



# The St. Clair Township BEACON



Issue 4

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## INSIDE

Municipal  
Notes  
Pages  
2-4

WORKS  
DEPARTMENT  
Pages  
6-7

HERITAGE  
CORNER  
PAGE  
13

*Almost  
Canada's  
Capital  
Celebration  
update*  
Page  
14

Community  
Contact  
Page  
17

Around the  
Township  
Pages  
20-19



## *Happy Easter from St. Clair Township Council and Staff*

### *Power and grace combine at STCC swim meet*



Is this the delicate final flourish of a water ballet or the graceful conclusion to a grueling backstroke heat? It was often hard to tell when the St. Clair Current swim team hosted a swim meet at the Moore Sports Complex that included swim teams from Chatham, Aylmer, and Blenheim. Above: 13-year old Whitney Wilson made it look easy during this 100 metre backstroke heat.

The St. Clair Current, registered with Swim Ontario as a competitive team, has been in operation for the past two years at the Moore Sports Complex. Team members ranging in age from the under-7 to over-14 categories faced stiff competition throughout the 34 events. For more swim meet action, see page 11.

Bonnie Stevenson photo



# MUNICIPAL NOTES



## 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](http://www.stclairtownship.ca).  
Upcoming council meetings will be: Monday, April

3 at 3 p.m.; Monday, May 1 at 3 p.m.; Monday, May 15 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.



## 2023 budget process a "perfect storm"

I have referred to this year's budgetary process as "the perfect storm!" We started out with a 14.47% tax rate increase, so I am very proud of both council and staff for the way they went through this process to provide the best use of tax money for our ratepayers. We were able to reduce that increase to 4.67%!



Although that still might seem too high, we believe it's the best we could ever hope for. Before we even started, we were 6.57% in the red. We lost a COVID grant of \$262,000, insurance increased by \$100,000, and waste pickup increased by \$421,700. Considering the unexpected financial challenges we faced during COVID, we can be proud that we still have some of the lowest municipal tax rates in this area. I consider this is the best we could do without cutting any services.

~Mayor Jeff Agar

## Consolidation of some St. Clair Township libraries discussed

The Lambton County Library proposal to consolidate some of the township's library branches is not a popular idea for some of St. Clair Township Council. The proposal, first put forward during a presentation to council

More Municipal Notes, page 3



## 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](http://www.paysimply.ca)

Questions about your tax bill? Contact:

**[taxes@stclairtownship.ca](mailto:taxes@stclairtownship.ca)**



## 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](http://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

### Moore Community & Recreation Foundation Grant Deadline

The Moore Community & Recreational Foundation was established to enable those who wish to really make a difference in their community.

The Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to improving quality of life for the citizens of St. Clair Township. By contributing to projects and activities that enrich and strengthen our municipality, the Foundation, which is independently administered by a Board of Directors, helps our community continue to flourish.

The deadline for applying for the Moore Community & Recreation Foundation grants is May 31st.

Should you require further information please contact George Lozon, Treasurer at 519-867-2024 or 1-800-809-0301.

For forms and further information go to: [stclairtownship.ca](http://stclairtownship.ca), click on RESIDENTS, and then Moore Community & Recreational Foundation.



### 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.**

### Ask a Public Health Nurse program expanding across the County

Lambton Public Health (LPH) is continuing to expand its *Ask a Public Health Nurse* drop-in offerings throughout the county, with the re-opening of LPH's main office as a drop-in site. Parents and caregivers now have a chance to connect with a public health nurse and enhance their child's growth.

The *Ask a Public Health Nurse* drop-in program is available at LPH's Point Edward office as well as eight EarlyON locations across Lambton County, and is open to parents and caregivers with children ranging from birth to school-age. Public Health Nurses (PHN) are available to answer questions regarding breastfeeding supports and infant nutrition, newborn care, parenting, and growth and development.

"Ask a Public Health Nurse gives parents and caregivers the chance to ask important questions about their child's growth and development, but it also offers important opportunities for socialization that can have long term benefits for both parents and child," said Clinical and Family Services Supervisor, Jen Beaubien. "We're thrilled to be able to resume offering the drop-in program throughout the county, giving parents a chance to access important services in their communities."

In St. Clair Township, the drop-in program will be offered at these EarlyON Centres: Brigden at Brigden United Church; Corunna at St. Joseph's Catholic School; and Sombra at Riverview Central School.

A full list of drop-in locations, dates, and times are available by visiting [LambtonPublicHealth.ca](http://LambtonPublicHealth.ca).

For more information on the Ask a Public Health Nurse drop-in program or other child health programs, please visit [www.lambtonpublichealth.ca](http://www.lambtonpublichealth.ca) or call 519-383-8331.

### Graffiti is not a joke, it's vandalism!

Nobody has the right to damage or deface property they don't own. If you see graffiti, whether it's written or drawn on the outside or inside township properties, please report it to a venue employee or to the township office at 519-867-2021. If you see it in progress, please notify the police.

**Graffiti is vandalism - please report it!**



### MP Marilyn Gladu to hold virtual town hall

The Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce is pleased to be able to host a virtual Town Hall with MP Marilyn Gladu on April 6 at 12 p.m. *Raising Awareness of Local Issues* will enable the business community and public to submit questions for MP Gladu for the one-hour Q&A hosted by CEO Carrie McEachran.

"It is of key importance to the Chamber to be able to reach out to our politicians and advocate on behalf of our members," says CEO Carrie McEachran. "The Chamber of Commerce takes its advocacy role very seriously and members of the Chamber need only to reach out to us and we will help get them the answers they need."

To register for this free, virtual event on Thursday, April 6 at 12 p.m., visit the Chamber of Commerce's website at [slchamber.ca/events](http://slchamber.ca/events). Once registered, a zoom link will be sent prior to the event. Questions for MP Gladu should be sent to [info@slchamber.ca](mailto:info@slchamber.ca) before April 5.

## MORE MUNICIPAL NOTES

From page 3

at its Feb.21 meeting, was developed through the Joint Library Facilities Review. One of the recommendations made by the proposal would see the consolidation of the Sombra and Port Lambton libraries, and the Mooretown and Courtright libraries. The Sombra library would be expanded and redeveloped to accommodate the re-allocation of the Port Lambton facility, while Port Lambton would become an express library service point. Mooretown and Courtright libraries, which have been deemed undersized and out dated, would be consolidated with a larger library located in either Mooretown or Courtright.

Deputy Mayor Steve Miller said he would not support the elimination of any of the libraries. When the proposal was introduced, the point was made that the community libraries provide a hub for the smaller communities and access to computers for local residents who do not have one at their disposal.

The re-allocation of libraries to empty school spaces was put forward as a viable solution to the problem. The Library Facilities Review found that the most visited libraries in the township are Corunna and Brigden. They have regular hours during the week allowing better access than the smaller library branches that have limited hours of operation. The Brigden library, which is also the Brigden Public School library, makes a good case for this option, although the community aspect of this option would be removed.

At the request of the Lambton County Library, a local advisory sub-committee will be formed with one township councillor each from Ward 1 and 2, one member-at-large each from Ward 1 and 2, and a member-at-large

representing Corunna. The committee will gather information and contribute to the decisions that are made in regard to St. Clair Township's libraries.

### Heritage St. Clair Committee seeks assistance to continue historic cemetery projects

The Heritage St. Clair Committee's effort to restore several abandoned pioneer cemeteries in the township is the latest pandemic "victim".

At the March 21 meeting of council, HSC President Dave Pattenden reviewed the group's work to restore dignity to St. Mary's Cemetery, which can be seen on a drive along the St. Clair Parkway north of the Shell manufacturing facility, as an example of what must be done to restore the site.

HSC has now turned its attention to the Reynolds Cemetery at the corner of the St. Clair Parkway and Bickford Line. Work has already been done on a storyboard and the site will be cleaned up this summer. Two other cemeteries that are earmarked for repair are the Postill/Fisher Cemetery on south side of Rokeby Line near the corner of Mandaumin and Plank Road, and the Smith/White Cemetery on the south side of Rokeby Line between Hwy. 40 and Kimball Road.

Before COVID-19 made its appearance, the HSC received some funding from council each year to do this work. But the unusual protocols, procedures, and community requirements that emerged during the pandemic led to unbudgeted expenditures that depleted funding reservoirs.

(See page 2, 2023 Budget-Mayor Agar comments).

### Outdated & unwanted medication disposal sites in Corunna

Everyone wants to have good water to drink, and St. Clair Township goes to great lengths to ensure residents have safe, clean water on tap. We remind residents with unused or expired medications to get rid of, that flushing them away or throwing them in with the household garbage is an environmentally dangerous way to do it - a contributor to toxic pollution.

Several drug stores in Corunna will accept and safely dispose of unused or expired prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, and natural health medications. They include: Shopper's Drug Mart, Corunna Pharmasave, and Hogan Pharmacy, all located on Lyndoch Street. Reminder: medicines should be checked regularly for expiry dates.



## LPH low-cost rabies vaccination clinics return

Several low cost rabies vaccination clinics will be held once again in Lambton County. These clinics are open to all cats and dogs over three months old. Animals must be restrained and in good health, and they cannot have been vaccinated against rabies in the past year.

The cost per animal will be \$30, payable in cash only.

Lori Lucas, Supervisor of Health Protection for Lambton Public Health, says, "Vaccinating pets not only helps protect them from the rabies virus, but it also helps keep human populations safe. These low-cost clinics offer an affordable way to add an extra buffer between humans and animals."

**Clinic dates and locations are:** Saturday, April 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Brooke-Alvinston-Inwood Community Centre, 3310 Walnut Street; Saturday, April 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bright's Grove Animal Hospital; Saturday, May 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Eniskillen Works Garage, 4465 Rokeby Line; Saturday, April 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Oil Springs Fire Hall, 4589 Oil Springs Line.

Rabies is a fatal, viral disease spread by the saliva of an infected animal such as a dog, cat, fox, raccoon, bat, livestock, etc. Saliva can enter the body through a bite or a scratch.

**Owners of a dog or cat are required by law to have their pets vaccinated against rabies.**

For more information, visit: [LambtonPublicHealth.ca](http://LambtonPublicHealth.ca) or call 519-383-8331.







## Public Works Department

Public Works/Roads...519-867-2993  
 Engineering.....519-867-2125  
 Website..... [www.stclairtownship.ca](http://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 6



### 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>

From page 5

## 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.

### 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 7

### 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.**



From page 6

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.HydroOne.com), or [Hydro One on Twitter](#)



## Know these Open-air Burning By-law regulations

Recreational burning, such as campfires, is currently allowed within St. Clair Township provided that the regulations outlined in the Open-Air Burning By-law (By-Law 55 of 2017) are followed including:

- Use clean, dry wood ONLY—NO construction material, NO pressure-treated wood, and NO yard waste or garbage.
- The campfire is required to be confined to an approved burning device or a pit no larger than 2 ft. by 2 ft.
- A minimum of 10 feet in all directions must be kept from structures and property lines.
- Burning is only allowed between 7 a.m. and midnight.
- The fire must be extinguished before the site is vacated.

Please remember to respect your neighbours. Do not burn if the smoke will impact them.

Failing to follow the by-law requirements could result in a fine, an invoice if your fire results in a response by the fire department, or both.  
If you have questions, please contact St. Clair Fire at 519-481-0111 or [stclairfire@stclairfire.ca](mailto:stclairfire@stclairfire.ca).





## SLEP helping businesses, present and future



### \$5,000 AVAILABLE TO LOCAL BUSINESS FOR START-UP AND GROWTH



Entrepreneurs and business owners in Sarnia-Lambton can access funding, mentorship and personalized coaching through a new round of the *Starter Company Plus* program. Whether you have a new business idea or an existing business looking to grow, this program is designed to help you achieve your goals. Applications are now open.

Funded by the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, the program offers up to \$5,000 in funding for eligible businesses, as well as one-on-one support from experienced business advisors. This is an opportunity for entrepreneurs and business owners to access the resources and support they need to take their business to the next level.

"We are excited to see the innovative and ambitious business ideas that will come forward in this round of the Starter Company Plus program," said Chantelle Core, Manager of the Business Enterprise Centre. "Our team is committed to working closely with participants to help them achieve their goals and make a real impact in the local economy."

The program is open to any business operating in Sarnia-Lambton, and applications are now being accepted. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to take your business to new heights. Anyone interested in knowing more about this exciting entrepreneurial opportunity can email: [chantelle@sarnialambton.on.ca](mailto:chantelle@sarnialambton.on.ca) to arrange a one-on-one meeting. More information can also be obtained by going online to: [www.sarnialambton.on.ca/](http://www.sarnialambton.on.ca/)

## 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](http://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 Partner-

ship 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 [Sarnia-Lambton.on.ca/dms](http://Sarnia-Lambton.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](http://www.digitalmainstreet.ca/ontario)

## SLEP wins award for program that matches apprentices with employers



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 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](http://www.sarnialambtonapprentice.ca)

## 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 business-

es 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](http://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](http://www.digitalmainstreet.ca/ontario)*

## SLEP updating Economic Development Strategy with community/business survey



A survey of residents and the business community is being conducted by the Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP) to gather ideas about how to boost the economy and enhance quality of life in Lambton County. SLEP's aim is to update its Economic Development Strategy, focusing on job creation, investment, and the attraction of new residents to the area. These surveys will broaden SLEP's understanding of what motivates people to move to Sarnia-Lambton and offer insights that can be used to nurture entrepreneurship.

The updated strategy will guide future efforts to support and grow existing businesses, as well as increase investment in the community. It will also advance ideas that lead to a broader community development action plan that enables job creation, including: placemaking, advanced broadband, housing choice and affordability, and more flexible commercial form and func-

tion for today's entrepreneurs needing more nimble solutions.

The new strategy is scheduled for completion at the end of June 2023.

The work to date includes interviews with community and business leaders, a community leaders' workshop, and data analysis of competitive economic sectors. From this work, some key themes have emerged, so a survey to gather feedback from residents and businesses was undertaken. The surveys include visioning for the future and sharing ideas about opportunities.

A survey link is available on the Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership website: [www.sarnialambton.on.ca/survey](http://www.sarnialambton.on.ca/survey).

"We want this Economic Development Strategy to be embrace big ideas that will set our community apart as we look to the future," says Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership CEO Dan Taylor. "We also need to focus on clear actions that will support our ambitious vision for the future."

## Moore Skating Club Show celebrates 50th anniversary



Above: Guest skater Quinn Startek, 11, charmed her audience with an elegant performance. She represents Hamilton Skating Club in pre-novice competition and recently took second place at provincials.



B. Stevenson

After 50 years, the Moore Skating Club is still teaching youth how to skate and how to turn it into an art form. The March 25 show drew an appreciative audience with a production full of colour and accomplishment. The event began with an synchronized ensemble skate (right) to the tune of *Car Wash*. During the show, the Tuesday Canskate kids showed their skills to the tune of *Reach For the Stars* (below centre).





## Swim meet at Moore Sports Complex - budding aqua stars and remarkable races



The swim meet hosted by the St. Clair Current (STCC) swim team was an action-packed event with lots of photogenic moments. Teams from Tillsonburg, Chatham and Aylmer provided plenty of competition, packing the pool deck with 74 swimmers, 50 volunteers and an excited crowd of supportive parents, grandparents and siblings. STCC swimmers, ages 6 through 16, performed like the champs they are, each one bringing their best efforts to the task.

First place wins were realized by: Relay teams comprised of Leah Stephens and Jacob Rose (Mixed 12-13 freestyle); and Parker Leckie, and Ava Peachey (Mixed 10-11 freestyle); two firsts for Isaiah Tebbens; one first for Emma Gauvin; two firsts for Matteo Fanelli; a first for Brooklyn Suboni; two firsts for Jenah Stephens; two firsts for Daniel Jackson; a first for Kaylah Stephens; and two firsts for Adam Jackson.

Above, photo 4: Swimmers competing in the Individual Medley 100IM (must swim all four strokes: the butterfly, backstroke, breast stroke, and freestyle, to finish) launch themselves off the blocks to begin the race. Three St. Clair Current swimmers (in silver caps) include Jane St. Pierre, 11; Matteo Fanelli, 11, and Jenah Stephens, 10.

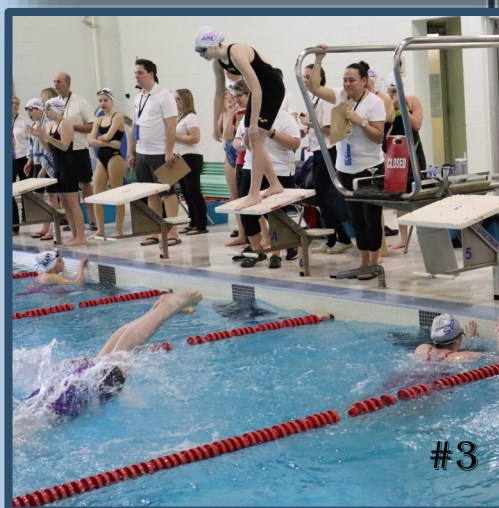
Right, photos 1,2,3: This vertical photo progression shows a team relay race in progress: #1 STCC team member Isaiah Tebbins, 16, dives off the block as his teammate, Witney Wilson, 14, touches the pool wall at the end of her lap. #2 Isaiah takes flight. #3 Off to a great start, Isaiah gains distance as he begins his lap. The team, which included Trevor Marut, 16, and Hailey Robbins, 14, placed second.

### STCC program helps youth develop life-long skills

As with any sport, learning the art of sportsmanship is so important for the swimmers. It is equally important to our officials, volunteers, and most importantly, our parents. They get to see firsthand that it is not always about the win; it's congratulating lane mates, which speaks volumes about their level of respect for others and the friendships that develop which are a reward in itself.

Our swim team program is all about fitness, friendships and most importantly, having FUN! Our coach, Sue never carries a stopwatch to measure a swimmer's success. It is all about teaching proper technique, building strength and endurance, and providing positive feedback which, in turn, develops a swimmer's confidence which is truly a way of measuring success. They come to believe in their ability.

We have one more swim meet in Chatham. The Team Championship will finish off the season. No summer program will run, but the

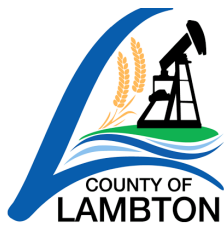


Wyoming Public Pool will be offering a summer swim team program for those who would like to keep up their swimming skills over the summer months. It also offers new swimmers an opportunity to try it to see if they would enjoy swimming on a team.

Our program will begin again in the fall, and we welcome all swimmers!

~Tracy Martu,  
STCC President

## Lambton County Library program *One Seed Lambton* features info and free seeds



Lambton County Library will be distributing free packets of Dwarf Grey Sugar Snow Peas, its selected seed for this year's One Seed Lambton program, starting on March 1.

*One Seed Lambton* unites the community around growing a single type of seed. This Lambton County-wide initiative also nurtures food literacy and gardening skills through workshops led by local experts. The program, which began in March, invites interested participants to pick up a free packet of seeds from any library location. Peas mature best in cooler temperatures and should be planted as soon as the soil can be worked in April. To support gardeners throughout the planting, growing, and harvesting process, Lambton County Library will offer several free workshops throughout Lambton County, including:

- Get a head start with *Preparing Your Garden* on Saturday, May 6 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wyoming Library. Sipkens Nurseries will share professional tips for starting your garden from seed.

- Explore *Vegetable Gardening 101* on Tuesday, June 6 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Forest Library. Grow your best vegetable garden with no experience necessary! Learn how much and how often to water, how to use trellises, what kinds of fertilizer to use, and when and

how to harvest.

- Learn about *10 Ways to Improve your Health* on Wednesday, July 19 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Corunna Library. Learn ways to improve your health through nutrition with Lambton Public Health.

- *Seed Saving* will be presented on Thursday, August 31 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Alvinston Library. Master the art of seed saving from certified seed collector, Michael Schimp. Learn techniques, from seed maturation to harvesting, drying, and storing. Schimp will also guide you through end-of-season garden care, and how to put your garden to bed for the winter.

In addition to the *One Seed Lambton* program, Lambton County Library also offers a seed library which is a collection of more than 60 flower and garden seeds. To learn more about Lambton's seed library, visit [www.lclibrary.ca/seedlibrary](http://www.lclibrary.ca/seedlibrary) or your local library.

For further information on upcoming library programs visit [www.lclibrary.ca/calendar](http://www.lclibrary.ca/calendar)

**NOTE:** Lambton County Library is currently reviewing its community library branches to develop strategies that will help update and improve library service as the population grows. If you have suggestions or ideas that could be of value to these deliberations, there will be opportunities for you to voice them as this review continues. (See Municipal Notes, page 2.)

### 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 continue at the Sarnia Library Theatre through June 2, 2023. Registration is required and can be completed through the [Lambton County Library events calendar](#).

**Performances remaining include:** the North Lambton Secondary School (NLSS) Jazz Band and Chamber Choir, Relic, and The Brothers Wilde.

Performances will feature: \*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 local talent.**

**Corunna**



**Almost  
Canada's Capital  
1823-2023**

**THE  
BEST  
IS  
YET  
TO  
COME!**

## 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.

\***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

### Moore Museum hosts a delightful March Break surprise drop-in event

The Moore Museum opened its doors during March Break to host a surprise drop-in event that attracted families from all over the township and beyond.

Although this drop-in concept has been used before during the off-season, it proved to be a novelty for many young families. In the kitchen, museum staffer Linda Wood cooked up several pans of delicious apple crumble that filled the main museum building with an aroma nobody could resist.

**Photo Right:** Brothers Torin, 7, and Rorek, 9, of Corunna, contributed some muscle to the apple crumble creation by using a old time apple peeler to supply raw material for Linda's use. The boys were taking in the museum sights accompanied by their grandparents Luba and Rick Boutotte of Corunna.

**Below Left:** Out in the Shaw Building, museum volunteer and expert carver Leo Griffith's whimsically wonky cotton wood houses and wooden boots provided an intriguing scene for the Wasson family of Courtright. Krystal Wasson and her daughter, Kinsley, 4, took a few minutes to contemplate who might be living in the tiny houses.

**Below Right:** A fascinated guest from Manitoba was given a tour around the site by museum volunteer and chief engineer of the train room, Tom Walters. His fellow train enthusiast, Morgan Turney of Winnipeg, not only got a sneak peek into the train room, he also got to see the museum work shop where repairs, refurbishments and special projects take shape. One of the most noteworthy refurbishments currently in the works is a pair of time-wary windows that came to the Moore Museum with a provenance dating back to 1895 in Petrolia. Morgan holds a tattered cord that once held a weight which helped open and close one pane of the window.

The windows were originally part of the Michigan Central Railway station when Petrolia was one of the MCR rail line. When the railway stopped running, the station was decommissioned in 1930 and sold, with the provision that whoever bought it would need to remove it from the property. The buyer hauled the building away on a horse-drawn trailer, and part of it made its way to Bright's Grove, where it became part of a cottage that still stands near the shore.

The windows were removed before the building was relocated and had several owners before they arrived at the Moore Museum. The handy museum volunteers have been using their extensive woodworking skills to restore the windows to their former beauty. When ready, they will become part of two new artifact display cabinets.



B. Stevenson

### 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)



**Corunna****Corunna 200<sup>th</sup> update**

Plans for the Corunna 200<sup>th</sup> celebrations are being developed and set in motion at an astounding pace.

Sponsorship packages have been created to give business and industry supporters an opportunity to show their community spirit. The Two Water Brewing Company of Corunna has already come aboard with owner Dean Esser pitching in to develop an online presence for the celebration. The company has also introduced a commemorative 200 Series beverage can, which will contain a brew created specifically for the occasion, as well as a seltzer.

Products and services are being sourced locally whenever possible. Dynamic Graphics of Corunna was engaged to design the streetlight banners that be installed along Lyndoch Street this spring.

Commemorative promotional items from CR Creative will soon be available. Items such as t-shirts, hoodies, insulated drink cups, baseball hats and foam drink can holders will be offered through an on-line store and at local outlets.

The Sarnia-Lambton Real Estate Board has also made a generous donation.

A permanent project that will remain part of the town will be placed where a modest little stone cairn now stands on the north side of Hill Street at the railway tracks. The attractive and informative St. George's Parkette will mark the site of what could have been the centre of Canada's capital.

The parkette will include a concrete platform fitted with a comfy bench and two stunning informational story boards created by Heritage St. Clair. One will explain the circumstances behind Corunna's moment of glory and one will highlight the Erie and Huron Railway that used to run between many of the villages which dotted the territory that became St. Clair Township.

Even local schools are boarding the Corunna 200<sup>th</sup> train. A children's choir of 200 St. Joseph's School students will be attending the dedication of the St. George's Square parkette slated for May 23. Sir John Moore students will be making a commemorative quilt that will be presented at the May 23 and the quilt will remain at the school. Col. Cameron School students are thinking of ways they can be involved.

The day-long, family-friendly finale to the celebrations is already shaping up to be one for the history books. Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, September 23 and join the fun on Lyndoch Street while it's shut down host to this lively community festival from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

September 23 will be filled with kids' activities, vendors, food, music, and some super-cool special presentations and colourful characters from *Hoop You* that will appeal to every age.

Sponsorship opportunities are available, from having your company logo printed along with the Corunna 200 logo on the commemorative apparel to the purchase of 200 t-shirts for the children's choir to a contribution to the landscaping or the commemorative bench at St. George's Parkette. These are just a few of the many sponsorships open to individuals, businesses and corporations who would like to make a lasting mark on local history.

**Do you have a question, idea, or need info?**

**EMAIL:** [corunna200@gmail.com](mailto:corunna200@gmail.com)

**PHONE:** 5159-312-3747

**WEBSITE:** [www.corunna2023.com](http://www.corunna2023.com)

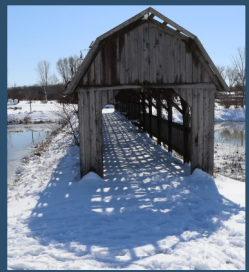
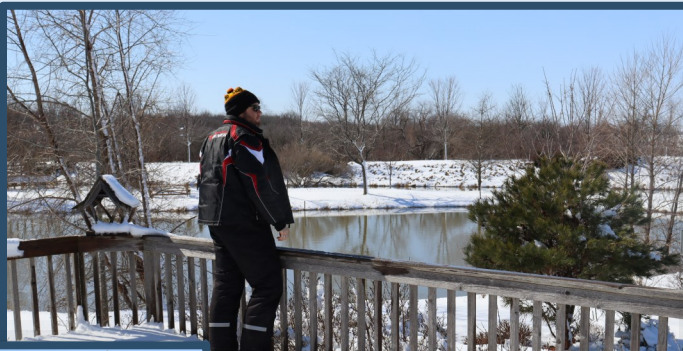
**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Find us on Facebook or Instagram

**MAIL:** Donations can be sent to: Corunna 200,  
c/o St. Clair Township Finance Dept.,  
1155 Emily St., Mooretown, ON, N0N 1M0

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Corunna 200, 4014 Kimball Rd.,  
Corunna, ON, N0N 1G0

## *Peaceful winter artistry is found at snowy Greenhills Gardens*

*If you know where to look, Greenhills Gardens is never camera shy, even in the dead of winter.*



**Above:** Local resident Steve Denning stopped to enjoy the beautiful winter garden while out on his snowmobile. He said he enjoys visiting Greenhills Gardens in all seasons.

**Right:** Playful shadows peek through the latticework of the covered bench-lined walkway.



The calm garden pond displays crisp, clearly defined reflections.

B. Stevenson



## SCRCA annual meeting: future depends on timely, resilient, and consistent stewardship

Bonnie Stevenson

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority annual meeting held on March 10 was met once again by nasty weather that kept some board members attending virtually, but it didn't stop the work that needed to be done.

During his exit address, 2022 Board of Directors Chair Mike Stark referred to the past years as "another year of resiliency, creativity and change." He thanked the board and SCRCA staff for their dedication during the pandemic and their seamless transition back to pre-pandemic operations. He also expressed appreciation to Municipal, Provincial, and Federal levels of government for the support and funding the SCRCA has received, especially for the massive St. Clair River Shoreline Protection effort that uses huge armour stones to shield the shoreline against wave erosion and ice damage.



Pat Brown  
SCRCA Chair 2023

One of the first orders of business was the election of a new 2023 chair and vice-chair; the positions are now filled by Chair Pat Brown, who is also a St. Clair Township Councillor, and Vice-Chair Lorie Scott.

Highlights from the 2022 SCRCA Annual Report revealed the authority's three regional campgrounds/conservation areas operated at full capacity last year. Upgrades to several trail systems and conservation area amenities were done thanks to donations and funding programs. The protection and monitoring programs continued, with 4,000 individual fish and 3,600 individual freshwater mussels being collected, identified, and released, and the Captive Hatch and Release Turtle program saw the release of 2,800 turtle hatchlings into the Sydenham River. On land, 55,000 trees were planted, and 36 stewardship projects were supported throughout the St. Clair Region watershed.

The Authority's conservation education in-person and virtual program options reached over 20,000 students and a new five-year strategic plan was developed to guide the Authority's strategic direction and objectives.

The weather of 2022 proved to be a continuous challenge, with high volumes of rain causing flooding concerns. Flooding was also on the agenda for another reason. The operation of the W. Darcy McKeough Floodway south of Sombra, built in 1984 and acknowledged as Ontario's largest flood diversion project, was cited as an example of how global warming is influencing area weather conditions.

During the floodway's design process, calculations based on historical weather data and many other factors concluded the floodway should be expected to respond to ten "100-year" floodings over the course of its lifespan. The worst case scenario used during the process was Hurricane Hazel\* (see Footnote\*, right). At the March meet-

ing, it was noted that the floodway was built to design specifications to function 10 times in 100 years and, as of the end of 2022, it had already reached that milestone. It had only taken 38 years to exhaust the floodway's projected life expectancy.

Ontario Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, passed on November 28, 2022, and the SCRCA's response to it was briefly reviewed during the meeting's Business Reports. The bill repeals and re-enacts two subsections of *The Conservation Authorities Act*, which is causing concern among environmental groups. (For more information on Bill 23, go online to: [ola.org/bill23](http://ola.org/bill23))

During the annual meeting, 2022 SCRCA Chair Mike Stark remarked, "The resilience of our organization will be vital as we adapt to the legislative changes from the Government of Ontario as part of the *More Homes Built Faster Act*. Despite adding our voice to the many who opposed the legislation, these changes will have implications to the service the Conservation Authority currently provides to our member municipalities. We will continue to work with, and foster, a positive relationship with our provincial government and member municipalities to support development in Ontario, while protecting our environment."

### Footnote\* Hurricane Hazel

*Known as the deadliest and most intense hurricane of the 1954 season, Hurricane Hazel was born in the Caribbean off the coast of Venezuela and became an unpredictable killer that seemed to have a mind of its own. When its rampage was over, it had made liars out of seasoned meteorologists who tried to predict its course based on logic and empirical science. They predicted it would make landfall on Jamaica but instead, it suddenly veered north, avoided Cuba, and made landfall near the border of South and North Carolina. Forecasters believed the cooler water would slow it down but it continued over land heading north to leave a path of destruction through Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York State, then it crossed Lake Ontario and hit Toronto. Still powerful, it continued its northern journey up to James Bay before it veered sharply east and finally lost momentum in Labrador. It achieved wind speeds up to 120 km/hr and accounted for massive flooding and devastation as it went. The confirmed loss of life in the U.S. was 95 and in Canada, it killed 469, with many more suspected casualties that could only be acknowledged as missing. In Toronto alone, the death toll was a confirmed 81 people.*

*Even now, information obtained from the study of Hurricane Hazel continues to set the paradigm for the development of defenses like the Darcy McKeough Floodway and public safety protocols based on the lessons learned from the mega-storm.*

*Sources: The Canadian Encyclopedia, Toronto Star, and two lucky Torontonians who heard the monster roar.*

See SCRCA Conservation Awards, page 16



## SCRCA presents Conservation Awards during annual G.M.

From page 15

The St. Clair Region annual general meeting always includes the presentation of Conservation Awards that celebrate and acknowledge community members and organizations who have made noteworthy contributions to the health of the St. Clair Region. This year, four deserving recipients received that honour.

1. Recipient **Bob Walsh** received the award for the work he has done aiding SCRCA biologists in turtle conservation and preservation. During the month of June, from dawn to dusk since 2019, Bob has helped locate and report at-risk nests to biologists. His selfless actions in the safeguarding of biodiversity, and the longevity of an endangered species within the SCRCA watershed, have been vital to the Authority's Captive Hatch and Release Turtle program. *(Bob could not attend the presentation.)*

2. **Mary Tizzard** was acknowledged for her work with the SCRCA's Conservation Area department. She contributed almost 1,000 volunteer hours, helping staff with the maintenance of the Authority's trail systems with "housekeeping" activities such as mowing, trimming vegetation, trail widening, and pollinator habitat planting. She also helped with the construction of new boardwalks at the Coldstream and Clark Wright Conservation Areas. *(Mary could not attend the presentation.)*

3. & 4. Overseeing the family farm, **Chris and Vivian Crump** have completely reworked their farm to reflect their desire to bring it in line with their vision of an environmentally responsible property. Since 2019, a grassed waterway, a rock chute, and a series of wetlands have been installed to improve local habitat, preventing soil and nutrients from entering local waterways. Over 3,000 trees have been planted on their property and they have adopted rotational grazing and crop cover practices. Vivian operates The Crump Family Farm, a local retail and market that sells their own meat and eggs, as well as local honey and grains. Chris is a soil erosion contractor certified by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). He works with local Conservation Authorities, Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) and Ducks Unlimited Canada to help create habitat across southwestern Ontario through the construction of wetlands and soil erosion control structures.

The Crump family farm transition didn't begin until the couple was able to find a suitable organization that could supply all of the information and assistance they would need. Working with the SCRCA has been a revelation for Chris and Vivian, who hope more farmers will find out about the many services and programs it offers.

"The Conservation Authorities programs are here to help you. They get your farm working better than it ever did before. They're great to work with. The projects you do help everybody upstream because they don't cost anybody upstream money and it's helping everybody downstream with the environment," said Chris.



2023 Chair Pat Brown, left, and 2022 Chair Mike Stark present Vivian and Chris Crump with their SCRCA Conservation Award in acknowledgement of the extensive environmental changes they have made to their property and their farming methods. SCRCA photo

### SCRCA coming events for 2023

#### Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race

On Sunday, April 30 at Mossie Line at the Sydenham River, registration will be held at 10 a.m. Online registration can be made by those who wish to register early. The race will end at the Shetland Conservation Area.

#### Geocaching Adventure

On Saturday, Sept. 10 at 9 a.m., enjoy a geocaching adventure at the beautiful Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area. It's open to everyone - those who know how to do this or are interested in learning about it. No registration will be required for this fascinating activity.



#### Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication

On Sunday, Sept. 24 at 2 p.m. at the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area, the SCRCA Foundation will host the dedication of its Memorial Forest. The forest contains trees planted in loving memory of those who have passed away. Their loved ones and donors to this time of remembrance will be invited to attend, by everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information about remembering a loved one in this special way, email the SCRCA office at [stclair@scrca.on.ca](mailto:stclair@scrca.on.ca).

For more information about activities, email: [dblue@scrca.on.ca](mailto:dblue@scrca.on.ca) or [stclair@scrca.on.ca](mailto:stclair@scrca.on.ca).

# COMMUNITY CONTACT

## Sacred Heart food bank helps 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 outside or inside township property, please call the township office at 519-867-2021.



## 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 the appropriate contact info for program registration listed beside each program.

**In Person-Low Impact Exercise:** Low impact exercises performed using body weight and resistance bands. All abilities welcome. To register, call 519-344-3017 ext. 237 or email [adinell@nlchc.com](mailto:adinell@nlchc.com)

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

**Mooretown Low Impact:** Thursdays 9:30 a.m. at Mooretown Sports Complex, 1166 Emily St.)

**Virtual Exercise:** 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. Last virtual exercise class will be Friday April 28 as we shift into our Spring programming. Watch for the new schedule in May!

**Virtual Low Impact Exercise:** Wednesdays & 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.

**Anger Management:** Starting March 23 to May 11. Every Thursday night from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Identify your anger triggers, patterns, and practice positive & effective anger management skills. To be added to the waitlist, call 519-344-3017 ext. 237 or email [adinell@nlchc.com](mailto:adinell@nlchc.com)

**Boosting Balance & Bone Health:** Wednesdays—2 to 4 p.m. Starts April 12 to May 10 at 460 Christina St. N, Sarnia) Five-week exercise and education program run by Occupational Therapist designed to improve balance and strength. To register please call 519-344-3017 ext. 274.

**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! Reminder—This is the last Cooking Buddies Classes for this session!** Locations: April 24 (Brigden)

**Coffee Time:** Fridays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Cardiac Rehab Site, 460 Christina St. N. Parking at the back of the building, off Maxwell St.). Join us for coffee and conversation, free of charge! Anyone is welcome to attend! To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 259 or email [cdougan@nlchc.com](mailto:cdougan@nlchc.com).

**GardenFresh Box:** The Garden Fresh Box is an inexpensive monthly food buying club for anyone who wants fresh vegetables and fruit all year round. For info, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 or email [adinell@nlchc.com](mailto:adinell@nlchc.com). Orders are accepted in person with payment. Cash only.

**Meditation:** Mondays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at West Lambton Community Health Centre, 429 Exmouth St. in Sarnia. Increase self esteem, improve concentration, lower blood pressure, reduce stress, anxiety, emotional balance. To register, call 519-344-3017 ext. 237 or email [adinell@nlchc.com](mailto:adinell@nlchc.com)

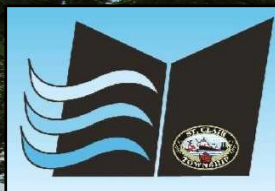
**Opening Doors:** Healthy lifestyle program for individuals living with mental illness or seeking mental health support. For information, 519-344-3017, Ext. 277.

**Virtual Baby Food Making Class:** April 26 at 1:30-3p.m. Learn about up-to-date guidelines, how to progress texture modifications, baby-led weaning, healthy meal and snack ideas and much more! To register call 519-786-4545 ext. 307.

**Virtual Dietitian Visit - Feeding Your Toddler:** April 4 at 1:30-3:30pm. Learn ways to support your toddler's picky eating by getting tips and ideas for healthy snacks & meals advice from our Registered Dietitians. To register, email [EarlyON@nlchildcare.ca](mailto:EarlyON@nlchildcare.ca)

**Virtual Healthy Heart Conversation Class:** April 13 at 1:30-3:30pm. This is group session lead by Dietitian to discuss about understanding cholesterol, controlling BP, healthy heart eating and lifestyle changes. To register, call 519-786-4545 ext. 307.

**Young Parent Prenatal:** April to May 16 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at West Lambton Community Health Centre, 429 Exmouth Street, Sarnia. 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! To register please call LPH at 519-383-3817 for more info to register.



**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](https://www.facebook.com/mooretownsportscomplex); **E-mail:** [info@stclairtownship.ca](mailto:info@stclairtownship.ca);  
**Website-** [www.stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca](http://www.stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca); **Phone:** 519-867-2651



## Moore Sports Complex SUMMER CAMP

Registration opens April 12th, 2023 at 9 a.m.

Our 2023 Camp brings the exciting experience of summer camp to children with crafts, songs, games, swimming, and much more! Each day will be filled with fun, adventure and lots of activity. For Summer Camp have the option of registering for the week or full summer.

[Register online](#) or call 519-867-2651.

### Camp Hours of Operation

Regular Camp Hours: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm Monday - Friday

Extended Before care begins at 7:30am Monday - Friday

Extended After care ends at 5:30 pm Monday - Friday



**Sunday, April 30 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

### Sydenham River Canoe and Kayak Race

Starting location will be Mossie Line at the Sydenham River. The race will terminate at the Shetland Conservation Area. For more information, call 519-384-0735.

**Sunday, September 10 - 9 a.m.**

### A Geocaching Adventure

Be at Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area for this fascinating geocaching scavenger hunt.

**Sunday, September 24**

### Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication

Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area will host the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Foundation

## MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 20

Time to celebrate spring on Sunday, April 16 at the Spring Country Jamboree being held at the Brigden Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall. *(It is being held one week later than normal due to the Easter Brunch.)* Come and dance the afternoon away or sit, listen and tap your toes. Doors open at noon with music starting at 1 p.m. A cash bar will be open and for those who want to enjoy the famous scalloped potato and ham dinner at just \$15 per person, it will be served at 5 p.m. Musicians are always welcome.

### Treat Mom to Mothers Day Brunch

Moore Agricultural Society, *Home of the Brigden Fair*, invites you and your family to the **Mother's Day Brunch** at Brigden Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall on Sunday, May 14. Seating will be from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adults are \$15, children 6-10 are \$8, and children 5 and under are free. No Reservations are required.

### Raffle tickets for Brigden Fair quilt on sale

If you haven't ordered your Brigden Fair Homecraft Division **Annual Quilt Raffle tickets** yet, you can get them from any Homecraft member (in person), at events such as the September Downriver Craft Show (Mooretown), at the fairgrounds, or you can purchase by e-transfer at [quiltraffle@brigdenfair.ca](mailto:quiltraffle@brigdenfair.ca). Be sure to include how many tickets you want to purchase, including names and contact information for the tickets. The cost is \$2/ticket or 3 for \$5, and they can also be purchased in larger quantities. Your tickets will be emailed to you. The winning ticket will be drawn Thanksgiving Monday, but don't delay! Limited tickets are available.

SOMBRA TOWNSHIP



**COME  
JOIN US!**



**Township of Sombra Optimist Club  
17<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show (post Covid)**

**Saturday, June 17, 2023**

**Brander Park,**

**Port Lambton, Ontario**

**8:00 AM to 8:00 PM**

**\$10.00 per car registration at gate**

**Spectators Free**

Lots of Awards \* Participant Draws  
Food on Site\* Dash Plaques \* Live Music  
Refreshment Tent \* Soap Box Derby  
**Much more to be announced** -- Watch  
our Facebook page for the exciting fun.....

More info contact:

**JOHANNE LEACH 519-331-5737 OR LOUISE REEK 519-892-3459**

[SombraTownship OptimistClub](#) [@SOptimists](#)



**2023**

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

**Next Year's 1st General Membership Meeting January 9, 2024**

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](http://www.bluewateranglers.com)

## AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

### LEGION **Corunna Legion Br. 447 events/activities**

The Royal Canadian Legion Br. 447 Corunna will host the following activities. **CLOSED ON GOOD FRIDAY.**

#### **Regular Legion Br. 447 Activities**

Every **Monday** is Pepper at 1 p.m.  
Every **Monday** is Cornhole at 6:30 p.m.  
Every **Wednesday** is Wacky Wednesday all day.  
Every **Thursday** is Cribbage at 1 p.m.  
Every **Friday** is Bridge at 1 p.m.  
Every **Saturday** is Meat draw at 4 p.m.  
Every **Friday** - Fun Darts at 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 4, 11 - SLDL Pub Darts at 7:30 p.m.

#### **Special events at Br. 447**

**Please note the building is wheelchair accessible.**  
**April 4, 7 p.m. - General Meeting, nominations now open for executive positions.**

**April 11, 6:30 p.m.—Ladies Auxiliary meeting**  
**April 15, 11 a.m.- Progressive Euchre Tournament.**  
**April 15, 6 p.m. Pub Night with Travis Laur**  
**April 18, 7 p.m.—Executive meeting**  
**April 29, 3 p.m.—Open Jam Session**

### **ELVIS is coming to Corunna Legion**

Put on your blue suede shoes and party like it's 1956 at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Br. 447 when the ELVIS SHOW takes to the stage on Saturday, May 6. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Contact the Corunna Legion at 519-862-1240 for tickets.

### **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. **May issue deadline will be Monday, April 17 by noon.**

**PLEASE NOTE: Early submissions are always greatly appreciated**

### LEGION **Brigden Legion Br. 635 events**

The Royal Canadian Legion Br. 635 Brigden will host the following activities in April:

Cards at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 1.  
Pool at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, Friday, April 14, 21, 28.  
Meat Raffle at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 8 and 22.  
Trivia at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 15.  
Elimination Draw at 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 29.

#### **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.

#### **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 the exception of Good Friday on April 7). Ten games will be played each afternoon. New players will be welcome.

#### **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/>

#### **Sombra Optimists to host 17th annual car show**

Get the details for this much-anticipated annual event on page 19.

#### **MAS Events welcome spring**

Th Moore Agricultural Society, *Home of the Brigden Fair*, invites you and your family to the Easter Sunday Brunch on Sunday, April 9 with seating from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will be held at the Brigden Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall. Adults \$15; Children 6-10 \$8; Children 5 and under - free. No reservations required.

#### **Spring Country Jamboree in Brigden**

*More Around the Township, page 19*

### **St. Clair Parkway Golf Course**

The St. Clair Parkway Golf Course golf simulator will be in operation until April 14 so tee times are still being accepted at 519-867-2160 or 519-867-2810, press 2.

Weather permitting, the golf course is expected to open in mid-April (good weather may affect that date).

For more information, call 519-867-2160.



### **PRINTED BEACON NOW AVAILABLE**

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