



The St. Clair Township BEACON



Issue 2

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Young pipe band fan charms full house at Corunna Legion levee



The New Year's Day Levee at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna featured a stirring appearance by the Sarnia Legion Pipe Band. The youngest visitor to the Legion club room was 10-month-old Taliah Klem of Corunna, seen above with mom, Nadine. The baby couldn't sit still as the pipers played some of their lively tunes for an appreciative audience. With tiny legs kicking in time to the music as if trying to do a Highland fling, she grinned and giggled through the performance, and even had her photo taken with the group, left.

Bonnie Stevenson photos

Mooretown Minor Hockey teams win Regional Silver Stick championships

By Beacon correspondent Ben Hazzard

Saturday, Dec. 30 will be remembered for decades to come by anyone who follows the fortunes of Mooretown Minor Hockey teams. Two Mooretown Minor Hockey teams took top honours at the 2018 Regional Silver Stick championships.

The Novice Rep team defeated Lambeth in Parkhill by a score of 4-1 to claim the banner and advance to the International Silver Stick Fi-



nals. Not to be outdone, the Atom Rep team defeated Ilderton by a score of 3-2 to take home their banner and advance to the finals.

The Novice Rep team included Liam Lahey, the tender of the twine! Camden Campbell and Daynen Vanderveeken played a dependable defense. Ryan Carlton, Barrett Hands centered the lines. Graeme Hazzard and Oden Lajoie kept the front of the net

See Mooretown teams, page 14

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MUNICIPAL NOTES

Council Meeting Schedule

St. Clair Township Council meets every first and third Monday of the month (with exceptions to accommodate holidays). February will have exceptions. The first meeting was moved to Jan. 29 to accommodate conflicting schedules. The second meeting of the month will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. Future meetings are slated for Monday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. *These times are subject to change.* Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021 for further information.

Municipal Election 2018

The municipal election is slated for Oct. 22, 2018. St. Clair Township ballots will be mailed out the first week of September. Watch this space for more local information as election day approaches and be sure you are on the voters' list.



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 job efficiently without having to slow down to avoid parked vehicles.

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



Pheasant/Rabbit Hunting Licenses

The Township of St. Clair pheasant/rabbit hunting licenses are now on sale until February 28, 2018. They will be available at the following locations: Pic-N-Pay Variety, Sombra; Courtright Variety Store, Courtright; Corunna Home Hardware, Corunna; Agris Co-operative Ltd, Brigden; St. Clair Civic Centre, Mooretown.

The fees will be \$5.00 for a resident license and \$8.00 for a non-resident license.

Applicants must apply in person and multiple licenses will not be issued.

Jeff Baranek, RPP
Director of Administration/Clerk
Deputy C.A.O.

Township increases number of emergency shelters

Locations throughout St. Clair Township have been designated as emergency shelters.

Mayor Steve Arnold says all fire halls currently carry that designation, and other locations such as the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall and local community centres have been outfitted with emergency gas-fire generators to ensure the safety and comfort of all township residents should an emergency arise.

The latest addition to the roster of shelters is now being developed at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 hall.

In a letter to council, Branch 447 President John Cormier offered the Corunna Legion hall as a prospective emergency shelter. Mayor Arnold says council is now waiting for a report from Fire Chief Walt Anderson to determine what will be required to outfit the hall for use.

He noted that the new shelter will be a welcome addition to the network of municipal shelters. "Corunna is our weak spot," he said. "We don't have one in that area."

In his letter to council, Mr. Cormier explained the reason for the Legion's generous offer.

"Branch 447 Corunna is very appreciative of the cooperation and support we receive from the municipality and the community in hosting our many events and programs," he wrote. "We wanted to show our appreciation by being there to help whenever the need may arise and people become stranded, perhaps by a weather event or are just in need of temporary shelter due to unforeseen circumstances."

While there is no way to anticipate what challenges any community may be called upon to meet, the creation of adequate emergency accommodations will ensure that municipal residents will have somewhere to take shelter until emergencies, natural or man-made, have been dealt with.

"Our goal is to have emergency shelters, equipped with emergency generators, equally distributed throughout the township," said Mayor Arnold.

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



**ST CLAIR TOWNSHIP
2018 PROPERTY TAX TENTATIVE DUE DATES**

The 2018 TENTATIVE Interim Tax due dates are

March 1 and May 2, 2018

***Note dates are tentative and may change**

The Interim Tax Notices will be mailed out
the last week in January 2018 with both instalments on it.

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

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

- Automatic Bank Machines
- Telephone & Internet Payments through Bank
- Payment at most Financial Institutions
- Post dated cheques
- Counter services, cash, cheque or debit
- Mail to, or
- Drop Box at 1155 Emily St. Mooretown Ontario N0N 1M0

**Pre-authorized payment plans are also available free of charge and encouraged. Find the form at <http://stclairtownship.ca>**

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

Prevent frozen pipes during persistent low temperatures

The long intervals of below normal temperatures this winter have presented serious and costly problems for some homeowners this winter.

Prevention is the key to avoiding these problems, which often occur along outside walls, near doors or windows. If a water line is already frozen, open the faucet closest to the frozen pipe to allow water to trickle out to stop the line from bursting when water begins to flow again. Where there are cabinets or vanities, leave the doors open to allow warm room air to heat the interior space.

If possible, shut off water to outside lines and leave the outside valve slightly open. Faucets fed by any inside lines that might freeze should also be left slightly open.

If pipes freeze, shut off the water as soon as the problem is identified. Heat the air around them using a blow dryer or portable heater, ensuring that no flammable materials are nearby.

NEVER use a blowtorch or open flame to thaw a frozen pipe. It only takes a moment for the flame to ignite surrounding supports and walls.

And when turning the water on again, do it slowly and check for any leaks in the pipe connections or cracks in the lines.

Correction

In the January issue of The Beacon, pg. 6, the cutline for Operation Christmas Tree donor Haley McKinlay should have stated that the students and staff of Col. Cameron Public School had raised \$1,000 to support her fundraising efforts this year. Apologies are extended to Haley and her remarkable school.

The Beacon is at your fingertips

*No matter where you are, you can read The Beacon. Back issues are also available online. Go to the St. Clair Township Website: www.stclairtownship.ca and click on **Beacon** on the black bar (top right).*

2017 on record as another success for Operation Christmas Tree

The Christmas spirit of love and generosity shone brightly in St. Clair Township again this past holiday season. OCT President Lorne Powell says the need for assistance was slightly higher and the entire community responded to it with donations of non-perishable food and new unwrapped toys.

"We had a successful year at Operation Christmas Tree thanks again to a very caring community. This year, we had a slight increase in the number of hampers we distributed, with a total of 117 being sent out to serve 167 adults and 111 children. I am sure each family had a better Christmas as a result."

Mr. Powell also extended thanks to the many individuals, companies and industries that contributed to the program through financial donations that helped to purchase the other necessary hamper products such as vegetables, turkeys and trimmings. "All donations are much needed to make this program work," he said.

Like any other community undertaking, the role of volunteers was also a key factor in this year's success. "Thanks to the schools, the OPP, and the firefighters for all of their hard work collecting and delivering the food items for the hampers. We also had a good showing of volunteers to help sort the food and pack the hampers," said Mr. Powell. "And last, but not least, thanks to the Optimist Club of Moore and the Operation Christmas Tree committee for all the long hours and hard work they do every year."

The work of Operation Christmas Tree goes on all year, coming to the aid of residents who find themselves the victims of emergencies such as house fires. Donations are always appreciated.



Above: OCT President Lorne Powell, right, received \$500 donation from Corunna Invenergy Plant Manager Ron Kraayenbrink.

Below: OCT Secretary Gord Dawson, left, and OCT President Lorne Powell, right, receive \$750 donation to Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 President John Cormier.

Submitted photos



HERITAGE CORNER

Ghost of the hamlet of Logierait lives on in grand old buildings

By Ian Mason and Bonnie Stevenson
When you're driving along Kimball Road, you will come to a beautiful brick house at the corner of LaSalle Line.

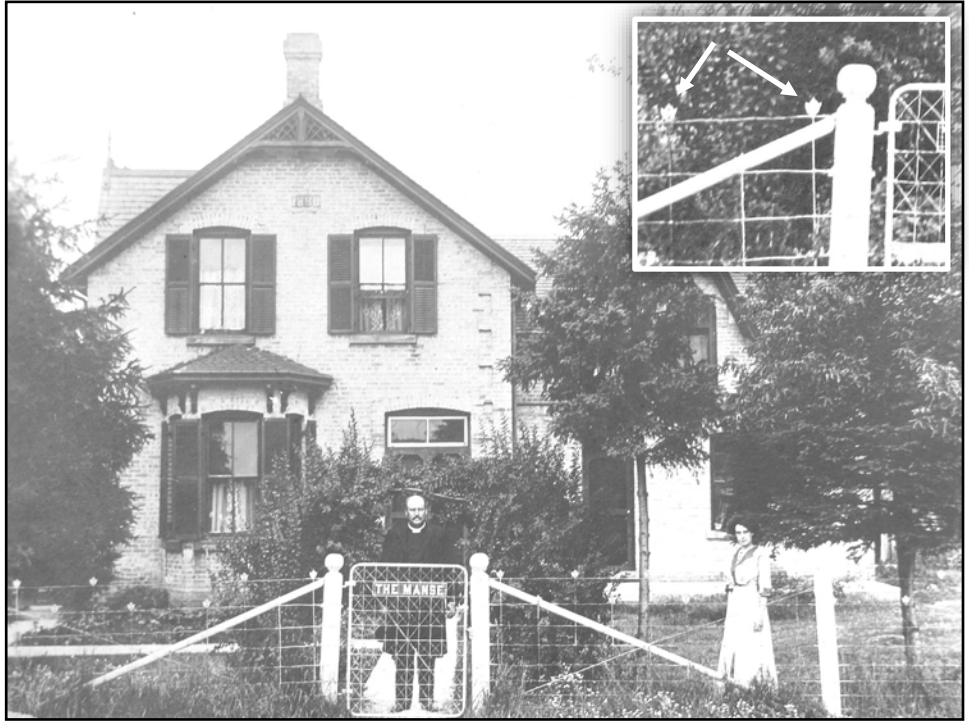
The house marks the location of the former hamlet of Logierait. Built in 1880, the house was originally the manse for Burns Presbyterian Church, which can be seen adjacent to the house on the south side of LaSalle Line.

Originally known as Hossie Settlement, after the founding family of the community, the hamlet's post office was named Logierait in 1863. At least three buildings in the hamlet survived from the 1880s; the house and church building, now a private residence, are still in use.

The church and manse were used by the congregation until 1985, when the congregation amalgamated with Mooreline United Church to form Burns-Mooreline United Church in the Mooreline church at LaSalle Line and Brigden Road.

Interestingly, Burns Presbyterian Church was situated within the boundaries of Moore Township, while the manse across the road was in Sarnia Township.

The wire fence in the photograph is long gone, but it bears decorative maple leaf embellishments along its top edge. (See inset, top right) One such fence is still known to exist



The original house is shown here with the Rev. Thomas and Mrs. Dodds, who occupied it from 1902 to 1912.

Photo courtesy of the Moore Museum archives

ist elsewhere in St. Clair Township.

The photo shown here was taken by the husband and wife photography partnership of William W. Carter and

Alberta Isaac, originally from St. Mary's, Ontario, later moving to Galt, Ontario.

Remembering S.S.#15 Moore (Kimball School)

Kimball School stood along Kimball Road between Courtright and Moore Lines and housed generations of students from 1870 to 1959, when it became a private residence. The residence burned down in March, 2015 and new private residence stands in its place today.

Early records from its opening until 1879 are not available, but teachers who taught there when the school was new included: Miss Harkness, Mr. Pierce, Miss Milligan, Mr. Trapp, Mr. Brown, Mrs. James, Mrs. Thompson, and Mrs. Kerr.

Four generations of the Miller family attended the school, and there were three generations of Blackmans, Leapers, Nicholsons, Grays, Courtneys, Robbins, and Eyres.

Photo courtesy of the Moore Museum



Sombra Museum seeking baseball memorabilia

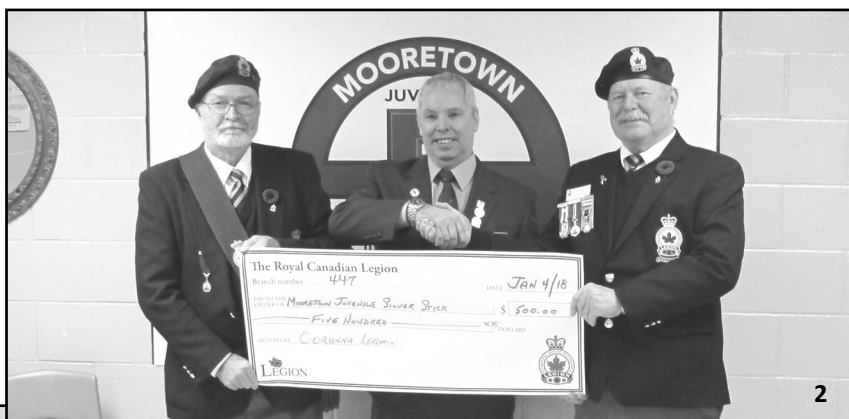
The Sombra Museum staff and volunteers continue to work on an exhibit to explore the history of St. Clair Township baseball. Stories, photos, memorabilia, or artefacts like baseball bats, gloves pre-1970 girls/women's baseball uniforms and trophies are being sought to be taken on loan during the 2018 season. Photos and documents can be scanned and returned promptly. If you can help, please call 519-892-3082 or email: sombramuseum@hotmail.com

Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 continues community support activities

Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch 447 continued its giving ways in December with another series of donations to local community groups.

Clockwise from top right: 1. Branch 447 President John Cormier, left, and Immediate Past President Dan Watson present Lauren Steckle, representative of the Canadian Hearing Society, with a donation of \$500. 2. Rick Harris, Silver Stick Tournament Director, receives a \$500 donation to the Mooretown Juvenile Silver Stick Tournament from Robert Chambers, Branch 447 Poppy Chairman, left, and President John Cormier. 3. Todd Monaghan, bass drummer with the Sarnia Legion Pipe Band, receives a donation of \$1,000 from Branch 447 President John Cormier, left, and Immediate Past President Dan Watson. 4. President John Cormier presents a \$500 donation to Jim Townsend, chairperson of the Moore Museum Advisory Board toward the new addition being added to the heritage village fire hall. 5. Branch 447 President John Cormier presents a donation of \$254.25 to Community Safety Net Representative Rob Saunders for the purchase of Safety Book 3 for Grade 3 students.

Submitted photos



Legion service officer available

Assistance for Veterans and Spouses available

Do you know someone who is living on the street or who might benefit from the "Soldier On" program? Are you interested in finding out if you qualify for assistance with problems like housekeeping, snow

clearing, grass cutting, hearing aids or other medical assistance? For information call the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch at 519-862-1240 or the Brigden Branch at 519-864-1395, or Veteran Service Officer Shawn MacNeil at 519-383-9386.

COMMUNITY CONTACT

Down River Jr. Optimist Club seeks members

New members are being sought for the Down River Jr. Optimist Club. Youth between the ages of 10 and 18 are invited to get involved with the community and make a difference for kids. The club meets at the Port Lambton Community Hall on the third Monday of each month. High school students can acquire volunteer hours needed for graduation. For more information, call Carla at 226-402-3870.

Corunna Legion 8th Annual Elimination Draw

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 447 Corunna is now selling tickets for its 8th Annual Elimination Draw. The cost is \$20 per ticket and they can be purchased at the Legion hall. First prize is \$2,400. Weekly draws will be held May 5 through Sept. 15 and chosen tickets will be returned to the drum. The official draw event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 22 and **only 350 tickets will be sold.**

Volunteers needed for 1st Corunna Cub Scouts

The First Corunna Cub Scouts group is looking for volunteers. This would be a great opportunity for high school students to gain their volunteer hours and for retirees to share their experience and skills. The variety of volunteer positions and opportunities include fundraising, administrative tasks, camp cooks, supply coordinators, sewing, and helping run weekly meetings. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Andrea Lane at 519-381-2556 or by email at:

andrealane@live.ca

Taoist Tai Chi coming to Corunna

Weekly Taoist Tai Chi classes are held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church hall, 437 Colborne Drive in Corunna on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Beginners are welcome. Tai Chi is a gentle art that can offer health benefits for every age and for many health issues. The group is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the health benefits of the Taoist Tai Chi arts by making them available to all who want to learn. For more information about tai chi or class times, call 519-344-0346.

Donate your loose change to a good cause

Free your pockets of that heavy, noisy change by donating it to the *Pennies for Pavement* program and help support St. Clair River Trail maintenance. 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

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. 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.

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. Hours spent volunteering with 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 United Church activities/services

Brigden United Church holds regular Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. (10 a.m. July and August). The church will also host **Messy Church** September through May (except December) every last Tuesday of the month from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. It introduces children to a faith-based life in a fun and informal way, and includes a relaxed evening with an interactive Bible story, crafts and supper. Children must bring an adult. And the **Mom and Tots Drop-in** is held at the church every Friday morning from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (excludes July and August). The program is sponsored by Sombra Rural Child Care. For more information, call 519-892-3151. And don't forget to check out Brigden United Church on Facebook.

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 Our Lady of Mercy Church rectory hall at the corner of Christina and London Road (entry off London Road) in Sarnia. For more information, contact Rita at 519-867-2932. **Please note the change of location.**

Local TOPS weight control group meetings

TOPS weight loss groups help members sensibly take off and keep off pounds. Three TOPS groups hold meetings in the St. Clair Township area and everyone (all ages) is welcome to attend. **Brigden TOPS** hold 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. **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. **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. For more information, call Wendy at 519-381-5584.

Peewee Rep team member Charlie Brander throws down challenge for charity



That questionable Christmas sweater lurking in the back of the closet came in handy for the players and coaches of the Mooretown Peewee Rep hockey team. Player Charlie Brander challenged his fellow teammates and the team's coaching staff to wear their best Christmas attire to a recent game. At stake was a personal donation to the United Way of Sarnia-Lambton for every person that came dressed accordingly, plus an additional team donation. The group raised \$200 for a great cause and obviously had a lot of fun doing it. Pictured are coaches Jeff MacLean, Aaron Ticknor, Tom Foster, and Jeff Sterling with players, in no order: Charlie Brander (middle row, first on left side), Ryder Avery, Jackson Sterling, Jayden Dewhirst, Jake MacLean, Carter MacLean, Lleyton Ticknor, Brayden Sylvester, James Snedden, Tyler Coene, Casyn Foster, Carter Foster, Nolan Devine. Absent from photo is Chase MacDonald.

Submitted photo

YMCA now hiring Early Childhood Educators



The YMCA is now hiring part-time/casual Early Childhood Educators and support staff in the Sarnia/Lambton County, Chatham-Kent, and Huron regions. For details, visit www.ymcaswo.ca/careers

*Stay current with what's happening in
St. Clair Township. Find information
and The Beacon at:
www.stclairtownship.ca*