



# THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP BEACON

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## *St. Clair Township welcomes Olympic torches*

The Olympic Torch was greeted enthusiastically when it made its appearance in Corunna on Christmas Eve. A large crowd was on hand at the Corunna clock tower part for the event. Mayor Steve Arnold says the day couldn't have been better thanks to the work of many people behind the scene. "We spent many meetings and a lot of time in preparation for the event," he said. "There were so many people who made this such a special, memorable event, with a myriad of volunteers working at traffic control and making hot dogs and hot chocolate. We had the participation of the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 Colour Guard as well as the choir from the Corunna United

Church, who sang carols and led the crowd in the singing of *O, Canada* as the torch made its way up the red carpet to the podium."

Organizers of the event have expressed thanks to the many community volunteers and to the businesses and industries that contributed in a variety of ways. Local sponsors included Shell Canada, Ontario Power Generation, Enbridge, Suncor, Allerion, McKenny Holdings, Terra International, George Weston Bakery and Beddell Foods. National sponsors were Coca Cola and RBC.

Although the outpouring of spirit and support for the Olympic ideal came as no surprise to organizers, it



*Above:* St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold welcomes the Olympic torch bearers as they pass the flame during a ceremony at the Corunna clock tower park. *Right:* A proud moment for Corunna resident Jen Verwey.

*Photos submitted*

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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.**



Detour routes for the upcoming water main repair along LaSalle Line were recently discussed. The water line is leaking and it is currently the only conduit for water into St. Clair Township. The work is expected to take about three weeks and will impact traffic in

## Detour necessary to repair water main

that area. In the future, problems such as this will be avoided because a secondary water supply is being planned. The new line will provide an alternate route for the township water supply and will also boost line pressures on the east side of St. Clair Township.

### Council meeting schedule

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

## Olympic Flame ignites community spirit

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was still a gratifying spectacle for those who worked on the event. Corunna resident Jen Parwey, who carried the torch on part of its Corunna journey, had this to say.

“On behalf of myself and my fellow torchbearers who carried the 2010 Olympic Flame through my hometown of Corunna, I extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude for everyone’s support. Everyone came together as a community to show Canada and the world that St. Clair Township definitely has Olympic spirit! Personally, I would like to thank the entire community for its support over the past several months and weeks leading up to my torch run. It was great to see Olympic Spirit spread

right across the community during visits to township schools and Thompson Gardens in Corunna, and also when interacting with individual residents. My thanks to everyone for making this incredible journey something that I will never forget.”

Another St. Clair Township resident also participated in the torch run, although she was assigned to another area of Ontario. Congratulations to Emily Clancy of Mooretown for being selected.

Mayor Arnold summed up the event by saying, “It was a great time for everyone, especially our young people. Thank you to St. Clair Township for showing true Olympic Spirit and Canadian patriotism. It made us all proud.”

### Public budget meeting set

The St. Clair Township 2010 draft budget presentation and deliberation meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 9 a.m. in the Council Chambers at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre on Emily Street in Mooretown. All ratepayers are welcome to attend this open public meeting.

### Township calendar online

A wealth of information about your municipality can be found in the 2010 St. Clair Township Community Calendar. You can find it on the Web at: [www.twp.stclair.on.ca/calendar201002.htm](http://www.twp.stclair.on.ca/calendar201002.htm).

## St. Clair Township volunteer firefighters receive service awards

Twenty-five volunteer firefighters recently received service awards to mark their time with the St. Clair Township Fire Department. Among the firefighters honoured were, from front left: Kevin Jung, 5 years; Cory Couture, 5 years; Fire Chief Roy Dewhirst; Brad Oliphant, 5 years; Glen Smeltzer, 35 years; Mayor Steve Arnold. Second row: Deputy Fire Chief Tom Boon; Karl Smith, 10 years; Joe Barnes, 15 years; Bill Eagleson, 15 years; Charlie Tulloch, 35 years. Third row (not in exact order): Jeff Dewhirst, 15 years; Chris LeRoux, 5 years; Joe Levan, 10 years; Les Fournie, 40 years; Dave Moran, 30 years; Tom Wheeler, 5



years; Blake Davis, 15 years; Harold Peters, 20 years. Missing from photo are: Wayne MacDonald, 10 years; Doug Babcock, 20 years; Tony Steadman, 20 years; Dave Mills, 5 years; John Ford, 5 years; Greg Dewhirst, 5 years; Anthony Robbins, 10 years; Gary McGee, 30

years; Deputy Chief Steven Bicum, 10 years.

*Thanks to all of the honourees and to all of the volunteer firefighters who help keep the residents of St. Clair Township safe!*

## St. Clair River Trail receives National Trails Coalition grant

In late October, the St. Clair River Trail received a grant of \$88,750 from the National Trails Coalition. This enabled the construction of the on-road section of the trail south of Sombra from Holt Line to the D'Arcy McKeough bridge. The project was completed by contractor BF Environmental, Slim's Bulldozing Construction Company and St. Clair Township.

The National Trails Coalition is a federally incorporated not-for-profit organization that works in partnership with the Government of Canada to assist in trail development.

The remainder of this trail section will be off-road on the east side of the bridge leading north into the Village of Sombra. A second trail section is planned from Wilkesport Line (Branton-Cundick Park) to Cathcart Park for a total distance of 3.59 kilometres. The estimated cost for the two projects is \$395,000. Construction will begin on the remaining sections of trail in the spring of 2010.

"It was a great cooperative effort between all the members of the trail committee and the township, and we appreciate the tremendous effort of our MP Pat Davidson and her staff to make this project a reality,"



Inspecting the new stretch of trail south of Sombra were, from the left: St. Clair River Trail (SCRT) Co-chair Mary Jane Marsh, St. Clair Township CAO John Rodey, SCRT member Rose Atkins, St. Clair Township Deputy Mayor Peter Gilliland, MP Pat Davidson, St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold, BF Environmental Comptroller Patty Wilson, and St. Clair River Trail Co-chair Peter Cassel. Kneeling front left: BF Environmental workers Cam Irwin and Dave Bishop.

said St. Clair River Trail Co-chair Mary Jane Marsh.

MP Pat Davidson added, "We're pleased to be able to contribute to projects like this."

## Private 911 emergency signs causing confusion among residents

A private company known as Address America has been selling new 911 signs in some areas of Lambton County. Residents are advised that the signs being sold **DO NOT** replace the green-and-white reflective sign that has been issued by the county. The county sign **MUST** remain installed in front of every county address.

## Caution urged when encountering ice-covered lakes and rivers

Every year, some people lose their lives because they are careless around ice-covered bodies of water. The Lambton OPP warns that ice does not freeze at a uniform thickness and that those who venture out onto ice-covered lakes and rivers should test ice thickness regularly to make sure it is safe. At least 20 centimetres (eight inches) of ice is required for the safe operation of

snowmobiles and 30 centimetres (12 inches) or more is needed to the operation of most other light vehicles. Double this amount if the ice is white or opaque.

Those who venture onto the ice for recreational purposes are advised to let others know their whereabouts so that an effective search can be mounted if a mishap occurs.

## 2010 municipal election nominations now being accepted

Nominations for the upcoming 2010 municipal election on Oct. 25 are now being accepted until Sept. 10, 2010 at 2 p.m. Nomination papers should be picked up during regular business hours at the St.

Clair Township Civic Centre on Emily Street in Mooretown and returned there when completed. For more information, contact the municipal office at 519-867-2021.

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## AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

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### Sombra hall to host euchre

The Sombra Community Hall will be the scene of a series of euchre parties this winter beginning at 1 p.m. on the following dates: Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, March 4, 12, 19, 26. Prizes and lunch will be part of each event.

### Corunna Legion plans events

The Royal Canadian Legion is planning several events for the month of February. A \$12-per-person steak and shrimp dinner will be held on Friday, Feb. 12 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. An \$8-per-person pork chop dinner will be held Friday, Feb. 26 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Open euchre will be played on Monday, Feb. 22 at noon. The cost of \$3 per person includes a light lunch and prizes. And meat raffles are set for Feb. 6 and Feb. 20 at 3:30 p.m. These events are open to the public. Legion members are reminded that the general meeting will be held on Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 519-864-1395.

### Courtright firefighters to host breakfast

The Courtright volunteer firefighters will host a breakfast at the St. Clair Township Fire Department Courtright station on Sunday, Feb. 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost of \$6 per adult and \$4 per child includes bacon, eggs, sausage, home fries and pancakes. The firefighters have expressed thanks to the public for supporting these monthly breakfasts. Proceeds from these events are used to help purchase needed items for the station.

### 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: Feb. 22; March 22; April 26; and May 17. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Bingo in Brigden

A series of monthly bingo evenings are currently being held at the Brigden Community Centre. Upcoming bingos will be held at 7 p.m. on: Tuesday, Feb. 23; Tuesday, March 23; and Tuesday, April 27. Proceeds from these bingos are used to support the youth of the community. For more information, please contact Martha at 519-864-1889 or Larry at 519-864-1328.

### 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. 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.

### Annual beef dinner in Brigden

The annual beef dinner will be held at the Brigden Fairgrounds exhibition hall on Sunday, Mar. 28 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The meal will include scrumptious desserts. Attendance is by advance tickets only. The cost is \$15 per adult and \$6 each for chil-

dren ages six through 10. Children under five eat free. Tickets are available from the fair office, 519-864-1197, Homecraft division members or any Moore Agricultural Society board of directors member. For more information go online to [www.brigdenfair.ca](http://www.brigdenfair.ca) or call the fair office.

### IODE has Spring in mind

The Hon. Bryan L. Cathcart Chapter IODE of Corunna is still taking orders for the May delivery of geraniums and hanging baskets. To order, contact any IODE member or call Lee at 519-862-5809 or Marilyn at 519-862-1769.

### 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.

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### *Cinderella Story makes dreams come true*

The *Cinderella Story* initiative will be making prom dreams come true for many local teens. Young community action dynamo Kaitlynn Anderson and her family are involved in the *Cinderella Story*, which is currently collecting gently-used dresses and formal wear for distribution to aspiring Cinderellas. The collected items will be distributed from a "boutique" that will be set up at the YMCA Esso Learning Centre, 660 Oakdale Ave. in Sarnia on Friday, March 19 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, March 20 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Donations will be accepted at SCITS and St. Clair Secondary School until Feb. 19.

Kaitlynn was recently named to Mayor Mike Bradley's 2009 Honour List for her work on behalf of WaterCan, a charitable Canadian organization that helps bring clean water to needy communities in Africa.

### *Anniversary cookbook now on sale*

The Moore Agricultural Society is selling cookbooks to commemorate its 160th anniversary. The book contains delicious recipes contributed by fair board members and is priced at \$10 per book. It is available at the Brigden Fair office, 519-864-1197, or from any director.

### *Submissions needed for Brigden history book*

Work on the Brigden history book is well underway and organizers hope to have it published by this coming fall. Spokesperson Barb Leaper says many contributors to the book have still not submitted their stories and they are asked to do so by late summer so that the autumn publishing deadline can be met.