

## HERITAGE CORNER

### *A friend in faith closes its doors*

Another St. Clair Township church has officially closed its doors. The familiar white church at the corner of Lyndoch and Hill Streets in Corunna was deconsecrated at an evening service on April 11. The service was led by The Right Reverend R. Todd Townshend, Bishop of the Diocese of Huron.

The original Christ Church began as a large brown building that faced south toward Hill Street and was situated about 25 feet west of the present church. It was consecrated on Oct. 4, 1863 by Bishop Cronyn. A silver communion set was given to the church by Froome Talfour to commemorate the opening.

**1905:** The second Christ Church was completed as a white frame building and the original one was torn down. The rector was Rev. Edwin Lee. The same year, it was consecrated by Archdeacon Richardson and two halls were added to the new structure.

**1954:** Major renovations were done to the parish hall, church, and kitchen. Rev. Alex Morphy was rector and Jack Kennedy was the building fund chairman.

The work continued on the parish hall and church, and to complete the projects, the congregation had to borrow \$6,000. The church and hall, with the exception of a few pews, were finished in time for the Christmas Eve service.

**1966:** In November, a teak cross made by Walter Skeleton was dedicated. The cross was made from the teak deck of the minesweeper, *HMCS Lachine*. The blonde oak panels beside the front stained glass window were added.

**1996:** The 135th anniversary of the church was celebrated and Rev. Gary Parker was rector.

2010, Nov. 28: The congregations of Christ Church, St. John's and St. George's voted at a special vestry meeting to amalgamate, combine assets, create one bank account, and a new name—All Saints. Prior to this, Christ Church and St. John's were participating in a shared ministry for several years.

**2011, May 12:** The 150th anniversary of Christ Church Corunna was celebrated. The rectors of All Saints' were the Rev. Nick Wells and the Rev. Jim Dugan. The event was held at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, allowing all of the congregation to participate in the dinner and speeches.

When St. John's Church was sold, six of its stained glass windows were refurbished and installed in the Corunna church. Two existing stained glass windows were placed in light boxes and hung at the front of the church.

And finally, at 7 p.m., **April 11, 2023**, a special, memorable time of worship and the sweet sound of cho-



ral voices raised in song created all of the pageantry and honour that was due the church that had been a source of comfort and strength to so many for so long.

*-With thanks to congregation member Jim Hodgins, who contributed this brief history of the church's service.*



*Photos submitted*

### 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)





## MORE HERITAGE CORNER

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### *Machinery Masterminds program teaches new tricks for old machines*

Lambton Heritage Museum is pleased to announce the launch of *Machinery Masterminds*, a program to teach aspiring minds how to service and maintain antique machinery using artifacts from the museum's collection.

Over the course of four sessions, participants will learn about antique machinery maintenance while supporting Museum staff member Jeremy Robson in the maintenance of the Museum's historic Rumely Tractor. Participants will assist with activities such as pulling and cleaning pistons, replacing gaskets, and changing the oil. The tractor is expected to be fully operational at the end of the program.

"There are several machines in our collection that are operational with regular maintenance, and another few that could be operational with a bit of work. Having the ability to operate this equipment during events and programs adds an extra layer to the historical experience," says Dana Thorne, Curator/Supervisor of Lambton Heritage Museum. "By reaching out to local enthusiasts who may want to learn how to maintain these machines, we are building a pool of knowledgeable volunteers who will be able to help staff maintain these machines well into the future."

Sessions began in April and will continue to run from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday mornings on May 6, and 13. Interested parties must register through the event page on our website or call the museum at 519-243-2600.

All participants will be required to sign a volunteer agreement with the museum to take part in the program. There is no cost to participate.

For more information or to register for the program, visit the Lambton Heritage Museum website.



Lambton Heritage Museum staff member Jeremy Robson drives the historic Rumley tractor.

### *Easter Bunny visits Corunna during annual egg hunt*

The annual Optimist Club of Moore Egg Hunt attracted a large crowd of anxious hunters to the Corunna Athletic Park on April 2. The club gave out a total of 560 chocolate eggs and candy bags.

The event included the Junior Optimist barbecue plus games and activities for the kids to enjoy. There were so many young hunters on the field that they had to be divided into age groups. Each

group had a challenge to pick up their eggs in a different way; for instance, through a scavenger hunt or by a relay race. Draws were also made for over 25 baskets full of goodies, and a photo booth was available for those who wanted to have their picture taken with the fuzzy, fabulous Easter Bunny, who dropped by to greet its many admirers.

*Photos by Tracy Kingston*



*CAP Park becomes a hunting ground for Easter fun*



*Above: The Easter Bunny stands ready for its closeup at the photo booth.*