



THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP BEACON

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Issue 11

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REMEMBRANCE

**On Remembrance Day, Nov. 11,
please remember those who fought to keep us free
and those who serve their country today.**



REMEMBRANCE



Some Brigden parents and their children are joined by Councillor Pat Brown, third from left, Director of Community Services Gary Hackett, and Mayor Steve Arnold, second from right, to get a close look at the new equipment.

Perfect playground

Children in Brigden recently got a new playground to enjoy. New playground equipment costing \$20,000 was installed by Active Playground Equipment in early September. Funding came from St. Clair Township's park development fund, which is supported by contributions from local developers. The interactive equipment features several slides, climbing apparatus and overhead rings, plus set pieces that can be used for creative play. This is the last of the large play sets to be replaced in the township to address safety concerns posed by the old, less robust equipment.

Hamper programs will make Christmas brighter for all

As in seasons past, Christmas hamper programs will make the holidays brighter for everyone in St. Clair Township this year.

In south St. Clair Township, a coordinated effort between St. Vincent DePaul, the Sombra Youth Group, the Scouts, Knights of Columbus, and the Optimist Club of Sombra Township will see food collected on **Sunday, Nov. 29**

during a door-to-door food drive. Members from all of these groups will meet in Port Lambton at the Anglican Church basement at 1 p.m. and proceed collecting food from County Road 33 to Highway 40, and from Bickford Line to Whitebread Line from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

See Operation Christmas Tree, page 6

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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

2010 budget presents tremendous challenge

The impending closure of Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) Lambton Generating Station will present a profound challenge as council considers the 2010 budget.

OPG's intention to close the facility in 2010 could represent a loss of up to 30 per cent of the township's total annual tax revenue. The facility accounts for about \$1.6 million in tax revenue each year.

Council has been in discussion with provincial leaders, outlining the hardships the closure will cause to St. Clair Township. Council is arguing that the formula being used to determine provincial funding to the municipality is flawed.

Cautious optimism has been expressed that this dialogue will result in

some financial relief that will help ease the coming budget situation.

MOE reports to council

Representatives from the Ministry of the Environment reported to council on activities currently being carried out by Dow Chemicals within the township.

MOE representative Mike Parker told council monitoring will continue on this and several other sites within the township.

Mayor Arnold noted there has been a lack of communication between the company and the municipality regarding its activities. Further, he asked that the MOE keep council informed as to any environmentally-sensitive activities are taking place within the municipality.

Council meeting schedule

St. Clair Township council meets every first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. However, November meetings will be on Monday, Nov. 9 and following the Committee of the Whole meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 23. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021.

Licences on sale

St. Clair Township small game hunting licenses are on sale at the following locations: Pic-N-Pay in Sombra; Courtright Variety Store; Corunna Home Hardware; Agris Co-operative Ltd. in Brigiden; and the St. Clair Civic Centre on Emily Street in Mooretown.

The fee will be \$5 for residents and \$8 for non-residents. Applicants must apply in person and multiple licenses will not be issued.

John De Mars

Director of Administration
Clerk, Deputy CAO

Know when to acquire a building permit

The acquisition of a building permit is all too often something that falls by the wayside when property owners are making upgrades or changes to their property. The penalty for not getting a building permit when one is required is a fine of double the cost of the building permit. However, in some cases, the municipality has the option to prosecute under the Building Code Act and penalties are determined by the court.

To avoid these unpleasant consequences, it's wise to know when a building permit is required. Generally speaking, a permit must be acquired for the construction of a building that is greater than 108 square feet, or measuring over 10 feet by 10 feet. This also applies to the expansion of an existing structure when the expansion increases the structure size in excess of 108 square feet.

Permits must be acquired for the expansion of a residence, although for routine maintenance and upgrades like a new roof, new eaves troughs, or replacement windows, a permit is not necessary. However, if replacement windows larger than the existing windows are to be installed, a permit is required because the structure of the building itself has to be altered to accommodate the larger window.

External structures such as decks that are elevated over two feet from grade also require the acquisition of a building permit to ensure that adequate railings and stairs are installed and that setback requirements are met.

And a building permit is required for the installation of a swimming pool and the enclosure fence that must be erected around it for safety.

For more information, call the St. Clair Township municipal office at 519-867-2021.

Winter parking reminder

St. Clair Township road crews will soon be out keeping township streets and roads clear of ice and snow. To allow road crews to do their jobs efficiently and safely, motorists are reminded that there is **no overnight parking on streets in all areas of the township from Dec. 1 to April 1.**

Motorists who violate this by-law will be fined.

COUNCIL
DIARY

Township will welcome Olympic torch

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

Another successful Brigden Fair has passed this year and I want to extend thanks to the hundreds of volunteers and people who work very hard to make this event such a great tradition in our township. Special congratulations go out to Mac and Velma Graham, this year's parade Grand Marshalls. Mac served on the former Moore Township council as deputy reeve and I was honoured to serve a term with him in the 1980s.

Later this year, the Olympic Torch Relay will be making its way across Canada for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. I was able to hold a replica of this year's torch when it was featured at a promotional event at the Brigden Fair. The torch is inspired by the image of skis

cutting through snow. It was designed by Bombardier and is 94.5 centimetres (37 inches) in length and weighs 1.6 kilograms (3.5 pounds). The torch reminded me of the previous torch relay that passed through our township in advance of the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary. There were many local participants in the event and it was an exciting time for everyone involved.

The 2010 relay will soon be underway and is scheduled to pass through St. Clair Township on Dec. 24, with a short ceremony to be held in Corunna. I know those lucky enough to be chosen as torchbearers are just as proud to represent their country as the 1988 relay participants were. Please show your support on Dec. 24 as the torch passes through the area.

Good luck to our Canadian athletes; go for the gold, Canada!

Corunna woman will be an Olympic torchbearer

A Corunna resident will soon represent this area as an official torchbearer for the Olympic Flame.

Jen Verwey, who works as an accountant at NOVA, says she is thrilled to be participating in this important event and hopes to be chosen to carry it close to home. "It is truly a great honour to be selected to carry the Olympic Flame on behalf of my country, but it would be an even greater honour to have the opportunity to carry the Olympic Flame through my hometown and represent St. Clair Township," she said.

A majority of the 12,000 people chosen to carry the torch were selected at random via nation-wide contests held by sponsors RBC and Coca-Cola. Over one million people applied for the task and Jen says "it was just like winning the lottery." She is one of the lucky Canadians to be chosen to carry the torch on Christmas Eve. The flame's location on that date has not yet been confirmed, but Jen hopes she will be assigned to the Corunna leg of the relay.

The idea of carrying the Olympic torch is something Jen says has been in her mind for a long time. "I saw the Olympic torch pass by in 1988 (for the Calgary Olympics) and my interest grew from that," she said.

The 2010 Olympic Flame will soon begin its 45,000 kilometre trek across Canada.

Jen recently appeared at the Brigden Fair to promote the cross-country torch relay and says she would be pleased to help other groups do their own relay promotions.



Torchbearer Jen Verwey of Corunna and St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold during a promotional event at the Brigden Fair. Photo submitted

65 years of
love
celebrated

The Beacon extends congratulations to Art and Jean Parker, who recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. An open house celebrating this landmark occasion was held at Corunna United Church.

Memories of the 2009 Brigden Fair,



Rain failed to dampen spirits at the opening day of the 2009 Brigden Fair. **Top left:** During the opening ceremonies, St. Clair Township Crier Gary Smith, upper left, put on a flashing red nose to honour the fair's theme, "Clowning Around." **Top right:** Fair President Jim DeGurse, seated left, Fair Ambassador Katie Roegiest, and Homecraft President Orrie Wigle extended personal welcomes on behalf of the fair and Mayor Steve Arnold brought greetings from the township. **Left:** About 600 elementary school children attended the Friday morning *Agriculture In The Classroom* event, where they enjoyed interactive lessons centering on farming and other important topics. Here, St. Clair Township Deputy Fire Chief Steve Bicum talks to a group of children about fire safety.

The merry midway put smiles on hundreds of enthusiastic fair-goers.



a much-anticipated Thanksgiving treat



Top: One of Mother Nature's marvels, an 855.5 pound pumpkin (top left corner of photo) captured the attention of everyone who passed through the junior agriculture building, including Colonel Cameron Public School students Connor, foreground, and Daeneira. **Right:** Preparations for the Lambton County 4-H Beef National Jr. Beef Heifer Show included some intense pre-show grooming. **Bottom left:** One heat of the lawnmower races featured this fast-and-furious threesome of five- and six-year-olds. **Bottom right:** A six-mule hitch waits to strut its stuff during a demonstration round.

Photos by Bonnie Stevenson



Operation Christmas Tree will serve north St. Clair Township

From page 1

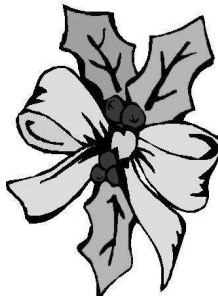
In conjunction with this effort, a homemade **Cookie Walk** is planned for the Port Lambton Community Hall on **Saturday, Nov. 14** from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Proceeds from this event, sponsored by Carole de Decker and friends, will go toward the St. Vincent DePaul Christmas program.

The **Christmas hampers will be distributed on Dec. 19** from 9 a.m. to noon at the Anglican Church in Port Lambton.

Operation Christmas Tree

In **north St. Clair Township**, the Operation Christmas Tree program kicks off on **Thursday, Nov. 19** with the annual **Poor Boy Luncheon** at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hall. This event is sponsored by the Corunna Legion and Ladies Auxiliary.

On **Monday, Nov. 23**, the distribution and collection centre opens at the former Murray Street school building. On **Thursday, Dec. 10**, non-perishable food items and gifts will be picked up from local schools by officers from the Ontario Provincial Police Corunna office and by volunteer firefighters from the St. Clair Township Fire Department Corunna and Brigen stations.



The **5th annual Corunna OPP Operation Christmas Tree drive-through donation event** will be held on **Saturday, Dec. 12** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Corunna OPP office parking lot. Santa Claus will be on hand to personally thank generous donors.

And on **Saturday, Dec. 19**, the Christmas hampers will be delivered.

No matter where you live in St. Clair Township, please support your local Christmas hamper program . It's the best way to celebrate the true spirit of the season.

"...the best portions of a good man's life...his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love."

-William Wordsworth

Sombra woman elected chair of BPAC

Kris Lee of Sombra was recently elected as Canadian Chair for the St. Clair River Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC). Mrs. Lee has served on the BPAC since its inception and works extensively with several local environmental non-governmental organizations and industry association advisory panels.

BPAC is dedicated to the complete remediation of the St. Clair River. For more information, go online to www.friendsofstclair.ca.



A recent golf tournament, hosted by the St. Clair Township firefighters, raised \$15,750 towards the installation of an emergency warning siren in the Mooretown area. The event was suggested by Enbridge Energy. On hand for the cheque presentation to Fire Chief Roy Dewhirst, centre, were Brad Pilon, left, and Jim Sanders representing Enbridge Gas Storage. Photo submitted

Santa Claus preparing for annual appearance in Corunna parade



Santa Claus is preparing for his appearance in the Corunna Santa Claus Parade. On **Saturday, Nov. 28** at 6 p.m., the parade will make its way from the mustering point on Beckwith Avenue, turning south on Lynch Street to Cameron Street, then east to Murray and back to Hill Street. Anyone who wishes to register for a place in the parade can call 519-862-2333 or 519-862-3950. The parade is sponsored and promoted by the Optimist Club of Moore.

To add to the festive atmosphere of the occasion,

the SCITS band will be playing at the Corunna clock tower park before and after the parade. Also at the clock tower park, the Corunna Horticultural Club will be serving hot chocolate and cookies at the clock tower.

Sponsors for the parade include: the Royal Bank, Hogan Pharmacy, LANXESS, Southwest Regional Credit Union, Suncor Energy, Elizabeth Circle, Corunna Chiropractic, Corunna Auto Clinic, St. Clair Township, Dallas Haul, Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch, MacKenzie Black, Corunna Veterinary Services, Knights of Columbus, Norm Brandon Ltd., and NoFrills.

New exhibit space raises Agriculture Awareness

By Bonnie Stevenson

A new feature at the Bridgen Fair this year made it fun to learn about the business of agriculture.

The Agriculture Awareness building is the brainchild of long-time Bridgen Fair volunteer Mona May Thompson. She said she had been hoping for several years that such a venue could be created. "It's something I've always hoped for," she said.

The concept for the new educational area began as part of the fair's *Agriculture In The Classroom* program. This annual program is held on the first morning of the fair and offers local elementary school children an opportunity to find out about more about where their food really comes from. "Some people don't realize where their food comes from," said Mona May. "We want to make everyone aware of agriculture...we want children to experience it and come back."

She says the area began modestly but it has continued to grow. "We started with just a quarter of the building," she said, adding this year was the first year the whole building had been used. "We hope it grows."

Among the displays and interactive activities in the new area were two tables filled with dried corn kernels. Small shovels and farm toys allow children to play on the tables, getting the feel of the corn and enjoying some unstructured play time. "They love the feel of the corn," said Mona May, who noted the idea has been used in the past with soy beans.

Another exhibit of special interest was *Maple* the model Holstein, an anatomically-correct life-sized plastic cow on which children could try their hand at milking. *Maple* was a constant source of good-natured fun and some frustration as young and old alike discovered that there was more to milking a cow than one would suspect. The exhibit was sponsored by the Lambton Milk Committee.

Outreach Program update to be presented

The Corunna United Church will hold a Medical Outreach Program update following a doctor's visit to Tanzania this past summer.

The presentation will be at 4 p.m. on Nov. 29 and will be followed by a pasta dinner. Everyone is welcome to attend this informative event. The cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 for children ages five through 12. For more information call 519-862-1052.



Mona May Thompson

The Agriculture Awareness building proved to be a popular destination throughout the Bridgen Fair this year. From newly-hatched baby chickens and haughty alpacas, to a majestic 3,000 pound heavy horse who stood patiently while his awed visitors looked on in wonder at his size, the building inspired new respect for those who make their living feeding the nation.

Comments from those who visited the building this year have given Mona May cause for great optimism as to the future of the Agriculture Awareness building. "The children are loving it," she said. "The most common comment I've received has been 'This is awesome!'"

Of course, an ambitious undertaking like this is only possible with the support of the community. Mona May is quick to express appreciation to the groups who helped fund the new exhibit area. As an example, she cited a grant from Kubota to the local 4-H club, which was donated to help fund the Agriculture Awareness building. "The barn was painted and the budget used to buy new penning," she said.

The future will, no doubt, bring many more changes and improvements to the new educational facility. Mona May believes it's only a matter of time. "We have a lot of ideas but we just haven't had a chance to use them yet."

Hot dog, that's good!



The Moore Museum's annual Downriver Craft sale, held Sept. 20, attracted about 1,230 people. Shoppers were able to choose from over 60 booths of products ranging from handmade crafts to delicious fudge and home-canned items.

As always, the museum staff cooked up some delectable food to help shoppers keep up their strength during the event. Three-year-old Carter of Corunna enjoyed a hot dog while helping his mom shop for bargains.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Event will benefit water project

A dinner and auction in support of the Dawello School Water Project will be held at the Brigden fairgrounds on Friday, Nov. 6 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Gary Plum, executive director of WaterCan. The event will also include a silent auction. Auction items will include: Stratford Festival Theatre tickets, Victoria Playhouse Petrolia tickets, Blythe Festival tickets, Ontario Place passes, a Royal Ontario Museum pass, CN Tower passes, two vouchers to a pre-season Toronto Argonauts game, a Bluewater pack from Bluewater Beef, and many other terrific items. Tickets are \$20 per person, \$10 for children ages six through 10, and free for children under six. They can be purchased at LIBRO Financial, the Brigden Fair office, or by 519-864-1161. Sponsors for this event include Suncor Energy,

Harvest Home dinner in Wilkesport

The annual Harvest Home dinner, sponsored by the Wilkesport C. C. Auxiliary and Wilkesport United Church, will be held at the Wilkesport Community Centre on Friday, Nov. 6 at 6:30 p.m. The evening will include a ham and roast beef dinner and lively entertainment. Admission is \$15 per adult and \$7 for children ages six through 12.

Country Bazaar planned

The congregation of the Knox-Moore Presbyterian Church at 1354 Rokeby Line will host its Country Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature baked goods, crafts, sewing and crib quilts. Lunch will be available and everyone is welcome to attend.

Flags to host Red Wings Alumni

Great hockey action will be found at the Moore Sports Complex when the Mooretown Flags Alumni host the Detroit Red Wings Alumni on Saturday, Nov. 7 at 5 p.m. Hockey greats like Paul Ysebaert, Dino Ciccarelli and Mickey Redmond will be present. The Red Wings Alumni last visited the Flags in 2001. Admission price is \$12 per person or \$40 per family of four. Admission also includes the Mooretown Flags Jr. 'C' game against the Wheatley Sharks following the alumni game at 8 p.m.

Rebekah Lodge #324 luncheons

The Mayflower Rebekah Lodge #324 will hold luncheons at Thompson Gardens, 198 Beckwith St. in Corunna at noon on the following dates: Nov. 9; Nov. 30; Jan. 25; Feb. 22; March 22; April 26; and May 17. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Remembrance Day service

A Remembrance Day service hosted by the Royal Canadian Legion Brigden Branch 635 will be held at the Brigden Cenotaph on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 10:40 a.m. A time of fellowship will follow at the branch hall.

Christmas open house in Sombra

The Sombra Museum will host its Christmas Open House on Saturday, Nov. 14 and Sunday, Nov. 15. It will feature a quilt show and guest speaker Ruth Dudley, who will talk about underground railway quilts. For more information, call 519-892-3982.

Corunna Legion events

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch 447 will hold several events in November. On **Saturday, Nov. 14**, the Al Hugh men's dart tournament will be held at 1 p.m. On **Sunday, Nov. 22** at 1 p.m., the Florence and Harold Johnson memorial crib tournament will be held. On **Saturday, Nov. 28**, an open jam session will be held beginning at 3 p.m. And **every Saturday** at 4 p.m. a meat draw is held at the branch hall. All of the above events are open to the public.

IODE participates in home tour

The Hon. Bryan L. Cathcart Chapter IODE of Corunna will participate in the upcoming Christmas Home Tour (sponsored by the Sarnia/Lambton Municipal Chapter IODE.) The event is slated for Saturday, Nov. 21 and Sunday, Nov. 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Five homes will be featured and tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at *Kay's Petals and Plants* in Corunna or by calling 519-862-1769 or 519-862-5809. A hospitality centre will be set up at the Lochiel Kiwanis Centre. All proceeds will be used for the IODE's charitable projects in Sarnia-Lambton.

Turkey dinner and concert

The Community of Christ Church at 2390 LaSalle Line (at Brigden Road) will hold a turkey dinner and concert featuring *The Minister's Aunt* on Saturday, Nov. 21 beginning at 5 p.m. A craft and bake sale will be held after concert. The cost is \$5 per person.

Candy Cane bazaar

The second annual Candy Cane Christmas Bazaar will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 437 Colborne Street in Corunna on Saturday, Nov. 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will include crafts, baked goods, a cookie walk, preserved items, a silent auction and a children's table. Lunch will be available for \$3 per person and will include homemade soup, roll, beverage and dessert. Everyone is welcome and the church is a barrier-free facility.

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.