

Maidstone K of C helps make one family's life a little easier

BY SORCHA CROOKER

A local boy with muscular dystrophy will have a more accessible home thanks to the Maidstone Knights of Columbus.

In July a steak and pasta dinner was prepared by the K of C and held at St. Mary's Hall. There were 54 door prizes including gourmet meals.

The event was attended by approximately 300 people and about \$15,000 was raised.

"I was overwhelmed with the help we got," said Gord Edwards, Grand Knight of K of C Council 9226.

Essex Foodland and other local grocery stores donated most of the food. Local businesses and residents donated door prizes and money.

"The only thing we paid for was the salad," said Edwards.

Edwards presented the cheque to Tristen Lewis-Shaw, 12, and his family Aug. 19 at a celebration at the Maidstone Recreation and Community Centre.

Tristen lives with his mother, Marina Boretski, his stepfather Paul and his sister Natalie in a two-storey farmhouse. Having to use a wheelchair, Tristen faces one particular challenge in his home. All of the home's bedrooms are on the second level.

The family plans to renovate the main floor to make it more accessible for Tristen. They also hope to purchase a van with a ramp.

"It's good to be part of this community," Paul said.

Marina says she doesn't know what she would have done if the community had not stepped in to help.



Gord Edwards, Grand Knight of the Maidstone Knights of Columbus, left, presents a cheque for about \$15,000 to Tristen Lewis-Shaw and his family. The funds will help make their home more accessible for Tristen, who uses a wheelchair. Also pictured (left to right) are Paul Boretski, Tristen Lewis-Shaw, Marina Boretski and Natalie Boretski.

Co-An Park turns 30

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Co-An Park in McGregor.

A two-day long celebration will be held on Sept. 6 and 7 that is sure to be enjoyed by all ages.

Events on Saturday will include a co-ed baseball tournament and a beer tent complete with disc jockey. Tickets for that evening's steak dinner are available in advance or in limited numbers at the door. Call Richard Meloche at 519-776-5726 for tickets or more information.

Sunday is being dubbed "Family Day" with loads of fun for young and old.

A tug-o-war event, including a match between Essex and Amherstburg town councillors, is planned for that afternoon. An old-timers exhibition baseball game, children's entertainment, musical groups and games including a dunk tank are all on the agenda.

Businesses and organizations wishing to sponsor an event or contribute to the celebration are also asked to contact Meloche.

Farm Twilight Tour

The Essex Soil and Crop Improvement Association will be holding their annual Farm Twilight Tour at Malden Valley Farm, winner of the 2007 Conservation Farm Award. This year's event will focus on nutrients in the soil and will include live demonstrations.

The Farm Twilight Tour will take place Saturday, Sept. 6, beginning at 2 p.m. and ending with a barbecue. Malden Valley Farms is located at 1596 South Middle Road, Woodslee.

The event is sponsored by the Essex Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Essex Conservation Club and Essex Regional Conservation Authority, with help and support from various local agri-businesses.

For more information, contact Michael Dick at 519-776-5209, ext. 369.

AAM reunion announced

The AAM Volunteer Ambulance Service is celebrating its 46th anniversary this year. With the amalgamation of all of the ambulance services in Windsor and Essex County, as of midnight, January 1, 2009, the AAM Volunteer Ambulance Service will become part of Essex-Windsor EMS.

We are planning to "go out with a bang" by having a reunion banquet in

October.

The AAM Volunteer Ambulance Service has been providing the residents of Amherstburg (and the former Anderdon and Malden townships) with emergency medical care for the past 46 years. Over these years there have been hundreds of men and women from all over the county who have dedicated their time to become trained as emergency first responders, and to see that the residents of Essex County feel safe with the knowledge that they will be taken care of in their time of need.

The AAM Volunteer Ambulance Service has

honoured these men and women every year with an awards banquet to pay homage to their dedication. This year we are hoping to celebrate with as many of these individuals and their families as we can. We would also like to invite any members of the public who have supported these volunteers over the years and would like to come out and celebrate 46 amazing years with us.

The reunion banquet will be held on Oct. 25 at the Verdi Club in Amherstburg. To purchase a ticket, contact the office at 519-736-8558 or e-mail aamreunion@yahoo.ca before Sept. 30.



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This Day in History ...
August 27, 1793
John Graves Simcoe (1752-1806) names the capital of the new Province of Upper Canada 'York,' after the Duke of York. York is renamed Toronto, an Iroquois word meaning Place of Meeting, in 1834, when the city of 9,000 is incorporated.

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