project will be to help employers navigate apprenticeship resources and processes, access training incentives, and connect directly with apprentices. Activities will include: one-on-one consultations; information sessions; employer recognition; and a new online platform to streamline the recruitment of suitable apprentices.

"As we continue growing our population, this program is aligned to the longer-term economic strategy

of retaining and attracting in-demand skills to our area," said Stephen Thompson, CEO of the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership. "A strong talent pool, including apprentices, is also important in attracting future investments and growing our existing businesses."

Employers interested in knowing more about the project or how to participate can contact Cari Meloche at SLEP by email: cari@sarnialambton.on.ca or by calling 519-332-1820.

The Employment Ontario Project is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

Lambton County Library branches help obtain proof of vaccination receipts

A vaccine passport policy requiring all residents to provide proof of their COVID-19 vaccination status with QR code and proof of identity is now required to enter certain businesses and settings. It is hoped this proof will reduce the risk of viral transmission, limit the number of COVID cases to protect provincial hospital capacity, and provide the tools needed for businesses to remain open and minimize disruptions, while keeping customers and staff safe. A proof of identity will be required so that the proof of vaccination can be verified.

To ensure that all vaccine recipients are able to obtain a receipt proving their vaccination status, a new free Lambton County Library service at all 25 library branches will help residents to obtain their receipts. (This service recognizes that not all residents have ac-



cess to a computer or printer.) This service will provide support to assist with any technical difficulties that may be encountered while trying to obtain the receipt.

Those who use the service must supply a photo health card (numbers from the front and back of the card, expired cards accepted); date of birth; postal code associated with your health card.

To make an appointment to obtain this service, call the library branch you wish to visit during their hours of operation, or call the central booking line toll free at 1-866-324-6912, ext. 5900.

NOTE: Those with a red and white health card or no health card should call Lambton Public Health's Vaccine Call Centre for assistance at 226-254-8222, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.



Second Fair Share 50/50 draw winnings presented

Agricultural Society representatives recently gathered to present the lucky Fair Share 50/50 Draw winner with her prize. On hand for the presentation were: Malcolm Rogers (Brigden), happy winner Marion Henderson, Doug Krall (Petrolia), Judy Krall (Petrolia), and Burt McKinley (Alvinston).

Judy Krall, Fair Share 50/50 Committee representative from Petrolia & Enniskillen Agricultural Society recently presented a cheque for \$4,235 to the latest Fair Share 50/50 draw winner, Marion Henderson. The winning number, B-1106291, was drawn on Dec. 30, 2021.

Early bird winners included: Michelle Evanitski (\$500); Orize Frawley (Christmas Jamboree Tickets - Victoria Playhouse Petrolia); and Sandra Jamieson (Big Fish Steak & Lounge Gift Certificate).

Supporting our local agricultural societies in these unpredictable times is more important now than ever before. Funds raised by these draws help sustain and preserve the community fairs we all look forward to and enjoy so much each year. By purchasing 50/50 tickets, you are helping Brooke-Alvinston, Petrolia & Enniskillen, and Moore (Brigden) Agricultural Societies make fairground improvements and keep our cherished fair traditions alive.

Be sure to get in on the next Fair Share 50/50 draws beginning on Feb. 14, 2022. (See below). The jackpot draw for #3 will take place on March 31, 2022, but be sure to watch for our exciting Early Bird draw prizes as well. To purchase tickets, go to <http://www.fairshare5050.com>.

Thank you for your support, from Moore Agricultural Society

Fair Share 50/50 Draw - final three draws

Lottery License #RAF1214882

1. Purchaser must be 18 years or older to play.
2. Tickets will be sold using electronic raffle system supplied by Ascend Fundraising Solutions.
3. Tickets can be purchased from the website www.fairshare5050.com. The sales and draws will operate as follows:

- Draw #3 - Starting February 14, 2022 at 12:01 a.m. ET to March 31, 2022 at 7 p.m. ET. Draw will take place on March 31, 2022 at 8 p.m. ET.
- Draw #4 - Starting April 1, 2022 at 12:01 a.m. ET to May 8, 2022 at 7 p.m. ET. Draw will take place on May 8, 2022 at 8 p.m. ET.
- Draw #5 - Starting June 1, 2022 at 12:01 a.m. ET to July 15, 2022 at 7 p.m. ET. Draw will take place on July 15, 2022 at 8 p.m. ET.

Mooretown Library Re-opens Feb. 1

The Mooretown Library, closed due to the closure of the Mooretown Sports Complex (MSC), will re-open on Feb. 1. The MSC will be open on Jan. 31, so see page 20 for contact information.

Cardholders are invited to visit in person, but it is always convenient to use eLibrary services from the comfort of home, using a computer, tablet, or smart phone. Borrow eBooks, eAudiobooks, stream movies and music, take online courses, access educational apps, and more.

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

Day Tripping to the U.S.? Be informed first!

COVID-19 has made it a lot more complicated to take a day trip across the Bluewater Bridge.

Get the information you need at these two sites:

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
1-833-784-4397

phac.covid19aspc@canada.ca

phac.quarantine.covid19.quarantine.aspc@canada.ca

Canadian Border and Service Agency (CBSA)

1-800-461-9999

contact@cbsa.gc.ca

BEACON BITS

Never speak when you're angry. If you do, you'll make the best speech you'll ever regret.

Robert Lynd, journalist



Pay It Forward pays off

The *Pay It Forward* event hosted by the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 on Dec. 11, 2021 was a great success. The horse drawn wagon ride was supplied by Branch 447 for a non-perishable food donation. The hot dogs, hot cider, and hot chocolate donated by Nicole Smith of Exit Reality were enjoyed by the 175 people who participated in the event. St. Andrews Food Bank received 15 bags and seven boxes of non-perishable food items, along with \$213 from this event. Branch 447 also donated \$560 to the Food Bank. In spite of the icy, blustery weather, the community's attendance and generous donations demonstrated the true spirit of the Christmas season.

THANK YOU, CORUNNA, FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Pictured left: Presenting the *Pay It Forward* collection to Food Bank representative Alicia Blackman is event Coordinator Joanne Derry (left).

2022 United Way Community Investments process was a difficult task

The goal shortfall experienced by the 2021 United Way of Sarnia-Lambton campaign left the United Way Community Investment group with a difficult task.

The campaign goal of \$1,750,000 fell short by \$103,000 while the needs of many important community social programs have increased.

United Way S-L Executive Director Dave Brown says the \$1,647,000 raised can still be considered a success. "We are grateful to the community for digging deep during uncertain times this past year. We also have complete confidence in our community investment process that the dollars raised will help those who need it most in Sarnia-Lambton." Volunteer Community



United Way
Sarnia-Lambton
theunitedway.on.ca

Investment Chair Gerry Whitcombe acknowledged the group had a difficult task and that there wasn't enough money raised to fund every program and service.

The United Way of Sarnia-Lambton uses a Community Indicator model to inform funding decisions. The three priority impact areas considered for this funding cycle were: From Poverty to Possibility; All That Kids Can Be; and Healthy People, Strong Communities. In the end, 30 programs in Sarnia-Lambton received funding. Five existing programs did not receive funding this year and five programs received funding for the first time.

Substantial funding has been given to programs that address the mental and physical health issues arising from the pandemic and their effects on people of all ages and from all walks of life, from infants and school children to seniors and the disadvantaged. Housing and financial programs have also been addressed.

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 that 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

Keep your community strong. Please support your local businesses.

COMMUNITY CONTACT

Sacred Heart food bank - help your community thrive

A constant need for donations of food, personal and household supplies is still being experienced by local food banks and the need is still great. Our neighbourhood food banks continue to come to the aid of the community. Nourishing food and daily supplies like personal hygiene items, baby needs, and household cleaning supplies are always needed. In Ward 2, The Sacred Heart Food Bank has shelves that need to be replenished on a regular basis, not just on special occasions. Please keep the Sacred Heart food bank in mind when you shop for your own groceries.

St. Andrew's food bank continues to help those in need

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 Samia.

The food bank serves those in need, offering a variety of food products to help people eat healthily, including milk, eggs, bread, and meat, as well as daily requirements like household cleaning supplies, toiletries and baby needs. 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.

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 Samia-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.

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.

Motivated youth seeking adventure

The Royal Canadian "1st Hussars" Army Cadet Corps Petrolia is welcoming boys and girls ages 12-18 to learn join the ranks and learn valuable skills they can use for a lifetime. Cadets are not required to join the military. For more information, call 519-332-6555 or visit: www.petroliacadets.com

The Optimist Club supports 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. *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

The Family Counselling Centre needs good listeners to staff the Distress Line, speaking with individuals who need support and need to feel connected. Volunteers are also needed to staff the Tel-Check program line, placing daily calls to seniors and persons with disabilities who live alone and are feeling isolated. **To register or to find out more about this effort, call Donna at the Family Counselling Centre, 519-336-0120, ext. 251.**

Brigden United Church activities/service

Brigden United Church holds regular Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. More information regarding the Brigden United Church schedule is available on Facebook. **(Dependent upon provincial COVID-19 shut down requirements for places of worship.)**

Recovery support group meets weekly

Recovery International, a self-help group for those who struggle with mental health issues, meets on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. **For more information about support options during the COVID-19 emergency, contact Rita at 519-867-2932. More mental health resources include: Lambton Mental Health Distress Line, 519-336-3445 or 1-800-307-4319; Lambton Public Health mental health and addiction line, 519-464-4400, ext. 5370.**

First anniversary of COVID-19 vaccination program celebrated

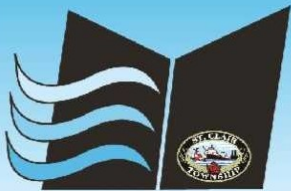


Valerie Verberg, right, is seen here receiving the first COVID-19 immunization on Jan. 26, 2021. To celebrate that auspicious occasion, Valerie received a Zoom call from Lambton's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Sudit Ranade. She also received a gift of specially made cupcakes that commemorated the stunning red hat she wore to her vaccination appointment. Valerie Verberg set a good example for all of us to follow.

Neighbourhood holiday spirit comes alive with this “Santa’s eye view”



Christmas may be far behind us, but the lingering evening darkness still reminds us that Winter is still alive and well. Here's a colourful aerial shot to give you a “Santa’s eye view” of the lights that helped raise the holiday spirit in St. Clair Township. Our intrepid drone pilot, Mike Coene, braved the winter cold to bring us this memorable moment as the drone flew over a neighbourhood south of Corunna.



THE MOORETOWN SPORTS COMPLEX

1166 Emily Street | Mooretown, ON | N0N 1M0

Ph: 519-867-2651

Mooretown Sports Complex
re-opening
January 31 at 7 a.m.

For programming and contact
information, see below.

Mooretown Library
Re-opens Feb. 1



Arena project PHASE 1 now underway! Follow us on Facebook, or watch our website for further updates including programming.

@mooretownsportscomplex

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

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

MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 22

Yoga (virtual): This class is held Thursdays at 11a.m. until May 12. To register, call 519-344-3017 ext. 237 or email adinell@nlchc.com to receive the Zoom link.

SHIBASHI offered: (Tai chi/qigong is a practice of aligning breath and movement for exercise and health. Shibashi consists of 18 simple steps. It is easy to learn and perfect for beginners.

Shibashi: (in-person) **proof of vaccination required & capacity rules will be followed** Call to reserve your spot** Classes will be held at All Saints Anglican Church, 248 Vidal Street N. on Fridays at 11 a.m. To register, call 519-344-3017 ext. 237.

Shibashi (Virtual): For a Zoom link to join the class, email adinell@nlchc.com

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

Night Light: Virtual and In-Person, Thursdays, Jan. 6-Feb. 17 at 6 p.m. Finding Hope and Wellness while managing mental illness. To register call 519-344-3017, ext. 223 *taking registrations for January, 2022 program.

Virtual Pulmonary Rehab (existing clients): Mondays & Thursdays at 3 p.m. 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. 22.

Virtual BMI (Body & Mind Inspired): With a Registered Dietitian. Monthly topics focused on nutrition and healthy lifestyle targeting your best weight. Classes are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month from noon to 1 p.m. Please contact ageorge@nlchc.com or 519-786-7878, ext. 307 to register.

Breastfeeding Support: To learn more about our breastfeeding support that is virtual and free, please con-

tact April at 519-786-4545 or ageorge@nlchc.com for more info.

The North Lambton Community Health Centre is proud to be accredited through the Canadian Centre for Accreditation, a third-party review based on accepted organizational practices that promote ongoing quality improvement and responsive, effective community services.

In-person activities will be dependent upon COVID-19 safety measures and requirements in force at the time of the activity.



NEW! CS19 PRO TOURNAMENT SCALE SYSTEM

- FASTER WEIGH PROCESS
- MORE ACCURATE
- LARGE DIGITAL DISPLAY
- BETTER FOR FISH CARE

The Great Lakes Super Series (GLSS) tournament schedule will bring the second qualifying event of the season to the Sarnia Bay Marina in Sarnia. Two-person teams of anglers will launch from the marina and will be able to fish for the top five heaviest bass in the St. Clair River or in Lake Huron. The top 30 teams will win a berth in a two-day championship taking place on Sept. 10 and 11 in Belle River, Ontario.

For information and registration, go to the event website: www.glss.ca or [The Great Lakes Super Series Facebook page](#).

Sponsorship opportunities are available by calling Mike Kizis at 519-919-7260 or emailing: glsseries21@gmail.com

50-/50 draw benefits S-L United Way



United Way
Sarnia-Lambton

**Click to play with
United Way!**

Get your tickets online at:
www.united5050.ca

Sacred Heart Food Bank extends thanks and appreciation to community

As of Jan. 1, 2020, we were at the beginning of the pandemic. The assistance of families in our area still continued as usual and the only thing that changed was the way we handled our deliveries of food. We set protocols for our clients to observe and for ourselves and, to date, we have had no issues with Covid-19 or Omicron to myself or our clients due to these protocols.

Effective May 1, 2021, the Sacred Heart Food Bank increased the amount of gift cards by \$50, due to the increase in the cost of living. Beginning Jan. 7 until Dec. 16, we assisted 96 families and gave out a total of \$16,355 in No Frill gift cards - an average of \$170 per family, per month. In October we placed our order for \$20,000 of gift cards for the 2021 Christmas Hampers and set our 2022 operating expenses.

In Dec. 2021, we had 66 applications for Christmas hampers, which is up from 2020 by 10 families. We packed and distributed 183 boxes of food to these families and issued a total of \$9,750 to the Christmas hampers.

As of Jan. 1, 2022 the Sacred Heart Food Bank has \$10,250 for this year's operation, which should take us to August 1, after which we will order another \$7,000 to get us through to mid-December.

The Sacred Heart Food Bank would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted with the Can Drive, from the drivers to the sorters and packers. We also want to thank the following groups who delivered the Christmas hampers: Port Lambton, Wilkesport, and Becher volunteer firefighters, Port Lambton Pirates Bantam baseball team along with their dedicated coaches, and individuals drivers Craig Bezaire, Colin Miller and Jeff Marshall.

I also wish to thank all the churches in our area for their donations of food and financial support. The Sacred Heart Food Bank could not survive without your help. Your generosity is beyond any expectations we ever had. On behalf of the Sacred Heart Food Bank and our clients, I want to say thank you.

- Frank Johnston / President

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Corunna Legion hosts weekly activities

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 will host four weekly activities. They are: Cribbage, Thursdays at 1 p.m.; Bridge, Fridays at 1 p.m.; Meat darts, Fridays, 7 p.m.; Meat draw, Saturdays, 4 p.m. All COVID-19 protocols will be in effect.

Join the Corn Hole League!

Don't give in to the Winter Blahs - Join the Corn Hole League! The Corunna Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 447, is starting up a Corn Hole League in January, 2022. A youth league for ages 8 to 16 will play from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and a couples adult league will play from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Monday evenings. The league will run for 13 weeks plus closing tournament. Registration for youth is limited to the first 32 individuals and the adult teams is limited to 16. Please contact the branch at 519-862-1240 for further information or to register.

West Lambton Community Health Centre classes

Registration can now be done online. Just visit <https://www.nlchc.com/services/wellness-programs/> (Please be sure to specify, on the top of the form, which program you are registering for.)

For in-person classes, if you are feeling unwell, please do not attend. Screening will take place prior to every in-person class & Public Health Guidelines will be followed.

Please note, our holiday break from programming will begin Monday, Dec. 20, and classes will resume on Jan. 3, 2022.

LOW IMPACT EXERCISE

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

Mooretown Sports Complex exercise: ****Proof of vaccination is required and capacity rules will be followed.** Please call to reserve your spot.

Mooretown Sports Complex is at 1166 Emily Street in Mooretown.

Thursday Low Impact - 9 a.m. To register call 519-344-3017, ext. 237, or email adinell@nlchc.com

Thursday Shibashi - 10 a.m. To register call 519-344-3017 ext. 237 or email adinell@nlchc.com

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

Seated Yoga (virtual): Tuesdays at 11a.m., Jan. 11 to May 10. For more information call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 or email adinell@nlchc.com.

See More Around the Township, page 21

Know the truth about vaccination

"Normal" will not happen without vaccination!

Over 97,500 responsible residents of Lambton County have acquired their second dose and over 48,300 have had their third "booster" shot. Almost 77% of children age five and over are also fully vaccinated. The presence of the Omicron variant of the virus makes it more important than ever before to get fully vaccinated.

Get the facts, not the lies. If you're concerned or you fear the vaccine, talk to your doctor or pharmacist, or go online to these legitimate websites:

>Lambton Public Health (LPH)/Vaccine information is online at:

[LambtonPublicHealth.ca](https://lambtonpublichealth.ca) or [GetTheVaccine](https://getthevaccine.ca)

>[Province of Ontario](https://www.ontario.ca) website

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

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

Educate Yourself!

For the latest updates on Lambton County's COVID-19 Immunization Rollout or to book your COVID-19 vaccine appointment, please visit [GetTheVaccine.ca](https://getthevaccine.ca). LPH Vaccine Call Centre is also available Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 226-254-8222.

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

March deadline: Monday, Feb. 21

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.

DO YOU HAVE THE PROOF?

Proof of full vaccination with a QR scanning code included, proof of identity, and a mask that covers nose to chin are required for entry into public places.

Children 12+ will also require proof of vaccination to enter some venues when they have been vaccinated.

Safety protocols are crucial to our return to normal life.

We must continue to use all measures at our disposal to deny the COVID-19 virus a place to breed and to generate new, more powerful variants.