



THE BEACON

of St. Clair Township

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Happy
St.
Patrick's
Day!



Issue 3

Volume 3

March 2009

Flooding a common sight in St. Clair Township

It's not uncommon to see flood plains in St. Clair Township filled with water during the spring run-off. But when water levels rise high enough to prompt the operation of the W. Darcy McKeough Dam, it becomes clear this is not just ordinary flooding.

The gates of the McKeough Dam were closed on Feb. 12 to send the excess water down the McKeough Floodway to the St. Clair River. That morning, an ice jam in the east branch of the Sydenham River upstream of the Murray Street bridge in Wallaceburg forced river levels over the river banks.

But the Wallaceburg area wasn't the only area hit by the uncommonly severe flooding. In St. Clair Township there were several road closures because of it, including: Waterworks Road north of Courtright Line, Stanley Line east of Kimball Road, and Pretty Road north of McCallum Line. In the days that followed, other roads such as Wilkesport Line off Kimball Road, were also closed.



Heavy rains and snow melt caused flooding problems all over the township in February, causing the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority to put the McKeough Floodway in south St. Clair Township to good use.
Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

Residents are reminded to avoid watercourses and flooded areas because slippery banks and cold, fast-moving water can prove dangerous. In particular, parents are urged to keep their children away from these areas. In past years, children playing

near flood-affected waterways in Lambton County have perished after slipping into the frigid water.

For current information about waterways in and around St. Clair Township, go online to www.scrca.on.ca.

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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

Presentation stresses hospital crisis

Council recently heard a presentation outlining distressing changes proposed for Petrolia's CEE Hospital and the Sydenham Campus of the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance in Wallaceburg.

The presenters, Jenn Burnham, Terri Houle and Shirley Roebuck, reported on the consultant's report (the Hay Group study) commissioned by the Erie St. Clair LHIN (Local Health Integration Network.) The report recommends the downgrading of the Sydenham Campus and CEE Hospital from a full-service emergency care unit to an urgent care unit with restricted hours of operation. Neither facility would receive ambulances or deliver critical emergency services.

The presentation cited loss of medi-

cal care to area residents due to increased travel time to either Sarnia or Chatham hospitals. Travel time would exceed what they considered to be the one hour window of opportunity for care for critically ill or injured patients. It was pointed out that St. Clair Township is the municipality most affected by this proposed service change.

In a subsequent motion of council, it was decided that St. Clair Township fully supports the continuation of the full emergency care facilities at both the Sydenham Campus of the Chatham Kent Health Alliance and Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia.

See more information on the

proposed changes on page 7.

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.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Policing issues being addressed

A number of policing concerns are currently receiving close attention in St. Clair Township according to OPP Sgt. Paul Futers.

Safety along Petrolia Line has recently been of particular concern. After a series of serious collisions at Petrolia Line and Mandaumin Road in January, Sgt. Futers says the road was heavily patrolled and the results were of great interest. "In the first 14 days following the collision, a total of 24 drivers were charged - 22 for failing to stop at the stop sign," he said. "In the next 14 days, only three charges were laid. It was obvious our increased visibility and enforcement in the area made people start to think. This education contributed to a reduction in violations when they realized the importance of observing the law. This brought it to peoples' attention pretty quick."

Sgt. Futers added patrols are continuing and cautions motorists to take the law seriously when out on the road.

Another issue of concern was the curious trend in impaired driving that occurred recently. "Impaired driving declined over the last quarter of 2008 but 18 impaired charges were laid in the first month and a half of 2009," said Sgt. Futers. As a result, the R.I.D.E. program is continuing in St. Clair Township with the goal of encouraging people to make the right decision when deciding whether to drive after drinking. "People may feel fine, but they're not!" add Sgt. Futers. "These are serious issues we have to educate the public about."

The spring seat belt initiative from April 15 to 26 will also be checking on child car seats and restraints. Sgt. Futers says parents who are unsure as to whether or not their child's car seat is properly installed can drop by the OPP office at the south end of Lyndoch Street in Corunna for assistance. There will also be a series of car seat workshops being held throughout Lambton County this year.

St. Clair Township 2009 Property Tax Due Date

The second installment of the interim property tax bill will be due on **May 6**. Payment of property taxes and water bills can be made at most chartered banks and financial institutions on or before the due date. Any bank charges will be the responsibility of the ratepayer. Tax payments by cheque can be mailed to the return address provided on the tax notice.

The following methods of tax/water payments are accepted via: automatic bank machines; telephone and Internet payments through your bank; payment at most financial institutions; post-dated cheques; counter services, cash, cheque or debit; mail to, or use drop box at: 1155 Emily St., Mooretown, Ont., N0N 1M0.

Preauthorized payment plans are now available.

Inquiries can be made by calling the St. Clair Township Tax

Department at 519-867-2024 (toll-free 1-800-809-0301).

**COUNCIL
DIARY*****Local hockey organization exemplifies community pride***

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

I hope that everyone reading this column has fared well this winter - it sure has been a long one. With the end of winter comes the end of the hockey season and since the teams are in their OMHA and league playoffs, I thought it would be appropriate to thank everyone involved.

Mooretown Minor Hockey is one of our township's largest entities that is run solely by volunteers. From the president to the coaches to the hockey moms' organization, trainers, managers, players, parents, grandparents, and everyone else associated with the game, a debt of gratitude is owed for the numerous hours you have committed. We thank you. A vote of thanks is also extended to the dedicated team of workers at the Mooretown Sports Complex - without them, none of this would be possible.

The hockey season gives families the opportunity to come together and enjoy the many accomplishments their children and grandchildren have achieved. How fortunate we are that we can enjoy hockey action from the best Junior 'C' team right down to the Little Tykes so close to where we live.

One of the most memorable moments of this season occurred during the opening ceremonies of the Juvenile Silver Stick tournament in January. A grateful crowd watched as Mr. Paul Schultz was honoured for his 25 years of involvement with Mooretown Silver Stick hockey, including 14 years as director. He is truly one of the most dedicated directors of all time. I can't imagine the countless hours he has expended over the years to organize this successful event. Through the years, so much has been given back to Minor hockey because of the Mooretown Silver Stick tournament's success. To Paul Schultz, I wish all the best, and on behalf of St. Clair Township, I say "thank you." I'd also like to welcome the incoming director - I wish you much success.

I've been honoured to have been a part of the hockey organization for so many years. It has been a source of community pride in the past and in the present, and I have no doubt it will continue to make us proud in the future. To the teams in the playoffs and to the teams that have been eliminated, remember that it doesn't matter, win or lose, it's all about having fun. Best of luck to you all.

Go Mooretown!

St. Clair Township man receives Heritage Award

A St. Clair Township resident is one of 23 individuals who recently received the 2008 Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Eldon Grant, a resident of south St. Clair Township, is well-known for his many years of dedicated volunteering at the Sombra Museum. Museum curator Shelly Lucier says Mr. Grant, who was nominated for the award by the museum, has been a volunteer with the museum for a total of 34 years. During that time, he has served as a board member and a Sombra Township Historical member, and has volunteered his time to help with fundraisers and with the maintenance of the museum. Mr. Grant is an appraiser who assists the museum by evaluating artefact donations and determining what their connection to the Sombra area is. He also coaches the staff with the labelling of various artefacts.

Over the years, Mr. Grant has assisted in the setup of displays and has used some of his own artefacts, such as his lantern and clock collection, to enhance an exhibit that was being prepared.

Mr. Grant is well known for his historical knowledge, his humility and sincerity, and his willingness to

share local heritage with the community.

The 2008 Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards were presented at a Queen's Park ceremony on Feb. 20 in the presence of the Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust, as part of the province's Heritage Week celebrations.

The awards were established in 2007 by the Honourable James K. Bartleman, former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, in partnership with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

The award recognizes volunteers and communities for outstanding contributions to the preservation, protection and promotion of Ontario's heritage. To be eligible for this award, an individual must have made volunteer contributions to conserving community heritage over a period of 25 years or more.

The Honourable David C. Onley, current Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, expressed pride in announcing the names of this year's honourees. "By helping to preserve the distinct character of our communities, these award recipients have made a significant contribution to the province. Their voluntarism is admirable and all Ontarians should be proud of their dedication to our heritage."

Brigden 4-H Clubs present awards

Members of four 4-H Clubs recently received awards garnered while they were competing at the Brigden Fair. These 4-H Clubs are sponsored by the Moore Agricultural Society and their members must compete at the annual Brigden Fair.

The purpose of the 4-H Club is to learn by doing. Each club follows its own program, with the members learning how to properly feed, care for, train and prepare their animals for the achievement day.



Brigden 4-H Sheep Club

Front row left: Jessica Callaghan, Jamie Callaghan, Daniel Anderson, Jessie Thrower, Brody Callaghan, Kayla Bailey. **Centre row left:** Kaitlynn, Jilleen VanLeerzem, Lexine VanLeerzem, Taylor Callaghan, John Alexander, Samuel Langstaff. **Back row left:** 4-H leader Katherine Langstaff, Michael Thrower, Derek VanLeerzem, Dain Pearson, 4-H leaders Terry and Patrick Callaghan.

Photo submitted



Brigden 4-H Dog Club

From left: Lydia Hicks, Erin Vermeulen, Madisyn Campbell, 4-H leader Anne Smith, Megan Vermeulen, Emily Piggott, Lydia Smith.

Photo submitted

Members must show and take part in the Brigden Fair where they receive awards for showmanship, champion animals and best performance by members.

New members are always welcome to join these clubs. Call Debbie Anderson at 519-864-1161 for more information.

In other 4-H Club news, the Lambton County 4-H Association recently elected its new executive: President Doug McGee, 2nd Vice-President Debbie Coke, Treasurer Brenda Miner, and Secretary/Newsletter Editor Debbie Anderson.



Brigden 4-H Beef Club

Front row left: 4-H leader Ron Winder, Laura, Carolyn, Rachel and Grant Langstaff. **Back row left:** Casey Bruton, Jasper Jenson, Johnathon Langstaff, Wayne Langstaff.

Photo submitted



Brigden 4-H Horse Club

Front row left: 4-H leader Shelly Thomson, Frasier Smith, Nadine Smith, Christie Annett, Jessica Vickard, Emma Whiting. **Back row left:** Kayley Hebert, Vanessa Pastoor, Amanda Thomson, Melissa Weese, 4-H leader Chery Weese.

Photo submitted

Rural emergency room closures compromise community

The emergency rooms at both CEE Hospital in Petrolia and the Sydenham Hospital in Wallaceburg are currently being targeted for closure.

The Erie St. Clair LHIN, a government group which has, of late, been in charge of developing health care strategies for a sizeable chunk of southwestern Ontario, recently received the results of a study done by the Hay Group. The study recommended the CEE and Sydenham emergency rooms be closed and emergency cases from the surrounding areas be diverted to Sarnia or Chatham.

The LHIN seems bound and determined to fit these vital community facilities into a flawed, cookie-cutter health care scheme no matter how incompatible it may be. At a recent public meeting on this subject, held at LCCVI in Petrolia, local physician Dr. John Butler commented on one of the statistics the Hay study used to support its case for ER closure. The study said many of the cases seen in the CEE emergency room were not really emergencies, but Dr. Butler argued that this is true of any hospital emergency room. "They are taking a statistic and using it conveniently," he said. Further, Dr. Butler said that the actions of the LHIN are making it difficult, if not impossible, to recruit new physicians for central Lambton because of the uncertainty it has created over CEE Hospital's future status.

The Hay study flies in the face of a previous study done for Bluewater Health in Sarnia in 2008. That study recommended the CEE Hospital emergency room remain open 24 hours a day, which is in agreement with the Ministry of Health's policy for rural hospitals.

The Hay study also estimates the travel time of an ambulance from Petrolia to Sarnia as being about 24

minutes. This wildly optimistic estimate is hotly contested by St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold. "I have heard it is upwards of 90 minutes from the first call for service from the county to the hospital," he noted. "Then, even if it is only 24 minutes, you are well beyond the golden sixty minutes that medical personnel say you have to perform life-saving treatments."

Mayor Arnold also expressed concern that diverting cases to the larger population centres would be unwise due to the already crowded conditions there. "When Wallaceburg was going to evacuate the Sydenham hospital during the recent flood, I understand they were told there was no room in Sarnia or Chatham. That tells me we need more capacity locally."

The unwise proposal to divert rural emergency cases to Sarnia and Chatham will also add a larger case load to the already crowded emergency rooms at Bluewater Health and the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance. This is something that will affect all communities equally, increasing wait times even further at a time when the provincial government is struggling to reduce wait times.

"Any time you remove basic services such as hospitals or schools from a community, you diminish the chances of survival for that community," said Mayor Arnold. "Our rural citizens should not be treated as second class citizens - they should be treated with respect and given the same access to health care as all others in society."

The Erie St. Clair LHIN has left many questions unanswered in Mayor Arnold's opinion. He says the Hay study is missing some crucial data. "How much does this LHIN receive per capita compared to others in the province? Are our wait times

and ambulance transport times the same as in other areas? Are our doctors' hours in emergency rooms on a par with provincial averages? No one has given us those figures," he said.

A public initiative is being undertaken to gather input from residents regarding the proposed elimination of emergency rooms in Petrolia and Wallaceburg. Mayor Arnold sees this initiative as the appropriate way to let those in power know what the citizens are thinking.

Residents are asked to write letters, send e-mails, and call local provincial and federal representatives, as well as the Erie St. Clair LHIN. Contact information is listed below.

Hon. Dalton McGinty
Premier, Province of Ontario, Room 281,
Main Legislative Building
Toronto, Ont., M7A 1A4
Phone: 1-416-325-1941
www.premier.gov.on.ca

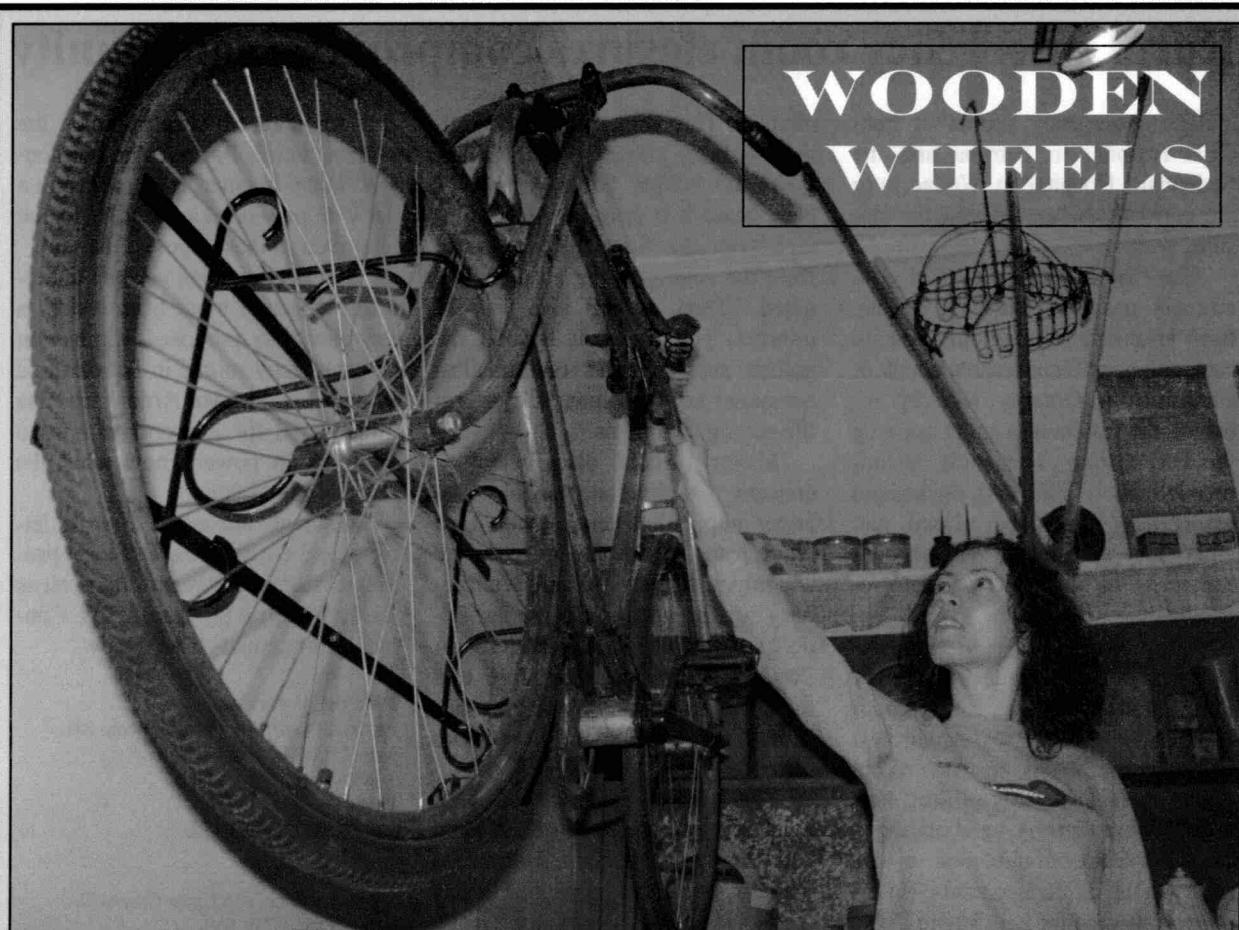
Bob Bailey MPP
Sarnia-Lambton, 836 Upper Canada Dr.,
Sarnia, Ont., N7W 1A4
Phone: 519-337-0051
bob.baileyco@pc.ola.org

Hon. David Caplan
Minister of Health
80 Grosvenor St., 10th floor, Toronto, Ont.,
M7A 2C4
Phone: 1-416-327-4300
dcaplan.mpp@liberal.ola.org

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Pat Davidson MP
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Davidson.P@parl.gc.ca

Gary Switzer
CEO, Erie St. Clair LHIN
180 Riverview Drive, Chatham, Ont., N7M
5Z8
Phone: 1-866-231-5446
www.eriestclairlhin.on.ca



Denise Fortin of Mooretown, a Moore Museum employee and volunteer, is especially proud of this vintage wooden bicycle, one of only five that were built by the Goodison Thrashing Company. The company quit making the bicycles because there was no profit to be made from them. The fully-restored bicycle was donated by Ross Laurr of Sarnia, who was given the bike when he was a boy as a reward for cutting a neighbour's grass. Laurr put in many long hours restoring the unique vehicle. This process included steaming some of the hickory struts so that they could be bent into the correct shape.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

Moore Museum opens its doors for another great season

Spring is on the way and it's time for the Moore Museum to open its doors for another great season.

The museum will be open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in March.

Museum staff member Linda Wood says a wedding is already booked for the St. Clair Trinity Chapel, one of several restored historical buildings that grace the Moore Museum site. In addition, many school children will be enjoying one of several educational programs offered at the facility.

As always, a roster of enjoyable, family-oriented events are slated for the Moore Museum during the 2009 season. The first is the popular Victorian Tea, slated for Sunday, May 17 from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy delicious homemade scones, coffee, tea or juice as well as an educational walk around the museum site.

The Heritage Festival on Sunday, June 21 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. will feature demonstrations of pioneer skills including cooking on a vintage wood stove and metal-working in the blacksmith shop.

And the Downriver Craft Sale promises to be bigger than ever this year. Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. when crafters from all over the region will converge on the Moore Museum site to offer a wide range of hand-made items. Crafters are invited to book their tables early.

The Moore Museum provides a priceless window on the past - an opportunity to see how the early pioneers lived and worked. New volunteers are always welcome. For more information about museum activities or to volunteer, call 519-867-2020.

Fun for everyone awaits at your local library branch

Your local branch of the Lambton County Library has programs for everyone to enjoy. Here is a roster of things that are happening at your local library.

Brigden (519-864-1142)

Story Hour (up to 2 years of age with parent or caregiver) - Wednesdays, March 11, 18 and April 1 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Adult Book Club - Wednesdays, March 25 and April 22 at 7 p.m.

Corunna (519-862-1132)

Tales for Tots (ages 0 - 2) - Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. from March 9 to April 6.

Story Hour (ages 3 - 5) - Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. from March 10 to April 14.

French Story Hour (ages 3 - 5) - Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Winter Reading Program Crafts (ages 3 and up) - this drop-in program is offered until March 14 during library hours.

WRP Movie Afternoon (ages 5 and up) - Saturday, March 7 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Mother/Daughter Book Club (ages 10 and up with adult) - March 9 and April 6 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Manga Discussion Group (ages 12 and up) - Saturday, March 28 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Wii Sports (ages 8 and up) - this drop-in program during library hours is offered Thursday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 18.

Adult Book Club - offered Monday at 6:30 p.m. on March 30 and April 27.

Adult Painting Project - Saturday, April 4 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact library for details.

Courtright (519-867-2712)

Storytime Magic (ages 6 - 9) - Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. from March 14 to April 18.

Adult Book Club - a drop-in program offered Wednesday, March 18 and Wednesday, April 15 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Mooretown (519-867-2823)

Crafts for Kids / Activities (ages 5 - 12) - this drop-in program is held Saturdays between 10 a.m. and noon, and Monday and Wednesdays between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Easter Craft (ages 5 and up)

This drop-in craft program will be offered on Saturday, April 4 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Port Lambton (519-677-5217)

Teen Drop-in (ages 11 - 18) - will be held Fridays, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, and 24 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sombra (519-892-3711)

Tales for Tots (up to age 4) - a drop-in program held Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. from March 10 to April 14.

Winter Reading Program - Saturday, March 14 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Family Movie Night - Friday, March 27 and Friday, April 24 at 7 p.m.

Teen Drop-in (ages 12 and up) - Tuesday, March 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Wilkesport (519-864-4000)

Winter Reading Program and Crafts (ages 4 - 10) - will be held Thursday, March 5 and Thursday, March 12 at 6 p.m.

Teen Drop-In (ages 12 and up) - will be held on Thursday, March 26 at 6 p.m.

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Fundraiser support demonstrates community spirit

I would like to commend our community for its support of the Yuk Yuk's night in Corunna on Feb. 14. Although it took many people to make this night a success, Tracey White, owner of the Workout Room in Corunna, took the initiative to organize a well-run event to raise money for the Corunna splash pad, which will be built this summer by the Optimist Club of Moore and St. Clair Township.

Three comics from Yuk Yuk's entertained a sold-out crowd at the Corunna Legion hall to help celebrate Valentine's Day. Door prizes for the event were donated by a variety of generous individuals and businesses such as Bluewater Foodland, No Frills, Island Sun, The Spa Room, Fancy That, Sue Moran and Sylvana Viovy, Incredible Edibles and the Moore Skating Club. Many people volunteered their time to set up, clean up (Barry and Liz Smith), and bartend (George Armstrong and Jackie Clendennings.)

Boogie Nights provided music and dancing well into the

night. One of the most impressive events of the evening was the 50/50 draw. It was won by Jerry Card of Corunna, who graciously returned his winnings to the Optimist Club of Moore and overall, \$2,600 was raised for the splash pad.

Small towns never cease to amaze me. Even though comics from the big city refused to pronounce Corunna correctly, a night of laughs brought a sense of community and togetherness to us all. Moreover, the generosity and graciousness of the community is infectious and remains alive even in the tough economic climate we are experiencing today.

With this successful fundraiser behind us, another is planned for April 4. The Workout Room will be holding a barbeque in its parking lot to mark its third anniversary. Proceeds will go towards the splash pad and to underprivileged children who want to play hockey.

Beth Hodgins
Corunna

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Pickarel fry and dance

A pickarel fry and dance will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hall on Saturday, March 7. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. with the music to start at 7:30 p.m. An open jam session will comprise the entertainment, so musicians are encouraged to bring instruments or just get ready to sing. Tickets are \$16 per person and are limited. They can be obtained in advance by calling the Legion hall at 519-862-1240. Everyone is welcome and proceeds will benefit the community.

Beef stew dinner in Wilkesport

Wilkesport United Church will hold a beef stew dinner on Thursday, March 12 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is by free-will donation and everyone is welcome.

Ham dinner in Corunna

A ham dinner is slated for the Corunna United Church on Sunday, March 22 at 5 p.m. The dinner will include ham, baked beans, scalloped potatoes, cole slaw and homemade pies. Tickets are available by calling Elaine at 519-862-3352 or Fran at the church office at 519-862-1052. The cost is \$13 for each adult, \$6 per child and free for pre-schoolers.

St. Patrick's Day luncheon



A St. Patrick's Day luncheon is slated for Sacred Heart parish hall on Tuesday, March 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is sponsored by the C.W.L. and tickets are \$7 per person.

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.

Churches plan pickarel dinner

The 3rd annual Good Friday pickarel dinner, hosted by St. Joseph-St. Charles Parish and Christ Anglican Church, will be held on April 10 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Joseph's Parish Centre on Lyndoch Street in Corunna. Admission is by advance tickets only, available by calling Nancy at 519-481-0337, Margaret at 519-862-3741, Gitte at 519-862-1837, or Brian at 519-862-1044.

Horticultural society events slated

The Brigden and District Horticultural Society has several

activities slated for the spring. The first will be its annual membership drive. Two hundred memberships are needed for the society to be eligible for a government grant. The grant will enable the society to continue to beautify area parks and flower beds. The memberships are only \$6 each and can be purchased at these upcoming events:

Open Meeting & Flower Show

This event will be held on May 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Brigden fire hall. Exhibits will be accepted between 6:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Perennial Flower Sale

The flower sale will be held May 16 from 8 a.m. to noon, rain or shine, at the park located at the corner of Highway 80 and Brigden Road in Brigden. Plant donations can be made by calling Barb at 519-864-4963 or Rae at 519-864-1676.

Attention high school students! You can accumulate volunteer hours by helping the society weed flower beds in Brigden this season. Call Barb or Rae (see above,) or Rose at 519-864-4095.

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 7:30 p.m., come out to play Pepper, \$2 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: 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, March 29, and May 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

School break camps offered

Exciting, engaging activities and new friendships await school-aged children at March Break Day Camp at the Mooretown Sports Complex. And thinking ahead to summer, children can also be enrolled in Summer Day Camp or Sports Camp. Both of these programs begin June 29 and space is limited, so reserve your child's place now and give them a summer of fun they'll always remember! For more information, call 519-867-2651.

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!