

HERITAGE CORNER

Wilkesport United Church celebrates 150th anniversary

The Wilkesport United Church was built in 1873 with lumber hewed from the surrounding forest.

And on a sunny Sunday in 2023, Wilkesport United Church, still standing and lovingly tended, celebrated 150 years of service to the community.

Outside, a newly-planted *Autumn Blaze* maple sapling and a commemorative rock and plaque waited to be dedicated. Inside, Pastor Betty Jean Page delivered a sermon that carried a message of optimism and thanks. Woven throughout the service was beautiful music, supplied by organist David Lee, pianist Myrna Hyatt, the vocal duo, *Mercy*, comprised of Mikkie Burnham and Helen VanderHeide, and hymns sung by the congregation.

The church's fascinating history was revealed by Sombra Museum Curator Kailyn Shepley and Mayor Jeff Agar delivered a Certificate of Congratulations on behalf of the people of St. Clair Township.

After the service, a sumptuous after-service lunch was enjoyed by the congregation in a newly-painted community room. The building has new stained glass windows designed and made by artist Margaret Anne McKichan, and the exterior is landscaped with a donated Weeping evergreen and flowers.

The congregation would like to express their appreciation to the following businesses and helpers who made the celebration a tremendous success: DeGroot's Nursery and John DeGroot for his guidance in choosing the maple tree; Feddes Fabrication for the metal cross; All Seasons Trophies and Signs; BB Painting, Wallaceburg, and paint donor Beth Burrell who used it to beautify the community room; Courier Press; Sarnia and Lambton County



The dedication of a new Autumn Blaze maple tree and a commemorative plaque was witnessed by the congregation after the anniversary Sunday service. This picture acknowledges the church staff, volunteers, and tradespeople who offered their service and assistance to upgrade and beautify the church.

B. Stevenson photos

This Week; Wilkesport UCW; Radio Chatham-Kent 89.3 FM for advertising; the St. Clair Township Beacon for publicity; Pastor Page for donating the celebration cake; Jerry and Karen Annett; Chuck and Betty Lauwereys; Jeff and JoAnn Shepherd; Beth Marchand; Bill Myers; Facebook coordinator Shirley McKeegan; Ann, Deb, and Pam Shepley.

*Thank you to all
who helped make
this special day
happen!*



Wilkesport United Church Pastor Betty Jean Page, front of congregation on right, holds up the Certificate of Congratulations on the church's 150th anniversary that was presented to her by Mayor Jeff Agar (front middle).

B. Stevenson photos

MORE HERITAGE CORNER



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL
Blueberry Social

SATURDAY JULY 8TH, 2023
1:00 PM-4:00 PM AT SOMBRA MUSEUM

ENJOY LOTS OF FUN ACTIVITIES, DESSERT, AND
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT!

SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$5 PER PERSON.

We hope to see you there!


SOMBRA MUSEUM
CULTURAL CENTRE

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



Recycle used batteries at Lambton County Libraries

Lambton County Library has partnered with *Call2Recycle Canada, Inc.* to host battery recycling collection boxes in select Lambton County Library locations to encourage the proper disposal of used batteries.

"Increased access and convenient battery drop-off locations will help safeguard our environment for future generations," said Andrew Meyer, General Manager, Cultural Services. "Through the *Call2Recycle* program, batteries are safely collected and properly recycled to ensure that heavy metals and toxic chemicals do not im-

pact groundwater and soil."

Anyone wishing to recycle batteries must prepare them for recycling by following the *Call2Recycle* guidelines, which include bagging the battery in a provided clear bag or taping over the battery's terminals before depositing them in the *Call2Recycle* collection boxes. Lambton County residents can drop off their used single-use and rechargeable household batteries (weighing up to 5 kg each) at the following 12 Lambton County Library locations: Brigden, Corunna, Petrolia, Bright's Grove, Alvinston, Forest, Grand Bend, Mall Road, Petrolia, Point Edward, Sarnia, Watford, Wyoming.

Lambton County Library branches offer much more than books

Your library lends out much more than hard copy and online books: the Library's *Active Living Lifestyle* collection loans out a number of items to keep Lambton County moving. Enrich your wanderings through nature or just your neighbourhood by borrowing a pair of walking poles, go bird-watching with a set of Tasco 10x42 binoculars, find out how many steps you take with a borrowed pedometer, then find out where you are with a GPS unit. These are available to those who have a current Lambton County Library card, which is free to anyone who lives, works, studies, or owns property in Lambton County, or who resides in a First Nations community. For more information on locations, services, and hours of operation, visit: lclibrary.ca.

Weekly St. Clair Township hours of operation

***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.

From page 20

Quilt show to display dozens of quilts and handmade items

The North Lambton Quilters' Guild, established in 1989, have exhibited their work at the Lambton Heritage Museum for over 15 years. Their shows have expanded to include other handmade items like clothing, wall hangings, table toppers and quilted accessories. Historic quilts from the museum's collection will also be on display to highlight old and new techniques. The show will also feature quilting demonstrations, a tea room, and vendors selling quilting supplies and books, and the Guild's quilting rummage sale.