



The St. Clair Township

BEACON



Issue 3

Volume 16

March 2023

Sunday
March 12



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Corunna



200 YEARS

Almost Canada's Capital

1823-2023

*Get ready for a St. Clair Township
summer that sizzles!*



MUNICIPAL NOTES

By-Law enforcement requires complaint

The Oxford dictionary definition of a by-law is "a rule made by a company or society to control the actions of its members". Without them, there would be no way to avoid social chaos, but once they are enacted, how are they enforced?

At the Feb. 6 meeting of council, the point was made that St. Clair Township is a large municipality and township staff cannot possibly witness every by-law infraction that takes place. It is up to the public to contact the township clerk with a complaint so it can be determined if a by-law is being broken and, if so, to send an enforcement officer to investigate. Once the problem is identified, appropriate action can be taken.

Street closure approved for special festival

The Corunna 200 anniversary (Almost Canada's Capital) committee chair, Tracy Kingston, attended council to present the first official report from the committee. She outlined activities that have been determined and preparation details the committee has already set in motion.

The event proposed to top off a summer of anniversary activities is a day-long street festival set for Saturday, Sept. 23 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Lyndoch Street between Fane and Cameron Streets. The temporary closure would allow for the presence of food, craft and artisan vendors, children's activities, open air dining, a tent in case of inclement weather, and other attractions still to be organized. The temporary closure was approved by council. See *Almost Canada's Capital*, page 12.

FoodCycler™ study report to council

Last May, a municipal pilot program for the FoodCycler™, a countertop food recycling appliance, was introduced in St. Clair Township. The program was a 12-week in-home food waste diversion study in which the township purchased 150 units and 300 replacement filters, and offered the units at a reduced cost to township residents. At the end of 12 weeks, residents were asked to report their usage and answer a number of survey questions.

At the Feb. 6 meeting of council, the results of the survey were explained by company representative Jacob Hanlon. He noted program participation included 70 municipalities across Canada. St. Clair Township had 210 households participating.

The process used by the recycling unit transformed a small bucket of food waste into 100 grams of dry, sterile,

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Council Meeting Schedule

All regular council meetings are open to the public, but will continue to be available online by going onto the township website at: www.stclairtownship.ca.

Upcoming council meetings will be:

*Regular Meeting, Monday, March 6 at 3 p.m.;

*Operating Budget - Thursday, March 9, 5:00 p.m. (in-person only);

*Regular meeting, Monday, March 20 at 6 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). This schedule is subject to change when necessary.

NOTE: This information is accurate at publication time and may be subject to change.

Winter curbside parking by-law aids snow removal efforts

All 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.

Stronger parking by-law being written

The Feb. 21 meeting of council resulted in a move to strengthen the current parking by-law. Complaints about vehicles being parked on streets and roads for prolonged periods of time against the law have made it clear that further action needs to be taken. Discussions are now underway that would give the by-law "more teeth". Penalties for illegally parked vehicles of any kind will be reconsidered and under certain circumstances, towing of the vehicle may be considered in addition to tickets being issued.



Student and seasonal positions available

The Township of St. Clair is seeking motivated and enthusiastic individuals to fill student and seasonal positions within various departments. The full postings can be viewed under the "Jobs" tab on our website: www.stclairtownship.ca



The St. Clair Township Beacon is issued monthly by St. Clair Township as a public service to township residents. Production by Bonnie Stevenson.



MORE MUNICIPAL NOTES

odorless powdery fertilizer safe for use in a garden or composter. However, Hanlon said 73 per cent of the survey respondents indicated their powdery substance was put in the garbage; 17.55% composted it from spring to fall, and 23.40% composted it all year long. Unique uses for the fertilizer included worm farms. The positive outcome of the survey also indicated use of the appliance resulted in 88 per cent less good waste to landfills.

Overall, 94% of respondents said they would recommend the unit to others if the collection bucket was twice the size. Other suggestions included a spare bucket to double capacity. Electricity use to run the units was deemed negligible or acceptable.

FoodCycler™ received an overall experience rating of 4.59 out of 5 stars. When asked if respondents would continue to use the FoodCycler™ when the pilot program was finished, 97.85% said yes.

When asked if respondents would consider buying a unit if a municipal program was not available the results were mixed. About 7% said they would pay the full retail price of \$500.

There were varying responses regarding a provincial/federal/municipal rebate that would reduce the cost to \$350, \$250, or \$150 or less. And 5.38% would

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Notice of 2023 Budget Meeting

St. Clair Township's 2023 draft budget presentation and deliberation meeting will be held on Thursday March 9, 2023, in the Council Chambers starting at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will not be live streamed, but the public and all ratepayers are welcome to attend in person.

George Lozon,
Treasurer



St. Clair Township 2023 Interim Property Tax Due Date

Thursday, April 27

Payment options available as follows:

Monthly pre-authorization

- ✓ Pay online or by telephone at your bank
- ✓ In person at your bank branch
- ✓ Drop a cheque into the secure drop box
at Civic Centre front door
- ✓ Mail a cheque
- ✓ Debit, cash, or cheque at Civic Centre
- ✓ Credit card, debit available for a fee
on www.paysimply.ca
- ✓ If you do not receive your tax bill(s)
in the mail by February 6 please email:
taxes@stclairtownship.ca

Graffiti is no joke!

Public buildings are no place for graffiti of any kind, especially if it offends, belittles, or threatens. If you see it on or inside township properties, please report it to a venue employee or to the township office at 519-867-2021.

Graffiti is not a joke, it's vandalism!



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

More information:

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

MORE MUNICIPAL NOTES

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not buy a unit because they believed government bore the responsibility for finding solutions to the waste problem.

Another heavy transportation for Hill Street?

A request to transport another large load destined for the Corunna Shell manufacturing facility has come before council. Should the request be approved, the load will be transported down Hill Street at the end of summer this year. Mammoet Canada Eastern Ltd. assures that the new DR-201 unit is “considerably smaller” than the Regen unit the company brought down Hill Street in July 2021. The request noted the proposed move would not block east-bound traffic and, since the new unit’s height is shorter than the Regen, there will be no utility impacts along the requested route. The route will radically reduce the cost of transportation and the heavy load will only have to cross one bridge. Mammoet representatives will attend a future council meeting to discuss the request.

Insurance review notes climate-related cost increases the “new normal”

While reviewing the township’s insurance policy, Intact Public Entities regional manager Tony Comisso emphasized the role climate change has played in rising insurance rates and the world-wide impact it is having on the cost of insurance across the board. His presentation included the statistic that “Eight of the top 10 loss years on record occurred in the last decade.” To put this information into perspective, a statement issued on August 23, 2022 by Canadian Underwriters cited this statistic - “In Canada, yearly insured catastrophic losses has reached \$2 billion, a significant increase from the \$422 million per year between 1983 and 2008.”

Lambton County Council supports battery energy storage project in township

The controversial Enbridge proposal to build three battery energy storage facilities in St. Clair Township received support from Lambton County Council at its Feb. 2 meeting. The support took the form of a letter to the IESO.

The project proposals will be reviewed by the IESO (Independent Electricity System Operator) and proposals that are chosen will be approved to increase capacity (the amount of power available when power shortages occur) in southwestern Ontario. This is a temporary solution to avoid substantial power shortages that have been projected for the near future in this area.

Battery energy storage facilities will be used to capture and store surplus energy when it occurs and release it to the grid during shortages to limit or avoid outages. These facilities are part of the strategy IESO has developed to keep Ontario homes and businesses running until more environmentally-friendly power generation facilities can be built and brought online.

Updated Strategic Plan needed for St. Clair Township

Strategic plans are vital to help plan the effective use of taxpayers dollars. Council is aware that the St. Clair Township plan is 15 years old and in need of updating. However, the cost of creating a new strategic plan is considerable and with this in mind, staff has been asked to inquire about possible provincial or federal grant programs that may be accessed for this purpose. The task of developing a new strategic plan will be tendered out to begin the process and if no grant programs are available, the cost will be referred to the budget either this year or in 2023.

Revamp of some township libraries discussed

Lambton County Library representatives Andrew Meyer and Darlene Coke presented the findings of the Joint Li-



SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The County of Lambton is recruiting representatives to serve on the **Seniors' Advisory Committee**. One representative will be selected per municipality.

Please ask for an application form at your local municipal office.

brary Facilities Review (JLFR) which began in the summer of 2022. It's goal was to look ahead to determine the number and types of libraries that will be required to effectively serve Lambton County into 2031. Staff in the 25 libraries across Lambton County were consulted for their input and their comments will be used to consider factors such as space required for each, policy reviews, design guidance, and facility development strategy.

Some county-wide statistics taken into consideration indicate there were 17,000 card holders in 2021, half of Lambton County residents visited a county library in 2018/2019, and there is currently 87,817 square feet of library space in total. Findings revealed the libraries are not just distributors of books and other materials; they have become community hubs where people engage new technologies to help bridge the “digital divide”, access the Internet, engage in programs that are offered, and connect with friends.

Mr. Meyer noted the population of Lambton County is expected to grow from the present 120,000 to 135,000 in 2031. The JLFR has come up with the following possible strategies to prepare St. Clair Township for the future. The Corunna library is seen as well-used but in need of better accessibility and more parking. To increase the services offered by the Sombra and the undersized Port Lambton library, a consolidation of the two could be made at the Sombra location, with Port Lambton receiving an “express library service point.” Mooretown and Courtright libraries are both classified as undersized and outdated. The JLFR suggests their consolidation in a larger space would allow them to offer expanded services and programs plus better hours of operation. The well-used Brigden library, which is housed at Brigden Public School, is considered a good example of how libraries can be incorporated successfully into rural school. For the Wilkesport library, its small size makes it “unable to offer a modern experience.” It is seen as a good fit to become an “express library service point.”

In conclusion, Mr. Meyer said, “The key to all this planning is starting a conversation but ultimately, it involves consultation at every level to make sure that we’re making an informed decision that meets the needs of the residents.”

Tariffs on Russia creating hardship for farmers and higher food prices: Grain Farmers of Eastern Canada issues open letter to government

Bonnie Stevenson

Increases in the cost of food have left many families scrambling to make ends meet and some have been forced to visit their neighbourhood food bank for the first time. Ironically, the families who produce the food we eat have been doubly affected because of the Russian invasion and devastation of Ukraine.

In St. Clair Township, our farm families are among those who work hard to produce healthy, plentiful food for our tables; they are also among the families struggling the hardest to cope with this difficult situation.

At the 2023 meeting of District 3 Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO), one of the subjects being discussed was the tariffs the Federal government has levied on ***nitrogen** fertilizer produced in Russia. Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland explained the tariffs are being sent to Ukraine to help repair Kyiv's power grid, which was bombed by Russian forces. It is a noble effort for a noble cause, but it exacts a terrible cost on a very important sector of our society.

In an open letter to the Federal government, forwarded to The Beacon by the GFO, the Eastern Canadian Grain Growers (ECGG) noted that "...even allowing for strong grain prices" the tariffs are hurting Canadian farmers.

As the Ukraine/Russia conflict goes on, Canadian farmers are trapped in a *Catch 22* situation. Ukraine has been a major contributor to the world's grain supply and the war has impacted that supply profoundly. Canadian farmers are being called upon to help fill the void. At the 2023 District 3 Grain Farmers of Ontario general meeting in Wyoming, concerns were raised that to increase grain yield, more fertilizer would be needed and therefore, more tariffs would have to be paid.

According to the CBC news report of Feb. 14, 2023, "While Canada has its own fertilizer resources, the government proceeded without ensuring there was enough domestic processing, shipping and storage capacity to meet demand for last summer's (2022) growing season. Some farmers still feel insecure about supplies for their next and future crops."

The tariffs and their effects on farmers threaten more than just the food supply. Grains such as corn, wheat and rye are also used to make medicinal preparations, beverages, pa-

per goods, cardboard packaging, and much more.

A University of Iowa study found the typical grocery store stocks 4,000 items that list corn ingredients on the label. In addition, farmed resources like corn, potatoes, sugar cane, and sugar beets can also be used to make sustainable and renewable bioplastics that will degrade and nourish the land instead of polluting it.

The ECGG letter stated that in Dec. 2022, the Deputy Prime Minister and Agri-Food Minister assured farmers they were looking for a way to return the \$34 million in tariff money that was paid by farmers. However, no further announcement has been made by government officials regarding their search for a solution, the 2023 planting season is approaching, and farmers have to decide how to produce larger yields without risking financial penalties.

Farming population is aging

Another concern raised at the GFO District 3 meeting was the unsurprising news that the farming population is aging. Agricultural communities are seeing increasingly more children raised on farms pursuing other careers, and arable farmland being consumed by urban developers. At the GFO general meeting it was revealed that the struggle and stress of earning a living through farming is negatively affecting the mental health of many farmers. The tariffs are just another cause for worry in many rural households and, in some, a cause for tragedy.

The price of food is being felt by all but the most affluent sectors of our communities. Hardest hit are young families and older adults whose savings and pensions are being stretched to the limit.

It is hoped that the efforts being made by the ECGG and GFO to ease the crushing tariff burden on farmers and, by extension, on the community as well, will help resolve this issue.

"Nitrogen is necessary for the development of chlorophyll, a major component required for a plant to synthesize energy from sunlight. It is especially important to the growth of corn, wheat and barley, but it is found in most fertilizers including the garden favourite, Miracle Grow."

Judith & Norman Alix Foundation Now Accepting Funding Applications

The Judith & Norman Alix Foundation (The Foundation) is once again receiving funding applications for local capital projects. The deadline to submit funding applications is 4 p.m., Monday, May 1, 2023, with successful projects announced later that month.

To be eligible for funding, projects must be located in Lambton County. Additional eligibility criteria can be found on The Foundation's website, <http://www.jnaf.ca>, under *Contribute an Idea*.

Over its 30 year history, the Judith & Norman Alix Foundation has advanced more than \$5 million to numerous community projects including: Withdrawal Management Services at Bluewater

Health; the installation of artificial turf at Norm Perry Park in Sarnia; the construction of the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery; portable bleachers for the Lambton County fairs; an accessible ramp for the post office in Oil Springs; a food trailer for the Lions Club; cabin renovations for Scouts Canada's Camp Attawandaron; a Simulated Intensive Care Unit for Lambton College; and renovations to the Brigden Fair Grounds; and The Kineto Theatre. The Foundation works with municipal and community leaders to identify capital projects for which the organization can make a significant difference.

Number of fire-related fatalities UP across Ontario



People often think a fire can't happen to them. Last year, Ontario had 133 fire-related deaths, many of them unnecessary. In fact, this number was the highest in two decades. In the event of a fire, if you cannot get out within the first few minutes, chances are you will not be able to escape. A smoke alarm, when properly installed, tested, and maintained gives you an early warning of a fire condition, which increases your chances of getting out. Avoid becoming a statistic by following these fire safety tips:

Prevention - Check your home for fire hazards and eliminate them. Most home fires are caused by careless cooking, smoking, and candle use.

Detection - Working smoke alarms are so important, it's the law to have them on every storey of your home and outside sleeping areas. Have enough smoke alarms to provide your family with the early warning needed to escape from a fire.

Escape - If a fire occurred in your home tonight, would you or your family get out safely? Everyone must know what to do and where to go when the smoke alarm sounds. Take a few minutes with everyone in your household to make a home fire escape plan.

-Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Prevention, Andrew McMillan



Public Works Department

Public Works/Roads...519-867-2993
Engineering.....519-867-2125
Website..... www.stclairtownship.ca

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

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 is now in effect and will continue until April 1, 2023. Under this by-law (By-Law #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

More Works page 7



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>

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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.

***New**

No changes needed for new recycling provider

Starting July 1, 2023, your blue box recycling program will be managed by Circular Materials, a not-for-profit producer responsibility recycling organization committed to building efficient and effective recycling systems to minimize waste and ensure materials are reused again and again. This transition will result in no change to the materials you can recycle or your current recycling schedule.



More information will be provided in the coming months.

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

More Works page 8

A safe chimney is a CLEAN 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.**

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Public Works Department

New Water Treatment, Transmission and Metering fixed fee

St. Clair Township has introduced a new Water Treatment, Transmission and Metering fee that now appears on your water/sanitary bill. The new water fee is being introduced to help the municipality pay for costs related to water treatment, metering and distribution facilities that, with the growing water demands and aging infrastructure, will enable the ongoing delivery of safe drinking water to every customer in St. Clair Township and ensure that it is properly metered.

Residents will notice a new line item on their bill containing the Treatment, Transmission and Metering Fee information. An average residential customer with a 3/4-inch water meter will see "Water Fixed Fee Res Qtly < 1 inch". The fee is based on your meter size and rate class. For example, residential customers with a 3/4-inch diameter meter will receive a monthly Water Treatment, Transmission and Metering Fee of \$4 (\$12 billed quarterly) in 2023. The new water fixed fee will be adjusted over the next two years until new infrastructure costs are being financially balanced with the added revenue.

MAKING A MOVE? Update your bank information

You will have a NEW ACCOUNT NUMBER FOR YOUR WATER BILL

Did you know that when you move properties within St. Clair Township you get a **NEW ACCOUNT NUMBER** for your water bill?

It is important that when you move properties you update your banking with your NEW account number so that your payments go to the correct account and don't land you in **HOT WATER!**



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

Would you be prepared to handle a minimum of 72 hours WITHOUT HELP?

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.

Go online to: www.getprepared.gc.ca for more information.



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 and insurance coverage, and AD & D insurance; Employee Assistance Program; and available Rec Club membership.

REVIEW THE RECRUITMENT GUIDE AND POSTING ON:

www.stclairtownship.ca

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

For More Information

In the event of an emergency or power interruption we encourage you to take a moment to visit www.HydroOne.com, or [Hydro One on Twitter](#)



Lambton Public Health reminds parents to keep childhood vaccinations up to date

Lambton Public Health (LPH) reminds parents and guardians to ensure routine childhood immunizations are up to date.

The *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)* requires parents and guardians to report routine childhood vaccines to LPH. Currently, student suspension orders for noncompliance with ISPA have been paused for the 2022-2023 school year so missing vaccinations can be caught up and reported to LPH. These include vaccinations for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chickenpox), and meningococcal disease.

High school students should have received a vaccine reminder letter in February and elementary school students will receive a vaccine reminder letter later this spring.

Immunization records can be checked and report-

ed by visiting *Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON)*. Parents of any children with outstanding routine vaccines are encouraged to book an appointment with their child's health care provider or at LPH clinics.



Upcoming LPH vaccine clinic dates can be viewed at GetTheVaccine.ca. Appointments for vaccination are available with LPH by booking online or by calling our Vaccine Call Centre at 226-254-8222.

Reporting immunization records can also be done by emailing a copy or photo to immunization@county-lambton.on.ca, or by mailing or dropping off a copy to LPH at 160 Exmouth Street, Point Edward ON N7T 7Z6.

For additional information, please visit the *Immunizations for Children and Youth* page on the LPH website.

SLEP helping businesses, present and future

Local businesses eligible for grants to increase digital presence



Applications for the \$2,500 Digital Transformation Grant 4.0 are now open. This grant will help local small

businesses adopt new technologies and increase their digital presence.

Local brick-and-mortar businesses can leverage this grant to increase their digital marketing, website development or improvements, new software, digital training, and hardware.

Some requirements for eligibility include being a brick-and-mortar establishment in Ontario, employing 1-50 employees and a registered business in Ontario. Additional requirements and application process can be found at sarnialambton.on.ca/dms.

These \$2,500 grants are administered by the Ontario BIA Association through the Digital Main Street program, which is run locally. Digital service advisors, Tahreem Fatima and Kaila Bourne, are leading this program locally.

Business owners who seek additional information or assistance are encouraged to reach out.

"These Digital Transformation Grants are a great program for our Sarnia-Lambton businesses to increase their digital presence and stay current," said Dan Taylor, Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership

CEO. "It's exciting to see these businesses given the opportunity to make improvements to set them up for success in the future."

Businesses looking to participate in this program are encouraged to visit sarnialambton.on.ca/dms or call Tahreem and Kaila at Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership at 519-332-1820.

ABOUT Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership

The Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP) is the lead economic development agency for the Sarnia-Lambton area. Funded by the County of Lambton, we have a focus on promoting the distinct advantages that Sarnia-Lambton proudly offers companies and residents.

ABOUT Digital Main Street

Digital Main Street is a program that helps businesses achieve digital transformation. The program is built around an online learning platform, structured training programs, and our Digital Service Squad, a team of street-level team members who help businesses grow and manage their operations through technology. Digital Main Street was created by the Toronto Association on Business Improvement Areas (TABIA) with direct support from the City of Toronto. DMS is also supported by a group of strategic business partners including: Google, Mastercard, Shopify, Microsoft, Facebook, Intuit QuickBooks, and Square. For further information, go online to:

www.digitalmainstreet.ca/ontario

SLEP offers up to \$3,000 for summer student business start-ups



The Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP) is excited to relaunch Summer Company, an innovative program that empowers students aged 15-29 to turn their business dreams into reality. During the many years this program has been offered, many students have bolstered their resumes by demonstrating their entrepreneurial and business acumen.

This program provides eligible students with up to \$3,000 in funding, regular mentoring sessions with local business owners and experienced business counsellors, allowing them to gain valuable experience and develop the skills they need to succeed as entrepreneurs.

"We are thrilled to continue Summer Company, a pro-

gram that has helped many young entrepreneurs in Lambton County to turn their passion into profit and gain valuable experience," said Chantelle Core, Manager of the Business Enterprise Centre.

To be eligible, students must live in Lambton County and be returning to school at the end of the summer. Applications for Summer Company are now being accepted.

For more information, a ZOOM information session is set for Tuesday, March 14 at 2:30 p.m. Interested students can go to the SLEP website: www.sarnialambton.on.ca/summer-company - at the bottom of the page they will find a place to register for the ZOOM session. Applications can also be made at this website. **STUDENTS - don't miss this chance to get a head start on success!**

SLEP wins award for program that matches apprentices with employers



in response to local employer hiring challenges.

"Our Apprentice Job Match Tool is a game-changer for local employers and apprentices, we're proud to be leading the way in workforce development and resident attraction in Ontario," said CEO Dan Taylor "It is great for our team to be recognized for the hard work they do for our area."

Local employers with apprenticeship opportunities are encouraged to register for the free easy-to-use tool to develop their workforce and be matched directly to workers. For more information and to register your business with the tool visit: www.sarnialambtonapprentice.ca

The Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership was recently honoured at the Economic Developers of Ontario (EDCO) Awards with the Best Workforce Development and Resident Attraction initiative in the province for its Lambton Apprentice Job Match Tool.

The Sarnia-Lambton Apprentice Job Match Tool was created by the economic partnership as a tool to connect local employers with apprentices locally and provincially

SLEP Digital Main Street program revitalized to help small business



Local businesses looking to grow in Sarnia-Lambton have some great news; the Digital Main Street program is

back!

The Digital Main Street (DMS) program provides businesses in Sarnia-Lambton an opportunity to grow their business by implementing free digital tools and technologies to help make them the most tech-savvy and competitive businesses in the province.

Local business owners who have already received help from the program are excited about the way it will help grow their business. Cat Cabajar said, "With the help of the Digital Service Squad, I was able to receive help through all of Digital Main Street's available programs. The Digital Transformation Grant I was awarded will provide funds that will go towards improving my online presence."

Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP) is excited to be revitalizing the Digital Main Street program. To keep up with the demand for the services and training offered through the program, two new Service Squad members have been added to help boost Sarnia-Lambton's local businesses.

CEO Dan Taylor noted, "This is a fantastic program to help businesses grow their business through the enhanced use of digital tools. Through this offering, our goal is to make our businesses more efficient, effective, and focused on what they do best. We are thrilled to add additional team members to get out in the community and provide business owners with this free support."

New Digital Main Street Service Squad members Tahreem Fatima and Kaila Borne will be visiting local businesses to bring awareness to the program, offering free one-on-one training and an assessment of your business's digital needs.

Services and training offered are: 360 Photos for Google Business Profiles; Google Analytics; Social media; E-Commerce; ShopHERE; and Grants.

For more information about this program and how to access it, visit the DMS website at: www.sarnialambton.on.ca/dms or call 519-332-1820.

The Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP) is the lead economic development agency for the Sarnia-Lambton area. Funded by the County of Lambton, the focus of SLEP is to promote the distinct advantages offered to companies and residents by Sarnia-Lambton. For more information about the Digital Main Street program, go online to: www.digitalmainstreet.ca/ontario

Fine weather brings families to Brander Park on Family Day



Sunshine and blue sky greeted Family Day in St. Clair Township, and families took the time to slow down and enjoy the day with their kids. **Above right:** Walking along the Brander Park shoreline path, Archie Gray, 3, and his dad, Jordan, enjoyed Family Day during a mini road trip from their home in Dresden. The park is familiar territory for Jordan, a former St. Clair Township Works Department employee. While the father and son duo were taking a little bonding time, mom was resting at home with the baby. **Above left:** Two-year-old Violet and her parents, Julie and Chris Circelli of London, started their Family Day with some fun on the Brander Park playground equipment. The Circellis were in Port Lambton spending the weekend at the home of Julie's parents, Sue and Wayne Kiser.

Bonnie Stevenson photos

Almost Canada's Capital 200th anniversary plans in the works

The hard-working *Almost Canada's Capital* 200th anniversary committee has come up with a number of activities and events the whole community can enjoy. (For those who are still not aware of Corunna's near-miss run at becoming the capital of Canada, the momentous miss took place in 1823 when Lord William Beresford and his survey party arrived in the area to lay out a suitable site for the capital of Canada. The sting of rejection was soothed by the knowledge that Toronto and Kingston didn't make the cut either.)

To bring St. Clair Township Council up-to-speed, Committee Chair Tracy Kingston attended council's Feb. 6 meeting with some of the brilliant details the team has already developed in the short time the volunteers have been meeting.

The celebration's fantastic event logo, which can be seen on this month's front page, will be an ever-present sight on Lyndoch Street this year as streetlight-mounted event banners wave in the breeze. The banners will be purchased from a local business and installed as soon as weather permits.

Heritage St. Clair is producing a story board that will educate the public and visitors to the area. Committee member Randi Rogers has discussed the celebration with First Nations Aamjiwnaang Chief Plain to assure him the celebration is to commemorate the year the survey for the capital of Canada was done. (Corunna was not established until 1827, when Treaty 29 was signed. The story board will reflect this period leading up to Corunna's inception - See sidebar.) Aamjiwnaang First Nations will have a cultural presence in the celebration and it will be announced when details are finalized.

In addition, a small commemorative parkette/garden is to be developed on the north side of Hill Street where a small stone cairn currently stands. The cairn marks the site the surveyors chose to become St. George's Square where the government buildings of the United Provinces of Upper Canada (Ontario) and Lower Canada (Quebec) would have been built. A concrete pad will be poured and the story board will be placed there, with basic vegetation and, possibly, a bench.

The date for the dedication of the story board is tentatively set for May 23, 2023 if the storyboard has been installed by that time. A massed choir of 200 children is being assembled for the occasion.

Promotional items for sale and giveaways are being researched and priced, and a website and social media platforms are being developed. The domain name will be www.Corunna2023.com.

Vendor and activity ideas to be used throughout the

summer are still being discussed, but a BIG CELEBRATION EVENT is being planned for Saturday, Sept. 23. During Tracy Kingston's report to council, the closure of Lyndoch Street between Fane and Cameron Streets was approved for a street party to be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. It will be a family-friendly day of kids' activities, food, vendors, and other activities that will create a memorable fun-filled day for all.

Throughout the summer, local businesses, organizations, etc. are invited to get in on the celebration with special sales, promotions, and activities. This celebration is something the whole community can get involved in, share and enjoy all summer long.

SIDEBAR - Treaty 29

A Google search yielded this description of Treaty 29: Treaty 29 (the Huron Tract Purchase) was signed on July 10, 1827, by representatives of the Crown and the Anishinaabe people, lead at that time by Chief Joshua Wawanosh. The territory described in the written treaty covered about 2,200,000 acres.

According to aamjiwnaang.ca, with Treaty 29, Aamjiwnaang ceded the remainder of their lands in Ontario to the British Colonial Government. The treaty created four reserves: one at Sarnia, two on Lake Huron, one at Kettle Point, and one at the mouth of the Au Sauble River.

The name Aamjiwnaang disappeared from the written record and fell out of general use until recently, when it was revived and adopted as the name of the reserve located at Sarnia. After a series of treaties, Aamjiwnaang lands were reduced from over 10,000 acres to about 3,100 acres today.

On the Aamjiwnaang website, Chief Plain voiced optimism as he reflected on the positive changes that open communication and mutual understanding have yielded. "Today, Aamjiwnaang remains a vibrant, prosperous community interacting on excellent terms with the communities that surround us."



Lambton County Library branches offer much more than books

For more information on locations, services and hours of operation visit 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.

***Wilkesport** (519-864-4000): Tuesday, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Thursday, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.



The latest paper edition of *The Beacon* is available at your local St. Clair Township library!



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.

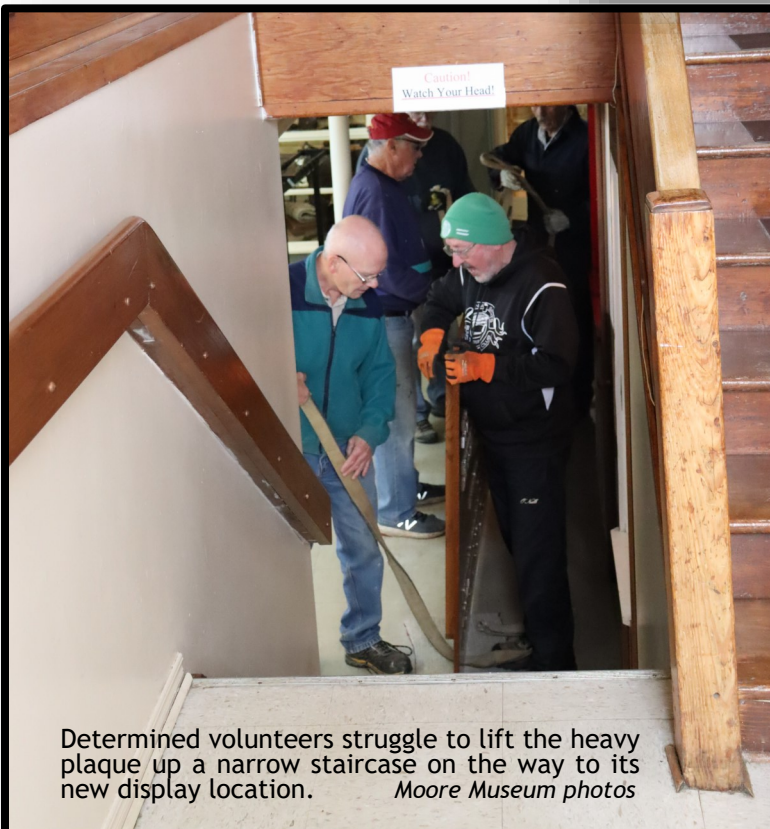
Below: These two photographs, taken by museum staff, document the considerable effort that was needed to wrestle the heavy plaque to its display location while navigating the narrow staircases and hallways of the main museum building.

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.

HERITAGE CORNER

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.



DELSAN

**ONTARIO POWER
GENERATION**

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



HERITAGE CORNER

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.

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.

Old motel becomes new Frog Point Inn



By Bonnie Stevenson

The Frog Point Inn is not a new building; the one-storey, six-room building has been around since the end of WWII but it's easy to miss on a drive along the St. Clair Parkway. It is partially concealed by a large residence that was initially built as a farmhouse in 1903.

The inn is a long building initially erected to accommodate farm hands, and later, when industrial development brought an influx of labourers to the area, it was converted into a lodge to house the workers. And in the 1980s, the building was named the Frog Point Motel in recognition of the historic marine navigation light that once stood on the nearby riverbank to guide ships along the St. Clair River.

The property's current owners, Shane and Marinka Molson, have a deep connection to the Frog Point property. Marinka's father and mother were its former owners.

Marinka says that after she and her husband became "empty nesters", they decided to refurbish the motel and turn it into an inn where out-of-town workers and visitors to the Lambton County area could relax.

During the renovation, the concrete block exterior of the inn received a facelift to give it a crisp, modern minimalist white and black finish. The keyless-entry doors use codes that are changed automatically after a room is vacated using randomly selected numbers generated by an

electronic system.

Inside, the rooms are compact and tasteful, decorated with furniture handmade in Ingersoll by This Oak House to give the rooms a homey touch. The rest of the furnishings, fixtures and work has been sourced locally. Marinka says linens and towels are from True North Hospitality in Sarnia. In the ingeniously styled bathrooms, all soaps, shampoos and other cleansing items, even laundry detergent, are in refillable easy-to-clean dispensers, serviced by Great Lakes Refills Company of Sarnia. The tiled bathroom floors are heated and room temperature is controlled by the occupant. And a refreshment station is well equipped with a microwave, tiny fridge, and associated items.

"It's our effort to be ecofriendly and support local business as much as we can," said Marinka.

In warm weather, guests at the Frog Point Inn will have access to a private patio, a barbecue, and a peaceful country vista where the only traffic to be seen might be an occasional farm machine. When the sun goes down, a fire pit will be ready to keep the evening chill away.

During the day, guests can enjoy life on the riverbank seated in the gazebo or splashing in the St. Clair River. Marinka says bicycles will also be available to allow guests to explore the St. Clair River Trail.

The Frog Point Inn can be contacted by visiting FrogPointinn.ca for information about room availability, amenities, and rates.



The newly refurbished Frog Point Inn stands ready to provide a comfortable, welcoming room for business and holiday guests.



Above: Marinka Molson demonstrates the switch panel that operates the heated bathroom floor.



Proof of Prohibition Era activity revealed

The history of Prohibition smuggling in the former Moore and Sombra areas is no secret to anyone who has lived in the area for any length of time. One of the beautiful homes along the St. Clair Parkway bears a cleverly devised and concealed storage cellar that still holds the remnants of an empty, badly damaged crate that once held liquid contraband. The current owner of the house kindly revealed this mysterious remnant of a rough, sometimes violent time along the river to *The Beacon*. The crate was not empty when it was discovered, but the law abiding owner of the house at that time turned in the contraband spirits to the proper authorities. The crate is stamped with the date 1914 and the floor entry is only large enough to admit a person the size of a small child. No other apparent second entry has been found.

COMMUNITY CONTACT

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.

Brigden TOPS weight control group meeting

The Brigden TOPS weight control group can be contacted

for information at 519-864-1865. 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 Counselling 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.

Taoist Tai Chi club lifts mandatory masks

The mandatory wearing of masks during Tai Chi sessions has been discontinued by the Sarnia Taoist Tai Chi Club. They are now optional although the number of club members is still limited and social distancing is observed. Members who are not feeling well are asked to remain at home until symptoms have stopped.

Graffiti is no joke!

Public buildings are no place for graffiti of any kind, especially the kind that offends or belittles or threatens. If you see it, report it to someone who works for the arena or restaurant or wherever it is found. If it is township property, call the township office at 519-867-2021. **Graffiti is not a joke, it's the defacing of public property. Simply put, it's VANDALISM! Please report it.**

Findings from Feed Ontario Hunger Report for 2022 concerning

St. Clair Township is fortunate to have volunteers who give their time and energy to operating our local food banks. For those who have never had to access one of them, it is difficult to believe the need is so great.

Feed Ontario, the Ontario Association of Food Banks issued a report in 2022, the 2022 Hunger Report, that noted almost half a million adults and children accessed an Ontario food bank between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022. This represented a 15 per cent increase over the previous year. First time visitors increased by 64 per cent over pre-pandemic levels. Reasons for visiting a food bank included the cost of food, cost of housing, low wages or insufficient work hours. Two out of three food banks reported they experienced a noticeable decrease in food donations and one in five had not been able to purchase the same volume of food due to the higher food prices.

For more information about Feed Ontario and its work, visit its website at:

<https://feedontario.ca>

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.

Please note when registering for a program to call the correct phone number or contact the email beside the program details you are signing up for.

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.

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 have fun! Classes will run monthly. **CLASSES ARE FULL AT THIS TIME!**

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. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 or email: adinell@nlchc.com.

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.

Meditation: Held 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: This BMI group, a health and wellness support group, will meet on Tuesday, March 28 from noon to 1 p.m. The program, which focuses on nutrition, is led by two registered dietitians and it is offered bi-monthly. This month will focus on introducing some of the common nutritional supplements. To register, call 519-786-4545, ext. 302 or email: bvanbree@nlchc.com.

Virtual Dietitian Visit: The session slated for Tuesday, March 7 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. is geared towards feeding babies under one. To register, email: EarlyON@nlchildcare.ca.

Virtual Sleep Workshop: The workshop on Monday, March 20 at 2:30 p.m. will focus on tools and tips for sleep wellness. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 or email: adinell@nlchc.com to register and/or receive the Zoom link.

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
N0N 1M0**

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;
Website- www.stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca; Phone: 519-867-2651**

Beacon Bit

Mathematics of the 401...

Cars can now go five times faster than they used to, but there are twenty times more of them on the road, so it takes twice as long to get where you're going.

The Comedy of... ROBERT MAXWELL

**COMEDY, MAGIC,
AND MENTALISM**

Find out why Robert Maxwell
is called "The King of Comedy"



Best entertainment
we have ever had.
- Ottawa Bedford Plaza



Robert Maxwell is the
"King" of comedy. - Toronto Star

Robert Maxwell is Hilariously Funny!...
Best Comedy Show EVER!

Corunna Legion

Saturday, March 4th, 2023

Where: Corunna Legion,
350 Albert Street, Corunna, ON, N0N 1G0

\$25.00 per ticket • Purchase tickets at:
Royal Canadian Legion, Leslie Sutherland Br.447,
Corunna, ON

Doors open 7:30pm • Show Starts 8:30 pm
no refunds or reservations

Tickets go on sale Feb.4th 2023
Age of majority show



AS SEEN ON
TV

www.hypnotistrmaxwell.com • 519-862-1240



EVENT DETAILS

Corunna Br. 447 coming events

Hank Stothers Cribbage Tournament on Sunday, March 5 will begin with registration from noon to 12:45 p.m. and play beginning at 1 p.m. Event admission will be \$10 per person and all monies will be returned. Pre-registration will be at the bar.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Mel Wilkinson Memorial Mixed Darts Tourney on Saturday, March 18 will feature Men's, Women's, Mixed, and if time allows, Team Doubles. A trophy will be offered for mixed doubles only. Registration will be from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. with play beginning at 11 a.m. Event admission is \$5 per event and all monies will be returned in prizes. Food will be available.

Beacon Bits

Petroleum companies say they're going to start making fuel out of livestock manure. They're not sure if it will improve mileage, but they are certain it will reduce the incidents of siphoning.

Lambton County Library presents Rhythms of Lambton spring concert



Rhythms of Lambton is returning for a second season celebrating local musical talent.

The performances will take place at the Sarnia Library Theatre from Feb. 28 through June 2, 2023. Registration is required and can be completed through the [Lambton County Library events calendar](#).

The starting line-up includes the Forest Excelsior Band, North Lambton Secondary School (NLSS) Jazz Band and Chamber Choir, Relic, and The Brothers Wilde.

The performance schedule is as follows: ***Forest Excelsior Band**, a 20-piece swing band with full brass, woodwind, and rhythm section, performs Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. ***NLSS Jazz Band and Chamber Choir**, a showcase of talent from students in the NLSS Jazz Band and Chamber Choir, performs Friday, April 21 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. ***Relic**, a cover band that performs the popular songs from the 60s and 70s, takes to the stage on Wednesday, May 31 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. ***The Brothers Wilde**, an up-and-coming country duo from Kettle and Stony Point, performs on Friday, June 2 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Don't miss this chance to sample some
impressive talent from right here
in Lambton County.



2023

Hatchery Open House	March 18 - 19
General Membership Meeting	April 11
Club Spring Derby	April 22
Bluewater Anglers Salmon Derby	April 28 - May 7
Bluewater Anglers Salmon Derby Awards Night	May 17
Kids Training Day <i>Registration Required</i>	May 27
General Membership Meeting	June 13
Shoreline Cleanup	June 17
Family Fun Fishing Derby	July 8
Walleye Derby	July 28 - 29
General Membership Meeting	September 12
<i>Next Year's 1st General Membership Meeting</i>	<i>January 9, 2024</i>

All events are open to the public.

Visit our website for details on all events.



Bluewater Anglers Hatchery

Pt. Edward Waterfront Park

P.O. Box #174 | Sarnia | Ontario | N7T7H9

519-344-9821 www.bluewateranglers.com

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP



Corunna Legion to host events/activities

The Royal Canadian Legion Br. 447 Corunna will host the following activities. **Regular Legion Br. 447 Activities**

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

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

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

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

Every **Friday** - Fun Darts at 7 p.m.

Monday, March 6, 13, 20, 27 - Corn Hole at 6:30 p.m.

Every **Tuesday** - SLDL Pub Darts at 7:30 p.m.

Special events at Br. 447

***Saturday, March 4 at 8:30 p.m.** - **Comedy Hypnotist Robert Maxwell** (See poster page 19)

***Noon, March 5** - Hank Stothers crib tournament (See event details page 19)

***10 a.m., March 18** - Mel Wilkinson Memorial Mixed Darts Tournament (See event details page 19)

***7 p.m., March 30** - Ham Bingo

Please note the building is wheelchair accessible.

MAS Country Jamborees continue

Country Jamborees are back at the Brigden Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall. The next Jamboree will be held on **Sunday, March 12** (Daylight Savings time begins) 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.

World Day of Prayer service planned

The World Day of Prayer service will be held at Knox Moore Presbyterian Church at 1354 Rokeby Line on Friday, March 3 at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and learn about the women in Taiwan who have prepared the service. A time for food and fellowship will follow the service.

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 general membership meeting set

The Moore Agricultural Society will hold its general membership meeting on Monday, March 20 at 7 p.m. in the Brigden Fairgrounds exhibition hall.

Sombra Community Centre Euchre

A euchre party is now held at the Sombra Community Centre every Friday afternoon at 1 p.m. Play will continue until May 19 **with two exceptions, World Day of Prayer on March 3 and Good Friday on April 7.** Ten games will be played each afternoon. New players will be welcome.

MAS Annual beef dinner on the way

The Moore Agricultural Society Annual Beef Dinner will be held on Sunday, April 26. The cost will be \$25 per person. Call the office for tickets at 519-864-1197 Monday through Friday.

Kinsmen Club on/line raffle

The Kinsmen Club of Sarnia is holding its first Father's Day online 50/50 with proceeds to St. Joseph's Hospice and other local charitable and not-for-profit organizations. The winning ticket will be drawn at 4 p.m. on Father's Day, Sunday, June 18. License RAF1288800. To purchase tickets go to: <http://sarniakinsmenribfest5050.ca/>

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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

The DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS is the third Monday of each month for the following month. **April issue deadline will be Monday, March 20 by noon.**

PLEASE NOTE: Early submissions are greatly appreciated

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Call to book your tee time.

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