



The St. Clair Township
BEACON

Issue 3

Volume 7

March 2014

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day
March 17

King of the River



The St. Clair River is currently playing host to a wide variety of water fowl as well as the royalty of the avian kingdom. In addition to numerous varieties of ducks and swans, several bald eagles have been inhabiting Stag Island and patrolling the river in search of tasty morsels that include fish and ducks. This majestic male was spotted off-shore in front of the Shell Canada facility north of Corunna where groups of bird-watchers from all around the area have been training their telephoto lenses and long-range binoculars on the huge birds as they rest and hunt among the ice floes. Eagles were once a common sight in this area, but as water quality deteriorated decades ago, they became a rare sight. Their return is proof that the quality of the water in the St. Clair River has improved significantly.

According to Native North American lore, the Thunderbird, a powerful mythical eagle, could create thunder and lightning simply by beating its wings but, so far, all is peaceful on Stag Island.



Graceful white swans are also plentiful where open water can be found, although the river ice provides effective camouflage for them during their daytime swims. Left: These beautiful birds were photographed just north of Sombra.

*Photos by
Bonnie Stevenson*

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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

MPAC representatives to answer property assessment questions

A representative from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) will be in attendance at the Township of St. Clair office on Thursday, March 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the council chambers. The representative will meet with residents and answer questions pertaining to the assessment of their property.

The last date to file an appeal on your assessment is March 31, 2014.

Council hears report on status of Clean Harbors environmental assessment

The Township of St. Clair's environmental solicitor, Peter Pickfield, attended council on Feb. 3 to update the status of the Clean Harbors environmental assessment progress. He advised that the evaluation report on alternatives was released in January, 2014 and a peer review budget for the peer review of this document was prepared, submitted, and approved by Clean Harbors in the last week of January. A report from Mr. Pickfield and the peer review team regarding this process will be presented at a meeting of council in March. Also released was an existing conditions review report the peer review team is currently reviewing, and this report will also be available for council's consideration at the same March meeting.

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. March 2014 council meetings are slated for: Monday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, March 17 at 5 p.m. (following the Committee of the Whole meeting at 3 p.m.)

Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021 for more information.

County passes wind energy resolution

After discussion on the controversial matter of wind turbines, Lambton County Council has passed a resolution declaring the county an unwilling host to wind energy projects.



St. Clair Township 2014 Property Tax Due Dates

**The 2014 Interim Tax due dates are
March 5 and May 7, 2014**

The Interim Tax Notices were mailed out on the first week of February, 2014.

Most chartered banks and financial institutions will accept payment of your current taxes on or before the due date (any bank charges will be the responsibility of the ratepayer.)

Tax payments by cheque can be mailed to the return address provided on the tax notice.

The following methods of Tax and/or Water payments may be utilized:

- Automatic Bank Machines
- Telephone and Internet payments through bank
- Payment at most financial institutions
- Post-dated cheques
- Counter services, cash, cheque or debit
- Mail the payment or use the drop box at:
St. Clair Township Civic Centre
1155 Emily Street
Mooretown, Ontario
N0N 1M0

**Pre-authorized payment plans
are also available and encouraged.**

**St. Clair Township Tax Department
519-867-2024**

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



Election Watch 2014

In the coming months leading up to the October 27, 2014 municipal election, *The Beacon* will include a candidate statement as each new candidate files 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.

Candidates registered to date include: Steve Arnold (Mayor); Darrell Randell (Councillor).

Candidate statement

The second candidate to file nomination papers is in-

cumbent Ward 2 Councillor **Darrell Randell**, who will run for re-election to that position. He says, "I have been a part of previous Councils in the former Sombra Township (Ward 2) and in St. Clair Township. During those terms, we have systematically prioritized costs and risk as they relate to protection and service for residents. I am confident that the numerous projects provide good value to St. Clair Township residents to make this township a safer and more enjoyable place to live. I know the commitment required to sign on as Councillor again for four more years and I know there are some serious challenges ahead during the next term."

Committee of Adjustment appointment

St. Clair Township Council is inviting any interested candidates from Ward One (north St. Clair Township) to apply to fill a vacancy on its Committee of Adjustment. The Committee has approximately 11 evening meetings per year to hear applications and make decisions on planning issues such as severances and minor variances to the Township Zoning By-law.

Interested applicants can direct inquiries or written applications to the Clerk's Department, 1155 Emily Street, Mooretown, Ontario, N0N 1M0 or 519-867-2021.

The deadline for submission is 4 p.m., March 13, 2014.

Winter parking by-law in force

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



2014 Municipal election registration

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

**ST. CLAIR
TOWNSHIP
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.



HERITAGE CORNER



Museum prepares for another great season

Volunteers at the Moore Museum have been busy this winter. One important project they've been working on is the creation of a new reserve collection (storage) for the textile and framed works collections. Reserve collection storage areas are vital to a museum because they protect artefacts from light and handling, as well as provide for variety in the items on display.

Volunteers are currently constructing and painting storage racks for rolled storage of the quilt collection.

When the museum opens its doors for another great season this spring, much of the work its dedicated volunteers have done this winter will not be immediately evident. However, you can be sure your visit will have been made better and more enriching because of the hard work and long hours the volunteers have put into keeping the facility safe, well-maintained, and visitor-ready.

Right: Moore Museum volunteer Dave Beers works to replace floor joists inside the one-room school house.



Photo submitted

Local libraries offer lots of kid-friendly fun in March

The Lambton County Library branches in St. Clair Township have lots of fun planned for the young set in March.

During March Break, the Brigden library branch will host *Puppets On The Go* in "Just Go, Go, Go!" featuring the Lambton County Library Puppeteers. Drop in and enjoy the show.

Popular programs are also on the agenda as follows (pre-registration required unless noted):

Brigden (519-864-1142): **Lego Club**, (school-aged drop-in) 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25; **Tales For Tots**, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesdays, March 19, 26; **Book Club**

(adult), 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 26.

Corunna (519-862-1132): **Tales For Tots**, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Monday, March 17, 24, 31; **French Story Hour**, (preschool drop-in), 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Wednesdays, March 19, 26; **Teen Book Club**, (drop-in), 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 25; **Thompson Gardens Book Club**, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday, March 3; **YMCA Settlement Services**, (drop-in), 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday, March 17; **St. Clair Photography Club**, (adult) 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday, March 3; **Adult Book Club**, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday, March 31.

Courtright (519-867-2712): **Book Club**, (adult drop-in), 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Wednesday, March 19.

Mooretown (519-867-2823): **Sat-**

urday Morning Crafts, (children - drop-in), 10 a.m. to Noon, March 15.

Sombra (519-892-3711): **Tales For Tots**, (drop-in), 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., Wednesdays, March 19, 26; **TAG Meeting**, (teen drop-in), 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday, March 18.

Wilkesport (519-864-4000): **TAG**, (teen-pre-register), 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 5; **Games Day**, (age 13+ drop-in), 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 12; **Teen Book Club**, (drop-in), 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Monday, March 10; **Tutorial Blitz and Gadgets** (electronic gadgets and software info), (adult drop-in), 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 6.

For more information about any of these programs, call your local library branch.

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.



Lambton Eats Locally food game available 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.

Get in shape now the at Mooretown Sports Complex

Spring 2014 Swim Lesson session

Whether you want to learn to swim or improve your technique, you can do it at the Mooretown Sports Complex. Spring 2014 swim lesson sessions will begin the week of April 7. Register now.

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.



March Break activities

Kids and their families can enjoy skating and swimming during March Break. **Public skating** will be held Monday to Thursday from Noon to 1 p.m. and Friday from 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. at a cost of \$2.25 per child, \$3.25 per adult, or \$6.50 per family. **Recreational swimming** will be offered every day from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at a cost of \$2.25 per child, \$3.25 per adult, or \$6.50 per family. *Reminder: Non- or weak swimmers unable to comfortably swim two widths of the pool, all children under 48 inches tall, and all children under seven years of age must*

have an adult in the water and within arms reach of them. Each adult can be responsible for a maximum of two children.

Arena floor use

Are you interested in starting a children's, men's or ladies' ball hockey, inline hockey, or lacrosse league? The staff at the Mooretown Sports Complex can help by taking names of those who are interested in playing so that you can organize your league. Contact us at 519-867-2651 for more information and available times.

Moore Skate Club Carnival

The Moore Skate Club will host its annual skate carnival on Saturday, April 12. Enjoy the show as club members use their skills and talent to entertain and amaze. For more information, go to www.moore skateclub.ca.

Fitness centre

The fitness centre is ready to help you work towards the good health and fitness level you've always wanted. You can work out, swim, use the sauna, and soak in the hot tub. Call the Mooretown Sports Complex for more information.

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

St. Clair Parkway Golf Course will open soon.

Watch for the opening announcement at www.stclairparkwaygolf.com



Silver Stick® staff and volunteers named Warden's Citizen of the Month

Each month in Lambton County, the Warden's Citizen of the Month is chosen. In January, the "citizen" was, in fact, a dedicated group of over 650 dedicated Silver Stick® staff members and volunteers.

In a ceremony held at the Forest International Silver Stick® Tournament in January, County Warden Todd Case presented the Citizen of the Month award plaque to Silver Stick® Hockey Association Commissioner Ira Downer. The plaque will be on display at the Sarnia-Lambton Sports Hall of Fame at the Clearwater Arena in Sarnia.

Over 340 teams participated in more than 650 Silver Stick® games in Lambton County this season, some right here in St. Clair Township at the Mooretown Sports Complex. Other tournaments, featuring both boys and girls teams, were played in Alvinston, Petrolia, Watford, Forest and Sarnia.

"Silver Stick® weekends are woven into the social fabric of our communities, many have been in existence for decades," said Warden Case. "These tournaments provide a huge economic boost to our communities and could not get off the ground without the hard work of dedicated staff and volunteers."

In accepting the award on behalf of the local Silver Stick® association staff and volunteers, Mr. Downer said, "The award is warmly received by the local Silver Stick® community. We thank Warden Case for the acknowledgement and would like to recognize the staff, volunteers, service clubs, Legion branches, and local businesses who invest in these tournaments and their communities."

The Warden's Citizen of the Month award recognizes residents and organizations in Lambton County who are known for their positive contributions to the 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

Community Contact

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.

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. Donations are being gratefully accepted by contacting Anne at 519-677-1623 or going online to: <http://www.branderparksplashpad.com/donate.html>

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.

Lambton County Historical Society to meet

The next meeting of the Lambton County Historical Society will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Forest Branch hall, 58 Albert Street in Forest. The meeting will include a potluck supper. Those who attend are asked to bring a prepared dish to share and their own plate and cutlery. The annual general meeting will follow. The Society aims to stimulate public interest in Lambton history through activities such as collecting, preserving, exhibiting and/or publishing historical documents and artifacts in ways that highlight and connect with our historical past. The group holds regular meetings from March to June, and September to November, on the fourth Thursday of each month. Meetings are held at various locations across Lambton County.

The Lambton County Historical Society welcomes visitors and new members to meetings. Come out and enjoy learning more about the rich history of the county you live in.

2014 Brigden Fair parade needs you!

Everyone loves a parade, so why not be part of the team that makes the Brigden Fair parade such a tremendous success every year?

The Moore Agricultural Society (MAS) is seeking individuals to help organize the 2014 Brigden Fair Parade, set for Saturday, Oct. 11 (Thanksgiving Weekend).

For more information, please contact the Fair office at 519-864-1197.



Cruickshank Centre a hub of socialization and fun for local seniors

St. Clair Township is home to many older adults who value opportunities to socialize, enjoy new experiences, and make new friends.

The Cruickshank Community Centre at 198 Beckwith Street (Thompson Gardens) in Corunna offers many such opportunities to all adults age 55 and over, not just residents. The centre offers a wide range of enjoyable activities on a regular basis, including: a morning coffee social, euchre, bridge, fun bingo, board and card games, movies, shuffleboard, sing-alongs, and afternoon tea. It is also a venue used for wellness activities such as Forever Fit exercise classes and Chair exercise classes, as well as special interest courses and seminars.

The centre also arranges bus trips, special interest speakers, holiday celebrations, musical entertainment, and other social outings throughout the year.

A monthly calendar listing dates and times of these activities can be obtained from the Cruickshank Centre office. Information on facility rentals for special occasions and much more is also available on request.

Denise Olah, Recreation Coordinator for the Cruickshank Centre, says the needs of older adults are well-served when they take advantage of the many activities and services offered at the facility. "The Cruickshank Community Centre is a wonderful adult facility that allows participants to enjoy many activities which benefit their physical, social, and spiritual needs," she said. "Whether you like



When it's time for tea, a lively group of folks gather at the Cruickshank Centre to enjoy refreshments, a sweet or two, and some great company. On this snowy Thursday afternoon, Centre Recreation Coordinator Denise Olah kept the tea flowing for the group which included: Jean Phipps, left, Betty Miles, and Eva Dalrymple. *Photo by Bonnie Stevenson*

card games, musical entertainment, or just getting together with some good friends, it's all about enriching the lives of those around us."

Hours of operations for the Cruickshank Centre are: Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon.

Cruickshank Centre is a not-for-profit organization owned and operated by the Moore Presbyterian Foundation and is a recognized Elderly Person's centre within the Ontario Ministry of

Health and Long-Term Care. It is largely funded by grants from the provincial and municipal governments, but program revenues also help to offset costs incurred with some activities and donations are always welcomed.

For over three decades, the Cruickshank Centre has been enriching the lives of older adults in St. Clair Township.

For more information about Cruickshank Centre, call 519-862-1628 or go online to: cruickshankcentre.com.

Operation Christmas Tree and Moore Optimist Club thanks donors for generosity

The Optimist Club of Moore and the Operation Christmas Tree (OCT) Committee extends sincere appreciation to the residents of St. Clair Township for making the 2013 campaign a great success. Their generosity made it possible for us to help 123 families, including 135 adults and 92 children, have a brighter Christmas.

The program would not have been a success without the assistance of individuals and organization in our community, so we would like to express our appreciation to: St. Clair Township for supplying the venue to host the program; St. Clair Township Fire Department and Knights of Columbus for delivering our Christmas hampers; OPP Corunna detachment for hosting a



very successful drive-through collection event; the Girl Guides for helping to sort the food from the OPP drive-through; the ladies of the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 for hosting the OCT kick-off Poor Boy Lunch fundraiser; all of the schools in north St. Clair Township for collecting food for the OCT program; all individuals and businesses that helped collect items and prepare the hampers for delivery.

Once again, the generosity and assistance of this community is greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with these good friends and neighbours again next year.

Fred Strickland
Operation Christmas Tree Chairman

Optimist Club of Moore to host oratorical contest for students

The Optimist Club of Moore is encouraging area students to speak their minds on the topic of "How My Passions Impact The World" as part of the Optimist International Oratorical Contest for 2014-2015 year.

Local students' speeches will be judged based on content and presentation to determine the winners. Club winners will receive monetary awards and the top two speakers will be sent to the regional level contest. If successful at that level, they will progress to the district level for the opportunity to win a \$2,500 scholarship.

The contest will be held on Thursday, March 25 at Corunna United Church on Lyndoch Street. Speeches must be a minimum of four minutes in length and a maximum of five minutes. All rules will be listed on the entry form. Club prizes will be: \$100 for first place; \$75 for second place; \$50 for third place; medallions for all participants. There will be a trophy for the winner to keep at home or a their school for one year.

The first and second place winner will participate in the regional contest on Saturday, May 17 in Courtright. The top six will move on to the district contest in Point Edward on May 31.

The contest is open to students under the age of 19 as of Dec. 31, 2014 (birth certificate or passport required to confirm

age) and who have not yet graduated from high school or the equivalent. All students in Lambton County are invited to participate.

"As they prepare for their future, many of our local students need experience expressing their thoughts and opinions to an audience," said Club President Mary Lou Abrams. "The Oratorical Contest challenges them to do that and also offers an opportunity for scholarships. In this way, our club hopes to bring out the best in each of them and help them achieve their goals for the future."

The deadline to hand in the prepared speeches is March 18, 2014. Students wishing to participate in the oratorical contest can find out more about the contest and obtain an entry form by contacting Tracy Kingston at 519-862-1193 or online at: moore.optimist.tracy@gmail.com or at www.mooreoptimist.ca.

The Optimist Club of Moore has been participating in the Optimist Oratorical Contest for over 30 years and has been active in the community since 1967.

Bilingual judge needed

A bilingual judge is being sought for this year's contest. Anyone who would like more information about judging duties, etc. can contact Tracy Kingston (see contact information above).

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.

Make it your business to be prepared for fire and emergency situations

*An on-going safety series by Chief Walter Anderson
St. Clair Township Fire Department*

In the February issue of *The Beacon*, we described what a flashover was and learned that older-style homes and furnishings take about 15 to 18 minutes to reach the flashover stage after a fire has started. However, today's homes are constructed with and furnished with a lot of synthetic materials. The quiz included with that column asked what the flashover time would be for a fire in a modern home and it gave three choices: A. 7-8 minutes; B. 3-5 minutes; or C. 15-20 minutes.

ANSWER: 3-5 minutes.

If you and your family were asleep and the smoke alarm went off, you would have three to five minutes to get up, get outside, and get clear of the residence, hopefully to meet at a safe, predetermined spot. Could you do it?

Remember to practice fire safety with your family to help prevent fires from happening. Ensure all smoke alarms are

functioning properly and that the inside of the units are free of dust and cobwebs. Have an escape plan that offers at least two ways everyone can exit the building safely. Practice your plan with everyone, even guests and sleep-overs. And if you are building a new residence, inquire about residential sprinkler systems and the benefits of having one.



March Safety Quiz

St. Clair Township has a total of six fire stations. Response time is the time it takes between when the alarm sounds to the time firefighters arrive on the scene. What do you think the average response time is for the St. Clair Township Fire Department stations? Is it: A. Less than 6 minutes; B. 6 to 10 minutes; or C. More than 10 minutes?

For the answer, check out the April issue of *The Beacon*.

In the meantime, please make it your business to be safe!

Take ownership of your health with the Rapids Family Health Team

March 2014 program schedule

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, March 4 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.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, reading 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, March 10 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. OR 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

Chronic Pain Self-Management

This is a series of six sessions of three hours each for adults with chronic pain issues including, but not limited to: chronic joint or muscle pain (eg. neck, back, shoulder, knee); fibromyalgia; whiplash injuries; repetitive strain injuries; neuropathic pain; arthritis; chronic migraines; etc. These sessions will allow you to discuss topics related to managing pain in your daily life with people who are also learning to manage their chronic pain. The program covers topics such as: pacing activity and rest; healthy eating; relaxation; physical activity (including the *Mov-*

ing Easy Program, which consists of light stretching exercises); problem-solving, goal-setting, and action plans; communication and communicating about pain. Attendees are asked to wear comfortable clothing and to bring any props or devices they need to feel comfortable, such as pillows, cushions, or a foot rest. Caregivers are also encouraged to register and attend. The series starts Tuesday, April 8 to Tuesday, May 13 (weekly on Tuesdays for six weeks) from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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 and pre-registration is appreciated so seating for all can be arranged. 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. We will discuss strategies and methods for quitting, such as cutting back, using nicotine replacement therapy, and using prescribed medications. We will also work on finding ways to overcome barriers to quitting, how to make a quit plan, managing 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 next session is slated for Friday, March 28 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.

Meals-On-Wheels program serves Lambton County seniors/disabled

March is *Meals-On-Wheels* Awareness month. The program, co-ordinated locally by the Lambton Elderly Outreach (LEO), makes frozen meals available for home delivery throughout Lambton County, providing seniors and people with disabilities with nourishing meals that help them live comfortably in their own homes. Lorraine Barr, LEO Community Support Coordinator, says there are no minimum order requirements and the meals are delivered by volunteers to meal recipients twice each month.

The meals are prepared at Lambton Meadowview villa in Petrolia. For more information regarding frozen Meals-On-Wheels delivery, call Lambton Elderly Outreach at 1-800-265-0203 or 519-845-1353.



Long-time Lambton Elderly Outreach volunteer Jim DeGurse loads up his truck at Lambton Meadowview Villa to make another Meals-On-Wheels food delivery to a Lambton County client. Mr. DeGurse is also a councillor for the Township of St. Clair.

Still More Around The Township

From page 11

for 8 p.m. *Note: This show contains adult content and entertainment.*

Mother's Day brunch in Brigden

Celebrate Mother's Day with a sumptuous brunch in Brigden in the Brigden Fairgrounds exhibition hall. This Moore Agricultural Society event will be held on Sunday, May 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The menu will include: bacon, eggs, hashbrowns, sausage, pancakes, ham, scalloped potatoes, toast, muffins, fruit cocktail, and juice. For more information, please call the fair office at 519-864-1197 or check out the MAS Facebook or Web sites.

Victorian Tea at Moore Museum

Spring is finally on the way and it will soon be time once again to head for the Moore Museum to enjoy warm, delicious home-baked scones with tea, coffee or juice at 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.



MAS quilt block deadline

The deadline for submission to the Moore Agricultural Society Homecraft division quilt block competition is May 1. *For more details, see Community Contact, page 6.*

Ham dinner to benefit Med Outreach

The annual ham dinner fundraiser to benefit Med Outreach will be held at the Corunna United Church on Sunday, May 4 starting at 5 p.m. For tickets, call Sylvia at 519-862-1040. Money raised from this event helps to support a team of University of Western Ontario medical students including doctors, nurses, and dentists who travel to Tanzania to provide medical care for suffering people there.

Amateur Singing Contest finals at Corunna Legion hall

The Amateur Singing Contest sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 this winter will culminate on Saturday, May 31 with the final contest. Preliminary contests were held Nov. 30 and Feb. 22 and the finals will present singers who placed first, second and third at the previous two events. For complete information, watch *The Beacon*.

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.

Ongoing activities offered at 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.

Courtright Friendship Club plays cards

The Courtright Friendship Club plays euchre every 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.

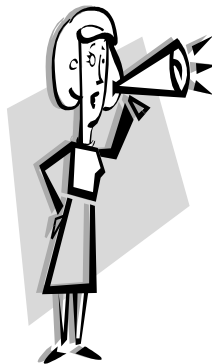
Messy Church Tuesdays at Brigden United

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.

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

More Around The Township

From page 12

Brigden child with Autism who requires a trained companion dog. Two sittings will be offered: 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; or 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The cost will be \$8 per person or \$20 per family. Tickets are available from: Sheldon & Denise Annett, 519-864-4052; Mary & Joe Thompson, 519-864-4133; Calvin Nesbitt, 519-864-1414; Bob Mitchell, 519-864-1319; Larry Mitchell, 519-864-1328; Martha Werden, 519-864-1889; Ray Carroll, 519-882-0200; or Colin Brooks, 519-864-4108. Enjoy a great meal for a great cause!

Bingo will benefit Youth Pilgrimage

A bingo fundraiser will be held at All Saints Anglican Church, 498 Lyndoch Street in Corunna, on Saturday, March 29 at 7 p.m. Proceeds will support an all-expenses-paid trip to the United Nations for one deserving high school student. There will be lots of bingo and door prizes (no cash prizes) and you must be 18 years of age or older to play. This fundraiser project is organized by the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario. Have a great time and support a great project.

Annual Homecraft beef dinner set

The annual beef dinner, hosted by the Moore Agricultural 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.

Pancake breakfast fundraiser in Port Lambton

Treat your family to a delicious pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Port Lambton Community Centre. Proceeds will be used toward the construction of the Brander Park splash pad. Volunteers will be serving pancakes, sausages, and beverages at a cost of \$5 per adult and \$2.50 per child aged six through 12.

Easter events slated for Brigden

The Easter Country Jamboree is slated for Sunday, April 13 at the Brigden Fairgrounds exhibition hall. Doors open at noon with music starting at 1 p.m. for an afternoon of great music and dancing. A scalloped potato and ham dinner will be served at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person and a cash bar will be available. All musicians are welcome and everyone else is invited to come out and have fun. For information, call the Brigden Fair office at 519-864-1197.



Fish dinner in Corunna

A Good Friday fish dinner will be presented as a joint effort of St. Joseph's/St. Charles Catholic Parish and All Saint's Anglican Church on April 18 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The event is slated for St. Joseph's Parish Centre beside St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Lyndoch Street in Corunna. Attendance is by advance tickets only and they can be purchased by calling: Butch at 519-862-3038; Nancy at 519-481-0337; Gitte at 519-862-1837; or Brian at 519-862-1044. Everyone is welcome.

Easter brunch planned for Brigden

The Moore Agricultural Society (MAS), Home of the Brigden Fair, invites you and your family to enjoy Easter brunch on Easter Sunday, April 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Brigden Fairgrounds exhibition hall. The cost is \$10 per adult, \$6 for children ages six through 10, and free for children ages five and under. The menu will include: bacon, eggs, hashbrowns, sausage, pancakes, ham, scalloped potatoes, toast, muffins, fruit cocktail, and juice. For more information, please call the fair office at 519-864-1197 or check our the MAS Facebook or Web sites.

Blewater Sharks Adult Recreational Hockey Tournament slated

A women's and men's recreational non-competitive hockey tournament sponsored by the Blewater 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.blewater sharkshockey.com.

Homecraft Demo Day in Brigden

The Homecraft ladies of the Brigden Fair will present Homecraft Demo Day at the Brigden Fairgrounds exhibition hall on Saturday, May 3. Demonstrations will include: quilting; card-making; crocheting; knitting; sewing; and other great crafts. Registration will be at 9:30 a.m. with 20-minute demonstrations starting at 10 a.m. and concluding at 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person and it will include lunch at noon. For more information and to register, call: Ellen at 519-864-5895; Always Quilting at 519-864-4967; or the Moore Agricultural Society office at 519-864-1197. Tickets will be available after March 15 and everyone is welcome.

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

Around The Township

Corunna Minor Baseball registration

Registration is now underway for the 2014 Corunna Minor Baseball season. Registration will be held at the Corunna firehall on Hill Street on Saturday, March 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and at the Mooretown Sports Complex on Saturday, March 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More information can be found online at: corunnaminorbaseball.com.

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, 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 (leklreek@gmail.com).

Hank Stothers cribbage tourney set

The Hank Stothers cribbage tournament is slated for the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 hall at Albert and Beckwith Streets on Sunday, March 2. A nominal cost of \$10 per person will be charged and all monies will be returned. Registration will be from noon to 12:45 p.m. with play beginning at 1 p.m. Food will be available. Pre-registration can be done at the Legion hall or by calling 519-862-1240.

Pancake supper in Corunna

All Saints Anglican Church, corner of Hill and Lyndoch Streets in Corunna will host a pancake supper on Tuesday, March 4 from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Pancakes and sausages are on the menu and everyone is welcome.

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.

St. Patrick's Country Jamboree/dinner 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 and dancing. A scalloped potato and ham dinner will 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.

Beef stew supper in Wilkesport

Wilkesport United Church will host a delectable beef stew supper on Thursday, March 13 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Admission will be by free will donation.

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: March 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11, and 25.

St. Patrick's Day Bash in Courtright

Join the Courtright volunteer firefighters as they host their St. Patrick's Day Bash at the Courtright Community Centre (Silverdome) on Saturday, March 15 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Live entertainment will be provided by *The Zoller Boys* and free rides will be provided free of charge from the fire station. A limited number of tickets are now on sale for \$5 per person and they can be purchased from any of the firefighters or by stopping by the Courtright fire station on Monday nights between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.



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, 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 hosts final lecture of season

The Sombra Museum's popular winter lecture series concludes this month at the Sombra Museum Cultural Centre meeting room, 3476 St. Clair Parkway in Sombra. The lecture, slated for Tuesday, March 25 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., will be a presentation by the Antique and Classic Boat Society's entitled *Pleasure Boat Builders of the Wallaceburg Area*. Admission is \$10 per person. For tickets and information, call 519-892-3982. The Sombra Museum can be found at: facebook.com/SombraMuseum and twitter.com/SombraMuseum.

Fashion show highlights spring fashion

Find out what's new and what's trending at the Fashion Show being presented at Community of Christ Church, corner of Brigden Road and LaSalle Line on Wednesday, March 26 at 6 p.m. Fashions will be from *Leisure Lane*, *Mr. B's*, and *Sitek and Company*. A cold buffet, door prizes, and a bake sale table will be included and tickets are \$10 per person. To purchase tickets, call Connie at 519-862-1714 or Carol at 226-738-0693.

Spaghetti fundraiser will benefit Brigden child

The Brigden Optimist Club will host a family spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, March 26 at the Brigden Optimist Hall. This fundraiser is being held to benefit Brady Japp, a