



THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP **BEACON**



**Discoveries
That Matter**

Issue 12

Volume 9

December 2016

THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

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*Best wishes for a joyful Christmas
and may 2017*

come as a friend to all

St. Clair Township Council and Staff



Volunteers receive boost from St. Clair Fire Dept.

Reaching the top of the Corunna Clock Tower Park Christmas tree is no easy feat for volunteers from the Corunna Horticultural Society and they often have to push their luck to complete their task. This year, the St. Clair Township Fire Department rolled out the T-Rex fire truck to offer a safe, mobile platform for the volunteers to use. Deputy Fire Chief Steve Bicum and volunteer Brad Cote, an experienced arborist, are seen here affixing Christmas lights to the top of the tree. They completed the task while securely buckled into safety harnesses and grounded against electrical mishaps. On the ground, Gord Dawson kept the lights steady and fed them out as they were placed to avoid damaging the bulbs.

The safety of volunteers doing a potentially dangerous job for the enjoyment of the entire community is taken seriously by St. Clair Township. Preventative measures like this one ensure that their kind, community-minded efforts do not result in tragic consequences.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

DO YOU NEED A FAMILY DOCTOR? NEW PATIENTS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

There are now four doctors accepting new patients in Corunna. For more information, see page 4.

EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINE

The holiday season requires us to change The Beacon's regular deadline schedule. All submissions for the January, 2017 Beacon must be submitted by noon on Monday, Dec. 12.



MUNICIPAL NOTES

The 2018 municipal elections are still many months away, but decisions about how to carry them out were on the agenda at the Nov. 21 meeting of St. Clair Township Council.

The "vote by mail" method, which has been used twice before, was approved for use again. In his recommendation to council, Clerk Jeff Baranek pointed out that those elections ran smoothly in partnership with *Datafix* and *Dominion Voting*. These two companies have once again been contracted to oversee the process.

The "ranked ballot" was also discussed. In June, 2016, the Provincial government passed legislation that would allow municipal voters to rank the candidates in order of preference. For instance, in the process of a ranked ballot for the mayor's

2018 municipal voting decisions made

position, a candidate must receive 50 per cent plus one to be declared winner. After each round of voting, the candidate with the lowest number of votes would be dropped from the ballot and their votes would be redistributed according to their next choice. Mr. Baranek noted there are no municipal elections in Canada that currently use ranked ballots. This optional voting method was rejected by council in favour of the voting method currently used, which is known as the "first past the post" election model.

32 years of service to public safety honoured



OPP Commander Scott Janssens was honoured at the Nov. 7 meeting of St. Clair Township Council for his 32 years of service as a member of the Ontario Provincial Police. Commander Janssens, who is retiring from the force, joined the OPP in 1984. He and his family have lived in Corunna since 1985. For the past five years, he has been the OPP detachment commander at the Lambton County headquarters in Petrolia. Commander Janssens was presented with a crystal memento by Mayor Steve Arnold in appreciation for his years of service to the community and his tireless commitment to public safety.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

St. Clair Township Council meets every first and third Mondays of the month (with exceptions to accommodate holidays). The next meetings will be held on Monday, Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 19 at 5 p.m. following the Committee of the Whole meeting at 3 p.m. The tentative date for the first meeting of 2017 will be Jan. 3 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021 for further information.



Notice of 2017 Capital Budget Meeting

The St. Clair Township 2017 Capital Budget presentation and deliberation meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016 at 5 p.m. in the council chambers at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street in Mooretown. The budget meeting is open to the public and all ratepayers are welcome to attend.

Charles Quenneville
Director of Finance

Winter parking by-law - Dec. 1

THE WINTER PARKING BY-LAW IS NOW IN EFFECT. Motorists are advised that it is against the law to leave vehicles of any kind parked on public streets and roads overnight from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. This by-law ensures that snow plow crews can do their jobs without having to avoid parked cars.

Property owners are also reminded that it is against the law to shovel snow out into public streets. These snow piles create dangerous obstacles that can contribute to needless automobile collisions.



Season's Greetings from Council & Staff

It has once again been a very busy year for Council, Staff and all of the dedicated volunteers who work so hard to make St. Clair Township the best it can be. Thank you to all.

In the coming year, we will continue to maintain our commitment to the care and positive growth of this municipality. 2017 will also present us with exciting times as we prepare for next summer's Canada 150 celebrations. (See page 8 for more information.)

*On behalf of Council and Staff,
I want to wish you a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy, Safe and Prosperous
New Year!*



Mayor Steve Arnold

Legion 90th anniversary acknowledged



The Royal Canadian Legion Wallaceburg Branch 18 received congratulations on its 90th anniversary and a much-needed donation during the Nov. 7 meeting of St. Clair Township Council. Branch President Len Drouillard, center, and Secretary Peter Polkinghorne were presented with a Certificate of Congratulations and a donation of \$2,500 toward the cost of a new furnace for the branch. Mayor Steve Arnold explained that support for the Wallaceburg branch stems from the fact that it has many members from south St. Clair Township and the township benefits from the good work the branch does in that area of the municipality.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

Ship damage to shoreline being addressed by Transport Canada

Damage to the St. Clair River shoreline has become a matter of concern for Transport Canada Marine Safety and Security. A document from Transport Canada notes that "During recent years there has been a marked increase in damage to wharves, boat-houses, small boats, moored ships, and erosion to the shoreline caused by draw-off and wave disturbance created by the passage of ships and boats." The document also cautions that people, and especially children, are also vulnerable to this hazard.

High water levels are expected to increase and extend the damaging effects of a vessel's passage. The document also indicates that masters, pilots, operators and owners of vessels may be subject to court actions for damages sustained by injured parties as a result of damage or injury caused by the passage of their vessels.

For more information or to report incidents regarding ship damage, contact Capt. Syed Ali, Senior Marine Safety Inspector/Compliance and Enforcement - Transport Canada Marine Safety and Security for the Government of Canada. Call 519-464-5109; Fax 519-383-1997; Cell 519-384-8657; or email - syed.ali@tc.gc.ca

Information is also available online at:

<http://www.ccq-gcc.gc.ca/Marine-Communications/Home>



St. Clair Township Crossing guards

The Township of St. Clair requires a crossing guard(s) to assist school children crossing streets in Corunna. The work involves one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon on school days. The current compensation is \$28.95 per day.

The Township of St. Clair also requires fill-in crossing guard(s) to assist children crossing at various locations in Corunna. The work involves one hour in the morning and one hour after school in the afternoon. The current compensation is \$28.95 per day. The position will be on a "call in" basis and hours will vary widely depending on the need.

Applications setting out qualifications and experience will be received by the undersigned.

Gary DePooter, CET
Co-ordinator of Operations
Phone (519)867-2125
Fax (519)867-3886
St. Clair Civic Centre
1155 Emily Street
Mooretown, Ontario
N0N 1M0

Four new doctors set up practices with Rapids Family Health Team

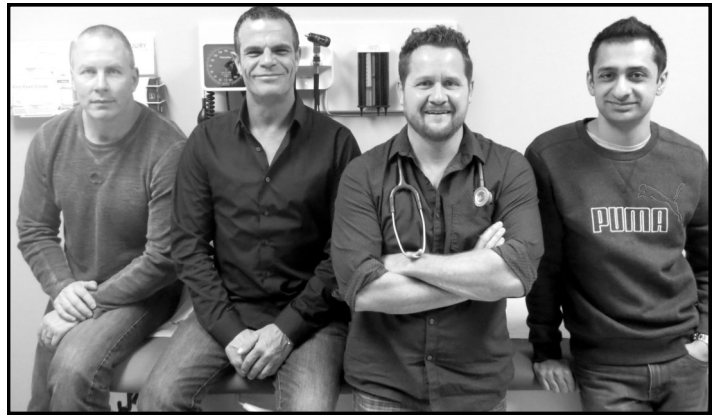
Corunna now has four new doctors accepting new patients in the 233 Cameron Street Shell Health clinic building. Drs. Marc Austin, Dan Vouriot, Adnan Chaudry and Brett Mountain all have family medicine backgrounds with a sub-specialty in emergency medicine. When not at the new clinic, they help staff the emergency department at Bluewater Health, and Dr. Vouriot also works as an ICU physician there. This association with other physicians gives them an enhanced ability to help their patients. "We can call on our colleagues to consult on patients and get them to emergency if we need to," said Dr. Austin.

The family nature of the new clinic practice addresses the needs of all patients, from newborns to seniors. "There is no patient, regardless of complexity, that we would not consider taking on," said Dr. Vouriot.

Patients have the distinct advantage of having immediate access to a number of diagnostic modalities which help speed up many diagnoses. "We're part of the Rapids Family Health Team, so we have access to electrocardiograms, bloodwork, a diabetes educator and social worker," said Dr. Austin.

The team approach is a benefit to the community, giving patients convenient treatment options. "If your doctor is not available, there will always be another to see," said Dr. Austin.

Evening hours are also a plus, acknowledging that ill-



L-R: Dr. Dan Vouriot, Dr. Brett Mountain, Dr. Marc Austin, and Dr. Adnan Chaudry have formed a new practice that is currently taking on new patients. Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

ness doesn't always observe business hours. The clinic is open on Wednesdays until 8 p.m.

The need for timely, focused health care is a need that is now being met. Dr. Mountain says the team is hopeful that, in time, the clinic will continue to grow with new technologies and equipment to offer the residents of St. Clair Township the best in health care.

Dr. Chaudry summed up their hope for the future. "Our overarching theme is to keep people out of the hospital. We have all the necessary resources."

Protect the ones you love - get a flu shot

Lambton Public Health (LPH) urges everyone to get a seasonal flu shot. The vaccine is now available to the public and can be obtained throughout Lambton County at nine community clinics, 29 pharmacies, and from your doctor or nurse practitioner. Please note that pharmacists cannot give flu vaccines to anyone under the age of five. Flu season usually runs from November through April. It takes about two weeks for the vaccine to be fully effective and it pro-

vides protection for four to six months. Those who are at high risk of influenza complications include: adults over age 65; infants and children from six months to five years of age; individuals with a chronic illness; pregnant women; residents in long-term care or chronic care facilities; and aboriginal peoples. For more information, go online to: www.lambtonhealth.on.ca or call the LPH Flu Info Line at 519-383-3812 or toll-free at 1-800-667-1839, ext. 3912.

Lambton County Library hosts 2nd annual Classics Reading Challenge

The Lambton County Library invites residents to get reacquainted with literary classics during the second annual Classics Reading Challenge. The challenge is in progress and will continue until Dec. 31, 2016. This year's contest features 100 classic works of literature from a variety of genres, time periods, and cultures, as well as 67 works of children's literature, including picture books. A list of books is available online at www.lclibrary.ca or at your local Lambton County Library branch.

Participants can read the book, watch a movie based on the book, or listen to the audiobook, then fill out a ballot at the library branch for a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate to the Book Keeper. Those who write a "creative response" to the book/movie in the form of a book review, a favourite memory, or even a poem, can enter the grand prize draw for a chance to win a \$50 gift card to the Book Keeper and a \$50 gift card to the Sarnia Galaxy Theatre. Entries can be submitted to any library branch. Receive an additional entry into the grand prize draw by guessing the mystery book. Clues for the mystery book will be posted periodically on the Library's Facebook page (facebook.com/LCLibraryca) and Twitter pages (twitter.com/LCLibraryca).

The Lambton County Library offers a variety of free materials and

services to meet the leisure and informational needs of the community through 26 branches, bookmobile, and website. eReader lending, multimedia resources, online services, programs, and Internet access are all available. Discover the joy of reading—visit www.library.ca

Some programs offered at county library branches require pre-registration but drop-in programs can be attended without registration. All programs are free unless otherwise noted. To find out what's new at your local library, go online to: www.lclibrary.ca or call toll-free to 1-866-324-6912 with any questions or concerns. To contact your local St. Clair Township library branch for more information, see below.

St. Clair Township Library Branch

Phone Numbers

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)

Be a healthier *you* with help from the Rapids Family Health Team

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. Sessions led by a Nurse Educator, be held on the following dates: Wednesday, Dec. 7 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 11 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Friday, Feb. 17 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Wednesday, March 22 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; and Monday, May 1 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

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 your blood sugar levels, reading food labels, when and how much to eat, and how to increase your physical activity level. Sessions led by a Registered Nurse will be held on the following dates: Wednesday, Dec. 14 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 18 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Friday, Feb. 24 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Wednesday, March 29 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; and Monday, May 8 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

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 the following dates: Wednesday, Jan. 18 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Monday, March 20 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; and Friday, April 28 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Healthy Eating and You

This is a series of four sessions lasting two hours each. The program will help you make permanent lifestyle changes; it is NOT a diet program. You will set your own healthy eating and physical activity goals and learn how to make plans for achieving them. Some topics to be discussed include: carbohydrates, protein and fats (good and bad); physical activity; emotional eating strategies; sensible portions and portion control strategies; group discussions that will help you learn from others' experiences. The

next series will begin Monday, Jan. 9 for four weeks from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Note: Patient must attend the first session to attend the final three. The program is open to the public and no physician referral is required.

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 are slated for: Friday, Jan. 6 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Monday, Feb. 6 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.; Wednesday, March 8 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; and Wednesday, April 5 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

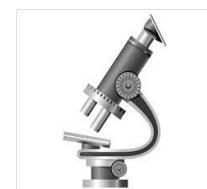
Stress Management Workshop

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 seminars will take place from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on the following dates: Friday, Dec. 2; Friday, Feb. 10; Friday, March 10; and Friday, April 7.

Laboratory Services offered

Laboratory services at the clinic
are available

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



New patients being accepted in Corunna

A new family medical practice has opened at the Shell Health Centre (Rapids Family Health Team), 233 Cameron Street, in Corunna. Drs. Austin, Chaudhry, Mountain, and Vouriot are now accepting new patients.

Applications are now available by calling
519-813-9800.

No matter where you go this winter, take The Beacon with you.

Visit the St. Clair Township website: www.stclairtownship.ca

Click The Beacon on black bar at top of the Home page

HERITAGE CORNER

World War I Honour Roll plaques revealed after decades in storage

The Moore Museum has yet another historical treasure onsite. A poignant set of World War I memorial plaques which have been in storage for decades is now housed in a purpose built shelter on the museum grounds. The new display was unveiled on Nov. 6 with a solemn dedication service, led by Padre Fr. Paul Woolley. The service included the Kohima Epitaph, a fitting prayer written by combatants during the Battle of Burma during WWII. It reads, "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today."

The 11 carved marble plaques documenting the names of Moore Township men who died in World War I were originally displayed in the first Moore Township office at the corner of Moore Line and Kimball Road, which later became the Moore Centre Women's Institute hall. The marble plaques were left in place until the building was vacated, when they were given for safekeeping to the Watson family, owners of the farmland adjacent to the hall. Soldiers commemorated on the plaques include: Sergt. Peter Gauld; Flt. Lieut. Thos. Wilfred Duncan; Pte. Samuel Brigden; Pte. Walter R. Browning; Pte. Frederick Arthur Keene; Pte. Harold M. Phillips; Pte. Frederick Robinson; Pte. Clarence Shaw; Pte. Charles N. Taylor; and Pte. Harry R. Tuddenham.

Given the historical value of the plaques, the Watson family kindly donated them to the Moore Museum so that they could once again be viewed by the public. But their size and weight made them impossible to place within the museum building and they were stored away.

It wasn't until Chemfab Industries Inc., after consultation with Mayor Steve Arnold, donated funds to enable the building of a special shelter for the plaques. Museum volunteers took on the project, which required a careful design strategy to accommodate the heavy marble plaques. "A lot of planning went into making sure the bracing was in the right place," said museum curator Laurie Mason.

The volunteer construction team included: Dave Beer,



Piper Scott Shaw looks on as Jim Townsend, chair of the Moore Museum Advisory Committee, begins the dedication ceremony for the new World War I Honour Roll display on the Moore Museum grounds. Members of the Brigden and Corunna Legions stand at attention to honour the memories of those on the Honour Roll. Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

Lyle Gander, Leo Griffiths, Dan Hayward, Bob Johnson, Lloyd Macdonald, Dave Pattenden, John Richardson, Fred Strickland, Dave Taylor, and James Townsend.



The Honour Roll revealed.

My, how things have changed...



This vintage Pesha post card is a photo of King Street West in Sombra village taken around 1910. Of course, the street, which leads west to the Bluewater Ferry dock, has changed radically through the years. The brick building in the foreground is now the Pic and Pay Variety store, while the building next to it is the Aft Cabin Restaurant.

Photo courtesy Heritage St. Clair

Sombra ferry mounts daring rescue of Mancox

In the November Beacon, our archive diver, Allan Anderson of Heritage St. Clair, found a tidbit on the Mancox, the first Canadian ship to sail through the newly-constructed Canadian side of the Soo Locks in 1958. That alone constitutes an interesting bit of history but, to paraphrase broadcaster Paul Harvey, here's "the rest of the story".

In 1954, as the Mancox was upbound in the St. Clair River bound for Lake Superior with a load of coal, there was panic in the wheelhouse

when it was noticed that the fuel gauge was reading empty. The captain was able to make contact with Morgan Dalgety, owner of the Bluewater Ferry Company and captain of the shiny new ferry Daldean, which had been launched a mere two years before in Erieau. He arranged to bring a tanker truck to Sombra, then loaded the truck onto the Daldean and headed the vessel out into the river to where the thirsty Mancox was anchored just off the shipping channel. The Daldean approached the

distressed ship with extreme caution and, under Captain Dalgety's direction, crew members Art Shova and Roy Sharpe were able to offload the volatile fuel to the Mancox without incident.

The discovery of this interesting factoid led Mr. Anderson to wonder whether the Daldean offered full service, checked the oil and cleaned the windows as well.

Christmas hamper programs are underway

It's not too late to donate! The 2016 Ward 1 Operation Christmas Tree and the Ward 2 Sacred Heart Food Bank holiday food and toy drives are underway and hoping to hear from you. Everyone is encouraged to donate non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys, or cash donations that can be used to buy items that are needed. The items will be used to create hampers that will give families and individuals in need enough food to eat and, for those with children, some toys to enjoy this holiday season.

In north St. Clair Township, the annual OPP Drive-thru donation collection, with Santa and his Moore Optimist Club helpers, will be held at the OPP Emergency Services Building parking lot on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Donations to Operation Christmas Tree, coordinated by the Optimist Club of Moore, can also be made at the

OPP Emergency Services Building in Corunna at the corner of Lyndoch and Hill Streets. The facility will be open to receive donations until Dec. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Organizers estimate about 130 hampers will be required to fill the need this season.

In south St. Clair Township, the Sacred Heart Food Bank is mounting its own Christmas hamper program. The annual Cookie Walk and the door-to-door collection took place at the end of November.

In 2015, the Sacred Heart Food Bank was able to provide 56 families with Christmas hampers, toys, and gift cards from No Frills.

~~~~~

**Families in need can still register to receive a Christmas hamper by registering at the OPP Emergency Service Building Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. until Dec. 13.**

## Gift from Heaven...film at eleven

*There is no news coverage of the night that Christ was born,  
No film or archive evidence, or transcripts to inform.  
But if there had been journalists to cover Jesus' birth  
They might have given this account the night He came to earth.*

**"Three foreign diplomats, today, were seen in bold procession  
Following a brilliant star to one bright intersection.  
The trio halted at a barn wherein a baby lay.  
The child glowed with heavenly light—that's what our sources say.**

**A witness to the strange event informed us of the scene.  
The baby and his parents seem uncommonly serene,  
As if they know a secret that they choose not to impart;  
A secret you cannot be told; a secret of the heart.**

**The barn is filled with splendid light - a light of radiant gold;  
The air is warm and fragrant even though the night is cold.  
The animals are gathered 'round; choir music fills the air.  
Both diplomats and lowly shepherds bow and linger there.**

*This just in...*

**A source close to the baby's mother says he will be king!  
King Herod has no comment, nor has his underling,  
But our Bethlehem affiliate says Herod knows the story.  
He's summoning his soldiers to cut short the child's glory!**

**Our news chief, Malachi the Bold, is on his way to see  
How serious the outcome of the king's response will be.  
Right now, we know that Christ is well, safe-kept by man and Heaven.  
We'll bring you more on this tonight.**

**Tune in - film at eleven.**



B. Stevenson

## Moore Museum hosts annual old fashioned Christmas program

At Christmas time, hundreds of school children visit the Moore Museum to explore Christmas traditions and to create wonderful new holiday memories for themselves. The Christmas program allows them to enjoy a taffy pull and craft-making session. They see how a pioneer family celebrated Christmas in the Courtney cabin and enjoy many other holiday sights that stay with them a lifetime. Adult visitors often comment on how the ornament they made at the museum when they were children still hangs on the Christmas tree each year. The program for school groups runs until Dec. 22 and morning and afternoon bookings are offered, but they must be booked in advance. The cost is \$4.50 per child. For more information, call the museum at 519-867-2020. In 2015, over 800 children attended the Christmas program.

**Below: Museum volunteer Melissa Westbrook decorates a tree with a traditional homemade paper chain.**

*Photo submitted*





## MAS Volunteer Appreciation Awards presented



Above: Yvonne Gray, center, receives the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies Service Award from MAS President Stephanie DeGurse, right and a certificate of congratulations from Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey. Yvonne has volunteered for MAS in the kitchen since the 1970s and was once known as the Cookie Lady.

The Moore Agricultural Society (MAS) presented three important awards at the recent MAS Volunteer Appreciation banquet in October. Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey was also on hand to present a provincial certificate of congratulations.



Above: John Fader, right, was acknowledged for his 53 years of service for staffing the fair entry gates as well as his work as auditor for the Brigden Fair Board. Eldon Krohn, chair of the Gates Committee, second from left, joined MP Bob Bailey and MAS President Stephanie DeGurse during the award presentation.



Paul and Jean Windover, center, received a certificate of appreciation from MAS President Stephanie DeGurse for their 54 years of support and their efforts to help beautify the fairgrounds. This year, the couple acted as Brigden Fair Parade Marshalls as well. MPP Bob Bailey presented them with a certificate of congratulations.

Photos by Bonnie Stevenson

## Canada 150 Committee planning gala July 1 celebration

Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017 is stimulating a lot of activity in most municipalities across the nation. In St. Clair Township, planning is well underway and with good reason. Corunna was once considered for the lofty honour of becoming the capital city of Canada.

All that remains of that idea is a small stone cairn on the north side of Lyndoch Street beside the railway crossing but at the time, the area was known as St. George's Square. The site was quickly dismissed because it was too close to the United States border and cross-border raids such as those that occurred during the Patriot War/1838 Upper Canada Rebellion were cited as a threat.

Planning for next year's July 1 celebration is being done by the St. Clair Township Canada 150 committee headed by Chair Linda Kennedy. The committee has already established several objectives for the celebrations and a commemorative fountain and interpretive walk is already under development at the St. Clair Township Civic Centre. It will be formally dedicated during the July 1 celebration. The site was chosen because of its close proximity to Confederation Park, located between the St. Clair Parkway and the Civic Centre, because it was created in 1967 to commemorate Canada's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The family-friendly events will be centralized at the Mooretown Sports Complex and will include a large children's play area, a day

filled with entertainment such as local bands and musicians, as well as a children's talent show, associated creative challenges such as photo and video projects, and a fireworks display guaranteed to thrill. A spokesperson for the pyrotechnic company in charge of the display says it will compare with those seen at Canada's Wonderland and will include a 15-minute finale.

The smallest details are being considered so that everyone can enjoy the day. An on-site transportation system is being developed to address the needs of visitors with mobility challenges and to shuttle visitors from outlying parking areas. Commemorative items are being designed to mark the day and provide lasting keepsakes.

An information website is being developed and an email site will be created to allow the public to participate in the preparations being made for the celebration. For instance, the committee is looking for old/historic photographs that show locations in St. Clair Township (Moore and Sombra Townships) as they were before modern development changed the face of the township's many small communities. The email site will make it convenient for contributors to make contact. The committee is hoping that all residents will make July 1, 2017 a day of family celebration, not only for those who live and work in St. Clair Township, but for former residents who are invited to reconnect with family and old friends.



## Township residents honour fallen on Remembrance Day 2016



Submitted photo



Remembrance Day services in Corunna and Brigden drew hundreds of St. Clair Township residents. In Brigden, left, the service at the cenotaph took place beneath a high-flying Canadian flag held aloft by one of the newest vehicles in the township's firefighting fleet. At Corunna Clock Tower Park, above, one of the many wreaths dedicated during the service was for Port Lambton resident Pte. William Cushley, who died in the Afghanistan conflict. The wreath was placed by Mayor Steve Arnold.

Above: Bonnie Stevenson photo

## Fire truck restoration project 40 years in the making

~Based on documents researched by the restoration team~

A 1925 Lafrance pumper fire truck will finally receive its long-awaited makeover after 40 years of waiting.

The truck was purchased by the Corunna Firemen's Association in 1977 from the Chemical Valley Region (Sarnia) branch of the Antique and Classic Car Club of Canada. During its service days, the truck was equipped with a 1,000 gallon-per-minute triple combination screw pump. Its cost, when purchased by the Sarnia Fire Department in 1926, was \$15,750.

The truck was not restored after purchase because of lack of funds, and it was donated to the Moore Museum in 1981, where it later became one of the exhibits housed in the fire hall. Funds for the truck's restoration have been generated by the firefighters through the annual Firefighter's Field Day. Project Chair Joe Rodrigues says the \$10,000 currently available for the project will be used to restore the engine to good working order. Ongoing fundraising efforts will be used to restore the truck to its former glory as they are received. The total project cost is estimated between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

The truck attended some spectacular fires during its years of service in Sarnia, but without doubt, the most dramatic of the lot was the destruction of the *Harmonic*, a passenger liner that burned at the C.S.L. dock in Point Edward in 1945. The truck was especially effective due to its ability to increase water pressure that could send a flow of water up to the highest deck of the

ship. Under less heroic circumstances, the pumper was used to pump water out of flooded homes, but the practice was discontinued after there were too many incidents of flood debris clogging the pump.

Anyone wishing to contribute funds, materials, or in-kind donations can contact the Corunna fire hall through its website at [www.corunnafire.com](http://www.corunnafire.com). Commemorative donations honouring retired or former Corunna firefighters can also be made.

Below: Corunna volunteer firefighters who will undertake the restoration of the 1925 Lafrance fire truck include: Capt. Joe Rodrigues (restoration project chair); Chief Tom Mitchell; Capt. Wayne MacDonald; Nick Haynes; Brian Daamen; Derek Manchester; Pete Fedorko; Deputy Chief Dave Yorke; Chris Albert; Gary Albert; Craig Perrin. Missing from photo: Peter Humble; Mark Perrin.

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson



## St. Clair Township students join the Great Big Crunch

On Oct. 20, 330 students at St. Joseph Catholic School in Corunna led a total of 13,000 Lambton County students at 43 county schools in the Great Big Crunch. At 9 a.m., the students simultaneously bit into a fresh, local apple to kick off the Student Nutrition program across the county.

Lambton County's Student Nutrition program provides free healthy food to students during the school year. The program, funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, is delivered through Lambton Public Health and the Ontario Student Nutrition Program.

For more information about the program, call 519-344-2062, ext. 2011, toll free at 1-800-387-2882, or go online to [www.lambtonhealth.on.ca](http://www.lambtonhealth.on.ca)

Right: A group of St. Joseph students prepare to lead the Great Big Crunch in an effort to demonstrate how delicious healthy eating can be.

*Photo submitted*



## Attention motivated youth

The Royal Canadian "1st Hussars" Army Cadet Corps Petrolia invites boys and girls ages 12-18 to learn new skills, marksmanship, orienteering, hiking, leadership, pipes and drum band, and teamwork, participate in many new challenges, make

new friends and attend great summer camps, all at no cost. Join us today!

Cadets are not required to join the military. For more information, call 519-332-6555 or visit: [www.petroliacadets.com](http://www.petroliacadets.com)

## Assistance for veterans and spouses available

Do you know someone who is living on the street or who might benefit from the Soldier's On program? Are you interested in finding out if you qualify for assistance with problems like housekeeping, snow clearing, grass cutting, hearing aids or other medical assistance? For information, call the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch at 519-862-1240 or the Brigden Branch at 519-864-1395, or Service Officer Gerry Den Hartogh at 519-862-1613.

## Sombra Optimist Club inducts new board officers



The Optimist Club of Sombra Township began its 2016-2017 season with the induction of its new board members. Officiating at the event, held in conjunction with the club's regular monthly meeting in Port Lambton, was Optimist Lieutenant Governor Johanne Leach. New members willing to volunteer time to benefit the youth of the community are always welcome. The club is a proud sponsor of the Down River Junior Optimist Club for youth ages eight through 18. Anyone wishing further information on becoming a member can contact President Carla at 519-892-3536 or email: [caarssen@hotmail.com](mailto:caarssen@hotmail.com)

*Photo submitted*



## *Mooretown Flags serve up welcome assistance at Grand Dessert Gala for Breast Cancer*



This handsome group of gentlemen offered welcome assistance to those who attended the 9th Annual Grand Dessert Gala for Breast Cancer Research at the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 447 in Corunna on Oct. 12. This is the seventh year that members of the Mooretown Flags hockey club have been part of the event, escorting guests into the building and to their tables, and helping hostesses unload their vehicles. Organizers say this is a part of the event the ladies who attend the gala look forward to.

This year, the gala raised over \$5,000 and since its inception, it has garnered over \$48,000 for breast cancer research. The Canadian Cancer Society extended thanks to the Mooretown Flags, citing the club's support for, and dedication to, the fight against breast cancer.

*Photo submitted*

## *Brigden 4-H Awards Banquet recognizes youth achievement*

The Brigden 4-H Award Banquet held on Nov. 16 recognized the achievements of about 75 members of Brigden clubs. Among those who were chosen for special recognition was Ashley Armstrong, who received the Outstanding New 4-H Ontario Volunteer Award.

Ashley is a 4-H leader in Lambton County and has also volunteered for two years as a board of directors member, where she took a leadership role for the 4-H 100th anniversary celebration in 2015. She was cited for her commitment to 4-H and her enthusiasm for the work she does with the children who attend the classes she leads.

Presenting the award to Ashley Armstrong, center, is 4-H Leader Debbie Coke, left, and 4-H Ontario Representative Andy McTaggart.

*Photo by Bonnie Stevenson*





## ***Battle that winter weight at Mooretown Sports Complex***

Don't let boredom and bad weather turn you into a couch potato! The Mooretown Sports Complex has many ways for you to stay active and fight off those winter love handles. Just check out the Community Services Website and look for the Mooretown Sports Complex **WINTER BROCHURE** at:

<http://www.stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca>

### **Winter Swimming Lessons**

Register now for the Winter 2017 swimming lessons. Private lessons, group, adult, parent and tot program are available. Lessons begin the week of Jan. 9.

### **Spinning Class**

Certified spinning instructors will get you moving toward improved cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, and power. Classes are: Tues. or Thurs., 7-7:45 a.m. Beginners can enjoy classes of their own on Tuesday evenings from 7:15-8 p.m. And Bikes and Bells offers a class that incorporates spin with strength training on Monday or Wednesday from 5-6 p.m. or Friday from 9-10 a.m.

### **Hip Hop and Ballet**

On Thursday evenings, kids can join Hana Omar-Craig from HOC Dance Club to learn fun, exciting, and popular Hip Hop dance moves for ages seven to 13 from 5:30-6:15 p.m. The cost is \$120 for 12 weeks. Ballet for ages three to five years is offered from 5-5:30 p.m. at a cost of \$110 for 12 weeks and ballet for ages six through nine is offered from 6:15-7 p.m. at a cost of \$120 for 12 weeks. Classes begin on Thursday, Jan. 12.

### **Muscle Mix group fitness**

Muscle Mix group includes kettlebell training to build lean muscle, improve strength and power in upper body, core, and lower body, and increase coordination, joint mobility, and overall endurance. Classes are Tues. and Thurs., 9-10 a.m. and Wed., 6-7 p.m. Cost is \$6/class, \$5/senior, \$45/10 visit pass, included with \$225/year full fitness centre membership.

### **Cardio Kick Boxing**

The cardio kick boxing fitness class is a high-energy cardio workout with martial arts moves gets your metabolism revving. Classes are Monday evenings from 6-7 p.m. at a cost of \$6/class, \$5/senior, \$45/10 visit pass/ included with \$225/year full fitness centre membership.

### **Shallow & Deep Water Aerobics**

Enjoy and experience the rejuvenating power of water. Programs include a variety of exercises that target posture, muscular endurance, strength, cardiovascular, flexibility, and balance. Shallow water classes: Mon., Wed., Fri., 10-11 a.m., Tues. and Thurs., 8-9 p.m. Deep water classes: Mon., Wed., 8-9 a.m. Cost is \$6/class, \$5/senior, \$45/10 visit pass/ included with \$225/year full fitness centre

membership.

### **Water Therapy: Arthritis and fibromyalgia water exercise**

This program includes cardiovascular training, functional fitness, muscular endurance and strength, balance and flexibility training with a goal of improved mobility. Classes are held Tues. and Thurs. from 10-11 a.m. The cost is \$6/class, \$5/senior, or \$45/10 visit pass. Join any time!

### **Indoor Walking Low Impact Exercise—Free!**

Sponsored by West Lambton CHC, this program is held Mon. and Wed. mornings, 9-10 a.m. Call 519-344-3017, ext. 237 for more information or to register.

### **Tim Horton's sponsored free skate**

The whole family can enjoy free skating thanks to the sponsorship of Tim Horton's Café and Bake Shop. Skating times will be Tuesday, Dec. 27 from 1-2:30 p.m. and Thursday, Dec. 29 from 1-2 p.m.

### **Healthy Kids Community Challenge free public skate**

The Healthy Kids Community Challenge will sponsor free public skates from 1-2 p.m. on: Monday, Jan. 2; Tuesday, Jan. 3; and Wednesday, Jan. 4.

### **Public Skate**

Public skating will be held from 1-2:15 p.m. on Sundays, Dec. 4, Dec. 11, and Dec. 18 at a cost of \$2.25 /child, \$3.25/adult, or \$6.50/family.

For more information or to register for any of these programs, contact the Mooretown Sports Complex at 519-867-2651. Find us online at: [www.stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca](http://www.stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca)

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## **JUVENILE SILVER STICK TOURNAMENT**

THE 2017 JUVENILE SILVER STICK TOURNAMENT IS SLATED FOR THE MOORETOWN SPORTS COMPLEX ON JAN. 5-8. DON'T MISS THE ACTION AS TOP TEAMS IN THE LEAGUE VIE FOR TOP HONOURS!



# COMMUNITY CONTACT

## New members invited to join 1st Hussars Army Cadet Corp Petrolia

The Royal Canadian 1st Hussars Army Cadet Corps Petrolia invites boys and girls ages 12-18 to learn new skills, participate in many new challenges. Learn marksmanship and orienteering, enjoy hiking, learn leadership skills and teamwork, and pipes and drum band. Make new friends and participate in great summer camps. There is no cost to members, so join us today! Cadets meet every third Monday of the month and are not required to join the military. Visit [www.petroliacadets.com](http://www.petroliacadets.com) today or call 519-332-6555.

## Become a community builder as an Optimist Club member

The Sombra Optimist Club is looking for new members who want to help their community thrive. This volunteer organization exists to make their community a better place by doing great things for the youth in their area. Over the years, the Sombra Optimists have been involved in many projects and activities including improvements to Brander Park, the skate board ramp at Van Damme Park, the annual car show at Brander Park, Bike Safety Rodeo, and many others. Be a friend of youth - join the Optimist Club of Sombra. For more information or to become a member, call Carla Aarssen at 519-892-3536.

## 7th annual elimination draw underway

Tickets for the 7th annual elimination draw, sponsored by Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447, are now on sale for \$20 per ticket. The grand prize will be \$2,400 and weekly draws begin May 6, 2017, with the final draw slated for Sept. 23, 2017. Tickets are available at the Corunna Legion hall. Call 519-862-1240 for more information or to purchase tickets. Get your tickets early - they make great Christmas gifts.

## Brigden United Church services and activities

Brigden United Church holds regular services every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to join the congregation for meaningful worship, fellowship, and coffee. Newly appointed minister, Rev. Deanna Gibson, comes to the church from a ministry at St. Joseph's Hospice in Sarnia. In addition to regular services, the church will again host **Messy Church** beginning on Oct. 27 and running through next June from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The weekly event features a relaxed evening of worship, crafts, and a provided supper. Children must be accompanied by an adult; parents and grandparents are welcome. This event introduces children to a faith-based life in a fun and informal way. And the **Moms and Tots Drop Inn** happens at the church every Friday morning from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The program is held under the auspices of Sombra Rural Childcare. For more information, call 519-892-3151.

## Your change helps the St. Clair Trail

Donate your spare change to the St. Clair Trail through the *Pennies for Pavement* program. Just drop it off at the following locations: 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: [stclair-rivertrail.com](http://stclair-rivertrail.com)

## New members welcome - Lambton County Jr. Optimists

The Lambton County Junior Optimist Club is always on the lookout for youth who want to make a difference in their community. Club members ages 10 through 18 volunteer in the community and fund-

raise 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 non-profit TOPS Corunna 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 Wendy at 519-862-2808.

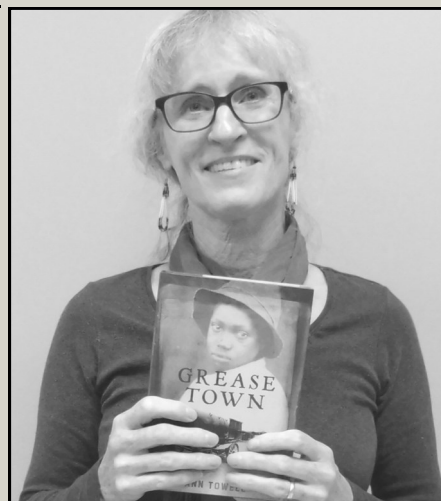
## Recovery support group meets weekly

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. For more information, contact Rita at 519-867-2932.

## Lambton Seniors Assoc. Handyman/Handywoman Program helps seniors at home

Seniors, don't struggle with the upkeep of your home. Lambton Seniors Association handy men and handy women can help with everything from yard work to housekeeping. Call 519-339-8866 or 1-800-219-4717 for info.

## Local author speaks at Sombra Museum



Local author Ann Towell spoke about the steps to writing a book and how to get it published during her fascinating lecture at the Sombra Museum in September. The author also challenged her audience with a game. She told them the first line from a popular novel and asked them to identify the title of the book. Museum curator Shelley Lucier reports the lecture and the game made for an enjoyable evening of information and entertainment.

Above: Ann Towell and her book, *Grease Town*, a story based on the oil boom days of Oil Springs. Photo submitted

## Donations to Operation Christmas Tree are “sew right”!

Among the thoughtful donations brought to the annual OCT Poor Boy lunch at the Corunna Legion on Nov. 17 was a substantial number of homemade pajamas and doll clothes made with love by the Sew Crazy Girls. The group brought a total of 57 sets of cozy children's pajamas, plus two 18 inch dolls complete with wardrobes and some miscellaneous items that young recipients are sure to enjoy. In addition to the Sew Crazy Girls' annual donations to OCT, group member Yvonne McKenzie says the group also donate items to many local charities and institutions. She also expressed appreciation to the Corunna Legion for allowing the group to meet in the hall and to the public for contributing materials that can be used to make the many items they create.

OCT President Lorne Powell says Operation Christmas Tree is not just a seasonal initiative. It is in operation all year 'round, providing funds and items to help those who have suffered losses through disasters ranging from house fires to catastrophic accidents. All items brought to the OCT collection site after the Christmas hampers have been made up are still helpful to the local food bank operated through St. Vincent de Paul.

Families in need of a Christmas hamper can still apply for one at the St. Clair Township Emergency Services building at the corner of Lyndoch and Hill Streets. Donations of non-perishable food and new, unwrapped toys to OCT can also be taken to this location, where OCT has facilities set up to receive and sort the items.

**Shown right with Operation Christmas Tree President Lorne Powell, from left: Sew Crazy Girls Yvonne McKenzie, Melinda Stevens, and Charlie Barnes.**

*Photo by Bonnie Stevenson*



## Winners from 2016 Brigden Fair-related activities and draws

**Quilt winner:** The winner of the draw for the 2016 Brigden Fair Homecraft Ladies quilt was Christine Ratte of Ridgetown.

**Best Big Bale display:** 1st -Michelle Evanitski; 2nd- Duncan MacRae; 3rd -Shannon Ford.

**Best Decorated Yard:** 1st - Ian Stephens; 2nd - Michelle Evanitski; 3rd - Doris and Robert Gostick; 4th - Mainstreet Credit Union.



**Wee Ones on Wheels:** The adults weren't the only ones having a smashing good time at the 2016 Brigden Demolition Derby in October. The kids power derby brought out all of the mini gearheads-in-training, much to the delight of the crowd. Every entrant received a trophy from Preece Enterprises in Brigden as well as candy floss from Candy Hut in Wallaceburg.

*Photos submitted*



## Demolition derby king:

The 2016 Brigden demolition derby winner was Scott Babcock, seen here with Brigden Fair Ambassador Kayla Farr and his prize, a DeWalt tool kit donated by Part Source in Samia.

## 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](http://www.ontarioearlyyears.ca).



## MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

From page 16

### Cruikshank Community Centre hosts weekly activities

The Cruikshank Community Centre hosts two popular activities each week. Morning coffee socials run from Monday to Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. and everyone is welcome. And **euchre nights** are held on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. The cost is \$3 per session, which includes light refreshments.

### 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.

### Indoor walking in Brigden

Indoor walking has resumed in Brigden at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall, 2876 Brigden Road. Sessions are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For

more information, call any at 519-344-3017, ext. 237.

### LEO offers exercise for seniors in Sombra

Lambton Elderly Outreach continues to offer Forever Fit exercise classes for seniors at Sombra hall. Classes are Mondays and Thursdays at 9 a.m., and Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Chair exercise is offered at 10 a.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. Everyone 55 and older are welcome. Shoes with a good tread on the sole are required.

### Country Jamborees in Brigden

Country Jamborees at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall will continue on the second Sunday of each month until April 9. Doors open at noon and the music starts at 1 p.m. There will be a cash bar and supper tickets will be available at the door. Singers, musicians, toe tappers and appreciative listeners are all welcome to come and enjoy an afternoon of fun.

### Sombra Museum lecture series continues

The Sombra Museum's popular lecture series continues on Feb. 23, 2015 Canadian Grand Masters fiddle champ Greg Henry will talk about how he became interested in fiddle music and he'll play some tunes. On March 28, guest speaker Michael Deery will present *Anticipation and Disappointment*, a look at why some mail was returned to sender during WWII. Using actual correspondence, he will explain the reasons behind a problem that caused untold despair and disappointment to those who send the letters and those who never received them. And on April 25, Jeff Horley will speak about how he built his 38-foot wooden dream boat and why it took 26 years to complete. The beautiful sailboat includes a Jacuzzi tub, stained glass windows, and enough space to sleep six people.

### Bluewater Sharks Spring Hockey Tourney

The 2017 Women & Men's Recreational "Non-Competitive" hockey tournaments are slated for April 7-9, 2017 at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena in Sarnia. The 7th annual Women's 18 & over, and the 6th annual Men's 19 & over tourneys, all divisions, will begin play on Friday evening. There will be six teams in a division semi-finals and finals will be held on Sunday with a possible five games. Applications are available online at [www.bluewatersharkshockey.com](http://www.bluewatersharkshockey.com) and the deadline to enter the tournament will be March 18, 2017. The cost will be \$775 Canadian, \$625 American for the adult tournament weekend. For information, call Ed at 519-344-8624 (email: [emarcy@sympatico.ca](mailto:emarcy@sympatico.ca)) or Lance at 519-344-2205 (email: [lmarcy@cogeco.ca](mailto:lmarcy@cogeco.ca)).

### UN Youth Pilgrimage program ends



Grade 12 student Marissa Muller of Petrolia will be the final student to benefit from the Rebekah and Odd-fellows' UN Youth Pilgrimage program. Marissa placed third out of a field of 197 in the program's speaking contest - the top three were all from Canada. While on her exciting journey to the United Nations in New York City, Marissa heard Stevie Wonder speak to the assembly on the occasion of Nelson Mandela's birthday.

Mayflower Rebekah spokesperson Joyce Brock says the group has supported a student in the program for over 60 years, but for the last few years, not many students have taken an interest in participating.

*Photo submitted*

### Mooretown Flags home game season schedule

The schedule for upcoming Mooretown Flags hockey games is as follows (all games at 7:30 p.m. unless noted):

Friday, Dec. 2 - Essex; Saturday, Dec. 3 - Wallaceburg; Saturday, Dec. 10 - Lakeshore; Saturday, Dec. 17 - Blenheim; Friday, Dec. 23 - Amherstburg; Wednesday, Jan. 4 - Wheatley at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 14; Wednesday, Jan. 18 - Lakeshore at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 21 - Dresden; Saturday, Jan. 28 - Wallaceburg.

The Flags finished in fourth place last season and the league's Coach of the Year is back behind the bench, so hopes are high the team will improve on last season's success.

**Go Flags!**

# AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

## Snowflake Tea & Bake Sale set

The Snowflake Tea & Bake Sale will be held at All Saints' Church in Corunna (corner of Lyndoch and Hill Streets) on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The event will include: baking; frozen pies; jewellery; knitting; preserves and more. A tea room will be in operation, offering home-baked tea biscuits or a lemon dessert. Everyone is welcome to come and bring a friend.

## Progressive euchre tourney at Corunna Legion

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna will host a progressive euchre tournament on Sunday, Dec. 4, with registration from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Play begins at 1 p.m. and this event is open to everyone.

## Sacred Heart Food Bank Fowl Bingo

A Fowl Bingo will be held at the Sombra Community Centre on Monday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. There will be 15 rounds for chickens and three rounds for turkeys. There will also be a draw for two Christmas dinners including turkeys (serves six to eight people). All proceeds will go to the Sacred Heart Food Bank.

## Christmas dessert buffet at Corunna U. C.

The Corunna United Church Women will host a Christmas dessert buffet on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. The event will include delicious desserts, worship, and musical entertainment by Janet LaPlante. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling Sylvia at 519-862-1040.

## Christmas turkey bingo in Corunna

A Christmas turkey bingo will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 447 hall in Corunna. There will be 25 games played for a Christmas turkey and four cards will cost \$25. A special game will feature prizes of \$700 for first, \$200 for second, and \$100 for third. Doors open at 6 p.m. and play begins at 7 p.m. For more information, call 519-862-1240.

## Alf Hughes Memorial mixed darts tourney

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna will host the Alf Hughes Memorial mixed darts tournament on Saturday, Dec. 10. Registration will be from 11-11:45 a.m. and play begins at noon. Singles, mixed doubles, and teams are invited to participate with a cost of \$5 per person per event. The tourney will welcome players from beginner to experienced competitors.

## Corunna Legion jam session series resumes

Free jam sessions are held at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 on the last Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. Future sessions are planned for: **Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve jam** with live music beginning at 2 p.m.; Jan. 28; Feb. 25; March 25; April 29; and May 27. You don't have to be a member to come out and join the fun - play an instrument, sing, or just listen - it's a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

## New Year's Levee in Corunna

The Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Br. 447 will

host its annual New Year's Day Levee on Sunday, Jan. 1 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Everyone is invited to welcome in 2017 by coming to the Legion hall at Albert and Beckwith in Corunna. Snacks and refreshments will be available. The levee is the Legion's way of saying thank you to the community for its support of the many events and programs the Legion sponsors each year. Everyone is invited to come and join this time of celebration and fellowship.



## Celtic evening planned at Corunna U. C.

The Amicitia Club of Corunna United Church will once again host a Celtic evening on Friday, Jan. 20. Enjoy a roast beef dinner and entertainment by Christine Storey and Friends. Tickets are \$30 and are available from Lloyd at 519-384-0782 or 519-862-1040.

## Free health programs offered by West Lambton Community Health Centre

Several free health programs are offered in St. Clair Township by the West Lambton Community Health Centre. **Cooking Buddies** at the Brigden fairgrounds kitchen (last Monday of each month through April, 2017 or the third Monday of each month until April, 2017) offers free cooking classes for children ages six through 12. To register, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237. **Low impact exercise** at the Mooretown Sports Complex will be held Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. through April, 2017. For more information, call Amy at 519-344-3017, ext. 237. **Low impact exercise** at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Amy at 519-344-3017, ext. 237.

## Weekly Souper Thursdays in Corunna

The Parkway Church, located at 551 Murray Drive in Corunna, hosts a **FREE Souper Thursday** community lunch every week from noon to 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come to the church and enjoy a homemade lunch to eat in or take out. Those who require assistance can call 519-862-3380 to have lunch delivered. For more information, contact the church online at: [parkwaychurchmichelle@gmail.com](mailto:parkwaychurchmichelle@gmail.com)

See More Around the Township, page 15

## Contact The Beacon to spread the word

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. **Deadline for The Beacon, February through December, is every third Monday of each month. THE EARLY DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY 2017 ISSUE will be Monday, Dec. 11 by noon.**

Email: [beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca](mailto:beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca)