



THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP BEACON

Discoveries
That Matter
THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

Issue 1

Volume 17

January 2024

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PLEASE
continue to
support your
local
food bank.
Your donations
make a
positive
difference in
difficult times.

Happy 2024



St. Clair Township

One man's vision comes to life on a wall



This massive mural, as rendered by artist David "Derkz" Derkatz of Windsor, is based on the vision of the late Matt Klompstra. It can be seen in **SOMBRA** on the north side of the building that once housed the Riverview Restaurant. To find out more about this magnificent work of art, see page 10.
B. Stevenson photo



MUNICIPAL NOTES



MAYOR'S NEW YEAR GREETING



Welcome to 2024! Our excitement starts early this year with the International Silverstick Mooretown U21 finals starting on January 4. See you there!

It's hard to believe 2023 has come and gone, but it was a prosperous year for St. Clair Township. I'm looking forward to my second year as your Mayor.

There are many exciting projects on the go this year, with the first being the new club house construction at our golf course. It will benefit all residents and participants and create a welcoming first impression for newcomers.

We have some complex road upgrades and bridge work coming up, but these are things that keep our infrastructure strong to attract new businesses and residents to our community. Be sure to watch for traffic slowdowns and detours if they are needed.

This year, we need to keep the pressure on our senior government to acquire financial assistance through grants and programs that will help us fund our wastewater treatment plant addition. The plant expansion will increase the capacity we need to carry us forward for several years to come.

Our industrial neighbours will have the new Nova AST2 plant commissioned in 2024 and the first phase of the new Diagio Crown Royal distillery project is set to break ground this year. We're encouraged that we frequently receive new business inquiries.

The future of St. Clair Township is bright. It is my hope that an updated official plan will open more land for housing opportunity investments. This should encourage those who have projects in mind. We anticipate there will be more community landmark and beautification projects undertaken, such as the new mural located at the Blue Willow Restaurant in Sombra. *See page 10 for a sneak peek.*

The highly anticipated return of the St. Clair River Run will be a welcome sight along the St. Clair River Trail, once again taking its place in the summer schedule along with all of our other annual local events like Captain Kidd Days and Port Lambton Gala Days.

Many of these events are sponsored by our service clubs and other township groups who support the Corunna and Port Lambton food banks as well. These positive community efforts have one thing in common; they can only operate because of the many caring volunteers who willingly offer their time and talents for the good of their community. I appreciate and salute each and everyone of them.

My wife Sue and I, and the rest of the Agar family, wish all St. Clair Township residents the gift of good health, happiness, and prosperity in 2024.

~Mayor Jeff Agar



Council Meeting Schedule

All regular council meetings are open to the public, and can also be seen online by going onto the township website at: www.stclairtownship.ca.

Upcoming council meetings will be: Jan. 15 at 3 p.m.; Feb. 5 at 3 p.m.; and Feb. 20 at 6 p.m.

An Operating Budget meeting is slated for March 7 at 5 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).

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



Winter Parking By-Law

In accordance with St. Clair Township By-Law 5 of 2022, as of Dec. 1, it is against the law to leave vehicles of any kind, whether licensed or unlicensed, parked overnight from 1 a.m. to 7 a.m. on public roads or streets. They must be kept clear to allow the unimpeded passage of snow or any winter control operation conducted by municipal forces or contractors. **The by-law will be in effect until April 1, 2024.** It includes: camping trailers, commercial trailers, derelict vehicles, marine vehicles, and recreational trailers. **All obstructions**, including basketball nets and garbage cans, must also be kept off the streets.

Residents are reminded it is against the law (Highway Traffic Act) to shovel snow from driveways and sidewalks out onto public streets. These snow piles create dangerous obstacles that can contribute to needless automobile collisions and the loss of control of a vehicle.



Pheasant/rabbit hunting licenses

The Township of St. Clair pheasant/rabbit hunting licences are now on sale. They will be available at the following locations: Corunna Home Hardware, Corunna; Brigden Feed Mill; and St. Clair Civic Centre, Mooretown. The fees will be \$5.00 for a resident license and \$8.00 for a non-resident license. They will be on sale until Feb. 28, 2024. Applicants must apply in person and multiple licenses will not be issued.

Jeff Baranek
RPP Director of Administration/Clerk Deputy C.A.O

More Municipal Notes, page 3



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

Continued from page 2

Township receives funding to renew critical infrastructure

St. Clair Township has received \$2,732,643.00 in Ontario Community Infrastructure Funding (OCIF) is part of the Ontario government's \$12,437,989 investment to help renew and rehabilitate critical infrastructure in Sarnia-Lambton. The goal of the funding is to support economic growth and job creation.

"OCIF provides funding to eligible communities every year to help them address critical infrastructure needs, including road, bridge, water and wastewater projects," said Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey. OCIF infrastructure funding helps support projects in communities with populations under 100,000.

Solution to "crisis" in child care sought

Lambton County council has directed staff to look into, and report on, the current status of child care in Lambton county in response to a 2024-2028 Master Plan that might improve access to available child care spaces. A report based on the current availability of spaces, current funding for them, and steps that could be taken to remedy any shortfalls, will be presented to County Council before its 2024 budget deliberations, then sent to all local Municipal Councils for review and feedback by Jan. 31, 2024. It is hoped the process will lead to solutions.

A presentation to County Council by the Petrolia Childcare Advocacy Group described the shortage of suitable, well-qualified child care spaces as a "child care crisis".

More Municipal Notes on page 4

St. Clair Township

2024 Interim Property Tax Due Dates

Thursday, February 29 & Thursday, April 25

Payment options available as follows:

- Monthly pre-authorization
- Pay online or by telephone at your bank
- In person at your bank branch
- Drop a cheque into the secure drop box
 - at Civic Centre front door
- Mail a cheque
- Debit, cash, or cheque at Civic Centre
- Credit card, debit available for a fee

on www.paysimply.ca

If you do not receive your tax bill(s) in the mail by February 6 please email: taxes@stclairtownship.ca

Over 35 years of municipal service celebrated at 90th birthday open house

The 90th birthday of a familiar municipal councillor and, before that, a Moore Township staff member in Corunna, Bridgen, and Mooretown was celebrated with an open house at the Corunna Legion on December 3. The clubhouse was filled to capacity with friends, family and former colleagues who dropped by to reminisce, joke around, and extend good wishes to the lady who offered a constant, caring point of view, always with her community in mind.

Photo left: Some of Shirley's municipal pals, including Eldon Krohn, Heather Freer, and good friend Carol, dropped by with a sign from the pre-amalgamation days.

Photo right: Mayor Jeff Agar presented a St. Clair Township Certificate of Congratulations to the birthday girl, with her long-time council colleague, Moore/St. Clair Township councillor Jim DeGurse by her side.





From page 3

MORE MUNICIPAL NOTES

Presentation suggests library consolidation

Lambton County Library representatives Andrew Meyer and Darlene Coke attended council to speak on the recommendations that had come to light as the result of the 2022 Joint Library Facilities Review. A recommendation regarding the Sombra library suggested the library footprint be expanded or the building be demolished and re-

built. (The Sombra Library is currently situated in the former Sombra Township municipal office.)

With Sombra Daycare ready to leave their part of the building, the library could expand into the abandoned area. Deputy Mayor Steve Miller commented that the two libraries had served their respective communities well and some people without transportation would find it difficult to access the single facility.

Age-Friendly Sarnia-Lambton the place to contact for 55+ services



**AGE-FRIENDLY
SARNIA-LAMBTON**

The goal of *Age-Friendly Sarnia-Lambton* is to make access to community supports and health services easier. It's a convenient, easy one-stop access point for finding over 600 social and health supports in Lambton County.

For more information about **Age-Friendly Sarnia-Lambton**, go online to:

agefriendly.sarnialambton.ca

The Age-Friendly Sarnia-Lambton website focuses on adults age 55+. It has expanded to support active, healthy, and engaged living for people at all stages of life. It was launched through a grant from the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility, and has evolved with the help of several other grant opportunities.

The age-friendly content of the website is informed by feedback gathered from community members and care providers within Sarnia and Lambton County.

For those who prefer to speak to someone about local supports, please call: **The Older Adult Care Pathway**, or 519-336-3600 or 1-888-347-8737.

Help at Home Services for Sarnia-Lambton residents

The *Help at Home* services include: *In-home dental care services; *In-home foot care services; *Falls Assessment and Prevention programs; *Friendly Visiting; *Home and Community Care support services; *Home

Help and Homemaking; *Home Maintenance and Repair; *Home Modification; *In-home Hospice Palliative Care; *In-home Personal Support; *Meal delivery services; *Personal Emergency Response systems; *In-Home Rehabilitative Care; *Seniors' Intervention and Assistance services; *Shopping and Grocery assistance; *Food Delivery in Sarnia-Lambton; *What to Expect from Home Care; and *Are you a caregiver?

In accordance with the WHO (World Health Organization) Age-Friendly Community (AFC) framework, a vibrant community that supports healthy and active aging addresses eight fundamental categories: housing; transportation; outdoor spaces and buildings; community support and health services; communication and information, civic participation and employment, respect and social inclusion, and social participation

Age-Friendly Best Practice e-course offered

Those who deal with the public, especially those who work with older adults and people with disabilities, can benefit from the free *Age-Friendly Best Practices* e-certificate course. Learners are encouraged to evaluate personal bias and incorporate age-friendly best practices into service standards and the workplace environment.



NOTICE - ZION CEMETERY

St. Clair Township has submitted by-laws to the Registrar of the Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Any interested parties may contact Jeff Baranek at (519) 862-2021 for information, or to make copies. By-laws or amendments may be reviewed or copied at 1155 Emily St. Mooretown.

These by-laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar, Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Telephone: Bereavement Authority of Ontario, 647-483-2645 or 1-844-493-6356.



NOTICE - BRADSHAW CEMETERY

St. Clair Township has submitted by-laws to the Registrar of the Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Any interested parties may contact Jeff Baranek at Tel: (519) 862-2021 for information, or to make copies. By-laws or amendments may be reviewed or copied at 1155 Emily St. Mooretown.

These by-laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar, Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Telephone: Bereavement Authority of Ontario, 647-483-2645 or 1-844-493-6356.

**BEACON
BIT**

*"Although no one can go back and make a brand new start,
anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending."*

—Carl Bard, writer/editor



St. Clair Township Firefighters hold awards event

The awards night allows St. Clair Fire to recognize the firefighters in the community who answer the pager's call. Awards are also given to those who complete certification courses.



Veteran firefighter Joe Barnes is presented with his 30-year service certificate by Chief Richard Boyes, left, and Mayor Jeff Agar.

5 Years

Greg Thrower
Corey Faubert
Braiden Shaw
Dustan Creasor
Kirk Smith
Rob Capes
Andrew Doran
Joe Austin
Joe Moran
Bryan Kraayenbrink
Cale Shephard
Kevin McGlade
10 Years
Jeannine Baxter

Don Armstrong
Brad Hammerlein
Al VanDommelen
Paul Murru
Scott Barnes
Mitchell Lisinski
Ken Lester
15 Years
Jake Taylor
Chris Mahoney
Doug Lester JR
Andrew McMillan
Pete deVries
20 Years
John Ford

Ken Taylor
Kirk Brydges
Dan Gonyou
Joe Krogman
25 Years
Steve Bicum
Jay Myers - HD
Ross Hiller
Doug Lester SR
Tom Mitchell
30 Years
Pete Moran
Jeff Dewhirst
Blake Davis
Joe Barnes

SLEP plays active role in announcement of underground CO2 storage



In Oil Springs on Dec. 13, Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, announced the Ontario government is taking steps to encourage innovation and reduce emissions by enabling industries to begin testing and demonstrating small-scale underground carbon storage projects on private land.

Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership's (SLEP) long-term advocacy efforts will encourage regulation changes enabling and permitting geological carbon sequestration on private land within Ontario. This process will have major economic impacts on local industry and their efforts to decarbonize, eventually achieving their net zero goals. It also represents an economic opportunity for capital investment and innovation in the low-carbon hydrogen industry.

The announcement follows SLEP's visit to Queen's Park in September 2023, facilitated in part by MPP Bob Bailey in support of Sarnia-Lambton and local industry. During their time at Queen's Park, CEO Dan Taylor and Economic Development Officer Shauna Carr, alongside partners from the Sarnia Energy and Chemistry Committee, the Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce, Enbridge, and Imperial Oil, met with Minister Smith to discuss carbon capture utilization and storage.

"It is meaningful that Minister Smith chose to make this announcement in Sarnia-Lambton at the Oil Museum of Canada as this represents another exciting step in our energy history as we transition toward net zero," said Dan Taylor, CEO, SLEP. "The Economic Partnership will continue our advocacy efforts and actively seek out permissive regulatory changes and expedited clarity to support local decarbonization and investment in our energy and chemistry industries; and to support Ontario's Hydrogen Hub."

Work is underway on a framework to allow the development of large commercial projects. Public consultations are scheduled to begin in 2024.

The Sarnia-Lambton Economic Partnership (SLEP) is the lead economic development agency for the Sarnia-Lambton area. It focuses on promoting the distinct advantages that Sarnia-Lambton offers companies and residents. By coordinating community-based economic development initiatives and working to maintain a commercially attractive environment, we foster new business creation, help ensure that established firms remain and grow here, and work to attract growing businesses to the Sarnia-Lambton area. For more information, go online to: sarnialambton.on.ca

*** Carbon storage involves capturing carbon dioxide(CO2) from industrial emissions and the atmosphere and compressing it to inject it into underground rock formations.**



The Oil Museum of Canada was a perfect place to announce the provincial carbon storage program. On hand for the announcement were: Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey, left; Graydon Smith, Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry; and Lambton County Warden Kevin Marriott.

Photo submitted



Public Works Department

PW General - Roads/Drainage - Water/Sewer - Utility Billing - Engineering

St. Clair Township Civic Centre, 1155 Emily St. Mooretown, ON N0N 1M0

After Hours Emergency 1-888-441-4204

(519) 867-2993 (T)

(519) 867-3886 (F)

stclairpw@stclairtownship.ca

www.stclairtownship.ca

<http://fb.com/stclairtwppw>

Water utility appointments require 48 hours notice

St. Clair Township By-Law 26 of 2023 requires at least 48 hours notice in advance of scheduling appointments with the Public Works department to avoid service fees.

Attention: Changes to Yard Waste Collection

BRUSH COLLECTION CANCELLED

Due to operational budget cuts, St. Clair Township will not be offering any brush collection for the Spring or Fall collection going forward. Christmas tree collection will remain the same for January, 2024.

Clear the Road

All homeowners are reminded to clear recreational sports equipment (e.g. basketball nets, goal-ie 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.

Please take notice - Failure to remove sports nets and other equipment from roads and streets will result in this equipment being collected by the Public Works Departments and stored at the Public Works Operational Centers.

No changes needed for new recycling provider



- Residents wishing to report any recycling collection issues are to contact the Contractor (Emterra Environmental) directly at 1-888-597-1541.
- Alternatively, visit their website at: emterra.ca, and click on "Customer Service" section.
- For further recycling issues / concerns residents may also contact "Circular Materials" by email at: customerservice@circularmaterials.ca



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

A SHORT RINSE GOES A LONG WAY

Rinsing food
residue from
containers
prepares them
to be
recycled.



Learn more:
circularmaterials.ca/ON

Public Works Department

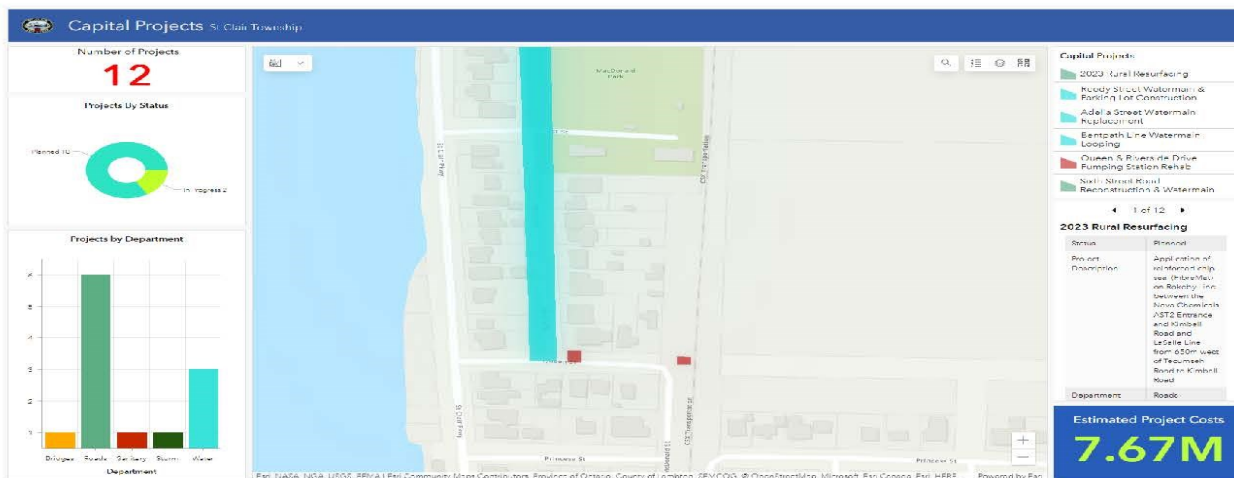
Township Website Expands to Include Interactive Mapping (Operations/Construction/Project Mapping)

A new section of the Township website has been added under the 'Residents' tab on the main page entitled **"Operations/Construction/Project Mapping"**

This new page provides links to various interactive maps relating to road closures such as the Municipal & Ontario 511 maps, as well as the Township's new Capital Projects Dashboard

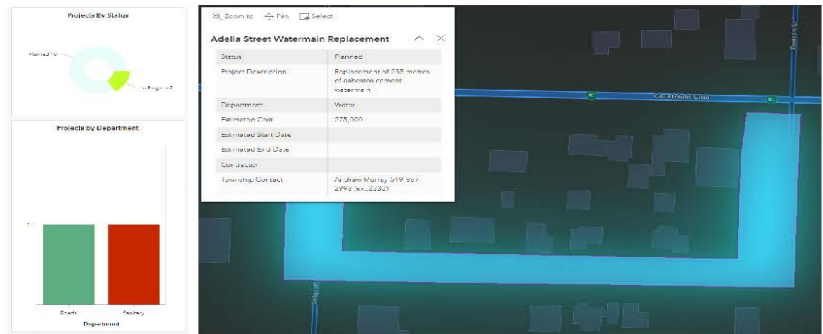
Municipal511
Powered by TRANSMIS

511 Ontario
Traveller Information



The Capital Projects Dashboard allows users to view Township project detail including a map containing the project location. Click a project on the map or select from the right hand side to view information such as project description, cost and construction dates

All graphs and charts are interactive and can be used to filter projects by status or department. Once a filter is selected, the map and other charts are also filtered. Select the filter again to clear. Basemaps can be changed on the top right of the map.



www.stclairtownship.ca/operations-construction-project-mapping/
www.stclairtownship.ca/operations-construction-project-mapping/

Gotta' Dig? DIG SAFE! Contact OntarioOneCall first!

Property owners who dig without knowing where buried utility, pipelines, and cables are located are looking for trouble, expensive repairs, and maybe tragedy.

Contact OntarioOneCall.ca or call 1-800-400-2255 and be sure what and where the buried hazards are.



Public Works Department

Active Transportation Master Plan Survey requires input




St. Clair Township is developing its very first *Active Transportation Master Plan* to improve conditions for people as they walk, bike or wheel through the community. We want to hear from you! We want to learn more about how you use the Township's trails, sidewalks, and cycling routes, what types of changes you would like to see.

And how the Township and our partners can make walking, cycling and wheeling more convenient, comfortable, and enjoyable.

Complete the project survey at: www.stclairtownship.ca/atmp and sign up for project updates to stay informed as the project moves forward. Please take the survey and be part of the plan.

WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING: ❄️




Give pipes a helping hand
If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.




Keep water working
Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run. The cost of the extra water is typically lower than the cost of repairing a broken pipe.

BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE: ❄️



Shut off the water immediately
Don't attempt to thaw pipes without turning off the main shut-off valve.



Thaw pipes with warm air
You can melt the frozen water in the pipe by warming the air around it with a hair dryer or space heater. Be sure not to leave space heaters unattended and avoid the use of kerosene heaters or open flames.



Be careful turning water back on
Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any cracks or leaks that might have been caused by freezing.



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>



Power Outage/Emergency Line

1-800-434-1235 (operates 24/7)

Residents can call this number to report power outage, fallen

CRIME STOPPERS SARNIA-LAMBTON

Your information can be submitted by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or going online to: www.p3tips.com
Callers are guaranteed 100% anonymity. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to any call display services. If your tip leads to an arrest or charges being laid, you may receive a cash reward.

HERITAGE CORNER

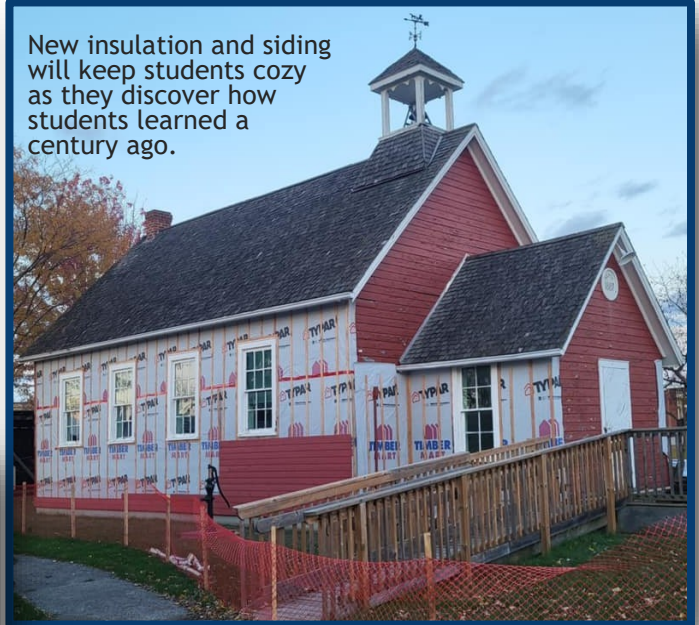
RESTORATION ENDS AND WINTER PROGRAMS BEGIN

Autumn saw some much-needed restoration work done to one of the Moore Museum's most popular buildings. The 1887 S.S. #13 Dawn one-room schoolhouse, which was moved onto the Moore Museum site in 1991, received a new exterior of red siding thanks to the masterful work of the museum's volunteer work crew.

After over 30 years of weather and frequent use, the schoolhouse is now ready for another three decades. The restoration was completed in record time, enabling the museum to host the Winter program students for 2023 without delay!

The efforts of the Moore Museum volunteers can be seen in many places around the museum site. We thank them for donating their time and their expertise. They work very hard, going above and beyond for us, keeping each project on track and ahead of schedule! We are grateful for all they do.

New insulation and siding will keep students cozy as they discover how students learned a century ago.



New year,
new old
school



Skilled volunteers turned back the clock as they refurbished the old schoolhouse on the outside and in the classroom.

FROM THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS
AT MOORE AND SOMBRA MUSEUMS,
HAVE A NEW YEAR
FILLED WITH PROMISE
AND MEMORIES

HANDY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT MOORE MUSEUM

The activities and projects Moore Museum volunteers work on vary widely; from wood working, vehicle maintenance, building maintenance, and display preservation work, to assisting with museum events, the museum staff and its volunteers 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.



Sombra mural illustrates one man's vision



B. Stevenson photos

Among the dignitaries and special guests at the mural dedication were, from left: David Ferguson, Brad Loosley, Bill Myers, Tracy Kingston, Lambton County Warden Kevin Marriott, Krista Klompstra, St. Clair Township Mayor Jeff Agar, and the artist responsible for the beautiful mural that now graces the Blue Willow building, David “Derkz” Derkatz.

New Sombra mural fulfills a man's dream of past and future

On a cold, overcast windy Sombra day, spirits were surprisingly high as the late Matt Klompstra was remembered in the most magnificent way possible. This is the tale of a journey Matt started and of the people who completed it.

A group of dignitaries, neighbours and invited guests stood ignoring the weather as they looked in amazement at the side of a huge building near the St. Clair River. On the wall was a mural that told a story only Matt and two other people understood until Matt's wife, Krista, took the microphone and began to clear away the mystery.

She spoke about her husband's vision; how the decline of Sombra made him sad and how he wanted to find a building that would house his office needs for Klompstra Construction. And at the same time, he wanted the location to stand out and be something everyone could be proud of. He also wanted to make a place that could bring people together over coffee and great food. When the Riverview Restaurant closed, he bought it and worked to transform the building.

Krista explained, “With his artistic eye, he saw the North wall as a potential artist's canvas. A big ‘welcome’ that could be one of the first things people see as they come into our community.”

Matt found a talented artist from Windsor who had

created several beautiful murals in the Windsor area. After Matt met “Derkz”, the two men toured around to see some of the murals the artist had done and talking. Their conversation provided inspiration for the mural and input from the community supplied more. The result ended up as a design that incorporated a number of subject elements that now appear on the North wall of the Blue Willow building.

During the dedication of the mural, Krista explained what each of the design elements represented.

The giant man picking up a corn stalk was dubbed, “Gus”, an everyman figure who loves the land, works hard and is passionate about his community.

The historic river scene with the boat, the “Miss America” and the fisherman in the foreground represent how we are all tethered to the river, it's mood and it's beauty.

The Hotel St. Clair at the far end of the mural was not well known in the community but was a busy place in the days when Sombra was booming.

Krista admits the sandpiper shown picking at the ground was her idea. Sandpipers were frequent visitor to the place where the Klompstras lived and Matt seemed to have a connection with them. Krista believe the sandpiper was Matt's spirit bird because its attributes are quite similar to his.

Continued on page 11

Blue Willow mural attracts attention of Sombra residents

A group of appreciative Sombra residents listens as Krista Klompstra explains the meaning of the huge mural that now graces the north wall of the Blue Willow building. The new mural is sure to be a point of interest for travelers along the St. Clair Parkway.



Grand opening of new beauty salon benefits Operation Christmas Tree

The new one-stop beauty shop, The Nook Co., opened its doors at 409 Lyndoch Street in Corunna on December 9 with an open house and a food/toy collection to benefit Operation Christmas Tree (OCT). The shop, as the name implies, makes use of the many small work rooms that offer privacy for every service, a change from the open concept many salons offer.

Even the waiting room offers comfort and class - a place to kick back in a relaxing space while waiting to be pampered. A number of fine beauty products and home décor accents are also ready for your inspection. The open house left the Christmas Tree crowded with items for Operation Christmas Tree, a kind way to begin a community service. OCT President Stan Marsh was on hand to accept the donation.

Below left: Nook practitioners include, from left: Owner/hair stylist Chantelle Peachy; esthetics (brows, facials, lashes, etc.) Jess Maitland; nail tech Justine Rose; and hair stylist Debyn Langlois.



B. Stevenson photo



Susan Agar photo

Above: The Nook Co. staff greeted Mayor Jeff Agar and his wife, Sue, who attended to welcome the business to St. Clair Township and present them with a certificate to mark their opening.

SCRCA Seeking Landowners interested in Tree Planting and Stewardship Projects

Stewardship and tree planting specialists at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) are planning for the 2024 season and are looking to engage landowners interested in implementing projects on their properties.

“Stewardship and tree planting initiatives provide many benefits for both the environment and the property in general”, said Jessica Van Zwol, Healthy Watershed Specialist at the Authority. “We can assist landowners and provide both technical and financial support for a number of different projects.”

The St. Clair Region watershed consists of over 80% agricultural land. Stewardship and tree planting projects implemented on farmland not only improve habitat for many plants and animals to thrive, including Species at Risk, but can also help reduce soil erosion, protect rural water quality, increase crop yields, and potentially reduce the amount of fertilizer needed to ensure a successful harvest. The Authority supports a variety of projects including wetland creation, tree planting, cover crops, erosion control structures, and planting riparian buffers.

“The success of our tree planting and stewardship program is really due to the commitment of landowners throughout our watershed,” explained Jeff Sharp, SCRCA’s Conservation Services Specialist, “Since 1980, we have planted over 4 million trees and created 100 hectares of wetland thanks to property owners taking on naturalization projects.”

Interested landowners are welcome to connect with Authority staff who can help manage projects from start to finish and answer questions related to funding sources and grants that are available to offset eligible project costs. Presently, funding is available through the SCRCA for several stewardship projects including the creation of

shallow wetlands, the planting of riparian buffers to separate agricultural fields from watercourses, the installation of erosion control berms and **grassed waterways** (see below) in farm fields to slow runoff, and the installation of fencing and alternative water sources to limit livestock accessibility to local waterways.

For more information and to discuss potential projects, contact Jessica Van Zwol, Healthy Watershed Specialist (jvanzwol@scrca.on.ca; (519) 245-3710, ext. 241) or Jeff Sharp, Conservation Services Specialist (jsharp@scrca.on.ca; (519) 245-3710, ext. 217).



Grassed Waterway: Allows for the movement of water through an agricultural field without causing soil erosion or nutrient inputs into local waterways.

SCRCA photo

Board of Health discussions explore merger of neighbouring Health Units

The Lambton Public Health (LPH) and Chatham-Kent Public Health (CKPH) are exploring the opportunities and impacts of merging voluntarily. This move comes after the Ministry of Health offered one-time funding, resources and supports to local public health agencies that decide to merge. The reason given for requesting voluntary mergers was to “strengthen the public health sector.”

To qualify for funding, LPH and CKPH would have to complete the merger by Jan. 1, 2025.

In a news release issued by the County of Lambton, the Ministry’s plan for strengthening public health includes a review of local public health responsibilities. The release points out that school boards such as the Lambton-Kent District School Board and the St. Clair Catholic District School Board already share a partnership. The same is true for the Aamjiwnaang and Walpole Island First Nations.

CKPH Board of Health Chair Brock McGregor says,

“Exploring opportunities under the new provincial landscape for public health is important to possibly resolve some of the long-standing capacity challenges facing the sector and aligning the new funding commitments that are proposed by the province for 2026.

For more information about upcoming provincial changes to the public health system, go online to:

- ◆ *Ontario Investing in a Stronger Public Health Sector*; Ministry of Health
- ◆ *Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care*; Ministry of Health
- ◆ *Strengthening Public Health, Outcomes and Objectives of Support Voluntary Mergers.*

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.

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 Lambton County Library St. Clair Township locations: Brigden, Corunna, and Petrolia.

Christmas spirit and cooperation puts child nutrition insufficiency in the bag



Unique specially-made pillow cases are filled with food items and treats to see students through the school holidays. The wonderful ladies doing the work here came together from four separate groups to address an overlooked issue some children face during the Christmas holidays - nutritional insufficiency. The story of how this successful project came about is a genuine Christmas story. *B. Stevenson photo*

By Bonnie Stevenson

The St. Andrew's food bank is a safe harbour for families and individuals experiencing difficult circumstances. As food bank Christmas preparations were being made, volunteer Sharon LaPier had the idea to make some small tote bags with some fabric she already had, fill them with snacks like chips, apples and treats, and hand out one to each family. "The original idea was that the whole family could enjoy what was in the bag and have an evening with it," she said.

After discussing the idea with others at the food bank, it was decided a bag could be made for each child. The contents of the bag was also discussed, and Sharon said just filling it with junk food would not do. She suggested the bag should include a balance of some nutritional items along with some treats.

Another snag came up when the size of the goodie bag came into question. If fresh fruit, juice boxes, pudding cups and other nourishing items were to be used, they would take up considerable space, so a larger bag would be needed to accommodate it. Sharon reached out to several other small church groups to see if they would participate in a joint effort.

After contacting several other church groups, Knox Moore's Ladies Aid group joined the St. Andrews Corunna group, and the scope of the project expanded. When the group discussed the project, it was decided the tote bags wouldn't be big enough to hold two-weeks worth of food. "Diane (a member of the expanded group) came up with the idea of a pillow case, so now they get a gift of a pillowcase and in them, we put the goodies in and tie it up with a ribbon," said Sharon.

The goal for creating the pillowcases was the next thing to be considered. "If the kids were using the food bank, they were probably accessing lunch programs," said Sharon. The group became concerned about how the children who depended on the school food programs would fare during the two-week Christmas holiday.

Citing the student nutrition supplement programs like the one at Col. Cameron Public School, Sharon said, "The parents council provides breakfast for every child so everyone can take

part." Her granddaughter, who attends Col. Cameron, told her the menu included such things as cereal with milk, juice, instant oatmeal, granola bars, fruit cups and yogurt. At lunch, items like fresh fruit and granola bars were available for students who hadn't had a sufficient meal.

Based on this information, the group began to hold sewing bees. "We decided to have a work party at Thompson Gardens, so we asked the ladies from St. Andrews Church and Knox Moore, and from Thompson Gardens and the Corunna Seniors Coffee Club, if anyone wanted to sew," said Sharon. "Some sewed, some pressed, and some cut, and we made 40 pillowcases." Another five were made and will be given to single people who come to the food bank.

Much of the fabric used for the project was donated by the women who worked on it. But the Knox Moore Ladies Aid group donated some funds as well. "The ladies from our Ladies Aid at Knox went out of their minds and set aside \$400, but they donated so much stuff we only spend \$100 and the rest was donated," said Sharon. The \$300 left over will be used by the food bank when the shelves need restocking.

Surplus Christmas fabric was given to the Corunna Legion Sew Girls, who made 20 more pillowcases for the Knox Moore Ladies Aid group. The Knox Moore group usually makes them at Christmas, fills them with necessities, and donates them to Lambton Developmental Services for clients who have no families. (See the Sew Girls in Action, page 13)

The members of the Corunna Seniors Coffee Club donated money to the project, which was used to stock every pillowcase with a full-sized box of cereal from the Corunna Dollar store. When the manager found out about the project, a gift certificate was donated to the project and was used to buy hats, mitts and socks. Another member of the Coffee Club went to Costco and bought two cases of instant oatmeal so each pillowcase contains several packages of oatmeal.

Sharon says she was pleased that people from so many groups, including two church groups, came together to complete the project. "People think we don't work together, but we do," she said.

Corunna Legion Sew Girls make quilt for fundraiser



Above: The Corunna Legion Sew Girls created this colourful 60"x 75" Starburst quilt as a fundraiser, with 50 per cent donated to St. Vincent de Paul, Corunna, and 50 per cent to the group for supplies used. The lucky number was drawn in mid-December.



Above: Legion Sew Girl Diann Bialkowski measures twice and cuts once as she creates quilting squares for a new quilt project she's working on.

Bonnie Stevenson photos



Above: Legion Sew Girls Charlie Barnes, right, Melinda Stevens and Janine Simmonds share a lighthearted moment while discussing the stylish pajamas the Cabbage Patch baby is wearing. The Sew Girls gathers at the Corunna Legion on Tuesdays to work on projects that benefit various community causes. They also collaborate on joint projects like the quilt at the top of this page.

FAMOUS GUEST AT OPP DRIVE-THROUGH ATTRACTS CROWD

THANK YOU to all who donated at the OPP drive-through.



Before Christmas, the sight of Santa and his lovely wife at the Emergency Services headquarters in Corunna attracted a crowd. Visitors were treated to lively tunes by Santa's personal accordion elf and a chance to obtain a magic candy cane from the big guy himself. Operation Christmas Tree (St. Andrew's food bank) was the real beneficiary of Santa's visit. Donations of non-perishable food, new unwrapped toys, and money were gladly received, including the mystery gift of a \$100 bill.

Bonnie Stevenson photo

Note of Thanks to Community by St. Andrew's Food Bank

It has been another very busy year at the St. Andrew's Food Bank, with the number of families and individuals needing help, more than doubling in 2023.

So, with grateful hearts we thank all the individuals, grocery stores, churches, local businesses and organizations for their continued support and generosity of food and monetary donations. St. Andrew's Food Bank is a part of the Canada Food Banks network. This means that all clients using the food bank are registered, and each visit is documented in the local network-wide computer system.

We are regularly inspected by the Lambton Health Unit to ensure we are meeting the necessary standards for storage and cleanliness.

We are happy to receive Gift Cards from local grocery stores, dollar stores and pharmacies. These gift cards are never provided to food bank clients. They are used to supplement food donations and purchase weekly perishable products.

When donating food, please ensure that the "best before/expiration dates" have not passed. Cheques to the Food Bank can be made payable to St. Andrew's Food Bank.

Our clients are blessed by the generosity of everyone in this wonderful, caring community. We wish you all a blessed happy 2024.

~St. Andrew's Food Bank volunteers



Breakfast with Santa

Santa's visit to Corunna United Church was a bit of a surprise for Princess Amara, who kept her eyes on mom, Amy, while the jolly old elf was talking to her. The sold-out event featured pancakes and sausages, one of Santa's favourite breakfasts. A kids' activity and craft room also kept the youngsters engaged when they weren't visiting with Santa.

B. Stevenson photo

West Lambton Community Health Centre Winter 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.)

In Person Programs

Coffee Time Social Drop-in: Join us for coffee and conversation, free of charge! Anyone is welcome to attend! To register, call 519-344-3017 ext. 237, or email reveraert@nlchc.com

- **Brigden:** Thursdays at 10:45 a.m. (at Brigden Optimist Hall, 3016-1 Brigden Rd., Brigden). Donations for the Optimist Hall are accepted but not required.

- **Sarnia:** Fridays at 10:45 a.m. (at West Lambton CHC). Please do NOT arrive prior to 10:45 a.m. as we have other programming happening and the *Coffee Time* volunteers need adequate time to set up.

Cooking Buddies: Children's cooking classes for ages between 6-12 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! Locations: (**Brigden**—2435 Courtright Line in Brigden), Jan. 2 at 6-7:30 p.m. (**Corunna**—St. Joseph's Church, 346 Beresford St).

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

Living Well with Adult ADHD: Tuesdays, Jan. 9 to Feb. 20 at 2-4 p.m. (at West Lambton CHC). Do you struggle with concentration, forgetfulness, impulsive behavior? Were you diagnosed with ADHD as a child or adult? Or suspect you may experience ADHD? This group may be for you. To register, call 519-344-3017 ext. 237 or email: reveraert@nlchc.com

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: reveraert@nlchc.com

****We are looking to add to our Volunteer Instructor Team! No experience necessary, all training provided! Call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 for details****

- **Brigden Low Impact:** Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. (at Brigden Fair Grounds, 2976 Brigden Rd. in Brigden)

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

Meditation: Wednesdays from 10-11 a.m. (at West Lambton CHC) Increase self esteem, improve concentration, lower blood pressure, reduce stress & anxiety and emotional balance. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237, or email: reveraert@nlchc.com

Virtual Programs

Body & Mind Inspired Class: Jan. 23 (Zoom) at 12 noon-1 p.m. This BMI group is health and wellness support group that is led by 2 registered Dietitians focusing on nutrition. This program is offered bi-monthly. This month's focus is on Protein 101. To register, call 519-786-4545, ext. 302, or email: bvanbree@nlchc.com

Eat Well, Live Healthy Wellness Workshop: Virtual discussion with our Registered Dietitian to talk about healthy eating, nutrition tools, resources and more! For more information about dates/time and to register, call 519-786- 4545, ext. 307.

Heart Healthy Living: Virtual discussion with our Registered Dietitian to discuss about types of cholesterol, heart smart diet and healthy heart lifestyle habits. For more information about dates/time and to register, call 519-786- 4545, ext. 307.

Mindful Eating Program: This is a four-week program that runs Jan. 24, Jan. 30, Feb. 7 and Feb. 21 at 1:30 -3:30 p.m. Learn how to practice mindful eating and become more in tune with your body's natural hunger response. To register, call 519-786-4545, ext. 307.

New Years, Goals that Stick: Jan. 15 at 2:30 p.m. Join us to learn tips and tricks to ensure you stick to your goals for 2024! To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 277 or email: mhyatt@nlchc.com

Shibashi: Mondays at 10:15 a.m. join this 45-minute class. This will be a 4-week series to learn Shibashi. Shibashi is a combination of movements used in Shibashi and Sit or Stand classes. Shibashi is Tai chi/ qigong, 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. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 or email: reveraert@nlchc.com ****NEW**

Sit or Stand: Mondays at 1:30 p.m., joint this 45minute class. This exercise is performed with the options of either standing or seated in a chair. Resistance bands are used. All exercise abilities are welcome. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 or email: reveraert@nlchc.com. ****NEW DAY**

COMMUNITY CONTACT

FOOD BANKS NEED OUR HELP

Sacred Heart food bank helps community thrive

The Sacred Heart Food Bank continues to aid the community address food insecurity all year long. Nourishing food items 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 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.

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 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.

Mental health group & resources

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, 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.

Weekly St. Clair Township libraries 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.

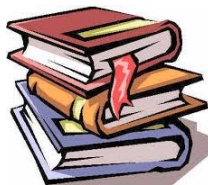
***Courtright** 519-867-2712): Tuesday, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursday, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

***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.



Get your copy of the **ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP BEACON** at your local library!

From page 19

MORE AROUND TOWNSHIP



A 3D printer made the dragon, inset right, and a lot more fantasy beasts on the display table of Sandra Taglione and Tyler Debie at the Bridgen Winter Market.

The couple started their business with a low-entry 3D printing unit and when they progressed to colour creations, they upgraded their machine to upgrade their products.

Stevenson photos



SANTA SHY
Stevenson photo

'Princess' Amara wasn't quite sure about how to handle her interview with Santa at the Corunna United Church *Breakfast with Santa* event on Nov. 2. But with mom, Amy encouraging her, the princess finally divulged her Christmas wishes and was rewarded with a candy cane.

Wallaceburg Delivery Opportunity

**Help others stay in their homes!
Deliver Meals on Wheels**

You Give:

- A few hours a week
- Reliable commitment
- A friendly smile.

You Get:

- Joy in helping others
- New friendships
- Schedules that meet you where you are able.
- Small reimbursement

Interested:

- 519-845-1353 ext 301
- volunteer@leohelps.ca

JACKPOT

COME, ENJOY TIME TOGETHER

LEO

New Diner's Clubs

Tuesday, Jan. 9Sombra

Wednesday, Jan. 17...Corunna

Both events will be from:
11:30 to 1:30
including soup and sandwich lunch
Guest Speakers, Games, and More

CONTACT: DELLA
519-845-1353 EXT 301

REGISTER AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE THE EVENT.

~See below to register~

JACKPOT

Lambton Elderly Outreach (LEO) offers seniors Diner's Club offered

SOMBRA: On Tuesday, January 9, Lambton Elderly Outreach (LEO) Diner's Club will host a monthly light lunch and entertainment at the Sombra Museum Cultural Centre hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at a cost of \$12 per person. The guest speaker will be from the Canadian Red Cross.

CORUNNA: On Wednesday, January 17, the Diner's Club offers a monthly hot meal and entertainment from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for \$17 at Wellings.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND. To register for lunch or for more information, contact Della at 519-845-1353, ext. 301 or email: dcroxford@lambtonelderlyoutreach.org

Moore Sports Complex—What's happening?

Check out our schedule at:
stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca

for more information about: aquatic; health and fitness adult programs; children/youth recreational programs; school programs; and much more!

From page 20

MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Brigden Winter Market draws a crowd



The Brigden Winter Market in the Brigden Fairgrounds exhibition hall attracted a first-class selection of vendors and an impressive crowd of Christmas shoppers looking for the special items that will impress the people who receive them. There was no shortage of unique and giftable merchandise.

B. Stevenson photos



Above: Luxury pens, classic and modern razors, and specialized calligraphy pens and nibs are the speciality of Peter Victor of Sarnia. His exquisite work is perfect for special occasion gifts, awards, or when you want to make a fine impression. Razors work with commercially-available blades. Custom work can be ordered. Contact Peter at: peterspens22@gmail.com or peterspens.myshopify.com

Grain Farmers of Ontario March Classic is back!



The Grain Farmers of Ontario March Classic returns to the RBC Place in London on March 19, 2024. The event, which has been the Grain Farmers of Ontario premier event since 2010, will feature:

Shawn Hackett, Ag. Commodities Expert; Marshall Sewell, Mental Health and Stress Management Advocate (Mind Your Melon); Amanda Lang, Award Winning Business Journalist; and Tareq Hadhad, Founder and CEO of Peace by Chocolate, EY Entrepreneur of the Year.

Registration for this event opens on Jan. 4, 2024. For more information about speakers or the agenda, visit www.gfo.ca/MarchClassic. Early registrants (before Feb. 29) will be eligible for the early bird draw with two chances to win a prize.

TRAIN YOUR BRAIN CORUNNA

Corunna Legion

350 Albert St. Corunna

Thursday nights 6-7:30pm

Eight week program from Jan 18-Mar 7

Limited spots. Don't delay!



- FREE program for grades 3 & 4 students
- Build math and reading muscle
- Grow confidence as a learner
- Have fun

Register online:

www.literacylambton.org

Sponsored by:

Worley

energy | chemicals | resources

Legion

Literacy
LAMBTON

The Fun-tastic Cornhole Tournament is back!

Back by popular demand, the Royal Canadian Legion Leslie Sutherland Br. 447 at 350 Albert Street in Corunna will again host a cornhole tournament on Jan. 6, 2024. Play will start at 10 a.m. with 40 teams going head-to-head on multiple sets of boards with double elimination. Entry fee is \$40 per team (due at registration) and pre-registration is required. The event will feature cash prizes, a cash bar and food, and door prizes from local sponsors.




LEGION

For more information or to register, contact: Russ Lloyd (519) 312-5241 or email: Russlloyd94@gmail.com.



AROUND THE TOWNSHIP



Corunna Legion Br. 447
350 Albert St., Corunna
519-862-1240

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Membership is NOT necessary to enjoy the facilities. It's wheelchair accessible
Regular Legion Br. 447 Activities

New Years Day Levee - Monday, Jan. 1
 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Pepper - Starts at 1 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 8,
 15, 22, 29
Cribbage - Starts at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Jan.
 4, 11, 18, 25
Bridge - Starts at 1 p.m. on Friday, Jan 5, 12,
 19, 26
Meat Draws - Starts 4 p.m., on Saturday, Jan.
 6, 13, 20, 27
Open Jam - Starts 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on
 Saturday, Jan. 27

Yoga - Starts at 6:15 p.m.

Chair Yoga starts at 7:15 p.m. **Beginners** - Wednesday,
 Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31

Meat "Fun" Darts - Starts at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 12
 and Jan. 26.

Elimination Draw, Saturday, Jan. 14. Starting time to be
 announced. Tickets are on sale at the Legion for \$20 each.
Pub Night on Friday, Jan. 19 features JST4FN starting at 7
 p.m. to 10 p.m. No cover charge and ALL ARE WELCOME.

Don Jackson Cribbage Tournament on Sunday, Jan. 28,
 starts at 1 p.m. Register from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 ALL ARE WELCOME.

For further details please check our Facebook Site
 or call (519) 862-1240

FB: The Royal Canadian Legion
 Leslie Sutherland Br. 447

**All are welcome! No membership required to
 enjoy the facilities!**

More information on the above events is available by
 calling (519) 862-1240

or on Facebook: The Royal Canadian Legion,
 Leslie Sutherland Br. 447

Brigden Legion Br. 635

3021 Brigden Road, Brigden
519-864-1395

Everyone is always welcome!

Activities for January include:

Jan. 5 - Euchre at 7 p.m.

Jan 12 - Pool at 7 p.m.

Jan. 13 - Meat Raffle at 4:30 p.m.

Jan. 19 - Trivia at 7 p.m.

Jan. 20 - **Hosting the District Pool Tournament at
 the Brigden Optimist Hall starting at 10:30 a.m.**

Jan. 26 - Pool at 7 p.m.

Jan. 27 - Meat Raffle at 4:30 a.m.

The Brigden Legion is open on Thursday, Friday, and
 Saturday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

On meat raffle Saturdays, it is open at 4 p.m.

Fill your holiday hours with beauty

The Judith and Norman Alix Gallery will have open
 hours through the holiday season. Between Christ-
 mas and New Years, the gallery will be open from
 Dec. 27 to 30 for family viewing. **On Dec. 30, a fam-
 ily drop-in activity will be running from 1 p.m. to 3
 p.m.** Normal gallery hours are: Wednesday, Friday,
 and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Thurs-
 day from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The gallery will celebrate its 10th year as the
 JNAAG in 2024 with exhibits featuring its permanent
 collection.

More Around the Township, page 19



Online Subscription Available

A free subscription to
 The St. Clair Township Beacon
 is available by emailing:

beacon@stclairtownship.ca

Please type "Subscription" in
 the Subject line and include
 your full name.

To find THE BEACON online,
 visit the township
 website homepage at:
www.stclairtownship.ca
 and click on The Beacon icon.

Items that qualify for publication

THE BEACON is open at no charge to
 not-for-profits in St. Clair Township
 (i.e. service clubs, youth/seniors
 groups, agricultural groups, charity
 initiatives, etc.) AND groups, events,
 or activities that will benefit and/or
 interest residents of St. Clair Town-
 ship.

To submit information,
 photos, or a notice, email:

beacon@stclairtownship.ca

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
 IS Monday, January 15,
 2024 by noon.**

PRINTED BEACON now available at all St. Clair Town-
 ship library branches and at the St. Clair Township
 Civic Centre at front door.