



# THE BEACON

of St. Clair Township

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## Youth reading an adventure

The Friendship JOOI Club of Courtright is getting involved in Junior Optimist Octagon International's "Catch and Release" program to promote reading and literacy in the community. Club members will choose books they have enjoyed reading, seal the books into clear bags along with instructions, then 'release' the books into public places where, hopefully, children will find them, read them, and release them again. The idea is to pass books along to new readers and to create a sense of adventure along the way.

The JOOI has a membership of over 18,000 students in almost 675 clubs throughout Canada, the U.S., the Caribbean, and other areas of the world. To learn more about the club, call 314-371-6000 or visit [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org) under 'Youth Clubs.'

## M-C athletes take 2nd place

The boys' and girls' cross-country teams at Mooretown-Courtright Public School took 2nd place recently in the Lambton Kent Elementary School Sports Association Sarnia 'B' division competition. They were set to compete at the district meet on Oct. 29.

## Winter motoring calls for caution

Summer has spoiled motorists and made them forget their winter driving skills. But the snow, ice and slush are on the way, so with this in mind, here are a few reminders about how to cope with Old Man Winter's treacherous roads.

Be sure your vehicle is ready for winter with good tires and a well-serviced engine. And drive according to road conditions, keeping an eye out for black ice.

**Remember that overnight parking on township streets is prohibited from Dec. 1 to April 1 between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.** Those who do not comply with this regulation not only make it difficult for snow plows to do their jobs, but they may also be ticketed or have their vehicles towed to make way for the plows.

Allow right of way to snow removal equipment and salters, vehicles that bear flashing blue lights, and stay well back since these vehicles frequently back up.

**And regardless of the season,  
DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!**

During the holidays and all year 'round, drive sober and be safe!

## Wear a poppy and remember

Nov. 11 is Remembrance Day - its time to wear a poppy to honour the sacrifices made by the men and women who have fought, and continue to fight, so that we may be free.

The Corunna branch of the Royal Canadian Legion will hold its Remembrance Day service on Sunday, Nov. 11. It will begin with a short parade at 10:40 a.m. from Beckwith Street, along Lyndock Street to the St. Clair clock tower square. The OPP Commissioner's Own Pipe and Drum band will escort the procession. A service and wreath-laying will follow, and light refreshments will be served afterwards. For information about Remembrance Day activities in your community, contact your local Royal Canadian Legion branch.

## Corunna man honoured

Corunna resident Ron Skreptak is one of 45 Canadians who will receive the Governor-General's Caring Canadian Award later this year. He will be presented with a lapel pin and a framed certificate acknowledging his many years of community service.

The award recognizes individuals and groups whose voluntary efforts provide help or care to people in the community.

A few of Skreptak's many community roles include: president of Operation Christmas Tree, chair of the Corunna Community Policing Committee, a member of the Optimist Club of Moore, Thompson Gardens board member, a member of the Corunna Santa Claus Parade committee.

## INSIDE

Council notes.....	2
Speak Out.....	3
Council diary .....	3
Community policing.....	3
Around the Township.....	4

The Beacon is edited by Bonni Stevenson and published monthly by St. Clair Township as a public service to residents of the municipality.

## TO CONTACT US

Individuals, schools or organizations that wish to publicize a non-profit event, write a letter to the editor, or applaud the efforts of someone in the community, can do so free of charge by e-mailing: [beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca](mailto:beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca) or writing to: The Beacon, c/o St. Clair Civic Centre, 1155 Emily St., Mooretown, Ont., N0N 1M0.



## High-speed Internet on the way

For rural areas of Lambton County, high-speed Internet service has been, for the most part, hit-or-miss. Most residents in urban centers like Corunna, Brigden and Sombra have the service, but those who cannot receive the line-of-sight feed are currently excluded.

A provincial grant program, *Rural Connections*, will soon make it possible for rural Internet users to have true high-speed service. St. Clair Township will benefit from an agreement between Dawn-Euphemia Township, the province, and Bell Aliant to install additional equipment on existing Internet transmission towers and to erect more transmission towers in the rural areas, as will Enniskillen Township.

The purpose of this new initiative is to provide rural agribusiness and commercial concerns with the Internet service needed to be competitive in the marketplace. It will also benefit rural families on a general level.

### Campers angry over rate increase

About 40 campers who currently park their recreational vehicles in township-operated campgrounds attended the regular meeting of council on Oct. 15 to protest a proposed rate increase. They had been informed by letter in August that the increase would be no greater than five per cent. However, the issue was revisited and Mayor Arnold urged council to investigate the rates charged by similar campgrounds in areas such as Chatham-Kent, citing as an example the municipally operated sites in Mitchell's Bay.

The result of this investigation led

to the proposal of an increase which substantially exceeded the initial five per cent. However, input garnered from the public meeting will be considered before a final decision is made.

### Councillor may join water protection committee

St. Clair councillor Darrell Randell has been nominated to sit as the representative of Lambton County municipalities on the Source Water Protection Committee. His name is currently being circulated to other county municipalities for consideration.

### Safety zone being established

A Community Safety Zone will be established in Corunna on Hill Street from Brooktree Street to Lyndock Street. This designation means that motorists committing driving infractions within this zone will face double fines.

### Upgrades at Wilkesport Community Centre

The Wilkesport Community Centre is being upgraded to make it handicapped-accessible, and it may receive further upgrades. It is hoped that such improvements will make the center a desirable locale for events such as election polling stations and large public meetings, thereby generating more revenue.

Since it is currently designated as an emergency evacuation center, some councillors believe it should also be fitted with a backup generator.

### Council to meet with new MPP

Township staff has been directed

to contact newly-elected MPP Bob Bailey and invite him to meet with council in the near future. The meetings will focus on the needs of St. Clair Township.

**St. Clair Township council holds regular meetings on the first and third Monday of each month. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021. The next regular meeting is set for Monday, Nov. 19.**

### Fire Prevention Week contest winners

All seven St. Clair Township schools participated in the recent Fire Prevention Week contest. The top three schools in this year's contest were: 1st, Colonel Cameron Public School; 2nd, Mooretown-Courtright Public School; 3rd, Sir John Moore Community School.

The goal of the contest is to educate children about fire safety and to encourage them to get their families involved in home fire safety and in the development of emergency evacuation strategies.

The St. Clair Township Fire Department hopes every township family will work to be fire-safe all year 'round. Homeowners are reminded that smoke alarm batteries should be replaced at least once each year. And don't forget to vacuum smoke alarms to keep sensors free from spider webs and dust that could interfere with their proper function.

It's also a good idea to replace smoke alarms after about 10 years. It's a small price to pay to ensure your family is safe. And if your kitchen smoke alarm goes off too much, you can either pay closer attention to your cooking or buy a photoelectric smoke alarm, which is less likely to activate due to cooking accidents.

## Got yard waste ?

Fall yard waste collection will continue until Wednesday, Nov. 21 and Friday, Nov. 23. Small brush bundles will be collected on Friday, Nov. 30. These bundles must follow these guidelines: 4 feet maximum length, 1 inch

maximum diameter, cut ends all in one direction. The bundles should be tied and placed at the curb in neat piles. For more information, call St. Clair Township Public Works Dept. at 519-867-2993.

**SPEAK YOUR MIND**

**School welcomes volunteers**

Sacred Heart Catholic School, which sits adjacent to Sacred Heart Church in Port Lambton, is proud to be part of the larger St. Clair Township. We are a school which strives to achieve high academic standards in all aspects of the Ontario curriculum within the context of our Catholic faith.

Throughout the year, there will be opportunities for members of the greater community to participate in various school-related activities. Currently, we are participating in a

mission event to help bring Christmas to needful children around the world. Those who wish to participate in this activity, or who can offer time or assistance to further the educational experience of our students, are invited to call the school at 519-677-5391.

**Stephen DeGurse, principal**  
*Editor's note: All St. Clair Township schools benefit from community participation. Get involved and let the experience keep you youthful!*

**Do you want to SPEAK YOUR MIND?**

What's on your mind? Let us know by e-mailing:

**[beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca](mailto:beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca)**  
 or snail mailing to: **The Beacon, c/o St. Clair Civic Centre, 1155 Emily St., Mooretown, Ont., N0N 1M0.**

**COUNCIL DIARY**

*Deputy Mayor Peter Gilliland is the author of this month's council column. Watch this page each month for insights directly from your municipal council.*

We are just completing the first year of this council's term and seem to be settling in nicely, taking care of the business of St. Clair Township.

This is a challenge, since the municipality covers nearly 640 square kilometres and requires the upkeep of about 700 kilometres of road, plus ditches, drains, bridges, sewers, streets, sidewalks, water lines and other infrastructure compo-

nents. In addition, we also oversee services such as police, fire, ambulance, community halls, campgrounds, parks, museums, a large community centre and even a golf course.

Our job is made easier through the good work of a multitude of volunteers, service clubs, coaches and staff who all help this township operate. Our heartfelt thanks go out to these community-minded people.

I'm sure you will agree our township is very dynamic with its agricultural, industrial and urban areas. In fact, the township boasts nine built-up areas or villages, each with its own unique requirements and

deserving of our full attention. We continue to lobby senior government to help us with these challenges, many of which have been downloaded, in the form of grants, rebates and other financial assistance. Medical services and transportation issues continue to be a concern.

Bonni has me on a "word count", but I must take some space to congratulate her on helping us bring back The Beacon. A common question that I am asked is "What's going on." Hopefully, this little publication will assist us in communicating with you, the residents of St. Clair Township.

**COMMUNITY POLICING**

**Car/deer collisions increasing**

The Lambton OPP is urging motorists to exercise extreme caution when driving in rural and lightly populated areas of Lambton County. Statistics show the incidence of vehicle/deer collisions investigated by OPP officers has increased dramatically recently. Nine such collisions were investigated between Oct. 18 and Oct. 25 alone, for a total of 87 as of Oct. 25. October through December are peak risk times when deer and other wild animal species venture onto the highways during mating and migration periods. Motorists should be especially careful between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m., and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Impaired stats a concern**

2007 impaired driving statistics for Lambton County are on the increase, a situation that has law enforcement

officials concerned, according to OPP Sgt. Paul Futers. "It's a hot topic and one of great concern to the police and to the public." The total arrests for impaired driving as of Oct. 26 stood at an alarming 197 according to Lambton OPP files. In October alone, six arrests were made in St. Clair Township, including one involving a golf cart being driven along the road in Port Lambton. "We need to continue to educate the public and continue a high level of visibility within the community," said Sgt. Futers, who urges the public to report potential impaired drivers to help police keep the roads safe.

**Racers caught**

A 24-year-old Wallaceburg man driving a 1999 Mustang was caught by radar doing 139 km/hr in an 80 km/hr zone on Highway 40 near

Bickford Line on Oct. 25. On the same day, a 27-year-old Sarnia man was clocked doing 131 km/hr in a posted 80 km/hr zone while riding his Kawasaki motorcycle along Highway 40. Both had their licenses suspended for seven days and their vehicles impounded for the same period of time under the new racing legislation. Both will appear in Sarnia court in December.

**Hunters left stranded**

Two hunters were recently stranded on Tecumseh Road between Rokeby and Petrolia Lines when their gray 1986 Chevy Astro van was stolen. The pair left the vehicle unlocked with the keys under the left floor mat while they went to hunt racoon. They were gone from the vehicle for only a half-hour. Two dog crates were in the back of the van.

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## AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

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### Hockey tournaments at MSC

The M.T.M.H.A. Hockey Tournament will be held at the Moore Sports Complex on Nov. 8 to 11. The Juvenile Silverstick Tournament is slated for Jan. 3 to 6, 2008, and the Old Pirates Hockey Tournament is set for Feb. 22, to 24, 2008.

### Operation Christmas tree lunch set

The annual Operation Christmas Tree *Poor Boy Lunch*, sponsored by the Corunna Legion ladies' auxiliary, is set for the Corunna Legion hall on Thursday, Nov. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Donations at the door will be used to ensure that less fortunate families in north St. Clair Township will receive much-appreciated hampers of food and toys to make their Christmas bright.

### Village Christmas in Sombra

The village of Sombra and the Sombra Museum will be the site of the annual Village Christmas event on Nov. 16 to 18.

### Anniversary dinner set

An anniversary roast beef dinner will be held at Courtright United Church at St. Stephen's (corner 4th and Middle Streets) on Sunday, Nov. 18 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and take-out is available. For advance tickets call 519-867-5316 or 519-541-0032.

### Women's safety seminar

*Women Travelling Alone* will be the subject of a seminar set for Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Corunna fire hall on Hill Street. The seminar is presented by the Corunna Community Policing Committee and women of all ages, as well as males, are welcome. To register call the Corunna OPP office at 519-481-0161.

### Operation Christmas Tree drop-off

Donations of non-perishable food items and new unwrapped toys for Operation Christmas Tree can be dropped off at the old Murray Street School from Nov. 20 to Dec. 18, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Christmas hamper delivery date is Saturday, Dec. 22.

### Corunna OPP Christmas collection

The Corunna Ontario Provincial Police office on Lyndock Street will conduct a drive-through food and toy collection depot on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It's never been easier to make a donation to Operation Christmas Tree!

### School volunteers wanted

Sacred Heart School in Port Lambton requires a paid lunchtime yard duty supervisor which would require a daily commitment of one hour. To apply call 519-677-5391.

### Santa Claus is comin' to town!

Just a reminder to the municipality's youngsters - Santa Claus is coming to Corunna on Saturday, Nov. 24 at 6 p.m. The parade will start from Beckwith Street (Thompson Gardens), south on Lyndock, east on Cameron, north on Murray, west on Hill to the 'new' St. Clair Township Emergency Services building. Afterwards, enjoy hot chocolate and musical entertainment at the clock tower on Lyndock Street, courtesy of the Corunna Horticultural Society. **Remember kids, it's never too late to start being good!**

### Castle and Country Christmas trip

On Saturday, Dec. 1, the Moore Museum is hosting a day-long bus trip that will include a tour of Dundurn Castle in Hamilton, shopping at IKEA, dinner at Tucker's Marketplace, and a visit to Westfield Heritage Village. Call 519-867-2020 for more information.

### Moore Museum open house

The Moore Museum invites everyone to attend a Christmas open house on the afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 9. Christmas decorations and refreshments will be featured.

### Optimist cash calendar tickets on sale

The Moore Optimist Club is now selling 2008 cash calendars, with a prize board of \$8,700. The early bird draw of \$500 is slated for Dec. 25.

### CCPC meets monthly

The Corunna Community Policing Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month. For more information, go online to [www.corunnapolicing.ca](http://www.corunnapolicing.ca).

### School Christmas collection

All schools in St. Clair Township will be collecting non-perishable food items for donation to Christmas food hamper programs this year. Please be generous and help the children ensure that every family has a Merry Christmas.

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## NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR THE BEACON!

If you belong to a non-profit organization or group, why not let the community know what you're up to? E-mail The Beacon at:

**[beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca](mailto:beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca)**

and we'll give the community advance notice of your up-coming fundraisers, activities and events. Please note that your information must be submitted no later than the third Monday of each month and that **The Beacon** arrives in St. Clair Township mailboxes the first Thursday or Friday of each month.