



The Beacon

of St. Clair Township

Issue 1

Volume 1

October 2007

Newsletter will inform residents of St. Clair Township

St. Clair twp. council

THE BEACON of St. Clair Township was commissioned by the municipal council in response to numerous resident requests for a consistent source of local information. The council consists of, clockwise from rear left: Councillors Steve Miller, Pat Alexander Carswell, and Pat Brown, Deputy Mayor Peter Gilliland, Councillors Jeff Agar and Darrell Randell, St. Clair Township Clerk John DeMars, Mayor Steve Arnold, St. Clair Township C.A.O. John Rodey.

Budget process already underway

This year, council is getting an early start on the municipal budget using a new two-year schedule that will likely translate into a considerable amount of saved ratepayers' dollars.

St. Clair Township Clerk John DeMars says the capital budget is being worked on now instead of waiting until the more traditional December start time. It will include projects to be done over the next two years. "They're well ahead of the curve," he said. "For the first time, the capital budget will be for 2008 and 2009. It will identify projects that will allow staff to get the engineering done over the winter so tendering can be done early." He added early tendering usually results in more reasonable bids from contractors.

Treasurer Charles Quenneville added the two-year schedule also allows staff more time to apply for any grants that may be available to help fund approved projects.

To date, council has directed municipal department heads to prioritize projects and report back so that the necessary capital projects can be determined and approved. However, Quenneville says that, as in 2007, road upkeep and repair will figure prominently in the new budget.

A new source of information is now available to all residents of St. Clair Township.

THE BEACON of St. Clair Township, a four-page newsletter, will be mailed monthly to every municipal residence. It will carry news items of interest from the St. Clair Township council chambers as well as local coming events, policing news, and even an editorial space where residents can air their viewpoints on issues affecting life in St. Clair Township.

Residents will also be able to acknowledge the good work of the people and organizations who make a positive difference in this community. Township schools are encouraged to use The Beacon as a means of publicizing their students' achievements and upcoming activities of interest to the community.

This is **YOUR** newsletter.

We will be looking to you, the reader, to keep us informed about things that are happening in your neighbourhood. St. Clair Township is an expansive municipality and we hope that, by allowing residents to share viewpoints and feelings about their own particular corner of it, The Beacon will facilitate the creation of a single, cohesive neighbourhood.

We hope you will enjoy this newsletter. We hope you will support it and use it for the betterment of this community...**YOUR** community.

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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 who 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 writing to: The Beacon, c/o St. Clair Civic Centre, 1155 Emily St., Mooretown, Ont., N0N 1M0. Phone and e-mail contact information will be available in the November issue.



Council welcomes new public service publication

St. Clair Township council approved the production of a new municipal newsletter at its Sept. 4 sitting.

THE BEACON of St. Clair Township will be distributed free of charge to every municipal household at the beginning of each month as a public service. The newsletter will be for information only – no advertising will be included in its four-page format. The first issue of The Beacon is expected to show up in residential mailboxes in October.

No Frills by-pass lane approved

Traffic problems arising from vehicles turning into the *No Frills* food store parking lot will be addressed with the construction of a turning lane. Construction of the new asphalt surface was approved by council at its Sept. 17 meeting and will be paid for with funds obtained from the *No Frills* franchise when construction of the business was first approved.

Community health centre discussed

Representatives of the West Lambton Community Health Centre recently reported to council that there is no need for a satellite primary care service in St. Clair Township. WLCHC spokesperson Graham Bentley said this conclusion was based on studies and consultations with service providers, community organizations and individuals. Further, he said only 39 people attended the April, 2007 public meeting to discuss the development of such a service in the township. The issue will be reconsidered if retiring local doctors are not fully replaced by primary care services in the area. Deputy Mayor Peter Gilliland urged the WLCHC delegation to conduct another needs assessment in the near future. The public can contact the West Lambton Community Health Centre by calling Mac Redmond at 519-344-3017, ext. 227. To inquire about the centre's many health promotion programs, contact Marion Clouse at 519-344-3017, ext. 237.

Zoning amendment draws opposition

A proposed zoning by-law and official plan amendment regarding undeveloped land directly to the north of the St. Clair Township Civic Centre on Emily Street in Mooretown resulted in a lively discussion at a public meeting held Sept. 17. About 30 people attended the meeting. The amendment would see the redesignation of the land from "open space" to "residential." This change is being sought by a private developer who wants to build a mixed-density residential subdivision on the land. Local residents expressed concerns over the resulting increase in demand for sewer and water services, as

well as potential traffic problems. Mayor Steve Arnold pointed out the amendment is still in the discussion phase and public input is being sought in an effort to make a well-informed decision. He added that public input will be invited at every crucial step in the process.

Shoreline rehab receives funding

The shoreline at Guthrie Park, which has been deteriorating for the past several years, will receive much-needed repairs thanks to a new provincial government grant. The efforts of St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold and council, in cooperation with Sarnia-Lambton MPP Caroline DiCocco, have garnered \$350,000 to fund the project.

River trail committee reports

St. Clair River Trail Committee co-chairs Jane Marsh and Peter Cassel, along with Dave Cram, reported on revised specifications for the section of river trail from Sombra village to Branton Cundick Park, known as the Dedecker Link. The revision was made to bring the project's estimated cost to within the allotted \$160,000 budget. Further, it was recommended that council give 2008 budget consideration for the painting of crosswalks near Riverview Public School and at Brander Park.

Wastewater recommendations heard

Don Kemp of TSH Consulting Engineers presented the draft class assessment for the improvement of the township's wastewater treatment capacities for the Corunna, Mooretown and Courtright areas. The area being studied included 3,300 homes and 10,000 people. The study looked at various options, but the recommended solutions that warranted further study included an upgraded sewage wastewater treatment facility in Corunna or Courtright, or a new freestanding facility between the two communities. The recommended solution called for a new wastewater treatment facility for the Courtright site, with pumping capabilities and a new force main from Corunna to the proposed new facility. The cost of the project is estimated at approximately \$30 million.

The final draft proposal will include an escalation factor in recognition that the actual construction of this project may not proceed for several years. The project is being undertaken to accommodate anticipated growth in the coming years.

Beacon
bit

"I am a great believer in luck and the harder I work, the more I have of it."
-Stephen Leacock

Council Diary

Mayor Steve Arnold is the first contributor in this ongoing series of St. Clair Township councillor's columns. Watch this page each month for insights directly from your municipal council.

On behalf of St. Clair Township council and staff, I welcome you to the inaugural issue of the new Beacon newsletter. I would personally like to thank Bonni Stevenson for helping us get The Beacon back up and running. All of us are looking forward to having this medium in order to update all township residents with local news and information.

I can characterize the first year of this four-year council term as a rewarding time of challenge and change. Positive announcements from the municipality's industrial sector will bring new development and economic growth. Projects such as the new Shell Canada facility, the Suncor expansion, and two new gas-fired power generation facilities currently under construction, plus the life extension to 2014

of OPG's Lambton Generating Station, all bode well for this community. I am also relieved that Woodbridge Foam will continue to operate in the township, and I tip my hat to the cooperative collaboration that led to this positive outcome.

Many infrastructure projects were undertaken this year, and council is currently working through a two-year capital budgeting process that, hopefully, will help us access senior levels of government funding sources. Working in conjunction with MPP Caroline DiCocco, we have already received funding for the Guthrie Park seawall protection project, the Frog Point sewer project, the Brigden side road paving project, and the Buckingham Road paving project. This cooperation also helped obtain funding to offset the balance of the MacMillan

Bridge project. Working with MP Pat Davidson, funding from the Gas Tax Program helped top up some of these projects.

Your municipal council and staff are working well together, but we also recognize and appreciate that our job is made easier thanks to the droves of volunteers who work selflessly to make this township strong.

You can play a part in the ongoing effort to shape a bright future for this community. Your opinions and concerns are important to us. Don't hesitate to make contact. The St. Clair Township municipal office can be reached at 519-867-2021, and I can be reached at 519-381-7440.

Let's all work together to ensure that St. Clair Township is the best place in Ontario to live, work and play.

Speak your mind

Drop us a line and speak your mind.
Write to: **The Beacon, c/o St. Clair Civic Centre, 1155 Emily St., Mooretown, Ont., N0N 1M0.**

St. Clair Twp. volunteer firefighters receive awards

Some local volunteer firefighters were honoured recently for their ongoing service to the people of St. Clair Township.

Receiving awards for years of service were:

CORUNNA: Tim Sparks, 20; Gord Grieve, 15; Tom Mitchell, 10; Glen Nantais, 10.

BRIGDEN: Marty Dewhirst, 15; Ross Hiller, 15; Rod Hayward, 10; Jason Japp, 10; Jason Morley, 10.

COURTRIGHT: Rob Ingles, 15; Nic Ferguson, 5.

PORT LAMBTON: Dennis Myers, 10; Mike Johnson, 5; Chris VanWaterSchoot, 5.

BECHER: Dave McGee, 25; Doug McGee, 25; Al Kerkhof, 15; Teena Hubert, 5; Ryan Druer, 5; Aaron Jardine, 5.

WILKESPORT: Pat Leveille, 20; Mike Ward, 5.

Honoured with the Federal Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal for 20 years of service were: Tim Sparks, Corunna; Pat Leveille, Wilkesport; Randy McDonald, Brigden; Neil MacDonald, Port Lambton and Tom Boon, deputy fire chief, administration.

Congratulations to these deserving honourees.

United way campaign off to great start

The 2007 United Way campaign is off to a terrific start. Executive director Dave Brown says the campaign total is about \$3,000 ahead of what it was last year at this time.

This year's goal is set at \$1,840,000 and 8,300 donors.

The campaign, which kicked off with the annual Day of Caring on Sept. 18, saw 250 volunteers from NOVA, Ontario Power Generation's Lambton Generating Station, Sunoco, Transalta, the Canadian Coast Guard and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans

donate 2,000 man-hours of manual labour. The work was carried out at 56 separate job sites for county seniors.

The United Way of Sarnia-Lambton funds 60 programs and services at 28 local agencies.

A r o u n d t h e t o w n s h i p

Brigden Fall Fair an annual family favourite

The Brigden Fall Fair, an annual Thanksgiving tradition with hundreds of Lambton County families, rolls into the Brigden fairgrounds from October 5 through 8. 2007/2008 Brigden Fair Ambassador Morgan Mackenzie and her court will be on hand throughout the weekend assisting with the many livestock and home-craft events and activities that make Brigden Fall Fair the premier fair of Lambton County. The finest agricultural specimens are always on view in the fair's modern livestock facilities.

The fairgrounds will be alive with entertainment throughout the weekend, from the excitement of the midway and helicopter rides, to musical presentations, to the thrills and chills of the Edge Motorbikes Big Air Insanity Show and the Lumberjack Show. Watch local teams compete in the always enjoyable Farm Olympics and take in the fair parade at noon on Saturday. And don't forget that a trip to the fair is never complete without a liberal sampling of 'fair food'. There is much to enjoy while roaming from display to engrossing display.

The fairgrounds are open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. The midway is open from 10 a.m. daily. See you at the fair!

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 fami-

lies in north St. Clair Township will receive much-appreciated hampers of food and toys to make their Christmas bright. The old Murray Street School will be open for donations to be dropped off after Nov. 19 thanks to building owners Earl and Angela Gilgeous, and hamper delivery is set for Saturday, Dec. 22.

Child fingerprinting offered

The Corunna Community Policing Committee (CCPC) will offer child fingerprinting, plus information on Neighbourhood Watch and a paintball game at this year's Brigden Fall Fair. The group reports Neighbourhood Watch programs in Corunna and Brigden are working well and slowly expanding. For more information go online to www.corunnapolicing.ca.

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.

Golf course info

According to St. Clair Parkway Golf Course officials, the course is set to remain open to golfers "until the snow flies." The course restaurant, Hawthorne's, will be open until the end of October. And the good news for 2008 is that course rates will not be increased.

Guess who's coming to town

Just a reminder to the municipality's youngsters - Santa Claus is coming to Corunna on Saturday, Nov. 24 at 6 p.m. It's never too late to start being good!

Community policing

The number of break and enters being registered in St. Clair Township, as well as Lambton County as a whole, are on the increase.

OPP Sgt. Paul Futers says police officials are especially concerned about the number of break-ins occurring in broad daylight. Thieves are becoming bolder and homeowners must take appropriate steps to ensure the security of

Daytime break and enters on the increase

their property. Police are urging homeowners to securely lock all doors and windows before leaving their property for any length of time.

The same advice applies to motorists. The time it takes to run into a convenience store for a litre of milk is more than enough time for a thief to steal items from an unlocked vehicle, or to drive off with the vehicle itself. And keep all items of value out

of sight so that thieves will not be tempted to break into locked vehicles.

Halloween safety urged

It's that spooky time of year again. Little ghosts and goblins will soon appear as Halloween grows near, and motorists are urged to be on the lookout for them as they trick-or-treat. Let's make this Halloween a safe one!