



Cathcart Park shoreline to be made accessible

Over the next four years, the shoreline at Cathcart Park north of Sombra is going to become more accessible to visitors as well as wildlife.

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has begun work on a project that will see the removal the steel retaining wall that currently runs along the shoreline. The wall will be replaced by armor stone, which will stabilize the shoreline and allow easy access to the water.

St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold notes the Cathcart Park project will take about four years and is part of a long-term initiative to upgrade about 460 kilometres of shoreline. He added the Cathcart Park portion is important because the current steel wall is causing safety issues for boaters and making the river bank unstable. "This replacement will be with armor stone that will provide erosion protection along Cathcart Park for generations to come," he said. Mayor Arnold says about \$700,000 will be spent on the armor stone this year alone.

Girish Sankar, a water resources engineer, says the armor stone is also environmentally friendly. "It provides shelter for the fish, and a habitat," he said. He added the wall will also include habitat pods - areas for plants to provide shade for fish and other small water creatures.

"Fish need a lot of shade to breed, and the small cracks and holes in the stone become a breeding ground as opposed to a straight (steel) sheet which has no holes, is corrosive, and is corroding into the

water."

Mr. Sankar says the metal retaining walls are inspected every five years to see how stable they are based on their condition. "Based on how bad they are, they are replaced, and when they're replaced, we're using an environmentally-friendly method," he said.

According to Mr. Sankar, this process has been underway for about 15 to 20 years. Several benefits of the ongoing shoreline stabilization program have been put forward. It is necessary to prevent further erosion and river sedimentation, and to control the loss of land. It will also eliminate hazards associated with the existing deteriorating structures and reduce future maintenance costs.

Just as noteworthy are the environmental and esthetic benefits. The creation of aquatic habitats in the river will be a positive environmental by-product of this ambitious project, which will also facilitate easy public access to the river and beautify the shoreline.

It is proposed that the shoreline work will be implemented in phases subject to available funding. A 130-metre section of retaining wall at the north end of Cathcart Park is the most damaged, so it has been designated as Phase One. Construction has already begun there and it is anticipated that work will be completed by mid-February.

Armor stone has previously been used on projects such as the Guthrie Park shoreline rehabilitation project north of Corunna.

Mooretown Sports Complex hosts Silver Stick tournament

The Mooretown Sports Complex started the New Year by hosting the Mooretown Juvenile International Silver Stick Finals. This year, 24 teams participated in four divisions. In the AAA Division, Humberview won over Mississauga by a score of 4-3. The A Division saw Glanbrook trounce East Gwillimbury 4-1. In the B Division, Walkerton shut out Lincoln 4-0 and in the C Division, Lambton Shores squeaked by East Lambton 3-2.

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 or write to: The Beacon, c/o St. Clair Civic Centre,
 1155 Emily Street, Mooretown, Ont., N0N 1M0.
**The deadline for submissions to The Beacon
 is the third Monday of each month.**



Municipal Notes



Notice of 2012 Budget Meeting

The St. Clair Township 2012 draft budget presentation and deliberation meeting will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 5 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre on Emily Street in Mooretown. The budget meeting is open to the public and all ratepayers are welcome to attend.

Charles Quenneville
Director of Finance

Fundraising raffles, bingos must be licensed

All lottery events such as meat raffles and bingos must be licensed. Three elements define a lottery event: consideration or fee to enter, a chance to win, and a prize. Hosting an unlicensed event for any charitable purpose is a criminal offense. Organizations intending to hold a bingo or raffle, or to sell break-open tickets, should first contact the St. Clair Township Clerk's department at 519-867-2021 to apply for a lottery license.

United Way achieves \$1.85 million goal

The United Way of Sarnia-Lambton can continue to fund vital community programs and initiatives thanks to the generous support of local industries, businesses, community groups and individuals. 2011 Campaign Chair Brian Black says the \$1.85 million goal was achieved in spite of the current economic climate. "I admit to being a little nervous at the beginning of the campaign," he said, noting that industries like Shell, NOVA and LANXESS provided a strong finish to the campaign. The final total will be about \$1.87 million.

Mr. Black thanked the entire community, from donors to the many volunteers who help with the campaign, for their support of the United Way of Sarnia-Lambton.

Council meeting schedule

Regular meetings of St. Clair Township Council are held on the first and third Mondays of the month. The first February meeting is slated for Monday, Feb. 6 at 6 p.m. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021.

Overnight parking on streets prohibited

All motorists are reminded that overnight parking on all municipal streets is now prohibited until April 1, 2012. This ensures that snow plow crews will be able to clear the roads safely and efficiently. Vehicles left on the streets will be ticketed.

Homeowners please note that the Highway Traffic Act prohibits the shoveling of snow out onto public roads. Unexpected quantities of snow on public roads create a hazard for motorists who use the roads.

Small game hunting licenses available

Township of St. Clair small game hunting licences are now available at the following locations: Pic-N-Pay Variety 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 is \$5 per resident and \$8 per non-resident. Applicants must apply in person. Multiple licenses will not be issued.

John De Mars
Director of Administration
Clerk, Deputy C.A.O.

Free tutoring program available for students in Grades 1 through 7

The Organization for Literacy in Lambton offers free tutoring in the Corunna area for students in Grades 1 through 7. Children who are struggling with reading and math can get the help they need to get the most out of the material they learn in school. They also discover that learning can be fun. The *Skill and Drill* program is

now offered on Mondays and Wednesdays at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Registration is ongoing throughout the school year based on availability. For more information or to register your child for this important program, call the Organization for Literacy in Lambton at 519-332-4876.

More Around The Township

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Diabetes education programs offered at WLCHC

A series of free diabetes education programs will be offered by the West Lambton Community Health Centre (WLCHC) in the next few months. **Diabetes Conversations** is a four-week series that will include: *Living with Diabetes; How Diabetes Works; Healthy Eating and Keeping Active; and a Grocery Store Tour*. This program, led by certified diabetes educators, will run from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on **Mondays on March 5, 12, 19, and 26, OR on Tuesdays on May 8, 15, 22, and 29**. Several other programs offered include: *Master Your Health; Craving Change; and Diabetes cooking classes*. A support group is also held monthly at 10 a.m. on the last Wednesday of each month. Participants

share their success with managing diabetes, learn from the experiences of others, and can have questions answered by a certified diabetes educator. For more information or to register for a class or program, call the WLCHC at 519-344-3017, ext. 259.

Chronic Disease Management program in Mooretown

A free six-week Chronic Disease Management program will be held Mondays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Mooretown Sports Complex starting **Monday, March 19**. The program is designed to help and inform people with a chronic disease and/or those who care about them. Subjects covered will include: coping with pain and fatigue; managing difficult emotions; exercise and nutrition; medication usage; and much more. To register, call the West Lambton Community Health Centre at 519-344-3917 or the Mooretown Sports Complex at 519-867-2651.

Spring swimming lessons

Registration for spring swimming lessons, which begin the week of **April 2**, is now underway. To register, call the Mooretown Sports Complex at 519-867-2651.

Annual skating carnival set

The Moore Skate Club's annual skating carnival is set for **Saturday, April 14**. For more information go online to www.mooreskateclub.ca.

Meat raffles at Brigden Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion Brigden Branch #635 hosts meat raffles on Saturdays at 4 p.m. Call the branch for more information.

Play sledge hockey with Lambton Dragons

The Lambton Dragons have a blast playing sledge hockey at the Mooretown Sports Complex and maybe you can, too. Just call Karen at 519-862-4756 for more information.



Community Notices

School seeks winter activity gear

Sir John Moore Community School is seeking donations of snowshoes and cross-country skis for students to use for outdoor activities. Donations may be dropped off at the school office. For more information, please call the school at 519-862-1089.

Quilt fundraiser tickets on sale

Tickets are now on sale for the Moore Agricultural Society Homecraft Division quilt fundraiser. The draw for this beautiful hand-quilted masterpiece will be held at the fairgrounds the weekend of the Brigden Fair (Thanksgiving Weekend). Tickets are available through the Homecraft Division, at the Brigden Fair office, or during MAS brunches and jamborees. For more information, call the Brigden Fair office at 519-864-1197.

Handyman/Handywoman program helps seniors

The Lambton Seniors Association (LSA) Handyman/Handywoman program is a United Way-funded program helps seniors stay in their own homes by helping with a wide variety of household maintenance and repair issues as well as quality-

of-life activities. Services provided include: yard maintenance, home maintenance, housekeeping, snow clearing, eaves trough cleaning, and much more. For more information, call the LSA at 519-339-8866 or 1-877-219-4717.

Provincial Command Service Officer to visit Corunna

Randy Groundwater, Service Officer for Ontario Provincial Command, will be at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Br. 447 hall the week of Jan. 29 to Feb. 4, 2012. Veterans and their spouses who may be eligible for benefits, or who are currently receiving benefits such as disability pensions, hearing loss assistance and housekeeping, can discuss aspects of their benefits with Mr. Groundwater. For more information or to make an appointment to see Mr. Groundwater, please contact Corunna Branch 447 at 519-862-1240 or Corunna Branch 447 Service Officer Gerry Den Hartogh at 519-862-1613.

Corunna Legion announces draw winners

The grand prize from the first annual Elimination Draw held by Corunna Branch 447 of the Royal Canadian Legion was won by Bev Hill, Tom Mitchell and Eileen Elnicki, who split the \$1,500 prize to receive \$500 each. The names of winners of the smaller subsequent draws are posted at the Legion hall.

Note of Thanks

St. Vincent De Paul extends warm thanks to south St. Clair Township's residents, its two churches, schools, service clubs, industries, small businesses and local youth for their generous donations of time, food, gifts and funds. As a result of this generosity, 59 families received food hampers and gifts that made Christmas a merry time for all. This could not have been achieved without your continued help and support.

*George Moran
President, St. Vincent De Paul Society
Port Lambton*

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Mooretown Library creative writing program

Budding authors are invited to participate in the creative writing club, to be held monthly on Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. beginning **Feb. 8**. To register or for more information, call the Mooretown library at 519-867-2823 or email mooretown.library@county-lambton.on.ca.

Euchre afternoons set for Sombra

A series of euchre afternoons are planned for the Sombra Community Hall in the new year. The events will be held on Fridays at 1 p.m. on the following dates: **Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24; March 9, 16, 23, 30**. Admission is \$2 per session and a light lunch is included. For more information call 519-892-3964.

Valentine's Dance in Brigden

The Royal Canadian Legion Brigden branch will hold a Valentine's Dance on **Saturday, Feb. 11** at 8 p.m. at the Brigden Memorial Hall. Live entertainment will be provided by *CDDC* and proceeds will be used in support of community projects. Everyone is welcome. Advance tickets are \$10 per person or \$15 at the door. For tickets, call the Brigden Legion at 519-864-1395.

Jamborees back at Brigden fairgrounds hall

Shake those Winter blahs at one of the upcoming jamborees planned for the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall. Come out to sing, play an instrument, take a few spins around the dance floor or just listen to the excellent music. The Valentine's Jamboree is set for 1 p.m. on **Sunday, Feb. 12**. Bring your sweetheart or just come by yourself. Then, don't miss the Shamrock Jamboree at 1 p.m. on **Sunday, March 11**. The cover charge is \$2 per person and a ham and scalloped potato supper will be available for \$8 per person. A cash bar will also be available. For more information, check the Brigden Fair Facebook page or go online to the Website at www.brigdenfair.ca. You can also call the fair office at 519-864-1197 or contact Bill or Kathy at 519-627-5065. And always watch *The Beacon* or go online to the Website for more news of events happening at the Brigden Fairgrounds.

Rebekah Lodge hosts luncheons

The Mayflower Rebekah Lodge #324 will host a series of luncheons at Thompson Gardens in Corunna at noon on the following Mondays: **Feb. 13; March 12; April 9; April 30; May 29; Sept. 24**. Everyone is welcome.

Fundraiser to benefit Special Education

The Special Education class at Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School is holding its annual Pasta Fest at the Dante Club in Samia on **Thursday, Feb. 16** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event will include a pasta dinner, silent auction, raffle, a bake table and live entertainment. Proceeds will be used to help fund the class's year-end trip to Niagara Falls in June. Tickets are \$9 per adult, \$7 per child and \$30 for a family of four. Tickets are available by calling the school at 519-542-5505 or for pick-up at the Dante Club.

Courtright firefighters to host Sunday breakfast

Firefighters from the St. Clair Township Fire Department's

Courtright station have a Sunday breakfast planned for **Feb. 19** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the fire hall.

Jam sessions planned for the Corunna Legion

A series of jam sessions is planned for the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 hall at Albert and Beckwith Streets this winter. The sessions will be held Saturdays at 3 p.m. on the following dates: **Feb. 25; March 31; April 28; and May 26**. Everyone is welcome to come out and play, sing or just listen to some great local talent. More information can be found on the branch's Website at www.corunna.ca/legion.

March Break fun at Mooretown Sports Complex

The Mooretown Sports Complex will host several March Break activities, including a *recreational swim* each day from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and a *public skate* each day from noon to 1 p.m. The cost for either of these activities is \$2.25 per child, \$3.25 per adult, and \$6.50 per family. The *March Break Day Camp* for children ages five through 12 will include swimming, skating, crafts, games and special visitors. The program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with early drop-off beginning at 7:30 a.m. and late pick-up until 5:30 p.m. available. The cost is \$25 per child per day or \$100 for the week. A family plan is available. For more information or to register for March Break Day Camp contact the Mooretown Sports Complex at 519-867-2651.

Annual beef dinner set for Brigden

The annual Homecraft Division and Moore Agricultural Society (MAS) roast beef dinner is set for **Sunday, March 25** beginning at 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The dinner will be held at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall at a cost of \$15 per adult, \$6 per child aged six through 10, with no charge for children under age five. Admission is by advance tickets only. They can be purchased from any Homecraft Division member, any member of the MAS board of directors, or at the Brigden fairgrounds office at 519-864-1197.

Indoor walking sessions offered

Indoor walking sessions are now offered on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall. Attendees are asked to bring indoor shoes for walking. For more information or to register for this free program, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237. This program is sponsored by the Moore Agricultural Society and the West Lambton Community Health Centre.

Corunna Legion to hold 2nd annual elimination draw

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 is now selling tickets for its 2nd Annual Elimination Draw, (license #M688222). Only 250 tickets will be sold at a cost of \$20 each, with a grand prize of \$2,000 up for grabs. Only 250 tickets will be sold and they are available to the public. They can be purchased by calling the Corunna Legion hall at 519-862-1240.

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