

HERITAGE CORNER

Moore Centre Hall was original Moore Township municipal building

The Moore Centre Hall, a modest 20 x 30 foot structure that stood on the corner of Lot 19, Concession 8, began life as the center of Moore Township political practices in 1868. That year, township voters wishing to cast their ballots did so at the hall.

At that time, Mooretown was a thriving village and the people living along the riverfront thought it would be a big city one day. It should be noted that Brigden and Courtright did not exist as towns at that time. Since the riverfront electorate was in the majority during the election of 1867, they decided to sell the little hall on the 8th Line and build a new, larger city hall in Mooretown so they would be ready for the day when Mooretown became a city.

At the first meeting, the three councillors representing the riverfront passed a by-law to sell the old building and build their new city hall, but the Reeve refused to put it to the vote. The three councillors voted the Reeve out of the chair, put in the Deputy Reeve, passed the by-law, and began the process of obtaining their new city hall. They built it for \$332,000 and it eventually became a school house. It is now the main building of the Moore Museum.

When it was completed, taxpayers had to travel to Mooretown from the farthest reaches of the township, most of them on foot, to nominate candidates and then again to cast their votes. After the election of the first new council after the new building was constructed, the council voted to sell the building and erect one in the middle of the township.

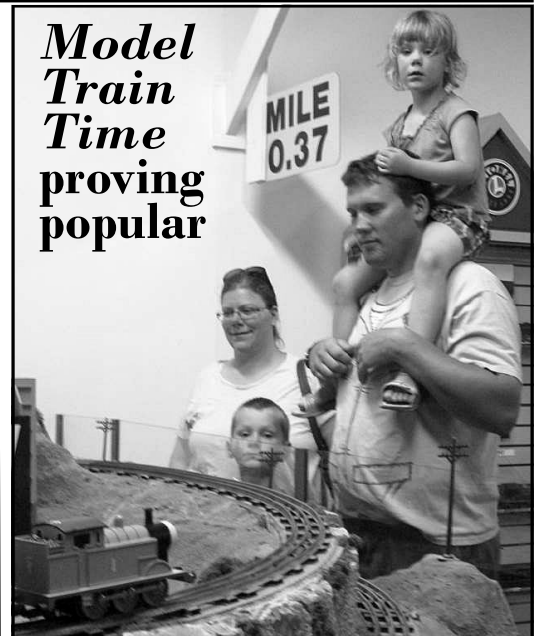
In 1956, the Moore Centre W.I. accepted the gift of the hall from council and agreed to keep it maintained. A marble plaque honouring those who gave their lives in service to their country during the war graces one wall of the building.

When membership declined substantially, the hall was given back to the township and has since been returned to the landowners.



Moore Centre Hall

Model Train Time proving popular



About 60 people turned out for the first of Moore Museum's summer *Model Train Time* afternoons on Sunday, July 13. This family from Sarnia was among the train enthusiasts who packed into the train exhibit room. Some just watched while others tried their hand at running the trains by remote control. Upcoming *Model Train Time* afternoons are slated for Sundays, Aug. 10 and 24 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Regular museum admission includes entry to this exhibit (\$5/adult, \$4/senior, \$3/high school student, \$2/child, \$15/family).

Sombra and Moore Museums having a busy summer of fun



Above: The Sombra and Moore Museums have been busy this summer. The Sombra Museum recently held its annual lawn concert even though the intense heat and plentiful mosquitoes made the meeting room in the new Sombra Museum Cultural Centre a more comfortable place to enjoy the music. Playing to a full house, the musicians in the band included, from left: Jake Zoller, Sabrina Rankin, Kathy Myers, Laura Annett, Lindsay Myers, Bill Myers.

Left: The Moore Museum hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in mid-July. The food was, as usual, scrumptious and plentiful thanks to the hard work of museum staff and volunteers. Preparing the appetizers was one job assigned to summer student Nicole Selman, program assistant Amanda Moorehouse, and summer student Kaitlin Randall.

Sombra Museum seeks WWI items

World War I items, memorabilia or stories are being sought for the Sombra Museum's new exhibit to commemorate the 100th anniversary of "the war to end all wars". Call 519-892-3982 for more information.