



# The St. Clair Township BEACON



Issue 1

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## Santa ambushed by babies



**S**anta was up to his beard in babies after he guest-starred at the Wilkesport Santa Claus Parade on December 3. The parade through the village gave the jolly old elf a chance to update his "Naughty and Nice" lists just as he did at several other community parades throughout St. Clair Township in the days leading up to Christmas. Little did he know that the local babies

were sizing him up for *stranger danger* at the same time.

When these two baby boys were placed on Santa's lap, one of the lads continued to scrutinize the bearded stranger while his cousin watched, tiny fists at the ready. Santa quickly calmed the situation with his merry magic mojo and all was well. **More on page 13.**

~Lynn Lester photo

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# MUNICIPAL NOTES

## By-Law Review

Council often encounters problems that arise from residents being unaware of current municipal by-laws. Penalties can be levied on those who are in contravention of a by-law, and ignorance of a by-law is not an acceptable defence.

All Township by-laws, can be viewed for details at [www.stclairtownship.ca](http://www.stclairtownship.ca). (Please note that the township website is being redesigned and updated, and some interruptions in access may occur until the site is completed.) In the meantime, any inquiries can be made by calling the St. Clair Township municipal office at 1-519-867-2021.

Here are just a few of the by-laws to be aware of.

### By-Law 16 of 2022

A by-law to impose user fees and charges within the Township of St. Clair (replacing Township of St. Clair By-Law No. 29 of 2021).

**Fees or charges are being imposed on:** Services and activities provided and done; costs payable by it for services and activities provided by the Township; and the use of Township property, including property under Township control.

**Township departments affected by these fees and charges include:** Planning and Administration; Building Permit fees; Fire Department; Community Services; and Tax Department.

See the complete by-law on the St. Clair Township website.

### By-Law No. 5 of 2022

Amendment to By-Law 33 of 2017

A by-law regarding winter parking on public roads

"No person shall park or leave a vehicle on a highway, road or street in such a manner that results in interference with the clearing of snow or any winter control operation conducted by municipal forces or contractors during the hours of 1 a.m. and 7 a.m. local time during the period of Dec. 1 to April 1."

See the complete by-law on the St. Clair Township website.

### By-Law No. 35 of 2017

A by-law to prohibit parking of vehicles and recreational trailers in certain locations and at certain times within the Township of St. Clair.

This by-law affects the parking of any type of vehicle on a highway, road or street during the hours of 1 a.m. and 7 a.m. local time during the period of Dec. 1 to April 1. Derelict inoperable or expired license) vehicles are not allowed on these highways, roads or streets at any time of year.

This by-law also includes restrictions regarding the parking of recreational or marine vehicles, camping trailers, commercial trailers, or other recreational vehicles in driveways, on Township boulevards, grassy areas adjacent to a road, or blocking sidewalks.

Police or an enforcement officer can also order a vehicle to be moved or towed away under the provisions of the Highway Traffic Act. This by-law shall not have effect on any road, street or highway where such parking is specifically allowed by permit issued by the Township of St. Clair. See the complete by-law on the St. Clair Township website.



## Council Meeting Schedule

All regular council meetings are open to the public, but will continue to be available by going onto the township website at: [www.stclairtownship.ca](http://www.stclairtownship.ca).

**Upcoming council meetings will be:**  
Monday, January 16 at 6 p.m., Monday, February 6 at 3 p.m.

To make a presentation to council or for more information, call the St. Clair Township municipal office at 519-867-2021 (1-800-809-0301).

## Winter curbside parking by-law aids snow removal efforts

As of Dec. 1, vehicles, whether licensed or unlicensed, must NOT be parked on a highway, road, or street in such a manner that it interferes with the clearing of snow or any winter control operation conducted by municipal forces or contractors between the hours of 1 a.m. and 7 a.m. The by-law, which will be in effect until April 1, 2023, includes: camping trailers, commercial trailers, derelict vehicles, marine vehicles, and recreational trailers.

All obstructions including basketball nets and garbage cans must also kept off the streets during this period.

Property owners are also reminded it is against the law to shovel snow off driveways and sidewalks onto public streets. These snow piles create dangerous obstacles that can contribute to needless automobile collisions and the loss of control of a vehicle.



More Municipal Notes, page 3





From page 2

## More Municipal Notes

### By-Law No.34 of 2007

*A by-law to provide for the maintaining of land.*

*This by-law gives the municipality authority to pass by-laws respecting health, safety, and well-being of persons.*

An example of the things this by-law covers is the requirement for long grass/weeds to be kept cut to reduce breeding grounds for disease carrying mosquitoes (West Nile) and ticks (Lyme Disease). It requires property owners to keep their properties, whether occupied or vacant, to be kept clean and cleared of debris, and hedges/trees to be cut/trimmed, especially if they are close to public sidewalks or roadways. **In the winter, the clearing of snow from walkways adjacent to your property or walkways leading into your property should also be cleared for the safety of those who use them.**

Properties that do not comply with these standards and do not bring their properties into compliance in a reasonable time after being asked to do so by a designated township person or enforcement officer, will be cleaned up and the cost of that cleaning will be collected from the property owner on the tax roll. **See the complete by-law on the St. Clair Township website.**

### By-Law No.53 of 2017

*A by-law to provide standards for the physical condition and occupancy of property in St. Clair Township*

*This by-law is also cited as the Property Standards By-Law.*

The Township of St. Clair deemed it necessary and expedient to pass a by-law pursuant to the provisions of Section 15 of the Building Code Act, S.O. 1992 as amended for prescribing standards for the maintenance and occupancy of property within the municipality and for prohibiting the occupancy or use of such property that does not conform to the standards. The by-law requires property that is below the by-law standards to be repaired and maintained in compliance with the standards, or to be cleared of all buildings, structures, debris, or refuse, and left in graded or leveled condition. The by-law also pro-

hibits the removal of any sign, notice, or placard having to do with the by-law.

This by-law limits the occupancy permitted within the property controlled/occupied by the owner. The property must offer decent living conditions that are sanitary, safe, (smoke alarms, etc.), with unobstructed exits, pest control, etc. Only habitable rooms that meet the standards laid out by the by-law can be used. The occupancy standard set out by by-law 53 reads, "The maximum number of occupants in a dwelling unit shall not exceed one person per 9.3 square metres (100 square feet) of habitable room floor area."

If basements are used as habitable area, "No basement shall be used as a dwelling unit unless it is otherwise permitted and it meets the following requirements: it meets all requirements for egress, light, and ventilation set out by this by-law; floors and walls are constructed so as to be impervious to leakage of underground and surface run-off water."

All new construction or repairs shall conform to the Ontario Building Code where applicable. *Check to see if a permit will be required for that work. See the complete by-law on the St. Clair Township website.*

**See More Municipal Notes, page 10**

### Please keep walkways and doorways clear

**For safety's sake, please keep snow off sidewalks and entries around your business or property, and use an ice treatment to ensure safe footing for yourself and others.**



## OFFICIAL PLAN ONLINE SURVEY AND FEEDBACK OPTIONS

St. Clair's Official Plan is our community's vision for our future. The Official Plan includes policies that address important parts of building our community that affect everyone who lives and works in St. Clair, including agriculture, housing, jobs, the environment, and the economy.

### YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT

There are several ways for you to submit your feedback on the Official Plan:

- **Online Survey:** Participate in the Township's Survey and provide your valuable feedback at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZRVYHHV>
- **Mail:** Official Plan Review, Township of St. Clair, 1155 Emily Street, Mooretown N0N 1M0
- **E-mail:** Official Plan Review at [officialplanreview@stclairtownship.ca](mailto:officialplanreview@stclairtownship.ca)

### More information:

The Township's current Official Plan may be reviewed on the Township website at <http://stclairtownship.ca>



## Public Works Department

After hours emergency  
~ 1-888-441-4204 ~

Public Works/Roads...519-867-2993

Engineering.....519-867-2125

Website..... [www.stclairtownship.ca](http://www.stclairtownship.ca)

Water Utility.....519-867-2128

Fax.....519-867-3886

Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street, Mooretown

### Water utility appointments require 48 hours notice

St. Clair Township By-Law 16 of 2022 requires at least 48 hours notice in advance of scheduling appointments with the Public Works department to avoid service fees.

## Overnight Parking

The St. Clair Township winter parking by-law will be in effect as of Dec. 1, 2022 and continuing until April 1, 2023. Under this by-law (By-Law No. 5 of 2022) it is against the law to leave vehicles of any kind parked on public streets and roads overnight from 1:00 a.m to 7:00 a.m.

## 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



### 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>

More WORKS, page –



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## Public Works Department

### Clear the Road

All homeowners are reminded to clear recreational sports equipment (e.g., basketball nets, goalie nets, etc.) off and away from roads and streets. This includes sports nets that are located on the street surface near the back of the curb. A verbal and/or written warning will be issued to homeowners with sports nets on or near the road.

#### Please take notice

Failure to remove sports nets and other equipment from roads and streets will result in his equipment being collected by the Public Works Departments and stored at the Public Works Operational Centers.

### “Treecycle”

The holidays are quickly approaching! This year, take your Christmas tree to the curb by **7:00 a.m. on Jan. 9, 2023**, the special tree recycling day. Remove all decorations, lights, wire, tree skirts, stands, tinsel, fake snow, and make sure the tree is not in a plastic bag.

### E-waste

Not sure where to drop off e-waste? See the chart below!

Business	Contact Information
Transco	387 McGregor Side Rd. Sarnia, ON N7T 7H3 519-332-4045
Staples	1379 London Rd. Sarnia, ON N7S 1P6 519-542-4461
Best Buy	1380 Exmouth St. Sarnia, ON N7S 3X9 1-866-237-8289
Digital Friends	1121 Evett St. Unit 1. Sarnia, ON N7S 5N3 519-344-3334
Premier Recycling	325 Gladwish Dr. Sarnia, ON N7W 1A7 519-337-8999
Goodwill	1307 Michigan Ave. Sarnia, ON N7S 4M6 519-541-9273 1121 Wellington Ave. Sarnia, ON N7S 6J7 519-332-0440
Habitat for Humanity	1787 London Line. Sarnia, ON N7T 7H2 519-339-7957
Trash Taxi	800 Roper St. Sarnia, ON N7S 6K8 519-384-9595
Trijan Industries	1279 Plank Rd. Sarnia, ON N7T 7H3 519-337-3779

**When was the last time you checked your chimney?**

Look for loose bricks, crumbling mortar, dark stains and white powder; they all indicate problems in a masonry chimney. Inside a chimney, buildups of black, tarry creosote can cause devastating house fires. Dark stains and white powder at the joints of a wood stove pipe chimney also spells trouble. **The SAFEST and most practical way to check and maintain your chimney, woodstove, and fireplace is to contact a WETT\* certified Chimney Sweep.**

# Emergency Preparedness

## FACT SHEET



For COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS

### 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**

### Would you be prepared to handle a minimum of 72 hours without outside aid?

**Emergencies don't wait until we are prepared for them - do it now!**

Make an emergency kit that includes: an adequate supply of warm blankets and clothing, flashlights, food, safe drinking water, necessary medications, a First Aid kit, pet supplies, baby supplies, etc., and have a designated safe shelter area. Develop a fire escape plan and designate an outside meeting place.

Make sure your emergency strategies are prepared and be ready for unexpected emergencies.



For more updates on information related to Public Works, including Waste and Recycling collection, follow up on Facebook @stclairwppw.

### Contact **OntarioOneCall** before you dig!

Be sure to call 1-800-400-2255 or visit [OntarioOneCall.ca](http://OntarioOneCall.ca)  
5 days before you dig.



## FIREFIGHTERS WANTED!

*The St. Clair Township Fire Department is currently recruiting men and women to join our team*

*All training, clothing, and equipment is provided; paid on-call firefighting and training; WSIB & insurance coverage and AD&D insurance; Employee Assistance Program; and available Rec Club membership.*

**REVIEW THE RECRUITMENT GUIDE AND POSTING ON:**

[www.stclairtownship.ca](http://www.stclairtownship.ca)



## Put A Freeze on Winter Fires

Andrew McMillan

St. Clair Township Fire Department

During the winter months, there is usually an increase in home fires and home fire fatalities. Heating, holiday decorations, careless cooking and candle use all contribute to an increased fire risk. St. Clair Fire urges all township residents to read and heed these important tips:

### In The Kitchen

Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home injuries. The primary cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. Stay Alert! Never Leave Cooking Unattended!

Remember never put water on a grease fire. Water makes grease fires worse. It is also dangerous to move a pan or pot of burning oil for the same reasons.

### Winter Storms

Portable generators are useful during power outages; however, many homeowners are unaware that the improper use of portable generators can be risky. If you use a portable generator during a power outage, only use it outdoors and in a location where fumes will not enter the building.

Homeowners are reminded that when clearing snow from driveways and sidewalks, it is important to also

shovel an area around fire hydrants to ensure they remain visible and have clear access for responding fire-fighters.

### Home Heating Safety

Heating equipment needs space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from heating equipment. This includes space heaters, fireplaces, and furnaces.

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.

Ensure that furnaces and wood stoves are inspected annually by a qualified technician.

### Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms, Smoke Alarms and Home Escape Planning

Test your alarms using the test button to make sure the unit is working properly.

Replace any alarm (battery-operated and hard-wired) that is older than 10 years. After 10 years alarm sensors can become less sensitive to smoke particles.

Plan and practice home fire drills so everyone knows what to do and where to go when the alarm sounds.

***HAVE A SAFE 2023***



## Lambton County Library branches offer much more than books

For more information on locations, services and hours of operation visit [www.lclibrary.ca](http://www.lclibrary.ca)

**\*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.



If computers are not your thing, get the latest paper version of *The Beacon* at your local St. Clair Township library!



## HERITAGE CORNER

### School students discover the magic of vintage toys



The annual Christmas program offered at the Moore Museum attracts students from schools across Lambton County. Grades 1, 2, and 8 students from St. Anne Catholic School recently visited the museum and one of the lessons they enjoyed was a class on vintage toys. Museum staff member Linda Woods introduced them to a number of

musical and mechanical toys, from a small metal walking robot to the Jack-in-a-Box, along with some tiny replicas of household items children would use to play house. **Above: The students listen carefully as Linda demonstrates the ball-and-cup game, which isn't nearly as easy as it looks, but Linda nailed it!**



### The enlightened tree

**LEFT:** The Victorian Era tree at the Moore Museum is topped with the Union Jack and covered with handmade decorations, card board picture cut-outs and fabric bows. The tree, which would have been illuminated with real lit candles before the introduction of electricity, are represented by plastic replicas.

Candles on the tree, so the story goes, were first put there by Martin Luther in the 16th century to symbolize the star of Bethlehem. It became a German tradition which Queen Victoria's German-born husband, Albert, brought to England from his homeland. *Bonnie Stevenson photos*



*More Heritage Corner, page 9*



From page 8

## HERITAGE CORNER

*Sleigh ride, anyone?**A family on the way to Grandpa Brown's Farm at Christmas.**~Photo courtesy Bill and Gail South**By Kari Boone, Moore Museum*

Let's take a stroll back in time to wintry landscapes in the time of our early homesteaders and recall their winter modes of transportation. Once winter set in, the ways of transportation needed to change. Wheels on the wagons would often get stuck in the snow, and with the river frozen, travel by boat was not a viable option.

Winter travel choices included long, tear-shaped snowshoes which helped distribute the wearer's weight and allow him or her to walk on top of the snow. But the most nostalgic sight to see was a cutter or sleigh. This mode of transportation was more comfortable and faster due to the use of runners instead of wheels. Though it did not

come without its share of hazards, it was a welcome change from the slower, bumpy-wheeled wagon rides used in spring, summer, and fall. Adding to the sight was the sound of bells attached with ribbons to the bridles of the homesteaders' horses to warn other travelers on the trail of their presence.

Postcards depicting this travel choice have appeared for many years, and sleighs and cutters have been featured in plenty of holiday movies. Many people still have the opportunity to experience this form of winter travel. Rides in cutters, sleighs and hay wagons continue to be offered at many resorts, in towns, at special functions, and at family farms.

*~Story by Kari Boone***Beacon  
Bit**

*Another year has passed, another birthday gone, but there is one thing we can all take comfort from: the older-looking you get, the harder it is to see yourself in the mirror...unless you get new glasses.* **HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE BEACON!**

## HERITAGE CORNER

From page 9

### *Sombra Museum collection yields good fun and good wishes from long ago*

The Sombra Museum Collection contains a wealth of photo and written treasures. Museum Curator Kailyn Shepley says New Year's dinner and traditions sometimes warranted an even bigger celebration than Christmas for some people. The New Year's card shown at right, a design copyrighted by John Winsch in 1911, is an example of the kind of cards they would exchange.



Living near the river had its perks in the winter. Mrs. Hilda Kerr and her daughter, Clara, are shown here posing for the camera while skating on the St. Clair River, south of Sombra Village, in February, 1920. The Toner family home can be seen in the background on the right side, and local children are enjoying sledding on the river. Skating, sledding and all ice sports were common winter hobbies for locals back in the days when rivers froze solid

for most of the winter. The children who attended Wilkesport school even skated on the Sydenham River during recess or on lunch breaks! The Kerr family moved to Sombra in 1919 and opened a store in what is now Nautical Hills (the former Pic 'N Pay building).  
~Information from Curator Kailyn Shepley



From page 3

## More MUNICIPAL NOTES

### **Shell project to allow biodiesel blending**

At the Dec. 5 meeting of council, Shell representative Paul Kaethler made a presentation to introduce the new biodiesel blending project being built at the Shell manufacturing centre north of Corunna.

The blending process starts with a renewable diesel known as FAME (Fatty Acid Methyl Ester), made from vegetable oils, animal fats, or waste cooking oils, is blended into hydrocarbon diesel. It is now being produced at facilities, throughout North America and around the world.

When the blending project is operational, tanker trucks will deliver the FAME at an average expected rate of two additional truck visits every three days.

Construction on the relatively small project will take place between April and October, 2023, with higher than usual traffic in the area of the terminal, and heavy machinery will be required. Occasional increased noise may be heard but the presentation noted there should be "...no changes to noise, light, odour or any other effect in a tangible way."

With the addition of biodiesel to the Shell site and into the local market, Shell expects to reduce the carbon footprint of the overall site.

### **Moore Sports Complex update**

The Moore Sports Complex is coming back to life in a big way. The three-week Appreciation Event that ended on Nov. 27 was a big success, according to Kendall Lindsay, Director of Community Services. Popular offerings like spin classes and Sunday public skates, along with aquatic programming and fitness classes, are all back in operation. The dry group fitness class attendance was up 110 per cent during Appreciation Week and aquatic clas-

ses were up 44 per cent.

Children's activities like Parents Night Out and the Monday Craft night had good attendance and families enjoyed the free swims and free skates.

### **MSC Update**

Rink #1 is operational except for a few deficiencies that are being remedied. Work on the roof is almost complete, with only a few items left to be done.

Only one major item remains undone. A new outside electricity supply needs to be connected and power to the entire facility will have to be shut down to allow for the job to be done safely. The estimated time needed to remain without power and complete this work is estimated to be one day to one and a half days.

### **Sombra Community Hall update**

Work on the Sombra Community Hall is proceeding and, in searching for the cause of the floor moisture problems, work crews discovered the foundation for the floor was a crazy quilt of bad building practices and unworkable shortcuts.

An old clay drainage tile that ran underneath the building where the old concrete slab was poured has now been capped off and the water redirected to a new tile installed around the building. Some cinder blocks, believed to be the remains of an old wall upon which the concrete for the old floor was poured, were knocked down. The contractor also believed the old floor looked as if the old concrete had been poured directly onto dirt and not a granular base. The contractor has put in a properly prepared granular base and the new concrete floor was slated to be poured on Dec. 1.



## Memories of a St. Clair Township Christmas

As always, the Christmas season in St. Clair Township kicks off with local organizations gathering together to bring hope to those who face hard times ahead. Their good work, and the work of kind individuals who volunteer their time to help, play a huge role in ensuring eve-

ryone has enough to make their holiday sparkle.

Here is a photo record of just some of the efforts and events that helped make the yuletide bright for the people of St. Clair Township.

### Corunna Santa Claus Parade



On Lyndoch Street in Corunna, the Optimist Club of Moore Santa Claus Parade drew a crowd of happy people, both local and from out of town. The sound of fire truck sirens heralded the parade's arrival.



NOVA's giant elf



One of the Trolls greeted kids along the parade route.



Players from the Mooretown Flags junior teams got to strut their stuff in the parade.



From page 11

## st. Clair Township Christmas 2022

### *Moore Optimist Santa Claus Parade kicks off Christmas season*



Above: Mooretown Lady Flag players from the U-9 to U-13 teams brought a Santa's sleigh full of enthusiasm to the parade. U-11 team players were especially jolly having just come off of their big win at the Stratford Aces Tournament.

Below: The most technically remarkable float in the Corunna Santa Claus Parade came from Shell Canada. The plant's maintenance unit created a 15,000-light extravaganza complete with a computer-controlled system that made the lights 'dance' to the music played over the system speakers. Aboard the towing vehicle, a large smoke machine was made to look like a stubby, smoke-emitting rocket ship.





From page 12

## St. Clair Township Christmas 2022



*Inset above:* Mr. and Mrs. Claus head home to the North Pole to prepare for the Christmas Eve rush.

Mrs. Claus was a surprise rider in Santa's sleigh this year.

## Santa visits Wilkesport in firefighter's Christmas parade



*A crowd assembles to watch the parade and welcome Santa to Wilkesport.*



*Above:* Wilkesport firefighters, who are also Santa's local elves when he comes to town, gather to set the parade in motion.

*Bottom left:* The star attraction comes to town!



It was a sunny, brisk day on Dec. 4 when the Wilkesport Fire Department led Santa into town for his annual visit. Cars and people lined the street to welcome him. The parade included animal walkers, antique cars, and personally-decorated vehicles. After the parade, people were welcomed back to the fire hall for refreshments and the kids got a chance to tell Santa their Christmas wishes. A good time was had by all.

*~Photos and story by Lynn Lester*

*More Christmas Memories, page 14*



## St. Clair Township Christmas 2022

From page 13



### Carols ring out on the streets of Port Lambton

The Knights of Columbus in Port Lambton gathered a large group of voices on Nov. 3 and went caroling throughout Sombra village aboard towed hay wagons, under cloudy skies. Due to the intermittent threat of rain and a bitter breeze coming off the river, the group cut its hay ride short and returned to the Sacred Heart Parish Hall for an afternoon of hot chocolate and popcorn, play and games, and a children's movie. And of course, Santa made an appearance to hear the children's wishes.



### Courtright F.D. Santa Parade does house calls

While most St. Clair Township kids had to travel to see a Santa Claus Parade this year, Courtright kids had it easy. On Nov. 4, the Courtright firefighters not only took Santa to the kids, but they took the kids to the fire station so they could visit with the jolly old elf and have a party.

A noisy procession of fire trucks and a double hay wagon "people mover" paraded through the village streets picking up children and their parents along the way.

**Top: left** The parade returns to the fire station with two hay wagons full of families ready to spend some quality time with Santa Claus, play games, and enjoy hot chocolate and other goodies.



*Santa's "people mover" gathers party-goers enroute to the fire hall.*



From page 14

## St. Clair Township Christmas 2022

### Corunna Legion Br. 447 hosts Santa and horse-drawn wagon rides for food bank

#### Santa's ride awaits



Wagon rides, like the old-fashioned kind shown in *Heritage Corner* on page 9, still happen thanks to people like St. Clair Township wagon-master Claire Jardine and his beautiful horses. As a breeder of prize-winning draft horses, Claire and his teams are welcome additions to many special events throughout the year. The wagon rides with *Santa* event at the Corunna Legion hall on Dec. 10 featured *Mary*, a statuesque brown beauty, and *Molly*, a young black-and-white mare.

**Above:** Molly, left, and Mary wait patiently for Santa and his excited fans to climb aboard the wagon.

**Left:** An anonymous elf watches as Molly and Mary stand quietly waiting to be harnessed and hitched to the wagon by Clair Jardine, centre, and Ken Gould, right.

**Right:** The wagon ride was not the only feature at the Dec. 10 event. Santa's wagon was accompanied by four outriders decked out with strings of coloured lights. Rider Barb Plant, one of the four riders, glided along on *Bright-on*, a stunning cream-coloured Missouri Fox Trotter.





From page 15

## St. Clair Township Christmas 2022

### Moore Agricultural Society Christmas Market a shoppers dream

Shoppers enjoyed good food and lots of variety as they cruised the wares of 40 vendors at the MAS Christmas Market on Nov. 3. Products from practical to whimsical, as well as some seasonal favourites, made it difficult for shoppers to choose their perfect gifts.

Choices that were easy to make were found at the food counter, where Brigden Fair Homecraft Division cooks and bakers did a great job of supplying delicious pulled-pork or back-bacon-filled buns, as well as the ever popular long john donuts, to hungry customers.

**Bottom left:** Helping out in the kitchen, Brigden Fair Ambassador Emma Oulette does counter duty, dishing out the goodies for hungry shoppers.

**Bottom right:** Four generations gathered around a table to enjoy a refreshment from the exhibition hall kitchen. Shown are, from left: grandmother Angie MacRae; four-month old Lydia; her mom, Morgan MacRae; and off-



camera, great grandmother Connie Lee (absent from photo.) Above: Shoppers, who struggled to choose from the immense selection of crafted and unique offerings, cruised the hall for unique gifts, stocking stuffers, and personal treats.  
~Stevenson photos



### Moore Agricultural Society sends New Year's greetings

The membership of the Moore Agricultural Society, Home of the Brigden Fair, would like to wish everyone a wonderful and prosperous 2023. We hope everyone was able to make special memories with family and friends during 2022, and we are glad to be able to be part of it. We appreciate our patronage over the past years at the Brigden Fair, the jamborees/campout weekends, tractor pulls, demolition derby, brunches, beef dinners, and many other special events.

*We wish everyone a Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you again throughout 2023.*

Thank you  
Moore Agricultural Society





## COMMUNITY CONTACT

### St. Andrew's food bank thanks community for support

As we start a new year, we must acknowledge that 2022 was a difficult year for many people and families in our community. The increased cost of food, fuel, and housing has impacted many, and greatly increased the use of our food bank.

We are so grateful for the support of our community in meeting this increased demand. The generosity of so many individuals, businesses, groups and organizations ensured we were able to meet the needs of our clients. We are excited to be able to continue this important mission as we move into the new year, and the continued support of the community will be vitally important to ensure we continue to meet the needs of so many families. We have been blessed by the many donations of food, money and gift cards that we have already received and we sincerely hope your kindness and support will continue. Dry goods are always welcome, as are financial support and gift cards to our local grocery stores. The gift cards are used by our volunteers to purchase perishable supplies, such as bread, milk, cheese, eggs and margarine. Of course, financial support in the way of cash or cheques is always appreciated. However, we ask that, to ensure cheques are able to be directly deposited and available for immediate use, they be made payable to 'St. Andrew's Food Bank'.



*Southwest Credit Union was among the many donors that helped the food bank make Christmas brighter for those in need. Seen here during the presentation are, from left: Aisling Cerutti, Lorie Bowen, food bank volunteer Sheila Deneau, Southwest C.U. Corunna Manager Shannon DeRooy, food bank bookkeeper Beth Nutt, and Jenna Prapotoy.*

*With our overwhelming appreciation, we wish everyone a healthy and happy 2023.*

*~St. Andrews Food Bank*



**Corunna Legion lunch for Operation Christmas Tree**



The community came through again with its support for Operation Christmas Tree/St. Andrew's food bank in Ward 1. Donations of non-perishable food and new toys for all ages were received, and cash/grocery store gift cards were plentiful.

**Above left:** The annual OPP Drive-Through donation event for Operation Christmas Tree on Dec. 3 gave donors a convenient way to show their support with both police and firefighters on the scene to help out the Optimist of Moore volunteers who were busy counting and sorting in the Emergency Services building.

**Above right:** Greeting motorists outside the building, Santa was joined by, from left: St. Clair Township firefighter Cody Yruegaz; Mayor Jeff Agar; OPP auxiliary Savana Palominos; Operation Christmas Tree President Stan Marsh; the guest of honour; firefighter Owen Ingles; and Fire Chief Richard Boyes.

**Left:** The Corunna Legion Br. 447 kick-off lunch on Nov. 30 (formerly called the Poor Boy lunch) attracted hungry donors of all ages, including three-year old Scotlyn McCullam and her grandparents, Maureen and Howard McKeller.

## COMMUNITY CONTACT

From page 17

### ***K of C fundraiser Breakfast for OCT***

The Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph's Church raised funds for Operation Christmas Tree with one of their famous Sunday breakfasts on Dec. 4.

The packed parish hall was fed by K of C members James, Rob, Rick, Jay, Greg, Boyd and Brian. Other members were on hand to handle clean-up, admission, etc.

In the kitchen, a bustle of food prep and cooking chores kept volunteers busy as a continuous flow of hungry patrons enjoyed their efforts throughout the morning. On the buffet line, there was service with a smile as Brian kept the warming pans restocked.



### ***Sacred Heart food bank - help your community thrive***

The Sacred Heart Food Bank continues to aid the community all year. Nourishing food and daily supplies like personal hygiene items, baby needs, and household cleaning supplies, as well as grocery store gift cards and monetary donations, are always gratefully accepted. Food bank shelves need to be replenished on a regular basis.

### ***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. The food bank serves those in need, offering a variety of food products to help people eat healthily, including dairy products, bread, and meat, as well as daily requirements like household cleaning supplies, hygiene products, 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 Sarnia-Lambton to extend Project Backpack, a food assistance program, into Lambton County. The program provides a bag of nutritious food that can be easily distributed 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.

### ***Sombra Optimist Clubs welcome new members***

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 Aarssen at 226-402-3870.

### ***Lambton County Junior Optimist Club invites new members to get involved***

The Lambton County Junior Optimist Club invites youth from age 10 through 18 to join and discover the fantastic feeling of volunteering in the community. Members put on their own programs and find creative ways to fundraise for other youth programs. Hours spent volunteering with the club count toward the volunteer hours needed at school. The club meets the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. Meetings are now held at the Emergency Services Building in Corunna at the intersection of Lyndoch and Hill Streets. 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.

### ***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.

### ***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.

For those who face the mental health or addiction challenges, the Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team can help. To talk to someone about local resources, call Connex Ontario, 1-866-531-2600, or the Family Counseling Centre Care Pathways, 519-336-3600.

**In crisis?** Call CMHA Lambton-Kent and talk to a mental health professional 24/7 at 1-800-307-4319.



## West Lambton Community Health Centre programs

-We now offer online program registration-  
Please visit <https://www.nlchc.com/services/wellness-programs/>.

Be sure to specify which program you are registering for on the top of the form.

To register, call 519-344-3017 ext. 237 or email [adinell@nlchc.com](mailto:adinell@nlchc.com) to register and/or receive the Zoom link.

**\*\*All programs will start January 9. \*\***

### In Person-Low Impact Exercise:

Low impact exercises performed using body weight and resistance bands. All abilities welcome.

**Brigden Low Impact:** Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. (at Brigden Fair Grounds, 2976 Brigden Road, Brigden)

**Mooretown Low Impact:** Thursdays at 9 a.m. (at Mooretown Sports Complex, 1166 Emily St.)

### Virtual Exercise:

**Virtual Low Impact Exercise:** Wednesdays and Fridays (Zoom) at 9 a.m. Low impact exercises performed using body weight and resistance bands. All abilities welcome.

**Virtual Shibashi:** Tuesdays, (Zoom) at 11 a.m. 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.

**Virtual Sit or Stand Exercise:** Mondays (Zoom) at 1:30 p.m. Virtual Chair Exercise: No impact exercise performed standing or seated in a chair, resistance bands are used. All exercise abilities are welcome.

**Virtual Yoga Fusion:** Jan. 11 to Jan. 25 (Zoom) at 11 a.m. Yoga Fitness Fusion combines yoga postures, breath work and fitness repetitions to tone and strengthen the body. We calm the nervous system through breath and intention while focusing on connection to the earth and elements. Feel nourished, connected and renewed in this gentle practice.

**Anger Management:** Starts Jan. 12 to March 2, 2023. Every Thursday night from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Identify your anger triggers, patterns, and practice positive and effective anger management skills. Registration required, see information top of page.

**Cooking Buddies:** Children's cooking classes for ages between 6 to 12 years old. The class will focus on learning to read recipe cards, measure ingredients, try

new foods, and to have fun! Classes will run monthly. **CLASSES ARE FULL AT THIS TIME!** Locations: Jan. 6 (Sarnia), Jan. 26 (Corunna), Jan. 30 (Brigden) and Jan. 31 (Forest).

**Coffee Time:** Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (at Cardiac Rehab Site, 460 Christina St N. Parking at the back of the building, off Maxwell). Join us for coffee and conversation, free of charge, everyone welcome!

**Garden Fresh Box:** The Garden-Fresh Box is an inexpensive monthly food buying club for anyone who wants fresh vegetables and fruit all year round.

**Line Dancing:** Starts Jan. 11 to Feb. 15, 2023. Every Wednesday at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, 120 Russell St. S. from 1p.m. to 2 p.m. All abilities welcome, no previous experience necessary. Space is Limited!

**Master Your Health—** Chronic Pain: Light exercises to improve strength and flexibility, techniques to deal with stress, pain, depression and improve sleep, fatigue management, pain medications & treatments. This is 6-week virtual program that will start in January. Call 519-786-4545 ext. 327 for more details.

**Meditation:** Mondays 10 a.m. to 11a.m. (at West Lambton CHC). Increase self esteem, improve concentration, lower blood pressure, reduce stress and anxiety, emotional balance.

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

**Virtual Body and Mind Inspired Class:** Starts Jan. 24 at noon to 1 p.m. This BMI group is health and wellness support group that is led by two registered Dietitians focusing on nutrition. This program is offered bi-monthly. This month's focus is on anti-inflammatory foods.

**Young Parent Prenatal:** Starts Jan. 17 to Feb. 7 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (at West Lambton CHC) A four-week program facilitated by Lambton Public Health learning with other young parents about labour and delivery, relationships, nutrition, caring for your baby and more! For more information or to register please call LPH at 519-383-3817.

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.



## THE MOORETOWN SPORTS COMPLEX

1166 Emily Street, Mooretown, ON

For further information about programming or updates about the exciting new updates, completed or underway, here's how to contact us:

Facebook-@mooretownsportscomplex; E-mail: [info@stclairtownship.ca](mailto:info@stclairtownship.ca);

## AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

### Corunna Legion to host events/activities

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 447 Corunna will host the following special events and activities.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

Jan. 1 - New Years Day Levee, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Jan. 8 - Don Jackson Memorial Cribbage Tournament, Registration from 11:30-12:30 p.m. with play starting at 1p.m.

Jan. 19 - Wedding Showcase in partnership with Lapiers Flowers, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Jan. 31 - Open Jam, 3 p.m.-6 p.m.

Come on out and enjoy the show. Bring an instrument to play or your voice to sing. Don't forget your dancing shoes!

#### Legion Activities

Every **Monday** is Pepper at 1 p.m.

Every **Tuesday** is Cribbage at 1 p.m.

Every **Thursday** is "Show Me the Money", 5:30 p.m. start. Food available for sale.

Every **Friday** is Bridge at 1 p.m.

Every **Friday evening** is Meat Darts at 7p.m.

Every **Saturday** is Meat Raffle at 4 p.m.

### MAS Country Jamborees continue

Country Jamborees are back at the Brigden Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall. First Jamboree for 2023 is set for Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023. Doors open at 12 noon and music starts at 1 p.m. Cash bar will be available. Tickets for the ham and Scalloped potato dinner at 5 p.m. with dinner will be \$15 per person at the door. A \$5 cover charge will



apply for those who are just coming for an afternoon of music and fellowship.

Bring your partner, your dancing shoes, and your love of music. Musicians are welcome.

### Sombra Museum family fun time

On Saturday, Feb. 18 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. come out to Sombra Museum for music and fun family activities. The February Beacon will carry all the information you need to enjoy this welcome break from your winter hibernation.

### Sombra Museum Lecture Series speaker

The next Sombra Museum Lecture Series presentation on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. will feature speaker Greg Hilliard who will tell the story of the wreck of the Manasoo and reveal its Lambton County connections. Tickets will be \$10 per person at the door.

### Courtright Friendship Club activities

The Courtright Friendship Club meets every first Thursday of every month next to the Courtright Library, 1533 Fourth Street. Annual membership is \$10, but non-members are welcome to come out to the groups weekly card games. Euchre is played on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and Pepper is played on Fridays at 7 p.m. The cost per game is \$3 per person.

### MAS Annual General Meeting

The Moore Agricultural Society Annual General Meeting is set for Saturday, Jan. 21 at 1 p.m. in the Brigden Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall. Registration and membership renewal will be done from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

### ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION AVAILABLE

A free full-colour digital copy of The St. Clair Township Beacon is available by subscription by emailing:

[beacon@stclairtownship.ca](mailto:beacon@stclairtownship.ca)

Type "subscription" in the Subject line and include your full name.

If you don't have a subscription, visit the township website at: [www.stclairtownship.ca](http://www.stclairtownship.ca) and click on The Beacon icon.

If you have a not-for-profit in St. Clair Township (i.e. service clubs, youth/seniors groups, agricultural groups, charity initiatives, etc.) or are holding a community event that will benefit and/or interest residents of the township, contact *The St. Clair Township Beacon* via e-mail at:

[beacon@stclairtownship.ca](mailto:beacon@stclairtownship.ca)

The DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS is the third Monday of each month for the following month. **FEBRUARY issue**  
**DEADLINE for submissions is**  
**Monday, January 16 by noon.**

### Golf simulator returns to St. Clair Parkway Golf Course

*\$50 per person gets 4 hours of play for 4 golfers, plus 4 lb. of wings and 1 pitcher of beer*  
*Call to book your tee time.*

**519-867-2160 or**  
**519-867-2810,**  
**then press 2.**



### Frog Point Inn opens

The newly-renovated Frog Point Inn (formerly Frog Point Motel, established in 1948) at 1738 St. Clair Parkway S., Courtright, recently opened its doors. For more information go online to: [info@frogpointinn.ca](mailto:info@frogpointinn.ca) or check out the booking website at: [frogpointinn.ca](http://frogpointinn.ca)

### PRINTED BEACON NOW AVAILABLE

Get your copy at: all St. Clair Township library branches, Thompson Gardens, Corunna, and the St. Clair Township Civic Centre. Just look for the Beacon bin.