

THE BEACON

of St. Clair Township

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March 2008

CALVARY UNITED CHURCH SAYS FAREWELL AFTER 124 YEARS OF SERVICE

A familiar landmark that has stood at the corner of Oil Springs Line and Kimball Road for over a century will soon be gone.

The final service at Calvary United Church, one of three churches of the Brigden Pastoral Charge of the United Church of Canada, will be held on Sunday, June 22. Church spokesperson Susan Bedggood says the building will probably be demolished.

The church's history dates back to the 1870s, when pioneers who lived in the area formed a Methodist congregation and built the Waubuno Methodist Church on the southwest corner of Lot 12, Concession 3 of Moore Township. The Presbyterian congregation, who first worshiped across the road in the Waubuno School, known as SS #9 Moore, eventually built the Guthrie Presbyterian Church on Lot 16, Concession 2 for the princely sum of \$1,106.

As in most rural areas, the two churches became the focal points of the community, and the congregations worked together so that one choir, consisting of young people from both churches, sang at the Methodist church for afternoon service and the Presbyterian church for evening service.

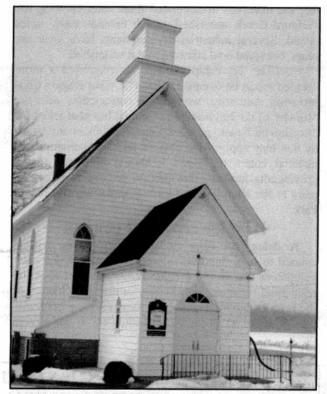
On May 18, 1925, as a result of Church Union, the two congregations, under the chairmanship of Rev. Bannatyne of Brigden, officially joined to form Calvary United Church. Since Guthrie Presbyterian Church was newer and larger than its neighbouring church, it was chosen to house the newly-amalgamated congregation.

Over the years, many additions and changes have been made to the church. Two additions were made in 1926; the building was raised to accommodate the excavation of a basement and a 12-foot extension was added to the east end of the building to make room for a choir loft and a rear entrance.

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WHETHER YOU'RE
IRISH OR NOT,
HAVE A GRAND
ST. PATTY'S DAY!



The Brigden Pastoral Charge of the United Church of Canada will soon bid farewell to Calvary United Church after more than a century of service.

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The Beacon
is edited by
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and
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as a
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TO CONTACT US

Individuals, schools or organizations that wish to publicize a non-profit event, write a letter to the editor, or applaud the efforts of someone in the community, 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 St., Mooretown, Ont., NON 1M0.



Soil samples yield disturbing results

Soil sediment sampling recently carried out along the Guthrie Park shoreline has yielded some disturbing results. The study, carried out by Pollutech, detected higher than normal concentrations of mercury, copper, arsenic, nickel, fluorine, pyrene, hexacholorbenzene and several other materials in some samples. It is suspected that the materials accumulated there after entering the Talfourd Creek watershed, which extends many miles inland. Several industrial developments have, over the years, occupied land adjacent to the watershed.

St. Clair Township council has requested a more detailed report be compiled by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, working in conjunction with the Ministry of the Environment. Council has also asked for direction on how to proceed, concerned about any liability that may apply if the seawall fails and contaminated material enters the river. It should be noted that a provincially-funded rehabilitation project to effect repairs to the shoreline is currently underway at Guthrie Park.

Hospice reps visit council

A delegation from St. Joseph's Hospice visited council to seek financial support for a new hospice development that would include resource and end-of-life residential facilities. Bob Murray outlined the history of the hospice program in Sarnia, beginning in 1944 with the Sisters of St. Joseph and leading up to the present day.

Mr. Murray explained that the new hospice would be non-denominational and free to those requiring endof-life support. Construction on the new hospice, which will be located between Christina Street and Water Street where the Discovery House currently stands, is due to begin in March. The house will become part of the complex.

There will be three components to the hospice program: home care for those who wish to die at home; acute care if hospitalization is required; and residential end-of-life accommodation on-site. A resource centre will also be available for those seeking information about end-of-life issues.

Mr. Murray says he and his colleague, Tom Fisher, will be canvassing all Lambton County municipalities, as well as county council, in the coming weeks. Council will discuss a pledge of support at its next budget meeting.

Grant sought for Wilkesport sewer system

A grant application to the Rural Infrastructure Investment Initiative program has been approved by council to fund the Wilkesport Sanitary Sewage system. Wilkesport is one of two remaining areas left to be serviced under the township's long-range plan.

Trillium Foundation funding discussed

A number of St. Clair Township groups have ex-

Continued on page 3

ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP 2008 PROPERTY TAX DUE DATE

The first instalment on the interim tax bill is due on March 5, 2008.

The interim tax bills were mailed out the week of Feb. 11, 2008, with due dates of March 5 and May 7.

Most chartered banks and financial institutions will accept payment of your current taxes and water bills on or before the due date. Any bank charges will be the responsibility of the ratepayer. Tax payments by cheque can be mailed to the return address provided on the tax notice.

The following methods of tax/water payments are accepted via:

Automatic bank machine

- Telephone & internet payments through bank
- Payment at most financial institutions
- Post-dated cheques
- Counter services cash, cheque or debit
- Mail to or insert in drop box at:
 1155 Emily Street, Mooretown, Ontario,
 NON 1M0

NOTE: Preauthorized payment plans are now available.

St. Clair Township Tax Department 519-867-2024
Toll-free: 1-800-809-0301

MORE COUNCIL NOTES

From page 2

pressed interest in applying for Trillium Foundation grants. However, some confusion exists over the number of applications that the township can submit at one time.

Mayor Arnold pointed out that Sarnia recently received several of the grants while the township was limited to one. To clarify this issue, it was suggested that a representative from the Trillium Foundation be invited to attend a council meeting to go over the pertinent procedures and to answer questions about the grant process.

Cameras/cell phones to be banned

Councillor Jeff Agar asked council to approve signage banning the use of cameras and cell phones in sensitive areas such as change rooms at the Moore Sports Complex.

This restriction is becoming common-place at many sports facilities. It has been prompted by the growing incidence of inappropriate candid photos being taken of unsuspecting subjects. The signs will be obtained and posted.

Moore Foundation discussed

Several aspects of the Moore Foundation operation were called into question at the Feb. 19 meeting of council. Since the foundation grants are open to all of St. Clair Township, it was suggested that the name

should be changed to reflect this.

Also, under current foundation guidelines, the St. Clair River Trail is eligible to apply for funding. But since the trail already receives funding from the municipality, council feels the foundation grants should be distributed to groups that do not have this alternate source of funding. These issues will be put before the foundation board for consideration.

Building stats for 2007 released

The 2007 Building Report for the Township of St. Clair was recently released. A total of 279 building permits were issued during the year, yielding \$152,765.90 in permit fees collected by the municipality. The total value of the construction amounted to \$41,354,170.

The breakdown is as follows: residential construction, 57; residential alteration/addition, 25; non-residential (accessory buildings), 41; commercial construction, 3; commercial alteration/addition, 5; agricultural construction, 22; agricultural alteration/addition, 4; industrial construction, 63; industrial alteration/addition, 16; institutional construction/alteration/addition, 2; demolition, 14; swimming pool, 21; other, 6.

Safety zone established

A community safety zone has been established on Hill Street in Corunna and there will soon be signs along the street to warn motorists of the zone's existence. When in force, motorists committing driving infraction within this zone will face double fines.

Councillor honoured

St. Clair Township Councillor Pat Alexander-Carswell was honoured recently for her four years of commitment and dedication to her role as the municipality's representative on the Sarnia-Lambton Taskforce for Healthcare Worker Recruitment. At the Feb. 4 meeting of council, Taskforce spokesperson Dr. Elizabeth Hodgins thanked Alexander-Carswell for her four years of service, noting she was instrumental in setting up a successful musical fundraiser and was an enthusiastic participant in many other Taskforce events.

The Taskforce is a volunteer committee that actively seeks out prospective medical personnel for Sarnia-Lambton. The committee is not government funded and it depends heavily on the ideas and efforts of its members to generate funds which are then used to attract doctors and other medical personnel to the area. Since its inception in 2001, the Taskforce has been responsible for bringing seven family physicians to Sarnia-



On hand for the presentation were: Taskforce spokesperson Dr. Elizabeth Hodgins, left; Taskforce physician recruiter Cindy Scholten; Councillor Pat Alexander-Carswell; Taskforce fundraising coordinator Sharon Crowe.

Lambton and has assisted with the recruitment of several specialists. Cindy Scholten, physician recruiter for the Taskforce, says the committee has identified four strong physician prospects for 2008.

According to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Sarnia-Lambton is short 23 physicians and the problem could worsen as physicians age and retire.

Church history spans over a century of community service

Continued from page 1

Hot and cold running water became available in 1951, although the church was not hooked in to the Moore Township water system until 1988. In 1952, washrooms were installed. Various renovations took place over the years, and in 1983, the building's exterior was fitted with white vinyl siding. Many of the church's furnishings and items used during worship services were donated through the years in memory of congregation members and their loved ones.

During its lifetime, the church has been the home of a number of groups including: Sunday School, the United Church Women, the Calvary Friendship Club, the Explorers, C.G.I.T. (Canadian Girls In Training), Tyros, Sigma C, and several young people's groups.

On July 1, 1974, Calvary United Church became part of the Brigden Pastoral Charge.

Two historically notable events in the life of Calvary United Church were the commissioning of Laurie White (Hayward) in 1980 and Connie Leslie (Capes) in 1983 as Diaconal Ministers.

Susan Bedggood says that, in recent years, the congregation has decreased in size and the average age of its members is increasing. The church no longer hosts large dinners or bazaars, but continues to raise funds for the church, the Mission and Service Fund, and other out-reach programs. The congregation also supports local food banks, Habitat for Humanity, the



Among the Calvary United Church congregation members who attended a recent service, celebrated by Rev. Sandra Fogarty, right, were church elder Melvin Hayward, who was baptized in the church in 1931, and four-year-old Brianna, who was baptized there in 2004.

Lambton United Church Centre, the Med-Outreach program in Tanzania, and other worthwhile charities.

With the closure of the church, Calvary congregation members will scatter and become part of other congregations. Bedggood notes that a Service of Celebration will be held on June 11 at 11 a.m. and will feature guest speakers Laurie White and Connie Leslie. Special music will be supplied by *Sure Foundation* and a luncheon will follow. Everyone is welcome to attend.

FOUNDATION HELPS NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

The Moore Community and Recreational Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the promotion of an every-improving quality of life in this municipality and an every-increasing pride in their community by its citizens.

The foundation is an independent, volunteer-driven, charitable organization that aims to strengthen the community by facilitating philanthropy, by partnering with donors to build permanent endowments and other funds from which it supports environmental and recreational community projects within the Township of St.

Clair.

Registered charitable organizations and volunteer organizations operating within the Township of St. Clair may now apply for financial assistance. The deadline for applications for 2008 is May 31. For detailed information about the foundation and to obtain a grant request form, go to the township Website at www.twp.stclair.on.ca.

Information is also available by calling: Charles Quenneville, St. Clair Township treasurer or St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold at 519-867-2021 (toll-free 1-800-809-0301) or foundation chair Mary Jane Marsh at 519-864-1531.

Corunna woman named Athlete of the Year

Corunna resident Jillian Drouin, currently a senior at Syracuse University, was recently named the 2007-08 BIG EAST/Aropostale Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. She was selected by the BIG EAST Conference's Academic Affairs Committee. This award recognizes student-athletes who achieve a high degree of success both in the classroom and on the field.

Drouin will receive a \$4,000 scholarship to put toward graduate or professional studies. She is currently majoring in health and exercise science, and is pursuing an academic track in chiropractic studies.

YOUTH CLUB MEMBERS SHOW KINDNESS



It's never too late to applaud the efforts of caring kids like these members of the Friendship JOOI Club. Club members packed gift boxes to deliver to children who had to remain in hospital over the Christmas holidays. Shown here with some of the boxes they distributed are, left to right, are: JOOI President Meaghan; JOOI Vice-President Mariah; Treasurer Caitlynn; and Secretary Sydney. The club is sponsored by the Optimist Club of Moore.

Transportation available for seniors and disabled adults

It is often difficult for seniors and disabled adults to find the transportation they require. Whether it's a trip to a medical appointment or to social outing, or even to the grocery store or hair salon, transportation is key to avoiding the isolation that often occurs when there is no means of transportation available.

Lambton Elderly Outreach (LEO) offers transportation for seniors and disabled adults to within a 120 kilometre range of its office in Reece's Corners. The organization has a fleet of 10 vans, eight of which are wheelchair-accessible. There are also volunteer drivers who use their own vehicles to transport clients who do not require large mobility aids. There is a fee for service, but those on a low or fixed income can receive a

subsidy if they are willing to do a financial assessment. The cost for transportation with a volunteer driver is 30 cents per kilometre to a minimum of \$5 and a maximum of \$50. Van transportation is 50 cents per kilometre with a minimum of \$6 and a maximum of \$50. Priority is given to clients attending medical appointments or procedures.

New clients receive an intake assessment over the telephone, although those who require wheelchair accessible transportation require a home visit so that LEO staff can determine which van should be used.

For more information or to book transportation, call the Lambton Elderly Outreach at 519-845-1353 (toll-free 1-800-265-0203.)

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Courtright Friendship Club celebrates 40th anniversary

The Courtright Friendship Club, a non-profit social club, came into being on March 6, 1968. It started at a church dinner with Rev. Les Hardy and the leaders of C.G.I.T. and their members. Two of the known leaders were the late Mrs. Lillian Hardy and Genevieve McLaughlin. This group invited area seniors to an annual dinner, free of charge, which was held in the Courtright United Church basement. This was the beginning of the club.

The first elected officers were President Bert Brown, Vice-President Jack Aitchison, Secretary Mrs. William Glass, and Treasurer Mrs. Guy Weese. We still have ties to some of the original members: Clara and Alton Brown, (Alton is the son of Bert Brown); Rev. Les Hardy, an honourary member, and Genevieve McLaughlin, a long-time member.

The Courtright Friendship Club will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2008. This is a very active club with an average membership of 60-65 people. Over the years, many forms of entertainment have been enjoyed, including shuffle board, carpet bowling, quiltmaking, bazaars, teas, bingo, and even a square dance, which was called by Jack Bell to music provided by fiddler Rex Arnold.

Today, the club hosts euchre every Wednesday at 1 p.m., followed by lunch and a Dutch auction. Some people stay to play six-eight-handed Pepper. Friday evening at 7:30 p.m., four-handed Pepper is enjoyed by all.

Our meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 1533 Fourth Street in Courtright (next to the library) and are usually preceded by a pot luck lunch. Our other activities include bus trips, plays and dinner-theatre. But our most important assets are the friendly faces and the willing hands that make this club a fim place to be. It was no accident that it was called a Friendship Club.

We welcome new members at any time. For more information call President Don Goodman at 519-864-1308, Norma Dolbear at 519-862-3625, or Clara Brown at 519-862-4333.

Today, we give thanks to our founding members for their foresight and wisdom in bringing to our community a program and a place for our seniors, that over the years has provided many hours of recreation. We also express our thanks to St. Clair Township personnel, all of its councillors and staff for their help over the years.

Don GoodmanPresident,
Courtright Friendship Club

Do you want to SPEAK YOUR MIND?

What's on your mind? Let us know by e-mailing:

beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca or snail mailing to: The Beacon, c/o St. Clair Civic Centre, 1155 Emily St., Mooretown, Ont., NON 1M0.

COUNCIL DIARY

Township appreciates devoted volunteers

Councillor Steve Miller is the author of this month's council column. Watch for this column each month for insights directly from your municipal council.

I would like to take this opportunity to salute all of the volunteers in our community. While I will not attempt to identify all of the groups or individuals, I will give some examples that come to mind.

The first and, probably largest, group of volunteers that come to mind are our firefighters. These men and women not only risk their lives to protect us but live through many traumatic situations that can haunt them for the rest of their lives. Most of us don't truly appreciate the many hours firefighters spend in training so that they can be the best at what they do.

Another group of volunteers who do not garner the respect and appreciation they deserve are the men and women who keep the doors of our community halls and museums open, and keep our many ball parks in such excellent condition. They spend countless hours fixing and repairing buildings and nurturing ball diamonds so we can enjoy the many facilities in our township. Going

hand-in-hand with this group are the citizens who coach and manage all of our sports teams, along with other organizations that our children enjoy. Their dedication is truly appreciated.

The Optimists are probably the largest financial contributors to our sports organizations. They sponsor many events each year to raise money to support our athletes.

Thanks to all of our volunteers. Without them we could not possibly enjoy all of the assets that make me proud to be a citizen of St. Clair Township. Without our volunteers, our job as your representatives on council would be much more difficult.

St. Clair River Trail update This year, the first priority for the St. Clair River Trail committee will be to install the trail section from the Village of Sombra to Holt Line. The proposed section is approximately 1.9 kilometres in length and it will complete the trail between Sombra and Riverview Public School.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Shovelling snow onto roadway is illegal

The Lambton OPP is urging property owners not to shovel snow onto public roadways. Not only is this potentially dangerous for motorists and emergency vehicles using the road, it is illegal.

The Highway Traffic Act states: No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing so to do from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road.

If convicted of this offence, the fine is \$85 plus court costs.

One incident reported by the Lambton OPP involved a homeowner who was using a snow blower to blow snow from his property back onto the roadway and onto vehicles as they passed by.

Truck drivers reminded to clear their rigs of ice and snow

Police are warning the owners of transports and even smaller personal vehicles that they must remove ice and snow from the roof of their vehicles. If this is not done, and the ice and snow dislodges while driving, the driver can be held liable for any damage or injury it causes. Conviction of the offence, "Having an Insecure Load," carries with it a \$110 fine, plus the cost of any damage done.

Recently, while two transport trucks were proceeding along Highway 40, a large chunk of ice blew off of the roof of the lead truck and shattered the windshield of one behind it. The driver of the damaged truck escaped injury and the lead truck failed to stop.

In a second incident, a woman was driving her car behind a transport truck when a large slab of ice blew off of the truck roof and hit the front grill of the car. There was extensive damage to the vehicle, but the truck did not stop.

Although no injuries occurred, there was a potential for serious harm and for charges to be laid.

OPP targets aggressive driving of commercial vehicles

The OPP recently undertook an aggressive campaign to reduce aggressive driving and the resulting collisions caused by commercial vehicles. Both marked and unmarked police vehicles were used during this campaign. One of the concerns is that, given the size and weight of a commercial vehicle such as a transport truck, the higher the speed, the greater the stopping distance. At press time, no statistics had yet been reported.

Highlights of OPP 2007 statistics

The Lambton OPP has compiled 2007 statistics in comparison to 2006. Inspector Fred Wessels, detachment commander, says a near record number of impaired drivers were removed from Lambton County roads. Other highlights include: 11 people died in fatal crashes and one died in a snowmobile collision, with five of the deaths attributed to alcohol use. The number of impaired driver arrests and charges increased by 26 per cent. There was a 17.5 per cent increase in the number of collisions investigated by officers, but there was an 18 per cent decrease in the number of nonreportable collisions (minor property damage). The increase in reportable collisions is partly attributed to significant winter storms and car/deer collisions. There was a 22 per cent decrease in break-and-enters, and 43 per cent of these were solved.

Local landlord fined for not providing working smoke alarms

A St. Clair Township landlord was recently fined \$235 for not supplying working smoke alarms for his tenant. The decision was handed down in Provincial court in accordance with Ontario legislation. Charges were laid against the landlord by Deputy Fire Chief Tom Boon after the tenant registered a complaint and an inspection of the subject property was carried out.

By law, every residence must have a working smoke alarm on every floor, including the basement and adjacent to sleeping areas. It is up to the homeowner or the landlord of single or multi-family dwellings to ensure that working smoke alarms are installed according to the law. Deputy Chief Boon says, "St. Clair Township is taking a zero tolerance approach in this issue. Since the new law came into effect on March 1, 2007, the number of people dying in residential fires that do not have a working smoke alarm is still over 50 per cent. These people are dying needlessly." Further, Deputy Chief Boon notes that if the fire department is made aware of infractions to the law, fines will be laid. Repeat offenders could face fines of up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for a term of not more than one year.

For more information on this or other fire safety issues, call the St. Clair Township administration office at 519-867-2110.

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Fundraiser benefits Autism Ontario

Autism Ontario Sarnia-Lambton presents its fundraiser, See The Potential, on Saturday, March 15 at the Dante Club, 1330 London Road in Sarnia. Cocktails from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. followed by a dance with music by Jaga and entertainment by the Dance Heads. Food, fun and silent auction. Cost is \$60 per person or \$650 to sponsor a table of eight places. Call 519-332-0333 for more information or to reserve tickets.

Easter brunch in Brigden

An Easter brunch will be held at the Moore Agricultural Society exhibition hall, Brigden Fairgrounds, on Sunday, March 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adults, \$7; children five to 10, \$3.50; children under five are free. For more information call 519-864-1197.

Old-time fiddling show

The Scott Woods Show is coming to the Moore Agricultural Society exhibition hall in Brigden on Sunday, April 6 at 2 p.m. Old-time fiddling, country gospel songs and heaps of humour will be featured. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per adult; \$5 for children ages six to 12, and free for children under six. This concert is expected to be a sell-out, so please call ahead for tickets to 519-864-1197.

Car rally fundraiser set

A community car rally fundraiser for the Sarnia-Lambton Taskforce on Healthcare Worker Recruitment will be held Saturday, April 12 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School, 1257 Michigan Avenue, Sarnia. Proceeds from the event will help fund physician recruitment efforts for Sarnia-Lambton.

Teams of four are invited to participate and will require a car and a camera, preferably digital. The rally combines the elements of a trivia game, a rally and a scavenger hunt. Registration is \$10 per team and each team member must have a minimum of \$35 in pledges or make a donation in that amount. Anyone who raises \$50 or more will be eligible to enter draws for prizes. Pre-registration is required so that pre-event instructions can be forwarded via e-mail to participants in advance of rally day. Team check-in is 1 p.m. on rally day.

For more information call 519-336-4083 or e-mail: scrowe@doctors4sarnialambton.com.

Spring brunch in Brigden

A Spring brunch will be held at the Moore Agricultural Society exhibition hall in Brigden on Sunday, April 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adults are \$7 per person; children five to 10 are \$3.50 and children un-

der five a free. For more information call 519-864-1197.

Mother's Day brunch set

A Mother's Day brunch will be held at the Moore Agricultural Society exhibition hall in Brigden on Sunday, May 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Adults are \$7 per person; children five to 10 are \$3.50 and children under five are free. For more information call 519-864-1197.

Special service planned

A Service of Celebration is planned for Calvary United Church at the corner of Oil Springs Line and Kimball Road on Sunday, June 15 at 11 a.m. This event will feature guest speakers Laurie White and Connie Leslie. Both women are congregation members who have gone on to become Diaconal Ministers. Special music will be provided by *Sure Foundation* and a luncheon will follow the service. Everyone is welcome.

Calvary United Church final worship

After over a century of service to the community, the congregation of Calvary United Church will hold its final worship service on Sunday, June 22 at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Courtright Friendship Club activities

The Courtright Friendship Club meets at 1533 Fourth Street in Courtright (in the old Courtright fire hall) on the first Thursday of each month. The meetings are usually preceded by a pot luck lunch and after the meetings, members enjoy a variety of games such as Pepper, euchre or bingo.

The club hosts euchre each Wednesday at 1 p.m., followed by lunch and a Dutch auction. Some players stay to enjoy Pepper afterwards. Four-handed Pepper is also played Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

During the year, the club also hosts bus trips and outings to plays and dinner theatres, and new members are always welcome. For more information, call club president Don Goodman at 519-864-1308.

Hospice seeks support

The new St. Joseph's Hospice end-of-life residential project is currently seeking financial support. Groups and individuals wishing to donate can call 519-337-0537. For more information visit the hospice Website at www.stjosephshospice.ca.

Singles meet weekly

A singles dance is held every Friday from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in the Polish Hall at the corner of Exmouth and Front Streets in Sarnia. For more information call 519-677-4496.