



THE BEACON

of St. Clair Township

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Friendship JOOI Club active this winter

The young members of the Moore Optimist Club-sponsored Friendship JOOI Club were busy over the holidays making sure local children, hospitalized over the holiday season, didn't miss out on all the fun. The group delivered 24 goodie boxes containing colouring and activity books, a reading book donated by the Organization for Literacy of Lambton, plus school supplies, small toys and a soft stuffed animal. Their next project is a youth dance, set for Feb. 23, and a craft sale, set for March 1. See 'Around the Township' on page 4 for details.

Mooretown Bantam BB take gold

The Mooretown Bantam BB team can be proud of its gold medal performance at the 41st annual Hespeler Minor Olympics over the holidays. Playing against a full slate of 'A' teams, the boys went 5-0-1 over the tournament, defeating Owen Sound 5-0, Hamilton 5-2, Hespeler 5-1, and tying Niagara Falls 2-2 in regular play. This placed Mooretown second in its division. The team played Oakridge from London in the semi-finals, notching up a 4-2 triumph and clinching the gold with a hard-fought win over Niagara Falls.

Storm Peewee girls 'C' team victorious

The St. Clair Storm Peewee 'C' girls' hockey team from Mooretown was victorious during the Woodstock Wildcats tournament in early January, beating Saugeen Shores 4-2 in the finals. Goals were scored by Erica Vandersteen (2), Claire Moran, and Sydney Walsh, with strong goaltending by Madison Baker. To get to the finals, the team chalked up the following scores: loss to Saugeen Shores, 2-1; win over Stratford, 2-1, and Ridgetown, 2-1. Head coach Julie Vandersteen and assistant coach Bob Walsh are to be congratulated on their team's winning effort.

Notice of 2008 budget meeting

The St. Clair Township 2008 draft budget presentation and meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 9 a.m. in the council chambers of the St. Clair Township Civic Centre on Emily Street in Mooretown. The public is welcome to attend.

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Two St. Clair Township firefighters recently received the Provincial Long Service Award for 35 years of service. Firefighter Ron Hayward, left, the former district chief of the Bridgen station for 19 years, and current



Chief Roy De- whirst, right, re- ceived their awards the St. Clair Town- from Mayor Steve ship council.

Fire trucks to carry pet respirators

In a fire, the family pet is often lost to smoke inhalation. For most families, this is almost as traumatic as losing a child.

A new initiative is afoot to raise funds to equip all six St. Clair Township fire stations with pet respirators so that this kind of tragedy can be averted. The project is being undertaken by Adelle Richards Vosbough and her mother, Hazel Richards, of Corunna. The women plan to raise \$600 to buy nine respirator sets - one for each fire station and three spares. The respirator sets include three sizes of mask to accommodate all sizes of dog, as well as other types of small pets. Specially-designed canvas bags, custom made by Wawanosh Enterprises, will be bought to store the respirator sets in.

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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 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 or writing to: The Beacon, c/o St. Clair Civic Centre, 1155 Emily St., Mooretown, Ont., N0N 1M0.



COUNCIL NOTES

Wind generation project proposed

Representatives of Engineered Systems – Wind Power Division Ltd. recently attended council to propose the installation of six wind turbines on property on Concession 13 in Sombra Township. The presentation was for information purposes and the company has applied for an official plan amendment and a zoning by-law amendment which will involve public input. Open houses will be held to deliver information to the public later this winter.

The turbines use new MagLev technology and a direct-drive turbine system that is said to require less maintenance and produces less noise. Presenter Michael Levesque says the system is 92.11% efficient and can operate in adverse climatic conditions, unlike traditional wind turbines. The turbines are approximately 100 meters in height and can provide sufficient power to service an estimated 7,000 homes. To date, this new technology has only been employed in China, where it was originally developed.

The project, which will cost approximately \$4.8 million per turbine, has been developed in affiliation with Lambton College. It is hoped the turbines will be online by August 8 of this year to coincide with the opening of the Olympics in China. To this end, the official plan amendment and rezoning amendments have been submitted to the township, and a public hearing will be scheduled once outstanding items, such as a noise study, have been addressed.

Transit study participation disappointing

Scant public participation in a recent study, undertaken by St. Clair Township to gauge public desire for a municipal transit system, yielded inconclusive results. Although there is no clear explanation for this outcome, council has decided not to proceed with further plans at this time.

Environmental heritage project proposed

Paul Smith, a local fourth generation resident, appeared before council to propose an environmentally significant use for his property, which lies within the zone of properties currently being sought to accommodate the new Shell facility. Smith, a graphic artist and the author of the *Magic Barn* children's books, has developed a four-fold strategy whereby his rural property could be used to benefit the Shell project's short-term needs as well as serve future generations through its development as an environmental research facility.

The property would serve to house construction personnel in modular four-season structures that could also be used as part of future environmental development. When the Shell facility was completed, the property would then be developed as an environmental education research and development facility. This facility would use waste by-products (i.e. carbon dioxide, low-energy steam, used cooling water) from the adjacent manufacturing site to support the growth of plant life which could help reduce total carbon dioxide emissions in the surrounding area.

Smith believes this project would benefit the community by making St. Clair Township a showplace for environmental preservation research, which in turn would benefit the local economy, address the ultimate goal of carbon dioxide reduction and abatement, and provide a launching platform for the continuing betterment of the community environment. Council approved a motion to send Shell a letter of support for the project.

Ultimately, Smith hopes the project could be used as part of an ecotourism development that would expand to encompass preserved lands such as the Bickford Woods.

Fire trucks may soon carry pet respirators

From page 1

Sarnia fire department vehicles already carry these pet respirators, which were donated by a Sarnia resident. Tom Boon, deputy fire chief of St. Clair Township, says the respirators will enhance the municipality's emergency rescue capabilities.

"Pets in fires often hide, making a quick rescue difficult. When the pets are found, they are often suffer-

ing from smoke inhalation. Since our human oxygen masks do not fit the animals properly, these specially designed masks work well on dogs, cats, small pets and even birds, animals that are usually as much a part of the family as children," he said.

Donations toward the purchase of these respirators are currently being sought. For information on how to donate, call 519-332-0296 or 519-862-5335.

Council meeting schedule

**St. Clair Township council
meets every**

**first and third Monday
of the month at 7 p.m.**

**PLEASE NOTE: Due to the
Family Day holiday on**

**Monday, Feb. 18, council will
meet on Tuesday, Feb. 19.**

**Anyone wishing to speak before
council can call 519-867-2021 to
be put on the agenda.**

COUNCIL DIARY

Talkin' trash and taxes

Councillor Pat Brown is the author of this month's council column. Watch for this column each month for insights directly from your municipal council.

As frequent walkers along the St. Clair River Trail and other streets in Corunna, my wife and I are always amazed at the volume of trash we pick up along the way. Most often, we're faced with an abundance of candy wrappers, pop cans, coffee cups and cigarette packages.

If we truly want to save the environment, we could all do more to help out. Over the years, there have been slogans like "Give a hoot-don't pollute," and "Ontario is ours to keep beautiful," to remind us not to litter. Everyone needs to realize that St. Clair Township is our community and it is our responsibility to keep it beautiful. If everyone used a Blue Box for recycling or reusable shopping bags for groceries, this would be a good start.

We must teach our children the rules of good garbage disposal and how to practice recycling at home and at school. In this way, we will pass along good environmental habits for future generation. And please, when you're out walking, "Pick it up and pitch it in!"

On the municipal side of things, council will soon be setting the 2008 budget. (Did you know that a 1% tax rate change is equivalent to approximately \$63,000 in extra tax revenues?)

Looking back at 2007, some of the larger expenditures included: \$2,004,425 for police services; \$2,284,900 for public works; and \$1,975,948 for capital projects. I am often reminded that we have one of the lowest municipal tax rates in Lambton County and, hopefully, we can continue to enjoy this while maintaining and improving services to our municipal residents.

Happy trails to you all in 2008!

COMMUNITY POLICING

Move over for emergency vehicles

A Courtright woman recently found out that it's expensive not to move over when encountering working emergency vehicles at the side of the road. Remember, the Highway Traffic Act states that "upon approaching an emergency vehicle with its lamp producing intermittent flashes of red light that is stopped on a highway with two or more lanes of traffic on the same side as the emergency vehicle..." the on-coming driver must pull over away from the vehicle if it can be done safely, slow down and proceed with caution.

A first offence will garner the offender a fine of not less than \$400 up to \$2,000. For a subsequent offence, the fine runs from \$1,000 to \$4,000 with the possibility of imprisonment for a term of not more than six months.

This measure was instituted to protect emergency workers who must park by the side of the road to carry out a component of their job. In years past, several police officers have been killed in the line of duty by being hit by a driver who did not comply with the above regulation.

For safety's sake, move over for emergency responders.

High speed garners**suspension and vehicle impounding**

A Corunna man faces charges under Highway Traffic Act Stunt Driving legislation after being caught driving 60 kilometres over the posted speed limit along Highway 40. Police say radar clocked the man's vehicle doing 140 kilometres per hour in an 80 kph zone.

The driver will appear in Samia court in March to answer to the charge and his company-owned vehicle was impounded for a period of seven days.

See and be seen!

Police are asking all motorists to turn on headlights whenever highway visibility becomes poor due to atmospheric conditions such as fog or snow squall activity. This increases your visibility to other motorists and is especially important when negotiating intersections, meeting on-coming traffic, or encountering slower-moving vehicles.

Motorists with automatic headlight activation systems are reminded they may have to activate their lights manually during daylight hours. The fine for not using the appropriate vehicle lighting is \$110, and several of these fines have been handed out recently.

Beware jury duty scam

The latest identity theft scam, which involves jury duty, has surfaced in the U.S. and Canadians are being warned to be cautious if contacted about jury duty. The caller claims to be a jury coordinator who is calling the victim to say a warrant has been issued for his/her arrest. The caller claims the warrant was issued because the victim did not show up for jury duty. When the victim protests that no summons for jury duty has been received, the caller asks for personal and official information, including Social Security (U.S.) number, so information can be verified and the warrant can be cancelled.

Police continue to caution the public to be very careful when giving out personal information. **Do not give in to high-pressure tactics** used by door-to-door salespeople or telephone callers, no matter how official or sincere they may sound. If in doubt, check with police or talk to a trusted friend or relative. Don't allow yourself to be victimized!

SPEAK YOUR MIND**Community generosity applauded**

We would like to sincerely thank all of the volunteers who worked so tirelessly sorting and delivering for Operation Christmas Tree.

Also, we need to thank the people of St. Clair

Township for all of their donations which help to make this event a success each year.

Rose and Charlie O'Toole
Mooretown

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP**Valentine's dance fundraiser**

The Mooretown Hockey Mother's Valentine's Dance is slated for the Courtright Community Centre on Saturday, Feb. 9 from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple and include door prizes, a light lunch and music by DJ Vic Aguiar. For tickets call Kerry Harper at 519-867-3129. Proceeds help to keep hockey registration costs down.

Euchre tourney planned

A euchre tournament, hosted by Sombra Sports and Recreation, will be held at the Sombra Community Centre on Feb. 16. Registration begins at 11 a.m. for a noon start. Food and refreshments will be available. A pre-registration fee of \$20 will apply. Contact Jamie Bogaert at 519-892-3908. All proceeds will help fund the new canteen/washroom facility as well as local minor athletics.

Charity spin-a-thon

A fundraising spin-a-thon for the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation will be held at the Workout Room in Corunna on Saturday, Feb. 16 and Sunday, Feb. 17. Minimum pledge is \$50 and participants must "spin" for one hour. The goal is to raise \$4,000. To reserve a bike, call 519-862-1200.

Friendship JOOI Club plans events

The Friendship JOOI Club will hold a Friendship dance for youth at the Courtright Community Hall on Feb. 23 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The group will also be selling items at an indoor garage sale, hosted by the Optimist Club of Moore, at the Courtright Community Hall on March 1. Proceeds will be used to help fund the group's future community projects.

CPR seminars offered

A CPR day will be held at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre on Emily Street in Mooretown on Saturday, Feb. 23. Two free sessions, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., will be offered to raise public awareness of CPR tech-

niques and how to aid a choking victim. Techniques for adults, children and babies will be covered. Certified instructor Ed Linton will preside. No registration is required.

Safety seminars to be presented

The Corunna Community Policing Committee will offer two safety seminars this winter.

On Monday, March 3 at 7 p.m., a self-defence seminar for women will be presented at Sir John Moore Community School. To register, call the Corunna OPP detachment office at 519-481-0161.

On Tuesday, April 8 at 7 p.m., the Ontario Provincial Police will present an Internet safety seminar for the entire family. Children attending the seminar should be accompanied by an adult. To register, call the Corunna OPP detachment office at 519-481-0161.

4-H seeking members

The 4-H Conservation Club is seeking members, ages 10-21, to participate in on-going projects such as the *Water World Program* at the Dow Wetlands and the *Pitch-In Canada Land Pollution Counts* program. For more information call 4-H Club leader Debbie Anderson at 519-864-1161 or e-mail danderso@rivernet.net.

Fundraiser aids Salvation Army

The Salvation Army received a welcome \$3,000 boost, plus a donation of non-perishable goods, thanks to fundraising efforts by the employees of Slims Bulldozing/BF Environmental Consultants. A Christmas dance garnered \$1,500 in employee donations, which was matched by the company. The Salvation Army has been the beneficiary of the company's fundraising events for several years.

Contact 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

Free of charge, we'll give the community advance notice of your up-coming fundraisers, activities and events. To make sure your submissions aren't late, please submit your information no later than the third Monday of each month.

Correction

The Corunna library hours are: 417 Lyndoch Street: *Monday to Thursday*, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; *Friday and Saturday*, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; *Sunday*, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Program information at 519-862-1132.