



BIG BROTHERS OF SARNIA-LAMBTON

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FEBRUARY 2009



Member Agency



Volunteer Sarnia-Lambton
BROUGHT TO YOU BY VOABE



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada
Les Grands Frères Grandes Sœurs du Canada

LASER TAG

When: Tuesday, February 24 — 6:30 PM

Where: Laser Blast (by Splashdown on the Golden Mile)

RSVP: by February 20th

If you are unsure what laser tag is or don't know how much fun it can be just ask your Little Brother! This is one of our most popular activities year after year and the more matches we have participating the more fun it is for everyone, so come out! If you are still trying to burn off those extra calories from the holiday season this activity is good exercise too!

We'll play one game of laser tag plus there are lots of fun activities for you to do on your own too, including playing soccer or video games. If we have a big turnout our group may be divided into two teams with those first to arrive playing first.

ICE FISHING INVITATION

When: Sunday, February 15th, start as early as 6:30-ends at 11:30

Where: Sarnia Bay

RSVP: by February 2nd by calling the Big Brothers office

Our matches have been invited to participate in the BLUEWATER ANGLERS ICE FISHING DERBY on Sunday, Feb. 15. Little Brothers who sign up by Feb 2nd can participate at no charge and an ice fishing pole will be provided for their use. Big Brothers are welcome to fish too for a \$5 registration fee or you can just give your Little Brother a hand if you prefer. Since this derby is held on a "license free weekend" no fishing license is required. It's a terrific opportunity to introduce your Little Brother to ice fishing. Fishing holes and bait will be provided as well as some munchies for you too so all you need to do is dress warmly!

You can pick your time to fish, starting as early as 6 AM (for you morning people) with final weigh ins to be done by 11:30. Fantastic prizes are being offered including a portable ice fishing hut, an ice auger and a floatation suit (\$1,000 value).

In the case of inclement weather or unsafe ice conditions at Sarnia Bay the derby will be cancelled with no alternate date. If in doubt listen to the radio....Note: This is not a Big Brothers of Sarnia-Lambton activity but rather participating Bigs and Littles will be the guests of the Bluewater Anglers for this ice fishing outing.



IN-SCHOOL MENTORING INFORMATION SESSION

Tuesday, Feb. 10th
7pm - 8pm
193 George St.

Volunteer for 1 hour a week-help change a child's life

BINGO DATES

at Bingo Country

Monday, February 2nd
1:30 p. m.

Thursday, February 19th
7:00 p.m.



March 7, 2009

SARNIA GOLF & CURLING CLUB

Curling For Kids



**CALL
519-336-0460**

**FOR FURTHER
DETAILS**

This bonspiel is a major fundraiser for the agency and brings together approximately 48 four-member teams of curlers in a fun-filled one-day bonspiel. You compete for trophies and prizes while, at the same time, financially supporting the work of Big Brothers by means of an entry fee. The fee of \$150/per person is comprised of donations raised from family/friends and associates.

Getting sponsors is easy with our on-line fundraising tool. Just go to <https://www.gifttool.com/athon/AthonDetails?ID=11324&AID=538>

You can register on-line, send e-mail "asks" to your contacts, and even record your in person pledges on-line.

Contributions are tax-deductible.

We are hoping to fill all three draws, this being the 20th Anniversary for the "CIBC Wood Gundy Curl for Kids 2009". We depend on this major fundraising event annually to help us continue to provide services for over 200 of Lambton County's youth.

If you know someone who might be interested in entering a team please let us know.

February is evaluation Month

Enclosed is your quarterly evaluation (recent matches won't get one until next time). Please take the time to fill out our evaluation form and return it to us as soon as possible. Your comments, concerns and suggestions help us provide the best service to everyone.

February Anniversaries

**Russell Luyt & Samuel S.
February 26, 2008**

**Henryk Dzedzic & Cooper D.
February 5, 2003**

**Mike Rodger & Chadd G.
February 5, 2003**

**Malcolm Dunlop & Joshua L.
February 5, 2007**

**Daniel Desveaux & Caleb G.
February 6, 2008**

**John Lammers & Zachery E.
February 28, 2008**



Our team of 24 will depart Canada for Africa on February 1st, 2009. Prepare to follow our progress as we raise funds for Big Brothers of Sarnia-Lambton. Go to <http://www.gifttool.com/athon/AthonDetails?ID=1134&AID=202>

We are paying our own expenses which means that every penny of your sponsorship money goes directly to supporting Big Brothers mentoring programs.

Mount Kilimanjaro rises dramatically from the plains of the Great Rift Valley and borders Kenya and Tanzania. At 5896m (19,340 ft), Mt Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest peak. This dormant and permanently snow-capped volcano is the highest free-standing mountain in the world.

To follow our progress listen to George Hayes on The Fox 99.9FM Radio or our

BLOG <http://climbforkids.blogspot.com/>

The best of LUCK to everyone....

The 24 climbers are:

Michael Hurry, Tanya Wolf, Diane Small, David Small, Fred Martin, Bill Adams, Jack Bork, Jaci Bork, Sherry Johnston, Janet MacLaren, John Healy, Peter Maaten, Ryan DeVries, Debbie Fox, Peter Wakely, Kathy Wakely, Bill Douglas, Brad Bedard, Pat Radice, Henry Kulik, George Hayes, Gregg Mellon, Melanie Hill, Dave Hill

They will reach the summit on February 14th and return to Canada on February 16th.

DOW CENTRE FOR YOUTH



Construction for the Dow Youth Centre near the corner of Indian & Wellington on the land donated by St. Luke's United Church has been started with the footings. The 3 million dollar fundraising campaign is on going with 2.4 million already raised. If all goes well our three agencies will be in the building by the Fall of 2009. Watch for updates in future bulletins.



**Lamsar Climb
for Kids 2009**

www.lamsar.com



Saved by a big brother

From Saturday's Globe and Mail November 22, 2008

Why do some young people succeed in life, and others go terribly awry? Last week, Ontario's former chief justice Roy McMurtry and former speaker Alvin Curling spent nearly 2,000 pages probing why some youth, especially black youth, descend to violence. But at least as insight was a six-minute documentary a day later on TSN on why one young man achieved his dreams.

Mike Labinjo is a 28-year-old defensive end on the Calgary Stampeders whose athleticism is astonishing. He's fast enough, at 284 pounds, to chase down quarterbacks, and strong enough to make a goal-line stand succeed virtually on his own. Globe sportswriter Allan Maki calls him possibly the "single most disruptive force in the CFL." (He meant it in a good way.) Mr. Labinjo's own talent and determination have much to do with his success. But those qualities do not guarantee achievement. From the age of eight, Mr. Labinjo had a champion: a Big Brother named Frank Giffen who supported him and intervened when needed. For instance, he made his little brother quit his high-school football team when his marks fell. Later, after his marks rose and he returned to the team, Mr. Giffen made a videotape of Mr. Labinjo's football prowess and sent out 50 copies. His little brother wound up at Michigan State University, and graduated with an economics' degree.

Mr. McMurtry and Mr. Curling stressed the need for black teachers and a culturally appropriate curriculum. But the success of Mr. Labinjo, who is black, reminds us how important one person, of any race, can be in a youth's life. Mr. Giffen is white. "I don't want to let Frank down," Mr. Labinjo told TSN. "I see this guy who's dedicated his time and put all his effort into me."

Boys need men in their lives. That need becomes all the more important in rough neighbourhoods full of toxic influences, especially those that tell them that being male means being tough and answering disrespect with violence.

Mr. Labinjo has already played in a Super Bowl, and tomorrow he will play in the Gray Cup. Good for Big Brothers, Frank Giffen and Mr. Labinjo himself for reminding everyone of what goes into making a young man a disruptive force in a good way.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

February

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| 1-21 | Sarnia Photographic Society - Gallery in the Grove, Bright's Grove |
| 6-8 | Winter Carnival -Various locations throughout Grand Bend
- Friday, Saturday, Sunday |
| 6-22 | Black Holes-Exhibit, Gallery Lambton, Sarnia |
| 14 | Bluewater Angler's - Free Fishing Day - Under Blue Water Bridges, Pt. Edward |
| 15 | Bluewater Angler's - Ice Fishing Derby - Under Blue Water Bridges, Pt. Edward |
| 27 | The Kidney Foundation Presents: 6th Annual Pasta Fest - Village Inn, Pt. Edward |
| 27- Mar 1 | Ladies Volleyball Tournament - Lambton College, Sarnia Spectators - Free |