



THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP BEACON

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Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

Fair ambassador chosen

The Brigden Fair is right around the corner and, in preparation for its annual Thanksgiving weekend visit, a new fair ambassador and her court were recently chosen.

Katie Roegiest, center, along with her court, Annie Smith, left, and first runner-up Caitlyn O'Meara, will be at the fair helping with events and lending a hand where needed.

Katie, is a graduate of LCCVI in Petrolia and is currently attending Lambton College in the Instrumentation and Control Engineering Technology program.

For more information about this year's Brigden Fair, see page 4.

Yard fires could result in fine - know the by-laws!

Looking at the piles of leaves and garden debris that come with autumn, some property owners may be tempted to set a yard fire to take care of the mess. But be warned - there is a by-law against such fires and lighting one can result in a hefty fine.

Fire Chief Roy Dewhirst of the St. Clair Township Fire Department says the only open fires permitted are camp fires less than one metre in diameter that are used for cooking and heating. All other fires are banned, especially fires that may be a nuisance to neighbours, and the fire department can be called out to extinguish

them. "The first time is a warning, but the second time, they can be charged under the by-law," said Chief Dewhirst. He added bonfires are not needed to handle yard waste. "That's why we have yard waste pickup."

Fall yard waste collection (grass, leaves, garden plants, hedge trimmings and twigs only) begins on Wednesday, Oct. 14 and Friday, Oct. 16 and continue until Wednesday, Nov. 18 and Friday, Nov. 20. For more information about yard waste collection in your area, call the St. Clair Township Public Works Department at 519-867-2125.

Capital budget presentation

The St. Clair Township 2009 capital budget presentation and deliberation meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 5 p.m. in the council chambers at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre on Emily Street in Mooretown.

This meeting is open to the public and all ratepayers are welcome to attend.

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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.



Foundation grant benefits Sombra Museum

The Sombra Museum received funding for a floor restoration project thanks to a grant from the Moore Community and Recreational Foundation. The foundation was started in 1990 by

the Moore Township council under Reeve Charles Nisbet and its mandate is to strengthen the community. Foundation chair Jane Marsh presented a cheque for \$2,000 to the museum during the Sept. 21 meeting of council.

Tournament funds siren

Council was informed that a recent golf tournament held at the St. Clair Parkway Golf course raised \$15,000 for St. Clair Township. The tourney, prompted by a suggestion by Enbridge, was overseen by St. Clair Township volunteer firefighters and it is hoped this will become an annual event.

The money raised will be used to assist in the financing of the construction of an emergency warning siren in the Mooretown area.

Council meeting schedule

St. Clair Township council meets every first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. However, this month, meetings are slated for Monday, Oct. 5 and Tuesday, Oct. 20 (following a Committee of the Whole meeting.) Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021.



The cheque presentation was attended by St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold, left; Jane Marsh, chair of the Moore Community and Recreational Foundation; Sombra Museum curator Shelley Lucier; and Charles Grant, Sombra Museum board chairman.

Hunting licenses available

St. Clair Township small game hunting licenses will go on sale Tuesday, Oct. 13 at the following locations: Pic-N-Pay in Sombra; Courtright Variety Store; Corunna Home Hardware; Agris Co-operative Ltd. in Brigden; and the St. Clair Civic Centre on Emily Street in Mooretown.

The fee will be \$5 for residents and \$8 for non-residents. Applicants must apply in person and multiple licenses will not be issued.

John De Mars
Director of Administration
Clerk, Deputy CAO

More funding for seawall remediation

The Guthrie Park shoreline remediation project has received another financial boost thanks to an investment of \$250,000 under the Community Adjustment Fund (CAF) in southern Ontario. The funding was awarded as the result of an application made by St. Clair Township to the FedDev Ontario program, a new economic development agency set up to serve southern Ontario.

During a ceremony held Sept. 1 at Guthrie Park, Sarnia-Lambton MP Pat Davidson noted the FedDev Ontario program “will position the region for long-term sustainable development.”

The Guthrie Park seawall, 700 metres of shore protection, is 40 years old and failing. About one-third of the wall has already been cleared of toxic materials and replaced with a more robust rock revetment. The next phase will be the clean-up and replacement of a 230-metre stretch of seawall running south from Talfourd Creek.

This will leave a 180 metre length of seawall to be done, but MP Davidson

says the township will be able to apply for more funding through FedDev during a second intake at the end of 2009.

During her comments, MP Davidson applauded the work of St. Clair Township and the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) for working towards the betterment of the environment.

The CAF funding is about one-third the total cost of the estimated \$715,000 project. St. Clair Township and SCRCA will each contribute \$212,000 and it is hoped the remainder will be obtained with a grant from the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund.



On hand for the funding announcement were: St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold, left; Sarnia-Lambton MP Pat Davidson; SCRCA Chair Norm Giffen; Deputy Mayor Peter Gilliland.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ryan Duffy of the St. Clair Township Public Works Department on achieving second place at the provincial level of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors Annual Truck Safety Rodeo held in early September. Ryan placed first at the Lambton County level in May and represented this area at the provincial level against a field of 18 competitors.

COUNCIL DIARY

Project list being considered for 2010

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

It's capital budget time again.

It's hard to believe a year has slipped by, but it's time for council and staff to prioritize a number of projects. We have to come up with this year's list of the projects that must be done as well as the projects we would have liked to do earlier but ran out of the funding we needed to do them.

We've been able to expand our list in the past few years due to the grants the township has received from the provincial and federal governments. We have also been fortunate to partner with the St. Clair Conservation Authority, sharing the cost of several projects such as the Guthrie Park shoreline project.

Here's an example of a large project we keep working away at. In our township, there are waterlines that "dead end." These lines need to be flushed on a regular basis to maintain the proper chlorine levels. Every year, council tries to include "looping" some of these lines in our project list. To loop a line, we need to extend the

dead-ended water lines in order to join them to other lines. This allows the water to circulate more efficiently and eliminates the necessity for time-consuming flushing. This also provides a more stable water source. If a line breaks or needs to be repaired, homes and businesses along that line do not experience an interruption in their water supply. It is little-known projects such as this that make a big difference to so many of our residents.

And on a community note, its once again time to remember Operation Christmas Tree and the other local programs that brighten the lives of those in need. It has been a difficult year for many of our friends, families and neighbours - the financial downturn and resulting job losses have left many people wondering how they will pay their bills. Last year, Operation Christmas Tree alone helped over 110 families (over 350 people) enjoy the holidays, and programs such as this will be challenged to help even more people this year. Let's show our community spirit and offer any support we possibly can to help out.

Here's what's happening at this year's Brigden Fair

The Brigden Fair is one of the biggest and best fall fairs in Ontario and it's coming up on Oct. 9 through 12. Here's just a taste of what you'll find.

As always, the exhibition buildings will be open at 9 a.m., the midway will open daily at 10 a.m. and helicopter rides will be available all weekend.

Friday, Oct. 9: In the morning, local school children will enjoy their *Agriculture In The Classroom* experience and the fair will be officially opened at 11:30 a.m. Musician/magician Paul French will entertain at 11 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. and, at 2 p.m., enjoy *Pickin' 'N Fiddlin' at the Fair*. The crowd-pleasing *Edge Motorbikes Teaser Show* goes on at 5:30 p.m. and the *Movie-On-The-Lawn* will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 10: The livestock shows and demonstrations get underway and the fair parade will wind through the fairgrounds at noon. Youngsters will enjoy the *Splash 'N Boots* shows at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. and everyone will swing and sway as the *IH Farmall Tractor Square Dance Set* entertains at 2 p.m. *The Edge Motorbikes Teaser Show* goes air-borne at 11:30 a.m. and the *Edge Big Air Insanity Show* is set to thrill at 5 p.m. Also entertaining throughout the day are fiddler *Christine Storey and Friends* at 12:45 p.m., the *Steppin' Up Dance Club* at 3 p.m., and the *Satiniques* at 2

p.m. and 3:30 p.m. And the unequalled mix of beauty and power will be on display during the heavy horse pull at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 11: In addition to livestock shows and demonstrations, get ready to "ooh and aah" at the *Baby Show* at 11 a.m. or take in the *Edge Motorbike Teaser Show* at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m., or its *Big Air Insanity Show* at 3 p.m. *Splash 'N Boots* will entertain at 12:15 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. *Champion step dancer Sandra Cox* will join fiddlers *Greg Henry and Chuck Joyce* for a show at 1 p.m. and the *Irish School of Dance* will entertain at 2:10 p.m. And at 3 p.m., don't miss *Joan Spalding and Friends*.

Monday, Oct. 12: Livestock shows continue, with a beef, hog and lamb auction scheduled for 11 a.m. *Splash 'N Boots* performs again at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., and the younger set will also be able to attend a *Meet-and-Greet with DORA and Diego* at noon and 3 p.m. For some fast-paced motorized action, why not check out the lawn-mower races at noon. Entertainers for the day include: the *Pierce Family Band* at 11:30 a.m.; *The Fleet* (champion fiddlers Kyle and Jake Charron and step dance champion Sarah Robinson) at 1:15 p.m. and 3:10 p.m.; and the *Neufeld School of Highland Dance* at 2:30 p.m.

For more information about the fair, go online to www.brigdenfair.ca.

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Corunna Legion plans tournaments

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch will hold several tournaments over the next few months. On Sunday, **Oct. 4** at 1 p.m., everyone is invited to enjoy an open euchre tournament. On Saturday, **Nov. 14** at 12:30 p.m., Al Hugh's memorial tournament, a men's open dart tourney, will be held. On Sunday, **Nov. 22** at 1 p.m., the Florence and Harold Johnson memorial crib tournament will be held. And on Sunday, **Dec. 6** at 1 p.m., enjoy an open euchre tournament.

Fun darts sessions begin

Fun darts will be played at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hall beginning on Friday, Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome and no experience is necessary.

50th anniversary celebration set

Port Lambton Sacred Heart Catholic School is celebrating 50 years of faith, family, learning and community. A celebration is planned for Sunday, Oct. 11 with a mass at 9 a.m. for former and current students. Following mass at Sacred Heart Church, everyone is invited to tour the school, enjoy displays of memorabilia, and take part in a brief official ceremony slated for 11 a.m. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 519-677-5924.

New curlers sought

The Riverview Mixing Curling League is looking for curlers to come out and enjoy an evening of exercise and fun. The league meets every Thursday evening from November through March at the Heritage Heights Golf and Curling Club in Petrolia. Information nights will be held at the club at 4300 Garden Crescent on Oct. 12 and 13 at 7 p.m. For more information call 519-542-6102.

Pickrel dinner & dance at Legion

A pickrel dinner and dance/jam session will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hall on Saturday, Oct. 17, with dinner beginning at 6 p.m. Limited tickets will be sold in advance at the Legion hall for \$16 per person and everyone is welcome.

IODE fashion show coming

Check out the latest fashions as the Hon. Bryan Cathcart Chapter IODE hosts its annual fall fashion show on Wednesday, Oct. 28. The event will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hall and the event gets underway at 7:30 p.m. when a selection of desserts will be served. Tickets for the show and 50/50 draw tickets are available from any chapter member or by calling 519-862-1769.

Jam session at Legion

An open jam session will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hall on Saturday, Oct. 31 at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend, either to play or just to listen to some great local talent.

Pork dinner at Brigden United

The annual fall pork dinner will be served at Brigden United Church on Sunday, Nov. 1 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tickets, \$12 for adults and \$5 for children ages six to 12, are by advance sale only. They can be obtained by calling 519-864-4016 or 519-864-1747.

Event will benefit water project

A dinner and auction in support of the Dawello School Water Project will be held at the Brigden fairgrounds on Friday, Nov. 6 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Gary Pluim, executive director of WaterCan. For more information, call 519-864-1161 or 519-402-1327.

Christmas open house in Sombra

The Sombra Museum will host its Christmas open house on Saturday, Nov. 14 and Sunday, Nov. 15. It will feature a quilt show and guest speaker Ruth Dudley, who will talk about underground railway quilts. For more information, call 519-892-3982.

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.

Historic farms book available

The Sombra Museum now has copies of *Family Farms of Lambton County*, which includes three family farms from the former Sombra Township and three from the former Moore Township. A total of 24 farms are featured. For details, call the museum at 519-892-3982, Glenda at 519-892-3326 or Dean at 519-332-8260.

Beautiful communities applauded



Over the summer months, *The Beacon* has received several e-mail letters applauding the work of the many dedicated volunteers who help keep St. Clair Township communities beautiful in the summertime. The summer was less than ideal this year and the community gardens and planters added a much-needed cheerful note to streets and public spaces. Well done, volunteers! Here's proof that your beautification efforts have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated.