



THE BEACON

of St. Clair Township

Issue 11

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**If you appreciate your freedom,
thank a Veteran!
On November 11, please take time to remember.**

Photos, information being sought for Brigden book

A new book about Brigden's history is in the works. The editorial committee responsible for the book is currently looking for photos, anecdotes, stories and newspaper articles that will help to make it as complete a history as possible.

Committee member Barb Leaper says the group has already been working on the project for over a year but it has been difficult to find new material for it. "We've been to the museums and to the Lambton Room (archives at the Lambton County Library in Wyoming)," she said. "A lot of people have pictures from 1940 on. We would like them to come forward." She added the photos and documents will be returned when the committee has copied them for the book.

This is not the first book that has been done about the Brigden area, says Leaper. "There was one written in 1930," she said, "but it was very small. We want to update it to the present." She added that word of the committee's efforts is slowly getting around. "We're gradually getting tidbits in," she said.

Sports is one of the historical aspects of the area the committee is really hoping to garner more photos and information about, but all submissions will

be appreciated. These include material about local service clubs, churches, schools, businesses, organizations and even talented individuals.

Anyone wanting to contact the committee about items of interest can contact Janet Eves at 519-864-1271, Lee Bradshaw at 519-882-0473 or Don Stewart at 519-867-5361.



This photo of the Brigden Co-op, taken in the 1950s, is an example of the kind of material the committee is seeking to create the new book about Brigden.
Photo submitted

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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

Funding sought for water treatment plant

Funding sought for capital project

Funding for the regional waste water treatment plant capital project will be sought through an application to the Building Canada Fund. Council's decision to proceed with this application was based on a report submitted by township treasurer Charles Quenneville. A municipality is entitled to apply for one funding grant under either of two components of the fund.

Traffic concerns to be investigated

In response to a letter from a concerned citizen, council has directed the township's public works department to investigate traffic problems on Beckwith and Paget Streets. The matter will also be referred to the Corunna Community Policing Committee for comment. Information garnered from these sources will be used to determine if the installation of more stop signs and road painting on Beckwith Street might alleviate the problem of motorists ignoring the posted speed limit and existing traffic signs.

CAP park not a used car lot

In recent months, some people have been parking their used vehicles in a location in the Corunna Athletic Park adjacent to Hill Street hoping to sell them. Council discussed this matter and its implications, such as whether or not insurance on the vehicles would be valid if damage occurred to them when they were parked there. Clerk John De Mars advised coun-

cil that past protocols, in which the by-law enforcement officer has contacted the owners and asked that the vehicles be removed, were fairly successful. It was agreed that this should be done.

Terra updating phone list

Council was informed that the Terra plant north of Sombra will be updating its phone list and taking other steps to ease concerns of local residents which were raised after a recent ammonia release at the facility. When the investigation into the incident is concluded, a letter will be sent to council outlining the results.

Proposed widening of Hill Street discussed

At the request of St. Clair Township, Lambton County's Infrastructure and Development Services committee asked county staff to investigate the possibility of widening Hill Street (County Road 4) to four lanes from the current point of transition to Highway 40. After conducting a detailed review of the study area, it has been recommended that the widening of the westbound lane of Hill Street between Nash Drive/Queen Street and Brooktree Drive be referred to the 2009 capital budget.

Splash pad proposed for CAP park

Representatives from the Optimist Club of Moore presented council with plans for a new Vortex splash pad to be installed in Corunna. The goal of the new facility, according to Moore Optimist President Fred Strickland, is to create a safe, sanitary, unsuper-

vised water environment for local youth, with accessibility for the disabled. In keeping with the Optimist Club's focus on youth, Strickland says the splash pad will also help youth channel their energy through physical activity rather than through unacceptable behaviours. The estimated cost of the new facility is \$150,000, and Strickland says donations to be used toward that cost have already been received from the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447, local businesses and individuals. Three installation quotes are being sought. The club requested that council fund half of the cost, which will be repaid over a period of several years. The Corunna Athletic Park is the most likely place to install the splash pad because it already has the water and power necessary to run it.

The Vortex splash pad is bigger than the one recently installed in Sombra, with nine pieces of equipment included in the installation.

Years of service awards presented

The following municipal employees recently received awards for years of service: Olga Depooter, 10 years; Deputy Fire Chief Tom Boon, 5 years; Deb Vannieuwenhuyze, 5 years.

**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.**

COUNCIL

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.

Well, folks, I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but for those who haven't noticed, summer is over. Unofficially, so is fall on my calendar.

I have been to the Bridgen Fair, attended the season-ending banquet at the golf course, watched the leaves fall, and made my annual tour looking at snow blowers I never buy. Yup, winter looms. Since I brought the subject up, let's go over a few

Unavoidable winter conditions require caution

winter rules. As we all know, it's slip and fall season. Take extra care on sidewalks and in parking lots. Early winter creates slippery conditions due to freeze and thaw temperature swings. Nothing is more treacherous than water over ice. Keep steps and sidewalks as ice free as possible.

The first few snowfalls also tend to contribute to automobile collisions. Winter driving requires a review of our driving skills. First, slow down! Although township staff does an out-

standing job of keeping our road system free of ice and snow, they can't always beat Mother Nature. Slippery conditions will occur despite their efforts and we all need to adjust our driving accordingly.

For those of you who will dodge winter by heading south, have a safe and enjoyable winter. As for the rest of us who will face it head on, so to speak, stay safe and enjoy the winter activities provided here in the community we are so proud of.

Change smoke alarm batteries to stay safe

Smoke alarms can only save your life if they are in good working order. Too often, tragedies occur because homeowners fail to check their safety equipment, which includes changing the batteries at least once per year.

Deputy Fire Chief Tom Boon of the St. Clair Township Fire Department reminds everyone to change the batteries in their smoke alarms. The best way to remember to do this is to make a habit of changing them when turning back the clocks in the autumn

or putting them ahead in the spring. At that time, inspect the inside of the alarm for dust and cobwebs that may prevent it from functioning properly.

In addition, have an escape plan that everyone in the residence knows and practices, as well as a meeting place outside the building. In the event of a fire, get everyone out safely and call 911 from a neighbour's house or cell phone.

And if you are aware of anyone who requires assistance in maintaining

their smoke alarms, why not volunteer to check them and keep them in good working order. You may end up saving their life.

According to statistics released during the recent Fire Prevention Week, residential property fires account for 40 per cent of all fires and a staggering 73 per cent of all fire deaths. On average, eight Canadians die from the results of fires each week, and fire kills about 100 children and injures another 250 every year in Canada.

Federal election wrap-up

For those who didn't follow the recent federal election, here is a brief recap of the final results.

In Sarnia-Lambton, incumbent Conservative candidate Pat Davidson garnered 23,008 votes, which translates into 49.9 per cent of the total votes. NDP candidate Andy Bruziewicz came in a distant second with 10,122 votes (21.9 per cent), Liberal candidate Tim Fugard got 9,281 votes (20.1 per cent), Green party candidate Allan McKeown got 3,184 votes (6.9 per cent) and Christian Heritage party candidate Christopher Desormeaux-Malm got 546 votes (1.2 per cent.) Voter turnout in Sarnia-Lambton was a disappointing 58 per cent of eligible voters.

At the federal level, the Conservatives now have 142 representatives in parliament, the Liberals have 78, the NDP has 37, Block Quebecois has 49, and there are two seats held independently.

Hunting licenses available

The Township of St. Clair small game hunting licenses will be available at the following locations:

- Pic-N-Pay Variety in Sombra
- Courtright Variety Store in Courtright
- Corunna Home Hardware in Corunna
- Agris Co-operative Ltd. in Bridgen
- St. Clair Civic Centre in Mooretown

The fees will be \$5 for a resident license and \$8 for a non-resident license. Applicants must apply in person and multiple licenses will not be issued.

John De Mars, B.A., C.M.O.

*Director of Administration
Clerk Deputy C.A.O.*

158th Brigden Fair an outstanding success

The weather was fine and the fair-goers turned out in abundance for the 158th Brigden Fair. Two milestones were celebrated, with the Homecraft division marking its 50th anniversary and the *Agriculture In The Classroom* educational program celebrating 20 years in operation. Here are some photo highlights of this year's fair.



Clockwise from top: The OPP Golden Helmets take to Brigden's main street for a crowd-pleasing display of precision riding.

Cheyana, left, and Nina of Co-runna made a wild fashion statement sporting balloon hats made by Dan the Balloon Man.

On a much larger scale, the 4-H Ontario hot air balloon thrilled young students attending the *Agriculture In The Classroom* program.

Christie Poolman demonstrated the art of yarn spinning using alpaca fiber.



A sheep-shearing demonstration was of interest to everyone but the sheep, who assumed a look of patient boredom.

The Conklin Shows midway remained a popular destination for kids of all ages.



COMMUNITY POLICING

Watch for slow-moving vehicles

The autumn harvest in St. Clair Township means that many large, slow-moving vehicles can often be seen traveling area roads.

The Lambton OPP reminds motorists to watch for these vehicles and to use caution when approaching and passing them. All farm machinery on the road is required to prominently display a slow-moving vehicle sign when it is traveling at less than 40 kilometres per hour. However, it is an offence to have this sign displayed if the vehicle is traveling at a rate in excess of this speed. The sign is meant to alert motorists that there is a potential hazard on the roadway.

Lights, white to the front and red to the rear, are required on all farm vehicles when being operated on a highway at any time from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise, and at any time when visibility is reduced in any way, as in the case of heavy rain, fog or snowfall. Farm operators are urged to consult the Ontario Highway Traffic Act for specific lighting information.

In addition, anyone pulling a trailer on a highway must use two separate methods of attaching it to the tow vehicle. If one attachment fails, the second one must be able to safely tow the load without also failing.

Drivers and farm vehicle operators are asked to share the roadway with mutual courtesy. A little patience and a lot of attention to the road will help to make this harvest season a safe one.

Shovelling snow onto road illegal

With winter right around the corner, the chore of shovelling snow will soon be on most homeowners' to-

do list. Property owners are reminded it is illegal to plow snow onto public roadways. The snow should be deposited to the sides of walkways and driveways on the property. Shovelling snow onto a public roadway can create a hazard for passing motorists and problems for snow plow operators. This Highway Traffic Act offence carries a fine of \$85 plus court costs, a total of \$110.

Brigden man faces mischief charge

A 61-year-old Brigden man will appear in Sarnia court on Nov. 17 to answer to a charge of mischief after he was caught breaking windows at a property in Brigden. Lambton OPP reports the incident occurred early on the morning of Sept. 26 when officers responded to complaints of noise in the area of the Brigden fairgrounds. Officers arrested the man outside the Brigden fairground office building.

Unlocked vehicle entered

After continual warnings to lock vehicles when they are unattended, some motorists still aren't getting the message. The recent theft of an FM transmitter, an iPod and loose change from a vehicle on Ellis Drive in St. Clair Township could have been prevented by simply locking the vehicle's doors. Lambton OPP urge everyone to remove all valuables from their vehicles and double check to see that all doors are locked before leaving a vehicle unattended for even a short period of time. And if a theft occurs, report it immediately to Lambton OPP **1-888-310-1122** or Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-8477**. All calls to Crime Stoppers are anonymous.

Legion donates to cataract clinic



The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 recently donated \$1,500 to the Pat Mailloux Cataract Clinic in Petrolia.

Branch 447 President Ron Winger, left, and Public Relations Officer Don Musson presented the cheque to Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital Foundation Chairman Owen Byers and Fundraising Chairman Verne Gekill.

Over the past 10 years, Corunna Branch 447 has donated over \$84,648 in support of Canada's veterans.

The public is reminded that non-members are welcome to enjoy the hospitality of their local Legion.

Motorists warned to watch out for deer

October through December is the peak season for deer and other wild animals to venture out onto roadways during their mating and migration season. The Lambton OPP is warning motorists to watch out for animals on the roads, especially between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m., and 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. In 2007, during this three month period, 103 collisions involving deer were reported in Lambton. The total for the year was 173.

In addition to heightened vigilance, police recommend using high beams when possible. Never swerve to avoid an animal. Brake firmly but don't lock your wheels - slowing will give you better control. Stop safely if you can and remember that other animals may also be in the area.

St. Clair River Trail photo contest winners

Thompson Gardens residents Jeanne Lewis and Ruth Bechard were the winners of the Lambton Rural Wellness Trail Photo Contest.

Their winning entry features Thompson Gardens residents enjoying a beautiful day by walking along the St. Clair River Trail in Corunna.

For their efforts, the pair won a Raleigh 21-speed bicycle with all of the accessories they'll need for a safe, enjoyable ride.



Jeanne Lewis and Ruth Bechard, center, and other Thompson Gardens residents admire the new Raleigh 21-speed bicycle.

St. Clair River Trail Committee appreciates community support

The recent *Summer's Last Blast - Margaritaville* fundraiser, held at the Moore Sports Complex, was a terrific success. Over 390 people attended to enjoy the music and have some fun and, as a result, \$8,500 was raised to help support on-going St. Clair River Trail construction.

The St. Clair River Trail Committee wishes to thank the community for its outstanding support. In

addition to the many dedicated volunteers and corporate donors, the event was supported by: Warren Lewis, the Moore Sports Complex employees, Simon & Sheryl's No Frills, Purdy Fisheries, the Corunna and Courtright stations of the St. Clair Township Fire Department, Wayne Sarson (Molson), Bootleg Radio, The Workout Room, Nick Peasley, and committee members and spouses.

...and now for a wee bit of *Wii* bowling

The residents of Thompson Gardens are no slouches when it comes to making use of the latest in recreational technology. The Nintendo *Wii* games system is bringing interactive sports opportunities to televisions everywhere.

The avid bowlers at Thompson Gardens meet every Monday for their regular bowling league, but Sundays are fun days when everyone can try their bowling skills. The league has been in operation for about two months and it draws a crowd of regular spectators.

The idea for the *Wii* league was suggested by Harold "Soup" Campbell, right, who waits for his turn with 92-year-old Madelene Fewster and Ruth Bechard while Norma Low uses the hand-held *Wii* control to throw her virtual bowling ball down the alley in pursuit of a strike.

Photo by Bonni Stevenson



Demolition derby a smashing success

This year's Brigden Fair demolition derby attracted 78 competitors who battled it out to see who could wreck everyone else's vehicles before their own finally gave up the ghost. The winners were: **Heat 1** (8 cylinder) - Jackie Cooper and Paul McKellar. **Heat 2** (4 cylinder) - Neil Zavitz and Cheryl Edgar. **Heat 3** (8 cylinder) - Philip Ross and Ted Chouinard. **Heat 4** (4 cylinder) - Justin McDonald and Shawn Scott. **Heat 5** (8 cylinder) - Randy Atkinson and Mitch Smith. **Heat 6** (4 cylinder) - Jim Hopper and Carol McDonald. **Heat 7** (8 cylinder) - Ron Hillman and Andrew Tasker. **Consolation** (4 cylinder) - Shawn Laprise. **Consolation** (8 cylinder) - Rob Markovic. **Truck class** - Ted Chouinard. **Grand finale** - Randy Atkinson, Mitch Smith and Ron Hillman.

JOOI Club makes donation to Inn of the Good Shepherd

The JOOI Club recently welcomed Miles Vanni from the Inn of the Good Shepherd to its October meeting. Mr. Vanni explained what the Inn of the Good Shepherd does and how it helps people, after which he was presented with a \$50 donation towards the Inn's new lodge.

The club members recently enjoyed a Halloween party with plenty of games, including bobbing for donuts and *Guess the Body Parts*, and refreshments to add to the fun. Prizes were awarded for the best costumes.

The next project on the club's list is creating a float for the upcoming Corunna Santa Claus parade on Nov. 29. Another Christmas activity will see the club members put together 24 boxes for children who must stay in the hospital over the holidays. The club is looking for donations of new pencils, colouring books and crayons, books, games, puzzles and other age-appropriate items children can use or play with Moore.



Inn of the Good Shepherd manager Myles Vanni accepts a donation from JOOI fundraising coordinator Caitlynn, left, and JOOI President Courtney.

while confined to bed. The hospital has asked that no food or candy be included in the boxes due to allergies and dietary requirements. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the club can contact the JOOI adult advisor Jacquie Waybrant at 519-867-5235.

The JOOI Club is associated with the Optimist Club of

MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 8

at 519-867-2020. Any profit generated will be used by the museum to help in preserving our heritage.

Homemade pies available

The Corunna United Church is now taking orders for large nine-inch apple, cherry and blueberry pies at \$8 per pie. There are also individual fruit pies, turkey pies and quiche for \$2.50 each, and cabbage rolls will be available for \$18 per dozen. To order, call Sylvia Knight at 519-862-1040 or Anne Gilliland at 519-862-3534.

Cribbage for everyone!

Beat Winter boredom by coming out to the Corunna United Church on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. to play cribbage. Where else can you test your cribbage skills, enjoy coffee and cookies, and have so much fun, all for 25 cents?

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 Jacqui at 519-864-4654 or Kathi at 519-864-1323.

Knights of Columbus breakfasts

The Knights of Columbus Sunday morning breakfasts continue at the St. Joseph's Parish Centre in Corunna on the following dates: Nov. 9, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 1, March 29, and May 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

And don't forget that Santa's on his way to Corunna. See him in the Corunna Santa Claus parade on November 29!

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Annual dinner meeting

The Brigden and District Horticultural Society annual dinner meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Brigden fairgrounds. Entertainment will be by the *On Fire Sweet Adeline Quartet*. Adult tickets are \$15, children five to 12 are \$7, and there is no charge for children under five. The final day to purchase tickets will be Nov. 2 and no tickets will be sold at the door. For tickets, call Rae at 519-864-1676, Rose at 519-864-4095, Barb at 519-864-4963 or any director.

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.

Dinner/concert in Wilkesport

Wilkesport United Church will sponsor a dinner and concert on Friday, Nov. 14 at the Wilkesport Community Centre. The dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. with entertainment by the *Bluewater Chordsmen*. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children six to 12. They are available by calling Lois at 519-864-4669, Sharon at 519-867-5275, Doris at 519-892-3974, or Marilyn at 519-627-3793.

Christmas Home Tour tickets

The Bryan L. Cathcart Chapter IODE will be participating in the Christmas Home Tour being held by the Samia-Lambton IODE Municipal Chapter in Samia on Nov. 17 and 18. Kay's Petals and Plants of Corunna will be one of the featured decorators for the event. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Lee at 519-862-5809 or Marilyn at 519-862-1769.

Christmas bazaar set

St. Stephen's Anglican Church on Milton Street in Courtright will host a bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event will feature a bake table, preserves, knitting, a gift table, a white elephant table and a tea room where tasty treats and refreshments will be available for \$3.50.

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.

Friendship club celebration

The Amicitia Friendship Club of the Corunna United Church will celebrate its 60th anniversary on Friday, Dec. 5 with dinner, entertainment and a pictorial historical review. All former members and friends are invited. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased by calling club president Ken Lucas at 519-344-8626.

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. Local schools will also be accepting donations of non-perishable food and toys. These donations will be collected on **Thursday, Dec. 11**, after which they will be sorted into separate Christmas hampers and distributed to the less fortunate families of the area. For more information go online to www.operationchristmastree.ca.

Donation drive-thru planned

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.

Christmas in Frankenmuth trip planned

The Moore Museum is sponsoring a bus trip that's sure to put you in the Christmas spirit. A day-long journey to Frankenmuth, Michigan will include: a mid-day dinner at the Bavarian Inn featuring its famous all-you-can-eat family-style chicken dinner; a stop at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland and downtown Frankenmuth; a tour of the Whaley House Museum and Crossroads Village, both in Flint, Michigan. Tickets are \$109 per person including GST and are non-refundable. Payment must be made at the time of booking. The price includes the dinner, admissions, U.S. exchange and transportation. Call the Moore Museum for more information

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