



THE BEACON

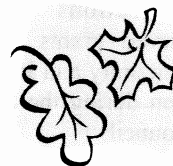
of St. Clair Township

Issue 10

Volume 2

October 2008

Happy Thanksgiving
Don't miss the Brighden Fair - Oct. 10 thru 13



**2008/2009
BRIGDEN
FAIR
AMBASSADOR
READY FOR
DUTY**



Lacey Maw was recently crowned Brighden Fair Ambassador for 2008/2009.

You always know that autumn is right around the corner when the new Brighden Fair ambassador is crowned.

This 37-year-old tradition was continued on Aug. 27 when Lacey Maw, 18, received her glittering tiara and ambassador's sash. Lacey was presented with these coveted items from out-going ambassador Morgan MacKenzie after being chosen out of a field of seven contestants. Maw also tied with entrant Naomi Coe for presenting the best speech. No male entrants registered to compete this year.

A resident of the Brighden area and graduate of LCCVI in Petrolia, Lacey is currently in her first year at Carleton University studying interactive multimedia and design. Her year-long roster of duties will include: touring local schools to promote agriculture; being on hand throughout the four-day Brighden fair to appear and assist at various events; attending annual events such as the Ontario Agricultural Association convention in Toronto in February, 2009; and representing the Brighden Fair at the annual province-wide CNE Ambassador competition in August, 2009.

Lacey says she enjoys many kinds of sports, from curling to badminton to soccer. Her hobbies include drawing and reading, and she is a musician who loves to sing, play the

See New ambassador, page 3

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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.**



COUNCIL NOTES

Foundation awards grants

Four worthy St. Clair Township organizations received much-deserved grants from the Moore Community and Recreational Foundation during the Sept. 22 meeting of council.

The Optimist Club of Moore received \$1,000 toward its community project which will see the installation of a splash pad in Co-runna. Club president Fred Strickland was on hand to accept the grant.

The Moore Museum received \$2,000 toward the building of a general store with the goal of creating a true heritage community on the museum site. Museum representative Judy Rausa accepted the

grant.

The Optimist Club of Brigden received \$500 toward the rebuilding of skateboard ramps in Brigden Park to make them safe for the use of local youth. Club president Mike Courtney accepted the grant.

And the Moore Agricultural Society received \$500 toward the updating and upgrading of educational displays used for the society's Agriculture in the Classroom and Ploughman's Farmyard programs.

During the presentation, Jane Marsh congratulated the four successful applicants, noting that a total of six applications had been received. She requested that each of

the grant recipients submit a follow-up report to show that the grants have been used for the purpose stated on the respective applications.

The Moore Community and Recreational Foundation was incorporated in 1990 under Moore Reeve Charlie Nisbet. It is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to an ever-improving quality of life in St. Clair Township. The foundation welcomes donations from the community and uses interest accrued from the foundation fund to support initiatives that benefit the community. More information is available by calling the St. Clair Township office at 519-867-2021.



On hand for the awarding of the Moore Community and Recreational Foundation grants were: Mayor Steve Arnold; Optimist Club of Moore president Fred Strickland; Moore Agricultural Society president Brenda Maw; foundation representative Jane

Marsh; Moore Museum representative Judy Rausa; Optimist Club of Brigden president Mike Courtney; Foundation founding member Charlie Nisbet.

Photo by Bonni Stevenson

MORE COUNCIL NOTES

Grants increase accessibility

A recently approved \$60,000 Federal government grant will be used to fund elevator improvements at the Moore Sports Complex. A second \$13,000 grant will allow for the construction of a wheelchair ramp at the Sombra Museum.

Broadband service discussed

At a recent Committee of

the Whole meeting, disappointment was expressed that the municipality's Internet coverage still includes several 'dead zones.' A map was used to indicate that these zones still exist within Port Lambton village, Sombra village, the community of Courtright and in several rural areas of the township. The committee believes Bell Reliant must be encouraged to make whatever technical improvements it can to improve the coverage area within St. Clair Township.

**St. Clair Township
council holds regular meet-
ings 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.**

BEACON BIT

The trouble with talking too fast is you may say something you haven't thought of yet.
—Ann Landers

Golf course season ending soon

Winter will soon bring the 2008 golfing season to a close for the St. Clair Parkway Golf Club. But there is still time to get out on the links to enjoy a round or two in the pleasant autumn weather as well as a cool beverage and a good meal in the clubhouse. The fall menu is now in effect and daily lunch and dinner specials are offered.

Golfers are reminded to sign up for the annual Backwards Golf event on Sunday, Oct. 26. The Pro Shop has all the details for this popular event.

The club's general manager, Matt Lafontaine, says the decision to close the course for the season will be made sometime after Nov. 1.

New 2008/2009 ambassador loves music

From page 1

piano and the flute. Lacey says she is proud of her farming roots and has volunteered at the Brigden fair for several years.

During her acceptance remarks, Lacey acknowledged entrant Amanda Shuter with the title of Miss Congeniality. The runner-up at this year's competition was 17-year-old Katie Roegist, who is currently an honour student at LCCVI. Rounding out the list of contestants were Naomie Coe, Ann Stephenson, Jody Dawson, and Bailey Laing.

Taking Steps a family affair

As baby Chloe can tell you, it's never too early to *Take Steps Against Breast Cancer*. The wee walker attended the Sept. 21 annual cancer fundraiser at the Moore Sports Complex with her brother, Ryan, and mom, Melanie Balcombe of Co-runna, left. Sharing a light moment at the sign-up table are event volunteers Ruth Bechard, right foreground, Barbara Shaw and Liz Scales.



Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, October 14!

The federal election slated for Tuesday, Oct. 14 offers all eligible voters the opportunity to have a voice in how Canada is governed. Countless thousands have died to ensure that we can enjoy this freedom, and it is up to each one of us to honour their sacrifice by voting. Here is the list of candidates who

will be vying for your vote on election day:

Incumbent: **Pat Davidson, Conservative Party**
Tim Fugard, Liberal Party
Andy Bruziewicz, NDP
Allan McKeown, Green Party
Christopher Desormeaux-Malm, Christian Heritage Party.

If you have not received your voter registration information yet, please call 519-344-0479.

COUNCIL DIARY

Council Diary will return next month. This federal election information has been included here to encourage all eligible St. Clair Township residents to vote.

St. Clair River Trail donors to be acknowledged

The St. Clair River Trail Committee has announced that donors to the trail fundraising effort will be gratefully acknowledged.

The donor names (not amounts) will be posted at each of the eight donation collection sites around the township. These are: CIBC, 3461 St. Clair Parkway, Sombra; St. Clair Township Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street,

Mooretown; Lambton Financial Credit Union branches at 2352 Jane Street in Brigden or 4348 St. Clair Parkway in Port Lambton; RBC Royal Bank branches at 348 Lyndoch Street in Corunna or River Drive North in Port Lambton; Southwest Regional Credit Union, 411 Lyndoch Street in Corunna. Cheques can be made payable to *St. Clair River Trail* and dropped off at any one of these locations.

Operation Christmas Tree benefits community's less fortunate families

Once again this year, Operation Christmas Tree will be helping to make the holidays brighter for many of north St. Clair Township's less fortunate families. The Christmas hamper program has been operated by the Optimist Club of Moore since 1989 and, every year, the club accepts donations of cash, food, and new toys.

The organizing committee will be seeking donations from local individuals, groups and businesses throughout the area for this worthy cause. It is estimated that the total budget stemming from all types of donations be \$48,500. Operation Christmas Tree has been a registered charity with tax exempt status since Dec. 17, 1992 and all cash donations over \$10 are eligible for tax receipts upon request.

This year's collection initiative will formally begin on Thursday, Nov. 20 with the annual Poor Boy luncheon at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hall on Albert Street. From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Legion auxiliary will offer a hearty lunch and everyone is welcome to attend. The cost of admission is by free will offering at the door. Food for the luncheon is donated by the auxiliary.

On Monday, Nov. 24, the Operation Christmas Tree distribution/collection centre will open at the former Murray Street Public School building thanks to the generosity of owners Earle and Angela Gilgeous and EGA Systems. Donations can be dropped off there from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Local schools will be collecting non-perishable food items for Operation Christmas Tree and these are scheduled to be collected by officers from the Corunna office of the Lambton OPP, as well as volunteer firefighters from the St. Clair Town-

ship Fire Department Corunna and Brigden stations, on Thursday, Dec. 11.

The Lambton OPP Corunna station and the Corunna Community Policing Committee will also host the third annual Operation Christmas Tree donation drive-thru in the station's parking lot at the south end of Lyndoch Street on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Santa Claus will be on hand to personally thank all those who show their Christmas spirit through their generous donations.

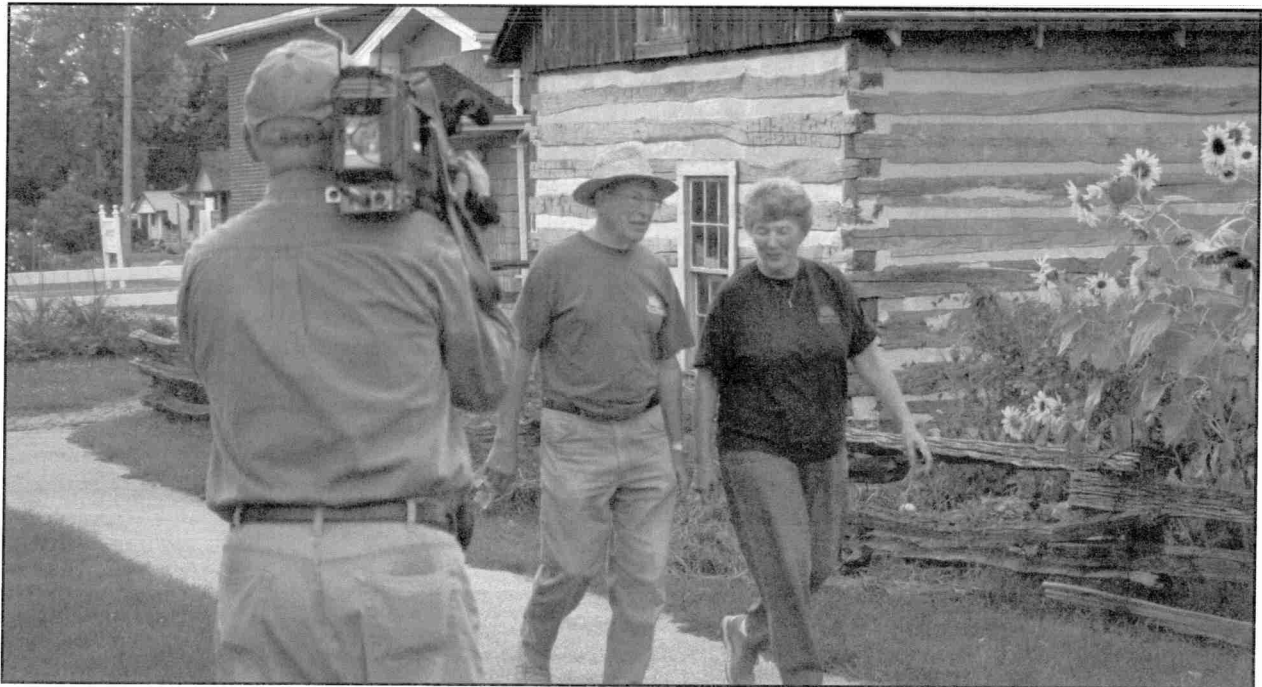
And finally, after all of the donated items are sorted and packed into individual hampers, volunteer firefighters from the Corunna, Brigden and Courtright fire stations, assisted by the Knights of Columbus, will deliver the hampers on Saturday, Dec. 20.

Many local families will enjoy a Merry Christmas thanks to a caring community and the efforts of the many contributing individuals, volunteers, businesses and organizations. These include the Brigden, Corunna and Moore Optimist Clubs, the Corunna and Brigden Legions, Bluewater Foodland, and many local industries who all make monetary, food and toy contributions to this effort.

Nobody wants to be left out at Christmas time and no one with a caring heart would willingly allow a neighbour to go hungry when there is such abundance in the community. Operation Christmas Tree exists because there is a need and it offers everyone the opportunity to take action against poverty and to get in touch with their inner Santa.

More information about Operation Christmas Tree is available online at www.operationchristmastree.ca.

Mooretown couple represents the Local Heroes at Moore Museum



Bob and Marilyn Johnson stroll the pathway toward the St. Clair Trinity Chapel on the Moore Museum site while CKCO videographer Rick Smith gathers video footage for his *Local Heroes* feature story. *Photo by Bonni Stevenson*

St. Clair Township has no shortage of generous people who are willing to donate their time and talents to various clubs, causes and organizations.

The media spotlight recently shone upon two of these people. Bob and Marilyn Johnson, long-time volunteers at the Moore Museum, were the subjects of a CKCO-TV *Local Heroes* feature news story. CTV videographer Rick Smith met with the Mooretown couple at the museum site to interview the Johnsons and gather video footage to air on the Monday, Sept. 15 evening newscast.

Bob Johnson, a Dow Chemical retiree, has been a volunteer at the museum for 17 years and says he enjoys the things he is able to do there. "I really enjoy this (volunteering)," he said. "I just like building things." Bob's construction know-how is in evidence all around the Moore Museum site. Projects he has worked on include the St. Clair Trinity Chapel, the range light, the Basswood Block, the train station, the caboose and the fire hall. He also helped install the new shop areas in the Shaw building.

Marilyn Johnson has lent her considerable talents to the betterment of the museum for the past 12 years. Pleasant summer days find her out tending the gardens and keeping the museum grounds groomed, although she pitches in with many other museum tasks. Why?

"It's an awesome place to work," she says. "It's just like coming home."

The Johnsons are so enthusiastic about their work at the Moore Museum that they have often enlisted the help of their children and grandchildren to help with various museum activities and functions.

About 70 people currently volunteer at the Moore Museum and the Johnsons are representative of the commitment and love these volunteers have for the work they do there. It is estimated that about 1,100 manhours of work have been donated to the museum in the past year.

Moore Museum curator Laurie Mason says volunteers are a priceless resource. "They're very valuable to us," she said. "Our community supports us financially and with the artifacts that make up the museum, but they also support us by volunteering. We just wouldn't be able to do the things we do without them. We have 12 buildings and we need our volunteer maintenance crew to look after them - there are just so many things to do. And we can always use more volunteers." She added, "We have lots for volunteers to do. (For instance) they can help at events or do office work like inputting files into the computers. We can always figure out something they can do to put their talents to use."

Regional Neighbourhood Watch meeting in Brigden

The Corunna Community Policing Committee will host the ninth annual Southwestern Ontario Regional Neighbourhood Watch meeting on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Brigden Community Hall.

This event is held to allow Neighbourhood Watch members from the region to share information and experiences. The meeting will also feature several presentations. A representative of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will explain the role and responsibilities of the RCMP in protecting Canada. Ron Flowers of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will discuss the smuggling of people, drugs and property, and the role and goals of the CBSA. Cst. Ken McLaughlin of the Sarnia Police Services will explain identity theft and offer prevention strategies. And OPP Cst. Paul Gagne will make a presentation about bombs.

Friendship JOOI Club in action

The Friendship JOOI Club has started up its *Catch and Release* program again. The group will be placing plastic bag-covered books around the community so that they may be found, read and "released" back into the community, allowing others to enjoy them. This clever initiative is the club's way of encouraging literacy in the north St. Clair Township area.

The club has also been busy planning a Halloween party to be held on Oct. 24 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at a cost of \$5 per person. Children attending are invited to come in costume. Refreshments will be available and the evening promises to be a lot of fun. Ribbons will be handed out for the best costumes at the party. For more information call 519-867-5235 and ask for Jacquie.

The Friendship JOOI Club is associated with the Optimist Club of Moore.



Local sportsmen and collectors of antique sporting equipment recently got an opportunity to have these collectibles appraised at the Sombra Museum. Historian Paul Brisco of London, bottom left, was on hand to take a close look at vintage items such as

decoys, fishing lures and reels. He is shown here taking a close look at a bufflehead duck decoy as owner Eldon Brown, top left, Sombra Museum curator Shelley Lucier, and Ariel and Al Mann look on.

Photo submitted

COMMUNITY
POLICING

High gas prices lead to thefts

Tips on combating fuel thefts

With the cost of gasoline on the rise, the temptation to 'borrow' fuel from other motorists becomes increasingly attractive. During the summer, the OPP received a number of reports of fuel thefts across Ontario. In a single month, \$80,000 worth of diesel fuel was reported stolen.

The following tips have been offered by the OPP to help motorists, as well as gas station owners and business and farm owners with large fuel storage facilities, prevent fuel theft.

Motorists should park in well-lit areas where foot traffic is high if possible. (This is also helpful in ensuring personal safety at night.) Those who regularly leave their vehicles unattended in high-risk areas should consider using a locking gas cap, with the gas cap key kept separately from the ignition key if it is left with a parking lot attendant.

If possible, keep the vehicle in the garage with the door closed and locked. And never leave an unattended vehicle open with the key in the ignition even in the winter because thieves who have come to steal gasoline may steal the vehicle instead.

Business and farm owners who have large fuel storage facilities on their land should make sure pumps and access to the storage tanks are secured with heavy duty locks. If the location is isolated and unsupervised for long periods of time, consider installing lights and security cameras. And if any suspicious activity or persons are detected in the area, advise police immediately.

Gas station owners should consider installing security cameras to record license plates of customers at all pumps. If someone tries to "gas and dash," this information can help police apprehend the suspect. An attendant monitoring the cameras can also determine if a license plate has been concealed.

Where possible, obtain pre-payment for fuel before activating the pump. Police

recommend this especially after dark. Owners of gas stations with multiple pumps on more than one island are advised to put the islands farthest from the attendant's kiosk out of service during slow periods and when staff is limited.

And finally, police advise the public to never confront a thief who is in the process of stealing fuel. Call 911 immediately and write down the license plate number, colour, make and model of any vehicles involved in the theft, plus a description of the suspects involved.

Cyclist dies in collision

A 64-year-old Brigden man has died as the result of a collision that occurred the evening of Sept. 20. Lambton OPP reports the man was riding his bicycle northbound on Brigden Road when he swerved and struck a northbound pickup truck driven by a Dawn-Euphemia man.

The OPP Technical Traffic Collision Investigation Unit attended the scene to determine what happened and police say no charges will be laid as a result of the collision.

Police say cyclists out riding after dark are required to have a white light on the front of their bicycle and a red light on the back. The bicycle should also be equipped with reflectors and reflective tape on the wheels, spokes and frame. Cyclists are advised to wear light-coloured, reflective clothing and should ride in the same direction as the traffic is going. Anyone under the age of 18 is required by law to wear a helmet, but it is a wise safety practice for all cyclists to wear a properly-fitted helmet when riding.

Police urge caution after dirt bike tragedy

Lambton OPP is advising caution in response to a recent dirt bike incident that resulted in the death of a 17-year-old Wilkesport teen. Police say the teen was riding a dirt bike southbound through a field along Bickford Line when he drove into the path of a car being driven along Bickford Line by an Alvinston man. The

teen was taken to hospital in critical condition but died as the result of his injuries.

The OPP's Technical Traffic Collision Investigation Unit attended the scene, but no charges were laid.

The Lambton OPP reminds all motorcycle riders that helmets must be worn and properly fastened whenever their vehicles are in operation.

Other policing issues

The Lambton OPP has responded to other St. Clair Township locations during the past month for a variety of reasons. These are just a few of the many incidents that required police investigation:

A residence on Sixth Street in Courtright was entered when an exterior door lock was forced. About \$200 in cash was taken.

A public complaint of erratic driving prompted Lambton OPP officers to try to apprehend a motorist along Rokeby Line. While in pursuit, police clocked the suspect traveling at speeds up to 150 kilometres per hour in an 80 kph zone. The pursuit was discontinued in the interest of public safety, but the suspect's vehicle crashed at the corner of Rokeby Line and Mandaumin Road a short time later. Officers apprehended the suspect who had left the vehicle and was fleeing on foot. The suspect, a Samia man, will appear in Samia court to answer to Criminal Code of Canada charges of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, flight from police, and failing to comply with a court order x2.

And at a Colborne Street residence in Corunna, the tires and rims of a 2007 Chevrolet Corvette were taken in an overnight theft in early September. The items were valued at about \$7,600.

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.

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

It's Brigden Fair time!

Thanksgiving in St. Clair Township annually brings family gatherings, and too much turkey and pumpkin pie, but it also brings the Brigden Fair. From Oct. 10 through 13, the Brigden fairgrounds will come alive with livestock shows, the Conklin Shows midway, homecraft displays, tempting food and vendor booths, and a variety of entertainment to suit any taste. This year's fair features the motorcycle daredevils of the Edge Motorbikes Big Air Insanity Show, the heavy horse pull, and the motorized precision of the OPP Golden Helmets. For a bird's eye view of the fair, there will be helicopter rides to enjoy. Buildings open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, with the midway open daily at 10 a.m. Don't miss the Brigden Fair! Make it a family tradition. For more information go online to www.brigdenfair.ca.

Optimist club cash calendars

The Optimist Club of Moore cash calendars are on sale once again. This calendar carries 122 cash draws and a \$8,500 prize board. An early bird draw for \$500 will be made on Dec. 25. The calendars are \$20 each and are available from any club member. Proceeds go toward the club's projects. For more information go online to www.mooreoptimist.ca.

JOOI Club plans Halloween party

The Friendship JOOI Club will host a Halloween party for youth on Friday, Oct. 24 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person and will include refreshments and ribbons for the best Halloween costumes at the party. For more information call Jacquie at 519-867-5235.

IODE fashion show set

The Honourable Bryan L. Cathcart Chapter IODE will present its annual fall fashion show at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hall on Wednesday, Oct. 29. Desserts will be served at 7:30 p.m. with the fashion show to follow. Fashions shown will be from Oxford Street of Northgate, Betty's Boutique of Wyoming and the Bayside Mall, Stefi Laura and Danier Leather of the Lambton Mall. The evening will include door prizes and a 50/50 draw.

Christmas open house planned

The annual Victorian Christmas Open House will take place at the Sombra Museum on Friday, Nov. 14 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The historic Bury House at the corner of Smith Street and the St. Clair Parkway will be decorated for Christmas this year by *Victorian Designs* and re-enactors will be seen throughout the house. Special events, hot apple cider, sweets, Christmas carollers and crafts for the children will be featured. The museum will also be open the week-ends of Nov. 15 and 16, Nov. 22 and 23, and Nov. 29 and

30 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Step back in time to experience a Victorian Christmas at the Sombra Museum.

Craft & bake sale slated

A Candy Cane Christmas craft and bake sale will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 437 Colborne St. in Corunna on Saturday, Nov. 29 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The sale will include crafts, baked goods, a cookie walk, specialty foods, and children's books and videos. Lunch will be available for \$3 and will include homemade soup, a roll, a beverage and a sweet. The church is a barrier-free facility. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy this festive event.

Operation Christmas Tree schedule

The 2008 Operation Christmas Tree program is set to get underway with the kick off Poor Boy luncheon slated for **Thursday, Nov. 20** from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hall. A hot luncheon, sweets and beverages will be served up by the Legion auxiliary and a free will donation will be accepted at the door.

Donations of non-perishable food, cash and toys will be accepted at the former Murray Street Public School building in Corunna beginning **Monday, Nov. 24**. Donations can be dropped off Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On **Thursday, Dec. 11**, officers from the Corunna Lambton OPP station and volunteer firefighters from the St. Clair Township Fire Department Corunna and Brigden fire stations will pick up donated non-perishable food items and toys collected by local schools.

The third annual Corunna OPP officers and Corunna Community Policing Committee Operation Christmas Tree donation drive-thru will take place on **Saturday, Dec. 13** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The drive-thru will take place in the parking lot of the Corunna OPP station at the south end of Lyndoch Street and Santa will be in attendance.

For more information see page 4 or go online to www.operationchristmastree.ca.

Youth horticulture meetings

The youth division (ages six to 16) of the Brigden Horticultural Society holds regular meetings at the Brigden library. Registration is \$6 per year. For more meeting information call Jackie at 519-864-4654 or Kathi at 519-864-1323.

Knights of Columbus breakfasts

OK, breakfast lovers, sharpen up your fork and knife and get ready to dig in at the 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.