



The St. Clair Township BEACON

Issue 2

Volume 7

February 2014

Remember your
Valentine
on
February 14

Donation benefits Brander Park splash pad project



Left: Ann Hazzard and Dave Cram, co-chairs of the Brander Park Splash Pad Committee, accept the donation from Hydro One representative Mike Gibbings. Mayor Steve Arnold was on hand to represent St. Clair Township at the happy occasion.

Photo submitted

It may be snowing and blowing outside, but here's a wonderful reminder of the good things that await us when summer returns. A \$10,000 donation from Hydro One recently brought the Brander Park splash pad project a big step closer to its funding goal. Splash pad committee volunteers say it is a "wonderful grant" and that the committee's financial commitment to the project has now reached 50 per cent of the goal.

The donation was presented as part of Hydro One's PowerPlay program, which provides grants to help build active recreation facilities. Hydro One spokesperson Nancy Shaddick says the program was established in 2008 to support and enhance sports and recreation facilities in Ontario. "Programs are designed to benefit residents where Hydro One customers and employees live and work," she said in a media statement.

The committee is paying 50 per cent of the project's total cost with St. Clair Township paying the other half. Splash pads have been shown to enrich host communities by offering tremendous healthy outdoor play opportunities. Port Lambton is the last community in St. Clair Township to receive one.

Splash pads have been identified as a healthy option to wading pools, especially for children with serious health issues.

NOVA project holds promise of local growth

NOVA Chemical's welcome announcement in December of a new \$300 million investment in Lambton County heralds another phase of NOVA Chemical's long-term growth strategy in this region. It is aimed at helping the company expand ethylene production capacity at its Corunna site and upgrade its Moore polyethylene production facility.

St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold sees the substantial investment in this area as an extremely positive development for the municipality.

"We are pleased that NOVA Chemicals continues to see great value here in St. Clair Township," he said. "This is the home of the

company's three plants east of Albert and we welcome the next phase of its 20/20 Strategy, which will see investments in their current poly sites and the 25 per cent expansion of their processing capability at their large Corunna facility."

NOVA is also currently deciding whether to build a new \$1.5 billion AST (Advanced SCLAIRTECH Technology) facility here or in the U.S.

Mayor Arnold added that staff is working diligently on permit work that would accommodate that project. "We continue to complete the necessary permit work for a new poly site if they decide this is the location they choose for that investment," he

said.

Eric Hoskins, Ontario's Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Employment, says the \$300 million investment will sustain about 1,000 direct full-time and contractor jobs plus hundreds of construction and trade jobs.

INSIDE

Municipal Notes.....	2
Heritage Corner.....	4
Mooretown Sports Complex.....	5
Community Contact.....	6
Around the Township.....	10, 11, 12

**No matter where you are, read The Beacon online at:
www.twp.stclair.on.ca - click on "Beacon"**

**Contact The Beacon at:
beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca**



Municipal Notes

2014 Municipal election registration

Council meeting schedule

Meetings of St. Clair Township Council are held every first and third Monday of the month (unless otherwise stated) at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street in Mooretown. February 2014 council meetings are slated for: Monday, Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m., and Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 5 p.m. following the Committee of the Whole meeting. (Monday, Feb. 17 is Family Day). Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021 for more information.

Notice of 2014 Budget Meeting

The St. Clair Township 2014 draft budget presentation and deliberation meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6 at 5 p.m. in the council chambers at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street in Mooretown.

The meeting is open to the public and all ratepayers are welcome to attend.

Charles Quenneville
Director of Finance

ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP INFORMATION ONLINE

For the latest information about St. Clair Township, its departments and associated services, go online to:

www.twp.stclair.on.ca

St. Clair Township Snowbirds can also find an electronic copy of *The Beacon* at this Website.

Municipal Election Day in Ontario is set for Monday, Oct. 27, 2014.

Nomination papers may be filled out at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre any time during normal office hours until Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Nominations are subject to a \$100 fee for a position as a member of Council or a School Board Trustee, and \$200 for the position of head of Council.

Nomination papers for the following positions may be filed in person with the Clerk of the Township of St. Clair:

Township of St. Clair

Mayor	1
Deputy Mayor	1
Council Members - Ward 1	3
- Ward 2	2

Boards of Education:

English Language - Lambton Kent District School

Central Lambton:1 Trustee

English Language - St. Clair Catholic District

South Lambton / East Kent1 Trustee

Inquiries can be directed to: St. Clair Township Clerks Department
St. Clair Township Civic Centre
1155 Emily Street, Mooretown
519-862-2021

Clerk John DeMars

Winter parking by-law now in effect

Motorists are warned that vehicles must NOT be parked on the public streets and roads of St. Clair Township overnight through the Winter. This allows snow plow crews to do their job safely and effectively without having to dodge parked cars.

Residents are also reminded that shoveling snow off of driveways and walkways onto public streets is prohibited by the Ontario Highway Traffic Act. Unexpected accumulations of snow on the road can make driving unnecessarily hazardous and lead to traffic mishaps. Pile shoveled snow within the boundaries of your property.

Penalties can be levied on those who ignore the law.





Election Watch 2014



Over the coming months leading up to the October 27, 2014 municipal election, *The Beacon* will be reporting on the candidates as they file their nomination papers. Our intention is to help St. Clair Township residents gain a sense of what the prospective candidates stand for and their expectations for their term in office if they are elected.

The first candidate to file nomination papers was incumbent Mayor Steve Arnold, who is running for re-election to that position. "On Jan. 2 I filed my nomination papers because I believe it's important for our residents to know that I am willing to stand for Mayor early in the election process," he said. "I have been humbled by this honour and hope that

our residents have felt that all of us on Council have done the very best we could to make our community strong and a great place to live, work, and raise our families. We have also completed so many projects this past term, many of which have been shared in *The Beacon*. Some of them have taken many years from start to finish. We have been fortunate to achieve partnership funding for most of these projects, however, there are still more to complete — bridges, streets, the water supply twinning project, soft services such as splash pads, as well as more opportunities for jobs and investments. All of these will require a steady hand on Council to bring them to fruition. I hope to be part of the team to deliver these to our community."

Lambton Creative County Committee invites funding applications

Lambton County's *Creative County Committee* is currently accepting funding applications for partner projects, events, activities, and workshops that will enhance heritage, arts, and cultural vitality within the county.

The Committee's third intake in two years will see up to \$75,000 made available. Funding guidelines and application forms are available online by clicking on the *Creative County* tab under the *Residents* heading at www.lambtononline.ca. Applications will be received until 4 p.m., March 7. Applicants are encouraged to consult with staff and online resources to ensure

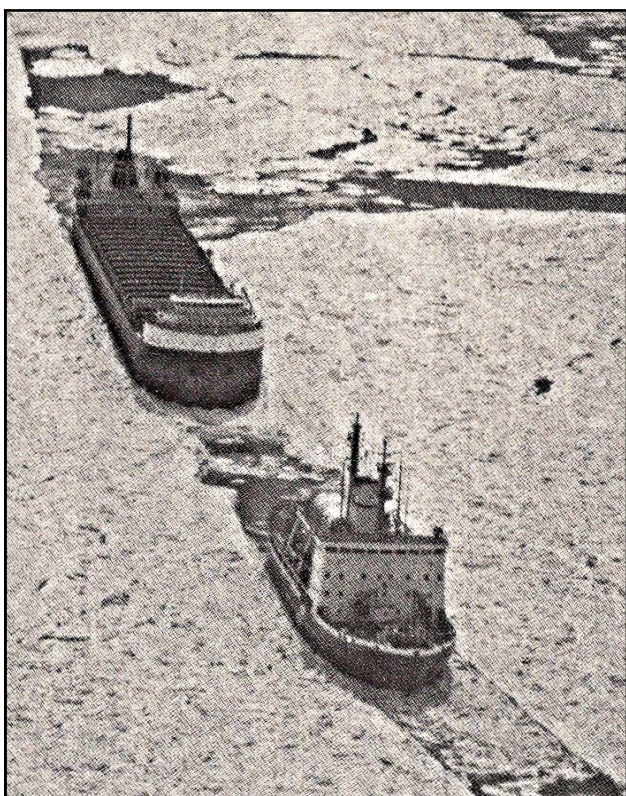
their proposal matches the funding criteria.

In total, the *Creative County Committee* advanced \$47,625 to 15 community projects in 2013.

\$10,000 in funding is available for projects in each of four County quadrants, with St. Clair Township included with Dawn-Euphemia and Brooke-Alvinston in the South Lambton quadrant. A further \$35,000 may be allocated to projects that demonstrate the potential to make county-wide connections between services, organizations, and communities.

For more information, visit: www.lambtononline.ca

Remember When - the river ice turned to "applesauce"?



With files and photo from Allan Anderson & the Observer

Thirty years ago this April, the St. Clair River did a curious and potentially disastrous thing. It stopped flowing when its ice turned to applesauce.

It took Coast Guard vessels from both sides of the river to keep ships in the river moving after several days of above freezing temperatures and nights of below freezing temperatures resulted in what many mariners call "applesauce ice". The temperature differential caused millions of slushy pieces of ice to cling together right to the bottom of the river.

Many ships became stranded in the ice when it bogged them down and affected their steering, gradually dragging them over into shallow water. Eventually, ice breakers began leading convoys of ships upstream from Lake St. Clair into Lake Huron, then leading ships waiting in Lake Huron on return trips south to Lake St. Clair.

On both the Canadian and American shores, the ice also caused serious problems. Water dammed up by the ice rose to record levels, causing roads in the south to flood. Some homes along the river experienced water up to the door steps and flooded basements.

At the end of April, temperatures warmed to almost 20 degrees and a south wind began to blow. With round-the-clock work, the ice breakers were finally able to clear away the last of the ice. The St. Clair River had been choked with ice for almost 30 days, starting at Walpole Island and eventually backing up 22 kilometres into Lake Huron.

Left: A Coast Guard ice breaker leads the way through the "applesauce ice" with a freighter following in its wake.

HERITAGE CORNER

Sombra Museum exhibit to commemorate anniversary of The Great War



This year, the world will be reminded again of the horror and the valour that permeate memories of The Great War, World War I, as it commemorates the 100th anniversary of "the war to end all wars". An exhibit is now being created at the Sombra Museum to honour Canada and tell the story of those who gave their lives in its service during World War I. Anyone who has treasures from this era stored at home and who wishes to share or donate them to help tell this important story is encouraged to contact museum curator Shelley Lucier at 519-892-3982 or 519-627-2622, or online at sombramuseum@hotmail.com.

Left: This poster from WWI is an example of treasures being sought.

Local farmers were also conflict-ready soldiers

In 1885, the 3rd Troop of the 1st Regiment Cavalry was stationed in Mooretown for regular training. The troop of 24 members was commanded by Captain George Stewart of the former Moore Township.

As part of the cavalry unit, every man was responsible for supplying his own horse. Each man received 50 cents per day, but the horse received \$1.

The troop would go to London each year for a 12-day training session, but as almost all of the men were farmers by trade, the Annual Drill had to be done before harvest time.

In 1892, the troop became part of the 1st Hussars.



The Third Troop included local residents, from left: William B. Watson, Wallace Stratton, and John Miller, grandfather of Gail Moran of Port Lambton, who submitted this great photo.

Port Lambton church has long history

Sacred Heart Church in Port Lambton has a grand history that dates back to the early 1800s. It's history begins in 1852 when Father Michel Moncoq arrives in Toronto from France. He spent his first year in Canada at Caughnawaga, Quebec learning the languages of the Iroquois and the Algonquin nations.

In October, 1854, Father Moncoq was appointed to the parish that includes most of the shoreline communities of Lambton County, as well as the shoreline areas of Michigan. The central churches were St. Joseph's Church, Mooretown, and l'Eglise du Sacre-Coeur at Baby's Point, now known as Brander Park directly south of Port Lambton. On New Year's Day 1856, Father Moncoq crossed the ice on the St. Clair River to Algonac, Michigan to attend a woman who was ill. On his return after dark, he fell through the ice and was drowned. His body was not recovered until the following July, and it was buried at the Baby's Point church where it remained until 1878, when it was relocated at the new Sacred Heart Church in Port Lambton.

The present day church was erected in 1964, and Father Moncoq's remains are buried under the centre aisle. The Baby's Point church was no longer needed after 1878 and was sold. It is thought that it ended its useful life as a blacksmith shop in Port Lambton.



The present-day Sacred Heart Church in Port Lambton.

Photo submitted

Sombra Museum seeks WWI items

World War I items, memorabilia or stories are being sought for the Sombra Museum's new exhibit to commemorate the 100th anniversary of "the war to end all wars". Call 519-892-3982 for more information.



Spring into a better you at Mooretown Sports Complex

Spring is right around the corner and your summer wardrobe is lurking in the closet ready to disappoint you if it doesn't fit. The good news is that there's still time to chase away those tricky winter pounds that have gathered under all of those cozy, stretchy track suits and lounge wear. These are just a few examples of activities you can find at the Mooretown Sports Complex to get and maintain a healthy summer-ready you.

Muscle Mix Fitness classes

Trainer Diane Tuckey guides you through an invigorating workout during the Muscle Mix Fitness classes. Classes are slated for Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., and daytime classes from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. will begin on Feb. 9. 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 the water in the indoor pool. **Shallow water aerobics** are held 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 aerobics** are held Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Water therapy** (for arthritis, fibromyalgia, and post-rehab) is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Join any time. The cost is \$4.50 per class or \$45 for a 12-visit interchangeable pass.

Fitness centre

Sweat those blues away in the MSC Fitness Centre. For \$4.50 per visit, \$45 for a 12-visit interchangeable pass, or \$243 for a full year, you can work out, swim, use the sauna, and soak in the hot tub. And if you'd like a program set up just for you, Personal Trainer Diane Tuckey can put you on the road to a optimum fitness.

Shinny hockey continues

Adult shinny hockey is played every Tuesday morning from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The cost is \$5 per person.

March Break Day Camp

Give the young students in your family a great place to enjoy March Break. Children ages five through 12 will have fun swimming, skating, doing crafts, playing games and spending time with special visitors. The program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with early drop off available from 7:30 a.m. and late pickup available until 5:30 p.m. The program costs \$27 per child per day or \$110 per week. A family plan is also available.

For information, go online to:

www.twp.stclair.on.ca/brochure.htm

For more information or to register for a program listed above, call the Mooretown Sports Complex at 519-867-2651.

Find a cure for that depressing winter boredom at your local library

This winter has presented more than its share of housebound moments for most St. Clair Township residents, and the challenge we face is this: How do we alleviate the boredom? Do we huddle in front of the television while our IQ drops with every sitcom and police show rerun, or do we fill our quiet hours immersed in all of the adventure, romance, and knowledge that awaits us at our local library?

Literacy is currently being celebrated at all Lambton County Library branches. It began on Jan. 27 with Family Literacy Day and will conclude with World Read Aloud Day on March 5. If you aren't an avid reader already, let the St. Clair Township library branches in Mooretown, Corunna, Courtright, Sombra, and Wilkesport help you see what you've been missing. They have shelf upon shelf of great entertainment and thought-provoking insights in stock.

The Lambton County Library also has two new eResources to offer. The BBC's *Muzzy Online* is a language learning program for kids which combines stories with interactive learning games and vocabulary lessons. Languages available through this program include: English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, Russian, German, Portuguese, and Italian.

The Hobbies and Crafts Reference Center, from Gale, offers detailed 'how-to' instructions and creative ideas that will interest hobby enthusiasts in categories such as: Arts and Crafts; Collecting; Home and Garden; Indoor Recreation; Kids' Crafts; Model Building; Needlecrafts and Textiles; Outdoor Recreation; Performing Arts; Technology; and Scrapbooking and Papercrafts. To access these programs, go to the library Website at: www.lclibrary.ca, click on eLibrary, then click on eResources. Please note that a library barcode is needed for access.

Closer to home, here are some of the terrific programs currently being offered at your local library branch. All programs are free unless otherwise stated.

Sombra (519-892-3711): **Tales for Tots* for children age 3 and under accompanied by a caregiver is a drop-in program held Wednesdays, Feb. 5, 12, and 19 from 10:30 p.m. to 11 a.m. **TAG (Teen Advisory Group)* is a drop-in program set for Tuesday, Feb. 11 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Wilkesport (519-864-4000): **Valentine's Day craft* for children is



a drop-in session set for Thursday, Feb. 13 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. **LEGO Challenge* for tweens is a drop-in program challenging groups and individuals to create LEGO masterpieces from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 3 or 24, or Wednesday, Feb. 12. **Games Day* for teens, a drop-in program featuring X-Box and traditional board games, is set for Wednesday, Feb. 5 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. **Teen Book Club* is a drop-in program set for 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 10.

Brigden (519-864-1142): *Top 100 Challenge* for pre-schoolers (pre-registration required - read as many books on the list by the end of February to see which family wins. **Tales for Tots* for children age 3 and under (pre-registration required) is held Wednesdays, Feb. 5, 12, and 19 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. **Adult Book Club* (pre-registration required) is set for Wednesday, Feb. 26 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Corunna (519-862-1132): **Tales for Tots* for children age 3 and under with caregiver is a drop-in program set for Mondays, Feb. 3 and 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. **French Story Hour* for children age 5 and under with caregiver is a drop-in program set for Wednesdays, Feb. 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Build a Quadrilla Marble Run* drop-in program for children will be held Saturdays, Feb. 1, 8, 15, and 22 from Noon to 2 p.m. **CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG will visit library!* Everyone is invited to meet this beloved children's character on Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. **Winter Family Game Day* for all ages is set for Saturday, Feb. 15 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. This is a great lead up to Family Day on Monday, Feb. 17. **Teen Book Club* for ages 12 through 18 is a drop-in program set for Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. **Adult Book Club* (pre-registration required) is set for Monday, Feb. 24 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. **Thompson Gardens Book Club* for seniors (pre-registration required) is set for Monday, Feb. 3 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. *This club is for seniors living at Thompson Gardens AND in the surrounding communities.*

Courtright (519-867-2712): **Adult Book Club* is a drop-in program set for Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Mooretown (519-867-2823): **Saturday Morning Crafts* for children is a drop-in program set for Saturday, Feb. 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Community Contact

Brander Park splash pad donations sought

The Brander Park Splash Pad Committee is working hard to raise funds for the new splash pad that will provide lots of summer fun for years to come. Over half of the \$200,000 cost has already been raised and St. Clair Township is matching all contributions. So far, a number of terrific community fundraising events have been held, including: a lemonade stand at Port Lambton Gala Days; a bake sale at Dalrae Orchards on Thanksgiving weekend; and a shopping fundraiser organized by a group of local women, featuring vendors from Lia Sophia, Tupperware, Epicure Selections, Thirty-One, and Jockey; and an in-house competition fundraiser hosted by Crossfit Wallaceburg. Donations are being gratefully accepted by contacting Anne at 519-677-1623 or going online to: <http://www.branderparksplashpad.com/donate.html>

MAS Homecraft quilt block competition

The Moore Agricultural Society Homecraft division is once again sponsoring a Quilt Block Competition. The entry fee and application must be received by March 15 at a cost of \$10, and completed blocks must be received by May 1 along with the completed entry certificate. For more information, call Donna at 519-882-4588 or Marie at 519-864-4016.

Weight loss group TOPS Corunna meets weekly

TOPS Corunna 5056 branch is a non-profit weight-loss group that meets every Tuesday at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Colborne Street in Corunna. Weigh-in is at 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. with a short meeting at 7 p.m. Drop in for a meeting or call 519-862-2185 or 519-862-4119. Everyone is welcome.

TOPS group meets Thursdays in Port Lambton

The Port Lambton TOPS weight loss group meets every Thursday night at the Port Lambton Community Hall. Weigh-in is from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., with the meeting and fellowship held from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. This support group is a good way to help you meet your New Year's resolution weight goals. For more information, call Margaret Ann at 519-677-5665 or just come out on Thursday nights.

Lambton Dragons invite challengers

The Lambton Dragons Sledge Hockey team invites any hockey team, sports group, or work group to come to the Mooretown Sports Complex on Sunday mornings to enjoy a friendly game with the Dragons. Extra sledges and equipment are available and the playing season is well underway. The first two weeks of play are free. To participate or for more information, call Karen or Jim McNeil at 519-862-4756.

Sombra farm stories are the subject of new book

Sombra Farms, Volume One, is now available for purchase at the Sombra Museum. The book documents 17 family stories about the early days of farming in Sombra Township. To contact the Sombra Museum about this book, call

519-892-3982.

Voice your concern over school issues

Anyone who has concerns or comments about local school issues can contact local school trustee Judy Krall at 519-882-1055 or via email at: jkrall@ciaccess.com.

Photo I.D. cards available

Anyone over age 16 who does not have a valid driver's license can obtain a government-issued photo I.D. card at the Corunna Motor Vehicle License office at 379 Lyndoch Street.

Pennies for Pavement program

Don't let spare change weigh you down. Donate it to the St. Clair River Trail Committee and let it make a difference when it helps fund the trail's upkeep and maintenance. Please drop off your spare pennies (and other spare jingly coins) at the following locations: Shaykin Bait Variety or the Canada Post office in Port Lambton or the Pic-N-Pay in Sombra Village. Every penny will be matched 2:1 by St. Clair Township Council. Invest your pennies in the good health of your community.

Handyman/Handywoman program helps seniors

Seniors who require help with household maintenance and minor repairs can call the United Way-funded Lambton Seniors Association (LSA) Handyman/Handywoman program. From yard work to minor household repair, house cleaning to snow removal, even shopping, a wide variety of services are offered at a reasonable cost. For more information, call the LSA at 519-339-8866 or 1-800-219-4717.

Sombra Optimists craft classes keep kids creative



The Sombra Township Optimist Club is keeping kids creative this winter with a series of free Saturday morning craft classes. As you can see, Gabe and Olivia have been developing their own visions of what the ideal snowman should look like. All kids are invited to enjoy these classes at the Port Lambton Community Hall on Stoddard Street from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the following Saturdays: Feb. 8, March 1, and April 15.

Photo submitted

Christmas spirit of generosity evident in St. Clair Township again in 2013



Community In Action *Christmas Wrap-up*



Mooretown-Courtright P.S. helped bring Christmas joy

Left: All of the schools in St. Clair Township did their part to ensure a bright Christmas for St. Clair Township's families in need. The student council, along with Mrs. Swan's Grade 7/8 class at Mooretown-Courtright Public School, collected and counted a total of one ton of food during the school's collection to benefit Operation Christmas Tree. The collection, done over a period of two weeks, also included new toys and clothes. Mrs. Martin's Grade 5/6 class, shown here with items collected, managed to accumulate the most non-perishable food items totaling 527.

OPP drive-through donation benefits needy

Above: The annual OPP drive-through donation event to benefit Operation Christmas Tree was a huge success once again this year. Generous local motorists braved bone-chilling cold, snowy weather to drop off donations that included: 453 toys, clothing, and personal items; 1,024 non-perishable food donations; and \$1,038 in cash, gift cards, and cheques. After the four-hour event, the donations were transported to the Moore Optimist Club's OCT collection area where they were used to help create much-needed Christmas hampers for the less fortunate of St. Clair Township Ward 1. Here, Donor Don Morency drops off food items during the OPP drive-through. Receiving the welcome donation are Operation Christmas Tree chair Shaun Antle, left, and his fellow volunteers Jamie Moore and Andrew Veale.

Thank you to all who contributed!

School children enjoy museum's Christmas program

The Moore Museum's annual *Old Fashioned Christmas* program hosted 918 students during the 2013 Christmas season, with 38 classes from 14 different schools getting a first-hand look at what a Victorian Christmas was like for children in days gone by. Thanks are extended to the volunteers who helped with the program and to the donors who supported it.

Thanks expressed for food bank support

The community food bank at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Corunna has recently undergone some renovations to increase the size and the amount of food the facility stocks.

Organizers say the current well-stocked shelves at the food bank are due to the support of everyone at Operation Christmas Tree and to those who donate so generously to the program each year. The food bank is open each week from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Vincent De Paul Society expresses thanks for generous community support

On behalf of the St. Vincent De Paul Society, I would like to thank the residents of St. Clair Township Ward 2 for the support we received in helping the less fortunate of our area at Christmas. Thanks are also extended to our community team, which consisted of local churches, schools, service clubs, industries, small businesses, volunteer firefighters, and young people of the area.

The food, gifts and monetary donations we received allowed us to assist 60 families. This could not have been accomplished without the support of our local area residents.

George Moran, President

St. Vincent De Paul Society, Port Lambton

Corunna Legion Levee kicks off 2014

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 hall was the scene of laughter and good wishes as the branch hosted its New Year's Levee on Jan. 1. Many members and visitors dropped by to start the year off on a happy note. Greeting those who attended the event were, seated: Branch 447 member Peg Cormier; Branch 447 1st Vice-President Marg Emery; Branch 447 Veterans' Services member Gerry Van Hartogh. Standing left: St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold and Royal Canadian Legion Zone A-4 Commander Laura Nicholls.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson



Fire Chief urges caution when using fireplaces and wood-burning appliances

Fireplaces and wood-burning appliances have become ever more popular in past years, not only for the pleasant mood they set in room but because soaring gas and electric heating costs have sent consumers scurrying to find cheaper alternatives.

Those who are familiar with the use of these items are usually familiar with the threats they pose and with the procedures and measures that must be taken to avoid danger. But people who are novices in the use of fireplace use and care need to educate themselves against the threats they pose if not used correctly, says St. Clair Township Fire Chief Walter Anderson.

Chief Anderson has issued some guidelines covering the use and care of these old-school heating devices. The first of these guidelines concerns the danger posed by a badly maintained fireplace and chimney.

"A fireplace, chimney, or other wood-burning appliance becomes dangerous when accumulated tar or creosote catches fire, or from uncontrolled burning or over-fueling," he said. He recommends that chimneys be cleaned and serviced at regular intervals by a professional.

However, other fireplace related fires occur when the fireplace itself is of substandard design or hasn't been installed correctly.

Safety measures cannot be stressed strongly enough. Since fireplaces are also dangerous because of the carbon monoxide (CO) they can produce, it's important to ensure that all smoke alarms and CO alarms in the residence are in good working order, and that an effective escape plan has been worked out to ensure all residents of the home know what to do in the event of a fire or other emergency.

The proper use of the fireplace requires that damper be fully open before the fire is started, and that it remains open until the ashes are cool to the touch.

Use small amounts of dry, well-seasoned wood to make the fire. Never overload the fireplace and never use charcoal starter fluids, gasoline, or any flammable substance to start fires.

When using artificial logs, burn only one at a time and follow instructions on the wrapping.

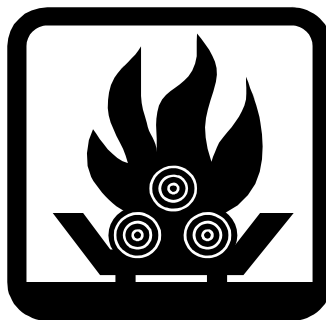
Don't store combustible materials such as paper or wood too close to the fireplace, and keep the flame contained using a screen in front of the fireplaces opening to protect children and to prevent embers from escaping and igniting carpets or other materials nearby.

When a fire is burning, never leave young children alone near it.

Make sure the fire is completely out before going to bed or leaving the house. And when disposing of the ashes, place them in a metal container and take them outside the house immediately.

A fire can be a source of great comfort on those cold, blustery winter nights, but peaceful enjoyment can turn to tragedy in the space of only a few minutes.

Chief Anderson says once a flame is ignited in a room, a process known as **flashover** can spread the flame in minutes. "A flashover is the near-simultaneous ignition of most of the directly exposed combustible material in an enclosed area," he said. "In homes with older style construction and furnishings, the flashover time would be about 15 to 18 minutes. That's the time you have from the start of the fire to the time the entire room and all of its contents



are ignited."

However, today's homes use a lot of synthetic materials in both the construction of the building and its contents, as well as a more open concept type of construction.

To increase your fire safety awareness, Chief Anderson has issued a challenge to readers of *The Beacon*. He is asking readers to consider how long a flashover would take from the start of the fire to the time when flashover occurs in a modern home. Is it: A. 7-8 minutes; B. 3-5 minutes; or C. 15-20 minutes?

Chief Anderson will reveal the answer to this important safety question in the March issue of *The Beacon*. If you answer correctly, your reward will be a heightened awareness of fire safety.

Corunna Rapids Family Health Team office offers health programs

The following sessions are being offered at the Rapids Family Health Team clinic located in the Shell Health Centre, 233 Cameron Street, in Corunna.

There is no charge for participation and sessions are open to anyone living in St. Clair Township. Space is limited and to participate, you must register. If the team is unable to accommodate you for the day of your choice, you will be put on a waiting list for future sessions.

For more information, go to www.rapidsfhteam.ca. To register, call 519-813-9800 and speak to the receptionist.

Living with Diabetes

This is a two-hour session that provides a general overview of diabetes. We will discuss some of the most common myths about diabetes, learn what “good control” is, and discuss some of the things you can do to manage diabetes. The session is led by a Diabetes Educator. This session will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 4 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. or Thursday, Feb. 6 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Diabetes Healthy Eating and Physical Activity

This is a two-hour session for people who have already attended the *Living with Diabetes* class or who have had past education on the basics of diabetes and want more information on diet. We will discuss the basics of healthy eating, what types of food affect your blood sugar levels, how to read food labels, when and how much to eat, and how to increase your physical activity level. The session is led by a Registered Dietitian. The session will be held Monday, Feb. 10 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. or Monday, Feb. 10 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Boosting Balance and Bone Health

Boosting Balance and Bone Health is a four-week program designed to gradually improve balance and strength to avoid falls and maintain independence, as well as educate individuals on keeping bones healthy. The group exercise and education program will be run by a registered occupational therapist. One hour is designated for group exercise and one hour is designated for education on bone health. Education sessions include an overview of bone health, dietary and medication practices to maintain strong bones, and home safety tips. Individuals who are able to safely take part in a supervised exercise program are invited to register. Sessions will be held on Wednesdays beginning Feb. 5 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for four weeks. Space is limited.

Healthy Weight by Healthy Means

Is your New Year's resolution to eat better and to lose weight?

Spending on weight loss products is estimated to reach more than \$134 million in 2014 (U.S. data). However, of the hundreds of products available on the market, only a handful can produce even modest weight loss.

Save yourself some money and the frustration of filtering through all of the ads that promise miracles. The Rapids Family Health Team is here to help support you in learning about what is beneficial in managing weight, and warding off diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

Healthy Weight by Healthy Means is a five-week program designed for anyone who wants to put fad diets behind them and to learn about the healthy, reliable way to achieve better health. Each week, a Registered Dietitian discusses a different topic with the group. Each participant will receive a copy of a manual to keep. The next session will be held Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for five weeks beginning Feb. 27.

It's Food and You seminar series

The Rapids Family Health Team Corunna site is piloting a new seminar series. Beginning in March, 2014, every three months, a Registered Dietitian will offer a seminar on the hot topic of nutrition. Relevant information on the topic will be presented, products and resources that suit the topic of discussion will be available, and a question-and-answer period will be offered. Everyone is welcome but we appreciate pre-registration so that adequate seating can be provided. Please call 519-813-9800 for more information or to register. The first seminar in the series will be: *The Weight Loss Industry: What you need to know*. It will be held on Thursday, March 6 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Quit Smoking workshop offered

A two-hour session for people who are thinking of quitting or are ready to quit using tobacco will be offered on Friday, Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to noon. Strategies and methods for quitting, such as cutting back, using nicotine replacement therapy, and using prescribed medications will be discussed. In addition, the workshop will also cover how to find ways to overcome barriers to quitting, how to make a quit plan, how to manage withdrawal symptoms, and how to prevent a relapse. Participants are also welcome to schedule individual appointments to receive further support and information from one of our nurse educators. The workshop is slated for Friday, Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Lab open daily during the week

The lab at the Shell Health Centre at 233 Cameron Street is open on week days from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for all residents of St. Clair Township.

United Way of Sarnia-Lambton reaches goal

The United Way of Sarnia-Lambton announced on Dec. 22 that the 2013 campaign goal of \$1,870,000 had been reached.

Campaign revenues will be used to help support 35 programs provided by 22 regularly-funded agencies of the United Way. In addition, because of the success of the campaign, more funding will be available for the Venture Grant Program, which is designed to fund programs and services that may find themselves in need of funding based in increased need for service.

Lambton County Local Food Game online

Lambton County has begun the implementation of its new Integrated Community Sustainability Plan with the production of an online community engagement game, *Lambton Eats Locally*. The game can be found at: https://communityplanit.org/lambton_eats_local/

The game is also available through the County's Website: www.lambtononline.ca - click on “Government” - then click on the “Sustainable Lambton” tab.

Still More Around The Township

From page 11

ry Wednesday afternoon at 1 p.m. and Pepper every Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the hall located at 1533 Fourth Street in Courtright. Everyone is welcome to attend and try out their card skills.

Cribbage played at Corunna United Church

Cribbage is now being played every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Corunna United Church on Hill Street. Come out, test your skills, and enjoy a morning of fun.

Messy Church Tuesdays at Brigden United

Messy Church is being held on the last Tuesday of each month through June, 2014 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Brigden United Church. Come and join congregation members for a fun and messy evening of worship, crafts and supper. Children must be accompanied by an adult or grandparents.

Coffee club meets at Thompson Gardens

The Corunna Coffee Club meets at Thompson Gardens Monday to Saturday at 9 a.m. The club is open to everyone.

Looking at the months ahead...

Bluewater Sharks Adult Recreational Hockey Tournament slated

A women's and men's recreational non-competitive hockey tournament sponsored by the Bluewater Sharks is slated for the weekend of April 25 through 27 at the RBC Centre in Sarnia. The 4th Annual Women's 18 & Over tourney, the 3rd Annual Men's 19 & Over tourney, and the 2nd Annual Men's 35 & Over tourney all begin Friday evening. The cost is \$775 for the weekend. For more information, call Ed at 519-344-8624 (emarcy@sympatico.ca) or Lance at 519-344-2205 (lmarcy@cogeco.ca). Applications are available

at: www.bluewatersharkshockey.com.

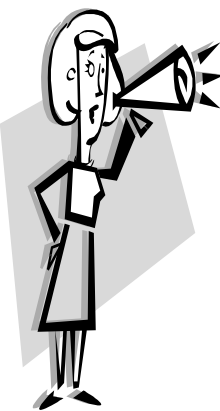
Corunna Legion presents Yuk Yuks On Tour

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 proudly presents the live stand-up comedy *Yuk Yuks On Tour* on Saturday, May 3. You'll laugh so hard you'll cry, so bring a good supply of tissues! Tickets go on sale on Feb. 1 at the Corunna Branch 447 hall, intersection of Albert and Beckwith Streets. The cost of \$20 each for non-members and \$18 for members. This group is well-known and tickets are bound to go fast, so order early. Doors will open at 7 p.m. with the show planned for 8 p.m. *Note: This show contains adult content and entertainment.*

Victorian Tea at Moore Museum

Imagine it's spring again and that you're at the Moore Museum enjoying warm, delicious home-baked scones with tea, coffee or juice as you attend the annual Victorian Tea. This scrumptious event is slated for Sunday, May 18 from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the charming Victorian cottage that graces the museum site. Admission will be \$7 per adult, \$3 per child, and \$2 for pre-schoolers.

Get in touch with *The Beacon*



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

Email:

beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca

Local Ontario Early Years Satellite Sarnia-Lambton locations

The OEYC Sarnia-Lambton is a **free** family drop-in program operated by Sombra Township Child Care Inc. It is part of the Ontario government's commitment to families with children ages 0 to 6 years of age. This program provides a learning environment in which parents and children can interact and learn from each other.

Best Start Hub - Riverview Central School

3926 St. Clair Parkway, Port Lambton - 519-892-3151

Hours of Operation

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Best Start Hub - St. Joseph's School, Corunna

535 Birchbank Drive, Corunna - 519-862-5071, ext. 224

Hours of Operation

Monday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. & 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Brigden United Church

2420 Jane Street, Brigden - 519-892-3151

Hours of Operation

Friday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

All OEYC programs are free of charge. For a complete listing of hours and parent/caregiver workshops, go online to: www.ontarioearlyyears.ca.

More Around The Township

From page 12

where the three finalists from the January and February contests will sing for the championship. To date, the contest has drawn a large crowd, but there's always room to come out, sit back, and enjoy the music and singers.

Sombra Museum offers lecture series

The Sombra Museum's popular winter lecture series is underway on the last Tuesday of the month at the Sombra Museum Cultural Centre meeting room, 3476 St. Clair Parkway in Sombra. The series continues in 2014 with *Arctic Safari*. Don and Kris Lee will be on hand on Feb. 25 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. to give the audience insights into Canada's far North. While many people travel South, the Lee's addition to the lands of the Arctic Circle have lured them North six times. Discover icebergs, fjords, wildlife, Inuit cultures, and life aboard Adventure Canada's *MV Clipper Adventurer*. And on March 25 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., enjoy the Antique and Classic Boat Society's presentation of *Pleasure Boat Builders of the Wallaceburg Area*. Admission is \$10 per lecture, three lectures for \$25 or \$50 for all of the lectures. Student admission is \$7 per lecture, \$16 for three, or \$35 for all of the lectures. For more tickets and information, call 519-892-3982. The Sombra Museum can be found at: [facebook.com/SombraMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SombraMuseum) and twitter.com/SombraMuseum.

moore.optimist.tracy@gmail.com for more information.

Corunna Legion February general meeting set

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 will hold its monthly general meeting on Tuesday, March 4 at 7 p.m. The meeting will include a proposal with discussions to follow on: 1. A permanent extended patio off the banquet hall; and 2. An extension to the club side patio. Legion members are requested to attend to express their views and recommendations.

World Day of Prayer planned

The annual World Day of Prayer, hosted this year by All Saints Anglican Church, Lyndoch and Hill Streets in Corunna, will be held on Friday, March 7 at 2 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and participate in this community service and fellowship. This year's theme, written by the women of Egypt, is *Streams In The Desert*.

St. Patrick's Country Jamboree slated

The St. Patrick's Country Jamboree is slated for Sunday, March 9 at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall. Doors open at noon and the event will feature music, dancing, and dinner to be served at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person and a cash bar will be available. All musicians are welcome to participate. For more information, call the Brigden Fair office at 519-864-1197.

Annual beef dinner set

The annual beef dinner, hosted by the Moore Agri-

cultural Society (MAS) (Home of the Brigden Fair) board of directors and Homecraft Division, is set for Sunday, March 30, with seating between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall with tickets priced at \$15 per adult, \$6 per child ages six through 10, and free for children ages five years and under. Admission is by advance tickets only. They are available from any Homecraft Division or MAS member, or at the Brigden Fair office, 519-864-1197.

Indoor walking offered in Mooretown and Brigden

Indoor walking and fitness classes are held in Mooretown every Wednesday and Friday morning from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Mooretown Sports Complex. Classes in Brigden are held every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Brigden Fairgrounds exhibition hall. These classes are FREE and participants are asked to bring indoor walking shoes. For information and to register, please call 519-344-3017, ext. 237. This program is sponsored by the West Lambton Community Health Centre, the Moore Agricultural Society, and Ontario's Community Health Centres.

Courtright Friendship Club plays cards

The Courtright Friendship Club plays euchre eve-

See, Still More, page 10

Courtright firefighters host Santa's visit

Volunteer firefighters from the St. Clair Township Fire Department's Courtright station hosted Santa during his recent pre-Christmas visit in December. Local children, including Aiden, great-grandson of local resident Peggy Shand, was thrilled with his ride on a fire truck as well as getting to meet Sparky the fire dog and Santa Claus. Mrs. Shand says Gil Hummell and all of the station's volunteer firefighters did a wonderful job of promoting fire safety and prevention while the children were at the event, and she expressed thanks to them for making the day memorable for their young visitors.



Photo submitted

Aiden is shown here aboard a vintage fire truck during the Courtright volunteer firefighter's Christmas event on Dec. 15.

Around The Township

Corunna Legion to host memorial darts tourney

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 will host the Barb Griffin Memorial Ladies open dart tournament on Saturday, Feb. 1, with registration from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., and play beginning at noon. The tourney will be set up as singles - doubles teams at a cost of \$7 per event. Food and refreshments will be available and all monies will be returned as prizes. For more information call the Legion hall at 519-862-1240.

Valentine's lunch planned

The Lady Martha Rebekah Lodge will host a hot Valentine's luncheon on Tuesday, Feb. 4 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Brigden Optimists' Hall. The cost is \$10 per meal, take-out meals will be available, and everyone is welcome.

Weekly study group offered

Parkway Pentecostal Church, 551 Murray Drive in Corunna, will host *Alpha*, a free weekly study group, starting Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 6 p.m. at the church. The 15-week study will address questions such as: Who is Jesus?, How do I pray?, Is there more to life than this?, and How does God guide us? Dinner will be provided and child care will be available. To register for this study, call the church office at 519-862-3380.

Euchre parties slated for Sombra

A series of euchre parties are slated for the Sombra Community Hall at 1 p.m. on the following Fridays: Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28; March 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11, and 25.

Kids Craft Classes offered in Port Lambton

The Sombra Township Optimists will hold the free spring *Kids Craft Classes* for children ages five through 11 on Saturdays, Feb. 8, March 1, and April 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The classes will be held at the Port Lambton Community Hall on Stoddard Street. To register, call Optimist President Johanne Leach at 519-677-5716 (jleach@bell.net) or Louise Reek at 519-892-3459 (lekreek@gmail.com).

Perch Fry and Dance in Corunna

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 will host a Perch Fry and Dance on Saturday, Feb. 8. The menu will include *Jolly Roger's* seafood chowder, perch, baked potato, baked beans, and trimmings. The dinner will be served from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and dancing will be from 7:30 p.m. to Midnight, with music by *The Plank Road Hammers*. Limited tickets are available at a cost of \$18 per member or \$20 per non-member and advance tickets are now on sale at the Legion hall, Beckwith and Albert Streets. Call 519-862-1240 for more information. Proceeds from this event will help support local minor sports, youth clubs and more.

Valentine Jamboree set for Brigden

Take your sweetheart or just treat yourself to the *Valentine's Country Jamboree* slated for the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall on Sunday, Feb. 9. The jamboree will fea-

ture an afternoon of music, dancing and dinner with doors open at noon, music at 1 p.m. and dinner at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person and a cash bar will be available. All musicians are welcome to participate. For more information, call the Brigden Fair office at 519-864-1197.

Annual meeting for Riverside Cemetery

The annual meeting for Riverside Cemetery is slated for Thursday, Feb. 13 at the Riverside Restaurant at 1 p.m. For more information, call Dennis at 519-892-3316.

Family Fun Day in Courtright

Family Fun Day will be held at Airey Lanes in Courtright on Monday, Feb. 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy free 10 pin bowling at 11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m. A limited number of people can play during each time slot, so please register early. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and chips will be provided at the Courtright Community Hall at a cost of \$1 each, and beverages, tea and coffee will be provided at no cost. This event, celebrating Family Day, is sponsored by the Optimist Club of Moore. To register, call Mary Lou at 519-862-3950 before Feb. 13. Student volunteers are welcome.

Farmer's Breakfast supper set

A *Farmer's Breakfast* supper fundraiser is set for Sixth Line Church on Moore Line on Tuesday, Feb. 18 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The menu will include pancakes, syrup, sausage, and scrambled eggs and admission will be by free will offering. Proceeds will help to fund the Mission Dominican Republic March Break 2014 trip, which is a joint effort of the Sixth Line, Courtright, and Brigden United Churches. The event will be hosted by the Mission Dominican Republic 2014 team.

Upcoming activities set for Cruickshank Community Centre

Several ongoing activities are slated for the Cruickshank Community Centre this winter. These include: Bridge on Thursdays at 1 p.m.; Euchre on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. costing \$3 per session which includes light refreshments; and Scrabble on Fridays at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join the fun playing the game or games of their choice.

Legion hosts jam sessions in Corunna

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 is hosting a series of musical jam sessions on the last Saturday of each month through May, 2014. All jams will **start at 1 p.m.** and everyone is welcome to come, play along, or listen to some great entertainment. There is no cover charge and food is available. At the February jam sessions, enjoy another edition of the amateur singing contest. Contestants must register at the Corunna Branch 447 Legion hall one week ahead of the event and, if the singer wishes to have musical accompaniment, it should be requested at the time of registration. The contest finale will be held at the May Jam Session,

