

## HERITAGE CORNER

The Lambton Generating Station south of Courtright may be gone, but the Moore Museum now has a large artifact from it that dates back to the day the station was commissioned. The massive wooden plaque that now hangs on the wall of one of the museum's main hallways captures the expectations and the promise the station went on to fulfill from 1969 to September, 2013.

Right: The huge wooden plaque that once hung in the main lobby at Lambton G.S. takes the reader back to the dedication of the new coal-fired four-unit station.

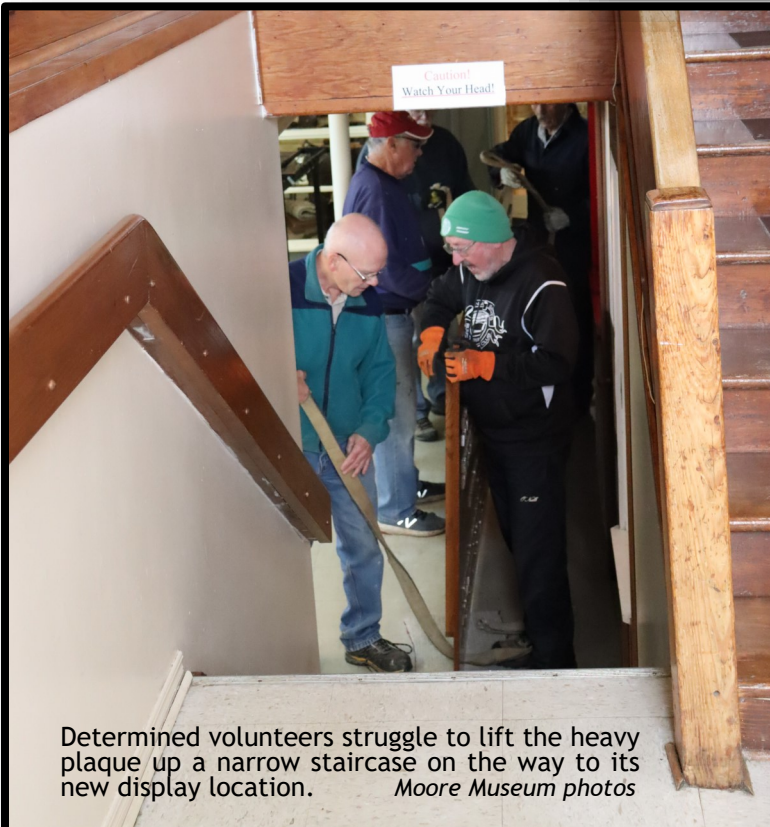
Below: These two photographs, taken by museum staff, document the considerable effort that was needed to wrestle the heavy plaque to its display location while navigating the narrow staircases and hallways of the main museum building.

The plaque boasts about the station's 500,000 kilowatt turbo generators, the first of their size to be installed in a Canadian power station, and the station's ability to supply two million kilowatts of electricity to the communities, farms and industries. Several other items from Lambton G.S. were also donated to the museum.

### Artifact from Lambton G.S. now part of Moore Museum collection



After much maneuvering, the new wall plaque is ready for visitors.



Determined volunteers struggle to lift the heavy plaque up a narrow staircase on the way to its new display location. *Moore Museum photos*



Almost there!

### Riverside Cemetery Board Annual Meeting

The Riverside Cemetery Board Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 10 a.m. at Nautical Hills (formerly Pick & Pay Variety). Lot holders and interested parties are encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Dennis Robinson at 519-892-3316.



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### What a difference a year makes: Lambton G.S. then and now

Lambton G. S., 2017



February 10, 2022 - Hazardous materials removed, blast shields set up, and explosive charges placed.



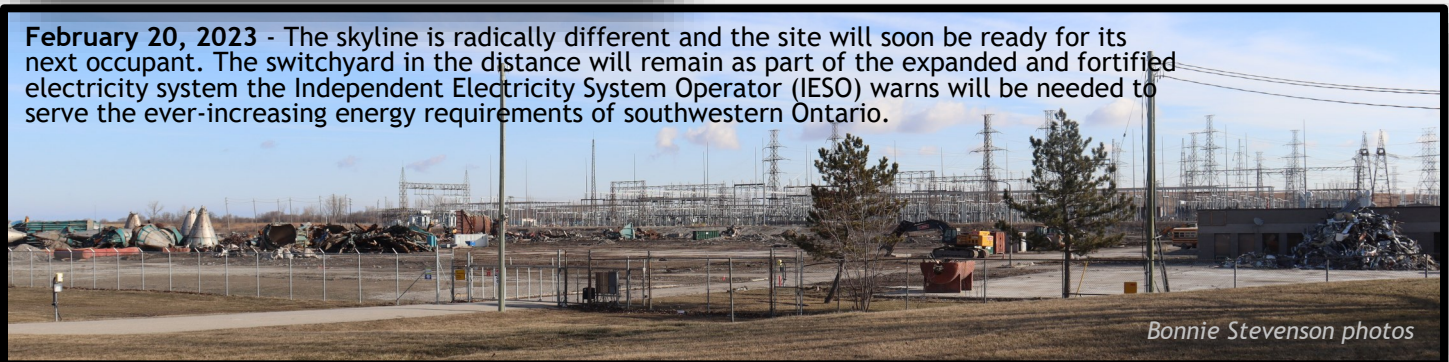
Morning - February 12, 2022 - demolition takes less than one minute.



Blast image courtesy of  
 **DELSAN** 

The demise of the Lambton Thermal Generating Station near Courtright left behind a legacy of dependable power and generous contributions to community causes and charities. The Moore Museum has a new exhibit that commemorates the commissioning of the station in 1969. This summer, stop by and see it and many other fascinating artifacts of St. Clair Township's heritage from the first pioneers forward.

February 20, 2023 - The skyline is radically different and the site will soon be ready for its next occupant. The switchyard in the distance will remain as part of the expanded and fortified electricity system the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) warns will be needed to serve the ever-increasing energy requirements of southwestern Ontario.



Bonnie Stevenson photos

## HELP! HANDY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT MOORE MUSEUM

We have lost a lot of our volunteers over the pandemic and are hopeful that more people will decide to join us in our work. The activities and projects our volunteers work on vary widely; from wood working, vehicle maintenance, building maintenance, display preservation work, and helping with museum events, we work to preserve and share the history of St. Clair Township.

The only qualification our volunteers require is the will to help us make Moore Museum a place where local history lives and thrives.

For more information, email the Moore Museum at:

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





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### Country singer Joan Spalding holds book signing at Moore Museum

Joan Spalding, a Mooretown girl, has been a familiar name in Lambton County for decades, but she has also made a name for herself outside of the county in country music meccas like Nashville, Tennessee.

Although she isn't nearly ready to hang up her guitar and relax, Joan and co-writer Lisa A. Lachapelle have produced a biography called *Life's Highway* that serves as a literary road map that guides the reader from Joan's birth to the present day.

The book is illustrated with personal photographs of family and friends, and of the people who influenced her love of music and helped to shape her career.

Joan remembers a happy childhood, when she was heavily influenced by the music she heard and the admiration she had for her musical family.

She talks about the firsts in her life, like the first moment she knew, at the ripe old age of three, what she wanted to do in life. It was after listening to her talented self-taught family and their friends hold impromptu jam sessions in her grandmother's living room after church. "As a kid I listened to music at my Nana's," said Joan. "I was three years old looking through the (spindles) of the stair railing."

The firsts continued with the first song she wrote; her first recordings and first meetings with her country idols and the people who would help her during her career.



Joan's passion for music has followed her throughout her life. As the reader follows the map of Joan's professional career and personal life, the series of firsts include ups and downs; marriage, three children, and a divorce are all part of the journey. But there is glory as well.

There are three consecutive wins in a row at the annual Canadian Open Singing Contest, an achievement that resulted in Joan being inducted as a member of the Canadian Country Hall of Fame in Alberta, where a plaque hangs in her honour.

*Life's Highway* also reveals another one of Joan's creative pursuits as a visual artist, producing remarkable artwork on a wide range of subjects.

The biography of Joan Spalding can be purchased by contacting Joan at 519-384-3032 or by email: [spaldingjoan8@gmail.com](mailto:spaldingjoan8@gmail.com).

Another book signing will be held at the Skyway Restaurant near Reece's Corners on London Line on Mother's Day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A live concert by Joan will be held at the Trinity Chapel at the Moore Museum in Mooretown, Moore Line at Emily Street. The date and time have not been set, but it will be sometime in early summer.



Above: Joan and her daughter, Crystal, on mandolin, do a live performance on Facebook during her recent book signing in the Moore Museum's Trinity Chapel.