



# THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP BEACON

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## *Winter Olympics-mania invades St. Clair Township*



The students of Sacred Heart School in Port Lambton proudly show their Olympic spirit by displaying the torch-shaped Olympic wavers that were given to them during a visit to the school by Olympic torch bearer Jen Verwey of Corunna, RBC representatives Michelle Lyons and LEO

the lion, and Mayor Steve Arnold. All elementary schools in St. Clair Township were visited in preparation for the Dec. 24 arrival of the Olympic torch in Corunna. See page 5 to see how the students of Mooretown-Courtright Public School enjoyed their visit.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

## Help road crews keep township streets clear

Winter is back in St. Clair Township and municipal road crews will be working hard to keep township streets and roads clear of snow and ice.

All residents are asked to obey the overnight parking by-law, which prohibits parking on township streets and roads from Dec. 1 to April 1 between 2 a.m. and 6 p.m. Those who do not comply with this bylaw will be subject to a fine.

In addition, on waste collection day, please ensure that all garbage, recycling containers and associated items are kept away from the road side so that they will not restrict the activities of snow removal equipment.

And while on the road, motorists are asked to be on the lookout for snow removal equipment and salters, and to keep a safe distance from them.

### INSIDE

Council Notes.....	2
Township shows holiday spirit..	6
Silver Stick on the way.....	8
Around the Township.....	8

### 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](mailto: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.**



## 2010 municipal election date changed

Council has been informed that the 2010 municipal election date will not be in November, as usual, but has instead been set for Oct. 25. In light of the upcoming election, council voted unanimously to discontinue the column, *Council Notes*, which is published in the St. Clair Township Beacon and expresses the observations of an individual council member each month.

**\*See page 3 for more information.**

### Physician Recruitment

#### Taskforce reports to council

Representatives from the Physician Recruitment Taskforce of Sarnia-Lambton, a non-profit organization that was formed to address the local shortage of family doctors, attended council to report on the group's ongoing effort to bring more family physicians to the area. According to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Sarnia-Lambton area is currently underserved by 19 doctors. This situation could worsen in the future because some doctors who are already practicing in the area will be retiring in the next few years and will need to be replaced.

Taskforce Chairman Ron Prior noted the group recruited four physicians in 2009 and another new doctor is currently working with Dr. William O'Mahony at his Corunna practice. The group is requesting funding in the amount of \$20,000 to help support the relocation grants offered to prospective candidates in the coming year. Prior added that some of the new doctors the taskforce has encountered are seeking rural placements.

One of the challenges facing the taskforce in the coming year will be the proposed withdrawal of provincial grants to new physicians who choose to practice in the province's southern underserved areas. Prior says the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has proposed that only underserved areas

in the north will receive funding. He added the Ministry claims the funding was never intended for southern communities and will better serve the north. The Ministry currently provides funding to underserved communities that are actively recruiting doctors, with grants going to both the recruitment committee and the recruited physicians. For a new physician, this can amount to a \$15,000 grant and hospital privileges plus up to a \$40,000 tuition rebate. Taskforce Recruitment Co-ordinator Cindy Sholten says many southern Ontario communities cannot afford to provide their own relocation incentive grants.

Council has referred the taskforce's funding request to its 2010 operating budget deliberations. For more information about the work of the Physician Recruitment Taskforce of Sarnia-Lambton, go online to [www.doctors4sarnialambton.com](http://www.doctors4sarnialambton.com).

### Council hears report on Sombra biodiesel facility

Representatives from Methes Energy attended council to report on activities at its Sombra facility (formerly part of the Chinook Chemical site.) Methes Energy President John Loewen explained the nature of biodiesel, pointing out it is non-toxic and is made from vegetable oil, waste cooking oil, animal fats or *tall oil*, a product of the pulp and paper industry. He says it does not contain petroleum and is ten times less toxic than table salt.

Methes Energy currently has a plant in operation in Mississauga, where it produces five million litres of biodiesel each year. Mr. Loewen said St. Clair Township was an attractive location to build another plant in because of its close proximity to refineries. To date, the former Chinook site has been cleaned up and the waste water pond is now a storm water pond, with any water released from the pond to the river

being tested in advance of its release. Further, there is no water required in the biodiesel process. Mr. Loewen says the by-product of the biodiesel process is crude glycerine, which is sent to another facility to be processed. He added the biodiesel process does not produce odour.

Mr. Loewen said a voluntary environmental assessment is being done at the site for Natural Resources Canada and the Ministry of the Environment is pleased with the results of tests done on the storm water pond.

When the site is in operation, Mr. Loewen says between 10 and 15 people will be employed there and five rail cars will be transporting biodiesel off-site each week.

Councillor Alexander asked why it had taken so long for the Methes Energy representatives to get the project underway. Loewen answered the company was not financially prepared to go ahead with the project when the property was first acquired.

Mayor Arnold expressed displeasure that the company had taken so long to report to council and added no work should be going on at the site because a site plan hadn't been filed with the municipality yet. Further, he said the company should be keeping council in the loop regarding activities at the Sombra site. Council was assured that the company will take steps to keep council well-informed in the future.

It was also suggested that the St. Clair Township Emergency Services personnel should be brought up-to-date on materials that are to be stored on-site.

### Family Health Team proposed

A delegation from Charlotte's Task Force for Rural Health Care spoke to council regarding an application that had been made to the Ministry of Health

**See More Council Notes, page 3**

## MORE COUNCIL NOTES

### From page 2

for the establishment of a Family Health Team to be situated in Petrolia. The purpose of this team would be to address the health needs of residents in rural Lambton. Task force representative Mary Pat Gleeson told council that Bluewater Health had assisted with the application but that the team would be independent from Bluewater Health and the area LHINS. If approved, the team

would help attract physicians to the area and would provide services that are no longer available through Bluewater Health.

Council was advised that, if the application to the ministry was approved, the organizing group may return to ask for financial assistance in establishing a facility to accommodate the team. Mayor Arnold expressed thanks to the representatives and asked that St.

Clair Township be kept apprised of the status of the application.

## Council meeting schedule

St. Clair Township council meets every first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021.

## \*2010 municipal election nominations now being accepted

Nominations for the upcoming 2010 municipal election on Oct. 25 are now being accepted until Sept. 20, 2010 at 2 p.m. Nomination papers should be picked up during regular business hours at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre on Emily Street in Mooretown and returned there when completed.

The nomination filing fee is \$200 for the position of Mayor and \$100 to file for the position of Councillor or School Trustee. This fee is refundable under certain conditions.

Since there have been several changes to the municipal election process, interested candidates should consult Clerk John De Mars.

## St. Clair Township recycling guidelines

Materials to be recycled should be sorted accordingly and placed at the curb by 7 a.m. on the day of collection. Containers should be placed in one blue box and fibre should be placed in either a blue box, a separate receptacle, or on top of the containers. The use of a blue box is the most efficient way to assist in the collection and sorting of recyclable materials. Clear plastic bags are acceptable as a receptacle if the materials it contains are not comingled. For instance, bottles must not be mixed in with tins.

Blue boxes are available at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre on Emily Street in Mooretown.

### Recyclable materials

**Newspaper:** must be bundled and tied separately.

**Fibre or paper products:** includes computer paper, office paper, envelopes (white or coloured) and *does not* include carbon paper. Fibre or paper products should be kept separate from newspaper.

**Clear and coloured glass:** includes beverage containers, wine, pop or liquor bottles and any clear or coloured glass food jars that have been rinsed. This *does not* include medication bottles, light bulbs, mirrors, dishes, ceramics, sheet glass or broken glass.

**Metal and aluminum cans:** includes pop, beer, juice, food and pet food cans that have been rinsed, but *does not* include aerosol cans, paint cans, aluminum foil, metal pots, disposable cooking tins, coat hangers, oil filters, sheet metal and toys.

**Plastics:** includes P.E.T. #1 and H.D.P.E. #2 plastics (lid removed), pop and water bottles, bleach bottles, juice and vinegar bottles that have been rinsed, #2 and #5 plastics (lid removed) such as ice cream and margarine containers. This *does not* include plastic bags, toys, garden plastic, cooking oil or motor oil containers, or containers with #3, 4, 6, 7, or 8 markings on the bottom or no markings at all.

**Cardboard and boxboard:** includes 30"x30"x8" flattened, bundled and tied cardboard such as tissue boxes, cereal boxes, shoe boxes, laundry detergent boxes and packing boxes. This *does not* include boxes containing food such as pizza with toppings stuck to the lid, milk cartons, paper rolls, drink or frozen food boxes. The wax film on the exterior of these boxes make them non-recyclable.

For further information, call the St. Clair Township Public Works Department at 519-867-2125 or go online to [www.twp.stclair.on.ca](http://www.twp.stclair.on.ca).

### Christmas Tree collection

Christmas trees will be collected on Friday, Jan. 15 and should be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. Trees should be bare of all decorations, tinsel and "angel hair" and should not be encased in plastic bags or tree removal bags. Trees left inside these bags when placed at the curb will not be collected. **Please do not put trees at the curb before the collection date.**

## Students glimpse Christmas past at Moore Museum



Grade 2 and 3 students from Sir John Moore Community School in Corunna are shown here looking at an aluminum tree decorated in 1950s style, complete with bubbling electric candles.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

Hundreds of elementary school students enjoyed a glimpse of Christmas past during their recent tour of the Moore Museum. Museum staff worked hard to adorn each room, as well as two of the buildings on the museum site, with decorations from days gone by.

Museum curator Laurie Mason says about 1,100 students from area elementary schools visited the museum in December, making the 2009 attendance one of the highest the museum has had during the years the Christmas program has been offered. They toured the Courtney cabin and the one-roomed schoolhouse to see traditional holiday decorations, and they heard about the traditions the early settlers observed to celebrate the holidays. The children also made traditional holiday crafts and enjoyed an old fashioned taffy pull.

## Moore Museum volunteer hangs up his hammer



A long-time volunteer at the Moore Museum is hanging up his hammer. At the November, 2009 meeting of the Moore Museum Advisory Committee, retiring member Gary Smith, left, was presented with a token of appreciation by Committee Chairperson James Townsend in recognition of Gary's six-and-a-half years of volunteer service. During his years with the museum, Gary, a retiree from OPG's Lambton Generating Station, has donated his time and talents to a number of ambitious projects, including the construction of the fire hall.

Photo submitted

## COUNCIL DIARY

*Council Diary* has been discontinued until after the upcoming 2010 municipal election, which is slated for Oct. 25.

**Be sure to watch your mailbox for the 2010 St. Clair Township Community Calendar**

## Licenses 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; Agri's Co-operative Ltd. in Brigden; 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

**Make 2010 your year to volunteer!**

## Mooretown-Courtright Public School students are ready to wave



The students at Mooretown-Courtright Public School enjoyed their Olympic torch run visit and were only too glad to express themselves by waving their red foam torches. The torch *wavers* were funded by donations from local

industries and businesses, who also contributed to the celebration that was held after the Olympic torch passed through Corunna on Dec. 24.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

## Brigden Public School wins Fire Prevention Week contest...again!

Again this year, Brigden Public School was named winner of the Fire Prevention Week competition.

All classes at St. Clair Township schools were given projects to complete and the award went to the school with the best participation.

Brigden Public School was awarded a limited edition Sparky the Fire Dog print labelled with a plaque to commemorate the students' achievement. It will hang in the school for the next year. A library fire truck will also sit in the school library for the next two months, and there were individual and class prizes awarded as well.

The Grade One and Grade Two classes achieved 100 per cent participation.



Photo submitted

Brigden Public School Grade One teacher Miss DeWolf, left, with Brianna and Rory, and Grade Two teacher Mrs. Hands, right, with Ryerson and Rebecca. The children are holding their special prizes, Sparky the Fire Dog figures.

## Corunna resident runs marathon in Athens with Team Diabetes

Corunna resident Darlene Falls recently returned from Athens, Greece, where she took part in a marathon as a member of Team Diabetes. She says runners waited in the rain for two hours for the event to

start, but by the time she got to the finish line, the sun was shining. Her husband and her parents were there to meet her. "I finished the run upright and smiling, not bad for a first-timer," she said.

## St. Clair Township residents generous to Christmas programs

Once again this year, the generous spirit of Christmas was evident in the way township industries, businesses, schools and individuals supported Christmas hamper programs throughout the municipality. For instance, the 5th annual Corunna OPP Operation Christmas Tree drive-thru donation event garnered \$716 in cash donations as well as 693 food items and 168 toys for the north St. Clair Township hamper program.

The story was much the same in south St. Clair Township, where several groups and organizations worked together to provide food for less fortunate families and gifts for their children. St. Vincent De Paul Society president George Moran expressed thanks to local churches, schools, industries, service clubs and youth for their support. "They should feel very proud of their accomplishments...this could not have been done without the support of our area people," he said.



**Above:** Santa was in attendance as the Corunna OPP and the Corunna Community Policing Committee sponsored the 5th annual Operation Christmas Tree drive-through donation event on Dec. 12. Santa's helpers included, from the left: members of the 1st Corunna Cubs and Scouts Paige LaPier, 8; Olivia Habel, 9; and Kiana Parkes, 11; and OPP Cst. John Vince.

**Left:** Operation Christmas Tree Chairman Ron Skreptak and his wife, Isla, display some of the donations the program received during the Poor Boy Luncheon kickoff event at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hall in late November.

**Below left:** The students at Mooretown-Courtright Public School showed their Christmas spirit by collecting 931 food items, 327 new toys and 152 new clothing items for Operation Christmas Tree, plus 20 bags of used clothing for Goodwill Industries. The effort was coordinated by student council members Abbi, left, Mike, Riley and Jessica, who are shown here with a few of the collected items as well as the Olympic torch wavers they received during the visit of Olympic torch bearer Jen Verwey.

**Below right:** Students at Riverview Public School collected an impressive 1,962 food items for the south St. Clair Township Christmas hamper program spearheaded by St. Vincent De Paul. Here, Mr. Thompson's Grade 8 students, under the direction of Miss Vleck, count and sort the items before they are picked up.



## LSA Handyman/Handywoman program seeking volunteers

The Lambton Seniors Association (LSA) hopes to bring its popular Handyman/Handywoman program for seniors into St. Clair Township and to all of Lambton County.

This program has been operating for several years in and around the Sarnia area, but seniors all over Lambton County have expressed interest in using the program. For this reason, the LSA is currently looking for retired men and women who have experience and skills garnered in the workplace to do minor repair work and upkeep for seniors. However, it is not a substitute for professional trades people. Every volunteer undergoes a police check and carries a photo identification card.

The purpose of the program is to help seniors live safely at home. A wide variety of home upkeep services are available, including: yard maintenance;

housecleaning; property cleanup; installation of safety equipment like grab bars, railings and door locks; snow clearing; property checks; and many other similar services. There is nominal fee charged for these services and a small additional fee may be charged if the handyman/handywoman uses ladders, tools or other personally-owned items to do the work. Travel expenses may also be applicable for some clients.

**The Handyman/Handywoman Program for Seniors is sponsored by the United Way of Sarnia-Lambton and Store-N-Save Self Storage. For more information about volunteering or to inquire about the use of the program, call the Lambton Seniors Association at 519-339-8866 or toll-free at 1-877-219-4717. Visit the LSA Website at [www.lambtonseniors.com](http://www.lambtonseniors.com) or email: [lseniors@ebtech.net](mailto:lseniors@ebtech.net).**

## Moore Ag Society honours volunteers with appreciation dinner

The Moore Agricultural Society (MAS) recently held an appreciation dinner to thank over 250 volunteers for their dedication and hard work. MAS President Jim DeGurse said, "Without our volunteers, we could not put on the (Brigden) fair and we (MAS) want to show our appreciation."

During the event, members Dennis and Shari Robinson were honoured with the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS) Service Award. The award is presented to those who have demonstrated outstanding commitment in support of a local agricultural society.

Dennis began his association with the Brigden Fair as a 4-H member and later became a member of the board of directors. He was a MAS director for 25 years and has served two terms as president. Shari first came to the Brigden Fair in 1971 to help show Charolais cattle and has not missed a fair since. Dennis and Shari remain ac-



Dennis and Shari Robinson, right, receive the OAAS Service Award from MAS President Jim DeGurse and Past-president Brenda Maw.



On hand for the Canadian Cancer Society cheque presentation were, front row: Morgan MacKenzie, Naomi Coe, CCS representative Jennifer McMurphy, Adam Romanik, Dennis Robinson, Julie Maw, Kyle Maw. Back row: Devon Maw, Steve Murphy, Darren Armstrong. Photo submitted

tive volunteers at the fair and are responsible for organizing many of the heavy horse show events.

In addition to accepting the service award, Dennis also presented a cheque for \$1,300 to Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) representative Jennifer McMurphy. The money was raised during the 2009 Brigden Fair's heavy horse pull to help fight breast cancer. The "south end crew" of volunteers collected \$650 during the pull, which was matched dollar-for-dollar by the Moore Agricultural Society.

**Don't forget to mark your calendar: the Brigden Fair's 160th anniversary will be celebrated Oct. 8 through 11, 2010.**

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## AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

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### Sombra hall to host euchre

The Sombra Community Hall will be the scene of a series of euchre parties this winter beginning at 1 p.m. on the following dates: Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, March 4, 12, 19, 26. Prizes and lunch will be part of each event.

### Corunna Legion to host events

Several tournaments will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch this month. A mixed dart tournament is slated for Saturday, Jan. 9 beginning at 1 p.m. The Don Jackson memorial cribbage tournament will be held on Sunday, Jan. 10 beginning at 1 p.m. A euchre tournament will take place on Sunday, Jan. 24 at 1 p.m. On Saturday, Jan. 30, an open jam session will begin at 3 p.m. Bring an instrument, sing along or just enjoy the music or dance to some great local talent.

Every Saturday, a meat draw is held at the Corunna Legion hall at 4 p.m. **These events are open to the public and food is available.**

### Brigden Legion to host events

The Royal Canadian Legion Brigden branch will host several activities this month. A chicken dinner is set for Friday, Jan. 15 and a stuffed roast pork dinner will be held on Friday, Jan. 29, both from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at a cost of \$8. On Monday, Jan. 25 at noon, the branch will host euchre and a light lunch costing \$3 per person. The cost includes prizes and everyone is welcome. Meat raffles will be held on Saturday, Jan. 15, Jan. 23 and Feb. 6.

And the branch's general meeting for members will be held on Monday, Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 519-864-1395.

### Brigden Optimists plan fundraiser

The Optimist Club of Brigden will hold a fundraiser at the Brigden Community Hall on Saturday, Jan. 16 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. The event will benefit Mike Richardson who has cancer. For more information or for tickets, please contact Calvin at 519-864-1414 or Larry at 519-864-1328.

### Moore Ag Society annual meeting

The Moore Agricultural Society will hold its annual meeting on Monday, Jan. 18 beginning with a pot luck supper at 6:30 p.m.

### Robbie Burns Night slated

The Corunna United Church Amicitia Club will hold its 25th annual Robbie Burns Night on Friday, Jan. 22. Tickets are \$22 per person and are available by calling Ken at 519-867-2806.

### Trivia night in Brigden

Trivia night will be held at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall on Saturday, Jan. 23 at 8 p.m. Teams of six are invited to compete for a fee of \$5 per person. A cash bar will be available. For more information go online to [www.brigdenfair.ca](http://www.brigdenfair.ca).

### Brigden Legion to host euchre

The Royal Canadian Legion Brigden Branch 635 will host open euchre at 1 p.m. on the last Monday of each month. The \$3 admission will include lunch.

The branch hall is open Tuesday through Thursday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Friday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from noon to 7 p.m. For more information call 519-864-1395 during these hours.

### 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: Feb. 22; March 22; April 26; and May 17. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### IODE looks ahead to spring

Members of the Hon. Bryan L. Cathcart Chapter IODE of Corunna are taking orders for geraniums and hanging baskets that will be delivered in May. To order or for more information, call 519-862-5809 or 519-862-1769.

### 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.

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### Anniversary cookbook now on sale

The Moore Agricultural Society is selling cookbooks to commemorate its 160th anniversary. The book contains delicious recipes contributed by fair board members and is priced at \$10 per book. It is available at the Brigden Fair office, 519-864-1197, or from any director.

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### Wheel Barrow draw winner

The St. Clair Township Fire Department's Brigden station recently announced that Candice Lefebvre of Bright's Grove was the winner of its annual Wheel Barrow draw. Thanks are extended to all who purchased a ticket to this draw and to those who attended the station's annual turkey raffle.

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### It's Silver Stick time!



The 37th annual Silver Stick Tournament will be held at the Mooretown Sports Complex on Jan. 7 to 10. Daily admission is \$5 per adult and \$3 per student. A week-end pass is \$14.