



THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP **BEACON**

**Discoveries
That Matter**
THE TOWNSHIP
OF ST. CLAIR

Issue 1

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Good Samaritan helps Courtright kids and canine

By Bonnie Stevenson

Sisters Alex and Samantha DeGurse of Courtright have a curious Good Samaritan story to tell and a happy, healthy dog to hug thanks to the efforts of an unknown angel.

The pair were out walking their dog, Toby, near the family home along the St. Clair Parkway south of Courtright when a large breed dog broke away from its owner and lunged at the little brown cavoodle (mix of Cavalier King Charles spaniel and a miniature golden doodle).

"I saw the dog coming and I picked up Toby, but the dog pulled him out of my arms," said Alex. "Toby tried to get away but I was holding onto Toby's leash and trying to push the other dog away."

"I was thinking he was going to die," added Samantha.

The large dog's owner saw what was happening and was able to pull his dog away. But the girls and their pet were shaken and in shock over what has happened. It was then that the mysterious lady in the white car appeared.

"A driver pulled over when she saw Toby running around and the dog chasing him," said Samantha. The woman picked up the distraught dog and looked for bite marks, but she was also aware of the children's distress. "She calmed us down," said Alex. "She really helped us a lot."

They carried Toby home and called their father, Daniel, who took Toby to the veterinarian for a thorough checkup. A puncture mark was found and the vet gave the family medication to treat the wound. As for the Good Samaritan, she vanished before she could be properly thanked but the children made sure their parents knew how important her kindness had been. "The girls had nothing but praise for the lady in the white car," said Daniel DeGurse.

He added, "The dog owner waited for me to walk by and then came (to check on them)."

The kindness of the mystery lady will not be forgotten. The DeGurse family and little Toby would like her to know that her kindness and caring were much appreciated.



Sisters Alex, 12, and Samantha, 10, with the beloved family cavoodle, Toby.
Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

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****Dog owners are asked to keep their pets on a leash whenever they are on public property or in areas that would allow the pet to venture onto public property. Even the most well-behaved of animals can act unpredictably and the consequences can be tragic.***

Doctors now accepting new patients

New family practice doctors located in Corunna—now accepting patients. See *Rapids Family Health Team* on page 5.

***Wherever you go this winter,
take The Beacon with you.***

Visit the St. Clair Township web-site: www.stclairtownship.ca

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



MUNICIPAL NOTES

Winter parking by-law in effect

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.

Transport Canada concerned over shoreline damage caused by ships

Damage to the St. Clair River shoreline due to the excessive speed of some passing ships remains 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.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/Marine-Communications/Home>

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 Tuesday, Jan. 3 at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, Jan. 16 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.



St. Clair Township crossing guards sought

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

LPH recommends radon testing

Lambton Public Health is recommending that homeowners take the time to test their homes for radon. Testing for the naturally-occurring radioactive gas is inexpensive and easy, and test kits are available from local home improvement stores or can be purchased online at takeactiononradon.ca/test/Ontario. Health Canada recommends testing during the winter months in the lowest lived-in area of the residence for a minimum of three months to obtain the most accurate results.

Lambton County has an average risk for high radon levels compared to other areas of Ontario. However, long-term exposure to radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in Canada next to smoking.

If a home tests above Health Canada's guideline, there are recommended ways to decrease the radon level. Lambton Public Health can provide information to help homeowners test for radon and options to find a certified radon mitigation contractor if needed.

Volunteers needed to help at July 1 *Canada 150* Celebration

Next July 1, a mighty event will sweep into Mooretown and take over the grounds at the Mooretown Sports Complex. St. Clair Township is currently making plans to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary with a family friendly day of activities for all, good food, good entertainment, and a few delightful surprises.

The event will begin mid-afternoon and continue well into the evening, with a fantastic fireworks display providing the perfect finale to the day.

An event like this doesn't happen without the help of a lot of people. So the St. Clair Township *Canada 150* Committee is now seeking volunteers to fill a number of important roles that day, from parking and pedestrian safety people to grounds maintenance crews and general set up and tear down helpers. (*High school students will be able to earn some volunteer hours.*)

Details are still being worked out, but as the event begins to gel, the committee will issue a list of volunteer positions required for the event.

In the months to come, watch *The Beacon* for up-to-date information on events and activities surrounding this landmark event.



You're going to see a lot of this new logo (in colour, of course) during 2017. The St. Clair Township Sesquicentennial logo is currently being used on introductory stickers, but it will become a common sight as July 1 approaches.

157th Warden of Lambton County elected

Lambton Shores Mayor Bill Weber was elected Warden of Lambton County by secret ballot during the Lambton County Council meeting of Dec. 7. Warden Weber began his political career as a councillor for Stephen Township in 1986, was elected deputy reeve of the township in 1992 and Reeve in 1995. He served on Huron County Council from 1992-1997 and, in 2000, he was elected to serve on the newly amalgamated Lambton Shores council as a Ward 2 councillor until 2010 when he was elected Mayor of Lambton Shores. He was re-elected to that position in 2014. He is

a retired dairy farmer, husband of 42 years, father of three and grandfather of four with a fifth on the way.

Petrolia Mayor John McCharles was voted deputy warden. First elected to Petrolia Town Council in 1980, he has served as an elected official since then, excluding 2003-2006. He was a Petrolia town councillor for 17 years, a Sarnia-Lambton School Board trustee for three years, commissioner for Petrolia PUC for three years, and has served on Lambton County Council for over 14 years.

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 provides 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.

St. Clair River Trail Committee seeks public input for new website

Do you have a favourite location along the St. Clair River Trail where you catch fish, watch sunsets, view ships, enjoy picnics and see wildlife? The St. Clair River Trail Committee is gathering information for its new website and members of the public are invited to share their experiences along the river trail.

Do you know a location of historical interest? Which section of the trail do you recommend to others and what sets it apart from the others?

Let the committee know your thoughts on these and other aspects of the river trail by emailing: jdolbear@twp.stclair.on.ca

Lambton County Library starts New Year with reading appreciation program

The Lambton County Library's fifth annual "Read Aloud Lambton and Spread the Words" program begins on Jan. 13 and ends on Feb. 16. This event includes two notable literary occasions: Family Literacy Day on Jan. 26 and World Read Aloud Day on Feb. 16. Families are invited to share the power of words and the joy of reading through the world of books from two authors.

Enjoy children's author Doreen Cronin with her hilarious animal and insect stories such as *Click Clack Moo* and *Diary of a Fly*. They're great read-aloud books. And young adult readers will become spellbound in the storytelling of Cornelia Funke's fantasy books such as *Reckless* and the *Inkworld* trilogy.

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, multi-media resources, online services, programs, and Internet access are all available. Discover the joy of reading—visit www.library.ca



New preschool sessions begin the week of Jan. 16 at most Lambton County Library branches. Sessions are generally six weeks in length.

Tales for Tots is a 30 minute program designed for children ages three and under and their caregivers.

Story Hour is a one hour program for children ages three to five and their caregivers. It includes songs, stories, fingerplays, activities, and crafts developed to stimulate and create an early interest in reading.

French Story Hour is offered at the Corunna library.

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 outside of Wyoming, 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 listed with Phone Numbers

Brigden (519-864-1142): Tales for Tots, pre-register, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 25 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Book Club (adult), pre-register, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 25 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Teen Book Club, pre-register, Tuesday, Jan. 31.

Corunna (519-862-1132): Drop-in activities are offered all month for all ages anytime during hours of operation. They include: Make and take crafts; Lego; Discover straws and connectors (January); and Discover WiiU (February). Other programs include: Tales for Tots, ages up to age three; Shake It Up Winter, ages 4 and up; St. John's Therapy Dogs, all ages; Tutorial Blitz, all ages; Introduction to EFT (Tapping), adult; Adult Book Club; Adult Colouring; Corunna Community Knit Group, adult; YMCA Settlement Services, adult; Thompson Gardens Book Club, senior. Call Corunna library for details.

Courtright (519-867-2712): Drop-in Make and Take, all month, any time during open hours; Tales for Tots, ages 18 months to three years with caregiver, drop-in; Thursday, Jan. 12, 19, 26 from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.; Tween Scene Discovery Kits Fun, ages seven to 12, drop-in, Thursday, Jan. 12, 26 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Adolescence, ages 12 to 17, drop-in, Thursday, Jan. 5 - cool activities and sports; Tutorial Blitz, adult, drop-in, Tuesday, Jan. 24 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. - Bring in your device for free help downloading various eLibrary resources.

Mooretown (519-867-2823): STEAM, ages five to 13, drop-in, Wednesday, Jan. 11, Monday, Jan. 16, and Wednesday, Feb. 15 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Build, explore, create with STEAM activities; Afternoon Book Club, adult, drop-in, Wednesday, Jan. 11 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sombra (519-892-3711): Tales for Tots, up to three years old with caregiver, drop-in, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 25 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Tween Event, tweens, drop-in, Tuesday, Jan. 17 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; TAG, teens), drop-in, Thursday, Jan. 19 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Port Lambton (519-677-5217)

Wilkesport (519-864-4000)

West Lambton Community Health Centre January programs

The West Lambton Community Health Centre offers free health-based programs each month. Among the programs being offered in January are:

Cooking Buddies - Brigden: This free cooking class being held at the Brigden fairground exhibition hall kitchen is for children ages six to 12. It is being held the last Monday of each month until April, 2017 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. OR the third Monday of each month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. To register for one of these options, call 519-344-3017, ext. 237.

Living Through Depression: This eight-week series will be held on Thursdays, Jan. 12 through March 12, from 6

p.m. to 8 p.m. It will be facilitated by Glenn Ethridge, MSW, RSW and Amy Dinell, Community Developer. For information, contact Amy Dinell at 519-344-3017, ext. 237.

Craving Change: This is a how-to workshop for changing your relationship with food. It will be held at the West Lambton Community Health Centre, 429 Exmouth Street in Sarnia on Tuesdays from Jan. 10 to Feb. 7 from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information about the many programs offered through the West Lambton Community Health Centre, call 519-344-3017, ext. 259.

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, 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, 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 Thursday, Feb. 9 for four weeks from 9:30 to 11:30 a.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. **This program is open to the public - 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, Feb. 10; Friday, March 10; and Friday, April 7.

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. Participants will learn how to deal with their anxious thoughts, feelings and behaviours by understanding their anxiety and how to manage their worry. Relaxation skills and stress reduction techniques will be focused on during weekly sessions as well as other topics that will educate group members and teach them coping skills. The program will begin Monday, May 2 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. (except for Victoria Day, Monday, May 23). *Class date, times and location within Corunna are subject to change/cancellation depending on number of patients registered.

Teaching kitchen

Healthy cooking classes will not only help you build your knowledge of healthy eating, but also help you apply them in a friendly group setting. A wide range of health conditions and topics include: heart health, digestive concerns, vegetarian, cooking for one, increasing fruit and vegetables, high blood pressure and more. Classes are open to the public and no physician referral is required. They are slated for: Wednesday, Jan. 25, 10-noon; Thursday, Feb. 16, 2-4 p.m.; Wednesday, March 22, 10-noon; Wednesday, April 26, 2-4 p.m.

Laboratory Services offered

Laboratory services at the clinic are available
Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

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### NEW PATIENTS BEING ACCEPTED

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.**



## HERITAGE CORNER

### Moore Museum to hold *Canada 150* photo contest: *Seasons In St. Clair*

As part of St. Clair Township's celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Moore Museum is holding a photography contest that will capture the beauty of the four seasons as township residents experience them. All township residents are invited to submit photographs showing their community throughout 2017.

#### Rules

- ◆ Contest is open to St. Clair Township residents only.
- ◆ Photos must be taken in St. Clair Township.
- ◆ All photo entries must be accompanied by the photographer's name, address and phone number, as well as the date the photo was taken.
- ◆ All photos must include the location in St. Clair Township where the photo was taken.
- ◆ All photos must be of a subject matter suited to the family-friendly nature of Moore Museum.
- ◆ No recognizable faces shall be included in the photos.
- ◆ Entries are limited to a maximum of 3 photos per person.
- ◆ Cropping of photos and tonal or colour corrections are permitted but neither content alteration of digital files nor addition of graphic elements are allowed.
- ◆ Digital photographs should be at a minimum resolution of 300 dpi at 8 x 12 inches.

By entering a photo or photos, the photographer grants to Moore Museum and the Township of St. Clair a royalty-free, world-wide, perpetual, non-exclusive license to display, distribute, reproduce and create derivative works of the entries, in whole or in part, in any media now existing or subsequently developed, for any Moore Museum purpose, including, but not limited to, advertising and promotional materials, its website, exhibition and commercial products. Moore Museum will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such uses.



At the end of the contest period, the photographs will be judged by a panel of judges chosen by Moore Museum. Prizes for winning entries will be: 1<sup>st</sup> prize - \$100 cash + a one-year Moore Museum membership; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - \$50 cash + a one-year Moore Museum membership; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize - \$25 cash + a one-year Moore Museum membership.

The top 12 photographs will be used to produce a 2019 calendar which will be made available for sale in mid-2018.

The contest will run from January 1, 2017 to December 15, 2017

Submissions may be made by email to [photocontest@twp.stclair.on.ca](mailto:photocontest@twp.stclair.on.ca) or in print format delivered or sent to Moore Museum, 94 Moore Line, Mooretown, ON N0N 1M0. Please note that photos will not be returned. For more information, please call Moore Museum at 519-867-2020 or visit [www.mooremuseum.ca](http://www.mooremuseum.ca)



#### July 1, 1913

This old photograph shows one of the "floats" from McD Brothers Livery of Brigden captured during the Brigden July 1 parade in 1913. The country was just 46 years old and its people were living with the hope and promise of a world at peace. A year later, those people were living with the harsh reality of their country preparing for a world at war.

-Heritage St. Clair

## Mooretown Pee wee Orange wins 2016-2017 Silver Stick tourney in Parkhill

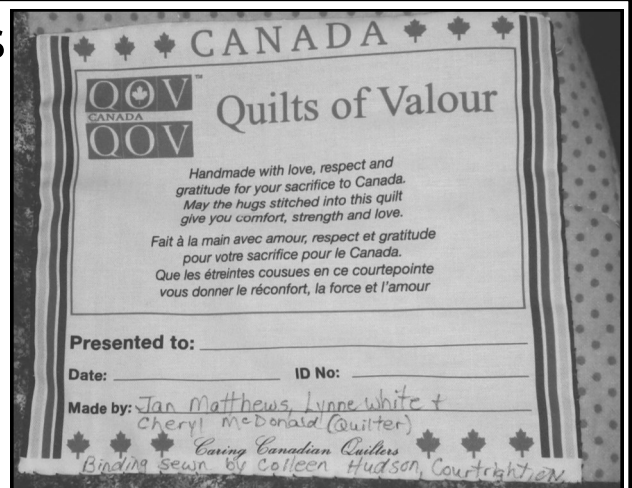


The Mooretown Pee wee Orange team was undefeated as they took top honours at the 2016-2017 International Silver Stick Pee wee HL/LL tourney at the Parkhill Regional in late November. The Tri-County team emerged with a 15-0 record, earning it an invitation to the International Silver Stick in Pelham, Ontario in January. *Photo submitted*

## Quilts of Valour comfort veterans

The members of the Do-R-Best Women's Institute in Brigden were recently introduced to a project that is bringing comfort to many of our country's veterans. Royal Canadian Legion Brigden Branch President Louise Ogilvie introduced Linda Smith of Petrolia, who spoke about the Quilts of Valour, which are being made locally and given to Canadian Armed Forces veterans who have suffered as a result of their military service. This includes those who are experiencing the debilitating effects of post traumatic stress disorder as the result of their service in places like Afghanistan. The quilt is a symbol that somebody cares and appreciates the sacrifices our veterans have made in theatres of conflict around the world.

Photo right: A Quilt of Valour label.



## 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)

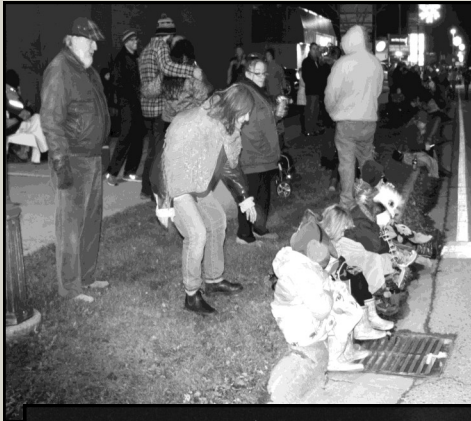
## Assistance for veterans and spouses available

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 house-keeping, 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.



## Corunna celebrates the season at the Santa Claus parade

The Corunna Santa Claus Parade on Nov. 26 brought hundreds of residents out to see the jolly old elf as he did his pre-Christmas rounds. **Photos clockwise from top left:** \*These are just a few of the excited youngsters who waited eagerly to see Santa. This year, he and his elves used a new digital system to tally up the naughty and nice kids in the crowd. *The Beacon* was privy to the results of this new system and they were very encouraging indeed! Statistical analysis carried out by Santa's brilliant IT team indicates that St. Clair Township has an abnormally high number of nice children within its borders. \*Appearing in the parade were some familiar heroes of the younger set, Fire Dog and Police Dog, who rode with some young fans on the Optimist float. (*Licensing restrictions prohibit the use of the characters' better-known names.*) \*Chilly parade goers stopped for hot chocolate and cake served up by the Corunna Horticultural and Improvement group volunteers, including Diane Fletcher, left, and Grace White. \*And the prize-winning Scouts Canada float featured members of the various local Scouting groups.



The judges had a difficult time determining which entries were the best in their class, but after careful deliberation, these are the entries that won: Large commercial, NOVA Chemicals; small commercial, Green Scene Lawn Care; fire truck, Samia Street Machines; and community, Scouts Canada.

*Photos by Bonnie Stevenson*



## OPP drive-through donation event thanks generous donors

The generous hearts of St. Clair Township residents were clearly on display at the annual OPP drive-through donation event on Dec. 10. The final total for this event alone amounted to \$1,765.65 in cash and gift cards and 1,300 food items. Generous gift vouchers from Foodland and a \$250 per family voucher from Riverview Family Dental helped to round out the event. This caring com-

munity ensured that 50 less fortunate families enjoyed enough to eat, warm clothes, personal care products, and a visit from Santa, facilitated by Operation Christmas Tree through the Optimist Club of Moore. Enough items were collected to also provide toys for the children who will be spending their Christmas within the care of the Women's Interval Home and the Inn of the Good Shepherd.

On behalf of the Moore Optimists, as well as the many individual volunteers and local emergency responders who joined forces to make this event happen, President Lorne Powell extends thanks and much appreciation to everyone who donated to this community effort.

**Left: Santa with his OPP drive-through elves.**

*Photo by Scott Janssens*





## 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.

### 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.

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)

## Local Ontario Early Years Locations



The OEYC Sarnia-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).

# COMMUNITY CONTACT

## **Moore Agricultural Society annual meeting**

The annual meeting of the Moore Agricultural Society will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21 in the Brigden Fair exhibition hall at the Brigden fairgrounds. The event will begin with a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting to follow.

## **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. In addition to regular services, the church will again host **Messy Church** is underway and will continue 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: [stclairrivertrail.com](http://stclairrivertrail.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 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 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 Samia. 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.

## **Brigden youth observe Remembrance Day service**



Students from Brigden Public School were among those who joined in the observance of Remembrance Day at the Brigden Cenotaph on Nov. 11. Presiding over the service was Brigden Legion President Louise Ogilvie, foreground left, and Brigden Legion Padre Ron Antoine. Photo submitted

## **MAS extends thanks for community support**

The Moore Agricultural Society (MAS), home of the Brigden Fair, wishes everyone a wonderful, prosperous 2017 and hopes everyone made special memories with family and friends during 2016 and over the Christmas season. MAS thanks the community for its patronage during events like the Brigden Fair, regular jamborees, campout weekends, tractor pulls, demolition derbys, brunches, beef dinners, and others that have been held at the Brigden Fairgrounds in 2016.

We look forward to seeing you again throughout 2017. Happy New Year to All!

Moore Agricultural Society

## MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

### From page 12

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)

### Cruickshank Community Centre hosts weekly activities

The Cruickshank 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. The **Winter Jamboree** is slated for Sunday, Jan. 8. 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. The afternoon will close with a ham and scalloped potato dinner at 5 p.m. for those who need a break from kitchen duty. Tickets for the dinner will be available at the door before each jamboree so come early to make sure you get your tickets. For information, check out the Brigden Fair Facebook page or website, or call the Brigden Fair office at 519-864-1197.

### 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)).

## 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):

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

## Weekly euchre in Sombra

Weekly euchre sessions will be held at the Sombra Community Hall on Fridays at 1 p.m. as follows: Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27; Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24; March 10, 17, 24, 31; April 7, 21, 28; May 5, 12, 19.

## Skating club to hold bottle collection fundraiser

The Moore Skating Club will hold a beer bottle, beer can, and bottle drive on Saturday, Jan. 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. These items can be dropped off at 823 Rokeby Line (between Hwy. 40 and Kimball).

## Don Jackson Memorial Cribbage tourney set

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna will host the Don Jackson Memorial Cribbage tournament on Sunday, Jan. 8. Registration will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and play will begin at 1 p.m. The cost will be \$10 per person and all monies will be returned as prizes. Food and refreshments will be available. The hall is wheelchair accessible and everyone is welcome to participate. Pre-registration can be done by phone at 519-862-1240.

## Bluewater Anglers general meeting

The Bluewater Anglers general meeting is set for the Point Edward Arena and Community Centre, 210 Monk Street, on Tuesday, Jan. 10 with doors open at 7 p.m. Agenda will include election of directors, upcoming club events, and reports on club activities. Guest speaker will be Tony Degasperis, a charter captain from Owen Sound and designer of Hotfish Spoons. There will also be a presentation on GPS and fish finders.

## Free introduction to winter activities offered

The Lambton Outdoor Club will present a free introduction to winter activities on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 2 p.m. at the Lochiel Kiwanis Community Centre, 180 North College Street in Sarnia. All ages are welcome to attend. The agenda will cover what you need to know about getting started in outdoor activities including: snow shoeing; XC skiing; dog sledding; winter camping (yurt or tent); navigation and safety; and equipment and clothing. There will be door prizes and a 50/50 draw. Pre-registration would be appreciated. Go online to: [lambtonoutdoorclub.org/winter-activities/](http://lambtonoutdoorclub.org/winter-activities/) For more information call Brian at 519-542-2015, email: [bjsea-brook@hotmail.com](mailto:bjsea-brook@hotmail.com); Lori at 519-862-5198, email: [loricl@sympatico.ca](mailto:loricl@sympatico.ca); or Tony at 519-542-1578, email: [tarnold@teksavvy.com](mailto:tarnold@teksavvy.com).

## 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.

## Rooted to the Past Gala set

The Moore Agricultural Society invites you to attend the *Rooted To the Past* Gala, a semi-formal dinner dance slated for Saturday, Jan. 28. This event will kick off the 2017 Celebration of Rural Life. Cocktails will begin at 5 p.m. with a roast beef dinner at 6 p.m. and a cash bar. Music will be by Borderline. Tickets will be \$20 per person and will be available from the Brigden Fair office.

## 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: 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.

## Free community dinner at Mooretown Sports Complex

A free community dinner will be held at the Mooretown Sports Complex on Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The lasagna dinner, hosted by the Rapids Family Health Team and the Lambton Seniors Association, will include games and kitchen activities for the children, including the preparation of dessert. Parents will enjoy an information session on raising healthy children, presented by team members of the Momentum Program. And there will be prizes and giveaways. Seating is limited so register early at 519-339-8949, ext. 107, or email: [info@rapidsfhteam.ca](mailto:info@rapidsfhteam.ca)

## 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

See More Around the Township, page 11

## 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)