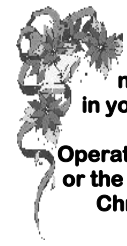




The St. Clair Township BEACON

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Please remember needy families in your community by donating to Operation Christmas Tree or the St. Vincent DePaul Christmas hamper program

Issue 12

Volume 5

December 2012



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

from

St. Clair Township Council and Staff



Mayor Steve Arnold completes term as Warden of Lambton County

St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold is nearing the end of his two-year term as Warden of Lambton County. At the recent Warden's Banquet held at the Wilkesport Community Centre, Warden Arnold had an opportunity to thank all of the people who assisted him during this time, to reminisce about his term in office, and to share his hopes for the

future of Lambton County with dignitaries, associates, family and friends.

Warden Arnold praised the work of the 17 people who comprise Lambton County Council and said, "I couldn't be more humbled or more pleased" to have served with them. For photo memories of the Warden's Banquet, see page 4.



Partnership will benefit health of township residents

A new partnership between the Mooretown Sports Complex and the Rapids Family Health Team (RFHT) will benefit the health of many township residents. The complex will host informational sessions offered by the RFHT to help those with specific health problems to better cope with them.

The first health initiative being undertaken will be a free COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) Education and Exercise program. The 10-week program will begin in January, 2013 and will take place twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays. The first class of each week will include a combination of information and exercise, and the entire second class will feature exercises that will benefit the special needs of the COPD sufferer.

The program will be presented by Certified Respiratory Specialist Candace Arsenault, R.N., assisted by another nurse. Ms. Arsenault says those attending the program will be monitored at all times to ensure their oxygen levels are good, and they will also be evaluated before and after the program to monitor improvement.

"We do spirometry (lung function test) and a six-minute walking test before and after the program to evaluate how they have done with the exercise," said Ms. Arsenault. "We also send a letter to their physicians to let them know they (the participants) are registered and to give them updates." She added that physicians do not have to be members of the RFHT for their patients to be able to attend the program.



Candace Arsenault

Participants are helped to develop action plans so that they can advocate for themselves in the event of what Ms. Arsenault refers to as a "lung attack". "They can get help faster," she said. "Those who have had COPD for a while know when they are getting sick."

See Friendships, page 4

INSIDE

Municipal Notes.....	2
Heritage Corner.....	5
Community Notes.....	10
Around The Township.....	11, 12

Contact The Beacon by email at beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca

or write to: The Beacon, c/o St. Clair Civic Centre,
1155 Emily Street, Mooretown, Ont., N0N 1M0

**NOTE: The deadline for the January 2013 Beacon will be
Friday, Dec. 14 by 4 p.m.**



MUNICIPAL NOTES



St. Clair Township Holiday Office Hours

The St. Clair Township office at 1155 Emily Street in Mooretown will be closed at noon on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. It will be closed all day Dec. 25 and 26, and Jan. 2, 2013.

Council meeting schedule

Beginning in December, St. Clair Township Council will observe an altered meeting schedule. Meetings will still be held on the first and third Mondays of each month, with the first meeting on Monday, Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. However, the second regular meeting of the month on Monday, Dec. 17 will be held at approximately 4:30 p.m. following two committee meetings that will begin at 3 p.m. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021 for more information.



Hydrant Flushing

St. Clair Township residents should be advised that the Public Works Department is now doing the annual flushing of all fire hydrants connected to the St. Clair Township water system during the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The flushing, which will continue through the fall, may cause discolouration when residents use taps, flush toilets, do laundry, etc. as some sediment may be drawn into the residence. It is recommended that the cold water tap be allowed to run for a few minutes or until discolouration disappears. If discolouration continues after 10 to 15 minutes of normal use, please notify Public Works at 519-867-2993.

St. Clair Township Operations



Sewer Main Flushing

Public Works will be flushing all sewer mains connected to the St. Clair Township sewer system during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. well into the fall. During this maintenance procedure, residents may notice some gurgling noise in the drains. If this condition persists after 24 to 48 hours of normal use, please notify Public Works at 519-

Public meeting held on proposed Port Lambton subdivision project

On Nov. 17, about 50 people attended a public meeting concerning a new subdivision proposed for a parcel of land south of Port Lambton. The land is bordered by the St. Clair Parkway, Brander Park Road, and Old River Road. The subdivision plans call for the construction of a total of 167 units - 32 single detached homes and 135 townhouses/semi-detached units.

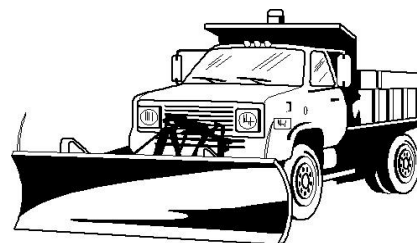
A representative for the developer explained that the units were being built to appeal to Baby Boomers looking for an attractive area in which to live. However, residents who currently live near the area under discussion were on hand to express multiple concerns regarding the wisdom of building a relatively high-density development in an area that many have chosen because of its quiet, rural charm. Resident Don Myers read a statement in which he said the building of the development was "neither necessary or wise", arguing that many already available lots in the area remain unpurchased. He noted the increased traffic that would put a strain on the undeveloped roads that border the development. Resident Dick Primo, a real estate broker, pointed out that 170 people had signed a petition opposing the development. Drawing on his experience in real estate, he expressed doubts whether the multi-family units proposed for the development would ever be sold and that unsold units could become rentals. He hinted that such an action would likely lead to decreased property values. Resident Bob Murphy expressed concern over the potential impact of renters taking occupancy of the units and asked if there was evidence of the need for such a large development when population in that area had decreased in recent years. Other issues regarding the inclusion of the multi-family dwellings included the need for increased policing and fire service coverage.

At the meeting's conclusion, moderator Dave Posliff, secretary-treasurer of the Lambton Land Division Committee, thanked the residents for their input. He explained that a minimum of 14 days would be needed to gather all information and input pertinent to the project before any decisions could be made. Another public meeting will be required to address any rezoning matters that may arise if the project discussion continues.

Overnight parking on streets prohibited

Motorists are reminded that overnight parking on all municipal streets is now prohibited until April 1, 2013. This ensures that snow plow crews will be able to clear the roads safely and efficiently. Vehicles left parked on the streets will be ticketed.


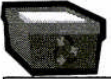



Residents are also asked to refrain from shoveling snow out onto public roadways. The Ontario Highway Traffic Act prohibits this practice and penalties will be levied on those who break this law. Unexpected quantities of snow on public roads are hazardous to vehicle traffic.





2012 Autumn Yard Waste Schedule










The Township of St Clair offers weekly garbage, bi-weekly recycling and seasonal yard and brush collection. These collections are indicated by symbols below and your area is shown on the map.

Blue Box  Week 1	Blue Box  Week 2	Yard Waste 	Brush Day 	Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Days 
---	---	--	--	--

Wednesday Yard Waste Collection  Corunna including Froomfield area, St. Clair Parkway (North of Emily St)
Friday Yard Waste Collection  South Township Brigden, Courtright, Mooretown, Port Lambton, Sombra, Wilkesport, Chenal Ecarte, Leeland Gardens, St. Clair Parkway (South of Mooretown)

November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	 2	3
4	5	6	 7	8	 9	10
11	12	13	 14	15	 16	17
18	19	20	 21	22	 23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

RECYCLING: All recyclable materials (fibre, glass, plastic) can be placed together in the **same blue box**. Separation of materials is no longer required.

ACCEPTABLE BLUE BOX ITEMS:

Newsprint	Small Plastic Containers #1-7
Flyers	Plastic Clam Shell Containers
Household Paper	Tetra Pak
Catalogues	Empty, Dry metal Paint Cans
Magazines	Glass Bottles
Office Paper	Cans (Aluminum and Steel)
Corrugated Cardboard	Milk and Juice Cartons
Paper Tubes	
Boxboard (ie: cereal boxes) 30"x 30" x 8" flattened tied and bundled	

December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

YARD WASTE COLLECTION: Yard waste includes grass, leaves, garden plants, hedge trimmings, twigs (smaller than a pencil)
Not permitted: Kitchen waste, earth, stones, trees stumps, logs, body wood, large brush, whole shrubs with root ball attached. Place at roadside for collection bagged in clear plastic bags, paper bags, or open containers clearly marked with an "X". Containers must not exceed 23kg/50lb

Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off: Clean Harbors
4090 Telfer Road, Corunna, Ontario 519-864-1021



Drop off Items to Divert from Landfill:

www.recycleyourelectronics.ca
www.makethedrop.ca

Free tutoring available in Corunna

Free tutoring in reading and math is available in Corunna for children in Grades 1 through 7. A Skill and Drill program is offered at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Registration is ongoing throughout the school year based on availability.

This program is sponsored by the Organization for Literacy in Lambton. To register your child, call 519-332-4876.



The feeling of Joy
we receive from giving to others
is a gift we give ourselves.

Your donation to Operation Christmas Tree or
the St. Vincent DePaul Christmas hamper program
will make the season bright for
St. Clair Township's less fortunate families.

See page 10 for more information.

Have a Joyful Christmas!



Warden's Banquet marks end of term for Mayor Steve Arnold



The Warden's Banquet held Nov. 17 in Wilkesport saw the Wilkesport Community Centre filled with dignitaries, municipal and county staff, friends and family members of St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold who, for the past two years, has served as Warden of Lambton County. A new Warden will soon be elected, but on this particular evening, Warden Arnold was the recipient of thanks for his service to the county as well as many good wishes, plus a little good-natured ribbing from his colleagues. **Above left: Warden Arnold greets banquet guests. Right: Piper Stuart Sharp leads Warden Arnold and head table guests to the front of the hall. Below: Town crier Les Whiting of Petrolia entertains guests with a witty 'cry' about Warden Arnold to formally open the banquet.**



Above: Deputy Warden Lonny Napper presents Warden Arnold with a gift to commemorate his service to Lambton County.

Photos by Bonnie Stevenson



Program often results in friendships

From page 1

Illnesses such as pneumonia are especially serious for those with COPD and help needs to be sought quickly. "People often wait (to get help) because they don't want to wait in an emergency room or a doctor's office," she said. "If they have their own medication they can start it as soon as they know they are getting sick."

Program participants are taught how to lessen the difficulties that arise because of their COPD. Since smoking accounts for 95 per cent of COPD cases, participants who are still smoking are urged to give up the habit. And the next most helpful thing they can do for their condition is to be more active. "Aside from quitting smoking, exercise is the next best thing they can do to improve it," said Ms. Arsenault. Exercises taught during the program include COPD-specific breathing and resistance exercises,

cardio and stretching.

During the program, participants will also hear from a dietitian, a psychologist, a pharmacist and a respiratory therapist, who come in to offer information from their special fields of expertise. Family members are invited to attend the educational portion of the program to become informed about the disease.

When the program is finished, participants will not be on their own. "We do case management," said Ms. Arsenault. "We follow up with them (participants), either by telephone or through an appointment, and they are always free to contact us."

One of the unexpected benefits of the program is the number of friendships that are often made over the course of 10 weeks. "Friendships have developed while classes were in progress," said Ms. Arsenault, who notes that these friendships allow the new friends to share experiences and offer support.

Anyone wishing to obtain more information about this program can contact Candace Arsenault at 519-339-8949, ext. 174.

HERITAGE CORNER

The St. Clair Raids brought rebel conflict close to home

Courtesy of Dr. John C. Carter

The St. Clair Raids of 1838 belong to a time in Canadian history when rebellion against British rule shattered the peace of Upper and Lower Canada.

When the initial rebellions were put down in 1837, many of the rebels fled to American border states, including Michigan. There, American sympathizers augmented their numbers and, convinced of support for a popular uprising against what was perceived as British oppression and tyranny, patriotic forces banded together to renew their efforts to "liberate" the Canadas from British rule.

Between January and December, 1838, at least 13 incidents of armed invasion and rebellious acts occurred, and at least three of these took place along the St. Clair River. The first alarm on June 22, 1838 resulted in the Moore Militia being called out, but no rebel action occurred. But on the morning of June 28, 1838, a sloop belonging to Charles (Bourman) Bowerman landed an armed party in Sombra near a general store kept by Claude Gouin. Stock was plundered and the patriots proceeded to the commissariat under charge of Captain McDonald. Eight barrels of flour and 15 bushels of oats were stolen, and Captain McDonald and Angus McDonald were taken prisoner. When the booty and captives were stowed aboard the sloop, the rebels sailed northward up the river to Palmer, now known as St. Clair.

A Michigan deputy marshal crossed the river from Palmer to Sutherland's Landing, between Courtright and Mooretown, to assure the commander of the Moore Militia that he would do all he could to preserve the peace. He revealed that the American steamer *General Gratiot* would soon arrive from Detroit and it would be sent in pursuit of the invaders.

But the deputy marshal's words were not heeded, and 17 Moore Militia volunteers plus seven Chippewa warriors boarded log canoes and pursued the rebels. The patriots landed on the Michigan shore and fled, and the sloop was abandoned in American waters where it became the property of the United States government along with arms and munitions found aboard.

The stolen goods were returned to their rightful owners in Canada, the McDonalds were freed, and the sloop was hitched to the *General Gratiot* to be towed back to Detroit. The potential for war between England and the United States had been averted.

Letters written to officials on June 27 indicated that another group of rebels had landed at Nugent's Inn about two miles above Baby Point, now known as Port Lambton, where they hoisted a liberty pole and a tri-coloured flag, then awaited further orders. They had been ferried across the St. Clair River on the U.S. steamer *Macombe*. Local observers reported that 300 pirates had landed, and that 400 more were expected to cross the river in small boats and canoes. In a report issued by Lt. Governor Sir George Arthur, this number was later reduced to less than 100. The Moore Militia marched to Nugent's Inn and arrested six men, including Horace Cooley, who had previously been in prison on a charge of carrying messages between the patriots in Michigan and discontented residents in Upper Canada. And in another action on the same day, four patriots invaded the house of Mrs. Lick on Bear Creek and shot Captain William Kerry to death before making their escape.



Dr. John C. Carter is shown here with Tyler Hurst, a re-enactor whose uniform is an amalgam of the British uniforms that were worn between the War of 1812 and 1842. *Photo submitted*

In all, 11 captured patriots were eventually tried before the Court of the King's Bench in Sandwich at the end of September. Charles Bowerman and Horace Cooley were found guilty of burglary and were sentenced to hang on Oct. 2. Their death sentences were commuted and only Cooley was sentenced to transportation. He became one of 93 English speaking rebels who were sent to the penal colony of Van Dieman's Land, now known as Tasmania, as political prisoners for their involvement in the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1838.

As we mark the 175th anniversary of these events, it is with interest that residents of Lambton County can include the St. Clair Raids as part of this important chapter in Canada's history.

~Dr. John C. Carter is a research associate in the School of History and Classics, University of Tasmania. He can be contacted at drjohncarter@bell.net.

Editor's note: Some editing for length has been done but care has been taken to maintain the original intent of this story.

Brigden Fair honours Dave Robinson for 50 years of volunteer service

Courtesy of the Brigden Fair

Who would have thought that the need for a dog tag would result in Dave Robinson volunteering 50 years of service to the Brigden Fair? Those who know Dave know he can strike up a conversation with anyone. It was this friendly nature that led to his discussion about the fair with the dog catcher, who recruited him in 1962 while getting the tag for Dave's dog, *Butch*.

Dave recalls that, at that time, the fair was quite small. When he started working the entry gates, the fairgrounds covered only about three acres. Parking for the fair was outside of the gates and on the streets of Brigden. But in the mid-60s, the grounds expanded to five acres and cars were allowed to park on-site. Further expansions led to 10, then to 50 acres until today, the fairgrounds cover about 100 acres and the main parking entrance is on Courtright Line. It is at this main entrance that Dave has greeted tens of thousands of visitors over the years.

Dave's commitment to volunteering at the gate has been unbroken for 50 years. He has endured heat, cold, dust and rain with no complaints. A few years ago, he accepted another job at the fair with expectations that he would still cover at least two hours each day on the gate. That year, he kept the washrooms clean, which surprised his wife, Marian. The following year, he declined the job, and that *didn't* surprise Marian. However, he did donate the money he earned back to the fair board so that the pipes in the washrooms could be upgraded to keep up with the pressure needs for the busy facility. As usual, Dave recognized a need and met it.

Dave Robinson enjoys a lot of stories and his life is rich with them. One involves some lads, a few watchdogs, and the OPP. The fellows didn't want to enter through the gate in the traditional manner. Apparently, they didn't want to pay the entrance fees. So they decided to hop the fence about 300 feet from the south gate but landed in the midst of three German shepherds who belonged to one of the midway workers.



Dave Robinson proudly displays his golden apron, a token of the Brigden Fair's appreciation for his 50 years of volunteer service. With Dave is Moore Agricultural Society President John Scott, left, Gates Committee Chairperson Eldon Krohn, and Homecraft Division President Kathy Scott.

Photo submitted

The dogs cornered the youths and Dave thought the dogs had the situation under control, so he left them there and went to call the police so the lads could explain to the authorities what had happened. Dave thinks they deserved what they got.

While working the gate at the fair, Dave has warmly greeted generations of friends and neighbours while enjoying the camaraderie and companionship of his fellow volunteers. Fifty consecutive years at the gate is an outstanding achievement and a challenge to today's generation.

This year has been a year of recognition for Dave. In addition to his 50 years at the Brigden Fair, he was recently acknowledged for his 40

years of canvassing for the Canadian Cancer Society, 17 years of volunteering at the Stones and Bones Museum, 20 years as a volunteer at the Moore Museum, and 50 years at the Lambton United Church Centre. For all his time, effort and commitment, he was recently awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Dave's father taught him, "If you can't help your neighbour, you can't help yourself." Dave lives by these words and has offered countless hours of volunteering throughout Lambton County.

From all those whose lives have been touched by this friendly, community-minded gentleman ~

CONGRATULATIONS, DAVE!

Legion Dominion President asks for increased funeral support for veterans

In a recent generally-released Letter to the Editor from Royal Canadian Legion Dominion President Gordon Moore, it was pointed out that veterans receive only \$3,600 to help cover the cost of funeral expenses, with funeral directors obliged by law to cover any remaining costs when the veteran's family cannot. Mr. Moore argues veterans should be eligible for \$12,700, the amount already established for Canadian Forces and RCMP personnel.

Mr. Moore writes, "...these funds should be made available, without complex eligibility requirements, to all those Veterans

who have insufficient financial means. Complex eligibility requirements are contrary to the "need principles" enshrined in the Canadian Forces Military and Veterans Re-Establishment and Compensation Act (CFMVRCA). Veterans were willing to give their lives for this country, honouring them properly in the last final act is the least the country can do for them."

On behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion, Mr. Moore writes, "...we fully support the efforts of the funeral directors to see an increase in funding for Veterans funeral services and we will continue to press the Federal government on this issue."

Service remembers those who fought and died for their country

The sound of a solitary bugle gave notice that the time of remembrance was at hand as millions of Canadians paid their respects to the fallen at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11. In Corunna, a sober crowd gathered at the clock tower cenotaph to hear Padre Paul Woolley speak of courage, loss and hope. When wreaths were placed, Mayor Steve Arnold placed one in memory of Private William Cushley of Port Lambton who died in the line of duty on Sept. 3, 2006, and another for Corporal Brent Poland of Camlachie, who died in the line of duty on April 8, 2007.

Photos by Bonnie Stevenson



Alzheimer Society writing contest raises awareness

The Alzheimer Society's *Forget Me Not* writing contest is a way to raise awareness of the disease and related dementia as well as to raise funds for the Sarnia-Lambton chapter. Stories and poems that begin with the words, "Remember when..." are used to celebrate the gift of memory. The contest includes two age groups and four categories: short story-age 18 and over; short story-age 17 and under; poetry-age 18 and over; and poetry-age 17 and under. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 31, 2013. Full contest rules are available at the Alzheimer Society office, 420 East St. North in Sarnia, or at the Website, www.alzheimer.sarnia.com.

An estimated 2,516 Sarnia-Lambton residents have Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, and for every person affected, there are family members, friends, co-workers and neighbours who are affected as well. The Alzheimer Society offers education, counseling, individual and group support, in-home caregiver respite, and a resource library.

Optimists kids craft classes spark creativity



The Sombra Township Optimist Club offers a series of children's craft classes that spark creativity and offer a lot of fun as well. Here, Makayla Barclay, Samantha Houle and Samantha Chauvin show off some of their creations. For more information, call 519-677-5954. *Photo submitted*

Operation Christmas Tree sparks unique fundraising ideas

Operation Christmas Tree (OCT) is a program that brings out the generous nature of hundreds of St. Clair Township companies, community groups and individuals. At the recent Poor Boy lunch OCT fundraiser, sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 in Corunna, one enterprising group of women explained their donation. They'd made a quilt and raffled it off. From the proceeds, the group of women, who call themselves Sew Crazy, bought fabric and made 25 pair of cozy flannel children's pajamas, nine pair of doll pajamas, and two doll blankets. They also bought three cuddly stuffed animals. They donated the results of their labours to be included in designated OCT Christmas hampers that will be distributed to the less fortunate families of north St. Clair Township in December. Spokesperson Peg Van Nice says Sew Crazy, which currently has about 13 members, has been meeting as a group for over six years at the Corunna Legion hall. They enjoy what they do and have been active over the years doing charitable work for several organizations through their sewing. But the work is also play. "We have fun," said Mrs. Van Nice. "They're a good bunch of ladies."



Operation Christmas Tree President Fred Strickland, left, with Moore Optimists President Mary Lou Abrams, Moore Optimist and OCT Committee member Lorne Powell, and Sew Crazy representative Peg Van Nice display sewn items donated by the group.

Brigden Fair livestock auction benefits local charities

The 2012 Brigden Fair livestock auction provided generous donations to local charitable organizations in-



Brigden Feeder Club champion steer exhibited by Casey Bruton with purchaser St. Clair Mechanical's Tracey Dawson. Photo submitted

cluding: Huron Boys Home; Women's Interval Home of Sarnia-Lambton; LCDS Petrolia and Brigden; Petrolia Food Bank; Inn of the Good Shepherd; Salvation Army Wallaceburg, and St. Francis Advocates Dresden and Petrolia farm. Fair organizers wish to thank Dresden Meat Packers and McCormick Insurance for paying for the cutting and wrapping. Also, thanks are extended to Bruton Farms for providing transportation of the livestock to their final destination and a special thank you to Great West Auction for conducting the sale.

Livestock auction buyers included:

Agris Co-op, Brigden; Andy Haywood and family; Beaver Meadow Stables; Brigden Feed Mill; Bruce Stephen's Excavating; Chatham-Kent Ready Mix; Chem Fab Industries Inc.; Dallas Haul Inc.; Dresden Meat Packers; Harold Thompson; Jeff Robins; Jim's Carpet Warehouse; Kelly's Construction Services; McCormick Insurance; Par Tee Rentals; Preece Enterprises; Scotiabank, Petrolia; St. Clair Mechanical; Steadman Brothers Funeral Home, Corunna and Brigden; Talbotville Livestock Exchange; Watson TIM-BR Mart; World's Finest Shows; and the Moore Agricultural Society.

40th annual Juvenile International Silver Stick Tournament comes to Mooretown

Don't let the NHL strike get you down. 2013 is going to start with some exciting hockey action right here in St. Clair Township.

The 40th annual Juvenile International Silver Stick Tournament rolls into the Mooretown Sports Complex Jan. 3 through 6.

Teams that will be vying for top honours in each division are:

AAA Division: Ajax, East Enders, Humberview, Mississauga, Stouffville, and Whitby.

A Division: East Gwillimbury, Erie North Shore, Glanbrook, Quinte West.

B Division: Mooretown, Delhi, Lincoln, Walkerton.

C Division: Arthur, Beverly, Campbellford, East Lambton, Lambton Shores, Norwood, Seaforth, Stayner, Teeswater, Wainfleet.

Daily admission to the tournament will be \$5 per adult, \$3 per student or senior, and \$14 for a full weekend of great sports action.

International Silver Stick hockey was the idea of Jack Kinsella, who conceived of the tournament as a way to promote the game of hockey while fostering goodwill between Canada and the United States. According to the official International Silver Stick Hockey Association Inc. Website, tournament philosophy is aimed at helping players develop citizenship and international goodwill through hockey.

The first tournament was held in February, 1958 between Bantam and Pee wee teams from Potsdam, New York and South Carleton, Ontario. These tournaments gradually expanded throughout Canada, the United States, and even into Canadian Forces bases in Europe.

By 1961, Port Huron, Michigan, assisted by Sarnia, Ontario, became the site of the Silver Stick Tournament in the U.S. In 1963, the McMorran Arena in Port Huron became the Silver Stick's new official home.

Tournament games use either USA Hockey or Hockey Canada rules, depending on which country is hosting that particular tournament.

Enjoy holiday activities at the Mooretown Sports Complex

The Mooretown Sports Complex offers a wide variety of fitness and sports options, and during the coming Christmas holidays, it will offer lots of family fun as well.

Tim Horton's sponsors free public skates

Enjoy free public skating courtesy of Tim Horton's Café and Bake Shop on Dec. 27 and 28 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., and on Jan. 2, 2013 from 1 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Public skating

Public skating will be available on Dec. 23 and 30 from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., and on Jan. 3 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. The cost will be \$2.25 per child, \$3.25 per adult, and \$6.50 per family.

Recreational/Adult swims

Recreational/adult swims will be held as follows: Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Fridays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. There will be no swims on Dec. 24, 25, 26, 31, or Jan. 1, 2013.

Winter swim lesson session offered

Register now for the Winter swim lesson session. Lessons begin the week of Jan. 7, 2013.

Shallow and deep water aerobics

Experience and enjoy the rejuvenating power of the water! Programs include a variety of exercises that target posture, muscular endurance, strength, cardiovascular, flexibility and balance. Shallow water classes are slated for Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Deep water classes are Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is \$4.50 per class, \$45 for a 12 visit pass, or \$195 per year.

Water Therapy – arthritis, fibromyalgia water exercise

This program includes cardiovascular training, functional fitness, muscular endurance and strength, balance and flexibility training with a goal of improved mobility. Classes are Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The cost is \$4.50 per class or \$45 for a 12 visit pass. Join any time!

Stretch & Strengthen fitness classes

These group fitness classes focus on fun and fitness while improving strength and flexibility. Classes are Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The cost is \$4.50 per class, \$45 for a 12 visit pass, or \$243 per year

for full fitness centre membership.

Shinny hockey is back!

Adult shinny hockey for people ages 18 and over will be played Tuesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at a cost of \$5 per person and on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at a cost of \$6 per person. Please note there will be no shinny hockey played on Dec. 25, 26, or Jan. 1.

Book your ice time now!

Ice is available throughout the winter on Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Christmas Holiday ice time is available:** Dec. 24 from 8 a.m. to noon; Dec. 28 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Dec. 31 from 8 a.m. to noon; and Jan. 2 from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. **March Break ice time is available:** March 11 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; March 12 from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; March 13 from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; March 14 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and March 15 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. **Ice rates: Prime time** - Monday through Friday after 5 p.m. and all day Saturday and Sunday, \$150 per hour (tax included). **Non-prime time** - Monday through Friday before 5 p.m., \$95 per hour (tax included).

For more information about the above programs or to book ice time, contact the Mooretown Sports Complex at 519-867-2651.

Moore Optimists receive thanks

The Mooretown Sports Complex hosted a total of 247 St. Clair Township Grade 3 students this year as they took part in the Lifesaving Society *Swim to Survive* program. This valuable program involves basic swimming skills and important self-rescue and lifesaving skills. Basic swimming ability is a fundamental requirement for St. Clair Township youth because of their close proximity to large bodies of water.

The program was made possible thanks to a grant from the Lifesaving Society and the additional support of the Optimist Club of Moore. The club provided funds to cover the cost of bussing the Corunna students to and from the Mooretown Sports Complex, and a vote of thanks is extended to the Moore Optimists for supporting the youth of St. Clair Township.

Juvenile Silver Stick hockey

Take in all the excitement of Juvenile International Silver Stick Hockey at the Mooretown Sports Complex on Jan. 3 through 6.

See page 8 for more information.

Children's Safety Village fundraising in progress

Fundraising for the proposed Lambton Children's Safety Village is underway, and the Optimist Club of Moore is showing its support for the project with a pledge of \$15,000. The second of three \$5,000 payments on the pledge was recently presented by Moore Optimist President Mary Lou Abrams to Children's Safety Village representative Mary Ann Buntrock.

The estimated cost of the village is \$3 million and donations are now being

sought throughout Lambton County and beyond.

Lambton Children's Safety Village committee member Nina Strickland says the village will introduce students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 to safety issues related to issues such as: the streets, bicycle safety, fire safety, drug awareness, street-proofing, bullying, farm safety, water safety, stranger safety, and Internet safety.



Mary Lou Abrams, President of the Optimist Club of Moore, right, presents a cheque for \$5,000 to Mary Ann Buntrock of the Lambton Children's Safety Village. Photo submitted



COMMUNITY NOTES

Sombra Historical Society calendar fundraiser

The Sombra Historical Society is selling calendars for 2013 with the theme *Churches of Sombra Township*. The cost is \$12 each and the calendars are available at the Pick and Pay Variety Store, the Riverview Restaurant, and the Sombra Museum. These calendars make ideal Christmas gifts and proceeds from their sale will further the heritage preservation efforts of the Sombra Museum.

Brigden Fair Homecraft quilt winner

The lovely quilt raffled off by the Brigden Fair Homecraft division was won by Falyn Gallant of Calgary. Falyn's grandmother, Audrey Joyce of Brigden bought her the lucky ticket.

Lambton Dragons charity raffle winner announced

The winner of the Lambton Dragons charity meat raffle was Marty Allison of Samia. Mr. Allison won a freezer full of beef and proceeds from this fundraiser will help support the Lambton Dragons Sledge Hockey team. Thanks are extended to all who participated in the raffle.

Lambton Dragons invite challengers to come and play

The Lambton Dragons Sledge Hockey team invites any hockey team, sports group or work group to come out to the Mooretown Sports Complex on Sunday mornings to enjoy a friendly game with the Dragons. Extra sledges and equipment are available. To participate, please call Karen or Jim MacNeil at 519-862-4756, or Jackie White at 519-862-4039.

Alzheimer Society writing contest in progress

The annual Alzheimer Society of Samia-Lambton *Forget Me Not* writing contest is now underway and will conclude at the end of January, which is Alzheimer Awareness Month. For more information, see page 7.

Voice your concerns over school issues

For those who have concerns or comments about local school issues, your local school trustee is the person to speak to. In St. Clair Township, Judy Krall is the person to contact, either by email at jkrall@ciaccess.com or by phone at 519-882-1055.

Brigden History book still on sale

The Brigden History Book has already sold over 700 copies and there are still some available at The Book Keeper in Samia and from Barb Leaper. The book would be a great Christmas gift for local history buffs so get yours before the stock runs out.

Photo I.D. cards now issued at Corunna license office

People aged 16 and over who do not hold a valid driver's license can now obtain a government-issued photo I.D. card at the Corunna Motor Vehicle License office at 379 Lyndoch Street.

Corunna Legion observing winter hours

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 hall is now observing winter hours. The hall will be open as follows: Monday, Tuesday and Friday - 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday - 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays - 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. *Staff has the discretion to extend closing time as required.* The hall is closed on Sundays unless there is a special event being held.

3rd Annual Elimination Draw now underway

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 is now selling tickets for its 3rd annual Elimination Draw, with proceeds from the draw going to Corunna Legion programs (35 per cent of the net pro-

ceeds will go to the local firefighters' charity of choice.) Tickets are \$20 each and only 250 will be sold. The grand prize is \$2,000 and the draw will be held on Sept. 21, 2013. There will also be \$50 prizes for tickets numbered 1, 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, and 225 during the grand prize draw. Weekly draws for \$20 will be held every Saturday beginning on May 4, 2013 and ending Sept. 14 at the meat draw. Those who are at the meat draw may win an attendance prize as well. Tickets from weekly winners will go right back into the draw so you might win more than once. Doors will open for the Sept. 21, 2013 draw at 5:30 p.m. with dinner to begin at 6:30 p.m. and the draw at 7:30 p.m. Your ticket will include admission, dinner and door prizes. Guest admission will be \$10. This is an age-of-majority event, lottery license #M688247.

For tickets or more information, call the Legion at 519-862-1240.

The 2012 Elimination Draw list of winners included: \$50 winners - Diane Murray (168), Gord Allen (135), Patrice Flett (137), Janice McDonald (045), Mark Krone (079), Lisa Girard (093), Michelle Fraser (193), Robyn Boczek (101), Jackie Miller (229), Paul Mortier (083), and Pat Stevens (158). The Grand Prize of \$2,000 was split four ways between Erika Taege (69), John Cormier (103), Ron Skreptak (146), and Douglas Stacey (215).

Pennies for Pavement program in progress

The St. Clair River Trail Pennies for Pavement program is raising funds for the trail's upkeep and maintenance by collecting loose pennies at the following locations: Shaykin Bait Variety in Port Lambton or the Pic-N-Pay in Sombra Village. Every penny will be matched 2:1 by St. Clair Township Council, so every \$1 will become \$3.

Handyman/Handywoman program helps seniors

The Lambton Seniors Association (LSA) Handyman/Handywoman program is a United Way-funded program that helps seniors stay in their own homes by helping with a wide range of household maintenance and repair issues as well as quality-of-life activities. Services provided include: yard maintenance, home maintenance, housekeeping, snow clearing, eaves trough cleaning and much more. For more information, call the LSA at 519-339-8866 or 1-800-219-4717.



St. Vincent DePaul Christmas hamper info

Donations of food, toys and cash can still be made to the St. Vincent DePaul Christmas hamper program in south St. Clair Township by contacting George Moran at 519-677-5773.

Operation Christmas Tree program

The donation collection and assembly centre for Operation Christmas Tree (OCT) in north St. Clair Township will be at the former Baptist Church on Hill Street, the same location as last year. It was decided that the collection centre space at the Emergency Services Building would not be sufficient to OCT needs. Donations of non-perishable food, new unwrapped toys or cash can be dropped off at the church building from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on week days until mid-December.



MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 12

Tim Horton's to sponsor free skates

Tim Horton's will sponsor a series of free skating opportunities at the Mooretown Sports Complex during the Christmas season. They will be held: **Thursday, Dec. 27** from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.; **Friday, Dec. 28** from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.; and **Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013** from 1 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.



Luncheon/card parties planned

The Mayflower Rebekah Lodge will host a series of luncheon and card parties at Thompson Gardens, 198 Beckwith Street in Corunna at noon on the following dates: **Monday Jan. 14; Monday, Feb. 11; Monday, March 4; Monday, April 22; and Monday, May 27.** Everyone is welcome.

Corunna Legion to host open jam sessions

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 at the intersection of Albert and Beckwith Streets will host a series of monthly open jam sessions during the coming months. On the last Saturday of each month beginning at 3 p.m., everyone is welcome to attend this lively event to play along or just listen and enjoy some terrific local talent. Food will be available during these events. These enjoyable afternoons will be held on: **Dec. 29, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 30, April 27 and May 25.** For timely news from the Corunna Legion, go online to: www.corunna.ca/legion/.

New Year's Day Levee at Corunna Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion Leslie Sutherland Branch 447 at 350 Albert Street in Corunna will host a New Year's Day Levee on **Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013** from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend, enjoy snacks and refreshments, and start the New Year off by enjoying the company of friends and neighbours.

International Silver Stick tournament in Mooretown

The Mooretown Sports Complex will be the site of the 40th Annual Juvenile International Silver Stick Finals on **Jan. 3 through 6.** Daily admission will be \$5 per adult, \$3 per student or senior, and \$14 for a weekend pass. For more information, see page 8.

Winter Country Jamboree in Brigden



With the holidays over, you may be looking for a remedy to cure your Winter blahs. Find your answer at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall on **Sunday, Jan. 13** at 1 p.m. when the *Winter Country Jamboree* fills the hall with lively music. Admission is just \$2. Those who sing or play an instrument are welcome to join in, but it's always nice to sit and tap your toes or get up and dance the afternoon away. And after the jamboree, stay for a

ham and scalloped potato supper beginning at 5 p.m. Limited tickets for the meal will be available at the door so get there early.

Parish breakfasts in Port Lambton

Sacred Heart Parish in Port Lambton will host a series of Sunday Parish breakfasts from 10 a.m. to noon on the following dates: **Jan. 20; Feb. 17; April 28.** The breakfasts will include eggs made to order, bacon, ham, sausage, pancakes, toast, juice, coffee or tea, and take-out meals are available. The cost is \$7 per adult, \$3.50 for children ages 12 and under, and free for children under the age of five. This event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Father Joseph P. Nelligan Council No. 10873.

Lecture series to be presented in Sombra

The Sombra Museum will continue to offer a series of lectures this winter on the **last Tuesday of the month.** It will feature a lecture on learning your way around *Ancestry.com* in **January**, a lecture on the subject of shipwreck treasures in **February**, and an especially powerful lecture on the *Storm of 1913* by guest speaker Jim Clary in **March.** The cost is \$10 per lecture, \$25 for three lectures, or \$50 for all six fall and winter lectures. Student pricing is \$7 per lecture, \$15 for three, or \$35 for all six. All of the lectures will be held at the Sombra Museum Cultural Centre meeting room, 3476 St. Clair Parkway in Sombra. To purchase tickets or obtain more information, call 519-892-3982. The museum can also be contacted via email at: sombramuseum@hotmail.com or on Facebook at: [facebook.com/SombraMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SombraMuseum).

Indoor walking and fitness in Brigden

Indoor walking and fitness classes are held free of charge at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall every **Tuesday and Thursday** morning from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Indoor shoes are required for participation. For more information or to register for this program, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237. This program is sponsored by the West Lambton Health Centre, the Moore Agricultural Society, and Ontario's Community Health Centres.

Corunna Coffee Club at Thompson Gardens

The Corunna Coffee Club now takes place at Thompson Gardens on **Monday to Saturday** at 9 a.m. The club is open to everyone.

If you have a non-profit or charity event or activity coming up in St. Clair Township, or if it will benefit the residents of this township, promote it free of charge in *The Beacon*. The deadline for submissions is on the third Monday of every month at 4 p.m.

Email: beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Sunday Breakfasts return to St. Joseph's Parish

St. Joseph's Parish Centre in Corunna on Lyndoch Street will once again host a series of Sunday breakfasts and meat raffles from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on: **Dec. 2, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 10, April 7, and May 5.** These popular breakfasts feature pancakes, sausage, bacon, ham, eggs, home fries, rolls, orange juice, coffee and tea at a cost of \$7 per adult, \$3 for children six through 12, and free for children under age 6. Take-out orders are available from 8:30 a.m. Call 519-862-1213, ext. 28.

Annual Brigden tree lighting date set



Be in Brigden on **Sunday, Dec. 2** when the Brigden Park at the corner of Courtright Line and Brigden Road will be alight with brilliant Christmas colour. It's time for the annual Brigden tree-lighting ceremony at 7 p.m. This delightful community event includes tasty treats and cheerful community spirit, so don't miss it.

Christmas In The Villa sale

The *Christmas In The Villa* craft and gift sale will be held **Saturday, Dec. 1** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lambton Meadowview Villa on Petrolia Line in Petrolia. Lunch will be available for purchase. For more information, contact the Life Enrichment staff at 519-882-1470, ext. 5002 or email carolyn.greening@county-lambton.on.ca.

Fowl bingo in Sombra

The Sombra St. John's C. W. L. will host a Fowl Bingo on **Monday, Dec. 3** at 7 p.m. Admission will be \$2 per person and everyone is welcome.

Turkey bingo at Corunna Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 will hold a turkey bingo on **Wednesday, Dec. 5** starting at 7 p.m. The cost will be \$15 for three cards, with 25 games plus one special game planned and three prizes up for grabs. There will be door prizes and a grand prize of \$650 in Lambton Mall Bucks. Food will be available and everyone is welcome.

Christmas Dinner and Cantata

Get into the Christmas spirit by attending the Christmas Dinner and Cantata being held at LaSalle Road Community of Christ Church on **Saturday, Dec. 8.** The dinner begins at 5 p.m. with the concert to follow. The cost is \$5 per person. For reservations or information, contact Carol at 226-738-0693 or email Kelly at k_nightjets@msn.com.

Christmas Tea and Bake Sale in Corunna

The congregation of All Saints Anglican Church at the corner of Hill and Lyndoch Streets will hold a Christmas Tea and Bake Sale on **Saturday, Dec. 8** from 10 a.m. to noon. The event will include baking, preserves, crafts, stained glass, books and attic treasures,

fruit, turkey and beef pies, and carrot puddings. Tea, coffee and dessert will also be served for \$3 per person. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

Santa coming to Courtright

Santa Claus will be coming to Courtright on **Sunday, Dec. 9** at 11 a.m. His parade will leave from the Courtright fire hall and circle the town of Courtright picking up children and taking them to the fire hall to meet Santa. A light lunch will be provided by the station's firefighters at noon and everyone is invited to attend. If the weather is poor on parade day, the event will be held the following weekend on Sunday, Dec. 16. The event is sponsored by the volunteer firefighters from the St. Clair Township Courtright fire station.



Country Christmas Jamboree in Brigden

Get into the Christmas spirit by coming out to the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall on **Sunday, Dec. 9** at 1 p.m. to enjoy a *Country Christmas Jamboree*. Admission is just \$2. Those who sing or play are welcome to bring their instruments and join in the fun. Or just tap your toes, dance the afternoon away and afterwards, why not stay to savour a ham and scalloped potato supper starting at 5 p.m. Limited tickets for the meal will be sold at the door so get there early. Proceeds from the jamboree will be put towards upgrades to the exhibition hall.

Moore Museum to host Old-Fashioned Christmas

Once again this year, the Moore Museum will present the popular seasonal program, *An Old-Fashioned Christmas*. The program provides lots of old-time Yuletide sights and fascinating hands-on fun for everyone who participates. The log cabin is decorated for a pioneer family Christmas, and trees and toys in the main building bring the traditions of the Victorian Era to life. Students also taste history when they participate in a taffy pull and sample the results. A pioneer or Victorian-style decoration is created by each student, giving each one a souvenir to take home with them so they can add something to their own family's Christmas tradition. The program will be available for school groups until **Dec. 20.** Morning and afternoon bookings are offered, and evening bookings for children's groups can be arranged. Programs must be booked in advance and the schedule fills up quickly so teachers should call as soon as possible to ensure the best choice of dates. The cost of the program is \$4.05 per student. Further details are available by calling the Moore Museum at 519-867-2020 or by visiting the museum Website at: www.mooremuseum.ca.

