



# THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP BEACON

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## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

*from your St. Clair Township Council and Staff*



### Olympic torch to make appearance in Corunna

The 2010 Olympic Winter Games will take place far from St. Clair Township, but its iconic symbol will be traveling through the township on Christmas Eve.

Three local residents will be carrying the torch during the local leg of the torch run, which is anticipated to take place just before 10 a.m. on Dec. 24. The public is invited to be at the clock tower park in Corunna to witness the torch's arrival, and there will be refreshments provided for all those who brave the winter weather to show their Olympic spirit.

In preparation for this event, Mayor Steve Arnold and the designated torch bearers will visit local schools to hand out *torch wavers* which have been provided by local industries and St. Clair Township as mementos of the occasion. These *wavers* will also be available at the clock tower prior to the arrival of the Olympic torch caravan on Dec. 24.

Event organizers are hoping that all township residents will be on hand to enjoy this grand prelude to the 2010 winter Olympics.

### Change may save OPGs Lambton Generating Station

By Bonnie Stevenson

A long-time corporate resident of St. Clair Township may survive into the future if environmental changes can be effected to insure its survival.

Ontario Power Generation's Lambton Generating Station south of Courtright was originally slated for closure under a provincial government mandate to phase out coal-fired power plants by 2014. However, Lambton's fall 2009 newsletter, *Neighbours*, recently carried the news that Lambton's units three and four will remain in service while units one and two will be placed in a permanent safe shutdown state. According to Steve Repergel, the station's corporate relations officer, the shutdown will necessitate a reduction in staffing levels. "We

anticipate a reduction in staff of about 102 employees," he said. However, these employees will be given options. Mr. Repergel says many will be placed elsewhere in non-nuclear generation facilities while others may opt to accept appropriate severance packages.

Lambton's community presence has always included community involvement in fundraising efforts like the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life, the annual United Way of Samia-Lambton campaign and many other local initiatives. Mr. Repergel says the station's employees will remain actively involved in efforts that benefit the community. In addition, the biodiversity preservation initiative which occupies a large area of land behind

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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](mailto: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.**



## Parcels of riverside land not for sale

From time to time, some property owners along the St. Clair Parkway make inquiries about purchasing small parcels of river shoreline property across the parkway from their home. These small parcels of land were transferred to the township by the former St. Clair Parkway Commission with the approval of the provincial government subject to restrictions that they would be retained in public ownership as park lands or for other specific public uses.

Council directed staff to contact the Ministry of Tourism, the provincial body responsible for the matter, to see if the land could be sold, since some of the land in question is already being cared for by the adjacent property owners.

In a letter to the township from John Ota, manager of the provincial Tourism Agencies Branch, permission to sell the land was denied. Mr. Ota pointed out that the ministry would require a strong and compelling busi-

ness case for any such sales.

### Council meeting schedule

St. Clair Township council meets every first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. However, November meetings Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021.

### Licences on sale

St. Clair Township small game hunting licenses are on sale at the following locations: Pic-N-Pay in Sombra; Courtright Variety Store; Corunna Home Hardware; Agris Co-operative Ltd. in Bridgen; 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

## Optimists present cheque to township

The Optimist Club of Moore recently presented council with a cheque for \$40,000, half of the \$80,000 council advanced to the club for its Corunna splash pad project. The club continues to fundraise so that the balance can be paid back. Anyone wishing to contribute to this effort can make their cheque payable to St. Clair Township - Splash Pad Project and send it to: Optimist Club of Moore, P.O. Box 1469, Corunna, Ontario, N0N 1G0. Here, Moore



Optimist Club President Fred Strickland presents the cheque to Mayor Steve Arnold.

## Alternate fuels hold key to Lambton's survival

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the station will continue. Mr. Repergel notes it's still at the forefront and he anticipates the project will be maintained and sustained into the future.

But what of Lambton's future as a power generation facility? The possibility of converting the station to an alternative fuel source like natural gas or biomass is being seriously considered, according to Mr. Repergel. Biomass is the energy stored in renewable organic materials like wood, vegetable oil and wastes from agriculture, forest, and industrial sources. When burning biomass, the amount of carbon dioxide released during combustion is equal to the amount absorbed by a

plant while it is growing, so it is said to be *carbon-neutral*. It is even possible to outfit a co-fire station to burn both fuels simultaneously.

Mr. Repergel says two preliminary tests using biomass have already been carried out at Lambton. This is in addition to biomass testing that has been carried out at OPG's Atikokan and Nanticoke Generating Stations over the past three years.

Hopes are high that Lambton will have a future beyond 2014, but Mr. Repergel says there is much to be done before the station's transformation can take place. "We've still got a long, long way to go," he said. "We still have a lot of evaluations to do before we retrofit."

### Winter parking reminder

St. Clair Township road crews will soon be out keeping township streets and roads clear of ice and snow. To allow road crews to do their jobs efficiently and safely, motorists are reminded that there is **no overnight parking on streets in all areas of the township from Dec. 1 to April 1.**

**Motorists who violate this by-law will be fined.**

## COUNCIL DIARY

# Funding promotes township growth

*The author of this month's Council Diary is Deputy Mayor Peter Gilliland. Watch this column each month for insights straight from the St. Clair Township council chambers.*

December is a wonderful time to reflect on the nice autumn we've had and the lengthened golf season, and to look forward to the Christmas season. It's a special time for all to enjoy time with family and to renew friendships.

It's also a time to express appreciation for the efforts of the many volunteers who are working to collect and distribute food and gifts for the less fortunate families in our community. It is remarkable and amazing to witness the coordination of many charitable organizations and service groups bonding in this effort, including the Optimist Club of Sombra, Optimist Club of Moore, the Royal Canadian Legion, Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent DePaul, Scouts, Ontario Provincial Police, St. Clair Township Fire Department, and many groups from local churches and schools.

I would also like to acknowledge the St. Clair Township council and staff for the many ways they identify growth opportunities and help us take advantage of the

current stimulus funding from senior government. This stimulus funding is meant to create jobs.

One of the largest projects currently underway is the Regional Waste Water Treatment facility. The federal and provincial governments have contributed two-thirds of the funding for this extremely important and expensive project, and the facility will meet our requirements for the next 50 years plus. It will help St. Clair Township grow.

The funding that has been forthcoming this year has facilitated many infrastructure improvement projects such as the Guthrie Park shoreline restoration, improvements to many streets, curbs, storm sewers and sidewalks throughout the township, and improvements to the Moore Sports Complex and the St. Clair River Trail. Much has been done, but there is much more to do.

I would also like to recognize Bonnie Stevenson for helping us to communicate with the residents of St. Clair Township through her tireless efforts in publishing the *St. Clair Township Beacon*. Thanks so much!

*On behalf of your St. Clair Township Council, best wishes to all this Christmas season and Happy New Year.*

## Corunna chosen for youth pilot project

Corunna has been chosen as the sight of a pilot project that will help local children who are being bullied or persecuted, or feel unsafe or frightened.

The program, Harmony Haven, is an initiative of Harmony for Youth, a local charity for youth based in Sarnia-Lambton. Harmony promotes self-esteem through the arts and is a strong advocate against bullying.

Harmony Haven's mandate is to provide safe havens within communities where individuals can go when needed. Community volunteers are being sought and will be supplied with signs that can be put in residence windows so that children can recognize the house as a safe haven. Each household that hosts a sign will be checked by a police officer and all adults in the residence will undergo a police check.

The project is being sponsored by Libro Financial and the OPP. Since bullying has become such a significant problem, it is hoped the program will get underway as soon as possible. For more information, visit the Harmony for Youth Website at [www.harmonyforyouth.org](http://www.harmonyforyouth.org) and click on *Programs*.

## Rebekah quilt winners announced

Winners of the Sunset Rebekah Lodge 185 Sombra quilt draw were: 1st, Martha Sands; 2nd, Gladys Shipman; 3rd, Pam Thomas. Thanks are extended to everyone who supported this fundraiser.

## Corunna Legion donates



The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 recently donated \$3,000 to the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart (CEE) Hospital Foundation in support of the Pat Mailloux Eye Centre. To date, the branch has donated a total of \$4,500 to the facility. Here, Branch 447 Poppy Fund Treasurer Jim Noyle, left, and Public Relations Officer Don Musson, present the cheque to CEE Foundation Chair Owen Byers and CEE Foundation Fundraising Chair Verne Gekill.

Photo submitted

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## AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

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### Corunna Legion to host events

The Corunna Legion will host a series of events through the month of December. On **Thursday, Dec. 3** at 7 p.m., the branch will host turkey bingos with 25 turkeys up for grabs and three special bingos. There will be lots of door prizes and Jim Noyle will be the caller for the evening. Everyone is welcome and proceeds will be used in support of community efforts. On **Sunday, Dec. 6**, a euchre tournament will be held. Registration is at noon and play begins at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome and a light lunch will be served. And on **Fridays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18**, fun darts will be played in the club room beginning at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

### Celebrate Christmas in Brigden

Brigden United Church will host Christmas celebrations in the form of a brief, lively worship service at 7 p.m. each Thursday evening in December. On Thursday, Dec. 24, cider and carol-singing will begin at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to share this celebration of the Christmas season.

### Corunna OPP OCT drive-thru

The fifth annual Corunna OPP and Corunna Community Policing Committee Operation Christmas Tree donation drive-thru will be held in the parking lot of the new St. Clair Township Emergency Services building at the corner of Lyndoch and Hill Streets on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Donations of non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys will be accepted and Santa will be on hand to greet donors. Don't miss this convenient way to show your Christmas spirit.

### Operation Christmas Tree collection centre

The Operation Christmas Tree distribution/collection centre is open at the former Murray Street school building. Donations of non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys can be dropped off there on weekdays.

### Fundraiser to benefit local food drive

A card-making fundraiser will be held on Sunday, Dec. 6 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 8 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 4296 St. Clair Parkway in Port Lambton. Admission will be one non-perishable food item per card and proceeds will be donated to the south St. Clair Township Christmas hamper program. For more information call Maureen at 519-627-8226.

### Breakfast at the Courtright fire hall

The volunteer firefighters at the St. Clair Township Fire Department's Courtright fire hall will host monthly breakfasts beginning with one on Sunday, Dec. 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$6 per adult, \$3 for children, and no charge for children under five.

### Brigden Legion to host euchre

The Royal Canadian Legion Brigden Branch 635 will host open euchre at 1 p.m. on the last Monday of each month beginning in January. The \$3 admission will include lunch.

The branch hall is open Tuesday through Thursday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Friday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from noon to 7

p.m. For more information call 519-864-1395 during these hours.

### Rebekah Lodge #324 luncheons

The Mayflower Rebekah Lodge #324 will hold luncheons at Thompson Gardens, 198 Beckwith St. in Corunna at noon on the following dates: Jan. 25; Feb. 22; March 22; April 26; and May 17. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### IODE looks ahead to spring

Here's a gift for the gardening enthusiast on your Christmas list. Members of the Hon. Bryan L. Cathcart Chapter IODE of Corunna are already taking orders for geraniums and hanging baskets that will be delivered in May. To order or for more information, call 519-862-5809 or 519-862-1769.

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### Make 2010 your year to volunteer

Non-profit facilities and organizations in St. Clair Township continue to function thanks to the efforts of hundreds of local volunteers. However, there is still work to be done and more volunteers are needed.

For instance, the important work of the Moore and Sombra Museums - the preservation of local history and heritage - depends on the dedication and support of many volunteers. There are always events and programs to staff, displays to assemble and maintain, projects to undertake, and an advisory committee to oversee day-to-day operations.

There are also numerous service clubs whose efforts benefit the community in many different ways. There are sports teams, scouting groups and youth programs that promote healthy social values and give children a positive way to express their energy and their talents.

If you feel like making a positive difference in your community, make 2010 your year to volunteer.

### Sombra church welcomes new pastor

The St. Clair Community Church in Sombra recently welcomed Wendy Beasley to the position of interim Senior Pastor. Wendy brings a wealth of experience to this position and she, along with her husband, Bob, were advisors in the process of establishing the church.

### WaterCan benefit a success

The recent dinner held in Brigden to benefit *WaterCan* was attended by 153 people and raised about \$4,000 to support of the Dawello School Water Project in Africa. The event, hosted by Kaitlyn Anderson and her family, is one of several the young St. Clair Township resident has spearheaded. The overall goal is to reduce by half the number of people living without access to safe water by the year 2015.