



THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP BEACON



ISSUE 2

VOLUME 17

FEBRUARY 2024

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Do you have a good
hockey story to tell
or photos to share?
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PLEASE
continue to
support your
local
food bank.
Your donations
make a
positive
difference in
difficult times.

Brigden Legion hosts District A pool tournament



Above: Brigden Legion Br. 635 member Eldon Krohn watches as the #7 ball he has just hit sinks obediently into the corner pocket. Watching intently is Eldon's pool partner Ben Taylor. The team finished the game with a win.

The recent Royal Canadian Legion District A 8 Ball Pool Tournament, hosted by Brigden Legion Branch 635, was held at the Brigden Optimist Hall on Jan. 20. The tournament featured teams from 17 Legion branches within the district, including: Melbourne, Donnybrook, Parkhill, Delaware, Blenheim, St. Thomas, Thamesville, Essex, Tecumseh, Ambassador, Windsor, and Alvinston. Some branches, including Brigden, fielded more than one team. Three pool tables were in play as the teams squared off against each other.

When the battle was over, Essex Legion Branch 201 won the tournament.

- *First Place - Jim Hamilton and Chris Vuckan - Branch 201 Essex
- *Second Place - John Malot and Roy Parnell - Branch 367 Thamesville
- *Third Place - Harry Bissonnette and Lou Driessen - Branch 594 Windsor
- *Fourth Place - Brad McLellan and Don Collar - Branch 594 Windsor
- *Fifth Place - Eldon Krohn and Ben Taylor - Branch 665 Brigden

Royal Canadian Legion Brigden Branch 635 appreciates the support and sponsorship of Mainstreet Credit Union Brigden branch and St. Clair Mechanical of Brigden.

*Winter is a difficult time for your elderly and disabled neighbours.
During bad weather events and power outages, please make sure they are
NOT in distress and have the things they need to get through the emergency.*



MUNICIPAL NOTES



Notice of 2024 Budget Meeting

St. Clair Township's 2024 draft budget presentation and deliberation meeting will be held on Thursday March 7, 2024, in the Council Chambers starting at 5:00 p.m. The budget meeting is open to the public and all ratepayers are welcome to attend.

Appreciation and thanks expressed for departing Dog Catcher

The Township would like to extend heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Gayle Farr for acting as the Township Dog Catcher from 2006 - 2024. Gayle served the entire Township tirelessly throughout her tenure and her contributions are greatly appreciated.

Like many neighbouring municipalities within Lambton County, the Township opted to go with a new centralized dog catching program facilitated by the Sarnia District Humane Society (SDHS). Through that contract, the SDHS has secured the services of Jeff Dewhirst to act as the Township Dog Catcher. Jeff can be reached at 519-312-1322.

Official Plan updates near completion

Lambton County Planner Ken Melanson attended the Jan. 15 meeting of council to present an information update on how the County has been working to address comments gathered through public meetings, open houses, and in written form. The other purpose was to let St. Clair Township Council know how the municipality was doing in respect to conforming with the Lambton County Official Plan.

Mr. Melanson explained, "Updates also cover off some topics of recent concern in the planning realm as of late such as short term vacation rentals, to give you some policy guidance on these issues."

Council members received a pamphlet outlining each key area of the official plan being updated for conformance. Housing was the first issue to be discussed. "The housing area will be updated to continue to encourage a wide range of housing types for people in various social and economic situations," said Mr.

See More Municipal Notes, page 4



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: 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 licenses 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

Mayor's Honour Role 2023

St. Clair Township is fortunate to be the home of countless community-minded people and businesses that give countless hours of their time working for the betterment of their community. Whether it's through service groups, fundraising committees, community event planning groups, and charitable causes, or through individual efforts, they step up to make life better for their friends and neighbours and sometimes, total strangers. Most of the time, their good work goes unnoticed.

Mayor Jeff Agar has developed a list of names and organizations that consistently improve the quality of life for residents of their community. The inaugural list for 2023 acknowledges individuals and groups that continue to make a positive difference in St. Clair Township from year to year.

Each year, a new Honour Role will be issued to honour those who have, in some way, advanced the quality of life for the people of St. Clair Township. The list will include about 15 individuals, groups and businesses, and honourees will be invited to attend a dinner in their honour to be held at the newly refurbished St. Clair Parkway Golf Course Clubhouse.

Honour Role 2023

Geoff Dale (Captain Kidd Days/ President Mooretown Minor Hockey Association); Stan Marsh (Optimist Club of Moore / Operation Christmas Tree); Nicole Smith (Captain Kidd Days); Ashley Robbins (Captain Kidd Days); Rick Mitchell, (Optimist Club of Brigden/ Brigden Decorating group); Bob Barnes, (Courtright ball diamond/ Mooretown Flags); Irene Jardine (Brigden Fair Board members, Ducks Unlimited, Upland Games); Michelle Maitland (Captain Kidd Days/St. Clair River Run); Craig Bezaire (Port Lambton Pirates Baseball); Frank Johnson, (Port Lambton Food Bank); Chuck and Betty Lauwereys, (Wilkesport Hall); Colin Miller (Port Lambton Days); Jamie Bogaert and Caroline Peters (Sombra Days).

St. Clair Township

2024 Interim Property Tax Due Dates

**Thursday, February 29
and
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**

Please be courteous to Township staff

Township office staff and personnel conduct the business of the township as it is written in the by-laws and in the decisions made for the smooth operation of the municipality. When interacting with these people, remember they must adhere to these by-laws and decisions when trying to assist you. **PLEASE BE COURTEOUS TO THEM.** Remember that they are doing their job, even if the answers you receive in the course of your interaction are not satisfactory to you, ask them politely who would be able to help them and how to contact them. ***Please treat our staff the way you want to be treated.***

2024 St. Clair Township dog tags

2024 DOG TAGS WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE. Details in March Beacon, on St. Clair Township website, or by calling the St. Clair Township office at 519-867-2021.



From Municipal Notes, page 3

MORE MUNICIPAL NOTES

Melanson.

He told council the most critical update had to do with Bill-23 and changes to the additional dwelling unit provisions under the Planning Act. It also includes some pre-work on settlement area concerns for residential development...subject to the County official plan review process.

For those who are unfamiliar with Bill-23, it is also known as the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022.

Reviewing economic development, Mr. Melanson said, "We're updating policies to ensure they are consistent with provincial planning goals to support and grow the economy in the township." He added short term vacation rental policy is being added to address some of the concerns that have been raised about short term vacation rentals relating to housing challenges that have been experienced.

On the subject of Agriculture, policies are being updated to ensure updates from provincial policy framework on agricultural uses, surplus farm dwellings, and agri-tourism uses are incorporated and consistent. As an example, in the updated St. Clair Official Plan viewed by Council at the meeting, under Agriculture, item 1.3, the updated wording reads, "Agricultural uses will be given highest priority in the Agricultural designation. Land uses that do not require a location in the Agricultural Area and most non-farm development will be directed to Urban Centres,

Urban Settlements, or Secondary Settlements in order to preserve agricultural land and to avoid conflicts between farm and non-farm uses."

Cultural heritage is also being updated to align St. Clair Township's official plan recent changes with the Heritage Act.

Mr. Melanson says, "Natural heritage is probably one of the major changes that is being updated in the township's official plan as a result of the County changing its natural heritage process simply to align and adjust."

Urban sign policies will have minor updates to already existing urban sign policies to align with the Planning Act and recent PPS updates.

"At this point, the public engagement process is now complete. We are preparing final versions of the final red lined amendment," said Mr. Melanson. "We've received some last minute comments which we are addressing before we bring the final amendment package to you."

Master Plan being developed for EMS

All municipalities in Lambton County are being asked to review a new master plan being developed for the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) to address new challenges that will come with the County's aging population, how to efficiently use existing resources to serve future demands, and what new resources will be necessary to meet the increase in demand. Some considerations include: the relocation of some EMS stations; a rebranding of the EMS uniforms, and a 24 hour per day service.

Emergency response time discussed at ROMA conference



Seated from left: St. Clair Fire Chief Richard Boyes, Mayor Jeff Agar, and Deputy Mayor Steve Miller recently met with Solicitor General Michael Kerzner, *standing centre*, at the annual ROMA (Rural Ontario Municipal Association) Conference in Toronto in an effort to decentralize 9-1-1 dispatch to decrease response time within St. Clair Township. The conference gives municipal leaders an opportunity to discuss matters of concern to their communities with cabinet ministers and members of provincial parliament. **Standing left:** Ontario Fire Marshall Jon Pegg and **standing right,** three Deputy OPP Commissioners.

Photo submitted

Caring community and preparedness helps mitigate fire outcome

Caring Community comes through

The Templeton Crescent fire that left two Courtright families homeless just before Christmas was an unimaginable tragedy. It no doubt left a feeling of helplessness in the hearts of those who witnessed it or heard about it in news reports.

But when Courtright resident Cathy Vickerd heard about it, her immediate instinct was to act. "I just reached out to Cindy at the Courtright Variety store and asked if we could put something on the counter for a week," she said. As a Watson Timber Mart employee at the Courtright store, she was given approval to do the same at the front counter of the store. And it didn't take long for her to start accepting donations via e-Transfer and posting the effort on her Facebook page, promising to report the total of funds collected during a one-week period. "We hoped to collect two-thousand dollars or so," she said.

The donations started pouring in immediately and the collection total rocketed up. In only 5 days, between Watson Timber Mart, Courtright Variety, and the online donations, the collection total amounted to an incredible \$21,250.00 "I was quite shocked," said Cathy. As good as her word, she quickly posted the total on her Facebook page.

Understanding that the families were in need of immediate help, Cathy quickly contacted them so the money could be used for necessities. "I met them on the Saturday before Christmas and gave each family \$10,625.00," she said. "They were in tears. They could not believe what the community had done for them."

Preparedness saves lives

The real life professional training our firefighters receive, and the individual study they do with important texts like the ones Enbridge Gas recently donated to St. Clair Fire, contribute to the good outcomes exemplified by the recent Temple Crescent emergency. The St. Clair Township Fire Department scrambled units from the Courtright, Corunna and Brigden stations to fight the fire, and the Becher station also responded to bring an air unit to the site. The unit is used to refill the air packs used for entry into smokey or toxic buildings.

St. Clair Fire Chief Richard Boyes said the

structures were already in flame by the time the fire trucks could respond. A fire scene investigation was carried out and the fire was deemed to be accidental. It began in an unattended deep fryer being used in the garage and quickly spread to the second house, as well as a parked pickup truck and a fifth wheel trailer.

Chief Boyes praised the firefighters for their handling of the inferno. All occupants of the two houses escaped without injury. Three dogs were also brought from the buildings by firefighters who found them in distress. Although the fire vehicles carry pet resuscitation units, the firefighters determined there was no time to retrieve the units and used their own masks to sustain the animals during their evacuation. Training and constant practice gave firefighters the knowledge and skills they required to perform without hesitation.

St. Clair Fire would like to remind everyone that cooking is the number one cause of residential fires in Ontario. Remember these tips to help keep your family safe:

- *Always stay in the kitchen when cooking.
- *Keep a proper-fitting lid near the stove when cooking.
- *If a pot catches fire, slide the lid over the pot and turn off the stove. **Do not move the pot and never put water onto a grease fire.**
- *If a fire occurs, get out and call 911.



The aftermath of the fire showing garage where the fire began, left, and the damaged second house. *B. Stevenson photo*

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



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

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 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.

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





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/stclairwppw>

Water utility appointments

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.

OVERNIGHT PARKING NOW IN FORCE

The St. Clair Township winter parking by-law is now in effect and will continue until April 1, 2024. 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 a.m. to 7 a.m.

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.

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.

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.

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

Frozen Water Meter and Pipes

From page 6

Preventative:

Winter weather brings cold temperatures that put your home at risk for frozen water meters and pipes. This can stop the flow of water through them and may lead to costly repairs. Property owners are responsible for protecting water pipes and meters from damage, so here are a few tips to avoid unnecessary damages.

- Eliminate cold drafts near water pipes.
- Turn off service to external water pipes.
- Insulate pipes that are most prone to freezing. (Insulating wraps can be found at hardware and home improvement stores.)
- Make frequent use of your water supply.
- Know the location of the inside shut off valve to deactivate burst pipes.

If you suspect your pipes are frozen, check the following:

- Pipes near outside walls or where water pipes enter the foundation are most at risk. Open the faucet nearest to the frozen pipe to release pressure that can burst the pipe when water starts to flow. NEVER use a blow torch 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 placed near flammable materials.
- Once water starts to flow, allow a small stream of water to continue until heating is restored.
- Eliminate drafts and allow heat to circulate to avoid refreezing.

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

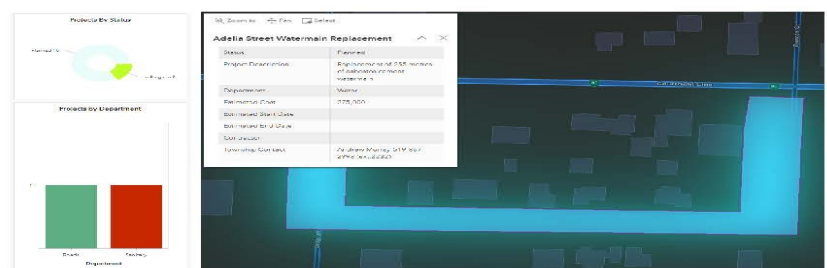
Municipal511
Powered by TRANSIS

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/

From page 7

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

In praise of the noble but much maligned outhouse

It's been called a latrine, a backhouse, a dunny, a jakes, a comfort station and a necessary house, but there is noble lore behind the genesis of the outhouse that few are privy to. Local historian Laurel Pattenden has done some scholarly research and written an enlightening story to elevate our opinion of this lowly, but necessary, facility.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

When Canadian singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen wrote the song *Anthem*, he observed how cracks let in the light. He was absolutely right, and he could even have been referring to how cracks were important to outhouses. Yes, outhouses!

We don't take much note about the history of outhouses, or to use a more polite way of referring to it - the *privy*, which is obviously the short form of the word *privacy*.

Have you ever noticed that outhouse doors always have a hole cut out of the upper portion of the door?

That hole lets in the daylight, but also allows for privacy...and bugs! It can also let out the light, when someone is using the privy at night and has carried in a lantern.

Outhouses located near homesteads and farm houses had doors with holes cut in many shapes or designs. However, when it came to public outhouses, a standard cutout shape was developed for their doors. The cutout shape was used instead of



a printed sign because the literacy rate was very low in the 1800's. We still use standard symbols in our multilingual world so everyone can understand.

According to commonly held theories, the women's privy door always had a cutout of a crescent moon which, throughout history, has been known to represent Luna or the Goddess Diana. It was later used as a symbol indicating feminine.

Cutouts made in the door of a men's privy were either a sun or a star. It is difficult to find information on these two symbols, but it has been suggested they also relate to gender mythology, and they have become masculine signs.

The crescent moon shape on an outhouse door tends to be seen more often today than a star or sun door. One theory for this is preference is that men's outhouses were not as well maintained; they deteriorated more quickly, so fewer of them survived. Outhouses are hard to find these days but fortunately, a perfect example of a joint public outhouse can be found behind the schoolhouse at the Moore Museum. One door bears a cutout of the crescent moon, while the other door bears a different shaped cutout. Is it a sun or a star?

The answer to this intriguing question is yours to discover the next time you visit the Moore Museum. We look forward to seeing you this spring.

-Laurel Pattenden

Moore Museum seeks volunteers for the Advisory Committee and the Tuesday Group

The museum is also looking for anyone who would be interested in joining the **Advisory Committee**. We meet at the museum once a month (with a few exceptions), at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday. We discuss all matters concerning the museum, including upcoming events, maintenance needs, the accepting of large donations/artifacts, etc.. Anyone with an interest in the Museum or local history would be welcome to join!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The Moore Museum is currently looking for volunteers who may enjoy being part of the **Tuesday Group** on Tuesday mornings. The group comes to do general maintenance around the grounds, such as painting or building shelving or display mounts, etc. and they enjoy the camaraderie of working together. They usually stay until early afternoon.



Above: Moore Museum volunteers work to restore a vintage piece of farm machinery that sits in an open air display area at the Shaw Building. Just one of the interesting tasks our volunteers enjoy with the Tuesday Group.

Moore Museum photo

Enbridge Gas donation supports St. Clair Fire firefighter training



St. Clair Fire personnel find out early in their training that there is a lot to know about the job. Their rigorous training includes study, but training manuals are expensive.

Enbridge Gas, through the *Enbridge Safe Community Project Assist* program, recently made a substantial donation toward the purchase of several boxes of these vitally important text books that will reinforce the training our firefighters receive.

St. Clair Fire Chief Richard Boyes expressed thanks to Enbridge for the important donation of learning materials. "Their generous contribution of training materials will assist our firefighters in learning new procedures and maintaining their existing fire fighting skills," he said.

Wes Armstrong, Enbridge Gas Director of Storage, says providing support for Ontario firefighters is a core concern for the company. "We're equipping the heroes of tomorrow to better protect the communities we live and work in...keeping them healthy and vibrant," he said.

Jon Pegg, Ontario Fire Marshall and Chair of the Fire Marshall's Public Fire Safety Committee (FMPFSC) commented, "Fire departments train every day and that's why it's important for them to have access to the right materials to keep their members and the public safe." He added the Enbridge program, which is supplying 50 Ontario fire departments with funds to purchase training materials this year, improves the ongoing learning that occurs across the province.

The important work of St. Clair Fire is carried out by 150 paid on-call firefighters from six township fire stations including: Becher, Corunna, Courtright, Port Lambton and Wilkesport.

The firefighters receive training under the guidance of skilled trainers and their skills are continually honed to ensure that St. Clair Township firefighters have the knowledge and the confidence they need to perform well as a team.

Follow on Facebook at: [@stclairfire](#) and Instagram [@stclairfire](#).



Above: Enbridge and St. Clair Fire representatives recently met to look over a shipment of the newly purchased firefighter training manuals. Enbridge is helping purchase the expensive manuals through its Safe Community Project Assist program. Present at the meeting were, from left: Robin Elwood, Enbridge Operation Supervisor Sarnia; St. Clair Township Mayor Jeff Agar; St. Clair Fire Chief Richard Boyes; Wes Armstrong, Enbridge Gas Director of Storage; St. Clair Fire District, Corunna, Chief Tom Mitchell; and St. Clair Fire Deputy Fire Chief Andrew McMillan.

B. Stevenson photos

SCRCA Seeking Landowners interested in Stewardship and Tree Planting Projects



Tree planting and stewardship specialists at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

ty (SCRCA) are planning for the 2024 season and are looking to engage landowners interested in implementing projects on their properties.

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.

Since 1980, SCRCA projects have resulted in the planting of 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 for projects like the creation of shallow wetlands, the planting of ri-

parian buffers to separate agricultural fields from watercourses, the installation of erosion control berms, and development of grassed waterways in farm fields which help slow runoff. Programs also include 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).



CFO to host *March Classic* in London, Ont.

Registration is now open for the in-person Grain Farmers of Ontario (GFO) *March Classic*, to be held on Tuesday, March 19 in London, Ontario at RBC Place.

The GFO is the province's largest commodity organization, representing Ontario's 28,000 barley, corn, oat, soybean, and wheat farmers. The event theme will be *Advancing Our Strong Roots*.

Attendees will have opportunities to hear speakers discuss how people can be ready to take on the new opportunities that arise, to network with agricultural leaders, and to engage with more than 65 exhibitors.

2024 March Classic keynote speakers include:

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

The March Classic has stood as Grain Farmers of Ontario's flagship event since 2010.

"We are thrilled to return to London with a captivating and informative lineup, building on the success of last year's March Classic Agriculture event," says Victoria Berry, Manager, Communications, Grain Farmers of Ontario. "The future is built on the foundation we give it, and Ontario grain farming has deep, strong roots that feed this country's people and support the success of the agriculture industry."

Grain Farmers of Ontario eagerly anticipates reconnecting with everyone at this year's event, fostering ongoing engagement and collaboration in the agricultural community," says Crosby Devitt, CEO, Grain Farmers of Ontario.

To register for the 2024 March Classic and view the agenda, please visit www.gfo.ca/MarchClassic to complete the speaker lineup, and hotel details.

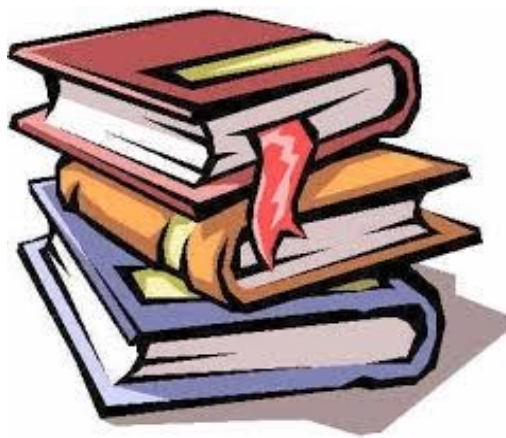
Lambton County Library announces *One Book Lambton* title for 2024

The Lambton County Library *One Book Lambton* title for 2024 has been announced.

Women Talking by Miriam Toews takes place over 48 hours and focuses on eight women tasked with deciding how to respond to over one hundred violent night-time assaults perpetrated against the women and girls in the community.

The author describes her book as a fictional response to real-life events that took place between 2005 and 2009 in Manitoba Colony, a secluded Mennonite community in Bolivia. Miriam Toews' response to her book being chosen for *One Book Lambton* was enthusiastic. In a video message, Toews remarked, "I hope that when you read the book you can enter this loft and be part of this discussion that the women and [the main character, August] are having." Her hopes for the book are that it will stimulate conversations throughout Lambton County.

Miriam Toews has penned nine books, including *A Complicated Kindness*, *All My Puny Sorrows*, and *Women Talking*. She has won many liter-



ary awards, including the Governor General's Award for Fiction (2004) and the Writers' Trust Engel Findley Award (2010). *Women Talking* was adapted into a feature-length film in 2022, directed by Canadian filmmaker Sarah Polley and was awarded Best Adapted Screenplay and nominated for Best Picture at the 2023 Academy Awards®.

One Book Lambton is a literary event, designed to celebrate Canadian authors and to unite people from around Lambton County through reading the same book. Everyone is invited to read *Women Talking* and participate in discussions and activities that explore the book's themes.

Reserve a copy of *Women Talking* through the online catalogue at lclibrary.ca or by calling or visiting any Lambton County Library location. eBooks and eAudiobooks are available to borrow through the Libby app using your Lambton County Library card.

Visit onebooklambton.ca and follow @LCLibraryca on Facebook and X to stay up to date on upcoming programs and events.

Canada-wide project post-secondary education grant information

Many families are concerned about the crushing cost of post-secondary school tuitions, but few are aware of the Canada Learning Bond that has been available since 2004.

Information recently sent to The Beacon by Lorri Kerrigan from County of Lambton Social Planning explained the Canada Learning Bond (CLB). It is a grant of from \$500 to \$2,000 from the Government of Canada to help eligible families pay for the cost of their child's education after high school.

The CLB is deposited directly into a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) for the child. Parents don't have to contribute any money to be eligible, but they can add to the RESP if they wish. Grandparents and other family members can also contribute to it.

To be eligible, a child must: have been born in 2004 or later; have a Social Insurance number; and reside in Canada.

The parent or guardian must have: a net family income under \$53,359 (based on family size it is adjusted every year); a Social Insurance number; and fixed taxes for at least one year since the eligible child was born.

The Government of Canada will contribute up to \$2,000 to an RESP for an eligible child.

This includes: \$500 for the first year of eligibility; \$100 each year the child is eligible (up to and including the year they turn 15); and if your income increases, you don't lose the CLB that is already in the RESP for the child.

An application for the program can be made at a bank, credit union, or on-line.

Visit: LambtonLearns or Canada Learning Bond—Canada.ca to obtain more information.

It should be noted that only 36% of income-eligible children in Lambton County are currently accessing this free \$2,000 for post-secondary education, which includes skilled trades apprenticeships, college, or university.



This Employment Ontario service is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

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.

COURTRIGHT FRIENDSHIP CLUB IS ONE-OF-A-KIND



Above: The new 2024 Courtright Friendship Club executive poses with some of their club members after enjoying one of their pre-game pot-luck meals. Seated, from left, are: President Joyce Brock; Vice-President Malcolm Rogers; Secretary Ruth Ann Piggott; and Treasurer Marilyn Johnson.



Left: Good natured controversy breaks out during a pre-potluck practice card game. "Referee" Marilyn Johnson tries very hard to adjudicate the matter, which ends with a change of subject.

Bonnie Stevenson photos

EXTREME COLD IS DANGEROUS: LPH ISSUES TIPS TO HELP YOU FIGHT FROSTY FEBRUARY

The cold and snow of winter has become frigid enough to trigger several Extreme Cold warnings from Lambton Public Health.

Since we tend to forget the meaning of those warnings when we're sweating through a Lambton County heat wave, please remember that warnings are issued when the forecast calls for one or more of these conditions: Daily low temperatures are predicted to be -15 degrees C or below without wind chill added; Environment Canada issues a wind chill warning for Lambton County; or extreme weather conditions like a blizzard or ice storm are predicted. Take the warning seriously and dress in layers, covering as much exposed skin as possible from head to toe, and limiting time outdoors. Overexposure can happen rapid-

ly and become life-threatening when body temperature drops below normal body temperature of 36.1 degrees C to 37.8 degrees C (97 degrees F to 100 degrees F). Symptoms include: pale skin; lethargy; confusion; excessive shivering; and hallucinations.

Please visit LambtonPublicHealth.ca for more information and to locate warming centre locations and hours of operation in your area.

Anyone experiencing homelessness or who knows someone in this situation should call Lambton County Social Services at 519-344-2062 from 8:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. For hours outside these hours, call the Good Shepherd's Lodge at 519-344-1679.

51st Annual U21 Silver Stick held in Mooretown



Above: Presiding over the ceremonial puck drop for the 51st Annual U21 Silver Stick tournament, St. Clair Township Mayor Jeff Agar, President Craig Lane, Ontario Minor Hockey Association (holding puck), and Al McColl, International Director of Silver Stick, prepare to begin the tournament. The teams facing off are the Mooretown Flags and the Central Perth Predators.

Right: The Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Dave Schieman by Maureen McKellar.

The winners of the Mooretown tournament included: A Division, New Hamburg; B Division, Thorold; AA Division, Ennismore; C Division, Tweed.

SILVER STICK ORIGIN: Named after the Ottawa Silver Seven team of the early 1900s, the Silver Stick was created by famous sports columnist Jack Kinsella in 1957. The original Silver Stick, which was used during the 1958 opening ceremonies, is displayed in the Hockey Hall of Fame at 30 Yonge Street, Brookfield Place, in Toronto.

Each year, a plaque listing the team names of the new Silver Stick champions is placed in the Hockey Hall of Fame's Silver Stick display.

Left: The Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto.



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).

Drum Fit: Drum Fit's Music, Motion, and Memory program encourages participants to socialize and move together for brain health. Runs every Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (at Oakdale YMCA, 60 Oakdale Ave., Sarnia). To register please call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 or email: reveraert@nlchc.com.

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

Line Dancing: Mondays, until Feb. 12 at 1:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, 120 Russel St. S. Everyone is welcome but space is limited. To register, call 519-344-3017 ext. 237 or email: reveraert@nlchc.com.

Living Well with Adult ADHD: Runs until 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.)

Virtual Programs

Conquering Anxiety Workshop: On Feb. 12 at 2:30 p.m. join us to learn practical strategies for managing anxiety. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 277 or email: mhyatt@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.

Feeding Your Toddler: To be held on Feb. 14 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Toddlers can be a challenge. Learn how to support your picky eater and get healthy snack and meal ideas. 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.

Shibashi/Sit or Stand Combo: Fridays from 10:15 a.m. This 75 minute class combines movements used in Shibashi and Sit or Stand Classes. Shibashi, 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. Sit or Stand is performed with the options of either standing or being 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

Sit or Stand: Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m., join this 60 minute 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.

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.

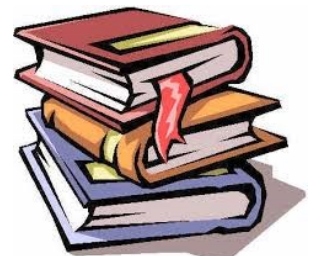
***Mooretown** (519-867-2823): Monday, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Wednesday, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

***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 18

MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Thank you, Sarnia-Lambton!



A book is a gift you can open again and again.



GIVE-A-BOOK
Campaign 2023


RESULTS:
3,786 new books donated.
Through 34 frontline partners.

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:

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

SOMBRA: On Tuesday, February 13, Lambton Elderly Outreach (LEO) Diner's Club will host a monthly light lunch and entertainment by Great Lakes Law from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at a cost of \$12 per person at the Sombra Museum Cultural Centre.

CORUNNA: On Wednesday, February 21, 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. Entertainment by Oil Museum of Canada.

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

Visit LEO booth at Seniors Fair

Lambton Elderly Outreach (LEO) will have a booth at the *Seniors Active Living Fair*, Thompson Gardens, 198 Beckwith Street, Corunna on Tuesday, February 6. See poster on page 17 for info.

COME, ENJOY TIME TOGETHER

LEO

New Diner's Clubs

Tuesday, Feb. 13Sombra
Wednesday, Feb. 21...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.




LEO

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




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 19

MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

M.A.S. Bulldog fundraising raffle

The Moore Agricultural Society has always been a continuous supporter of the youth in our community and surrounding area. M.A.S. has currently partnered with the Grade 8 graduating class from Bridgen Public School to host a fundraising raffle.

The proceeds from the raffle will go towards graduation activities, which include a graduation trip to Muskoka Woods.

Three prizes have been generously donated: a Bridgen Bulldog lap quilt donated by Always Quilting; a family photography session donated by Lolaz Snaps Photography; and a hair care basket and gift card donated by The Tousled Chair.

Tickets are \$5 each or 3 tickets for \$10.

Tickets are available at Always Quilting, The Tousled Chair, or by contacting Marcy Scott at pickin.dazies@gmail.com or Lynette Brown at lolazsnapsphotography@yahoo.ca, and at most M.A.S functions.

The draw will be held on Sunday, March 24th, 2024 at 7:30 pm at the M.A.S Annual Roast Beef Dinner.



Showing off the fantastic Bridgen Bulldog lap quilt are Grade 8 student Lily Scott and MAS President John Scott.

Seniors Active Living Fair

February 6, 2024

11:00am -2:00pm

**Cruickshank Community Centre
Gymnasium**

(Located within Thompson Gardens)

198 Beckwith Street, Corunna

OACAO

For more information email:
ThompsonGardens@Cageco.net

The Voice of Older Adults Centres
La voix des centres pour aînés

Funding provided by: Ontario

Literacy Lambton project continues

The Baby Bookworms project will continue through 2024. Every new baby born at Bluewater Health (1,100-1,200 annually in Lambton County) is greeted with a literacy welcome. Waiting in each crib is a handmade tote with new books, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten keepsake log encouraging new parents to read right from birth and track books read, and connections to programs and services every new parents needs to know.



Are you a sewist or belong to a guild or sewing circle? Want to be part of the Baby Bookworms project? Consider joining the Literacy Lambton Sewing Army infantry unit and sew

totes to welcome these new babies. For more information reach out to Tracy,

info@literacylambton.org

Attention Bookworms of all ages

The Rotary of Sarnia Bluewaterland Used Book Sale continues on Feb. 9 and 10 in the sunny DeGroots greenhouse at 1840 London Line. The sale includes thousands of paperbacks and hardcover fiction, as well as non-fiction. There are also books on art, how-to books in every medium biographies, military and science, self-help, sports, transportation and travel. The children's area has books for every reading level from beginner to young adult priced from \$.50 to \$2. The Better Book section now includes collectible books of higher value, recent publications, and sets all priced accordingly.

**Corunna Legion Br. 447-Elimination draw results**

On January 17, Branch 447, Leslie Sutherland, Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary held a successful Elimination draw. Five hundred tickets were printed with 348 sold with a grand prize of \$2,000.

The winners were as follows: Ticket # 77 - Eric Hancock - \$100 Ticket # 223 - Steve Gryzelak - \$50 Ticket # 32 - Debbie Crown - \$50 Ticket # 217 Bonnie Brown - \$50 Ticket # 371 Karin Pennington - \$100 Ticket #348 Wendy Toms - \$50 Ticket # 245 Roger Newby - \$50 Ticket #25 Brian Beaudoin - \$50 Ticket #295 Jen Beaudoin - \$150 Ticket #334 Ruth Bechard - \$50 Ticket #178 Bill Johnston - \$50 Ticket #264 Jerry Johnston - \$50 Ticket #15 Jeff Lowen - \$150 Ticket # 130 Melinda Stevens - \$50 Ticket # 100 Margaret Neal - \$250 Ticket #322 Matt Lloyd - \$300 Ticket #294 Marg Emery - \$2,000.

*Thank you for supporting
Branch 447 - Corunna Legion*

From page 20

MORE AROUND TOWNSHIP

Share your Lambton hockey-related experiences with its museums/archives

The Lambton County Archives and the Lambton Heritage Museum are looking for Lambton County hockey stories, photos, and objects. Anyone willing to share them can submit stories or photos electronically at lambtonmuseums.ca/hockey. The Archives can assist with the digitization of these materials for the project by calling 519-845-5426 or book an appointment online at lambtonarchives.ca. **Submissions are now being accepted until February 29, 2024.**

An effort is currently underway to preserve Lambton County's hockey history. Nicole Aszalos, Archivist/Supervisor with Lambton County, said, "Hockey has a strong history here in Lambton County....There are fantastic stories out there of youth leagues, playing pond hockey with friends, and notable players or teams with roots in Lambton County."

Lambton County Archives is specifically seeking stories related to playing or watching hockey within the county, including stories of organized leagues, recreational teams, and casual pick-up games with friends that took place within Lambton County.

Submitted stories and photos may be displayed as part of the larger feature exhibition, HOCKEY, to be presented at Lambton Heritage Museum this year from July to October.

Other hockey-related items in relatively good condition, such as hockey skates, jerseys, sticks, trophies and medals which could be included in the exhibition, are also being sought on a temporary basis. They must also have a Lambton County connection. To submit an object for consideration, please fill out the form available at: lambtonmuseums.ca/hockey by February 29.

Museum staff will follow up directly regarding objects selected to be part of the exhibit.

For more information about Lambton County Archives, visit: lambtonarchives.ca.

For more information about Lambton Heritage Museum, visit: heritagemuseum.ca



More Moore Agricultural Society info from page 20

at 1 p.m. Cash bar will be open and scalloped potato and ham supper will be offered for \$15 per person at 5 p.m. Musicians are welcome. Dance the afternoon away with your favourite leprechaun.

***Annual Beef Dinner** is back on Sunday, March 24. More details to come.

***Easter Sunday and Mother's Day Brunches** are scheduled with more details to follow.

Please watch the Brigden Fair Facebook page and Website for additional events that are being planned as well as details on the above items.

Need volunteer hours?

Students in need of volunteer hours are invited to collect them by helping with fundraising events or banquets.

Contact: info@brigdenfair.ca or michelle.evanitski@brigdenfair.ca

Brigden Fair sponsors invited to get on board

If you've ever thought about being part of the Brigden Fair, now is the time to do it. Let's discuss opportunities for you and/or your company to become a class sponsor at the fair. It's easy. Just give us a call at 519-864-1197 to discuss opportunities or email: info@brigdenfair.ca or michelle@evanitski@brigdenfair.ca

A Homecraft sponsorship can cost as little as \$25. Livestock sponsorship is higher, so please call for details and you'll discover all of the possible categories from which you can choose.

Seniors Active Living Fair

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thompson Gardens, Cruickshank Centre

See page 18

Moore Agricultural Society Homecraft Division 2024 Executive elected



Above: The new MAS Homecraft Division Executive was elected during the Homecraft Annual Meeting on Jan. 13. The 2024 executive includes, from left: Marcy Scott; Lori Ouellette; Kathy Scott; Cheryl McGuire; and Marilyn Shaw.

Quilt for 2024 quilt raffle revealed

Right: At the Moore Agricultural Society Annual meeting, the new quilt for the 2024 Quilt Raffle was revealed. Tickets are available for \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Quilt committee members with the quilt are, from left: Lori Ouellette and Kathy Scott.



More Around the Township, page 18

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.**

**Our hall is wheelchair accessible
ALL ARE WELCOME**

Regular Legion Br. 447 Activities

*Mondays: Pepper played at 1 p.m.

*Thursdays: Cribbage played at 1p.m.

*Fridays: Bridge played at 1p.m.

*Meat Darts, Friday, Feb. 9 & 23 at 7 p.m.

*Saturdays: Meat draws begin at 4 p.m.

*Open Jam, Saturday, Feb. 24

General Meeting is slated for Feb. 6

*Wednesday evening yoga

Chair yoga - 6:30

Stretch and restore - 7:30

For Elimination Draw results, see page 18

Corunna Legion continued

*Twisted Sisters Ladies Dart Tournament

Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024 - Double teams

Register from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.; play at 11 a.m.

\$5 per event and food will be available.

Hall is wheelchair accessible.

FB: The Royal Canadian Legion Leslie Sutherland Br.447

**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!

Thursdays and Fridays Branch opens at 6 p.m.

*Saturday, Feb. 3: Progressive Euchre starting at 7 p.m.
Branch opens at 6 p.m.

*Saturday, Feb. 10: Meat Raffle starts at 4:30 p.m.
Branch opens at 4 p.m.

*Saturday, Feb. 17: Trivia starting at 7 p.m.
Branch opens at 6 p.m.

*Saturday, Feb. 24: Meat Raffle starts at 4:30 p.m.
Branch opens at 4 p.m.

Moore Agricultural Society events

*Valentines Country Jamboree will take place on Sunday, Feb. 11 with the doors opening at 12 noon and music starting at 1 p.m. Cash bar will be open and scalloped potato and ham supper will be offered for \$15 per person at 5 p.m. Musicians are welcome. Come dance the afternoon away with your Valentine.

*Everyone's a Lil' Irish Country Jamboree will take place Sunday, March 10. Doors open at 12 noon and music starts

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
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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 Township.

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

beacon@stclairtownship.ca

DEADLINE FOR MARCH

SUBMISSIONS

is Monday, February 19, 2024

Moore Agricultural Society Note of Thanks

Moore Agricultural Society would like to take this opportunity to thank all our friends, patrons and volunteers for their support and assistance during 2023 and we look forward to all the exciting events we have planned for 2024.



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

Correction for January 2024 Beacon

On the front page of the **printed** January 2024 Beacon, the location of the new Sombra mural was mistakenly stated as *Port Lambton*. The Beacon regrets any offense or confusion this error may have caused.