



Issue 4

THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP BEACON

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Volume 4

April 2010



Happy Easter

from St. Clair Township Council and Staff



Beaver Meadow School (1896-1964) to hold reunion

All former students of Beaver Meadow School (#24 Sombra, #18 Dawn) will be interested to know that a reunion is being planned for all former students and their friends.

The school came about in 1894 when a group of residents met to discuss the possibility of having a school built. Debentures were sold to raise money for its construction and the school was built between 1895 and 1896.

The first term of school began on Aug. 17, 1896 with an enrolment of 15 students, and it soon grew to include 24 pupils from Sombra Township and 18 from Dawn Township. This blending of students from two different townships resulted in the school being known as a "union school".

Enrolment took a big jump to 57 students around 1945 and 1946 when the Union Gas Company was successful

in finding natural gas in the area and when it developed underground storage facilities. Many people found work with Union Gas and moved their families into the area.

As the years passed, educational jurisdictions changed. In 1963, students from Sombra Township were directed to attend the new East Sombra Central Public School leaving 16 students from Dawn Township remaining at the Beaver Meadow School in 1964. In 1965, these students were directed to attend Dawn Public School.

The reunion to commemorate the school's history will be held at Zion Free Methodist Church, 2951 Bentpath Line, adjacent to the former school site. A stone marker will be dedicated during the reunion at 3 p.m. Guests are encouraged to bring school pictures, a main course dish and a dessert to share at dinner. The potluck will be served at 5 p.m.

Emergency preparedness the theme of upcoming event

Are you ready for an emergency? Would you know what to do in situations ranging from a house fire to a natural emergency? Or are you interested in a career in emergency response?

In acknowledgement of Emergency Preparedness Day 2010, emergency responders will gather at the Clearwater Arenas, 1400 Wellington Street in Sarnia on Friday, April 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The public is invited to attend this important free event, where representatives from the St. Clair Township Fire Department and many other local fire departments will be participating, along with members of

the Ontario Provincial Police, the Canadian Coast Guard, the Canadian Armed Forces, and many other community groups. Take a close look at emergency response equipment and watch demonstrations, talk to professionals about careers in emergency response, or just learn about home emergency preparedness.

Anyone who is unable to attend this event can still be prepared for most emergencies by obtaining safety information at the St. Clair Township Fire Department office located at the intersection of Hill and Lyndoch Streets in Corunna.

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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.



2010 operating budget is now set

St. Clair Township Treasurer Charles Quenneville reports that on March 17, council approved the 2010 operating budget of \$7.4 million in net property tax levy. The township portion of the tax rate will increase by an average of approximately 1.36 per cent.

Mr. Quenneville noted this budget was a more difficult one to arrive at due to the township having \$320,000 less in Provincial operating grant to work with. Further, the 2010 net property taxation levy has increased by \$514,000, but \$420,000 in new taxation assessment is being generated to offset the taxation increase. This is due to new growth and to year-two of the four-year phase-in of the MPAC property assessment increase. As a result, in 2010, some residential ratepayers with increased assessments will receive a higher property tax bill than others. Any decrease in assessment will be recognized immediately.

In the general capital budget, 54 projects were approved with a gross cost of \$5.6 million and a net taxation levy of

\$1.5 million. Some of the bigger projects being undertaken include: \$990,000 for an upgrade of the Mooretown Sports Complex of which 67 per cent will be covered by grant funding; \$400,000 for roadwork in the Village of Wilkesport; \$158,000 for work on Main Street in Courtright; \$160,000 for bridge rehabilitation; and \$250,000 which is being put into a reserve for the replacement of a fire truck.

In the sewage capital budget, construction work is continuing on the new Regional Waste Water Plant in Courtright, with \$20 million to be incurred this year. In addition, several water looping capital projects will be undertaken to ensure a more dependable delivery of water to residents of St. Clair Township.

Apartment project discussed

A proposal that would see an apartment building constructed on property to the south of the St. Clair Township Civic Centre in Mooretown has been withdrawn.

At the March 15 council meeting, a public forum was held to discuss the project. It was determined that over 40 residents were in opposition to it, citing issues that included the perceived negative traffic and visual impacts of such a project. The project was initially proposed as a means of creating a more robust tax base in the community, which would, in turn, benefit township ratepayers.

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.

2010 dog tags required

Attention dog owners!
Those who have not yet acquired 2010 dog tags should call the St. Clair Township Clerk at 519-867-2021.

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.

Nomination papers filed to date

Nomination papers filed to date include: for mayor - Steve Arnold; for deputy mayor - Peter Gilliland; for Ward 1 councillor - Jeff Agar; for Ward 2 councillor - Steve Miller, Darrell Randell.

Prevent identity theft!

Take a positive step toward preventing identity theft by bringing unwanted personal documents to the annual Fraud Prevention Community Shred at the St. Clair Township OPP office at the corner of Lyndoch and Hill Streets. The event will be held on Saturday, May 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free-of-charge event is presented by the Corunna Community Policing Committee and SHRED-IT Document Destruction.

Justice sought for murder victim

Thirty-six years after the murder of 14-year-old Karen Caughlin, the hunt goes on for her murderer. A reward of up to \$50,000 has been announced for information leading to the apprehension of the person or persons involved in this crime. The Lambton OPP reports that pertinent DNA evidence has been obtained and that the hunt will continue. For more information about this crime, go online to www.opp.ca/cibui/html/displaycase.php?id=17. To contact the Lambton OPP, call 1-888-310-1122 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Mooretown Sports Complex offers programs for everyone

Swimming lessons registration

Some openings are still available for the spring session of swimming lessons, which begins the week of April 5 and runs for 10 weeks. The cost is \$48 per child or \$130 per family. And registrations are now being accepted for the summer swimming program, so call 519-867-2651 now for more information.

Moore Skate Club Carnival

The Moore Skate Club will present its annual ice show, this year featuring the *Icemen*, on Saturday, April 10 with shows at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. For more information, go online to www.mooreskateclub.ca.

Red Cross babysitting course

The Red Cross babysitting course will be presented Friday, May 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The minimum age to attend this course is 11 years old and the cost is \$40 per person.

Women's health evening

A free women's health workshop, sponsored by St. Clair Township and the West Lambton Community Health Centre, will be held at the Moore Sports Complex on Thursday, May 13 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Speakers will include Dr. Vandana Bhargava, Dr. Beth Hodgins, and dietitian Erin Robinson.

Want to become a lifeguard?

To become a lifeguard, you must complete three training levels: Bronze Medallion and Emergency First Aid (must be a minimum of 13 years old); Bronze Cross (must be a minimum of 14 years old); and NLS (National Lifeguard Service) and Standard First Aid training (must be a minimum of 16 years old).

Qualifications to become an instructor

To become a swimming instructor, there are three training levels to complete: Bronze Medallion, Emergency Aid and Bronze Cross; Assistant Water Safety Instructor (must be a minimum of 15 years old); and the Red Cross Water Safety Instructor and Lifesaving Society Instructor course.

The 10-week **Bronze Medallion/Cross & Emergency First Aid** course begins Saturday, April 10 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The 10-week **Assistant Water Safety Instructor** course begins Thursday, April 8 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The 11-week **National Lifeguard Service** course begins Tuesday, April 6 from 6:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed above, call 519-867-2651.

More from Around the Township

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Cancer Society in memory of his aunt. For more information, call Ryan at 519-862-2778.

Heritage Festival at Moore Museum

The Moore Museum will host the Heritage Festival on Sunday, June 27 from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. The afternoon will include heritage demonstrations and activities. There will be something of interest for every member of the family. Admission is \$5 per adult, \$4 per senior, \$3 per student, \$2 per child and free for pre-school children.

IODE has Spring in mind

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

Prepare for St. Clair River Run

The St. Clair River Run 10K race and 5K walk/run is planned for Saturday, July 17. In preparation for this event, the *Learn To Run* program will be offered from May through July in Port Lambton and will be taught by experienced runners and certified personal trainers. The program will be available to inexperienced runners or those who would like to start running. The

11-week program will begin at the Sombra Athletic Field on Tuesday, May 4 at 6 p.m. Registration is limited to 25 participants over 18 years of age. Register at www.StClairRiverRun.ca.

Brigden Legion to host events

The Royal Canadian Legion Brigden Branch 635 holds open euchre at 1 p.m. on the last Monday of each month for a \$3 admission that includes lunch. This event is open to the public.

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.

Corunna TOPS group to meet

The Corunna TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) group meets Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in the lower hall. For more information, call Wendy at 519-862-2808.

Alexander Mackenzie school anniversary

Former grads interested in learning more about Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School's 40th anniversary should contact the school at 519-542-5505 for more information.

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Good Friday pickerel dinner planned

A Good Friday pickerel dinner will be held at the St. Joseph Parish Centre in Corunna on April 2. Attendance at the event, hosted by St. Joseph-St. Charles Parish and Christ Anglican Church of Corunna, is by advance tickets only. The cost is \$16 per adult and \$7 for each child under the age of eight. Tickets can be purchased by calling Marg at 519-862-3741 or Gitte at 519-862-1837.

Brunches planned for Brigden

The Moore Agricultural Society will hold two special brunches at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall. The Easter brunch will be held on Sunday, April 4 and the Mother's Day brunch will be held on Sunday, May 9, both from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost will be \$7 per adult, \$3.50 per child aged five through 10, and free for children under the age of five.



Ice show coming to Mooretown

The Moore Skate Club will present its annual ice show on April 10 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. For more information, go online to www.moorskateclub.ca.

Spring tea and bake sale

A Spring tea and bake sale will be held at Christ Anglican Church in Corunna on Saturday, April 17 from 10 a.m. to noon. Admission will be \$2 per person, which will include coffee, tea and a treat.

Chili lunch at Corunna Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch will host a chilli lunch on Thursday, April 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person for a single serving or \$6 for seconds. Proceeds from this event will be donated to the Canadian Cancer Society. To reserve a table, call the Corunna Legion at 519-862-1240. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Firefighters to host breakfast

The volunteer firefighters of the St. Clair Township Fire Department Courtright station will host a breakfast on Sunday, April 25. These monthly breakfasts will then be discontinued until autumn.

Rebekah Lodge #324 luncheons

The Mayflower Rebekah Lodge #324 will hold luncheons at Thompson Gardens, 198 Beckwith St. in Corunna at noon on April 26 and May 17. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Bingo in Brigden

Bingo will be played at the Brigden Community Centre at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27. Proceeds from

this event will be used to support the youth of the community. For more information, please contact Martha at 519-864-1889 or Larry at 519-864-1328.

Coffee break fundraiser planned

The Corunna United Church will host a coffee break on Saturday, May 1 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will feature coffee and scones, a basement sale of gently-used items and a silent auction for a log cabin bird house, a baby quilt and a queen-sized beige hand-made quilt. All proceeds will go to the Medoutreach project.

"Newfy" travel log to be presented

The Corunna United Church will host a Newfy Travel Log and Jigs Dinner on Friday, May 7. The travel log features the sights and experiences of a group of congregation members who visited Newfoundland, along with some good ol' Newfy entertainment. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. with a social time at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased by calling Sylvia at 519-862-1040 or Nina at 519-862-2379.

Victorian Tea at Moore Museum

The annual Victorian Tea will be held at the Moore Museum on Sunday, May 23 from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. This delectable event will feature warm homemade scones and tea served by Victorian Era-costumed wait staff in the charming atmosphere of the museum's turn-of-the-20th-century cottage. Admission is \$6 per adult, \$2.50 per child, and \$1.50 for preschool children.

Pirates golf tourney planned

The Port Lambton Athletic Association will host its Pirates Golf Tournament at the St. Clair Parkway Golf Course on Saturday, May 29 at 1 p.m. The fee is \$85 per person and will include green fees, cart rental, dinner and door prizes. Individual registrations are welcome - teams will be assigned. Sponsor a hole for just \$100. All proceeds will go to the Vandamme Park Project. For more information call Kevin at 519-330-1583.

Arts & Crafts 2000 show

The annual Arts & Crafts 2000 show is scheduled for Sunday, May 30 at the Corunna Athletic Park on Hill Street.

Golf tourney to benefit Cancer Society

The fourth annual Ryan Wilson Golf Tournament to benefit the Canadian Cancer Society will be held at the St. Clair Parkway Golf Course on Saturday, June 12. The cost is \$320 per foursome or \$80 per person. Hole sponsorships will cost \$100 and event sponsorships will cost \$200. Over the past three years, Ryan has raised over \$20,000 for the Canadian