

TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY



WEST LORNE BRANCH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

VOLUME 4

AW 2006-21

Archival Heritage Scrapbook

Acid-free Product

Title:

Prepared by:

Manufactured by:
MACANDREW STRATFORD LTD.
87 Nile St., Stratford, Ontario, Canada N5A 4C7

Distributed by:
(Mail Orders)
BFB SALES LIMITED
Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
(416) 858-7888 FAX (416) 858-8586
Toll Free 1-(800) 667-2632

When no one knows what to do with this scrapbook, it should be placed in an archives.



Mrs Olive Frances Chambers was born on Sept II, 1936 in Montreal, where she was raised and educated. She worked for many years as a baby nurse. Later she became a Nurse's Aid to patients in the Royal Victoria Hospital. She then became a practical nurse looking after patients in their homes.

In 1979, she met and married her husband Ralph, then in the Canadian Armed Forces. They were married in Christ Church Cathedral, where Olive was an active member. She belonged to the Youth Group and the Housekeeping Guild.

They were transferred to North Bay in 1981 and both became active members of St. John's Anglican Church. Olive served as President of the ACW. They retired in 1986 and moved to West Lorne, where they became active members of Grace Anglican Church. Olive served on the Board of Management and the Alter Guild. She also joined the ACW and has served two terms as President and one as Treasurer. She was elected as Delegate to Delaware Deanery on the ACW Council, where she served three terms.

In 1986, Olive joined the Womens Institute in West Lorne. She was elected representative to the Elgin Museum, serving two terms. She later became the Elgin Rally representative. She was elected Vice President in 1991 and then served two years as President. At the present time, she is serving , with Leola Lawrence, as a Tweedsmuir History Representative.

Branch
History

THE WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE 1992 - 1993

HONORARY PRESIDENT - Leola Lawrence
PRESIDENT - Olive Chambers
VICE PRESIDENT - Shirley Walker
SECRETARY - Hazel Stalker
P.R.O. - Hazel Stalker
TREASURER - Mary Lippold
TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY - Shirley Walker
DISTRICT CONVENOR - Peggy Mitchell
ALTERNATE - Mary Lippold
ELGIN MUSEUM - Twila McWilliam
ELGIN RALLY REP. - Marion Hauser
ALTERNATE - Olive Chambers
PIANIST - Shirley Walker
AUDITORS - Leola Lawrence
- Betty Humphries
PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATORS - Frances Graham
- Mary Belle Cook
RESOLUTIONS - Frances Graham

WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

1992-1993 PROGRAMME



MEETINGS: -1st Tuesday @ 7:30 P.M.
WEST LORNE TOWN HALL

The West Lorne W.I. begins another year with our new president, Olive Chambers.

A Garage and Bake Sale was held at the home of Olive Chambers on May 23rd.

The W.I. members went on a "Mystery Tour" for the June meeting. The trip took the members to the "Wayside Inn" at Talbotville for lunch. The other places visited were the "House of Glass" at Talbotville, and then on to St. Thomas to the Galleries at the top of the hill.

At the Sept. meeting Earl Bobier and his wife Betty demonstrated how to make butterflies out of magazine pictures.

At the October meeting Diane Ross and her assistant, Kelly McMillan showed the West Lorne and Crinan W.I. ladies about 50 dolls of her extensive collection.

The W.I. decided to raise money by providing dinner for the Kiwanis Club every third Thursday at \$6.00 per person and a minimum of \$50.00 if there were more than ten men.

At the November meeting Karen Carroll gave an interesting demonstration on cake decorating.

A pot-luck supper was held for the W.I. Members and their families at the December meeting. Carols were sung and secret pal gifts were exchanged. Gifts for the Daffodil Society were collected. It was an enjoyable evening.

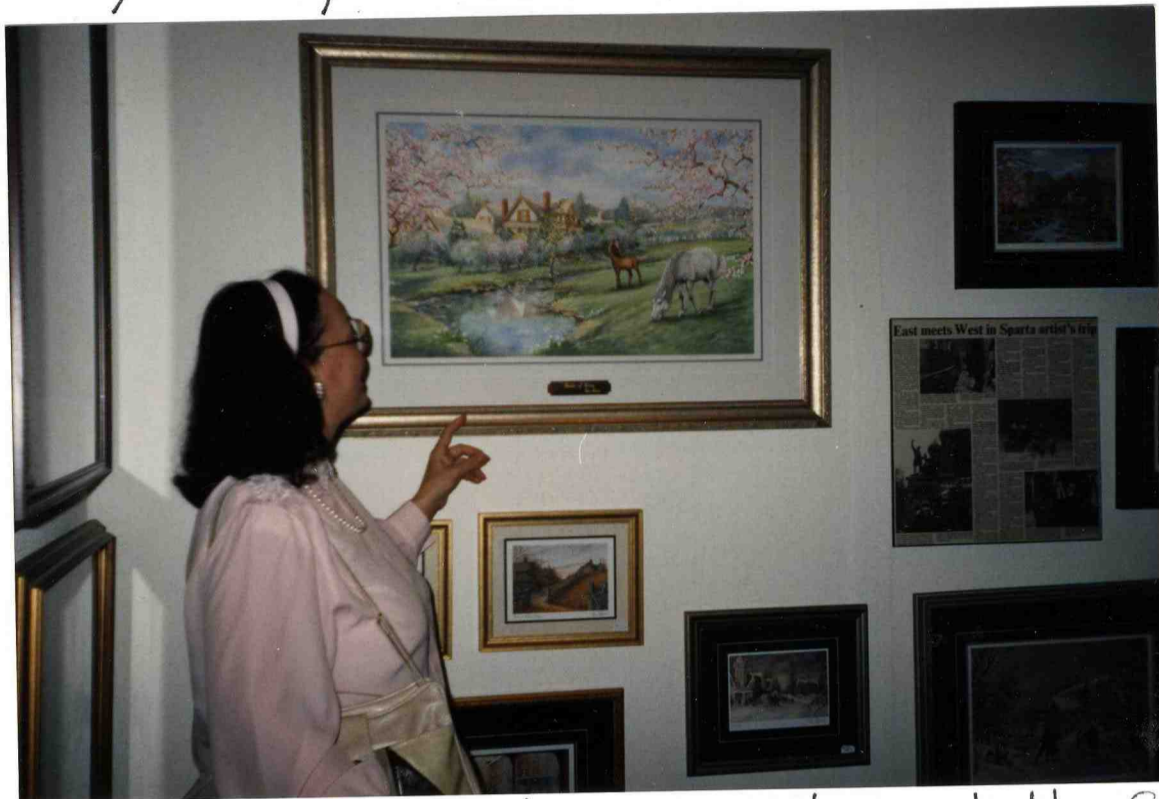
The winter picnic was hosted by the Middlemarch Branch at the Fingal United Church in January. The Federated Women's Institute President, Mrs. Margaret Eberle spoke of her visits to all parts of Ontario representing the F.W.I.O..

A pot-luck supper was held for the February meeting. Thirty-two baskets of goodies were made up to distribute to shut-ins and people in nursing homes. A motion was made to donate \$25.00 to the "March of Dimes".

Mr. Terry Heeney was the guest speaker for the March meeting. He showed beautiful slides of his trip to Norway.

It has been another successful year for the ladies.

Mystery Tour



Olive Chambers admires a picture at the Gallery in St. Thomas



Peggy Mitchell enjoys the paintings and crafts



Hazel Stalker, Vivien Ayling, Twila McWilliam looking at picture



Marion Hauser, Mary Lippold, Vivien Ayling, Shirley Walker enjoy dinner at the "Wayside Restaurant," Talbotville on their "Mystery Tour" for their June meeting.



Olive Chambers, Hazel Stalker, Kay Attridge, Frances Graham, Peggy Mitchell enjoy dinner also.



Family Christmas Party at Dec. meeting 1992



Gifts for secret pals are exchanged

About 300 Women Institute members meet

Three hundred members and guests attended the 78th Convention of the London Area Women's Institute held October 14th, at Ailsa Craig Community Centre. President Hilde Morden reminded the members that their objective at all levels is "personal growth and community action". Thinking of this objective in connection with the Convention's theme "I'm proud to be a Canadian", we can also say "I'm proud to be a Women's Institute Member".

Federated Women's Institute of Ontario President, Margaret Eberle of Highgate spoke of changes in F.W.I.O., we are going to have new headquarters in Guelph. Peggy Knapp, Past President of F.W.I.O., is now the Canadian Area President of the Associated Country women of the World. A Resolutions Convenor and Tweedsmuir History Convenor are needed for F.W.I.O.

Mrs. Eberle conducted the nominations for Federated Women's Institute of Ontario Board Directors. The new Directors are: Subdivision 21-Dorothy Sutherland, her alternate-Marlyn Croft; Subdivision 22-Pauline Lindsay, her alternate-Sylvia Cerna; and Subdivision 23-Laurine McIntosh, her alternate-Doris Denham. The retiring Board Directors are Mar-

garet Harris, Eleanor McMillan and Irene Richardson.

The installation of officers for London Area was conducted by Mrs. Eberle. Mrs. Arthur (Margaret) Dale, R.R.4, Woodstock is the incoming President of London Area.

An F.W.I.O. Workshop for Presidents and Vice-Presidents will be held in January 1993. London area Vice-Presidents Dolores Shapton and Gladys Egerton will attend.

Reports were given on Children's Hospital of Western Ontario, Western Fair Association, Tweedsmuir Histories, the Butler Project, Branch Organization, Program Co-Ordinator, and Public Relations.

Kay Taylor, a representative from the Adelaide Hoodless Home, told of redecorating at the Home and ongoing events. The Christmas Tea is December 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A presentation was given by Rural Organization Specialist Kim

Hamilton.

A resolution concerning the preservation of archival documents was sustained at the August board meeting of F.W.I.O. It was submitted by Springford Branch, Oxford South District. We, as W.I. members, are encouraged to write to our Mayors, councils and MPP's lending our support for the development of municipal archives in our regions. Joyce Pettigrew, Archivist, was present with a display to provide information.

Following the Banquet, excellent music was provided by the Girl's Ensemble from North Middlesex High School.

Maryn Parly Scholarships were presented by the Provincial Board Directors. They were awarded to Heather Faber, Marylou Stewart and Jeremy Rodgers. Marilyn Thomson received the 90th Anniversary Educational Award presented annually to a Women's Institute member who is planning to further or update her education.

Guest speaker Helen Baker, Mil-

verton, based her talk on our theme. Using personal experiences from her childhood and life, she reminded us in a unique way how fortunate we are to live in Canada. These experiences could only have happened in "My Home and Native Land".

An invitation from West Middlesex was extended for the October 14, 1993 Convention.

May, 1992

West Elgin Women's Institute holds annual meeting

West Elgin District Women's Institute held its annual meeting in Fingal United Church with Boxall Institute acting as hostess. The meeting was presided over by Pres. Mrs. Eleanor McMillan.

Guest speaker was Miss Valerie Clark of OMAF, St. Thomas, who gave ideas on how to Market the Product - Wo-

men's Institute in an interesting, exciting package to make it appealing to the public.

The annual memorial service was conducted by Mrs. Mary Liepmann of West Lorne WI.

Guests present from other districts were introduced by Willa Johnston of Clachan. These were from Oxford South, Elgin East as well as

our district representative to London area, Mrs. Sally M. McIntyre of Dutton and Miss Clark.

Miss Clark installed the following officers for the coming year: Past Pres. Sally McIntyre; Pres. Eleanor McMillan; 1st Vice-Pres. Jean Leitch; 2nd Vice-Pres. Willa Johnston; Sec.-Treas. Dorothea Jewell; program co-ordinator Grace Campbell; District Delegate Eleanor McMillan; Voting Delegate Sally McIn-

tyre; Resolutions Irene Johnston; Tweedsmuir History Curator Edith Auckland; Pioneer Museum delegate Frances McCallum; Elgin Manor delegate Irene Auckland; Farm Safety delegate Helen Beecroft; auditors: Mary Lippold and Betty Humphries; nominating committee Mary Liepmann, Mary Gow and Anne McLean.

Provincial Board Directors: Sub. prov. board dir. Sally McIntyre; Rally Pres. Betty Van Patter; rural organization specialist Valerie Clark; Daffodil convenor Norma McMillan.

Dates to Remember: Public Relations officer and program co-ordinator workshop to be held at Centralia College June 7.



Elgin West District Women's Institute
85th Annual Meeting
Crinan Presbyterian Church
Wednesday May 19, 1993
6:15 pm Registration - 6:45 start
Hostess Branch - Crinan

President	Jean Leitch	762-3511
Past President	Eleanor McMillan	762-2089
1st Vice President	Willa Johnston	785-0707
2nd Vice President	Ann McLean	769-2884
Secretary/Treasurer	Margaret Carroll	631-4719
P.R.O.	Dorothea Jewell	762-3529
Program Co-Ordinator	Grace Campbell	762-5133
Resolutions	Irene Johnston	762-5546
Tweedsmuir History	Sally McIntyre	762-3631
Ass. Tweedsmuir His.	Helen VanBrenk	762-2768
District Delegate	Jean Leitch	
Alt. District Delegate	Willa Johnston	
Voting Delegate	Eleanor McMillan	
Alt. Voting Delegate	Jean Palmer	764-2443
Pioneer Museum Delegate	Rena Campbell	762-2787
Farm Safety Delegate	Helen Beecroft	764-2872
Elgin Manor Delegate	Irene Auckland	633-0529
Daffodil Convenor	Norma McMillan	762-3721
Nominating Committee	Marion Hauser	768-1537
	Rena Campbell	
	Betty Rogers	782-3177
Provincial Board Director	Pauline Lindsay	631-5247
Alt. Prov. Board Director	Sylvia Cerna	765-1246
Rally President	Betty VanPatter	631-2989
R.O.S.	Valerie Clark	631-4700
Auditors	Mary Lippold	768-1244
	Betty Humphries	768-1174

Please bring a craft for the Area Convention and give to Willa Johnston.
Bring \$5.00 cash for the Museum Strawberry Social.

Please bring this program to the District Annual on May 19, 1993.

April, 1993

Gearing up for annual Elgin West meeting

The April meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute opened with the Women's Institute Ode followed by the Mary Stewart Collect.

Minutes of the March meeting and treasurers report were read.

Thank you was conveyed from the Daffodil Society to the members for helping sell daffodils.

A thank you card was read from the Sunshine Foundation for the donation to help terminally ill children have some of their wishes fulfilled.

The Elgin West Annual meeting is to be held on May 19 at 6:15 p.m. at Crinan Presbyterian Church.

A discussion regarding the W.I. china plate in recognition of 100 anniversary of W.I. followed.

The nominating committee presented the slate of officers for 1993/94.

The members showed much appreciation to Shirley Walker for her many hours of work in keeping up an excellent Tweedsmuir Book of History.

Members are meeting at the Brink House in Rodney at 6:15 p.m. for the May meeting.

Thanks to George Hippold for fixing the locks on the cupboard.

Meeting closed with O Canada. A dutch auction followed and a delicious lunch was served by H. Stalker and T. McWilliams.

October meeting 1993

Diane Sercombe speaks to West Lorne W.I.

The October meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute was held in the Community Hall with 11 members and one guest in attendance.

Following the opening exercises the Roll Call was answered by your favourite craft. The treasurer's report was given. Members returned their cancer tea tickets.

The Kiwanian meal schedule

was distributed. The Elgin County Museum news was read. Women's Institute refrigerator magnets were displayed with several women making purchases.

Thank you note from Marybelle McRae was read.

Thursday, Oct. 21st and Nov. 3rd is Elgin Manor tuck shop.

Speaker for the evening was Diane Sercombe from the Adult Social Centre in Rodney. Diane

displayed many crafts including a paper twist wreath. Diane taught each one present to make a Christmas tree angel. Olive Chamber presented the speaker with a gift in appreciation for showing us her most interesting crafts.

Olive Chambers and Shirley Walker served a delicious lunch.

The meeting closed with O Canada and the Lord's Prayer.

Oct. 31st, 1993 Elgin W.I. Rally report

The Elgin County Women's Institute Rally met at the O.M.A.F. meeting room October 31st. Eleanor McMillan opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, followed with the institute Ode and the Mary Stewart Collect.

There are some fridge magnets for sale. Branches are asked to bring their fee for the Rally to the Annual Meeting. The Janet Hiephler scholarship was presented to Trudy Hickson at Avondale High School on Nov. 5, 1993.

On February 8, 1994 from 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. at the South Dunwich Community Hall in Wallacetown, there will be a hands on learning

session to create your own T-shirt. Please bring clean T-shirt. The cost is \$7 per person. If you are interested please contact Grace Campbell.

First place winners in the Elgin W.I. Rally Farm Safety contest were: Nichol Briand, Dutton; Jenna Stone, Shedden; David Mezenberg, Wallacetown; and Andrea Wolf, Aldborough. Second places were given to: Erin DeGraw, Aylmer; Bryn DeGraw, Aylmer; Jessica Andrews, St. Thomas; Natalie Blagden, St. Thomas. Officer Williams from the OPP came to talk to the children about farm safety and being home alone.

Nov. 1993

CHC guest speakers at West Lorne W.I. meeting

Fourteen members and one guest attended the November meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute.

Following the opening exercises, Olive Chambers introduced the guest speakers. Heather Campbell and Mary Francis O'Hagen from the Community Health Centre. Both ladies presented information regarding the future Community Health Centre. Many questions were answered.

Both ladies were presented with gifts in appreciation for coming to speak to the ladies.

Minutes from the previous meetings were read and adopted. Treasurer report was given.

An invitation from Riverroad W.I. to attend their Coffee Break on November 4, 1993.

Card of Thanks read from Children's Network Telethon for saving Heinz labels.

Children's Hospital needs small knitted blankets, slippers and sweaters. Any ladies in the community who would like to donate any of the above it would be greatly appreciated from the Children's Hospital.

January 5, 1994 is Elgin Manor with Hazel Stalker, Mary Lippold and Stephanie Zavitz offering to go.

December 7th is annual Pot Luck Christmas Party at 6 p.m. with exchange of gifts for secret pals.

LONDON AREA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



79th Annual Convention

**Theme:
"Meeting The Challenge"**

**Location:
Caradoc Community Centre
In Mt. Brydges**

Telephone 1-519-264-9900

Thursday, October 14, 1993

Subdivision 21
Middlesex East, Middlesex West, Middlesex North

Subdivision 22
Elgin East, Oxford South, Elgin West

Subdivision 23
Perth South, Huron South, Huron West, Oxford North

Meals on Wheels

Running smoothly

By Sheila McBrayne

Meals on Wheels has been on the road and in gear in West Lorne for about two years and the main reason for its continued success is because of its dedicated volunteers.

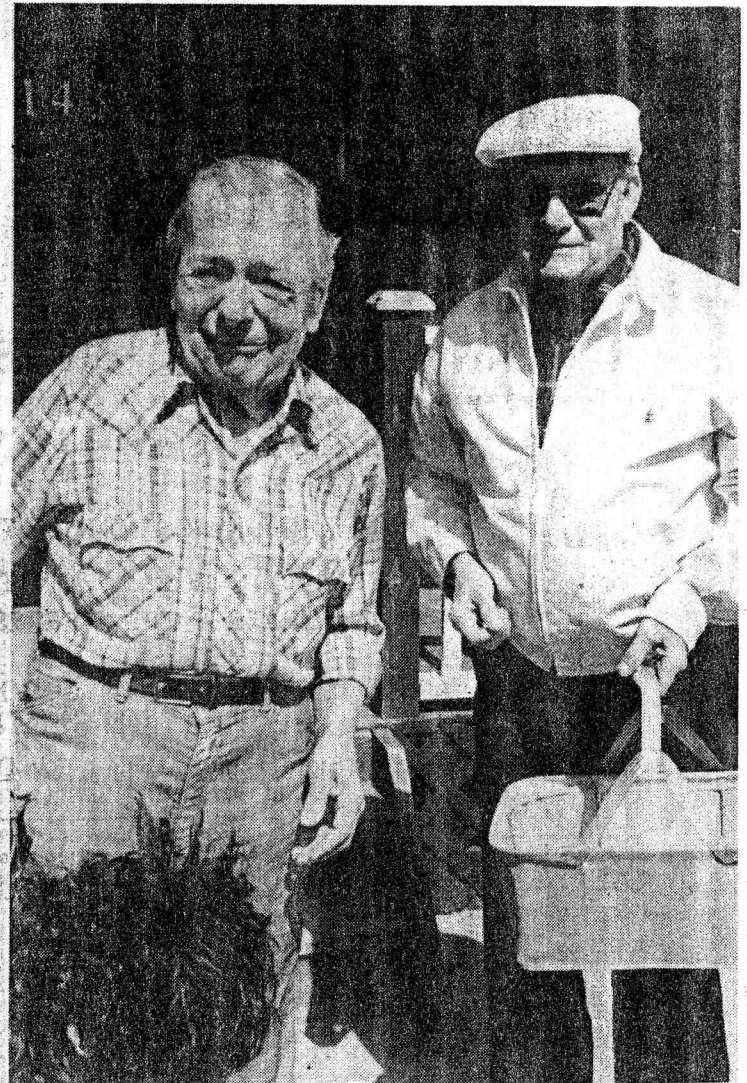
Volunteers like Arthur and Betty Humphries who have been delivering the meals prepared by Town and Country Restaurant since the program started two years ago. About 11:30 a.m. there's a knock on the back door and there stands one of the 12 local drivers ready to pick up the meals that are delivered to the seven local users of this service.

The Humphries are retired and the Meals On Wheels only takes up about one day a month. The Humphries stop at the various homes to drop off the baskets of noon hour meals, meals which the recipients may not have been able to prepare for themselves. All meals are \$5 each and consists of a balanced meal including both hot and cold foods. The meals are delivered every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. With 12 drivers, seven recipients and delivery done three days a week the scheduling of drivers is a full position itself. Leola Lawrence has taken on this chore. She sets up the schedule to ensure that someone will be able to get the meals out.

One of the West Lorne recipients is Goldie Whitfield. The Humphries know that he'll meet them at the door and stand on the verandah and talk for a minute. This is also a chance for Mr. Whitfield's dog Bandit to go for a quick run outside. The Humphries can't stay long though because they still have five more stops and they want to make sure the meals are hot.

The Meals on Wheels program, which is under the direction of the Elgin County Homes, exists in many small communities and like other small town organizations it counts on volunteers. The original idea to bring the Meals on Wheels program to town was presented to the West Lorne Women's Institute for them to do as a project. The ladies graciously accepted the challenge and has since included a few husbands or neighbours of W.I. members.

The Meals on Wheels will be having a meeting for anyone interested in finding out more about the Meals on Wheels program, those interested in volunteering and the present drivers will also be there. The meeting is May 5th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.



Goldie meets Arthur Humphries at the door as he delivers his meal.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR WEST LORNE W.I. 1993 - 1994

Honorary President - Leola Lawrence
President - Olive Chambers
Vice President - Shirley Walker
Secretary - Hazel Stalker
P.R.O. - Mary Liepmann
Treasurer - Mary Lippold
Tweedsmuir History - Shirley Walker
District Convenor - Leola Lawrence
Alternate - Mary Lippold
Elgin Museum - Twila McWilliam
Elgin Rally Rep. - Marion Hauser
Alternate - Olive Chambers
Pianist - Shirley Walker
Auditors - Betty Humphries
 Leola Lawrence
Programme Co-Ordinators - Frances Graham
 Marybelle Cook
Resolutions - Frances Graham

The West Lorne W.I. begins another year with Olive Chambers as president.

In May eleven W.I. members met at the Cosy Restaurant in Rodney, for a dinner meeting. Each member told their favourite joke after the business meeting.

In June twelve members enjoyed a trip to St.Jacob's Market. The day was spent touring the town and shopping in the many stores. They had lunch at the "Stone Crock" restaurant.

Lynn Champigny, a Mary Kay representative gave a make-up demonstration at the September meeting.

The Clachan W.I. hosted the Elgin West W.I. Tea for the Cancer Society October 6th.

The speaker for the October meeting was Dianne Sercombe from the Adult Social Centre in Rodney. She taught each member to make a Christmas tree angel.

Speakers for the November meeting were Heather Campbell, Ex Director and Mary F. O'Hagan, Health Promotion Officer for the West Elgin Community Health Centre. They explained the aims and objectives of the centre.

On December 7th a family pot-luck supper was enjoyed in the Town Hall basement. The collection was given to the Daffodil Society. Secret Pal gifts were exchanged, and new names given out.

Mary Lippold, Stephanie Zavitz and Hazel Stalker served in the Tuck Shop at Elgin Manor on January 5th, 1994.

The Winter Picnic was held at the Shedden United Church on January 10th.

At the February meeting twenty-six valentine gift plates were packed for shut-ins.

Alice Paterson, a member of the local Geneological and Historical Society spoke to the ladies at the March meeting. She is very interested in restoring the old Backus home, adjacent to the Pearce Provincial Park. Alice is promoting the use of the vacant house as a museum and educational centre.

The annual meeting was held April 5th. The new slate of officers for 1994-1995 was installed. A dutch auction raised \$49.50.

The May meeting was held at the Town and Country Restaurant, where a delicious meal was served.

The District Annual was held at the Wallacetown Hall on May 5th.

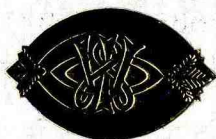
The June meeting was a trip to Pinecroft (near Aylmer) and Port ^{Stanley} Glasgow.

The ladies have served the Kwanians every third week, which has raised a considerable amount of money.

It has been a successful year for the ladies.

WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

1993-1994 PROGRAMME



MEETINGS: 1st Tuesday @ 7:30 P.M.

WEST LORNE TOWN HALL

Institute Room

Adelaide Hoodless Stamp

March 8th, 1993



On March 8, 1993 - International Women's Day - Canada Post unveiled the first issue of four commemorative stamps honouring prominent Canadian women. The Hoodless stamp was issued in honour of the centennial anniversaries of the National Council of Women and the National Office of the YWCA. Adelaide was a founding member of these organizations. She also helped draft the charter for the Women's Institute movement and organize the first Institute at Stoney Creek, Ontario, in 1897.

Canadian Commemorative Postage Stamps reproduced courtesy of Canada Post Corporation. Copyright 1993.

ACWW News

About ACWW

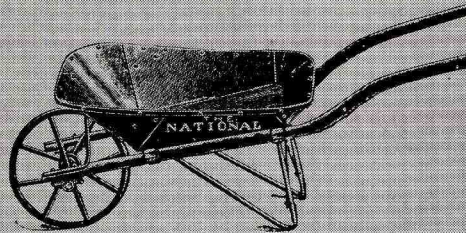
By Peggy Knapp

The Associated Country Women of the World is an international umbrella for women's organizations worldwide, with particular concern for rural women.

It is pledged to build on the traditional values of family life, to develop community projects, to gain access to skills development, education and training, and to express the views of women to the decision-makers locally, nationally and internationally.

Supported by members' fees and their collection of "Pennies for Friendship," it has a remarkable record of achievement.

Project funds have been generously supported by Ontario WI members through the "Save Sight" and "Water for All" programs, and are now being collected for "Women Feed the World," the project for this triennium.



To a woman trying to eke out a meagre existence for her family in a developing country, even the smallest tools can make a world of difference. Our \$5 donation will buy a garden spade, \$10 a preserving kettle, and \$20 a wheelbarrow or a brooder for fifty chicks.

And our Pennies for Friendship hold women together around the world. Think of it - 7,000,000 of us - bonded together as supporters and friends. Certainly, we can make a difference!

Peggy Knapp is the ACWW Area President for Canada.

1994

ACWW Report

Peggy Knapp, ACWW Area President for Canada, reported that Valerie Fisher, ACWW World President, will be visiting Ontario on her way from Australia to the FWIC Convention in Truro, Nova Scotia. Her itinerary includes a luncheon at the new FWIO office and a visit to the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead and the Erland Lee (Museum) Home.

Conference '97

In her report, Conference '97 Chair, Peggy Knapp, recommended that the 100th anniversary celebration be held at the Hamilton Convention Centre from Tuesday, June 16 to Sunday, June 22, 1997. She reported that the site offered excellent support and services, including large board and executive meeting rooms, use of a large theatre, 100 free parking spaces, and close proximity to shops, restaurants, churches and the birthplace of the WI - the Erland Lee (Museum) Home.

FWIO



Margaret Zoeller (left), Chair of the Centennial Committee, and Donna Russett (right), President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, proudly display the 100th anniversary plate for the first time at the March Board meeting.

FWIO Historical Records

The FWIO historical records are now housed in the University of Guelph Archives and Special Collections, where they have been deposited on permanent loan. The collection will take about a year to process at which point they will be opened to the general public.

The Women's Institute



For Home and Country



FWIO Information Video

The production of an information video about the FWIO is now completed. Its object is to talk about the Women's Institute - where they began, what they have accomplished, and where they are heading in the future. One copy of the video will be available in each Area for programming.

Meet West Lorne's new village clerk-treasurer

West Lorne's hunt for a new Clerk-Treasurer ended last week when Jane Battin was awarded the position. There were 34 applications received by the closing date, with the field being narrowed down to four candidates who were interviewed by Council.

Ms. Battin began working for the Town of Aylmer seven years ago as secretary and has worked her way up since then. She will be completing her AMCTO course in June and will be writing the Challenge exam in September. After that time she will be eligible to become an associate member of the AMCTO.

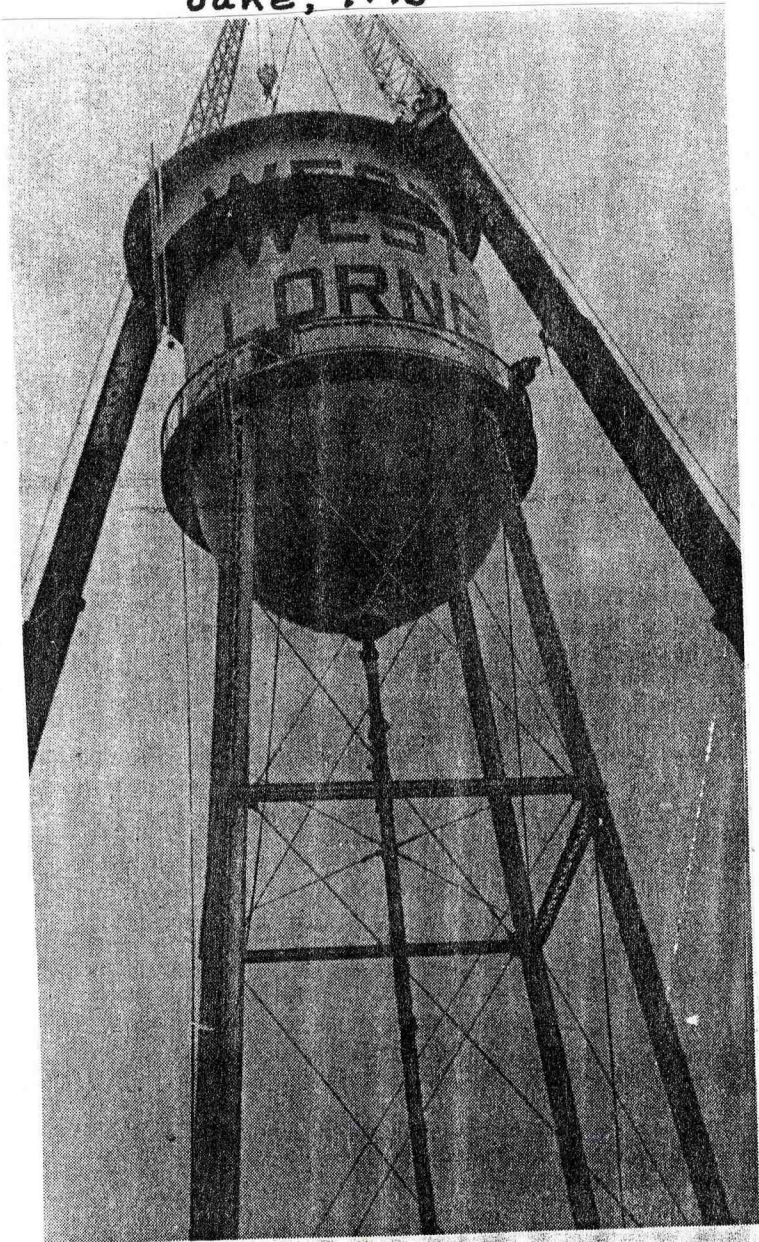
"It's going to be a challenging position. There are a lot of issues that are currently underway that have to be taken care of and I'm really looking forward to the position. I'm available if people have concerns and I'd be happy to take their concerns to council. I appreciate the public input," stated Ms. Battin when asked how she felt about her new position.

Jane will be commencing her duties on April 19, 1993



Jane Battin

June, 1993



Down came the tower

It only took a couple of days to bring down the West Lorne water tower. Work started on Monday, June 21st and was completed by Wednesday. Work crews used two cranes and started taking it down from the top to the bottom.

(Mercury-Sun photo)

WL councillor March 7th, 1994 Representing the Portuguese

By Ruth Ferguson

West Lorne council gained a new fresh, young face when it elected John Marques to fill the vacant seat on Monday, March 7.

John was just one of seven people vying for the position of councillor. John received two of the four possible votes. He was sworn in and joined council for the remainder of the meeting.

At 25, John is possibly the youngest person to ever sit on West Lorne council. He feels that having a younger voice and a different perspective on council will be a benefit for everyone.

John was encouraged by many people to apply for the council seat. John has wanted to get involved in municipal politics and this opportunity seemed the ideal time to try.

He is also planning on running in the next municipal election which will take place later this year.

One of the reasons that John wanted to give politics a try was because he wanted to learn how the village worked. He also wanted to give the Portuguese community a voice on council.

Approximately 30 percent of West Lorne's population is Portuguese but there has never been a Portuguese member of council, until now.



John Marques

John will be a member of the West Lorne Fire Department Board of Management, and will deal with matters concerning the fire department, property standards, and the community hall.

John believes that being on council will help him learn how to better communicate with people. He is eager to make the most of this opportunity and learn what he can about municipal politics.

John is presently working as the territorial manager for a chemical company. He has lived in West Lorne since 1975.

Three-quarters vote no

West Lorne votes down Amalgamation in a landslide question vote result

By Sheila McBrayne

The question of Amalgamation for West Lorne has been answered with a landslide No count in West Lorne's question vote.

When all 553 of the casted ballots were tallied an astounding 408 voted against the proposed Amalgamation of the municipalities of Rodney, Aldborough and West Lorne. Only 142 West Lorne residents felt that Amalgamation would benefit the community. There were three spoiled ballots.

The voter turnout showed 553 voters of the possible 1,072 names on the original voters list. This was about a 51.6 percent voter turnout, which is down about 10 percent from the usual 60 percent voter turnout at usual municipal

elections.

"The people have expressed their opinion on Amalgamation. They were given the chance to express it and they did," West Lorne Reeve Joe Fischer said.

West Lorne Council had previously indicated that it would abide by the public's decision. "Council will not give the by-law a third reading," Mr. Fischer said.

Aldborough Councillor Duncan McPhail said that the councils of Rodney and Aldborough would probably meet later in the week to discuss how they will proceed with their plans for Amalgamation.

West Lorne's last public question vote was back in 1947 when the residents of West Lorne voted in favour of setting up a Public Utilities Commission.

"I think West Lorne will be sorry. I hate to say it, but I

think they will be," West Lorne Councillor Tammy Swain said.

One day prior to the Amalgamation vote a flyer indicating all the interpreted negative aspects of the Amalgamation deal was circulated throughout the Village of West Lorne signed from "Concerned citizens in West Lorne."

One immediate problem that West Lorne's Reeve sees for West Lorne will be the housing problem they face for the recently purchased Rescue Unit, which will not fit in the West Lorne Fire Hall because of its height. The unit is presently being stored elsewhere. Another consideration is the purchasing of a fire truck by West Lorne and Adborough departments.

"A municipal council can do three things: lead, follow or get out of the way. West Lorne chose to get out of the way," Mr. McPhail said.

Nov. 4th 1992

Buchanan is reeve

By Sheila McBrayne

Dianne Buchanan sat down in the reeve's chair as she was temporarily appointed chair of the November 2nd meeting and after the election from within council to fill the seat, she didn't have to move.

Buchanan was voted in as reeve by a majority vote of her fellow councillors. "I wasn't surprised, I felt it would happen and I'm glad it did," she said of the appointment. The position of reeve was opened for nominations after the resigning of Joe Fischer for various reasons.

Reeve Buchanan intends to keep close ties with her surrounding municipalities. "Just because Amalgamation didn't go through, we still need to keep good communication because we do still share a lot of the same services," she said.

Other areas of concern of the new reeve are to keep open communication with the West Lorne Public Utilities and the Board of Management. "I feel good that council appointed me. I'll thrive to do well for the community as I have in the past... It's my town too!"

Buchanan first came to council in 1989 when she filled the vacancy left by Phil Mark. She finished two years as a councillor and has been West Lorne's deputy-reeve for one year.

Councillor Tammy Swain was voted into the deputy-reeve's position following Buchanan's appointment to reeve.

A newcomer to municipal politics, John Humphrey is West Lorne's new councillor by a majority vote of council. He received three of the possible four votes. Also in the running was Michael McLory, James Panther, Jerry Prince and Charles Rushmere Jr.

Humphrey moved to town last year and has been involved in various local issues. "I got involved when the Post Office was closing down. We had a little postal outlet in Stouffville and I didn't want to

see the same thing happen here...I will say the one here is very good though," he said.

Humphrey also took part in the quest for West Lorne to have a vote on Amalgamation. "I just honestly felt that there should be a vote," he added.

Humphrey came to West Lorne from Stouffville, Ontario where he worked for 25 years as a director of franchise operations for Canada Dry. He presently acts as a management consultant for a Quebec company and resides at 229 Main Street West. Humphrey says he does have family roots in this area, as his grandfather was the late Dr. John Humphrey.



Reeve Dianne Buchanan took a turn answering the phone at the arena during last Wednesday's CrownLife ParticipAction Challenge with Port Stanley.

Changes in long term health care in West Elgin

By Ruth Ferguson

A meeting was held in Dutton recently to discuss a document entitled "Partnerships in Long Term Care, A new Way to Plan, manage and Deliver Services and Community Support." The government of Ontario began a public consultation process approximately two years ago order to gain, first hand, the public's concerns and opinions about long-term health care.

The meeting was broken into three parts basically. Cate Melito, Community Development Co-ordinator from the Long-Term Care Area Manager's office in London, was one of the key speakers. The

first section was feedback on the consultations held earlier and a brief overview of the policy. The reforms that are to be taken were then discussed and the meeting ended with the explanation of how the policy framework and reforms are going to be implemented and the role of the District Health Council.

The long-term care system is currently fragmented and urgently needs reform to make it more focussed, accessible, Flexible, efficient and cost effective. The province is now starting to work on solving the inequities and filling in the gaps in essential services.

The policy framework lists several principals and goals including the goal of integrating long-

term health care and social services and ensuring finding equity across the province. The system is striving to be more accessible and to better serve the people that need and use it. Trying to keep people healthy and in their homes and independent for as long as possible is another aim of the reforms.

The study was put together by three provincial departments: the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Citizenship.

An Elgin County Summary was also produced from the preliminary consultation meetings. Several areas of specific needs were identified including the support to family caregivers, community

support services, long-term facilities and the funding of long term care and support services. Specific needs for West Elgin were also noted including 911, transportation, information about available service and the need for community based services. Several other needs were also listed.

Creating community-based multi-service agencies is the first step towards this goal. Currently if someone is in need of support services, several separate organizations or agencies need to be contacted in order to obtain all of the needed services. The multi-service agency will co-ordinate several services so people only have to contact one

place instead of 3,4 or more.

The need for reform for Ontario's long-term health care system is long overdue. Other provinces have been using integrated service agencies and other such policies for the last 10 or 15 years. Reform in Ontario's system won't happen overnight but change is underway.

New transit for seniors starting in new year

Jan. 1994

A committee of dedicated individuals has been working 2 years on a project to provide bus service for the seniors and disabled in the Four Counties General Hospital service area.

Early in the new year, Four Counties Community Transportation services will begin operation of a 15-passenger paratransit to provide general transportation services including travel for appointments, shopping visits etc. between the Four Counties Communities.

Transportation service will supplement the existing voluntary transit services already in operation and will include services for people in wheelchairs who might otherwise

not be serviced by the voluntary network.

The committee of interested people first began meeting at FCGH in December of 1991 to plan development of the services. Duncan McPhail, Deputy-Reeve from Aldborough was elected the chair of the committee and has put a great deal of effort into the project. The secretary of the committee is Jean Phillips of the Senior's Day Care and Health Support Program at FCGH.

The committee met with some officials from the Ministry of Transportation who would fund from 50 % to 75 % of a transit service for the elderly and handicapped. The rest of the money would have to come from the local municipalities in-

cluding local service clubs, public spirited individuals and from fees.

Early in the project approaches were made to all the Canadian Legions operating in the area. Some branches of the Legion pledged money very early and it became apparent that they would become a major sponsor of the project. Subsequently numerous presentations were made by Duncan McPhail, and Jean Phillips. Many other clubs in the area were also anxious to see such a project get on its feet and were willing to help out financially.

In May of 1993 the group was incorporated under the name Four Counties Community Transportation Services. Duncan McPhail, of Aldborough Township is the current chairman; Brian Morris, of

Glencoe is the vice chair; Hugh Palmer of R.R.#2 Florence is treasurer; Jean Phillips of FCGH is the secretary and Pam Page of Rodney and Reverend Clements of R.R.#3 Newbury are directors. All of the committee members have worked hard on the project and are very excited at the prospect that the organization will be in operation early in 1994.

The committee was delighted when a used van from Wallaceburg became available. Prior to that, the committee had been looking at new vans with a price range from \$50,000 - \$100,000. Although the committee was able to purchase the used van for \$4,000, thus saving a considerable amount of money.

Individuals that will be served by this new transportation are generally people who have difficulty boarding or operating regular vehicles. From studies from the Ministry of Transportation indicate that 3-5 % of the population is eligible to use this type of service in the Four Counties area. In total that would represent about 600 people. In the first year of operation, it is expected that the service will be used by approximately 200 passengers.

The service will be offered within the four county catchment area including the municipalities of Aldborough, Ekfrid, Glencoe, Mosa, Newbury, Wardsville, West Lorne, Rodney, Zone, Bothwell, Orford and Highgate.

Grand Opening Saturday, July 3, 1993.

Dr. Rogers comes to West Lorne

By Ruth Ferguson

On July 5, the doors to the office of West Lorne's newest doctor's office will officially open.

Dr. Anna Rogers will be opening the Rogers Family Medical Clinic and has invited the public to stop by for coffee and donuts on Saturday, July 3, during the open house.

Dr. Rogers and her husband, Robert, began looking for a rural community where Anna could set up her practice. After checking out several different communities, they finally settled on West Lorne. Robert's grandmother grew up in this area and the Rogers' declared this the prettiest area that they looked at.

It took some time for them to find the right house where they would be able to live upstairs and have the practice on the main floor, and have enough room for people to park but they were able to find what they needed on Walker Street. While Anna looks after the patients, Robert will be running the office, and taking care of the administrative side of the business. She has applied for admitting privileges at Four Counties General Hospital.

Dr. Rogers has previously studied Journalism at Humber College in Toronto and did freelance work for the Globe and Mail. She then decided to pursue a medical degree and earned her honours degree in Microbiology and Biochemistry for the University of Toronto. Dr. Rogers did her internship at Victoria Hospital in London and has been

filling in at St. Joseph's Hospital for a few weeks because they were understaffed.

The Rogers' are really excited about moving to West Lorne and are planning on becoming a permanent part of the community.



The New Board of Directors

Heather Campbell, Rev. Ralph Fluit, Lori Withenshaw, Hazel Stalker, Charlie Black, Graham Warwick, Diane Reno-Prezeau, Martin Joldersma, Maria Olivera, Jim Smith, Linda Armstrong, Albert Ford.

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED FOR CHC

West Elgin Community Health Centre held its first Annual General Meeting at the Elgin International Club on November 29, 1993. It was attended by 56 people.

James A. Smith, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order and appointed Charles I. Black to Chair the meeting. The first major item of business was the approval, ratification and confirmation of the bylaws of the Corporation. Mr. Black explained that there are two bylaws. One provides for the organizational structure and general administrative and operational procedures of West Elgin CHC while the other

permits the CHC to borrow money.

Once the meeting was duly constituted, Mr. Smith presented his report. Copies of it can be obtained from the CHC office. This was followed by a presentation to retiring directors, Betty Johnston and Harry Mezenberg. Mrs. Johnston and Mr. Mezenberg were both on the initial Steering Committee for the CHC. Certificates of appreciation were also presented to John Asidak, former Secretary and Treasurer of the Board and Pan Page, former Chair of the board.

Martin Joldersma presented the Treasurer's Report.

The firm of Gordon Hardcastle Chartered Accountants was reappointed as auditors of the Corporation of West Elgin Community Centre.

Harry Mezenberg presented the Building Committee Report. He stated that the renovation plans for the CHC have been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval. In the mean time, the architect is proceeding with the prequalification of contractors. Mr. Mezenberg said he looks forward to opening the renovated building next spring.

Heather Anne Campbell presented the report of the Executive Director. She

highlighted many of CHC's recent accomplishments and thanked the Board and her staff for their support, commitment and assistance. She stated that the Ministry of Health has recently approved the budget of the CHC and that the Board is very pleased with the outcome of the budget negotiation process.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the Report of the Nominating Committee by Lorne Carroll. Five Directors were returned for a one year term including: Charles I. Black, Martin Joldersma, James A. Smith, Hazel Stalker and Graham Warwick.

Six new Directors were also elected for two year terms including: Linda Armstrong, Albert Ford, Rev. Ralph Fluit, Maria Oliveira, Diana Reno-Prezeau and Lori Withenshaw. There were no nominations from the floor.

The formal part of the business was concluded with a presentation of the CHC concept by Executive Director Heather A. Campbell. She talked about the four principles that govern CHCs--accessibility, a comprehensive approach to health care, an emphasis on wellness, health promotion and disease prevention and empowerment of individuals and communities.



The West Elgin Community Health Centre is scheduled to open for business on August 2, 1994. Staff members include, front row, left to right: Dawn Maziak, Social Worker; Heather Anne Campbell, Executive Director; and Donna Lunn, Health Promotion Coordinator. Middle row, left to right: Paula Alves, Receptionist/Records Clerk; Rob Taylor, Chiroprapist (Foot Specialist); Joy Scafe, Registered Practical Nurse; and Anita Hazelwood, Administrative Assistant. Back row, left to right: Bob Logan, Reception/Records Clerk; Shirley Kosky, Dietician; Joanne Opsteen, Nurse Practitioner; and Stephen Jones, Family Physician. Rob Taylor works at Parkwood Hospital in London and will be at the Health Centre on a part time basis. Shirley Kosky works with the Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit and will also be at the Health Centre on a part time basis. *(Mercury-Sun photo)*

Congratulations

*Best Wishes
to*

West Elgin **COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE**



The logo for West Elgin Community Health Centre was created by Mr. Graham Warwick, Vice-Chairman, Board of Directors.

It features a simple circle of people which symbolizes family, community and caring. The circle is open reflecting a reaching out and acceptance of others. The schematics, while simple, convey immediately the Community Health Centre's emphasis on people, the importance of balance and the interdependence of all facets of health and well being.

by Jerry Morrow

The new West Elgin Community Health Centre that opened in West Lorne this week may become a model for similar centres in the rest of the province.

While there are 53 community health centres in Ontario, most are located in urban areas to meet urban problems. The new centre here is one of five being developed with a specific mandate to serve the needs of the rural population.

"It's exciting that we can develop a model here to provide service to rural areas and be able to provide leadership to others,"

Executive Director Heather Anne Campbell says.

The community health centre concept is something new to this part of the province. It's a doctor's office "with a twist. We believe that a person doesn't always need to see a physician - that other health professionals are equally skilled at diagnosis and treatment," she explains.

Health and social needs can be intermixed, Campbell says. She uses as an example a young, single mother who is having trouble sleeping. Rather than a doctor prescribing sleeping pills, a discussion determines she

is having trouble making ends meet.

The woman can't sleep because by the time she pays her rent, there isn't enough money left for food and clothing for her children. This is where the centre's social worker could step in to help find food, look for less expensive housing and other assistance.

"We look at the whole person, not just the symptoms," Campbell says. "We look for the underlying reasons for the symptoms."

While the centre has one doctor on staff, it also has a nurse-practitioner and other health professionals. The

staff will take a team approach to problems and Campbell expects a number available.

of other related agencies to operate out of the center on a part-time basis.

"There are still people who are not sure what we're about," she says. That's why the public was invited in for an open house tour last week. A grand opening won't be held until later this fall.

It's taken more than two years to get the centre up and running. The concept was suggested by the Ministry of Health when the area was "struggling to more than \$250,000 began

in March to convert the former PUC office and warehouse into the centre attract primary care physicians," Campbell says.

Major renovations that cost that exists today. The staff began working even before that, offering a variety of programs ranging from dealing with grief to CPR training that started in January.

One of the centre's ideas that may take getting used to is empowerment. Rather than being at the mercy of the professionals, they will give you the information you need to make an informed decision for yourself.

The centre will offer

programs, but they will be programs people want and ask for. "This is their community health centre. Their opinions and ideas count," Campbell says.

The executive director believes in the ideas behind the health centre concept and she took the job here because "the people on the board genuinely want to make a difference." In urban areas, she says board membership can be useful on a resume.

"It's been exciting to take this from a concept on paper to what you see today," she says. "It's given me a chance to put my money where my mouth is."



Ray Jobson of the West Lorne Kiwanis Club is pictured here with the three of the many winners in the Kiwanis Talent Show held Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17 at West Elgin Secondary School. From left are Melissa Livingston, 1st - wind solo; Amanda

Lupsor, 2nd - brass and Zoe Frazer, 3rd - wind solo. All three students attend West Elgin Senior Elementary School.



The West Lorne and Rodney Kiwanis Clubs held a joint meeting on Thursday evening, Nov. 25. Together the two clubs donated \$2,000 to the new Olympia ice resurfacer at the West Elgin Arena. The clubs raised the money through bingos. Aldborough Councillor Joann Vergeer, head of the fundraising committee, accepted the \$1,000 cheque from West Lorne Kiwanis Club Vice President Bill Graham, while Rodney Kiwanis Club President Beth Carroll presented Recreation Director Jeff Slater with their club's \$1,000 donation. *(Mercury-Sun photo)*

Nov. 2nd, 1992

Fire truck dilemmas

Work is completed on the re-ramping of the doorway of the West Lorne fire hall.

The doorway was increased about two feet higher than its previous height. Dave Cadogan, West Lorne's fire chief approached council at its special meeting on October 26 to discuss the present housing situation of their fire protection vehicles.

The recently purchased Rescue Unit has been in storage at the former P.U.C. building for two years and property owners Doug and Colleen McGill have notified council that the property at 170 Main Street will no longer be available to rent after November 1, 1992. The Rescue Unit was too tall to fit in the fire hall.

With the door opening being increased this solves the present problem, or does it?

West Lorne will be receiving its new Pumper Truck on November 5th. This truck, which was purchased jointly by Aldborough and West Lorne is also in need of storage space and, as council heard on November 2 at council, it may be

too high to fit.

The West Lorne fire hall presently has two bays and the department will soon own four vehicles. The old pumper is going to be retired, but there is still three vehicles.

Council discussed various alternatives. Council came up with three options. The first option was to look into a lease-to-purchase agreement. In this case, a contractor would build a new fire hall (with 4 bays) and lease it back to council. "The money we're spending now on rent could go towards the lease," former Reeve Joe Fischer said.

The other option would be to go ahead and build a new fire hall and debenture the cost. The third option was for the village to build the fire hall and borrow the money over two years.

No decisions were made by council except to look into the various alternatives and see which would be most beneficial and cost efficient for West Lorne.

Council is awaiting the arrival of the new truck on Thursday before any action is planned.

y, The West Lorne Sun, Wednesday, December 1, 1993 -- 3



The West Lorne Fire Department honoured one of its own on Saturday evening, Nov. 27. Fire Chief Dave Cadogan was presented with a medal honouring his 20 years of service with the department. Dave received the fire service exemplary service medal for 20 years of loyal and meritorious service to public security in Canada. This award came as a complete surprise as members of the department kept it a secret. "I'd like to thank everyone I've worked with, councils, fire department members, especially current members of the department and council." said Dave. Aldborough Councillor Tere Lebedz, fire department rep., at left, presented Dave with the framed certificate and medal. Congratulations. (Mercury-Sun photo)

Village post office will be closing

By Kathy Hollingsworth

A date hasn't been set but the West Lorne Post Office will definitely close its doors, Canada Post Corporation announced April 8.

"I think it's terrible. We have enough people here to warrant a post office," says Elizabeth McMillan, of West Lorne.

McMillan says there's a lot better ways to cut down on costs than close the post office, adding "we pay enough for it."

Canada Post plans to maintain postal services in West Lorne through a retail postal outlet operated from a local business. Maintaining a traditional post office is not optional. However, a retail postal outlet can provide all postal services currently available, generally for more hours per week.

A retail postal outlet operates on a contractual basis, is open the same hours as the business, and provides all of the retail postal services available at a traditional post office, including posting mail, buying stamps, money orders, picking up parcels and signature items.

Canada Post states in the letter sent out to all customers of the West Lorne Post Office; "This change in service will maintain West Lorne's unique postal identity and postal codes and will provide options to ensure you keep mail delivery within your community."

Connie Mark, of West Lorne says she doesn't like the idea of the post office being closed and would like to see it stay the same. "It will cut down on service, they say it's not but I think it will."

Canada Post will discuss service details with both customers and local officials over the next three months. In order to respond to questions and to listen to their suggestions concerning the delivery options available in the community, arrangements have been made to hold a customer information session April 21 at the West Elgin Arena.

Voja Arsentijevick, of West Lorne, who plans on attending the public meeting to get more information, says "It's better to stay as it is, it's more convenient this way."

The issue to be discussed at the meeting is whether customers prefer their mail to be provided through postal boxes, or an external method of delivery such as community mailboxes.

Chris Kirschner who was promoted to acting postmistress after the postmaster resigned

in November can't comment on the matter but is advising customers to attend the meeting.

Local businesses interested in the opportunity to apply for a retail postal outlet are requested to contact Canada Post Corporation as soon as possible. Applications to operate the retail postal outlet will be accepted until April 30.

The corporation has 5,221 "rural" post offices. Approximately two thousand offices are in communities with a population of more than one thousand. An additional fifteen hundred offices serve more than seventy-five points of call and are located beyond eleven miles from the nearest alternate service.

The above thirty five hundred offices will not normally be considered for amalgamation with a nearby post office. Over time and where feasible they will be turned over to the private sector probably through franchising.

These are some of the guide lines for the remaining 1,700 post offices located within five miles of each other which will be considered for amalgamation subject to natural trading demographics. Multiple site supermailbox or equivalent delivery service may be made available if a rural route service goes through the town. A stamp agency should be established where possible.

For post offices serving more than seventy-five points of call, and located where the distance to the nearest alternate service is between six miles and 10 miles, consideration will be given to replacing the post office with landscaped mini park multiple supermailbox sites for delivery. Retail products and personal contact items will be available at the alternate service through a stamp agency in a local viable business, if one exists.

Post offices serving less than seventy-five points of a call and where the distance to the nearest alternate service is between six miles and ten miles will be amalgamated with the nearest alternate service.

Supermailboxes or equivalent service will be made available at the nearest line of travel of an existing rural route.

Canada Post intends, over a ten year period to assess the configuration of its small rural post offices and as a cost-saving measure, to close many of them.

A letter drafted by the Standing Committee on Government operations has examined the impact of Canada Post Corporation's 1986-91 corporate plan on rural postal service. The report reflects the unanimous views of committee members.

The committee states "Canada Post is not going to solve its fiscal problems by closing rural

post offices or by changing rural postal service," adding the committee is of the strong view that the corporation should look elsewhere for savings in its operating budget.

Post Office moves to Beckers

A decision has been made. West Lorne Post Office will close for retail business with Beckers store, located at Graham and Maple Street, to take over the contract.

All postal boxes will remain at the present location. More boxes will be installed as well to accommodate those who are currently under general delivery. They will be upgraded to postal boxes.

All retail aspects of postal prod-

ucts and services including priority courier, registered mail, stamp purchases, money orders, postage metres filled, etc. will be maintained at Beckers.

There will be no change for rural delivery. All "call fors", for example parcels, registered letters, can be picked up at Beckers. Rural routes are being sorted in Dutton. Conversion date is July 27.

Oct. 15th 1993

Office Re-locating

Local news maintained

With the closing of the Mercury-Sun Publications office this Friday, October 15th, comes the opening of the depot at J B Jeans in West Lorne.

Since the first announcement of the closing there has been skepticism, but all-in-all the move will allow the Mercury-Sun to continue to bring its readers the local news they want and deserve.

Ruth Ferguson will still be reporting on Rodney and West Lorne area news and will be taking photos. Tom Jones will still be the advertising sales representative servicing the local advertisers in both Rodney and West Lorne. Kim Fleming will still be answering your calls about subscriptions, billing, classifieds and general inquiries. All the local employees will still be working for the Mercury-Sun.

The depot at J B Jeans will serve as a place to drop off your school write ups, sports reports, news items, social news and birthday and anniversary announcements.



The ribbon cutting for the new library at St. Mary's School

COMPUTERS PLAY LARGE ROLE AT ST. MARY'S/ST. THOMAS MOORE

By Shirley Slaats

Bygone days when computers were just a little center in a far corner where you could go as a reward or when your schoolwork was finished. Now, computers are part of a students' day. The growing importance of technology to business and industry means students require different skills and knowledge than students did in the past.

Through "Gem Grants" it was possible for The Elgin County Separate School Board to set up a lab for the 320 students attending St. Mary's - St. Thomas More School - making it one of the best equipped elementary schools in our area. This Dual Network consists of Icons and Dos computers. The hard drive and printer stay in the Library but the computers are moved to the classrooms as needed. With a wide selection of programs, primary through grade eight are building skills in Math,

English, Science, Geography, Art and Technology.

Almena Keyboarding (a novice way to learn the keys) is taught as early as grade four. After two full days of training, the student is typing up to 20 words per minute.

Science Fair '92 was a dream come true. A classroom was designated for the project and equipped with eight computers. Because of special programs and apparatus the students were able to experiment and explore new concepts. The computers were used to design graphics, gather and store information and helped the student interpret data.

Last year for the first time, St. Mary's was able to offer Continuing Adult Education Classes in Almena Keyboarding and Introduction to Computers. This year Work Perfect and Windows are courses proposed.

Throughout the school year,

the grade seven eight students have the opportunity to use the Tech Lab 2000 at St. Joseph's High School in St. Thomas. This "lab of the future" was designed to provide the students with basic technological understandings and practical hands-on experiences that encourage eye-hand coordination, observation, prediction, analysis, evaluation and creativity. At least two computers are located at each island which is a work/learn station. It is an integrated system of furnishing, apparatuses and software in which students work, interact and learn. They participate in all phases in the creation of a product--design, manufacture, production, and marketing.

By applying the principles of problem solving and decision making, the students are preparing for the complex technology of the 21st century.

Mid point- third week of Renew

St. Mary's - St. Helen's are at the mid point with the third Sunday of Renew. The theme for this Sunday was "Our Mission".

At both churches the youth of the parish came forward as Renew readers and spoke on behalf of all the young people of the parish. "We are the youth, we want to belong and find our place, we are confronted by all kinds of obstacles, some we need help with in order to understand." This was the theme and it spoke out concerning their role in this world.

All during each season of Renew the young people and the children have become more involved in expressing themselves either in their art work or in the choirs. Involvement seems to have taken over from the "for granted attitude" which can sometimes appear to make a dormant environment.

The Portuguese community also has become more involved, despite the language barrier for some, they are also active in small group meetings. Their choir under the direction of Samuel Marques is ever present at their Sunday masses which take place twice a month.

Renew draws out the best in people. There are those who have talent but cannot express themselves either because of shyness or because they feel they are unimportant. In Renew everyone is important and everything. We all have a place in making our parish and our community a better place.

The young people need to be recognized, to be encouraged to be involved, we need to be there for them and they need to know we are there.

Being recognized, being welcomed, being wanted and realizing the great needs of others, that is our mission and together we strive for that for all people.

Preparation for Renew Season IV - "Discipleship"

Preparations are being made for the being of the fourth Season of Renew with its title "Discipleship", and for the Sign-up Sunday which will take place next Sunday at all Masses.

Both St. Helen's and St. Mary's began with special Renew Readers. These readers laid out the plan for Sign-up Sunday and reminded parishioners of their role as Disciples in their ordinary way of life. Following a very impressive presentation at the mass at St. Helen's the K of C had a Pancake breakfast, enjoyed by many.

At St. Mary's the Youth Involvement was introduced at their 11:30 Mass. The following took part in the celebration: Krista Seed reader, Darryl, Nikki VanOirschot and Sandy Fodor, Offertory Hospitality - Heather McGregor and Nikki VanOirschot - Ushers - David Long, Jonathan Griegoschewski, J. Verbrugghe.

The St. Mary's School Children's Choir under the direction of Mrs. Dupuis, Hay and Verbrugghe provided the music. At all masses the Renew readers read the poem "Who Me" which is very appropriate for this time of decision making and involvement.

Who Me?

And the Lord said, "Go."
And I said, "Who ... me?"
And He smiled, "Yes ... you"
And I said:

"But I'm not ready yet.
And there's company coming.
And I can't leave the kids.
And you know there is no one to take my place."
And He smiled, "Are you sure?"

And the Lord said, "Go."
And I said, "But I don't want to."

And He smiled, "I didn't ask you if you wanted to."
And I said:

"Listen. I'm not the kind of person to get involved in controversies.

Besides, my family won't like it, and what will the neighbors think?"

And He smiled, "I know well."

And yet a third time, the Lord said "Go."

And I said, "Do I have to?"
And he smiled, "Do you love me?"

And I said:
"Look, I'm scared.
People are going to hate me
And cut me to pieces.
And I can't take it all by myself."

And He smiled, "Where do you think I'll be?"

And the Lord said, "Go."
And I smiled:
Here I am, Lord send me.

R
E
N
E
W

Nov. 18th 1993



Mr. Bill Sheeler is pictured here talking about injustice to the crowd who came for the Ecumenical Service held recently for the Renew season.

Fourth Renew Ecumenical Service

Father Paquette addressed his Renew Organizational Committee and suggested that an Ecumenical Service should be considered in this season of Renew...especially with the theme of the 4th week. Injustice and in the world everyone suffers from this and only prayer and searching one's own heart can any change take place. The Rev. Peg Wheeler was approached to assist the committee.

All the ministers of the area where invited, this included Disciples, Baptist, United, Presbyterian, Anglican a total of 5 different denominations participated.

The guest speaker was Bill Sheeler, former teacher at West Elgin District High School who gave a very strong account of the injustices in the world, our community and ourselves.

He said distribution of wealth continues to plague the world; life is being devalued by war, starvation, poverty and abortion; broken promises, poor listening skills and low achievement have made our leaders ineffective.

"The most obvious injustice of all came in the spiritual area. Our God loved us sent his son to be his representative and show us what God is really like. Our welcome was a cross - a sinless man dying for the sins of the world." He concluded with the following, "However out of this injustice came the risen Christ who offered comfort and home to all who would believe. Today we claim that offer so that we might not only withstand, but continue to seek solutions to injustices each of us must bear."

The offertory taken up at his service was divided equally with the West Elgin Daffodil Society and St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre the amount for each \$400.

The St. Mary's School Choir opened the service with two well picked songs. The Portuguese choir was present and sang in their own language much to the surprise of the congregation.

Mrs. Jackie Leitch was the soloist accompanied by Mrs. Shirley Walker who also played for the various hymns for the evening.

During the intercessions given by Father Paquette a lighted candle in the hands of all "lighted from one candle it is a visible reminder that the light of Christ is among us. There is a mutually strong symbolism in that when many people share the same flame from same original candle, there is a type of unity found there which is centered on the light of Christ being found among us. That feeling that this symbolism is a worthwhile venture together with the friends and neighbours we have here in West Elgin."

A first time ecumenical service proved to have an overwhelming effect on all who attended...a visible sign of Renew at work in our community.

Ministers attending from the various churches were the Rev.'s P. Wheeler, W. Zavitz, D. Clements, J. Potter, R. Fuit and D. Stewart.

The flowers decorating the church were donated by the J. Ingratta family as a memorial for the deceased in their families.

50 years of ordination

Celebrating with Fr. DeJonge

On Sunday July 18th Father James DeJonge celebrated his 50th year of Ordination to the priesthood, at St. Mary's Church, West Lorne, with a mass of Thanksgiving.

To celebrate 50 years in any state of life is a remarkable achievement and for Father DeJonge a dream come true. Someone said it is a success story, but how does one define success? Webster's dictionary describes success as "a favourite or desired outcome of something attempted - attainment of wealth"... How does one relate this to this life?

Father DeJonge was born in Holland August 25, 1913 one of 6 children to Marie and Case DeJonge. At 14 years he entered the junior Seminary and in 1943 was ordained to the priesthood.

After his ordination due to the war and the occupation of his country he found himself involved in underground activities, as well as continuing his studies whenever possible. At one point of the liberation of his province of Zeeland he was able to search out his family with the assistance of a ride with the 9th American Army. To his great joy he found them well and unharmed.

When sick and under nourished children were sent to England he accompanied them and through this he met Lord and Lady Beaverbrook who at the time took great interest in these children.

A few months in England and he was approached to be-

come Chaplain for the Netherlands army and also for the English camps.

Chaplain in the army took him to Indonesia with the Dutch Forces and there he spent 3 years as combat chaplain in Sumatra in the jungles.

Three years in the jungle were very difficult and it was said that one had to reconstruct their lives when they again reach civilization. He always claimed the boys in his battalion were the greatest both morally and as soldiers and many still keep in contact with him.

After his time in the army he was approached to come to Canada and in 1950 he left home again to take another challenge which took him to the Sacred Heart Seminary, in Delaware and from that time on he would help the new immigrants as they arrived in the various districts.

On his arrival to this area he went to see his uncle in Dutton and said his first mass at St. Helen's Church, Wallacetown.

The months that followed would take him to different parishes to assist until one day he was given the task to establish a parish, and build a church near Stoney Creek (Elfidra) in Hamilton. With \$1,000, immigrants and some Canadian families and a lot of determination he began this task, and accomplished it. Being a priest in these days had many diversions, spiritual leader, consoler of the homesick, bus driver for the school children to the neighbouring parish school, realtor, builder, employment agency (for the

immigrants needed someone to look after this until they understood enough of the language and the ways of the country). So many jobs, and still they had time to laugh and "stick together as a team until they had their church, rectory and in the process of a school. But again after 5 years of struggle he went to another parish where he was needed to solve another situation.

On Sunday, July 18th a special celebration was thrown in honour of Father DeJonge's 50 years in the priesthood. And so at this celebration it was these friends and acquaintances, as well as local parishioners and friends that travelled miles to attend his 8:30 mass and join in the reception that followed.

Many spoke of the kindness and untiring sacrifices he made in helping them in their desperate situations. Many cards of congratulations repeated the same both in English and Dutch. Now at nearly 80, he still says mass every day despite his handicap.

He loves people and the church so how does one relate success to his life... again, as Webster's dictionary describes it "... a favourable or desired outcome of something attempted" Despite all his hardships and disappointments he found the desired outcome as a priest of the Sacred Heart Order and the attainment of wealth also described by Webster, is the Wealth of many friendships, and the knowledge that he has served his Lord to the best of his ability.



Irene McGregor pushes Fr. DeJonge at Mass

Nov. 7th, 1993

ECUMENICAL SERVICE HELD AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Praying together, sharing together and remembering together was the theme of Sunday night's Ecumenical service held at St. Mary's Church in West Lorne. A combined effort on the part of the ministers of the district participating, left a message of love and joy for all who attended, a joint effort to help the less fortunate as well as make aware that we only find peace through love.

A time of remembrance.... sometime in our lives, we may have lost a friend or loved-one, very often a young person, and it is fitting that for a few moments we stop to think of them, to say a little prayer, to reflect on how they impressed our lives and then as quietly as we do this we leave them to rest. Jason Goldsack, in a youthful rendition expressed it all as he sang "Friends" and "Nothing Else Matters". The

youth of our age have their own way of expressing themselves and it was evident from these songs that Jason remembered for all.

The Children's Choir made up of students from St. Mary's School along with guests from other denominations opened the service with fitting songs sung with child like sincerity....this was followed by St. Mary's Adult Choir and the Portuguese Choir.

The soloists for the service was Bernard Griegoschewski of St. Mary's Choir and Mrs. Jackie Leitch accompanied by Mrs. Shirley Walker. The hymns chosen were very fitting for the occasion being "How Great Thou Art" and one of Mrs. Leitch's songs "One Day at a Time".

Ministers participating in the service were the

Reverends: R. Fluit (Presbyterian) David Stewart (Disciples), Ann Mills (Anglican), Wilbur Zavitz (Baptist), Evelyn McLachlan (United), David Clements (Presbyterian), replaced by Mrs. Betty King, Ronald G. Paquette (Catholic) and Peg Wheeler (Anglican) and homilist.

Rev. Peg Wheeler, in her homily spoke of being a Peacemaker. What a wonderful world we would have if each one practised love, kind words and had an optimistic approach in all things. The very happy, retired minister, poured her heart out in stressing the finding of good in people and what a wonderful world it would make. The message will long be remembered and no doubt will be a great influence in shaping the lives of those who attended, in the

days to come.

The offertory collected will be divided equally with the West Elgin Daffodil Society, who do so much good for those in need in the district and the St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, London, who run a soup kitchen feeding hundreds of the less fortunate of our times in one day.

In his closing remarks, Father Paquette expressed his gratitude to all those who participated in the service, a special thanks to the ministers who so graciously gave their time to be part of a very worthwhile endeavour of showing love and sharing for all people.

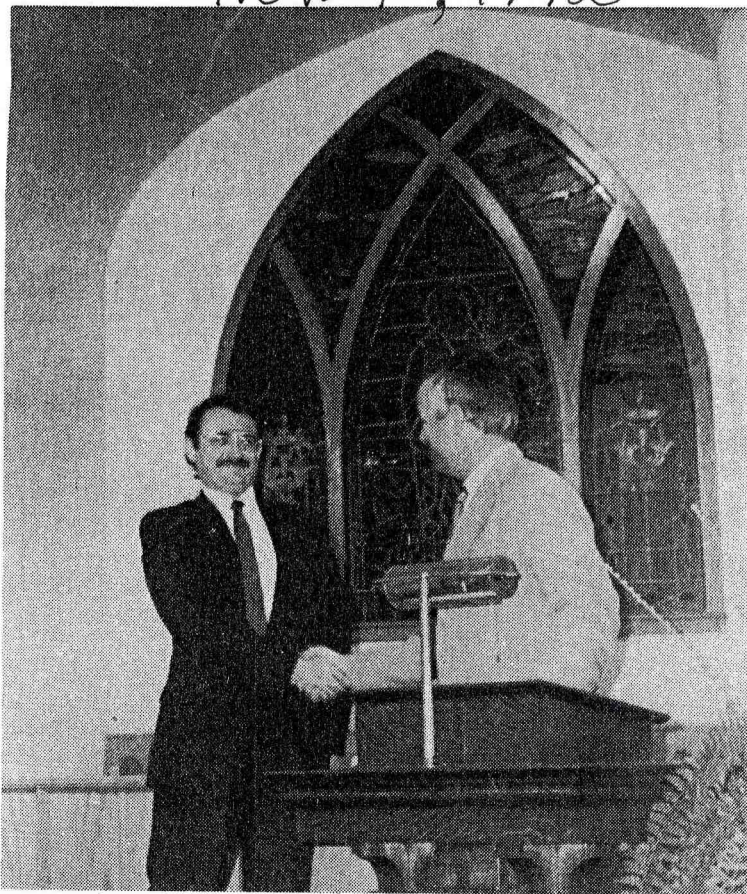
The service concluded with the closing hymn "Go tell it on the Mountain" with Mrs. Knapp and the St. Mary's Choir leading the congregation.

cury, The West Lorne Sun, Wednesday, October 20, 1993 -- 3



Down with the old and up with the new. Pictured here is the house beside the St. Mary's Church in West Lorne being demolished to make way for the new parish hall to be constructed.

NOV. 4th, 1992



The Reverend Wilbert Zavitz

Local Baptist minister ordained

By Ruth Ferguson

On Friday, October 23, at the West Lorne Baptist Church, an ordination council for Pastor Wilbert Zavitz was held. Approximately 50 delegates from Elgin Baptist churches were in attendance, as well as many people from the joint Rodney and West Lorne congregations, to hear Pastor Zavitz give his statement of faith and doctrine.

Following a question period, a unanimous vote by the delegates was given to proceed with Mr. Zavitz's ordination.

The ordination service was held at the Rodney Baptist church last Thursday evening, October 29, with approximately 125 clergy, friends, family and members of the congregations in attendance to witness this turning point in their Pastor's career.

Mr. Keith Campbell, moderator of the Elgin Association of Baptist Churches, welcomed those present and introduced those who were taking an active part in the service.

Mr. Howard Knight, an O.B.C. friend of the pastor's led in worship and prayer. Special music was

provided by Rev. Peter Burritt, pastor of the Dutton and Iona Station Baptist churches, and was accompanied by his sister, Mrs. Barb Evans. Rev. Klaus Hilderbrandt, pastor of the Clachan and Bothwell churches, read scripture and Graham Barnes, Erie Area Director, gave an inspiring message entitled "Be a Hopeful, Hope-filled Pastor".

The ordination prayer and the laying on of hands on candidate Zavitz was led by Rev. Bob Lewis, pastor of Forest Baptist church. Mrs. Keith Campbell provided accompaniment for the congregation in the singing of several hymns.

A delicious lunch was served by the ladies of the Rodney Baptist Church following the service. The presentation of a joint gift from both charges, as well as other gifts from his family and friends also took place. Reverend Zavitz expressed his thanks to his congregations for the framed print and also expressed his thanks and gratitude to everyone for their support and patience while he worked toward this day.

Congratulations to the new Reverend Wilbert Zavitz.



42 years of service

At the Annual Meeting on January 10, 1993, the West Lorne Baptist Sunday School honoured Mrs. Irene Thomson on her retirement after forty-two years of service as secretary-treasurer. Presenting Mrs. Thomson with her gift is, at right, Mrs. Shirley Kirschner. (photo submitted)

West Lorne United Church

WEST LORNE, ONTARIO



Centennial Service

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19th, 1975

SOME HISTORICAL DATES

- 1872 First Presbyterian services in the village were held in the public school. Rev. John Munroe, minister of New Glasgow Presbyterian Church, was the first minister.
- 1874 Wesley Church, Methodist built on the east corner of Munroe and Ridge Streets, facing the railroad. Rev. Thomas Hanna was the pastor.
- 1875 West Lorne Presbyterian Church built.
- 1925 Church Union consummated and the Church named "The Knox United Church of Canada." (Union in West Lorne actually did not take place until 1926). The first minister was Rev. W. M. Kitely.
- 1933 The former Knox Presbyterian Church rebuilt for the United Church by Mr. W. T. Merrett. The bell from the Methodist Church was placed in the United Church belfry.
- 1957 A new Hammond organ presented to the Church by Mr. and Mrs. B. Fisher and Mr. and Mrs. P. Kemp in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Howison.
- 1960 A new addition built on the Church by W. T. Merrett and his firm, The Miller Lumber Co.
- 1975 New Church lighting presented by the Merrett Family in memory of William and Georgina Merrett.

Rev. Potter leaving

By Ruth Ferguson

It will be almost 9 years to the day since Rev. James Potter came to Rodney and took over the ministerial duties of the Rodney and West Lorne United churches. On June 29 the Potters will be moving to Lennoxville, Quebec where Jim will be the pastor of the Lennoxville United Church.

Rev. Potter was honoured recently, along with several other people, by the Rodney Community Policing Committee for his work in helping to get the Committee off the ground. Jim served for one year and was part of the original committee. Because his pastoral charges kept him so busy, the Community Policing Committee was his only outside involvement.

Rev. Potter stated that he and his family have enjoyed their time in Rodney but he feels called to do something different and the time has come to move on. The people here have been very supportive and the Potters have made a lot of friends but they are also looking forward to meeting new people in Quebec.

Lennoxville is about 63 percent English, and the church where he

will be serving is English which is good for Rev. Potter since he does not speak French, "I'll be taking an immersion course when we arrive. It should be a good situation for the children as well. They'll be able to become bilingual."

Bishop's University, which has 2,000-3,000 students is also located in Lennoxville which could provide several opportunities. Lennoxville, which is part of the eastern townships, is not far from Sherbrooke and is north of the Vermont border. The population is about 4,000 people which is an added attraction to the Potters who wanted to remain in a fairly small community.

Both of Rev. Potter's churches are planning farewell parties. The West Lorne United Church has planned a sort of potluck barbecue while Calvary United is having a potluck dinner after Jim's last service there.

The Policing Committee, the community and members of the West Lorne and Rodney United Church congregations will definitely miss Rev. Potter and his family and wish them well in their new church and community.

Church of Christ convention

By Ruth Ferguson

The Church of Christ Disciples convention was held in St. Louis, Missouri this year. Don McKillop and Ron Payne attended the convention which was held in the new St. Louis convention centre. The speakers, etc. were shared with the United Church of Christ Disciples who were having their convention at the same time. The convention ran from a Wednesday to Wednesday, and approximately 15,000 people attended the Friday night meeting where Bishop Tutu from South Africa was the featured speaker.

Ron and Don were not in the area that is currently flooded but they were able to observe the flooding from the plane. Most of the

flooding was taking place north of St. Louis in Des Moines, Iowa. Ray Cuthbert, a former pastor of the West Lorne Church of Christ Disciples, was able to see the Mississippi River from his hotel window and he mentioned that boats weren't even able to go under the bridge because the water was so high. Someone also noted that if you were to see Iowa from the air it would look like a great lake.

Mr. Payne noted that what people see of the flooding on TV is really what's happening. Tetanus shots are now being administered and it is estimated that it will be at least 6 months before people will be able to return to their homes. Unfortunately by that time their houses will probably have rotted. These people truly have lost everything including their homes, personal property, crops and so on.

Mr. Payne and Mr. McKillop attended Sunday services at the Union Street Church which is a very old and historical church. They had to arrive early to get a seat because 700 people attended the church that morning. C. William Nicholson was the speaker that day. After the service, a delicious lunch was served to everyone.

While they were in St. Louis they also went to Brett Hull's Bar and Grill and saw some interesting mementos.

Mr. Payne commented on the fact that St. Louis is a very old city and that the temperature was high, around 96 degrees Fahrenheit with very high humidity.

Each church sends 2 delegates and 31 people from Canada attended. Don McKillop is the Chairman of the Board for the Ontario Church of Christ Disciples churches. Ron Payne is the archivist for Ontario.

Besides having speakers and seminars, 700 to 800 booths for different religious groups and activities were set up for people to view. Ron said that he did enjoy his trip and met a lot of people at the convention.

The Church of Christ Disciple is the largest Protestant denomination to be founded on American soil. It is also a major religion in the US, in Oklahoma alone there are 3,000 members, but in the whole of Canada there are only between 13 and 15 Church of Christ Disciples congregations.

August, 1994



Discovering God's Kingdom

Grace Lutheran Church, West Lorne held their Vacation Bible School, Aug. 15-19. The theme for the week was "Discovering God's Kingdom." An average of 31 children attended from Rodney and West
(Photo Submitted)

STARTED 1959

June 1994



By Carrie Kelly

"I started teaching in 1959 in a one room school house and I always used to laugh I was Principal of a three room school, the main room and the two bathrooms." At #4, Hagerty, Wilno, in Northern Ontario, J.J. Prince's job involved starting and looking after the fire, making sure there was enough water for the bathrooms because there were no flushing toilets, the water had to be thrown into the toilets and in the winter often preparing hot soup for the kids. There were 36 students in the one room, grades 1 through 9. J.J. thought that it was a beautiful situation, the Grade 8's and 9's often helped the Grade 2's and 3's with their reading, arithmetic and homework. It was a "Great experience for one year." He then taught high school in Cobden Ontario, about 100 miles from Ottawa. It was a very small rural school, similar to West Elgin, it was a farming community and the students were bussed in. From Cobden J.J. then went 250 miles North

West of Sault Ste. Marie to Manitowadge, a mining town. At Manitowadge High school he was head of the History Department for 5 years and Vice Principal for 2. J.J. then spent 6 years as Vice Principal at Arnprior High School in Arnprior, which is near Ottawa. In 1976 J.J. came to West Elgin as Principal.

"I've enjoyed it. I enjoy the kids because there's never a dull moment, there's always something new, there's always somebody trying something new as far as maybe doing new things but really kids basically haven't changed at all. They haven't changed since you were here, they haven't changed since your mother was here, they haven't changed since your grandfather was here. Kids haven't changed. Kids basically are still kind and good, and they're devilish, they will attempt to do stupid things and you have to try to save them from themselves. That's about all you can do. I'll miss that kind of thing with kids."

Over the years J.J. has coached hockey and basketball. He laughs about being the only undefeated basketball coach in North America. His first year teaching, J.J. coached a basketball team and he didn't know anything about basketball. He had to ask the players after the first game why sometimes they got one point and at other times they got two points for a basket. He had such a good strong team that the whole season he never lost a game.

In the first 2 or 3 schools he always did a 3 act play every year. Generally a comedy with 30 or 40 kids involved. But since he's been here he has been too busy to do any extra activities.

J.J. is planning on working but he has no idea what he's going to do. "I know one thing, I will not sell Real Estate. I know that for sure." He's had offers from different consulting firms but he doesn't want to get tied down to anything because "I want to golf - everyday if I can, for the first three or four months anyway." J.J. says there's all kinds of opportunities for jobs out there. There's "lots of jobs for teaching teachers how to teach in other countries of the world, to consult on how teacher organizations are set up." The possibility of going into arbitration or mediation is also an option. He's not going to do anything quickly and he's not going to move. West Lorne has become home to J.J., his wife Janis, a primary teacher at St. Marys in West Lorne, and his family. "I like the place and the people in it. I'm not moving out."



Retiring from WESS

Several familiar faces will be missing from the hallowed halls of West Elgin Secondary School in the fall. Six teachers handed in their resignations and will be retiring after the end of the semester in June. Pictured are, front row, l-r: Mary Youlton, and Ibbey Ruttle. In back are J. J. Prince, Bill Graham and Paul McCulloch. Unavailable for photo was Norma Schneck-enburger

200 YEARS OF TEACHING

By Carrie Kelly

Mr. Graham, Mr. McCullough, Mr. Prince, Mrs. Ruttle, Mrs. Schneck-enburger, and Mrs. Youlton will be retiring from West Elgin Secondary School this spring. These six teachers have a total of 140 years teaching experience in Elgin County and 200 years total teaching experience.

Bill Graham has taught Welding and Special Education for 16 years at W.E.S.S. He has also coached the curling team.

Paul McCullough has been teaching Math at W.E.S.S. for 28 years and has been the Head of the Math Department and involved with the Chess Club.

J.J. Prince has been Principal at W.E.S.S. for 18

years and previously taught History for a total of 35 years teaching.

Ibbey Ruttle has taught Physical Education, Geography, and History, been the Head of the Girl's Physical Education Department and coached several O.F.S.S.A. winning teams. She has been at W.E.S.S. for 23 years.

Norma Schneck-enburger has been at W.E.S.S. for 34 years; teaching Geography, English, and Physical Education, as well as coaching sports teams.

Mary Youlton has been at W.E.S.S. for 22 years, teaching Home Economics and Family Studies. She was active on the Prom and Initiation Committees as well as the Staff Social Committee.

Ruttle wins prestigious Leadership in Sports award

Mrs. Ruttle of West Elgin Secondary school is ending her teaching career with a bang. After 33 years of teaching, and 17 years of Track and Field, she received one of the most prestigious awards that a gym teacher can receive: the Leadership in Sports Award which was given to her at OFSAA during the opening ceremonies.

Mrs. Ruttle has been teaching at W.E.S.S. for the past 23 years, and is proud to boast convening the first co-ed WOSSA track meet. Among the local "Natural athletes" that Mrs. Ruttle has taught are Serge



Mrs. Ruttle

Lebedz, Paul Gilbert, Katherine Gall, and Kevin Drouillard.

"I say that they are natural athletes because they were born with a gift; springs in their legs or something. I say jump and they did because they had that ability." Says Ibby Ruttle.

On June 3rd, the OFSAA Leadership in Sports Award was given to her in front of 3,000 people "3 of which I knew", by the organizational standing sports committee.

The award was a great honour to her because she was being recognized by her peers for doing what she does best. Ibby herself worked as a triple jump judge for OFSAA from 1974-84.

Mrs. Ruttle and her husband Jim, (previously retired from the school) will be shipping off to Australia, New Zealand, California and South Carolina in early September pending her June 1994 retirement.

Ibby has yet another goal to add to her list, and retirement will certainly make it more accessible to her. She would love to "swim with whales." Being the person that she is, this seemingly unreachable goal becomes a reality. Good Luck, Mrs. Ruttle, with your future.

23 YEARS WESS



by Carrie Kelly

Mary Youlton started teaching Home Economics in Ridgetown and "I had attended school in Ridgetown and so going back there 4 years later was quite an experience because there was the odd student in the school yet that I had gone to school with. This was kind of a funny experience. It was comfortable in that there were many of the same teachers that had taught me, the same principal, I knew the routines and the classrooms." She was there for two years and then she went to Glencoe for

another two years.

Mary stayed home for the next 9 years with her family and she started teaching at West Elgin Secondary School when her oldest daughter started high school. "We started back to high school together, and I've been here 23 years now. When I came back teaching It never dawned on me that I would be back teaching that long, but within a few years of coming back I had kids that were leaving high school and getting into university so it was pretty apparent that I was going to have to be teaching for a while to educate these kids. Once my children were finished university it wasn't long before I was looking down the road to a full pension."

Originally called Home Economics, the subject Mary teaches is now called Family Studies and covers a wide range of topics including food, economics, parenting, housing, and the family.

Mary was involved with Initiation, the Staff Social Committee, Craft Club, and the Prom. "The Prom was fun, working with the kids and seeing all the work and the creativity that comes out of that. I don't know if many adults would be that creative

and have that much energy."

Once she retires, Mary will "probably be foot loose and fancy free for a while. My husband isn't retiring for a couple of years so that will give me time to do a lot of things like cleaning the basement and the attic and all those things that get put off." Mary would like to spend more time with the groups and organizations she is involved in. She has always been interested in quilting but she has never had much time for it. "I'd like to do some day tripping and wandering around and spending more time with my grandchildren. I'm looking forward to that."

34 YEARS TEACHING



by Carrie Kelly

Norma Schnekenburger will be retiring from West Elgin Secondary School after 34 years of teaching. In 1959 she started her teaching career at Central Elgin, teaching history and physical education and coaching basketball. Two years later Norma came to West Elgin teaching history, geography and physical education as well as coaching all the girls sports. In 1964, she took a year off when her daughter Henrietta was born. When she came back in 1965 she taught history and geography, but no longer taught phys-ed or coached. Ten years ago she started teaching English and stopped teaching history.

Norma was Staff Advisor for the Student Athletic Association for many many years. "I think that my most significant contribution, outside of the classroom, was the part I had in organizing the reunion in '92. That was a really big job and without the commitment of Mrs. Kozdras and the other committee members it would never have taken place."

Norma says that she is going to do things she never had time to do before. In the long range she hopes to get to Australia because through her genealogy, she has discovered some third cousins there. "There are a lot of places right in South Western Ontario that I've never been but that I want to see. I've never been to Pelee Island, Long Point, or the Elora Gorge. There's lots, probably within a 300 mile radius, that I haven't seen."

Genealogy is Norma's main hobby and she said that if she wanted to she could spend all her available time on it. She is always receiving letters and calls from people who are investigating their family roots.

Norma said that she "will miss the social part of teaching. There is no question about that. I'm going to miss the contact with the kids and I'm going to miss the contact with my peers. It's going to be an adjustment, there is no question about that, but I certainly won't miss sitting down every night and doing homework. That I won't miss."

September 1994

NEW PRINCIPAL AT W.E.S.S.



by Carrie Kelly

Mrs. Foster will be the new principal at West Elgin Secondary School this fall. When asked how she felt about being chosen for principal, she answered "How do I feel about being principal? I'm excited to say the least. I'm really quite pleased. I never thought that this was where I'd be, the

principal of the school in which I started teaching. It's a really special experience to have grown up in the school and now to be the person that has the ability to maybe make some changes and do things. It is a very exciting opportunity to actually be the person who can be responsible for the decisions that are going to happen."

Mrs. Foster started teaching science at WESS 18 years ago. She was Head of Science for 5 years and then moved to East Elgin as Vice Principal. She was at East Elgin for 3 years before returning to WESS as Vice Principal for the past 2 years. At East Elgin, there are two Vice Principals, "You had a back up, you had someone to learn from, you had another Vice Principal to teach you as you were going along." She also added that "The step to Vice Principal from classroom teacher is a bigger step, I think, than the step from Vice Principal to Principal because when you go to Vice Principal you're coming from the classroom where you're teaching students and your focus is your day to day classroom teaching, to a whole different job. Once you're Vice Principal, you still make some of the decisions Principals make and you share in making other

decisions with them."

There will be other changes next year, including several new teachers who will be coming to West Elgin. The new Vice Principal is Tom Mattingley, who is presently the Head of Boy's Phys. Ed. at Parkside. Diana Ryckman will be teaching Phys. Ed. and English. She is presently at East Elgin. Another teacher from East Elgin, Annette Martin, will be teaching Art and English. Susan Wallace from Central Elgin will be teaching Geography in the fall at WESS. The new head of Math will be Arthur Voden's Rocco Basacco

June 27th, 1994

The Hodne



St. Mary's Valedictorians

St. Marys School held their grade 8 graduation on the evening of Monday, June 27. Valedictory duties were shared between Darryl van Oirschot, at right, and Catherine Santos. Darryl also won an academic excellence award and the music award. Catherine also received an academic excellence award.

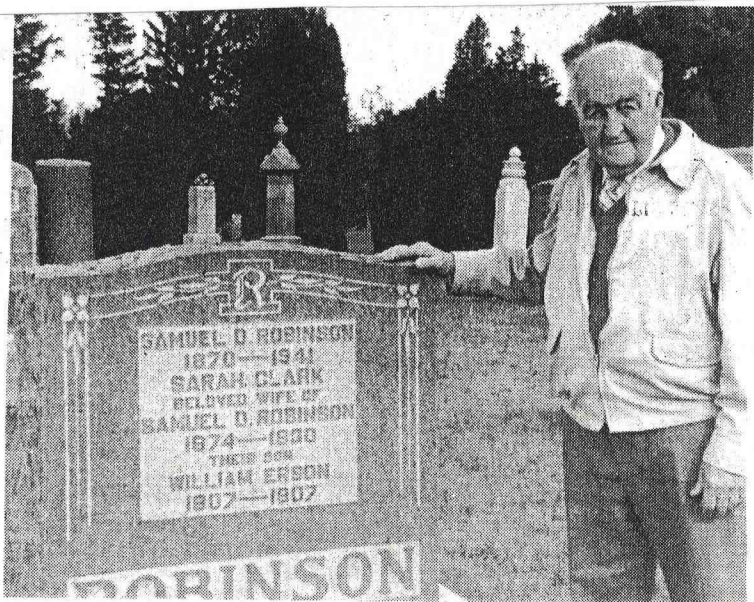


25th Anniversary celebrated by Bd. of Education

The Elgin County Board of Education celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. In recognition of this milestone, the Board presented certificates of achievement to teachers who have taught in Elgin County for at least 25 years. Pictured are, left to right: Mrs. Elaine Brown, 26 1/2 years; Board Trustee Mrs. Dagmar Jobson; Mrs. Gerree Hind, 29 years; and Mr. Bob Carrington, 26 years. Unavailable for photo was Dale Peacock. Mrs. Jobson also presented each of the teachers with a miniature apple.

(Mercury-Sun photo)

EVERGREEN CEMETERY



Manson Robinson, president of the Evergreen Cemetery Company of West Lorne Inc. is pictured here showing off his family's headstone. Mr. Robinson said he was told that his brother was about the third person buried in the cemetery in 1907.

Changes at Evergreen

By Sheila McBrayne

West Lorne's Evergreen Cemetery has been a busy place over the summer, not because of an increase in burials, but rather cemetery workers were busy fixing up the 86-year old cemetery.

More than 100 of the monuments at The Evergreen Cemetery Company of West Lorne were re-sealed after a check of all the monuments was performed. The refurbishing of the family landmarks cost about \$2,320 and the repairs were done at no expense to any of the families of the monument owners. The cemetery is accepting any donations that the public would like to give to go towards the cost.

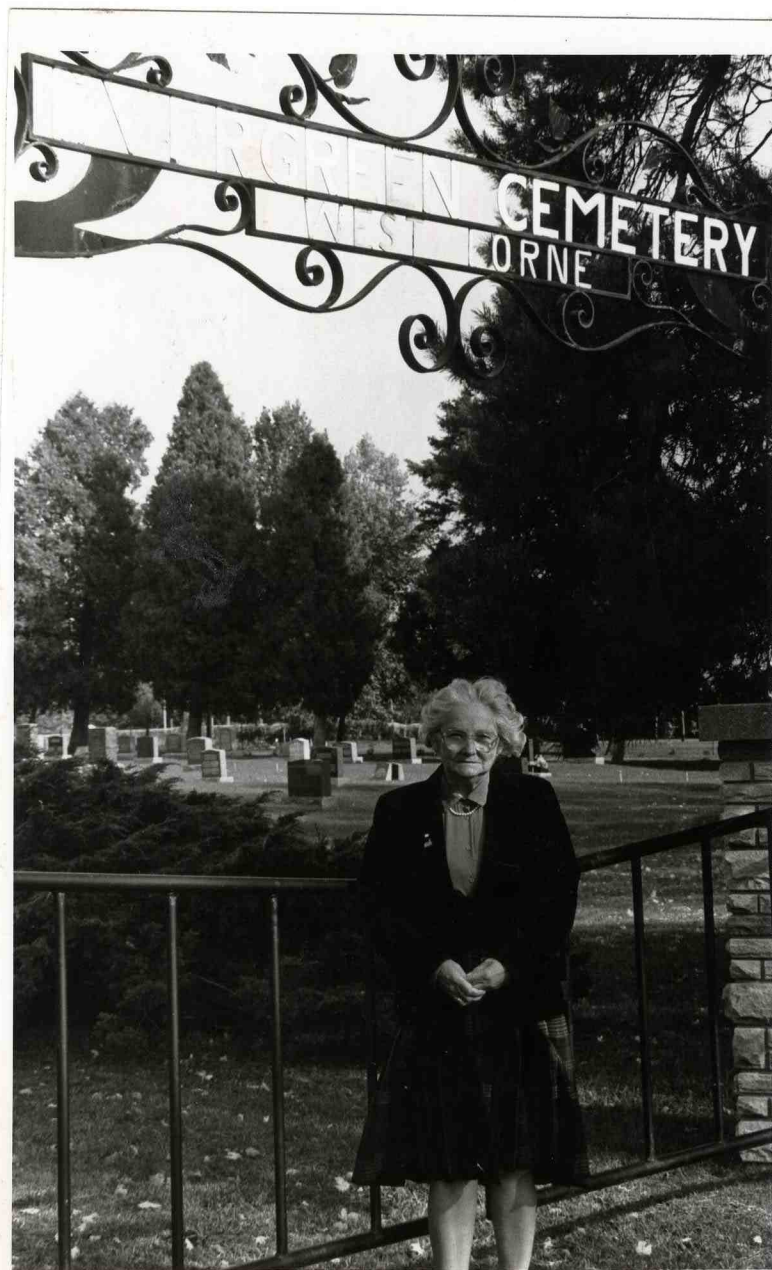
Why the refurbishing? Secretary-Treasurer of the cemetery Jean Ross said that the project was done this summer in response to legislation that made all cemetery owners liable for any injuries incurred at a cemetery. For example if one of the older monuments had fallen over on someone or debris from one of the monuments hit someone, the cemetery would be re-

sponsible. To prevent any such happenings, the cemetery had every monument checked. Some were re-sealed to the base and some minor repairs were performed.

President of The Evergreen Cemetery of West Lorne is Manson Robinson. Mr. Robinson said that in addition to fixing the existing monuments, the cemetery has also been looking to the future as the cemetery board has recently purchased four acres of neighbouring land to expand the cemetery.

Mr. Robinson has been on the cemetery board for 12 years and says he has a lot of families members there. His infant brother was one of the first people buried there back in 1907. The cemetery was incorporated in 1906.

The cemetery has had some changes over the years and one of those changes was the access to the cemetery. The original lane that ran through the middle of the cemetery where the gates stand is actually not in use any more unless there is a burial in the center of the cemetery. Instead a path runs all along the outside of the cemetery and does wind through the cemetery as well.



Jean Ross is the secretary-treasurer of the Evergreen Cemetery Company Inc. is pictured her in front of the gates that once lead to the lane used to go through the cemetery. The gate is usually closed and is only used for burials in the centre of the cemetery.

WEST LORNE LIBRARY



Karen Mack, library assistant is doing a craft with a group of children.



Alberta Jones

Nov. 10th, 1992

Some Former

Bank Managers

1964-1972- Fred Caley

1972-1979- Jim Kinney
Derek Pass

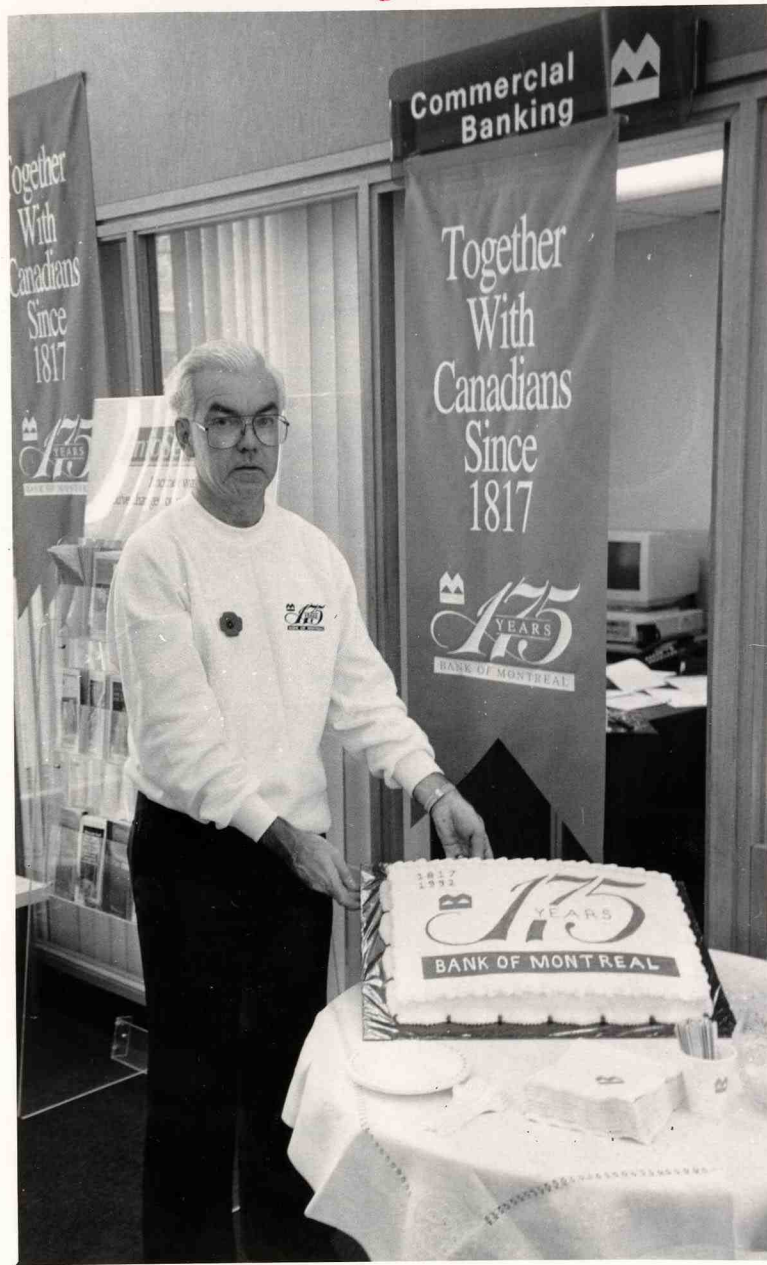
1979-1981- Don Dawson

1981-1983- Bill Trask

Sylvia Weigelt

Brian O'Connor

Nov. 1992- Peter Wiles



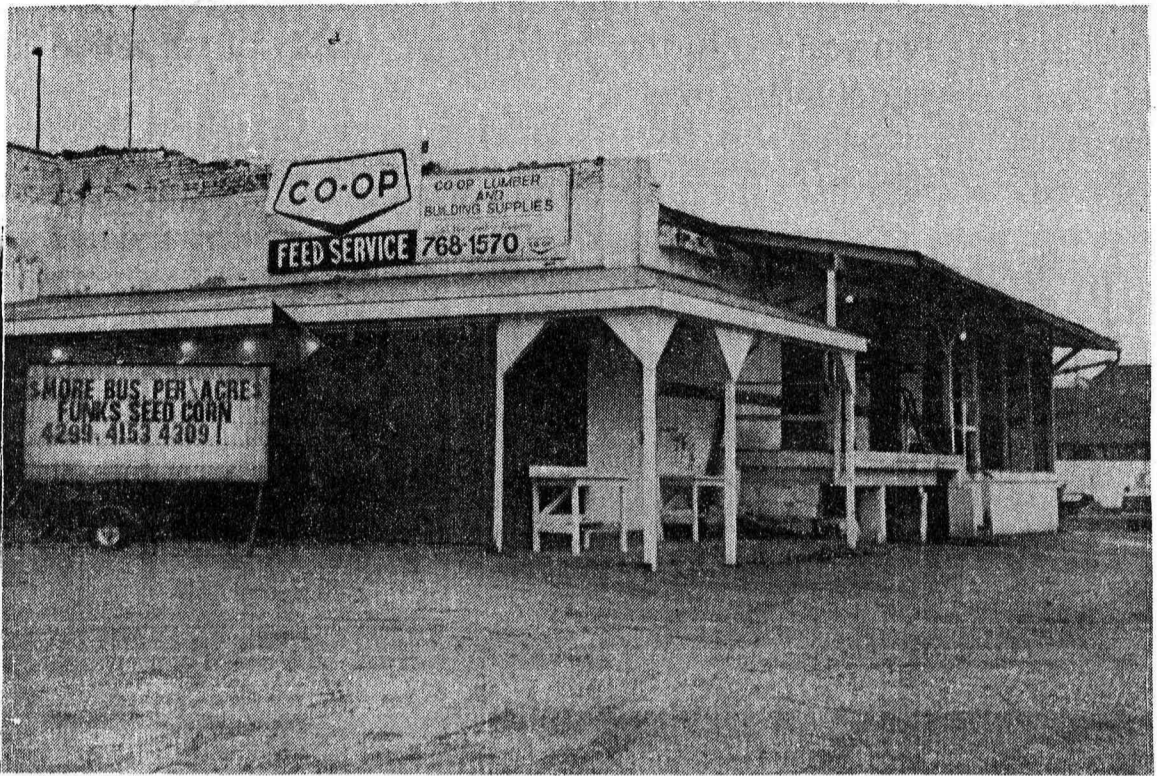
Happy 175th Anniversary
The West Lorne Branch is not this old but
the company is. Bank manager Brian O'Connor
is shown displaying the cake.

The Mercury-Sun Moved to West Lorne in February, 1992



Mercury-Sun Publisher Marie Campbell presents Ruth Hayes with a plant for 35 years of dedication to the Mercury-Sun. Mrs. Hayes says she will miss the people that have been coming into the Licence Bureau on Main Street to pay their subscriptions and drop off ads.





West Lorne's Elgin Co-op sign will soon be of Winnipeg. The new owners are re-
 changed. The 46 year-old farmers' co-operative sented in Southwestern Ontario by Topnotch
 was sold to James Richardson, grain dealers. Feeds. Mercury-Sun Photo

Elgin Co-op sold to Winnipeg firm

The 46 year-old Elgin Farmers' Co-op will be sold to J. R. Richardson and Sons Limited, of Winnipeg, known in Ontario as "Topnotch". The Co-op is a real cooperative company, owned by 2,100 Elgin County farmers. The grain processing business will soon be a private concern.

At a Co-op meeting March 26, members voted 224 in favour, eight against, to sell their facilities in West Lorne, Dutton, Aylmer and the St. Thomas Edgeware Road grain elevator.

The sale will take place before the end of April, will leave the Co-op owning its St. Thomas lumber yard, and there "should be money to bank after the sale of the St. Thomas head office," said a Co-op press release of March 26. The press release did not mention why the head office and lumber yard were not included in the sale.

The assets sold went for \$7.8 million, according to general manager Doug Best. W. G. Thompson and Sons, a grain dealer based in Blenheim, was second in line after Richardson, as potential buyer.

The press release states that "except for some of the

six head office employees, who will be offered severance packages, employees will be hired by Richardson, with years of service taken into account."

General manager Bale expects the changeover at the end of May or in early June. "I'm hopeful there will be no terminations," he said.

Sixty-five people are employed in the Co-op's stores, elevators, and offices.

Why did the Co-op decide to sell?

One reason was a \$2 million grain loss in 1981-82. The Co-op "never got ahead in the nine years since then," said Bale. "Operational inefficiencies have crept in over the years as well, and were glossed over," he said. These inefficiencies were carried by high grain marketing returns, but when the marketing dipped, the Co-op ended up in debt \$3 million.

Bale said the West Lorne grain elevator and store business is one of the best-run parts of the Co-op. "It is kept in tip-top condition by Ray Schnekenberger," he said.

The Richardson organization has century-old roots in Kingston. In the 1850's

James Richardson was a tailor in Kingston. Some of his farmer customers paid with produce. By 1857 Richardson was devoting all his time to his grain business. In 1880 the Richardson family appointed a representative to Manitoba, three years before the railway reached Winnipeg. The executive office of the company was moved from Kingston to Winnipeg in 1924.

Richardson's Topnotch Feeds has grain processing facilities in Dutton. Manager Mike Hentz said "We've been successful here in Dutton," but had no information to release about the sale of the Elgin Co-op. He did say that the Richardson Topnotch Grain terminal facility at Port Stanley ships about one half million bushels of corn and wheat on lake freighters each year. Topnotch has shipped grain for Elgin Co-op in the past.

PLAN FEW CHANGES

"We do not have any plans to make any changes in the foreseeable future," Doug Larson, president of Ontario Topnotch said, but Topnotch will employ about 47 of the Co-op's existing 65 employees.



Cherie Pederson

Spotlight on Business

Gift ideas for all occasions

By Ruth Ferguson

Almost five years ago an interesting, unique shop opened its doors on Graham Street in West Lorne. Cherie and Company, co-owned by Cherie and Doug Pedersen, has just about everything a person could ever ask for in a gift shop.

The business came about from Cherie and Doug's other careers as sales reps. They decided to open their own shop because someone had to be in the office to answer the phone anyway and this would give them a chance to sell their merchandise here.

A lot of the items that they supply to other stores they also try here, but sometimes particular items do not sell as well in West Lorne as they do in London. "What sells in one area does not always sell in another but you'll never know what will be popular so you just try it and see how it goes," says Doug Pedersen.

Most of the inventory is also based on what local people seem to like and want to buy. The Pedersens also try and find out what people collect and stock items that they'd add to their collection. But because it is a small community, the inventory is constantly changing and being updated so that the

entire town does not wind up with the same things. It seems that variety is the key to this store's success.

The inventory is extremely varied ranging from relaxation tapes, framed prints, gourmet coffees and teas to balloons, picture frames, candles and West Lorne memorabilia. Naturally such a variety means that there is also a wide price range to choose from. The Pedersens choose the store's inventory from about 75 small dealers from all across Canada.

The Pedersens moved to West Lorne in 1967 after living for a short period of time in Barrie, Ontario. Doug and Cherie have been sales representatives since 1965 when they began offering Canadian made goods to stores. In the beginning "Canadiana" was not very popular but in time it took off and Canadian made products are still very popular and are known for their high quality and superb craftsmanship. As a result, a lot of their store's inventory is made up of Canadian made products.

Keeping in step with their ever changing inventory, Cherie tries to change the window display every week or so. Sometimes it's just taking some items out, rearranging the display and adding some new items while other times everything is removed and an entirely new display is created.

Along with their normal array of products, Cherie and Company also is a designated stamp shop, and an UPS depot. Gift wrapping is another service that is offered by the friendly and courteous staff.

To supplement their silk flowers, Cherie and Company also had fresh cut roses and carnations for Valentines Day.

Along with Cherie, the shop also employs Cathy Shepherd on a full time basis and Cynthia Rees, who has been with the company for approximately four years, works part-time when she is home from university during vacations.

Some of the most popular selling items are the collectors dolls, cards and the Precious Moments figurines. The store also has some very loyal customers who regularly stop by to see what's new.

Currently Cherie and Company is operating under their winter hours which are Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:30 to 5:30 and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. During the summer months the

hours are extended so that the shop is open Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. If you'd like to check on a particular item just call 768-1316 or drop by and visit the store in person. Cherie and Company is located at 233 Graham Road in West Lorne.

Impressive changes at IGA in West Lorne

By Jerry Morrow

Shoppers at the West Lorne IGA are going to be impressed with the changes Steve and Brenda Browne have made. Two weeks of renovations that shut the store down for three days last week have created a new and modern shopping environment.

The dairy section was extended, the frozen food section enlarged, meat department freezers were expanded and new checkouts were installed. Some new shelves have been added and the stock has been re-arranged to be more convenient. Buggies are being stored outside to create more space.

The renovations were part of the deal when the Brownes bought the store in April. Originally a movie theater, the building has been an IGA store for more than 30 years.

"I always wanted my own store," Steve says. He brings 17 years experience to the business, gained working for Oshawa Foods in Peterborough, Brampton and other cities. When the store in West Lorne became available, he jumped at it because it was almost coming home. He comes from the St. Thomas area.

The move was a little more traumatic for Brenda, a native of Mississauga. "It's a big change," she admits, "but it's a change for the better. We have kids and you can't beat a small town for bringing up a family."

She is also a veteran of Oshawa Foods, working as a cashier, in a store office and in the office of the franchise division. She is running the office in the store here now with help from Steve's sister Sharon Smith.

The renovations which cost "close to six figures" were done with help from specialists from IGA who worked with department managers to modernize the store. "It's really nice. It's opened the store up a lot," Steve



Steve and Brenda Browne of West Lorne IGA

says.

The biggest problem was having to close for three days. "We turned away a lot of business."

The staff of 30, 10 of them full time, "loves what we've done," Brenda says. And Steve says the customers have also been impressed.

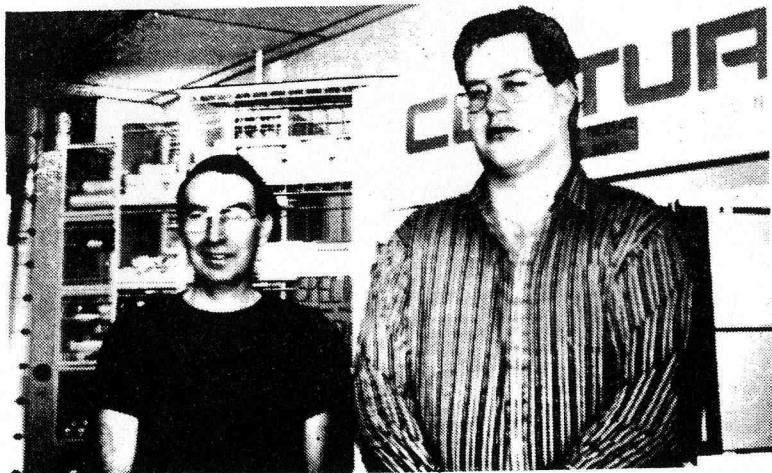
They're not done yet. "One day I'd

like to expand," Steve says. "The aisles are too narrow. It's tight in there. We'll have to see how the business goes."

The Brownes are going to give everyone a chance to see what they've done with an open house from 6-8 p.m. Monday, August 8 and a grand re-opening on Tuesday, August 9.

NEW BUSINESS OPENS

June 9th
1994



by Carrie Kelly

There's a new business in West Lorne. Partners Jack Ripley and Mike Crump have opened Ripley's Quality Home Centre which is located in the old Prim Fashion store. Jack

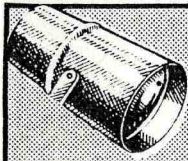
and Mike offer a wide selection of decorating supplies including Pittsburgh Paints with a price range from \$9.99 to \$24.99, a computerized paint chip board and a range of 15,000 colours to choose from.

They also carry Sunworthy Wallpaper and samples of carpets, ceramic tiles, vinyl tiles, resilient flooring, interior vinyl wall covering, and suspended ceiling tiles. With most of these items, Jack and Mike offer 24 to 48 hour delivery from the suppliers in London.

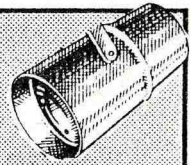
They stock wallpaper and painting accessories and will also handle Erie Flooring's hardwood floors. They also sell decorative wreaths and hats made by Mike's wife Carol, stained glass pieces by Gord Jenkins from Belmont, and wood clocks by Mike's father Bill Crump in Wingham. Jack said that they are open to new ideas for products.

Jack also commented that they will be using local installers to do the work, for example Ron O'Danski has agreed to install flooring, and anything that doesn't conflict with local craftsmen, Jack will do himself.

The store has been open since May 30 and both Jack and Mike are pleased with the response so far. Their Grand Opening is this week, June 9, 10, and 11 and they will be offering specials, draws, coffee and donuts. For more details on the Grand Opening of Ripley's Quality Home Centre, see their ad in this paper.



Spotlight on Business



By Ruth Ferguson

It's been almost 23 years since Prim Fashions first opened for business on West Lorne's Main Street. The store was originally owned and operated by Anne Cornwall and Marion Wright and the current owner, Louise Begin, took over on December 6, 1990.

If you're a regular customer you would have noticed the new look that the store has. Recently Louise decided that the store needed a change and at the beginning of February the shop received a complete face-lift, making the floor space more open and airy.

This truly is a full line women's clothing store, carrying everything except shoes. Besides the beautiful dresses, pants, and blouses that the store carries, Prim Fashions also carries foundation garments, hosiery, belts, nightwear, sweaters and some costume jewellery. Fashion accessories such as leather and vinyl handbags, gloves and scarves are available to round out your outfit.

Popular clothing lines include Pantel, Kim Kelly Petites, Lori Ann, Tan Jay, Brooke Chapman and New Mode. Scratch jeans, Barbara Sue sweaters, and Olsen t-shirts are very popular. Leslie Belle for half sizes is another hot selling line.

Louise decides on most of the store's inventory by attending fashion markets in Toronto, and most of the clothing lines that she picks are manufactured in Montreal. If it's at all possible she tries to buy Canadian goods.

Prim Fashions has a strong reputation for good quality clothing that Louise plans on continuing. "People can find good quality for a better price than they can in



Louise Begin

the city. We also give personal attention to our customers and ensure a personal fit which you won't find in the city. Our strong point is the personal touch," says store owner Louise Begin.

This bright shop has a loyal clientele, "People keep coming back because they know that the clothes will fit, and if they don't then we'll make it fit."

Prim Fashions offers an alteration service to ensure that each customer's clothes fit properly. Most alterations take about one week. Prim Fashions staff will also assist you in finding the proper colour, style and fit that is perfect for you. And if you can't find anything in the store that strikes your fancy, Louise will try to order one for you that's the correct style and colour for you. If there's one available, then it can usually be delivered in about one week.

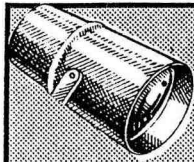
Another alternative if you can't find anything to your liking, then you can always ask Louise to make an outfit for you. By trade, Louise Begin is an accomplished seamstress and can usually finish a dress in about two weeks. You can either bring in your own material or have Louise get the fabric for you. If more than one dress is required then she needs longer to complete the order.

This store caters to all ages and

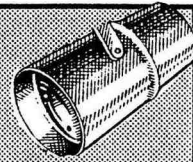
has something for everyone and carries sizes 5 to 22 1/2. There is a wide price range to suit every budget as well. Customers come from London, Muirkirk, Ridg-etown and local municipalities too. Recently some people came from Niagara Falls to shop at this unique ladies wear store.

Along with the owner, Louise Begin, Denise Van Dyke, and Louise's nieces, Denise Begin and Monique Begin also work at the store. Former owner Anne Cornwall rounds out the Prim Fashions staff.

Prim Fashions will be holding a fashion show at the Eagle Community Centre on the evening of March 31 and invites everyone out to see the new spring and summer fashions.



Spotlight on Business



Videos and much, much more

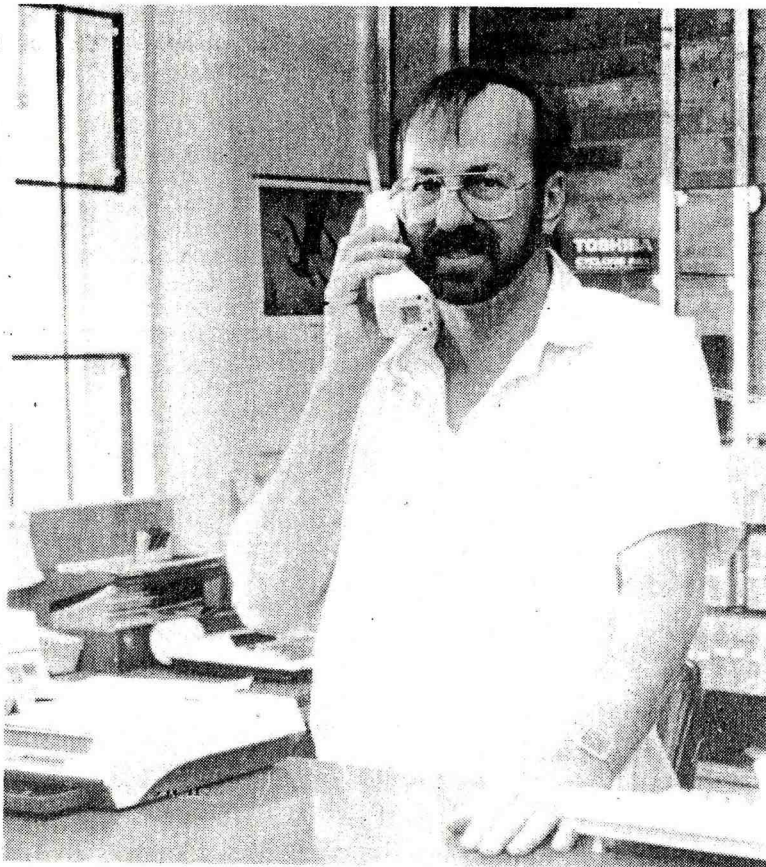
By Ruth Ferguson

On May 6, 1983 Wayne Chevalier opened the doors of his new enterprise, N&W Country Video and Audio Inc. More commonly known as Country Video, this store has everything you'd need for an evening of movie watching.

Along with a wide assortment of movies to choose from including sports, drama, comedy and adult entertainment, you can also stock up on snack items for when the munchies strike.

Movie rental prices vary somewhat depending on the type of movie. Children's and "family" movies are \$1.00, new releases are \$3.00, while most movies are 1 for \$2.00, 2 for \$3.48, or 3 for \$4.35. Movies can also be purchased with a used movie beginning at around \$6.99.

If you don't currently own a VCR, then don't despair, you can rent one from Country Video. A one day VCR rental costs \$7.99 on the weekend, and \$4.99 during the week. To rent a VCR for an entire week is only \$17.99.



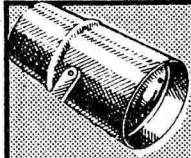
Wayne Chevalier

Wayne does not limit his inventory to strictly movie rentals. He also carries a line of video accessories, headphones, blank video and audio tapes, patch cords, batteries and adapters. He also sells Toshiba TV's and VCR's, including some large screen TV models.

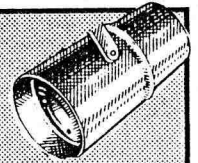
Antenna installations and repairs are also services that Mr. Chevalier offers.

Camcorders are ever increasingly popular items and can be rented for just \$24.95, with each additional day costing just \$10.00.

Mr. Chevalier moved to West Lorne from London in 1979 because he wanted to live in the country. One of the main reasons he chose to locate here was its close proximity to the 401, and he liked the small town atmosphere here.



Spotlight on Business



Besley's

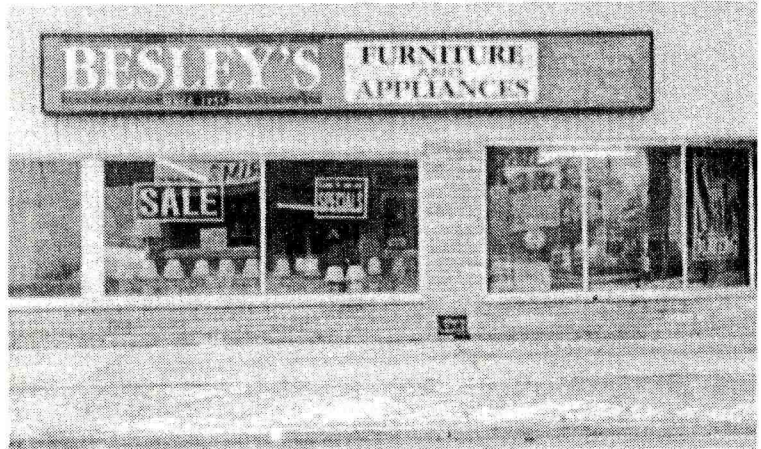
By Ruth Ferguson

In 1955 Al and Gwen Besley and their son, Gerry, opened Besley's Furniture And Appliances at 174 Main Street in downtown West Lorne. Bill, Gerry's son, has been involved part-time in the family owned and operated business since he was a teenager in highschool and has been running the business himself since the mid-1980's.

Besley's is West Lorne's full-line furniture and appliance store carrying such name brands as Maytag, Moffet, Woods and GE.

Any item of furniture that you need, they probably have. Beds, headboards, mattresses, lamps, recliners, chairs, sofas, kitchen tables and chairs are just a few of the things currently in stock. Washing machines, dryers, freezers and refrigerators are the major appliances that they carry. Appliances are available in either gas or electric models. You don't need to worry about repairs either because there is a qualified service man in the area that is able to fix almost any appliance that Besley's sells.

Customers come from as far away as Bothwell, Newbury, Muirkirk, Highgate, Wardsville, Iona Station, Wallacetown, and as



Besley's located at 174 Main St. West Lorne

close as Dutton, West Lorne and Rodney. Another service that Besley's offers is free delivery to these areas and all points in between. Delivery can also be arranged outside of these areas.

Business has been fairly good according to Bill Besley, "1989 was our best year in recent years, 1991 was rather slow and 1992 was our second best year lately. This year we're hoping to do as good as last year or better."

People are still going to buy things if the price is right whether there is a recession or not. Besley's belongs to a "buying group" which allows them to obtain their merchandise at the same price as a larger store but because Besley's overhead is so much lower than those larger stores, bigger bargains can be had at home instead of travelling to a larger centre.

Besley's can also custom order an item for you if you see something in the store that you like but want it in a different colour or material. Free layaway is available and Besley's is currently offering a six month no interest payment plan. Visa and Mastercard are also accepted.

The store currently has two full-time employees, Bill and his mother, Jean, and one part-time employee, Tracey Besley. Ed Bell also works part-time helping with the deliveries.

Besley's Furniture And Appliances is still located at 174 Main Street and is open for business Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9 to 5:30, Wednesdays from 9 to 12 noon, Fridays from 9 to 8 and Saturdays from 9 to 3 p.m.



"Five golden rings..."

The students at WESS have been decorating store windows with the theme of 12 days of Christmas. Appropriately so, Krebsz Jewellery is "Five golden rings."

Open for business

By Ruth Ferguson

One of downtown West Lorne's popular eating establishments is now under new management. On June 7th, Paul and Huguette Goetghebeur and their son, Keon, from Wardsville, became the new owners of Jammer's Restaurant.

This is not Paul's first business venture. He has previously owned a restaurant, a Mac's Milk store, a hardware store, and a service company.

The Goetghebeurs aren't planning any drastic changes but do have a few new ideas in mind. They are adding home cooked meals to the menu and will be installing a removable fence to create a dining area. The fence will be taken out when bands perform. Draft beer will also be offered now. Take out is still available.

The new owners are also planning on having area bands come in and perform on a fairly regular basis, hopefully twice a month. The style of music will be varied and different bands will be featured. For their grand opening, the popular local band Excess NRG will be headlining the weekend. Also, Jammer's will be giving away t-shirts, and other things like pizzas



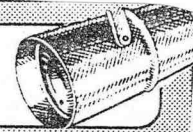
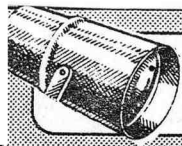
New owners

Jammer's new owners Huguette, Paul and Keon Goetghebeur.

Modern Beauty Salon

By Ruth Ferguson

It's been three years since Mary Steinbacher opened her hairdressers shop, Modern Beauty Salon, in West Lorne. Mary began apprenticing as a hairdresser in 1968 and graduated three years later from Fanshawe College, receiving the highest mark on her test and was given a plaque honoring her as an outstanding student. Also in 1971, she earned her barber's license, also through Fanshawe College. Mary is also a qualified cosmetician.



JB Jeans



Janice Brearley and Joyce Bree are enjoying their new business venture. J B Jeans held its Grand Opening on Saturday, May 1st and locals stopped by to see the line of jeans and men's sports and casual wear that the downtown shop has to offer. *Mercury-Sun photo*



by Carrie Kelly

On April 1, Kay Diles and Gregory Karagiorgos purchased the Town and Country Restaurant. They had been leasing the building and restaurant for the past three years. Since they have taken over ownership, they have completed the first stage of renovations planned for the restaurant. In the coming weeks they will be putting a new roof on the building.

Kay Diles had previously owned restaurants in Toronto and Woodstock before choosing to come to West Lorne. Gregory Karagiorgos has also owned several restaurants in the past in London, Port Franks, Seaforth and Ancaster.

The new Town and Country Family Restaurant specializes in seafood, steaks, and their ever popular chicken wings. They offer a Sunday Brunch and "Smorgasbord", and are licensed by the LCBO. They have Banquet Facilities for up to 50 people as well as offering Catering Services.

Kay commented that it is very easy to get along with the customers in West Lorne and without them there was no way they would have bought the restaurant. Kay would like to thank the past West Lorne customers for their patronage and as new owners, both Gregory and Kay look forward to many years of serving the community.

Insurance and real estate

By Ruth Ferguson

On May 1, 1978, Paul J. Gangle established his insurance business in an office at 171 Main Street in West Lorne. One year later he moved his business into his new building next door at 173 Main. He has been an insurance broker since 1978, and his business has grown considerably since he first began with the purchase of G. R. Hanley Insurance of Rodney in 1987, and in November 1988 obtaining the John Watterworth Insurance Company.

With the changes that the N. D.P. government has made to the automobile insurance industry, Mr. Gangle realized that he had to diversify and decided to enter into real estate.

The real estate market is picking up. He says that now is the best time for people to purchase a house, especially for the first-time home buyer. There is a wide selection of properties to choose from and very low mortgage rates. This phenomenon of a variety of homes and low interest has not occurred in a very long time, in fact interest rates are the lowest they have been in 30 years.

For people wanting to sell their homes, the price has to be right for someone to buy. Houses have to be priced at almost where they can sell at because you won't get results if overpriced. If the home is priced too high, people will just

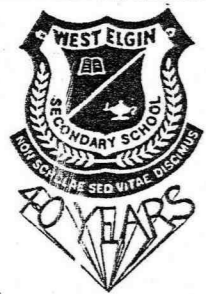
use it as a guide to find something that is priced more according to its actual value.

For anyone wishing to purchase a new home, Paul strongly recommends that the would-be purchaser get a pre-approved mortgage from their lending institution. If you haven't gotten pre-approved Gangle Real Estate will work with you and your bank to obtain financing before you start searching for your dream home to make your purchase go as smoothly as possible.

Because of the recession people are reluctant to take out a large mortgage when they have no assurance that their job is secure and they will be able to make their payments. Consumer confidence plays a big part in the real estate market.

On the insurance side of the business, business has been steady mainly because of the company's established portfolio and clientele. Because of the tight market, Gangle Insurance is concentrating on taking very good care of their customers. "We are very service oriented and competitive," says Mr. Gangle. This philosophy applies not only to the insurance company but also to the real estate company as well.

Gangle Insurance is known as a general insurance broker as they offer all types of coverage including home, auto, farm, business, motorcycle, bonding and liability. In-home estimates are available



**WESS 40th
Anniversary Issue**

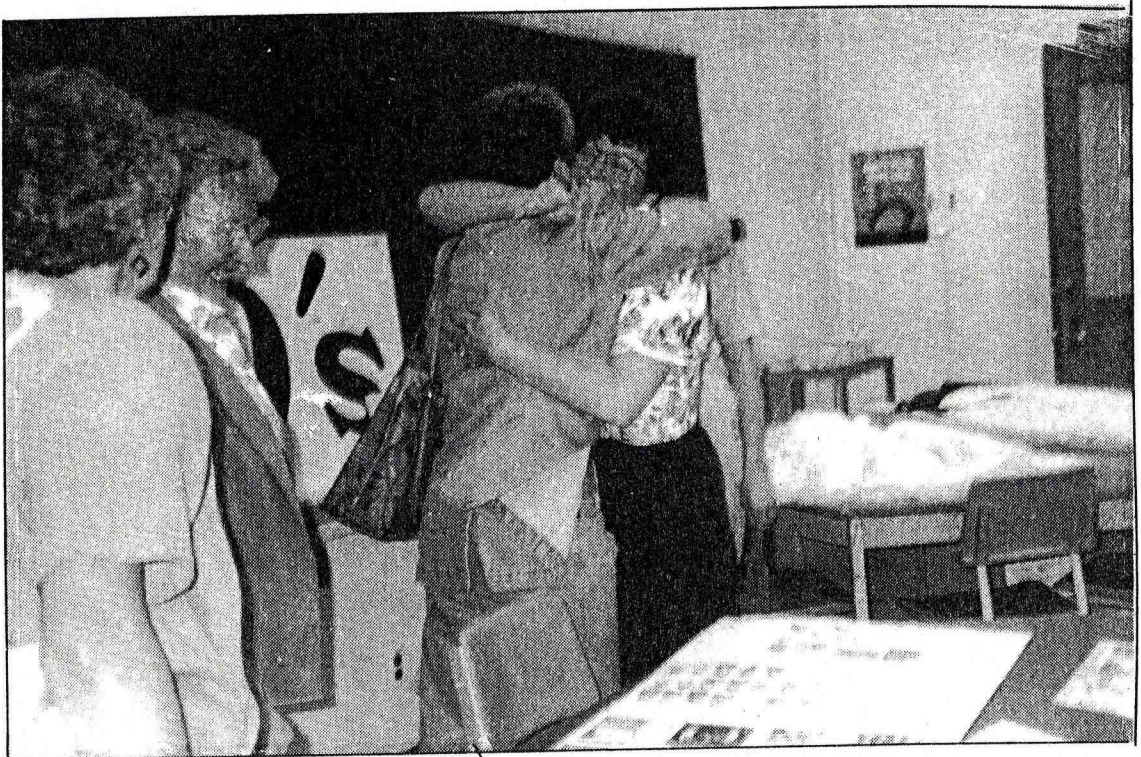




Principal of WESS and Honourary Chairman of the Reunion Committee J.J. Prince, spoke to the crowd. He welcomed everyone on behalf of the school.



Eileen Kostras, secretary-treasurer of the reunion committee greeted graduates at the door. Everyone signed the guest book.



Friends greet each other at the Friday night festivities. People who were separated by miles got to see each other, some after 40 years.



Memorabilia such as pictures, newspaper clippings, prom dresses, gymsuits, sweaters and awards from the different decades was on display in rooms at the high school during the WESS 40th Anniversary Reunion celebrations.

Welcome from the Principal

Each of you can thank the many people who enjoyed the 25th Anniversary so much because it was at their urging that the 40th was planned. I placed 1992 on my long-range calendar in 1977.

Many of you will not know me and that may be just as well. I really represent MR. BOSMAN, MR. MUMFORD, MR. THOMAS, MR. RICHMOND, MR. LANCASTER AND MR. GALLOWAY. As principals of West Elgin, I know that we all had the same basic aim in life -- that was -- to get you through those precious teen years and to get you out of our hair. You know we loved you all -- the good, the bad, the smart, the ones who thought they were smart, and the not-so-smart -- but most of all we loved to see you succeed even though we, years ago, might not have thought that you would.

The one whose spirit will always run through these halls or hide in the ceilings is the late, great MR. WILFRED JOHNSTON, the Vice-Principal who rode herd on so many of you for 18 years. RAY LEMON, the Head Custodian, would never be far behind.

I hope that these three days will allow you to bring back thousands of good memories. Let the tears flow with joy! Let the stories flow also!

Tell everyone how good you were when you were here -- I, like all of the others named above, will know when you are lying. Tell the truth some of the time as you tell these stories or one of us will still get to you.

Have a good weekend! Have a good life!

Sincerely,

J.J. Prince, Principal

Official Opening of W.E.D.H.S.

West Elgin District High School was officially opened forty years ago, on November 12, 1952. The guest speaker was A.T. Ward, M.L.A., while the message from the clergy was presented by Rev. F.P. Erb, President of the West Elgin Ministerial Association. The address and formal opening were conducted by the Hon. J.W. Dunlop, Minister of Education.

Mr. J.D. Fraser was Chairman of the school board, and the other members were W.F. Rewbotham, J.S. Kearns, Dr. J.G. Whitteker, G.L. Mortin,

Alex White, D.E. Carroll and E. Hayes.

The original teaching staff consisted of Mr. J.A. Bosman, Principal, H.M. Breckow, S.E. Wheeler, R.H. Bailey, A.J. Fontana, Wilf Johnston, W.S. Clifford, Ruth Ford (Principal's Secretary), Audrey Kirkpatrick, Dorothy Steele, Ruby McDonald, Lois Fulton, Helen Carey and Frank Bolger.

The original Student Council consisted of Jon Jewell (President), Barbara Kelly (Secretary), Jill Arnold (Student Treasurer), Mr. Fontana

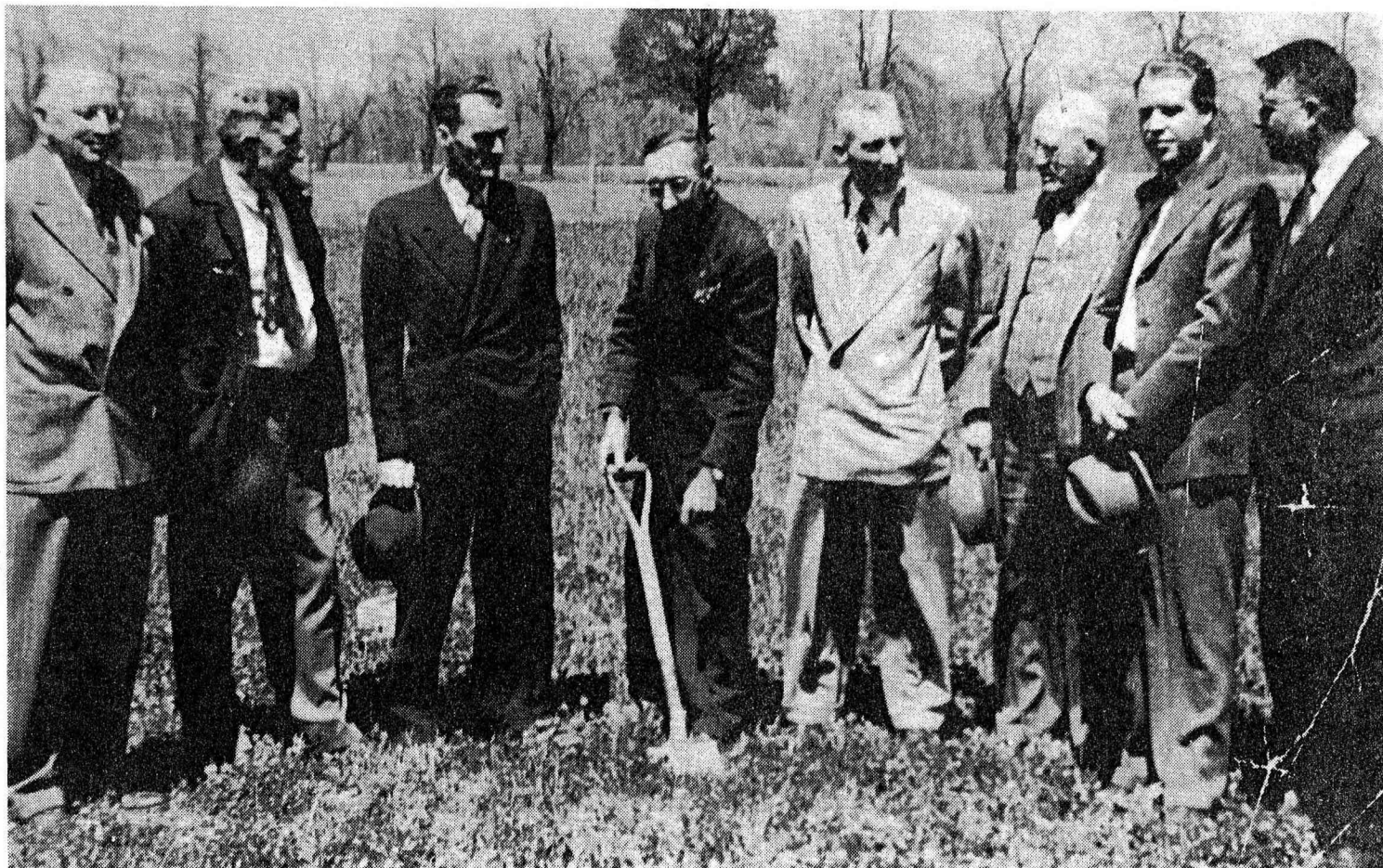
(teacher treasurer), Shirley Gammon, Barbara McNeil, Jack Whitteker, Bob Ronson, Joe Fischer, Jeanne Reid and Gwen Wilson.

Principal Bosman's greeting in the Official Opening booklet read: West Elgin is indeed fortunate in having one of the finest, modern secondary schools in the province. It is a pleasure for me to express on behalf of the staff and student body our sincere appreciation to the ratepayers of this community for providing such a splendid, modern and well equipped

school building.

While the former schools provided many notable graduates, the new school will, with its modern equipment and additional facilities, meet the needs of the present generation for many years to come. It is now up to the individual students to make the most of these opportunities

The initial enrolment of the school was 335, and a full curriculum was provided, including Home Economics, Shop, Agriculture, Commercial and academic studies.



Turning of the first sod at the site of the district high school, just south of the West Lorne village limits, was held in May 1951. Joe Kearns the Aldborough representative had the honor. Four of the board of seven members were present. Standing left to right are: Maynard Hopper, John Quigley, Wilf Rewbotham, a West Lorne member of the board, Joe

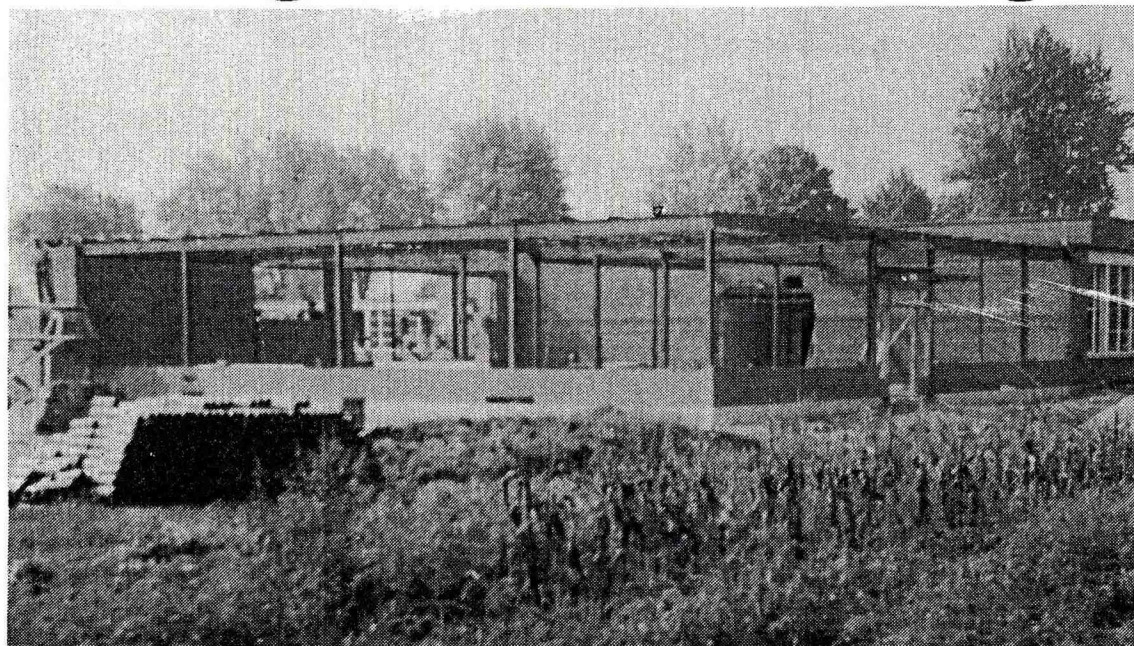
Kearns Aldborough representative, Dr. J. G. Whitteker, Rodney's representative, Henry Miller, E.E. Hayes, the second West Lorne board member, and V.E. Lemon. The three members absent were: David Fraser, chairman, Dutton, D.E. Carroll, Dunwich representative, and Alex Wight, Wallacetown, the county appointee.

The West Elgin District High School

Construction of The West Elgin District High School began in May 1951, and was completed in September 1952. Prior to the erection of the new building, ~~there were~~ ^{operating} three schools independently in West Elgin: the Dutton High School and Continuation schools in Rodney and West Lorne. The original building contained six regular classrooms and in addition, a library classroom, general shop, home economics room, chemistry laboratory, agricultural laboratory, cafeteria and gymnasium-auditorium. It also housed the administration offices, teacher's rooms, washrooms, showers and dressing rooms. The school's steel and brick construction featured the latest in heating, ventilation and lighting. The original cafeteria seated 150 people and served hot meals for reasonable prices, at something like twenty cents a plate. Bev Lashbrook, from Rodney, remembers that the teachers would eat with the students in the cafeteria. Food fights were obviously a risky venture. Mr. Lashbrook also remembers his first day at the shiny new school and that it was a "humbling" experience compared to the Rodney Continuation School where he had just completed Grade 10. The school was originally designed to enrol 300 students, therefore, with increases in enrolments additions were made to the school throughout the decade.

THE SCHOOL BOARD

In 1946, a By-Law was passed by the Elgin County Council to establish the West Elgin High School District. The inaugural meeting of the new Board was held on January 8, 1947. The original Board Members were



This is a four-room, \$45,000 addition built on the north side of the school in 1955.

J. Kearns, Earl Lemon, A.J. DeLong, D.E. Carroll, J.D. Fraser and G.L. Morton. In 1948, the district was enlarged to include Rodney and was represented by Dr. J. Whitteker. Later on, A. White, W.F. Rewbotham and E. Hayes joined the Board to replace the previous representatives of the County of Elgin, West Lorne and the West Lorne Public School Board respectively. The West Elgin High School Board continued until its dissolution with the implementation of centralization of all Boards across the province.

THE NEW SCHOOL

Operating three different schools in West Elgin was inefficient both financially and academically. Aside from operating costs, many students were attending schools outside of the district in order to obtain subjects not available in West Elgin Schools. The Board decided that one centralized

a student was offered all courses, would have to be built.

However, the decision did not come about so simply. Mr. Wilf Rewbotham, the only remaining veteran of the District Board, remembers the long hours and heated discussions about the new school over countless Board meetings. "It was a hell of a time and there was a lot of scrapping between Board Members", said Mr. Rewbotham in a recent interview. A lot of the friction was due to the debate over the school's location. Some of the members wished to continue the tradition of the Dutton High School while the majority thought it would be better to utilize West Lorne as a central location. The Board Members received a small salary for up to a maximum of twelve meetings per annum. Mr. Rewbotham estimates that at the time when the debates and discussions were very involved, they could easily have had up to fifty meeting in a year. It was a

many people today couldn't possibly appreciate. It would be difficult to convince the students of the school today about all the secret meetings on street corners in the dark, the pressurized, smoky Board rooms and the countless hours of planning it took to create the structure that our school is today. The school just always seemed to be there.

Mr. Rewbotham remembers clearly the trip to Toronto to present their new school initiative to the Department of Education. In May 1950, the Department of Education granted permission to erect the new school at West Lorne and construction began on the following May. Mr. C.H. Gillin, of London, was engaged as Architect to prepare the plans and the Huron Construction Company in Chatham was contracted for \$383 200. The completed project was worth about \$500 000. The school was opened officially on November 12, 1952, by the Honourable

Education, although classes had already begun in September.

ONE HAPPY FAMILY

When the building was completed, Mr. Rewbotham recalls that there was no animosity between the Board Members despite the months and months of bickering and that they all were "one happy family". Imagine what a tremendous sense of accomplishment they must have felt after their determination and resilience turned out the unparalleled nostalgic monument that still thrives in the community of West Elgin today! It was an "enjoyable experience", according to Mr. Rewbotham, who fondly recalls the Board and its close-knit relations with the staff and students of the school. The Board would often entertain the staff to dinner and vice-versa. The school was largely integrated within the community and was a proud piece of work in which everyone shared. Some of this was lost in the centralization and the establishment of the Elgin County Board of Education in St. Thomas. by Tyson O. Bree

Dedication

As the Editor it is my honour to compose a fitting dedication for this newspaper, and after much thought I have decided to dedicate this special 40th Anniversary Newspaper not only to all staff, students and board members, past and present, but especially to the memory of three very special men whom I have had the pleasure to meet and who have been an inspiration not only to me but to the many people whose lives have been enriched by theirs: Ray Lemon, Wilf Johnston and

The Spirit of the 50's

"The 50's were naive, innocent years. That's probably why people like to reflect back upon them." That is what a former student of W.E.D.H.S. feels is responsible for the nostalgia surrounding the decade of Elvis, Bill Halley and The Comets, the '54 Vette, the '57 Chevy, two-cent ice cream cones, "Silky Straight", and "B" movies like "The man with the Atom Brain".

One event that students of W.E.D.H.S. may recall is the "Bill Halley and The Comets" concert in the 50's at Rondeau Park; the band showed up in

pink suits, driving pink Caddy's. Anyone who was there will also recall the bass player splitting his pants. His enthusiasm had run so high that his clothing could no longer hold together.

When Elvis first came on the scene, he had a profound impact upon pop culture. With his gyrating hip movements and energetic performances, Elvis "the Pelvis" Presley shocked the world. Previously, teens were forced to endure the music of "Juliette" and Patty Page, the woman who brought us "How Much Is That Doggie?"

For the students of W.E.D.H.S., the Royal Theatre, or EMA as it is now known, provided evening and weekend entertainment. "Citizen Kane", westerns, Hitchcock's thrillers, and an abundance of "B" movies were popular; Brando, Montgomery Clift, and Grace Kelly were the stars of the decade.

Other activities that held the interest of the average 50's student were pool and going bowling. It was not uncommon to see the pool room uptown blue with smoke and crowded to capacity.

Saturday night was regarded as "the" night in the fifties, and students took full advantage of the fact that the stores in West Lorne stayed open until 10:30 p.m. on Saturday nights. The town would be crowded as the students who lived on farms borrowed the family car to go into town to catch a movie or play some pool. Should anyone have been reported for smoking uptown, they would have received the standard three-day suspension. Detentions in that day meant missing the bus home after school. The school population hovered around two hundred and forty, strictly governed by principals like Bill Mumford.

Bill Mumford, formerly in the military, was the principal of W.E.D.H.S. for several years. He was renowned for wearing grey trousers and a blue, double breasted blazer every day. He also wore his medals on special occasions.

Although the school rules were enforced, and teachers tried their hardest to ensure that a healthy learning environment was



School letter award winners in 1957? Who are these happy ladies?

maintained, a few things happened that will stick out in the minds of those who were there.

There was also the day when Mr. Wheeler, then an english teacher in his late fifties, gave some of his students a lecture that they weren't likely to forget. Mr. Wheeler, a dignified man, was leaning against a magazine rack in the library, lecturing his students on one of the finer points of literature. Unfortunately for Mr. Wheeler, who had his hands in his pockets, he leaned a little too heavily on the rack, and it toppled over, as did he. Instead of the expected response to the situation, Mr. Wheeler simply stood up, brushed himself off in the most dignified manner possible, and carried on with the lesson.

Some students may recall irritating the latin teacher of that era by bending down to tie shoelaces in unison with the rest of the class, something that was particularly effective.

The general atmosphere surrounding the teens of the fifties was more relaxed than today, although some students were assigned odd nicknames such as Ken "Froggie" Campbell, Bill "Windy" Robbins, and Alistar "Caribou"

Cameron. There was less of a gap between the students who were financially well-off and those who had little money. Teenage males around town generally wore bib overalls and plaid shirts. Girls generally wore penny loafers, and plaid pleated skirts. The school atmosphere, however, was generally more regimented, with rules stating that students were expected to walk in double file on the right side of the hallway. The world of the average student of W.E.D.H.S. was far more regional in the 50's. This was due in part to the lack of automobiles accessible to the students. On any given day, one might have found five or six automobiles in the student parking lot.

Television was also far less common than today. Ed Zelenak recalls that the summer before he enrolled in W.E.D.H.S., there were a mere five TVs in the entire town of West Lorne. This was in 1954.

The fifties was a decade that began with naivete, and finished with the people becoming exposed to rock-and-roll and fast cars. The uniqueness of this era, and the progress that occurred is what it will be remembered for.

by Lee McGough



The 19

Additions at West Elgin

Many of the former students of West Elgin District High School in the 1950's and '60's would scarcely recognize our building as it stands now. There have been numerous new additions made to the facility over the years in order to enlarge and update the school to compliment the growing enrolment and ever-changing technology. By the same token, those students who went to school here in the 1970's, '80's, and '90's would find it difficult to imagine our school as something smaller than our neighbouring West Elgin Senior Elementary School is today, except that they have air conditioning! Nearly everything has been renovated or altered drastically at some point in time over the decades, although there is a striking similarity between the lab benches found in the Science Department today and those seen in photographs from the 1950's.

Only two years after its official opening, plans were made for

the first addition to the east wing of the original school. The four rooms built were rooms 50, 52, 54 and 55. Rooms 52 and 54 are presently computer labs. This addition was completed in 1955 and cost approximately \$45 000.00. If one pays close attention to the floor tiles in the east wing you can still see where the original exit doors were located just after the present geography room.

In 1960-61 renovations began and additions were made to the north and south wings of the school. Two science rooms, 19 and 24, were added to the south wing and rooms 65, 67, 68, and 69 were added to the north wing. The cafeteria, originally located in the north wing, was enlarged to encompass most of what is our present library. So the school retained its original 'L' shape throughout the 1950's and '60's with only a few rooms tacked onto each wing.

The largest and most controversial addition to the

school began in 1969; these additions and renovations were worth twice the school's original value in 1952. The community was left to foot 75% of the bill as the Ministry grant barely covered the seemingly exorbitant costs. Sections were added to the present tech wing (the north wing) and also a section was added east of the south wing. These additions included a fancy, one of a kind, double-gym, six classrooms, teachers' dining room and student dressing rooms. The upstairs commercial department was also added at this time. The enrolment was up to approximately 550 students and some students had to be transferred to Glencoe because of unavailable space. This renovation permanently changed the original orientation.

In 1976, room 78, the welding shop, was added to the Tech Wing and the last addition made was in 1981 when the Music room was added to the original east wing.

Even now, as you read this article, fantastic changes are being made to the Tech Wing of our school. The old (it's all relative, really) electronics room is being converted to a computer centre. If you haven't yet seen the new weight room facility located in the not-so-portable portable by the school soccer field, do so at some time. Thanks goes to Mr. Baldwin and

Mr. Coran for initiating this facility.

West Elgin has adapted well to the changes in society throughout the decades of its existence. The new advances in computer and office technology, along with updated, superior athletic facilities and equipment

will allow West Elgin to readily meet the needs of future. With dedicated, innovative staff and enthusiastic students, our school will continue to foster a positive learning environment for generations to come. Now about that student parking lot....

by Tyson Bree

The 60's at W.E.S.S.

In the 1960's the series of West Elgin District High School Yearbooks were titled "Kaleidoscope", symbolizing the free spirit of the 60's. These contained pages and pages of memories and pictures.

The school went through many changes in appearance mainly in 1961 and 1969. What are now the English and Geography rooms, were built in the early 1960's. In the 1960's a new gym was built with a state of the art hardwood floor, to improve the athletic programs in the school. It was second only to the University of Western Ontario in quality and craftsmanship. The front circle was still only gravel and parking was only permitted for 10 minutes.

Adverse weather conditions prevented buses from travelling their routes. When it rained, the roads were too muddy to travel and during snow storms school could be cancelled for weeks.

In the early 1960's teachers were well respected. Typical courses studied were Botany, Zoology, Agriculture, Latin, Math and English. Girls were still streamlined in taking secretarial and business courses. Boys took University preparatory courses or agriculturally related courses. Towards the late 1960's students became more relaxed and individually minded.

Track and Field, Wrestling, Basketball, Football and Volleyball were popular sports. West Elgin District High School took pride in their sports and went on to win many trophies and awards. School spirit was immense in the 1960's and everyone belonged to some sort of club. Such clubs were the Camera Club, Home Ec Club, Geography Club, Glee Club, Library Club and even Cheerleaders. Dramatic productions were enthusiastically received by all students. One

example was the production "Clean and Pressed" in 1960 and 1961. Dances portrayed fads of the 60's also. Popular dances were "Platters of the Past" where they played songs by Elvis and Bobby Darin. Others were Square dance, Bingo

dance, Chicks Pick, Sadie Hawkins and Hallowe'en. Some prom themes to celebrate the end of the high school career were "Fanta Sea", "Canada's Centennial" and "The Great Gatsby."

One of the major school trips that students undertook was the Expo '67 trip to Montreal. The town of West Lorne waited eagerly to greet Prime Minister

Diefenbaker in 1967 as he toured the town making a short stop at the front of the school while campaigning.

The "Swinging" 60's imposed an ever-changing face on West Elgin District High School. Thanks to the spirit and vivaciousness of the staff and students, West Elgin contributed much to the history of West Lorne.



Hillbillies Bob Padfield and Wilf Johnston and company at a 1966 assembly.

The 70's at W.E.S.S.

During the 70's, West Elgin was faced with many changes, both in its physical and academic structures.

With the opening of the new gym and the tech wing by 1971, the school name was changed from WEST ELGIN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, to its present name. WEST ELGIN SECONDARY SCHOOL. Academically at this time, the student prefect club was introduced. There were many

new clubs appearing in West Elgin's student body, such as the Pollution Probe of 1971, organized to wake the community's environmental conscience. In 1972, Bruce McWilliam, Janet Hux, Jamie McKishnie and Mary Grace were chosen to represent West Elgin in the Reach For The Top program. A new course was opened to the female population of the school in '72. There were no prerequisites for this course.



A young-looking Bruce Edwards pointing out the problem area to Tom Gosnell.

you only needed to be female. West Elgin's first girls' automotive class consisted of one half of the year dedicated to drafting and the other to the automotive component. Not to be forgotten is West Elgin's winning performance in the 1972 Car Rodeo at Parkside, when nine of the chosen team members placed in the top twelve.

During the growth of the student body's enthusiasm for new things, there came the retirement of both the principal, Mr. Lancaster, and the vice-principal, Mr. Johnston, in 1973. Mr. Lancaster left these words for his colleagues "I am immensely proud of West Elgin-its staff and its students". This pride was not solely that of Mr Lancaster, but that of the entire student body.

With the beginning of the '73-'74 school year, Mr. Galloway was introduced as the new principal and Mr. Harrison replaced Mr. Johnston as the



new vice-principal. In the same year, an instrumental music program was introduced. Due to the lack of facilities in this school, the new Elementary School next door was used for classes. Again in 1974, the credit system was introduced, meaning that instead of a grade XIII, students returned for a year five to pick up six honour credits.

Under the direction of Galloway and Harrison, the "House System" was introduced to the academic structure of the

school. Instead of the classes being comprised of just one grade, they would be a mixture of students of all the years in each home room. During this year, it has been said that W.E.S.S. school spirit reached new heights.

September 1, 1976, saw the tragic loss of Mr. Bruce Galloway. By mid-October, Mr. J. Prince had joined West Elgin's staff as the new principal, with Mrs. Georgevich as vice-principal.

One of the more artistic changes in West Elgin's appearance came in 1979 with the painting of murals in the school halls. Overall, the '70's saw West Elgin progress through many phases of growth. Mrs. Georgevich's message in the 1978 yearbook summed up the overall feel of the school when she wrote:

"Every person is the architect of his own fortune, LIVE in the present, LEARN from the past, LOOK FORWARD to the future."

On to the eighties!

Sports in the Eighties

What a decade! The 1980's was a decade of fantastic finishes and a decade of new and exciting beginnings. Although numerous coaches and students have left throughout the years, West Elgin has still maintained its fierce competitiveness. With the new arrival of young and inspired students and coaches, West Elgin may have a new image, but that same, strong sense of competitiveness is still there.

Volleyball, which is considered West Elgin's most recognized sport, had another successful decade. After a long drought of 11 years, the Senior Boys Volleyball Team finally captured W.O.S.S.A. "A" Gold in 1988. This team went to Sudbury for the O.F.S.A.A. "A" Championships and although not doing very well, they gained excellent experience for later on. This experience helped because just two years later, they were crowned as O.F.S.A.A. "A" Champions in Elliot Lake. This team, which had played together for four years, had an amazing record of 160 wins and only 42 losses the entire year! Thanks to the coaching of Mr. Shulist in their junior years and Mr. McIntyre in their senior years, this team was ranked in the top five out of all the high schools in Ontario. This is quite an accomplishment coming from a school of 500 students! With Mr. Shulist leaving, Mr. Dave Inglis arrived in 1988 and took over the coaching position of the Junior Boys and Senior Girls Volleyball teams. Since his arrival, both the Junior Boys and Senior Girls have combined for a total of 5 W.O.S.S.A. "A"

medals. This hard work from both the coaches and students have paid off and West Elgin is still recognized as the team to beat in Elgin County.

Basketball, which has always been in the shadows of volleyball, started to come out from behind the scenes with the arrival of Mr. James Fraser and former student, Mr. Albert Roos. These two men have emphasized basketball since the day they walked into the gymnasium. Throughout the 80's, the school also contributed to the basketball program by having many improvements made to the gymnasium. With the donation of the electric score-clock by Ross's EMA in 1985 and the addition of glass backboards in 1989-1990, basketball began to rise in popularity among students. This popularity has enabled both boys and girls' teams to strive higher and West Elgin has been represented numerous times in Elgin County Finals and even the Junior Boys made it to the W.O.S.S.A. "A" Finals in 1989-1990, coached by Albert Roos. Basketball is not shadowed by volleyball any longer and W.E.S.S. basketball is starting to make a name for itself.

Along with basketball making the headlines, Girls Field Hockey was the biggest hit of any sport in the 80's. Behind "Coach Prelaz", the 1986 Field Hockey Team placed an astonishing fourth at O.F.S.A.A. Championships in Ottawa! Because of this team's success, West Elgin Field Hockey is now considered the powerhouse of Elgin County.



The WESS choir singing about "Good Vibrations" in 1988.

As all the other sports rose to new heights, a new sport was introduced into West Elgin in 1989. This was, of course, football! After a hard battle (and the games hadn't even started yet) Mr. Paul Baldwin and Mr. Ken Coran finally introduced a football program at West Elgin. Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Coran, and the entire football team raised money through fund-raisers events and saved enough money to suit a team. Though football has just begun, West Elgin football players can be seen tackling each other every day in the fall. All of their fund-raising and extra time has paid off and West Elgin now has a new and exciting sport.

With the Senior Boys winning the O.F.S.A.A. "A" Gold in

November of 1989, West Elgin capped off an excellent decade of athletics. As teams got better, and new teams got started,

West Elgin Wildcats have become the most feared rival in Elgin County and beyond.

by James B. Peacock

The 90's at W.E.S.S.

Although the 90's have just begun, many changes have already taken place at WESS both inside and out. If you were a student attending WESS today, the first thing you would notice when you arrived would be the new sign in front of the school. It was purchased by the students through the J.J.'s corporation last year to post upcoming events which are happening within the school. It keeps the public informed about what is going on.

As you drive past the front circle of the school you will see several students standing out

front. This location is now the new "smoking area". Previously it was at the back of the school, but now it is off school property due to a ruling by the Board of Education, where everyone can see the smokers. There's hardly any grass left around the big tree where everyone stands. It's a real eye sore to see all these students out there in the morning and it doesn't compliment the school at all.

Once you're past the school and pull into the student parking lot you will notice that it's slightly larger than before, but it's still full of potholes as always.

Now you're inside the school. The first thing you'll probably notice are all the new lockers throughout the school. As you're walking down the front hall towards the office you will be able to see in the distance all the changes made to the front foyer. It has all been repainted and decorated. It now has benches to sit and relax on and plants hanging from the ceiling. After seeing the outside front circle of the school you will be pleasantly surprised when walking through the front doors. The foyer is a very attractive welcoming into the school.

Just before you get to the office you stop at the cafetorium. The most obvious change in here would be the new doors going outside into the courtyard. It is now open for anyone to eat lunch out there or to just hang out and do homework during spares. The second new addition to the cafetorium is the large video screen, which has only been used a couple of times.

Lastly you will see students doing dishes and serving food. This is a job shared by all club members since the students took over the cafetorium by forming J.J.'s.

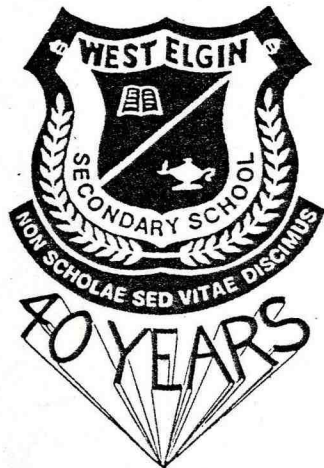
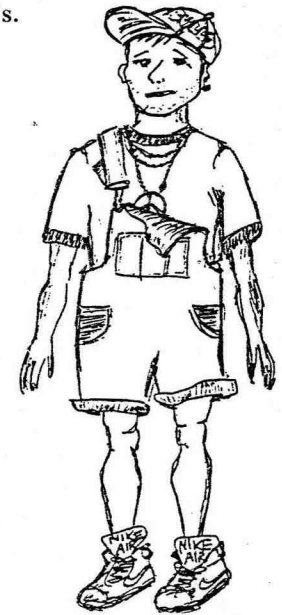
Now we're off to the gym. As we get closer you can hear teams practising to become their best. Sports teams have been very successful so far in the 90's. Surely they will continue to be very competitive in the future.

The 90's also brought football to the school. For the first two years there was only a junior team, but last year a varsity team was formed. Football could have been a major reason why there was a new weight room built last year. What used to be the old wood shop is now the weight room. It has been completely renovated and furnished with new equipment. It has sparked a lot of new interest and has become a very popular spot.

The last major change which has occurred in the 90's so far, is the building of a new computer

room. It is located where the old Electronics room used to be. It's not yet open, but should be ready with twenty-seven new computers next fall.

This concludes the tour of West Elgin as it appears right now. Considering all the changes which have taken place in the last couple of years, one can only speculate that there will be many more changes yet to come in the remaining years of the 90's.



A memorable 40th reunion

by Kim Fleming

It was a weekend you didn't want to end!

Everyone seemed the same, except for a few gray hairs and extra poundage here and there, inside you were all 16 again. Mingling with friends, laughing and telling stories of the past.

The West Elgin Secondary School 40th Reunion held on June 26th, 27th and 28th was one many will never forget.

People came from British Columbia, Manitoba, Quebec, the East Coast, California and other U.S. states.

"We had somebody attend from almost every province in Canada," Reunion committee member Marlene Payne said.

Friday night the school was buzzing with excitement. The guest book was signed by all, registration packages picked up and the memorabilia rooms toured. The room, appropriately dated, had pictures, awards, clothes including prom dresses, gym suits and school jackets from that era on display.

J.J. Prince, current principal and honorary chairman of the reunion committee welcomed everyone on behalf of the school.

Rae Axford, former teacher at WESS for 25 years and chairman of the reunion committee introduced the reunion committee. They were: Betty Ross, vice-chairman, Eileen Kozdras, secretary-treasurer, Norma Schneckenberger, John McIntyre, Albert Ross, Norman McWilliam, Ed Bell, Jackie Campigotto, Bev Padfield, Wendy Vergeer, Lois Woolner, Elaine Brown, and Marlene Payne. Special mention goes to Larry Schneider and those students at WESS who worked on the special commemorative newspaper and to Allan Ross, Ron Payne and Bob Padfield and all the other helpers.

Other speakers at the opening ceremony were John Fisher former teacher at WESS for 25 years, Herb Kebbel, the class of '55 and present student council president at WESS, Ericka Szewczyk, welcomed all to the reunion.

One of the original staff, French teacher Miss Steele was introduced and spoke a few words.

Special WESS 40th Anniversary shirts and souvenirs were a hot item!

There were many participants in the volleyball, baseball and golf on

Saturday. One hundred and twenty-eight golfers registered in Wardsville and 40 in Dutton.

One thousand six hundred and eighty nine people were registered for the dinner and dances. A scrumptious meal was served at the West Elgin Arena and Dutton Community Centre by "Marcelles Catering Service" in Chatham, while the International Club provided their own meal.

The dances at the West Elgin Arena, Dutton Community Centre and the Elgin International Club was enjoyed by all. Everywhere you looked circles of friends reminisced.

"It was just wonderful. It was just hopping all night. We had class pictures taken. It was just super!" said Rosalie Krebsz of West Lorne and owner of Krebsz Jewellery Store, adding, "I had a lot of people drop in and see our store. They were happy to be home." Rosalie donated two West Lorne collector's plates to the committee which were given out Friday night.

"I saw a lot of people I haven't seen since high school. There must have been 20 to 25 people there from my class," stated grad Lorin McWilliams of Clachan.

The brunch at the arena on Sunday was attended by 500 people. It was run by the students of WESS and organizer Ann Wrobel. The students were also in charge of refreshments on Friday evening and on Saturday noon at the school and arena.

Approximately 250 attended the ecumenical worship service on Sunday. Bill Sheeler, a former teacher who was born and raised in West Lorne, was the guest speaker, introduced by Mr. Prince. Others assisting in the service were: Rev. Peter Burritt, Rev. Ralph Fluit, Rev. Peg Wheeler, Father Paquette and Rev. Jim Potter.

"I just thought it was fantastic! It was nice to see old friends. I had a great weekend. I think the committee did a great job," graduate of '66, Joan Miller of Rodney said.

And a great job they did! A year of planning and searching for grads, memorabilia, organizing activities and to have it run so smoothly has to be commended. The communities and graduates say "Thank you" and see you at "The 50th Reunion".

Concert band rolls to Boston

Music teacher Mark Enns is building bands at West Elgin Secondary School. Since he came to teach at WESS in 1988, Enns has experimented with ensembles of musicians and music styles to try to get that magic combination of players and tunes.

Enns has settled on two main groups: the Concert Band and the Jazz Band. On April 12 Enns brought the Jazz Band to play at the WESS fashion show. The Jazz Band consists in part of three saxophones, trombone, trumpet, drums and keyboard. The electric keyboard supplies the bass tones.

The many hours of rehearsal were evident in the neat, confident sounds coming from the brass band.

BOSTON TRIP

On May 16, 37 music students of the two bands will take a five-day trip to Boston. The Concert Band will play in the International Music Festival (IMF) May 19. This performance will be a test, as opposed to a competition. Prizes include bronze, silver, and gold medals. The IMF tests are open to all non-professional music groups from all countries.

The Jazz Band will perform outdoors at Marketplace Centre in downtown Boston, May 17. The centre is a shopping mall and food market.

WESS French teacher Bob Karn and three other adults will accompany Enns and the students.

This bus trip was organized by Doug Ellison, an ex-high school music teacher from Exeter. His business, Ellison Tours, arranged the bus, accommodations and band dates. The trip will cost \$14,399.

The music students raised money cooperatively with the guidance of Enns. In October they sold oranges and grapefruit in cases, which they delivered to

homes. In January they assembled mini pizzas from ingredients supplied by a St. Thomas business. They worked for three hours after school making up and packaging 6,000 pizzas, which they then delivered to homes. By these means the students raised \$4,000.

The rest of the expense they paid from their own pockets or from gifts from their parents. Some students who are not even going on the trip contributed their time and energies. "They are super kids," said Enns. He also made special mention of the strong support received from WESS principal Jerry Prince and vice-principal Mr. Baldwin.

Enns, now in his second year as music teacher at WESS is focusing his program on the "festival route". This means his bands compete wherever they can. "It's a tough haul...pretty intense rehearsals, which go over and above the two morning rehearsals before classes begin," he said. There is a lot of pressure for the young musicians to learn their parts.

All the efforts of conductor Enns and his students are paying off. Already the WESS Concert Band has come first in the St. Thomas Rotary Music Festival and placed second in the London Kiwanis Festival. And they had to learn different pieces of music for each festival.

Enns is a clarinet player himself, with a strong background in music. He gained his Bachelor of Music degree from Western in 1983, then his Master's degree in Performance at UBC. He taught music at UBC as well. He played in the Vancouver Symphony and toured with the Vancouver Wind Trio. He gave private lessons and played small music jobs as well,

in Vancouver. But the Vancouver Symphony was experiencing insecurity so Enns decided to

follow the teaching path and let the performing career take second place.

He returned to London and enrolled at Althouse Teacher's College in 1987. In 1988 he graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree and began looking for a job. He applied at 17 Ontario schools before settling in at WESS.

Enns and the young musicians will have a busy itinerary on their Boston trip. On May 17 they will have a guided historical walking tour of "The Freedom Trail" in downtown Boston. At 2 p.m. the Jazz Band will perform at Marketplace Centre. That night they will attend a performance of the musical drama "Les Miserables".

On May 18 they will visit the Plymouth Plantation, then the "Mayflower" ship in the morning. In the afternoon they will visit the Salem Witch Museum, where they will learn about the Salem witch hysteria of 1692. In the evening they will attend a Boston Red Sox vs. Minnesota Twins ballgame.

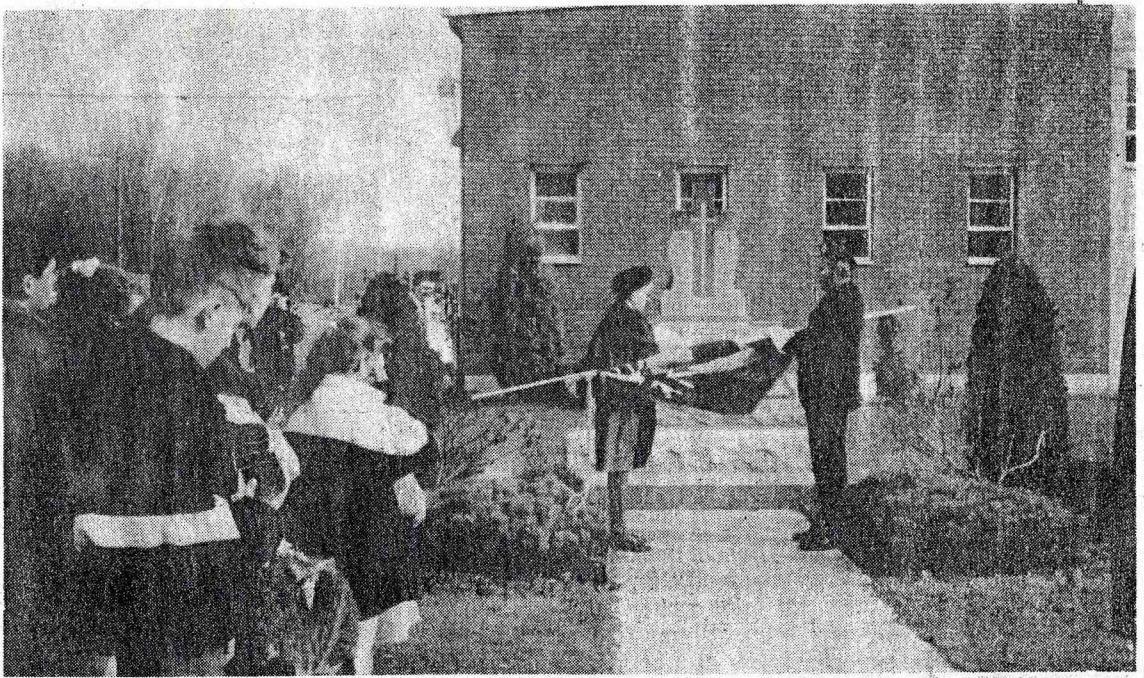
The next day, Saturday May 19, judging of the Concert Band's performance will begin. After this time of anxious waiting for their results, the students will visit the New England Aquarium. That evening the grande finale will take place. This will be an awards dinner (presented by the IMF), with an awards presentation ceremony, followed by a dance. On May 20 the group will board their bus for their trip home.

Enns is impressed with the talent and progress of his young charges: "There can be some really hot players" to come from WESS, he said.



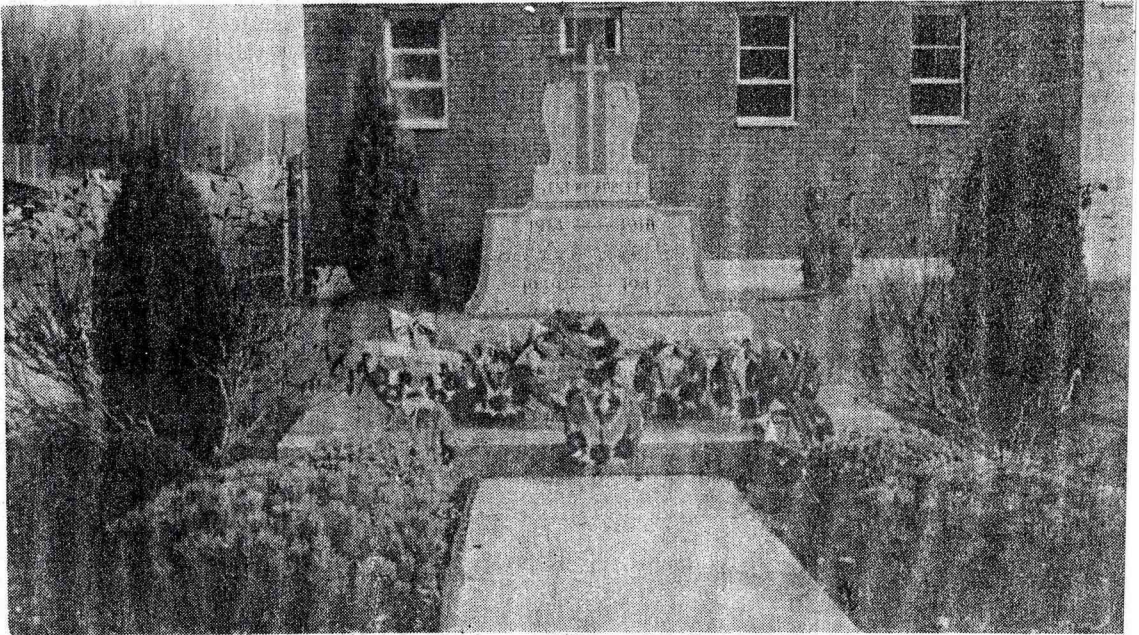
The WESS Jazz Band entertained at the 1990 WESS Fashion Show April 12. The band played selections such as My Funny Valentine by Richard Rodgers and Minnie Mouse Meets Min-

nie Mouse. Music teacher - conductor Mark Enns will take the Jazz Band to Boston for a gig May 16.



There was a large crowd on hand for the Remembrance Day ceremony at the West Lorne cenotaph on Thursday, November 11. Wreaths were laid by the West Elgin Legion Branch 221, the Village of West Lorne, the Township of Dunwich, the Village of Dutton, Milner-Rigsby, Erie Flooring, St. Mary's School and West Elgin Senior Elementary School. The Last Post was played and a minute of silence was observed. After the ceremony, everyone was invited back to the the West Elgin Legion for coffee and sandwiches.

(Mercury-Sun photo)





The West Lorne Atom "C" have claimed the 1993 Silver Stick Championship title. Pictured here in back from left are: Ray Derraugh, trainer, Ray Charron, assistant coach, Shawn McMurphy, Justin Mezenberg, Josh Derraugh, Garrett Littlejohn, David Kilby, Darren Stafford, Darryl

Small, Paul Davies, manager Roy dos Santos, assistant coach, and Mike Rivard, coach. In front are: Adam Charron, Jason Chase, Shawn McCallum, Ryan Rivard, Paul Vergeer and Trevor Mohr. Absent from photo was Jason McDowell.

Silver Stick Atom "C" champs

Special to The Mercury-Sun

On December 29th, 1992, fourteen boys and five men embarked on a journey that would take them to the top of their hockey world. I don't think that on that cold December morning that anyone on the team believed that in two short weeks they would be raising in victory one of the most coveted trophies in minor hockey - The Silver Stick.

In the beginning...

Their first opponent at the Regional Tournament in Alvinston was a select team from Mooretown. It only took 2 minutes and 42 seconds for Paul Vergeer to score our first goal on an assist from Ryan Rivard and from there we took control of the game with the final score ending up at 8-2 for West Lorne.

Our next game was against Thedford and they proved to be our toughest opponent of the Regional Tournament. Thedford opened the scoring at 5:52 of the first period and by the way they were playing we knew that we were in a dogfight. We tied it up at 6:02 of the first period on an unassisted goal by Ryan Rivard. Then Paul Vergeer made it 2-1 at 4:05 of the second period. Play went back and forth until Thedford scored late in the second to tie the score at 2, but with just four seconds remaining in the period Paul Vergeer scored again with assists going to Shawn McCallum and Jason McDowell. We held that 3-2 lead until 3:14 of the third period when Thedford tied it up again. We knew we would have to dig down deep for a little extra if we were to pull this one out, and at 8:36 of the third period Shawn McCallum scored with an assist from Josh Derraugh and we held Thedford scoreless for the last 6 minutes

and 24 seconds to move on to the semi-finals in our grouping.

Our next game was against Mt. Bridges and after our coach (Mike Rivard) watched them handle their opponents easily, he thought they would be the team to beat if we were to win this Regional Tournament. We got a good start in the game and by the five-minute mark of the first period, we had built up a 5-0 lead and we were on our way to the finals. The score ended up 11-1 in favour of West Lorne.

Our opponent in the final was Belmont. They had a couple of good players, but with our team playing with confidence and good positional play we were able to beat Belmont 6-4 and win the Regional Silver Stick Championship.

When the organizers of the North American Silver Stick Finals asked us if we wanted to represent our region in the final tournament in Forest, Ontario we knew that only half of our journey was over and that if we wanted to find out how good of a team we had we needed to compete in this final tournament to represent our region.

North American Finals

We opened the North American Finals on January 8, 1993 in Forest against teams from all over Ontario and one team from the United States. Our first opponent was a team from Stephen Township, near Exeter, Ontario. Not knowing what to expect, we started out slowly and the Stephen Township team gave us a good game for about a period and a half, but then as our players got over their nervousness and began to feel comfortable, we started to take the game away from them and when the game was over, we had an 8-1 victory.

Our next opponent was a team from Woodville, Ontario, which is near Lindsay. We had no trouble beating the Woodville team by a score of 8-2. Our confidence was

growing and our team just seemed to be getting better with each game.

We beat the next team from Ripley, Ontario by a score of 7-1 and now only one team stood between us and the final game that was a team from Williamstown, Ontario which is located near the Quebec border. They had a very determined group of players and one of the best goalies in the tournament - she happened to be a girl! We had to drive through a snowstorm to get to Forest that day and one of our players had not shown up by game time.

So we put his name on the game sheet in the hopes that he would be there soon. As the game began it was evident that we were not going to have an easy way into the finals. The Williamstown team was playing a great game and they opened the scoring in the second period. About three minutes later Ryan Rivard scored with assists going to Paul Vergeer and Justin Mezenberg. The second period ended in a 1-1 tie and as the third period began our other player finally arrived. As the other player was dressing, Shawn McMurphy scored with an assist going to Ryan Rivard and it looked as if we were beginning to take the game in hand. Two minutes later Paul Vergeer scored again with Ryan Rivard assisting and with our other player now playing we felt confident that we were going to the finals.

At 7:05 of the third period Shawn McCallum scored with assists going to Ryan Rivard and Paul Vergeer and that is the way the game ended and now we were on to the finals against the same Woodville team that we had played in the preliminary round.

We took an early 3-0 lead in the first period and feeling the game was well in hand, we let up a little bit and the next thing we knew Woodville had scored two goals to get back in the game, but we fought back to get another

goal and after two periods the score was 4-2 for us and we knew that we only had to play one more period and we could go home champions. Each team got a goal in the third period giving us a 5-3 win and the North American Silver Stick Atom "C" Championship that we had worked so hard for.

1993 Silver Stick Champions

Our journey had now ended triumphantly and the people who made it all possible were our goalies: Adam Charron and Trevor Mohr; our defencemen: Jason Chase, Joshua Derraugh, Garrett Littlejohn and Ryan Rivard; our forwards: David Kilby, Shawn McCallum, Jason McDowell, Shawn McMurphy, Justin Mezenberg, Darryl Small, Darren Stafford and Paul Vergeer; our coach: Mike Rivard; assistant coaches: Ray Charron and Roy dos Santos; our trainer: Ray Derraugh and our manager: Paul Davies.

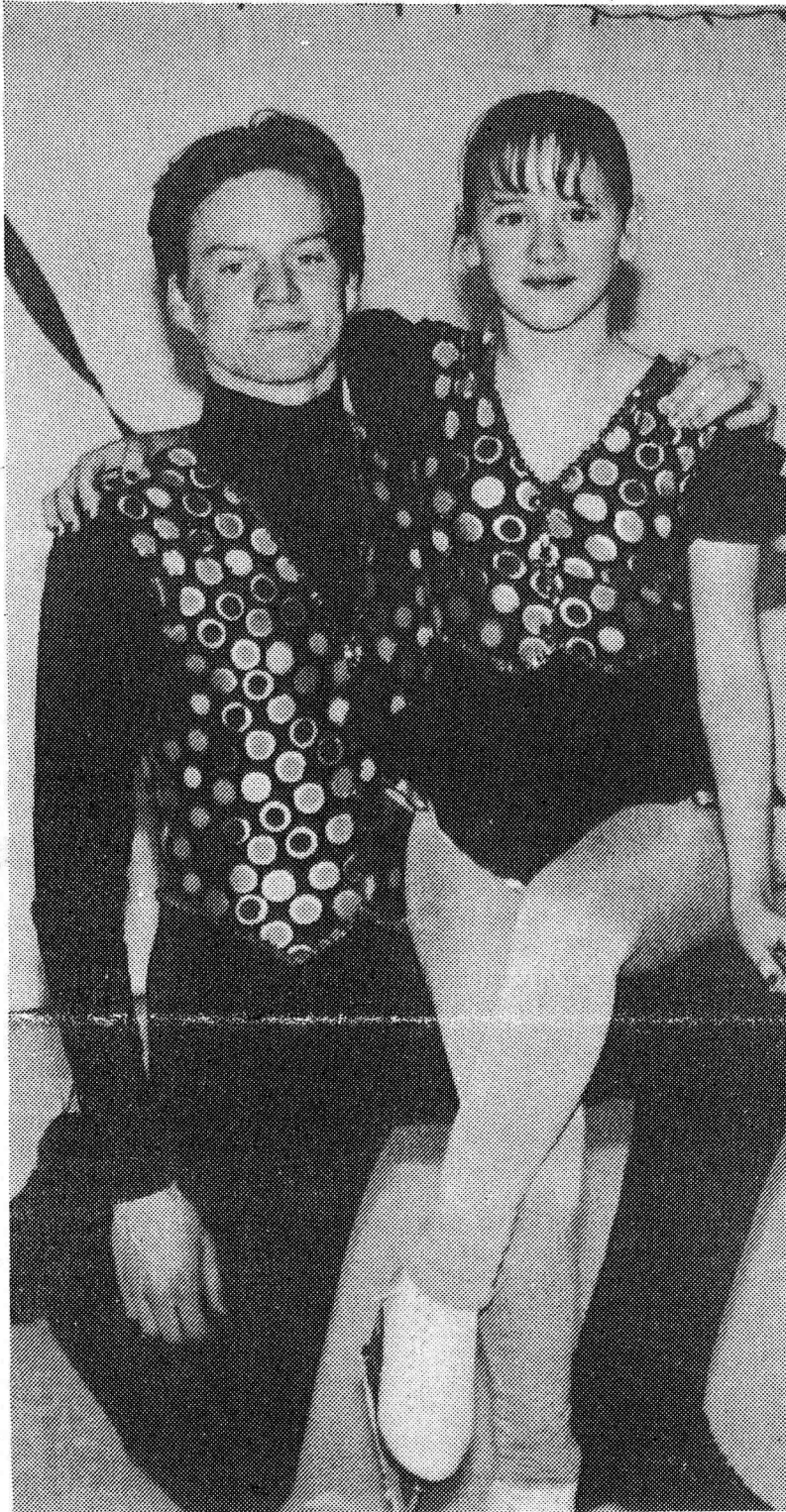
Our team also placed three players in the tournament all-star team. On defence was Ryan Rivard, and on forward were Paul Vergeer and Shawn McCallum, but everyone knows that hockey is a team sport and we believe that every player on our team was an all-star and that every player had a role to play in winning this championship.

I'm sure that every person involved with the team will have lifetime memories of this event and maybe someday more West Lorne teams will be able to hoist the Silver Stick over their heads.

Also, thanks should go out to the coaches, trainer and manager of the team who helped bring this team together and the parents who stood behind them, and always had the players at their games and practices on time.



Congratulations to the Grade 8 Jazz Band of W.E.S.E.S. who placed first at the St. Thomas Rotary Music Festival. The Grade 7 Jazz Band also took a first place finish and altogether, with bands, solos and small ensembles W.E.S.E.S. brought home 9 firsts; 6 seconds; 9 thirds; 9 fourths and 3 fifths. Congratulations band members and instructor M. Letovsky.



Skating fun at 40th show

From circus animals to Olympic stars, the 40th anniversary carnival presented by the West Lorne Figure Skating Club had a little bit of everything.

There was hardly a seat left in the house for the carnival's two performances. Club members had decorated the boards with candles, lights and balloons. There was even a gigantic anniversary cake on one corner of the ice.

At least 50 former skating club members were estimated to have taken part in a parade of skaters, including one family with three generations represented.

One of the highlights of the show was the appearance of Paul Kittmer and his partner, Sara Thury. Paul grew up in West Lorne and began skating at the West Elgin Arena at the age of 5.

Paul and Sara have been skating together for about one year now. They are coached by Kim Hanford and call the Granite Club in Toronto home. They placed 9th in the novice pairs division at the Canadian championships in Edmonton in January. Skating in front of a hometown crowd was a special thrill for Paul.

The other guest skaters were dance pair Mark Oakley and Leigh Austin. The couple train in Kitchener under the direction of coach John Briscoe. Mark had previously visited the arena as part of a skating clinic led by Kevin and Michelle Wheeler.

Several local skaters were also featured as soloists.

The club had a display set up showing the 40 year history of the West Lorne Figure Skating Club.

Kittmer and Thury entertain

The West Elgin Arena was completely packed for the 40th anniversary performance of the West Lorne Figure Skating Club, held on Saturday, March 5th. Both performances enjoyed the guest skaters, local boy, Paul Kittmer and his partner Sara Thury. Also skating were Mark Oakley and Leigh Austin. Be sure to watch for pictures of the skating groups in next week's paper.

(Mercury-Sun photo)

LOCAL CHARITIES BENEFIT FROM JOURNEY OF LOVE



\$1,830.00 total amount of the Free Will Offering at "Journey of Love" pageant has been donated to local charities: Daffodil Cupboard, Dutton, Caring Cupboard, Rodney and Salvation Army, Ridgetown.

Local organizations donated \$518.00 which covered the expenses of advertising and refreshments to present the "Journey of Love".

Next "Journey of Love" pageant opportunity November 25, 26 & 27, 1994
Hilde G. Morden, Steering Committee, Treasurer,
"Journey of Love" Pageant
R.R. #1 Rodney, NOL 2C0
519-785-0745..



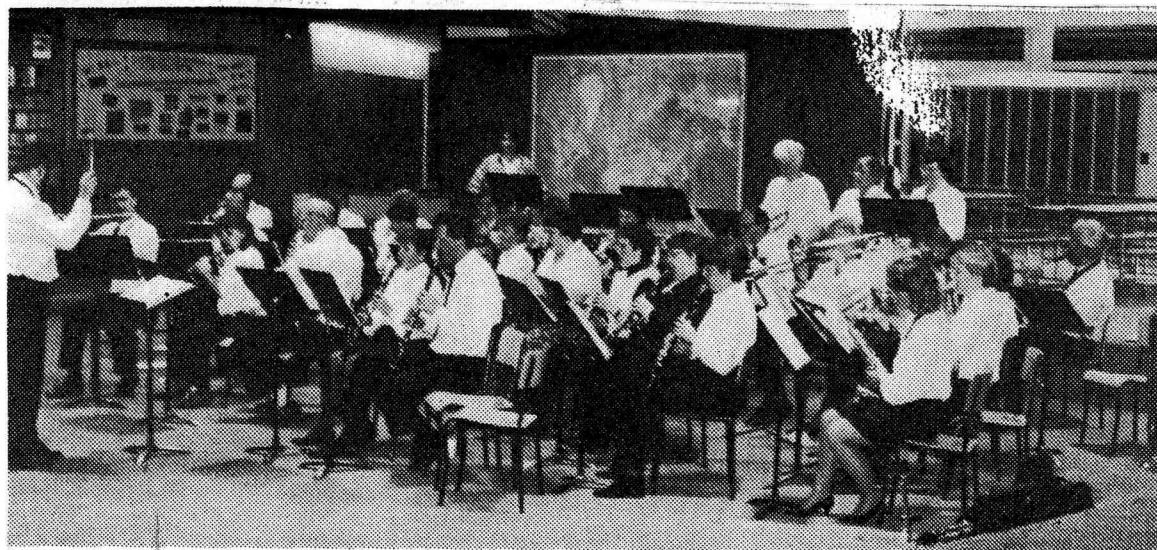
1994



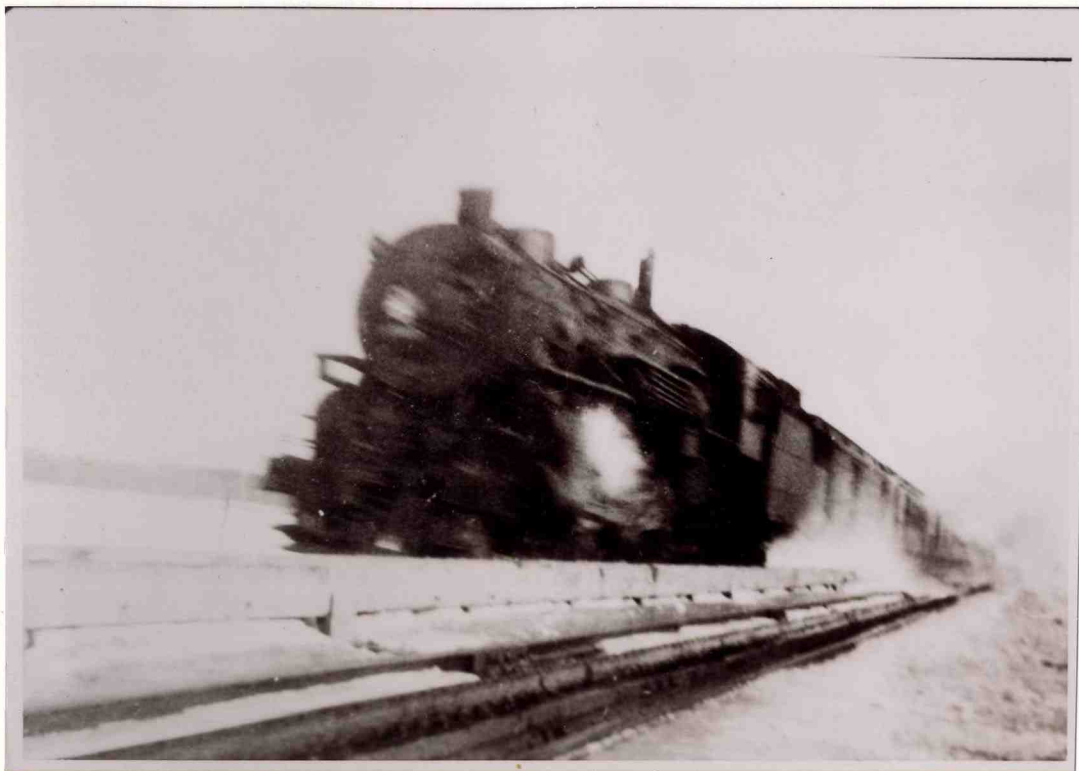
Jazz, jazz, jazz

The Grade 8 Jazzology performed for the crowd during the breaks at the Big Band Dance. The London Jazz Orchestra was the feature band for the musical evening, Nov. 25. Both bands had the crowd's toes tapping and the dance floor busy. A special thank you is extended to the evening's sponsors: WESES Band Boosters, Theresa Nicolls, Karen Carroll, Gail Hesman, Irene Livingstone, Anne Nogradi, The London Jazz Orchestra, Ross' IGA, Knechtels in Dutton, Highland Pharmacy, Fairles' Knechtels, Swains Greenhouse, PJ's Pizza and all the students involved. Jazzology members include, front row, l-r: Brianne McCready, Judy Van Oorspronk, Kellie Lilley, Jennifer Fleming, Grant Kam. Second row: Jennifer Wight, Kristen Beattie, Kiley Meehan, Jeff Ripley, Kelly Lashbrook, Chad Lapadat. Third row: Colleen Cook, Michaela Rowe, Angela Henriques, Amanda McMurphy, Jennifer Keech, Paula Ocolisan, Reggie Hesman. Fourth row: Bruce Bobier, Carl Prey, Marlene Lunn, Julie Nogradi, Charlene Carroll, Jason Vojin. Unavailable for photo were Rob Tait, and Mike Letovsky, conductor. About 150 people were present and approximately \$450 was raised to help pay transportation costs.

1994



The Adult Entertainment band performed for a small but very appreciative audience on Monday evening, Feb. 21. The band rehearses Monday nights under the direction of WESES music teacher Mike Letovsky. As an interlude between the jazz band and concert band numbers to give the trumpet players' lips a rest, Mike and his wife, Patti, performed a clarinet and soprano saxophone duet entitled "Allegro". Pictured is the concert band performing one of their numbers. (Mercury-Sun photo)



Clearing the ice and snow from the Penn Central track was quite an operation back in the early days.

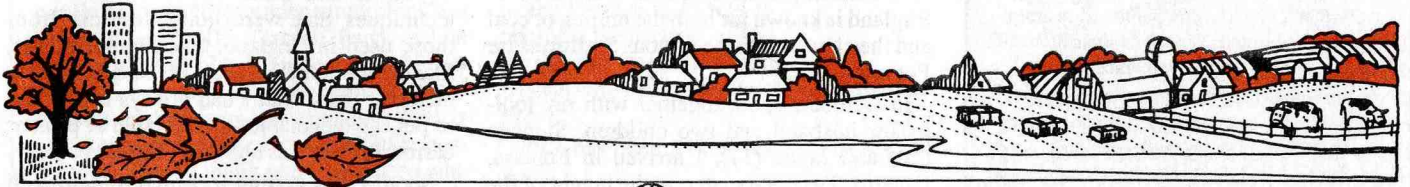
In the white building there was a boiler that heated the water. The steam was forced down a pipe to the steam box.

There were pans along the railroad that kept the water warm. The pans were 2,200 feet long. The steam was forced down the pipes into the jets which were inside the pans. The jets were about 40 feet apart.

When the ice and snow melted, a train would scoop up most of the water. Some water would remain in the pans.

Some of the men who worked on the railroad from West Lorne were: Bill Wilton, Jake Brown, Laddie Schleihauf, Ernie Bainard, Jack Quigley, Curley Martin, Charlie Brown and Harry Brown.

HOME & COUNTRY



FWIO Provincial Office
AUGUST 21, 1994

At the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) 1991 August meeting, Board decided, unanimously, to turn a page of WI history - to acquire their own office space. They will continue their long-standing and amiable association with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, but time brings change. As a member of the Board who lived close to Guelph, I was asked to investigate the availability of office space to rent, lease or buy.

The Executive and I looked at several properties, but the FWIO finances could not support the rent or purchase of office space in Guelph. At the Guelph Area Convention, two WI members suggested the vacant house at Guelph Township Park.

Peggy Knapp, President at the time, and myself were warmly received at an initial meeting with Guelph Township Reeve Les Foote and Clerk Janice Shepherd. A Space Task Force Committee - comprised of myself, Glenna Smith, Rosine Findlay, Margaret Eberle and Peggy Knapp - was quickly formed and negotiations began.

The Committee met with the Township Council early in 1992 to discuss an agreement. Council members were supportive of our purpose and responsive to our proposals. It was a long, slow process, however, because negotiations had to be taken back to Executive for approval.

It was agreed that the cost of all renovations to the house would be the responsibility of the Township; renovations began in the fall of 1993. The following February, a lease was signed and moving day was March 28, 1994.

Maisie Lasby
Chair, Space Task Force Committee

The opening ceremonies at the Grand Opening of the Provincial Office of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) included a traditional ribbon cutting. Donna Russett, President of the FWIO, and Les Foote, Reeve of Guelph Township, cut the ribbon with scissors donated by the 1994 retiring Board Directors. (2-7)

Inside:

Letters to the Editor	2	FWIO Conference '94	15
Common Threads	3	Conference '94: Address	16-17
Program Co-ordinator	3	Kids' Book Program	17
August Board Highlights	4	Profile: Dr. Linda Ambrose	18
Grand Opening	4-6	FWIC Competitions	19
Resolutions Update	8	Tweedsmuir Curator Honoured	20
Profile: Valerie Fisher	9	Volunteers	20
FWIC Convention Reports	10-11	Branching Out	21
Business is Mushrooming	12-13	Cross Country Calendar	22-23
Profile: Irene Richardson	14	For Your Information	24