



THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP **BEACON**



**Discoveries
That Matter**

Issue 6

Volume 9

June 2016

THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

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ATV kids enjoy Emergency Preparedness Day



The 11th annual Emergency Preparedness Day display was held at the Clearwater Arena in Sarnia on May 6 with 1,300 students from Grades 5 through secondary school from 16 Lambton County schools, their teachers and chaperones, as well as about 700 visitors from the general, in attendance. The display was comprised of almost 100 displays by Sarnia and Lambton area police forces, fire departments, and EMS responders, as well as provincial and national agencies, utilities, military, marine, Lambton College, and industrial response organizations. The annual event is acknowledged as one of the largest in Ontario.

National Emergency Preparedness Week is held annually to encourage families to think about home preparedness and to assemble a 72-hour emergency supply kit containing enough water, food, and other necessities to be self-sufficient for three days following an emergency.

When households are adequately prepared for emergencies, emergency responders and municipal officials can focus on the most urgent issues posed by the crisis at hand. Above: Among those in attendance were students from Mme. Evans Grade 5/6 French immersion class at Sir John Moore Community School in Corunna. At the Ontario Provincial Police display, the students climbed aboard one of the OPP quad ATVs to act out a mock rescue exercise. The young rescuers include, from left: Samantha; Lachlan; Hannah; Carter (in the driver's seat); Logan-Lee; Kaylin; and Greer. The ATVs are used for off-road functions such as searching for missing persons, patrolling large crowds, and the general patrol of trails or when there are complaints regarding careless or illegal ATV use.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson



MUNICIPAL NOTES

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

St. Clair Township Council holds regular meetings at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street in Mooretown every first and third Monday of the month. Upcoming meetings will be held on Monday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m. and on Monday, June 20 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.



HYDRANT FLUSHING

St. Clair Township Residents

Public Works will be undertaking the annual flushing of fire hydrants connected to the St. Clair Township water distribution system during the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. until this fall. During this maintenance procedure, you may notice some water discolouration using your taps, flushing toilets, doing laundry, etc. as some sediment may be drawn into your residence. We recommend that you run the cold water tap for a few minutes or until the discolouration disappears. If discolouration of the water continues after 10-15 minutes of normal use please notify Public Works at 519-867-2993.



SEWER MAIN FLUSHING

St. Clair Township Residents

Public Works will be flushing sewer mains connected to the St. Clair Township sewer system during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until this fall. During this maintenance procedure you may notice some gurgling noises in drains. If conditions persist after 24-48 hours of normal use, please notify Public Works @ 519-867-2993.

St. Clair River Run raising township profile

The St. Clair River Run is fast becoming a recognized event within the running community. St. Clair River Run committee member Ben Hazzard led a deputation to council on May 16 to deliver the good news about the River Run's growing popularity within the avid running community as well as with the leisure running crowd. He noted that the number of participants registering for the run has grown from just 180 in 2010 to 900 in 2014 and continues to grow this year judging from registrations garnered by the beginning of May. Feedback from the 2015 race resulted in 98 per cent of the runners rating their overall experience as excellent or very good. There was also a 98 per cent rating from those who said they would recommend participation to others.

CF Industries is a major supporter of the race again this year; company representatives accompanied race organizers to council to donate a cheque for \$20,000 as part of the company's five-year commitment to the event. As the race thrives from year to year, race organizers are optimistic that the event will be able to contribute substantially to the on-going upkeep and maintenance of the trail. "Our goal is to (eventually) return the amount of this donation to the river trail (each year)," said Mr. Hazzard, who added that the ultimate goal of keeping the trail in good shape is to provide a place where St. Clair Township residents can pursue a healthy active lifestyle.

For more information about the 2016 St. Clair River Run, see page 11.



CF Industries presents a \$20,000 donation in support of the St. Clair River Run at the May 16 meeting of council. Front left: Trail Committee Member Rose Atkins; CF Industries Administrator Natasha Berdan; CF Industries General Manager Amanda Pascavage; Trail Committee Member Ben Hazzard; Mayor Steve Arnold; Trail Committee Co-chair Mary Jane Marsh; Deputy Mayor Peter Gilliland. Back row left: St. Clair Township CAO John Rodey; Councillors Steve Miller, Jim DeGurse, Tracey Kingston, Jeff Agar, Darrell Randell; St. Clair Township Clerk Jeff Baranek.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson



Notice to property owners to destroy weeds

Notice is hereby given to all persons in possession of land, in accordance with the Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter W.5, Sections 3, 16, and 23, that unless noxious weeds growing on their lands within the municipality of the Township of St. Clair are destroyed throughout the season, the municipality may enter upon said lands and have the weeds destroyed, charging the cost against the land, plus an administration charge as set out in the Act. (Minimum charge per parcel is \$80.)

The cooperation of all land owners is earnestly solicited.

Eric Bezanson
Weed Inspector

J. Baranek
Clerk

Support for LAVIII project honours Afghanistan veterans and casualties

By Bonnie Stevenson

Representatives from the 1st Hussars attended council on May 16 to receive a \$5,000 donation toward the installation of a new memorial which recognizes the service of Canadian forces during the Afghanistan conflict. The memorial will take the form of an LAVIII, a Kodiak 8-wheel light armoured vehicle, which will be installed in Veteran's Park behind the Sarnia library.

According to Ron Prior of the 1st Hussars Association, Sarnia is the first of 14 communities to receive one of the LAVIII vehicles and only 250 communities in Canada will be able to have one as they become available. He added the Sarnia memorial should be ready by September. It will be dedicated to the 40,000 service men and women who served in Afghanistan and to the 159 who lost their lives in service. Two special plaques will also be installed on the monument: the first will commemorate Pte. William Cushley of Port Lambton and Cpl. Brent Poland of Camlachie who lost their lives while serving in Afghanistan; the second will honour the members of the 1st Hussars who served there from 2001 to 2014. Mr. Prior noted that 30 per cent of the Canadian forces

that served in Afghanistan were members of the reserve.

Mayor Arnold expressed gratitude for the sacrifices made over the years by the 1st Hussars and the Canadian Armed



LAVIII memorial



The 1st Hussars receive the \$5,000 donation. Front left: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna Pres. Dan Watson; 1st Hussars Hon. LCol. Barry Hogan; 1st Hussars Assoc. Representative Ron Prior receives the donation from Mayor Steve Arnold; Royal Canadian Legion Branch 62 Pres. Laurie Chafe; Legion Branch 447 Poppy Chair Bob Chambers. Rear left: Township CAO John Rodey; Councillors Jim DeGurse, Steve Miller, Tracey Kingston; Deputy Mayor Peter Gilliland; Councillors Darrell Randell, Jeff Agar; Township Clerk Jeff Baranek.

forces in general. "Without them, we wouldn't be able to sit here and enjoy the freedom we have," he said. He noted with sadness the loss of Pte. William Cushley of Port Lambton and Cpl. Brent Poland, formerly of Brigden, and the profound impact the Afghanistan conflict had on the people of St. Clair Township.

In gratitude for the donation, the 1st Hussars presented council with a bronze plaque acknowledging the support of the people of St. Clair Township.

Hosting a community special event?

Read on...



Event organizers and food/beverage vendors are urged to contact Lambton Public Health (LPH) in advance of any event they have planned. LPH inspectors and tobacco enforcement officers will provide guidance to ensure compliance with food handling regulations and Smoke-Free Ontario Act regulations.

Lori Lucas, Health Protection supervisor at LPH says this information is crucial to the safe operation of public events. "Whether you're an event organizer or a food and/or beverage vendor, it's your responsibility to minimize the risks of food-borne illness and to ensure the event is Smoke-Free Ontario Act compliant."

Just download and complete the *Community Special Events Package* at www.lambtonhealth.on.ca The package includes all of the required forms for food service. These must be completed and returned to the LPH at least two weeks before the event takes place.

For more information, call 519-383-8331, ext. 3575 or toll-free at 1-800-667-1839.

Household Hazardous Waste collection days

The County of Lambton, in conjunction with Clean Harbors Canada Inc., hosts several Household Hazardous Waste collection days each year. The events give Lambton County residents an opportunity to properly dispose of potentially dangerous waste from their homes and protect the environment at the same time. If hazardous products are thrown in with regular waste, they can injure sanitation workers and cause long-term environmental problems.

Materials accepted include: batteries, drain and oven cleaners, pesticides, rat poison, pharmaceuticals, cleaning fluids, pool chemicals, ammonia, bleach, aerosols, gasoline, paints, barbecue starter, oil, solvents, and propane cylinders.

Collection days at the Clean Harbors Canada facility at 4090 Telfer Road (just south of Petrolia Line) are slated for the following Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.: June 25; Sept. 24; and Oct. 29.

This service is intended for household hazardous waste ONLY.



Emergency notification flaws being addressed

Several flaws revealed during the recent Shell emergency are being addressed by emergency system officials. St. Clair Township Fire Chief Walt Anderson says the system's inconsistent performance was caused by several factors.

Chief Anderson summarized the difficulties posed by the event for *The Beacon*.

"On the day of the Shell event, the notification system was activated as a precaution," he said. "Air monitoring was under way but until we could confirm the source and what the readings were, we felt the safest option was to have residents in the south end of Corunna shelter in place."

"Unfortunately, not all of the sirens worked as anticipated. We had purchased a new component for Siren 11 (located near the Royal Canadian Legion hall) and that component did not work. So following the incident, it was replaced and tested, and it is working now."

"We knew that part of Siren 9 (located behind the Corunna fire station) was down because of a bad amplifier, which we had on order. We have received conflicting reports about that siren. It may have been working on the side where a good amplifier was still operating but it stopped working soon after. Feedback on our third siren, located in the Paddock Green area, indicated that it worked. A problem arose when people did what they were supposed to do when there is a 'shelter in place' warning - they tuned in to the local radio station. However, the station was not broadcasting live at the time and because of a previous change in protocol, the station had not been notified."

"Official information was posted on the fire department's social media site as well, but the phone number for the CAER information line was incorrect. We apologize for this error."

Chief Anderson says the problems are being taken very seriously and an immediate response was undertaken. Repairs on Siren 9 was slated to be carried out as soon as the parts needed to upgrade the unit were received, and he described a number of other steps that are being taken to prevent a repeat of the event.

"Going forward, we encourage everyone to sign up for the myCNN Emergency Notifications. The township is investigating the options available in portable sirens to use if one of our main sirens is out of service and is also researching air monitoring equipment that our emergency services can utilize quickly, giving us the accurate information we need to make our decisions. We will also be providing more education on what materials are available and how they can be utilized to make sure everyone understands how they are notified and what to do in an emergency."

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Chief Anderson explained the emergency protocol that is observed during an emergency event.

St. Clair Township is covered by three different emergency notification systems. The sirens system has been in place for some time and is tied into the emergency sirens located in Sarnia and Point Edward. They are activated by the Sarnia Police dispatch centre at the request of one of the three municipalities.

A few years ago, St. Clair Township, in conjunction with St. Clair County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, entered into an agreement that led to the use of the FM Alert devices. These devices receive a signal activated by authorized township staff and broadcasted through a transmitter located on a local radio transmission tower.

These devices are good but they depend on the radio signal reaching the device to activate it, and the device has to be with you or be checked when you return home. More recently, we began promoting and using the myCNN Notification System. The system utilizes White Page data, which means your name has to be in the phone book so that you will be on the list to receive a call. You can ask to be excluded from the list if you wish.

Residents can also register through the St. Clair Township Website at: stclairtownship.ca or the Community Awareness Emergency Response Website at: caer.ca. This way, you can choose by what method you would like to receive the messages and alerts: mobile phone, text message, email, home or work phone, or all of the above can be used.

County Council supports wildfire relief efforts

Lambton County Council has agreed to support wildfire relief efforts currently underway in the Wood Buffalo region of Alberta with a \$100,000 donation to the Canadian Red Cross. The donation was made on behalf of all county municipalities. Funds are expected to be matched by the federal and Alberta governments. As the June Beacon goes to press, the wildfires are still burning and many more lives will be shattered by its effects. Anyone wishing to support the crucial work of the Canadian Red Cross can go online to redcross.ca to find out how.

"There but for the grace of God go I" - attributed to John Bradford (16th century)

The Township of St. Clair has a new Website -

<http://stclairtownship.ca>

The old township Website at www.twp.stclair.on.ca will no longer be updated, so users are urged to update all links to this site. Any questions, concerns, or suggestions should be addressed to webmaster@twp.stclair.on.ca. Please note that the new website is a work in progress so we apologize for any problems that might arise when accessing information, etc., but when complete, it should be an improvement over the older website. We ask for your patience during this transition.

Health seminars offered at Rapids Family Health Team clinic

The following sessions are being offered at the Rapids Family Health Team clinic, located at the Shell Health Centre, 233 Cameron Street in Corunna. There is no charge for participation but you must register for each one you take. Please note that space is limited. If we are unable to accommodate you for the day of your choice, we will put you on a waiting list for future sessions.

For more information, go online to: www.rapidsfhteam.ca or to register, call 519-813-9800 and speak to reception.

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 Nurse Educator. Sessions will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, June 10 and Friday, July 22.

Diabetes - Healthy Eating And Keeping Active

This is a two hour session for people who have already attended our 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 blood sugar levels, reading food labels, when and how much to eat, and how to increase our physical activity level. The session will be led by a Registered Dietitian. Sessions will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, June 17 and Friday, June 29.

A Guide To Diabetes Prevention

This is a 1.5 hour group session for those who want to learn about diabetes and how to prevent it, or for those who have been told they are at risk of getting diabetes. This session is led by a Registered Nurse and a Registered Dietitian. They will discuss what diabetes is, risk factors for getting diabetes, and how to decrease blood sugar levels through lifestyle changes. The program is open to the public and no physician referral is required. Sessions will be held on Friday, June 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Wednesday, July 27 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Quit Smoking Workshop

This is a two hour session for those who are thinking about 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. The workshop is open to the public and no physician referral is required. Participants are also welcome to schedule individual appointments to receive further support and information from one of our Nurse Educators. The next Quit Smoking sessions will be held on: Wednesday, June 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Wednesday, June 22 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and Wednesday, July 27 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Stress Management Workshop

Created by our registered Social Worker, this two-hour seminar, offered monthly, will provide you with information on how to effectively manage stress through: regulating the stress response; goal-setting; problem-solving; challenging unhelpful thinking; and communicating assertively. This seminar is open to

the public and no physician referral is required. The next roster of workshops will take place Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on: June 3; July 15; Aug. 12; Sept. 9; Oct. 7; and Dec. 2.

Anxiety Awareness

The Anxiety Awareness Therapy Group is an eight week program for adults 18 and over who are living with and managing anxiety in day-to-day life. The program is facilitated by Registered Social Workers. During the group sessions, participants will learn how to deal with their anxious thoughts, feelings, and behaviours by understanding their anxiety and how to manage their worry. Weekly session will focus on relaxation skills and stress reduction techniques. The group will cover the following topics: an overview of generalized anxiety; challenging negative and positive beliefs about worrying; developing strategies to challenge worries and accept uncertainty; problem solving and decision making; managing the anxious body, mind, and behaviour; exploring and practicing relaxation skills and stress reduction techniques; maintaining the gains and developing a self-management plan. This group program began May 2 and is held on Mondays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Note: Class date, times and locations within Corunna are subject to change or cancelation depending upon the number of patient registrants.

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Kids Chef Summer Camp

Registration is now open for the Raids Family Health Team Kids Chef Summer Camp, which will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 437 Colborne Street in Corunna the week of Aug. 8-12. This free camp is designed for kids ages seven through 11 who are interested in cooking and nutrition. They will eat the lunch they make. To register for the camp, call 519-813-9800 or email: skidd@rapidsfhteam.ca. We are also recruiting volunteers interested in helping out. Anyone interested in volunteering can email: cmccoleman@rapidsfhteam.ca

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Teaching Kitchen

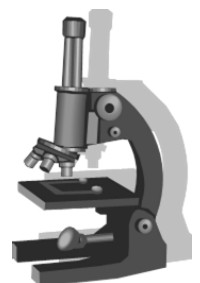
Healthy cooking classes will not only help you build your knowledge of healthy eating, but will also help you be able to apply them in a friendly group setting. Classes will cover a wide range of healthy conditions/topics including: heart health, digestive concerns, vegetarian, cooking for one, increasing fruit and vegetables, high blood pressure, and more. Cooking classes are open to the public and no physician referral is required. Classes will be held on Wednesday, June 22 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and on Thursday, July 28 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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Laboratory Services offered

Laboratory services at the clinic are available

Monday through Friday
from
7:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.



Mooretown Sports Complex wants to get you moving

If you want to maintain your health, keep moving! That's the latest advice from physicians and fitness experts alike. Let the Mooretown Sports Complex get you moving with a wide variety of fitness methods.

Spring Into Fitness

Join Fitness Kick Boxing, Muscle Mix, or Water Aerobics any time. The cost is \$6 per class (\$5 per senior) or \$45 per 10 visit pass. Spin classes are also available. Join any time.

Summer Swim Lesson Session

The summer session of swim lessons will soon get underway. Don't miss this chance to learn to swim or to hone your swimming skills. Register now.

Summer Day Camp

Summer day camp for children ages 5 - 12 will begin on July 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. (Early drop off and late pickup will be available). Fees are \$27 per day, \$110 per week, or \$861 per summer.



Sports Camps

For the young sports enthusiasts in the house, sports camps for children ages 7 - 14 will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays with early drop off and late pickup available. Camps will be held as follows:

Golf - July 4-8; 18-22; Aug. 8-12; Sports Combo - July 11-15; July 25-29; Aug. 15-19; Track & Field - Aug. 2-5. Fee will be \$110 per week.

Red Cross Babysitting Course

Children ages 11 and up can learn the skills needed to become a good babysitter on Monday, June 6 (PA day) from 8:30

a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost will be \$50 per child.

Canadian Safety Council Home Alone course

Children ages 10 and over can learn how to be safe when left at home alone on Monday, June 6 (PA day) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$50 per child.

Become a Lifeguard or Swim Instructor

Call for more information to learn about the path to becoming a lifeguard or swim instructor.

NEW! In-line public skating.

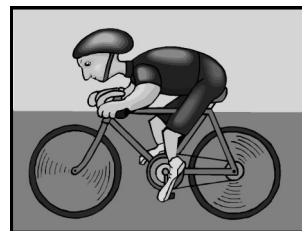
In-line skate at the Mooretown Sports Complex on Sundays until June 19.

FREE indoor/outdoor walking exercise program

The West Lambton CHC sponsored walking exercise program is held every Monday and Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

CMHA Ride Don't Hide event coming

The Canadian Mental Health Association *Ride Don't Hide* event is coming to the Mooretown Sports Complex on Sunday, June 26. The CMHA rides will be hosted in six provinces in 35 communities with the aim of engaging over 8,000 participants and raising \$1.5 million. To register or for more information, go online to: www.ridedonthide.com



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

New online catalogue now available from Lambton County Library

The Lambton County Library has launched a new online catalogue designed to enhance the public's browsing and borrowing experience. The layout is more engaging, simple to use, and mobile friendly.

The catalogue, accessible through the library's Website at www.lclibrary.ca or directly at my.lclibrary.ca, features slide shows on its platform page of new items to the library and recently returned books.

When browsing the title of a book, CD, or DVD, users can immediately place a reservation or store it to a Reading List (formerly called Save List). The record details provide a photo of the cover, a summary, other titles in the series, and recommended reads as well as similar authors. Users can also share the item on social media.

Accessing account information is also easier for users to navigate. A new feature is the Loan History option which captures the users borrowing history for their reference. Patrons can also subscribe to a list of interest topics by material, genre, or subject, and then be emailed, on a monthly basis, when new items in these categories have been processed.

The Lambton County Library offers a variety of free materials and services to meet the leisure and informational needs of

the community through its 26 branches, bookmobile, and Web-site. eReader lending, multi-media resources, online services, programs and Internet access are all available. For more information, go online to: www.lclibrary.ca

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Attention music lovers - a new eLibrary resource, Freegal, is now available through the Lambton County Library. It is a downloadable and streaming music service that gives patrons access to about nine million songs, including the Sony Music catalogue of legendary artists, and over 15,000 music videos. There is no software to download and there are no digital rights management restrictions (DMR). Patrons must have a valid Lambton County Library card. For more information, go online to [www.lclibrary.ca](http://www.lclibrary.ca).

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For more information about activities and events for all ages coming up at your local Lambton County Library branch, contact numbers are:

Brigden (519-864-1142), **Corunna** (519-862-1132),
Courtright (519-867-2712), **Mooretown** (519-867-2823),
Port Lambton (519-677-5217) **Sombra** (519-892-3711),
Wilkesport (519-864-4000)

Please note: The Courtright library will be closed for renovations June 14 - 23.

Corunna florist celebrates 40 years in business



Forty years of business is a milestone Kay's Petals and Plants recently celebrated with the planting of an Autumn Blaze maple tree in Guthrie Park. The business also donated a cheque for \$400 that will be used to buy 40 more trees to help replace the hundreds of ash trees that were killed off by an insect infestation. On hand for the tree dedication and cheque presentation are, from the left: business founder Kay Hammond, current owner Tracy Kingston, and Mayor Steve Arnold.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

After four decades of operation in Corunna, Kay's Petals and Plants is still providing the beauty of flowers and home décor to customers from Port Lambton to Bright's Grove. At a recent ceremony in Guthrie Park, this momentous milestone was celebrated with the planting and dedication of an Autumn Blaze Maple tree, one of 40 maple and spruce trees that have been donated by the business to the township and to the Aamjiwnaang community for planting. Kay's originally opened in 1976 on Lyndoch Street where the Shopper's store now stands, but the shop was eventually moved to its current location, where an addition was built in 1989.

During the ceremony, a cheque for \$400 was presented to St. Clair Township to pay for the cost of the trees, which will be used to help replace many of the ash trees

that have been destroyed by an infestation of the emerald ash borer beetle. Mayor Arnold, who accepted the cheque on behalf of the township, says the trees are a welcome addition to the municipality. "The ash trees have been decimated," he said. "Work crews have expended many hours removing the dead trees and replanting is crucial to restoration of the beautiful St. Clair Township landscape." He commended Kay and her daughter, Tracy Kingston, who now operates the store and is also a township councillor, for choosing such a generous way of marking this significant occasion. "It's wonderful for this business that has served the community so tremendously to help in this way," he said. "We look forward to them continuing this beautiful service for many more years to come."

**Help keep your
community
beautiful—
Please recycle**

You don't have to go to extremes to do your part when it comes to keeping your community beautiful, not just for now, but for generations to come. All you have to do is recycle; get recyclables to the curb on collection day and take your hazardous materials to Clean Harbors on Hazardous Waste Day. See page 3 for more information.



Rabies control and prevention featured at recent Rural Game Protection Assoc. event

Rabies control and prevention took centre stage when the Lambton County Rural Game Protective Association held its annual meeting and banquet in May.

The guest speaker was Wildlife Researcher Sarah Fraser from the Ministry of Natural Resources who presented an overview of the methods used to control and prevent outbreaks of rabies in Ontario. The incidence of rabies within the province has been quiet since 2013 thanks to the trap, vaccinate, and release programs used along the St. Lawrence River and in the Niagara region, as well as the air drop program used in rural areas to distribute thousands of small baits containing the rabies vaccine. Rabies was thought to be virtually wiped out, but with the discovery of a raccoon infected with the raccoon strain of the disease in the Hamilton area last December, a rejuvenated effort has been in force to identify, control and prevent further outbreaks.

Ms. Fraser pointed out that the border between Canada and the United States provides a natural buffer zone to keep infected animals out of the province, and those who manage to get across are usually transported while hidden aboard vehicles coming into the country. When the first raccoon was diagnosed, the MNR mobilized the rabies team it had all but disbanded and within weeks, over 220,000 vaccine baits had been dropped over the Hamilton area. Since the outbreak, the MNR has hired 14 more people to work with the team.

Pet owners concerned about their pets eating one of the baits should not worry. Ms. Fraser says the baits are harmless for animals, but a doctor should be consulted if humans come in contact with it.

There are three strains of the rabies virus - raccoon, fox, and skunk - that can occur in Ontario, says Ms. Fraser. However, the raccoon strain has been found in all of the 61 raccoons and 29 skunks that have been identified in Hamil-



Ministry of Natural Resources wildlife researcher Sarah Fraser explains the process used to deal with rabies outbreaks and prevent new ones.

ton and surrounding area since last December. Ms. Fraser says human contact with a living infected animal has been rare and that most of the animals were already dead when they were discovered. She also assured her audience that the treatment for people bitten by a rabid animal is not nearly as intensive and painful as it was years ago.

Several rabies vaccination clinics have been held in Lambton County this spring.

During the association's annual general meeting that preceded Ms. Fraser's presentation, it was decided that representatives from several local environmental and wildlife organizations would be asked to join the association's executive board. And a draw raised \$734 that was split three ways for donation to the Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation, the Bluewater Anglers, and Heaven's Wildlife Rescue.

The Rural Game Protective Association was formed in 1949 to address the encroachment on local rural land by poachers from urban centers. It has since taken an interest in environmental issues that affect Lambton County.

Local Ontario Early Years Locations

The OEYC Samia-Lambton is a **free** family drop-in program operated by Sombra Township Child Care Inc. for families with children ages 0 to 6.

Best Start Hub - Riverview Central School

3926 St. Clair Parkway, Port Lambton

519-892-3151

Hours of Operation:

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,

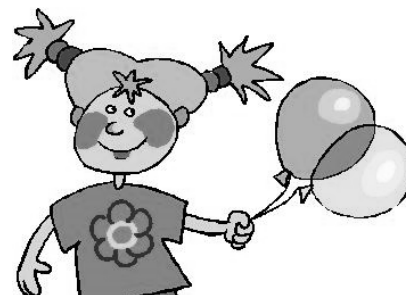
2420 Jane Street, Brigden

519-892-3151

Hours of Operation: Friday: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

For a complete listing of hours and

parent/caregiver workshops, go online to: www.ontarioearlyyears.ca.



Two outstanding area volunteers recognized by Sombra Optimists



The Optimist Club of Sombra recently recognized two area residents for their community service efforts within St. Clair Township. Dave Cram has worked on several projects including the design of the Van Damme Park skateboard park and as co-chair of the Port Lambton splash pad committee. Shirley Ross has been with the *Meals On Wheels* program in Port Lambton for 35 years, serving as cook and treasurer. The Sombra Optimists are proud to honour these volunteers for their years of dedicated community service. Shown here from left: Honourees Dave Cram with his wife, Ann, and Shirley Ross at the award ceremony.

Photo submitted

Riverview Central School fundraising events planned

300 drivers wanted for Ford Test Drive fundraiser

Riverview Central School will be hosting the Ford Test Drive Fundraiser on Saturday, June 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Marshy Creek Park across from the school at 3926 St. Clair Parkway north of Port Lambton. If 300 drivers

from different households come out to take a test drive, the school will be able to raise \$6,000. For more information or to schedule a test drive, call 519-892-3981.

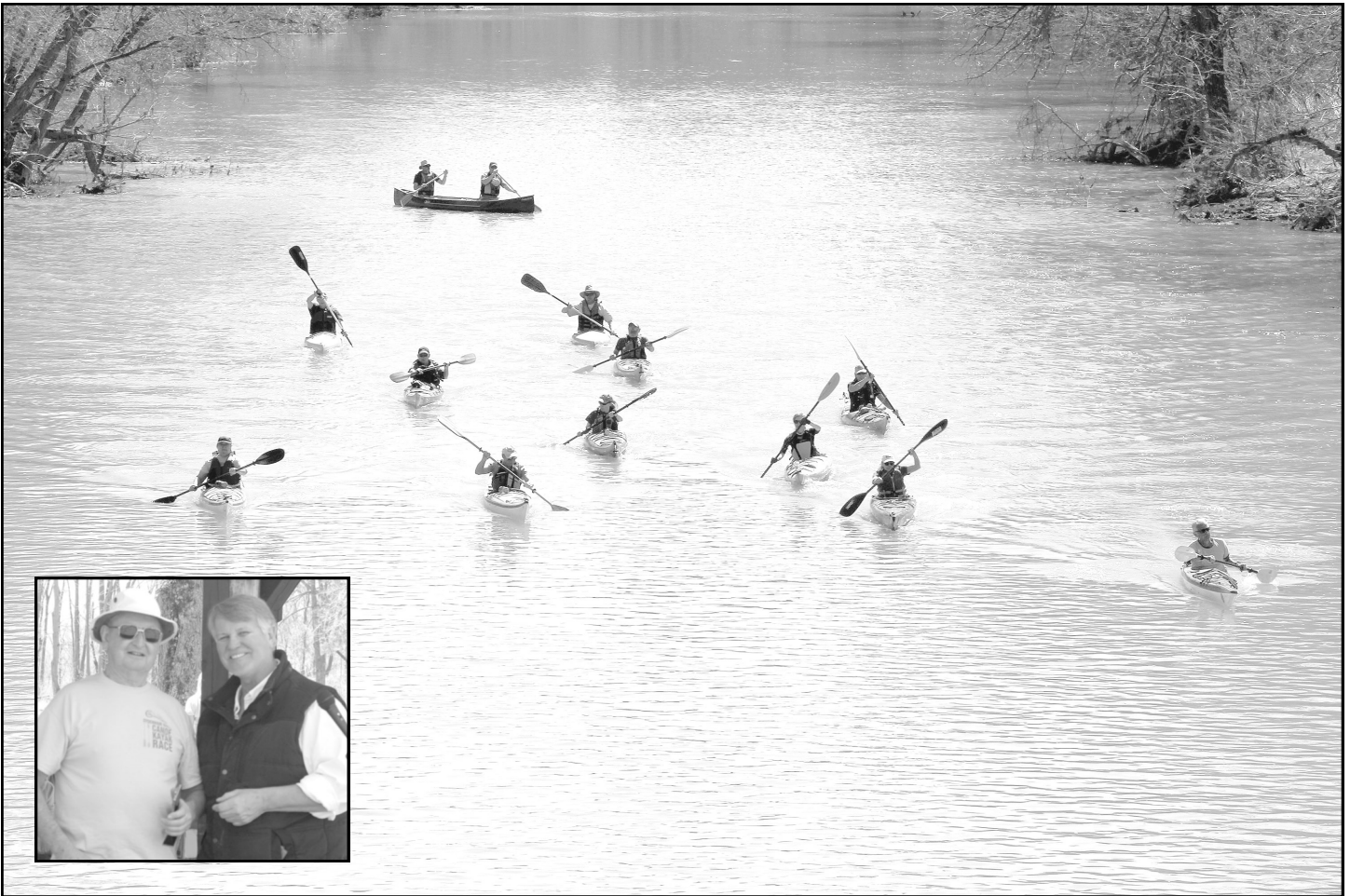


Giant Yard Sale

*Has spring cleaning left you with things to sell?
Don't have enough to hold a yard sale?*


Your items can be donated to Riverview Central School's White Elephant Sale. The sale is being held on Saturday, June 18 in conjunction with the test drive event. Just drop off your gently loved items at the school between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on June 13-17. All proceeds from the sale will help Riverview's Parent Council purchase a water bottle refill station for the students and furniture for the school's Learning Commons.

Sydenham River Canoe Races raise funds for outdoor education



This is no Sunday paddle down a lazy river. This is the annual Sydenham River Canoe Race co-sponsored by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) and the SCRCA Foundation. The races, sanctioned by the Ontario Marathon Canoe Racers Association, were held on April 17 and featured 10 classes in three different race lengths. Participants are encouraged to voluntarily gather sponsors for their efforts and the money raised through these sponsors is used to support outdoor education for school children in the St. Clair region. **Inset bottom left:** Paddler and SCRCA board member Norm Giffen, left, received a special award for most money raised from SCRCA Chair Steve Arnold.

Photos courtesy of Rick Battson



The 7th annual St. Clair River Run is slated for Saturday, July 16. On-line registrations are now being accepted at: stclairriverrun.com


Those who register before June 1 will receive a technical t-shirt and reduced registration fee. The event, which employs chip timing, includes a 10K Run and a 5K Run/Walk (stroller friendly). It takes place on a certified course over flat, paved terrain, taking participants along the beautiful St. Clair River through Sombra and Port Lambton to terminate at Brander Park. There is also a free Minnow Run for the children.


The 2016 St. Clair River Run is


presented by CF Industries and proceeds from the event will be used for the care and maintenance of the St. Clair River Trail.


Check out Facebook at
stclairriverrun.com


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COMMUNITY CONTACT

Corunna Legion posts note of thanks

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna would like to thank the St. Clair Township community for its support. Already this year, the branch has raised and donated over \$15,000 within the local community. Recipients include: Corunna Scouts, Guides and Brownies; Mooretown Flags; Mooretown Minor Hockey; Army, Air & Sea Cadets; Mooretown Museum; Heritage St. Clair; Canadian Cancer Society; SoCoMo; the Courtright Splash Pad; Captain Kidd Days; and others.

Corunna United garage sale benefits Fort McMurray fire relief

The Corunna United Church recently hosted a garage sale that raised \$1,200 for the Red Cross Fort McMurray Fire Relief fund. The money will help the thousands of Fort McMurray residents who have been forced from their homes by a catastrophic wild fire that has leveled the forest and buildings for miles around the town.

Cookbook celebrates 160th anniversary

Members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Corunna have compiled a new cookbook to celebrate the church's 160th anniversary - 1855 to 2015. The book, priced at \$15, contains 244 delicious recipes. It can be purchased by calling Ruth at 519-862-4119.

Elimination draw fundraiser underway at Corunna Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 is currently selling elimination draw tickets to benefit the many community activities and initiatives it supports. The first draw is slated for May 7 (final draw on Sept. 24) and tickets are going fast, so get yours now. Tickets cost \$20 each and can be obtained at the Legion hall at the corner of Albert and Beckwith Streets, or at the Corunna fire station on Hill Street. The first prize will be \$2,400. For more information, call the Legion hall at 519-862-1240.

A little change can make a big change

Your spare change is still being sought to help support the upkeep of the St. Clair Trail. Funds to be donated to the *Pennies for Pavement* program can be dropped off at: Shaykin Bait Variety in Port Lambton (*the Canada Post office no longer accepts donations*) or the Pic-N-Pay in Sombra Village. Every penny will be matched 2:1 by St. Clair Township Council. Bricks, benches, and blocks can still be ordered to commemorate a special occasion or to provide a lasting memorial to departed loved ones. To place an order, contact Laura at 519-862-2442 (north end of trail) or Janis at 519-892-3223 (south end of trail). You can also visit the trail Website at: stclairri-vertrail.com

Brigden Fair student volunteer opportunities

Student volunteer opportunities are available at the Brigden fairgrounds in Brigden all year long, so call the Brigden Fairgrounds Fair Office at 519-864-1197 for more in-

formation.

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.

Lambton County Jr. Optimist Club seeks members

The Junior Optimist Club is the place for youth to enjoy new experiences, make new friends, and thrive while serving their community. New members ages 10 through 18 are always welcome at the Lambton County Junior Optimist Club. Members volunteer in the community and fundraise to put on their own programs and to donate to other youth programs. All hours spent volunteering through the club can be used toward members' volunteer hours at school. The club meets the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Courtright Community Centre. For more information, call Mary Lou at 519-862-3950.

Brigden TOPS group meetings

Brigden TOPS hold their meetings every Tuesday night at the Brigden Optimist Hall. Weigh-ins are from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Meetings are from 6:45 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call 519-864-1865. The TOPS mission is to help our members to sensibly take off and keep off pounds.

TOPS group meets in Port Lambton

The Port Lambton TOPS weight loss group meets every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. the Port Lambton Community Hall. For more information, call Margaret Ann at 519-677-5665 or just come out on Thursday nights. Everyone is welcome.

Let Corunna TOPS group help you reach your goal

The TOPS Corunna group offers helpful weight-loss information and friendly support to help you reach your weight loss goal. The non-profit group meets every Tuesday at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 437 Colborne Street in Corunna. Weigh-in is 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. with a short meeting from 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All ages are welcome to attend so drop in for a meeting. For more information, call Ruth at 519-862-4119 or Wendy at 519-862-4119. As of Aug. 2, Wendy will be taking over the leadership of the group.

Anyone for pickleball?

The sport of pickleball may be coming to Corunna if enough people can be found to play. The game is played with table tennis-like racquets on a marked tennis court and organizers Audrey and Michael Hill say the Corunna Athletic Park on Hill Street already has one court marked for use. All that's needed now are more players and Mr. Hill says free lessons will be given if enough people are interested in playing.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the game can go online to: www.usapa.org or www.pickleball.ca Canada Michael Hill can be contacted at 519-813-9274.

...AND STILL MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 14



Cruickshank Community Centre each week. These include: **morning coffee socials** from Monday to Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. - everyone is welcome; **euchre nights** on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. - cost is \$3 per session which includes light refreshments; and **bridge** on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

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 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.

Recovery support group meets weekly

Recovery International, a self-help group

for those who struggle with mental health issues, meets on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at St. Luke's United Church in Sarnia. Issues that are covered include phobias, depression, anxiety, sleeplessness, and several others. For more information, contact Rita at 519-867-2932.

Ballroom Dancing Club

The Sarnia Ballroom Dancing Club holds regular dances at the Camlachie Community Hall. For more information, go online to: www.sarniaballroomdancingclub.ca



Spread the word about your coming events in *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.

**NOTE: DEADLINE FOR MARCH BEACON
WILL BE MONDAY, FEB. 15 BY NOON.**

Please double-check each submission for accuracy
before sending.

Email: beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca



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LPH presents *Girl Talk*

Lambton Public Health will offer *Girl Talk* presentations during the month of June. *Girl Talk* has been developed to be an ice-breaker for parents and their daughters in Grade 5 and 6 to discuss the changes that will be taking place during puberty. Information covered during this presentation will not only prepare the girls for these changes but it will help parents feel more comfortable discussing delicate issues with their children. *Girl Talk* will be presented from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 9 in Petrolia at Lambton Meadowview Villa auditorium. It is also slated for presentation in Forest at Crozier Hall (NLCHC) 59 King Street on Wednesday, June 8 and at the Sarnia Library west room on Tuesday, June 14 and Thursday, June 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Parents must register for this presentation. For more information or to register, call 519-383-8331, ext. 3557 or toll-free at 1-800-667-1839.

STILL MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 15

of a live band and the magnificent scenery of summer along the St. Clair River.

A new registration format has been adopted this year to allow exhibitors to get their vehicles onto the field and parked more quickly. Registration will be \$10 per vehicle and will only be done on the day of the event. Spectators will be admitted free. For further information, contact Optimist Carla at 519-892-3536 or email: caarssen@hotmail.com

Riverview Central School to host two fundraisers

Riverview Central School at 3926 St. Clair Parkway just north of Port Lambton will host two fundraisers on Saturday, June 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **See page 9 for more information.**

6th Annual Summer Kick-off

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna will hold its 6th Annual Summer Kick-off event on Saturday, June 18 from 11 a.m. to late evening. This all-outdoor event will be held rain or shine. It will feature a backyard barbecue and refreshments, plus live entertainment by *The 447s*, *Full Disclosure*, *JaBriTo*, and *Brian Moon & Rarebreed*. The music begins at 1 p.m. and an open jam will be held under the Big Top tent between acts. A Motorcycle Show and Shine will be held in conjunction with this event - *see below*. Bring a lawn chair. Admission is free but donated canned goods will be accepted for St. Vincent de Paul. All money raised will go to Legion activities and community donations. For more information, call the Legion hall at 519-862-1240.

Motorcycle Show and Shine in Corunna



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna will host a Motorcycle Show and Shine on Saturday, June 18. The event will be held as part of the branch's Annual Summer Kick-off. Registration will be held at noon with a \$5 entry fee per vehicle. Prizes will be presented at 3:30 p.m.

Plaque dedication planned

The St. Clair River Raids, a significant chapter in Canada's early history, will be commemorated with the unveiling of a plaque at Sombra Park in Sombra village on the St. Clair Parkway on Saturday, June 25 at 11 a.m. The public is welcome to attend this event.

Becher fire station open house

The St. Clair Township Fire Department's Becher station, located on Kimball Road just

north of Lambton Line, will host the Station 6 Open House on Saturday, June 25 from noon to 4 p.m. Visitors are invited to see the new addition to the fire hall, check out the new apparatus, demonstrations, fire prevention trailer, a barbecue, and much more. There will be lots of fun for the whole family.

Sombra Days on the way

Sombra Days are on the way the weekend of July 1-3. Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy the festivities. NOTE: Organizers are looking for someone to take over the loonie table. Anyone interested can call Ann at 519-892-3908.

Brigden Fair Ambassador candidates sought

The Brigden Fair Ambassador contest is coming up in August and contestants are now being sought to participate for that coveted title. Females and males between the ages of 17-24 as of Aug. 1, 2026 are invited to fill out an application form. It can be found online at www.brigdenfair.ca or at the fair office, 519-864-1197. Applications must be submitted to the office by Friday, July 22. Prospective competitors are invited to attend an information night on Tuesday, July 19 at 7 p.m. in the board room at the Brigden Fair exhibition hall at the Brigden fairgrounds. Have you got what it takes to wear the crown?

Brigden Fair Ambassador Competition event

The Brigden Fair Ambassador Competition for 2016 will be held on Sunday, Aug. 7 at 2 p.m. in the exhibition hall at the Brigden fairgrounds. Everyone is invited to attend this exciting annual event.

Sportsman Club hosts archery

The Lambton Sportsman Club will host archery sessions on Saturday mornings (not Tuesday evening) from 9 a.m. to noon continuing every Saturday morning until Sept. 24. An archery committee member will be on-site during these sessions. Please note that archery is open to the public but a club member must be present. All ages are welcome and children up to the age of 15 will be admitted free when accompanied by an adult. Ages 16 and over must pay a \$5 fee for the use of the range. For more information, please call Len at 519-344-7009 or Elsie at 519-867-3940.

Ongoing activities offered at Cruickshank Community Centre

Several ongoing activities take place at the

See ...and Still More, page 13

MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 16

Norm at 519-332-1411. And on Saturday, June 25 at 10 a.m., the *Easy Riders (easy level)* will meet at the fish fountain, Centennial Park, for a 30-35 km ride to Corunna for lunch, then return. Call Stan at 519-336-9907.

Duthil Cemetery decoration day set

The annual Duthil Cemetery Decoration Day service will be held on Sunday, June 5 at 2:30 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring a lawn chair.

Brigden Campout Country Jamboree

The Brigden Campout Country Jamboree will be held the weekend of June 8-12, with camping just \$25 per night. On Saturday, June 11, enjoy a roast beef dinner for just \$18 per ticket. Tickets go on sale on June 6. The event will feature a vintage tractor and machinery show, and a country craft sale. For more information, contact Bill Myers at 519-627-5065.

39th Annual Firefighters' Field Day

The Corunna Volunteer Firefighters' Field Day is slated for the weekend of June 10 and 11. The event will include a parade, children's activities, a two-pitch tournament, fire demonstrations, a beer tent, and a dance. This is the firefighters' major fundraiser for the year, so mark these dates on your calendar.



(In 2015, the firefighters donated to several minor sports organizations, Operation Christmas Tree, the Moore Optimist Santa Claus Parade, a Wyoming firefighter who was battling cancer, the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foun-

dation, local schools, and families who have experienced tragic circumstances.)

Sombra Sports to host golf outing

Sombra Sports will host its annual golf outing on Saturday, June 11 at the St. Clair Parkway Golf Course in Mooretown. The fee is \$80 per person and it includes: golf cart, steak dinner, and a prize. Pre-register with Allan Anderson at 519-892-3928.

Doors Open Lambton County

Unique heritage sites and properties will be showcased again this year when *Doors Open Lambton County* takes place the weekend of June 11 and 12. To participate, see page 8. For more information, go online to www.doorsopenlambtoncounty.ca

Brigden Country Craft Show set

The Brigden Country Craft Show will be held on Saturday, June 11 at the Brigden Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission for this arts and crafts show is free. Please enter off Highway 80. For more information, contact the fair office at 519-864-1197. If you would like to be a vendor, please contact the office at the above number or email: finance@brigdenfair.ca

Corunna United to host salad bar luncheon

Summer salad season is in full swing and the Corunna United Church has an ideal lunch event planned for Wednesday, June 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The salad bar luncheon will feature cold turkey and ham plus assorted salads and delicious desserts. Live entertainment will be provided by Larry Greenfield. The cost will be \$12 per person and tickets can be purchased by calling Sylvia at 519-861-1040 or the church office at 519-862-1052.

LSA 27th annual picnic

The Lambton Seniors Association will host its 27th annual picnic at the Petrolia Fair Grounds, Lions pavilion, on Wednesday, June 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$3 which includes music, dancing, food, prizes, and surprises.

12th Annual Sombra Optimist Car Show

Calling all gearheads and auto aficionados! The Optimist Club of Sombra will host the popular 12th annual Sombra Optimist Car Show at beautiful Brander Park south of Port Lambton on Saturday, June 18 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. A wide range of gorgeous classic and late model cars will be featured and kids can participate in the Soapbox Races with their own scaled-down vehicles; they can register at 9 a.m. and begin practice runs at 10 a.m. A food booth will satisfy hungry visitors and Dotsy the Clown will be on hand from noon until 2 p.m. to do face painting for the kids. Adults can enjoy the amenities of the licensed refreshment tent while they relax to the music

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Weekly Souper Thursdays in Corunna

Members of Parkway Church at 551 Murray Drive in Corunna will host *Souper Thursdays*, a free community lunch, every Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy a homemade lunch to eat in or take out. Those who require assistance can call 519-862-3380 to have lunch delivered.

Summer Bingo at Corunna Legion

Summer Bingo will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna hall on Wednesday, June 1. There will be 25 regular games and 4 cards will cost \$20. The feature game will be for \$750. Doors open at 6 p.m. with eyes down at 7 p.m. until 10:30 p.m.

Brigden Outdoor Expo planned

The 1st Annual Brigden Outdoor Expo will be held on Saturday, June 4 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, June 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission will be \$5 per adult and free for children ages 12 and under. For more information, go online to: info@brigdenfair.ca or www.brigdenfair.ca Vendor information can be obtained at: finance@brigdenfair.ca

Fundraiser for Jamie Stewart set

A fundraiser to benefit Jamie Stewart will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna hall at Albert and Beckwith Streets on Saturday, June 4.

Safety Day and Bike Rodeo in Corunna

The annual Safety Day and Bike Rodeo will be held on Saturday, June 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parkway Pentacostal Church, 551 Murray Street in Corunna.



Health and Safety professionals, police, EMS personnel and firefighters will be on site for demonstrations and to answer questions, and there will be bicycle riding and safety skill assessments, plus interactive demonstrations. Participants will enjoy lots of giveaways (while supplies last) and free food. Join your neighbours at this informative event and talk

to local business representatives, bicycle advocates, and local non-profit representatives, and find out how you can get involved in your community.

This event is sponsored by the Corunna

Community Safety Committee (CCSC), the Optimist Club of Moore, the JOOI/OJOI - Junior Optimists, and the Ontario Provincial Police.

1st Annual Carnival Day planned

Ladies and gentlemen!

Children of all ages!

Step right up to the FREE 1st annual Carnival Day sponsored by the Optimist Club of Moore and the Lambton County Junior Optimist Club. Come one, come all to the Courtright Community Centre

(Silverdome) on Sunday, June 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and enjoy carnival games, the bouncy castle, face painting, "break the balloon", and much more. Munch hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, snow cones and nachos. Admission is free, but donations to the Sarnia Humane Society, such as food, blankets, animal toys, etc. would be much appreciated.



History of local furniture making subject of new exhibit

The Lambton Heritage Museum south of Grand Bend on Highway 21 is currently hosting **Made In Lambton**, an exhibit that explores the art of carpentry and furniture making in early Lambton before 1900. See the tools and learn about the techniques that created the many made-to-last pieces that furnished the homes of the area's early residents. For more information, go online to www.lambtonmuseums.ca or call 519-243-2600.

LOC host outdoor activities

The Lambton Outdoor Club will host several cycling activities within St. Clair Township in June. **Helmets will be mandatory.** On Saturday, June 11, the *Easy Riders (medium level)* will meet again at Guthrie Park at 9:30 a.m. for a 50 km ride to Sombra for lunch, then returning. Call Jim at 519-542-8141. The *Hares (medium level)* will set off again on Saturday, June 11 at 9 a.m. from the fish fountain in Centennial Park, Sarnia, to ride along the river road for a distance of 80-90 km to Sombra for lunch, then return. Call