



THE BEACON

of St. Clair Township

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Issue 2

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Family Day is Monday, February 16

Family Day is a provincial holiday that is also celebrated in Albert and Saskatchewan. It is intended to give families the opportunity to spend some quality time together. Family Day gives Ontario employees who are covered by the Employment Standards Act, 2000 and their families a total of nine public holidays per year.

Residents reminded seasonal parking restrictions in effect

The cooperation of the public is being sought to ensure that public roads can be plowed efficiently. **It is illegal to park on public roads and streets from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m.** Leaving the roadways clear of vehicles allows snow plow crews to do their jobs effectively. Those who do not comply with this winter parking restriction will be fined and St. Clair Township Clerk John DeMars says a parking blitz is currently underway. Tickets are being issued to motorists who do not comply with this restriction in the hope that this will help keep the roads clear of snow. Every vehicle owner is responsible for keeping their vehicles off public roads.

Also, property owners are urged not to push snow out onto public roadways when clearing driveways and walkways. This creates a hazard to on-coming traffic and is an offence under the Highway Traffic Act.

Municipal dog tags available

Residents of St. Clair Township are reminded that it's time to purchase the annual dog license. All dogs are required to have a current licence, which provides identification for the animal should it become lost. These licences are available at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street. The price of a tag

is as follows: \$15 for female spayed with rabies shot; \$15 for male neutered with rabies shot; \$25 for female spayed with no rabies shot; \$25 for male neutered with no rabies shot; \$35 for male unneutered with rabies shot; \$75 for kennel licence. For more information call the municipal office at 519-867-2021.

Coyote concerns unfounded says dog catcher

The presence of coyotes in St. Clair Township, some sighted close to populated areas, has raised concern in many residents and the mysterious disappearance of some domestic cats has been attributed to these animals.

But municipal dog catcher Gayle Farr says there is little to fear from coyotes. "These are shy animals," she said. "They keep to themselves."

Farr suggests that the real culprits responsible for the vanishing felines are probably winged ones.

"Coyotes are not the problem. These are owls," she said, noting these birds of prey can grow to about three feet in height. "We're 100 per cent positive that horned owls were taking the cats. They're silent and they come at night."

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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

Renewable energy policies discussed

A recent public meeting was held to consider Official Plan Amendment #12 and a rezoning by-law to establish policies relative to renewable energy facilities in St. Clair Township. Lambton County planner Barry Uitvlugt presented his report. He pointed out that the draft documents provided for regulations relative to wind generation power, solar-generated power and biomass-generated power.

Councillor Carswell-Alexander asked if the issue of stray voltage was part of the research done to produce the draft documents. Mayor Arnold advised it was his understanding that stray voltage could be reduced considerably if the transmission lines are buried to a sufficient depth. However, he expressed several concerns. One was that Class 1 farmlands could be lost to solar energy development. Another was that perhaps lands could still be used for pasturing and grazing if, in such a development, the panel height could be adjusted to allow it.

Mayor Arnold also stated that he hoped the community would receive an economic benefit from these renewable energy sources. Mr. Uitvlugt advised that the proposal for two per cent cash in lieu was based on the value of the host land prior to its development.

Tom Lewis of IPC Energy noted the current draft documents seem to meet provincial renewable energy policy but the site provisions may limit or even prohibit the establishment of wind turbines. Mr. Lewis stated that, in his opinion, St. Clair Township does not welcome wind turbine facilities, to which Mayor Arnold responded that every attempt is being made to protect the natural environment and areas of

significance such as the St. Clair River, the township's forested areas and the petrochemical facilities. He said alternative energy facilities should compliment these features, not detract from them.

Township resident Tom Wilson advised that his concerns were similar to council's, citing health problems that have developed in some neighbours of wind turbine facilities in Ripley, Ontario. Mr. Wilson also expressed concern over who would be responsible for mechanical failure of a wind turbine facility if it caused damage to a neighbour's property. He also shared the Mayor's concern about security for future decommissioning of the facility.

As a result of the meeting, a motion of council regarding the report submitted by Mr. Uitvlugt was carried, and the report was received and accepted. The draft Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments will take into consideration the discussions and is-

sues raised at the public meeting.

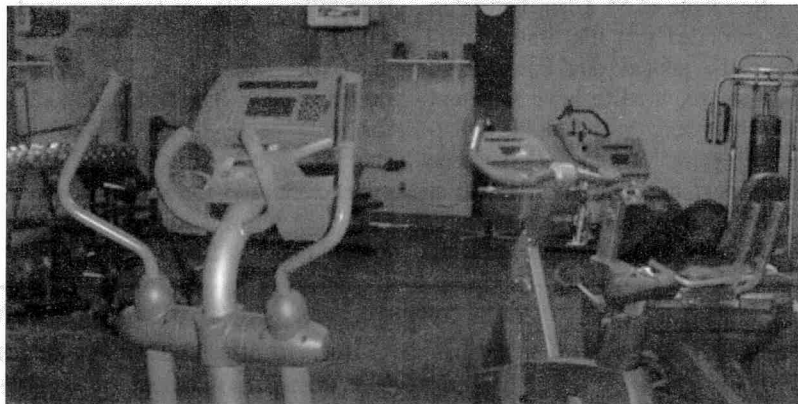
Council meeting schedule

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. Please note that the second February meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 17 in light of the provincial Family Day holiday on Monday, Feb. 16.

2009 Budget Meeting

The 2009 St. Clair Township draft budget presentation and deliberation meeting will be held on Monday, March 2 at 5 p.m. The meeting will take place in the council chambers at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street in Mooretown.

New at the Mooretown Sports Complex Fitness Centre...



...an elliptical cross trainer, lifecycle, treadmill, recumbent bike, spin bike and newly-renovated atmosphere. Come in for a visit and let us help you with your New Year's Resolution! Call 867-2651 for more information.

Photo submitted

COUNCIL DIARY

Township coping with economic downturn

This month's Council Diary is written by Mayor Steve Arnold. For insights directly from the council chambers, watch for this column each month in The Beacon.

I hope this column finds everyone in a good spot and that the current economic times we are facing have not impacted you in a negative way. Personally, I have been struggling a bit over the past few weeks. It's something we all can relate to from time to time in our lives, but like the rest of you, I am a survivor and everything will work out fine.

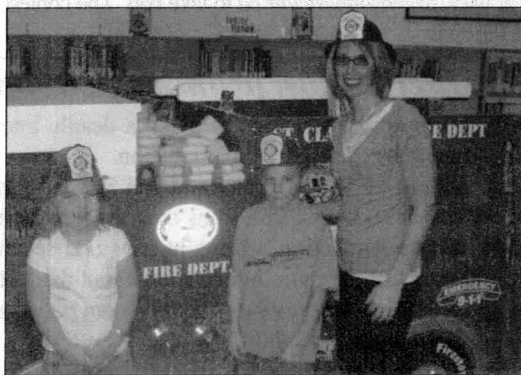
I've had the opportunity to travel through our great township on many occasions and I often see our youth, their enthusiasm, their drive, their determination, their willingness to stand up for a cause and see it through - it gives me great hope for our future.

I have also spent some time over the past couple of weeks with people who are considering starting businesses here. One of the reasons they give for this decision involves the positive atmosphere of our community. Everywhere they go, it seems they are met with a smile, a warm comment (much needed this winter,) and they speak to me about the main fabric of our community being the volunteers in so many organizations that they have encountered. It gives them a feeling of belonging and a hope that the

future in St. Clair Township will be bright.

On Council, we have tentatively set our capital budget and our engineering folks are working through the big projects. We also continue to lobby on a regular basis with senior levels of government to garner additional funds for these projects prior to implementation. In the next few weeks, we will be starting the operating budget. Our goal is to maintain the dollar value of our taxes at the current level no matter what the changes in the assessments for a number of individuals and corporations might be. That in itself will be a challenge, however, we need to make sure there is an aspect of our taxes that is stabilized. As most of you know though, out of every dollar of taxes raised locally, 23 per cent is township, 27 per cent is county and the balance, 50 per cent, comprises the education component. As you can see, everything we do in this township - plowing the snow, collecting garbage, fighting fires, repairing roads, and operating our museums, libraries, arenas, parks, minor sports, and our community centers, is funded by a small portion of the total tax bill.

Keep warm this winter and remember that some of the people you meet may be considering opening a business here, providing jobs for those in our community, so keep smilin'.



Brigden P. S. wins fire safety contest

Brigden Public School was the winner of the annual Fire Prevention Week contest which was sponsored by the St. Clair Township Fire Department. The contest promotes fire safety through friendly competition between township schools and the winning school receives a variety of prizes, including a limited edition framed Sparky print to hang in the school and a little replica fire truck to display in the school library for three months, along with fire prevention reading material for all age groups. Pictured with the truck are: Grade 1 Teacher, Sherri DeWolf with students Mason Brown, 6, and Anna Withers, 6. Miss DeWolf's Grade 1 class was the best overall class in the school with 100 per cent participation, and Mason & Anna were the class winners. They received their own talking Sparky doll.

Photo submitted

Lady Martha Rebekah Lodge supports community efforts

The Lady Martha Rebekah Lodge #245 in Brigden recently donated \$500 to help support the family of a local three-year-old who underwent surgery in Montreal for hip dysplasia.

This is the latest of the many donations the lodge has made over the years to support local families, community groups and charitable organizations. The lodge donates to the United Nations Youth Pilgrimage Committee, which sponsors a public speaking contest for

second- and third-year secondary school students. Two of the students are chosen for a 10-day all-expenses paid trip to Ottawa, New York City and the United Nations, and Washington, D.C. It also sends floral arrangements to hospitalized members and shut-ins.

Anyone interested in becoming a lodge member can contact Noble Grand Barbara Anderson at 519-882-0350 or lodge secretary Mary Dagg at 519-542-2876.

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Comedy benefits splash pad

A Valentine's Day comedy benefit to help fund the new Corunna splash pad will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hall on Saturday, Feb. 14. The event is sponsored by Tracy White of the *Workout Room*. The door opens at 7 p.m. with the show at 8 p.m. Admission includes a light lunch, DJ and dance. Tickets are available at the *Workout Room*, *Island Sun* or the Legion. For more information call 519-862-1200.

Roast beef dinner set

The Moore Agricultural Society and Homecraft Division annual roast beef dinner is slated for Sunday, March 29 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Brigden Fairgrounds exhibition hall. Admission is by advance tickets only and are available at the fair office (519-864-1197.) For more information on this and other upcoming events, check the Website at www.brigdenfair.ca.

Triva night planned

Trivia Fun Night will be held at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall on Saturday, April 4 at 8 p.m. sharp. Teams of six are invited to come and test their trivia knowledge. A cash bar will be available.

Club welcomes new members

The Courtright Friendship Club, 1533 4th Street, invites seniors to an afternoon of euchre each Wednesday at 1 p.m. at a cost of only \$2.50. And Friday evenings at 7 p.m., come out to play Pepper, also \$2.50 per session. For more information, call Don at 519-862-3625

Rebekah Lodge hosts luncheons

The Mayflower Rebekah Lodge #324 will host a series of luncheon and card afternoons at Thompson Gardens, 198 Beckwith St., Corunna beginning at noon on the following days: Feb. 9; March 9; March 30; April 27; and May 11. Proceeds from these events will be used to fund the lodge's community efforts.

Knights of Columbus breakfasts

The Knights of Columbus breakfasts at the St. Joseph's Parish Centre in Corunna continue to please hungry brunchers. Here is the 2008/09 schedule: Sundays, Feb. 8, March 1, March 29, and May 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Youth horticulture meetings

The youth division (ages six to 16) of the Brigden Horticultural Society meetings at the Brigden library have been suspended until Spring. The youth division is for children ages six to 16 who have an interest in horticulture. For more information, contact Jackie at 519-864-4654 or Kathi at 519-864-1323, or e-mail brigden@ebtech.net.

Cribbage played weekly

Cribbage is played every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m.

at the Corunna United Church. It's just 25 cents for coffee, cookies and a whole lot of fun!

Hockey tourney planned

Hockey enthusiasts will enjoy the Old Pirates Hockey Tournament on Feb. 27, 28 and 29 at the Mooretown Sports Complex. Come out and cheer on your favourite team!

March Break Camp offered

March Break Day Camp will offer school-aged children the opportunity to take advantage of the Mooretown Sports Complex facilities and enjoy lots of creative activities and games. And don't forget to enrol you child now at the Summer Day Camp or Sports Camp. Both of these begin June 29 and space is limited, so reserve your child's place now! For more information, call 519-867-2651.

February is Heart Month

During Heart Month in February, canvassers will be going door-to-door to raise funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Volunteers are needed to accomplish this task. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer canvasser can call Bevin Perdu-Sandercock at 519-332-1415.

Environment contest for youth

The Friends of the St. Clair River are sponsoring a contest for youth with three grand prizes of an Xbox 360 Pro video gaming console. Teens ages 12 to 18 can visit the Friends Website at www.friendsofthestclair.ca to take part. The contest closes on Feb. 28.

Deadly intersection prompts petition

A petition supporting solutions to make a deadly intersection less hazardous is currently in circulation.

The intersection of Mandaumin Road and Petrolia Line has been the site of numerous collisions over the years, and some of them have resulted in serious injuries and several fatalities. Anyone wishing more information about this petition can go online to <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/prevent-petrolia-line-fatalities.html>

JOOI Club disbands, replacement sought

The Friendship JOOI Club, a youth initiative sponsored by the Optimist Club of Moore, is disbanding. The adult leader of the group can no longer oversee the club's activities and a new leader has not been found to take her place.

Children involved in the club hosted many beneficial youth-related activities and were active in the community. It is hoped that, if suitable leadership can be found, another youth group might be formed.

Raffle winner announced

Mary Neelands of Corunna was the winner of a recent raffle held by the St. Joseph Catholic Women's League.