

## HERITAGE CORNER

### Moore Museum receives funding to build insulated walls

The storage of museum artifacts often presents a challenge to those entrusted with their care. Temperature extremes, such as the ones we experience during our Canadian winters, can badly damage metal and wooden objects such as furniture and vintage vehicles.

The newest structures on the museum site are two insulated storage buildings that house large artifacts. The insulation ensures that the materials from which the precious items are made are not subjected to the temperatures that cause expansion and contraction that weaken and damage the items over time.

The buildings, insulated on three sides, are adjoined to the large Francis E. Shaw Exhibition Building, which is not insulated and cannot contribute to the degree of insulation the new buildings require. Both adjoining walls had to be insulated, but finding the funds to pay for the materials was an issue. The labour, as always, was already available thanks to the dedicated efforts of museum volunteers.

The funding dilemma was solved by Shaun and Tara Antle of The Cooperators General Insurance Company who came through with a generous donation of \$3,750 to buy the materials required for the job. Shaun says the donation was a matter of leaving a



On hand for the donation presentation were, from left: Tara Antle with daughter, Callie, 4; Councillor Tracy Kingston; Mayor Steve Arnold; Moore Museum volunteer Lyle Gander; Moore Museum Advisory Committee Chair Jim Townsend; and Shaun Antle with son, Ethan, 7.

legacy for the community. "We've done lots of donations in Sarnia but we wanted to find somewhere we could leave a legacy," he said. "We have two children and the museum draws a lot of families like us...supporting it just made sense to us; to preserve historical artifacts from the area not only for us to enjoy but for our kids, their kids, and generations to come."

### English serving piece morphs from bone china to bunnies

*Files and photos from Moore Museum*

Those of us with a few decades of life behind us, as well as a few members of the less "experienced" generations, will likely recall eating soft boiled eggs from an egg cup.

During the Elizabethan period in the 1600s, the English ruling class would use silver egg cups. This fashion was quickly adapted by the working class, who used wooden eggcups to mimic upper class customs.

By the Victorian Era, egg cups decorated with the most popular chinaware patterns, were being made by china companies. China egg cups were also available in sets complete with a tray and spoons. Some egg cups had pedestals while others sat flat on the table, like the floral-patterned set shown left. The plate holding the four egg cups has round indentations to ensure the cups remain in place during their trip to the table.



Victorian-era china egg cups.

Egg cup designs further developed during the Art Deco period of the 1920s and 30s, including some bearing cheerful sayings like "Morning Fresh". In the mid-twentieth century, images of movie stars, cartoon characters, and famous literary characters were used to decorate them.

Cups designed to appeal to children, such as the examples shown right, may have been intended to encourage fussy eaters to finish their breakfast.



Kid-appeal may have encouraged kids to eat breakfast.

Today, egg cups are still found in many households and are often sold in many different materials and whimsical designs, especially around Easter.

As much as credit for this serving piece can arguably be claimed by the British upper class, there is proof egg cups have been around a while longer. During the excavation of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, eggcups have been discovered preserved by layers of ash and lava.

### 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](mailto:secretaryheritagestclair@gmail.com). Or visit the St. Clair Township site: [www.stclairtownship.ca](http://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.