



Issue 3

# THE ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP BEACON

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**Moore Sports Complex hosts March Break merriment**  
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## Corunna welcomes home Dr. Jason Hall

By Bonnie Stevenson

The shortage of family physicians in Lambton County has been a matter of concern to healthcare practitioners and patients alike for several years now.

In recent years, a concerted effort has been made to recruit new physicians to the Sarnia-Lambton area, yet it is estimated that we are still underserved by about 18 doctors.

In Corunna, there is a bright spot in the midst of this dire outlook. Dr. Jason Hall will be starting a full-time practice at the beginning of April and will be taking on new patients. Dr. Hall has been working on a part-time basis at the office of Dr. William O'Mahony for the past few months, dividing his time between Corunna and a well-established practice in Michigan.

The move is a big step for Dr. Hall, who says it was his decision to move back to Canada. "I've got roots here. I grew up in Sarnia," he said, adding that

his parents were co-owners of Scotty's chip truck, which has been a local landmark under the Bluewater Bridges for several decades. The eldest of nine children, he says he has many fond memories of summers spent working in the family business, turning out endless batches of the fabulous fries. "It taught me how to work," he said, joking that it took a dedicated work ethic to satisfy the customers' demand for fries.

This work ethic allowed Dr. Hall to graduate his medical studies with top honours and to forge a successful practice that has spanned 10 years in Greenville, Michigan.

Although moving back to Canada will be a costly one for Dr. Hall, he says country living and practicing away from busy urban centers holds great appeal for him. He also likes the diversity of a family practice.



**Dr. Jason Hall**

"I've always wanted to be a rural doctor. That's what I trained for," he said. "Family practice is what I've always wanted."

Dr. Hall admits it will take a bit of time for his family to get used to living in Canada. He and his wife have five daughters who, he expects, will have to endure a period of adjustment. But he is confident that they will soon embrace life in their new home.

Having spent time with some Corunna-area patients already, Dr. Hall says he has been impressed with his patient/doctor experiences. "Every patient I've met, I've liked," he said. "They're courteous and very friendly, and they're involved in their health care."

Dr. Hall says he is looking forward to seeing new patients and getting to know his new community.

## *Foundation grant requests are now being accepted*

The deadline for the Moore Community and Recreation Foundation financial assistance is May 31, 2010. For detailed information about the foundation and to obtain a grant request form, visit the St. Clair Township Website at [www.twp.stclair.on.ca](http://www.twp.stclair.on.ca). The foundation was established to en-

able the efforts of those who really wish to make a positive difference in their community. If any further information is required, please contact St. Clair Township Treasurer Charles Quenneville or Mayor Steve Arnold at 519-867-2021 or 1-800-809-0301.

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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](mailto: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.**



## Proposed solar energy project discussed

The First Solar Development project, proposed for an area south of Bentpath Line, east of Baseline Road, was discussed during a delegation to council's Feb. 1 meeting. A resident of Smith Line expressed several concerns and questions based on information he received during a recent project open house.

Among the resident's concerns were subjects such as how the project would affect drainage in the area and what the adverse impact of traffic to and from the site might be. He also noted that one of the chemicals used in the manufacturing of the type of solar panels

proposed for the project contains a known carcinogenic. Further, he suggested that an ad hoc committee could be formed to review the First Solar proposal. At the conclusion of the discussion, Mayor Arnold presented the resident with a binder of information received by the township regarding the project and asked if he would be interested in reviewing the material. From this, he could produce an executive summary to be filed with the township in early March. The mayor's request was accepted.

The proposed First Solar Development project is a 350 acre, 20 megawatt facility.

### Tribute to fallen firefighter

The tragic death of volunteer firefighter Gary Kendall of Point Edward was acknowledged with a minute of silence at the Feb. 1 meeting of council. Council also approved a \$100 memorial donation to the Canadian Diabetes Association on behalf of the municipality and its over 120 volunteer firefighters.

### Council meeting schedule

St. Clair Township council meets every first and third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Anyone wishing to address council should call the municipal office at 519-867-2021.

## South St. Clair Township keeps watchful eye on Wallaceburg hospital ER

By Bonnie Stevenson

Concern over the future of Sydenham District Hospital (SDH) in Wallaceburg is prompting fierce advocacy by many local residents, including many from south St. Clair Township. The fear is that the Wallaceburg facility will lose its emergency department and be declared an urgent care centre instead.

Recently, Port Lambton resident and retired registered nurse Shirley Roebuck, citing an article from the Chatham Daily News, expressed grave concern after the Chatham hospital's emergency room declared a "time consideration" for the third time in a one-month period. This situation occurs when the ER is full, requiring the redirection of stable, non-life threatening patients to other emergency rooms, in this case, Wallaceburg's Sydenham District Hospital. She pointed out that the Chatham Kent Health Alliance (CKHA) experiences an average of three time considerations per month and that it is fortunate the Wallaceburg ER was still in operation to receive patients who are redirected.

To these concerns, Gary Switzer, CEO of the Erie St. Clair LHIN (Local Health Integration Network), responded, "We made a commitment to keep emergency departments open and that commitment stands."

Local healthcare advocates remain wary and have vowed to keep a watchful eye on their hospital. They are monitoring the progress of the Rural and Northern Health Care Panel, a fact-finding effort by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. They will also be present when the Ontario Health Coalition visits the Oaks Inn in Wallaceburg on March 4.

Spokesperson Jeff Wesley said, "While this (the retention of the SDH ER) is good news, I cannot stress strong enough that we remain on full alert. At every phase of the Rural and Northern Health Care Panel, we will review the decisions and take steps to protect SDH if need be. (We) remain strong, well-funded and ready to mobilize on a moment's notice." He added, "We will be very vigilant, attending all LHIN meetings and being very engaged with the panel."

## 2010 municipal election nominations now being accepted

Nominations for the upcoming 2010 municipal election on Oct. 25 are now being accepted until Sept. 10, 2010 at 2 p.m. Nomination papers should be picked up during regular business hours at the St.

Clair Township Civic Centre on Emily Street in Mooretown and returned there when completed. For more information, contact the municipal office at 519-867-2021.

## March Break fun awaits at the Moore Sports Complex

March Break week will be fun for kids ages five through 12 who attend the **March Break Day Camp** at the Moore Sports Complex. Daily activities will include swimming, skating, crafts, games and special visitors. The hours of operation will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with early drop-off at 7:30 a.m. and late pick-up at 5:30 p.m. The program cost is \$25 per day per child or \$100 for the week. A family plan is also available. **March Break recreational swims** will also take place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$2 per child, \$3 per adult or \$6 per family. Please note that children under 48 inches tall, children under the age of seven, non-swimmers or weak swimmers unable to swim two lengths of the pool, and special needs swimmers must have an adult in the water directly supervising them. And **March Break public skates** will be held Monday to Friday from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$1.50 per child, \$2.50 per adult, and \$6 per family. Rentals are available.

### Swimming lessons registration

Register now for the spring session of swimming lessons, which begin the week of April 5 and run for 10 weeks. The cost is \$48 per child or \$130 per family.

### Want to become a lifeguard?

To become a lifeguard, you must complete three training levels: Bronze Medallion and Emergency First Aid (must be a minimum of 13 years old); Bronze Cross (must be a minimum of 14 years old); and NLS (National Lifeguard Service) and Standard First Aid training (must be a minimum of 16 years

old).

### Qualifications to become an instructor

To become a swimming instructor, there are three training levels to complete: Bronze Medallion, Emergency Aid and Bronze Cross; Assistant Water Safety Instructor (must be a minimum of 15 years old); and the Red Cross Water Safety Instructor and Lifesaving Society Instructor course.

The 10-week **Bronze Medallion/Cross & Emergency First Aid** course begins Saturday, April 10 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The 10-week **Assistant Water Safety Instructor** course begins Thursday, April 8 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The 11-week **National Lifeguard Service** course begins Tuesday, April 6 from 6:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m.

**For more information or to register for any of the programs listed above, call 519-867-2651.**

### Generosity appreciated any time of year

The staff at Foodland in Corunna showed their holiday spirit by running a fundraiser for Operation Christmas Tree during the month of December. At the checkout, shoppers were asked if they would like to purchase a paper bloom with all proceeds to be donated to Operation Christmas Tree. Many shoppers bought a bloom and \$768 was raised. Foodland owner Roy Juschka is shown here, right, making the donation to OCT chairman Ron Skrep-tak.

*Photo submitted*



### Cathcart Chapter IODE community report

The Hon. Bryan L. Cathcart Chapter IODE of Corunna is currently planning its fall fashion show set for Oct. 27 at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hall. Proceeds from the 2009 fashion show fundraiser were used in support of the Corunna Santa Claus Parade, Operation Christmas Tree, the Moore Museum and other Lambton area projects. Earlier this year, members attended a Founder's Day service at Trinity Anglican Church in Sarnia to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the founding of the IODE national organization.

### Hockey Moms raffle fundraiser underway

The Mooretown Minor Hockey Moms's *Grocery Grab Raffle* is now in progress. The draw features three prizes: First prize, \$750 Foodland gift certificate; second prize, \$500 Foodland gift certificate; third prize, \$250 Foodland gift certificate. Tickets are \$4 each or three for \$10 and can be purchased by calling Robin at 519-862-3809, Kerry at 519-867-3129 or any Mooretown Minor Hockey team representative. The draw will take place at the Corunna Foodland store on Wednesday, March 31 at 7 p.m.

*Lottery license number M567377.*

### Stolen lawn ornaments at Corunna OPP office

The Corunna OPP station is currently playing host to several lawn ornaments, including: two water fowl, two cherubs, and Easter Island ornament and a figurine of a young girl. They were found abandoned on Alderbury Crescent. Homeowners whose lawn ornaments have gone missing can be reunited with their property at the St. Clair Township Emergency Services building on Hill Street.

### Handyman scam reported in township

Residents are cautioned to beware of door-to-door handyman. In mid-February, four men offered gutter-cleaning to an elderly LaSalle Line resident at a cost of \$3,000 and offered to drive the resident to the bank to get the money. Another resident of the house intervened and the men left the property. Lambton OPP reminds residents not to be pressured into hiring unknown trades-people and to call police if there is any doubt as to their intentions.

## AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

### Sombra hall to host euchre

The Sombra Community Hall will be the scene of a series of euchre parties this winter beginning at 1 p.m. on the following dates: March 4, 12, 19, 26. Prizes and lunch will be part of each event.

### Brigden Legion to host events

The Royal Canadian Legion Brigden Branch 635 will host several events during the month of March. A corned beef and cabbage dinner is slated for Friday, March 12 and a stuffed cannelloni, Caesar salad and garlic bread dinner will be held on Friday, March 26 at a cost of \$8 per person. Meat raffles will be held on Saturday, March 6 and Saturday, March 20 at 3:30 p.m. Open euchre is played at 1 p.m. on the last Monday of each month for a \$3 admission that includes lunch. These events are open to the public. The branch hall is open Tuesday through Thursday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Friday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from noon to 7 p.m. For more information call 519-864-1395 during these hours.

### Beef stew supper in Wilkesport

The Wilkesport United Church will host a beef stew supper at the church on Thursday, March 18 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., or until sold out. Admission is by donation.

### Church plans ham supper

The Corunna United Church will hold its annual ham supper on Sunday, March 21 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The menu will include ham, scalloped potatoes, baked beans and assorted pies for dessert.

### Rebekah Lodge #324 luncheons

The Mayflower Rebekah Lodge #324 will hold luncheons at Thompson Gardens, 198 Beckwith St. in Corunna at noon on the following dates: March 22; April 26; and May 17. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Bingo in Brigden

A series of monthly bingo evenings are currently being held at the Brigden Community Centre. Upcoming bingos will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23; and Tuesday, April 27. Proceeds from these bingos are used to support the youth of the community. For more information, please contact Martha at 519-864-1889 or Larry at 519-864-1328.

### Jam session at Corunna Legion

An open jam session will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna Branch hall on Saturday, March 27 beginning at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome come and play, or just enjoy the music.

### Baseball and soccer registration

Courtright Baseball registration and Soccer registration will be held at the Moore Sports Complex on Saturday, March 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Easter egg hunt in Corunna

The Optimist Club of Moore will host an Easter Egg Hunt at

the CAP park on Hill Street on Sunday, March 28 at 1 p.m. for children ages 12 and under.

### Annual beef dinner in Brigden

The annual Moore Agricultural Society/Homecraft beef dinner will be held at the Brigden Fairgrounds exhibition hall on Sunday, Mar. 28 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The meal will include scrumptious desserts. Advance tickets are required and will be sold until March 24. The cost is \$15 per adult and \$6 each for children ages six through 10. Children under five eat free. Tickets are available from the fair office, 519-864-1197, Homecraft division members or any Moore Agricultural Society board of directors member. For more information go online to [www.brigdenfair.ca](http://www.brigdenfair.ca) or call the fair office.

### Good Friday pickerel dinner planned

A Good Friday pickerel dinner will be held at the St. Joseph Parish Centre in Corunna on April 2. Attendance at the event, hosted by St. Joseph-St. Charles Parish and Christ Anglican Church of Corunna, is by advance tickets only. The cost is \$16 per adult and \$7 for each child under the age of eight. Tickets can be purchased by calling Marg at 519-862-3741 or Gitte at 519-862-1837.

### Brunches planned for Brigden

The Moore Agricultural Society will hold two special brunches at the Brigden fairgrounds exhibition hall. The Easter brunch will be held on Sunday, April 4 and the Mother's Day brunch will be held on Sunday, May 4, both from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost will be \$7 per adult, \$3.50 per child aged five through 10, and free for children under the age of five.

### 'Newfy' travel log to be presented

The Corunna United Church will host a Newfy Travel Log and Jigs Dinner on Friday, May 7. The travel log features the sights and experiences of a group of congregation members who visited Newfoundland, along with some good ol' Newfy entertainment. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. with a social time at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased by calling Sylvia at 519-862-1040 or Nina at 519-862-2379.

### IODE has Spring in mind

The Hon. Bryan L. Cathcart Chapter IODE of Corunna is still taking orders for the May delivery of geraniums and hanging baskets. To order, contact any IODE member or call Lee at 519-862-5809 or Marilyn at 519-862-1769.

### 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.