



THE BEACON

of St. Clair Township

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4-H Club pitches in to beautify park



Members of the 4-H Conservation Club recently made it their business to clean up Cathcart Park north of Sombra as part of the national Pitch-In Canada event. This group of motivated young people got together in March to see what they could do to make their community a more beautiful place to live. To date, they have built nesting boxes, hosted guest speaker Nikki May

from Carolinian Canada, and will be participating in an environmental program at the Dow Wetlands in June. The group includes, front left: Madison Robbins, Cole Robbins, Dan Anderson, Kendyl Anderson, Kaitlyn Hamilton, Ciara Little-Ward, and Reid Eyre. Rear left: Jessica Vickerd, Jesse McPherson, and Kaitlyn Anderson.

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TO CONTACT US

Individuals, schools or organizations that wish to publicize a non-profit event or suggest feature story subjects or topics 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 Street, Mooretown, Ont., N0N 1M0.

**The deadline for submissions is the
third Monday of each month.**



COUNCIL NOTES

Strategic plan garnering data

The data-gathering phase of an initiative to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for St. Clair Township is currently being completed. Township CAO John Rodey reported to council that City Media, the company gathering information from members of the community, has been holding town hall meetings and individual interviews to identify key areas of concern. From this, a report will be developed for council's consideration. For more information about this process, see page 7.

Wilkesport extrication team receives funding

Joe Card, Wilkesport district fire chief for the St. Clair Township Fire Department, reported to council on the progress of his station's extrication team. The team, which annually takes part in extrication competitions, plans to participate in two symposiums and training challenges this summer.

A request for funding in the amount of \$6,000 was made to pay the direct costs of entry fees, transportation and accommodations. Card noted the team has already started fundraising to assist with indirect costs.

Mayor Arnold thanked Card for his presentation and commended the team on its excellent competitive performances over the years.

Each year, St. Clair Township volunteer firefighters are called upon to attend automobile collisions where drivers and passengers must be extricated from their vehicles with heavy hydraulic

cutting and bending equipment. The training sessions are key to the development of the life-saving skills and techniques that are used so effectively by the firefighters. Information learned during the sessions are passed along to the rest of the township's firefighters through the use of local training days.

Abandoned school becoming an eyesore

The deteriorating state of the former Colborne Street Public School building in Corunna was discussed at the May 5 meeting of council. Councillor Agar noted that the building's walls are covered with graffiti and asked if something could be done about the situation. He was informed by township clerk John DeMars that a written request is required to mobilize the property standards officer. The written request was filed and the matter will be referred to property standards.

Emergency notification discussed

The township's emergency notification system was discussed after it was noted that the emergency sirens could not be heard by some township residents who should receive notice when emergencies occur. It was pointed out that a telephone call system is in operation to contact these residents as to the nature of the emergency and to issue instructions on actions to be taken. However, St. Clair Township Fire Chief Roy Dewhirst was to be consulted for

further information on this matter.

Summer ferry traffic a problem

Every summer, traffic jams at the Bluewater Bridges send a high volume of motorists south seeking an easier way across the St. Clair River. As a result, traffic jams comprised of vehicles waiting to board the Sombra ferry frequently choke Sombra's main street and impede traffic flow along the St. Clair Parkway. Acting on resident complaints, council instructed staff to contact the ferry's management to see what steps are being taken to relieve the traffic congestion.

No Parking zone being ignored

The curb in front of the Corunna Tim Horton's shop is designated as a 'no parking' zone, yet some motorists are still parking there. To remedy this situation, council instructed staff to investigate how to make the zone more noticeable.

Condo project gets green light

The former 40/80 Hotel building at the intersection of St. Clair Park-

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St. Clair Township council holds regular meetings on the first and third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Anyone wishing to Address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021. This month's meeting is slated for June 23.

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

MORE COUNCIL NOTES

From page 2

way and Highway 80 will be given a new lease on life. The building's current owners came before council at its May 20 meeting to ask that the property zoning be changed from *highway commercial* to *residential (R3)* so that a 10-unit condominium can be developed

there. County planner Jeff Baranek told council the project had planning merit and recommended the rezoning be approved. Owner Marcel Beaubien told council the condos were a response to the many older adults who wish to downsize their residences and are looking for a residence in an attractive location. The zoning by-law was amended to allow the change.

Lock it or lose it signs to be installed

Thefts from vehicles continue to

be a problem because many motorists are still failing to lock up. Council is looking into placing "Lock it or lose it" signs in public parking areas such as the Moore Sports Complex and the St. Clair Parkway Golf Course.

Police officials continue to urge motorists and home owners to lock up when leaving a vehicle or residence unattended, even if it's just for a short period of time. Also, put valuables out of sight so thieves won't be tempted to break in. Lock it or lose it!!

Volunteer recognition nominations being sought

Volunteers are the backbone of almost all of the organizations and institutions society relies so heavily upon. They seek no reward or recognition in the pursuit of their selfless activities, but sometimes it's nice to demonstrate how valuable their work is to the people of their community.

Nominations are now being sought to identify St. Clair Township residents who volunteer their time in

the service of others. From youths to seniors, all age groups are eligible for nomination.

Submissions can be made to Mayor Steve Arnold's e-mail site at sarnold@twp.stclair.on.ca. A database will be developed to acknowledge those who do good things in the community, and some of the submissions will be forwarded to the provincial government to be formally recognized.

Local hero receives Governor General's Certificate of Commendation

A St. Clair Township man was recently honoured for bravery. Last July, Tim Cadotte, 22, of Corunna, along with his brother, Mike, 27, attempted to rescue the occupant of a vehicle that had plunged into the St. Clair River near Corunna.

The Governor General's Certificate of Commendation, awarded to Cadotte on the recommendation of the Canadian Decorations Advisory Committee, acknowledged his actions during the rescue attempt. The Governor General's deputy secretary, Emmanuelle Sajous, had this to say about Cadotte's actions. "Your selfless actions are an inspiration to others and represent a high form of citizenship of which you can be proud."

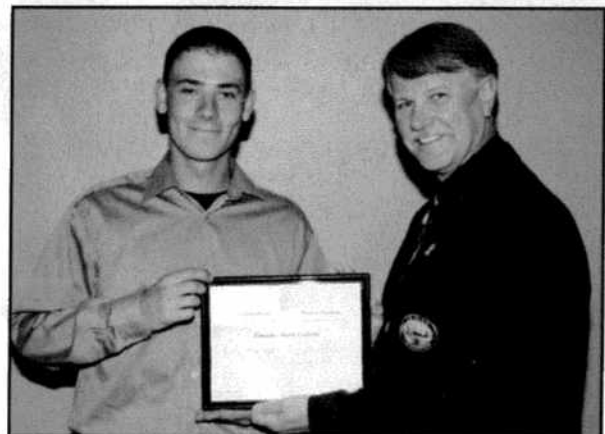
Mayor Steve Arnold presented the certificate on behalf of Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean at the May 5 regular meeting of council.

Tim says he and his brother saw that a vehicle had gone into the river and that people on shore were waving in a boat that was stationed just off-shore to assist. The men entered the water, opened the driver's door and extracted the female driver. Tim says the vehicle was in a precarious position when the rescue attempt was made.

"The car was in about five feet of water right next to

the drop-off," he said, adding after the woman was removed from the vehicle, it went over the drop-off and submerged in deeper water. Unfortunately, the woman was pronounced dead at the scene.

Several members of Cadotte's family, including his brother, his mom, Rosemary, and dad, Gerry, attended the ceremony.



Tim Cadotte, left, receives his Governor General of Canada's Certificate of Commendation from Mayor Steve Arnold during the May 5 regular meeting of St. Clair Township council.

COUNCIL DIARY

Infrastructure upgrades galore!

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

When I last wrote in The Beacon, I went on at length about statistics and infrastructure. Infrastructure, as in roads, bridges, sewers, etc. I conclude by the response (or lack of it) that this was pretty boring stuff, so let's step it up a notch.

As you read this, you may hear the bulldozers and backhoes busy on many municipal projects that are now underway. For example, Bridgen Road will soon be in excellent shape from the south to north end of township. The Wilkesport sewer project to address a severe environmental problem will soon be underway. Colborne Street in Corunna is being brought up to standard and an undersized sewer is being replaced. Boswell Street in Bridgen and Main Street in Courtright are soon to be repaved. The former Hill Street school is being transformed into the new OPP Centre. Developers are working on six new subdivisions in Corunna. And there are many more projects on the go, but space does not allow me to cover them all in this column.

This ambitious roster of projects may seem very aggressive, but under Mayor Steve's leadership, this township has been able to receive some funding for some of these projects from senior government.

And there's more to come, so stay tuned. It is important to do these projects now before we miss the chance.

Would we be able to get this type of results from a regional type government? Not likely!

But it is confirmed, that which I always knew, and it is true in municipal politics as well; that is, what ever you may try to do, someone will be "against it" (without exception.) A former and respected municipal leader once advised me, "...listen to everyone and then make up your own mind and if you are to be criticized regardless, then do your best job anyway."

I cannot close without acknowledging and thanking our township staff and the many volunteers that help to make this St. Clair Township such a wonderful place. Service clubs, interest groups, sports groups, social clubs, and committees of council, etc. and especially our volunteer firefighting brigades. We are in your debt and your reward is a job well done.

Bottles benefit trail

Don't forget to contribute your empty wine bottles to benefit the St. Clair River Trail. The collection depots are in Corunna at the Shell station on Lyndoch Street and in Port Lambton.



Friend of St. Clair 4-H honoured

When the 4-H Conservation Club turned out to clean up Cathcart Park as part of the Pitch-In Canada event, they received help and encouragement from St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold. For his efforts, the club presented the mayor with a certificate of appreciation.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Community safety zone in effect

Corunna's first community safety zone, located on Hill Street from Queen Street to Lyndoch Street, will no doubt pose a problem for drivers who insist on disobeying the rules of the road.

These safety zones recognize the need to protect both pedestrians and motorists who travel through them. The posted speed is 50 km/hr and OPP officers will be conducting on-going enforcement to ensure the law is upheld. Motorists caught and convicted of speeding within the safety zone will be subject to double the fine that would normally be levied.

The Highway Traffic Act notes that a municipal council may enact a by-law to set up a safety zone if, in the council's opinion, public safety is a concern in the designated area.

Purple ribbon campaign launched

The annual purple ribbon campaign against impaired driving was launched in mid-May to raise awareness about a problem that just won't go away.

Well over 75 drivers have been charged with impaired driving since the beginning of 2008 and this alarming trend has law enforcement and concerned citizens' groups worried. Art Speed, chair of the Lambton Drug Awareness Action Committee (LDCAA) says, "What is it about alcohol that makes some people lose all cognitive function? We all know impaired driving can have deadly consequences. A lot of pain and suffering could have easily been avoided by not drinking and driving. We hope people start to get the message that if you're going to drink, take a cab, call a friend, or stay overnight."

In 2007, Lambton OPP and Sarnia Police Services charged a total of more than 350 people with impaired driving - Lambton OPP charged 235, a significant increase over the 186 charges levied in 2006. During this time there were seven alcohol-related fatalities and alcohol was a factor in more than 35 collisions.

Members of the public can help stop the needless alcohol-related injuries, collisions and fatalities by notifying police of erratic driving behaviour on the road or of anyone seen getting behind the wheel in an obviously intoxicated condition.

Impaired driver flees collision scene

Lambton OPP report that in the early morning hours of May 23, a 1995 Ford pickup truck allegedly struck a tree in the area of Cameron Street and Queen Street in Corunna. Assisted by witnesses, police officers were able to locate the 21-year-old driver a short distance from the scene and arrest her for impaired driving. Subsequent breath testing revealed she was

over twice the legal limit. Fortunately, she and her two passengers escaped injury during the crash. The driver will appear in Sarnia court to answer to charges of impaired driving, being over the legal limit, and driving contrary to her driver's license conditions.

Youths caught breaking into vacant residence

Youths age 14 and 16 were arrested in mid-May after Lambton OPP responded to a report of a break-and-enter in progress in the 300 block of Murray Street in Corunna. Police caught them in the act and they have been charged with being unlawfully in a dwelling. They will appear in Sarnia youth court in mid-June to answer to the charge.

Firecracker on school bus triggers asthma attack

It is alleged that on the afternoon of May 16, a 14-year-old youth threw a lit firecracker towards the front of a school bus as it was traveling along Plank Road. The bus filled with smoke and forced the driver to stop to deal with the situation. One of the children on the bus experienced difficulty breathing but was able to control the asthma attack by using an inhaler. Video evidence, combined with independent eye witness accounts, led to the arrest of the culprit. The youth, who cannot be identified, has been diverted under authority of the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

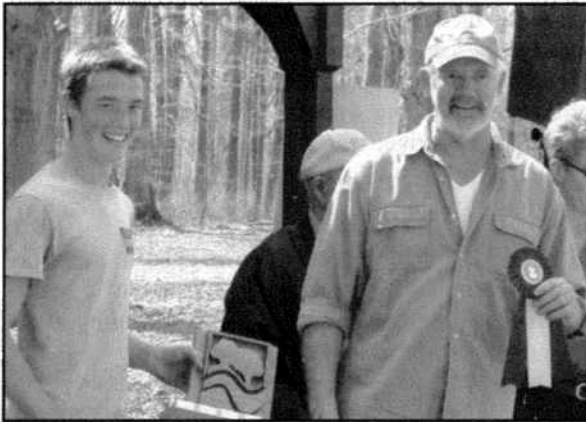
Bicyclist falls after being hit with backpack

Police report a developmentally challenged woman was struck with a backpack while riding her bike along the St. Clair Parkway on May 17 at about 9:30 p.m. It is alleged that a small, dark vehicle containing two or three males drew up alongside the woman and threw a backpack at her from an open window, causing her to fall from the bicycle.

The woman sustained no serious injuries, but police are urging anyone with information regarding this cowardly act to contact them or Crime Stoppers.

The Lambton OPP can be contacted by calling the Petrolia detachment office at 1-519-882-1011, the Corunna OPP office at 1-519-481-0161 or, in an emergency, 911. To report information regarding a crime, call the anonymous Crime Stoppers line at 1-800-222-8477. No call trace or call display is used and a cash reward is available if information leads to the successful apprehension of a suspect.

Up a creek with a winning paddle!



St. Clair Township was well represented at this year's St. Clair Region Conservation Authority canoe races. Gary Depooter, the township's coordinator of public works, and his son, Lucas, above, came in first in the staff category. In the VIP category, Mayor Steve Arnold and Councillor Jeff Agar took first place and were presented with some serious hardware for their efforts.

Former Moore Township reeve remembered as a fighter

When people are asked to define the late Margaret Stacey in one word, "feisty" is the word that most often comes to mind.

Stacey, who served as deputy

reeve and later, reeve of Moore Township, died recently at the North Lambton Lodge in Forest.

A former resident of Corunna, Stacey was Moore Town-

ship's first female councillor when she was elected in 1973. Four years later, she became deputy reeve and, in 1981, she became reeve and served until 1985. While in the political spotlight, Stacey was known for her honesty and forthright manner. She took the high road even at election time, declining to criticize the character of her opponents.

Sarnia journalist Dan McCaffery remembers Stacey as a fighter who was willing to advocate for her constituents. Stacey is also remembered as a woman who got involved in the community, at one time serving as president of St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League.

At the May 5 meeting of St. Clair Township council, Stacey was fondly remembered for her no-nonsense attitude and her years of service to her community.



Friendship JOOI Club report

The young members of the Friendship JOOI Club have been busy this spring. On April 26, fifteen children and their parents turned out at the Courtright Waterfront Park for a thorough clean-up of the grounds. Mayor Steve Arnold and Doug the park attendant pitched in to lend a hand and the work was done so quickly that the group extended its efforts to include the local baseball park before sitting down to a hearty meal of pizza, chips and soft drinks.

The group's activities are now winding down for the summer hiatus, but the kids still have a couple of events to oversee. The first, on Saturday, June 7, is a garage sale that will be held at the Courtright Community Hall from 8 a.m. to noon. The event will include a bake sale, crafts, raffles, gently used items and games that visiting children will enjoy. In the evening, a *School's Out For The Summer* dance will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the hall. The \$5 cost of admittance will include a snack and drink, and children ages six through 12 are welcome to attend this supervised dance.

The JOOI Club is associated with the Optimist Club of Moore.

Community input shapes strategic plan

Community consultation during the months of April and May has yielded data that will be used to formulate a strategic plan for St. Clair Township.

Katherine Wiggett, president and CEO of City Media Network, says over 315 St. Clair Township residents have been canvassed, either directly or indirectly, since the consultation process began. The process included four community discussion groups and 30 executive interviews, as well as 100 phone calls to people in the community. There have also been 50 responses to the township Web site survey and 50 responses from participants in community discussion guides.

So far, the six components of greatest importance to township residents are: the environment; rural community, traditions and heritage; community spirit and volunteerism; recreation and leisure; a strong, vibrant economy; and community services and infrastructure.

Information about the strategic plan process is available on the St. Clair Township Web site at www.twp.stclair.on.ca where residents can contribute their opinions by filling in and submitting a survey. A copy of this survey is also available at the township office.

At the conclusion of the consultation process, Wiggett says a draft of the strategic plan will be written, and the final plan will be presented to St. Clair Township council on June 23 and to the community on June 26.

MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 8

Community fun fair in Corunna

A community fun fair is planned for Parkway Pentecostal Church, 551 Murray Road on Saturday, June 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature the Brian Smith Band plus inflatable rides, rock climbing, face painting, children's crafts, a toddler area, prize draw, food, beverages and much more. Bring a lawn chair to this free event. For more details call 519-862-3380 or go online to www.parkway-church.com.

Tenors concert benefits United Way

The United-Way of Sarnia-Lambton will present the Nordic Tenors and guest sopranos in concert at Grace United Church, 990 Cathcart Boulevard in Sarnia on Thursday, June 26 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person and are available at the United Way office at 250 N. Christina Street, Unit G, in Sarnia. For more information call 519-336-5452, ext. 0.

Golf tourney benefits Autism Ontario

The 2008 Golf for Autism tournament in support of Autism Ontario Sarnia-Lambton, sponsored by

StarTek, will be held on Friday, July 18 at Greenwood Golf Course. Registration and a Harvey's barbecue lunch starts at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start beginning at 12:30 p.m. The event will end with a reception, barbecue steak dinner and presentations, with an extensive prize table. For more information call 519-332-0333, e-mail admin@sarniaautism.com, or go online to www.sarniaautism.com.

Captain Kidd returns

The annual Captain Kidd Days return to Corunna on Friday, August 1 and Saturday, August 2 at the Corunna Athletic Park. The event always features a parade and plenty of family fun.

Port Lambton celebrates Gala Days

Port Lambton Gala Days are set for McDonald Park on Friday, August 1 to Sunday, August 3. Athletic competitions, music, food and family activities will be featured.

CCPC meets monthly

The Corunna Community Policing Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month. For more information, go online to www.corunnapolicing.ca.

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Brigden barrel blast

There'll be lots of horsing around at the Brigden fairgrounds on Saturday, June 7 and Sunday, June 8 as the Brigden Barrel Blast comes to town. This exciting, fast-paced family-oriented event will feature great barrel horse classes, horse-related vendors and food booths. Spectators are asked to bring a canned good for the Inn of the Good Shepherd and local food banks in lieu of admission. For more information, go online to www.brigdenfair.ca or call the fair office at 519-864-1197.

Church to hold trunk/yard sale

A trunk/yard sale will be held at St. Andrew's Church at the corner of Moore and Colborne Streets in Corunna on Saturday, June 7 in conjunction with the Corunna Firemen's Field Day. Spaces are available and refreshments will also be available beginning at 8 a.m. until noon. To reserve your table for \$10 call 519-862-2307 or 519-862-5349.

Roast beef dinner and dance

A roast beef dinner and a dance featuring the *Barn Burners* will be held in conjunction with the Brigden Barrel Blast on Saturday, June 7 at the Brigden Fair exhibition hall. Dinner will be served between 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. and the dance will be from 8 p.m. to midnight. A cash bar will be available. Adult admission is \$15 and \$10 for children under 13. Tickets should be purchased in advance from the fair office at 519-864-1197. For more information, go online to www.brigdenfair.ca.

River trail dedication planned

The Joe Dedecker link of the St. Clair River Trail will be dedicated at Branton-Cundick Park just north of Sombra on Saturday, June 7 at 10:30 a.m. The public is welcome to attend. Following the proceedings, a piper will lead a procession to the Sombra Athletic Field where the newly installed splash pad will be officially opened.

Splash pad grand opening set

The grand opening of the new Sombra splash pad in the Sombra Athletic Field will be celebrated on Saturday, June 7 at noon following the river trail dedication ceremony (see above.) The Sombra Sports and Recreation Association will host a free pork barbecue at 3 p.m. This event will feature family fun, food and prizes.

Firefighter's field day

The Corunna station of the St. Clair Fire Department will host the annual Firefighter's Field Days on

June 6 and 7. The event features a parade, demonstrations and an evening dance, and everyone is invited.

Brigden Pull & Shine

The annual Brigden Pull & Shine is set for June 6 and 7 at the Brigden Fairgrounds.

Decoration day service in Sombra

A decoration day and memorial service will be held at Sombra Riverside Cemetery on Sunday, June 8 at 2 p.m. Those attending are reminded to bring a lawn chair.

Stable holds open house

Rokeby Stables will hold a free public open house on Saturday, June 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1779 Rokeby Line in Mooretown. Horsemanship demonstrations in dressage, jumping and vaulting will be featured, along with a barbecue, beverages and children's activities.

Heritage Festival at Moore Museum

The Moore Museum will host its first annual Heritage Festival the afternoon of Sunday, June 15. This event will feature glimpses of pioneer life through demonstrations and enjoyable hands-on activities. For more information call the museum at 519-867-2020.

Sportsman's display at Sombra Museum

This Father's Day (June 15), why not bring Dad or Granddad to the Sombra Museum to view a display called *Artful Deception*, which features working duck and geese decoys, fishing lures, traps and even an old duck boat. The museum building is an authentic 1881 Victorian home with eight furnished rooms, a marine room, an agricultural and technology room, and a reference/research room. Outside the museum is a log cabin dating back to 1830 which embodies the lifestyle and spirit of the early Sombra pioneers. The museum will be open in June and September from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. daily, and in July and August from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for children and students. For more information call 519-892-3982.

Chicken bbq & auction

Burns-Mooreline United Church will host a chicken barbecue and silent auction at the Community of Christ Church, 2390 LaSalle Line (intersection of LaSalle Line and Brigden Road) on Friday, June 20 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The meal will feature 1/2 chicken, coleslaw, potato, beans, roll and dessert. Advance tickets only. Take-out is available with advance tickets. For more information call 519-337-6885 or 519-383-0400.

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