



THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP BEACON



THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

ISSUE 3

VOLUME 17

MARCH 2024

INSIDE

**MUNICIPAL
NOTES**
Page
2-4

**WORKS
DEPARTMENT**
Pages
5-6

**Firefighters receive
information on
emergency
response to EVs**
Page 10

**AROUND THE
TOWNSHIP**
Pages
20-17

PLEASE
continue to
support your
local
food bank.
Your donations
make a
positive
difference all
year long.

New environmentally-friendly fire suppressant donated by Shell



Above: The Shell Manufacturing Centre near Corunna is taking St. Clair Township's fire service along in its quest to make firefighting "greener". On hand for the presentation of a cheque and a tote full of environmentally-friendly fire suppressant are, from left: standing beside a foam tote is St. Clair Fire Chief Richard Boyes; Kevin McMahon, General Manager, Shell Manufacturing Centre; Rima Rizkallah, Shell Health Safety Security Manager and Manufacturing Excellence Manager; Shell Emergency Response Specialist (and Courtright fire station firefighter) Justin Hagan; and St. Clair Township Mayor Jeff Agar. In the background is part of the boom that will distribute the foam.
Bonnie Stevenson photo

Bonnie Stevenson

St. Clair Township's 150 firefighters have at their disposal some of the best firefighting equipment and vehicles of any municipality its size. The township's two mighty boom trucks can not only apply water to a house fire, but they can also spray fire suppressant foam from a

height of one hundred feet to douse fires that cannot be extinguished with plain water. This ability allows firefighters to remain at a safe distance from the smoke and flames, which are often toxic.

A suppressant foam is required to extinguish fires fueled by hydrocarbons such

Environmentally-friendly fire suppressant story continued on page 4



MUNICIPAL NOTES



Notice of 2024 Draft 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.



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: Monday, March 4 at 3 p.m. and Monday, March 18 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.

St. Clair Township 2024 Interim Property Tax Due Date

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

Does your canine companion have a 2024 dog tag?

Please make sure your dog(s) has a 2024 St. Clair Township tag. Application forms are available online at: stclairtownship.ca or tags can be obtained at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street, Mooretown. If there are changes/errors on your renewal notice, please call the township immediately at 519-867-2021.

Reporting a loose dog?

St. Clair Township now has a 24/7 dog catching line! Please call 519-312-1322 to report.



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.



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 Roll 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 Bo-gaert and Caroline Peters (Sombra Days).

These people were chosen because they have willingly, and with no expectation of reward, donated their time and efforts to benefit their community. The Mayor's Honour Roll is our opportunity to say Thank You.
~Mayor Jeff Agar



Winter Parking By-Law

In accordance with St. Clair Township By-Law 5 of 2022, 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.

Child care coming to Courtright church

Council discussed a zoning amendment that would allow the Courtright United Church building to be sold to George and Stedman Properties, with a portion of it leased to Kiddies Korner Co-op, and a portion leased to the church.

This is the same arrangement used in Brigden in 2022, when a day care opened in a building formerly owned by the Masonic Lodge, although the Lodge was closing its doors.

Township planner Ian MacDougall informed council the property is currently zoned as Institutional. The by-law exception requested would allow child care and day care facilities in the church.

Council heard from Ross George, one of the future owners of the Courtright church, who reminded council that child care and day care services are in short supply throughout Lambton County. Mr. George said on the first day the Brigden daycare opened, all of its available spaces were taken.

Updates will keep cenotaph current

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 635 in Brigden is planning several upgrades to the Brigden Cenotaph that stands at the corner of Brigden and Jane Streets. Branch 635 Poppy Chair and Chair/ Representative of its Remembrance Committee Chuck Stevens attended council on Feb. 20 to share plans for those upgrades.

The cenotaph was originally proposed by a group of Brigden veterans from WWI and WWII who called themselves the Brigden Veterans Association. In 1964, before the formation of Branch 635, the BVA approached the Township of Moore for permission to erect a monument, which is the one that is still the site of the annual Remembrance Day service. Its cost (\$538 in 1969s dollars) was funded by contributions from the township, residents of Brigden, and the veterans themselves, who also installed the cenotaph, the flag pole and the concrete walkway. It was dedicated in 1968 and marked with the dates of the First and Second World Wars. Under them, the Korean War is listed, but no other operations are listed there.

The new expanded cenotaph site will include two customized metal memorial benches on cement pads, two new monuments book-ending the original monument. The plan for the project also includes the removal of overgrown shrubbery on either side of the cenotaph lot.

The estimated cost of the upgrade project is about \$12,000. It is hoped the township will be able to help fund a portion of the project and the Legion hopes to fundraise through the branch and within the Brigden village community. Mr. Stevens told council a Brigden resident has already committed to purchasing one of the memorial benches (about \$1,400).

The upgraded cenotaph will not only remember those who died in World War I, World War II and Korea, it will honour those who continue to die in the service of their country at home and abroad.

Mr. Stevens noted the proposed cenotaph would be unique among cenotaphs in Canada. "To my knowledge, there are extremely few cenotaphs in Canada that include, specifically, those who have died in our U.N. peace-keeping and our NATO operations. This will be a unique upgrade and we are looking forward to involving as many partners locally as possible to honour these brave men and women," he said.

Council agreed the cenotaph project is a good idea and asked Mr. Stevens to submit an application for a donation according to township policy. It will be considered during deliberations in early March.



MORE MUNICIPAL NOTES

Continued from front page

New environmentally friendly foam donation

as gasoline and jet fuel, making it a critical tool for fire-fighters. However, the composition of the foam commonly used contains chemicals that can be harmful for the environment.

A recent donation of \$15,000 from the Shell Manufacturing Centre in Corunna has made it possible for St. Clair Township to purchase two 300-gallon totes of environmentally friendly fire suppression foam. The totes will be placed at the Corunna and Brigden fire stations where the boom trucks are kept.

"We have already transitioned our fleet of Emergency Response vehicles at Shell to this environmentally friendly, fluorine-free foam. As our municipal mutual aid partner, we value the support of the St. Clair Township Fire Department and are pleased to make this important donation as they transition their fleet" said Shell General Manager Kevin McMahon.

The donation was made in late January when representatives from the Corunna Shell Manufacturing Centre, St. Clair Fire, and St. Clair Township Council met at the Corunna fire station where a 300 - gallon foam tote and one of the boom trucks that will use it were on display.

Mr. McMahon says Shell took great care to evaluate the new foam before putting it in service. "Shell spent a lot of time testing this environmentally friendly foam,"

he said, adding the Lambton College Fire School partnered with local industry and municipalities to showcase the new environmentally friendly foam and its capabilities.

St. Clair Township Fire Chief Richard Boyes says the new environmentally friendly foam is safer for his fire-fighters because it is free of PFAS (per- and polyfluorinated substances), which are toxic chemicals known to affect human health. "It's a forever chemical and that was the problem with the old AFFF (aqueous fill-forming foam)," he said. "We're very thankful that Shell came along with this generous donation to help us, and it underlies the partnership we have with the industries here in St. Clair Township."

Mayor Jeff Agar expressed his appreciation for the ground-breaking donation. "Thank you to Shell for being a wonderful municipal partner," he said.

"On behalf of St Clair Township, we are so appreciative to have Shell in our community. The company has given us many donations in the past and this one is special because it has to do with safety and the environment." Mayor Agar believes the positive characteristics of the new "green" foam will bolster the township's reputation as a progressive municipality. "It puts St. Clair Township at the top of the list in 'green' firefighting technology," he said.

Age-friendly Sarnia Lambton a game-changer for older adults



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.





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 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.

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.

New *Where to Recycle* website

There is a new "Where to Recycle" website that has launched that offers residents the ability to look up items they are unsure of where to recycle:

<https://rprra.ca/where-to-recycle/>

RPRA (Resource Productivity & Recovery Authority) - RPRA's 'Where to Recycle' map displays locations across

Ontario where you can drop off used materials to be recycled, such as batteries, electronics, household hazardous waste, lighting and tires, for free. Materials collected at these locations are reused, refurbished, recycled, or properly disposed of to help keep them out of landfill, recover valuable resources and protect our environment.

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

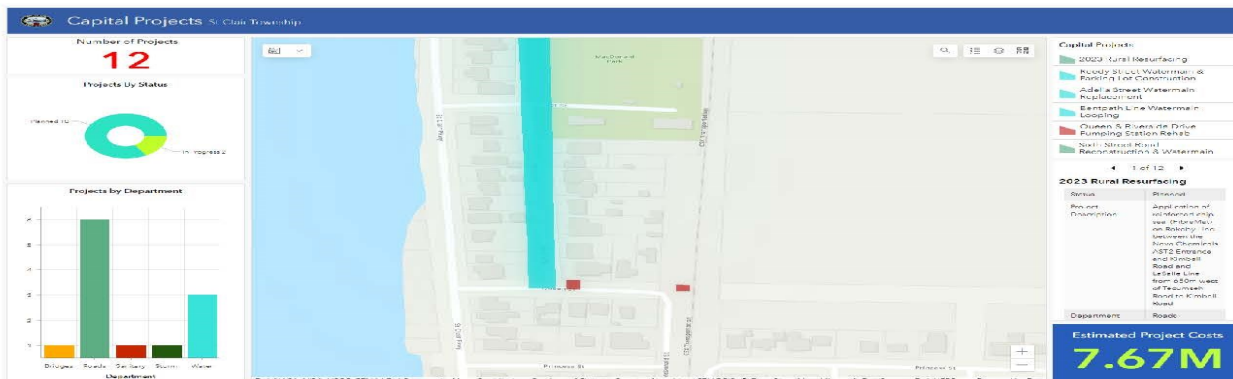
Township Website Expands to Include Interactive Mapping (Operations/Construction/Project Mapping)

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

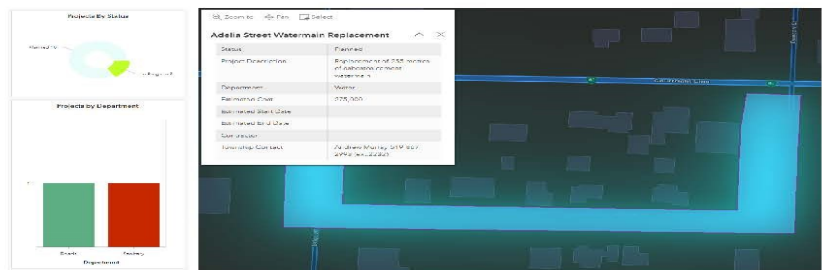
Municipal511
Powered by TRANSIS

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/

If you have to 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 to be sure you know where the buried hazards are and what they are.



Power Outage/Emergency Line
1-800-434-1235 (operates 24/7)

Residents can call this number to report power outage, fallen trees or power lines.



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>

More Works Dept. page 8

SCRCA annual meeting held: effort to restore freshwater ecosystems described

The St Clair Region Conservation Authority held its annual meeting on Feb. 22 at the Dawn-Euphemia Community Centre in Florence. The new 2024 Board of Directors had only one member change; the Petrolia seat is now occupied by Ross O'Hara. St. Clair Township Councillor Steve Miller retained his position. Representing St. Clair Township, Pat Brown was re-elected as Chair and Lorie Scott, representing Lambton Shores, was re-elected Vice-Chair.

Two SCRCA Conservation Awards were presented. **Hillside School, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation**, was acknowledged for four years of partnership with the SCRCA Education Team to give students hands-on, outdoor, land-based learning opportunities. The school offers a land-based education program to ensure students understand their roles, responsibilities, and relationship with the natural world.

Centre Ipperwash Community Association members embody their vision for projects, which states, "By coming to share, work, and play, the quality of life within our community can be improved." Geared up with gloves, buckets, and pickers, many members head out to Ipperwash Beach almost daily to walk the shoreline collecting garbage to ensure the beach remains both aesthetically and environmentally clean.

The **guest speaker** for the event was Dr. Catherine Febri, Canada Research Chair, Assistant Professor, and Di-

rector of the Healthy Headwater Lab at the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research (GLIER) at the University of Windsor. Dr. Febri addressed the SCRCA Board of Directors and guests to explain her group's focus of research on water courses within the water sheds. By taking on projects such as *freshwater restoration in agricultural landscapes*, and the *study of the harmful and invasive phragmites*, the lab's goal is to restore freshwater ecosystems to full health and vitality for the benefit of future generations. Dr. Febri emphasized the importance of relationship building and the role the SCRCA has played in supporting the work of the Healthy Headwaters Lab. She noted her research group works with over 20 partners, including the SCRCA and the Indigenous Knowledge Circle. The group's research is part of a coordinated effort called the *UN Decade of Restoration*, which will continue through 2030. It calls for "the acceleration of restoration efforts to curb ecosystem degradation through local and global



St. Clair Township Councillor and SCRCA Chair Pat Brown receives his five-year service award from SCRCA Vice-chair Lorie Scott.



Members of the Centre Ipperwash Community Association receive their Conservation Award, presented by SCRCA Vice-chair Lorie Scott (third from left) and Chair Pat Brown (far left). Other members of the CICA are, from right: Grace Dekker; Anita Turner; Maureen Harvey; Sandra Marshall (receiving the award) and Michele Ferri (beside Pat Brown).



Hillside School: From left: Chair Pat Brown; Vice-Chair Lorie Scott; Nicole Monague, holding the SCRCA Conservation Award for Hillside School at Kettle and Stony Point First Nation; Jill Jackson; and Melissa Levi, Conservation Education Coordinator at the SCRCA. Nicole and Jill are Ojibwe Language and Land Based Education teachers.

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 (CLB) that has been available since 2004.

Information recently sent to The Beacon by Lorri Kerrigan from County of Lambton Social Planning explained the CLB is a grant 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.

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.



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.

PLEASE DO NOT DISPOSE OF USED BATTERIES IN HOUSEHOLD TRASH

New Sacred Heart Food Bank donation bins make donating easy

Sacred Heart Food Bank in Ward 2 now has donation bins stationed at several locations in Port Lambton including: DG Global, Becher; Mainstreet Credit Union, Port Lambton; Port Lambton United Church and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Port Lambton, and Port Lambton Food Market. Now it's easier than ever before to support your local food bank.

The food bank requires community support in order to keep shelves stocked with not only food items, but household, personal care and baby care items. For those who are not sure about the best way to help keep the shelves stocked, the Sacred Heart Food Bank will issue a Wish List from time to time to inform the community.

The Top 10 Wish List items for March include: Canned salmon or ham; canned vegetables; kidney beans; Chunky Soup; school snacks (peanut free); canned tomatoes-whole, stewed and diced; and Mr. Noodle; condiments including ketchup, mustard, pancake syrup, pickles; toilet paper and paper towels.



Above: Donation bins aren't the only things that are new to the Sacred Heart Food Bank. The food bank operation will soon be settled into a portable that was recently donated by the school board. Showing off one of the new donation bins are Sacred Heart Food Bank volunteers, from left: Barb, Frank, Varun, and Lisa.

Thank you to the generous people who support the Sacred Heart Food Bank!



Volunteers needed!

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is looking for volunteers to run fundraising Bingos that will help fund local environmental initiatives. The games will be held at Riverview Gaming/Jackpot Time in Chatham Kent.

Volunteers must be: age 18 and over; live in or near Chatham; trained or willing to complete training from CGCK (<https://cgamingck.ca/training>); able to commit to two to three two-hour sessions per month; and willing to abide by the Riverview Gaming Compliance Policy and Code of Conduct.

Initiatives funded by the bingos include: outdoor environmental programming; the monitoring and safeguarding of vital species at risk in our watershed; and other important projects.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Ashley Fletcher at: afletcher@scrca.ca

Perspective on homelessness: solutions being sought in Lambton County

By Bonnie Stevenson

Homelessness is an ever-expanding social issue that has reached crisis proportions in Lambton County. In early January 2024, a report by Lambton County Social Services indicated that well over 300 County residents were unhoused; that number has increased since then. Those who have no home are forced to find shelter on the street, in wooded areas or in flimsy tents that can't stop the cold.

For the past two years, community activist Margaret Capes has been getting acquainted with the homeless situation by getting acquainted with the people for whom homelessness is a fact of life. Her research has taken her outdoors on rounds with a Lambton Public Health outreach nurse to the places where those affected by the crisis struggle day-to-day on the fringes of society.

As a retired lawyer and legal educator with the Community Law School (Sarnia-Lambton) Inc., Margaret has added her voice to causes that matter before, but homelessness presents an enigma she never expected.

"Even though I worked in legal aid for years, I felt I needed to spend time with these folks," she said. "I've learned a ton; first, how people survive and also, how they ended up there, like the people living in a tent or in a woodlot or on the street. No story is the same," she said.

Although some of the homeless do suffer from some form of mental illness, there are other circumstances that have forced people out of their homes. "Mental illness is not as pronounced as you might think," said Margaret. "For a lot of folks, it's circumstances. They lost their housing because they lost their job. The pandemic was not kind to people working minimum wage jobs. I've talked to a lot of people that once worked in the trades and now live on the street. Some got laid off and some got injured at work."

She has discovered that many homeless people did not abuse drugs before they lost their homes. For them, addiction happens on the street, an escape from the nightmare they are living or from the pain they might be experiencing due to work injuries they received on the job.

She noted the crisis isn't just about people in Sarnia. Some of the people she has spoken to have come to Sarnia hoping to find help. "Some of the people end up living in Sarnia because that's where the vast majority of the food and shelter resources are," said Margaret. "They're not originally from Sarnia. They're from Kettle Point, from Petrolia and Corunna, from all over. It's not just a Sarnia problem, this is a county problem," said Margaret.

She has found that those who have spent a prolonged period without a home no longer believe they belong in mainstream society. "No matter what caused them to be homeless, the number one problem is *relational poverty*. They feel disconnected from the rest of us," she said. "There's a certain amount of shame and fear. They've lived outside for so long, or for some, just a short time - whatever happened in their life - they feel they can't connect with us anymore."

Of her outreach tours, Margaret says it's not a complicated task. "Doing this outreach work, I spend time just connecting with people. A lot of the other outreach teams around town do the same thing. The teams might bring a snack or a pair of socks for them - something to open the conversa-

tion."

Agencies like the Salvation Army, as well as other caring groups and individual citizens, also take the time to stop and interact with the homeless, and Margaret has seen how much it means to those in need. "They do appreciate people just visiting and taking food and supplies to them, and it's not because they're hungry or because they're soaking wet from the rain or snow. They appreciate the connection. Usually, they expect people to walk right by and ignore them or disparage them," she said.

The outreach program is a valuable tool to inspire a spark of hope in those who feel hopeless. Margaret explained its worth. "If we can make them feel that they're still part of our world, there's a better chance they'll want to take a step toward tackling their addiction or getting help with their mental wellness."

Margaret has been lobbying Lambton County Council to use the Affordable Housing Reserve that was established by Lambton County Council in 2021 to fund more housing for the homeless. Having witnessed the dire circumstances in which the homeless must survive, she says the establishment of such housing has been proven to benefit the entire community.

Citing a housing development in St. Thomas that was spearheaded by Indwell, a Hamilton-based Christian charity that creates affordable housing, Margaret said, "In one section of St. Thomas, the police chief has been thrilled having it (the development) there because it has cleaned up that part of the neighbourhood. There's not nearly as much violence, as much drug use...it can have a positive impact from a lot of perspectives."

Lambton County affordable housing funding effort underway

Lambton County Warden Kevin Marriott says the special reserve fund for affordable housing was created in 2021, resulting in \$1.2 million being put into the fund in 2022. "Council raised the County levy by a full percentage point in 2023 with a deposit of \$2 million which brought the fund to \$3.2 million. The budget that will be considered in March (2024) will propose \$3 million for 2024."

The effort to address the homeless crisis got underway in 2023 when council approved the creation of a grant program to provide seed funding to non-profit agencies to develop affordable housing. "To date, \$794,000 has been issued to five non-profit agencies from the reserve," said Warden Marriott.

In 2023, Lambton County applied for a grant from the Federal CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund program. And in August, 2023, Warden Marriott sent a letter to the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, explaining Lambton County's increasing housing shortage situation and asking that the Federal government, together with the Provincial governments, commit additional financial resources to assist municipalities in addressing these issues, including supportive housing services such as addiction management/withdrawal/mental health supports, and social services.

Firefighters gather for EV emergency response seminar

Bonnie Stevenson

The popularity of electric-powered vehicles is growing, and most automakers are fully engaged in producing vehicles that will meet the resulting consumer demand. As these vehicles become more prevalent on our streets and highways, the likelihood of vehicle collisions and roadside breakdowns involving electric vehicles increases. When first responders and support services are called to the scene, they will be faced with unfamiliar challenges, from the methods they use to deal with a car fire to the way they extricate a trapped passenger.

To make firefighters aware of those challenges and help them function safely and efficiently, firefighters from all over Ontario attended an important seminar at the Lambton College Fire School near Corunna on January 30. The presentation they heard was led by veteran firefighter, rescue specialist and internationally known extrication instructor Jason DeFosse.

Mr. DeFosse's presentation armed the firefighters with information and procedures they will need to know when interacting with damaged or disabled electrical vehicles. He covered topics that included: how the EV lithium battery works; what internal sequence of events causes them to catch fire; the safe way to approach damaged EVs and how to diagnose potentially dangerous situations; how to conduct the extrication of a collision victim from an electric vehicle; and how to manage damaged batteries and high-voltage debris left on roadways.

Concern over the safety of EVs, first raised when two early Tesla models caught fire on the road, was addressed by Mr. Fosse as he explained, "These things are no more likely to catch fire as their internal combustion counterpart."

He spoke from experience as he told the fire fighters about the considerable time he spent working at the Tesla testing facility in the southern U.S. He was present as they put the various Tesla models through rigorous testing, doing several variations of crash tests on each and making sure each car body was sturdy enough to protect its onboard equipment and passengers.

Describing what would have to happen for an EV to catch fire, he said that if the battery coolant is leaking, the battery will heat up until it reaches a dangerous state called the *thermal limit*. DeFosse said if firefighters can introduce a flow of water to keep the battery cool it will help control the propagation of a fire. (See photo below showing an EV up on chocks being cooled by a spray from a fire hose.)

As a veteran firefighter himself, Mr. DeFosse told his audience that rigorous training was the best way to ensure firefighter safety. He reminded them that since EVs are still not on the roads in substantial numbers, the majority of the vehicle emergencies they would be responding to in the near future would likely be the internal combustion type.

"We're going to deal a lot more often with ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) cars than EV cars because there are so many of them, but as the trend (toward electric cars) changes, many of the manufacturers you already know are changing technology," he said. He cited automakers like Volvo, a company that will only be offering hybrid or electric vehicles as of 2025.

Mr. DeFosse advised the firefighters to start training for EV emergencies immediately. "We gotta work hard and we gotta' work fast. It's a tag-team effort. I suggest you train for this," he said.

For an EV already burning, he advised, "The most environmentally friendly way to manage an EV already in flames...let it burn. If it's fully involved and we've identified that it's the high voltage battery that's on fire,

there's no putting it out." As an example, he added, "A Tesla in a full charge, when it goes into a thermal event, if you do nothing, it will burn itself out into nothing in one and a half hours."

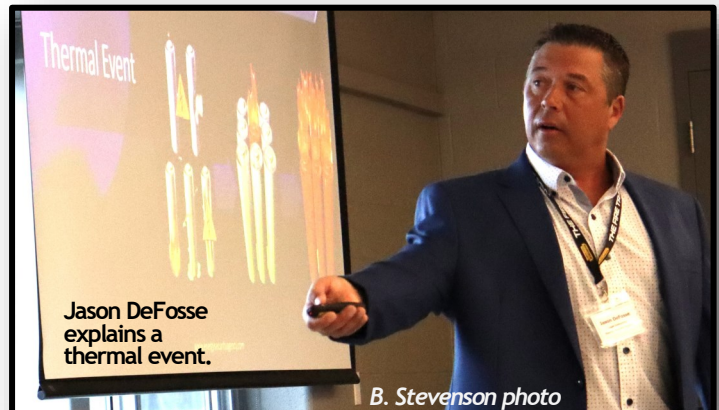
He pointed out putting water on a lithium battery fire is not helpful. It will not put out the flame and the runoff of dirty water could put material from the burning EV into the surrounding land and water. "All that water interacts with the bad stuff and winds up in the ditches," said Mr. DeFosse. "If you let it burn it's actually cleaner."

At the conclusion of the seminar, Mr. DeFosse told the firefighters who have their own EVs not to try to fix any issues their vehicle might have. He explained that calling 911 to bring the personnel and the equipment that might be needed was the safest way to proceed.

The growing presence of electric vehicles in our society might seem a bit daunting for those who are unfamiliar to the new transportation technology, but Mr. DeFosse told the firefighters the first internal combustion vehicles were viewed with the same fear and misgivings but were eventually accepted as a normal part of daily life. To illustrate the projected future of the EV, the firefighters viewed a graph showing the U.S. Electric Vehicle Sales Forecast for 2019-2028 which indicated that by 2028, the U.S. would have over three million EVs on the road.

In Ontario, the Electrical Safety Authority strongly recommends EV owners hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor (LEC) with an ECRA/ESA license to install their car charger. LECs are fully insured and their work reduces the risk of electrical fires or other damage to your EV. Make sure any required permits are also obtained.

Go online to: esasafe.com



HERITAGE CORNER

Kids and their families enjoy PA Day at the Moore Museum

The Moore Museum was a P.A. Day wonderland on Feb. 2 when it hosted a drop-in afternoon of activities, crafts, and games. Children and their families were invited to enjoy hands-on experiences with the braille typewriter, handcards for wool, and pioneer toy replicas.

Clockwise from top right: *The art of carding wool was explored by St. Joseph's Catholic School student Amani as she got hands-on experience with a set of hand carders (wooden blocks with wire faces). After sheep were sheared and their wool cleaned and free of lanolin, the wool was carded by hand to untangle the wool fibres and align them in one direction to make it easier to spin into yarn. Today, commercial wool production, including the carding process, is done with large rotating machines, but true artisans still handcard their wool before spinning it into yarn.

*A challenging game of checkers was interrupted by the photographer while Reece, left, and his sister, Harlow, were playing. They probably didn't realize the game they were playing dates back to the 12th Century, and some historians believe the earliest form of the game dates back to around 3,000 B.C.

*Homemade snow globes were among the crafts visiting families could make. While visiting from Wallaceburg, Claire wasn't sure about what colour of glitter to use in her snow globe, while brother Cameron tried shaking his to see if it worked. **Fun fact:** The first version of what we call a "snow globe" came about when an Austrian inventor of surgical instruments was attempting to develop a brighter surgical lamp.



Kari Boone photos



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.

Family Day in St. Clair Township

The recreational facilities in St. Clair Township got a good workout when the Optimist Clubs of Moore and Brigden helped township families celebrate Family Day on February 19. Here are some photo memories of the happy occasion.



Above: The Brigden Optimist club hosted a chocolatey fun event on Family Day. Over one hundred people came out to yell Bingo at the Chocolate Bar Bingo. Not only did they have fun but the prizes were sweet!



Hundreds of kids and kids-at-heart enjoyed a free skate and swim thanks to the Optimist Club of Moore. They laced up and suited up for an afternoon of fun at the Mooretown Sports Complex.

Huge thanks
to the
Brigden and
Moore
Optimists for
the use of
these photos.



Family Day along the St. Clair River Trail



Doreen and Rachael Woods enjoy Family Day with Smooch and Coco.

A drive down the St. Clair Parkway on Family Day was a pleasant way to spend the afternoon, although there were very few families out enjoying the sunshine.

Signs of life were scarce; a few people were fishing and a bald eagle was playing "find the fishies" off-shore near Sombra.

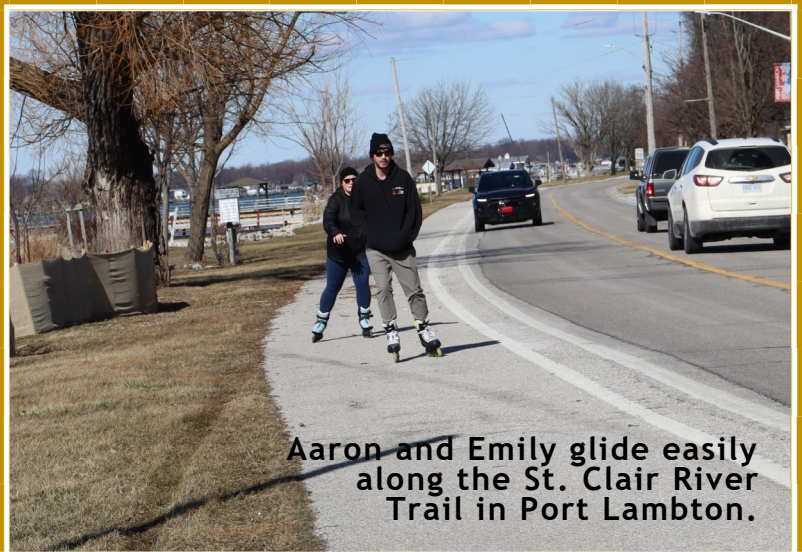
**I later found out a lot of families were at the Moore Sports Complex or in Brigden playing Chocolate Bar Bingo! See page 12.*

I finally found some outdoor action in Port Lambton when a happy pair of inline skaters, Aaron Maran and Emily Anthony, **right**, came into view. They admitted to being relatively new to the sport although they made it look easy as they scooted away home.

Next came Doreen Woods, **above**, with her mini schnauzer, Smooch, and Doreen's daughter, Rachel Woods with her boxer, Co-co. As a life-long dog lover, I interrupted their walk while we exchanged cute dog stories.

And rounding out my search for family outings, I came upon a flotilla of Canada geese being led by four brave *bransa canadensis* surfing on a floating log. It might not have been a family outing, but it was close enough for me.

~Bonnie Stevenson



Aaron and Emily glide easily along the St. Clair River Trail in Port Lambton.



Feathered flotilla

HERITAGE CORNER

Volunteers at Moore Museum restore railway station



Above: Moore Museum volunteer Lyle Gander waits for fellow volunteer Joe Doherty to bring a tool required to do a repair on the maintenance car that stands outside the railway station. *Kari Boone photo*

The Moore Museum site in Mooretown boasts a number of beautifully restored Victorian Era buildings rescued from demolition by heritage-minded people. One of the old beauties that is currently being restored is the railway station, originally built in 1893 at the corner of Napoleon and Poultney Streets in Mooretown to accommodate the passengers and freight that traveled on the Chesapeake and Ohio (C & O) RR.

As the motor car gained popularity, passenger service declined and the station finally closed. It was relocated to the St. Clair Parkway and rented out as a house, but the building was donated to the Moore Museum when its owners decided to build a new home on the site. In 1988, a crew of museum volunteers undertook the task of relocating the building to the museum site.

Although it has been open to visitors in the past, the restoration will bring new life to the station. Authentic artifacts and vintage fittings will bring back the days of carefree rail travel with items like the morse code keyer, once used to communicate between one station and another, and a stand of rubber stamps used to validate tickets.

The rail line began life in 1886 as the Erie & Huron Railroad, which made two daily round-trip runs between Chatham and Sarnia. It was later operated in succession by the Lake Erie & Huron RR, then the Pere Marquette RR, before becoming the C & O.

Museum site offers more railway memories

Continuing the railway theme, a restored CN railway caboose stands near the old railway station giving visitors a real life look at the conductors' quarters.

The Moore Museum is a wonderful place for those who relish the days when railways offered the best option for travel and the transportation of goods and mail.

Enthusiasts of all ages will enjoy a visit to the Train Room, where several different gauges of working model railway setups can be viewed. The museum's avid model railway experts continue to develop landscapes and scenarios that celebrate the days when the power of the locomotive fueled the growth of St. Clair Township.

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

Anger Management: Identify your anger triggers, patterns, and practice positive & effective anger management skills. **Starts March 7 to April 18 at 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (@ West Lambton CHC).** To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 or email reveraert@nlchc.com.

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. (@ Brigden United Church—2420 Jane Street, Brigden). We will be meeting in the lower hall. The church has an elevator, so is accessible for all. *NEW LOCATION**

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:** March 6 @ 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Corunna-St. Joseph's Church, 346 Beresford St) and March 25th 6-7:30pm (Brigden—2435 Courtright Line, Brigden).

Drum Fit: Drum Fit's Music, Motion & Memory Program encourages participants to socialize and move together for brain and body health. **Starts March 7 to April 25 every Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (@ 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 program 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

Eating Well with Diabetes/Understanding the Addressing the Misconceptions of Type 2 Diabetes: Join us for monthly health sessions at various locations in Lambton- County. This month's topic is Heart Health. Register through your local library to sign up. **Locations:** March 12 @ 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. (Watford- 5317 Nauvoo Rd. Watford), March 26 @ 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (Thedford- 16 Aleen St. Thedford). March 28 @ 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Alvinston—3251 River St. Alvinston).

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

Brigden Low Impact: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 am (@ Brigden Fair Grounds, 2976 Brigden Rd, Brigden)

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

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

Virtual Programs

Body & Mind Inspired Class: March 26 (Zoom) @ 12 noon to 1 p.m. This BMI group is a 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 *Healthy Eating on a Budget*. 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 discuss healthy eating, nutrition tools, resources and more! For more information about dates/time and to register, call 519-786- 4545 ext. 307.

Feeding Your Infant Class: March 20 @ 1:30 to 3 p.m. Learn about up-to-date guidelines, how to progress texture modifications, baby led weaning, healthy meal, snack ideas and much more! To register, email EarlyON@nlchildcare.ca

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.

Managing Conflict: March 18 @ 2:30 p.m. Join us to learn effective communication. Courageous conversations start with you! To register, call 519-344-3017 ext. 277 or email mhyatt@nlchc.com

Shibashi/Sit or Stand Combo: Fridays @ 10:15 a.m. for a 75-minute class. A combination of movements used in Shibashi and Sit or Stand classes. Shibashi is—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 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 @ 10:15 a.m. for a 60-minute class. This exercise is performed with the option 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

Virtual Yoga Fusion: March 6—April 10 for 6 weeks (Zoom) @ 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Yoga Fitness Fusion combines yoga postures, breath work and fitness repetitions to tone and strengthen the body. We calm the nervous system through breath and intention while focusing on connection to the earth and elements. Feel nourished, connected, and renewed in this gentle practice. To register and receive the Zoom link, 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.

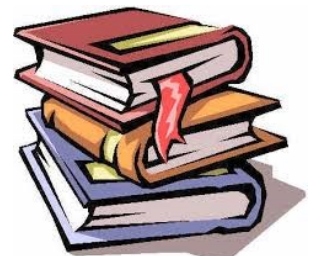
***Mooretown** (519-867-2823): Monday, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Wednesday, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

***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

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 Brigden 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 Brigden 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.

Draw date: Sunday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m.
at Exhibition Hall, Brigden Fairgrounds

Corunna Legion Branch 447

Albert & Beckwith, Corunna.

Pickerel Fry & Dance

Menu: Pickerel, Baked Potato, Baked Beans,

Dinner Rolls, Coleslaw,

Entertainment

Celtic Hillbillies

March 23rd, 2024

Door Open 5pm

Dinner: 6pm - 7:30pm

Dance: 7:30pm - Midnight

\$25.00 per person

Everyone
Welcome!



Wheelchair
accessible!



Advance tickets & dine-in
only

(No refund, open seating)

On sale at Legion, February 5

-We donate to St. Clair Township Minor Sports,
Silverstick, Girl Guides, Cubs and Scouts
and more!-

Please help us support our community
Call: 519-862-1240FB: Royal Canadian Legion
Leslie Sutherland Br. 447

Literacy Lambton Baby Bookworms 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 contact Tracy at:

info@literacylambton.org

**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.

From page 19

MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

for the tickets. The cost is \$5/ticket or 3 for \$10 and can also be purchased in larger quantities. Your tickets will be emailed to you. The winning ticket will be drawn on Thanksgiving Monday.

Don't delay - limited tickets available.

Wilkesport Community Centre Annual Meeting

The Wilkesport Community Centre Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 17.

51st Moore Skating Club Ice Show

The 51st Moore Skate Club Ice Show will glide onto the Moore Sports Complex rink on Saturday, April 6 with two shows, a 1 p.m. matinee and a 6 p.m. evening performance. The shows will highlight club skaters from age 3 to 50 in individual productions based on the theme, *A Night At The Movies*.

Tickets will be available at the door the day of the shows and will be available for pre-purchase after March 3 at LaPier's Flowers on Lyndoch Street in Corunna. **Don't miss this annual entertainment treat on ice!**

Bluewater Anglers Hatchery Open House

You don't have to be an angler to enjoy a trip to the Bluewater Anglers' Hatchery Open House. On Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the public is invited to discover the place where future generations of fish are bred to stock our local waters. The hatchery is located in Point Edward under the bridges.

Moore Optimist Easter In The Park

An Easter tradition in Corunna returns for another year. Hop on down to the Corunna Athletic Park on Sunday, March 24 between Noon & 2 p.m. and join the Moore Optimist Club for Easter in the Park.

A traditional egg hunt, games, prizes, barbecue and surprises await. The egg hunt will feature times for each age group, so for eggzact details, see the Optimist Club of Moore Facebook page or website: mooreoptimist.com



More Around the Township, page 17

COME, ENJOY TIME TOGETHER

LEO

Tuesday, March 11.....Sombra

Wednesday, March 20...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



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

SOMBRA: On Tuesday, March 12, Lambton Elderly Outreach (LEO) Diner's Club will host a monthly light lunch and entertainment by *United Way* 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, March 20, 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 *Don't Get Scammed-OPP*.

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

Moore Presbyterian Charge Easter welcomes you

You're always welcome to join the congregation of the Moore Presbyterian Charge for worship each Sunday. At **St. Andrew's Church in Mooretown**, 94 St. James Street, the service begins at 9:30 a.m. At **Knox Moore**, 1354 Rokeby Line, the service begins at 11 a.m.

EASTER SERVICES



March 24 at 10 a.m., join Rev. Tom Rogers for the Palm Sunday service at Knox Moore

March 29 at 11a.m., join Rev. Blair Corcoran for the Good Friday service at Knox Moore, 1354 Rokeby Line.

March 31 at 9:30 a.m., join Rev. Blair Corcoran for the Easter Sunday service at St. Andrew's, Mooretown.

March 31 at 11 a.m. join Rev. Blair Corcoran for Easter Sunday service at Knox Moore, 1354 Rokeby Line.

Moore Agricultural Society Events

***St. Patrick's Day Jamboree** - Everyone can be a little bit Irish on Sunday, March 10. Doors open at noon with music beginning at 1 p.m. Come out and enjoy the fun as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day a bit early. Cash Bar. Scalloped potato and ham supper tickets available at the door for \$15 per person. 50/50 draw with proceeds to Youth Programming in the Community. Music and dancing. If you are a musician, please join in. Doors open at noon.

***Annual Beef Dinner** is back on Sunday, March 24. See poster lower right of page.

***Easter Sunday Brunch** is slated for Sunday, March 31 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Brigden Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall. Admission is \$17 for adults, \$10 for children 6-10, and free for children 5 and under. NO reservations are required.

***Spring Country Jamboree** will be held on Sunday April 14 at the Brigden Fair Exhibition Hall. Come dance the afternoon away. Doors open at noon with music starting at 1 p.m. Cash Bar. Dinner at 5 p.m. Scalloped potato and ham supper tickets will be available at the door for \$15 per person. 50/50 draw with proceeds to youth programming in the community. Musicians are welcome.

***Mother's Day Brunch** is slated for Sunday, May 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Brigden Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall. NO reservations are required. Admission is \$17 for adults, \$10 for children 6-10, and free for children 5 and under. NO reservations are required.

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.

For more about this volunteer hours opportunity, 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. A Homecraft sponsorship can cost as little as \$25 and livestock sponsorship is higher. Let's discuss opportunities for you and/or your company to become a class sponsor at the fair. Please call for details to discover all of the possible categories from which you can choose. Call at 519-864-1197 to discuss opportunities or email:

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

Quilt for 2024 quilt available

Tickets will be available for the Brigden Fair Homecraft Division Annual Quilt Raffle from any Homecraft member (in person), at events such as the Downriver Craft Show at Moore Museum this autumn, at the Brigden Fair office, or Always Quilting in Brigden. They can also be purchased by

e-transfer: quiltraffle@brigdenfair.ca

Let us know how many tickets you want to purchase, including names and contact information

More Around the Township, page 18

Moore Skating Club
presents

A Night at the Movies!

Sat. April 6th
1 pm & 6 pm Shows
Moore Sports Complex

Advanced Tickets available at
LaPier's Flowers, Corunna
Or at the door day of show while
seats last.
*cash only please

MOORE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL BEEF DINNER

BRIGDEN FAIRGROUNDS EXHIBITION HALL
Sunday, March 24, 2024
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Tickets on Sale now
from Society Members, Always Quilting
and at the fair office.

Adult - \$25
Children (6-10) - \$10
Children (5 & under) - Free

DON'T MISS OUT! **BUY NOW**

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*

Monday, March 4, 11, 18, 25 - Pepper at 1p.m.
Tuesday, March 5, 12, 19, 26 - Sew Crazy Girls
at 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, March 13, 20, 27 Yoga - Chair at
6:30 p.m.; Stretch and Restore at 7:30 p.m.
*Please be there 15 minutes before each ses-
sion, bring a mat if you have one.*
Thursday, March 7, 14, 21, 28 - Crib at 1p.m.
Friday, March 1, 8, 15, 22 - Bridge at 1p.m.

Corunna Legion continued

Saturday March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Meat Draws at 4 p.m.
Sunday, March 3 - Hank Stothers Crib Tournament
Registration from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; Play at 1 p.m.

Thursday, March 7 - *A Royal Affair Bridal Show,*
presented by LaPier's Flowers & Gifts at 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 21 - Ham Bingo at 7p.m.

Friday, March 8, 22 - Friday Night Fun Meat Darts at 7p.m.

Saturday, March 16 Mel Wilkinson Mixed Dart Tournament
at 11a.m.

Saturday, March 23 Fish Fry with Entertainment
by Celtic Offspring at 6 p.m.

Tel: (519) 862-1240

FB: Royal Canadian Legion, Leslie Sutherland Br 447
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!

NO pool nights scheduled.

Saturday, March 22 - Progressive Euchre Starts at 7 p.m.
- Legion opens at 6 p.m.

Saturday, March 9 - Meat Raffle Starts at 4:30 p.m.
- Legion opens at 4 p.m.

Friday, March 15 - Trivia Starts at 7 p.m.
- Legion opens at 6 p.m.

Saturday, March 16 - **St. Patrick's Day KARAOKE** -
Open at 6 p.m. Starts at 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 23 - Meat Raffle at 4:30 p.m.
- Legion opens at 4 p.m.



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 MARCH

SUBMISSIONS is

Monday, February 19

Early submissions are welcome

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