



THE BEACON

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New Emergency Services Building enhances community safety



OPP Cst. John Reurink and St. Clair Township Fire Department Deputy Chief Tom Boon in the emergency command centre. *Photo by Bonnie Stevenson*

The newly-opened Emergency Services Building, located in Corunna at the corner of Lyndoch and Hill Streets, will facilitate a new level of community safety.

The building currently houses OPP offices and personnel assigned to the St. Clair Township area and the St. Clair Township Fire Department administrative offices, but it's much more than just an office building.

The facility houses several suspect holding cells, including one built specifically for young offenders. This enclosed cell helps preserve the young suspect's identity. According to OPP Cst. John Reurink, the cells

are fitted with the latest in security features, including light fixtures that cannot be broken and toilets that cannot be flushed by the suspects. After an arrest, suspects can be processed with photographs and fingerprinting done on-site, and an Intoxilyzer unit can be used to gather complete data on suspects who are believed to be impaired. Security cameras monitor all areas of the facility, including interview rooms and holding cells.

A room specifically used for housing evidence is carefully monitored by a single officer, the property con-

See Centralized, page 3

INSIDE

Council Notes.....	2
Council Diary.....	2
Community Policing.....	3
Around the Township.....	4

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.



Traffic flow on Hill Street addressed

Several items of importance are currently being considered by council.

One is of special interest to motorists who frequently use Hill Street to access Highway 40. Since Hill Street is a county road, council will be approaching Lambton County to widen the street from Polymoore Drive to Highway 40, allowing traffic flow from the industrial park to flow more efficiently. In addition, council will ask that a bicycle lane be added.

Council is also in discussions to ensure, through the County Road Process, that the southern section of Plank Road be kept as a priority road to have up-loaded to the county system for designation consistency.

A recent presentation to council concerned the status of the decommissioning project at the Sarnia Dow site, the various holdings in St. Clair Township, on-

going work at the Dow landfill in St. Clair Township, and additional improvements being made to the Dow Wetlands along LaSalle Line. Council requested that the Dow representatives provide information on the total tonnage being land-filled, as well as proof that the material being land-filled is non-hazardous material in accordance with the Ministry of the Environment certificate issued for the site.

Council received an update on the status of the Envirofresh project (greenhouses) north of Sombra. The project is on track and a November planting is expected.

In light of the current economic situation, council endorsed in principle the *Buy Canadian Strategy* as requested by the Sarnia and District Labour Council. The strategy stresses the importance of buying Canadian-made products,

thereby maintaining and increasing Canadian jobs and supporting Canadian workers and their families.

The fate of the Brigden Canada Post office was the subject of correspondence from Canada Post. A recent meeting was held with Brigden area business owners in hope that someone will take over the office from the present owners by the end of summer.

Council also discussed fundraising efforts by local teens Ryan Wilson and Kaitlynn Anderson. Ryan's recent golf tournament to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society was a great success and Kaitlynn's ongoing efforts to raise money in support of the Dawello School Water Project continues to gain community attention and support. Council expressed pride in their initiative and willingness to show leadership within the community.

COUNCIL DIARY

Support for summer fundraisers strengthens our community

The author of this month's Council Diary is Councillor Steve Miller. Watch this column each month for insights straight from the St. Clair Township council chambers.

Well, folks, welcome to summer. With the coming of summer comes many activities, some are irritating and inconvenient, such as road construct, but many are much more enjoyable.

The many small communities within the borders of our large township provide almost continuous entertainment throughout the summer. We have everything from strawberry and blueberry socials to field days, parades, car shows, and outdoor dances. All of these are fundraisers for various organizations within St. Clair Township. Most, if not all of the money raised, is used for the youth of our communities. Having been involved for many years in some of these functions, I know how much time and effort is involved in putting these events on, and I also know

the satisfaction of a successful conclusion. When I see events such as the Sarnia Highland Games being cancelled due to a lack of support, I realize how vulnerable these functions are and how important it is for us to support our communities.

Many of the attractions we enjoy in this township were provided by money raised by our local community groups. Although council provides as much money as it can to improve our parks, museums, etc., we rely on the efforts of our local organizations and volunteers to continue to make our township the unique community it is.

I'm very proud of St. Clair Township and I encourage you to support your local organizations. Help them succeed in their endeavours to improve this township and to support our youth. I'm sure you will enjoy the activities you attend. Have a great summer!

Council meeting schedule

The summer meeting schedule is now in effect. Council meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on **Monday, July 20; Monday, August 24; and Tuesday, September 8.** Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021.

Road closure

The St. Clair Parkway at Hold Line south of Sombra Village will be closed for culvert replacement starting the week of July 6. The construction is estimated to be completed within seven to 10 work days. Detour routes will be posted.

Thank you for your patience.

Centralized emergency services facility enhances community safety

trol manager. This ensures that the chain of evidence is maintained, a critical factor when it comes time for the evidence to be used during the prosecution of a suspect.

A new addition to the building accommodates a "sally port," a drive-through garage where suspects can be transferred to and from vehicles in a secure environment. The sally port also houses a washing facility where suspects who have been pepper-sprayed can be decontaminated.

Officers now have access to computers for filing reports, plus a proper men's and women's locker room, and a small kitchenette.

The St. Clair Township Fire Department also has an expanded office that includes a dedicated training facility, which is shared by the OPP, and a room

that functions as an emergency command centre. The command centre is tied into emergency radio frequencies and is equipped with maps and other items necessary to efficiently handle emergencies ranging from natural disasters, such as tornadoes, and industrial releases to serious law enforcement matters.

In the event of a complete power outage, the entire building can be supplied with power using the 600 watt diesel-powered back-up generator. Tom Boon, deputy chief of the St. Clair Township Fire Department, says the generator kicks in automatically if the outage lasts for more than about six seconds.

The design of the new building features many "green" elements such as energy-efficient lights, many of which employ motion sensors to activate only



OPP Cst. John Reurink in holding cell area.

when a room or area is in use. A gas-fired boiler provides heating for the building.

There are also spare rooms in the building that will be used by community groups requiring meeting or activity space.

Mayor Steve Arnold says the new facility is beneficial on several levels. "This renovated building allows us to have a larger, more comprehensive forum of interaction between our police and fire services," he said. "We have a permanent emergency operations centre for our township, a mid-sized training/community room, and we've freed up much-needed space in the existing township office, as well as giving new life to a building that has been one of the cornerstones of our community."

A public open house is planned for the new Emergency Services Building once all outstanding work is finished.

Summer fun awaits at local library

Summertime fun is as close as your local Lambton County Library branch.

The annual summer reading program for children up to the age of 12 has the theme, *Agent 009*. The intrepid agent encourages participants to read, read, read!

Students can pick up a reading passport from their local library to record their personal weekly reading goals and help their library adopt an owl from the World Wildlife Fund. Participation prizes will include stickers, pencils, temporary tattoos and bookmarks.

Two other programs, *Eyeball Benders* for tweens aged nine through 12, and

the *Teen Survivor Program* for teens aged 12 through 18, will also be offered. Visit www.lclmg.org for further information.

And the Sombra library branch will host the Canadian Raptor Conservancy's *Birds of Prey* show on **July 14** at 10 a.m.

For more information about these and other programs, including the Tales for Tots drop-in program, call your local library at: **Brigden** - 519-864-1142; **Corunna** - 519-862-1132; **Courtright** - 519-867-2712; **Mooretown** - 519-867-2823; **Port Lambton** - 519-677-5217; **Sombra** - 519-892-3711; **Wilkesport** - 519-864-4000.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Exercise caution when shopping on-line

Scam artists are still as busy as ever on the Internet. A Lambton County resident barely avoided being scammed out of a considerable amount of money after finding a 2006 Volkswagen Jetta on a legitimate online auto sales Website, according to a report from the Lambton OPP.

It is alleged that the purchaser believed the on-line classified was legitimate and forwarded \$4,900 through E-bay. Shortly after that, a third party e-mail was sent to the purchaser from a site known as trading-assistants@financier.com. The

sender indicated that all agents with E-bay were busy with other transactions and that an outside agent had been sub-contracted to complete the transaction. It required that the purchaser send an additional \$4,900 in British pounds or Euros to the agent. The understanding was that the initial monies would be returned to the buyer once the vehicle was delivered.

Fortunately, the buyer successfully cancelled the original transaction. Residents are urged to exercise caution when dealing with on-line transactions of any type.

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Lawn concert slated

The Sombra Museum will hold its annual lawn concert on Sunday, July 5 at 7 p.m. Country music will fill the air and guests are invited to bring lawn chairs.

Outdoor bingo in Brigden

Outdoor bingos will be held at the Brigden fairgrounds on Wednesdays, July 15, 22, and 29. Play from the comfort of your vehicle or at the outdoor picnic tables. For more information, go online to www.brigdenfair.ca.

Alzheimer Memory golf tournament

A golf tournament to benefit the Alzheimer Society of Samia-Lambton will be held at the Bonnie Doon Golf and Country Club on Friday, July 10. Call the Alzheimer Society office at 519-332-4444 or e-mail sfox@alzheimer.samia.com for more information.

Barbecue benefits splash pad

A barbecue, sponsored by the Optimist Club of Moore, will be held on July 24 at the Southwest Credit Union office on Lyn-doch Street in Corunna. All proceeds will benefit the new Co-runna splash pad.

Port Lambton Gala Days

The annual Gala Days festivities in Port Lambton is set for July 31 to Aug. 2. A parade is slated for Saturday morning at 11 a.m. and the main site of the event will be McDonald Park. In addition to baseball and volleyball tournaments, there will be games for the children, a penny table, a licensed beer tent, lots of good food and entertainment. A dance is slated for Friday night and those attending must be at least 19 years of age. Lots of summertime family fun awaits at Gala Days!

Blueberry Social in Sombra

The annual Sombra village Blueberry Social is set for Sunday, Aug. 9. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Sombra Museum will offer a historical wagon tour of the village as well as assorted delicious blueberry desserts with refreshments. The cost is a free will donation.

Garage sale at Brigden United

The congregation of Brigden United Church will host their annual garage sale on Saturday, Aug. 15. The sale will be held in conjunction with other fun activities that are planned for Brigden on that day. Anyone with items to donate to the sale can contact

Connie at 519-864-1747 or Janet at bkedgar@xcelco.on.ca. Come early and get in on all the great bargains!

St. Andrew's hosts pirate adventure

The *Veggie Tales Pirate Adventure* will take place in Co-runna at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Aug. 17 to 21 from 8:45 p.m. to noon daily. To register, call 519-862-3641 or 862-2307.

Teddy Bear Picnic set

The Sombra Museum will hold the 3rd Annual Teddy Bear Picnic on Friday, Aug. 21 at 11 a.m. Children are invited to bring their teddy bears to this free event. There will be prizes awarded and games and refreshments will round out this happy summer event.

Downriver Craft Sale planned

It's never too early to plan a day out at a great craft sale. Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, Sept. 20 so that you can attend the Downriver Craft Sale at the Moore Museum in Mooretown. Vendors can still reserve their place at the sale by calling the museum at 519-867-2020.

Club welcomes new members

The Courtright Friendship Club, 1533 4th Street, invites seniors to play euchre each Wednesday at 1 p.m. at a cost of only \$2.50. And Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m., come out to play Pepper, \$2 per session. For more information, call 519-862-3625.

Teen volunteers sought

High school students can accumulate volunteer hours with the Brigden Horticultural Society by helping weed flower beds in Brigden this season. Call Barb at 519-864-4963, Rae at 519-864-1676, or Rose at 519-864-4095.

Brigden Fair volunteers sought

The Moore Agricultural Society/Brigden Fair is looking for volunteers to assist with the Brigden Fair on Thanksgiving Weekend and throughout the year. Anyone interested in joining a committee or volunteering, or anyone who would like more information on the various volunteer positions available, can contact the fair office at 519-864-1197 or visit the Website at www.brigdenfair.ca. **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS! Complete your community volunteer hour by volunteering at the Brigden fairgrounds.**

River recovery showing remarkable progress

Positive progress in the overall environmental health of the St. Clair River was part of the agenda as the Public Advisory Council (PACs) met in Sarnia recently. The group has worked for over 20 years to improve the environmental health of the Detroit, St. Mary's and St. Clair Rivers.

Darrell Randell, president of the Friends of

the St. Clair River and St. Clair Township councillor, says progress on the St. Clair is remarkable. "The St. Clair River remediation is much farther along than the other two international boundary rivers," he said. "My hope is that the St. Clair River's label as a toxic hot spot in the Great Lakes will be changed to being *in recovery*."