



# The St. Clair Township **BEACON**

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Issue 1

Volume 5

January 2012

## **Rick Hansen Relay draws enthusiastic community reaction**



The Rick Hansen Relay drew a large crowd of excited onlookers as medal-bearers made their way north along the St. Clair Parkway on Nov. 24. These students from

Riverview Public School proudly displayed flags representing Canada and its provinces. For more photo memories of the event, see page 3.

The recent Rick Hansen Relay, a nation-wide event celebrating the 25th anniversary of Rick Hansen's *Man In Motion* tour, clearly demonstrated the way ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things. In St. Clair Township, a number of enthusiastic individuals used various modes of transportation to negotiate the route from Port Lambton north to Corunna along the St. Clair Parkway.

The theme of the relay is to acknowledge local residents who are described as "difference makers," having made a positive difference in their own family, in the community, or for people continents away. Relay spokesperson Darrell Randell says, "It was great to see them receive some very much deserved recognition. Of course, the medal bearer participants from St. Clair Township are only a small sample of the people who make a difference here, but it was nice to see them shine in the spotlight briefly, and I am certain they will inspire others to be active in making a difference." Fourteen local residents par-

ticipated in the St. Clair Township leg of the relay, including township nominees Karla Aarssen, Caitlyn Anderson, Ryan Wilson, Mildred Beggs, Ben Hazzard, Kaitlyn Anderson, Cathy Van Praet, Tom Tremblay, Evangeline Klompstra, Dennis Robinson and Dave Lee. Of note was 95-year-old Mildred Beggs, who walked the final leg of the local relay route which ended at the Corunna clock tower park. Mr. Randell says Mrs. Beggs practiced her part in the relay beforehand and he is hopeful that her record as most senior medal-bearer in the relay to date will hold to the end of the relay.

During the relay, participants enjoyed a welcome stop at the new Sombra Museum building, where they had a chance to meet each other and enjoy lunch.

Another aspect of the local relay involved the variety of modes of transportation used to cover the relay route. In Port Lambton, medal-bearer Ben Hazzard rode aboard a new fire

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### **To contact The BEACON**

send an e-mail to: [beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca](mailto: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 Notes

### Commissioner of Oaths fee set for non-residents/non-ratepayers

A fee of \$30 will now be applied for services rendered by the Commissioner of Oaths to non-residents and non-ratepayers of St. Clair Township. The services will still be free of charge to residents and those who pay taxes in the municipality. The Commissioner of Oaths witnesses signatures on affidavits, birth certificates, pension forms, ownership transfer and other legal documents.

### *Fundraising raffles, bingos must be licensed*

All lottery events such as meat raffles and bingos must be licensed. Three elements define a lottery event: consideration or fee to enter, a chance to win, and a prize. Hosting an unlicensed event for any charitable purpose is a criminal offense.

Organizations intending to hold a bingo or raffle, or to sell break-open tickets, should first contact the St. Clair Township Clerk's department at 519-867-2021 to apply for a lottery license.

### *Livestock valuer required*

St. Clair Township is inviting anyone interested in the position of livestock valuer to submit a letter of interest to the undersigned by Jan. 7, 2012. The livestock valuer is someone with an agricultural background who investigates claims under the Livestock Damage Program. Questions about this casual position may be directed to the undersigned at 519-867-2021.

**John De Mars**  
Clerk

### Small game hunting licenses available

Township of St. Clair small game hunting licences are now available at the following locations: Pic-N-Pay Variety in Sombra; Courtright Variety Store; Corunna Home Hardware; Agris Co-operative Ltd. in Brigden; and the St. Clair Civic Centre on Emily Street in Mooretown. The fee is \$5 per resident and \$8 per non-resident. Applicants must apply in person. Multiple licenses will not be issued.

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

### Splash pad funding nearly repaid



The Optimist Club of Moore recently presented council with \$10,000, the third of four payments that will complete its portion of the funding that was used to build the Corunna splash pad at the Corunna Athletic Park. The club continues to fundraise with the goal of repaying the remaining \$18,000 in 2012. Mayor Steve Arnold accepted the cheque from Moore Optimist President Stan Marsh. For more information, visit the Moore Optimist Website at: [mooreoptimist.ca](http://mooreoptimist.ca).

### Council meeting schedule

Regular meetings of St. Clair Township Council are held on the first and third Mondays of the month. The January meetings are slated for Monday, Jan. 9 at 6 p.m. and Monday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. following the Committee of the Whole meeting. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021.

### *Overnight parking on streets prohibited*

All motorists are reminded that overnight parking on all municipal streets is now prohibited until April 1, 2012. This ensures that snow plow crews will be able to clear the roads safely and efficiently. Vehicles left on the streets will be ticketed.

### *Don't shovel snow onto public thoroughfares!*

Homeowners please note that the Highway Traffic Act prohibits the shoveling of snow out onto public roads. Unexpected quantities of snow on public roads create a hazard for motorists who use the roads.

## Relay honours ordinary people who achieve extraordinary things

### From page 1

truck as far as Sombra. When the relay reached Courtright, medal-bearer Dennis Robinson and his passengers covered one leg of the route aboard a horse-drawn wagon. And when the relay reached Mooretown, medal-bearer Dave Lee climbed aboard a tug boat, the *Nancy A. Lee*, for a voyage up to the Corunna ferry dock. The St. Clair Township leg of the relay marked a number of firsts for this nation-wide event. It is the first time that a fire truck and a horse-drawn wagon have been used as modes of transportation, and the township fielded the most senior medal-bearer to date.

Along the route, hundreds of onlookers and students from River-view and Sacred Heart Schools cheered as medal-bearers passed their way.

Mr. Randell says some of the \$1,500 budgeted to fund the relay was not used and St. Clair Township Council voted to donate the balance to the Rick Hansen Foundation. He also reported to council that representatives from the Hansen organization were impressed with the enthusiasm of the



**Above:** After completing the St. Clair Township portion of the Rick Hansen Relay, a group of medal-bearers take time to enjoy their accomplishments. Mayor Steve Arnold, standing left, and a group of relay organizers (wearing black jackets), congratulated medal-bearers (wearing light jackets) Chandel Brown, left, Mildred Beggs, Georgia Taylor and Cathy Van Praet.

**Below left:** Medal-bearer Dennis Robinson drives a team of horses from Courtright to Mooretown accompanied by fellow medal-bearers as well as his granddaughters and family members.

**Below right:** Medal-bearer Captain Dave Lee stands atop the bridge of the good ship *Nancy A. Lee* on the way from Mooretown to Corunna. *Photos submitted*

township residents as well as the beauty of the township and the St. Clair River.

Over 7,000 "difference makers" from across Canada will participate in the relay,

which began in Cape Spear, Newfoundland and will terminate in Vancouver in the spring of 2012.



### Funding opportunity for local charities through United Way of Sarnia-Lambton

Registered charities within Lambton County that benefit seniors, empower and strengthen families, or benefit youth at risk are eligible to enter the application process for funding through the United Way of Sarnia-Lambton. Instructions and other qualification requirements are

listed under Funding Applications at: [www.theunitedway.on.ca](http://www.theunitedway.on.ca). More information is also available by calling 519-336-5452. A Letter of Intent must be submitted to the United Way of Sarnia-Lambton by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012.

## *'Twas a very merry St. Clair Township Christmas*



1

### Corunna Santa Claus Parade 2012



3



2

Santa Claus made several appearances in parades throughout St. Clair Township in the days leading up to Christmas. One of the stops he made was in Corunna, where he rode on a float in the Santa Claus parade. According to Parade Co-Chair Tracy Kingston, the 2011 parade was a great success. "We had excellent sponsorship from local industries and businesses," she said.

The parade, organized by the Optimist Club of Moore, featured about 50 entries, including three bands and more large flat-bed floats than ever before. The event was preceded by a performance by the SCITS band at the Corunna clock tower park and continued after the parade with parade-goers enjoying

hot chocolate and cakes served up by the Corunna Horticultural and Improvement Association.

Above are some photographic memories of the occasion. Clockwise from top left: 1. A beautifully restored and decorated fire engine from Samia Street Machines took the Best Fire Truck title. 2. The local Scout/Guide groups float won top honours in the Community category. 3. Kyler Abram, left, Ethan Currie, Ethan Crone, and Dakota Currie, all from Corunna, joined the many children, teens and Optimist members aboard the Optimist Club of Moore float. Kyler's grandmother, Mary Lou, is a club member.



### *Local OPP and helpers aid Operation Christmas Tree*

The annual OPP drive-thru donation event on Dec. 10, held in support of Operation Christmas Tree, was a great success once again this year. Santa and his helpers from the Corunna Ontario Provincial Police office, the Optimist Club of Moore and Lambton College were on hand to receive the donations, which included \$395.31 in cash, over 200 toys, and about 716 food items. Since the event began in 2004, it has raised a total of over \$5,000 cash, plus 4,900 pounds of food and 840 toys.

Left: Pausing long enough to participate in a photo op are: Santa, Moore Optimist Club President Stan Marsh (next to Santa), OPP Cst. John Vince (standing right), Moore Optimist Kevin Jung, (kneeling right) and volunteers from the Lambton College Criminal Justice Program (listed in no special order) Kaylen McCabe, Shane Nowokowski, Tyler Sole, Emma Harris, and Jason Priddle.

The Corunna OPP extends warm thanks and appreciation to everyone who donated.



### Modern youngsters enjoy *Old-Fashioned Christmas*



In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the Moore Museum offered an authentic look at what Christmas was like over a century ago. This year, over 1,000 students enjoyed the *Old-Fashioned Christmas* program by working on age-appropriate crafts and touring the museum, which was adorned with vintage decorations for the holidays. When students from St. Joseph's School in Corunna visited, they each created an original cardboard gingerbread person. Grade 1 teacher Ms. Sfalcin is shown here with three proud crafters, including: Evan Burke, left, Nicholas Geraldes, and Courtney Oliveira.

*Photo submitted*

### *Hamper programs brightened Christmas*

Organizers of St. Clair Township's two Christmas food and toy hamper programs have expressed warm thanks to everyone who donated food and toys and also to those who volunteered to collect items, sort them, and assemble and distribute the hampers to less fortunate families and individuals in the community.

In the north end of the township, the Optimist Club of Moore was joined by local police, firefighters and many community-minded volunteers to collect and sort food, toys and clothing. Volunteers assembled 132 food hampers with an estimated cost of \$500 per hamper as well as 67 toy hampers with an estimated cost of \$150. They also made sure the hampers were delivered in time for Christmas to 132 families, serving 125 children and 197 adults.

To the south, the St. Vincent De Paul hamper program assembled 120 hampers, serving 110 children and 180 adults. The hampers, valued at \$500 each, were distributed on Dec. 17. St. Vincent De Paul members were joined by local firefighters from the Wilkesport, Becher and Port Lambton fire stations, plus members of local service clubs, churches and other local groups.

It was another successful year of lives made brighter and spirits made lighter thanks to the kindness and generosity of the people of St. Clair Township.



### **Rain couldn't dampen Brigden tree-lighting**

The cold, rainy weather couldn't dampen the spirits of the over 30 children and adults who turned out to enjoy the annual tree-lighting ceremony at the corner of Brigden Road and Courtright Line on Dec. 4. Brigden Horticultural Society member Rae Japp and St. Clair Township Councillor Pat Carswell-Alexander threw the switch and everyone enjoyed hot chocolate and candy canes courtesy of the Brigden Optimist Club. The Brigden Horticultural Society volunteers did a great job of turning the darkened park into a bright, beautiful Christmas wonderland.

### **BPAC and Friends announce *Celebrating the St. Clair* photo contest winners**

A Mooretown man was one of the four winners of the recently-announced *Celebrating the St. Clair* photo contest. Mark Buchanan won in the *On The Water* category. Winners in the other three categories included: Randy Heath of Marysville, MI (*Our Majestic River*); Richard Dompierre of Wallaceburg (*Digital Perspectives*); and George Rosema of Wyoming (*Fall On The Water*).

The contest was a joint effort of the Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) and the Friends of the St. Clair river. Over 175 digital photographs were submit-

ted to the contest, which ran from July 1 to Oct. 31.

The winners will be honoured at the Jan. 12, 2012 BPAC meeting slated for the Suncor Energy Centre office in Sarnia. Each winner will receive a cash prize of \$500. Sarnia-based professional photographer Dan Bellyk, guest judge for the contest, praised the quality of the photos and admitted it was difficult to select the four he considered to be the best.

All entries can be viewed at the BPAC Website: [www.friendsofstclair.ca](http://www.friendsofstclair.ca). Click on the Photo Gallery link.

## Corunna Giants Mosquitoes baseball team sets sights on U.S. tournament

A local baseball team has its sights set on representing Corunna and St. Clair Township in the *Disney Sun & Surf Baseball Bash* this coming May. The team of 13 10- and 11-year-olds was accepted to play in the ESPN Wide World of Sports event after their coach, Craig Prudom, submitted a winning application.

The tournament will pit the Giants Mosquitoes against four teams from California and two from Massachusetts. It's a challenge the team is keen to take on.

The team did very well during its 2011 season. Out of four tournaments it entered, the team won two and got to the finals in another. They were also in the finals of a tournament held in Courtright on Labour Day weekend. The team took second in the OBAs (Ontario Baseball Association) at season end.

In order to help pay for accommodations, transportation and meals, as well as new uniforms and extra training, the team will be fund-raising throughout the Winter, selling various products and looking for support from local businesses and industries.

The Corunna Giants Mosquitoes team is part of the Corunna Minor Baseball organization which dates back to 1962. Coach Prudom says the senior team dates back as far as the 1940s.



The Corunna Giants Mosquitoes baseball team poses with a pennant from one of their 2011 tournament triumphs. The team members, in no specific order, are Evan Musson, Jake Taylor, Kaymond Turner, Blake Howard, Riley Brown, Hayden MacDonald, Tanner Adams, Logan Gardner, Drew Pepper, Ryan Janjatovic, Jake Prudom, Josh McLean and Nolan Farr. Coaching staff includes: Head Coach Craig Prudom; Assistants Mike Tyndall, Dwayne Amyotte, and Jasen Taylor; and Manager Steve Pepper.

*Photo submitted*

He added that, since Ken Williams was named president of the organization about four years ago, the number of players registered for minor baseball has gone from 100 up to the 325 who registered in 2011. It was Mr. Williams' decision to follow the long

tradition of the senior team and name all of the minor teams the Giants.

Anyone who would like to support the team's effort to play in Orlando on May 25 to 27 can call fund-raising coordinator Laurie Pepper at 519-864-4812.

### ***Free tutoring program available for students in Grades 1 through 7***

The Organization for Literacy in Lambton offers free tutoring in the Corunna area for students in Grades 1 through 7. Children who are struggling with reading and math can get the help they need to get the most out of the material they learn in school. They also discover that learning can be fun. The *Skill and Drill* program is now offered on Mondays and Wednesdays at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Registration is on-going throughout the school year based on availability. For more information or to register your child for this important program, call the Organization for Literacy in Lambton at 519-332-4876.



## ***Don't tolerate the Winter weight...stay active at the Mooretown Sports Complex***

The Mooretown Sports Complex offers a wide variety of fun and fitness opportunities throughout the year. So, when the snow and ice threaten to turn you into an inactive couch potato, remember that the benefits of physical activity include improved health and a remedy for the winter blahs. Here is a sample of the many programs and activities you and your family can enjoy this season.

### **Winter swimming lesson session**

The winter session of swimming lessons begins the week of Jan. 9 and some openings may still be available. Call the Mooretown Sports Complex for more information or to register.

### **Adult swimming lessons**

Whether you'd like to know how to swim, would like to improve your technique, or amp up your fitness level, the instruction you need is available on Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The cost is \$5.40 per class or \$53 for 10 weeks.

### **Water aerobics and water therapy**

Enjoy the soothing, restorative power of water. Shallow aerobics sessions are offered on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Deep water aerobics sessions are offered on Monday and Wednesday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Water therapy (beneficial for arthritis, fibromyalgia, and post-rehabilitation

purposes) are offered on 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.

### **Shinny Hockey for adults**

It's Shinny Hockey time again, so bring your friends and come out to enjoy healthy physical activity and some friendly rivalry on Tuesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The cost is \$5 per person but the bragging rights are priceless!

### **Fight the flab at the fitness centre**

Put the freeze on flab and vanquish your cabin fever at the fitness centre. Come out for a great workout, enjoy a swim, warm up in the sauna or soak in the hot tub, all for \$4.50 per visit, \$45 for a 12-visit interchangeable pass, or \$243 for a full year.

### **March Break Day Camp**

Children ages five through 12 will enjoy the March Break Day Camp, where they can swim, skate, do crafts, play games and meet special visitors. The program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with early drop-off beginning at 7:30 a.m. and late pick-up until 5:30 p.m. available. The cost is \$25 per child per day or \$100 for the week. A family plan is available.

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



### **Provincial Command Service Officer to visit Corunna**

Randy Groundwater, Service Officer for Ontario Provincial Command, will be at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Br. 447 hall during the first week of February, 2012. Veterans and their spouses who may be eligible for benefits, or who are currently receiving benefits such as dis-

ability pensions, hearing loss assistance and housekeeping, can discuss aspects of their benefits with Mr. Groundwater. For more information or to make an appointment to see Mr. Groundwater, please contact Corunna Branch 447 Service Officer Gerry Den Hartogh at 519-862-1613.

## **Two free post-secondary courses offered**

Anyone considering future post-secondary studies or apprenticeship can prepare with two free courses being offered through a partnership between the Lambton Kent District School Board and St. Clair College, Thames Campus. The courses will be held in Wallaceburg at St. Clair Employment Services, 60 McNaughton Ave.

**Computers and Essential Skills for College** will run Monday and Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for seven weeks beginning Jan. 30. **A.C.E. Technical Math Course** will run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. starting Jan. 31 for eight weeks. For further information, call 519-627-7452. *This Employment Ontario project is funded by the Province of Ontario.*

### **OPP Bulletin**

### **Suspected stolen items turned in**

The St. Clair Township OPP report that two duffel bags full of assorted property, including tools, sporting equipment, toys and clothing, were turned in to the Corunna OPP office on Nov. 8. Police suspect the items are stolen but have been unable to locate the owners. Anyone who had items such as these stolen around Nov. 8 should call the office at 519-862-4680.

### **Get the 511 on road information**

If you are concerned about road conditions this winter, just call 511 from a landline or cell phone to obtain current road information. This automatic, bilingual service provides travelers with information such as the location of construction zones and road closures on provincially-maintained highways.

## AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

### Euchre afternoons set for Sombra

A series of euchre afternoons are planned for the Sombra Community Hall in the new year. The events will be held on Fridays at 1 p.m. on the following dates: **Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27; Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24; March 9, 16, 23, 30.** Admission is \$2 per session and a light lunch is included. For more information call 519-892-3964.

### Jamborees back at Brigden fairgrounds hall

Set your toes a'tappin' at one of several jamborees planned for the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall this winter. Come out to sing, play an instrument, take a few spins around the dance floor or just listen to the excellent music. The cover charge is \$2 per person and a ham and scalloped potato supper will be available at cost. A cash bar will also be available. The entertainment begins at 1 p.m. on the following dates: Winter Wonderland Jamboree, **Sunday, Jan. 8;** Valentine's Jamboree, **Sunday, Feb. 12;** Shamrock Jamboree, **Sunday, March 11.** For more information, check the Brigden Fair Facebook page or go online to the Website at [www.brigdenfair.ca](http://www.brigdenfair.ca). You can also call the fair office at 519-864-1197 or contact Bill or Kathy at 519-627-5065. Don't let the winter blues get you down! Watch The Beacon or go online to the Website for more news of events happening at the Brigden Fairgrounds. Fundraising events like brunches, theme dinners, and special events will be taking place with proceeds going to fund the exhibition hall upgrades.

### Rebekah Lodge hosts luncheons

The Mayflower Rebekah Lodge #324 will host a series of luncheons at Thompson Gardens in Corunna at noon on the following Mondays: **Jan. 9, 2012; Feb. 13; March 12; April 9; April 30; May 29; Sept. 24.** Everyone is welcome.

### Moore Ag Society annual meeting

The Moore Agricultural Society Annual Meeting will be held on **Monday, Jan. 16** at the exhibition hall at the Brigden Fairgrounds. The meeting will be preceded by a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m.

### Celebrate Robbie Burns night

The 26th annual Robbie Burns dinner will be held at the Corunna United Church on **Friday, Jan. 20.** The event will include some great entertainment. For tickets, call 519-344-8626 or 519-867-2806.

### Courtright firefighters to host Sunday breakfasts

Firefighters from the St. Clair Township Fire Department's Courtright station have two Sunday breakfasts planned. The first is slated for Jan. 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The second will be held Feb. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Both breakfasts will be held at the fire hall.

### Jam sessions planned for the Corunna Legion

A series of jam sessions is planned for the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 hall at Albert and Beckwith Streets this winter. The sessions will be held Saturdays at 3 p.m. on the following dates: **Jan 28, 2012; Feb. 25; March 31; April 28; and May 26.** Everyone is welcome to come out and play, sing or just listen to some great local talent. More information can be found on the branch's Website at [www.corunna.ca/legion](http://www.corunna.ca/legion).

### Indoor walking sessions offered

Indoor walking sessions are now offered on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall. Attendees are asked to bring indoor shoes for walking. For more information or to register for this free program, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237. This program is sponsored by the Moore Agricultural Society and the West Lambton Community Health Centre.

### Meat raffles at Brigden Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion Brigden Branch #635 hosts meat raffles on Saturdays at 4 p.m. Call the branch for more information.

### Play sledge hockey with Lambton Dragons

The Lambton Dragons have a blast playing sledge hockey at the Mooretown Sports Complex and maybe you can, too. Just call Karen at 519-862-4756 for more information.



### MAS donates to St. Joseph's Hospice

The Moore Agricultural Society (MAS) recently donated \$750 to St. Joseph's Hospice in Sarnia. The money was raised during the 2011 Brigden Fair when an auction of donated goods, including delicious pies provided by the Homecraft Division, was held prior to the livestock auction. On hand for the presentation, from the left, were: Andria Allen-Appledoorn, Fund Development Specialist for St. Joseph's Hospice; Lesley Coene, Fund Development Coordinator, St. Joseph's Hospice; and Moore Agricultural Society President Michelle Evanitski.

*Photo submitted*