

HERITAGE CORNER

Mystery plaque puzzles museum staff

Sombra Museum volunteer Eldon Grant holds a copper plaque that poses a mystery. He remembers seeing the plaque on a school wall, but there is little other information regarding its origin or purpose.

The plaque, inscribed with the word "Confederation" and the dates "1867" and "1927", is not an original piece. Mr. Grant, who is knowledgeable in the field of antiques, says he has seen several through the years. "There's enough of them around," he said. "I've seen about nine of them in various conditions. The ones nailed outside don't look so good."

The plaque was donated to the museum and Mr. Grant assumes the plaques could have been issued by the federal government.

Information regarding the mystery plaque is being sought. Anyone with information that will help



solve the mystery is asked to contact the Sombra Museum by emailing sombramuseum@hotmail.com.

Bonnie Stevenson photo



Happy St. Paddy's Day!

This cheery St. Patrick's Day post card from the Moore Museum collection was sent to Miss Annie Piggott of Wheeler, Ontario (located in the southwestern section of Enniskillen Township) in 1911. It was sent for the princely sum of one cent and postmarked at both Brigden and Kimball.

Attached to this postcard was a packet of shamrock seeds.

Moore Museum photo

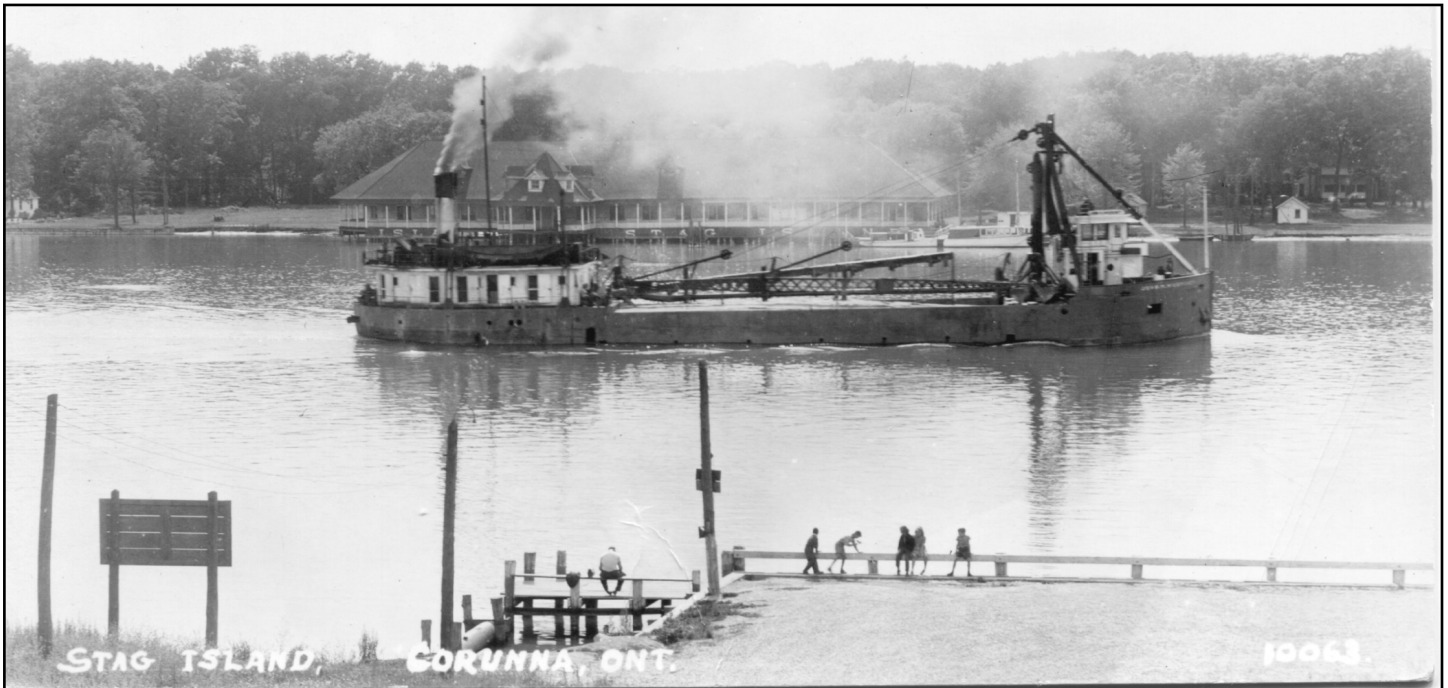
Heritage St. Clair seeking old photos of St. Clair Township's past

Heritage St. Clair is still seeking the help of township residents to gather old photographs (over 20 years old - the older, the better) depicting St. Clair Township (and former Moore and Sombra Townships) from the past.

For more information, contact Heritage St. Clair by email:

secretaryheritagestclair@gmail.com. Or visit the St. Clair Township site: www.stclairtownship.ca under the "Residents" or "Recreation" tab to find Heritage St. Clair. Or call Ian at 519-864-1119 or Dave at 519-862-3797.

MORE HERITAGE CORNER



THIS IS THE WAY IT WAS...

Photos from Heritage St. Clair

The ferry dock in Corunna has seen some changes over the past century, but the view from the dock has undergone a major metamorphosis. By 1900, Stag Island had become a major resort area which included a large dance hall, clearly visible here. In its heyday, Stag Island was serviced by a series of ferries, beginning with a rowboat ferry operated by brothers Ed and Fred David. By 1896, their brother, Joe, brought in a steam-powered ferry called the Delila.

The east channel between the island and the ferry dock was also used for shipping and ferries often had to avoid the freighters. River traffic eased off in 1912 when a channel was dredged on the west side of the island to accommodate down bound shipping.

Sombra Museum lecture series returns for March and April

A pleasant way to spend an evening can be found at the Sombra Museum as the popular lecture series returns.

On Tuesday, March 26 at 7 p.m., a sweet subject will be on the menu as Justin and Felicia Nicol speak about the luscious subject of maple syrup production. Admission will be \$10 at the door.

And on Tuesday, April 30 at 7 p.m.,

Larry Cornelis will present *The History of Southern Ontario Prairies* and *The Prairie Backyard Garden*. Learn about the history of tallgrass prairies in Ontario and then get advice on how to create your own backyard prairie garden. Admission will be \$10 at the door.

For more information, call 519-892-3982.

Don't miss these popular summer events at Moore Museum

These popular annual events at the Moore Museum offer wonderful opportunities to spend time with family and friends, and to immerse yourself in the heritage that helped to shape your community. They are the perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

At the Victorian Tea on Sunday, May 19 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., you can enjoy tea and scones served by Victorian-attired servers in the charming atmosphere of the turn-of-the-twentieth-century cottage. And after that, explore an abundance of exhibits in the other 11 buildings that make up the museum's heritage village. Admission is \$7.50 per adult, \$3 per child, and \$2 per pre-schooler.

The impressive Lionel train exhibit will be further enhanced by additional model train layouts when the Model Train Event comes to the museum grounds on Sunday, July 14 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers will be on hand to discuss model railroading and all of the layouts will be operating. Children's activities will also be featured. Admission will be \$6 per adult and \$3 per child.

And the fabulous Downriver Craft and Gift Sale makes its annual appearance on the museum grounds on Sunday, Sept. 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Get an early start on your holiday shopping, find the perfect gift for a special occasion, or treat yourself wandering among over 90 vendor tables of handmade crafts. A food booth will be available to nourish your shopping endeavours. Admission is just \$2 per adult and children under age 13 are free when accompanied by an adult. **New craftspeople are welcome to participate by calling the Moore Museum at 519-867-2020 to be added to the mailing list.**