

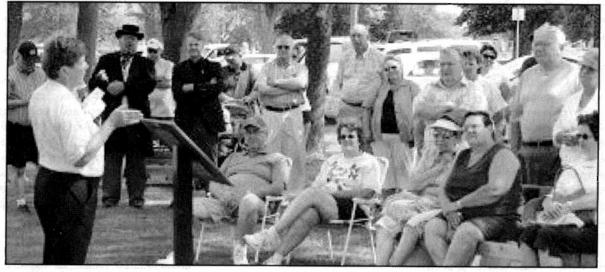
THE BEACON

of St. Clair Township

Issue 8

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The official dedication of the Dedecker link of the St. Clair River Trail was celebrated recently in Branton-Cundick Park north of Sombra. The link. which extends from Branton-Cundick Park south to Sombra, is the latest section of the trail to be commissioned. St. Clair Township's Town Crier Gary Smith kicked off the event, which included speakers Mayor Steve Arnold and trail committee co-chair Mary Jane Marsh. When completed, the trail will

span St. Clair Township's west border, providing a scenic path along the St. Clair River for pedestrian, bicycle and in-line skate travelers. Approximately eight kilometres of the trail remains unfinished and the trail committee is launching a fundraising campaign to cover the cost of completion. See page 5 for more photos and information regarding the trail's future.

WANTED!

2008 BRIGDEN FAIR AMBASSADOR

Female or male contestants ages 16 to 21, DON'T BE SHY! See page 8 for more information.

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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., NON 1MO.

The deadline for submissions is the third Monday of each month.



Mooretown property zoning issue resolved

The July 21 meeting of council resulted in the resolution of a property rezoning issue that has been of public interest since early 2008.

The public meeting was attended by about 50 interested residents. Council explored several zoning options put forward by county planner Jeff Baranek, but initially failed to agree upon a suitable solution. It was suggested that the matter be deferred, but township CAO John Rodey pointed out that the deadline for a decision was approaching and that, in the case of an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board, it would be wise for council to approve a zoning option so that the OMB would know council's will and factor it into its final decision.

More discussion resulted in council approving the rezoning of the property to 'residential' with the provision that the lots being developed have a minimum frontage of 31 metres and a minimum area of 2,000 square metres. This is in line with lot requirements that have been set for lots adjacent to the St. Clair River.

At the conclusion of the meeting, resident Doug Henderson spoke on behalf of the audience members. He expressed satisfaction with council's decision and said that he believed the democratic process had worked.

The subject property, located north of the St. Clair Township Civic Centre on Emily Street in Mooretown, had originally been designated as 'open space.' After the property was declared surplus, an initiative was undertaken to rezone the property as 'residential'

to allow it to be developed, which drew strong opposition from a group of township residents.

Wetlands activity Questioned

Excavation activities currently underway adjacent to the Dow Wetlands was questioned by Mayor Arnold during the July sitting of council. He has requested an inquiry be made as to what is being done there and what materials are involved. The Ministry of the Environment will also be consulted on this issue.

Invitation to 2008 Celebrate activities received

Council received an invitation to attend the official celebration commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first commercial oil well in North America in Oil Springs on Saturday, Aug. 9. The all-day event will feature an afternoon parade, anniversary activities at the Oil Museum of Canada, and the Oil Baron's Ball in the evening. Several members of council expressed interest in attending this historically significant celebration.

AMO WEEE plan targets e-waste

Council reviewed information regarding the approval of the first phase of the provincial Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Plan (WEEE). The information was distributed by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

The WEEE plan is an e-waste diversion program, the first in Canada to set environmental performance targets for collection, reuse, recycling and accessibility. Currently, about 27 per cent of e-waste is reused or recycled, but under the WEEE plan, this is expected to rise to about 61 per cent by year five.

Free drop-off locations will be assigned and will include charities, municipal depots and recycling companies. Phase 1 of the plan will include desktop and laptop computers, computer peripherals, monitors, printers, fax machines and televisions. Phase 2 will take in phones, cameras and audiovisual equipment.

Statistics show that Ontario households and business discard about 90,000 tonnes of old computers, printers and televisions each year. It is estimated that this will grow to 123,000 tonnes per year in the next five years.

The cost of this program will be covered 100 per cent by industry. It is expected the program will be implemented by early 2009.

See More Council notes, page 3

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

However, the summer meeting schedule is now in effect. The next meeting of council will be held on Monday, Aug. 18 at 7 p.m.

The Beacon is edited by Bonni Stevenson and published monthly by St. Clair Township as a public service to residents of the municipality.

MORE COUNCIL NOTES

From page 2

Draft strategic plan presented

Citymedia representatives Katherine Wiggett and Joe Swan recently attended a Committee of the Whole meeting to present the current draft of the township's strategic plan. Wiggett noted that information from about 420 surveys had been compiled and extracted to form the statistical portion of the draft plan. In response to questions from the committee, it was decided an abbreviated final report would be made available on the St. Clair Township website in mid-August. That report will also be considered by council at its regular meeting on Monday, Aug.

Remediation plan discussed

At a recent public works meeting, the committee discussed information received from the St. Clair

Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) regarding possible construction options for the proposed Guthrie Park shoreline remediation. The report included two options which both included the addition of a second armor stone cap. The cost of the second cap would be approximately \$300 to \$500 per metre. After considerable discussion, the committee decided the second cap would be redundant and may not be cost effective. Both options were rejected and the SCRCA was notified.

Elevator installation approved

Residents of 3538 St. Clair Parkway in Sombra can expect a new elevator to be installed soon. Council received word that Lambton County Council has approved funding for the elevator in the amount of \$111,101 and a contract for the work has been awarded.

The two-storey apartment building is located just south of the Village of Sombra.

Take care choosing energy provider

The Ontario Energy Board advises consumers to know their rights and responsibilities when choosing an energy provider. It is important to know who your provider is, whether there is a contract in effect, what price you are paying, and what your monthly consumption is.

If an agent makes contact, ask for photo ID and what company he or she represents, and get a copy of any material presented to you. Read everything over carefully, including the fine print. Be aware that a 10-day cooling off period is in effect so that you can cancel if you decide you are not comfortable with the choice you have made. And never feel pressured or rushed when making your choice.

For more information on this and other energy-related issues, contact the Ontario Energy Board toll free at 1-877-632-2727 or e-mail: *info@oeb.gov.on.ca*. Information can also be accessed online at *www.oeb.gov.on.ca*.

Sombra Township Child Care offers programs for local children

Residents of St. Clair Township have access to a number of child-centered programs thanks to the efforts of Sombra Township Child Care. These programs are offered for children ages three months to 12 years.

The Infant and Toddler Program is offered at the St. Clair Community Services Building located on the St. Clair Parkway at the south end of the Village of Sombra

The ELF (Early Learning Framework) program is open to children between the ages of 31 months and four years who are not eligible for junior or senior kindergarten. The program prepares children for school by developing five age-appropriate school readiness skills: physical, emotional, social, language and cognitive development. This program is free of charge and runs over a two week period for a total of 12.5 hours.

The ELF program is one of several programs currently available in two south St. Clair Township locations. Riverview Central School and Sacred Heart School offer the ELF program, as well as JK/SK wrap around, and the before and after school program.

Riverview Central School is a Best Start Hub under the Ontario Early Years initiative. The OEYC Sarnia-Lambton is a family drop-in program, operated by Sombra Township Child Care Inc. It is part of the Ontario government's commitment to families with children up to the age of six. The goal is to provide a learning environment in which parents and children can interact and learn from each other. The hours of operation are: Monday and Tuesday 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Thursday 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Transportation assistance is available and all OEYC programs are free of charge. For a complete listing of hours and parent/caregiver workshops, or for more information, go online to www.ontarioearlyyears.ca or call 519-892-3151.

COUNCIL DIARY

Summer time and "staycation" plans

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

If the high cost of gasoline has put a damper on your summer travel plans, may I suggest that you become a tourist in your own township. St. Clair Township has many different attractions and things for you and your family to do, and they're all practically in your own back yard.

A visit to the Moore and Sombra Museums offers residents and their visitors a chance to explore the heritage of this area. Our museums offer a kind of time travel that everyone can enjoy and appreciate. From the early years of pioneer colonization to the rowdy Prohibition Era bootlegging activities to the intriguing aspects of maritime lore, there is something to entertain and enrich every visitor that passes through the door.

Whether you're planning a family picnic, going fishing, or just relaxing, a drive along the St. Clair Parkway offers many scenic parks and shady places to stop and pursue your recreational activity.

The opportunities for a leisurely stroll or more intense fitness improvement is offered by the St. Clair River Trail. Walk, ride a bicycle or lace up the in-line skates and hit the trail.

The Moore Sports Complex in Mooretown of-

fers a wide variety of programs for summer and year-round activities, from hockey and skating, to swimming and general fitness.

The St. Clair Parkway Golf Course is township-owned and operated, and ready to challenge your golfing skills. If your skills are in need of a tune-up, make an appointment with golf pro Dave Belling. The clubhouse is also home to Hawthorne's, where you can enjoy a cool beverage and a meal.

If nature interests you, Bickford Woods, a beautiful Carolinian forest, and other wetlands and conservation areas, are located throughout the township. Reconnect with nature and our indigenous wildlife. (Bear-watching in the Brigden area is optional. Vigilance is advised.)

The township's campgrounds at Mooretown, Branton-Cundick Park and Cathcart Park are for residents and visitors who enjoy the outdoors.

Youngsters will enjoy the new Sombra splashpad. It's a great way to cool off in the hot, humid summer weather. And skateboard enthusiasts will soon have access to a skateboard park in Port Lambton.

Whatever you choose to do this summer, St. Clair Township is a great place to start. Spend some time being a tourist in your own township.

Enjoy your "staycation" and have a safe summer.

Bottle collection aids river trail fundraising effort

age container return policy. Several drop-off loca- Rose (Port Lambton) at 519-677-5924. tions have been set up throughout the township to make it convenient for residents to contribute to the cost of completing the remaining eight kilometres of trail.

Items being collected include beer, wine, spirit and cooler bottles, cans and tetra pack boxes. collection by St. Clair River Trail volunteers.

Please note: If the bin is already full, please bring the containers back at a later time. DO NOT leave the containers outside the bin. The volunteers will do their best to make sure the bin is emptied on a regular basis.

The refund value of the items donated to the trail is matched two-to-one by St. Clair Township.

Volunteers and students who would like to as-

The St. Clair River Trail Committee has been sist with this project can call Julie (Corunna) at raising money through the provinces's new bever- 519-867-9918, Anne (Sombra) at 519-892-3965, or

The drop-off locations currently in operation are: Corunna Home Hardware on Lyndoch Street; the Pic-N-Pay Variety Store in Som-These items can be left in the designated bins for bra; and the Shaykin Bait Variety Store in Port Lambton.

> The trail committee extends a special vote of thanks to Cam Eager of the Corunna Home Hardware, Ralph and Lynda Campbell of the Pic-N-Pay Variety Store, and Kelly and Kevin Johnston of the Shaykin Bait Variety Store for generously allowing the collection bins to be located at their businesses.

Fundraising effort underway to complete river

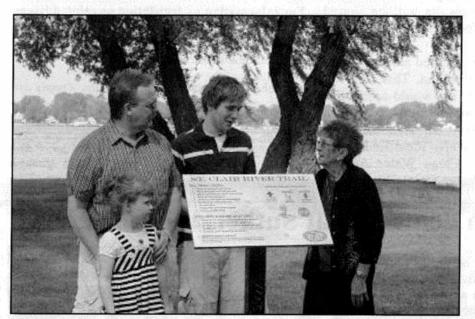
The unsurpassed beauty of the St. Clair River is something St. Clair Township residents often take for granted. But in recent years, the St. Clair River Trail has been offering residents and visitors alike a fresh new perspective on the natural wonder that borders this area.

Over the years, the trail has received tremendous support from local residents and industries, and this has helped to build the trail to its current size. And now, the completion of the trail is in sight and the trail committee is appealing to all residents of St. Clair Township to support a drive to fund the remaining eight kilometres.

Trail committee co-chair Peter Cassel says this is the first time in the 10-year history of the trail construction that the trail committee has asked for direct assistance from the public. "If this appeal is successful, the trail could be completed by 2010 and would then stretch the entire 35.5 kilometre length of St. Clair Township," he added.

An increasingly large section of the local population is using the trail to advance fitness goals or simply to enjoy a pleasant outdoor walk along a safe public pathway. "The trail is used extensively by residents and tourists alike, and has proven to be a strong asset for the township," says Cassel.

> Financial support for the trail is now being accepted at several financial institutions within St. Clair Township. These include: CIBC, 3461 St. Clair Parkway in Sombra; Lambton Financial Credit Union branches at 2352 Jane Street in Brigden and at 4348 St. Clair Parkway in Port Lambton; RBC Royal Bank, 348 Lyndoch Street in Corunna and Southwest Regional Credit Union, 411 Lyndoch Street in Corunna. Donations are also being accepted at the St. Clair Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street in Mooretown and at



Above: At the recent dedication of the Dedecker link of the St. Clair Trail, several of the late former mayor's family members, including Joe Dedecker Jr., left, his children and Mayor Dedecker's wife, Carol, right, were on hand to enjoy the occasion. Left: A family outing along the trail provides exercise and creates precious memories.

Moore Sports Complex, 1166 Emily Street in Mooretown. Cheques should be made payable to the *St. Clair River Trail* in order to receive an income tax receipt.

"The all-volunteer St. Clair River Trail Committee has greatly appreciated the degree of support received from residents in the past and looks forward to community assistance again for the final push to completion," said committee co-chair Mary Jane Marsh.





LEAD SAMPLING PROGRAM

Ministry of the Environment Reg. 170/03

Notice to Residents of St. Clair Township, Sarnia, Wyoming, Point Edward and Warwick

The Lambton Area Water Supply System (LAWSS), on behalf of their member municipalities above, will be conducting a lead sampling program as per Ministry of the Environment Regulation 170/03 over the next four months.

The sampling will be done in residences and other facilities which have been identified as having or suspected of having lead or lead solder water services. The results will be shared with the occupant and the owner of the premises.

If you are within the designated area, you will be contacted for an appointment. This is a voluntary program; however, we would appreciate your cooperation and permission to collect samples at your property. All lead sampling will be conducted by a clearly identified representative of the Ontario Clean Water Agency and the Lambton Area Water Supply System.

For questions regarding lead sampling:

Lambton Area Water Supply System 519-344-7429, extension 239 http://www.lawss.org

For health related questions concerning lead:

Community Health Services Department 519-383-8331m extension 3576 http://www.lambtonhealth.on.ca/

For information on legislation or related issues:

Ministry of the Environment 416-325-4000 or 1-800-565-4923 http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/

On behalf of the Lambton Area Water Supply System we appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working with you on this very important program.

Reg McMichael, P.Eng. LAWSS Manager

New gazebo dedicated at Sutherland Cemetery

Bishop Bruce Howe of the Diocese of Huron recently presided over the dedication a new gazebo on the site of the new cremation section at Sutherland Cemetery off the St. Clair Parkway between Courtright and Mooretown.

The gazebo, named St. Stephen's Place to acknowledge its association with St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Courtright, was erected by the cemetery board and is dedicated to the memory of Gerry Little, who was an active community member in organizations such as the United Way of Samia-Lambton and the Progressive Conservative Party.

The cemetery board hopes to



On hand for the dedication of the new gazebo are St. Clair Township Councillor Jeff Agar, Fr. Paul Woolley, and Bishop Bruce Howe.

finish landscaping the new section time, will erect a columbarium to this autumn and, at some future accommodate cremation urns.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Holiday travelers warned to drive safely

When summertime plans include a journey along Ontario's roads, the Lambton OPP is asking motorists to obey speed limits and all of the rules of the road. Be aware of the speed limit and watch out for unexpected road hazards such as children at play who might suddenly dart out onto the road. Motorists are reminded that, if convicted of speeds in excess of 50 kilometres over the posted limit, they could face a minimum fine of \$2,000 plus seven demerit points, a seven-day driver's license suspension and a seven-day vehicle impoundment.

In addition, remember the use of seat belts is mandatory. Be sure to lock up your vehicle when it's unattended and don't drink and drive so that you can arrive at your holiday destination safely.

In short, slow down, pay attention, buckle up, lock up and drive sober!

Lock up or be victimized!

Many residents of St. Clair Township are still leaving themselves open to theft by leaving homes and vehicles unlocked. After several more incidents of theft were reported this month, Lambton OPP issued yet another warning stating that when you leave your property unlocked and valuables in plain sight, you risk becoming a victim of theft. Police urge property owners to put away and lock up all items of significant value, including lawn care and recreational items. In addition, residents are asked to be vigilant and to report any

suspicious activity that may be occurring so that police may respond immediately.

Parental guidance urged for recreational vehicle use

In response to a series of tragic incidents involving youngsters and recreational vehicles such as ATVs and dirt bikes, the Lambton OPP is urging parents and caregivers to supervise their children's use of all-terrain vehicles and other motorized recreational vehicles.

Although the law permits children as young as 12 to ride an ATV on crown land if accompanied by an adult, this has not prevented the death of a 14-year-old girl or the injury of a 13-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl. Police say parents and their children must realize that these vehicles are not toys. They are motorized machinery capable of considerable speed and they are potential killing machines if used carelessly or improperly. Close parental monitoring is crucial to the safety of children who have access to such vehicles.

Helmets and safety gear are required for anyone who uses these recreational vehicles, and extensive training in their use and operation also contributes to the rider's safety.

Vehicle 'torched'

Police are investigating the burning of a 1997 pickup truck on July 27 between midnight and 1:15 a.m. The truck was parked and unattended in a Princess

Street body shop when suspects entered, unlocked the vehicle and set the interior on fire. Neighbours reported the fire and volunteer firefighters from St. Clair Township Fire Department responded. The truck was gutted and investigators say an accelerant was used to start the fire.

Bear sighted near Brigden

In response to sightings of a black bear roaming in the St. Clair Township area in July, Lambton OPP are requesting that any sightings be forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources on the 24-hour bear hotline at 1-866-514-2327 (1-866-514-BEAR) or visit the Website at www.ontario.ca/bearwise.

Homeowners are urged to keep garbage well-contained and out of reach and to thoroughly clean outdoor grills after every use. Do not put meat, fish or sweet food, including fruit, in composters. Gardeners should pick fruits and berries as they ripen - don't leave them to rot on the ground. And keep meat scraps in freezer until garbage day.

OPP contact numbers

Corunna office: 519-481-0161 Petrolia detachment: 519-882-1011 OPP dispatch: 1-888-310-1122

Emergency: 911

To report information regarding a crime, call Crime Stoppers: 1-800-222-8477. All calls are anonymous.

Lambton Rural Child Care aiming to offer local home child care services

Many township residents are not able to find qualified, trustworthy child care providers, either through organized daycare or in-home caregivers. But this may change in the near future

Lambton Rural Child Care (LRCC), a non-profit agency licensed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, is currently seeking qualified child care providers in the St. Clair Township area. Courtney Yacks, a home visitor with the LRCC, says there have already been calls from Corunna area families who are desperate to find suitable child care. Yacks says the LRCC serves all of Lambton County, but to date has not extended its services into this area. "(In addition to the Corunna area) we hope to provide the service to other St. Clair

Township residents," she said.

In an effort to address this need, the LRCC is inviting applications from people who are interested in becoming home child care providers. Information about this job opportunity can be obtained by calling Yacks at 519-882-3480, extension 22.

Applicants will undergo reference and background checks to ensure that they are suitable caregivers. The LRCC will monitor successful applicants to ensure services being delivered meet with agency standards. Families requiring child care should contact the LRCC at the above phone number so that they can be contacted when suitable caregivers become available.

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

FAIR AMBASSADOR WANTED

Contestants are now being sought to participate in the Brigden Fair Ambassador contest on Thursday, Aug. 7 at 7 p.m. in the exhibition hall board room at the Brigden fairgrounds. The competition is open to both females and males ages 16 to 21 as of the contest date. The ambassador contest will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 26 at 7 p.m. in the exhibition hall. For more information contact the fair office at 519-864-1197 or go online to **www.brigdenfair.ca**.

Blueberry social set

The Sombra Museum at the intersection of Smith Street and the St. Clair Parkway in Sombra will hold its annual Blueberry Social on Sunday, Aug. 10 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will feature delicious homemade blueberry desserts along with a few added attractions.

Brigden Fest car show/dance

The Royal Canadian Legion Brigden branch and the Optimist Club will host the third annual Brigden Fest on Saturday, Aug. 16. The event will begin with a car show at 1 p.m. and continue into the evening with a street dance at 8 p.m. This is a free event for all. The entry fee for old cars is \$15, and prizes and a chicken dinner are included in the cost. For more information or to obtain a registration form, call Leigh at 519-864-1451 or Louise at 519-864-1483.

Museum to hold appraisal clinic

On Sunday, Aug. 17 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., the Sombra Museum will host historian Paul Brisco of London, Ontario for an I.D. Evaluation Appraisal Clinic on sporting apparatuses such as duck decoys, fishing lures, reels, etc. For more information call 519-892-3982.

Cycle/walk for autism

The Cycle/Walk for Autism fundraiser will be held on Sunday, Aug. 17 along the St. Clair River Trail. Cycle routes to suit any participant will be available, from a beginner/family 10 kilometre route, an intermediate 25 kilometre route, and an advanced 75 kilometre route. The Bicycle Shop will be onsite to complete basic bicycle checkups and Simon & Sherrol's No Frills will be hosting an after-event barbecue. Minimum pledges will be required. For more information or to obtain a pledge sheet, call Melissa at the Sarnia Autism office, 519-332-0333 or e-mail admin@sarniaautism.com.

Rainforest Adventure bible school

Summer vacation will become an amazing Rainforest Adventure for children who attend St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Corunna for Bible school the week of Aug. 18 through 22. The adventure, which will run from 8:45 a.m. to noon, is open to children who have completed junior kindergarten up to Grade 6. It will feature games, crafts,

Bible stories, great songs and much more. Register by e-mailing to sapcorunna@excelco.ca or telephone 519-862-3641.

Teddy Bear Victorian tea party

Children are invited to bring their favourite teddy bear to the Sombra Museum on Friday, Aug. 22 from 11 a.m. to noon for the Teddy Bear Victorian tea party. The event will include games, prizes and refreshments. For more information, call the museum at 519-892-3982.

Horticultural society meets

The Brigden and District Horticultural Society will hold an open meeting and flower show on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Brigden fire hall. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information call Rae at 519-864-1676 or Rose at 519-864-4095. Please note: The society's annual dinner meeting is slated for Tuesday, Nov. 12. More details will follow as plans are finalized.

Downriver craft show coming

The annual Downriver Craft Sale is slated for the Moore Museum grounds on Sunday, Sept. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The entry fee is \$1 and about 50 exhibitors are expected to participate. Outside vendor space is still available and can be reserved by calling 519-867-2020. Don't miss the opportunity to get a start on your Christmas shopping and enjoy a light bite while you're there.

Youth horticulture meetings

The youth division (ages six to 16) of the Brigden Horticultural Society meets Saturdays at the Brigden library from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Registration is \$6 per year. For more information call Jacquie at 519-864-4654 or Kathi at 519-864-1323.

Hypnotist headlines fundraiser

The Jeff West Experience, an evening of hypnosis, comedy and music, is coming to the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall on Friday, Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets for this Physician's Recruitment Taskforce fundraiser are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and children. Call 519-336-4083 for more information.

Splash pad hours

The Sombra splash pad hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily throughout the summer. The facility is operated by Sombra Sports and Rec.

Knights of Columbus breakfasts

A reminder for breakfast lovers to mark their calendars because the coming of autumn brings along the muchanticipated Knights of Columbus breakfasts at the St. Joseph's Parish Centre in Corunna. Here is the 2008/09 schedule: Sundays, Oct. 5, Nov. 9, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 1, March 29, and May 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.