



The St. Clair Township **BEACON**

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2010-2014 St. Clair Township Council term begins



The new St. Clair Township Council held its inaugural meeting on Dec. 6 at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre. Shown here at the conclusion of the meeting are, top left: Deputy Clerk Jeff Baranek; Councillors Jeff Agar; Jim

DeGurse; Pat Alexander-Carswell; Steve Miller; Darrell Randell; and Deputy Mayor Peter Gilliland. Seated are CAO John Rodey; Mayor Steve Arnold; and Clerk/ Director of Administration John DeMars.

Mayor Arnold first County Warden from St. Clair Township

Mayor Steve Arnold has become the first Lambton County Warden ever elected from St. Clair Township. The election took place during a meeting of Lambton County Council on Dec. 1. With 16 county councillors voting by secret ballot, Mayor Arnold was elected from a field of four candidates which included incumbent Jim Burns, Mayor of Enniskillen Township, Samia Mayor Mike Bradley and Petrolia Mayor John McCharles.

Embarking on a two-year term of office, Warden Arnold expressed gratitude for the opportunity to lead county council

through the challenges that lay ahead. "It's very humbling to be elected to lead county council as warden," he said. "I'm grateful to work with all of our county communities to make Lambton County a better, stronger place in the future."

Warden Arnold expressed his appreciation for the community support he has received and says he will be keeping the taxpayers' best interests firmly in mind in the months ahead. He says his top priority will be the responsible use of county taxpayer dollars. "This year will be tough, but I want to be fiscally responsible and prudent with the taxpayer's purse."

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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.



Council Notes

New council sworn in during inaugural meeting



Above: The Dec. 6 meeting of the new St. Clair Township Council was marked by an inspirational message by Rev. Margaret Bell of the Knox Presbyterian Church, Mooretown.

Left: The inaugural meeting drew many residents to the council chambers to witness the swearing-in ceremony and to hear individual greetings from the council members. At the conclusion of the meeting, a small reception was held to allow the public to meet their new representatives.

Photos by Bonnie Stevenson

Thousands of visitors see Moore Museum

This year has been a great year for the Moore Museum. Curator Laurie Mason reports the facility received about 4,500 visitors this year. In addition, many local school children attended educational programs at the museum. The Moore Museum, which offers 10 such programs, ran 60 educational sessions in 2010. "Highlights of our school programming are first-person interpretation and hands-on activities to engage students in discovering the lives of early settlers," Mrs. Mason explained.

Those who have been to the museum site this year know that the new general store building has been taking shape thanks to the efforts of many museum volunteers. They were able to complete the exterior of the building before the winter weather set in. Also new this year are the special tour booklets and the activity centres geared to the children who visit the facility. And, as always, the Trinity St. Clair Chapel continues to be a popular place to say, "I do."

Mrs. Mason says visitors from as far away as Guatemala and England enjoyed the Moore Museum experience this year. She notes many visitors came to see family artefacts which are included in some of the museum's collections. One visitor wrote in the guest book, "I liked seeing my dad's crib in the nurse's office."

Council meeting schedule

St. Clair Township council will meet on Monday, Jan. 10 and Monday, Jan. 17. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021.

2011 community calendar in mail

St. Clair Township residents who have not yet received the new 2011 community calendar should contact the municipal office at 519-867-2125. The calendar includes information about waste collection, emergency preparedness phone numbers, and other timely information.

Overnight parking on streets prohibited

All motorists are reminded that overnight parking on municipal streets is prohibited until April 1, 2011. This by-law ensures that snow plow crews will be able to do their job safely and efficiently. Vehicles left on the streets overnight will be ticketed.

Fury of winter storm brings out Christmas spirit

Chances are that the vicious winter storm that ripped through Lambton County in mid-December will become "the great storm of 2010" in the lore of South-western Ontario. The storm, which closed down Highway 402 and came dangerously close to foiling the efforts of vital emergency crews, presented incredible challenges for those who responded to the crisis.

Here in St. Clair Township, Steve Bicum, Deputy Chief of the St. Clair Township Fire Department, says volunteer firefighters responded to numerous emergency situations across the municipality. The action began on Sunday evening with a two-vehicle collision at the intersection of Kimball and Courtright Line. "The Brigden fire station (crew) had to extricate one occupant and two were transported to hospital," he said. "By Monday morning, dozens of cars and transport trucks that were attempting to get around the 402 closure were literally stopped in their tracks on Plank Road and Petrolia Line."

As the storm continued, Deputy Chief Bicum says the OPP teamed up with St. Clair Fire Department staff to use four-wheel drive trucks to effect the rescue of stranded motorists. From his account, it seems the storm brought out the best in the community. As an example, Deputy Chief Bicum says one caring citizen off-loaded the mini-excavator he'd been towing in an effort to dig out trapped occupants of vehicles stopped along Petrolia Line. The man's efforts are barely visible in the photograph at the top of this page.

As the storm continued to rage, rescue workers used snowmobiles to reach stranded motorists. Police say 350 vehicles were affected by the horrendous road conditions. Lambton County Warden Steve Arnold declared a state of emergency and Emergency Management Ontario issued a red alert for Highway 402. Canadian Forces air support, in the form of three rescue helicopters, was summoned to help retrieve those still stranded in immobilized vehicles along the road.

The storm caused power outages in many places in the township. Deputy Chief Bicum says Brigden was without power for over 18 hours and the Brigden fire station provided food and shelter to about 50 people. Chief Roy Dewhirst noted, "It is great to see neighbours helping neighbours in times like these. We had very few issues in the township because people got involved and looked after one another. People took in strangers from the cold; farmers helped to clear roads, and friends checked on elderly neighbours."

All around the township and throughout Lambton County, residents fought the storm by helping complete strangers survive and find shelter. Lambton OPP reports spoke of numerous warming centers being set up for those who were rescued from trapped vehicles and for those left without power. Communities opened their public buildings and offered a place to sleep and nourishment to see everyone through the storm.

The great storm of 2010 challenged many of us to survive its fierce onslaught and, in this scenario, human kindness won out



Above, the fury of the brutal winter storm is evident in this picture, taken along Petrolia Line east of Plank Road. Below, the storm clears leaving behind massive snow drifts and turning Lambton County roads into parking lots.

Photos by Steve Bicum



over Old Man Winter. The storm failed to claim even one life in Lambton County thanks, in no small part, to the efforts of an extended community that was unwilling to abandon those in need.

For many, Christmas came early this year.

Residents are urged to have a comprehensive emergency kit prepared. The St. Clair Township Fire Department notes that every household should be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours. See page 4 for more information.

Small game hunting licenses now available

Township of St. Clair Mooretown. The fee is \$5 small game hunting li- for residents and \$8 for censes are now available non-residents. Applicants at the following loca- must apply in person and tions: Pic-N-Pay Variety multiple licenses will not in Sombra; Courtright be issued.

Variety Store; Corunna Home Hardware; Agris Co-operative Ltd. in Brigden; St. Clair Civic Centre on Emily Street in

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

Residents urged to be prepared for emergency situations

The recent winter storm that effectively shut down this part of South-western Ontario for three days emphasises the need for every resident to be prepared to survive for at least 72 hours when emergencies arise.

Emergency Management Ontario has developed an Emergency Survival Checklist that outlines the basic items every individual should have at home, including:

- ◆ Flashlight
- ◆ Radio or a hand-crank radio
- ◆ Spare batteries for flashlight and radio
- ◆ First aid kit
- ◆ Telephone that will function during a power interruption (such as a traditional land line)
- ◆ Candles and matches/lighters
- ◆ Extra car keys and cash
- ◆ Important papers for identification
- ◆ Non-perishable food (ready-to-eat and requiring no refrigeration)
- ◆ Manual can opener
- ◆ Bottled water (four litres per person per day)
- ◆ Clothing and footwear
- ◆ Blankets or sleeping bags
- ◆ Toilet paper and other personal items
- ◆ An adequate supply of all necessary medication
- ◆ Backpack/duffle bag
- ◆ Whistle (to attract attention, if required)
- ◆ Playing cards and amusements that do not require power

Families with babies or toddlers will also need to stock items such as diapers, baby food and formula, as

well as bottles and age-appropriate feeding items and toys. Those with pets are reminded to keep a stock of food and water for them as well.

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In the car, an emergency kit may mean the difference between life and death. A vehicle emergency kit should include:

- ◆ Shovel
- ◆ Sand, salt or kitty litter for traction
- ◆ Traction mats
- ◆ Compass
- ◆ Cloth or roll of paper towels
- ◆ Warning light or road flares
- ◆ Extra clothing and footwear
- ◆ Non-perishable food and water
- ◆ Small tool kit
- ◆ Booster cables
- ◆ Ice scraper and brush
- ◆ Road maps
- ◆ Matches or a "survival" candle in a deep can (to warm hands, heat a drink or use as an emergency light)
- ◆ Fire extinguisher
- ◆ Flashlight and batteries
- ◆ First aid kit with seatbelt cutter
- ◆ Blanket

For more information and complete emergency kit lists, go online to: www.emergencymanagementontario.ca.

Regular check of smoke alarms saves lives

Smoke alarms are required by law in every residence, but they won't do you much good if they don't work properly. Batteries should be replaced at least once per year or whenever the low battery warning is heard. Be sure to test the alarm after installing a new battery and once each month to make sure the alarm is in good working order. If the alarm fails to sound, even when the battery is replaced, replace the smoke alarm. Smoke alarms have a finite lifespan, so the alarm

should be replaced with a new one every 10 years. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instruction for installing, testing and maintaining the smoke alarm.

Homeowners who operate wood stoves and fireplaces should be especially diligent about the upkeep of smoke alarms and should also be sure to have a carbon monoxide alarm.

More information is available by calling the St. Clair Township Fire Department at 519-481-0111.

Cathcart Chapter IODE thinking of spring

Members of the Bryan L. Cathcart Chapter IODE have already begun to think about spring. The group will be selling geraniums and hanging plants again this spring, and anyone wishing to order now can call 519-862-1769.

The chapter was busy this past Christmas season. They prepared grooming kits containing

toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and other personal care items to be donated to the Women's Interval Home in Sarnia. Proceeds from the Sarnia/Lambton Municipal IODE's recent Christmas Home Tour, in which the Cathcart Chapter participated, were also donated to the Women's Interval Home.

Music and merriment fill the air as Santa comes to St. Clair Township

Again this year, Santa starred in several parades throughout St. Clair Township. The Corunna parade was bigger and better than ever with three bands, the London Firefighter's Pipe Band, the St. Clair Colts Drum Corps and the Air Cadets, providing a soundtrack for the festivities. The parade was almost 45 minutes long and was over one kilometre in length. Trophies were awarded to the best floats in the following categories: small commercial - Evolution Hair Studio; large commercial - Shell Canada; community - St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church; and the new category for 2010, best fire truck - Corunna fire station.

The parade followed a new route this year, from the No Frills store south of Corunna north to Beckwith Street. Parade organizers say the new route received excellent response and applauded the Moore Optimist Club for the role it played in the parade's success. At its conclusion, the crowd enjoyed hot



Santa greets his enthusiastic fans along Lyndoch Street.

chocolate and Christmas tree-shaped cakes at the Corunna clock tower park courtesy of the Corunna Horticultural Society while the children visited with Santa Claus.

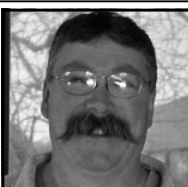
Photos by Bonnie Stevenson



The Grinch and his loyal pal, Max, were part of a five-float display that garnered Shell Canada the trophy in the Large Commercial category.

Shave benefits United Way

Shell Canada employee Walt Fell, known for the unique moustache he has grown and nurtured for the past 31 years, sacrificed his pride and joy in an effort to help the Corunna plant raise money for the United Way of Sarnia-Lambton. Walt was one of five volunteers who participated in the moustache shaving contest and he received the most pledges. So Walt recently allowed his moustache to be shaved off by the plant's technical manager Marshall Letts. Over \$2,000 in pledges was raised, contributing to the plant's overall United Way campaign total of \$240,000, a record for the Corunna facility. *Submitted*



Pre-shave Walt



Post-shave Walt

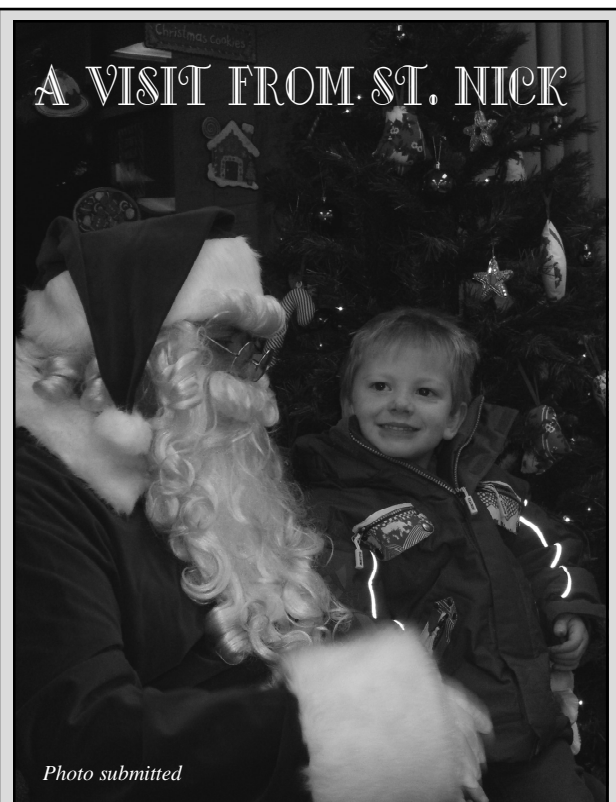


Photo submitted

*'Twas a week before Christmas and down Sombra way,
St. Nick came to visit one crisp wintery day.
Each child was anxious to give him a list
And Santa made sure that nobody was missed.
Then off to his sleigh and away North he flew,
With the lists of the children and their loving hugs, too.*

Santa recently visited the children of the Sombra Township Day Care. Garrett was one of the many lucky children who got to share their Christmas list with the jolly old elf during his visit.

Winter fun and fitness awaits at Mooretown Sports Complex

Don't let Winter turn you into a couch potato! The Mooretown Sports Complex has many ways for you to enjoy staying active and healthy all year long.

Winter 2011 Swim Lessons

The 2011 swimming lesson schedule still has openings. Call the MSC to find out about class availability.

Stretch and strengthen fitness classes

Why not make this a New Year for a New You? Stretch and strengthen fitness classes are held Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., and you can join any time. The cost is \$4.50 per class or \$45 for a 12-visit interchangeable pass.

Water aerobics and water therapy

Enjoy the soothing, restorative power of water in the indoor pool. **Shallow water aerobics** classes are held Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Deep water aerobics** classes are held Monday and Wednesday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Water therapy** classes (arthritis, fibromyalgia, post-rehab) are held Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Join any time at a cost of \$4.50 per class or \$45 for a 12-visit interchangeable pass.

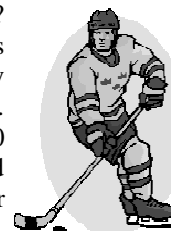
Fitness centre

Don't let the cold weather make you suffer through another season of cabin fever. Come to the Mooretown Sports Complex fitness centre for a workout, a swim, a

sauna or a soak in the hot tub. Try it out for \$4.50 per visit, buy a 12-visit interchangeable pass for \$45, or enjoy a full year of healthy, spirit-lifting activity for just \$243.

Adult shinny hockey

Remember when shinny hockey was played outside on any available pond and friendships were forged and strengthened with each shot of the puck? The Mooretown Sports Complex rink is the place to enjoy that kind of activity with old friends while making new ones. Come out on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Bring your friends or just come and join a team. The cost is \$5 per adult per session.



March Break day camp

The March Break day camp gives children ages five through 12 the chance to swim, skate, do crafts, play games and meet special visitors. The program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with an early drop-off of 7:30 a.m. and a late pick-up of 5:30 p.m. available. The cost is \$25 per child per day or \$100 per week. A family plan is also available.

For more information or to register for any of these programs, contact the Mooretown Sports Complex at 519-867-2651.

Generous community supports Operation Christmas Tree

The 2010 Operation Christmas Tree program once again received the generous support of the entire community. The statistics speak for themselves.

The Poor Boy lunch kick-off event on Nov. 18 raised \$2,000. On Dec. 11, the Corunna OPP office's annual drive-through donation event garnered cash donations totalling \$1,025, plus 1,014 food items and over 200 toys. This was a marked increase over 2009 donations, which totalled \$506 in cash 682 food items and 168 toys. Volunteers from the Corunna Community Policing Committee, Lambton OPP, Lambton College and the Optimist Club of Moore helped Santa receive the generous donations. OPP Media Relations Officer Cst. Chrystal Jones called the effort, "an overwhelming success" and extended thanks to everyone who supported the event.

Fred Strickland of the Optimist Club of Moore says the total funds raised amounted to about \$24,000. The food collection amounted to 11,982 items - about 13,420 pounds or 6.71 tons. Volunteers were crucial to the success of the program, with 313 people - 175 adults and 138 children - helping to sort and box 118 Christmas hampers.



Above: A hungry crowd waits to enjoy the Poor Boy lunch at the Corunna Legion hall. **Below:** The Corunna OPP office parking lot was the scene of the annual Operation Christmas Tree drive-through donation event. Santa and his helpers, Stan Marsh, left, president of the Optimist Club of Moore, and OPP Cst. John Vince, greeted many generous donors.



Indoor practice facility now available at St. Clair Parkway Golf Club

Golf enthusiasts don't have to travel to the sunny south this winter just to enjoy their favourite sport.

Matt Lafontaine, general manager of the St. Clair Parkway Golf Club, says the dining room has been converted for the season and now houses four practice stalls, including two that are outfitted with a simulated electronic driving range. "This allows you to see your ball flight and also how your club face was at impact," he explained. In addition, the sports lounge will be open for light food and beverages.

The practice facility was introduced recently at an open house and Mr. Lafontaine says the event was "a huge success. Members and the public alike came out and enjoyed hitting golf balls and socializing while working on their game."

The club will offer its Winter Golf Academy from Jan. 6 through March 27. A full membership will cost \$149 for an individual or \$199 per couple. The rate for practice time rentals will be \$13 for 60 minutes or \$9 for 30 minutes, with an extra charge for the use of a simulator.

Private and semi-private golf lessons, taught by master teaching professional Dave Belling, will also



Anyone for golf?

The new practice stalls are ready to help you keep a fine edge on your golf game all winter long.

be available.

Gift certificates are available and are subject to applicable taxes. For more information, call the St. Clair Parkway Golf Club at 519-867-2160.



Community Notice Board

The new *Sombra Township School Days* calendar for 2011 is now available for \$ 10 per copy. The calendar features pictures from various schools in the former Sombra Township from the late 1940s to the early 1960s. They are available in Sombra at Pic-N-Pay Variety and the Riverview Restaurant.

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

All writers are invited to submit stories or poems to the Alzheimer Society Writing Contest. The contest is being held in recognition of the Sarnia chapter's 25th anniversary. The piece must begin with the words "Remember when..." Submissions must be accompanied by a \$10 entry fee and the contest closes Jan. 28, 2011. For more information or complete contest rules, go online to www.alzheimer.sarnia.com or call 519-332-4444.

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.

The winner of the Brigden Fireman's Association wheel barrow draw was Mario Hachey of Sarnia. The firefighters wish to thank everyone who purchased a ticket.

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

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.

Clock repair course in Sombra

A 10-week clock repair course will be held at the Sombra Museum beginning on Tuesday, Jan. 11 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information call Eldon 519-627-5870. Enrolment is limited to 12 applicants.

Trivia night back in Brigden

Trivia nights are back in Brigden at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall. The fun begins Saturday, Jan. 15 at 8 p.m. Bring your own team of six and register for \$5 per person or come out and join a team that night. A cash bar will be available and lots of laughs are always on tap. For more information, go online to www.brigdenfair.ca.

Corunna Legion hosts jam session

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. 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.

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.

Indoor walking sessions in Brigden

Free indoor walking sessions are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Brigden 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 spon-

sored 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.

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.

Upcoming 2011 events in Brigden include...

The Brigden fairgrounds will be the scene of a number of great events during the first half of the new year. On Thursday, **March 17**, prepare for the wearin' of the green and enjoy a St. Patrick's Day supper and entertainment. On Sunday, **March 27**, enjoy the annual Homecraft/Moore Agricultural Society beef dinner. This spring, celebrate Easter with a delicious brunch on Sunday, **April 24**. And don't forget to pamper your Mum with a scrumptious Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, **May 8**. Be sure to mark these tasty events on your social calendar. For more information, keep watching this page in The Beacon or go online to www.brigdenfair.ca.

Brigden tree lighting in 12th year

The 12th annual Brigden tree lighting event attracted about 50 people who enjoyed the festive coloured light display installed by volunteers from the Brigden Horticultural Society in the park at



the corner of Brigden Road and Courtright Line. They stayed warm with the help of hot chocolate and candy canes supplied courtesy of the Optimist Club of Brigden. Councillor Pat Alexander-Carswell, who volunteered her services as chief hot chocolate maker, and Mayor Steve Arnold, in his role as hot chocolate distributor, were among those who participated in this popular annual Christmas kick-off.