

THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP



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THE TOWNSHIP OF ST. CLAIR

Passion for decoys marks life-long pursuit

By Bonnie Stevenson **Municipal Notes** Sombra resident, former farmer, entrepreneur and philanthropist Bill Robson has turned a life-long passion for The Good Neighbour the outdoors and duck hunting in particular into a delightful obsession for decov A local Canada 150 project collecting. He estimates he has over 200 of them, ranging from well-used working **Rapids Family Health** decoys that have served on many hunting outings to exquisitely made examples of the carver's art at its finest. Library information

Mr. Robson recalled that he began hunting when hunting and fishing were more than a sport, but a necessity coys in his extensive collection. of life. "My first love of the

outings, flocks of mallards, redhead, and canvasback listed online for up to \$2,500. ducks were plentiful and, as the years passed, Mr. covs," he said.

Now in his 80s, Mr. Robson says his collecting days struction to house the beautiful birds. began in the 1950s when he purchased 40 decoys at Schmidt. Examples of Schmidt's decoys are now exhibited at the Salisbury University Ward Museum and tors part of a lifestyle in our community."

outdoors was duck hunting," he said. During those some rare pieces from the late 50s and early 60s are

Photo by Bonnie Stevenson

This year, the public will be able to see an exhibit Robson met decoy carvers and began to buy and of 30 rare and unique decoys that Mr. Robson recenttrade decoys. When word of his growing collection ly donated to the Sombra Museum. These specimens spread, he no longer had to look for decoys - they are the work of several well-known local carvers infound him. "People began to call me to sell me de- cluding Chris Smith, Miley Smith, Walter Steubling, and Bill Rose. A large cabinet is currently under con-

Allan Anderson, spokesperson for the Sombra \$4 a piece from Centreline, Michigan carver Ben Museum says, "The museum is excited to receive this generous donation. It will help us share with our visi-



Memorial poster debuted at New Year's Levee

A new memorial poster commemorating the 146 Canadian armed forces men and women who lost their lives during the Afghanistan conflict was on display during the 5th annual Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 New Year's Levee on Jan. 1. The poster includes portraits of local servicemen Pte. William Cushley and Cpl. Brent Poland. It has been framed and will be part of the branch's new Leslie Sutherland Wall. Branch President Dan Watson says the wall will be part of the refurbishing project slated for the branch canteen room later this year.

Left: Levee visitor Emma MacLean, 12, of Corunna got a closer look at the poster in the company of Branch Secretary Pam Scott and Pres. Dan Watson.

Wherever you go this winter, take The Beacon with you. Visit the St. Clair Township website: <u>www.stclairtownship.ca</u> and click "The Beacon" on black bar at the top of the Home page for the most recent issue as well as back-issues.



February 2017

Discoveries That Matter



COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

St. Clair Township Council meets every first and third Monday of the month (with exceptions to accommodate holidays). The next meetings will be held on Monday, Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 5 p.m. following the Committee of the Whole meeting at 3 p.m. March meetings will be held on Monday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, March 20 at 5 p.m. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021 for further information.

Winter parking by-law in effect

THE WINTER PARKING BY-LAW IS NOW IN EF-FECT. 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.



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.

> David Neely Co-ordinator of Operations Phone (519)867-2125 Fax (519)867-3886 St. Clair Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street Mooretown, Ontario, NON 1M0

Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers presented to Corunna resident



Above: Corunna resident Lyle Lalonge recently received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers during a recent session of St. Clair Township Council. On hand for the presentation was Miles Vanni, executive director of the Inn of the Good Shepherd, left, and St. Clair Township Mayor Steve Arnold. Inset: Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers.

Mr. Lalonge has volunteered at the Inn of the Good Shepherd for over 15 years. In that time, he has served the Inn in many ways: working in the food bank serving clients and stocking shelves; preparing food and serving at the Inn's daily meal program several days a week; and assisting with many fundraisers. Mr. Vanni says Mr. Lalonge treats everyone with respect and dignity, and has helped raise awareness of hunger in the community.

The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of citizens across Canada. Non-Canadians are also eligible if their contributions bring benefit or honour to Canadians or to the nation.



Notice of 2017 Budget Meeting

The St. Clair Township 2017 draft budget presentation and deliberation meeting will be held at 5

p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 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.

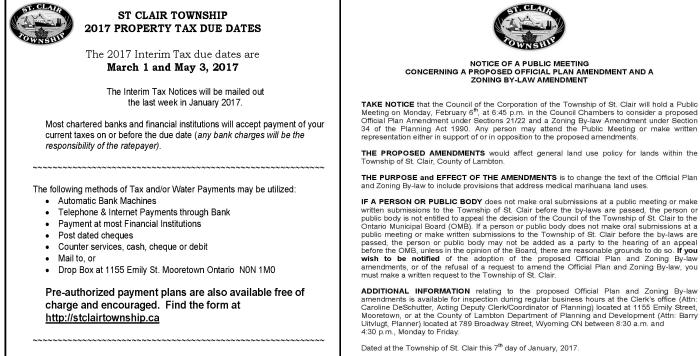
Charles Quenneville Director of Finance

Speeding ships damage shoreline: **Report** to Transport Canada

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. 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

The Beacon is edited by Bonnie Stevenson and issued monthly by St. Clair Township as a public service to township.



St. Clair Township Tax Department 519-867-2024 fax: 519-867-5509 taxes@twp.stclair.on.ca

The Good Neighbour Experience A local Canada 150 project



On a daily basis here at *The* Beacon, we read about the tremendous efforts of St. Clair Township's service clubs, volunteer organizations, businesses and individuals that give back to the community in so many

wonderful ways. It is an honour to provide acknowledgement for the work they do to make this municipality the great community it is.

But how about the individuals who make their communities better just by being good neighbours? These people never seek recognition, yet they care enough about others to be helpful, to ease a burden, or put a smile on a sad face whenever it is within their power to do so. They visit an elderly neighbour and perhaps bring a treat to share. They shovel off a driveway for a sick friend. They can be counted on to offer assistance in a crisis. They surprise you with a rose from their garden. They gift an endless variety of small blessings to the people they encounter.

Throughout 2017, The St. Clair Township Beacon will give St. Clair Township residents a chance to acknowledge the good neighbours who may live CONCERNING A PROPOSED OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT AND A ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS would affect general land use policy for lands within the

THE PURPOSE and EFFECT OF THE AMENDMENTS is to change the text of the Official Plan and Zoning By-law to include provisions that address medical marihuana land uses

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of St. Clair before the by-laws are passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of the Township of St. Clair to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of St. Clair before the by-laws are public interting on mark written submissions to the rowinship or St. Clair before the by-laws are passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the OMB, unless in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to do so. **If you wish to be notified** of the adoption of the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments, or of the refusal of a request to amend the Official Plan and Zoning By-law, you must make a written request to the Township of St. Clair.

amendments is available for inspection during regular business hours at the Clerk's office (Attn: Caroline DeSchutter, Acting Deputy Clerk/Coordinator of Planning) located at 1155 Emily Street, Mooretown, or at the County of Lambton Department of Planning and Development (Attn: Barry Uitylugt, Planner) located at 789 Broadway Street, Wyoming ON between 8:30 a.m. and

Caroline DeSchutter, Acting Deputy Clerk/Coordinator of Planning Township of St. Clair

1155 Emily St., Mooretown, ON NON 1M0 Tel: 519-867-2021; Fax: 519-867-5509

next door, down the block, or elsewhere within the township. What better way to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary than with a celebration of our neighbours, friends and, sometimes, complete strangers who help to make our community, and our nation, one we can take pride in.

From now until the end of 2017, we want to hear from YOU. Do you know someone who brightens your life with their thoughtfulness and kindness?

If your answer is "yes", please let us know. Email The Beacon at:

beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca

and write "Good Neighbour" on the Subject line In a brief message, tell us who your Good Neighbour is and how that person makes a positive difference to you and/or your family.

As space allows, The Beacon will publish excerpts from these emails in ^{The} Good Neighbour Experience column and each month, one good neighbour will be chosen at random to receive a special Good Neighbour certificate from St. Clair Township during a regular meeting of council.

Don't miss this opportunity to acknowledge the Good Neighbour in your life.

Pembina Health Wing opens at Shell Health Centre in Corunna

By Bonnie Stevenson

It's been a long time coming, but Corunna is now home to a fully operational health clinic. It began with an initiative by St. Clair Township Council to create a "turn key" facility to attract health professionals to the municipality. Shell Canada funded the first phase of the facility, which brought the Rapids Family Health Team on board. And now, with a generous donation from Pembina, the clinic houses four family physicians, a staff of nurses and health educators, and programs that will help many people lead healthier lives.

Mayor Steve Arnold expressed thanks to Pembina for helping to make the clinic possible. "We are very pleased to welcome four new doctors to the Pembina Health Wing at the Shell Health Center," he said. "These additional doctors will help to provide enhanced health care for our community. The renovation of the Pembina Health Wing was graciously funded by Pembina and all of the

community is grateful for these additional doctors and treatment facilities."

Pembina Corunna Site Supervisor Mike Edgar remarked that the company's contribution to the facility is an effort to make a positive difference in the lives of township residents. "Pembina is pleased to partner with the Township of St. Clair on the Rapids Family Health Centre initiative," he said. "The Centre provides vital medical support to residents in our community and will positively impact the lives of many people for years to come. We are thankful for the



opportunity to be involved in such a positive initiative and we congratulate St. Clair Township on making it happen."

Above: The official opening of the facility, which included a ribbon-cutting ceremony and an open house, took place on Dec. 14. On hand for the occasion were, from left: St. Clair Township Councillor Tracy Kingston; Rapids Family Health Team Executive Director Lynn Laidler; Deputy Mayor Peter Gilliland; Pembina Corunna Site Supervisor Mike Edgar; Dr. Brett Mountain; Dr. Dan Vouriot; Dr. Adnan Chaudhry; Dr. Marc Austin; Councillor Jim DeGurse; Mayor Steve Arnold; and St. Clair Township CAO John Rodey.

Only working smoke/CO alarms can save your life

By Deputy Fire Chief Steve Bicum St. Clair Township Fire Department

A concerned resident of Bentick Street in Corunna recently brought a very serious concern to our attention regarding combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. His house was built in 2009 and included the hard wired smoke and CO alarms required by the building code. After a few years he discovered that these units were not working and he replaced them with battery units but left the old ones up so he did not have a hole in the ceiling. He continued to look into the issue and discovered that these particular models, Kidde model number KN-COSM-IBCB, manufactured in 2009, are subject to a product recall. He contacted Kidde at 855-239-0490 and was able to get replacement units at a significant savings.

There are two issues here. First, if your house was built or had these alarms replaced in 2009 you should check to see if they are part of this recall. Secondly, it cannot be stressed enough that property owners or renters should do a **monthly check** to ensure all alarms are fully operational.

We remind every resident that working smoke alarms must be located on **every level** of your home or rental unit. Smoke alarms must be replaced every 10 years. If

your residence has any fuel burning appliances or an attached garage you must have a carbon monoxide alarm adjacent to the sleeping areas. Please note that CO alarms can have varying dates for replacement. For more detailed information, please contact the St. Clair Township Fire Department at 519-481-0111 or go to <u>stclairtownship.ca</u> and click on the Emergency Services tab under Departments.

Finally, be sure to check all hard wired units. Even though you do not have to change batteries with these units, you still have to check them each month and replace them according to the manufactures recommendation. Remember, only **WORKING** alarms can save your life.

For those who would like more information about this important subject, here are some links to related Websites.

https://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/sites/default/files/ content/ofm/docs/Print%20PSA.pdf

https://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/FireMarshal/ FireSafetyandPublicEducation/SmokeAlarmInformation/ WorkingSmokeAlarmsItstheLaw/NewspaperPSA/ news_psa.html

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: <u>www.rapidsfhteam.ca</u> 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: Friday, Feb. 24 from 9:30 -11:30 a.m. and Wednesday, March 22 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: Friday, March 3 from 9:30 -11:30 a.m. and Wednesday, March 29 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, Feb. 22 from 9:30 -11:30 a.m. and Monday, March 20 from 1:30 -3:30 p.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 - 11:30 a.m. Note: Patient must attend the first session to attend the final three. The 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

NOTE OF THANKS FROM Sacred Heart food bank

On behalf of the Sacred Heart Food Bank, Port Lambton, I would like to thank the people of Ward 2, St. Clair Township who donated food items during the door-to-door campaign before Christmas. Thanks also to the drivers and volunteers, sorters and packers.

I would also like to thank the community groups, churches, and private citizens who have made valuable monetary donations to the Sacred Heart Food Bank, Port Lambton. Last Christmas, through your support and effort, we were able to provide Christmas baskets and gifts for 52 families in our area.

Special thanks to the congregation of St. James the Apostle

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: Monday, Feb. 6 from 1:30 -3:30 p.m. and Wednesday, March 8 from 9:30 -11:30 a.m.

Stress Management Workshop

Created by our registered Social Worker, this two-hour seminar, offered monthly, will provide you with information on how to effectively manage stress through: regulating the stress response; goal-setting; problem-solving; challenging unhelpful thinking; and communicating assertively. This seminar is open to the public and no physician referral is required. The next seminars will take place from 9:30 -11:30 a.m. on the following dates: Friday, Feb. 10 and Friday, March 10.

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-today 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/cancelation 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: Thursday, Feb. 16, 2 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Wednesday, March 22, 10 a.m. - noon.

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

A new family medical practice has opened at the Shell Health Centre (Rapids Family Health Team), 233 Cameron Street, in Corunna. Applications are now available by calling 519-813-9800.

Anglican Church, Port Lambton, for donating their parish hall for our use while we sorted and packed items into the Christmas baskets. Without their help our task would be very difficult to achieve. Thank you to the volunteer firefighters from the Port Lambton and Becher fire stations, and the Port Lambton Senior Pirates baseball team for helping with the delivery of the Christmas baskets. Thanks also to the Pirates baseball team for the use of its clubhouse in the sorting and packing of gifts for the children.

Many thanks to everyone: OLG, citizens, churches, schools, service clubs and organizations, and youth of the area for their help and support. The community effort heled make Christmas happier for many families.

Frank Johnston, President Sacred Heart Food Bank, Pt. Lambton

Mooretown Jr Flags Tri-County Atom White Team wins International Silverstick

This exuberant group of nineand ten-year-old hockey stars have good reason to be happy. The Mooretown Jr Flags Tri-County Atom White Team won the International Silverstick tournament played in St.Catherines on Jan. 5-8. The event was hosted by the Pelham Minor Hockey Association.

Right: Players shown back row from left: Samuel Rodey, Keegan Brooks, Jace Dupuis, Teegan Horner, Hunter Oblak, Malcolm Plain, Shane Knight, and Kyle Dupuis. Front row from



left: Zachary Riley, Thomas McNaule, Tristan Horner, ers are James McNaule and Adam Oblak, and the team Ceager MacDonald, Avery Morden, and Devon Zink. The manager is Stacy Mazur. Photo submitted team coaches are Marty McNally and John Rodey, train-

Canada Day Challenge contest invites young Canadians to share their vision of Canada

Young Canadians are encouraged to share their vision of Canada's next 150 years by expressing themselves through art (drawing and painting); photography; and creative writing.

The Canada Day Challenge, an arts contest delivered by the Department of

Canadian Heritage, is especially meaningful in 2017, not Here's My Canada is a multilingual, nation-wide contest only because this is the 30th anniversary of the Challenge, but because this year marks the 150th anniversary of Canada.

Participants will qualify to win an all-expenses paid grand prize trip for two to Ottawa to celebrate Canada Day and to take part in activities marking the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

Young filmmakers take note

Young aspiring filmmakers can also compete in the Canada Day Video Challenge entitled Here's My Canada. It is also a Historica Canada project and is also a Canada 150 Signature Initiative.

inviting Canadians to express what Canada means to them in a 30-second video. This project is made possible through funding from the Government of Canada and the Bank of Montreal. For more information, go online to: www.heresmycanada.ca

Lambton County Library presents Freedom To Read Week

Lambton County Library will celebrate Freedom To Read Week from Feb. 26 to March 4 with a challenge. From Feb. 26 to March 31, Lambton County residents are invited to participate in the Freedom To Read Challenge by creating a written response as to why a list of selected books may have been banned or contested. The list of challenged titles is available online at www.lclibrary.ca. All submissions will be placed in a draw for a chance to win at \$50 gift card to the Book Keeper. Entries can be submitted online at www.lclibrary.ca or at your local branch library.

Mobile Makerspace continues to tour Lambton County with launch events at local community centres and libraries. People of all ages are invited to attend and see displays that include 3D printing, button making, and a variety of robotics. For more information, visit www.lclibrary, email mobile.makerspace@county-lambton.on.ca, or call 519-845-3324, ext. 5220. February launch events will include: Mooretown Sports Complex on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Brigden Public School on Thursday, Feb. 23 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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. Some regularly offered programs at Lambton County Library branches require registration but drop-in programs can be attended without registration. All programs are free unless otherwise noted. To contact your local St. Clair Township library branch for more information, see below.

St. Clair Township Library Branch listed with Phone Numbers

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

Battle that winter weight at Mooretown Sports Complex

The Mooretown Sports Complex has many ways for you to stay active and avoid the winter blahs. Just check out the Community Services Website and look for the Mooretown Sports Complex WINTER BRO-CHURE at:

www.stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca.

If you missed registration, don't worry because openings are still available. Call now at 519-867-2651 to register or get more information.

Here are just a few of the great winter programs being offered at the Mooretown Sports Complex this winter:

Spinning classes for everyone

Spinning classes are offered here! Join our certified spinning instructors for a great workout to improve your cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, and power. Join any time for a 12 week session for \$10 per class or buy a 10 pass admission for \$80. Morning Spin classes are held on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 7:00-7:45am. If you're a beginner, there are classes designed for you on Tuesday Evenings from 7:15 - 8 p.m. If you're looking for strength training combined with a spin workout, come to the Bikes and Bells class on Monday or Wednesday evenings from 5:00-6:00pm, or Friday from 9:00 -10:00am.

Kids Dancing Classes - hip-hop and ballet Hip Hop and Ballet Dance classes are currently being offered. Kids from age 7 to 13 are invited to enjoy training in hip hop and ballet on Thursday evenings. Fun, exciting, and popular Hip Hop dance moves for ages 7-13 years are taught from 5:30-6:15 p.m. at a cost of \$120 for 12 weeks. Ballet for ages 3-5 years is taught from 5:00-5:30 p.m. at a cost of \$110 for 12 weeks. And ballet for ages 6-9 years is taught from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at a cost of \$120 for 12 weeks. Classes begin on Jan. 9.

Muscle Mix group classes offered

You can join the Muscle Mix group fitness class any time. These classes include kettlebell training that will build lean muscles, improve strength and power in your upper body, core and lower body, and increase coordi-

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.

nation, joint mobility, and overall endurance. Classes are held Tuesday or Thursday from 9:0-10:00 a.m. or Wednesday from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The cost is \$45 for a 10 visit pass, or is included in the full fitness centre membership.

Get that "down south" feeling Do you need a break from winter? Tired of the cold? Come and enjoy the feeling of being down south without enduring the hassle of airport procedures and long, tiresome flights. Get that vacation time feeling while luxuriating in our 86°F pool, soaking in the soothing hot tub, or relaxing in the sauna. Enjoy all this and much more with a Fitness Centre membership at a tax-included cost of just \$255 per year (\$243 for seniors). Daily, monthly, three month, and six month rates are also available and there are no initiation fees to pay.

Twice weekly walking exercise program

A FREE indoor/outdoor walking exercise program is offered at the Mooretown Sports Complex by the West Lambton Community Health Centre every Monday and Wednesday morning from 9 - 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come out and walk in this safe, snow-free environment.

March Break program

The March Break Day Camp will be offered Monday, March 13 to Friday, March 17. Children ages 5-12 are invited to participate in this fun, kid-friendly camp. The camp includes: swimming, skating, crafts, and games. The program will operate from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with an early drop-off at 7:30 a.m. and late pickup by 5:30 p.m. available for an extra fee. The program costs \$27 per child per day or \$110 for the week. Fill your child's March Break with exciting, healthy activities and lots of creative fun.

For more information or to register for any of these programs, contact the Mooretown Sports Comat 519-867-2651. Find us online plex at: www.stclairtownshipcommunityservices.ca

NOTE OF THANKS FROM OPERATION CHRISTMAS TREE

Operation Christmas Tree had another successful Christmas hamper program in 2016.

We want to thank the many people who were directly or indirectly involved in the program, and a special thanks goes out to all of the folks in this great community who offered their donations and their support.

The request for hampers was down slightly from 2015, a positive sign for the economy. We delivered 108 hampers, serving the needs of 144 adults and 88 children. We're quite sure these families enjoyed a much better Christmas as a result of the hamper program.

It takes many hours of dedicated volunteer help to keep this program going, and at the end of each year, there are always things that make it very worthwhile and rewarding.

Thanks once again to this generous community.

~Operation Christmas Tree Committee



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

As part of St. Clair Township's celebration of Canada's 150th 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.

♦ Al 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: 1st prize - \$100 cash + a one-year Moore Museum membership; 2nd prize - \$50 cash + a one-year Moore Museum membership; 3rd 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 or in print format delivered or sent to Moore Museum, 94 Moore Line, Mooretown, ON NON 1MO. Please note that photos will not be returned. For more information, please call Moore Museum at 519-867-2020 or visit www.mooremuseum.ca

Vintage Pesha post cards document a local industry that thrived in early 1900s

From the files of Heritage St. Clair

many residents, but thanks to the work of pioneer photogra- the stack, right, can still be seen in a in an empty field pher Louis Pesha, originally from Florence, Ontario, some of south of Courtright. And right across the river in St. Clair, that history has been preserved in the form of photographic Michigan, the Cargill post cards.

Two examples shown here reveal a thriving salt industry operation. that was active in Courtright at the turn of the 20th century. According to author Jean Turnbull in her book, Canada West's Last Frontier, salt was a naturally occurring resource took images of all of in the area, first exploited by J.J. Carter in the 1880s. The the communities on Western Salt Company moved the industry from Mooretown both sides of the St. to Courtright around 1912 and, in 1928, the company's own- Clair River, and he ers bought out the Dominion Salt Company in Sarnia. The was a noted photog-Courtright plant was eventually closed because the Sarnia rapher of the ships of



plant was cheaper to run; the Sarnia mine's salt was lower The early history of St. Clair Township is unknown to in calcium and was less costly to dry. Today, remnants of

Salt factory is still in

Louis James Pesha the Great Lakes. His office, which housed the Pesha Postcard Company, was located along Main Street in Marine City, Michigan, affording him a perfect view of the river.

Pesha died in a

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MORE HERITAGE CORNER C

Pesha Postcard images donated to Sombra Museum

From page 8

car accident on Oct. 1, 1912 while driving his steampowered automobile and his wife carried on the business for about eight years.

His post cards are highly collectible today, some worth up to \$100 U.S. each.

Collector Dave Burwell of Sarnia recently allowed over 400 images specific to the former Sombra and Moore Townships to be scanned and donated to Heritage St. Clair. They will be divided between the Moore and Sombra Museums.

~ Heritage St. Clair extends thanks to Dave Burwell for sharing these important images with the people of St. Clair Township.

Working snow blower needed

The Moore Museum is in dire need of the donation of a working snow blower. Through the winter, it is necessary to keep paths on the museum site clear of snow to improve access for checking buildings and artifacts, and to enable security checks, programming, and chapel rentals.

If you received a new snow blower for Christmas or if you're downsizing and are looking for a good home for the old one, please call the Moore Museum at 519-867-2020.



Sombra Township Optimist Club awards 2016-2017 bursaries



The Sombra Township Optimist Club recently awarded 2016-2017 bursaries to four local post-secondary school students. Each student received a \$100 bursary. Shown here from left are: Club President Phil Johnston with students Lauren Flanagan, Brooke Parsons, Taylor Myers, and Eric VanDommelen. The Sombra Township Optimist Club bursary program has been in operation for over 30 years. 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: <u>www.petroliacadets.com</u>

COMMUNITY CONTACT

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT TO HELP WITH Canada 150

CELEBRATION



CANADA 150 1867-2017

Saturday, July 1, 2017 will mark the 150th anniversary of Canada and St. Clair Township is going to celebrate with a family-friendly party that will be remembered for decades to come. The St. Clair Township Canada 150 Committee is busy planning a day filled with family fun, entertainment, and good food that will be topped off with a truly spectacular display of fireworks.

Volunteers are now being sought to help with a variety of duties, from grounds keepers to parking assistants to helpers that will assist with the set up and tear down of the site. Students are reminded they can acquire volunteer hours this way. For more information or to volunteer, call Michelle at 519-867-2651.

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: <u>stclairrivertrail.com</u>

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 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.

8th annual prom dress drive planned

Please help a girl's Cinderella Story come true

The 8th annual Cinderella Story Prom Dress Drive for

Sarnia-Lambton will be held Feb. 13-24. Donations of clean prom dresses in excellent condition and not older than 2013 are being sought in all sizes and colours to give every girl an opportunity to look beautiful for prom night. Dresses can be dropped off at the following locations: Libro Credit Union, Sarnia branch; The Centre, 360 Tank St. in Petrolia; and Sarnia-Lambton Rebound.



MORE AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

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gion Corunna Branch 447 on the last Saturday of each month at 2 p.m. Future sessions are planned for: 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: <u>in-</u> fo@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 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: <u>parkwaychurchmichelle@gmail.com</u>

Moore Optimist cash calendar error correction

The Optimist Club of Moore 2017 Cash Calendar contains an error regarding the club's website. The website listed on the calendar has been changed since the calendar was printed.

The list of winners can be found at: <u>http://</u> <u>mooreoptimist.com</u> (follow the links).

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, offered by the West Lambton Community Health Centre, 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.

Nerf Mayhem invades Silverdome

The Silverdome (Courtright Community Hall) will be filled with mushy missiles on Friday, March 3 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. as the Lambton County Jr Optimist Club and the Optimist Club of Moore present Nerf Mayhem for youth ages 10 to 15. Participants should bring their own 'guns' and eye protection, and 'bullets' will be provided. Snacks will be provided and admittance will be \$2 each. To register, call Michelle at 519-481-0577.

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 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) or Lance at 519-344-2205 (email: lmarcy@cogeco.ca).

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: Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24; March 10, 17, 24, 31; April 7, 21, 28; May 5, 12, 19.

Chocolate Bar Bingo in Courtright

The Lambton County Jr Optimist Club and the Optimist Club or Moore will present Chocolate Bar Bingo on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Courtright Community Hall (Silverdome). Admittance will 'cost' one regular sized chocolate bar. Cards will also 'cost' one regular sized chocolate bar. Snacks will be provided. Parents are asked to accompany younger children.

Brigden UC hosts Messy Church

Messy Church at Brigden United Church is held the last Tuesday of each month until through May from 5-6:30 p.m. Enjoy worship, stories, crafts, and supper. All children are welcome along with a parent, grandparent, or other adult. Or join the congregation for Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. For more information, like us on Facebook.

Barb Giffen Memorial darts tourney

The Barb Giffen Memorial Ladies Open darts tournament will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna. Doubles and teams, and singles if time allows, can register from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Play will begin at noon. Admission is \$5 per person per event and all monies will be returned as prizes. Refreshments and food will be available and all are welcome. For more information, call 519-862-1240.

Lambton Outdoor Club hikes

The Lambton Outdoor Club will host two hikes in February. The first is Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Lorne Henderson Conservation Area west of Petrolia. The two-hour hike is considered of moderate difficulty. The second hike of the month will be in Bickford Woods on Saturday, Feb. 25. The two-hour hike is considered an easy activity. For details and to sign up for one or both of these hikes, go online to:

http://lambtonoutdoorclub.org/hiking/

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 is a cash bar and supper tickets are available at the door. Singers, musicians, toe tappers and appreciative listeners are all welcome to come and enjoy an afternoon of fun. The afternoon closes with a ham and scalloped potato dinner at 5 p.m. for those who need a break from kitchen duty. Tickets for the dinner are 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.

Fun with Music and Art event

The Optimist Club of Moore and the Lambton County Jr Optimist Club will host the Fun with Music and Art event on Family Day, Monday, Feb. 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Courtright Community Hall (Silverdome). There will be karaoke, dancing, music, an art wall, and much more. This event is for all ages. Lunch will be provided and donations will be used for future youth projects. To register, call Mary Lou at 519-862-3950.

Seniors On The Move seminar in Corunna

Seniors On The Move, an informative seminar for older adults, will be held at the Cruickshank Centre are Thompson Gardens in Corunna on Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. to noon. The event will feature information on fall prevention, medication, incontinence, exercise, and more, with a free lunch to follow. Seating is limited so register early at 519-862-2629. This event is sponsored by VHA Home Health Care, VON Canada, and the Hearth and Stroke Foundation.

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.

Mardi Gras dance in Courtright

Laissez les bons temps rouler (Let the good times roll!) at the Mooretown Hockey Moms Mardi Gras dance at the Courtright Silver Dome on Saturday, Feb. 25. Doors open at 8 p.m. and the dance will feature free beads and masks, jambalaya, a cash bar, and music by the band *Dressed To Kill* and *Nitelife Entertainment*. Tickets are \$10 each and there will be a draw for a 55-inch flat screen TV. A shuttle will be available. Tickets are available from: hockey moms at 519-384-4812; Courtright Variety; Corunna Home Hardware; or from the band at 519-331-0962.

Corunna Legion jam session series resumes Free jam sessions are held at the Royal Canadian Le-

See More Around the Township, page 11

Contact The Beacon

If you have a non-profit or charity event or activity coming up in St. Clair Township, or if the event will benefit the residents of the township, you may promote it free of charge in The Beacon.

Deadline for Beacon submissions is every third Monday of each month by noon.

E-mail: <u>beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca</u>