



THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP BEACON

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Issue 8

Volume 3

August 2009

New emergency services building officially opened



The official opening of the new emergency services building in Corunna on July 24 was a grand success, with dignitaries like St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold, second from right, in attendance. The facility now houses the St. Clair Township Fire Depart-

ment offices and the St. Clair Township OPP detachment. Some of the residents of the new building will include OPP Cst. John Reurink, left, OPP Cst. Ed Collins, Fire Chief Roy Dewhirst, and OPP Sgt. Paul Futers. For more photos of the event, see **page 4**.

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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.**



Lambton G.S. reprieve would benefit township

The recent decision to postpone the Darlington nuclear power plant expansion may be positive news for St. Clair Township. It may mean that coal-fired power stations like Lambton Generating Station south of Courtright will remain open past the current 2014 closure deadline.

Mayor Steve Arnold com-

mented, "We are hopeful these announcements will have a long term positive direction for the site. We hope they will strengthen...our employment outlook as well as new investments involving greener technology. We know that those who work at L.G.S. continue to rise to any challenge they are given in a

safe and environmentally responsible way."

Council meeting schedule

The summer meeting schedule is now in effect. Council meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 24; and Tuesday, September 8. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021.

Ground broken for regional waste water treatment plant

The much-anticipated construction of the new regional waste water treatment plant in Courtright is underway.

An official ground-breaking was held on July 24 to kick off the project. Two-thirds of the \$31,000,000 cost of the project will come from the Federal and Provincial governments.

The project involves vast improvements and upgrades including new treatment plant tankage, alterations and expansion to the existing building and pumping station, biosolids storage and a new outfall sewer. With these improvements in operation, the Corunna waste treatment plant will be decommissioned and replaced with a pumping station that will convey sewage to the Courtright station.

Officials say the project will benefit not only the communities of Corunna, Mooretown and Courtright, but other users within the St. Clair River watershed as a result of improved waste water effluent and plant reliability.

The increased treatment capacity will provide redundancy for the plant and prevent plant failures in the event of high flows or maintenance malfunctions, and will also provide sufficient capacity to support anticipated community growth within the proposed official plan service area for the next 20 years.

The project is being undertaken because the existing Courtright plant, which was designed 35 years ago, is nearing the end of its useful life. Maintenance is becoming difficult because the equipment is becoming obsolete.

From an environmental standpoint, the new plant will help ensure the sustainability of the natural environment by improving effluent quality and ensuring the future growth within the service



On hand for the ceremonial sod-turning were Maria Van Bommel, left, Member of Parliament for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex (on behalf of the Honourable Leona Dombrowsky;) Sarnia-Lambton MP Patricia Davidson; and St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold. Photo submitted

area will not impact surface water.

Community health will also be positively affected. The improved effluent will reduce potential human health effects due to recreational uses of the St. Clair River downstream of the plant. Also, with additional capacity, it is hoped many existing private septic systems will eventually be tied into the waste water system.

COUNCIL DIARY

Walkerton tragedy has sparked protective measures

The author of this month's Council Diary is Councillor Darrell Randell. Watch this column each month for insights straight from the St. Clair Township council chambers.

When the Walkerton tragedies occurred back in 2000, a process began that places scrutiny on all aspects of safety in the provision of reliably safe municipal drinking water.

The process has been lengthy. It involved multiple hearings, criminal investigations, and hundreds of expert testimonies, and it eventually resulted in Justice O'Conner's decision which included recommendations for action to ensure that all municipal water systems are safe.

The O'Conner ruling led to the Clean Water Act. This is an act that has primacy over any other act that puts forward conflicting regulations. It has led to the establishment of Source Water Protection Areas, with local people as members representing various stakeholder interests. Most of Lambton County is part of the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Area. This is a huge area which stretches from Leamington to beyond Stratford and Woodstock. It also includes the cities of London, Samia, Chatham, St. Mary's and seven First Nation bands.

I was appointed to be the municipal representative for Lambton County. For nearly two years, the committee has been meeting and working to pull together a Source Water Protection plan. This process is expected to take five years to get through, but that does not mean remedial action will wait for the plan. As assessment reports are completed on each intake, the operators at each

plant are still responsible and will act to correct any deficiencies. There is a Stewardship Fund available to assist with these early actions.

Aside from myself, there are two other members of the committee as general public representatives who reside in St. Clair Township. Both Doug McGee and Joe Kerr are environmentally knowledgeable farmers - I am always impressed by the knowledge and sincerity of the entire community where matters of the environment are concerned.

Our committee is a very diverse group and everyone brings with them skills and experience that contribute to the plan. It includes a lot of learning, too. At our June meeting, we viewed a moving and surprisingly entertaining presentation by Walkerton resident Bruce Davidson. He used humour and emotion to explain how it felt to live in a town where people were becoming sick due to an unknown cause. He said he saw neighbours become ill and, in some cases, die. Davidson described how terrifying it was to see a neighbour boy - a child whom his own children played with - airlifted to hospital.

Davidson's presentation was entitled, "Walkerton - The Cost Of Getting It Wrong!" The series of failures that resulted in this tragedy must never be repeated. Indeed, there is a need for greater public involvement. To learn more about the development of a Source Water Protection Plan, go online to:

<http://www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca/News.htm>.

Moore Museum volunteers attend appreciation dinner

Volunteers from the Moore Museum were honoured on July 22 with an appreciation dinner at the Courtright Community Centre. The annual event is held to acknowledge the hundreds of man-hours of work these volunteers donate to museum upkeep and

activities each year. Of special note were volunteers with over 20 years of service: Sherm Bailey, Gerald Bailey, Keith Blackstock, Eva Dalrymple, Grace McLaughlin, Olga Murray, Ella Norton, Don Rankin, June Rankin, Gary Shrigley and Reta Walton.



Volunteers chat after enjoying a delicious meal.

New Emergency Services Building officially opened in Corunna

During its official opening event, the new St. Clair Township Emergency Services building, located at the corner of Lyndoch and Hill Streets, played host to many local residents, offering tours of the building, displays of emergency vehicles and equipment, and a dedication ceremony attended by police and fire officials, St. Clair Township council and staff, and other local dignitaries. Here are some photographic memories of this special event, **listed clockwise from the top right.**

The event opened with a procession of dignitaries led by OPP piper Detective Constable Mark Dew and a police honour guard.

An OPP patrol motorcycle held special interest for three-year-old Carter Foster of Corunna, who attended the event with his mother, Beth, and his sisters, Brooklyn and Charlotte. OPP Staff Sgt. Scott Janssens explained some of the motorcycle's features to the excited youngster.

Some members of the OPP Emergency Response Team hosted a display of some of the vehicles and equipment they use on the job.

The facility was officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Participating in the ceremony were, from the left: Frank Gare, retired Police Services Board Chairman; OPP Lambton Detachment Commander Inspector Fred Wessels; Arnold Syer, Lambton Police Services Board Chairman; Samia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey; and St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold.

Visitors wait for a guided tour of the new facility.



A look inside the new Emergency Services Building



Clockwise from top left: Deputy Fire Chief Tom Boon's office; Cst. John Reurink in the young offender's cell and with the Intoxilyzer breath analyzer; the 600 watt diesel emergency backup generator kicks in just six seconds after a power outage; the sally port where prisoners can be securely transferred; the training facility is shared by police and fire services.

Photos by Bonnie Stevenson



New play area makes big splash in Corunna



The new splash pad in the Corunna Athletic Park was dedicated during a formal ceremony on July 18. On hand for the occasion were several members of St. Clair Township council, including Mayor Steve Arnold, who got to try out the new equipment first hand when the water was turned on a bit too soon.

The cost of the splash pad is estimated at \$160,000, with the Optimist Club of Moore raising half of the cost and the Township of St. Clair contributing half. Optimist Club president Fred Strickland says the club has raised about \$54,000 to date and is continuing its

fundraising efforts. Anyone wishing to make a donation can call 519-862-2379 or take a cheque to the St. Clair Township offices at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre on Emily Street in Mooretown. A tax receipt will be issued for amounts over \$25. In addition, for major donations of \$1,000 or more, the donor's name or business will be listed on a plaque at the splash pad site.



On hand for the splash pad dedication were representatives from several donor groups and companies including, from the left: St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold; Deputy Mayor Peter Gilliland; Shell Canada representative Kristina Zimmer and her two children; Councillor Pat Brown; NOVA Chemicals representative JoAnn Brown; Councillor Jeff Agar; Optimist Club of Moore President Fred Strickland; Imperial Oil representative Paul Sabatini; Knights of Columbus Council Number 9447 representative John Burton, and *Bad Dog* owner Jason Winter. *Photos submitted*

Corunna resident receives award



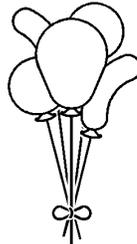
Corunna resident Ron Skreptak received the Governor General Caring Award during a ceremony in Toronto on June 30. The ceremony, also attended by Ron's wife, Isla, was presided over by Ontario Lt. Governor David Onley (centre.)

Photo submitted

Brigden Community Fest offers lots of family fun

The Brigden Community Fest, is slated for Saturday, Aug. 15. It kicks off at 9 a.m. with the Royal Canadian Legion Brigden branch Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show, which runs to 3 p.m. Also starting at 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. is the Boyington's Antique Tractor Show. From 2p.m. until 7 p.m., the Brigden Optimists and Brigden Community Baptist Church will host a variety of children's activities.

And beginning at 4 p.m., the Brigden Optimist Club will host a



burger and hot dog barbecue followed by a free street dance beginning at 7 p.m. The festival will also feature garage sales town-wide, including one at the Brigden United Church. And don't miss the Brigden volunteer firefighters' display during the afternoon. This event is being coordinated by the Royal Canadian Legion Brigden branch, the Optimist Club of Brigden, and the Brigden volunteer firefighters.

Bring the family and enjoy the day!

Corunna United Church welcomes newly-ordained minister

The congregation of the Corunna United Church received their first message from newly-ordained Rev. Janet Uren on July 5.

Rev. Uren served her internship in Port Coquitlam, B.C., but she has 16 years of teaching experience in the

public school system as well as experience teaching preschool children. Rev. Uren brings with her many areas of expertise - in addition to her ministry duties, she is well-versed in working with youth, caring for the homeless, stewardship, outreach, and pastoral care.

Museum's Heritage Festival showcases pioneer past

The pioneer past came alive recently as the Moore Museum hosted its Heritage Festival. About 80 people turned out to enjoy the journey back in time.

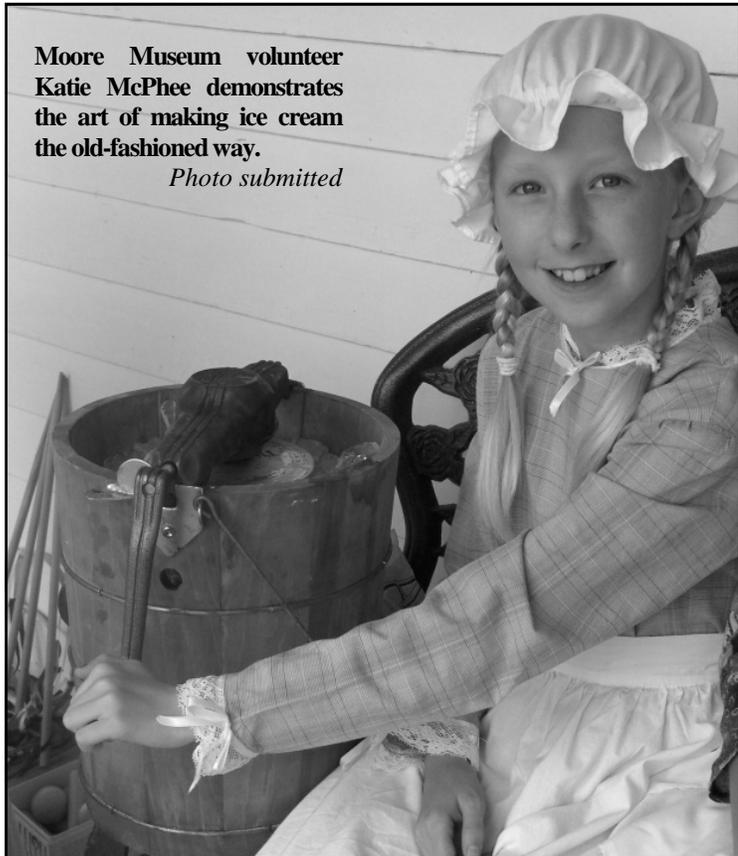
Volunteers demonstrated a variety of vintage skills such as chair caning, wood carving, and ice-cream making. Model steam engines hooted and chugged through the museum site and more model trains were on display. Young visitors were invited to play Victorian children's' games and enjoy a sea shell craft. A quilt show and marine display ensured that there was something of interest for everyone. In the Courtney cabin, the wood stove was kept busy as volunteers baked cookies and made potato pancakes.

Museum curator Laurie Mason says visitors not only enjoy the experience, they also learn from it. "The purpose of the Heritage Festival is to offer visitors the opportunity to see, hear, taste and touch history," she said.

This is just one of several events the museum hosts each year. Still to come is the Downriver Craft Sale slated for Sunday, Sept. 20. In the meantime, the museum is open daily. Call 519-867-2020 for more information.

Moore Museum volunteer Katie McPhee demonstrates the art of making ice cream the old-fashioned way.

Photo submitted



AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Blueberry Social in Sombra

The annual Sombra village Blueberry Social is set for Sunday, Aug. 9. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Sombra Museum will offer a historical wagon tour of the village as well as assorted delicious blueberry desserts with refreshments. The cost is a free will donation.

Teen Challenge event in Sombra

The St. Clair Community Church welcomes the ministry team from *Teen Challenge* to a public service being held on Sunday, Aug. 9 at 10 a.m. at the Sombra Athletic Park (east end of Smith Street in the Village of Sombra.) The event is suitable for all ages and is free of charge. A barbecue, hosted by the church, will follow the service. Free will donations will be accepted in support of the *Teen Challenge Farm*. *Teen Challenge* focuses on freedom from drug addiction and brings a message of hope that can change lives.

Brigden Community Fest

The Brigden Community Fest will be held on Saturday, Aug. 15. See page 7 for more information.

Garage sale at Brigden United

The congregation of Brigden United Church will host their annual garage sale on Saturday, Aug. 15. The sale will be held in conjunction with other fun activities that are planned for Brigden on that day. Anyone with items to donate to the sale can contact Connie at 519-864-1747 or Janet at kbedgar@xcelco.on.ca. Come early and get in on all the great bargains!

St. Andrew's hosts pirate adventure

The *Veggie Tales Pirate Adventure* will take place in Corunna at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Aug. 17 to 21 from 8:45 p.m. to noon daily. To register, call 519-862-3641 or

862-2307.

Teddy Bear Picnic set

The Sombra Museum will hold the 3rd Annual Teddy Bear Picnic on Friday, Aug. 21 at 11 a.m. Children are invited to bring their teddy bears to this free event. There will be prizes awarded and games and refreshments will round out this happy summer event.

Downriver Craft Sale planned

It's never too early to plan a day out at a great craft sale. Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, Sept. 20 so that you can attend the Downriver Craft Sale at the Moore Museum in Mooretown. Vendors can still reserve their place at the sale by calling the museum at 519-867-2020.

Club welcomes new members

The Courtright Friendship Club, 1533 4th Street, invites seniors to play 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 519-862-3625.

Brigden Fair volunteers sought

The Moore Agricultural Society/Brigden Fair is looking for volunteers to assist with the Brigden Fair on Thanksgiving Weekend and throughout the year. Anyone interested in joining a committee or volunteering, or anyone who would like more information on the various volunteer positions available, can contact the fair office at 519-864-1197 or visit the Website at www.brigdenfair.ca. **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS! Complete your community volunteer hours by volunteering at the Brigden fairgrounds.**

Local library a cool place to be on a hot summer day

On days when the summer heat starts to get you down, why not head for your local library? Cool down while enjoying a magazine, searching the Internet, or checking out the great selection of books, CDs and DVDs. Children up to age 18 can enjoy the special reading programs being offered by local library branches, too. For more information about any of the

Lambton County Library services, call 519-845-3324, ext. 5229. And for more information about programs and services offered by your local library branch, call: **Brigden** - 519-864-1142; **Corunna** - 519-862-1132; **Courtright** - 519-867-2712; **Mooretown** - 519-867-2823; **Port Lambton** - 519-677-5217; **Sombra** - 519-892-3711; **Wilkesport** - 519-864-4000.

Lambton Farm Safety Association extends thanks for Kids Farm Safety event

The Lambton Farm Safety Association, organizers of the Kids Farm Safety Day held recently at the Brigden fairgrounds, say the event was a great success. Each year, children are taught to be aware of the many dangers on the farm to help them prevent farm accidents and reduce the extent of injuries should accidents occur.

Darda Sales, a two-time paralympic medalist, shared her experience as a farm accident victim who lost her right leg above the knee at a very young age. The association extends thanks to all of the local sponsors who helped make the event possible, as well as volunteers who helped make the day memorable.