



The St. Clair Township
BEACON

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*May the meaning and the
magic of the season
touch your heart
this Christmas*



*Wishing everyone
a very
Merry Christmas
and a
happy, healthy
2011!*

*St. Clair Township
Council and Staff*

Corunna Licence Office now a Service Ontario site

The Corunna Licence Office on Lyndoch Street is now handling Ontario health cards as part of its newly expanded mandate under Service Ontario.

Office owner Pat Carswell-Alexander says the office can now renew or replace lost or stolen cards, make changes to information and take a new ID photograph when necessary. "This is exciting

for us," she said. "Our staff has expanded to include another full-time staff person and a part-time staff person to make sure people will still have the close-to-instant service they've always had in the past."

The office will continue to offer motor vehicle licence and registration services as usual.

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To contact The BEACON

send an e-mail to: beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca
or write 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.



Municipal Notices and Activities

Small game hunting licenses now available

Township of St. Clair Street in Mooretown. The fee is \$5 for residents and \$8 for non-residents. Applicants must apply in person and multiple licenses will not be issued.

Hardware; Agris Co-operative Ltd. in Brigden; St. Clair Civic Centre on Emily

John De Mars
Director of Administration
Clerk, Deputy C.A.O.

Council meeting schedule

St. Clair Township council meets every first and third Monday of the month. The inaugural meeting and swearing in of the newly-elected council will take place on Monday, Dec. 6. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021.

Community shows supports for public projects



The community has really come through to make St. Clair Township an even better place to live by funding projects that will enhance recreational spaces and beautify outdoor venues.

Above left: Two new score clocks now grace the rink walls at the Mooretown Sports Complex thanks to a \$22,500 donation from Ontario Power Generation. OPG Corporate Relations Officer Steve Repergel, centre, presented the cheque to Mayor Steve Arnold and Director of Community Services Gary Hackett during a recent council meeting.

Above right: Sombra Sports and Recreation Secretary Todd Sharples presented Mayor Arnold with a cheque for \$17,332.88 towards the cost of the new Sombra splash pad. The group expects to pay off its share of the cost next year, a full year earlier than was projected. The group and St. Clair Township each funded half of the \$109,000 project cost.

Left: A new fountain/water feature will soon beautify Guthrie Park thanks to funding from Shell Canada. Shell Communications Representative Kristina Zimmer recently presented a cheque for \$50,000 to Mayor Arnold.

Community In Action

Here's a sample of the exciting activities taking place in St. Clair Township

Wilkesport receives long-awaited infrastructure improvements

The long-awaited infrastructure improvements in Wilkesport are finally complete.

Recent work on a \$2.55 million project has resulted in all 55 residences in the village being hooked up to the municipal sewer system. Village streets also being paved.

Township Coordinator of Engineering Matt Deline says most residences were formerly using septic systems while a few had no structured sewage treatment at all.

He added that not only has the project brought sewer service to every household in Wilkesport, but it will result in the improvement of the Sydenham River.

From the new sewer system pump station in Wilkesport, eight kilometres of force main carry the waste west as far as the parkway and then into the Sombra sanitary lagoon.

This project is a joint effort of the Township of St. Clair and the Ontario government.

On hand for the dedication of the extensive infrastructure work that has been done in Wilkesport were, from the left: St. Clair Township Deputy Mayor Peter Gilliland; St. Clair Township Coordinator of Engineering Matt Deline; Councillor Darrell Randell; Director of Public Works Larry Burnham; former MPP Caroline DiCocco; Councillor Steve Miller; Middlesex-Kent MPP Maria Van Bommel (representing the Honourable Margaret Best, Ontario Minister of Health Promotion and Sport); and Mayor Steve Arnold.



St. Clair River Trail Committee extends vote of thanks

The St. Clair River Trail Committee has issued a huge vote of thanks to the over 300 people who attended the *Summer's Last Blast-Margaritaville* fundraiser. The event raised \$5,000 which will be used to help pay for trail amenities such as benches, lighting, and signage. A special thanks is extended to: the volunteers who helped with the event; corporate donors; Warren Lewis, Moore Sports Complex Employees; Simon & Sheryl's No

Frills; Purdy Fisheries; St. Clair Township Fire Department's Corunna and Courtright volunteer firefighters; John Martin (Molson); Ahsome Art; Margaritaville-Spirit of the Keys; The Workout Room; Committee members and Hubbies.

Thirty kilometres of trail are completed with six kilometres of future construction south of Courtright left to complete.

Community In Action

Mooretown Sports Complex upgrades unveiled during dedication

The Mooretown Sports Complex has undergone a lot of important upgrades lately, some that can be seen and some behind the scenes. The upgrade project included the installation of energy-efficient lighting systems and heaters, a new pool dehumidifier, the replacement of the pool roof, plus upgrades to the lobby, washrooms, rink boards and floors.

Funding for the upgrades was split three ways, with the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario each committing up to \$330,000 each and the Township of St. Clair contributing the balance of the \$990,000 project.

Both rinks also boast new score clocks. The score clocks were not originally included as part of the project, but were in need of replacement. Thanks to a donation of \$22,500 from Ontario Power Generation, new score clocks were purchased and are now in use.

The revitalized facility was formally dedicated recently, with representatives from all levels of government and local donors in attendance. Sarnia-Lambton MP Pat Davidson said the project would be

a tremendous benefit for the entire community. "Our community, as well as neighbouring municipalities and First Nations communities, will benefit from the renovation of this sports complex." She added that, through the Federal government's Economic Action Plan, "...facilities across the country are being revitalized and jobs are being created."

Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Maria Van Bommel, who attended on behalf of the Honourable Margaret Best, Ontario's Minister of Health Promotion and Sport, said, "This sports complex is a focal point of St. Clair Township that promotes recreation, fitness and health to all residents."

Mayor Arnold expressed appreciation for the funding partnership that allowed the project to be done. "The Township of St. Clair is grateful for the partnership with the Federal and Provincial governments and their recognition of the needs of our community," he said.

Gary Hackett, Director of Community Services, says the funding partnership is an example of the remarkable changes intergovernmental cooperation can bring about. "It's phenomenal what we can accomplish," he said.



New score clock



Present at the official dedication of the refurbished Mooretown Sports Complex were, left to right: Mayor Steve Arnold; St. Clair Township CAO John Rodey; Lambton-Kent-Middlesex MPP Maria Van Bommel (on behalf of the Honourable Margaret Best, Ontario Minister of Health Promotion and Sport); Deputy Mayor Peter Gilliland; Sarnia-Lambton MP Patricia Davidson; OPG Lambton G.S. Manager Phil Stevens; Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey; Councillors Pat Brown; Steve Miller; and Darrell Randell.

Community In Action

Pickin' N' Fiddlin' pays off for Petrolia food bank



The Petrolia Food Bank received a financial boost in October thanks to a generous donation from the Brigden Fair's entertainment committee. It was donated as a *thank you* to the entertainers who performed during the Pickin' N' Fiddlin' Show. The presentation was made to Petrolia Food Bank representative Brian McManaman, at microphone, by Marilyn Shaw, right, committee head of the entertainment tent program.

Photo by Orrie Wigle

Legion donation supports CEE Hospital



The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 recently made a generous \$3,000 donation to the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital Foundation. The money will be used to purchase an Atmos air mattress for the facility. Pictured at the presentation are: Donald Musson, Executive, P.R.O. Branch 447; CEEH Foundation representative Omer May; and Verne Gekill, Fundraising Chair, CEEH Foundation.

St. Clair Parkway Golf Course info

If you're an avid golfer, it's never too late or too early to think about future golf plans. With this in mind, the St. Clair Parkway Golf Course has information about 2011 membership rates, and memberships can be purchased by calling the Mooretown Sports Complex at 519-867-2651. 2011 bookings for tournaments and leagues will begin on Jan. 1 and can also be arranged by calling the Mooretown Sports Complex.

Winter Emergency Information

Winter weather can quickly create emergency situations. Are you ready for them? Here are some phone numbers you'll want to keep handy. (Call 9-1-1 ONLY in true emergency situations.)

Township of St. Clair

519-481-0111

Ontario Provincial Police

1-888-310-1122

Hydro One (emergencies/outages)

1-800-434-1235

And be sure you have an Emergency Preparedness plan. To find out more, go online to

Emergency Management Ontario:

www.emergencymanagementontario.ca

St. Clair Township takes time to honour fallen heroes past and present



The people of St. Clair Township turned out in force at Remembrance Day ceremonies all over the municipality. In Corunna, a large crowd gathered at the clock tower cenotaph to participate in the 11 a.m. service that included a moving fly-over by local small aircraft, who executed the *Missing Man* formation. Rev. Paul Woolley of St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Courtright presided over the service and dignitaries representing all levels of government, as well as local service clubs and industries, laid wreathes in honour of the fallen, past and present.



Top left: Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 colour party leads parade to the cenotaph. Middle left: Legion member Logan Mackenzie and Mayor Steve Arnold lay the St. Clair Township wreath. Middle right: Waiting to be presented, a formation of wreathes sits in quiet witness to the solemn occasion. Bottom: Rev. Paul Woolley leads the assembly in prayer.



Mooretown Sports Complex offers lots of winter fun and excitement

The Mooretown Sports Complex is the place to be this winter.

Shinny Hockey fun

Shinny Hockey is back by popular demand. For just \$5, you can grab your skates and a hockey stick, and take to the ice every Tuesday morning from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Winter swimming lessons

Registration for the winter swimming lessons session is underway, with lessons beginning the week of Jan. 3.

Free public skating

Over the Christmas holidays, families will enjoy free public skating, sponsored by Tim Horton's, on the following dates: Dec. 20 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Dec. 21 from 1

p.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Dec. 27 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.; and Dec. 28 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Silverstick action on the way

Don't miss some terrific hockey action as the Juvenile Silverstick Tournament hits the rink on Jan. 6 through 9. Cheer for the home team and watch some future NHL stars hone their skills.

Thanks to Moore Optimist Club

The Moore Optimist Club is applauded for its support of water safety for youth. Last year, a total of 231 St. Clair Township Grade 3 students took part in the Lifesaving

Society Swim To Survive program at the Mooretown Sports Complex.

This was made possible thanks to a grant from the Lifesaving Society and additional support from the Moore Optimist Club, who provided funds for bussing costs for the Corunna students.

This program is geared to Grade 3 students and involves basic swimming skills and important self-rescue and lifesaving skills. With the St. Clair River so close at hand, basic swimming ability is a fundamental requirement for St. Clair Township youth.

This is just one more example of how the Moore Optimist Club encourages youth throughout the year.

Moore Agricultural Society supports St. Joseph's Hospice



The Moore Agricultural Society recently held an auction to raise money in support of St. Joseph's Hospice in Sarnia. Items were donated by board members and auctioneers from Great West Auctions handled the sale. A total of \$700 was raised. Brigden Fair Ambassa-

dor Carrie Dawson and hospice representative Connie Manning were on hand for the event.

Since it opened in 2009, St. Joseph's Hospice has offered caring, supportive end-of-life care to the loved ones of over 140 families.

Photo by Orrie Wigle

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Indoor walking sessions in Bridgen

Free indoor walking sessions are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Bridgen fairgrounds exhibition hall. Participants are asked to bring indoor walking shoes to these sessions. For more information or to register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237. This program is sponsored by the West Lambton Community Health Centre and the Moore Agricultural Society.

Cruikshank Centre activities planned

The Cruikshank Centre at Thompson Gardens in Corunna will hold **ongoing group games** as follows: euchre on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. (\$3); cribbage on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.; bridge on Thursdays at 1 p.m. For more information call 519-862-1628.

Euchre parties in Sombra

A series of euchre parties will be held at the Sombra Community Hall on Fridays at 1 p.m. on the following dates: Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25; March 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8, 15, 29. For more information call 519-892-3964.

Corunna Legion hosts jam sessions



The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447, intersection of Albert and Beckwith Streets, hosts an open jam session with *Jim and Friends* at 3 p.m. on the last Saturday of each month. The next session is slated for Saturday, Dec. 18. Everyone is welcome to come out and play, sing or just listen to some great local talent. For more information, call the Legion hall at 519-862-1240.

Rebekah Lodge luncheons offered

Mayflower Rebekah Lodge #324 luncheon and card party afternoons at Thomson Gardens, 198 Beckwith Street

in Corunna, will be held at noon on the following days: Jan. 24, 2011; Feb. 28; March 28; April 11; May 30; Sept. 26. *The December 13, 2010 luncheon has been cancelled.*

Event will offer hope to Courtright child

A benefit called *Show Lexi The Love* is being planned for the Courtright Community Centre on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011. The event will include a buffet dinner, auction, door prizes and a dance, and tickets are \$15 per person. They can be purchased by calling Crystal at 519-331-9391 or Barb at 519-331-1123. To raise extra funds, organizers are also raffling off a 46-inch Samsung television and a membership to Bonnie Doon Golf Course. The recipient of money raised will be ten-year old Courtright resident Alexis Hill, who has cerebral palsy. Alexis has been approved for stem cell therapy in Germany, a procedure that is not available in Canada. The estimated cost of the procedure plus travel to Germany is about \$40,000, but it is hoped the procedure will reduce tightness in Alexis's muscles, increase fine motor skills and reduce seizures.

LEO seniors' luncheons in Corunna

Lambton Elderly Outreach (LEO) hosts a seniors' luncheon every third Wednesday of the month at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 hall. The cost is \$8 per person for a delicious hot meal and the opportunity to hear a guest speaker or to enjoy lively entertainment. For more information or to register, call LEO at 1-800-265-0203.

Corunna Legion hosts morning coffee

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hosts a morning coffee club from Monday to Saturday at 9 a.m. The cost is \$1 per cup and everyone is welcome. Those who attend are asked to remove hats and caps out of respect for the veteran attendees.



Community Notice Board

The Bridgen History Book is now available for sale at a cost of \$30 at the following locations: Lambton Financial Credit Union in Bridgen; Forever Quilting; Lily Lane Flowers; The Book Keeper in Sarnia.

The students of Mooretown-Courtright Public School are conducting an e-waste recycling fundraiser. Inkjet cartridges for Cannon, HP and Lexmark printers can be dropped off at the school or in the school's name at Staples in Sarnia. Large e-waste items such as computers, telephones, cameras and stereo equipment can be dropped off at the Goodwill donation centre in Sarnia in the school's name.

Lambton Elderly Outreach (LEO) is currently seeking volunteer drivers in the Corunna area and volunteers to help at the

monthly seniors luncheon in Port Lambton. LEO offers a variety of support services to seniors and those with disabilities. For more information, call LEO at 519-845-1353.

Veterans and their spouses may be eligible for benefits such as disability pensions, hearing loss assistance and housekeeping. The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch can offer help in determining if such benefits are applicable.

To make inquiries and to obtain further information, contact Corunna Branch 447 Service Officer Gerry Den Hartogh at 519-862-1613.

Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia celebrates its 100th anniversary this year and a special cookbook has been issued to commemorate the occasion. The books are available at Charlotte's Boutique at CEE Hospital, the Petrolia Bookstore, or from any anniversary member at a cost of \$10 per book.