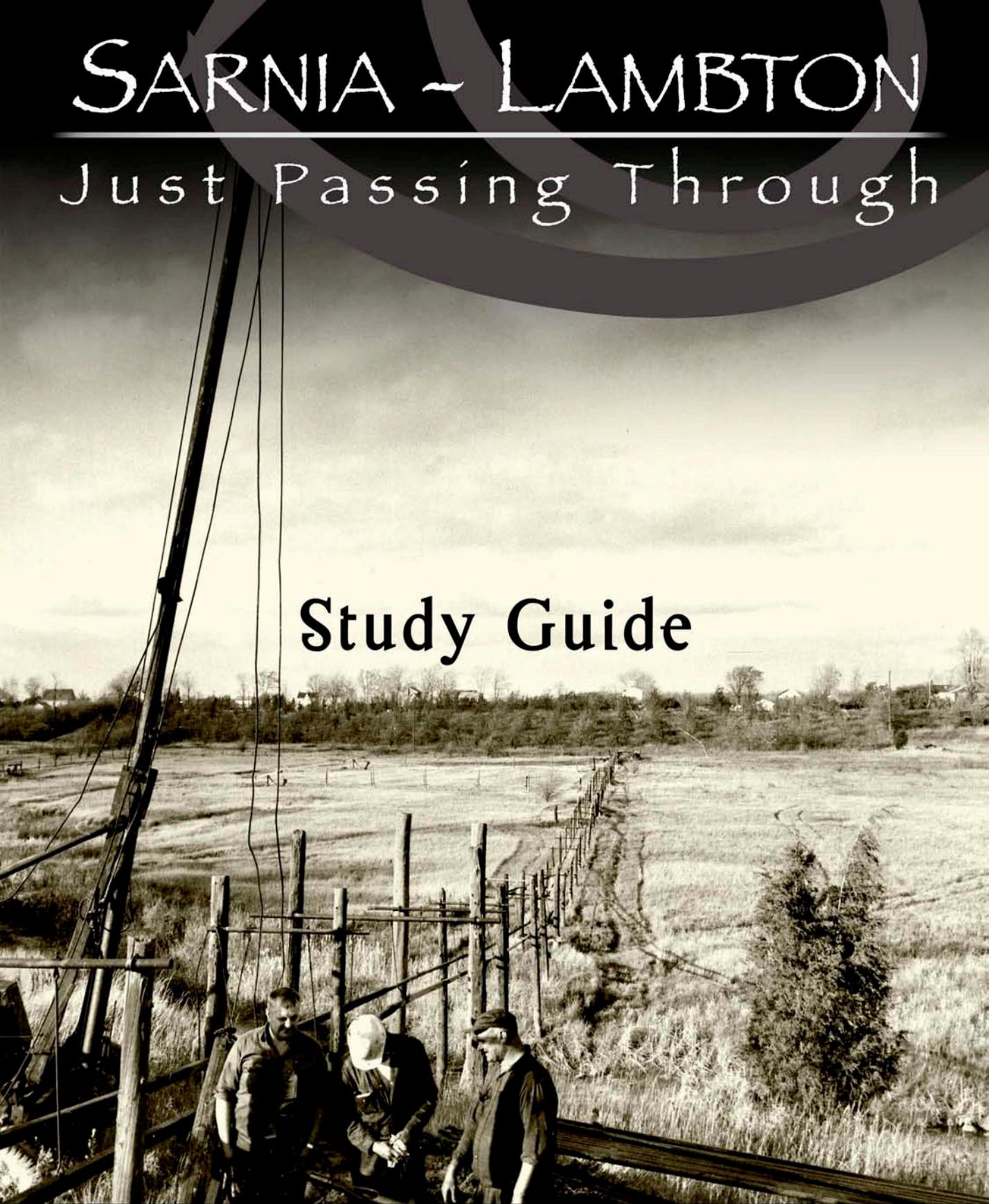


# SARNIA ~ LAMBTON

## Just Passing Through

### Study Guide

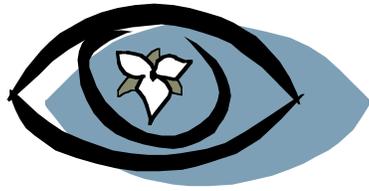


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# Ontario Visual Heritage Project

**SARNIA-LAMBTON: Just Passing Through**

**Study Guide prepared by Bob McCarthy  
District 38 Lambton RTO/ERO**

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NOTE: The full video is also available on line at [www.visualheritage.ca/lambton](http://www.visualheritage.ca/lambton)

This study guide is intended to provide additional information and activities related to the content of the DVD and additional supplementary readings. The DVD can be viewed in its entirety as a feature length introduction to the history of the Sarnia-Lambton community or as several individual stories.

The DVD is not intended to be a comprehensive history of Lambton County. It is a recollection of many of the stories of our history, shown through interviews, reenactments, historical photographs and original film accompanied by the words of many local historians.

Since the DVD primarily consists of anecdotes as told in first person by historical character re-enactment or as described by local historians, it lends itself to further research, story-telling and role-playing by students.

This study guide is keyed to the Grade 6 level and follows the units on the DVD with appropriate activities suggested. The following Ontario Curriculum expectations can be met through the use of the activities provided for each unit.

**Reading**

**Ontario Curriculum Expectations:**

- Read a variety of fiction and non-fiction materials (e.g., novels, short stories, poetry, myths, articles) for different purposes
- Read aloud, showing understanding of the material and awareness of the audience
- Explain their interpretation of a written work, supporting it with evidence from the work and from their own knowledge and experience

**Expectations in Specific Areas**

**Reasoning and Critical Thinking**

- Summarize and explain the main ideas in information materials and cite details that support main ideas
- Make judgments and draw conclusions about ideas in written materials on the basis of evidence
- Plan a research project and carry out the research

**Writing**

**Ontario Curriculum Expectations:**

- Produce pieces of writing using a variety of forms (e.g. newspaper articles, lyrics, summaries of information) techniques and resources (e.g., library resources) appropriate to the form and purpose, and materials from other media (e.g., film clips)
- Revise and edit their work in collaboration with others, seeking and evaluating feedback, and focusing on content, organization, and appropriateness of vocabulary for audience
- Proofread and correct their final drafts, focusing on grammar, punctuation, spelling and conventions of style

### **Expectations in Specific Areas**

#### **Word Use and Vocabulary Building** (clips)

- Select words and expressions to create specific effects (e.g., to distinguish speakers in a dialogue)

#### **Visual Presentation**

- Integrate media materials (e.g., computer graphics) into their writing to enhance their message

### **Oral and Visual Communication**

#### **Ontario Curriculum Expectations:**

- Communicate a main idea about a topic and describe a sequence of events
- Create a variety of media works; contribute and work constructively in groups
- Make reports, describe and explain a course of action, and follow detailed instructions
- Express and respond to a range of ideas and opinions concisely, clearly, and appropriately

### **Expectations in Specific Areas**

#### **Use of Words and Oral Language**

- Speak correctly, observing common grammatical rules such as subject-verb agreement, noun-pronoun agreement and consistency of verb tense

#### **Group Skills**

- Use constructive strategies in small-group discussions (e.g., invite other group members to contribute, ask questions to clarify a point; negotiate to find a basis for agreement)

#### **Media Communication Skills**

- Create a variety of media works (e.g. create a video advertisement for a book as a member of an "advertising team")

### **Social Studies**

#### **Ontario Curriculum Expectations:**

#### **Heritage and Citizenship- Aboriginal Peoples and European Explorers**

- Identify ways in which the environment molded Canadian Aboriginal cultures
- Identify some of the consequences of Aboriginal and European interactions (e.g., economic impact of the fur trade on Aboriginal peoples; transmission of European diseases to Aboriginal peoples)
- Use appropriate vocabulary (e.g., social, political, economic, explorers, contributions) to describe their inquiries and observations
- Analyze, clarify and interpret information (e.g., about the concerns of Aboriginal people in contemporary Canada)
- Identify current concerns of Aboriginal peoples (e.g., self-government, land claims)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the social, political, and economic issues facing Aboriginal peoples in Canada today
- Demonstrate an understanding of the theories related to the origin of the Aboriginal peoples (e.g., migration and settlement)
- Identify technological developments and cultural factors that led to the exploration of North America

## **Specific Expectations**

### **Understanding Concepts**

- Describe the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and their environment (e.g., with respect to food, shelter, cultural practices)
- Identify early explorers (e.g., Viking, French, English ) who established settlements in Canada and explain the reasons for their exploration (e.g., fishing, fur trade, resulting in the establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company)
- Construct and read a variety of graphs, charts, diagrams, maps and models for specific purposes (e.g. to trace the routes of the explorers)
- Communicate information, using media works, oral presentations, written notes, and descriptions, drawings, tables, charts, maps, and graphs

## **PART ONE – SUGGESTED CUMULATIVE ACTIVITIES**

Following are some general activities which could relate to any of the units and might help students to meet reading, writing, oral and visual communications expectations.

### **Task One – A Summary Report**

Students could be asked to write a summary report on some topic represented in the DVD such as the discovery of oil and its importance to Lambton County economically and historically. After being given a summary planner to record their notes and to organize their thoughts, students could be asked to produce a report using proper paragraph format and including information and details that would be important for the reader to know. Students could be assigned further sources to consider in preparing their report. Students could be reminded to put all information into their own words. Students could then work with peer editors to check each other's work for errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Students could be asked to present their reports orally in front of other classmates.

The following are "overall expectations" that relate to this task.

- Communicate ideas and information for a variety of purposes (to inform, to persuade, to explain) and to specific audiences
- Organize information to convey a central idea using well-linked paragraphs
- Use a variety of sentence types and structures (e.g., complex sentences) appropriate for their purposes
- Produce pieces of writing using a variety of forms and using materials from other media
- Revise and edit their work in collaboration with others, seeking and evaluating feedback, and focusing on content, organization, and the appropriateness of the vocabulary for the audience
- Proofread and correct their final drafts, focusing on grammar, punctuation, spelling, and conventions of style
- Use and spell correctly the vocabulary appropriate for this grade
- Use correctly the conventions (e.g., spelling, grammar, punctuation) specified for this grade
- Accurately use appropriate organizers
- Use a dictionary and thesaurus to confirm their spelling

### **Task Two – A Video Production**

On the DVD, the discovery of oil in Lambton County has been presented as a silent film production with title cards, background music and video representations of actions. Student groups could be asked to prepare a similar silent film type video presentation based on one of the other sections on the DVD or some other suitable topic relevant to the curriculum. Following additional research, students could write a script, determine the action shots, select appropriate background music, and prepare title cards. Using video cameras, the vignette could be recorded and later shown to classmates.

The following are "overall expectations" that relate to this task.

- Communicate ideas and information for a variety of purposes (to inform, to persuade, to explain) and to specific audiences
- Organize information to convey a central idea using well-linked paragraphs
- Use a variety of sentence types and structures (e.g., complex sentences) appropriate for their purposes
- Produce pieces of writing using a variety of specific forms, techniques, and resources appropriate to the form and purpose, and materials from other media
- Revise and edit their work, focusing on content and elements of style
- Proofread and correct their final drafts, focusing on grammar, punctuation, spelling

### **Task Three – A Survey and Graph**

Create a survey which will collect information from members of your class as to which chapter on the DVD they found the most interesting and their reasons. Graph the data and explain in your own words the rationale for the most selected chapter.

The following are "overall expectations" that relate to this task.

- Design surveys, organize the data and record the data on spreadsheets or tally charts
- Experiment with a variety of displays of the same data using computer applications and select the type of graph that best represents this data
- Make inferences and convincing arguments based on the analysis of tables, charts and graphs

### **Task Four – A Review**

Write a review of the DVD. This review should show knowledge of the contents of the DVD, a clear rationale for the valuation of the DVD and a suggested audience for the DVD.

The following are "overall expectations" that relate to this task.

- Produce pieces of writing using a variety of forms, techniques and resources appropriate to the form and purpose, and materials from other media
- Proofread and correct final drafts, focusing on grammar, punctuation, spelling and conventions of style
- Select words and expressions to create specific effects

### **Task Five – Opinion Piece**

On the DVD, in the chapters relating to Malcolm Cameron and Alexander Mackenzie, reference is made to the Canadian Observer (begun in Sarnia by Malcolm Cameron and now known as the Sarnia Observer) and the Lambton Shield (a short-lived paper edited by Alexander Mackenzie). Both of these men were skilled in the presentation of words and would often write editorials for their respective newspapers. Individually, or as groups, students could be asked to research an issue such as voting rights or prohibition, both of which were topical in the days of the second half of the nineteenth century in Lambton County. Alternatively, students could be asked to research an issue, more current in Lambton, such as the Native land issue. Students could then write either an editorial or a letter to the editor expressing their views and convictions.

The following are "overall expectations" that relate to this task.

- Communicate ideas and information for a variety of purposes and to specific audiences, using forms appropriate for their purpose and features appropriate to the form
- Use writing for various purposes and in a range of contexts (e.g., to clarify personal concerns and to explore social issues)
- Organize information and ideas creatively as well as logically using paragraph structures (e.g., to develop a comparison or establish a cause-and-effect relationship)
- Use a wide variety of sentence types and sentence structures, with conscious attention to style
- Revise and edit their work independently or using feedback from their peers
- Proofread and correct their final drafts, focusing on grammar, spelling, punctuation, and conventions of style
- Use and spell correctly the vocabulary appropriate for this grade
- Use correctly the conventions (e.g., grammar, punctuation, spelling) specified for this grade

## **PART TWO – SUGGESTED CHAPTER SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

### **Chapter 1: Introduction - The Last Frontier**

Lambton County, often referred to as “Canada West’s Last Frontier”, was heavily forested, with much of the land covered by a thick, black liquid which eventually led to its prosperity. The heavy forests and the swampy conditions were the main reasons that Lambton was one of the last parts of Canada West (Ontario) to be inhabited and developed by Europeans.

### **Vocabulary**

▫ forested      prosperity      pilgrimage      development      settlement      frontier

### **Comprehension Questions**

Why was Lambton County settled much later than other counties in Canada West?

What is Andrew Lucas doing with the blankets? Why?

### **Writing**

Summarize the events of the chapter. Try to do so effectively in 50 words or less.

### **Oral and Communication Skills**

Write an article for a newspaper column describing what happened to Andrew Lucas this day. Try to do so effectively in 150 to 200 words.

## Chapter 2: Three Fires Confederacy

Many natives of the area inhabited Walpole Island (and still do, to this day). They were joined in a league called the Three Fires Confederacy, consisting of the Ojibwa, Potawatomi and Ottawa Nations. These natives lived as hunter-gatherers. They also used a clan system to distribute responsibilities throughout the community. Some groups were responsible for regulating fishing and hunting, while others dealt with medicine or acted as warriors.

More information about Walpole Island and the Three Fires Confederacy can be found on their web site at [www.bkejwanong.com/](http://www.bkejwanong.com/)

### Vocabulary

- Natives            inhabited            league            confederacy    clan system    regulating
- responsible    warrior            compact            tribal culture

### Comprehension Questions

What was the Three Fires Confederacy? Where were they located?

What is a clan system? How does it work?

### Writing

One of the speakers refers to a “hunter-gatherer” existence which revolved around the months of the year which were named accordingly.

- Illustrate in your own words (200 words or less) what you think is meant by a “hunter-gatherer” life.
- Based on the life of your own family and friends, what descriptive names would you use to describe the twelve months of the year?

### Oral and Communication Skills

Describe what you think might have been a typical day in the life of a young Aboriginal person about your age before the Europeans arrived in Lambton County.

## Supplementary reading to Chapter 2: Three Fires Confederacy

During the 1920's, some interesting tales were told by Pe-to-e-kie-sic, an Indian of Walpole Island, at that time 114 years of age. These stories were told to William Leonhardt of Port Lambton who later wrote a poem about the shifting of the St Clair River. Following is a summary of William Leonhardt's story.

Pe-to-e-kie-sic, or old Pete as he was known to many, was at the time 114 years of age, almost a skeleton in figure, yet containing life. His face was wrinkled and apparently dried, yet he had his eyesight and seemed to have a fair intelligence. If he could speak English, he would not. They conversed through the then Chief Joseph White, a real Indian of the old type who possessed a keen intelligence. Pe-to-e-kie-sic said that he was in the City of Detroit when there were only 12 dwelling houses. His father went there to trade when he was very small. At the time, he said, the St Clair River was often black with canoes journeying to the trading post at Detroit. Pe-to-e-kie-sic said that the island known as Stag Island faced the lands that had been given by the Indians to a family of Courtenays, who once lived in Port Huron. The village of Corunna is now on the lands deeded to the Courtenays. The deed was drawn on buckskin and done in figures. Courtenay, being a tall man, was pictured as a grasshopper.

The island known as Fawn Island, known to the Indians as Eagle Island originally and later as Wood-tick Island was, according to Pe-to-e-kie-sic, given to a man who made ships, named Miller, who lived on the island for a time.

When asked where he was born, Pe-to-e-kie-sic said near Mount Pleasant in Michigan. He said that the islands St Anne, Squirrel and Walpole along with the islands across the river and Peach Island and Belle Island all belong to the Indians as it was arranged by the British. Leonhardt was told by Pe-to-e-kie-sic that in his youth the hunting ground was filled with game, that he had killed many bears near Dresden and Wallaceburg, that farther east there was an Indian village and later a sawmill built around the village with water power.

When asked if he was ever at the haunted house on the Snye River, Pe-to-e-kie-sic replied that he was there often and on one occasion all the glass was broken in the windows. Old Pete, who had been a chief many years, told the cause of the house being haunted. He said that on a little hill over near Whitebread Station was the site where the Indians had erected a medicine lodge and that when the white men had interfered with it, the spirits of the Indians showed their resentment by haunting the McDonald homestead. This he was sure of. Pe-to-e-kie-sic said that all his friends were dead and buried on the High Banks. He said they were pagans as he was himself and that the burying place was dear to him.

Old Pete now talked in a sorrowful voice as he said that the beaver and other game had been driven away by the white men and now a few ducks and gulls were all that were left to the Indians. When asked if he had ever met Tecumseh, Pe-to-e-kie-sic answered "No, not close, but I have been near him, He, Tecumseh, was like the Big Man in the States". He meant Roosevelt. He went on to say "Tecumseh was a great man. He could speak at a distance, when it was desired to have many warriors to stop the Whites. Tecumseh would sit still and send a message by his mind, as far west as the Stone Hills, demanding that all Red Men should come and help stop the Whites from coming farther this way, Tecumseh would get an answer saying that they would come as the leaves on the trees for numbers, and all Indians should live in a wigwam or bark shanty as they would kill all those who lived in houses." Old Pete pointed out an old bark shanty that had been kept in repair in back of his frame dwelling.

When asked about the supposed founding of Tecumseh's bones on St Ann's Island, he only stated that no White man would ever see these bones again.

When asked if he had ever heard of the channel from Lake Huron, known as the Rapids, being on the Canadian side of the river, Pe-to-e-kie-sic's response was "My father's father's father, told my father's father's father, and my father's father's father told my father's father's father, and my father's father told my father, and my father told me, that a long time past the river came from the lake close to the side where Sarnia is now, and then it was changed by a storm." The story of the legend of the shifting of the St Clair River goes like this. Many, many years ago, the river bed and course ran down on the Canadian side, but one day there came a great bird. Its wings were two miles long. It lit in or near the mouth of the river and began to wash itself, ducking and diving and flapping its wings. It got up a great commotion, whirling and diving its extended wings, threshing the waters at a furious rate and making a terrible commotion causing the winds to blow so fiercely that the trees were uprooted and the wigwams were destroyed. The canoes were lifted in the air and blown far to the southward. Later many canoes were found in the treetops along the River Thames. The wind had driven them across the country in its fierce storm, all caused by the great bird and its wing-flapping. The front of the shores was changed and in the commotion the river broke through where it now is on the American side.

Records and lore do seem to bear out the story that the channel once ran on the Canadian side of the river. Perhaps a strong cyclone might have filled in the shallow entrance to the rapids, forcing the water to break through on the side where the channel now is. But I like to think the shifting of the St Clair River channel was instead caused by a great bird. What do you believe?

### **Vocabulary**

- buckskin      sawmill      water power      haunted      medicine lodge
- homestead      wigwam      shanty      commotion      cyclone

### **Comprehension Questions**

How did Old Pete describe the St. Clair River when many canoes were travelling to Detroit?

Why did Pe-to-e-kie-sic believe the McDonald homestead was haunted?

How was the St. Clair River channel shifted according to Indian legend?

Where is Tecumseh buried according to Pe-to-e-kie-sic?

### **Writing**

Explain in your own words (100 words or less) the main differences between how the Natives lived and how the newly settled Europeans lived?

### Chapter 3: Native Lands

Today, many natives live on Reserves, land that the natives put aside for their own people to live on while Europeans negotiated the surrender of much of the land around them. Interestingly, Walpole Island is not a Reserve. It was never mentioned in the treaties made between the Crown and the Native people, and remains Native land. Archeological evidence places the first natives there as long as 6,000 years ago.

#### Vocabulary

- Reserve negotiated surrender treaties archeological

#### Comprehension Questions

What was the Three Fires Confederacy? Where were they located?

What is a clan system? How does it work?

#### Supplementary reading to Chapter 3: Native Lands

“A fourth (treaty), dated 1790, conveys the area out of which have been cut the counties of Essex and Kent and portions of Elgin, Middlesex, and Lambton. The grantors are the principal village and war chiefs of the Ottawa, Chippewa, Pottawatomie and Huron nations around Detroit. The conveyance is to King George III, the payment of the consideration money, £1,200 Halifax currency, in valuable wares and merchandise, being made by Alexander McKee, Deputy Agent of Indian Affairs. Among the valuable wares and merchandise then given to the Indians were 840 pairs of blankets, ranging in price from 4/9 a pair to 12/-; 35 pieces of shrouds at 67/-; 140 yards of scarlet cloth at 8/-; 12 pieces of cadies, 420 yards, at 2/6; 26 pieces Embolton linen, 96 yards, at 15/-; 50 gross ribbons at 10/6; 100 pounds vermilion at 4/-; 1 dozen black silk handkerchiefs; 60 guns at 20/6; 20 rifles at 50/-; 1,000 pounds ball and shot at 21/- per 100 pounds; 2,000 flints at 10/- per 1000 ; 30 dozen looking-glasses at 3/- per dozen; 10 pairs callemaneon at 21/-; 1,000 fish hooks at 22/6; 39 gallons rum at 3/9; 400 pounds tobacco at 1/3; 24 laced hats at 20/-; 11 gross pipes at 1/6; 600 pounds brass kettles at 1/3 per pound, etc.”

The above is an excerpt from a letter to the Earl of Durham on August 22nd, 1838, written by Lord Glenelg, Colonial Secretary, summing up his views regarding the necessity of Imperial control over the aborigines.

#### Vocabulary:

- Grantors conveyance currency shrouds vermilion  
flints kettles ball and shot

### **Oral and Visual Communication**

Assume that it is 1790 and your group has been directed to negotiate the above Treaty with the Native leaders. As a group, discuss, determine and write out in point form at least five main clauses or agreements that you would want included in the Treaty agreement.

## Chapter 4: French History

The first European settlers to make their homes in Lambton were the French. They became British Loyalists, coming from Detroit after the War of 1812. Raymond Baby was a wealthy man, who obtained much of the land along the St. Clair River and had fairly good relations with the Native people of the area. There was a mutual respect between them. The Natives benefited from the relationship, obtaining iron, steel, silk cloth, ivory combs, and steel plows.

As early as 1665, Jacques Baby had come to Quebec with a French Regiment. By 1701, his son, Raymond Baby, went west to found a family which was associated with what is now Michigan and Southwestern Ontario for the next 2 centuries. A grand-son, Francois Baby Jr. was an early settler in Sombra, about 1815. He owned the land from the Chanel Ecarte (on the east side of Walpole Island) to present day Port Lambton, including Baby's Point. The French community built about 1827 in Baby's Point what may have been Lambton's first church, Église de Sacre Coeur, the key of which is now at Mooretown Museum.

By 1817, his brother James had settled in Moore Township, building a log cabin which survived until 1937. One of Lambton's earliest post offices was started at Moore in 1837 with James Baby as postmaster until 1853.

Mooretown, for many years the most important settlement on the river south of Sarnia, was established by James Baby, who built a saw mill, a grist mill and docks at the end of the sixth line, then known as Baby's Line and later extended his enterprises to include oil refining. He later moved to Sarnia and established the first steamship line between Sarnia and Wallaceburg.

The only reminders of the Baby family are Baby's Point and Pointe Line in Sombra Township.

The French-speaking families of Ignace Cazelet, Jean-Baptiste Pare and Joseph LaForge arrived in the Sarnia area, then referred to as The Rapids, about 1807-1810.

### Vocabulary:

- Loyalists      community      Postmaster      settlement      grist mill      enterprise  
refining      steamship

### Comprehension questions

Why did the Baby family and other French families from the Michigan side of the St. Clair River to undeveloped land along the shore on the Canadian side?

Why did these French settlers seem to get along better with the Indians than the British settlers?

### Supplementary questions – Extra reading and/or research needed

(suggest following web site as a beginning point)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War\\_of\\_1812](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_1812)

What were the main reasons for the War of 1812? Who were the participants? What was the outcome of the war? Who were the Loyalists?

## **Chapter 5: The Maxwell Settlement**

It was the 1830's before another large European settlement appeared in the area. Retired British Naval officer Henry Jones followed the example set by Robert Owen, the father of Socialism. He introduced communal living to Lambton. Communities that relied on the cooperation of several people were quite successful in Britain. However, in the New World the economic situation was less dire. There were plenty of resources for everyone in the area, and so, the Maxwell Experiment was less successful than originally intended. After one of Jones' many absences from the settlement, he returned to find it had burned to the ground.

Henry Jones was the first English speaking settler in Sarnia Township, of whom record was made. Between 1825 and 1830, Henry Jones, a retired purser of the English Channel Fleet during the Napoleonic Wars, experimented with socialism in what is now Brights Grove. Through family connections, he succeeded in getting 10,000 acres to establish a colony. Jones was interested in setting up in Canada a colony similar to a settlement set up in Lanark, Scotland by the philanthropist Robert Owen. Jones, with 30 men, women and children, settled in 1829, establishing his community four leagues from Port Sarnia. The "Toon o' Maxwell" as the community became known, consisted of an extensive structure including a community kitchen and dining room with separate rooms for each family. The nearby Lake Wawanosh teemed with ducks and geese and Lake Huron offered an abundance of fish. The industrious Scots cleared sufficient land to grow crops. This experiment in communal living should have been a success.

However, in 1828, the main structure burned down and the families had to live in individual cabins while rebuilding took place. With the families living apart, they got a taste of freedom. When the settlers discovered that each family could have 200 free acres of land free from the restrictions and discipline of community ownership and what some thought was the too bossy attitude of Jones, the settlement slowly broke apart, Jones realized that his attempt to build a commune in Upper Canada had failed. He gave up 9,000 acres and retained 1,000 for his own family.

Undeterred by the failure of the commune, by 1829, Henry Jones had a fishery at what is now the Sarnia Yacht Club, where he had a license to fish until 1834.

There is an historical plaque commemorating Canada's first commune by the lake on the north side of Brights Grove Public School.

The 1,000 acres that Jones kept was in the Rapids or Port Sarnia, where, about 1832, Jones built two wharves, a store, and a storehouse on the waterfront halfway between what are now Lochiel and Cromwell Streets, to look after the needs of early settlers coming in by ship from Detroit.

Sarnia at that time lay between the St Clair River on the west and Ham Street, now East Street, on the east, and from Exmouth on the north to Victoria Park (Wellington St) on the south. All of this property was owned by just five people, Henry Jones and four others, Jean Pere, La Forge, Richard Vidal and George Durand

Incidentally, the detailed address for any of these early settlers would have been to: The Rapids, Sarnia Township, County of Kent, Western District, Upper Canada, Province of Canada. At least they did not have to remember a postal code.

**Vocabulary**

- Socialism      communal      experiment      Napoleonic      philanthropist
- league      abundance      industrious      restrictions      discipline
- undeterred      fishery      plaque

**Comprehension Questions**

Describe in your own words how this community would have been different from the type of community in which most immigrants to Lambton would have settled? Why did this experiment fail?

**Writing**

The Maxwell Settlement failed.

- Illustrate in your own words (100 words or less) why you think it failed.
- List at least five reasons why you think your own family and friends would like to/not like to live on a commune.

**Notes**

There is a historical plaque about the Maxwell Experiment located in Brights Grove. You may view the plaque and other Lambton historical plaques at the web site located at [www.ontarioplaques.com/Location\\_DirectoryLambton.html](http://www.ontarioplaques.com/Location_DirectoryLambton.html)

**Supplementary reading to Chapter 5: The Maxwell Settlement  
Excerpted from a traditional story told by Chief Plain**

Wawanosh, a Chippewa Indian, was born and raised in the District of Michipicoten and in the early years of the eighteenth century, became involved in some unknown offence to his tribe and he had to flee for his life, being pursued by a band of Indians. He reached Sault Ste. Marie and crossed the river and reached the Straits of Mackinaw, where he met some friendly Indians who took him across the Straits and he came down through the State of Michigan with the band of Indians in hot pursuit. He arrived at the Indian village near the mouth of the Black River, where the City of Port Huron now stands, and these Indians took him across the St. Clair River and the Chippewas of Sarnia took pity on him, after he related to them his predicament, that he was being pursued by a band of Indians from Michipicoten. They led him to a swamp, which was really a small lake, and hid him there and supplied him with food. When the pursuing Indians arrived, the Chippewas told them that he had been there and that he had left for some unknown region, so they continued on down to Walpole Island and they failed to find any trace of him then so they turned back and returned here. The Chippewas then went and brought him out of the swamp and they called the lake "Wawanosh" and it was designated by that name in the early editions of the map of the County of Lambton. In the intervening years, up to the signing of the Treaty of 1827, the Chippewas became aware that he possessed some knowledge of the English language, so they adopted him into their tribe and in the course of time Wawanosh made friends with the early settlers who established their homes in this territory. He became fast friends with a Frenchman who had a fish shanty out in the Sarnia Bay, and when word was received that a representative of the Government was coming to distribute some presents to the Indians, they were glad they had Wawanosh to interpret for them. Oketitchick followed by Kwasind were chiefs at that time, but Wawanosh was told by his friend the Frenchman the first question the Government man would ask would be "Who was the Chief?" and if he told him that he was, his name would be entered into the records of the Government as Chief Wawanosh. The weakness of human nature always yields to temptation of this nature so Wawanosh did as he was told and became the Chief of the Chippewas of Sarnia.

**Research question (see Chapter 15: Drainage)**

Lake Wawanosh no longer exists. Where was it before it was drained? What is there now?

## Chapter 6: The Petworth Settlement

Down the road from the failed communal settlement of Maxwell, a number of the town's settlers found themselves homes in Warwick at the Petworth Settlement. This community did not rely on Socialism to the same extent as Maxwell had. Here, settlers owned their own land and homes, while working cooperatively as a community. Warwick was connected to the river via the Egremont Road.

In 1833, a large number of British immigrants, sponsored by Lord Egremont, settled in Warwick and Plympton Townships and a road was surveyed to give them communication with London to the east and the new town of Errol, the soon to be county town, on the lakeshore.

The Egremont Road became the main link between London and the St Clair River, thereby having a major influence on the development of most of the northern part of Lambton. Major roads such as the Egremont Road were the main means of communication for many years, developing a stage coach industry to transport people and cargo to and from London and points east.

Lord Egremont made efforts to facilitate immigration to the New World, alleviating the economic stress facing England. The Petworth settlers named the Egremont Road for him, which for the first time gave settlers real access to the interior, and allowed settlements, like the one at Warwick, to prosper.

The Egremont Road, which passed through Warwick, connected the garrison at London to Errol at the shore of Lake Huron, providing access for troops to provide protection of the western border of Upper Canada. Any one travelling to Port Sarnia would have to go by road to Errol and from there by water.

### Vocabulary

- instrumental    trappings    Assisted Immigration    permanent
- moraines    facilitate    surplus population

### Comprehension Questions

Summarize and explain the main differences between the Petworth experiment and the Maxwell experiment? Which one succeeded? Why was it more successful?

### Social Studies

Draw a map to show the locations of Port Sarnia, London, Errol, Warwick, Maxwell, the Egremont Road, the St. Clair River and Lake Huron.

## **Chapter 7: Malcolm Cameron**

Having seen the potential of Port Sarnia, or ‘The Rapids’ as it was then known, Henry Jones took up permanent residence there after the burning of Maxwell.

Malcolm Cameron, an astute businessman, arrived at The Rapids in 1834. With George Durand, Richard Vidal and Cameron became the main economic forces in early Sarnia. They were merchants, millers, and they fostered and prospered from the ship-building trade.

One of Lambton’s roads, Mandaumin Road, was named after the hamlet of Mandaumin, on the Plympton-Sarnia Town Line. Originally, this settlement was to be called Radcliffe, a name selected by Malcolm Cameron (District Representative in the Provincial Assembly 1848-60) to recognize a local clergyman. When the residents did not like the name, Cameron met with them to find another name. While chairing the meeting, several settlers began chanting his nickname “coon”. Cameron was known by his political opponents as the “old coon” because they said he was like a coon sitting up in a tree waiting to see on which side to jump.

Cameron, who liked his nickname, said “We should give the coon something so we will give the name Mandaumin.” Mandaumin is an Indian name for corn. Mandaumin was accepted and this community, started in the mid 1850's has neither declined nor grown much since.

Malcolm Cameron was born in Trois Rivieres in 1808. In 1816, his father mustered out of the military as a sergeant, settled in Perth and became an inn keeper. In 1824, Malcolm Cameron went to Montreal and became a stable boy. He went west in 1834 and purchased 100 acres of land from Dominique Laforge in the new community known as “The Rapids”. This community was later named Sarnia, a name suggested by Cameron. Sarnia was the ancient Roman name for the Channel Island of Guernsey, the one time home of the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, Sir John Colborne.

Here with Richard Vidal and George Durand, he began buying and selling land, engaging in commerce and dominating the life of this community. Cameron became a lumberman, general merchant, ship owner, ship builder, miller, land speculator, and through much of his adult life a politician. Cameron at one time had six ships docked here and in 1850, one sixth of all the oak timber shipped from Canada to Great Britain was shipped by him from Lambton County.

### **Supplementary Reading to Chapter 7: Malcolm Cameron**

In 1833, a group of settlers from Petworth came to the area know by the Natives as “The Rapids,” now known as Sarnia. One of the settlers was Oliver Allan, who opened an inn. He arranged for a carpenter to make and hang a sign for the inn. Unfortunately, the carpenter could not read and hung the sign saying INN upside down so that it read as NNI. The residents of the Rapids quickly began to refer to the hotel as the Double-N-I or the “upside down inn”. Oliver Allan, being a good businessman, left the sign upside down. He knew a good thing when he saw it.

**Vocabulary**

- rogue            rascal            visionary        fathom        trace their roots
- Temperance    mercantile       teetotaler      editor        viewpoint
- editorial        astute            politician       secret ballot

**Comprehension Questions**

One of the speakers on the DVD said about Malcolm Cameron “.... whether you can call him a rogue, a rascal, or whether you call him an astute businessman I am not sure-- maybe a bit of all three.” After listening to the comments made by all of the speakers on the DVD and doing a search on the internet, describe your impression of Malcolm Cameron in 50 to 100 words, followed by a listing of sources and reasons for your impression.

In 1839, Malcolm Cameron made a questionable purchase of 2,540 acres of land from the people we now know as the Amjiwnaang. In 1853 the government granted Cameron a patent to the lands, believing that it had been surrendered. However, no formal surrender document exists and there is no evidence of a public meeting held for the purpose of surrendering the land to the Crown. Through newspaper and internet research, familiarize yourself with the current status of the land in question. Summarize your findings in point form followed by a statement of your thoughts in your own words about this problem and its continuing impact on life in Sarnia today.

Who were the three dominating families in the economic life of Port Sarnia prior to the arrival of the Mackenzies? What were some of their many occupations?

## **Chapter 8: Alexander Mackenzie**

Alexander Mackenzie, second Prime Minister of Canada, arrived in Sarnia in 1846. He was a stonemason, working as a contractor in Sarnia, Chatham, Essex, and Windsor. Mackenzie acted as a bit of a foil for Cameron. Soon, both of them began publishing their own newspapers in Sarnia, each supporting his personal viewpoint. Mackenzie published a thinly veiled editorial in the Lambton Shield in which he tried to shed light on Cameron's rather shady acquisition of Native lands, referring to Malcolm's actions as a bit of "nefarious jobbery".

In a subsequent election, Cameron was defeated politically. Mackenzie later entered politics and became Prime Minister of Canada.

Hope Mackenzie, Alexander's brother, began in Port Sarnia in the 1840's as a ship-building contractor for Malcolm Cameron. Hope's early success led to Alexander Mackenzie, a stone mason in Kingston, following his brother to this bustling new community where he became one of the most extensive building contractors of the west.

Even though Mackenzie had left school at 13, he had a life long interest in education. He read voraciously with a special interest in political controversy. He would soon find that the Western District overflowed with controversy of the most rancorous kind. The Hon. Malcolm Cameron, member for Kent-Lambton in 1847, transferred his candidacy to Huron in 1851. Cameron was succeeded by the Hon. George Brown. Even though both considered themselves as reformers, Brown and Cameron became antagonists, with Brown applying a nickname to Cameron followers as "true grits". Meanwhile, in sympathy with Brown and his political beliefs, Alexander Mackenzie became involved. Brown had moved a printing press to Sarnia and a weekly newspaper, the Lambton Shield started up to honour and promote Brown's brand of Reform principles. Mackenzie, the secretary of the Reform organization, was persuaded to edit the paper and write editorials. Mackenzie began to wage journalistic warfare against Cameron. Cameron retaliated by inviting the editor of the Lanark Observer to move his paper to Port Sarnia, where it became the Lambton Observer, forerunner of the Sarnia Canadian Observer, now the Sarnia Observer.

In the Lambton Shield, Mackenzie charged that a member sitting for Kent had perpetrated a particularly nefarious bit of land-jobbery. Mackenzie's comments were based on information from the commissioner of Crown lands. While Cameron was not named, he was a member for Kent at the time. Cameron brought suit for libel. The case of Cameron versus Mackenzie came up for trial. The commissioner of Crown Lands, who had by now resigned, refused to appear, claiming he was bound by an oath to cabinet secrecy. With no evidence against Cameron, the jury brought a verdict for Cameron against the paper of 20 pounds plus court costs of about 150 pounds. The Shield suspended publication and Mackenzie took it upon himself to satisfy the verdict. A few years later, Alexander Mackenzie was elected to represent Lambton and later became Prime Minister of Canada.

Born at Logerait in Scotland in 1822, Alexander Mackenzie was the 3<sup>rd</sup> of a family of 10 sons. His formal schooling ended at the age of 13. After 7 years of apprenticeship, he began practicing the trade of stonemason. While honing his masonry skills helping to build railroad bridges and culverts in Ayrshire, the land of Robbie Burns, his political philosophy was being

developed as he attended meetings of the Chartists who, among other things, believed in universal suffrage and vote by secret ballot. He was also in accord with Liberal beliefs of the day favouring free trade. These beliefs, enforced by his staunch Christian values and his views on abstinence from alcohol, would show up very strongly in his daily life as a labourer in Scotland, and as a stonemason/contractor and in later years as a politician in Canada.

While still in Ayrshire, he became enamoured of Helen Neil, daughter of a stonemason and followed her family to Canada in 1842 on a 32 day voyage on the sailing ship, the Monarch.

Expert as he was at his trade, Alexander Mackenzie's ambition was to own a farm. Soon after arriving in Kingston with the Neils, they settled on a farm with assistance from a Mr. Mowat, father of Oliver Mowat, then a law student at Kingston. In the spring of 1843, he returned to Kingston, where an older brother Hope joined him. While living in the Kingston area, Alexander Mackenzie honed his skills as a contractor, working on the building of the Beauharnois and Welland canals, and Fort Henry. It was in Kingston in 1845 that he married Helen Neil.

In 1846, his brother, Hope, a carpenter and cabinet-maker, teamed up with Steed, a brother-in-law of Alexander's wife, and went west to Port Sarnia. At the time, Malcolm Cameron was by then the dominant figure in industry and politics in Port Sarnia. In those pre-railroad days, water was the dominant way of traveling to the far west.

Steed and Hope Mackenzie contracted to build ships for Cameron. They prospered and, in 1847, convinced Alexander and his wife to bid farewell to Kingston and move to a new home on the St Clair.

Alexander readily found work at his trade in Port Sarnia and soon the two brothers pooled enough of their earnings to allow Hope to return to Scotland and persuade their mother and their other brothers to come to Port Sarnia. The Mackenzie family was now all in Port Sarnia where Hope and two brothers, James and Robert, along with Steed, prospered in the ship-building trade. Charles and John went into the hardware business, a business known today as Mackenzie-Milne Hardware. The Mackenzie brothers began to exert an influence in Port Sarnia, one that soon vied with that of Malcolm Cameron.

Alexander Mackenzie, a stonemason by trade, soon became one of the foremost contractors of the far west. In 1848, he built the Episcopal Church for \$766.00 and later built the Bank of Upper Canada, the courthouse and jails for Chatham, Sandwich, and Sarnia, and many other public and private buildings in the Sarnia area, a few of which are still in use, including a lawyer's office on Christina Street, the former Saddy House on Vidal, and a summer residence on what is now a church camp ground on Lake Huron.

But Alexander Mackenzie was more than a stone-mason, more than a contractor. Though he had only a few years of formal schooling, Mackenzie believed that education was a life long pursuit and the best way to learn was to read and then to read some more. He read as much as he could get his hands on, especially anything to do with political controversy, something which seemed to flourish in what was then known as the Western District.

Even though August 21, 1872 was a hot, steamy day in Sarnia, everyone who was able was at the town hall to hear a debate between Sir John A. MacDonald, the Prime Minister, and Alexander Mackenzie, the local Member of Parliament and Leader of the Opposition. Mackenzie was up for re-election and was running against Capt. Emeric Vidal. Sir John A. MacDonald would soon be here to help Vidal unseat Mackenzie.

Sir John had arrived earlier in the day by gunboat, had a nap, and then according to his normal routine, partaken of some liquid refreshment. He was troubled by Mackenzie's Liberals and their accusations of scandals in connection with the Pacific Railroad. He had to beat Mackenzie.

Sir John would be five hours late. By the time he turned up to debate Mackenzie, he was not the soberest man in Sarnia. His performance was certainly affected by his condition. As a contrast, Mackenzie was proper and precise. Probably this debate assured Alexander Mackenzie of election locally and within a year, the Prime Ministership of Canada.

### Vocabulary

- voraciously    controversy    rancorous    nefarious    jobbery
- "true grit"    journalistic    retaliated    philosophy    universal suffrage
- abstinence    enamoured    flourish    partaken    scandal

### Comprehension Questions

Why did Alexander Mackenzie have to shut down his newspaper, the Lambton Shield?

When was Alexander Mackenzie Prime Minister? What were the major achievements of his government?

### Visual Communications

In table form, based on the DVD content, the above and other material researched by you, list what you believe are positive and negative attributes for both Malcolm Cameron and Alexander Mackenzie.

Malcolm Cameron was likened to a raccoon and at least one political cartoon pictured him that way. Based on what you know about Alexander Mackenzie, what animal would you use to depict him in a political cartoon? Create a political cartoon with appropriate text balloons and/or descriptive comments. Create an n editorial of 50 to 150 words to accompany the political cartoon.

As two or more groups, research the achievements, style and attitudes of John A. MacDonald and Alexander Mackenzie, Canada's two first Prime Ministers following Confederation in 1867. Compare the accomplishments of both as Prime Minister and prepare arguments, comments and a debating strategy for the debate which took part between these two politicians in Lambton County on August 21, 1862. Making use of your research, select one person from your group to represent MacDonald and Mackenzie and conduct a debate between these two politicians.

Discuss the concept of libel, using the supplementary reading included below. Ask students to

study several editorials in local newspapers and then write an editorial on a topic of current interest. If desired, students could forward their letters to the editor of the newspaper.

### **Supplementary – Chapters 7 and 8**

The following is taken from The Assizes Report in The Observer, Port Sarnia, and Thursday, April 27, 1854. The article itself is very difficult to read on the microfilm. There is a copy of the microfilm at the Sarnia Branch of the Lambton County Library.

#### **Cameron vs. Mackenzie et al**

*"This was an action for Libel against the Defendants who are the editor and publisher of the Shield Newspaper. Mr. Richards, the Counsel for the Plaintiff, opened the pleadings, which set forth the Libel complained of by the Plnt. He said that the Libel charged, that a person who was a member of Mr. Baldwin's Administration, and also a member of the present government, had been guilty of gross misconduct. That a person has sent to the Ministry a petition, praying for a grant of some 17000 acres of Land, situated in a certain County of Western Canada. That the Minister obtained information by means of this petition, had suppressed it, and presented one in the name of himself and others, not only for a grant of the land in question, but also for a sum of money for the purpose of draining it. The Petition of the Minister met with opposition from the then Commissioner of Crown Lands. That further, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, in going one day to the Council Board, was surprised to find a report in favour of the Petition, presented for the approbation of the Government, purporting to come from his office, but of which he was altogether uninformed, and no wise cognizant. That a disagreement between the commissioner of Crown Lands and the Minister in question ensued, which shortly afterward led to a disruption of Mr. Baldwin's Ministry. This was in substance the charge originally published in the Brantford Courier and which was copied from that paper into the Brant Herald, which latter paper called for an explanation of the charges, and that the accused Minister should be distinctly named. The Shield copied the article as it appeared in the Brant Herald and proceeded to answer the inquiries of that paper in the following style:*

*'the certain township we have reason to believe is situate in the County of Kent, the Minister applying for the land was then connected with that ...member of Mr. Baldwin's government that in all likelihood, Mr. Price himself at least ...the story is no new one to many in the west...'*

*[Some of the works were not legible. Three dots have been inserted to note those sections. The following quotes are further on in the report.]*

*"He (Mr. Beecher, lawyer for defendant) proceeded to point to the necessity of a free press, and complained that the object of the present suit was to crush the Shield, which had rendered itself particularly obnoxious to the Plaintiff by its free commentaries upon his acts, and the acts of the present administration, and he called upon the Jury not to lend themselves to any such object. He ridiculed the idea of the Jury being called upon to give L 1000 (pounds) damages, for the loss of character sustained by the Plaintiff."*

*"Instead of having to pay such a sum, MR. B believed they were hard pressed to eke out a bare subsistence. That were the Jury to go to their small office he fancied they would find it quite a small place, in which were a few rough fixings, got up in the cheapest manner, and a very little of type just likely enough to print his little paper the Shield, and any little hand bills which the farmers or the merchants may require."*

## Chapter 9: Oil Discovery

In the early 1850's, Alexander Murray, an employee of the geological survey, traveled to the Enniskillen Swamp to find the source of some black sludge (oil) that had been given to the survey team. He later returned to his home in Woodstock, where it is likely that word of oil in the swamp spread to one Charles Tripp, a treasure hunter. Upon hearing the news, Tripp set out to Enniskillen Township in search of oil. He discovered a gum bed and found that by heating a piece of it, he could make "asphalt." Tripp sent a sample of the product to the Paris International Expo. As a result, it is said that Louis Bonaparte ordered enough asphalt to pave the streets of Paris.

Tripp joined into partnership with carriage maker James Miller Williams, and the two began to dig for crude oil. In 1858, Williams dug North America's first commercial oil well. However, the first Canadian gusher was not until 1862 in Oil Springs, when "Crazy" Hugh Nixon Shaw drilled deeper than anyone before him.

The discovery of oil in Lambton County came at the perfect time. Previously, sperm whale oil had been the main source of illuminating oil. However, with the discovery of petroleum came the creation of kerosene, a more efficient product. Kerosene could be produced on a larger scale, which opened up the market to everyone. Regular people could now use kerosene to generate light during the nighttime hours. Kerosene also helped to create a literate society. Reading could be done at night when the working day had finished. Kerosene also allowed for paraffin candles to be made, rendering the labourious task of making candles from tallow obsolete.

The mid 19th century was a time of ingenuity. The invention of the steam engine, and the pipeline also helped to make oil more readily available to the public.

### Vocabulary

- geological survey sludge gum bed asphalt
- kerosene tallow obsolete ingenuity carriage maker
- spewed

### Comprehension Questions

How and when did Charles Tripp find out about the mysterious smelly liquid from the Enniskillen swamp? Where was he when he first heard about the liquid?

Who dug the first commercial well in Canada? Where, when and by whom was it dug?

When was the first oil gusher? Who persisted to drill, in spite of ridicule, and brought in the first gusher?

What did kerosene replace as a source of illumination? Why?

When whalers protested against the "beautiful burning fluid" which had been reported in Oil Springs, what did they say was wrong with this new illuminating fluid?

The oil industry created an urgent need for coopers. What did coopers do?

## Chapter 10: Oil Springs

The town of Oil Springs experienced an enormous influx in population during the oil boom. However, it did not grow into a “civilized city” like nearby London or Hamilton. It was more akin to a western frontier town. It was dirty, covered in oil and grease, and stunk of oil.

Initially, to obtain oil, one needed to dig until pockets of the liquid were struck. Once deep enough, the wells had to be “cribbed”, or lined with boards, so as to prevent the sides from caving in on the “miners” – which the oil men were originally recorded as. Spring poles were later used to extract oil. The technique was imported from China, where for thousands of years people had been using the spring pole to drill for water.

During the drilling craze, a great deal of oil began flowing freely into the surrounding creeks, which is where Oil Springs residents had originally drawn their drinking water. Some say that fresh, clean water brought in on horses sold for more than the oil itself.

People began coming from further and further away to cash in on the oil boom. Many men who didn’t want to fight in the American Civil War came to Oil Springs to try their luck. As more people flocked to the area, businesses began to spring up.

By 1865, following the discovery of oil, Oil Springs had become a leading centre of trade and commerce, with a population exceeding 4,000. In comparison, Sarnia in 1861 was home to only 2,091 residents. At the best of times, in Oil Springs, there were 12 large general stores, many small shops, a daily newspaper, and several taverns. The main street was planked for a mile and a half, and was called by some, the finest paved street in all of Canada. Four stages ran each day down the new plank road to Sarnia, 19 miles distant in a straight line. There were nine large hotels in Oil Springs, but the draw to men from both Canada and the USA who wanted to be a part of the rush for oil led to a shortage of space in these hotels. This resulted in men paying for a place to sleep in four hour shifts, sometimes on a blanket spread out on a hotel room floor.

There was intense activity everywhere with so many men involved in digging, drilling and refining the oil. At one point, there were 27 refineries operating along the creek banks. Up to 500 teams each day hauled stone boats the 12 miles to Wyoming, each loaded with two barrels of oil, as they traveled up a narrow, slick wet clay road, in a ditch known as the “Canal” beside what is now Highway 21. The return trip brought supplies, food and equipment to Oil Springs.

In 1866, at the height of the oil fever, a company from Chicago, anxious to cash in on the oil boom, built a great hotel which would contain, according to a newspaper of the day, “108 bed rooms and a proportionate number of other kinds”. The hotel boasted that, when it was completed, it would be the largest wooden structure in Upper Canada.

However, about the same time, the Fenians conducted their first raids into Canada. The Fenians were American Irish who conceived a plan to capture Canada and hold it for ransom in return for the freedom of Ireland. Even though none of the Fenian raids were made into Lambton, the Americans in Oil Springs fled, fearful of an outbreak of war between Canada and the United States. News of the Fenian raids broke just as the plasterers were finishing the work on the interior of the hotel. The new hotel was never even swept out.

Almost overnight, the population in Oil Springs dropped to less than 1,000. For years,

this building stood empty, with parts of the material gradually removed for other use. This 108 room hotel had as its only tenants bats and rats and owls, instead of speculative travelers and oil workers.

### **Vocabulary**

- oil boom      cribbed      spring pole      equipment      stone boat  
structure      amalgam      fissures      treadle      frontier town

### **Comprehension Questions**

What are spring pole drilling rigs? Explain in your own words how they work.

What is cribbing? What purpose did it serve?

Why did the population in Oil Springs suddenly decrease in 1866?

**Note** – Pictures of a spring pole drilling rig and part of a jerker rod line can be found at the Oil Springs Museum site at [http://www.lambtononline.com/oil\\_museum](http://www.lambtononline.com/oil_museum)

### **Writing**

Research the Fenian cause and their goals in Canada. Present a summary of your research in 100-200 words.

## Chapter 12: John Henry Fairbank

John Henry Fairbank first came to Oil Springs as a surveyor in 1861. He fell in love with the area and put all his savings into drilling for oil. He is often credited with inventing the jerker line system, a more economically efficient method of drilling. This allowed for an entire field of wells to be pumped from a centrally located power source.

### Vocabulary

- surveyor      census      shack      eventually      rhythmic  
pumping system

### Comprehension Questions

What were oil men called in the 1861 census? Why?

How does a “jerker line” work? What was the main reason for using them?

What animal is used to keep the grass down? Why is this necessary? Why is this the best animal to use? How are these animals kept safe in the fields?

**Note** – Pictures of a spring pole drilling rig and part of a jerker rod line can be found at the Oil Springs Museum site at [http://www.lambtononline.com/oil\\_museum](http://www.lambtononline.com/oil_museum)

### Chapter 13: Hugh Nixon Shaw

By 1862, Hugh Nixon Shaw had arrived in Oil Springs. Shaw wanted to drill deeper than anyone else ever had – and he eventually hit a gusher. Shaw became wealthy, but continued to work his own wells. Unfortunately, when one of his wells became blocked, he lowered himself down to fix it. He was overcome by fumes and died in his own well.

Enormous amounts of oil were rushing out of the ground in Oil Springs, and flowed into Black Creek, down the St. Clair River and into Detroit, leaving an oil slick on the water’s surface. Many Americans in Detroit saw this and followed the slick up the river, looking for the source, and work.

Hugh Nixon Shaw came to Oil Springs as a Methodist preacher and to find his fortune in the oil fields. By the fall of 1860, he had become a laughing stock. His many attempts to find oil ended up dry. The deepest find to date was about 65 feet, a well dug by James Miller Williams. By this time, Shaw was still drilling at about 150 feet and everyone thought that Shaw should give up. The “Hard Oilers” (they became known as this because in dry weather, the clay became as hard to drill as granite) laughed at Shaw and said that if he had not yet struck oil, he was too deep and should start another well. By now, he was heavily in debt and according to the London Free Press, Shaw had “became greatly discouraged, and had heroically to battle against despair. Means were exhausted; hope almost extinguished; credit gone; he was on the eve of utter despair.” He continued to drill and on 15 January 1861, Shaw told his friends that he would drill for one more day, and then shut down all operations. The next day, a discouraged and beaten Shaw chopped one foot deeper, heard a loud crack, and moments later, heavy thick oil shot up to tree top level from his well. Hugh Nixon Shaw went from a beaten man, to the first in Canada to bring in a ‘gusher’. His gusher well spewed forth oil at the rate of 2,000 barrels a day. A week went by with oil spilling from the earth until the well was capped, and the flow reduced to 600 barrels a day. At the age of 50, Shaw had suddenly gone from being broke to becoming one of the wealthiest people in Oil Springs.

#### Vocabulary

- hard oiler      Methodist      discouraged      gusher      capped
- pioneer      frugally      vibrating      artesian      methane gas

#### Comprehension Questions

How deep did Shaw dig before he hit his gusher?

How did Shaw die?

How many barrels of crude oil did the Shaw gusher spew out before it was capped?

### **Writing**

Reference is made above to a newspaper article from January 1861 in the London Free Press about “Crazy” Shaw and his lack of success to date in his attempt to strike oil. Assume you are the reporter who wrote this article. It is about one week after the gusher came in. You have revisited the site and watched the force of the gusher and the amount of oil spewing from the ground. Write your follow up article about Shaw’s success in 150-200 words for your newspaper, using a column setup and an appropriate headline. You might also include an illustration showing some of what you saw in the oil fields.

## Chapter 14: Wilkesport

About 1840, the Wilkes brothers left Brantford and went to Sombra Township in Lambton County, where they purchased about 2,000 acres of land. They built a lumber mill on the Sydenham River and began to harvest the Oak Savannah forests for lumber. Settlers followed to work as lumbermen. By the 1860's, the Wilkes brothers had exhausted the potential for lumber on their land and left the county. However, the other community members remained there, farming the open land that had once been thickly forested and named their town "Wilkesport" after the brothers.

At the time, there was only a trail in and out of the bush, so all heavy commerce had to use the Sydenham River. The water level was much higher at that time.

The lumber industry brought lumber-jacks and mill hands, river scows and river-men. A community including many taverns sprung up and Wilkesport got a reputation as one of the tough spots of Canada West.

### Vocabulary

- harvest            lumbermen    forested       boomtown    cask           schooner
- yardarm       steamboat    exploited     cordwood

### Comprehension Questions

Why did the Wilkes brothers come to Lambton County?

What was much of the white oak cut down in Lambton County used for? What was the red oak used for? What is cordwood and what was it used for?

### Research question

Sombra is mentioned as a township. There were, until recent years, ten townships in Lambton County. Draw a map of Lambton County showing the location and name of all ten townships.

### Supplementary Reading for Chapter 14

About 1888, Harvey Arnold of Wilkesport decided he needed a boat and built it as close as possible to his source of timber. He laid his keel 12 miles from the river. Even though he was inexperienced in ship-building, Arnold built a 74 foot long craft with a beam of 18 feet and a draft of 6 feet. Apparently, he built it by eye and ended up with a craft that looked more like a house than a boat. He installed a one cylinder, 3 horsepower, 20 year-old engine.

With skids he built himself and a team of oxen, Arnold had his craft hauled over 12 miles through the bush to be launched at Wilkesport. His unique craft was christened the Spray.

The Spray was sailed to Wallaceburg, where it startled even the river-men, who were accustomed to strange ships. The Spray was sold a few years later and at least twice more before ending her days in Port Albert.

About 1904, Arnold built another ship, which he christened the Harvey. This time he built at Wilkesport, closer to water.

For many decades cargoes of squared timber were shipped out of Wilkesport in large



## Chapter 15: Drainage

Lambton County is notoriously flat and wet. It was once known as the Great Enniskillen Swamp. In fact, people didn't bother venturing into the swamps until oil was discovered, because they had no reason to do so. The wetness acted as a barrier to agriculture, settlement, and transportation. It also led to swamp fever and malaria.

Benjamin Brewster came to Grand Bend in 1832, damming the Ausable River and building a saw-mill. Farmers in the area blamed the mill for their failing crops, believing it to be the cause of the land's wetness. In the 1860's, an angry mob burned down the mill. The following spring, the flooding returned and they realized that the mill had not been responsible for the dampness at all. A decade later, the Canada Company Cut was created to alleviate some of the flooding. Unfortunately, the company cut right through sand dunes. They effectively destabilized the landscape and the dunes collapsed on either side of the man-made river, preventing the mouth from emptying into Lake Huron. The cut ended up causing even more flooding in the fields.

Today, to promote proper drainage, there are ditches all across Lambton County and all of the farmland has been tilled.

### Vocabulary

- notoriously    venturing    alleviate    sand dunes    swamp fever
- geological    friction    seasonally    arable

### Comprehension Questions

What acted as a barrier to early settlers?

Why did a mob burn down Brewster's Mill?

### Research Question

Prior to the arrival of Europeans, there were at least four inland lakes in Lambton County, one near what is now the airport, and three in north Lambton. Three of these lakes no longer exist as a result of drainage and development of land for agriculture. Draw a map of Lambton showing all four lakes and their names.

### Supplementary Reading Chapter 15

There was once a lake in Lambton which no one has ever seen. As you travel along London Line near Reece's Corners, you might have noticed that fruit trees grow on the north side and corn, beans and field crops on the south side. You are driving along the rim of an ancient lake which extended east to London and south to Lake Erie. The soil to the north is the sandy shoreline of Lake Whittlesey, a lake formed 10,000 years ago when a gigantic 15,000 foot high glacier scraped its way across what is now southwestern Ontario. Over many thousands of years, Lake Whittlesey was filled in as the rivers and creeks drained, becoming

swampy ground in which a vast forest of hardwood rose. Early settlers in Lambton had to move over paths of mud and weeds through great stands of hickory, walnut, oak, ash and maple. The forests have since been cut down, leaving the rich agricultural land which helped to build this county.

At one time, the shore of Lake Huron was closer to the Aux Sables river. As the silt from each spring's runoff was deposited, the northwest winds piled up a widening sand dune, behind which the direction of the Aux Sables changed, creating a natural harbour at present day Port Franks and a marshy area with 3 inland lagoons named Lakes Smith, George and Burwell.

On a more recent note, early settlers found that each spring and fall these lakes flooded over their banks, making it difficult to settle and farm much of the land in the northern half of Lambton. By the time Richard Brewster and other settlers began to arrive in the mid 1800's, much of Bosanquet was under water for part of the year because of nature and the twisting route of the Aux Sables River.

The Canada Company, realizing that a vast acreage of rich black silt lay wasting under water, undertook, about 1875, the building of a drainage ditch from near Grand Bend to Port Franks. All of the work was done by hand labour and horses. This shallow ditch would cut across a loop of the Aux Sable and drain Lake George and Lake Burwell. To complete the ditch, a gap was slashed through the sand hills to Lake Huron, pouring enough sand into the harbour at Port Franks to doom it as a harbour. Successive improvements of the cut have filled in the lakes and created a rich soil deposit on which much of today's north Lambton agriculture is based.

The Canada Company was founded to sell land in and make money for its investors. In 1824 the Company was given, at a very reduced price, over one million acres of real estate throughout Upper Canada, including the Huron Tract along Lake Huron.

In 1832, Richard Brewster bought land from the Company to build a saw mill at the mouth of the Aux Sable River just west of where the Roman Catholic church stands in present day Grand Bend. He built a wooden dam across the Aux Sable and a wooden saw mill. With an excellent source of lumber close by at the Pinery, the mill was quite successful. By 1850, Brewster was employing 30 men and producing 3,000,000 board feet of lumber each year.

By the late 1840's, the better lands in the Huron Tract had been settled and the Company began to sell inferior land with poorer soil quality, land which was prone to flooding in the spring and following heavy rainfalls. Every spring, the land sold for farming around the Aux Sable was flooded as the river overflowed its banks. Complaints to the Canada Company were ignored. By the 1850's, the settlers began to blame Brewster's Mill for the flooding. This belief was supported when the Canada Company also blamed Brewster and took him to court, blaming his dam for the flooding problems. Even though Brewster's rights of property were upheld by the court, he offered to remove his mill if the Canada Company would compensate him. However, the Company's purpose was to make money for its investors, not to pay it out. They refused.

Even though Brewster's Mill had been there 19 years, long before much of the land was settled, the settlers were frustrated and made plans to destroy Brewster's mill and dam by fire.

Sometime early in the 1860's, a large group of farmers made their way to the mill site after nightfall and with flaming torches, set fire to the dam and the mill. Both burned and Brewster's Mill was no more. After the attack, one of them was heard to say "Not any dam by a mill-site, nor any mill by a dam-site".

Unfortunately, the flooding continued to occur each spring and during rain-storms.

Brewster's Mill had not been the problem. The problem was eventually solved during the 1870's when two small lakes, Lake Burwell and Lake George were drained and a large ditch or cut was undertaken by the Canada Company. This led to about 17,000 additional acres of fertile land for farming and to a reduction of the flooding.

### **Vocabulary**

- glacier      silt      lagoon      investors      tract
- compensate      board feet      sand dune      natural harbour

### **Comprehension Questions**

Where was Lake Whittlesey? Why has no one ever seen it?

What was the Canada Company and what impact did it have on Lambton County history?

How were the annual problems with flooding in north Lambton resolved?

## Chapter 16: Petrolia

As a result of the Fenian scare, the oil boom in Oil Springs went bust. In the 1860's, a group of Irish Americans planned to take over Canada and use the colony as a bargaining chip with Britain. The Irish Americans wanted to regain control over their homeland of Ireland. Many people working in the Canadian oil industry were of American origin. After having seen the horrors of their own Civil War, they decided to leave Canada to avoid getting involved. The population of Oil Springs decreased rapidly. Soon after, the building of the railway and the King Well in Petrolia attracted oilmen there.

Just before the decline in Oil Springs hit, J. H. Fairbank sold his property in Oil Springs and bought up land in Petrolia. He had impeccable timing. When the boom hit Petrolia, he already had a store there. Eventually, he owned about a quarter of the businesses in the town.

Richard Bradley introduced an oil extraction method to Petrolia, which employed nitroglycerin to break up rock and debris that might be obstructing the flow of oil. After having mixed success carting the nitro in from the United States, Bradley decided to build a nitroglycerin plant in Petrolia. Several more plants sprang up, although most of them came to a swift end through explosions. The result of the explosions and fires was a bylaw that required all buildings to be made of brick.

### Vocabulary

- charter bank    requisite    explosion    stimulation    nitroglycerin  
residue    infinitesimal

### Comprehension Questions

Who was instrumental in getting a rail line into Petrolia?

What is used to shoot a well? How is it done?

What eventually happened to all of the nitro plants?

Why did the town council pass a by-law which banned wagons carrying nitro to travel on the streets of Petrolia?

How did Imperial Oil get its start?

## Chapter 17: Refining

Crude oil in its natural state has little use, so refining is required. Originally, this was accomplished using a simple maple syrup kettle. However, the process became more sophisticated, despite being rather messy and labour-intensive. With increased sophistication came increased costs, so entrepreneurs had to join together to make a profit. This teamwork led to the establishment of Imperial Oil. Imperial competed with Rockefeller's American-owned Standard Oil for a time, but in the end had to admit to defeat, and Rockefeller purchased a 75% stake in Imperial Oil.

To continue making a profit, dependable and accessible transportation was necessary. Petrolia had railway access, but Sarnia had both rail and waterways. As Petrolia faded away, industry moved to nearby Sarnia.

### Vocabulary

□	cairn	expropriate	compensation
	petro-chemical	encroachment	Indian Affairs

### Comprehension Questions

Where is the stone cairn located? What does it represent?

What conditions set the stage for the waterfront at Sarnia to become the centre for petro-chemical refining in Canada?

## Chapter 18: Growing Sarnia

Sarnia's success stems from its status as a central transportation hub. It acts as a stop-over point between Canadian and American cities. Long ago, it was a trading place for the Native people of the area. The first shipping company to prosper in Sarnia was owned by the Beatty's. The Beatty boats played an important role in the opening up of the Canadian West. Companies were also able to send products via rail to Sarnia, where they could be transferred to boats or ferries and shipped across the Great Lakes.

When the township of Sarnia was surveyed in 1829 by Roswell Mount, his notes showed that the farm of a squatter known only as Laforge, in what is now south Sarnia, included an orchard at least seventy years old and stumps of an older orchard which showed that the farm area had probably been occupied for at least one hundred and twenty-five years.

Since the first activities of a pioneer would have been clearing land and building a cabin, the first Laforge might have been established on the east bank of the St Clair before Wolfe's redcoats in 1759 scaled the Heights of Abraham and took Quebec.

Many early Jesuit missionaries planted orchards wherever they carried on their labours and might very well have brought trees from France to Quebec and on to the west. However, whether Laforge was here in the 1700's or the early 1800's, he was still the first settler in the Sarnia area.

### Vocabulary

- prosperity
- freighter
- immigrant
- transportation hub
- evolved
- manufacturer
- gateway
- trans-shipment
- immigrant shed

### Comprehension Questions

What is the name of the Sarnia Reserve? What does the name mean?

What were most of the early lake freighters built by Beatty Brothers named after?

What locally built ship appeared on the 1902 Canadian \$4 bill?

Why was Sarnia an important stop for immigrant groups travelling to the United States?

### Supplementary Reading Chapter 14

There were two ships named the Empire which had a connection with Sarnia. First, the Empire, the largest steamship on the Great Lakes at the time, carried up to 300 passengers to ports from Buffalo to Chicago, travelling at 16 to 18 knots. Built in 1844, she was 250 feet long and was the height of luxury on water. First class passengers would spend their evenings in the "mazes of the cotillion and the whirlings of waltz." Let's look back to what it was like when the Empire pulled in to port. It's July 2, 1847 at 8:30 in the morning. The Empire has docked at Sombra to take on wood. Here, we see the difference between steerage and first class on such a

ship. While first class passengers relax on shore or on board, the Empire will take on 600 cords of wood at a dollar a cord. Steerage passengers must help the crew for over three hours to load hickory, maple, beech and oak cut from trees which a short time ago grew on over 10 acres of well-wooded lots.

On the return trip from Chicago, a passenger describes Point Edward as they pass on July 14 1847, at 2:00 PM in the afternoon. “We soon entered the St Clair River. I have never seen a water and land view combining so much that is rich and beautiful. The wheat, corn and vegetables look vigorous and healthy and well-advanced”. If we were to check, we would learn from a dredge captain that in the previous month, Lambton would have seen 71 steamboats, 37 propellers, 59 brigs, 128 schooners and 81 coasting craft pass through on the St Clair.

There is another Empire with a closer connection to Lambton. The United Empire, built for the Beatty Line at Sarnia, was launched on November 1, 1882 before a large crowd. Built for both passenger and cargo trade, she was 253 feet long, with a 1,000 horsepower engine and sail on her fore-mast. With room for 100 passengers, her rate for the Duluth-Sarnia run was \$28., which included first-class passage, meals and berth. Second class passengers paid relatively lower rates, but had no berth privileges. In 1905, the United Empire would be rebuilt and re-christened as the Saronic, and return to carrying passengers and cargo until a fire in 1915 and a grounding the next year led to the end of this ship.

Once queen of the lakes, the likeness of the United Empire appeared on the 1902 Dominion of Canada \$4. bank-note to honour Great Lakes shipping. The Sarnia area would again be featured when a picture of Polysar appeared on the Canadian \$10. bill from 1971-1989.

### Vocabulary

- connection    luxury    cotillion    whirling    steerage
- cord    dredge    propeller    launched    horsepower
- grounding    relatively    re-christened

### Comprehension Questions

Lake Huron is one of the Great Lakes. Name the others.

What kinds of trees were cut for wood for the steamships loading at Sombra?

The Sarnia area has been featured at least twice on Canadian currency. What likenesses were used and when?

## Chapter 19: St. Clair Tunnel

When rail traffic became too great for the ferries to handle, it was decided that a tunnel had to be built for travel across the river. The St. Clair Tunnel was approximately two stories high and went under the St. Clair River.

When steam trains passed through the tunnel, suction allowed for the gases produced to be sucked out behind the train. On occasion cars would become disconnected from the train, leaving passengers in the fumes. The tunnel saw three substantial accidents, totaling ten deaths between them, before the decision was made to convert the steam powered trains to electric.

While working with the electric engines, workers discovered that by putting a bobby pin into the workings of the machinery, they could blow up the generator, and end their work day early. Their supervisor, Walter Hall, caught on to this plot and invented fuses, thereby protecting his generators.

In 1917, a plot by a German spy to blow up the St. Clair Tunnel was foiled. A worker in his home spoke German, unbeknownst to the spy, and plans were overheard to roll sticks of dynamite into the tunnel on roller skates. The spy was imprisoned and fined \$20,000.

### Vocabulary

□ suction      occasion      substantial      electrified      steam powered

### Comprehension Questions

What did Walter Hall invent while the tunnel was being built? Why?

How was a German wartime plot to blow up the tunnel discovered? What was the plan?

Why was a tunnel necessary for train travel in this area?

What was the “shield”? How did it work?

How did Edison make a movie about the tunnel?

**Chapter 20: Fossils**

Charles Southworth was a collector of fossils in the Rock Glen, Thedford, and Arkona areas. He was one of many amateur fossil enthusiasts in the county. The excess of fossils at Arkona, that still exists today, is a result of glacial activity. 350 million years ago, Arkona was beneath the sea. This accounts for the trilobites and brachiopod seashells that are found there.

**Vocabulary**

- collector fossils passionately oddities extension Victorian
- Devonian species trilobite outcropping glacier
- paleontologist

**Comprehension Questions**

What was Charles Southworth searching for in the Arkona area?

What was the Arkona area like 350 million years ago?

## Chapter 21: Kettles

The large round boulders found at Kettle Point have both geological and Anishnabeg significance. The Anishnabeg believe that the kettle-shaped rocks are sacred because of their uniqueness, as the creator placed them in only two locations on Earth: New Zealand and Lambton County. Geologists call the rocks concretions, which are formed over thousands of years and leave a three dimensional fossil behind.

### Vocabulary

- concretion    bacterial    environment    calcide    crystal    radiating
- crystalline    organic    hydrocarbon

### Comprehension Questions

Describe the kettles of Kettle Point. How were they formed? Name the only two places they are found in the world.

### Visual Communication

Based on the description on the DVD, draw a cutaway view of what you think a kettle looks like.

For a picture, refer to the web site at

<http://www.earth.uwaterloo.ca/services/rockgarden/rock/paleozoic/conc.html>

## **Chapter 22: Oil Creation**

Oil and fossils are related (hence the term fossil fuels, which describes oil and gas). An understanding of geology is helpful in drilling for oil, as knowledge of rocks and rock formations and patterns can help drillers recognize locations that are likely to yield oil.

### **Vocabulary**

□ geology      organic      decaying      exploration      pressurization

### **Comprehension Questions**

After watching this part of the DVD, explain in your own words how you think oil was formed?

Which is heavier, oil or water? How can you prove your answer to another person?

Name at least two places in Lambton County where salt was mined at one time.

## Chapter 23: Foreign Drillers

Because the oil industry began in Lambton County, it was also exhausted there first. This meant that well trained men, who were at the top of their field, could find no work in Lambton. They traveled to places all across the world to exercise their expertise in drilling. Destinations included Venezuela, Trinidad, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Russia, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Persia, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, and the East Indies. Men from Lambton drilled the first well in Iran.

Many young people from Petrolia, from the 1870's through to the 1970's, grew up without really knowing their fathers, as they were drilling around the world. Some drillers returned once a year, while others were less frequent with their visits. When the men did come back, they would bring fantastic souvenirs with them, ranging from animal heads and headhunters' knives to beadwork and brass work. Many of these souvenirs are now on display at the Oil Springs Museum.

The legacy of the foreign drillers has shaped the town of Petrolia and made it known around the world. At one time, the town was more widely know internationally than cities like Toronto, Montreal, or Vancouver because of its connection with the discovery of oil.

### Vocabulary

- cablegram      anxiety      inhabitant      ultimately
- resources      depression      hard oiler

### Comprehension Questions

What was a hard oiler?

Name at least ten countries that hard oilers travelled to, to help develop the world's oil industry?

What was the greeting hailed by these people when they met?

Why would they go to other countries rather than continuing to work in the Petrolia area?

### Supplementary Reading for Chapter 14

One of the hard oilers who traveled to other parts of the world was William H. McGarvey, who had a connection with Count von Zeppelin.

McGarvey was a grocer's son from the village of Wyoming; Zeppelin was a son of inherited wealth, a member of the Prussian royalty. Both were men of peace, with the imagination and the perseverance to turn dreams into realities. Both were also destroyed by a war their dreams helped make possible.

As a young man, McGarvey started out with a grocery store in Petrolia, soon became involved with oil, and before long was both a producer and a refiner. He was elected the first reeve of the village of Petrolia and its first mayor in 1875.

In 1881, McGarvey went to Germany to investigate petroleum discoveries in Hanover. Soon, he was drilling in Austria, Poland and Hungary. Within 20 years, this grocery boy from Wyoming had built a petroleum empire throughout much of central Europe and was acknowledged as one of the foremost experts in petroleum. He helped the British navy convert to oil and helped to build the Adriatic seaport of Trieste. One of his daughters married into the family of the famous Count von Zeppelin, creator of the great airships which were expected to introduce a new world of air travel.

But the dreams of both McGarvey and von Zeppelin would soon be crushed by World War I. The armies of Austria and Russia swept back and forth across Galacia and the Carpathians, destroying all that McGarvey had built. At the same time, von Zeppelin saw his airships, which he had hoped would bring the world closer together, used instead in the terrifying bombing of innocent people.

Both of these two men, one a Canadian from Lambton and the other a German, connected through their hopes for the future and their families, became separated by national loyalties and both died watching their contribution to man's future being used instead for world wide destruction.

**Vocabulary**

- connection    reeve            investigate    perseverance
- empire        foremost        airship        acknowledged
- terrifying    loyalties        destruction

**Comprehension Questions**

What was McGarvey's first job?

What is a zeppelin? When and where did it make its initial flight? (suggested web site below)

<http://spot.colorado.edu/~dziadeck/zf/historical.htm>

## Chapter 24: Grand Bend

As early as 1875, people began to travel to Grand Bend from London and Detroit via rail and stagecoach. Due to the great effort equated with travel, people stayed in Grand Bend for weeks, sometimes months, before heading back to their everyday lives.

The development of the automobile was a major factor in increasing tourism to the shores of Lake Huron, as was the spread of urbanism. By the 20th century, 90% of the population was urban. This meant that people might be able to have paid vacation time and would not need to plan their lives according to animal husbandry or farm work.

Ford picnics began to occur regularly at Grand Bend, the only criteria being that you needed a Ford vehicle to attend. Sometimes as many as 16,000 people attended the parties. Festivities lasted for entire weekends. The 1920's brought the establishment of the Lakeview Casino and many of the world's top entertainment acts to Grand Bend. Stars like Rudy Valle, Louis Armstrong, and Guy Lombardo played there.

In 1917, George Eccleston bought 45 acres of beach front property, built a platform, enclosed it with a tent, and the Lakeview Casino was ready for dancing. The official opening, held July 29 1917, featured music by the London Italian Orchestra, a group of three then-unknown brothers, Guy, Carmen and Lebert Lombardo and a piano player named Myrtle Hicks. According to Eccleston, the \$10.00 he paid the Lombardo's that night was for their first paid performance. Two years later, a new concrete dance hall was built.

Jitney dancing was featured until the 1940's. This was pay as you go dancing. You paid 15 cents to enter. Following each dance, the dance floor was cleared and then for an additional 5 cents, you could come back on the floor for the next dance.

Let's look back at a few memories of the early years of the Lakeview Casino. In the 1930's, black entertainers were welcome with music from all-black bands such as the Chocolate Dandies and McKinney's Cotton Pickers. In contrast, Jews were not welcome at the time. A prominent sign at the entrance to the Lakeview Casino proclaimed "Gentiles Only".

Audiences on Saturday nights would have to adhere to a strict dress code of jackets and ties for gents and formal wear for ladies.

Jimmy Namaro and his 12 piece orchestra would play for midnight to 3 A.M. dances, entertaining his audience by changing from a black tuxedo to a white one half-way through his show.

If you remember the Front Page Challenge TV show, you will know Fred Davis, one of the regular panelists. Fred at one time played trumpet for the Modernaires, who regularly played at the Lakeview Casino. Tommy Dorsey played there several times and the Glenn Miller Orchestra played the Casino in 1958. Rudy Valle and Louis Armstrong also appeared at the Casino. Over the years, 53 Canadian bands & 15 U.S. bands played the Casino.

After George Eccleston died in 1931, the casino remained in the Eccleston family, operated by daughter Ella, and son-in-law, Eric Mellroy until 1966. By 1966, the Lakeview Casino had seen its glory days. It declined in popularity under the control of various owners. The Casino met its final demise when it was destroyed by fire on 1 July 1981.

### Vocabulary

□ complex trunks husbandry tethered memorable

convalescence

**Comprehension Questions**

Who came up with the first gasoline engine? When and Where?

Why was Grand Bend considered early on as a place for convalescing?

Before the advent of the automobile, how did most people get to Grand Bend?

What were the Ford Picnics, at one time very popular in Grand Bend?

## Chapter 25: Pinery Park

In 1957, the Government of Canada purchased the land now known as Pinery Provincial Park, reserving it for public use. After inspecting the park, planners deemed the open forest degraded from fire and logging. They planted about three and a half million pine trees on the land. What they didn't realize was that the local forest type was Oak Savannah, which they had effectively turned into thick pine forest.

### Vocabulary

□	dunes	natural heritage	urbanization
	landscape	degraded forest	counterbalance
	tourism	transition zone	freshwater nature reserve

### Comprehension Questions

Why was the Pinery Provincial Park developed?

What is an Oak Savanna ecosystem?

How large an area of North America was once covered by the Oak Savanna ecosystem?

How can fire help a forest to grow?

More information about Oak Savanna ecosystem can be found at the following web site [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak\\_savanna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oak_savanna)

### Supplementary Reading for Chapter 25

Most historical stories are based on various interpretations of facts. But some stories, based only on oral accounts, must be thought of as folk lore. They may be a bit of fiction, may contain an element of truth, and may have forgotten roots in the distant past. Following is a bit of folk lore about North Lambton which may be fact or fiction: you be the judge.

When the Spanish came to the Americas, they were hungry for gold. There were many stories of natives being executed if they did not bring gold to the Spanish. According to some old records, the Indians defied the Spaniards and brought gold north in a caravan, north to Lambton County where it remains buried to this day.

According to the story, the Indians took the gold north almost to Lake Huron, near to what later became the 14<sup>th</sup> Concession in Bosanquet Township. This is now a part of the Pinery Provincial Park. In this area, the story goes, the rock projections have an appearance of slices and cuts which are very straight and, in the centre of this area, the land under the water is believed to fall to both the east and west from this point. There is supposedly evidence of square timbers and a large structure covered by wood in this area.

The folk lore continues by saying that a mine existed here at one time - a gold mine. The folk lore also says that there was a gold mine in the Brigden area and that some people knew where the shafts from the mine were located.

Whether or not there is any fact in this folk lore about gold along the beaches of Bosanquet, I don't know. We must remember that the shore of Lake Huron has changed greatly over the last several hundred years because of the changing sand dunes along the lake and because of the digging of the Canada Cut in 1892 which drained Lake George and Lake Burwell, forever changing the course of the Aux Sables River.

If anyone reading this learns any more about gold in North Lambton, let me know so we can get a shovel and together go digging for gold!

**Vocabulary**

- folk lore      element      defied      interpretation
- projection      structure

**Comprehension Questions**

History is nothing more than an interpretation of what actually happened, as seen through the eyes of an individual. In your own words, how do you think the history of an area such as Lambton County should be remembered and recorded for future generations?

## Chapter 26: Blue Water Bridge

The construction of the Blue Water Bridge took place in 1938. It was meant to connect the American and Canadian shores so that automobiles could move freely between the two.

### Vocabulary

- ferry                  counterweight                  cantilever truss
- precision              sophisticated                  discrepancies

### Comprehension Questions

How were automobiles moved across the river before the construction of the bridge?

When was the Blue Water Bridge opened to traffic? How much did it cost to build?

### Supplementary to Chapter 26

Complete the following after visiting the Blue Water Bridge Authority web site at <http://bwba.org/frames.html>

Compare the two bridges using the construction statistics posted on this web site. Select a type of graph and prepare a comparison of the two bridges.

## **Chapter 27: Chemical Valley**

The Chemical Valley came to prominence during the Second World War. Supplies of rubber from the Far East were cut off, but were still required for making airplane and truck parts. Therefore, a synthetic rubber plant was built in Sarnia to combat the lack of imported natural rubber. Sarnia was chosen for a number of reasons: its proximity to Imperial Oil, its status as a transportation hub for Ontario to Western Canada and the United States, and was far enough inland to avoid being targeted by Nazi submarines. It is theorized that without the rubber plant in Sarnia, the Allies may not have been as successful in the war.

There was a huge influx in Sarnia's population during the building of the rubber plant, Polysar. A community called Bluewater sprung up around the plant, where workers families lived.

### **Vocabulary**

- influx                  synthetic rubber

### **Comprehension Questions**

How did Sarnia's chemical valley get its start?

When World War II broke out, why was Sarnia chosen as the location to build a synthetic rubber plant? What was the name of the new company?

How important was the synthetic rubber plant to the Allied war effort during World War II?

Where was the community of Bluewater? Why was this new community necessary? Who lived there?

## **Chapter 28: Camp Ipperwash**

During World War II, the Government of Canada sought after the Native land at Stony Point to develop into a military base. After being refused by the Natives, the government instituted the War Measures Act and seized the land, promising its return after the war. Some compensation was granted for Native homes, which were placed on trucks and then transported to Kettle Point, where many of the Stony Point people came to reside. However, after the war, the land remained in government hands. To this day, the legal battle over the land at Stony Point continues.

### **Supplementary reading Chapter 28**

The following is excerpted from the CTV web site at CTV.ca

#### **History: Background of the Ipperwash land claims**

Updated Sun. Feb. 12 2006 5:10 PM ET - Philip Stavrou, CTV.ca News

#### **Historical background of the Ipperwash land claims**

The Kettle and Stony Point people are the original land owners of what is now referred to as Camp Ipperwash. The government eventually gave back the land to the natives in an agreement-in-principle signed in 1998. However, negotiations are still being conducted between the two parties. Ipperwash National Park is located next to the disputed land and was bought by the Province of Ontario in 1932 after being sold by the Stony Point band.

##### **1700s**

The ancestors of the Kettle and Stony Point people (Chippewa) date back prior to the British conquest in 1760. The Chippewa maintained residency in the area of Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair as early as 1740.

In 1763, the British made a Royal Proclamation that protected specific aboriginal land from being owned by non-natives. The Kettle and Stony Point land lay within the protected Indian area.

##### **1800s**

Following the War of 1812, the British approached the Chippewa asking for land because they wanted to settle European immigrants in Upper Canada. A land cession treaty was agreed upon after a nine year period from 1818 to 1827.

The final agreement, the Huron Tract Treaty of 1827, was reached when 18 Chippewa chiefs sold 2.1 million acres of their land. They received a continuous income of £1,000 or about \$4,400 a year. With 440 Chippewas under the 18 chiefs, the deal equaled about \$10 per person. The chiefs maintained four areas of land for their people. Two of the four lands were the Stony Point and Kettle Point regions.

The government viewed all the communities under the 18 chiefs as one large group and gave them a shared interest in the annuity and revenue from the land and its resources. There was some shifting and separating within the Indian tribes and by the 1860s the remaining peoples under the Huron Tract groups were called the "Sarnia Band." This group had reserves at Sarnia, Kettle Point and Stony Point.

The people of Kettle and Stony Point felt overshadowed by the larger Sarnia group and starting in the 1880s they began to push for a separation.

## 1900s

It took almost 40 years before the Department of Indian Affairs finally divided the band in 1919. The Kettle and Stony Point Band split from the Sarnia Band but maintained their land, share of the annuity, and trust fund.

In the 1920s and 1930s various sections of the Kettle and Stony Point lands were sold. In 1928, the Stony Point Reserve surrendered their entire beach front for sale to private interests. In 1932, the Province of Ontario bought a portion of the beach front and established Ipperwash Provincial Park.

In 1937, park authorities were notified by the native chief and council that a sacred burial ground existed on the land. They asked officials to protect the site but no evidence suggests that they did.

During the Second World War, the Department of National Defense (DND) wanted to use the remaining 2,211 acres of the Stony Point Reserve as a military training camp. In 1942, a government representative asked the natives to surrender the land voluntarily but they refused. Using the War Measures Act, the DND took over the land and named it Camp Ipperwash. They paid \$15 per acre for the land.

In July of 1942, 16 Stony Point families were moved to Kettle Point land.

After the war, returning native soldiers found their community destroyed and the cemetery at Camp Ipperwash damaged. After pressure from Indian Affairs and National Health and Welfare a fence was erected around the cemetery. (In 1990, the Stony Point peoples resumed burials in the old cemetery.)

After World War II ended, DND agreed in writing to return the Stony Point Reserve to the natives. But the proposal was short-lived as the military decided to keep the camp to train cadets.

In the following decades, the natives continued to negotiate with the government for the return of their land. In 1972, the Minister of Indian Affairs Jean Chrétien stated that the land claims were legitimate and he urged the government to act before the natives ran "out of patience."

Disputes between the Kettle and Stony Point peoples over who was rightfully entitled to the land interests also complicated the negotiations.

The dispute remained unresolved into the early 1990s as lawsuits were launched into land surrenders dating back to the 1920s and the governmental takeover of Camp Ipperwash.

Frustrated with negotiations, some Stony Point descendants occupied Camp Ipperwash in 1993.

In September of 1995, without the entire support of the community, protesters moved into Ipperwash Provincial Park. Dudley George was one of the men leading the protest. He was shot and killed during a nighttime raid by the OPP on Sept. 6, 1995.

*With files from Joan Holmes & Associates, Inc. as provided at the Ipperwash Inquiry*

## Vocabulary

□ annuity      resources      cession treaty      sacred burial ground

## Comprehension Questions

By what names were the two bands of natives who occupied the land at Ipperwash from the 1700's known?

What was the Huron Tract Treaty intended to do?

When and under what government act was the land at Ipperwash taken from the natives?

What was Camp Ipperwash used for after World War II?

When was Ipperwash occupied by natives?

**Research question**

Based on what you have read or heard, summarize in your words the current controversy about the Camp Ipperwash area.

## Chapter 29: The Environment

In the early days of the Chemical Valley, the technology to measure and contain air and water pollution was nonexistent. In the late 1960's and early 1970's, the discharge of mercury from Dow led to an outcry for environmental controls to be instituted in the chemical plants that lined the St. Clair River. Contaminants floating down the river, and building up in the water, wildlife, and shores of the river and Walpole Island are a cause for concern even today, when conservation is at the forefront of health issues.

In response to environmental concerns, many of the petrochemical industries in Sarnia banded together to form The Lambton Industrial Society, known today as the Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association. They worked to alleviate much of the environmental damage done throughout the 20th century.

### Vocabulary

- disclosure      leakage      contentious      potential      residual
- toxic              analytical      plankton      sediments      food chain
- monitoring      contamination

### Chapter 30: A Natural Resource

The museums of Lambton County's Oil Heritage District reflect on the founding of the oil industry and the technology that spread across the world. They also connect Lambton's history with the rise of industrialization and the introduction of the automobile.

The once world-class oil facilities at Oil Springs and Petrolia have now become artifacts of a resource and lifestyle long vanished from the little towns. Lambton's depleted oil story may reflect the legacy that many experts predict for the future of fossil fuels worldwide - that a large portion of the world's oil has been used up. Innovation and conservation are tactics to solving the problem. Charles Fairbank believes that local communities need to work together to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels.

Even if the local oil industry fades completely, Chemical Valley can still look forward to an optimistic economic future: Sarnia is connected by pipeline to Canada's western resources, and those of the United States. Sarnia's location is a true strength in keeping its industrial and auxiliary economies prosperous. One such economy is tourism. The long and diverse history of oil extraction and production in Lambton County leaves its people with a rich story to tell. After all, without the people, oil would just have been another resource.

#### Vocabulary

- |   |           |             |           |                 |
|---|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|
| □ | pesticide | fertilizer  | ethylene  | crude resources |
|   | pipeline  | significant | incumbent | global impact   |

#### Comprehension Questions

According to one of the speakers, on what is our life totally dependent?

How many barrels of oil a day were once produced in Lambton County?

According to one of the speakers, on what should Lambton's future growth be based? Do you agree?

When did the oil industry begin to peter out in Lambton County?

#### Supplementary Reading Chapter 30

William McGarvey & John Henry Fairbank were both influential oil barons. Another oil baron of the day was Jacob Englehart or "Jake" as he was better known.

Jake was the wizard of refining. He spearheaded the formation of Imperial Oil and was one of Petrolia's best loved citizens. Born in Cleveland in 1847, Jake had come to London, Ontario and, at the age of 11, began to work as a clerk in the oil firm of Sonneborn, Dryfoos and Company.

Six years later, he was a partner and at the age of 19, he started his own refinery in London under the name J.L. Englehart and Company. By now, he was living in the city's finest

hotel, the Tecumseh, and often headed out to the oil fields in search of more petroleum, looking like a city slicker in his blue serge suit sporting a neatly trimmed van dyke beard and moustache, highly shined shoes, high starched collar and he always wore a fresh flower in his lapel.

In the late 1870's, after his refinery in London burned down, Jake moved to Petrolia and built the Silver Star Refinery with a 5 year tax relief plan from the town of Petrolia. The *Advertiser*, a Petrolia newspaper, applauded the tax relief deal as a plan which would bring “a gigantic gain to this city and neighbourhood in more ways than our public can at present possibly imagine.” As an employer, Englehart was ahead of his time. He initiated a form of workmen’s compensation and industrial safety was strictly enforced.

In 1880, Englehart led in the formation of the Imperial Oil Company Limited. Two years later, he joined with John Henry Fairbank to create the Crown Savings and Loan.

In 1891, Jake married Charlotte Eleanor Thompson, daughter of a prosperous farmer in Adelaide Township. Jake must have really worshiped Charlotte. For her, he converted from Judaism to the Anglican faith and became a pillar of Christ Church.

As a wedding present for Charlotte, he built a mansion on the south side of Petrolia, which he named Glenview. The home was a red brick mansion with a large circular turret and included a golf course, operating to this day as Glenview Golf Course.

In 1905, at the request of the Ontario Premier, Sir James Whitney, Jake took over the operation of the Temiskaming and Northern Railway, along which the town which bears his name, Englehart, was built.

Charlotte became heavily involved in the affairs of Petrolia, among other things taking over the presidency of the relief fund. Her will stipulated that following her death and her husband’s death, their home should be turned over to the town for a hospital. After Charlotte’s death in 1909, Jake spent most of his time up north and rarely came back to Petrolia.

Following Jake’s death in 1921, the house and golf course were turned over to the town. The house now forms a part of the main entrance into Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital. Jake, with a more practical view, left the town a hundred shares of Imperial Oil stock and a bundle of money.

### **Vocabulary**

- serge                      city slicker      prosperous      mansion      relief fund
- presidency      van dyke beard

### **Comprehension Questions**

What was the name of the first refinery built in Petrolia by Jake Englehart?

For more information about the history of Imperial Oil, visit their web site at [www.imperialoil.ca/Canada-English/ThisIs/Story/TI\\_S\\_StoryOfIOL.asp](http://www.imperialoil.ca/Canada-English/ThisIs/Story/TI_S_StoryOfIOL.asp)

**Extra Story 1: The Great Storm of 1913**

The Great Storm, accompanied by freezing weather from November 9 to 12 in 1913, may have been the worst natural disaster to have ever hit the Great Lakes. By the time the storm had abated, it had claimed the lives of 251 sailors, destroyed 19 vessels caught out on the Great Lakes, and stranded 20 other ships.

Locally, ships were sunk and bodies washed up along the Lake Huron shore from Sarnia to Kettle Point. Some eye-witness accounts tell us that a large steel freighter floated bottom-side up just off shore near Blackwell Road for nearly a week, earning a nickname as ‘the mystery ship’. On November 15, the ship was finally identified by a diver as the Charles S. Price. Two days later, the ship sank from sight.

A mystery remains today as to why some of the bodies of the crew of the Charles S. Price washed ashore wearing life preservers from another ship, the Regina, which also sank during the storm. Did the two ships collide or did the Price go down so suddenly that the crew had no time to put on life jackets, and the nearby Regina crew helped by tossing their life jackets to the drowning men?

By what might be termed a miracle, the Northern Queen, was blown into the mouth of the Aux Sable River at Port Franks. She was undamaged and was towed from the beach.

With a crew of 19, Canada’s largest and newest ship, the 550 foot grain carrier James C. Carruthers, was sunk with 340,000 bushels of wheat.

One ship which grounded during the storm was the steamer H.B. Hawgood, which stranded at Wees Beach at the end of Colborne Road in Sarnia. Her captain, H.C. May, had tried valiantly to take shelter in the St Clair River, but the vessel was forced to drop anchor and ride out the storm. The ship was dragged about eight miles until it beached. Captain May’s decision was a wise one resulting in no lives lost and only minimal damage to the ship.

For about a week the dying storm brought wreckage and bodies onto Lake Huron beaches. In all, 178 crewmen on eight ships were lost on Lake Huron and over twenty more ships were driven ashore during the Great Storm of 1913.

**Vocabulary**

- accompanied disaster abated casualties eye-witness
- nickname collide bushels beached valiantly

**Comprehension Questions**

What was the dollar value of the damage caused by the storm? What would this be in today’s dollars?

How many lives were lost during the storm?

**Extra Story 2: Stewart James**

A world famous magician lived his life in a house known as Aberstwyth along the St Clair River in Courtright?

Stewart James (1908-1996) was a life-long resident of Courtright who refused to leave his home town, even though larger centres beckoned. Stewart was an acknowledged creator of over 400 magic tricks, an author of books and magazine articles on magic, recognized by the Academy of Magical Arts in California as "the outstanding magical inventor of our time". In the 1980's, a group of magicians from around the world began an annual pilgrimage each October 31 (Halloween) to learn and purchase new tricks invented by Stewart James. They met at his Courtright home, known as Aberstwyth.(named after the place of birth in Wales of his great grand-father). The house along the St Clair still shows this name.

The illusions created by Stewart James have been used by magicians from Houdini to David Copperfield.

Stewart James caused a real stir in 1938 when he predicted the headline for a Buffalo newspaper for the same day the next year. This prediction was sealed and locked up until September 2, 1939 when the Buffalo Evening News headline showed “Nazis attack Warsaw; Planes Bomb Warsaw”. When his sealed prediction was opened by the local sheriff, it read “World War Threatened; Nazis Attack Poland”.

The publicity was so intense that he refused to ever again make another prediction.

(More information about Stewart James can be found in the Sarnia Observer of 19 June 1999)

**Vocabulary**

- magician      illusions      acknowledged      creator      recognized
- pilgrimage      predicted      threatened      publicity      intense
- recluse

**Comprehension Questions**

Where did Stewart James live? What name is on the front of the home in which he lived?

What recognition was Stewart James given by his peers?

If you were able to predict the future for one year from today, what might you predict?

### **Extra Story 3: The Griffon**

There are many theories as to where the Griffon sank and what actually happened to it. The ship was lost in the 1690's. Newspaper articles in the Toronto Star in the 1950's claim that it was burned in Tobermory, but it still remains a mystery to this day.

The St Clair River was named by Father Hennepin while on board the Griffon. It was August 12, 1679. The Griffon entered the St Clair on this day. Since August 12<sup>th</sup> was the day dedicated to the Patron Saint Claire, Hennepin named the river to honour her. After passing by present day Lambton County, the Griffon was to proceed up the Great Lakes to gather furs. It would never return.

When the "Griffon" sailed the waters of Lakes Erie, Huron and Michigan in 1679, it was the first European sailing ship to ply these upper lakes and was an integral part of the grand design of René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, to organize the fur trade on a vast scale and to create a French empire in North America, extending from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico.

La Salle believed that furs could be carried much more cheaply by ships than by canoes and his plans called for a ship on Lake Ontario, one for the lake route from the Niagara River to Lake Michigan, and one to be built on the Illinois River to explore and trade on the Mississippi.

A visit to France in 1677-78 won him permission to explore the West and to build forts in the interior at his own expense. His first objective was to build a ship on the Niagara above the falls to engage in fur trade on the upper lakes.

Among the company La Salle assembled on the Niagara was Father Louis Hennepin, an adventurous Recollet missionary who had been assigned to the La Salle expedition by his superiors. Hennepin spent the following several years in North America, and wrote a number of books on his explorations and experiences. Hennepin recorded the voyage of the "Griffon," the name given by La Salle to the ship built at Niagara, in his book "A New Discovery of a Vast Country in America," an English version of his travels, printed in 1698.

Hennepin described the "Griffon" as "a Ship of Sixty Tuns", a measure of cubic content. The "Griffon" was a vessel of about forty-five tons burden and was probably 40-45 feet long.

On August 7, 1679, the "Griffon," after much difficulty clearing the Niagara River, sailed out into Lake Erie and began its upbound voyage to Green Bay. On board were La Salle, Hennepin, two other Recollet missionaries, La Salle's faithful lieutenant, the pilot, Luke the Dane, and twenty-eight others, thirty-four in all. Trade goods, various tools for La Salle's purposes and the company's belongings made up the cargo.

The "Griffon" reached the mouth of the Detroit River on August 10 after four days of uneventful sailing to run the length of Lake Erie, a distance of about 240 miles. The longest daily run mentioned by Hennepin was 45 leagues, some 125 miles.

The passage up the Detroit River, through Lake St. Clair and up the St. Clair River into Lake Huron, took from August 11 till August 23. The strong current of the St. Clair River where it flows out of Lake Huron at Point Edward, gave the "Griffon" much trouble. The crew had to haul the ship up against the swift current.

Hennepin wrote "...the extraordinary quantity of Waters which came down from the upper Lake (Lake Huron), and that of Illinois (Lake Michigan), because of a strong North West Wind, had so much augmented the Rapidity of the Current of this Streight, that it was as violent as that of Niagara. The Wind turning Southerly, we sail'd again; and with the help of twelve Men, who hall'd our Ship from the Shoar, got safely the 23rd of August into the Lake Huron."

The voyage on Lake Huron to Michilimackinac (some 240 miles) was accomplished by August 27, the ship surviving a violent storm during which Hennepin observes: "M. la Salle, notwithstanding he was a Courageous Man, began to fear, and told us we were undone; and therefore every body fell upon his Knees to say his Prayers, and prepare himself for Death, except our Pilot, whom we could never oblige to pray; and he did nothing all that while but curse and swear against M. la Salle, who, as he said, had brought him thither to make him perish in a nasty Lake, and lose the Glory he had acquir'd by his long and happy Navigations on the Ocean." On the 27th, the vessel anchored at present day St. Ignace, where there was a Huron village, an Ottawa village, a Jesuit mission, and some French traders.

Hennepin begins his account of the last stage of the upbound journey from Michilimackinac to Green Bay as follows: "On the 2d of September we weigh'd Anchor, and sail'd into the Lake of the Illinois (Lake Michigan); and came to an Island just at the Mouth of the Bay of the Puans (Green Bay), lying forty Leagues (about 110 miles) from Missilimakinak: It is inhabited by some Savages of the Nation call'd Poutouatami's, with whom some of the Men M. la Salle had sent the Year before, had barter'd a great quantity of Furrs and Skins. We found our Men in the Island, ...very impatient, having so long waited our arrival."

The "Griffon," loaded with furs, set sail from the island of the "Poutouatami's" on September 18, 1679, downward bound for the Niagara River, and then to return promptly to the foot of Lake Michigan with materials he required for building of a ship on the Illinois River for his Mississippi expedition. LaSalle assigned only the pilot and five men to man the ship on its voyage back to Niagara, a mistake often blamed for its loss.

Hennepin gives us this account of the last days of the "Griffon": "M. la Salle, without asking any body's Advice, resolv'd to send back his Ship to Niagara, laden with Furrs and Skins to discharge his Debts; our Pilot and five Men with him were therefore sent back, and order'd to return with all imaginable speed, to join us toward the Southern Parts of the Lake, where we should stay for them among the Illinois. They sailed the 18th of September with a Westerly Wind, and fir'd a Gun to take their leave. Tho' the Wind was favourable, it was never known what Course they steer'd, nor how they perish'd; for after all the Enquiries we have been able to make, we could never learn anything else but the following Particulars."

"The Ship came to an Anchor to the North of the Lake of the Illinois (Lake Michigan), where she was seen by some Savages, who told us that they advised our Men to sail along the Coast, and not towards the middle of the Lake, because of the Sands (bars, rocks, shoals) that make the Navigation dangerous when there is any high Wind. Our Pilot, as I said before, was dissatisfy'd, and would steer as he pleas'd, without hearkning to the Advice of the Savages, who, generally speaking, have more Sense than the Europeans think at first; but the Ship was hardly a League from the Coast, when it was toss'd up by a violent Storm in such a manner that our Men were never heard of since; and it is suppos'd that the Ship struck upon a Sand, and was there bury'd."

Hennepin believed that the "Griffon" foundered in the northern reaches of Lake Michigan. A letter written by La Salle in 1683 expressed his belief that the pilot and crew scuttled the "Griffon" after making off with its valuable cargo.

The day after the departure of the "Griffon" from the Island of the Potawatomis on September 18, La Salle, Hennepin and twelve men in four canoes started southward down the western shore of Lake Michigan for the region at the lower end of the lake.

Hennepin relates, "... in the Night time (September 19), we were surpriz'd with a sudden Storm, whereby we were in great danger . . . we got ashore the next Day, where we continu'd till the Lake grew calm again, which was four Days after."

George I. Quimby analyzed all the information available about the storm which, according to Hennepin, lasted from the night of September 19 through September 24, 1679. His detailed discussion of storm conditions in the northern Lake Michigan region leads him to accept the opinion, expressed by Hennepin, that the "Griffon" went down in that "violent Storm" somewhere in the northern part of Lake Michigan. Quimby concludes: "Whatever happened to the 'Griffon', it seems almost certain that she never got as far east as St. Ignace after leaving the Island of the Potawatomis. And regardless of what else might have taken place, it seems unreasonable to believe that the 'Griffon' could have survived the storm on northern Lake Michigan that lasted from the night of September 19 through September 24, 1679."

Mr. C.H.J. Snider, an authority on Great Lakes shipping, remarks in his booklet "The Griffon," that: "Since 1805 eleven discoveries of the Griffon's supposed relics have been reported . . ." Recent interest in Ontario has been concentrated on two wrecks, one in the Mississagi Strait at the western end of Manitoulin Island, the other in a lagoon on Russell Island off Tobermory at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula.

In 1687 La Salle died a violent death at the hands of one of his followers near the Trinity River in Texas. In 1679 the "Griffon," the first ship to sail Lakes Erie, Huron and Michigan, preceded her builder to an end of violent destruction, but her burial place is a marine mystery, and like her disappearance, may always remain so.

### **Vocabulary**

- theories      ply      integral      forts      marine      mystery
- missionary      exploration      upbound      augmented      thither
- leagues      expedition

### **Comprehension Questions**

What was the name of the first tall ship to sail up the Great Lakes? Who built it? Where was it built? Where was it lost?

What is meant by the term "national treasure"?

How did the St. Clair River get its name?

How and where do experts think the Griffon came to an end?

#### **Extra Story 4: The Town of Corunna**

Two Lambton communities were built and laid out as potential capitals of Lambton County and of the Canadas.

One was Errol, on Lake Huron, originally surveyed and laid out about 1840 to be the County town.

The other was Corunna, along the St. Clair, surveyed and laid out in 1823 as a potential capital after a proposed union of Upper and Lower Canada.

However, the War of 1812 was still fresh in the minds of those in power. They realized that Corunna was far too close to the border with the United States.

If the War of 1812 between the United States and the Canadas had not happened, perhaps Canada's capital city would now be Corunna.

#### **Vocabulary**

▫ surveyed communities proposed capital

#### **Comprehension Questions**

What community was proposed as a capital for the proposed union of Upper and Lower Canada?

What were the early streets in this new community named after?

Why was this community not selected as the capital for the Canadas?

#### **Research question**

What if this new community in Lambton County had become the capital of Canada? In your own words, explain how you think this would have affected this area?

### Extra Story 5: Doc Stanton

“Doc Stanton” was a record-breaking racehorse, hailing from Forest, Ontario. Linly Fraser raced Doc as a pacer, breaking the two-minute mile in California. Doc put Forest on the map. He was the wealthiest gelding pacer at the time, winning \$172, 000 in purses. Doc died in 1953.

“Doc Stanton”, a trotter, was bought for \$500 in 1946 by Linly Fraser of Forest. “Doc” was changed by Fraser from a trotter to a pacer and entered at Northville Downs in Detroit, where he had an early record of 8 - 1<sup>st</sup>, a 2<sup>nd</sup>, and a 3<sup>rd</sup>.

“Doc”, driven by Taylor, moved on to race in Chicago, and in the winter months raced in California. For several years, “Doc” was in great demand all over Canada and the USA. He broke the world record several times and was the 1<sup>st</sup> horse to break the two minute mile west of the Rockies.

In 1953, while Fraser was practicing him at the Detroit track, this bay horse slowed down, stumbled, staggered a few steps and his heart gave out. “Doc Stanton’s body was returned to Canada and was buried on land owned by Linly Taylor just east of the pallet factory on Highway 7 near Warwick. A large stone memorial was mounted over the burial site.

Several years later, when a memorial stone was needed for the Taylor family plot, the information about “Doc Stanton” was removed from the stone and the stone was moved to Beechwood Cemetery in Forest. So a large stone memorial, once used to mark the burial site for a champion horse, now marks the final resting place for a human in the cemetery in Forest.

Linly Taylor raced harness horses well up into his 70's. A story about him tells us about a race he entered after his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Apparently two younger drivers tried to block him and his horse in a race. As they entered the stretch, Taylor asked them twice to “Move over boys, I’m coming through”. When they ignored Taylor, the story tells us that he rode between them. His two wheels rode over there two inside wheels and he passed through to win the race.

### Vocabulary

- hailing          trotter          pacer          bay horse          staggered          pallet  
factory          memorial          headstone          marker

### Comprehension Questions

Who was the first pacer to break the two minute mile?

What is the difference between a trotter and a pacer?

When did Doc Stanton pass away? Where was he buried? What happened to his headstone?

### Supplementary to Extra Story 5

Draw a picture illustrating what you might have put on the headstone for Doc Stanton.

**Extra Story 6: Albino Turtles**

In the late 1800's, Theophilus David ran a ferry service by row-boat for years between Corunna and Stag Island. His boys, Ed and Fred, wearied of rowing, so in 1900, Theophilus bought a small steam yacht, the Delilah, built in Port Huron. Equipped with a canopy to protect passengers from the sun, the Delilah plied the water for 8 summers.

As a sideline to the ferry operations, the boys tried several ideas to make more money, including taking tintype pictures of their passengers.

When ferrying was slack, the brothers Ed and Fred organized boat trips to Talfourd Creek to see the albino turtles. Sometime prior to these trips, Ed had collected hundred of mud turtles from the creek, painted them all with white enamel, and returned the turtles to the creek. Soon after, the Delilah began ferrying folks at 25 cents a head to see the strange phenomenon. For a while, no one caught one because Ed would tell them that their bite was worse than a rattler. People came from as far away as Detroit and Cleveland until a local reporter caught one of the albino turtles, scraped off the white enamel, and exposed what was probably the first tourism scam in Lambton County.

Talfourd Creek was named after the two Talfourd brothers, Froome and Field, who bought water frontage along the St. Clair River in 1833, just north of Corunna,

**Vocabulary**

- ferry                    plied                    wearied                albino                phenomenon
- enamel                   rattler                   exposed                frontage                tourism scam

**Comprehension Questions**

Around 1900, people did not travel far for holidays. Why?

Why was Stag Island important at this time?

From how far away did people come to see the albino turtles.

Why were they warned not to touch the turtles? What was the real reason Ed and Fred did not watch anyone to touch the turtles?

What is a tourism scam? How was this one exposed?

**Extra Story 7: Gallery Lambton**

The Gallery Lambton does not have a large collection of pieces. However, it does have a wide selection of pieces by the Group of Seven and Tom Thompson obtained in 1956 by the Sarnia Women's Conservation Art Association.

**Vocabulary**

□ gallery collection conservation

**Comprehension Questions**

How many pieces does Gallery Lambton own?

What was the Group of Seven? What did they paint?

When and how was money found for the first paintings purchased for Gallery Lambton?

What is a national treasure?

## **Supplementary Tasks**

### **Timeline**

Using a graph or some other illustrative form, prepare a visual record in chronological form of the stories of Lambton County told on the DVD.

### **Museums**

After reviewing the video on the museums of Lambton County, answer the following questions.

In which museum is a boy shown at the wheel of a ship from Lambton's past?

What museum has an international collection of objects including fossils from many parts of the world?

What museum is built in what was formerly a residential duplex?

What museum is located in a conservation area?

What museum is home for thousands of heirloom artifacts?

On the grounds of what museum are there eleven houses from the past including a one room schoolhouse?

At the entrance to what museum are there a spring pole drilling rig and an operating jerker rod line?

What museum is located in an oil field which has been operating continuously for more than 100 years?

What museum is located in an 1890's Victorian home?

If your class was to visit one of Lambton County's museums, which one would you want it to be?

### **Additional Stories**

After listening to the additional stories, select two stories and write a 100-200 word description of each story.