



THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP BEACON

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SCHOOL DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN- BE AWARE, DRIVE WITH CARE!



Miss Teen Corunna

Miss Teen Corunna 2009 was crowned recently at Corunna's annual Captain Kidd Days. Shayla Ryan, 15, is a Grade 10 student at SCITS, but says she hopes to attend university with the goal of becoming a dramatic arts teacher.

The community-minded teen, who works part-time as a cashier, also finds time to participate in local fundraisers such as the *M.S. Race to Erase*, a fundraiser to support the Brigden Fair home craft building, and Bluewater Foodland's *Pink Flamingo* cancer fundraiser and its Canadian Cancer Society golf tournament. During her term of office, Shayla will appear at some community events including the up-coming Moore Museum Downriver Craft Sale. She is taking her title very seriously. "I want to show other girls that there are many events for young people to get involved with if they really want to help out in their community and become a positive role model," she said.

Several projects throughout municipality being completed

Several project throughout St. Clair Township are reaching completion. Mayor Arnold reports that work currently underway in Corunna, as well as general roadwork in the township, will soon be finished for this year. The bridge over the Murphy Drain has also been completed. Hard-topping of the streets in Wilkesport is being deferred until next year to allow settlement to occur over the newly-installed sewer lines.

Recreational projects such as the new Corunna splash pad

and the new Port Lambton skate park are being enjoyed by local youth.

Still to come are arena and pool projects which will be funded through the RINC program, with the federal, provincial and municipal governments all contributing one-third of the \$980,000 cost. These projects will include the partial replacement of the roof, pool dehumidification and dressing room upgrades.

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TO CONTACT US

Individuals, schools or organizations that wish to publicize a non-profit event or suggest feature story subjects or topics can do so free of charge by e-mailing:

beacon@twp.stclair.on.ca

or writing to: The Beacon, c/o St. Clair Civic Centre,
1155 Emily Street, Mooretown, Ont., N0N 1M0.

**The deadline for submissions is the
third Monday of each month.**



COUNCIL NOTES

Final budget deliberation of term to begin

Capital budget deliberations due to begin

Deliberations for the 2010 capital budget will begin in October. This is the final budget that will be considered before next November's municipal election.

Weight restriction will regulate heavy vehicles

Council has approved a by-law to restrict vehicle weight along First Street in Brigden to five tonnes per axle. This restriction is being implemented to reduce damage caused to the street by excessively heavy trucks.

Orphaned properties being inventoried

In response to a request by two St. Clair Parkway property owners, council has instructed that an inventory be made of small, township-

owned properties along the St. Clair River shoreline. If the Ministry of Tourism grants approval for the sale of these properties, property owners who live directly across the parkway from these small parcels of shoreline property may be allowed to purchase them if they wish to do so.

Recycling of electronics being studied

Lambton County is considering an initiative to recycle electronic equipment. Council was informed that such recycling programs have already been implemented in other regions. Staff has been directed to inquire about the status of this county initiative.

Memorial scholarship promotes conservation

A new scholarship has been

created to help young women who wish to pursue a post-secondary education in the field of conservation. The Mary-Jo Arnold Conservation Scholarship has been set up by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority's Conservation Foundation in memory of Mayor Steve Arnold's daughter, who died in a tragic vehicle collision earlier this summer.

At its Aug. 24 meeting, council approved a donation to the scholarship of \$1,000. Private donations can be made by calling the Conservation Foundation at 519-245-3710.

Council meeting schedule

St. Clair Township council meets every first and third Monday of the month. However, the next meeting is slated for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8 instead of Labour Day Monday. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021.

Get fit and have fun at the Mooretown Sports Complex

Get fit and have fun this autumn at the Mooretown Sports Complex.

Water activities for everyone

No matter what your age may be, it's never too late to learn how to swim - lessons are available for people of all ages. And if you already know how to swim, why not participate on the non-competitive swim teams or in masters workouts. There are also recreational and adult swims, water aerobics, water therapy, lifeguard and instructor courses, fitness classes and more.

Fall into fitness and be fit for life

The benefits of maintaining a healthy body are numerous and they're important for anyone who hopes to live a long, full life. Regular physical activity leads to better health, improved fitness, better posture and balance, and stronger bones and muscles. But it also reduces stress, helps you relax, gives you more energy, and, best of all, it can help you live independently well into your senior years.

The Mooretown Sports Complex fitness centre is available for those who want to get into a regular fitness routine. A one-year membership is only \$225 per

year and payment can be made in monthly instalments of \$18.75. This price includes stretch and strengthen classes, water aerobics and swims.

New programs start this fall

Two exciting new programs are being offered this fall. The *Mommy and Me stroller fitness program* offers fun and exercise for moms and infants aged two to eight months. And the *Urban Poling/Nordic Walking program* offers exercise that reduces strain on joints while burning up to 45 per cent more calories.

PA Day program

Working parents will appreciate the PA Day program, which offers activities and fun for children aged five through 12 during school PA days. The cost is \$25 per day.

Hours of operation extended

Hours of operation at the Mooretown Sports Complex have recently been extended. The facility now operates Monday to Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information or to register for any of these exciting programs, contact the Mooretown Sports Complex at 519-867-2651.

COUNCIL DIARY

Time to settle into the old routine

The author of this month's Council Diary is Councillor Jeff Agar. Watch this column each month for insights straight from the St. Clair Township council chambers.

As the final weeks of summer come to an end, I hope everyone had some time for rest and relaxation. Even though the weather did not cooperate with family vacations and get-togethers, it didn't seem to put a damper on the community events that everyone enjoyed so much. It's hard to believe that vacations are over, the kids are going back to school, and the daily rat race everyone faces is back to normal.

But there is one thing that will remain - the township we live in and what it has to offer its residents. With the turbulent times we live in and all the talk of recession, I've noticed this year that people have stayed closer to home for their holidays. I believe this is a positive thing considering how picturesque this municipality is and how many great activities its towns and villages hosted throughout the summer.

And now, all signs indicate that things are improving and, hopefully, we will be able to say the recession is coming to an end. Even so, we may still find that we'll stay closer to home.

It has now been three years since the current council term began and this would normally be an election year. However, since new legislation extended the length of municipal office from three to four years, we are now entering our final year. To date, we as a council have accomplished a lot and I know that we are in for a busy fourth year. As for my first three years on council, I consider them a positive learning experience that I've enjoyed immensely.

To the students of St. Clair Township, I wish you the best of luck with your studies and a successful school year. This also applies to those of you who participate with local hockey teams, either as a player, a coach or on the support staff. Go Storm and Mooretown Flags!

Yard waste/brush collection schedule for autumn 2009

Fall yard waste collection (grass, leaves, garden plants, hedge trimmings and twigs only) will begin on Wednesday, Oct. 14 and Friday, Oct. 16 and continue until Wednesday, Nov. 18 and Friday, Nov. 20. Wednesday collection areas include Corunna, including the Froomfield area, and the St. Clair Parkway north of Emily Street in Mooretown. Friday collection areas include Brigden, Courtright, Mooretown, Port Lambton, Sombra Village, Wilkesport, Chenal Ecarte, Leeland Gardens, and the St. Clair Parkway south of Emily Street in Mooretown.

Yard waste must be placed in clear or transparent plastic bags, paper bags or open containers clearly marked with an "X" on both sides, and they must not weigh more than 23 kilograms (50 pounds) each.

Small brush bundles (must not exceed four feet in length, one inch maximum diameter, cut ends all in one direction, neat piles tied) can also be placed at the curb on Dec. 4 for pick-up.

For more information, call the St. Clair Township Public Works Department at 519-867- 2125.

New boat launch officially opened near Mooretown

A new boat launch was recently opened in Mooretown.

Funding for the new facility was contributed by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, the Great Lakes Renewal Foundation, and St. Clair Township. Design work for the boat launch was done by Shore Plan Engineering of Toronto and the construction was done by Wick's Construction of Sarnia.

Work was completed in April and the launch was ready for public use in May.



Present for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony were, from the left: Councillor Darrell Randell; Ralph Coe, manager of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA); Councillor Pat Carswell-Alexander; Norm Giffen, chair of the SCRCA; Councillor Steve Miller; MP Pat Davidson; MPP Bob Bailey; Mayor Steve Arnold; Mary Jane Marsh and Peter Cassell representing the St. Clair River Trail Committee; Deputy Mayor Peter Gilliland; and St. Clair Township Clerk John De Mars.

Photo submitted

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

Horticultural society plans events

The Brigden and District Horticultural Society will hold its open meeting and flower show on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Brigden fire hall. Show exhibits will be accepted between 6:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. Guest speaker will be Dave Chamberlain of the Lambton College horticultural department. The society's annual meeting and banquet is set for Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Brigden Optimist Hall, with entertainment by Christine Storey and Ed Nicol. Seating is limited. Call 519-864-4963 or 519-864-4095 or any director for tickets.

Sombra Museum to host boat cruise

As part of its 50th anniversary celebration, the Sombra Museum will host a boat cruise aboard the Hammond Bay on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome. For more information or to purchase tickets call the museum at 519-892-3982.

Corunna United plans special events

The Corunna United Church will host a rally service on Sunday, Sept. 13 with *Top of the Hill* to mark the start of Sunday school. A special treat of ice cream and toppings will be served.

On Sunday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m., a Covenanting Service will be held for the church's new minister, Rev. Janet Uren. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

And on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at noon, the church will host its 5th Annual Bridge Luncheon. The cost is \$10 per person. For tickets call Nina at 519-862-2379 or Sylvia at 519-862-1040.

St. Andrew's plans anniversary events

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Mooretown will host a community supper on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 5:30 p.m. as part of its 175th anniversary celebrations. All community residents are welcome to attend. And on Sunday, Nov. 1, Rev. Keith McKee of London, Ontario, a former minister at St. Andrew's, will be the guest speaker.

Downriver Craft Sale planned

Be sure to get to the Moore Museum in Mooretown on Sunday, Sept. 20 for the annual the Downriver Craft Sale. Over 65 vendors will be on hand to offer a wide variety of handcrafted items and tasty treats. A refreshment booth will be on-site as well. Do some early Christmas shopping or just treat yourself, but don't miss it!

Legion to hold jam session

An open jam session will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hall on Saturday, Sept. 26 beginning at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and play or just listen to local talent.

Broasted chicken dinner set

A broasted chicken dinner, sponsored by the Port Lambton Knights of Columbus, will be held Sunday, Sept. 27 at the Sacred Heart Parish Centre in Port Lambton. The dinner, which features delicious chicken prepared by the *Car Barn* of Wheatley, will cost

\$13 per adult and \$6.50 for children 12 and under. Admission is by advance tickets only which can be purchased by calling 519-677-4468 or 519-677-5655.

IODE fashion show coming

Check out the latest fashions as the Hon. Bryan Cathcart Chapter IODE hosts its annual fall fashion show on Wednesday, Oct. 28. The event will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hall and the event gets underway at 7:30 p.m. when a selection of desserts will be served. Tickets for the show and 50/50 draw tickets are available from any chapter member or by calling 519-862-1769.

Event will benefit water project

A dinner and auction in support of the Dawello School Water Project will be held at the Brigden fairgrounds on Friday, Nov. 6 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Gary Pluim, executive director of WaterCan. For more information, call 519-864-1161 or 519-402-1327.

Club welcomes new members

The Courtright Friendship Club, 1533 4th Street, invites seniors to play euchre each Wednesday at 1 p.m. at a cost of only \$2.50. And Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m., come out to play Pepper, \$2 per session. For more information, call 519-862-3625.

Brigden Fair volunteers sought

The Moore Agricultural Society/Brigden Fair is looking for volunteers to assist with the Brigden Fair on Thanksgiving Weekend, Oct. 9 to 12, and throughout the year. Anyone interested in joining a committee or volunteering, or anyone who would like more information on the various volunteer positions available, can contact the fair office at 519-864-1197 or visit the Website at www.brigdenfair.ca. **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS! Complete your community volunteer hours by volunteering at the Brigden fairgrounds.**

Brigden Fair entry information

All entries for the Brigden Fair must be received on or before Sept. 21. They can be submitted at the Brigden Fair office or sent to Box 268, Brigden, N0N 1B0. Entries submitted after that date will be subject to a late fee of \$10 plus a \$5 entry fee. Late entries will only be accepted until 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8. Exhibits may be brought in on Wednesday, Oct. 7 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. or Thursday, Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Removal time is 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 12 (but no earlier.) Fair listings are available at www.brigdenfair.ca or at the fair office.

Brigden stories old and new needed

The Brigden History Book committee is still looking for stories or anecdotes about life in Brigden. Send these stories to bbrushes@ebtech.net or call Barb Leaper at 519-864-1347.