



THE BEACON

of St. Clair Township

Issue 10

Volume 2

October 2008

Operation Christmas Tree benefits community's less fortunate families

Once again this year, Operation Christmas Tree will be helping to make the holidays brighter for many of north St. Clair Township's less fortunate families. The Christmas hamper program has been operated by the Optimist Club of Moore since 1989 and, every year, the club accepts donations of cash, food, and new toys.

The organizing committee will be seeking donations from local individuals, groups and businesses throughout the area for this worthy cause. It is estimated that the total budget stemming from all types of donations be \$48,500. Operation Christmas Tree has been a registered charity with tax exempt status since Dec. 17, 1992 and all cash donations over \$10 are eligible for tax receipts upon request.

This year's collection initiative will formally begin on Thursday, Nov. 20 with the annual Poor Boy luncheon at the Royal Canadian Legion Corunna branch hall on Albert Street. From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Legion auxiliary will offer a hearty lunch and everyone is welcome to attend. The cost of admission is by free will offering at the door. Food for the luncheon is donated by the auxiliary.

On Monday, Nov. 24, the Operation Christmas Tree distribution/collection centre will open at the former Murray Street Public School building thanks to the generosity of owners Earle and Angela Gilgeous and EGA Systems. Donations can be dropped off there from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Local schools will be collecting non-perishable food items for Operation Christmas Tree and these are scheduled to be collected by officers from the Corunna office of the Lambton OPP, as well as volunteer firefighters from the St. Clair Town-

ship Fire Department Corunna and Brigden stations, on Thursday, Dec. 11.

The Lambton OPP Corunna station and the Corunna Community Policing Committee will also host the third annual Operation Christmas Tree donation drive-thru in the station's parking lot at the south end of Lyndoch Street on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Santa Claus will be on hand to personally thank all those who show their Christmas spirit through their generous donations.

And finally, after all of the donated items are sorted and packed into individual hampers, volunteer firefighters from the Corunna, Brigden and Courtright fire stations, assisted by the Knights of Columbus, will deliver the hampers on Saturday, Dec. 20.

Many local families will enjoy a Merry Christmas thanks to a caring community and the efforts of the many contributing individuals, volunteers, businesses and organizations. These include the Brigden, Corunna and Moore Optimist Clubs, the Corunna and Brigden Legions, Bluewater Foodland, and many local industries who all make monetary, food and toy contributions to this effort.

Nobody wants to be left out at Christmas time and no one with a caring heart would willingly allow a neighbour to go hungry when there is such abundance in the community. Operation Christmas Tree exists because there is a need and it offers everyone the opportunity to take action against poverty and to get in touch with their inner Santa.

More information about Operation Christmas Tree is available online at www.operationchristmastree.ca.