# WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

# TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY

## VOLUME 6 1999-2000

COMPILED BY LEOLA LAWRENCE

AN 2010-26

# TABLE OF CONTENTS - PAGE


BUSINESS + INDUSTRY- 1- 9

CURRENT EVENTS - 10-21

EDUCATION - 22-43

HEALTH + WELFARE - 44-47

LOOKING BACK - 48-51

SERVICE CLUBS - 52-68

SOCIAL NEWS - 69-87

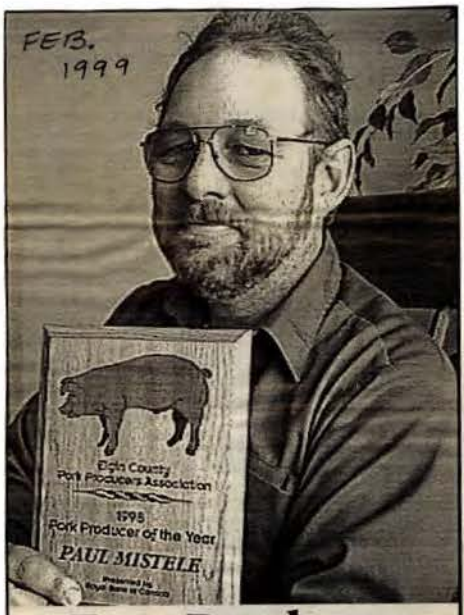
SPORTS - 88-96

WEST LORNE W.I. - 97-102

WEST ELGIN COUNCIL- 103-107

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
1999

FEB. 1999




# Top Producer

*Rodney area farmer Paul Mistele has been honoured with the 1998 Pork Producer of the Year from the Elgin County Pork Producers Association. As part of a rally at Queen's Park last December to protest low hog prices, Mistele initiated the 'Donate-A-Hog' program which brought 58,000 pounds of pork to Toronto's food banks. The former president of the Elgin Federation of Agriculture has 120 sows, furrow to finish, along with chickens and cash crop. After Mistele received his award at the Feb. 3 banquet in St. Thomas, he was then named as president of the Elgin County Pork Producers Association.*

## Santos joins the Chronicle

The West Elgin Chronicle is pleased to welcome Sandra Santos to the staff as part of the West Elgin Secondary School Co-op Program.

The 18-year-old Grade 12 student will be working at the newspaper until the end of the school year.

After her OAC year, Santos plans to attend university to possibly study computer graphics. Welcome Sandra.



*Sandra Santos* MAR 1999

May 10, 1999 - Page 3




# Permanent Withdrawal

*Royal Bank assistant manager Barb Willie is making a withdrawal at the Rodney branch - well, as far as employment goes. The 37-year Rodney Branch employee officially left her position April 30 with a send off of employees and well-wishers at the Furnival Road bank. Here, Willie lets customers know that her wicket is officially closed. Congratulations Barb!*

February 15, 1999 - Page 3



# Hall of Famer

*Years of hard work and quality farming has seen West Lorne farmer Ed Kalita named to the Elgin Federation of Agriculture (EFA) Hall of Fame. Kalita, a 68-year-old father of 10, came to Elgin County in 1962 as a tobacco farmers which he maintained until 1983. He continues to grow corn and soybeans. Over the years Kalita has had his hands in a number of areas including as director and president for the EFA and director for the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), OFA representative to Conservations Council of Ontario, director of Ontario Corn Producers Association, Elgin County 4-H Club leader, separate school trustee in Elgin County and a charter member of the Knights of Columbus Council. Also elected to the EFA Hall of Fame were Stewart "Bud" Brown (cattleman from the Shedden area) and Walter Rogers (fruit and vegetables - Sparta area). Two Youth Achievement Awards were given to Catherine Agar of Iona Station and Rebecca Lunn of Springfield.*



# Customer Appreciation

*It was a day to give back to the customers at Rodney Cycle and Machine as they held their annual Customer Appreciation Day. Here, owner Marcel Champigny, left, shows off a log-splitter to customer Ron Payne. A number of draws were held throughout the day with prizes going to Stan Duncanson, Will Demaiter, Darcy Vanraes, Bill Downie, Jill Soos, Jim Gammages, Rita Jackson, Madeline Duncanson, Sarah Lilley, Tara Smith and David Balint.* MAY '99

1

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 1999

# Land Office, Fulmer join forces

**Paul Mayne**
*The Chronicle*

Two locally-owned real estate companies have chosen to join forces in an attempt to better meet the needs of potential home buyers.

Land Office Inc., based in Dutton, and Fulmer Realty Ltd., based in West Lorne, will merge together effective March 1. The Land Office name will be retained. Offices will be open in Dutton, West Lorne and Rodney.

Bob Hatch, owner of Land Office, says the larger sales group, approximately 9 to 10 agents, promises even better service to homesellers and buyers.

A recent entry into local real estate, Land Office has quickly made a mark through the introduction of new marketing programs and leading edge technology into the real estate industry.

"We will now have two groups of agents working together," says Hatch, who started Land Office in 1995. "By combining seasoned experience with modern selling concepts and the continuation of free M.L.S. exposure in the city markets, we can give our customers more."

A recent Angus Reid survey shows that one out of every four Canadians plan to buy a home this year or next, so Hatch expects the real estate business in Elgin to be booming.

Allen Fulmer built his real estate business by acquiring Johnson Real Estate, becoming incorporated in 1966. For the last 33 years Fulmer Realty has provided exceptional service and experience to West Elgin residents.

Fulmer says he will be diverting some of his energies to new projects but will stay on with the company as associate broker.

"This is a benefit to everyone," he says. "There's tremendous more knowledge now offered to people who are looking to buy houses. FEB. 8, 1999

The West Elgin Chronicle SEPT 6, 1999





## Antique Show & Threshing

*The weather cooperated for the eighth annual Antique Show and Threshing at the farm of Hugh and Joyce McFadden in West Lorne. Residents had the opportunity to check out how farmers did their job back in the days before high tech farm equipment was a mainstay on many farms. The antique plowing demonstrations were a unique way to see the mighty machines work their stuff, and as always, the Parade of Power completed the days activities. Above, organizer Hugh McFadden poses with a Case L 1936 tractor, while West Lorne's Jim Moran uses a corn sheller to prepare a bite to eat.*

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY
1999





# Golden Needle

*Heather Bell, owner of Heather Bell's Sewing Studio in West Lorne, has received her fifth Golden Needle Sales Award from Pfaff Canada Corporation. Here, Bell (left) poses with Pfaff Canada president Bruno Manzinali during a recent company meeting in Toronto.* JULY 9



# New Ownership

*Village Trends Aesthetics has re-opened its doors with a new owner. Michelle McLeod, left, has taken over the ownership of the West Lorne business and will be offering the same services as before, minus electrolysis. The shop, located at the corner of Graham and Main St., is open for nails and tanning on Wednesdays (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.) and for all services on Fridays (10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.), Saturdays (10 a.m. - 6 p.m.) and Sundays (10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.). For appointments you can call 673-0969. Here, McLeod works on the nails of customer Kim Duquette.*

The West Elgin Chronicle SEPT. 27, 1999




# Hog Barn Construction Begins

*Work on a 2,400 hog barn, a partnership between Premium Pork and Verbrugghe Farms, got underway last week. The barn, located on Marsh Line in West Lorne, is scheduled to be complete by winter.*

The West Elgin Chronicle DEC. 20, 1999



# Fountain of Hope

*The employees of the West Lorne Bank of Montreal are proud of the early success of the "Our Fountain of Hope" fund-raiser to help raise money for local charities. Donations and a teddy bear draw raised $177 for the Daffodil Society. Here, Daffodil representative Helen Mooser checks out the fountain, which will be a year-round fund-raiser, with fund-raising committee co-captain Mary Bodnar. The mittens from the Warm and Wooley Tree will be donated to the Caring Cupboard.*





# Erie Breezes B & B and Charter Sailing Cruises

*West Elgin has a new spot for tourists to relax and enjoy the many attractions the area has to offer. Erie Breezes Bed & Breakfast and Charter Sailing Cruises, located on Hwy. 3 midway between New Glasgow and Eagle, has opened for business. Hosts John and Veronika McDougall offer year-round accommodations to guests along with a great area to relax among their many gardens and ponds. Guests can also take advantage of afternoon or moonlight cruises on Lake Erie. Erie Breezes can be reached at 768-2731 or 1-888-228-2168.*

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY '99



# New businesses

*Things are reving up at Rogan's Automotive Service Inc. for owner Robert Ganhadeiro. West Lorne's newest business opened its bay doors Jan. 4 and has been steady ever since. Ganhadeiro does everything but body work at his 264 Finney St. shop, which is open 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. until noon on Saturdays. The shop is closed Sundays. You can reach Rogan's Automotive Services Inc. at 768-0311.* FEB. 1999

The West Elgin Chronicle



# Lovely Lace Work

*Things are very prim and proper in West Lorne now thanks to the arrival of The Lace Curtain Shoppe, at the corner of Main and Graham Streets. The business, formerly known as The Margaret Rose Collection when it was located in Dutton, opened its doors to West Elgin residents Jan. 4. The move gives the business a more centralized location to better serve its wide range of customers throughout most of southwestern Ontario. And its more than just lace curtains you'll find at the new store. You can browse through everything from tablecloths, doilies and runners to placemats and table toppings. Here, owner Margaret Donaldson, left, and associate Marion Sloetjes go through some of the many lace samples. The sisters have been in the business for 2½ years and present their store in very "home-like" fashion. You can check out the store yourself Tuesdays to Thursdays from 1 until 5 p.m., Fridays from 1 until 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The store is closed Sundays and Mondays. In-home appointments can also be set up by calling 768-0555.*



# 'Prim' and Proper Farewell

*A West Lorne landmark for 31 years, Prim Fashions closed its doors for the final time last week. Owner Louise Bégin, who has been the leader in offering the latest women's fashions for West Elgin and area residents, has chosen to retire. Here, Bégin, left, locks the door for the last time Nov. 17, along with long time employee Denise Van Dyk, who has taken a position at Krebsz Jewellery & Gifts. Louise and her husband have planned a trip to Kenya in the future and have chosen to remain in Rodney for their retirement. Louise would also like to extend her utmost thanks to all the customers, friends and family that have stopped by Prim Fashions over all these years.* NOV/99






# Bigger and Better

*Jonathan and Kate Kolar are venturing into new frontiers - Information Frontiers, that is. The former home-based business has now moved into downtown West Lorne location (225B Graham Rd.) to better serve their growing customer base. As computer solution providers, they cover everything from a simple mouse to working on complete networks. Information Frontiers is open weekdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, you can call them at 768-3590.*

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 1999



An auto repair business converts Grand Prix into GTX Ram Air performance mod

# Pontiac adds some muscle in West

By Burt Dowsett
The London Free Press

576 • EMAIL: cdear@lfpress.com

els

Lorne

That hot-looking Pontiac Grand Prix GTX with the ram air scoops idling next to you at the stoplight doesn't get all its muscle from Detroit.

Some of it has likely come from West Lorne.

West Lorne?

Kal Jabara, who runs an auto repair business in West Lorne, laughs when you ask how his shop became one of two facilities in Canada to land the job of installing ram air kits on muscle cars built by General Motors, North America's largest auto maker.

"I used to (drag) race with one of the guys who works for Street Legal Performance (SLP) Automotive Group," Jabara says of the Troy, Mich., aftermarket firm that manufactures the ram air kits. "He asked if I'd be interested."

Jabara didn't have to be asked twice. The deal works like this. If a customer wants the GTX conversion made to a new Grand Prix when it's purchased, the dealer has the car shipped to West Lorne from the assembly plant by GM. Jabara does the conversion work, then sends the car on to the GM dealer for delivery to the buyer.

The special hood, with the ram-air ducts, is manufactured at SLP's Canadian headquarters in LaSalle, Que., where the firm also prepares Camaro SS and Trans Am Ram Air models for GM. That shop also handles GTX conversions.

The GTX hoods arrive at Jabara's shop from SLP already painted red, black or white. If the customer's car is a different colour, Jabara repaints it to match. The hood is installed on the car and Jabara replaces the air box with one that mates to the air duct in the new hood.

The ram-air package, including hood, ram air box, decals and key fobs, sells for $3,199 at participating Pontiac dealerships.

Jabara has been doing the conversions for about a year and is currently working on his ninth GTX.



The GTX Ram Air performance package, with its distinctive hood, chromed wheels and larger tires, gives this 1999 Pontiac Grand Prix a more aggressive look.

"The air goes through the scoops and into the air box to give it a ram-air effect," Jabara says. "Between the hood and the air box, it gives it an additional 10 horsepower."

If that's not enough muscle, Jabara also installs a special exhaust system from SLP. It features dual low-restriction mufflers, a pair of dual chrome tips and adds 10 horsepower to the Grand Prix's performance on models equipped with non-supercharged V6 engines or the supercharged 3800 version. He also sells a lower-cost exhaust system ($399 versus $1,099 for the bigger SLP system) for Grand Prix SE models equipped with the 3100 V6 engine.

The other alteration Jabara does for SLP is the installation of a tire package, which includes 17-inch custom rims and tires, replacing the original 16-inch tires and wheels.

"It improves the handling and makes it more aggressive looking, too," Jabara says of the package, which costs $2,699.

The standard Grand Prix GTP is costly enough — $30,805 is the base price — and the conversion packages add a big chunk to the total. But Jabara says clients ordering the GTX package aren't deterred by the bottom line. "It (the Grand Prix) is already a good-looking car and this package sets them off even more."

Clients who have ordered the GTX package include "the whole range" of enthusiasts, from ones in their early 20s to those in their 50s.

Jabara hopes to ride a wave in what he sees as an increasing demand in new cars for "anything with performance."

The advent of the computer-controlled engine, while a bonus for the commuter seeking fuel economy, has been a bit of an obstacle to fans of performance cars. But not any more, says Jabara.

"You can now buy an aftermarket computer that has that stuff (performance-enhancing capabilities) built into it. It's an aftermarket computer.

"A lot of cars don't have distributors now. All the (aftermarket) computer does is advance the timing and tell it to give it more fuel — or more air."

Jabara says new aftermarket performance computers can sense a variety of things in the engine, such as throttle position. "If it tells it there's a wide-open throttle, the computer knows what to do."

Jabara, whose repair business involves foreign and domestic cars as well as high-performance engines, says he's dabbled with work involving aftermarket computers with SLP on the Camaro SS model.

"We took it to the track; the motor wanted more but the computer couldn't give it to it," he laughs.

While Jabara is concentrating on the GTX package, there are also similar packages available from SLP for the Ultra Z Camaro and Impala SS.

"Hopefully in the future, we'll work with other companies too, like Ford and Chrysler," he says.

With performance — and the look of muscle — in vogue again, Jabara sees a great future for this segment of the automotive market.

"People are always fascinated by performance."

Burt Dowsett is a Free Press senior copy editor.

## GTX Ram Air performance package

**Basic package ($3,199):** Consists of a composite hood with functional twin air scoops, forced-air induction system, special exterior badges and two key fobs. Adds 10 horsepower when combined with the 3800 V6 engine.

**Optional packages:**

**Performance exhaust system ($1,099):** Features dual mufflers, each with dual tips. Adds 10 horsepower when combined with the supercharged or non-supercharged 3800 V6 engine. A lower cost system ($399) is available for SE models equipped with the 3100 V6 engine. This system also adds 10 horsepower.

**Performance wheels and tires ($2,699):** Includes 17-inch Michelin Pilot Series tires (P235/55/R17) specially tuned to enhance the handling characteristics of the GTX plus 17x7-inch six-spoke chromed aluminum wheels. This package improves the handling and accentuates the wide stance of the GTX, giving it a more aggressive appearance.

**Other options:**

- A spoiler-style sunroof with sliding shade.
- Custom car cover with locking cable and silk-screened GTX Ram Air logo.
- Home Link universal transmitter, integrated into the driver's-side sunvisor, for garage door openers, home lighting and security systems.
- Custom premium floor mats, with embroidered GTX logo on the front mats

**Warranty:** The GTX base package and all options are backed by SLP Automotive Group's three-year, 58,000-kilometre limited warranty.

**Availability:** The GTX package is available through participating Pontiac dealers and can be ordered for Grand Prix SE, GT and GTP models. It can be ordered from SLP Automotive Group for sedan and coupe versions of all 1997–99 Grand Prix SE, GT and GTP models.

**For more information:** Call K. Jabara Auto Repair at 519-768-2986 or visit SLP Automotive Group's Web site at www.slpeng.com

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 2000



***Robert (Bob) J. Saunders***
Gordon Cumming, Commercial Area Manager, Bank of Montreal, is pleased to announce the appointment of Bob Saunders to the position of Relationship Manager, serving the Agricultural and Commercial Enterprises in the West Elgin-Dutton/Dunwich and Glencoe marketplace. Bob brings with him 29 years of banking experience. *Please join us in welcoming Bob to the area by attending an open house at West Lorne Branch Bank of Montreal, Friday March 31st from 9:30am to 4pm.* 2000



# Fire Safety Awareness

*West Elgin residents, both young and old, were on hand at the Rodney Fire Hall last week to take part in a Fire Safety Awareness Seminar. Firefighters gave residents first-hand knowledge as to the do's and don'ts of how to deal with a fire. Films, fire safety demonstrations and hands-on exercises were just part of the educational evening. Here, Rodney firefighter Rick McFadden helps Matt Schweitzer with an oxygen mask. Schweitzer was able to try on the equipment to see what it was like to be a real firefighter. The evening was sponsored by Tim Horton's and Donut Delite, McDonald's, Orford Farmers Co-op Ltd., W. G. Thompson & Sons Ltd., Knight's Home Hardware and West Elgin Mutual Insurance.*

MARCH 2000

*Photo by Karen Cormier*

# Factors identified in tragic Co-op accident

The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), HRDC Labour Program, have released its preliminary findings into the tragic industrial accident at the Orford Co-op in Rodney Oct. 27.

The accident killed local residents Wayne Van Breda, James Bourque and Carl Kovacs and sent a fourth, John Mohan, to hospital when a tractor trailer, unloading 34 tonnes of corn, jumped the Hydraulic Truck Dumper blocks rolling backwards off of the elevated hoist.

The preliminary investigation by police and government safety officers has not found any evidence to suggest that the elevating hoist was damaged prior to the occurrence. However, as the hoist sustained substantial damage as a result of the incident, the equipment has since been removed from service.

The preliminary investigation has identified three significant contributing factors that led to this occurrence:

✓The air brakes of the tractor were not set, permitting the unit to roll once the elevating hoist was lifted to its maximum angle and the corn had been unloaded.

NOV 2000

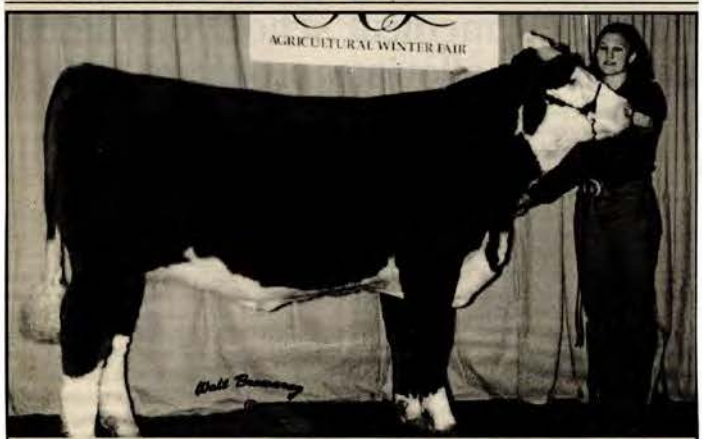
*See 'Farmers' Page 2*



# N"ice" Going Dora

*She's been a fixture around the West Elgin Arena for eight years, but Dora Fisher has decided to park her zamboni for the last time by announing her retirment. Fisher was surprised last week with balloons, flowers and a plaque from her fellow employees.* APR/00

The West Elgin Chronicle DEC. 18, 2000




# Silver Trophy Winner

*Paula Ocolisan and WW Juanita 5J were honoured recently at the 2000 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair with the Silver Trophy. Other accomplishments this past year include Grand and Supreme Champion Ontario Beef-A-Rama, Grand and Supreme Champion Bred & Owned at Canadian National Junior Hereford Bonanza 2000, Reserve Grand Champion Female M.O.E. at Bellville and Brigden, Supreme Champion 4-H Beef Clubs (All Breeds), Reserve Grand Champion Female National Junior Knob Hill Show and Class Winner Bred & Owned at North American International Livestock Exhibition Junior Show.*



# Talkin' Politics

*It's election time and that means candidates are on the campaign trail. Elgin-Middlesex-London Liberal candidate Gar Knutson was in West Elgin last week talking to constituents, as seen here at the Donut Delite. The federal election is set for Nov. 27.* 2000

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 2000



# Slow Movin'

*Racers take your mark! The ninth annual Antique Show Threshing Festival on the farm of West Lorne's Hugh McFadden drew a nice crowd to check how farming was done in the good old days. Here, McFadden, left, on an International 300 races George Depuydt on his John Deere "B" during a slow tractor race.* SEPT. 2000



# Magnificent Remodelling at Padfields

*Things are looking a lot different at the "Home on the Hill" in West Lorne. Padfield Funeral Homes Ltd. just recently completed a major renovation and expansion project at its Main Street location. Here, Padfield Funeral Home President Jim Price shows off the finished product. Along with a number of local contractors, Bill Nethercott led the way as project coordinator and master craftsman.*

The West Elgin Chronicle APRIL 17/00



# Ta-Dye-4

*Opening its doors last November - and a lot of new stock and very hard work since - Ta-Dye-4 is ready for its official Grand Opening this Saturday (April 22) from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Here, store staff Meghan Bell, front, Tammy Swain, Robin Steltenpool and Tom Jones (standing) show off just some of the items available. There will be sale prices on everything from shirts and jeans to clothing accessories and CDs (definitely something for every member of the family). Along with cake and coffee, the celtic band Three Penny Piece will be performing at the former Prim Fashions store in West Lorne.*

MAY 2000



# Trail & Sale

*From pottery and sketches to paintings and quilts, the annual West Elgin Studio Tour showed off the many artistic talent of local residents. Entited "Trail & Sale 2000," the tour allowed visitors to take a peak into the artist's studios to see where the work is done. Here, George Okolisan, owner of Pine Creek Gallery, shows one of the prints he just framed. Also participating was Stacey's Schoolhouse, In A Jam, Northern Landscapes, Erie Breezes Bed and Breakfast, Rustic Uniques and The Village Pantry Boutique.*

# Distribution centre to shut doors

## *Agnew's West Lorne distribution centre included in footwear retailer's major cutbacks; late October closure slated*

**Paul Mayne**
*The Chronicle*

The Bentley/Agnew Group, Canada's oldest footwear retailer, has hit troubled times and will close 223 stores across Canada, including its West Lorne distribution centre.

At peak capacity, the local business, located at 215 Gilbert St., employed 25 people but is currently operating with just 7 full-time staff. Most of the employees received layoff notices earlier in the summer.

"There is no firm date on the closure because we are still working on inventory coming in and out of the centre," Bentley/Agnew Group Vice-President Ben Derksen tells the Chronicle, "but I would guess probably the end of October."

As far as severance packages for the local employees are concerned, Derksen adds that because of the company's steep financial woes, estimated at more than $30 million in unpaid bills, it probably won't happen.

"Because of the CCAA (Companies Creditors Arrangements Act), which is in the courts now, our obligation is to our secured creditors," he says. "And our employees are listed as unsecured creditors. So far in the restructuring there is no such good news for them [employees]."

Derksen says the company has been looking for a potential buyer of the Bentley/Agnew Group but "no one has come forward" to take over.

The West Lorne centre is currently up for sale and he adds to his knowledge there has been no inquiries.

"Should we find someone to purchase the business we'll do what we can to have our employees given the first chance for employment. SEPT. 2000

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 2000



# Let there be lights!

*It took a little while to get here, but the process us finally underway. History was made last week as traffic lights for the intersection of Graham and Main Streets in West Lorne were being installed. The eight sets of traffic lights will replace the long standing flashing lights. The new lights will remain in a flashing mode for a couple weeks before being set. Street signs will also be installed to inform drivers of the new lights.*

# Local community support helping grieving families

The outpouring of support and love from the local community is helping the families of three residents killed and one seriously injured in an industrial accident at Orford Co-op in Rodney Oct. 27.

Co-op employees Wayne Van Breda, 66, Joseph Bourque, 46, and farmer Carl Kovacs, 58, were killed when they were run over by a transport trailer they were unloading. The truck and trailer were on a hydraulic lift platform and elevated to a 45° angle to dump the corn at the time of the accident.

A fourth individual, John Mohan, 66, was also run over as he waited behind the trailer to unload his corn. He was air-lifted to London Health Sciences Centre where he remains in serious condition.

Rev. Kirby Breithaupt, from Calvary United Church, who has assisted in ministering to the families, says the outpouring of support from the community is assisting with the healing process.

"The entire community has been the heart of the healing process," he says. "It's been wall-to-wall caring, from plowing fields to bringing home-made bread. Community is all about pulling together. The families can't do this on their own."

Breithaupt recently visited Mohan in hospital after he came through surgery and says prayers for his recovery, and for the other families, are encouraged.

"I've ministered in probably half a dozen communities and this [West Elgin] is the most deep and caring community as I know. Christ taught us to bring out the best in ourselves and that's what's being shown now."

Rev. Duncan Colquhoun, from the local Presbyterian churches, is also helping the families through this tragedy and echoes Rev. Breithaupt on the importance of "community."

"Allowing the families to know they have the support is important to the healing process," he says. "The love they are receiving shows the sort of relationship their loved ones had with those in the community."

Rev. Colquhoun says a quote that fits this situation is: "A grief that is shared is half; joy that is shared is doubled."

"This grief is truly being shared by all," he adds.

Elgin OPP continue to work with federal and provincial ministries to determine the exact cause of the accident.

NOV. 6/00

# Lawyers to meet on moving traffic lights ahead

Lawyers for both the Municipality of West Elgin and West Lorne property owner Mike Hutchinson will be meeting to discuss West Elgin Council's intent to limit access to the property on the corner of Main and Graham Streets in West Lorne in an attempt to get the traffic lights working.

Council gave notice last week that they intend to limit the access the Donut Delite property, via the Main Street entrance, not only to make it easier when the lights become operational, but for liability reasons as well.

"MTO (Ministry of Transportation) says the access should not be there, something that was overlooked by the former council in West Lorne," says West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail. "It's been targeted as a potential problem and we're faced with the dilemma that we really didn't cause but have to fix."

West Lorne resident Robert Hill spoke to council last week on his disdain for the new lights. He feels something as simple as a large stop sign with a red flashing light on top would be sufficient.

"You get the sign with the light on top and it's business as usual," says Hill. "We don't want to be saddled with something we don't want and don't need. "You (council) took an oath to do your job to the 'best of your abilities' and you've let us down."

McPhail says the situation with the access is really more important than the lights and adds the process is moving forward, however slowly.

"We do have some obstacles to overcome and we realize they've been flashing for a number of months. The best we could do is apologize," he says. "Perhaps we haven't been as diligent in getting it done, but we've been very busy with a number of important items."

Council has also agreed to hire Southwold Diversified to complete the installation of the lights, but they won't be able to begin until October. The cost is $10,000.

That brings the total cost of the lights to date to approximately $30,000, which is being split between West Elgin and the county.

AUG. 2000

# U. S. company buys Milner-Rigsby

## *Job stability for the 145 employees*

FEB 7 2000

By Paul Mayne
*The Chronicle*

It has been confirmed that West Lorne's Milner-Rigsby Co. Limited has been acquired by the U. S. company Rockland Industrial Products.

And both Milner-Rigsby and the new owners say it means "job stability" for the local plant and is "very positive news" for all employees. There are currently 145 employees at the West Lorne plant.

Milner-Rigsby, one of Canada's major producers of laminated truck flooring joins the Rockland family of companies consisting of Industrial Hardwood Products in Red Wing, Minnesota (150 employees) and Rockland Flooring Company (140 employees) of Rockland, Wisconsin.

The three plants now become one of the largest producers of laminated truck flooring in North America.

Sean Jackson, Human Resources Manager for Milner-Rigsby, says the purchase is great news for the local workforce.

"We had a slow down in mid-October and had to layoff some employees," says Jackson. "And another 30 or so additional layoffs were planned before this deal went through."

Jackson adds even during negotiations, work was sent their way and Milner-Rigsby is currently at an all-time production high.

"They were looking at expanding their company and could have built a new site, but that would saturate the market and mean training employees," says Jackson. "Milner-Rigsby fits right into their expansion plan."



Marc Chorney, who owns and operates Rockland Industrial Products along with David Nelson and Phil Sykes, says negotiations were ongoing since May of '99 and that near the end of the talks almost 70 per cent of the production for Milner-Rigsby was work they had sent.

"We've invested a lot of money in this plant and we're going to maximize the plant as best we can," says Chorney from his Minnesota office. "We really like the management and strong workers at Milner-Rigsby. Sales are weak but that's one of our strong points, so it's a good fit."

This isn't the first venture into Canada for Rockland Industrial Products. The current Minnesota plant was originally located in Thunder Bay when the company began eight years ago. Chorney was finding it hard to compete in the States with the exchange rate at that time and moved.

But with the current exchange rate (69.35¢ as of Feb. 3) he says it's beneficial for the company to start producing product in Canada once again.

"This will definitely add stability to the jobs at Milner-Rigsby," says Chorney. "We haven't laid off an employee in the eight years we've been in business and we don't want to start now."

He adds depending how things progress with the business a third shift could possibly be added. However, Chorney admits that may be hard to maintain or a long period of time.

With three companies all having different names it may be a bit confusing, but Jackson says eventually he imagines there will probably be a name change, but says that's not a top priority right now.

"The new owners are still trying to get a feel of what Milner-Rigsby means to the local community," he says.

Chorney says the name Rockland Industrial Products would more than likely be used.

B

AUG 28, 2000

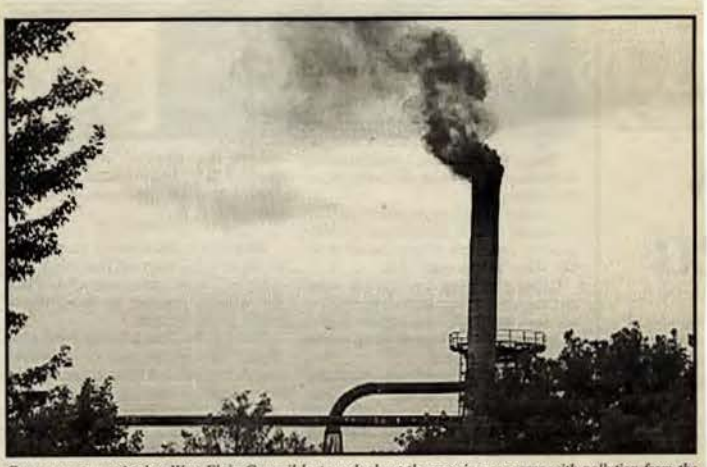
BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 2000



# Branching Out

*Hundreds of dried flowers and craft lovers converged on Mezenberg's Perennials & Dried Flowers recently for the West Lorne business' annual two-day festival. Here, Darryl and Barb Handford of London work diligently on a willow chair during a twig furniture workshop.*

The West Elgin Chronicle SEPT. 18, 2000



*Concerns were raised at West Elgin Council last week about the ongoing concerns with pollution from the stacks at Erie Flooring. Council looks to meet with company officials in regards to these concerns.*

# Concerns raised over Erie Flooring stacks

West Elgin Council hopes to set up a meeting with Erie Flooring officials after concerns were raised at last week's council meeting over the ongoing pollution problems caused by the local wood products plant.

Councillor Mike Mooser brought the concern to council's attention saying he, along with many other residents, are tired of cleaning off their outdoor furniture that gets covered in black soot.

"I can't remember the last time we hung clothes on our clothes line," says Mooser. "It's a concern to us and other residents. There will be a cost factor to this but we need to have something done."

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has been notified in the past over such problems but have not acted on anything.

"I really think we should talk to them [Erie Flooring] first out of courtesy to see if there are ways to work things out," says Councillor Paul Gangle. "They should be given that courtesy before we go hog wild and contact the MOE."

"We'll set up a meeting will Erie Flooring and see if we can come to a compromise that satisfies everyone," says West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail.

# Walkerton thanks Elgin for help

Despite the continuing water crisis in Walkerton, the small community passed on their thanks to Elgin County Council for their $5,000 contribution to the Brockton Response Centre Fund.

"Your generous donation will help the residents and businesses of Walkerton to rebuild their lives in the wake of our E-coli water outbreak," Walkerton Mayor Dave Thompson said in a letter to council.

"The response to the Walkerton fund-raising initiative has been very encouraging and the success we have experienced to date is owed to the generosity and compassion of communities like yours."

All money raised through the fund goes directly to the residents and businesses. All administrative costs are being paid for by federal, provincial and municipal funds.

"Your gift is helping to make a tremendous difference in a time of need," says Brockton Response Centre manager Barb Fisher. "On behalf of a grateful community, thank you."



# Freggie Time!

*Freggie's in town! He's Ontario's Vegetable and Fruit Mascot and wants to talk to kids and their parents about eating more fruits and vegetables. Freggie will be hanging out at the Rodney-Aldborough Fair this Friday (6 to 9 p.m.) and Saturday (noon to 4 p.m.) if you want to check 'em out. Here, Freggie talks with two-year-old Fraser Morton and his dad Chris when he paid a visit to the West Lorne IGA last week.*

SEPT. 11, 2000

CURRENT EVENTS 1999






# Sign of the Times!

*Driving eastbound on Highway #3 you'll know just when you're entering Elgin County, thanks to a newly erected sign by the Elgin-St. Thomas Tourist Association (ETA). The sign is the first of many that are planned for various entry points into Elgin County. Here, West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail, left, ETA board member Irene Puddester and ETA executive vice-president Ed Lewinsky show off the new sign.*

# OPP to increase their visibility and presence in the community

**By Paul Mayne**
*The Chronicle*

The Elgin County OPP have launched its first-ever 'Business Plan' with the objectives of getting tougher on crime, in particular break and enters, and increasing their visibility throughout the county.

Elgin OPP Detachment Commander Staff Sergeant John Stephens and Community Services Officer Constable Dennis Harwood spoke to West Elgin Council last week to explain how they plan to implement their business plan.

"This is the first kick of the can with a business plan," says Stephens. "We're going to have some successes and some failures. The expectations from me are high because the communities expectations on me are higher, and I like that."

Along with objectives for the entire county, including reducing break and enters by five per cent, police have also set priorities for each individual municipality.

In West Elgin the two objectives include *increased visibility* and the *reduction of youth criminal activity*. In order to address the need for increased visibility, initiatives include:

- Foot patrols, especially in Rodney and West Lorne;

JUNE 28/99

*See 'Police' Page 2*



# New book shares story of living life to the fullest

**Paul Mayne**
*The Chronicle*

It's been a year-and-a-half since Dutton resident Forrest McFeat died after his battle with an accelerated case of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease).

Last week, his wife Ruth released her first book entitled "*Making Sense Out of the Senseless.*" The 90-page book, dedicated to her husband, details her family's experience with Forrest's ALS and how, along with her two children (Stuart and Brenda), they were able to care for him at home, ensuring his life was happy and dignified.

The book launching was held at the John P. Robarts Research Institute in London, one of the country's foremost centres on ALS research.

"This is overwhelmingly wonderful," McFeat told a room of friends, family and medical professionals. "This book is a fulfilment of Forrest's dream, which then became our dream."

ALS is not a rare disease, it is a rapidly progressive, fatal neuromuscular disease which attacks the motor neurons responsible for transmitting electrical impulses to the brain to the voluntary muscles throughout the body.

"When the muscles do not receive these messages, they quickly become weak from lack of use, wither and die, eventually causing death or total paralysis," says Dr. Michael Strong, ALS researcher at Robarts.

The disease, however, does not affect the senses or the mind. Most people who get ALS are over the age of 50 through there are cases of teenagers with the disease. In 90 per cent of ALS cases, it strikes people with no family history of the disease.



"*Making Sense Out of the Senseless*" author Ruth McFeat

In the case of Forrest, he was diagnosed with ALS in February of 1996. Prior to this, Forrest had worked as a credit manager for several companies. But his passion was as a volunteer firefighter with the Dutton-Dunwich Fire Department, where he was named fire chief.

Ruth says it was her husband's love for life that keep her and the kids strong throughout the whole ordeal.

"He decided he was going to have fun and nothing was about to stop him," remembers Ruth, when Forrest was first diagnosed. "If he had been negative about everything, it would have made it much more difficult for us."

Written over a 12-month period, the book chronicles the variety of emotions, bad sad and joyful, that Ruth and her children experienced.

"The book idea started one day towards the end of Forrest's life," says Ruth. "I said we should write a book detailing some of the great ideas we and the nurses came up with -- to help other families who are nursing a paralysed relative at home, as well as providing information for medical professionals. Forrest smiled and blinked agreement with his eyes."

Ruth's daughter, Brenda, says the family was always close, but the process of writing the book brought them even closer and gave way to a lot of emotions, which in turn made the grieving process a bit easier.

"It's a way for us to tell others of our feelings and what we were going through at the time," she says. "Everyone will have different experiences, but this may help others deal with a family member or friend who has ALS."

Brenda adds her father was an strong man, even late in life, and that helped her in dealing with his death. And it is that same strength she now sees even more so in her mother.

"She's truly the strongest person I know," says Brenda.

Money raised from "*Making Sense Out of the Senseless*" will go directly to Robarts for research. And with 2,000 copies in print, a possible $14,000 could be raised.

To kick-off the new book, the London ALS Chapter purchased the first 100 copies, which they will distribute to families or ALS patients. The Royal Bank of Canada also made a cash donation. Ruth works at the Royal Bank in Aylmer.

And to show their commitment to ALS Research at Robarts, the McFeat family, and extended family, presented Robarts with a donation of $1,100.

"It is a wonderful initiative," says Dr. Mark Poznansky, President and Scientific Director at the Robarts. "We are so pleased Ruth and her family have decided to support ALS research at Robarts. Her book is a vital addition to the field of Lou Gehrig's Disease, and will help numerous caregivers and families better deal with this disease."

To purchase a copy of "*Making Sense Out of the Senseless.*" you can call McFeat at 762-3516 or send $10, plus $5 for shipping and handling, to McFeat family Group Inc., c/o Ruth McFeat, Box 124, Dutton, ON, N0L 1J0.

The West Elgin Chronicle JULY 12, 1999

CURRENT EVENTS
1999

# Ocolisan children keep on winning

Winning has become common place for the Ocolisan family and their latest performance is proof that they're not slowing down any.

The Ocolisan children (Paula, Dennis, Kanda and Wyatt) attended Beef-A-Rama, a show open to Junior Hereford Association members under the age of 21, in Hillsdale, Ontario, and returned home with their fair share of honours.

Approximately 45 juniors from across the province competed in various categories such as art, photography, literature, speeches, confirmation and showmanship with their animals.

In all, the Ocolisan children brought home eight banners, two plaques and a trophy.

Junior members were responsible for feeding, watering, washing, drying and grooming their own animals - with parents only watching.

Here is a list of what the Ocolisan children won:

**Wyatt, 9**
- ✔Champion Pee Wee Public Speaking
- ✔Champion Pee Wee Showmanship

**Kanda, 10**
- ✔Champion Junior Photography Competition
- ✔Grand Champion Junior Yearling Heifer

**Dennis, 16**
- ✔Grand Champion Bull
- ✔Senior Champion Yearling Heifer
- ✔Reserve Grand Champion Female

**Paula, 18**
- ✔Reserve Grand Champion Bull
- ✔Grand Champion Bred and Owned Bull
- ✔Reserve Grand Champion Showmanship
- ✔Reserve Senior Champion Showmanship

A group of three animals from one family was also entered in the show, which won the Ocolisans' a trophy.

And there's no rest for the weary as the Ocolisans' head to East Lansing, Michigan this week to compete in a National Hereford show. This show is open to all participants across the United States with a large group of Juniors expected to represent Ontario.

On the solo front, Paula is expected to participate in the Bonanza '99, which is the Canadian National Junior Hereford Show held in Verdon, Manitoba at the end of this month.




*The Ocolisan family has once again stocked their trophy case with their latest victories at the Beef-A-Rama in Hillsdale. Children Dennis, 16 (back row left), Paula, 18, Wyatt, 9 (front row left) and Kanda, 10, brought home eight banners, two plaques and a trophy from the All Ontario Junior Hereford Event.*

# District 10 horticultural meeting

1999

Whether you wanted to know how to make a Christmas urn to set outside your front door or how to write minutes on a computer, the workshop of the Ontario Horticultural Association District 10 Thames Valley held in Dorchester Nov. 6 was the place to be.

Nina Havens and Florence Kelly represented the Rodney and District Society. Leola Lawrence and Mary Lippold went from the West Lorne Horticultural Society. Shirley Vojin and Clair Champ attended from the Dutton-Dunwich Society.

It was a pleasant way to keep local societies up to date about provincial and district changes and knowledgeable about new trends such as broom corn wreaths.

The West Elgin Chronicle JULY 26 1999

# New book chronicles history of post offices in West Elgin

It had been sitting on a shelf for 18 years collecting dust. But now, the history of post offices in West Elgin has found its way into book form.

West Elgin residents Keith Kelly and the late Irving Thomas took it upon themselves to research and chronicle the long history of post offices in the West Elgin and surrounding areas.

"We started that project 18 years ago and it's been on my shelf ever since" smiles Kelly, who began the project as a member of the West Elgin Historical and Genealogical Society. "At a recent meeting we decided to finish it up. It's a chance to keep our history preserved and in front of us "

Kelly, along with fellow historian Don Carroll, finished the rest of the book by adding Southwold Township to the book which already covers Aldborough and Dunwich Townships.

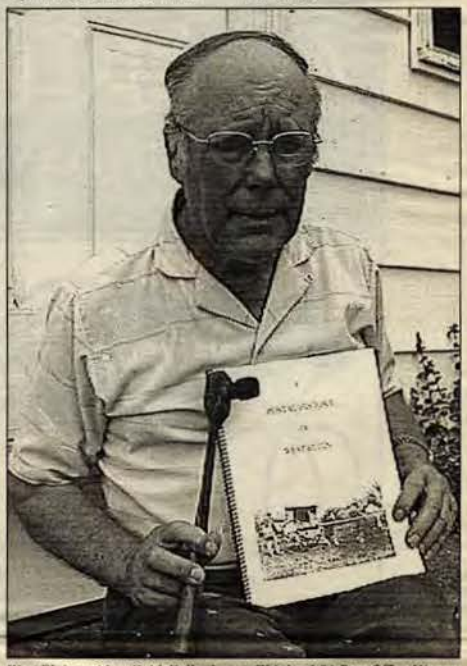
Kelly learned a lot of interesting facts and met a number of interesting people while researching the book. He attained a number of rare photos and artifacts which add to the book's appeal.

The book features a history of locations and postmasters throughout the county. It even recalls the rarely remembered Taylor Station and West Magdala.

"I learned a lot of interesting things along the way. Some stories I don't think I can repeat," laughs Kelly.

Kelly will be on hand at the Dutton Library this Thursday (July 29) to talk about and sell copies of the book from 2 until 4 p.m. Books are $15 each.

If you can't make it to Dutton, and would like to purchase a copy of the book, you can call Kelly at 785-0247 or Carroll at 762-2176.



*West Elgin resident Keith Kelly shows off his book "A Post Office History of West Elgin" which he and the late Irving Thomas worked on. He's also holding one of the last cancellation hammers (1908) from the Kintyre Post Office, which he found while putting together the book.*

# Our boys are missing

CURRENT EVENTS 1999

## *Family, friends and the entire West Elgin community still await news on the fate of five local boaters who have been missing now for a week.* AUG 23,99



*Andy Vankoeverden, 47*



*Charles Dodge, 36*



*Dennis Dodge, 15*



*Steven Vaterlaus, 26*



*Jamie Schnekenburger, 21*

**By Kathy Hollingsworth and Paul Mayne**
*The Chronicle*

"Love hopes."

Those are the words of West Elgin Living Water Pentecostal Church member Margie Mezenberg talking about a prayer chain that is linking the people of the community in this time of hope.

The hope is for positive news on five missing West Lorne residents who have been missing now over a week on Lake Erie.

It was Saturday, Aug. 14 when Andy Vankoeverden, 47, Steven Vaterlaus, 26, Jamie Schnekenburger, 21, Charles Dodge, 36, and his nephew Dennis Dodge, 15, left the shores of Port Glasgow in a 14 foot fibreglass boat. They haven't been seen since.

The five were reported missing on Aug. 16 when they hadn't showed up for work. An immediate search began with OPP boats, Canadian and American coast guard boats, a Hercules rescue plane and Labrador helicopter from Rescue Coordination Centre Trenton, the London Naval Reserve Unit, and a handful of local boaters who wanted to help out.

Family and friends held daily vigils at the Port Glasgow Marina, many spending the entire week in campers provided by local residents.

As the hours of waiting stretched into days, family kept each other going with hugs and stories of those lost on Lake Erie. But the most difficult part was the lack of any news. Police did find a handful of items on their search (such as a gas tank, pail and gloves) but said they were not from the missing boat.

However, it did give the searchers an area to concentrate on. The Sprayer, a coast guard ship with sonar capability, searched the area but turned up nothing. It has since stopped searching.

Prior to that, searchers had to cover an area that stretched from Rondeau to Long Point (80 miles) and from the Canadian border to the U. S. border (25 miles).

"I don't know what to think," says Heidi Vaterlaus of her brother's disappearance. "I'm not believing anything until someone says it's definite. I just wish they would find something so we could have some answers."

Vaterlaus is confident her brother "is coming back" as she continues to hold onto his favourite Toronto Maple Leafs hockey sweatshirt.

"He loved fishing. That's all he ever did," she says. "I just keep thinking he's out there somewhere. I have to think that. I just want him to come home - all of them."

Sandy Cowan, girlfriend of Jamie Schnekenburger, keeps the faith that she'll

*See 'Search' Page 3*



*Friends of one of the missing boaters console each other as one of the OPP boats heads out onto Lake Erie in an attempt to find the five boaters who went missing off Port Glasgow after they left for a fishing trip Aug. 14.*

CURRENT EVENTS 1999

# Missing boater found

***The body of missing West Lorne resident Jamie Schnekenburger, 21, was located in Lake Erie (just east of Palmyra) 19 days after he and four others went missing. The search continues in an attempt to locate the other boaters.***

**Paul Mayne**
*The Chronicle*

Nineteen days after five West Lorne residents went missing on Lake Erie, the body of Jamie Schnekenburger, 21, was found Sept. 1 approximately 13 kilometres west of Port Glasgow.


*Jamie Schnekenburger*

The body, found about 90 metres off shore by a recreation boater from Erieau, was taken to a Windsor hospital for identification and an autopsy. Results from the autopsy indicated that death is consistent with drowning, says Elgin OPP Constable

SEPT. 6 / 99 See 'Search' Page 2

# Third body recovered

Elgin County OPP have identified the human remains that washed ashore Oct. 19 on a small Lake Erie beach in Bayham to be that of missing West Lorne boater Steven Vaterlaus.


*Steven Vaterlaus*

The body was located by a property owner at approximately 11 a.m. as he was checking his shoreline 1½ kilometres east of Port Burwell (south of Aylmer), about 60 kilometres east of Port Glasgow where the boaters were last seen.

Dental records were used to positively identify the body. A post mortem conducted in Toronto indicated that death was consistent with drowning.

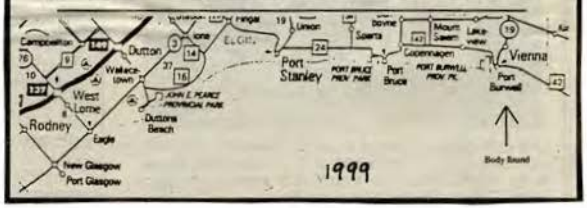
Volunteer firefighters from the Bayham Fire Department had to climb down the cliff face to retrieve the body.

The 26 year-old Vaterlaus was one of five boaters that went missing on Lake Erie Aug. 14 in a 14 foot red and white fibreglass boat.

The initial disappearance of the five boaters sparked a massive search of the area by OPP, coast guard, naval reserve, family, friends and numerous volunteers.

The bodies of Jamie Schnekenburger and Charles Dodge were found Sept. 1 and 26, respectively.

Still missing are Andy Vankeoverden, 47, and Dennis Dodge, 15. Elgin OPP are requesting that property owners continue to check their Lake Erie shorelines for any further signs of these people. If you have any information you are asked to call 631-2920.




# Last boater found outside Buffalo

A week after Kim and Pete Dodge pleaded for the public's assistance in locating their missing son Dennis, the 15 year-old has been located washed ashore on a beach outside of Buffalo, NY.


*Dennis Dodge*

The body was discovered Nov. 15 by a female who was out for a walk along the Lake Erie Shoreline, in the Town of Hamburg, NY (just outside Buffalo - across from Fort Erie, ON).

Elgin County OPP worked with the Hamburg Police to make a positive identification of Dodge using dental records. The U. S. authorities conducted a post mortem which concluded the death was consistent with drowning.

Dodge was the last of the five boaters to be found. The five were last seen Aug. 14 when they left the Port Glasgow Marina in a small fibreglass boat. The disappearance sparked a massive search of the water of Lake Erie.

Found earlier were Jamie Schnekenburger (Sept. 1). Charles Dodge (Sept. 26). Steven Vaterlaus (Oct. 19) and Andy van Koeverden (Oct. 24).

# van Koeverden found

Just five days after a third missing boater was located, the human remains found washed ashore on the American side of Lake Erie on Oct. 23 have been positively identified as fellow boater Andy van Koeverden.


*Andy van Koeverden*

Elgin OPP say the 47 year-old West Lorne man, who was found on a beach just west of Erie, Pennsylvania, was identified using dental records. The post mortem, conducted by the Erie County Coroner's office indicated that the death was consistent with drowning.

Four of the five boaters, who went missing Aug. 14 from the Port Glasgow Marina, have now been located. Jamie Schnekenburger was found Sept. 1, Charles Dodge was found Sept. 26 and Steven Vaterlaus was found Oct. 19. Still missing is 15 year-old Dennis Dodge.

The police and all families involved are continuing their requests that property owners continue to check their Lake Erie shorelines for any signs of the last missing boater. If you have any information, you are asked to call 631-2920.

NOV. 1, 1999

CURRENT EVENTS 1999





## Looking Back

*It was a step back in time for some local residents recently as the Eagle Community Centre held a social featuring photos and other items that told the history of Eagle. Above, Mary Payne, seated at left, and Georgina Staddon, along with Ron Payne, standing at left, John Conway and Carl Staddon helped organized the social. At left, Herman and Ruby Forshner enjoyed their time at the community centre reliving a number of memories of the area.*



## Picture Perfect

*Local children with artistic flare found the perfect place to express their talents at the West Elgin Summer Art Camp held at the West Lorne Complex. The two week-long camps were so successful that a third camp is planned for the last week of August. Eleven-year-old Ilias Giannos can vouch for the fun the camps offers. If your child would be interested in attending the art camp, call Karrie at 768-1880.* JULY 1999







## Home Show Success

*There was definitely something for everyone at the recent West Elgin Home, Garden and Recreation Showcase held at the West Elgin Arena. Residents were able to get a handle on projects and find information on a number of products offered by local businesses. In top photo, Gary Long of Rodney, left, got the feel of a riding lawnmowerr when he stopped by to visit Dan Muslik at Gord's Small Engines booth. At left, West Lorne's Brittany Smith gives a hug to her dog Susie who was entered in the dog show.*



## Memorial Tree

*Members of the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society were busy sprucing up West Lorne by planting a number of trees. Once such tree,a Silver Fur, was planted in front of the West Lorne Complex in the memory of horticultural society members who recently died. The horticultural society also planted 30 Sugar Maple trees along the field between Munroe Street and the railroad tracks.* 1999

CURRENT EVENTS 1999

The West Elgin Chronicle AUGUST 3/99



# Flower Frenzy

*Its been a relatively dry summer, so what better backdrop for a dried flower festival. The annual event, held at Muzenberg's Perennial and Dried Flowers, had every colour of the rainbow available, plus a number of unique crafts from local artists. Above, Debbie Giles of Lambeth, seems to be running out of room with her haul of dried flowers. At right, Beverly Small of Iona spots just one of the many locally made crafts that caught her eyes.*



SEPT. 1999 The West Elgin Chronicle




# Fifty Reasons to Smile

*Sisters Chelsey and Cassandra Van Breda are all smiles as they show off the $50 top prize they won in the Downhill Derby contest sponsored by Ric Whyte. The pair, who will split the money, simply collected the letters to spell 'Downhill Derby'. Talk about easy money!*



# Kickin' Temperatures

*When the temperature begins flirting close to 20°C (70°F) you just can help but head outdoors and enjoy a few rays of sunshine. That's just what eight-year-old Wyatt Occilson decided to do as he grabbed his soccer ball and worked on a few moves.*

CURRENT EVENTS 1999



# Treasure Hunt Bible Adventure

*Local children spent last week hunting - for Jesus, that is. The West Lorne United and Presbyterian Churches held their annual Community Vacation Bible Schools and took the children on an adventure to find Jesus. Some of the children who took part on the week long camp include (top photo) Nicole Vergeer, front left, Kylie Beer and Kate Welch. In back are Shayla Sample, left, and Sarah Crump. In bottom photo, taking a break from camp, are Bethany Morden, front left, Erin Budgell and David Given. Back row is David Vergeer, Lauren Johnston and Joseph Guitar.* AUG 1999





## A Real Blast!

*Things were literally booming at Miller Park last Thursday night as residents celebrated Canada Day with a fireworks display. Here, pyrotechnics technician Ken Long loads up one of the shells in preparation for show. See more Canada Day activities on Page 3.*

1999

LONDON FREE PRESS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1999



MIKE HENSEN The London Free Press

**Former CFPL-TV news anchor Al McGregor has found there is life after being fired when the London station changed ownership and philosophical direction.**

# Former news anchor has new business

**By James Reaney**
Free Press Arts
& Entertainment Reporter

Al McGregor is finding there is life after the New PL.

McGregor, fired by CFPL-TV more than nine months ago, was back behind a newscast anchor desk for three days last week. He was filling in at CBC Windsor, where he also has done some reporting.

"They've been very, very kind," McGregor says of the CBC operation. The Windsor station's signal is beamed through Essex and into the Sarnia-Lambton region — areas where he became a familiar presence with CFPL.

"My face is recognized to a certain extent down in Windsor, not as much as in London, of course."

Last week was the second time McGregor had travelled from his West Lorne-area home to anchor the CBC station's newscast. He also filled in as an anchor in October.

# Police officer hit on 401

A simple traffic stop for an Elgin County OPP officer turned into a brush with death May 10 after another vehicle struck him as he was talking with another motorist.

Constable Jaison Gibson, 32, was hit by car on Highway 401 near Rodney as he was standing on the gravel shoulder taking to a motorist he had stopped for a traffic violation. The westbound vehicle slipped after striking the officer.

Gibson, who works out of the Dutton detachment of the OPP, was taken to London Health Sciences Centre's Victoria campus with two broken legs, injuries to a knee cap and wrist, and number of scrapes, bumps and bruises.

He was later transfered to University Hospital where he underwent minor surgery.

OPP Community Services Constable Dennis Harwood says Gibson's "spirits are up there" and that the 11-year veteran is an officer who "will do well dealing with a situation like this." It is unsure how long Gibson will be off work. MAY 99

Charges are pending on the driver of the vehicle who struck Gibson.

CURRENT EVENTS
1999

# Baptist churches welcome Rev. Kaups

DEC. 1999

The West Lorne and Rodney Baptist Churches will be officially welcoming their new pastor, Rev. Andres Kaups, with an induction service this Sunday (Dec. 12) at the Rodney church beginning at 3 p.m.

Kaups, who come to West Elgin from London, began his ministry at the churches Nov. 1 and his wife Evi moved into the parsonage on Graham St. this past weekend.

Rev. Kaups and his wife are native Estonians whose families left their homeland for Sweden in 1944 to escape the incoming Soviet regime.

sThey subsequently immigrated to New York City and Toronto respectively, where they met at the Estonian Baptist Church and were married in 1966. They have four grown children and two grandchildren.

Rev. Kaups went to school in New York and in 1969 earned his bachelors degree in business from Pace University in New York.

He pursued a career in financial management first on Wall Street and let with Christian colleges and seminaries in Columbia, South Carolina, Pennsylvania and Toronto.



*Rev. Andres Kaups*

In 1988 he responded to God's call to the pastoral ministry and has served Glen Cairn Baptist Church in Toronto, Ferndale Baptist Church in Scarborough and, most recently, Sunrise Baptist Church in London.

In November '91, Rev. Kaups was ordained into the Gospel Ministry by Ferndale Baptist Church in the Toronto Association of the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec. He received his Master of Divinity degree from McMaster Divinty College in '97.

If you wish to meet Rev. Kaups, you are welcome to attend his induction. A time of fellowship, greetings and refreshments will follow the service.



## Optimist Goodies

*The Optimist Club of West Lorne brought out the Christmas goodies recently for a bake sale at the IOOF Hall in West Lorne. Here, Olive Chambers shows off some of the delicious treats she picked up. Money raised will go towards youth programs in the community.*

DEC. 6, 1999

The West Elgin Chronicle NOV. 1999



## Christmas Boutique

*A Christmas boutique featuring the arts and crafts of some local artists will be on display at Marie Spence's Studio near Muirkirk this weekend (Nov. 13 and 14).The boutique, open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day, features Christmas decorations, special gift ideas and loads of stocking stuffer, such as the ceramic work of RR#3 Rodney resident Elaine Conway.The studio is located at 15487 Spence Line, just off the Duart Road, eight kilometres northeast of Highgate. Call 678-3326 for more information.*

DEC. 20 1999 The West Elgin Chronicle

# Ceremony remembers loved ones

Remembering loved ones during the holiday season was the idea behind the 5th Annual Angel Tree Ceremony at the West Lorne Complex Dec. 10.

More than 30 local residents came out on a chilly Friday night for prayers, songs and comforting words. Pastor Eric Betsch led many of the dedications, along with prayers from Doug Cavener, Marianne Merks, Margaret Murray and Duncan McPhail.



*West Lorne resident Mrytle Joyce and her granddaughter Amanda Bobier were just some of the many local residents who showed up for the 5th Annual Angel Tree to remember those who have died and will be missed this holiday season. Joyce lost her brothers Charles and Pete Dodge, and nephew Dennis this past year.*

Music was provided by the United Church Choir and a closing hymn by Ann Prudhomme. A special thanks also goes to Donut Delite, Tim Horton's and IGA (West Lorne) for their donations of snacks and refreshments.

This year's free will donation went to the Caring Cupboard in Dutton.

Those remembered at this year's Angel Tree Ceremony included Sid and Josie Authier, Katherine Lynn Alderton, Abigail Kate Bandeen, Matthew Earl Bandeen, Christopher Beer, Joey Beer, Michelle Beer, Christopher Cowan, Pam Cowan, Shane Cowan, Timothy Cowan and Daniel Cowan.

Andy Dewulf, Lloyd Cecil Doan, Michael Doan, Marnie Fleming, Michael Gammon, Jason Kayelites, Ashley Ann Murray, Margaret McColl, Jeremy Robinet, Willy A.R. Merks, Sonia Oliveira, Alusha Marie Tomczyk, Elaine Watterworth, Patty Winter and Janet Oakey.

Donna Smiljanick, Munroe McMillian, Grace Haven, Gordon Haven, Ken Okolisasn, Jim Shostak, Bill Griffin, Lorne McGill, John Hulaj, Yancy Begin, Justin Ray Bell, Roy Dos Santos, Jose Dos Santos, Chris Ayling, Chris Kauzen, Ron Jones and Murray Keys.

Charles Begin, Fred and Frany Redinger, Paul Babin, Edna Ray, Jean Wyatt, Joe Simpson, Ralph Simpson, Jamie Schnekenburger, Steven Vaterlaus, Andy van Koeverden, Dennis Dodge, Wilson Pete Dodge, Charles Dodge, Marie Sadecky and Ivan Buck Edwards.

Joanne Bell, Winnis Van Lierop, Nickie Lipan, Sophie Lipan, Sam Lipan, Constantine Lipan, Mary Lipan, Wilfred Doan, Doris Doan, Jason Szabo, David Newman, Amilcar Madeira, Armindo Coellio, Frank Hay, Rosiana Hay and Tony Krebs.

CURRENT EVENTS 2000



# Chronicle Year in Review

*Con't from Page 2*

death of three residents. No such problem occurred in Elgin.

### RODNEY REC CENTRE TRASHED

Often the victim of mindless vandals, the Rodney Recreation Centre received its worst hit yet when vandals caused substantial damage to the interior of the building, along with stealing a number of items.

Several of the interior doors were damaged, vents were kicked out, the storage cupboards were broken into, fire extinguishers were discharged in the building, the recreation storage area was trashed and the office areas were broken into, including the Fair Board storage area.

### MISTELE WINS PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

Rodney area farmer Paul Mistele was honoured with the 1998 Pork Producer of the Year award from the Elgin County Pork Producers Association.

As part of a rally at Queen's Park in Dec. '98 to protest low hog prices, Mistele initiated the "Donate-A-Hog" program which brought 58,000 pounds of pork to Toronto's food banks.

After receiving the award at a February banquet, Mistele was named President of the Elgin County Pork Producers Association.

### KALITA ENTERS HALL OF FAME

Years of hard work and quality farming saw West Lorne farmer Ed Kalita named to the Elgin Federation of Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Kalita came to Elgin County in 1962 as a tobacco farmer, which he maintained until 1983. He continues to grow corn and soybeans.

### RODNEY LIBRARY EXPANDING

The Rodney Library went from talks of possible closure a couple years back to announcing they are looking at almost doubling its current size. It will be the first expansion the library has seen since first being built in 1951.

Estimated cost of the shelving, furniture and fixtures, phone and computer cabling is approximately $300,000.

### STADDON GARNERS GOVERNOR AWARD.

West Lorne Optimist Club member Dorothy Staddon was recognized for her dedication to the high level of success as lieutenant-governor for Optimist Clubs in the zone she was responsible for.

Staddon received the Distinguished and Outstanding Lieutenant Governor Award at the Southwestern Ontario District of Optimist International banquet held in Wallaceburg.

### HEART DISEASE HIGH IN ELGIN

A study released by the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences and the Heart and Stroke Foundation confirms that Elgin County has one of the highest rates of death from coronary heart disease in the province.

The age/sex mortality rate in Elgin from coronary heart disease is 29 per cent higher than the provincial average. Residents are found to be extremely susceptible to heart attacks.

### FIVE BOATERS GO MISSING ON LAKE ERIE

The warm and sunny month of August will forever have a black cloud hanging over it as five local boaters left the shores of Port Glasgow in a 14 foot fibreglass boat, never to return.

Andy van Koeverden, Steven Vaterlaus, Charles Dodge, Dennis Dodge and Jamie Schnekenburger were last seen Aug. 14 went they went out on to waters of Lake Erie. After being reported missing two days later, a massive search was undertaken.

OPP boats, Canadian and American coast guards, a Hercules rescue plane and Labrador helicopter from Rescue Coordination Centre in Trenton, the London Naval Reserve Unit and a number of local boaters who wanted to help out in any way they could.

Family and friends held a daily vigil at the waters edge for a number of weeks. After police officially ended their search after a week, family and countless volunteers continued to search the vast and unpredictable waters of Lake Erie.

As family prayed for any sign of their loved ones, their worst fears were met when the body of Jamie Schnekenburger was found Sept. 1. Over the next two-and-a-half months the bodies of the remaining boaters were located, bring closure to family members who endured indescribable pain and suffering for so long.

Tragically, Wilson Pete Dodge, the brother of Charles and father of Dennis, died just days before he was to bury his son.

### PETERS NEW MPP

In one of the closest races across the province, Liberal candidate and St. Thomas Mayor Steve Peters ousted Conservative candidate Bruce Smith to take the newly formed riding of Elgin-Middlesex-London.



*Steve Peters*

Although Mike Harris and his Conservatives hold on to the province, when the votes were counted in Elgin it came up red as Peters grabbed 46 per cent of the vote, compared to 43 per cent from Smith.

### RABIES CLINIC ENDS

It was a service local residents counted on for the past 20 years, but it is now a thing of the past.

The East London Animal Clinic told West Elgin Council that due to downsizing the won't be offering the service to West Elgin residents. Approximately 200 pets were vaccinated in 1998.

Some council members, along with many local residents, felt it was a "money thing" on behalf of the veterinarians - a way to get pet owners into their office.

But veterinarians say just a rabies shot it not enough and, in fact, a rabies shot alone may do more harm than good with pet owners assuming it is the only shot their animals needs.

### MAN KILLED IN SNOWMOBILE WRECK

West Lorne's Tony Krebs was killed March 6 after he was thrown from his machine and struck by a second snowmobile. The accident occurred along the west ditch of Highway #76 (near Queens Line).



*Friends of one of the mising boaters consoled each other as police and coast guard searched Lake Erie signs of the five West Lorne reisdents.*

### JUNIOR GIRLS WOSAA CHAMPS

The WESS Wildcats Junior Girls Volleyball team marched their way through the Elgin County championships, eased their way past the Elgin-Oxford title, and took care of Dorchester in two straight games to bring the WOSAA title back to West Elgin.

### FCHS RECRUITS QUEBEC DOCTORS

With an evergrowing concern over the lack of family physicians in rural Elgin County, Dr. Stephen Jones attended a job fair in Montreal where he talked to a number of physicians interested in practising outside Quebec, including four interested in Elgin.

To date, not physicians from Quebec have agreed to come to Elgin County.

### THE CHRONICLE LAUNCHES WEBSITE

The West Elgin Chronicle joined the World Wide Web this past April with the launching of its own website. By going to www.execulink.com/~chronicl, you can now keep in touch with local news and events by simply logging on. Keep in touch with West Elgin, no matter where you are.

### DR. ESHAGHIAN ARRIVES AT FCHS

With only four full-time doctors with active privileges at Four Counties Health Services, hospital officials were ecstatic with the arrival of Dr. Farhang Eshaghian.

Coming from Manitoba, Dr. Eshaghian eases the burden a bit for the hospital which is still vastly underserviced. Later in the year, Dr. Eshaghian opened up a two-day a week family practise at the Newbury Clinic.

### POLICE OFFICER HIT ON HWY. 401

A simple traffic stop for Elgin County OPP Constable Jaison Gibson turned into a brush with death May 10 after another vehicle struck him as his was talking to another motorist on the shoulder of the highway near Rodney.

The 32 year-old Gibson received two broken legs, injuries to a knee cap and wrist and a number scrapes, bumps and bruises. He was taken to University Hospital in London where he underwent surgery. Gibson is expected to make a full recovery.

### HOUSE FIRE DEEMED DOUBLE HOMICIDE

A fatal house fire in Southwold Township Feb. 2 that claimed the lives of two adults was soon treated as a double homicide by Elgin OPP. Roger Lee Smith, 40, and his common law wife Wendy Jean Haveron, 45, were found by Southwold Volunteer Firefighters in the early morning blaze. Police soon determined the fire was set in an attempt to cover up the murder.

### BOATING MISHAP KILLS MAN

A June 6 boating mishap took the life of Southwold Township resident Harold Mark Burton. His body was recovered two days later approximately 300 metres from where he was last seen.

Burton and his common law wife had gone boating, deciding to anchor the boat and wade ashore to a small beach. The anchor slipped and the boat started to drift. Burton went after it and got into difficulties and went under.

### A TAPESTRY OF TIMELESS TALES

The students at WESES, along with a group of West Elgin seniors, but in a lot of hard work and dedication to produce a book of stories told to the students by the seniors.

As part of a project to celebrate the Year of the Older Person, a book release was held at WESES. The stories were written in hopes to offer the younger generation a better understanding of our local past.

### SMITH CROWNED

WESS student Lisa Smith was crowned Fair Ambassador at the 145th Annual Rodney-Aldborough Fair.



### HOG WILD

The building of a intensive hog barn operation on Marsh Line this past summer raised concerns from residents over its proximity to other households. It location in regards to the Village of West Lorne was also brought up as a potential smelly concern.

Another hog barn stirred up the same emotions later on the same year, this time the concern being the barn being built extremely close to the waterfront. Its potential problem with affecting the water intake for the community was the major problem many residents brought up

In both cases, the company building the barns have met all necessary requirements.

### BIKER GANG SHOOTING IN IONA

The Western Region OPP arrested a total of eight individuals thought to be involved in the Oct. 22 shooting incident along Iona Road near Hwy. 401.

Police determined the occupants of one car were shot at by the occupants of a second car. More than 75 charges were laid against RR#4 Iona Station residents Wayne Earl Kellestine and Tina Fitzgerald. The case is still before the courts.

### MCPHAIL NAMED ELGIN WARDEN

West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail was elected Elgin County Warden for the year 2000, defeating Aylmer Mayor Bob Habkirk.

CURRENT EVENTS 2000



# Chronicle Year in Review

*Con't from Page 2*

death of three residents. No such problem occurred in Elgin.

### RODNEY REC CENTRE TRASHED

Often the victim of mindless vandals, the Rodney Recreation Centre received its worst hit yet when vandals caused substantial damage to the interior of the building, along with stealing a number of items.

Several of the interior doors were damaged, vents were kicked out, the storage cupboards were broken into, fire extinguishers were discharged in the building, the recreation storage area was trashed and the office areas were broken into, including the Fair Board storage area.

### MISTELE WINS PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

Rodney area farmer Paul Mistele was honoured with the 1998 Pork Producer of the Year award from the Elgin County Pork Producers Association.

As part of a rally at Queen's Park in Dec. '98 to protest low hog prices, Mistele initiated the "Donate-A-Hog" program which brought 58,000 pounds of pork to Toronto's food banks.

After receiving the award at a February banquet, Mistele was named President of the Elgin County Pork Producers Association.

### KALITA ENTERS HALL OF FAME

Years of hard work and quality farming saw West Lorne farmer Ed Kalita named to the Elgin Federation of Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Kalita came to Elgin County in 1962 as a tobacco farmer, which he maintained until 1983. He continues to grow corn and soybeans.

### RODNEY LIBRARY EXPANDING

The Rodney Library went from talks of possible closure a couple years back to announcing they are looking at almost doubling its current size. It will be the first expansion the library has seen since first being built in 1951.

Estimated cost of the shelving, furniture and fixtures, phone and computer cabling is approximately $300,000.

### STADDON GARNERS GOVERNOR AWARD.

West Lorne Optimist Club member Dorothy Staddon was recognized for her dedication to the high level of success as lieutenant-governor for Optimist Clubs in the zone she was responsible for.

Staddon received the Distinguished and Outstanding Lieutenant Governor Award at the Southwestern Ontario District of Optimist International banquet held in Wallaceburg.

### HEART DISEASE HIGH IN ELGIN

A study released by the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences and the Heart and Stroke Foundation confirms that Elgin County has one of the highest rates of death from coronary heart disease in the province.

The age/sex mortality rate in Elgin from coronary heart disease is 29 per cent higher than the provincial average. Residents are found to be extremely susceptible to heart attacks.

### FIVE BOATERS GO MISSING ON LAKE ERIE

The warm and sunny month of August will forever have a black cloud hanging over it as five local boaters left the shores of Port Glasgow in a 14 foot fibreglass boat, never to return.

Andy van Koeverden, Steven Vaterlaus, Charles Dodge, Dennis Dodge and Jamie Schnekenburger were last seen Aug. 14 went they went out on to waters of Lake Erie. After being reported missing two days later, a massive search was undertaken.

OPP boats, Canadian and American coast guards, a Hercules rescue plane and Labrador helicopter from Rescue Coordination Centre in Trenton, the London Naval Reserve Unit and a number of local boaters who wanted to help out in any way they could.

Family and friends held a daily vigil at the waters edge for a number of weeks. After police officially ended their search after a week, family and countless volunteers continued to search the vast and unpredictable waters of Lake Erie.

As family prayed for any sign of their loved ones, their worst fears were met when the body of Jamie Schnekenburger was found Sept. 1. Over the next two-and-a-half months the bodies of the remaining boaters were located, bring closure to family members who endured indescribable pain and suffering for so long.

Tragically, Wilson Pete Dodge, the brother of Charles and father of Dennis, died just days before he was to bury his son.

### PETERS NEW MPP

In one of the closest races across the province, Liberal candidate and St. Thomas Mayor Steve Peters ousted Conservative candidate Bruce Smith to take the newly formed riding of Elgin-Middlesex-London.



*Steve Peters*

Although Mike Harris and his Conservatives hold on to the province, when the votes were counted in Elgin it came up red as Peters grabbed 46 per cent of the vote, compared to 43 per cent from Smith.

### RABIES CLINIC ENDS

It was a service local residents counted on for the past 20 years, but it is now a thing of the past.

The East London Animal Clinic told West Elgin Council that due to downsizing the won't be offering the service to West Elgin residents. Approximately 200 pets were vaccinated in 1998.

Some council members, along with many local residents, felt it was a "money thing" on behalf of the veterinarians - a way to get pet owners into their office.

But veterinarians say just a rabies shot it not enough and, in fact, a rabies shot alone may do more harm than good with pet owners assuming it is the only shot their animals needs.

### MAN KILLED IN SNOWMOBILE WRECK

West Lorne's Tony Krebs was killed March 6 after he was thrown from his machine and struck by a second snowmobile. The accident occurred along the west ditch of Highway #76 (near Queens Line).



*Friends of one of the mising boaters consoled each other as police and coast guard searched Lake Erie signs of the five West Lorne reisdents.*

### JUNIOR GIRLS WOSAA CHAMPS

The WESS Wildcats Junior Girls Volleyball team marched their way through the Elgin County championships, eased their way past the Elgin-Oxford title, and took care of Dorchester in two straight games to bring the WOSAA title back to West Elgin.

### FCHS RECRUITS QUEBEC DOCTORS

With an evergrowing concern over the lack of family physicians in rural Elgin County, Dr. Stephen Jones attended a job fair in Montreal where he talked to a number of physicians interested in practising outside Quebec, including four interested in Elgin.

To date, not physicians from Quebec have agreed to come to Elgin County.

### THE CHRONICLE LAUNCHES WEBSITE

The West Elgin Chronicle joined the World Wide Web this past April with the launching of its own website. By going to www.execulink.com/~chronicl, you can now keep in touch with local news and events by simply logging on. Keep in touch with West Elgin, no matter where you are.

### DR. ESHAGHIAN ARRIVES AT FCHS

With only four full-time doctors with active privileges at Four Counties Health Services, hospital officials were ecstatic with the arrival of Dr. Farhang Eshaghian.

Coming from Manitoba, Dr. Eshaghian eases the burden a bit for the hospital which is still vastly underserviced. Later in the year, Dr. Eshaghian opened up a two-day a week family practise at the Newbury Clinic.

### POLICE OFFICER HIT ON HWY. 401

A simple traffic stop for Elgin County OPP Constable Jaison Gibson turned into a brush with death May 10 after another vehicle struck him as his was talking to another motorist on the shoulder of the highway near Rodney.

The 32 year-old Gibson received two broken legs, injuries to a knee cap and wrist and a number scrapes, bumps and bruises. He was taken to University Hospital in London where he underwent surgery. Gibson is expected to make a full recovery.

### HOUSE FIRE DEEMED DOUBLE HOMICIDE

A fatal house fire in Southwold Township Feb. 2 that claimed the lives of two adults was soon treated as a double homicide by Elgin OPP. Roger Lee Smith, 40, and his common law wife Wendy Jean Haveron, 45, were found by Southwold Volunteer Firefighters in the early morning blaze. Police soon determined the fire was set in an attempt to cover up the murder.

### BOATING MISHAP KILLS MAN

A June 6 boating mishap took the life of Southwold Township resident Harold Mark Burton. His body was recovered two days later approximately 300 metres from where he was last seen.

Burton and his common law wife had gone boating, deciding to anchor the boat and wade ashore to a small beach. The anchor slipped and the boat started to drift. Burton went after it and got into difficulties and went under.

### A TAPESTRY OF TIMELESS TALES

The students at WESES, along with a group of West Elgin seniors, but in a lot of hard work and dedication to produce a book of stories told to the students by the seniors.

As part of a project to celebrate the Year of the Older Person, a book release was held at WESES. The stories were written in hopes to offer the younger generation a better understanding of our local past.

### SMITH CROWNED

WESS student Lisa Smith was crowned Fair Ambassador at the 145th Annual Rodney-Aldborough Fair.



### HOG WILD

The building of a intensive hog barn operation on Marsh Line this past summer raised concerns from residents over its proximity to other households. It location in regards to the Village of West Lorne was also brought up as a potential smelly concern.

Another hog barn stirred up the same emotions later on the same year, this time the concern being the barn being built extremely close to the waterfront. Its potential problem with affecting the water intake for the community was the major problem many residents brought up

In both cases, the company building the barns have met all necessary requirements.

### BIKER GANG SHOOTING IN IONA

The Western Region OPP arrested a total of eight individuals thought to be involved in the Oct. 22 shooting incident along Iona Road near Hwy. 401.

Police determined the occupants of one car were shot at by the occupants of a second car. More than 75 charges were laid against RR#4 Iona Station residents Wayne Earl Kellestine and Tina Fitzgerald. The case is still before the courts.

### MCPHAIL NAMED ELGIN WARDEN

West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail was elected Elgin County Warden for the year 2000, defeating Aylmer Mayor Bob Habkirk.

# Great Lakes levels continuing to fall

CURRENT EVENTS 2000

Water levels on all of the Great Lakes are expected to remain below average this summer. In particular, levels on Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie have dropped dramatically over the past two years and are at their lowest levels in 35 years.

Lake Erie, for example, is 30 to 35 centimetres lower than it was in April of last year, and 90 to 95 centimetres lower than it was in April of 1998. Recreational boaters, marina operators and others who live and work along the shore will be impacted by these low levels.



Based on Environment Canada records going back to 1948, the warmest year in the southern Great Lakes area occurred in 1998. The second warmest year occurred last year.

"This warm weather accelerated rates of evaporation from the lakes as well as from the surrounding lands," says Environment Canada representative Peter Yee. "As a result, less runoff was available to replenish the lakes. In addition, exceptionally warm late-winter weather, combined with below-average snowfall, has further contributed to the decline in water levels."

The Environment Canada seasonal forecast for this summer projects average temperatures, with average to below-average precipitation amounts. Although water levels are expected to rise in the Great Lakes over the next several months by about 10 centimetres, depending on the actual rainfall, they are not expected to reach their average summer levels this year.

"The rapid drop in water levels over the past two years on the middle Great Lakes, including Erie, will affect some marinas and boaters as well as some cottages who draw their water from the lakes and connecting rivers," says Yee.

Several marinas have found it necessary to undertake dredging in order to maintain access to their facilities. Recreational boaters will need to exercise caution, as areas that have been safely navigated in previous years may be too shallow this year.

On the positive side, Yee says the lower water levels will increase beach sizes and reduce the risk of flooding and shoreline damage.

Wetlands and marshlands are expected to benefit in several ways. Seeds, which are buried in the mud, will germinate and grow readily and increase the amount and diversity of vegetation in the area.

Yee adds that it's very difficult to determine whether the decline in lake levels is due in part to climate change. However, it is anticipated that the unusually warm weather of the past two years and low water levels in the lakes will occur more frequently in the future as a result of climate change.

"While the recent conditions might not be due to climate change, they are a graphic display of what the future may hold," says Lee.

The current Great Lake levels are low, but not the worst in their history. Lake Superior is 40 centimetres above its record low in 1926; Lake Huron is more than 30 centimetres above its record low in 1964; Lake Ontario is more than 60 centimetres above its record low in 1935; and Lakes St. Clair and Erie are 60 to 65 centimetres above their record lows which occurred in 1934. APR. 2000



# Happy Birthday Canada

There was no shortage of activities this past Canada Day weekend in and around West Elgin. Whether you spent the day in Rodney, right up to the fireworks, enjoyed the food and fun in Dutton, or checked out some fancy cars in West Lorne, Canada's 133rd birthday celebration was one to remember.



*There were more than 100 classic cars in West Lorne over the Canada Day weekend. Ken and Mary Ward of Vienna took a liking to this 1955 Thunderbird, owned by West Lorne's Don Otting.*



*There were even pint-size classic cars in West Lorne. Brother and sister, Keegan and Hollie Grimmick, of Glencoe, cruise in a 1964 Thunderbird while their other brother Shane enjoys his 1958 Corvette. Their dad, Dave, built the cars.*



# Drawing Attention JULY 2000

*Things were picture perfect last week during the West Elgin Art Camp at the West Elgin Arena. Local children are given the opportunity to hone their artistic skills during the week long camp thanks to instructor Annette Sullivan of Annette's Signs. Here Sarah Johnston, 10, left, and Kevin Greenfield, 10, both of West Lorne finish up one of their many projects. The week of July 17-21 is the last week for the art classes. To register, call Trudy Balint at 768-2987.*

CURRENT EVENTS 2000




# Running Water

*The National Trans Canada Relay 2000 will be making its way through West Elgin on the morning of Aug. 16 (along Highway #3) as part of its cross country tour that will end in Ottawa Sept. 9. Water from the Arctic, Pacific and Atlantic Ocean are being carried across country in celebration of the 16,400 km Trans Canada Trail that is being constructed to literally trace a true path across our country. Here, local organizer Trudy Balint, left, shows off the 'Relay 2000' flag that will be flying in West Elgin during the celebration to local resident Rita DeWild, who is one of the local water carriers. The festivities are scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. on Highway #3 at the Elgin/Chatham-Kent border. The public is invited to line the route and cheer the walkers, bikers and even those on horseback. The event will continue into Dutton-Dunwich with a reception planned for the Backus-Page House beginning at 10 a.m.* JULY 2000



# Church vandalized

Vandal(s) have now sunk to the level of taking out their frustrations on a local church, as the interior of St. Mary's Parish in West Lorne was completely covered with the residue of spent fire extinguishers last Wednesday evening.

"It's just some kids with too much time on their hands and no respect for others," says Fr. Joe Nevett. "It could have been worse. They could have busted the stained glass windows or knocked over statues."

Since there is no money in the church and damage was minimal, robbery is not figured to be a motive.

The vandal(s) did not have to break into the church before making a mess. A funeral was held at the church that afternoon so the doors were open.



*Els Huver was busy last week vacuuming up the damage caused by vandals last week at St. Mary's Parish.*

Parishioners did not let the action of a few deter their spirit. A number of members were on site first thing the following morning with buckets, mops, vacuums and cloths to clean the mess.

"The church needed a good cleaning anyway," says Harry Mezenberg, trying to make the best of the unfortunate situation.



# A rollin' good time at West Elgin derby

The weather couldn't have been better for the second annual West Elgin Downhill Derby Days held recently in West Lorne.

There were numerous local children on hand who got out their cars and went head-to-head, vying for top spot in their respective categories,

The top winners included:

**Division A**

1st - Elizabeth Newman
2nd - Trevor Meunier
3rd - Shawn James
4th - Tim Waite

**Division B**

1st - Colin Newman
2nd - Greg Wemp
3rd - Shawn McLachlin
4th - Kyle Lucier

**Division C**

1st - Shane Lucier
2nd - Ashley Stewart
3rd - Brad Bogart
4th - Troy Cook

**Division D**

1st - Shawn Scott
2nd - Andrea LeClaire
3rd - Matthew Westlake
4th - Thomas Rowe

There were other awards handed out, including Best Car (Shawn McLachlin), Best Commercial Car (Jobson Photography), Best Home-made Car (Ashley Stewart's water tank car) and Best Pit Crew (Justin Walker's Wire Tie pit crew).



*Kyle Mezenberg, left, and Christopher Huver are neck 'n' neck as they head down the ramp in one of the downhill derby races.*

DOWNHILL DERBY






*Please, please, no... Pleading didn't help Maureen Campbell who was victimized a number of times during her stint on the dunk tank.*



*Chevy Blue bass player Richard Szewczyk keeps the beat going during the dance held in the IGA parking lot.*



*Bill Besley of the Graham Crackers was unsure what to expect when he faced the always curious Rick Falkins of the West Elgin Legion Hooters during the baseball tournament.*



*Andrea LeClaire keeps her head down as she flys towards the finish line in the downhill derby.*



*Residents took a trip back in time during the annual Cruise Night in West Lorne. Led by a '57 Chevy, the more than 60 classic cars enjoyed a leisurely drive through West Elgin before parking in West Lorne to show off all the hard work that went into them. And to keep with the classic theme, the music of the Spin Doc'ter filled Main Street.*

20

Santa Claus Parade 2000



# CHRISTMAS OF THE FUTURE



*Have you ever stopped and wondered what Christmas would be like in the future? Hologram Christmas trees? Flying cars? Well, West Lorne and area residents got a little taste of what it might be like at the annual Santa Claus Parade last Friday night. It may be hard to predict what the future will truly be like, but according to all the parade entrants there will definitely be plenty of bright lights, music, candy and, of course, Santa Claus.*



**Photos by Paul Mayne**














CHRISTMAS

EDUCATION 1999

# CFPL-TV at WESES

1999 *By Craig Hoglund*

As spring is underway and the warmth is here, WESES students continue to be involved.

On April 8 and 9, the Rodney Ambulance crew visited our school to educate the Grade 8s on the vital life saver - CPR. We appreciate them for this crucial support.

Talented speakers from each class volunteered to recite their speech at our public speaking contest on April 13. With this year having a different format, rather than placing 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., it was judged on levels with level four being the highest and level one being the lowest. We would like to thank our community senior citizens for evaluating the speakers.

While speaking of our elders, they will be returning this week to edit the anecdotes that the Grade 8s wrote about them for the book. CFPL-TV will accompanying them on their visit.

The Grade 8 students will be attending a theatrical performance on today of "The New Canadian Kid" at the Grand Theatre involving their English and Geography units. Following this they will by dining on African cuisine.

The photographers will be at our school on April 21 and 22 to take class and individual portraits. Be sure to dress appropriately.

Our member of Parliament, Gar Knutson, will be a guest at our school on Friday (April 23). Parents are welcome to attend.

Our school fund-raiser of selling cutie pies is still underway.



## 3-on-3 Champs!

FEB. 22/99

*St. Mary's School held its 3rd Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament recently with six teams, made up of Grade 7 and 8 students, vying for top spot. The overall champions was the team of Ashley Clements, left, Stacey Oliveira, Carla Oliveira, Greg Howse and Jay Hilliard, all Grade 8 students.*




## Aldborough Public School Funfest

*Aldborough Public School was the place to be Feb. 19 as the Aldborough Volunteer Parents Association (AVPA) presented the annual Funfest activities. There were games, food, activities, crafts, prizes and just about everything else that promised a good time for all. Hundreds of children, parents and grandparents took part in the activities which helped raise funds for the AVPA. The money will go towards school related activities and programs. Here, Grade 3 student Robert Nute shows off some of his temporary tatoos he received at Funfest.*

MAR. 1999



## Flakey Fun!

*The students at Aldborough Public School knew that if they were patient the snow would come. The school's annual Winter Carnival was postponed after the heavy rainfall, but just days later the white stuff returned. And no one could be happier than Grade 1 student Andrea Roodzant who was literally jumping for joy during one the many snow-related activities throughout the school.*

FEB. 1999

EDUCATION 1999

# Teen View

*"A tear jerking goodbye"*

By Joshuah De Boer

Can you believe that after 29 long, and most likely frustrating, years of teaching, Clifford McCullough Lougheed (aka Mr. Lougheed) has finally decided to end his teaching career?

After this semester comes to an end, Mr. Lougheed, or "Mac" as he is referred to by his fellow teachers, is planning on enjoying a well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Lougheed has taught many subjects during his career, such as business courses and consumers education, and enjoyed directing his pupils within the latitude and longitude lines of geography. He also taught economics to which he originally earned his degree in.

I was one of the lucky students who got the chance to enjoy one of Mr. Lougheed's classes. I took part in listening to his untamed stories and laughing along with his enormous sense of humour.

I was also lucky enough to have gotten a chance to enjoy his unique and unforgettable way of teaching, all of which were jammed packed into an exhilarating science course where sparks of magnesium mixed and took our class' wide-eyed gaze into that short bright white light of amazement.

I asked him what his most memorable moments were and he had trouble bringing up any specific memories. When I asked him why he couldn't think of anything that "stood out" in his memory, he told me that "there were just too many fantastic period within my career."

"All of my classes had their ups and downs, so I'd have to say that my most memorable moments were when the classes enjoyed themselves and completed their work," says Lougheed. "In my eyes that's what teaching is all about, having fun and learning."

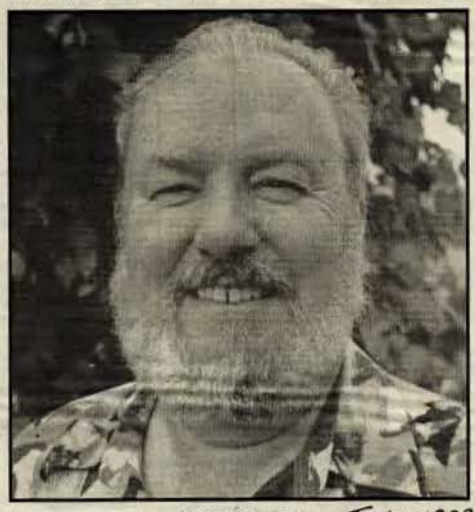
So I decided to twist my questions a bit. I asked him what his most regretful incident had been, and his instant reply was "having such a poor memory for names."

To my amazement, when I asked how many different schools he had taught in over the years, his response was "just one."

"I came here to WESS 20 years ago only planning to stay for a year and then leave, " he says. "Then I got the chance to stay for two years and when my wife and I finally started to pack up our bags to leave, I went and bought our house."

I then asked him what he did as a "summer job" inbetween teaching and found out he was involved in road construction, house building and working in a rubber factory.

So retirement is nearing for Mr. Lougheed and he plans on doing "anything exciting that comes to mind." He and his wife are planning a trip to New Zealand within the next few years, but other than that, he insists on relaxing and enjoying the rest of his life.



*Clifford Lougheed* JUNE 1999

Page 12 - June 7, 1999




# Jump for Cash

*Aldborough Public School jumped their way to raising $8,024.60 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation with its Jump Rope for Heart campaign. Here, jump rope co-organizer Wendy Olson, left, presents the cheque to Heart and Stroke representative Angela Horbanuik, along with top student fund-raiser Courtney Tunks and jump rope co-organizer Jane Jarvis.*

The West Elgin Chronicle



# Calling All Computers

*The police were called to Aldborough Public School last week. Nothing criminal was taking place, however it gave students a chance to say thanks for the three computers the school received courtesy of the West Elgin Community Policing Committee. Here kindergarten students Kevin Gibson, in front, Mitch Kuska, Jonielle Wilson and Krista Vaterlaus show policing committee secretary R. J. O'Connor and Elgin County OPP Constable Bob Maginnis some of the programs they are able to use thanks to their donation.* MAY 24/99



# Medival Fair

JUNE 28 1999

*Jokers, princesses and knights were roaming the yard at St. Mary's School last week as the Grade 4 class hosted a Medival Fair for the students. Face-painting, jousting and dancing were just some of the activities that kept everyone in a medival mood. Here, 10 year-old Clinton Hilliard protects the school grounds from any enemy attack.*

JUNE 14 1999



# Tropical Prom

*There was a causal look to this year's WESS Prom Night as students came dressed for an island adventure. Here, Prom King Terry Weed, back left, and Prince Grant Karn enjoyed a wonderful evening with Prom Queen Jennifer Arvai, left, and Princess Kristen Beattie.*

***Photo courtesy of Bonnie's Photography***



# Limo Lunch

APRIL 1999

*If you're heading out for lunch you might as well go in style. That's just what a handful of WESES Grade 8 students did last week. The students sold chocolate bars to help fund-raise for their year-end trip to Camp Celtic. During the two-week campaign any student who sold 100 chocolate bars or more was eligible for a free limousine ride with Cliff's Limousine, compliments of New Horizons Fund Raising Consultants Ltd. in Dutton. The lucky students included Dennis Nash, Meghan McLandress, Kyle Chouinard, Danielle Collins, Nathan Newport, Celina Leblanc, Dan Barry, Greg Arvi, Jeff Walker Rob Bedford and Mike Kimble. Coordinators for this year's campaign were teachers Ms. Race and Mr. Lawrence.*

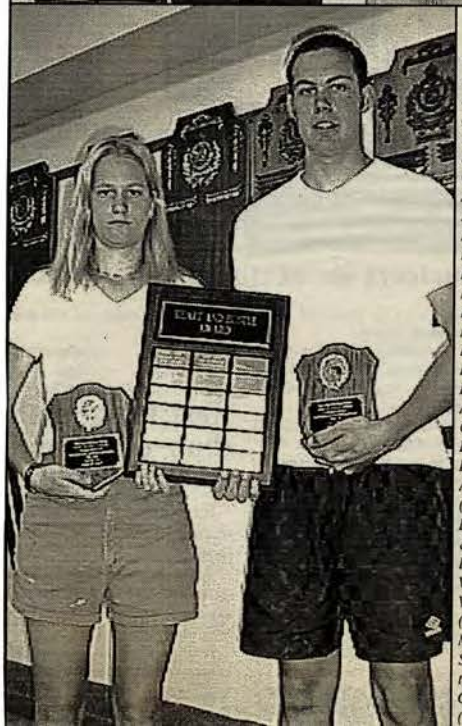


## WEST ELGIN LEGION, BRANCH 221 HONORS ZONE A7 CONTEST WINNERS




***Legion Education Chairperson Helen Mooser and Vice President Robert White are pictured with Simone Loeters, Teresa Simpson, and Ashley Dinga following the awards presentation.***

At a recent meeting of the West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, three St. Mary's School students were awarded certificates and prize money for their achievment in the Rememberance Day Poster and Essay Contest. Simone Loeters placed first in the Essay Contest and recieved a certificate and $30.00. Teresa Simpson placed 2nd in the Poems category and recieved $25.00 and her certificate and Ashley Dinga placed 2nd in the Black and White Poster contest and also recieved a certificate and $25.00. Having placed first with her Essay, Simone Loeters will be advancing to the provincial level at Dominion Command in Aurora Ontario. We extend our congratulations to the three girls and wish Simone the best of luck in the next division.

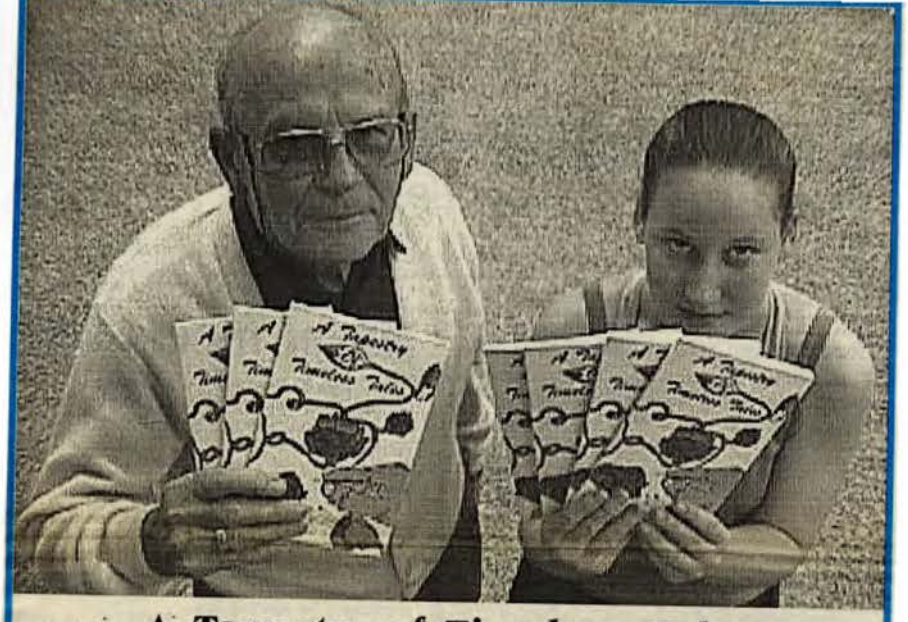


# Athletic Awards

*West Elgin Secondary School paid tribute to a handful of Wildcats as the annual athletic awards were handed out. In top photo, the Athlete of the Year awards went to Catherine Schneider (Jr. Female Athlete), left, Craig Dupuis (Jr. Male Athlete), Jenn Arvai (Sr. Female Athlete) and Adam Ecker (Sr. Male Athlete). At left, the Heart and Hustle awards were given to Amanda Guy and Terry Weed. Other MVP award winners included Reg Hessman (Badminton), Joanne Knowles (Jr. Girls Basketball), Michelle Campbell (Sr. Girls Basketball), Dupuis (Jr. Boys Basketball), Ecker (Sr. Boys Basketball), Katie Smale (Girls Golf), Aron Sudicky (Boys Golf), Paula Okolisan (Girls Field Hockey), Darren Stafford (Boys Hockey), Janet Littlejohn (Jr. Girls Soccer), Guy and Arvai (Sr. Girls Soccer), Will VanDyk (Jr. Boys Soccer), Steve Leitch (Sr. Boys Soccer), Teresa DaCosta (Track & Field), Jackie Fleming (Track & Field MIP), Laura Jones (Jr. Girls Volleyball), Arvai (Sr. Girls Volleyball), Dupuis and Erik Sudicky (Jr. Boys Volleyball) and Wayne McIntyre (Sr. Boys Volleyball). The St. Thomas Soccer Club Awards went to Jones (Jr. Girls), Campbell (Sr. Girls), Lee Wilson (Jr. Boys), Jim Lamb (Sr. Boys).*

JUNE 21/99

EDUCATION
1999



# A Tapestry of Timeless Tales

*The Grade 8 students at West Elgin Senior Elementary School, along with a number of local seniors, have completed their book project in celebration of the Year of the Older Persons, with the release of "A Tapestry of Timeless Tales," a collection of stories told to the students by the seniors. Here, Harold Lancaster and Devon Johnston show off of the finished product at the book release party that was held at the school last week.*

JUNE 21/99

# Local history comes alive through book

**By Paul Mayne**
*The Chronicle*

*"If ever there was a time when we need to reclaim our identity, clarify our values and memories with our children, it is now. If each of us picks up a few loose dangling threads, together we can weave a strong and beautiful cloth."*

This quote from the Eileen Silva Kindig's book *Remember the Time* was what WESES Principal June Harkness says sums up the hard work and dedication her students, along with the wisdom West Elgin seniors, that produced the book "A Tapestry of Timeless Tales".

"This joint project has woven a new understanding and respect for all the generations," says Harkness.

The book, which was released last week at WESES, is a collection of stories told by seniors to the Grade 8 students. These stories were written by the students and offer a better understanding of our past to younger generations.

"I think this reaffirms to both the seniors and the students that we all have a lot to gain from each other," says Jill Soos of the West Elgin Seniors Project Action Committee, who along with help from the West Elgin Community Health Centre and a grant from the Ontario Community Partnership Projects Program completed the six-month project.

"It was great to see the young kids take such an interest in our stories," says Harold Lancaster, who shared some of his memories for the book. "It was a great experience for me."

Matt Mistele, who wrote three stories in the book, was thrilled by the experience.

"Many of the events that are told in the stories happened around here, which helps us to understand them better," he says. "It was also interesting to find out what things were like before everyone listened to CDs and had email accounts."

To buy a copy of the book, call WESES at 768-1260 for more information.

## Teen shoots out school bus window

A 19-year-old West Elgin man is facing charges of mischief and careless use of a firearm after the window of a school bus was shot out with a pellet gun June 16.

The school bus, which had approximately 60 students from the three West Lorne schools (St. Mary's, WESES and WESS), was travelling westbound on Pioneer Line (between West Lorne and Rodney) at around 3:30 p.m. when the rear window of the bus was shattered by a pellet from pellet gun.

The pellet was fired from a vehicle that was driving behind the school bus at the time. There were no injuries to the students on the bus.

Police say they could not release the name of the teen until the investigation is completed. The accused will appear in St. Thomas Court to answer to the charges.





## 'Heart'felt Effort!

*Students at WESS gave from their heart for the heart as they took part in the school's annual fund-raiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Activities, games and community canvassing were just some of the ways students raised funds. In left photo, Hoops for Heart brought in $400 thanks to the efforts thanks to, in front from left, Donna McKillop and Lisa Smith. Back row from left is Katie Smale, Michelle Campbell, Ms. Lori Clinton, Simone Moreau and Maryn Fleuren. In right photo, Sarah Fisher and Celia Almeida, co-co-ordinators for the campaign, present Heart and Stroke area manager Angela Hurbanuik with a cheque for $2,003.20. The students wish to thank the residents of West Lorne and Rodney for their generosity to the campaign.*



# Success will follow if you value yourself

*By Michaela Rowe*

*This following is the Valedictorian speech given by WESS graduate Michaela Rowe Oct. 23. 1999*

Good afternoon graduates, staff, family and friends. I am proud to be representing West Elgin's last graduating class of the 20th century.

We'll, we've finally done it, but it seems just like yesterday we were starting out first day of Grade 9 here at West Elgin. We all remember what it was like stepping into this massive building for the first time.

It was intimidating at first, but our expectations were high, and we were determined to make these the best years of our lives. We were all excited to find out what the next five years would bring.

Most of all, though, we could hardly wait for the astounding wealth of knowledge that we would gain. When we all started high school, we had dreams for our future. Nevertheless, those journeys towards success began here.

During the years that followed, our experiences here at West Elgin helped to shape out future. Some of the best friendships were made here at high school, as and proven by the legends in our yearbooks, some of the greatest memories were created during our time here, as well.

Little by little, our confidence grew, and we began to discover what we excelled in, and learned to accept that there were areas in which we were not going to excel.

During our time here, we've all become individuals, and we are now more prepared for the obstacles that will face us in the future.

One of the things that sets West Elgin apart from other high schools is its size. Oddly, it is the small population that has put our school on the map. I would argue that this school has the greatest student-award ration in Elgin County.

Adding together the tournaments won by our sports teams, including countless OFSAA and WOSSA titles, drama club, and concert and jazz band victories, we have quite a collection of hardware. For such a small school, we have a great list of achievements, of which we should all be very proud.



*Michaela Rowe*

Today is a celebration of the graduation of the students you see before you. However, it would be impossible to celebrate our achievements without giving credit to those who helped us get where we are today.

Of course, we want to thank our families for putting up with our teenage hormones for the past few years. We want to thank you for biting your tongues when there was a mandatory party or a season finale the night before an exam. And as tempting as it was, we want to thank you for not saying "I told you so" when we were up at 3 a.m. the night before a project was due.

But right now, we want to give a special thanks to our teachers. I can guarantee that nowhere else will you find teachers with such incredible patience and devotion. Every teacher here has, at some point, taken the time to coach a team, organize a club, provide extra help, or even to just listen.

When I refer to a teacher, I am not only speaking of those who taught us to do quadratics, to remove a transmission, to memorize cell structure or to analyse Shakespeare. I am also speaking of those who taught us to pick up our own garbage, serve food in the hot line, fill out demit slips and show up for detention.

As Valedictorian, I would like to be able to describe to you all the true dedication in the facility of the school. However, words alone cannot express our gratitude, so hopefully this tribute will help to illustrate how we feel. (Slide show presentation)

I suppose the best way to wrap this up would be to quote from someone who said it better. Albert Eistein said: "Try not to become a person of success. Rather, try to become a person of value."

Fellow graduates, if you take one bit of knowledge with you from this chapter in our lives, let it be this: Success cannot be measured. I think that above all, our teachers, families and friends would like us to have learned this.

Everyone defines success differently, but it we value ourselves, that alone will take us farther than we can ever imagine.

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the graduating class of 1999.





*It was an exciting day at WESS for the 1999 graduating class as they received their diplomas. In top photo, Charlene Carroll, left, recieves a little help from Cheryl Koscik with her hat. In bottom photos, Corey Welch, left, and Monique Verbrugghe get ready to pick up their diplomas.*

NOV. 1, 1999

# The Principal Has Recommended To The Minister of Education That The Following Students Be Recognized As Ontario Scholars



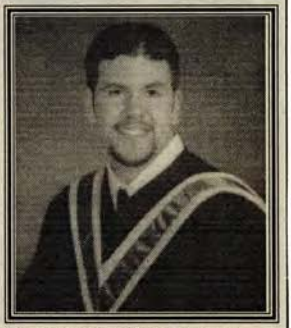
***Kristen Shontelle Beattie, Dutton***
*Parents*: Ray & Dianne Beattie
*University*: Waterloo
*Program*: Recreation & Leisure



***Brian Dunseith, West Lorne***
*Parents*: Ann & Allan Pease
*University*: Waterloo
*Program*: Math Honors



***Jennifer Catherine Fleming, Rodney***
*Parents*: Frank & Shelley Fleming
*University*: University of Guelph
*Program*: Biomed-Toxicology



***Donald Grant Karn, Rodney***
*Parents:* Robert W. & Ruth Karn
*University*: Queen's University
*Program*: Faculty of Arts and Science Majoring in History & Political Studies



***Cheryl Koscik, West Lorne***
*Parents*: Heather & Richard Koscik
*University*: University of Toronto
*Program:* Life Sciences



***Becci "Brianne" McCready, Dutton***
*Parents*: Ted & Barb McCready
*University*: O'Arcy Lane Institute of Massage Therapy
*Program:* Registered Massage Therapy



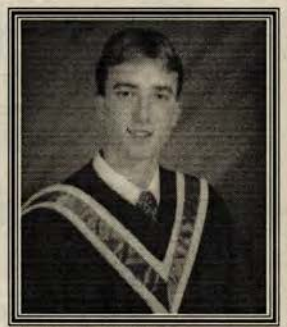
***Matthew John McKillop, Dutton***
*Parents*: Dan & Janet McKillop
*University*: University of Guelph
*Program*: Social Science



***Charlene Louise Milne, West Lorne***
*Parents*: Paul & Mary Jane Milne
*University*: University of Toronto
*Program*: Mathematical, Physical and Computer Sciences



***Rachel Grace Pennings, Iona***
*Parents*: Bernie & Ina Pennings
*University*: Redeemer College
*Program:* Pre Med



***Carl A. Prey, Dutton***
*Parents*: Helmut & Emmy Prey
*University*: Waterloo
*Program*: Environmental Resource Co-op Program



***Michaela Katherine Rowe, Dutton***
*Parents*: Mike & Bonnie Rowe
*University*: University of Western Ont.
*Program:* Bachelor of Arts: English

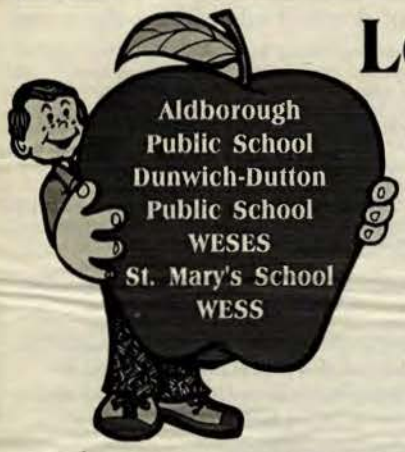


***Paula Emily Verbrugghe, West Lorne***
*Parents*: Paul & Linda Verbrugghe
*University*: Queen's University
*Program*: Socialogy (B.A. Honours)

EDUCATION 1999



# Local teachers moving on




Another school year in West Elgin and area is coming to a close. It has been a year full of fun and learning at each school.

And with the end of school, many students will be moving on to new schools. The Grade 6 students at Aldborough P.S. will now be heading to WESES; the Grade 8s at WESES and St. Mary's School will be moving on to the big times - high school; and our high school graduates will venturing into post secondary education while others will hit the workforce.

But it's not just students who will be making a few changes next school year. A handful of local teachers will be moving on to new schools for the 1999-2000 school year, while others will be moving on to retirement.

The West Elgin Chronicle wishes these teachers well in all their future endeavours.



## Aldborough Public School

*Wendy Olson, left, (J. P. Robarts School - London), Tim Coombs (Homedale Public School - St. Thomas), Deneen Kebbel (McGregor Public School - Aylmer) and Larry Anderson (Summers Corners - Aylmer).*



## Dunwich-Dutton Public School

*Pat Patterson (Elmdale Public School - St. Thomas), Kristen Egener Black (McGregor Public School - Aylmer), Holly Ripley (Locke's Public School - St. Thomas) and Rose Oakley-Law (North Meadows Public School - Strathroy. Also leaving, but absent from photo, is Rob Mailhot.*



## West Elgin Secondary School

*Larry Schneider, left, (Central Elgin Secondary School - St. Thomas), Mark Enns (Saunders Secondary School - London), Andrea Van Hoeve (East Elgin Secondary School - Aylmer) and Mac Lougheed (Retiring).*



## West Elgin Senior Elementary School

*Annette Race, left (Homedale Public School - St. Thomas) and June Harkness (Chippewa Public School - London).*



## St. Mary's School

*Maria Currado (St. Pius X - London) and Kathy Grosse (St. Theresa's - London).*

EDUCATION 1999

SPORTS



West Elgin Sports Centre
188 Main St. • West Lorne
768-0606
Team Uniforms
Trophies & Awards
Casual Wear
Mon. to Thurs. 9-6
Fri. 9-8
Sat. 9-5



# Eagles Flyin' High

*Not only did WESES play host to a boys elementary volleyball recently, they also took the gold medal as the top team on the day. Sponsored by the West Lorne Optimist and Celtic Sports and Arts Camp, the WESES Eagles, behind the coaching of Donna Baran, defeated Arthur Ford Public School out of London for the championship. It was a well-deserved medal for each team member who played hard every game.*

# Wildcat Sport Shorts



*By Meghan Bell*

Hi, my name is Meghan Bell. I am junior intramural executive for the Student Athletic Association (SAA) at WESS.

Fall sports are slowly winding down with the senior girls basketball team's season ending. Their last game against Arthur Voaden ended in a 28-21 loss despite strong play from the girls. Great season girls!

This past week WESS hosted the boys WOSSA volleyball tournament. The senior boys played on Friday while the junior squad took to the gym on Saturday.

We'll let you know next week how our teams finished.

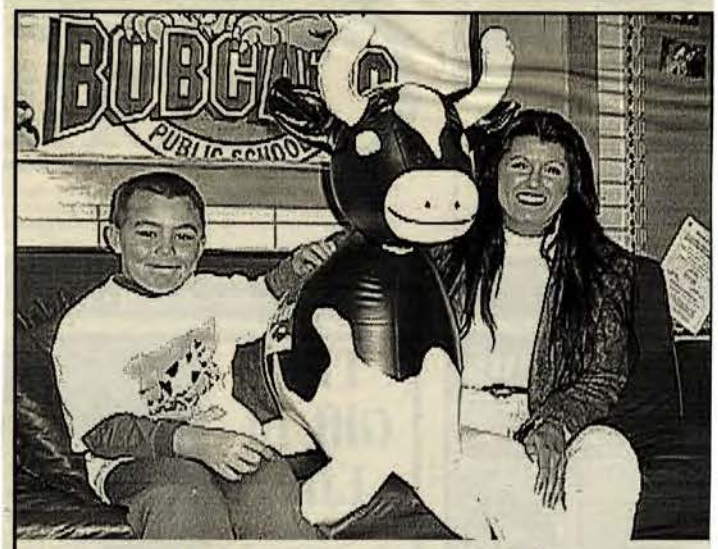
The winter sports have begun. Boys hockey and senior and junior boys basketball tryouts are currently being held. Tryouts for senior, junior and midget girls volleyball are also being held.

Curling has also started. This sport has not been played at WESS for many years now and has been eagerly welcomed back.

And last, but definitely not least...Spirit Wear! These great school favourites include sweatshirts, dazzel shorts, sweatpants, hats and tearaways. Any of these pieces would be a welcome gift on Christmas day.

For more information or to order contact any SAA member or Ms. Clinton at 768-1350.

EDUCATION 1999

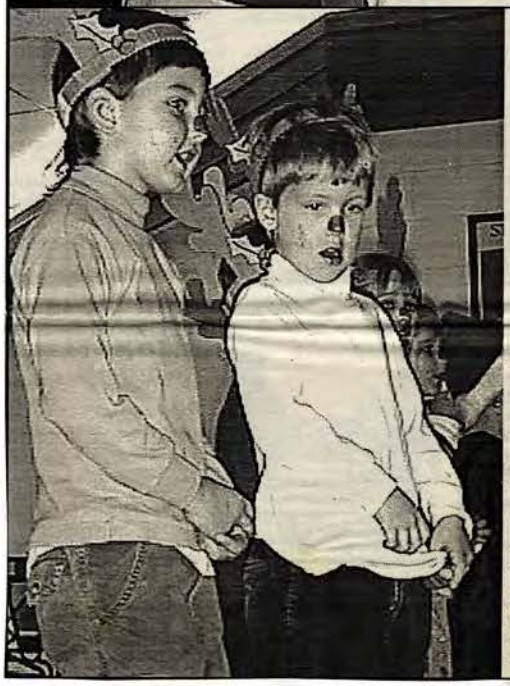



# Utterly Fantastic

*The students of Aldborough Public School were cow crazy last week as the took part in the "Name the Cow" contest put on by the Aldborough Volunteer Parents Association (AVPA). Sponsored by the Ontario Dairy Farmers of Ontario, their yearly program offers a number of contests and activities for Ontario school children. Out of all the submissions, Grade 2 student Randy Ossel took top honours by naming the cow "Cayla." Here, Ossel posses with Cayla the blown up cow, which will hang in his class, and AVPA milk and juice coordinator Andrea Fordham.*







# A Gift of Music

*They may be small in stature but the Junior Kindergarten class at West Elgin Senior Elementary School definitely know how to belt out the Christmas tunes. The students out on a pair of performances last week for family, friends and fellow students as they presented "A Gift of Music." Everything from 'Must Be Santa' and 'Five Bells' to the classic Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, the students had hands clapping and feet tapping. In top photo, Hassan Jabara, left, and Anna Kelly use a few dance moves to get their point across. In photo at left, Cole Kirschner, left and Dylan Painter get into their roles as reindeer.*

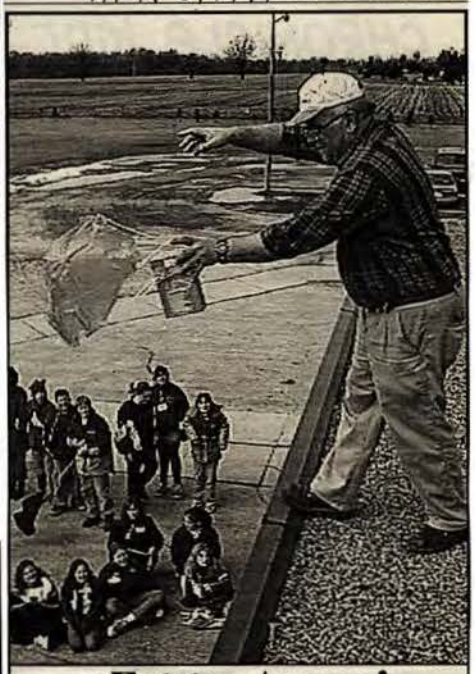
EDUCATION 1999



# All That Jazz!

*The West Elgin Senior Elementary School Jazz Band are enjoying the sweet sounds of gold after competing in the Southwest Regionals of Music Fest Canada in London March 3. It was the band's first experience at such a festival and impressed the adjudicators so much that they received the Gold Standing Award, the festivals top honour. At left, teacher/conductor Tom Pietrangelo, WESES principal June Harkness and West Lorne Optimist Club President Don Boos share a moment with the band, including Jonathon Fleming, Andrew Schneider, Jen Pinder, Becky Koscik, Shannon Kindernay, Donovan Boyd, Erin Smith, Amy Denomme, Scott Bray, Ian Molnar, Matt Mistele, Donald Drummelsmith and Laura Park. The local Optimist Club provided transportation and support for the band's trip to London. The band has now been invited to the national finals of Music Fest in Toronto this May where more than 10,000 musicians will be competing.*





# Eggs Away!

*The Grade 6 class at Aldborough Public School recently finished up a study on space and decided to celebrate by tossing a few raw eggs off the roof of the school. Actually, there was a good reason behind this activity. The students were required to make a contraption that would be able to absorb the fall from the roof without breaking the egg. It was to simulate what astronauts used to go through when landing after a mission. Everything from shoeboxes to ice cream containers were padded to absorb the fall and the parachutes ranged from plastics bags to balloons and umbrellas. Here, school custodian Jim McDonald launches a few of the projects from the roof of the school, much to the delight of Grade 1 student Jesse Sherriff, who cheered every egg that survived the fall. The other grades were invited to watch the launches.*



# WOSAA Champs!

MAR. 1999



*No matter which way you line them up, the West Elgin Secondary School Wildcats Junior Girls Volleyball team are tops. The squad marched their way to the Elgin County championship, followed that up with the Elgin-Oxford title, and last week wrapped up a wonderfully successful year by defeating Dorchester in two straight games for the the top spot at WOSAA. The team is is made up of Melissa Couper, Natalie Ford, Laura Jones, Joanne Knowles, Janet Littlejohn, Amy Mezenberg, Julie Moreau, Alison Murray, Catherine Schneider, Carrie Slaats, Gilleanne Trudell, Nicole Webber, Kelly Welch (head coach), Kim Beattie (asst. coach) and Christopher McCready (team manager.)*



MAY 10, 1999

EDUCATION 1999

# Knapp shares views on school violence with Legislative Assembly of Ontario

**Paul Mayne**
*The Chronicle*

Politics has always intrigued Marsha Knapp and that interest was hit full force with her trip to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

And not only did the 17-year-old West Lorne resident make it into the building, she was one of 130 students from across Ontario who actually got to sit among the MPPs as opposed to sitting in the audience.

Knapp and three fellow St. Joseph's High School students (Max Kemmerling, Nathan Hambly and Rita Mennil) took part in the first ever Ontario Student Conference on Human Rights, an offshoot of a similar American conference which began last year.

"It was pretty cool," says an excited Knapp, whose trip was paid through her high school. "I'm interested in politics, so to go to the Legislature...and then to be part of the process."

A total of 130 elementary and secondary students from across the province took part in the two-day conference which brought the students together to discuss, and find solutions to, problems us in everyday life.

Students attending were required to write an essay on one of three topics: Racism, Water Pollution or Drugs and Violence in Schools).

Knapp chose the latter topic. Her essay on school violence, which ironically was done well before the recent tragedies in Colorado and Alberta, was picked as one of the top essays among all in attendance.

When attending the Legislature, Knapp read her essay to the members.

"It was exciting because we had to do it by legislative rules," she says. "You had to raise your hand with a note that a page would then pick up and then your were recognized by the chair...it was great."

Knapp says she learned a lot from her experience. She met a number of students from across the province that all share the same basic interests - how to make our communities a better place to live.



*Marsha Knapp*

"We discussed a variety of topics and worked on a number of solutions," she says. "We felt that it was important that everyone be awarded basic human rights and that everyone has the ability to participate in their community."

Knapp hopes to follow up on her recent experience with a trip to New York in September. The Ontario students has been invited to a follow-up meeting with students from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Conference that was held in New York late last year.

For more information on future conferences, contact organizers Stacey and Kevin LePage at (705)444-6165 or you can email them lepages@bconnex.net.

The following is the essay written by Knapp and read at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

*Violence in Canadian schools has become more serious. The past ten years have seen a great change. The number of youth charged with crimes involving violence across Canada rose by 14% (18,919 to 21,656) between 1991 and 1994. However, 22% of all violent crimes occurred in schools (Vanier).*

*When a parent takes their children to school each morning, they entrust the educators to make sure their child will be "...in a safe, healthy, and happy academic environment void of taunting, teasing, racism, and various physical forms of aggression, particularly bullying. (Smith, Hamilton Spectator).*

*The reason for an individual's violence or lack of depends on one's environment, history, upbringing, examples, values, evolution and personal choice (Hemsworth, Hamilton Spectator).*

*By the time the average boy or girl graduates from elementary school, they will have seen 8,000 murders (visual media). On average they will have seen 100,000 different acts of violence. By the time they graduate from high school, they will have seen 16,000 televised shootings and overall 300,000 acts of violence.*

*These shuddering statistics are from Dr. Peter Jaffe of the London Family Court Clinic. Children and adults alike are becoming desensitized to violence throughout the media which ties into our imaginations and conscience. Youngsters do not understand the impact of their actions they are carrying out.*

*The solution is a complicated one, if it were not we would have had one by now. Particular subjects; ethics, racism, drugs, and life skills, should be talked about earlier, with more emphasis on random acts of kindness.*

*In high schools, there should be a buddy system where seniors look over ou Grade 9s.*

*Whatever the solution, order to make people aware this increase of violence, issue needs to be addresse our schools.*

The West Elgin Chronic



# Senior Stories

*Seniors have always played a vital role in West Elgin and the students at WESES are looking to document their many stories in an upcoming book. In celebration of the International Year of Older Persons, WESES has received a government grant to put together a book of stories from local seniors. Students recently concluded the initial interview process and will now work on writing their stories. Approximately 30-35 stories, along with photos, are planned for the 100 page book. The book will be unveiled at a June 18 dinner. Here, WESES students Kyle Switzer, left, and Matt Mistele chat with West Elgin senior Keith Kelly.*



# School Anyone?

SEPT. 4/99

*The new school year gets underway this Tuesday and are students were busy shopping last week to pick a few school supplies. Here, 13 year-old Nadine Lewis of Wallacetown is loaded down with new supplies as she shops at U-Need-A-Discount in West Lorne. She plans to begin her Grade 8 year at West Elgin Senior Elementary School.*

EDUCATION 1999




## Painting on Christmas cheer

*The Grade 10 art students from WESS made their way downtown West Lorne last week with paint brushes in hand to spread a little Christmas cheer. Each year the students show off their skills by painting Christmas decorations on the windows of local merchants free of charge. Here Jodi Thompson, left, and Jennifer Cowell work on the window at Paul Gangle Insurance.* DEC. 6, 1999



## High School Lends Helping Hand

*The students of West Elgin Secondary School have once again shown their true Christmas spirit in completing their annual 'Gift For Gobble' fund-raiser. The money raised through donations from the students will go to the Daffodil Society to help less fortunate families this holiday season. Here, the OAC chemistry class, the top homeroom fund-raiser, present a cheque for $2,779.60 to Daffodil Society representative Helen Mooser. Mr. Sydor's homeroom was a close second.* DEC. 1999

NOV 29/99



## Now Hear This...

*WESS music program students are looking for caring community members who are willing to adopt them...their instruments, that is. The music department, led by Spiro Grima, have initiated an Adopt-An-Instrument program to help raise funds to keep the more than 100 brass and percussion instruments in tiptop shape. Here, OAC student Lisa Smith trumpets what she hopes will be a successful fund-raiser. See story Page 7,5*

EDUCATION 1999



# Music Night

*The halls of West Elgin Secondary School were filled with the sounds of music last week as a number of local schools came together display their vocal and instrumental talents. Here, David McWilliam (Dutton-Dunwich P. S.), front left, Bill Nunes (Aldborough P. S.), Craig Watterworth (Aldborough P. S.), back left, Jasmine Doan (Aldborough P. S.) and Stephanie Everett (Dutton-Dunwich P. S.) ham it up prior to the concert.*

MAY 31, 1999

# Busy week ahead for WESES students

*By Craig Hoglund*

The pupils and staff once again are engaging in many summer related activities.

The jazz band's performance in Toronto was exceptional as they achieved a silver medal standard throughout Canada. The students and staff would like to say: Way to Go!

On Tuesday (June 1), Track and Field Day will be held for many competitive students. We invite community members to cheer on the local athletes.

A Carnival Day for the Grade 8 students is being held this Wednesday (June 2) at WESS. We would like to thank the WESS Student Council for organizing this. Admission will be $5.

A lesson for the proper and formal usuage to write a resumé will be held on June 8 to aid the Grade 7 and 8 students finding part-time jobs.

On June 9, a Junior Achievement Day, "Economics of a Good Education" will be hosted for the students to learn of their career opportunities. Presenting this will be local businessmen.

The students will be taking a break from their everyday studies to compete in a baseball tournament held June 18. This is a follow-up of the ongoing Grade 8 league.

Just a reminder of the upcoming Cinderalla play for those of you who want to view the talented local youth actors and actresses. The dates will be posted in next week's Chronicle.





# Stop the Violence

*The Thames Valley District School Board is once again in the midst of another major violence prevention initiative that uses drama as a catalyst for helping students talk openly about violence. The program is being presented by students from Medway High School in Aylmer. The performance of 'Forum Theatre' came to WESS last week and involved interactive performances between the players and the WESS students, who were allowed to join the performance at any time to act as problem solvers. Here Grade 10 WESS student Sara McCallum, left, performs a scene with Grade 11 Medway student Clay Pearn.*

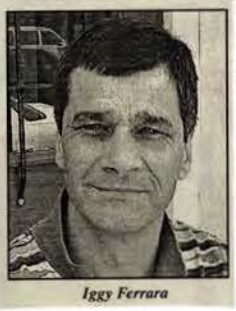
# Ferrara takes over WESES helm

*By Iggy Ferrara*

I trust everyone is having an enjoyable summer. My name is Iggy Ferrara and I am the incoming principal at WESES. My wife, Susan, and I reside in London with our two children, Jonathan and Ryan.

Before coming to West Lorne, I was vice-principal in schools in Woodstock, Hickson and most recently in London.

As the new principal at WESES, I am excited about the new experiences and challenges I will enjoy in my new position. I am eager to meet my new students, parents and other members of the community.



*Iggy Ferrara*

I have already received several positive comments from people who learned about my transfer to the school. Without fail, they mentioned the industrious and responsible character of the students, the supportive community and committed teachers. These three ingredients certainly point to a winning combination.

The school has received repairs during the summer, as well as a partial new roof. Thanks to the board's maintenance department for their efforts in this area.

The staff have also been in and out throughout the summer to spruce things up in their classrooms. Their effort is greatly appreciated. A big welcome to Beth Peternel and Christine Huybers, who will join me as new faces at the school.

The school will be open Aug. 30 to Sept. 3 if parents or students need to contact us for anything. As you know, classes will begin on Sept. 7.

We will also be continuing with the WESES News each week in the Chronicle. It's a great way to keep everyone informed about school life at WESES.

I do hope I can meet many of you personally during the year.

FEB 26 The West Elgin Chronicle

2001

# Student Wins Music Camp Registration

Jonathan Peternel, a grade 8 student at WESES, has been attending National Music Camp of Canada at the end of August for the past two summers. This year, as part of the camp's early registration promotion program, his name was drawn to win free registration to camp.

Jonathan plays the alto and baritone sax. He also takes piano lessons with Sharon Little. It was while he was taking sax lessons from Little that he first heard about the camp. It didn't take much encouragement for him to sign up the first year.

For the first two years, he participated in the Band program and has played in the jazz band as an elective. This year, Little has encouraged him to sign up for the Intermediate Jazz program, for grade 7 & 8 students.

"He has a natural feel for jazz and improvisation," says Little. "The Intermediate Jazz program helps younger students, whether they have jazz experience or not, to learn the basics of jazz playing. He's going to love it."

Several other West Elgin area students have attended NMC. Nearly all have been or are students of Little. Mike Miller will be attending for his third year, playing trumpet in the Band program. Scott Bray plays trombone and will be at camp for his third year. Because of his camp experience, he has been able to audition successfully for the London Youth Symphony. Aimee Champigny has loved camp so much that she's applying for a music staff position. Michaela McCready, a percussionist was a camper for a year and was on staff last year.

National Music Camp is located on the shores of Lake Couchiching, near Orillia, and has been operating for 35 years. Little was a camper there in the early 70's and has been working there since 1978. She currently hires the high school and university students who work with the teaching faculty. She can't imagine a summer without the camp. "It's like family," she says. "Watching the incredible amount that the kids learn in a week is a thrill."

For grade 4-8 students at the Junior division there is Band/Orchestra, Suzuki strings, Beginning Band, Beginning and Advanced Acoustic and Classical Guitar, and Music Theatre. At the high school camp, for students finishing grade 8-OAC, there is Band/Orchestra, Beginning and Advanced Acoustic and Classical Guitar, Music Theatre, Instrumental and Vocal Jazz.

Applications are still being accepted. Interested families can call Sharon Little at 785-0797 for an application or the camp office at 1-800-701-3132. There are some full and partial scholarships available on a first come, first served basis. Call the camp office for scholarship information or check out the web site at www.nationalmusiccamp.com.

EDUCATION 2000



# Who's ready for six more weeks of winter?

*According to Wee Willie in Wiarton, and Punxsutawney Phil (his U. S. counterpart) there will be six more weeks of winter weather. The prognosticating pair both saw their shadows, which brought geers from the adults and cheers from the children. Here, WESES Junior Kindergarten student Anna Kelly is more than prepared to survive what winter has to dish out. Anna was spotted at the Miller Park playground for phys. ed. class.* FEB 7 2000



# Prom Time

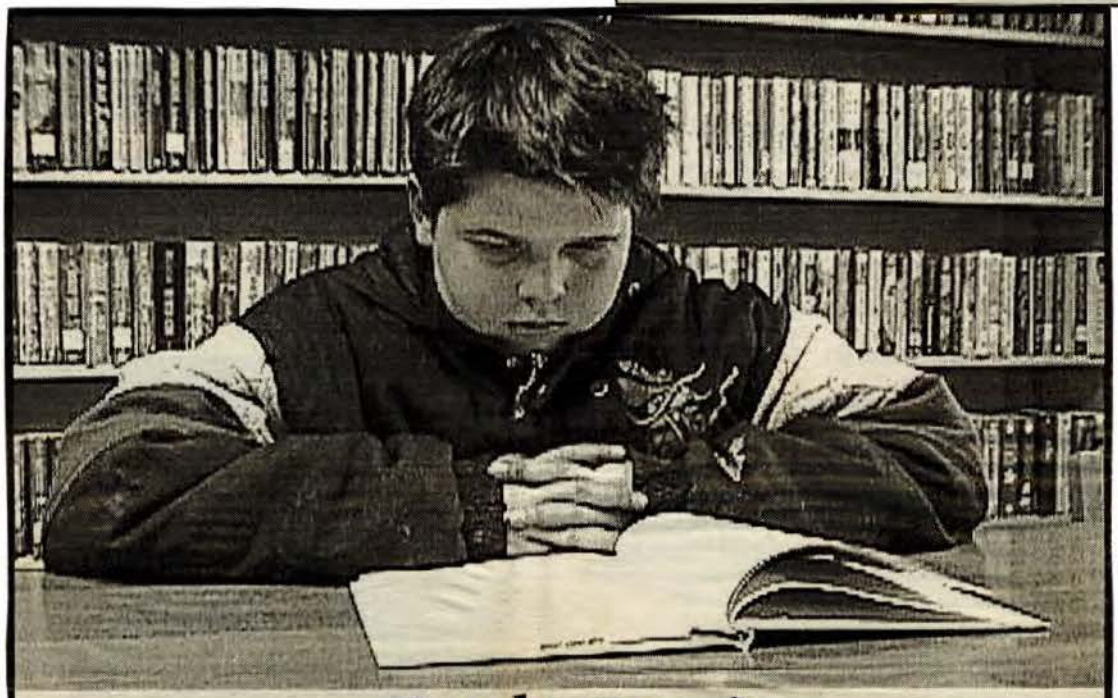
*The tuxedoes were pressed and the gowns flowed as students at WESS enjoyed a great night at this year's senior prom. Crowned this year were Sarah Hentz (Queen), left, Brad McCready (King), Bryan Dupuis (Prince) and Donna McKillop (Princess).*

JUNE 12 2000 *Photo by Karen Cormier*



# Helping United Way

*The students at WESS have once again dug deep to help support the Elgin-St. Thomas United Way and pitched-in their nickels and dimes to come up with $500 to help support community programs. Here, WESS Student Council President Stuart Murray presents the cheque to Judy Thorner, Education Chairman for the United Way. In back from left are student council representatives Jeremy Karn, Kelly McGill, Nicole Loeters and staff advisor Jim Ryan.* FEB 21 2000



# Bookworm!

*The Christmas break was extended a week for local school kids due to potential Y2K problems, so students had time to kill before heading back to school. Here, 12 year-old Sean Swick took advantage of this free time by getting a headstart on his reading assignments for the upcoming school year, which begins today (Jan. 10).* 2000

EDUCATION 2000



## Sterling Silver!

**For about the fourth time in five years, the West Elgin Secondary School Senior Girls' Volleyball team brought home hardware from the OFSAA 'A' championships. Proudly displaying their silver medals are team members Kelly Azevedo, Mallory Peternel, Tina Boyd, Joanne Knowles, Nicole Webber, Roberta Ford, Amy Coates, Amy Mezenberg, Terri Schnekeburger and coaches Mike Buttinger, Ann Wrobel, Jamie Peacock and Paul Gallant. Absent were Laura Jones, Nicole Myslik and coach Dale Peacock.** MAR/00



**West Elgin Senior Elementary School sent 16 qualifiers to a June 11 track meet at University of Western Ontario. The WESES team was back row: coach Krista Price, Phil Ouellette, Tyler Gowanloc, Lindsay Lamb, Kory Timmermans, Laura Ford, Tyler Wood, Jordan Shine, and coach Dean McLenaghan. Front row: Amanda Pelcz, Tracy Donaldson, Ashley Willie, Jaime Hale, Katie McIntyre and Jessica Kalita. Absent is: Dustin Druillard, Erica McDowell and Jon Dietrich. Jaime Hale had the strongest showing (3rd 800m & 4th 1500m).**



## Visiting Minister

*The students at WESS were visited by the Honourable Don Boudria recently as he was a guest of Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Gar Knutson. Boudria, the Government House Leader, spoke to the students on the importance of an education. Boudria was a high school dropout and just recently worked towards a university degree while a member of parliament.* MAY 8, 2000

2000



# WESES students in a rush to raise money for cancer research

*By Amanda Leonardes, Sarah Woolsey and Rachel Van de Vooren*

Since 1989, WESES has been involved with hosting a Terry Fox Run to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation, which uses the money to fund research into finding a cure for cancer.

This year, the run will be September 27 during the afternoon. The run covers a distance of six kilometres and can be walked or run by the participants.

In 11 years, WESES has raised more than $32,000 for research and it is hoped that this year's event will boost that amount even further.

Volleyball tryouts for both girls and boys started last Tuesday and Wednesday. The girls coach will be Mr. Lawrence and Miss Price. The boys will be coached by Mr. Peacock and Mrs. Ostrom.

Many of the boys and girls participated in the soccer tryouts last Tuesday. Mr. Raffa was holding tryouts for the boys, while Mr. Cobban held tryouts for the girls. Once the teams are set the first soccer game will be in Aylmer.

The Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit will be at WESES on September 25 to offer the Hepatitis B vaccine to Grade 7 students. If you have any questions regarding the program, call the health unit at 1-800-922-0096.

The Thames Valley District School Board would like to remind drivers of the need to exercise caution as children of all ages head back and forth to school each day. Remember, you must stop at least 20 metres behind the bus when the lights are flashing.

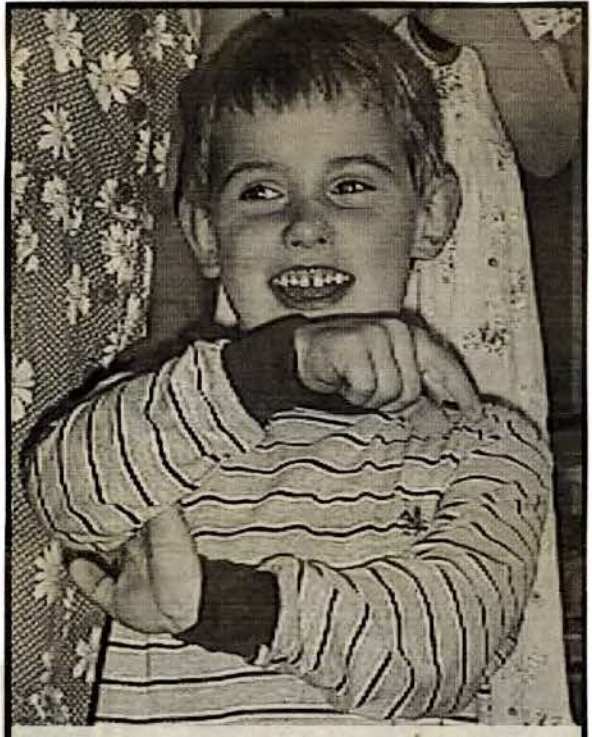
In recognition of the major curriculum reform initiatives across the province, and given the continuing emphasis on the need for staff training and development, the board has approved three early dismissal days (Sept. 27, Mar. 1 and Apr. 4). Parents are reminded that students will be dismissed an hour early (2:25 p.m.) on these days. On the first day, the teachers will work on 'Goal Setting', 'Staff Supervision' and 'Choices into Action'.

The book fair is back with bigger and better books. Students are able to visit the book fiar during lunch hour and scheduled times with their class. It will be at our school beginning tomorrow until the end of the week. It will also be open Tuesday night from 5 until 7 p.m.

The student council election will be held in the WESES pit this Friday. Grade 8 students will be running for president and vice-president, but the Grade 7s can only be elected for secretary, treasurer and student representatives. 'Parent/Teacher Night' is scheduled for this Tuesday from 5 to 7 p.m.

36

EDUCATION 2000



# Skinnamarinkin' at WESES

*The voices of the Junior Kindergarten students at WESES were booming throughout the halls last week as students attended a Grandparent's Tea. Here, Lyle Groniger had no problem following along with the Skinnamarink song.* JUNE 12/00





# Millennium Maple

*Schools throughout the Thames Valley District were each given and encouraged to plant a Silver Maple tree in front of their schools to mark the new millennium. And that's just what the students at WESES did last week with the assistance of West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail. Here, McPhail receives a helping hand from kindergarten students Cody Welsh, left, and Jacob Reimer.*



# Movin' On

*The end of the school year means some local schools will be saying goodbye to a handful of teachers as they venture on to new schools or prepare for retirement. Leaving WESES are Christine Huybers (Lord Elgin P.S.), Jeremie Roselle (Chippewa P.S.), Donna Baran (Forest Park/Mary Bucke P.S.), Carolyn Willie (undetermined) and Kim Grimminck (undetermined). Also saying goodbye are:*



**Aldborough P.S.** - *Natalie Temple (Locke's P.S.) and Wendy Masciotra (White Oaks P.S.).*



**Dutton-Dunwich P.S.** - *Tammy Bakker (Ottawa), Rob Mailhot (Scott St. School), Rick Wood (Lester B. Pearson School) and Deanne Cole (retiring).*



**WESS** - *Back row is Kathy Lougheed (retiring) and James May (retiring). Front row is Tina Chapman (Oakridge), Meegan Campbell (undetermined) and Elaine Back (Medway).*



**St. Mary's School** - *Seated is Tracey Ruetz (maternity leave), Theresa St. Pierre (retiring) and Linda Van Raay (undetermined). Standing is Marianne DeSando (undetermined) and Rachel O'hagan (Jean Vanier).* JULY 3, 2000

EDUCATION 2000



# Silver Swingers

*It was a great weekend recently for the WESES Jazz Band as they returned home from MusicFest Canada in Toronto with a silver medal in the instrumental jazz division. The competition involves thousands of students from across Canada.*

MAY 29/00

JUNE 5, 2000 The West Elgin Chronicle




*WESS Student Council President Stuart Murray, left, receives information from Summer Job Services program provincial coordinator Jenifer Duin and summer employment officer Ross Pryde before signing up for the program. You can call 768-0020 for more information.*



# Takin' It To The Streets

*When you want to get your message across the best way to do it is by hitting the pavement. That's just what a group of approximately 50 students from WESS and WESES did last Thursday and Friday as they expressed their dislike over the provincial government's potential changes to the education system, including Bill 74 which would make extracurricular activities mandatory for teachers.*

JUNE



# WOSSA Champs!

*The West Elgin Wildcats Junior Girls Volleyball team has quite the successful year. Not only did they take the Thames Valley 'A' title, they also showed off their skills recently at the WOSSA championships in Glencoe. The girls came away with the overall title, sweeping Centre Desloges de London in two straight games. The Wildcats are made up of Alison Murray, Lindsey Hull, Katie Cormier, Cheri Hunter, Mallory Paternal, Janet Littlejohn, Jodi Thompson, Laura Jones, Justina Campbell, Nicole Myslik, Roberta Ford, Julie Moreau, Nellie Oliveira, Carolyn Tunks and Ana Oliveira. Coaches are Kelly Welch, Kim Beattie and manager is Brad Seed.*

MAR. 13/00 *Photo by Karen Cormier*



# Down & Dirty

*It may simply look like a bunch of red begonias and white alyssums now, but give it a couple of weeks and you'll have yourself a Canadian flag. The Grade 10 students of Mr. Walter's horticultural class took time out to do some planting in the flower bed located near the railroad tracks in West Lorne. The students will also be making a much larger Canadian flag at the West Elgin Arena shortly. Here, WESS student Karl Robinson lines up one of the begonias in the flag.*

JUNE 5, 2000

# Fresh Faces

*You can't officially start the new school year without introducing the new teachers at our local schools. The community welcomes the teachers and wish them best of luck in their new positions.*



**Aldborough P.S.** - *Catherine Stephen, left, teacher/librarian, Angela DeVries, secretary and Kim Tremblay, educational assistant.*



**WESES** - *Carrie Ostrom, left, Grade 7 and Krista Price, Grade 8.*



**WESS** - *Stephen Osterberg, left, History/Visual Arts, Meegan Campbell, English, Brenda Cowan, English and Melanie Thibert, History/English.*



**St. Mary's School** - *Joanne Anderson, left, Grade 1, Tanya Maric, Grade 3/4, Krista Fox, Grade 1/2, Keith Hoffer, Grade 6 and Grade 7/8 French and Deb Winia, JK.*



**Dunwich-Dutton P.S.** - *Jim Bowden, left, Principal, Martha MacDonald, JK, Jennifer Duckworth, SK, Sandra O'Neill, Grade 5/6 and Christine Heyda, Grade 4/Learning Support Teacher.*

EDUCATION 2000



# Improving Education

*St. Mary's School in West Lorne feels fortunate to be selected as one of 10 schools in the province to take part in creating school improvement plans. Through the Education Improvement Commission (EIC), the school's principal, teachers, support staff, school council and parents collaborated on the plan, which will start to be implemented this September. Here, EIC Commissioner Arlene Wright, left, travelled to the school to talk with the St. Mary's committee. Anna Podebry, centre, chairperson of the school council, and parent Helen Johnston shares some ideas and findings with Wright.* JULY 3, 2000

EDUCATION 2000





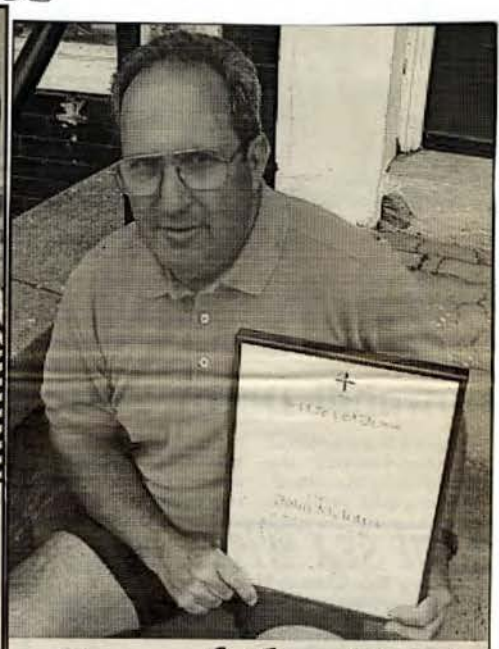
# Take 'em To Work

*There were a number of young faces at offices throughout West Elgin and across the country last week as the "Take Our Kids To Work Day" gave Grade 9 students the opportunty to learn more on the transition from the classroom to the workplace and to encourage them to stay in school. Here, Brad Conway, right, a mechanic at Ripley and Giles in West Lorne, had family friend Jeff Walker with him to lend a helping hand with the various repairs.*



# Play Ball

*The students at St. Mary's School received a positive message on the importance of staying in school courtesy of some of the players from the London Werewolves baseball club. Here, Werewolves centre fielder Jason Borghese talks to students on how he mixes baseball with his education.*



# One of the Best

*Former WESS school teacher John McIntyre was honoured recently with the prestigious Pete Beach Award for his exemplary efforts as both a teacher and coach. Only 19 such awards are given throughout the province. McIntyre won for the WOSSAA (Western Ontario Secondary School Athletic Association) region.* 2000

The West Elgin Chronicle DEC. 11, 2000

# West Lorne trio beginning to gel

From Grease to Gel! What began as a meeting between high school students Nathan Ouellette and Bruce Bobier in the pit band for the WESS production of Grease, has now turned into a self-titled CD and a performances across Ontario and into the U.S. for the West Lorne band Gel.

With the addition of bass player Andrew Schneider, the high-octane blues-rock trio have come a long way from their first paying gig at West Lorne's Town & Country Restaurant.

The idea to form a band seemed inevitable when upon playing for the first time Ouellette casually remarked how "we really gel."

And its been a quick ride for the young band, two of whom are still at WESS. The third, Bobier, is attending Humber College in Toronto.

The band's music blends blues with elements of rock, funk and jazz improvisation. Their approach is akin to a supercharged version of 60s supergroup Cream.

## On Stage

**Who:** Gel, with Damndifino
**When:** Sat., Dec. 16, 9 p.m.
**Where:** The Whippet Lounge
**Cost:** $5

That, coupled with the intensity of punk and over-the-top stage antics, makes seeing Gel live an often riveting experience.

And it was that live experience that caught the eye of Rhode Island musician and promoter James Montgomery, who had nothing but praise for the band. In fact, he managed to book the band a handful of gigs in the Boston area this past summer.

"It's goes to show you that you never know who's in your audience," says Ouellette, on meeting Montgomery. "The U.S. experience was amazing. It's was



*West Lorne's 'Gel' is Nathan Ouellette (guitar), Bruce Bobier (drums) and Andrew Schneider (bass).*



# Gray Sees Red

*Canada's Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray made a stop at WESS last week to speak to the students, along with Elgin-Middlesex-London Liberal candidate Gar Knutson. Gray was hit with a number of interesting questions from the students including the areas of health care, national debt, gun licencing, farming and post-secondary education.* NOV 2000

EDUCATION 2000



# A fresh, clean start for year 2000 WESS grads

*By Bruce Bobier*

Wow! We finally made it. How do you like those apples?

The conclusion to the last four or five years of our life, that has meant so much to us, is finally upon us. In the last few years of high school we've come a long way and learned a lot about ourselves and everyone around us.

We've learned how to treat others fairly, respect one another, how to factor Quadratic equations, how to find Freud in everything and some intense floor hockey strategies.

Now, as some of you may know, my summer job for the last two years has been working at the Dutton Library, and as a result I've managed to digest a fair bit of quality writing, most of which has been in the form of Calvin and Hobbes books.

While I was reading through this wonderful stuff, I came across a comic that, upon reading, I instantly noticed how it parallelled our lives.

It starts off with the two heroes standing on top of a snow covered hill with a sled. Calvin says: "Wow, it really snowed last night! Isn't it wonderful?" Hobbes responds: "Everything familiar has disappeared! The world looks brand new!" Calvin continues: "A new year...a fresh, clean start."

To me, I feel that we have been given a clean start - full of potential. But our paths leave footprints, each step showing us where we have been; each footprint a memory.

From the finger painting of Dutton, St. Mary's and Aldborough, to the Home Ec. cooking/burning lessons of WESES; from our jello covered Grade 9 day to our Senior Prom - we've travelled the path together.

And although our individual paths have defined who we are, we all stand in the same place tonight. Whether we attend university, start working, or even college, we take with us a lot that we have learned at West Elgin.

With my newly found talents, I've learned how to 'deriva-tise' just about anything. And I've learned a great deal about the lifestyle of the rhinoceros. We now have a wealth of knowledge at our disposal that we will use regardless of what lies ahead and as we learned in Miss Sethi's class: "It's all relevant."



*2000 Valedictorian Bruce Bobier*

And with a deep sense of gratitude, we thank all the people who have taught us along the way, especially the teachers who have taught us vast amounts of knowledge and given us the ability to succeed. We thank you.

And now we look forward to the future with eager anticipation, but we also need to stop and reflect upon what we have experienced.

How about when we were covered with various baking products for the better part of Grade 9 day? Or when the football team taught us that Parkside really is the root of all evil? Not to mention the work put into prom, assembling all the various props to make it a success. But the future is what we need to see the most. And that is where we are - at a new beginning.

As Hobbes continues to say in the comic strip: "It's like having a big sheet of white paper to draw on." Calvin responds: "A day full of possibilities."

And at this point in our lives, we are faced with more possibilities than ever before.

Everyone around us is waiting for us to go out and show the world what we've got and who we are.

As Calvin and Hobbes said, it is truly a new world where everything familiar has disappeared and we have a fresh, clean start - just like a sheet of white paper - full of possibilities.

As Calvin says to Hobbes as they are about to embark on their journey into the great wide open: "It's a magical world, Hobbes ol' buddy, lets go exploring."

# WESS honours their top grads

Whether it's time to enter the work force or continue their education, it was time to look back on years of memories at WESS as students share their favourite stories during commencement was held at the West Lorne school Oct. 5.

The following is a list of special award winners from the graduating class of 2000:

**Bruce Bobier** - Bruce McPherson Prize; Krebsz Jewellery Valedictorian Award.

**Jelena Boric** - 2nd Honour Award; Business Education Certificate; Fairless K. Food Market Grade 12 Commercial Award; CUPE Local 4222 Award.

**Carla Brown** - 2nd Honour Award

**Michelle Campbell** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award, Sloan McKillop Teaching Scholarship; Kathryn Grace St. John Memorial Award; SAA Bursary.

**Teresa da Costa** - Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary.

**Jason Dos Santos** - Technical Certificate; Dutton & District Lions Club Technical Award.

**Corey Downie** - Technical Certificate; United Steel Workers of America Local 4906 Award; District 184 Machinist Bursary.

**Adam Ecker** - Tommy White Memorial Award.

**Melissa Eston** - Canadian Legion Branch 525 Scholarship; Sloan McKillop College Scholarship; Lt. Governor of Ontario Community Volunteer Award.

**Delia Fagundes** - Ontario Scholar; 2nd Honour Award; Elgin International Club Scholarship.

**Marijn Fleuren** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; West Lorne Horticulture Bursary; Rodney-Aldborough Agricultural Society Bursary; Mr. L. Special Award for Good Citizenship.

**Krista Ford** - Business Education Certificate; Sloan McKillop College Scholarship; Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary; Lorna Rebekah Lodge #217 Commercial Award.

**Marcy Ford** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Grace and Earl Lemon Scholarship; West Lorne Horticulture Bursary.

**Jeremy Giles** - Business Education Certificate; 3rd Honour Award; Mark Van Brenk Memorial Award.

**Brian Guest** - Business Education Certificate; Iona Station Community Centre Bursary.

**Sarah Hentz** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; University Women's Club Scholarship; Canada Trust Good Sport Award.

**Chris Hoglund** - Technical Certificate.

**Jarret Hoglund** - Special Chemistry Award.

**Darryl Howard** - Ontario Scholar; Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary; IODE Bursary.

**Jake Hunter** - Technical Certificate; R. A. Miller Motors Grade 12 Auto Award.

**Charlie Johnston** - 1st Honour Award.

**Leah Kindornay** - 2nd Honour Award.

**Cindy Knowles** - Business Education Certificate.

**Kerry Kulak** - Ontario Scholar; 4th Honour Award.

**Carol Lilley** - Canadian Legion Branch 525 Scholarship.

**Kellie Lilley** - Canadian Legion Branch 525 Scholarship.

**Monique Loeters** - West Elgin Knights of Columbus Scholarship.

**Brad McCready** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Reverend Stanley Lawrason Shippey Scholarship; Dutton & District Lions Club Technology Scholarship.

**Chris McGahan** - Technical Certificate.

**Will McGuire** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Rodney Masonic Lodge #411 Award.

**Donna McKillop** - Business Education Certificate; Rodney Kiwanis Club Business Education Award; All-Round Good Kid Award.

**April McLandress** - D. B. Galloway Typing Award.

**Cindy McLeod** - Business Education Certificate; Dutton and Dunwich Chamber of Commerce Scholarship.

**Connie McLeod** - Sloan McKillop ECE Scholarship.

**Scott McPherson** - Technical Certificate; Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary; Laidlaw Education Services Scholarship (donated by Cynthia Nurse).

**Simone Moreau** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Wilf Johnston Memorial Scholarship.

**Trevor Mohr** - Technical Certificate.

**Dennis Ocolisan** - Technical Certificate.

**Dan Oliveira** - Milner-Rigsby Bursary.

**Kevin Oliveira** - Technical Certificate; Erie Flooring Technical Award.

**Amanda Pennings** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Erie Flooring Business Award; Rodney Lions Humanitarian Award.

**Sandra Santos** - Lenore Stevens Keillor & Stanley Keillor Memorial Scholarship; Chris Ayling Cystic Fibrosis Award.

**Ben Schipper** - Ontario Scholar; Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary; 5th Honour Award; Student Council OAC Awards for Computer Science, Physics, Chemistry, Calculus and Algebra; W. D. Lancaster Award; West Elgin Pharmacy Advanced Science Award; Wallacetown Optimist Computer Scholarship; Canada Trust Good Sport Award.

**Katie Smale** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Adah Chapter #276 O.E.S. Serenity Award; Wallacetown Optimist Music Scholarship.

**Lisa Smith** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Student Council OAC Awards for History, French and English; Dutton & District Lions Club Proficiency Award; Governor General's Canadian History Medal for the Millennium; Dutton Advance English & History Year 5 Award; Bryan Foxton Award for Dramatic Arts; Blue Rose Music Bursary; Principal's Award for Student Leadership.

**Colette Tobias** - 2nd Honour Award.

**Lee Uitvlugt** - Canadian Legion Branch 525 Scholarship.

**Jason Vandenbrink** - Technical Certificate.

**Allison Van Dyk** - Business Education Certificate.

**Laura Willie** - E. F. Sercombe Bursary; Roy DosSantos Memorial Award.

**Andrea Wolf** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Business Education Certificate; OAC General Proficiency Award; Governor General's Academic Medal; Reverend Stanley Lawrason Shippey Scholarship; Student Council OAC Awards for Biology, Finite, Calculus, Writers Craft and English; Sloan McKillop University Scholarship; Elgin District Dental Association Award.

*The West Elgin Chronicle wish all WESS grads the best of luck in their future endeavours.*



# Givin' Thanks!

*The SK students at St. Mary's School took time out last week to have a little Thanksgiving celebration of their own. The students learned about how Thanksgiving began and enjoyed some of the same snack that the pilgrims enjoyed such as popcorn, cranberries and apple butter. Here, Andrew Barfett, left, and Monica Ganhadeiro, both five-years-old, celebrate with a pumpkin tart.*

# West Elgin Secondary School Commencement Exercises Thursday, October 5th

2000

## The Principal Has Recommended To The Minister of Education That The Following Students Be Recognized as Ontario Scholars



**Amanda Pennings, Dutton**
*Parents:* Henry & Coby
*College:* Mohawk
*Program:* General Business
*Goal:* Banking



**Andrea Wolf, West Lorne**
*Parents:* Alexander & Elisabeth
*University:* St. Thomas (N. S.)
*Program:* Honours Arts & Science
*Goal:* Criminology/Psychology



**Ben Schipper, Wallacetown**
*Parents:* Ben & Johanna
*University:* Waterloo
*Program:* Computer Engineering
*Goal:* Engineer



**Brad McCready, Dutton**
*Parents:* Brian & Rosanne Murray, Colleen & Lloyd McCready
*University:* Carleton
*Program:* Electrical Engineering
*Goal:* Work at Nortel



**Darryl Howard, Dutton**
*Parents:* Niel & Deb
*University:* Waterloo (St. Jeromes University)
*Program:* Arts & Business
*Goal:* Health & Safety Mgr.



**Katie Smale, Dutton**
*Parents:* Terri & Gerry
*University:* McMaster
*Program:* Social Sciences
*Goal:* Human Resources Mgt.



**Kerry Kulak, West Lorne**
*Parent:* Linda
*University:* Western
*Program:* Engineering Science
*Goal:* Car Design



**Lisa Smith, Rodney**
*Parents:* Gary & Ann
*University:* Queens
*Program:* Honours Arts & Science
*Goal:* Teacher



**Marcy Ford, Rodney**
*Parents:* Tom & Lynda
*University:* Guelph
*Program:* Environmental Eng.
*Goal:* Environmental Engineer



**Delia Fagundes, West Lorne**
*Parents:* Antonio & Maria
*University:* Toronto
*Program:* Humanities
*Goal:* Law



**Marijn Fleuren, Rodney**
*Parents:* Peter & Idith
*University:* Guelph
*Program:* Ag. Economics
*Goal:* Agri-business



**Michelle Campbell, Wallacetown**
*Parents:* Don & Helen
*University:* Waterloo
*Program:* Honours Kinesiology
*Goal:* Health related field



**Simone Moreau, Dutton**
*Parents:* Guy & Rosemarie
*University:* Wilfrid Laurier
*Program:* Arts & Business
*Goal:* Public Relations



**Will McGuire, Rodney**
*Parents:* Mary & Mike
*University:* Queens
*Program:* History/Drama
*Goal:* Law



**Sarah Hentz, Wallacetown**
*Parents:* Michael & Ingrid
*University:* Guelph
*Program:* Marine & Freshwater Biology
*Goal:* Participate in an international exchange to Australia in 3rd year.

EDUCATION 2000



# Lifestyles

## West Lorne WI help repair WESS instruments

The West Lorne Women's Institute held their November meeting at the West Lorne Complex with Olive Chambers chairing the meeting in the absence of president Mary Belle Cook.

The meeting opened with the Mary Stewart Collect. Minutes and the treasurers report followed.

Chambers introduced the guest speaker, Shelly LeClaire, who spoke on abandoned animals. Shelly and her family take in these animals and look after them until new homes are found.

The animals are spayed and neutered, fed and loved until new homes are found.

A thank you note from the Fun Shop was received for our financial support. A donation was also given to WESS to help repair some of their instruments.

The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 6 and this will be the group's Christmas party as gifts will be exchanged.




## Bobcat Girls

*The Aldborough Public School girls volleyball team had a great season this past year. Back row from left are Jennifer Russell (coach), Danielle Wilson, Rhonda Knight, Kanda Ocolisan and Lauren Sheedy. Front row from left are Kim Lawrence (coach), Mary Jane Peternel, Krista Walker, Brittany Hein, Courtney Besley and Stephanie Youskow. Absent from photo are Saphire Wood, Amanda Thwaites and Shoba Sharma.* DEC. 18, 2000



## Kids Helping Kids

*The students at Aldborough Public School are in the true giving spirit this year as they are helping the Sleeping Children Around the World program, in which money is raised to purchase bed kits which are then distributed where needed around the world. To-date, money has been raised to purchase 15 bed kits. Here, Senior Kindergarten students Ryan Alderton, left, and Molly Ryan, along with teacher Sheila Fleming, show off some of the food they also collected.*



## Monsanto Money

*Rodney resident and WESS graduate Marijn Fleuren, right, got a boost towards his education expenses as he was one of 60 students from across Canada to receive a $1,500 Monsanto Agribusiness Scholarship. Fleuren is attending the University of Guelph in the Agricultural Science Program. Fleuren received several awards of distinction and was a four-year honour student at WESS, where he was active in volleyball, indoor soccer, curling and volunteered in local school track and field meets. By majoring in agricultural economics, Fleuren hopes to enter the corporate management field of a Canadian agricultural company. Here, Fleuren receives his cheque from Jim Inksetter, Director of Biotechnology Sustainability & Stewardship for Monsanto Canada Ltd.* NOV. 2000



## Daffodil Bonanza

*The students at WESES have once again shown their charitable spirit with their annual fund-raiser for the Daffodil Society. Dozens and dozens of canned goods, toys and stuffed animals were collected by the students. Here, Jamie Kirschner, in truck, gets a helping hand from Ross Giannakopoulos.* DEC. 18, 2000



## Tuning Up DEC. 2000

*West Elgin Adult Band clarinetist Sherry Ford gets a little pre-concert work in prior to the 'It's a Wonderful Time of Year - not just a Christmas Concert' last week at WESS. The concert, featuring a number of local musicians, was both a tribute and fund-raiser for the families of the recent tragedy at Orford Co-op in Rodney. Canned goods were also collected for the Caring Cupboard in Rodney.*

HEALTH + WELFARE 1999

MAR 15, 1999 The West Elgin Chronicle



# Golden Centre

*The West Elgin Community Health Centre have received top honours from the Elgin-St. Thomas United Way for their involvement in the 1998 campaign. The "Gold Award" is given to businesses with a minimum participation of 80 per cent and an average gift of $52 per person. Here, United Way CEO Terry Carroll, left, presents the plaque to health centre executive director Marina Lundrigan and campaign chairman Bob Logan.*



# Homework Helper

*There's always someone to lend a helping hand at the West Elgin Community Health Centre's Homework Club. Run by local student volunteers, assistance is given on any homework difficulties younger students may be having. Here, Mike Palazzo, left, volunteers his time at the centre to help Eric McGill with his math homework. Palazzo is just one of close to a 100 volunteers at the health centre that were honoured recently at a Volunteer Recognition Celebration at St. Mary's Parish Hall.* MAY 3, 1999

HEALTH + WELFARE 1999



# WECHC Administration Team keeping things on track

*By Marina Lundrigan*

*The following is the first in a series of features introducing the various teams that make up the West Elgin Community Health Centre.*

The West Elgin Community Health Centre (WECHC) Administrative Team provide many supports that clients or the community don't readily see, but without their work our building would quickly deteriorate and no one would be able to call in for an appointment.

The Ministry wouldn't get their statistics on time and our suppliers wouldn't get paid. Although their work is at times behind the scenes, they are vital to our operation.

Team leader ***Iona Woolley*** is responsible for the overall administration at the centre. Her duties currently include getting the centre ready for Y2K and our upcoming accreditation process.

She is well qualified to keep the centre administratively on track, as prior to joining the WECHC she worked for London Psychiatric Hospital and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital. Iona takes an active interest in her community and is a founding board member of the Dutton-Dunwich Horticultural Society.



*Iona Woolley*



*Lorraine Geldart*



*Diane Van Dyk*

***Lorraine Geldart*** is our bookkeeper. Her role is to process payroll and benefits, purchasing, financial records and transactions. Lorraine is currently continuing her education with the Canadian Payroll Association and she will complete her first courses in June of this year.

She has lived in the surrounding area for over a dozen years and also enjoys the aspects of small town living.



*Bob Logan*



*Paula Alves*

***Paula Alves*** and ***Bob Logan*** take care of the reception, telephone, client charts and support duties at the centre. Both believe it is very important to always try to help our clients and the community in whatever way they can.

Paula is a lifetime resident of West Lorne and has worked at the centre since its opening in 1994. Prior to joining the centre she worked in reception in a doctor's office.

Bob, from Rodney, describes himself as a community volunteer, "jack of all trades" and, like Paula, has been with the centre since the beginning. Bob contributes much of his free time to the Kiwanis Club, Caring Cupboard, Crime Watch, and the United Church in Rodney.

***Diane Van Dyk*** is our part-time receptionist and data entry clerks. She helps ensure that the Ministry receives our statistics on time and helps out with reception. Like Paula, she is a lifelong resident of West Lorne and in her spare time she teaches aerobic classes.

We are proud of the work that our administration team does not only within the centre, but also the leadership role they often take in our community.

*Marina Lundrigan is the Executive Director of the West Elgin Community Health Centre and is responsible for overseeing the entire operation. If you have any concerns or comments, please feel free to call her at 768-1715.*

# Douglas Graham welcomed as new WECHS executive director

If his first week of orientation is any determination of what to expect, Douglas Graham is looking forward to beginning his role as executive director of the West Elgin Community Health Centre.

He takes over position, which was vacated by Marina Lundrigan, on Jan. 1.

Having a extensive background in the community health field, most recently in Mindemoya, ON, a small community on Manitoulin Island, Graham is familiar with the needs of rural Ontario.

"I know the values of a community this size are truly important to its residents," says Graham, who enjoyed meeting a number of local residents at an open house last week at the health centre.



*Douglas Graham*

"I'm pretty excited about the programs they already have in place here. It's a very holistic approach," he says.

Graham has had experience working in a variety of settings in his career including Sudbury Algoma Hospital, the Kitchener-Waterloo Health Centre and the Ministry of Health.

"The key here, which the staff is already playing a strong role in, is health promotion and prevention," he adds. Youth programs is also something Graham says he is interested in promoting.

DEC. 99

HEALTH + WELFARE 2000





# Looking to help

*Members of the West Elgin United Way Youth Committee are planning a day of lending a hand to those in need. The committee is made up of, front row, left to right: Miranda Joyce, Steph Tobias, Jackie Dos Santos and Margaret Bennetto. Back row: Elgin-St. Thomas United Way CEO Terry Carroll, Stuart Murray, Chris Grant and Loralyn Smith, Volunteer Youth in the Millennium Co-ordinator.*

MAY 7, 2001



***Informing the public***

***The West Elgin Community Health Centre (WECHC) held a series of information sessions to inform the public about what the Health Centre is and the programs they offer. On hand for the public meeting in West Lorne were, from left to right: Mary Payne, Bob Walker, Douglas Graham, Executive Director, WECHC; Betty Ross and Shelly Vergeer, Volunteer Co-ordinator Long Term Care Programs, WECHC.***

# *Tremendous support for local United Way*

## *West Elgin reaches 87 % of goal. Elgin County goal is at 66 %.*

West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich are ahead in the United Way race and have already reached 87 per cent of its goal.

The West Elgin campaign, which consists of both municipalities of West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich have raised $12,382 so far out of its $14,200 goal. That is well ahead of the rest of Elgin County which is at 66 per cent ( $658,171 our of $1,002,001).Two thirds of the donations came from personal gifts and it United Way's Barb Edwards says it just shows what a generous community the residents in this region really are.

The largest contributors to the West Elgin campaign are the West Elgin Community Health Centre, GKN Walterscheid Canada and local public schools.

For instance, the West Elgin Community Health Centre had 100 per cent participation from staff thanks to the efforts of West Elgin UW chair Bob Logan and Doug Graham.

Edwards also added that the campaign wouldn't be a success thus far, without local volunteers and West Elgin residents Terry Heeney, John McIntyre and Liz McNeil who have dedicated their time to canvass the area and ask for donations from local companies.

The United Way dollars not only help the WEHC, who is one of 23 member agencies, but also supports the local YWCA, Canadian Mental Health, Youth Employment Counselling Centre and Bereavement Resource Council in the area just to name a few.

A final announcement about the West Elgin and Dutton-Dunwich campaign will be made in December.




**These happy United Way people and supporters are very pleased with the community support coming from the West Elgin region. Pictured here in front of the thermometer in West Lorne are West Elgin Community Health Centre members Doug Graham and Bob Logan with United Chair Ken Monteith and Barb Edwards United Way PR Co-ordinator. The communities in West Elgin are being asked to finish the campaign off by bringing the total to 100 per cent and beyond. If you notice carefully, you will see Logan is holding the final slat that will bring the total to 100 per cent.**

NOV. 26/01



***For a worthy cause***

***The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada Elgin County Chapter recently sold their signature flower, the carnation, to help raise funds for research. Pictured, Joleen Crawford holds a colourful bunch of the blooms which she and her mother, Kathy, sold in West Lorne on Saturday, May 12th. They helped raise $200.00 for MS.***

2001

HEALTH + WELFARE 2000



# Didn't Feel A Thing

*Hundreds of local residents rolled up their sleeves last week as the Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit, in collaboration with the West Elgin Community Health Centre, offered the "Let's Beat The Flu" community clinics at WESS. All residents of Ontario are being offered free flu shots this year. Here, Cheryl Vanderveen gives a big hug to her daughter Cassandra, 2, as public health nurse Mary Taylor administers the flu shot. Cheryl, Cassandra, and her brother Gregory were just three of the 448 who received their flu shot. For the locations of further flu clinics, you can call the health unit at 631-9900.* DEC 2000

The West Elgin Chronicle SEPT 25/00



# Arthritis Awareness

*The West Elgin Community Health Centre has once again started up its "Soups On" program at the West Lorne Complex. Last week's gathering featured a talk on arthritis awareness and what could be done to alleviate some of the pain that arthritis causes. Here, Kelly Schiell, left, Occupational Therapist with the Arthritis Society, Consultation and Rehabilitation Services, shows some of the handy gadgets available through the Arthritis Society to Sandy Bond.*



# Frozen meal service helps local seniors, disabled stay healthy

Do you know someone who is finding it hard to prepare healthy meals these days because of their advanced age or a disability?

Well, the new local frozen meal service available through the West Elgin Community Health Centre can solve that problem. The new program is a service that compliments the centre's hot meals program (Meals on Wheels).

Frozen meals are supplied by Private Recipe, a company which has been in business since 1989. Special diets available include regular restricted fat, gluten free; renal, vegetarian, diabetic, dental soft, restricted sodium and pureed. Currently, entrees cost $4.50 and must be ordered in groups of seven. Soups and desserts are also available for $1.50 each.

With more than 25 entrees to choose from including beef, pork, fish and poultry dishes, there is something to meet everyone's taste. Add to that a dozen soups and 18 desserts and the combinations are endless.

The program is great for local individuals:

◆living in the rural areas where the hot meal program is available only three days a week and/or whose driveway may be too dangerous for volunteers to attempt on stormy days.

◆with special diet needs such as lactose free or gluten free.

◆who are active during the day and are not at home over the lunch hour when meals are delivered.

◆who need assistance with evening or weekend meals.

◆who want to ensure their diets are nutritionally balanced and providing a high proportion of daily dietary requirements.

The people who receive these meals stay healthier, are more energetic and better able to live a full and independent life, according to the health centre.

These meals also make great Christmas gifts! For more information on frozen meals, becoming a frozen meal volunteer driver, or for gift certificates, call Shelly Vergeer at 768-1715 ext. 210.




# Over The Top

*Hats off to the residents of West Elgin! The local United Way campaign has already exceeded its $12,000 goal, with more sure to come in. Giving the thumbs up for all the hard work are local United Way campaign committee member Kirby Breithaupt, West Elgin Community Health Centre Executive Director Douglas Graham, committee member and staff representative Bob Logan and Elgin-St. Thomas United Way CEO Terry Carroll. The health centre once again had 100% staff participation.*



*West Elgin Community Health Centre volunteers Mary Prudhomme, left, Keith Kelly and Agnes Gosnell, along with the health centre's volunteer coordinator Shelly Vergeer, help pack up some of the frozen meals for delivery.*

LOOKING BACK

SUBMITTED BY MARY LIEPMANN



# Interesting Nonagenarians Neighbors in West Lorne

(Continued from page eleven)

pecially when it concerns something of particular local interest."

### A Well-Earned Rest

These past few years in West Lorne have been well-earned years of rest for Mrs. McKillop, her daughter, Mrs. Leith, says. And Mrs. McKillop recalls those busy years on the farm when she had her family to raise and all the multitude of other tasks and chores that fall upon the shoulders of a farmer's wife. The worst of it was that, since they were occupying the homestead farm, all the McKillop children of the pioneer generation, and their children, too, used to come to the farm for their summer holidays.

"That was great for us kids," Mrs. Leith says.

"But it was an awful lot of work for me," said Mrs. McKillop.

What leisure time she had, she spent knitting and sewing, and she continued to enjoy knitting until just recently. Now she finds it difficult to do much of this work. But she is cheerful and bright when she says:

"I still have pretty good health and I can't complain. It's only that I'm getting down now so that I'm not much good at doing anything. I listen to the radio sometimes, but I enjoy reading more and the Bible most of all."

When the weather comes bright and warm again, Mrs. McKillop wants to get out and is looking forward to enjoying the trips by car around the countryside she enjoyed so much last year.

Both Mrs. McKillop and Mrs. Currie have enjoyed having Mr. Ramsay call on them at quite regular intervals all winter while they have been staying in. And equally so, Mr. Ramsay has enjoyed his daily walks about town, calling on them and many others throughout the village. For a comparative newcomer, there are few who have become more widely acquainted than he.

But Mr. Ramsay is emphatic when he says he doesn't like winter weather in this part of the country. "It's a wet cold you have down here and I find the cold, dry weather on the prairie agrees with me much better," he says.

### Settled in West in 1904

Although he is not a native westerner, Mr. Ramsay has spent nearly half of his life on the prairie, farming near Bladworth, about midway between Regina and Saskatoon where, in 1904, he was one of the first settlers to break the ground. It is remarkable that though he was then nearing 50 and had no farming background whatsoever, he became a highly successful farmer, a leading seed grower and established himself as one of the largest breeders of purebred Clydesdales in that part of Saskatchewan. He continued farming until he was 75 and only quit then because Mrs. Ramsay had died and there was no point in carrying on with his sons carving other careers for themselves. His eldest son, Robert L. Ramsay, is British Columbia superintendent of the Soldiers' Settlement Board, and Rupert, formerly a professor at the University of Saskatchewan, now leader of the Progressive Conservative party in that province, is doing his best to shorten the life of the present C.C.F. Government in Saskatchewan, with his father's hearty approval.

### An R.M.C. Man

Mr. Ramsay was born in Toronto in 1858 and when he graduated from high school there, attended the Royal Military College at Kingston. When he returned to Toronto, he worked first as a printer and then became police court clerk under Col. Septimus Augustus Denison, C.M.G., noted Toronto magistrate whom he greatly admired.

In 1903, Mr. Ramsay found himself greatly in need of a change from the pressure of police court work and went West for a holiday and to look for a farm on which he might establish his son, Robert, then a student at O.A.C., Guelph. He found the land he was looking for at Bladworth, but during the ensuing year the urge to make a stab at farming himself became so great that he threw up his position in Toronto and moved the whole family (six children) to the unbroken prairie near Bladworth.

"I think the change must have added a lot to my life," he says. "It was rough farming in the early days and we started in on raw prairie to grow wheat. We didn't know how to farm and we had a hard time with crop failures and other difficulties. But if nothing else, life in the open air was a compensating feature."

Despite the hardships of the Ramsay family's early days in Saskatchewan, they won through and Mr. Ramsay is proud now that he was the first to farm a local improvement district in that province, even before the townships were formed. He was one of the earliest growers of Marquis wheat and became a seed grower, exporting to Australia and East African colonies. As the district became more populous, he was named justice of the peace (by a government he hadn't helped to elect), a position he held for 25 years and in which his police court experience stood him in good stead.

### Worked With John Bracken

John Bracken, now leader of the national Progressive Conservative party, used to travel the prairies extensively in those days, helping to organize agricultural societies. With his help, Mr. Ramsay and several other early settlers in the Bladworth district, formed the society there. He was its second president. As a farmer, he took great pride in his Clydesdale horses. When he sold out, he had 20 purebred mares.

Having had a lifelong interest in politics (with a pronounced inclination toward the Conservative party), he was the protagonist in the movement to form the Saskatchewan School Trustees' Association. This developed into a very influential organization and he was its first president. He still is an honorary president.

A big, husky man whose bearing marks him as a man who must have had military training ingrained in him at an early stage, Mr. Ramsay is still physically strong and vigorous. His hearing is good but his eyesight has failed so that he cannot read, a great privation to him. As to his longevity, he says:

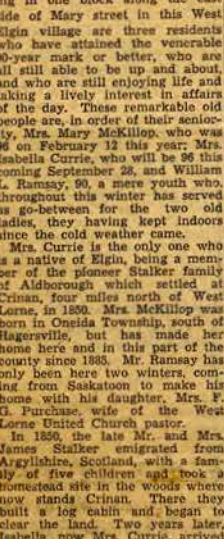
"A temperate life is the cause of my long life. But I was well-born. We are a military family. My father was military-trained and I was military-trained, but I give my parents the credit for it."

That military training shows in the way he walks. When he walks, he marches, and while he admits he has slowed down a bit, he still does the old army regulation march pace of 30 inches each stride and 116 steps to the minute. "I had that pace so drilled into me that it has been almost impossible to change it," he says.

Mr. Ramsay's current ambition is to attend the March 8 dinner meeting of the St. Thomas Chamber of Commerce to meet and hear John G. Diefenbaker, who represents his old home riding of Bladworth at Ottawa.

In addition to his three children already mentioned, Mr. Ramsay has another daughter, Miss Helen Ramsay, general secretary of the Y.W.C.A. at Prince Albert, Sask. Two sons were killed in World War I, Emerson at Vimy, and William at Cambrai.

# Three Interesting Nonagenarians Are Close Neighbors in West Lorne



MRS. MARY McKILLOP



MRS. ISABELLA CURRIE



—Photos by StoCery.
WILLIAM L. RAMSAY

WEST LORNE, Feb. 25.—All living in one block along the east side of Mary street in this West Elgin village are three residents who have attained the venerable 90-year mark or better, who are all still able to be up and about, and who are still enjoying life and taking a lively interest in affairs of the day. These remarkable old people are, in order of their seniority, Mrs. Mary McKillop, who was 96 on February 12 this year; Mrs. Isabella Currie, who will be 96 this coming September 28, and William L. Ramsay, 90, a mere youth who, throughout this winter has served as go-between for the two old ladies, they having kept indoors since the cold weather came.

Mrs. Currie is the only one who is a native of Elgin, being a member of the pioneer Stalker family of Aldborough which settled at Crinan, four miles north of West Lorne, in 1850. Mrs. McKillop was born in Oneida Township, south of Hagersville, but has made her home here and in this part of the county since 1885. Mr. Ramsay has only been here two winters, coming from Saskatoon to make his home with his daughter, Mrs. F. G. Purchase, wife of the West Lorne United Church pastor.

In 1850, the late Mr. and Mrs. James Stalker emigrated from Argyllshire, Scotland, with a family of five children and took a homestead site in the woods where now stands Crinan. There they built a log cabin and began to clear the land. Two years later, Isabella, now Mrs. Currie, arrived as the sixth child. Three more arrived in later years for a total of nine children, only two of whom, Mrs. Currie and her sister, Mrs. Eliza Hyndman, also of West Lorne, now survive.

But two other sisters and a brother lived to be more than 90, and Mrs. Hyndman is now 89. The others were the late Mrs. John (Mary) Findlay, of West Lorne, who spent most of her life in the Canadian West; Mrs. Archibald (Flora) Campbell, of Wallacetown; and Rev. Donald Stalker, of Crinan, whose death occurred about two years ago. Upon his death, the Stalker homestead farm passed out of the hands of the family and it is now the Cadogan farm.

### Born In Log Cabin

"But it was in the Stalker family until about two years ago when my brother died," Mrs. Currie said. "It was all woods when my parents came there with five children and I was the first baby born in the log house they built on the homestead. It stood for 60 years, but a new brick house was built about 1875 and it still stands on the farm. I was married in the new house in 1881 by Rev. John Milloy. He was the Presbyterian minister at Crinan and West Lorne —they were both together in those days."

Following her marriage to Neil Currie, they farmed for about three years at Crinan, then for a number of years near Frome and finally near Dutton before going to Alberta about 1910 to farm near Ridgedale Station on the C.N.R. in the Hannah district. In 1919, Mr. Currie retired and they returned east to spend their latter years in West Lorne. Mr. Currie died in 1929 and Mrs. Currie's daughter Mima, has since been living with her. Another daughter, Mrs. M. D. Hunter, lives in Detroit.

Because she is not able to walk any great distance, and also because her hearing has failed, Mrs. Currie no longer attends the West Lorne United Church, to which she belongs. But in summer, she still likes to spend much of her time outdoors. Until quite recently, she enjoyed reading, her Bible and the daily newspapers being of greatest interest to her.

### Married in 1885

Mrs. Currie and Mrs. McKillop have been good friends for many years, though they had not known each other until they came here to spend their retiring years. Mrs. McKillop's people were the late John and Jane Smith, of near Hagersville in Oneida Township, where she spent the first 33 years of her life. She came to West Lorne in 1885 to marry John D. McKillop, a son of the pioneer James McKillop family which settled the Lake Road farm still known by the family name, situated about two miles southeast of Eagle. A third generation James McKillop, Mrs. McKillop's son, lives there now.

Mr. and Mrs. McKillop spent all their active years on that farm, raising a family of five children, three of whom survive. They are Mrs. George Leith, with whom Mrs. McKillop makes her home in West Lorne; James McKillop, on the farm near Eagle; and William McKillop, a farmer on the Coyne Road, Dunwich Township. A baby daughter died when two months old and one son, Edmund, Detroit, a veteran of World War I, died about a year ago at Glencoe. Mrs. McKillop has 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, one of whom mentioned casually when a Times-Journal representative called on her this week, that:

"There isn't much goes on but Grandma knows all about it—es-

Turn to INTERESTING—Page 12





VERA RIPLEY RECEIVED A GIFT FROM SANTA WHEN he visited West Lorne Kiwanis Club's Christmas party Thursday night in the Community Hall. Here she is seen enjoying the fun and spirit of the evening by sitting on Santa's knee when accepting Kiwanians' gift for her.

48

# A WARTIME REFLECTION

JAN 1999

*By Ann Prud'homme*

Last Wednesday, I was given an easy assignment. Go to this couples house, get a picture and get a story. Now, I will be the first to admit that I do not have a lot of experience with reporting, but I thought what the heck, how hard can it be. Well here I am one week after my meeting and I am perplexed as how to write this article. I guess the beginning is a good place to start.

Ray and Joan Greve are an older couple who live down the Dunborough Line. Their claim to fame, and the reason I was to meet them was because they had won 1st prize in the Wallacetown Optimist Club lighting contest. Now I left the office with camera, notepad and directions to the house and headed off to my first "assignment". I quickly found that the directions were unnecessary as their home was quite unmistakable. There were lights everywhere. The house, trees, birdhouse, garden gate, everything was lit up. Bright yes, tacky no. It all seemed to fit. I was greeted by Mr. Greve and welcomed into the most charming, cozy house I have seen. I digress though. You see, there was supposed to be a story about these lights, something that tied back to World War II. I still didn't know what to expect so I made myself comfortable and prepared to take notes.

Joan Greve was a nurse during the war in England. The Battle of Britain as she called it, left England in a state of virtual darkness for close to six years. Black Hell is what it was called. She told me horror stories of seeing tiny babies in traction, school houses being bombed with children in them. Tales of walking down the street with her issued helmet waiting for bombs to drop so they could go to help the injured. There were memories of once strong men walking into hospitals with body parts of their friends and comrades tucked safely under their arms. Her own home was bombed during this war, as were many others. When asked how she was able to cope with the horror going on around, she quoted Winston Chruchill "We shall Never Surrender". These words are what kept her and everyone else going. The fight for freedom and life is what kept them going. Now her husband is informing me about all these undecorated heros, the nurses, firefighters, and the doctors, the people who battled the aftermath of the ongoing bombings. These were the people who risked their own lives to save others. They then told me about the doodlebugs, bomber planes that would fly overhead and when you heard their engines cut out, you knew that a bomb was being released. As horrifying as it was, it was hypnotic to watch and listen for the engine to cut out and to feel the earthquake-like aftermath of the bomb hitting it's target.

We stopped for a bit of tea and cookies and Mr. Greve started to talk to me some more about after the war. How sometimes Canadians take things for granted. Not many of us are aware of the first Canadian casualty of the war. 10 year old Margaret Hayworth from Hamilton Ontario was killed when the Athena, the boat she was traveling on was attacked. Her funeral was a nationwide event with Premiers, Representatives of the Prime Minister and many other National Dignitaries present. All of this attention, and a Memorial was never erected in her memory. So he wants us to stop and think once in a while what would have happened to Canada had the war gone differently. Maybe Remembrance Day is not enough. We need to think that not everyone from the war is dead and that these people remember more than just on November 11th.

So we go back to the lights, the whole point of this story I once thought. What exactly do these lights represent. Mr. Greve started setting up his lights in August of last year. When they finally lit their property for the first time this Christmas season, Mrs. Greve stopped for a moment and reflected back, back to England when the war was finally over. The lights she said, reminded her of Lester Square, where there were lights everywhere for the first time. "Black Hell" was over and the people, thousands of them, converged on the square and celebrated all night. She remembers sleeping on the stairs that night having missed the train home. Quite a change from just days before.

So, this was the story of the lights, one couples memories of a horrible time and the joy they found in freedom. So here I sit, a little wiser, and contemplative, and I thank the Greves for the wonderful gift they gave me, a complete stranger...the gift of the past that I never could imagine on my own, and I hope that perhaps you the reader have found something deeper than a bunch of lights in this, my first assignment.





***Mrs. Greve on the left when she was a nurse in England during World War II . Mrs. Greve is now enjoying life in Canada.***

POELS CONSTRUCTION INC.
SPECIALIZING IN CONCRETE FORMING
Agricultural, Commercial, Residential And Crane Service
FOR FREE ESTIMATE CALL TONY
Chatham (519) 380-5610
Fax (519) 768-2855
West Lorne (519) 768-1854

Bottom Banner Available for March 3rd.

PINE CREEK ART GALLERY AND PHOTOGRAPHY
Gifts For All Occassions
GALLERY HOURS
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
24933 Pioneer Line, West Lorne
Bus. 768-1934 Res. 768-1509

SIDERITE Home Improvements
Window & Door Specialists
Renovations New Construction
Doors Windows Siding
Florida Rooms Porch Enclosures
Awnings Decks Additions
Complete Interior Renovations
Member of B.B.B. of Western Ontario
BRIAN HOPKINS
Quality Workmanship
R.R.2 West Lorne
Ontario, N0L 2P0
(519) 768-2586
Mobile (519) 641-9109
1-800-354-9168

Volume 1 Issue 49 Wednesday, February 17, 1999

# WEST ELGIN FREE PRESS

225 Graham Road, P.O. Box 180, West Lorne,Ontario N0L 2P0

*6,750 COPIES ARE MAILED OUT THROUGH CANADA POST WEEKLY.*

TAKE ONE WE'RE FREE

*PHONE: 768-0880* *FAX: 768-0770*

PROFESSIONAL CARPET UPHOLSTERY CLEANING BY LABADIES
LABADIES CARPET CLEANING
WEST LORNE
768-2620

## *WEST LORNE WOMEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE 1951 AND 1952*



*Lena (Lemon) Campbell was able to come up with these names. Hopefully this fills in all the blanks.*
*Front Row: Agnes Norris, May Gosdman, Kitty Turner, Rita Dymock, Alma Branchflower, Mrs. Quigley and Eleanor Branchflower.*
*Second Row: Erie Bird, Dora Moody, Lena Lemon, Ardeth Kempyen, Mabel Gammon, Erna Kempyn, and Hazel Hopper.*
*Third Row: Leah Hauser, Nina Sheeler, Merle Merritt, Ruth Degraw, Gerry Munn, Mrs. Grey, Jeanette Fisher, Helen Kemp and Marion Craig.*
*Fourth Row: Marg Schleihauf, Ann Wiley, May Godsman, Betty Grey, Pauline Cummings, Bess Hauser, Olive Gray, Marie Pfeifer, Andrea Ronson and Barb McDonald.*
*Fifth Row: Shirley Gibson, Helene Dawson, Kay Quigley, Jean Humphries, Sarah Atkinson, Eleanor Elliot, Betty Kline, Mrs Moody, Grace McColl, Joan Pfeifer, Nellie Butler, Marie Bell, Maud Dawson, Marg Lyons and Peg Mitchell*



*This photo and list of names is from Lena (Lemon) Campbell. There are a few names missing so let us know if you can identify them.*
*Front Row: Marg McLandress, Jean Ross, McColl, Mary Lippold, Mary Schliehauf, Betty Byfield, Barb McDonald and Betty Kline.*
*Second Row: Mrs. Quigley, Gerry Munn, ?, Eleanor Branchflower, Leah Hauser and Mrs. Pyatt.*
*Third Row: Pauline Cummings, Nina Sheeler, Nellie Butler, Dora Moody, Shirley Gibson, Bess Hauser and Andria Ronson.*
*Fourth Row: Ruth Hayes, Loive Gray, Agnes Norris, Ruth Degraw, Doris Lemmon, ?, Kitty Turner, Marion Craig and Lena Lemon.*
*Top Row: Betty Gray, Grace McColl, McClennen McColl, Jean Humphries, Mary Lyons, Mrs. Kempyn, Marie Peifer, Sarah Atkinson, Alma Branchflower, Jessie Lemon, Mary Fluker, Peg Mitchell and Hazel Hopper.*

I&M
NOW OPEN IN WEST LORNE
TRUCK TRAILER & FARM MACHINERY INC.
• Aluminum/Steel Welding and Fabrication
• Complete Trailer Restoration
• All axles for all Trucks and Trailers
ALL WORK GUARANTEED AT LOW PRICES.
Special Trailer Repair
Call For Mobile Service
Tel: (519) 768-0255
12933 Graham Road, West Lorne, Ontario

LOOKING BACK 2000





# Who's on hydro?

*There will surely be some familiar faces in this photo of the West Lorne Rural Hydro District employees, taking sometime in the early 50s. Some of the folks you'll still see strolling the streets of West Elgin. Back row from left are Alec Grey, Bruce Newman, William Britton, Jim Bell and Harold Patterson. Middle row from left is Bruce Docker, Ken Phoenix, Bill Campbell, Archie Humphries, Phil Willits, Doug Walker, Don Branchflower, George Page and George King. Front row is Jean Ross and Anna Carmichael. Thanks to Ron Payne for the photo and Phil Willits for identifying the workers.*

# *A LOOK AT THE PAST*



***This photograph was taken at the West Lorne School in June of 1934. In the front row, left right, are Vincent Barry, Mac Watterworth, Calvin Walker, - Gower, Roy Dawdy, Jim Barrett, Roger Schlichauf, Harley Gammon. In the second row are Altha Campbell, Effie McIntyre, Verna Ainslee, Byre Schlichauf, Jean Caton, Annie Ainslee, Donna Henderson, Flora Bell, Tina Campbell. In the third row are teacher Everett McCurdy, Myrtle Mills, Margaret McEwen, Edna Henderson, Myrtle Newton, Jean Humphries, Florence Holden, Isobel Gillson, Dorothy Howse. In the fourth row are Norman Ainslee, Doug Wilton, Lyle Gower, George Barrett, Jim Bonner, George Leopold, Jack Monteith. Photograph contributed by George Leopold.***



*The West Elgin Dramatics Society (WEDS) has received a helping hand from the community to help with the ongoing renovations at the Dutton Memorial Hall. Alice Menard, WEDS fund-raising committee treasurer (centre), accepts a $1,000 cheque from West Lorne Kiwanis Club members Ray Jobson, Les Sewell, Ralph Chambers and Joan Johnston. At right, Elgin Association for Community Living representative Bill Mills presents a cheque for $500, which will go towards the construction of a wheelchair lift for the building. Complete renovations are expected to be completed in June.*



# Staddon, Optimist Club honoured

West Lorne Optimist Club member Dorothy Staddon has been recognized for her dedication to the high level of success as lieutenant-governor for Optimist Clubs in the zone she was responsible for in 1998.

She was presented with the Distinguished and Outstanding Lieutenant Governor Award at the Southwestern Ontario District of Optimist International banquet held earlier this month in Wallaceburg.

"The lieutenant governor plays an integral role in motivating the Optimist Clubs and assisting them in carrying out their community service programs," says J. Wayne Smith, 1997-'98 President of Optimist International. "May sincere thanks and congratulations go out to this individual on this great accomplishment."

The West Lorne Optimist Club was also honoured with the Honor Club and Distinguished Club Award for its community and youth service efforts, membership growth, club administration and other areas.




**Dorothy Staddon**

Local Optimist Club members Don Boos and Bill Trash also received awards for Best Bulletin and Treasurer, respectively.

Optimist International is one of the world's largest and most active service club organizations, with over 150,000 members in 4,200 Optimist Clubs in the United States, Canada and other nations. Carrying the motto "Friend of Youth," the Optimist Clubs conduct positive service projects which reach six million young people each year.

# West Lorne Horticultural Society news

The West Lorne Horticultural Society met at the new complex for the Feb. 9 meeting, with nine members and two guests in attendance.

Susanne McGregor, Master Gardener, gave a very informative talk on houseplants and their care.

The bus trip to Cullen Gardens was discussed. Early May was chosen so arrangements will be made. The March 9 meeting will have Helen Rose of Village Green give a demonstration on making a spring arrangement.

Plans will be made for the flower show May 28. The Garden Tour on June 13th was discussed.

## West Elgin Adult Club

The regular meeting of the West Elgin Adult Club was held Feb. 22 with a bountiful potluck lunch, followed by cards.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 8 and will feature a slide presentation. A trip to Dave Hoy at Wonderland is planned for March 19. If interested call Shirley White at 785-0535.

MAR. 1999

CLUBS 1999

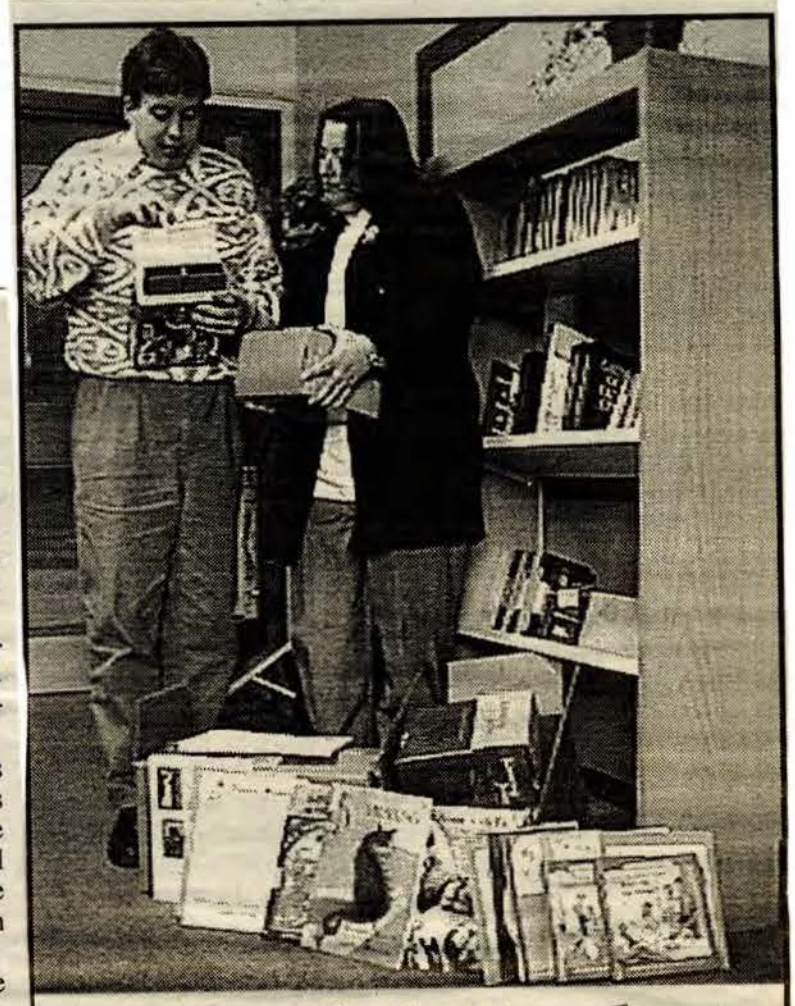
# MEMBERS HONOURED AT WEST LORNE LEGION BRANCH #221



***From left to right: Zone Commander Marg Emery, Lucielle Lesperance - Certificate of Recognition of Service, Bill McMurchy - Hats Off Award, Henry Mooser - received Past President Medal and President Doug Cavener.***

JAN 1999





# Useful Tools

*The Parent Resource Library at St. Mary's School received a generous gift recently as the West Elgin Knights of Columbus, Council 6495, donated a shelving unit. As well, funds from the Monsignor Feeney Foundation helped purchase some extra books to help stock those shelves. Here Knight of Columbus member Alex Schadenberg, left, checks over some of the books with St. Mary's School Council Chairperson Ann Marie Gokey.*

JUNE 7/99

CLUBS 1999

# Nature club learns about Thames River

The West Elgin Nature Club May meeting was held at the home of Bob and Margery Davis. Bob is the current club president.

The theme for the evening being "The Thames River" very appropriately began with walks along the banks of the river, including the indigenous adjacent woodland.

Many of the early spring ephemerals have faded, but the successionals were emerging, providing a great opportunity to identify other native species of flowers and trees including the endangered blue ash tree.

Guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Douglas Bocking of London, who attended with his wife Vivian. Dr. Bocking is a former Dean of Medicine at the University of Western Ontario. Now in retirement, he directs volunteer efforts on environmental issues, in particular the "Thames River Watershed."

Dr. Bocking presented a review of the studies of the Thames, leading to Nomination Documentation: the glacial retreat, geology, topography, changes throughout the years, historical events and flora and fauna.

This 'Heritage of the Thames' documentation may soon be available through the local library for all to read in more detail.

After a short business meeting, refreshments and more conversation continued. When so much of our native habitat is being destroyed and invaded by alien species such as Garlic-Mustard and Norway Maples, it is refreshing to visit protected areas like Bob and Margery's home. The next club meeting will be the August Canoe Trip on the Thames.



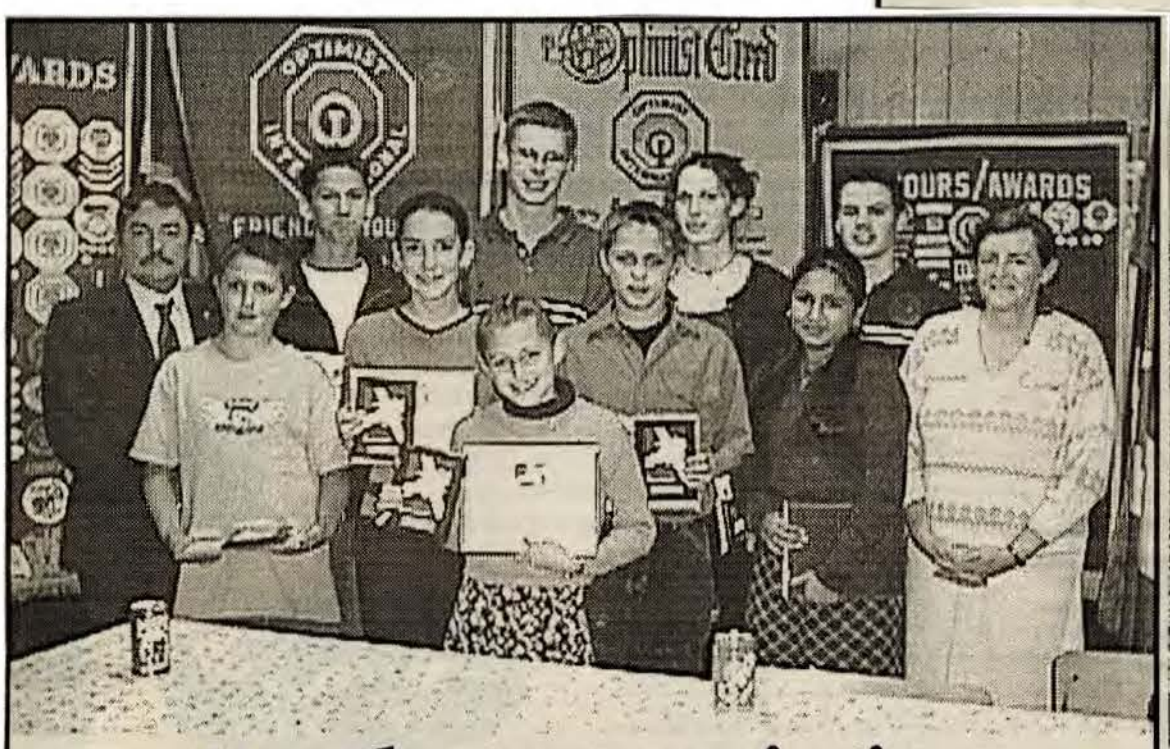
*Local naturalist Dr. Eunice McKishnie, left, welcomes West Elgin nature Club guest speaker Dr. Douglas Bocking and his wife Vivian.*

# Horsing Around

*It was a day to show off all the knowledge and skills learned this past summer as the West Elgin 4-H Horse Club and Pat Wilson sponsored an Open House and Achievement Day. Demonstrations and dress-up stall competitions were just some of the activities held recently at a West Lorne farm. Above, Maryjo McWilliam takes a break in the day with her horse. At right, Michelle Keith works on her roping skills.*










# Youth Appreciation

*The Optimist Club of West Lorne honoured some of the area's top students by handing out Youth Appreciation Citations & Awards last week. The students were honoured for their all-around accomplishments at their respective schools. Here Optimist Youth Appreciation Chairman Jim Coburn, left, and Optimist President Nancy Coburn, right, present the awards to, from left, Jesse Greenfield (Ald. P. S.), Matt Van Dyk (St. Mary's), Megan Regnier (St. Mary's), Daniel Fordham (Ald. P. S.), Maryn Fleuren (WESS Sr.), Craig Hoglund (WESES), Laura Jones (WESS Jr.), Richa Sharma (WESES) and Andrew Hentz (WESS Jr.). Missing from photo is Michelle Campbell (WESS Sr.).* NOV 22/99 W.E. CHRONICLE

LOCAL CLUBS

FEB, 1999.



*Bill Mills of the Elgin Association For Community Living presents Alice Menard with a cheque for $500 to go towards improving the accessability of the theater for future theatergoers.*

# A "DRAMATIC" FACELIFT



*Kiwanis members Ralph Chambers, Joan Johnston and Les Sewell look on as Kiwanis Treasurer Ray Jobson presents W.E.D.S. President Alice Menard with a cheque for $1000.00 to go towards the theater renovations at the Dutton Town Hall. The money was raised through the Nevada Fund the Kiwanis Club has set up to help various groups and societies.*

In 1971, Rev. Brian Foxton and his wife Eileen started West Elgin's newest society inviting the residents of the area to explore their flare for the dramatic. The West Elgin Dramatic Society (W.E.D.S.) has been going strongly ever since. With an average of two to three shows a year for the past 27 years, the residents of West Elgin have been entertained by comedies such as Nunsence, and dramas as intense as The Diary of Anne Frank.

W.E.D.S. has always been run on a volunteer basis, costumes have been provided by housewives, garage sales and seamstresses alike, and make-up is a group endeavor of deciding what just works.

Every year the various people involved have trodded up the stairs of the Dutton Town Hall. The facilities have survived but through the years the theatre has proven to be inadequate in areas such as wiring for the light and sound technicians, plumbing (no running water for the make-up room), and many an actor has had to run around the building from the old Jail in order to use the washroom facilities.

The recent merging of the Township and Municipal Offices of Dutton Dunwich resulted in a major overhaul of the main floor of the historic Dutton Town Hall. This year, it was decided that it was the upstairs theater's turn for renovation.

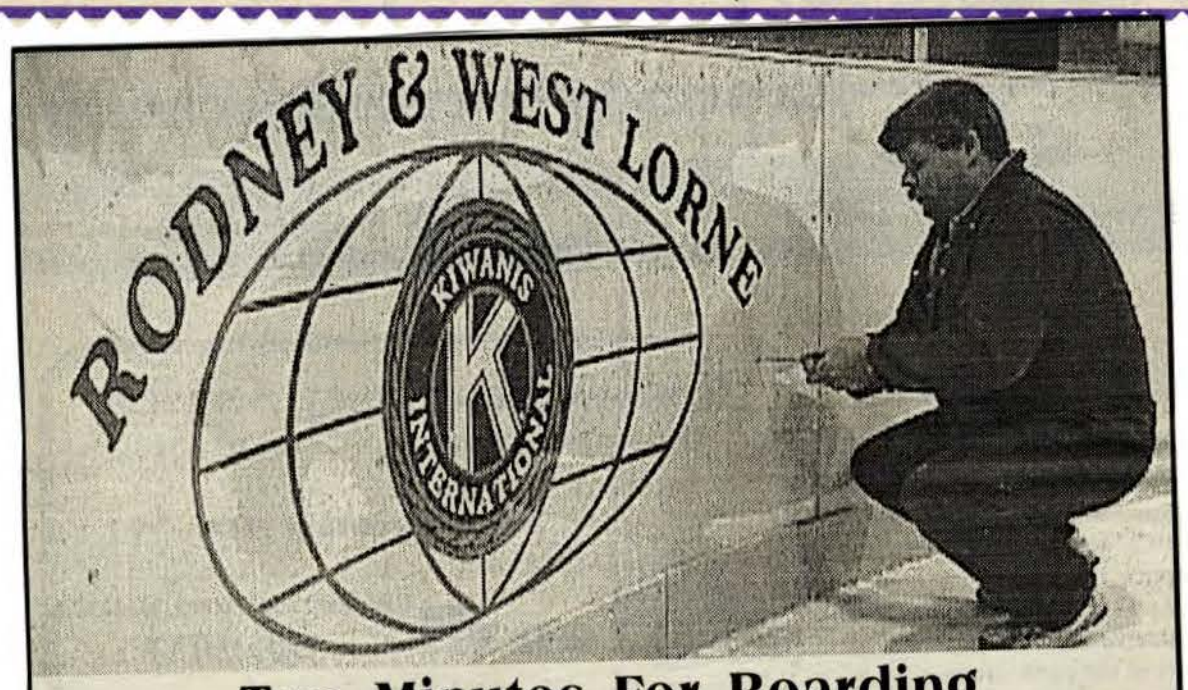
The proposed plan is for the Upstairs to be made into a multi-purpose hall. The theater will remain, but it can be rented for small receptions, meetings, etc. The old seats have been removed from where they were bolted to the floor, and new removable seats are planned to be put in.

Of course, all these changes don't just "happen". A grant from the Federal and Provincial Governments will match whatever amount W.E.D.S. can raise by the end of March 2 - 1. At this time the goal is to raise $25,000 to give them a total of $75,000 to put to use in the hall renovations. Work has already begun at the hall, with volunteers working every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Lunch is provided for these volunteers. Any volunteers are welcome, and are appreciated, but those with skills in areas of plumbing, electrician and construction are needed more than anything at this time.

W.E.D.S. is currently in a major fund-raising campaign. They are selling Red Maple Trees donated by VanBrenk Orchards for $30.00 each, the trees are 7 - 8 feet in height. At the end of February volunteers will be going on a door to door campaign. They have started a mailing list for businesses and local service groups and they will be selling compost at the Home and Garden Show this spring.

The overall goal for W.E.D.S. and the Municipality is to create a venue that can serve the various aspect of the communities needs as well as enhance the dramatic arts in our area. W.E..D.S is a non-profit organization that has donated ¼ of the revenue from their productions to various charities. Let us, the communities of West Elgin be generous in their time of self-improvement that can benefit us all.

Anyone with questions or who feels they can help in some way are encouraged to contact W.E.D.S. President Alice Meynard at 762-3723.




# Two Minutes For Boarding

*West Elgin Parks and Arena Superintendent Jeff Slater has been doing a lot of boarding lately, but a penalty hasn't been called. That's because this boarding is the introduction of advertising along the new boards at the West Elgin Arena. This, along with a new roof and updated bleachers, have really spruced up the arena for this coming hockey season. Here, Slater puts the finishing touches on one of the advertisements. The arena is expected to be set to go for skating this Tuesday.*

# West Lorne Horticultural news

The West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society met on April 13 with guest speaker Ken Molten from Ridgetown College. He spoke on landscaping and design and the courses available at the college.

Plans were made for the bus trip on May 12 to Cullen Gardens, as well as for spring planting and the annual flower show (May 28).

Eunice spoke on the trees and sign for the park. Thanks to all who helped plant the trees. The memorial tree has also been planted at the complex.

The annual Garden Tour is scheduled for June 13. Anyone wishing to have their garden included on the tour, please call Mary Lippold at 768-1244.

1999



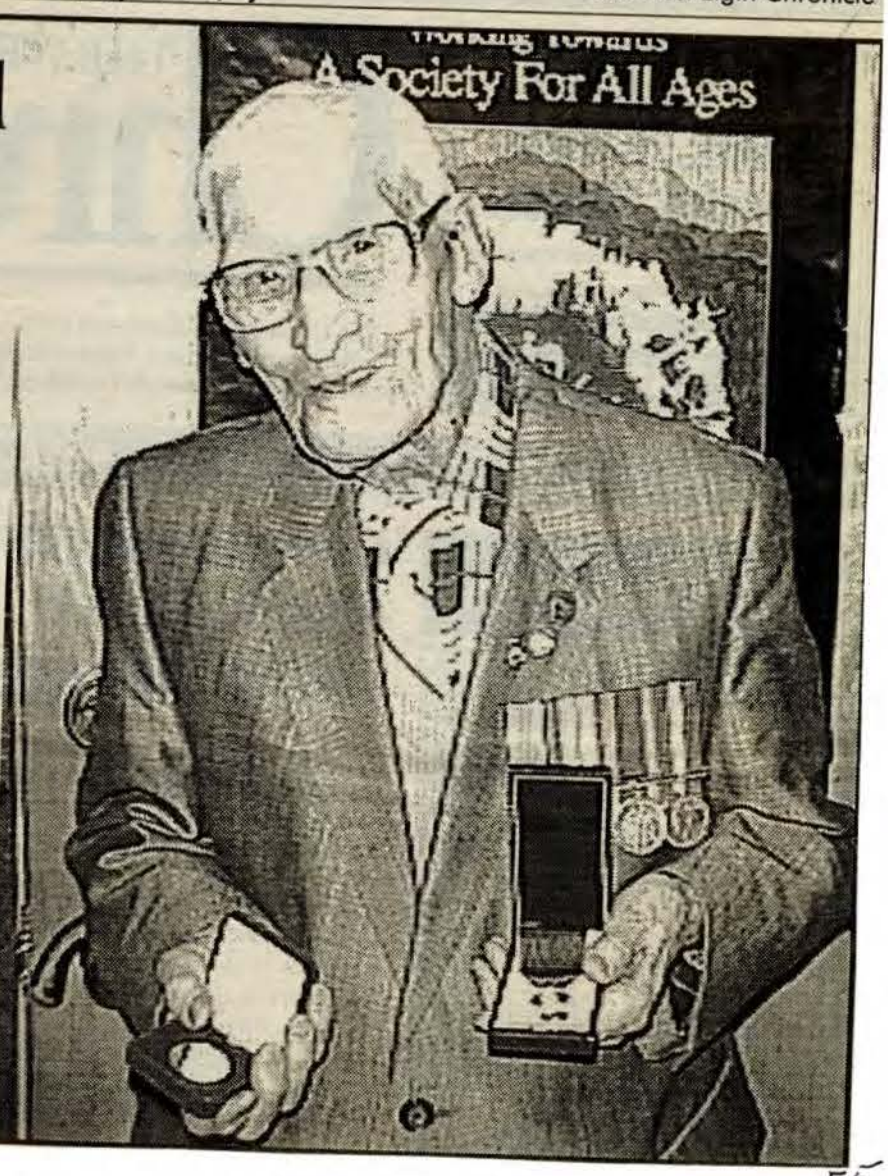
# Speech Winners

*The West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, hosted a "Speech Day" for students from the five local schools, of which three took part (Aldborough P. S., St. Mary's School and Dutton-Dunwich School). Here, legion educational chairperson Helen Mooser and Branch 221 President Doug Cavener present certificates to Shobha Sharma, left, (Grades 4-6 winner) and Theresa Simpson (Grade 7-8 winner). Maryjo McWilliam finished 2nd in the Grades 4-6 category and Megan Regnier finished 2nd in the Grade 7-8 category. In the Grade 1-3 category 1st place went to Amanda Russell and 2nd place to Courtney Besley. First place finishers also receive $25 ($20 for 2nd place, and $10 for the remaining participants). Judges for the day were Amy Mooser, William Schneider and Marion Orchard. Thanks also to Gloria Palmer (timekeeping), Wendy Swan (secretary), Ruth Mooser (assigning speakers) and Margaret Cavener (refreshments).*



# Medal Man

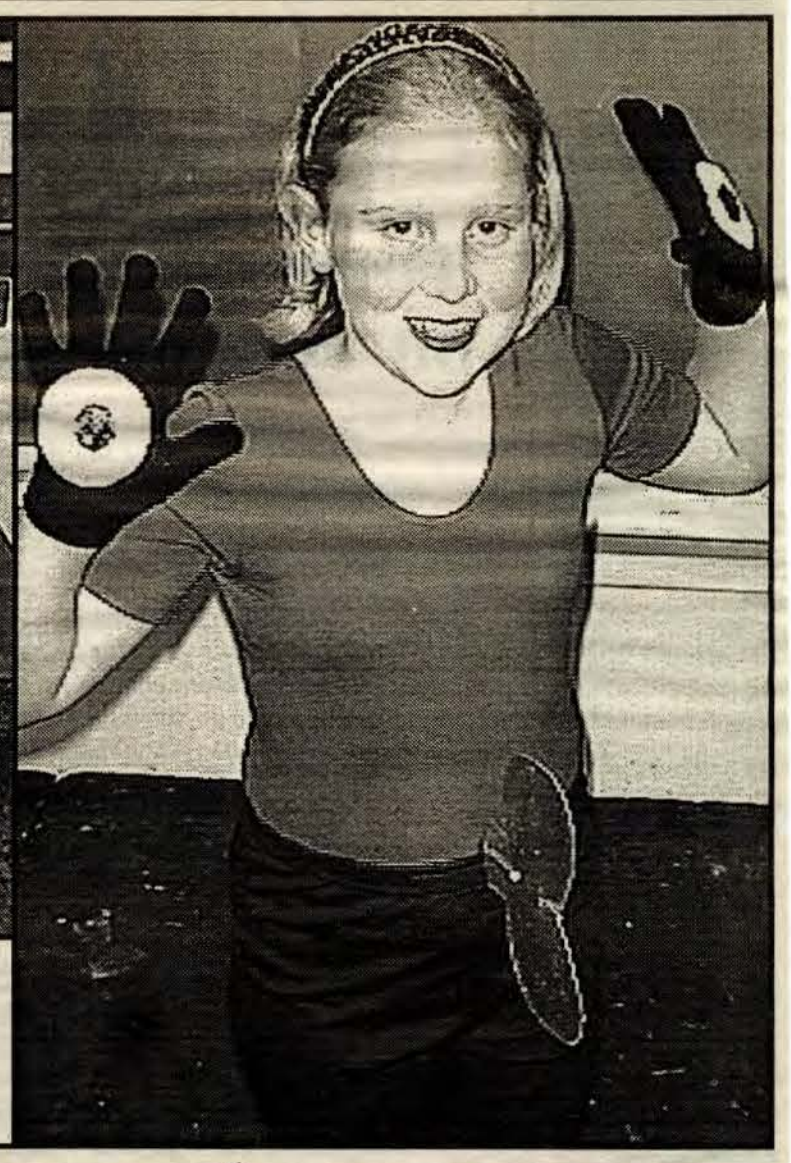
*The West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, paid tribute to one of its members this past week. George Johnson was on hand to show other legion members the latest honours he's received. The 99-year-old Johnson was recently presented with the John McCrae Medallion by the French Ambassador. As well, the Dutton resident showed off his French Legion of Honour Award. Johnson's honour also included a congratulatory letter from the Queen.*



CLUBS 1999







*The promising musical talent in Elgin County was evident at the 49th Annual West Lorne Kiwanis Talent Show, held recently at WESS. Some of the winners above in the Pop Piano (10 years and under included, front row from left, Danielle Schnekenburger (1st) and Jamie Stone (2nd). Back row from left are April Kornacker (3rd), Kaitlin Kennedy (2nd), Ashley Woolley (3rd) and Tracy Donaldson (3rd). In picture at right, Wardsville's Jasmine Dick, 9, performs as part of the Junior Ballet dancers.*

***Photos by Kathy Hollingsworth***

# West Lorne Kiwanis Talent Show a huge success

The 49th Annual West Lorne Kiwanis Club Talent Show was full of beautiful music and strong voices as some of Elgin County's top musical talents competing in a variety of categories.

The festivities were kicked off by the West Elgin Senior Elementary School's award winning jazz band, directed by Tom Pitriangelo.

Here are a list of the winners in their respective categories at this year's show:

**Pop - Piano, Age 10 and under**
Dannielle Schnekenburger

**Piano Solo, Age 10**
Jannessa Lashbrook

**Dance Program**
"Get the Groove" - Cassandra Vandenbrink, Erin Fleming, Sara Peternel and Kylie Hilliard

**Piano Solo, Age 11**
Lisa King

**Violin Solo**
Caren Campbell

**Trumpet Solo**
Amanda Breen

**Keyboard**
Julie Oliveira

**Cello and Piano**
Lydia Helsdon and Ryan Phelps

**Piano, Age 12**
Candice Vanden Dries and Vanessa Gray

**Piano, Age 13/14**
Amanda Breen and Ian Molnar

**Pop - Piano, Age 14**
Lisa King

**Piano Duet, 13 and over**
Matt Mistele and Betty Koscik

**Open Class Vocal, Age 13**
Stacey Zeger

**Vocal Solo, Age 12/13**
Jennifer Ford

**Piano Solo, Age 17**
Ryan Phelps

**Open Class Piano**
Ryan Phelps and Cheryl Koscik

**Vocal Solo, Age 6**
Shelby Woolley

**Open Class Vocal, Age 6**
Shelby Woolley

**Piano Solo, 6 and under**
Breanne Carter

**Piano Solo, Age 7**
Nicole Hilliard

**Spelling Bee, Grade 5-7**
Alana Gibbons

**Piano Solo, Age 8**
Becky Stone

**Vocal Solo, Age 8/9**
Brodie Jewell and Katherine Wright

**Piano Solo, Age 9**
Dannielle Schnekenburger

**Piano Duet, 8 and under**
Becky Stone and Lydia Westerveld

**Piano Duets, 12 and under**
Mary-Jo McWilliam and Emily Moreau

**Piano Trio**
Jonathan Wright, Charlotte Shaeken and Katherine Wright

**Vocal Solo, Age 10/11**
Dana Woolley

**Open Class Vocal, Age 11/12**
Dana Woolley

**Open Class Duet, Age 10/12**
Mary-Jo McWilliam and Dana Woolley



# TOPS celebrates 30 years in West Lorne

*They've been shedding pounds sensibly now for 30 years in West Lorne. TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ON792, West Lorne marked their milestone with a little cake and punch last week at the IOOF Hall in West Lorne. The group shared many success stories of the years of members losing the weight and keeping it off. Here, Betty Percival, left, and Loraine Tunks, who have both been members in West Lorne for the full 30 years, toast to the succes of the club while one of the group's newest members Linda Connolly shows off the birthday cake.* JULY 1999

SERVICE CLUBS 1999

The West Elgin Chronicle



# West Elgin Legion Election & Awards Night

*West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, recognized some of their top members recently at an election and awards night. In top photo, Edward McCallum was honoured with a Meritorious Award recognizing his 50 year membership with the legion. He is the second West Elgin Legion member to receive this award (George Berdan was first). McCallum also served 34 years with the local fire department and 14 years as membership chairman. Here, Zone Commander Marg Emery presents McCallum with his award, along with legion president Doug Cavener. In bottom photo, Emery presents Marg Cavener with a Certificate of Merit, the second highest service award a legion member can receive. A number of members also received Certificates of Appreciation including Bill DeWild, Judy DeWild, Marion Orchard, Amy Mooser and Bill Schneider.*

MAY 24, 1999



# Rest Stop

*Residents in West Elgin will be able to take a pit stop in West Lorne thanks to the Kiwanis Club. The bench, located outside the West Lorne Complex, was donated by the club from some of its proceeds from their recent car show. Testing out the bench are Kiwanis members Ray Joboson (sitting), Winfrid Liepmann (standing left) and Ernie Fodor, who presents Gerry Stomphorst of Milton, the benchs' maker, with a cheque.*

August 16, 1999



OCT. 1999

The West Elgin Chronicle




# Optimist Officers

*The Optimist Club of West Lorne have elected the new executive board for 1999/2000. Holding positions this term are, from lef, Ken Neil (director), Bill Trask (treasurer), Dorothy Staddon (recording secretary), Dick Hale (director), Julie Lawrence (director), Jim Gardner (vice-president), Nancy Coburn (president), Don Boos (past-president), John Eagleson (president-elect) and Al Kobler (director). Absent from photo are Karen Cormier (vice-president), Sandra Swan (director) and Jim Kolar (director).*

CLUBS 1999





# Giving and Receiving

*The West Elgin Branch Daffodil Auxiliary for Cancer were in Dutton last week to make a cheque presentation to Bobier Villa in order to purchase a mechanical lift, which is used to easily lift patients from a sitting or lying position. In top photo, Marilyn Fleck (left), Director of Homes and Seniors for Elgin County, accepts a cheque for $7,500 from Daffodil Auxiliary members Leola Lawrence and Norma McMillian, while health care aide Diane Kuranyi demonstrates the mechanical lift. In left photo, Audrey Major (left), President of the Bobier Villa Resident's Council, surprised McMillian and Lawrence with a presentation of her own. The Daffodil Auxiliary were given a cheque for $100, which included profits from the recent poor boy lunch at Bobier Villa plus funds from the Resident's Council.*



# TOPS Awards Night

*Toes were tapping last week as TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ON 792, West Lorne celebrated its annual awards night with a "Western Ways" theme, complete with a live country band. Honoured for their achievement in '98 were Mary Lou McMillian, left, Division 2 winner for weight loss, while KOPS (Keep Off Pounds Sensibly) members were acknowledged for their continued accomplishments, including Jean McRae (nine years), Twila McWilliam (three years) and Marie Reynolds (one year). Absent from photo was Olive Chambers (two years), Mary Liepman, Division 4 winner, and Kelly Ranson, Division 4 runner-up.*

APR 1999 5B

CLUBS 1999

## WEST LORNE SCOUTING NEWS

On the weekend of January 29-31 the West Lorne cubs, fourteen youth and four leaders camped at Ernie Warwick, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Area. We went on several hikes, during which we did Bird, Tree and wild animal tracks identification. We spent a lot of time making snowshoes thereby learning different knots. When snow shoes were finished, they were put to use, as there was sufficient snow left for this event.

Akela got another thrill, of her longtime leader ship, when she got a sleigh ride down to the lake! The sleigh was pulled by all the cubs, but two whom were at the back, to push and steer the sleigh. Great fun! Akela's comments "sometimes it pays to be getting old and still be a Cub leader!" On Saturday night we held an indoor campfire, with skits, songs and cheers. On Sunday, a Scouts own was held. The weather was great for mid winter and all had a wonderful time! It is not too late for youth to join Scouting, if you are 5-8 years old, more can join Beavers, Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Cubs age 8-11, on Tuesday evenings 7:00 p.m. and Scouts 11-14 on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are held at the Scout Hall, on Chestnut Street, West Lorne. For more information you may call Helena at 768-1796. Also a reminder that we still have our garbage bag fund raiser. Garbage bags are available in Rodney at the Knechtels Food Market and in West Lorne at Ripley and Giles Motors. We still take pop cans, they may be dropped off at the Scout Hall, on meeting nights, above and also egg cartons may be dropped off at the Scout Hall or at West Lorne I.G.A. Food market. We are always looking for adults, leaders or Group Committee members.

### WEST LORNE CUBS ENJOYING WINTER



*Akela having her sleigh ride with the cubs pulling her up the hill.*




*Building their own snow shoes while out camping.*



*Trying out the new snowshoes.*




## Optimist Breakfast

*When the high temperatures there's no better place to be than the waterfront. And while you're there why not have breakfast? That's just what the Optimist Club of West Lorne did recently at the Old Boys Park in Port Glasgow. Here, Ray Young and President-Elect Nancy Coburn enjoy a quick bite to eat. Money raised from the breakfast will go to youth programs in the community.* JULY 12/99



## Garden Beauty

*The West Lorne Horticultural Society held its annual Garden Tour recently with a number of members opening their gardens to the public for viewing. Here, Michael and Helen Hamilton show off some of their hard work they put into their garden.* 1999

CLUBS 1999



# Trees Abound

*The West Lorne Horticultural Society appears to be the first off the mark with its Millennium Project. A group of enthusiastic volunteers planted a vista of Sugar Maple trees, just north of the parking are on Munroe Street. At left, John (Bing) Humphrey works on the trees with helpers Stephanie and Ryan Leys. Humphrey continued his tree expedition by inviting a group of students from Dutton-Dunwich Public School to his home to learn about planting trees. Humphrey then donated a handful of trees to the school for its Peace Garden.*

## May Flower Show planned for May 28

The West Lorne Horticultural Society will soon sprucing up the village by planting the civic flower beds by the library, R. R. Park, street planters and the West Elgin Arena.

The society is also gearing up for its May Flower Show which is planned for May 28. For show schedules and further information, call Mary Lippold at 768-1244.



# West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, news

**By Doug Cavener**
*President, West Elgin Legion, Branch 221*

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my executives from 1998-'99 who worked very hard to accomplish news ideas and update our club.

Their hard work brought new members and community friends into our branch.

The following members were elected for 1999-2000:

**President**
Doug Cavener
**1st Vice-President**
Robert White
**2nd Vice-President**
Ray Jobson
3rd Vice-President
Jim Orchard

**Officers**
Henry Mooser
Debbie Kolterman
Ed Bell

Congratulations on your executive positions.

We will try our best to accommodate all community services and help our veterans when needed. We will remember them.



# Promotion Time

*Members of the No. 7 RCACC, B Squadron West Lorne received their promotions last week at the West Elgin Legion, Branch 221. Here, Legion President Doug Cavener, left, presents Master Warrant Officer William Lewis with his Certificate for Cadet Medal of Excellence, along with Cpt. Bill Stinson. Other cadets receiving recognition include: Green Star - Cdt. Steve Mosher, Cdt. Josh Giles, Cdt. Vanessa Gray, Cdt. Kyle Vandevodren, Cdt. Ashley Swick, Cdt. Jan Kool, Cdt. Nadine Lewis, Cdt. Nicholas Lunn, Cdt. Phil Fordham, Cdt. Ashley Leclair, Cdt. Kevin Angel, Cdt. Robert Morit, Cdt. Ian Barkwell and Cdt. Jaclyn Vetre. Red Star - Spr. Tyler Rooke, Spr. Carl Ollette, Spr. Rebecca Gray, Spr. Amy Denomme, Spr. Deric Gardener, Cpl. Whitney Deyle, Cpl. John Knight, Cpl. Karen Bowery, Cpl. Clayton Deyle, Cpl. Troy Scheilhauf, Cpl. Zach Timson and M/Cpl. James Tellier. Tellier also received a Silver Star.*

60

SERVICE CLUBS 1999






# 'Wave of Silence' to sweep Canada Nov. 11

This Remembrance Day, the Royal Canadian Legion is asking all Canadians to pause in silence for two minutes at 11:00 a.m. The Legion is asking people to stop whatever they are doing, wherever they are, and quietly reflect on war, and peace, and those who gave up everything for us. The silence will begin in Newfoundland, and sweep across the country like a wave as the clock strikes 11:00 a.m. in each time zone.

The "2-Minute Wave of Silence" will do two things, according to Legion Dominion President, Chuck Murphy. "Just weeks before the end of the Millennium, it will serve as an eloquent tribute to the 116,000 young men and women who died defending our country during the 20th Century. It will also help to bring remembrance back to its roots, back to everyday people— especially those who are not able to attend a ceremony at a local cenotaph, or watch the national broadcast on television."

The tradition of observing two minutes of silence began far from large formal ceremonies. It sprang from a heartfelt need to do something to honour those who had given so much. In fact, until the 1950s, a two minute silence was commonplace throughout most of Canada.

There have been several accounts of the origin of the two minute silence, but most agree that it began in South Africa before the end of the First World War. In April, 1918, the German offensive on the western front was still in full force, and there was fear, not only for loved ones, but for the outcome of the war. As losses mounted, the Mayor of Capetown, Sir Harry Hands made a general appeal to citizens to observe a special silence. On May 14th, the noon canon sounded, followed by a bugler playing the "Last Post", and then "Reveille" to signal the end of the silence. This was repeated every day until the Armistice was signed at 11:00 a.m. on Nov. 11, 1918.

A local correspondent described the scene as the town fell quiet, "It was a most solemn and inspiring function, the effect was magical. There was always a great crowd in Adderly Street at midday, but the observance seems even more striking in the less frequented streets."




A Reuters correspondent in Capetown cabled a description of the event back to London, and from there word spread to Canada and Australia. Within a few weeks reports were being received in London that the silence was being observed in towns across the Commonwealth. At the conclusion of First World War, the two minute silence became the accepted form of remembrance.

Canada is one of only a few countries that has never fought a war of aggression. But during this century, over 1.4 million young Canadians volunteered to serve in the military and merchant navy, and 116,000 of them never made it home.

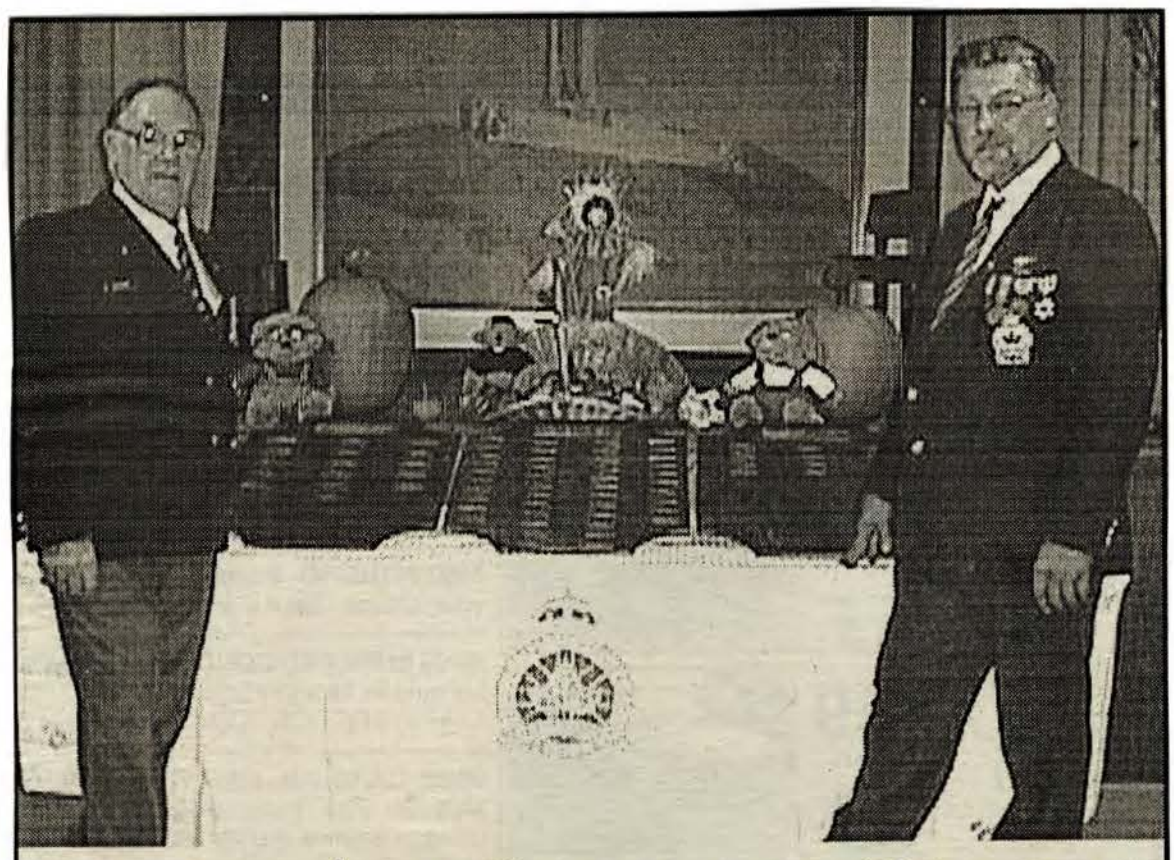
The Wave of Silence campaign is being carried out at the community level. "With almost a half-million Legion members talking to neighbours and local business people, civic and church leaders, we are sure that the message about the Wave is reaching people," says Legion Public Relations Manager Bob Butt.

And there is national support. Legion executive contacted 5,000 businesses, thousands of associations, municipalities, and school boards, as well as the major media. "The leaders of the major networks and newspaper chains responded expressing their support. The CBC will be incorporating the two minute silence in its broadcast on November 11th, and many private stations will be doing something they never do, broadcasting two minutes of silence."

Support among Canadians appears high. In an Environics poll commissioned by the Legion, 87% of Canadians said that they would most likely observe the 2-Minute Wave of Silence on Nov, 11.

"As there are fewer and fewer surviving veterans, this seems like a fitting way to pass the torch. The formal ceremonies will continue, in fact they have been growing over the past few years, but as this is the last Remembrance Day of the 20th Century, we would like to see as many Canadians as possible take part," adds Murphy. "We hope that the 2-Minute Wave of Silence will help them do that."

NOV 8, 1999



# Honouring Generous Donors

*The West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, paid tribute to the generosity of many local businesses and community members last week by unveiling three plaques. The plaques, to be hung in the legion, contain the names of all those who donated towards the new furniture in the banquet room. Here, Legion President Doug Cavener, left, and 1st Vice-President Robert White show off the plaques to the donors, who were also treated to a light lunch. Donations are still being accepted.*

OCT. 1999

SERVICE CLUB 2000





# Pump Purchase

*The West Elgin Community Health Centre is the thankful recipient of a brand new breast pump, thanks to the generous donation of the Rodney Kiwanis Club. It is the third pump the Kiwanis Club has donated over the last three years. Here, Kiwanis member Bob Logan, left, checks out the new pump with clinic coordinator Bunny Hubbard.*

JAN. 24, 2000





# New Life Member

*The West Elgin Legion, Branch #221, handed out a new life membership to legion member James Orchard, third from left. Along with a certificate, Orchard also received a medal during the presentation. Presenting are Deputy Zone Commander Ian Watson, left, West Elgin Legion President Doug Cavener and Zone Commander Marg Emery.*



# Getting His Wings

*West Lorne's Warrant Officer First Class Peter Podebry was honoured to receive his private pilot's licence at a recent ceremony at CFB Trenton Detachment, Mountainview. Podebry was one of just 250 cadets from across Canada who qualified for this Air Cadet League of Canada Scholarship. He is planning a career in the military. Here, Peter's father, Walter, had the privilege of pinning on his wings as Brigadier General D. M. Jurkowski CMM. CD. looks on.*

SEPT. 2000





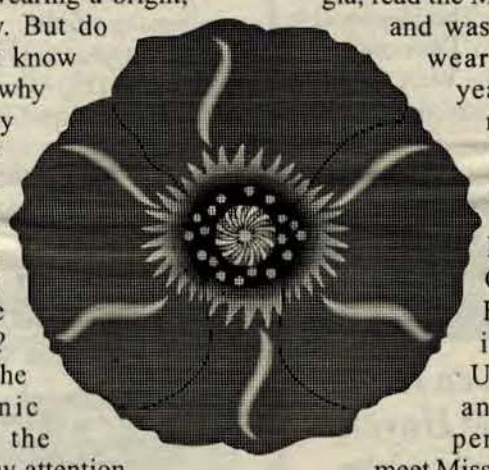
# REMEMBRANCE DAY

## *Sat., November 11th*

## LEST WE FORGET

# Remembering our fallen soldiers

During this week leading up to Remembrance Day, millions of Canadians will be showing their respect for our fallen comrades by wearing a bright, red poppy. But do you really know the reason why the poppy has come to symbolize the Canadian soldiers who gave their lives?



During the Napoleonic Wars, the poppy drew attention as the mysterious flower that bloomed over the graves of fallen soldiers.

In the 20th century, the poppy again was widely popular after soils in France and Belgium became rich in lime from the rubble during the First World War.

The little red flowers flourished around the graves of the war dead as they had 100 years earlier.

In 1915, Guelph native John McCrae, a doctor serving with the Canadian Forces Artillery, recorded this phenomenon in his famous poem 'In Flanders Fields.'

Two days before the Armistice, Moina Michael, an American woman from Athens, Georgia, read the McCrae poem and was inspired to wear a poppy year-round in memory of the war dead.

In 1920, Madame E. Guérin of France visited the United States and happened to meet Miss Michael at the YMCA at Columbia University, where the latter was a volunteer.

Mme. Guérin then resolved to sell homemade poppies around Armistice Day to raise money for poor children in the war-torn areas of Europe.

In 1921, Field Marshall Earl Haig, the former Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France and Belgium, and the principal founder of the British Legion, was sold on Mme. Guérin's fund-raising idea and approved organization of the British Poppy Day Appeal by the Legion to raise money for poor and disabled veterans.

The same year, Mme. Guérin visited Canada and convinced the Great War Veterans Association (predecessor to the Royal Canadian Legion) to similarly adopt the poppy as a symbol of remembrance in aid of fund-raising.

Today, the Poppy Campaign is on of the Royal Canadian Legion's most important programs.

The money raised from poppy sales provides direct assistance for ex-service people in financial distress, as well as funding for medical appliances and research, home services, care facilities and numerous other purposes.

MEMORIAM · EORUM · RETINEBIMUS

LEGION

62

SERVICE CLUBS 2000




# Outstanding Oratorical

*The West Lorne Optimist Club held its annual Oratorical Contest last week at the IOOF Hall in West Lorne. Taking Top honours, and moving on to zones in Wallacetown on April 4, are Blair Noddin, left, and Risha Sharma. Presenting the medals and certificates is Optimist Oratorical Chairperson Jim Coburn. If successful, the pair will move to regionals in wallaceburg and finally the district finals in Nevada, for a chance to win a $1,500 scholarship.* MAY 13, 2000 ***Photo by Karen Cormier***

The West Elgin Chronicle MAR. 6, 2000









# Special Speakers

*The West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, held its annual 'Speech Day' recently as area youngsters competing for cash prizes and a chance to advance to Zones. Taking top honours in the Grade 4,5,6 category were, in top photo from left, Robert Wilkins (participant), Blair Noddin (participant), Chantel Branget (participant), Cody McCallum (3rd), Kaitlin Kennedy (2nd) and Shobha Sharma (1st). Presenting the awards were Legion President Doug Cavener (rear) and Legion Education Chairperson Jim Orchard. In centre photo (Grade 7 & 8) from left are Cavener, Maryjo McWilliams (3rd), Dan Armstrong (2nd) and Megan Regnier (1st). In bottom photo (Grade 9 & 10) from left are Orchard, Shannon Kindornay (1st), Jessica Drummelsmith (2nd) and Cavener. Winners from the Grade 1,2 & 3 category were Cody MacKinnon and Risha Sharma.*





# Blast from the Past!

## *46th annual Skating Carnival*

MAR 2000

*The West Elgin Skating Club packed the West Elgin Arena for two show recently as they performed their 46th annual Skating Carnival entitled "Blast from the Past." The Roaring 20s, Big Band and The 60s to Disco, Grease and Square Dancing, the stellar performances truly showed the amount of time and effort that went into producing the show. In top photo, Glencoe Precision Team wows the crowd with their skating skills. At left, Cassidy Sabo shows off her costume prior to hitting the ice. At right, Shauna Vandaele gets some last minute help with her skates from mom Kerry.* ***Photos by Karen Cormier***

# Kiwanians Helping Kids

*The Rodney Kiwanis club are ensuring the Rodney Library will have a new set of children's books once the renovation on the building is complete with a donation of $500. The club sponsors the 'Kiwanis Korner', which is a special collection of books for preschool children. Here, library supervisor Shelley Fleming looks over some of the children books with Kiwanis representative Alan Youngash. As of April 3, the library will remain closed until August. The West Lorne Library will be open later as the Rodney Library is closed.*




APR 2000

SERVICE CLUBS 2000



# 50th West Lorne Kiwanis Talent Show a huge success

It was a wonderful weekend of music and dance talent at WESS as the 50th annual West Lorne Kiwanis Talent Show brought together some of the areas most talented youngsters, along with an array of past performers.

Here are the results from the recent two-day event:

**Piano Solo (age 10)**
1. Clint Hilliard - 86
2. Sara Peternel, Danielle Schneckenburger, Sarah Sharp - 85
3. Kim Kriter, Katherine Wright and Becky Lee - 84
4. Rhonda Knight - 83

**Pop Piano Solo (age 10)**
1. Clint Hilliard - 87
2. Becky Lee - 86

**Piano Solo (age 9)**
1. Justin Hwang - 87
2. Krysta Walker - 85

**Junior Tap - Dance Group**
Charlotte Noddin, Meghan Schneider, Nicole Hilliard, Clint Hilliard and Katy Miller - 86

**Intermediate Tap - Dance Solo**
Erin Fleming - 87

**Senior Tap - Dance Trio**
Breanne Podebry, Jay Hilliard, Brook Roest - 88

**Vocal Solo (age 10)**
Katherine Wright - 87

**Vocal Solo (age 12)**
Jonathan Wright - 90

**Violin Solo (age 10)**
Caren Campbell - 90

**Piano Solo (age 11)**
1. Laurie Van'tvoort - 87
2. David McWilliam, Erin Fleming and Jackie Hwang - 85
3. Megan Close- 84
4. Trina Lusse - 83

**Piano Solo (age 12)**
1. Stacey Gowan - 86
2. Jonathan Wright, Jennifer Drummelsmith and MaryJo McWilliam - 85
3. Amanda Leonardes - 84

**Piano Solo (age 13/14)**
1. Vanessa Gray - 86
2. Rebecca Gray - 85
3. Hillary Kriter - 84

**Junior Jazz Duet - Dance**
Charlotte Noddin & Katy Miller - 86

**Intermediate Jazz Trio - Dance**
Sara Peternel, Kylie Hilliard and Erin Fleming - 86

**Pop Piano (age 12)**
1. MaryJo McWilliam - 86
2. Jonathan Wright and Megan Close - 85

**Piano Duet (age 14)**
1. Becky Koscik and Matt Mistele - 89
2. Rebecca and Vanessa Gray - 87

**Brass Trumpet Solo**
Amanda Breen - 85

**Brass Trio**
Daniel, Brian and Michael Van'tvoort - 85

**Piano Solo (age 14)**
1. Becky Koscik - 91
2. Matt Mistele - 90
3. Amanda Gray - 89

**Pop Piano Solo (age 14)**
1. Matt Mistele - 90
2. Jennifer LeBlanc - 88

**Pop Piano (age 15)**
Holly LeBlanc - 91

**Vocal Solo (age 6)**
Allison Kornacker - 82

**Vocal: Open Class (age 9)**
1. Vicky Close - 86
2. Hillary Hodder - 84

**Fixed Vocal Solo (age 9)**
1. Hillary Hodder - 86
2. Cassie Wright and Vicky Close - 85

**Pop Piano (age 8)**
1. Charlotte Schaeken and Tanya Van Raes - 86
2. Molly Schleihauf - 85
3. Molly McWilliam, Cassie Wright and Nicole Hilliard - 84
4. Candice Conway - 83

**Piano Duet (12 and under)**
Charlotte Schaeken and Justin Hwang - 87

**Vocal Trio**
Brittany Jewell, Kari DeLouw and Kaitlin Kennedy - 85

**Vocal: Open Class (age 12)**
Erica Silver - 87

**Piano trio**
1. Jonathan Wright, Jackie Hwang and Kim Kriter - 89
2. Charlotte Schaeken, Katherine Wright and Amanda Mistele - 87

**Piano Duet (13 and under)**
1. Hillary and Kim Kriter - 88
2. Jackie Hwang and Jonathan Wright - 87
3. Amanda Mistele and Katherine Wright - 82

**Vocal Duet**
Vicky and Megan Close - 87

**Spelling Bee Winners**
*Grade 7:* Jonathan Wright
*Grade 5:* 1. Craig Howard, 2. Katherine Wright
*Grade 4:* April Kornacker




## Musical Memories

*Musical talent, both young and old, converged on West Lorne recently as the West Lorne Kiwanis Club held their 50th annual talent show. Along with a number of very talented newcomers, the show also features a reunion of a number of past participants. Here, former Rodney resident Dr. Kathryn (Baker) Snodgrass returned home to be part of the show. Snodgrass is now a Doctor of Musical Arts in Tuscon, Arizona. With Snodgrass are WESS students and talent show participants Lindsey Hull and Darryl vanOirschot.*

***Photo by Karen Cormier***



## Pastor's Study

*By Betty Patterson*

**Mother's Day**

We just celebrated Mother's Day yesterday and we are living in a day when the influence of Christian mothers is badly needed.

So many times I think mothers fail to speak out about the evils of our day because we feel so small, so insignificant; and we wonder what difference one voice can make.

But a little grain of dust can stop the most powerful machine and can grind elaborate engines to a halt.

If no one speaks out against evil, it becomes like a flood spreading over the whole land. Just recently, a huge ship ran aground in the shipping area near Sarnia. The hull was damaged and water flooded in causing a real problem.

God's word refers to evil as being like a flood and the need of a standard to be raised against it. Isaiah 59:19 says, "...when the enemy shall lift up a standard against him." You and I, as mothers, need to become a part of that standard.

I believe mothers a few years ago caught this vision when they formed MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) and they are making a difference in our society. As mothers, we have a wonderful opportunity to teach our children the importance of



## Scouts Honour

*The Elgin District of Scouts Canada recently honoured a number of its members, including a pair of local residents. Helena Van Vugt, left, was honoured with a 30 Year Long-Time Service Award, while Anna Podebry received a Provincial Council Medal of Good Service. Both are members of the First West Lorne Pack.* APR. 17/00




## Legion Life Members

*The West Elgin Legion, Branch #221, honoured a few of its members with 'Life Membership' certificates at a recent meeting. From left are Jacque Mertick (accepting for her father George Berdan), George Lipold, Ed McCallum and Bernie Fluker.*

JAN. 31, 2000

SERVICE CLUBS 2000





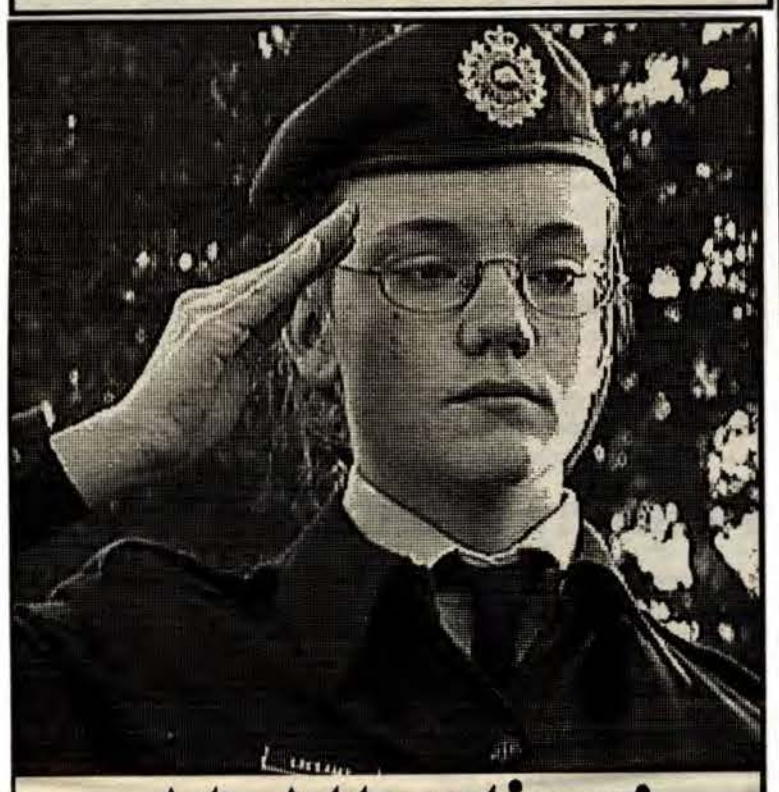
# MVP Honours

*West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, hockey team MVP honours went to Dan Schnekenburger this year. The Roy Dos Santos Memorial Award is given each year to the team's top player. Here, Roy's brother Joe Santos, left, presents the award to Schnekenburger.*



# Saving Clear Creek

*Residents and organizations of West Elgin are doing their part in an effort to help save Clear Creek Forest, a 576 acre property located in Chatham-Kent, just west of Elgin. Nature Conservancy Canada is looking to raise $100,000 and gather 3,000 signatures in their part towards obtaining the remaining $1.4 million for purchase and stewardship. Here Gerree Hind, representing the West Elgin Nature Club, left, and Nancy Coburn, representing the Optimist Club of West Lorne, donated $600 and $30/35 signatures respectively, to Dave Martin, a volunteer the Nature Conservancy of Canada. If you wish to bring your support forward, signatures can be sent by phone (1-877-343-3532), e-mail (ontario@natureconservancy.ca) of by fax (519-826-9206.). Donations can be sent to 121 Wyndham St. N., Suite 202, Guelph, ON, N1H 4E9. To date, $85,000 has been raised and 1,600 signatures received. Local contact for Clear Creek is Bill Prieksaitis at 785-0176.* 2000



# At Attention!

*The Royal Canadian Military Engineer Cadet Corps #72 Squadron, West Lorne held their annual graduation and promotion ceremony at the West Elgin Legion. A number of cadets were honoured for their hard work and dedication over the past year, including Andrea LeClaire, who received a 'Silver Star.' Also receiving a 'Silver Star' were Josh Giles, Phil Fordham, Jan Kool and Ashley Swick. 'Red Star' recipients were Craig Bowery, Clayton Gillick, Rob Morritt and Alana Gibbons. Receiving a 'Gold Star' were Karen Bowery, Carl Oullette, Amy Denome, Whitney Deyle, Clayton Deyle, Josh Knight and Troy Schleihauf.* APR. 17/00



# West Elgin Walkers

*What better to do on a Monday morning than to go for a brisk walk with your neighbours! The 'Monday Morning Walkers For Nature Study' do just that every week and have visited many interesting sites including trails in Annie Christenson's Carolinian Forest and Clear Creek Forest. A video on the Anne Christenson walk is available by calling 768-2571. For information on taking part in the walks, call Marjorie Prieksaitis at 785-0176.* MAY 22, 2000



# Kiwainis Cash

*The West Lorne Kiwanis Club continued with their commitment to the new West Elgin Pool as Treasurer Ray Jobson, right, presents pool committee chairman Graham Warwick with a cheque for $1,000 along with Rodney Kiwanis Club President Vic Lapadat, left, who wants to thank the community for their continued generosity. The Rodney club has already met its second year commitment to the pool because of the community support.* OCT 23, 2000



# Hats Off Award

*It has become a tradition at the West Elgin Legion - Friday night meat draws. And thanks to the Dutton Food Mart these draws run like clock work. Legion President Doug Cavener, left, showed the legion's appreciation by presenting a "Hats Off" Award to Dutton Food Mart managers Charlie Ivan and Luis Leonardes.* MAR/00

CLUBS 2000

# Busy times ahead for West Elgin 4-H Horse Club

The 5th meeting of the West Elgin 4-H Horse Club was held Aug. 1 at Darlene, Stephanie and Sam Smith's home in West Lorne.

The evening began by watching a video entitled "Animal Hospital." It followed veterinarian students during their practical rotations. We witnessed a hip replacement in a German Shepherd dog, a foal being treated for a swollen brain and a race horse having surgery for colic, just to mention a few.

The pledge was then recited and the minutes from the June meeting were read and adopted, along with the treasurer's report and the roll call.

Justin Van Beers and Danielle Le Claire gave reports on their experiences at the 4-H Members Conference held in July at Pearce Williams. They had two great days and highly recommended it to all 13-14 year-old 4-Hers for next year.

Trina Lusse filled everyone in on the first annual 4-H Summer Funfest held at Pinefore Park in St. Thomas on July 8. Everyone participated in games and a barbecue. Hopefully there will be better attendance at this free event next year.

The main business at this most recent meeting was to discuss 'Achievement Day' and the year-end wrap-up event. Since the last meeting the Achievement Day Committee met with Pat Wilson and set Sept. 9 as the date at Pat Wilson Quarter Horses (RR#2 West Lorne). It will be set up as an open house with the 4-H members helping Pat host the event.

Committees were then set up to coordinate each task needed to make the day a success. There will be a demonstration committee responsible for arranging guest riders to show the audience different facets of horsemanship. A food committee, decorating committee and 4-H promo committee were also formed.

The group will also continue with their dress-up stall competition in groups to be assigned by the leaders at the next meeting.

Lastly, several suggestions were made about the year-end wrap-up. After much discussion a motion was passed to attend the RCMP Musical Ride being held at the Western Fair on Sept. 16. Since this is the same day as the 4-H Fun Day at the fair, it's an excellent way to help Elgin 4-H out.

Maybe Elgin will have the most people there again and win the $300. Besides, if we go for the 4-H Fun Day we get in free and also get a free lunch. The musical ride is also free so it will be a great final get-together for the local club.

To end the meeting the group watched the video that Trina's dad taped during the campout at the Longhorn Ranch in June. Everyone joined in to say the 4-H grace and enjoyed a snack before adjourning the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 28 at Mac Lilley Farms (28322 Chalmers Line). Breeding will be discussed at this meeting.

AUG 28/00

# 4-H Awards night

The Wallacetown Agricultural Society paid tribute to a hard-working group of people on Oct. 23 as over 100 4-H members, along with and their leaders and families, were welcomed to the 4-H Awards Night at the Dutton-Dunwich Community Centre.

A total of five clubs (the Dutton-Dunwich 4-H Goat Club, West Elgin 4-H Beef, Dunwich 4-H Field & Garden Club, Fingal 4-H Baking Club and the West Elgin 4-H Senior Horse Club) held their achievement programs at the fair. Inter-club and inter-county competitions were also held in 4-H beef, 4-H goat, 4-H dairy and 4-H field crops at the fair.

All of these clubs recognized their members with money earned and special awards to the Most Improved Member, sponsored by the Dutton & District Lions Club, and the Outstanding Member, sponsored by the Royal Bank (Dutton). The new Elgin 4-H Judging Club, which has plans for holding their achievement day at the fair next year, also took part in the awards night.

The Wallacetown Agricultural Society is proud to be able to host so many clubs and encourage these young people. Plans are already underway for next year, with at least one new club expected.

The West Elgin Chronicle OCT 20/2000



***Most Improved Member** - Meagan Close (West Elgin Senior Horse Club), Nicole Jensen (Fingal Baking), Michael Van't Voort (Dutton-Dunwich Goat Club), Keith McCallum (West Elgin Beef) and Amanda Smith (Dunwich Field & Garden). Each received $25 from the Dutton & District Lions Club.*



***Outstanding Member** - Amanda Smith (Elgin Judging), Steven Burgess (Fingal Baking), Joe Veraart (Dunwich Field & Garden), Charlotte Bennetto (Dutton-Dunwich Goat Club) and Morgan McWilliam (West Elgin Beef). Each received a watch from the Royal Bank (Dutton).*



***Elgin Judging Club** - In front, most improved are Peter Jones and John Philip Smith. In back. high achieving meeting, were Jennifer Smith, Maryjo McWilliam and Lydia Smith.*

Page 12 - October 23, 2000

# West Lorne, Rodney Kiwanis Clubs

It was a time to look back on 50 successful years for both the Rodney and West Lorne Kiwanis Clubs as the two organizations held an anniversary gathering at the Rodney Legion recently.

Members past and present had an opportunity to reminisce on past accomplishments of each club.

On Oct. 5, 1950, 13 business and professional men met in the community hall in West Lorne prepared to form a Kiwanis Club. By Nov. 30 enough members had been recruited and there was a charter presented at the very first dinner meeting.

The club has always set its priorities on the young of the area and it's first project was a Hallowe'en party followed in the spring by the first Hobby and Talent Fair, which later became the Kiwanis Music Festival, still popular today.

Club members Harley Lashbrook, Ray Jobson, Winfred Liepmann and Bob Walker each have received the Mel Osborne Fellowship, the highest Kiwanis award.

It was 1950 when two Kiwanians from London guided 25 Rodney men through the process of forming a Kiwanis Club. Those two men were Ernie Halpenny and Bert Cook.

And it wasn't long before they made their first donation, to the Winnipeg Flood relief fund.

Kiwanis in Rodney has consistently supported all events such as sports activities, help for the underprivileged, hospitals, sick children and housing. They also played a major fund-raising role in the construction of Rodney's first pool and as well as the new West Elgin Pool, which is scheduled to open in 2001.

Mel Osborne Fellowship winners from the Rodney Club include Les Welch, Lynn Lashbrook, Bev Lashbrook, Arnold Lee and Sylvia Logan.

Along with congratulations from MPP Steve Peters and MP Gar Knutson, both clubs received acknowledgement from Ontario Premier Mike Harris, Lieutenant Governor Hilary Weston and Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

The West Elgin Chronicle

# celebrate 50 years of service



*The West Lorne and Rodney Kiwanis clubs got together recently to share in the celebration of each club's 50th anniversary. Here, Harley Lashbrook, left, a 47-year member of the West Lorne Kiwanis Club, looks over a few scrap books with Duncan Colquhoun, a six-week member of the Rodney Kiwanis Club.*

SERVICE CLUBS 2000

# Local Kiwanis Clubs part of $1 million gift

Southwestern Ontario Kiwanis Clubs of Divisions 3, 4 (West Lorne and Rodney) and 5 West have make a commitment to strengthening the approach to care at Children's Hospital of Western Ontario with the announcement of a $1 million gift.

The Kiwanis Kids Centre will house an innovative child and family support program that will provide psychological and social support to families experiencing the trauma of serious illness.

The centre, to be housed in the new Children's Hospital of Western Ontario, will include social services, psychology, pastoral care, child life services and art therapy.

"With this generous gift, the members of Southwestern Ontario Kiwanis Clubs of Divisions 3, 4 and 5 West have made the words of their motto action," says Tony Dagnone, President and CEO of London Health Sciences Centre.

The Kiwanis mottos are 'We Build' and 'Serving the Children of the World.'

"With their help we will build a children's hospital that will encompass all the needs of our patients and their families," adds Dagnone.

DEC. 2000



# Legion Loot

*The West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, are doing their part to help ensure that the West Elgin Pool is up and running this summer through a financial donation. Here, Legion President Doug Cavener, left, presents a $500 cheque to West Elgin Pool Committee member John Eagleson.*

MARCH 2000

# West Elgin Adult Club helping needy children

The regular meeting of the West Elgin Adult Club was held Sept. 11 with a potluck lunch. West Elgin Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick spoke to the group on the work the municipality has accomplished and answered a few questions.

The group also received a heart-warming feeling as they checked out some photos of their support of "Sleeping Around The World," a non-profit organization started by Murray Dryden, son of former hockey star Ken Dryden.

The organization is supported by volunteers who use donated money to travel to overseas countries and deliver bed kits to impoverished children.

The kits are made in the country they are delivered to, thus it gives local families some income.

The next adult club meeting is scheduled for Sept. 25 at 2 p.m. at the West Lorne Complex. Margaret Mistele's brother, Bill Lutin, will be in attendance to show pictures.




*Members of the West Elgin Adult Club were able to see first hand how their donations to "Sleeping Children Around The World" were distributed to needy children.*

The West Elgin Chronicle NOV. 20, 2000





# Our Heroes

*We may have entered a new millennium but residents of West Elgin have not forgotten their past as a good crowd turned out at the West Lorne cenotaph for this year's Remembrance Day ceremonies. In top left photo, Dutton resident Jim Orchard takes a moment to remember his comrades who gave their lives for Canada. In top right photo, Master Corporal Carl Oullette, part of the Honour Guard from 72 Squadron Royal Canadian Military Engineer Corps., stands on guard. At right, bugler Marcie Charron plays 'The Last Post' as piper and legion member Jim Carmichael stands at attention. In bottom photo, West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, President Ray Jobson takes the lead with his fellow veterans in honouring their memories.*

**Photos by Ruth Ferguson**





The West Elgin Chronicle JAN. 3 2000



# Watch the Birdie

*Members of the West Elgin Nature Club were busy this past year keeping track of the number and variety of birds in Elgin County. At their most recent meeting at the IOOF Hall in West Lorne they held its annual Christmas Bird County. Here, George Preiksaitis, left, Jennifer Newport and Bill Preiksaitis were kept busy assembling the returns. The bird count is for the local area only and 62 members took part. A total of 79 species were sighted, which is comparable to the previous four years. However, the total number of birds had declined from a 1996 record of 22,648 to the lowest count in five years - just 13,364.*

SERVICE CLUBS 2000





# District Winner

*The West Elgin Legion honoured 12 year-old Jackie Hwang recently after the West Lorne resident finished in the top level (98%) of the Royal Canadian Legion essay contest, district level. Here, Hwang receives a plaque and $50 from the legion's youth education coordinator Jim Orchard and legion president Ray Jobson.*



# Sensational Scout!

*West Lorne's Breanne Podebry, centre, was honoured recently with a Chief Scout Award for her four years of hard work and badge achievement. Podebry was one of 96 youth from across southwestern Ontario to receive such an award. Here, Podebry accepts the award from RCMP Constable Ralph Petersma, left, and Chuck Lawrence, Ontario Provincial Commissioner.* JULY 3, 2000

DEC. 11. 2000



# Local students honoured for remembering

The West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, honoured a number of local school students for their participation in the legion's annual Remembrance Day competition, including essays, poems and colour and black & white posters.

The local legion gave out $700 in prize money to the top winners in junior, intermediate and senior levels in each of the four categories. Each winner also received a certificate to recognize their participation.

All five of the local schools took part in the competition. The winners include:

**Poems**

*Junior* - Robert Jones, Karen Godfrey and Erin Moss (tied) and Nicole Hilliard.

*Intermediate* - Travis Small, Jaymee Peternel and Julie Oliveira (tied) and Julie Hilliard.

**Essay**

*Junior* - Katie Campigotto, Stephanie Leys and Amanda Knapp (tied) and Robert Loeters.

*Intermediate* - Jackie Hwang, Savannah Vanraes and Kyler McGaffey.

*Senior* - Mallory Peternel

**Coloured Posters**

*Junior* - Kelsey Budgell, Emma Wilkins and Lexi Wilson (tied) and Katelyn Pinder.

*Intermediate* - Lisa McCallum, Alexandra McFadden and Mike Hatch.

*Senior* - Kristyn Watterworth, Rachel Yorke and Sara Liske.

**Black & White Posters**

*Junior* - Jessica Van Vugt, Kim Kriter.

*Intermediate* - Melissa Warren, Ashley Dinga and Will Smith (tied).

*Senior* - Nicole McPhail, Ilse Fleuren and Rob Grigore.



*The West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, honoured the winners of their annual Remembrance Day competition recently. Here, legion president Ray Jobson, left, presents the winners of the writing categories Katie Campigotto, Robert Jones, Mallory Peternel, Jackie Hwang and Travis Small. Also helping with the presentation is legion education chairperson Helen Mooser.*



*The West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, honoured the winners of their annual Remembrance Day competition recently. Here, legion education chairperson Helen Mooser, left, and legion president Ray Jobson, far right, present the winners of the poster categories Nicole McPhail, Melissa Warren, Kristyn Watterworth, Kelsey Budgell and Lisa McCallum.*

# Angel Tree ceremony Dec. 17

The sixth annual Angel Tree ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 17 in front of the West Lorne Complex beginning at 7 p.m.

The ceremony is held to honour the memory of loved ones who have died this past year. Prayers and music is planned for the evening ceremony.

# Santa Claus Parade winners

The winners from the West Lorne Santa Claus Parade were the Dutton and Dunwich Chamber of Commerce (Commercial), Rodney Fair (Service), Grace Lutheran Church (Family), WESES (Youth), Portuguese Club (Best Illuminated) and Erie Flooring and Wood Products (Best Decorated).



# Tops at TOPS APR 24/00

*TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter ON 792, West Lorne, recently honoured its members. From left are weight loss winners Blanche Graham, Wendy Collins, Beverly Witroway and Cathy Sloetjes.*




# Optimst Youth Appreciation

*The Optimist Club of West Lorne handed out their annual 'Youth Appreciation' awards last week to a select few Grade 8s to OAC in the community, chosen by their respective schools. Honoured with plaques were, seated from left, Mark Godfrey and Sarah Dyck (WESES) and Alexandra McFadden and Michael Oliveira (St. Mary's School). Back row from left is Candice Ryan and Matt Mistele (WESS Jr.), Jeremy Karn and Sara McCallum (WESS Sr.) and Optimist Youth Appreciation chairperson Nancy Coburn.* NOV 27/00

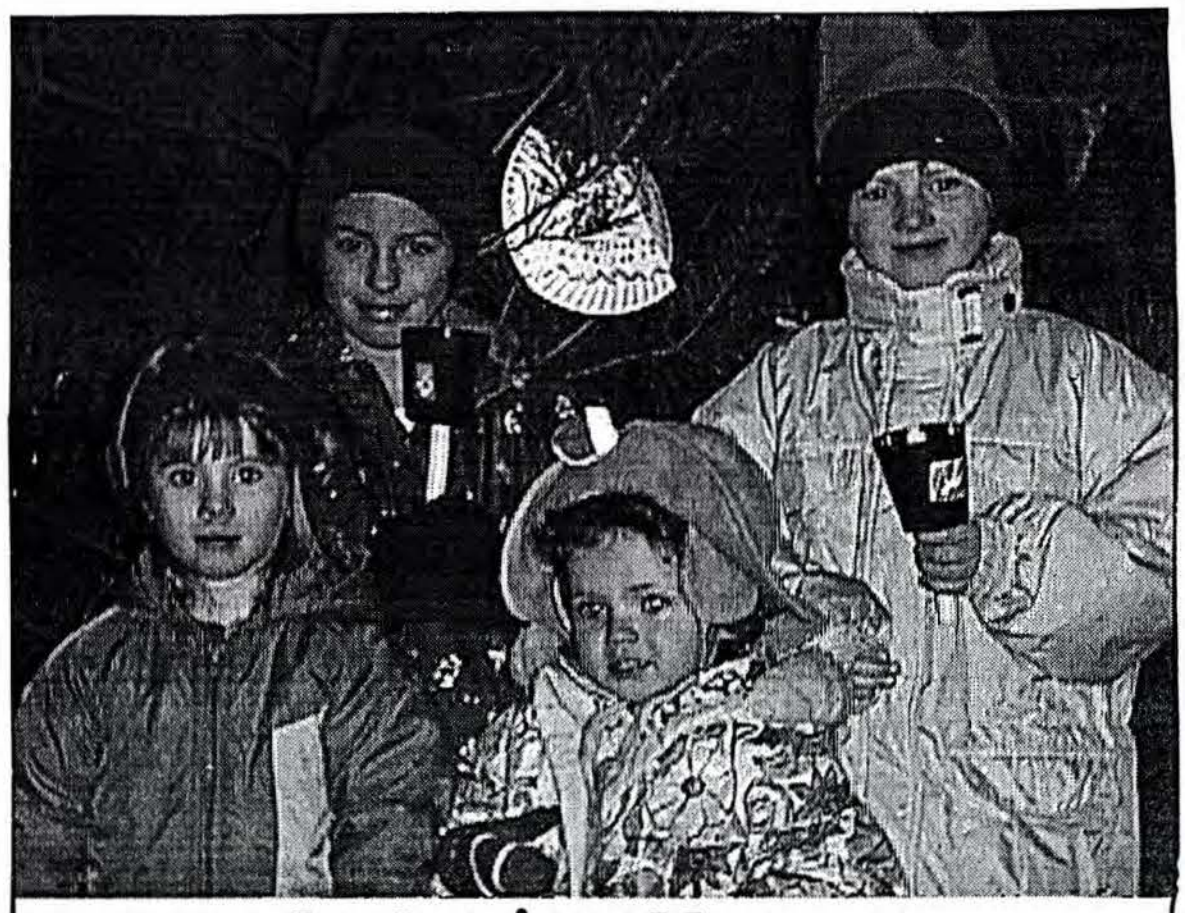
SOCIAL 1999



Happy 40th Anniversary

***Anthony and Betty Balint ~ January 17, 1959***

***Love and Best Wishes from your family***



# In Loving Memory

*Local residents remembered those who have died at the fourth annual Angel Tree Ceremony recently at the former West Lorne municipla building. Take part in the ceremony were Emily Bandeen, (back row left), Kenzie Beer, Kylie Beer (front row left) and Kim Bandeen.*

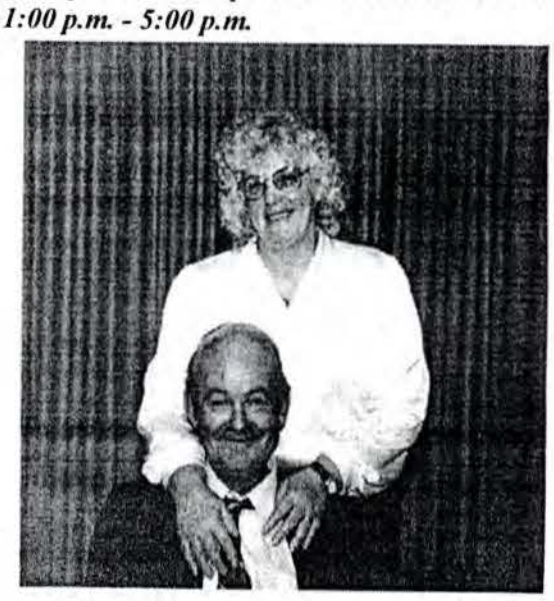


***HAPPY 65th***
***WEDDING ANNIVERSARY***
***MARIE AND CHARLES PFEIFER***



***Love and Best Wishes from your children, their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren***

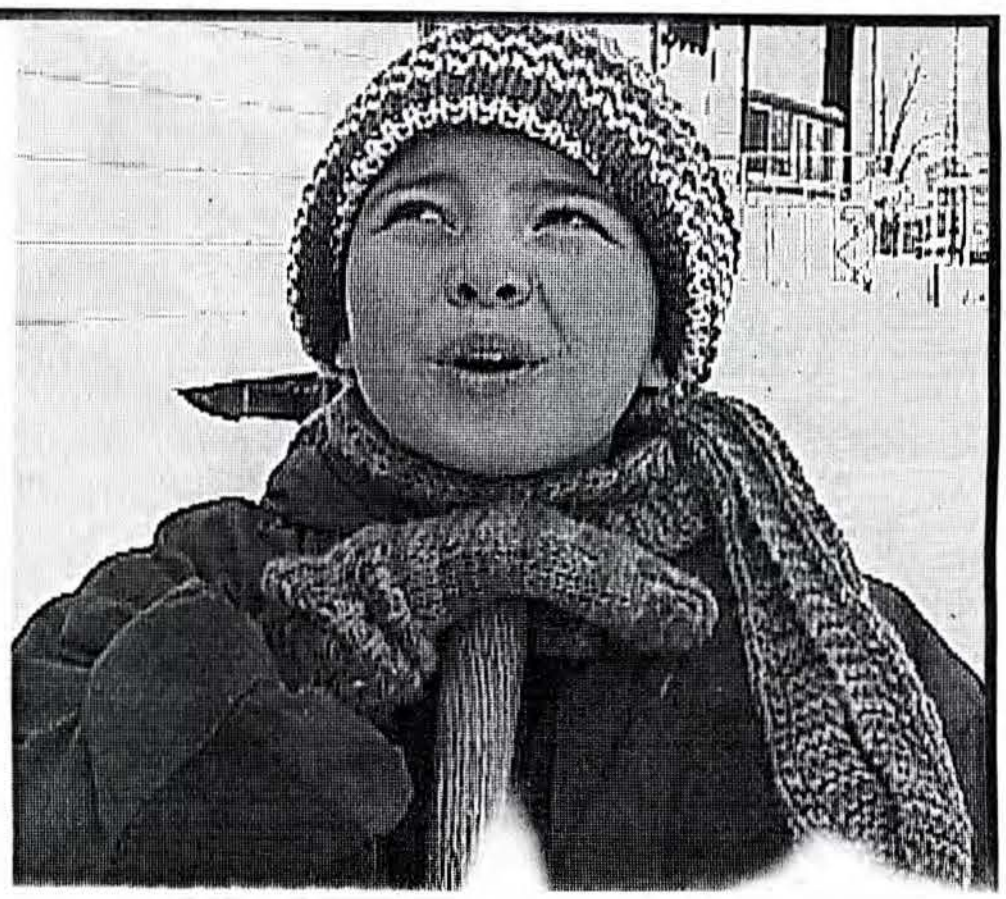
***The family of Ralph and Blanche VanHee wish to invite family and friends to a open house on December 6th, 1998 from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.***



***Happy 40th Anniversary Mom and Dad. Love Your Family***



# S'no'w more, please!



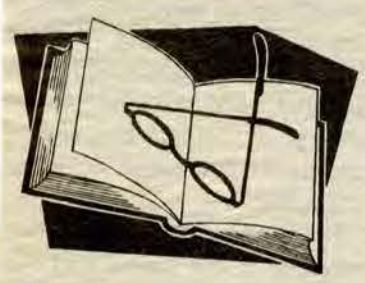
*It's probably safe to say West Elgin residents have had enough of the white stuff to last them for quite some time. Here, 10-year-old Candace Gratton looks skyward wondering when her next shovelling duties will begin. The bone-chilling temperatures and accumulative snowfall has made for one of the roughest winters in recent memory. And with it being only mid-January, we're definitely not out of the woods yet as far as winter is concerned.*

SOCIAL 1999



# West Elgin writer releases new book, "Kings Without A Country"

West Elgin author Robert King has penned a sequel to his book "I Will Be King Someday." Written from the perspective of a lifelong farmer, "Kings Without a Country" imparts King's experiences in caring for animals and the land, in what might have transpired in the years 1845-1900.



The day-to-day activities of the people in this story are based on solid knowledge of those ancestors, real people, and their real movements from place-to-place. King credits that information to McNicol cousins, accredited genealogists, living today on the land which their mutual great grandfather, Peter King, raised his family.

"Kings Without A Country" leads you through a maze of true history and the romance of the many exciting and imaginative stories.

A book launch is scheduled for March 26 at the Legion in Rodney beginning at 8 p.m. The Rodney Coffee House are co-sponsors with Sharon Little and Harry Wilkinson providing music during the social hour.

A short presentation will be offered for your entertainment featuring Evelyn King, Bill and Kristopher King, Lisa King, Barbara Bijker and Earla Walker.

If you wish to order a copy of "Kings Without A Country" you can do so by sending $20 (plus $5 for shipping and handling) to Robert King, Box 531, Rodney, ON, N0L 2C0.

## 60th Wedding Anniversary



*William E. (Bud) and Ellen Irene Ford celebrated their Diamond (60th) Wedding Anniversary on May 11, 1999. Congratulations ... from your family*

## Engagement Announcement



*Mr. and Mrs. Rick Van Acker of Rodney are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Vicky to Syd Heard, son of George & the late Geraldine Heard of West Lorne and Bob & Janet White of London. The wedding will take place May 1, 1999 at the West Lorne United Church.*

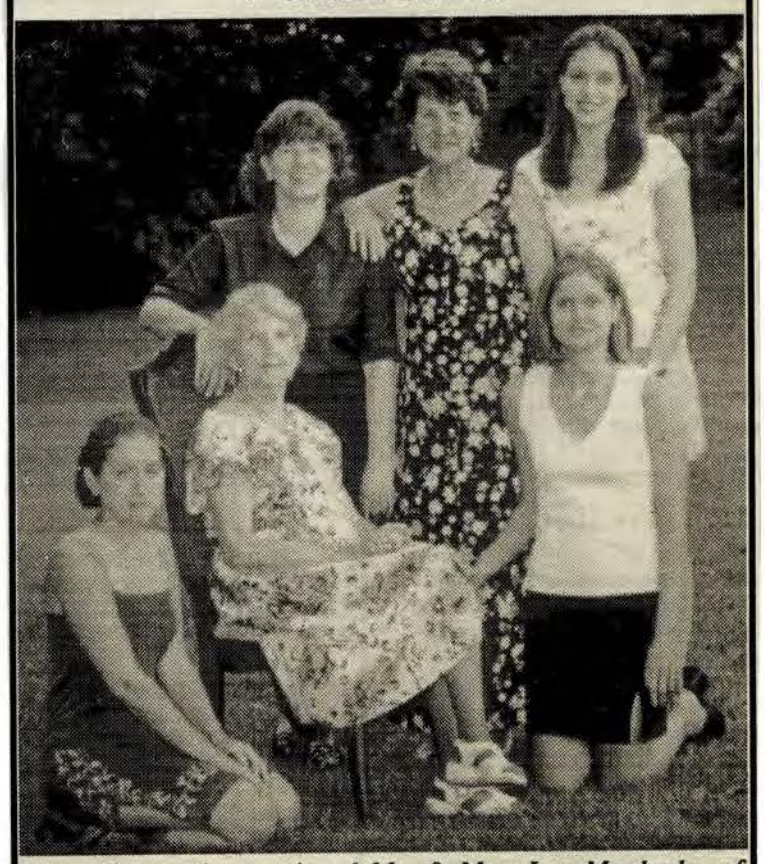
DEC. 1999 The West Elgin Chronicle



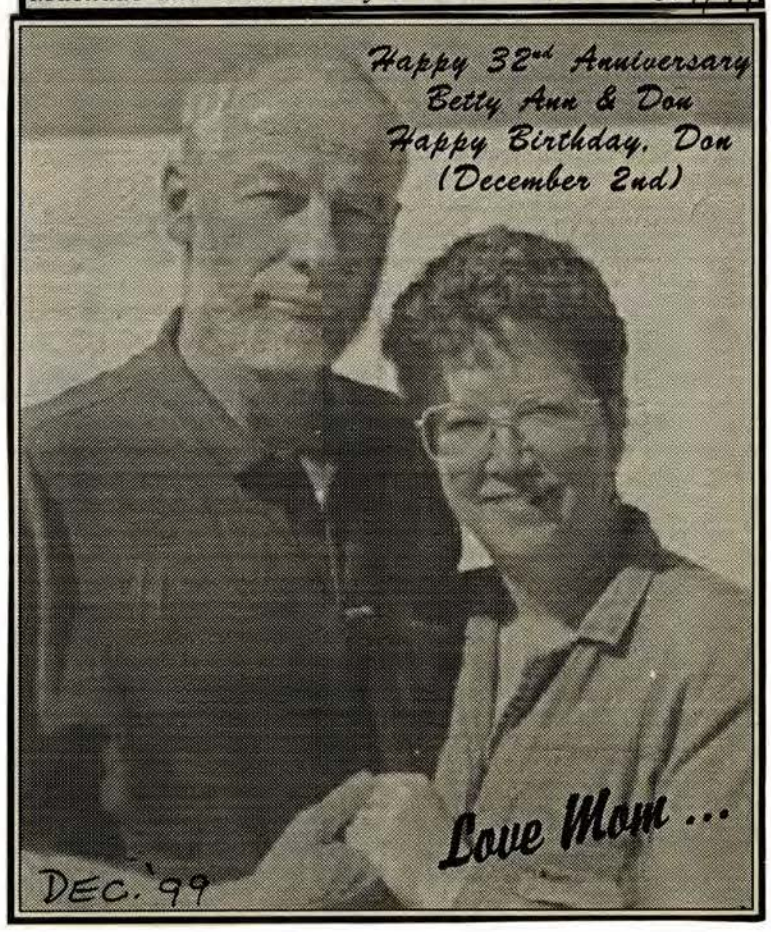
# Christmas Comes Alive

*Members of the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in West Lorne brought the true meaning of Christmas to life recently as they presented a live Nativity scene, complete with animals. The cast included Pastor Eric Betsch, Trudy Dengel, Scott and Linda Dunn, Melissa and Vanessa Gray, Julia Griffore, Cindy, Craig and Rhonda Knight, Kanda and Wyatt Ocolisan, Margaret Schachow, Tasha and Albert, Margaret-Ellen, Kelsey Schachow, David and Anita, Caitlin and Tanya VanRaes, and Justin and Krysta Walker. The donkey and sheep were provided by Tom and Ruth Rudavsky. The construction and lighting was courtesy of Gabriel Griffore and the Grace congregation women provided the refreshments.*

## 4 Generations



*Four Generations enjoyed Mr. & Mrs. Leo Machado, of West Lorne, 25th Wedding Anniversary Celebration in August. Mae Coulthard, Donna Murray, Cheryl Machado, Stacy Machado and sisters Marcy & Carrie.* SEPT 27/99




10

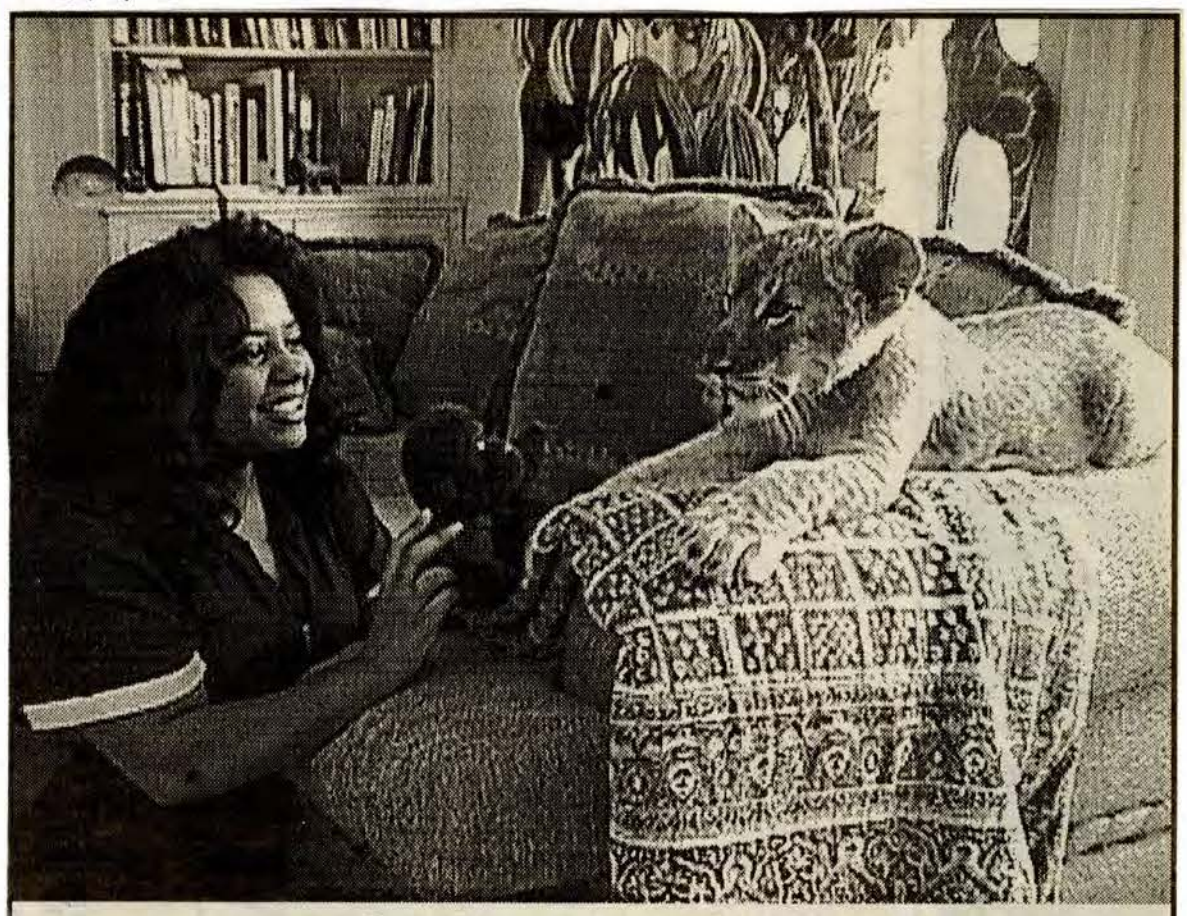
SOCIAL 1999

## Wedding Announcement



*Mr. & Mrs. John Campbell and Mr. & Mrs. Paul Thompson are pleased to announce the November wedding of Melissa Dawn to Matthew Paul. The couple honeymooned in the Dominican Republic and are presently residing in Welland, Ontario. "Congratulations...love from your family."*

MAR. 99



# Getting "Cub"fortable

*When West Lorne resident Nancy Ward says she has a couple of cats, she's not lying - or should that be lion. As owner of the Lilac Grove Wildlife Sanctuary, a non-profit organization, Ward's latest border is 3½ year-old Kebby, an African Lion Cub. Ward is currently working on completing a lion enclosure on her property and to help raise funds for this she is offering residents to have their photo taken with Kebby. To make an appointment with this friendly feline, call Ward at 768-0369.*

MAY 3, 1999





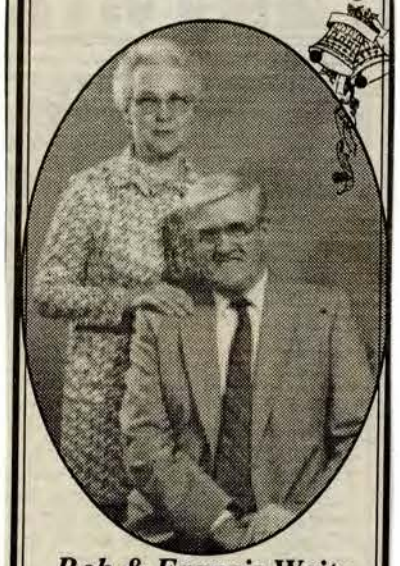
# Great Ride 'N' Stride

*The weather was perfect for the recent Great Ride 'N' Stride to beat cancer, held at the West Elgin Arena. A great turnout helped to raise over $3,200 for this year's campaign. Those riding and striding included Robert Walker, Ellen and Rick Van Vugt and family,Barb Campbell, David Van Raes and family, Mary Liepmann, Shirley Kenny, Janet Holmes, Helen Mooser, Kathy Attridge, Matt and Mike Henderson, Joyce Axford, Allison Beer and family, Rosalie Krebsz, Kathy and Ted Johnston, John, Dale, Peter and Rob Thomson. Here, Mary Lippold (left), Janice Henderson and Leola Laurence welcome Trina Lusse, who was one of the first to arrive for the event. Lusse raised $89.25 herself. Event coordinators would like to thank all the participants and sponsors who made this campaign so successful.*



Sharon Jobson is pleased to announce the accomplishment of attaining her L.P.P.O. status (Licenciate Professional Photographer of Ontario), in October 1998. She has been recognized by her peers as an individual who captures quality images that conform within the guidelines set down by the Professional Photographers of Ontario. Her images were critiqued by a panel of Master Photographers and were judged to be of professional quality. Sharon is also a member in good standing with the Professional Photographers of Canada. Her images are on display at Collins Formal Wear in the CrossRoads Design Centre, Exeter Road, London, Ontario. 1999

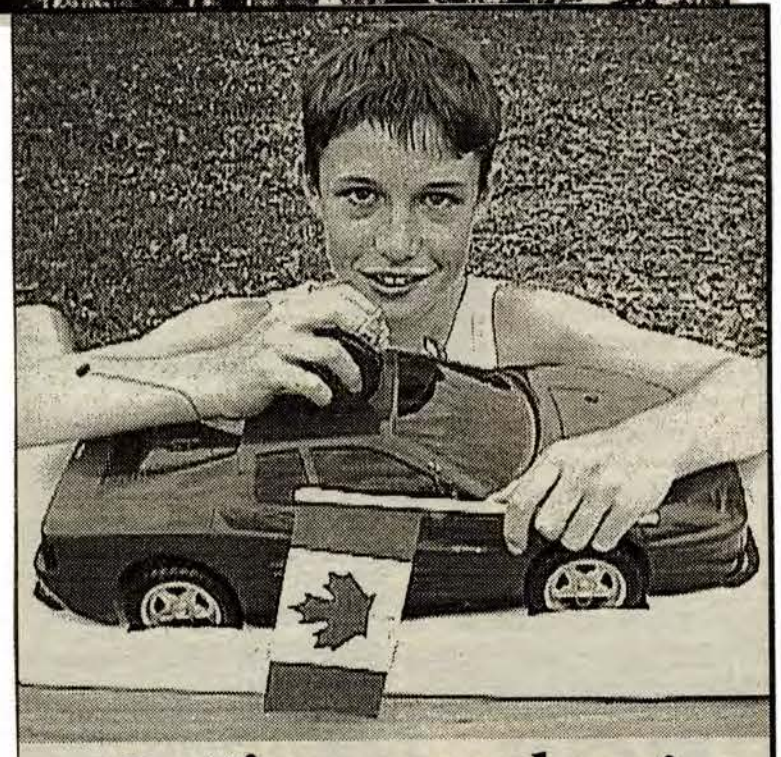
## 50th Anniversary



***Bob & Francis Waite***

Friends and relatives are invited to an Open House to be held at the Rodney Legion Hall on Saturday, June 26, 1999 from 2 to 4pm.

*Best Wishes Only Please*



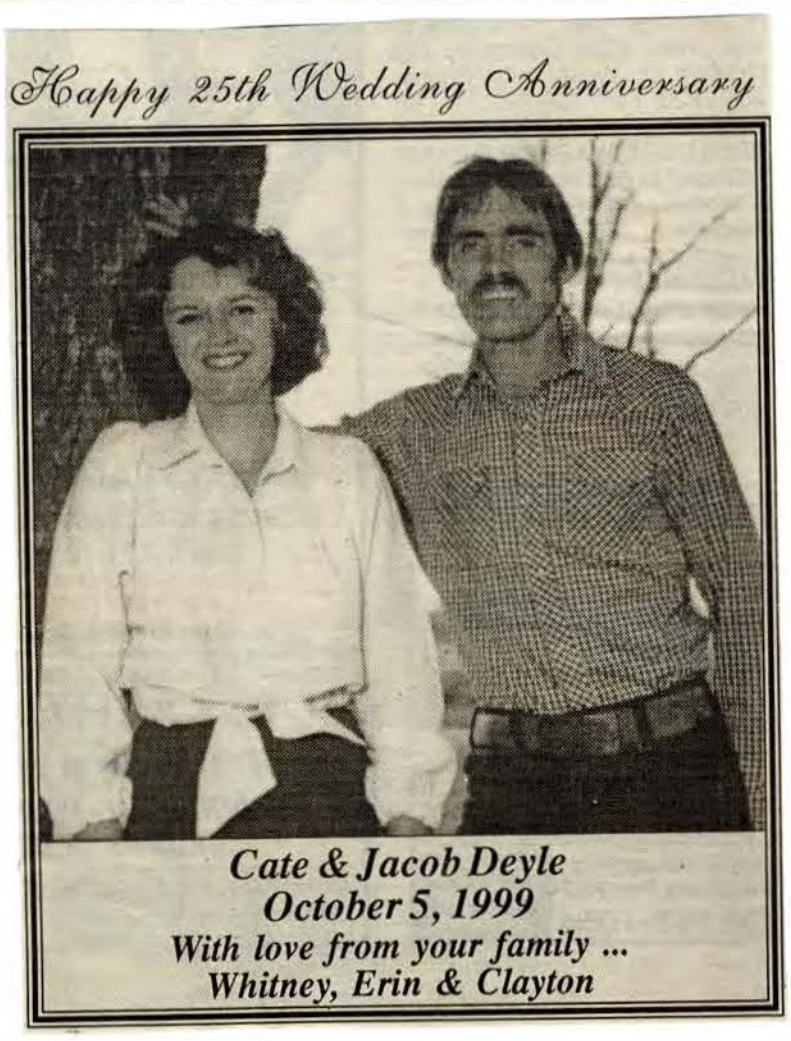
# Getting reved up!

*The hum of yo-yos were buzzed around Miller Park in West Lorne during Canada Day celebrations. Would-be yo-yo stars were vying for the top spot and more importantly the overall top prize of a remote control race car donated by the West Lorne Business Association. Here, overall winner Eric McGill proudly shows off his new toy.* 1999






*Cornelius and Katherine Deyle are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Corabeth to Robin, son of Alex and Lorna King. They will exchange marriage vows on Saturday, November 6, 1999 at 2:30pm at the Knox United Church, Newbury.*









*Yvonne Bendo Photo*

**LOOKING AT ANTIQUES:** Mary Lippold, 72, of West Lorne and her friend Nancy Baillie, 61, also of West Lorne checked out an antique doll —Bahr and Proschild made in Germany that dates back to 1905 and was valued at $1,300 — that was on display Friday at the Ridgetown Rotary Club Antique Show and Sale.

SOCIAL 1999


**OPEN HOUSE**
Help Celebrate
***Helen Frank's***
***80th Birthday***



**Saturday, June 26th**
**2 - 4pm**
**West Elgin Legion**
**West Lorne**
***"Best Wishes Only"***




*Irene McGregor would like to announce the marriage of her granddaughter Heather McGregor to Sean Millman son of Joanne & Robert Millman of St. Thomas. The marriage took place on April 17, 1999 at Holy Angels Catholic Church, St. Thomas. Reception followed at the Elgin Labour Temple, St. Thomas. The couple now reside in West Lorne.*

## Wedding Announcement



*Tim & Lisa Johnston were married on July 17, 1999 by Rev. Duncan Calquhoun in a pretty garden wedding at the home of the bride's mother. Lisa, daughter of Rose Simpson and the late Joe Simpson and Tim, son of Ted & Kathy Johnston of West Lorne wish to thank all their family and friends for making their day a special one.*




## Labour Day Liveliness

*It may have been Labour Day weekend but the only work being done was having a great time. The streets of West Lorne came alive recently to celebrate the last long weekend of the summer with a street dance, classic car cruise night, a down hill derby, baseball games and numerous sidewalk sales by local merchants. At left, the Back Porch Country Gospel group kept toes tapping on Main Street. At right, Graham Crackers player Tammy Swain awaits a pitch from the Legion Hooters member Rick Falkins, who definitely came dressed for the occasion. Below, two of the more than 40 classic cars cruise down Main Street. Check out next week's Chronicle for complete results and photos from the Downhill Derby.*

SEPT. 99











## Chronicle Kid!



*Name:* ***Scott Van Raes***

*Age:* ***4***

*School:* ***WESES***

*Interests:* ***Playing baseball, playing with toy Batman***

*Career Goal:* ***Computers***

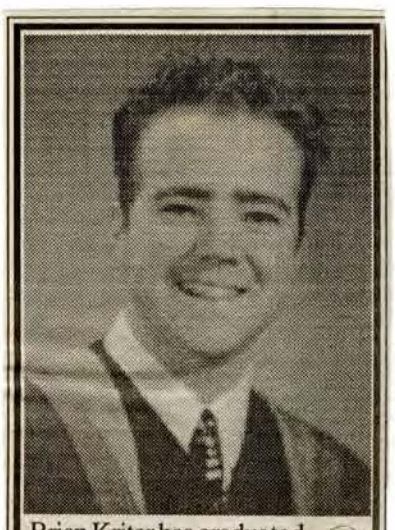
***If you or someone you know would like to be a Chronicle Kid, just give us a call at 768-2220. Your picture will appear above and on our Internet site at www.execulink.com/~chronicl***



## All in the Family

*West Lorne resident Norm McGill, left, made his way to Toronto last week to pick up his $50.000 prize from the Ontario Lottery Corporation. So he decided to take a friend with him - Norm Jr. The elder McGill decided he would split the prize with his son, who lives in Glencoe. McGill won on a Crossword scratch ticket. Neither have any immediate plans for the money.*

NOV. 1999



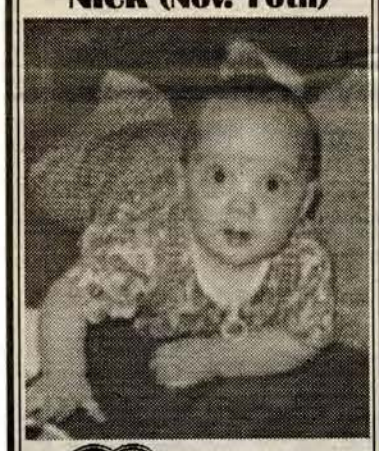
Brian Kriter has graduated from Wilfred Laurier University with an Honours Business Administration Degree. Brian was named to the Dean's list and was chosen as Laurier's 1999 Co-op Student of the Year. Son of Lorne and Helen Kriter of Rodney. Brian is currently employed with IBM in Corporate Sales.



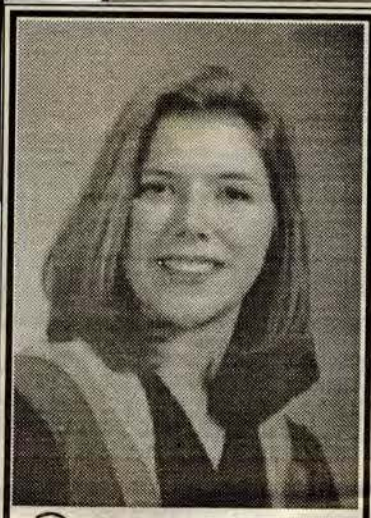
# 99 in '99

*It was quite the occasion at Babcock Nursing Home in Wardsville last week as resident Susan Kana celebrated her 99th birthday. Kana, born in Yugoslavia, bought a farm in West Lorne in 1937 and still remembers working in the tobacco fields for 50¢ an hour. Still spending most of her time crocheting, playing bingo and reading her bible, Kana was asked if there was a secret for living such a long life. "God must have liked what I did to give me such a long life," she says.* SEPT. 13/99

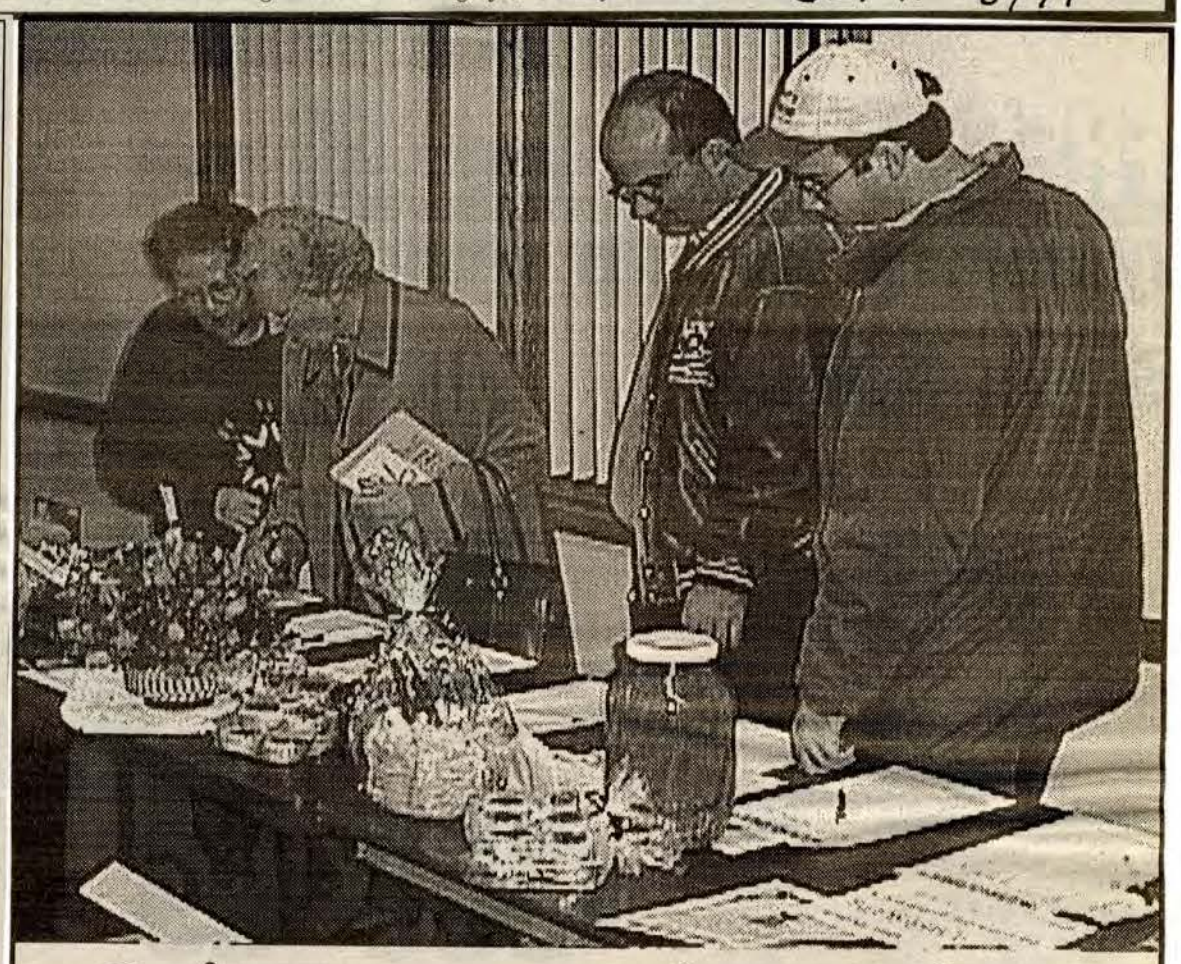
**Happy 20th Birthday**
**Nick (Nov. 16th)**



*Love Mom, Dad, Cora & Robin*



Lorraine Kebbel graduated October 31, 1999 from Wilfred Laurier University with a Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours Program). She also has passed the entrance exam for the Certified Management Accountants. Lorraine is currently employed as a Financial Accountant at Cadbury Chocolates in Toronto. Proud parents are Ed & Gail Kebbel of Rodney.



# Going one, going twice...

*From sports memorabilia to home-made apple pies, there was definitely something for everyone at the recent Silent and Live Auction held at St. Mary's Parish Hall. The auction brought in more than $6,000 for St. Mary's School and will go towards everything from new computers to student activities.* NOV. 29

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY GLORIA**
*Nov. 16th*



**Gotcha !!**

HAPPY 5th BIRTHDAY
**Justin**



Love Mommy, Daddy & Little Brother Brandon



**Happy 90th Birthday**
*Agnes Coleman*

SOCIAL 1999

## Wedding Announcement



***BEGIN ~ NEWMAN***

**On July 27th, 1999 Julia Begin and Wentworth Newman were joined in marriage at the Mt. Brydges United Church. They were attended by Winnis Van Lierop and Bill Bearfoot. Rev. Don Keenliside officiated at the 11:00 am service.**

***A special thank you goes to Winnis for all her help in organizing everything. We would also like to thank everyone for their good wishes, cards and gifts in celebrating our marriage.***

***Julia & Wentworth***

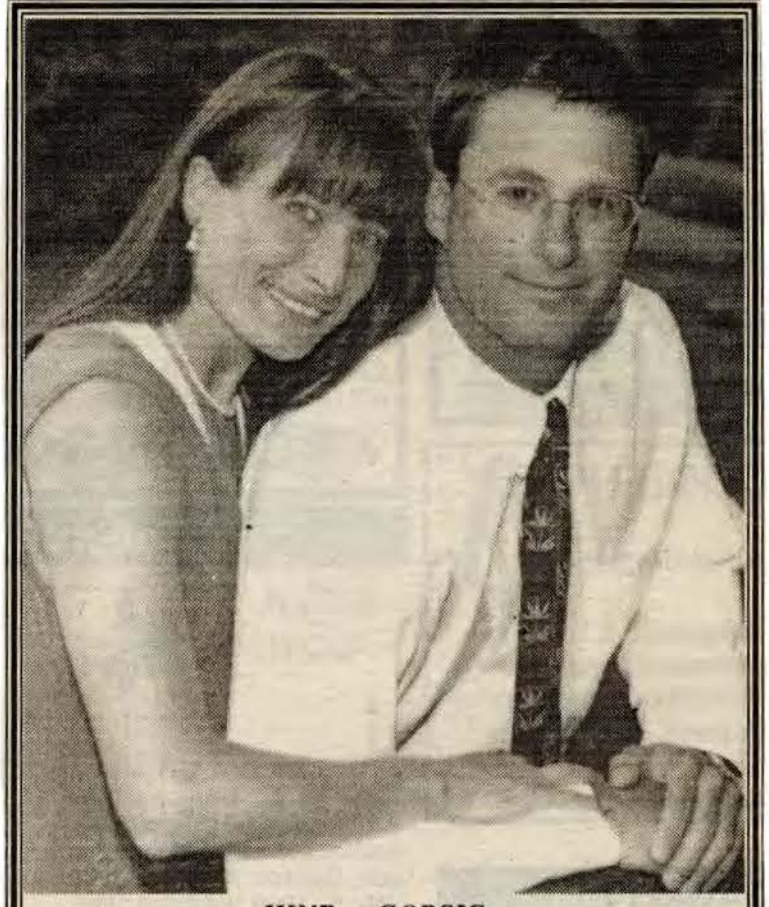
## Engagement Announcement



***McCallum ~ Oliveira***

*Manuel and Maria Oliveira, Sandy McCallum and Dave and Linda McCallum wish to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Debbie and Ryan. The wedding will take place at St.Mary's Catholic Church, West Lorne on Saturday, July 17, 1999 at 2pm.*

## Engagement Announcement



***HIND ~ GORSIC***

***Vancouver comes to West Lorne ...***

***August 21, 1999 is the scene of a country wedding celebrating the marriage of Jill Hind, daughter of Gerree and Herman Hind to Daniel Gorsic, son of Carol and Frank Gorsic of Scarborough.***



# 145th Rodney Fair
## September 17th to September 19th

# Cynthia has DeWild year

*By Cynthia DeWild*

My reign as Ambassador of the Rodney Aldborough Fair is coming to an end. This year went by very quickly allowing me to experience many new things.

Some of these exciting experiences include, riding in the Fair and the Santa Claus parades, attending the Ontario Association of the Agriculture Societies Convention in Toronto, riding with the Hell Drivers and attend other District meetings.



*Cynthia DeWild*

Over the year I have had the opportunity to interact with many new and exciting people, making friends all over Ontario.

The position of Ambassador has given me a chance to become a more active member in the community and have a more realistic view of the hard work required to put on a fair. It was an honour to represent something that has been an annual event in my life. A special thank you to the Rodney Lions Club and the fair board. See you at the 1999 Rodney Aldborough Fair.



# Chronicle Kid!



*Name:* ***Christl Kirschner***

*Age:* ***9***

*School:* ***Aldborough P. S.***

*Interests:* ***Soccer, going to the library, shopping***

*Career Goal:* ***Veterinarian***

***If you or someone you know would like to be a Chronicle Kid, just give us a call at 768-2220. Your picture will appear above and on our Internet site at www.execulink.com/~chronicl***

## Wedding Announcement



***On September 25, 1999, Angela Katherina & Keith Edward, exchanged their wedding vows in St. Mary's Church, West Lorne. Officiated by Father Joe Nevitt. Angela is the daughter of Harry & Betty Mezenberg of Rodney and Keith is the son of Ken & Jean Wilson of Hamilton. The happy couple now reside in London.***





# Jungle Journey

*Local children were making their way through the jungle last week at Grace Lutheran Church in West Lorne at the annual Vacation Bible School. The theme of the week, Jungle Journey, had approximately 50 children busy with numerous jungle-like adventures, from games and crafts to most importantly, learning more about God. Here, school instructor Barb Ward helps out Courtney Van Dyke in making her "worm buddy" while Trevor Lyons and Scott Vanraes keep busy with their crafts.*

SOCIAL 1999



# The wonderful world of Vergeer

**Paul Mayne**
*The Chronicle*

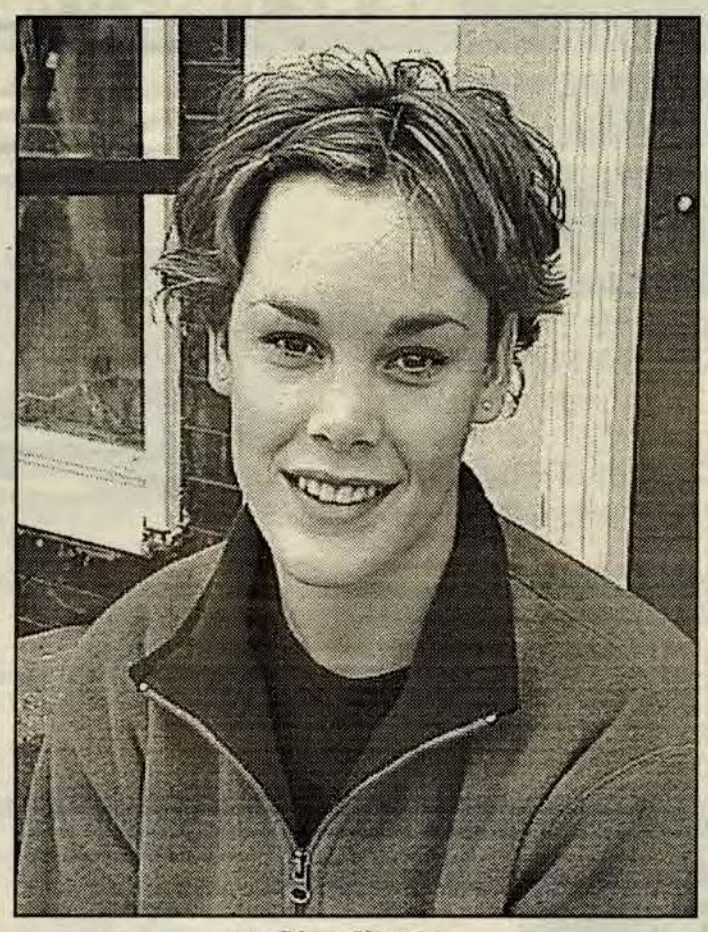
Many of us, surely, have dreamed at one time in our life of being part of a Walt Disney production. Whether it being flying like Peter Pan or roaring like Simba in The Lion King, we all have fantasies.

For West Lorne resident Diann Vergeer this fantasy has come true. She just wrapped up five performances this past weekend in Detroit of the Disney on Ice version of Toy Story and will be landing in Houston, Texas today (Nov. 22), continuing what will be a seven month tour of North America.

"This is absolutely exciting. I haven't been able to sit down once," says an deservedly excited Vergeer.

She was home visiting family for a day prior to performing in Detroit last week. "When I got the news I just knew I had to do it."

Vergeer auditioned for a position in the cast earlier this year in Hamilton and wasn't planning on the phone call. She was all set to start school at Seneca College in Toronto where she's studying Marketing and Economics.



*Diann Vergeer*

But realizing this may be a once in a lifetime opportunity, she took the year off school to hit the road with Disney. And at the age of 18, she is the second youngest performer on the tour.

"It's just been so much fun. Everyone is so great," says Vergeer. "We've practised the program so much that I think we can all do it in our sleep."

Since the show opened in Lakeland, Florida at the end of October, its been nonstop travelling for Vergeer, who is taking it all in stride.

"It's not as bad as you might think," she says. "The skaters I perform with are great so that makes a big difference with all the travelling."

Vergeer, who plays a number of characters in Toy Story and has four costume changes, says as much fun as she's having it is also a lot of work.

"We're on the ice at least four to five hours everyday," she says. "This is a really good group of people who are professionals. They're amazing skaters." The majority of skaters are Canadian, but Vergeer says there are also performers from the United States, Russia, Finland and Switzerland.

A production the size of Toy Story, and performing in front of large crowds as big as 17,000, you would think there would be a lot of butterflies for Vergeer.

"I'm never nervous," she admits. "I've always been one who likes to show off so the large crowds really don't bother me. I guess I'm having too much fun to get nervous."

Once the show finishes its North American run, Vergeer will then travel to South America for three weeks of performances. Vergeer is not sure if she will sign on again next year or return to school. She also has the option to take correspondent course while on tour.

"I'll have to see what happens once the show ends," she says. "Right now, I just enjoying myself."



## Creepy Creations

NOV 8/99

*There were a lot of scary creations handed in for the West Elgin Chronicle/U-Need-A-Discount Hallowe'en Colouring Contest. It was a hard decision for the judges by this year's winners were Jesse Bowering of Dutton, left, (7-9 age group), Kelsey Vandenberg of Rodney, right, (3-6 age group) and Stacie Gowan of Dutton (10-12 age group). Each winner received a portable radio courtesy of U-Need-A-Discount.*

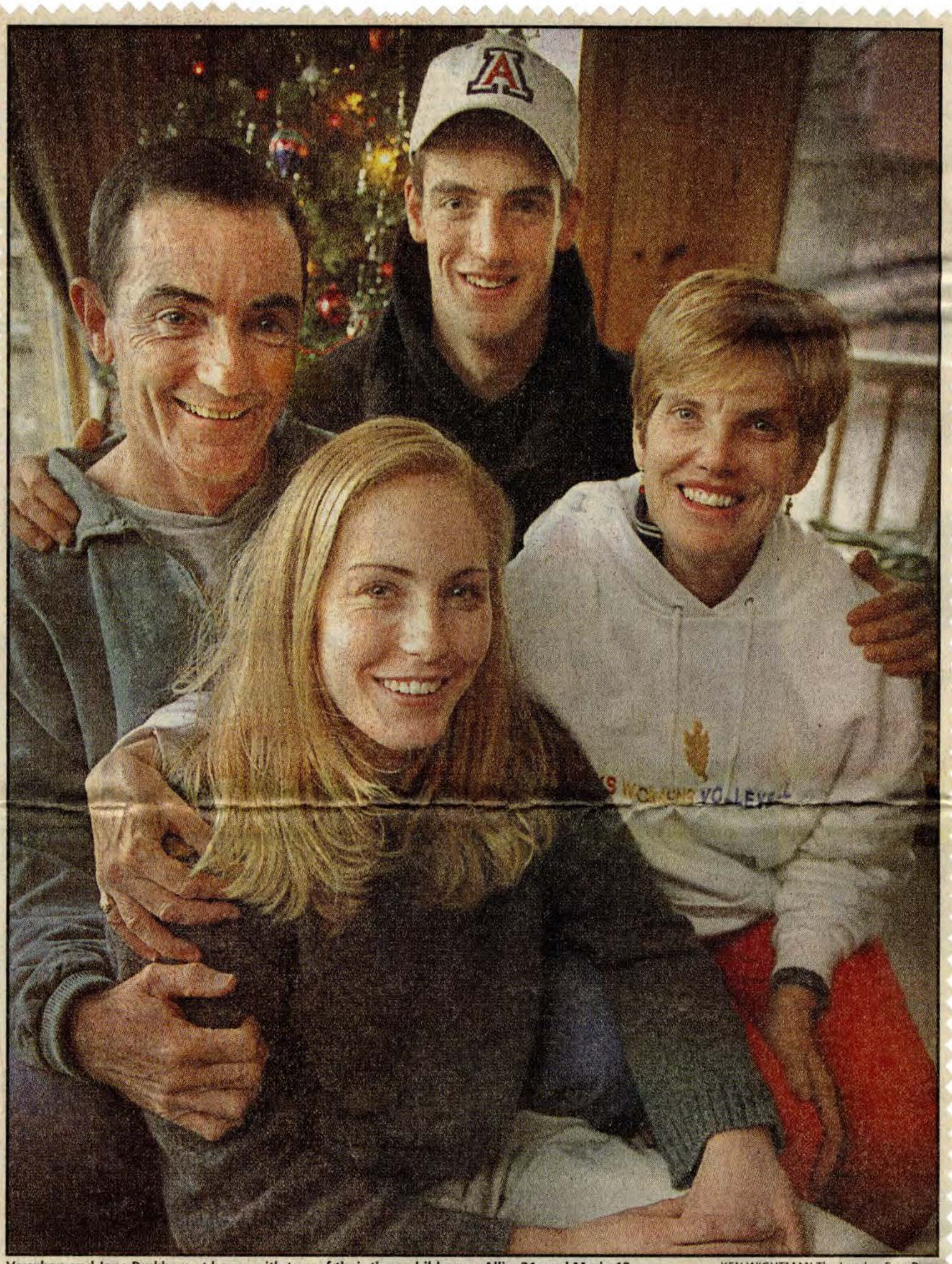
## Congratulations

### Retirement



***Jim Branchflower***

*Friends and family are invited to an Open House on Saturday, December 4, 1999 from 1 to 4pm at the Lambeth Legion, 7097 Kilbourne Rd., Lambeth, Ontario. In lieu of gifts a donation of canned goods would be appreciated.*



Vaughan and Jane Peckham at home with two of their three children — Allie, 21, and Mark, 18. KEN WIGHTMAN The London Free Press

# It's a wonderful, volley-ful life

**By Kathy Rumleski**
Free Press Sports Reporter

You could say "It's a Wonderful Life" when referring to the Peckham family of London.

Vaughan Peckham isn't quite actor Jimmy Stewart's character, George Bailey, in the Christmas movie, but he does admit his family has had "a charmed life."

And carrying on with the theme of the 1946 classic, what would life be like if Peckham had not been around?

It would have meant fewer provincial volleyball championships for Oakridge secondary school, for one.

Since Peckham began teaching at the high school in 1978, he has coached the Oaks to four OFSAA titles and one silver medal.

With his retirement in a month's time, Oakridge is losing its most successful volleyball coach. Vaughan, 53, is retiring Feb. 4, the end of the high school semester, marking the end of a 30-year career as teacher and coach.

"My intention is to continue to do the kind of things that I enjoy," he said at his home this week. "I'd like to stay heavily involved with the Forest City Volleyball Club. It's not the end of a career, it's just sort of a transition, changing focus a little bit. I don't look at it as being over."

He's hinted that he may like to coach university volleyball again. He coached the men's varsity team at Western from 1978 to 1985, winning Ontario University Athletics coaching titles in 1978, 1980 and 1985.

The Peckham family is synonymous with volleyball in London.

Vaughan's teacher wife Jane also coaches volleyball at Oakridge and the Forest City club; son Scott, 23, played varsity volleyball at Western; daughter Allie, 20, is in her second year of a volleyball scholarship at Colorado State University in Fort Collins; and son Mark, 18, plays volleyball at Oakridge.

SEE PECKHAMS PAGE B2 ▶

VAUGHN'S MOTHER ALICE WAS A WESTLORNE W.I. MEMBER



# Our Lady of Fatima

*The West Elgin Portuguese community recently celebrated the annual Our Lady of Fatima festival in West Lorne. The two-day celebration included dancing, food and a procession from St. Mary's Church to the West Elgin Arena. Here, the procession, which included Portuguese Queen Michelle Silva, makes its way down Graham Street. The celebration was open for the entire community to enjoy.* MAY 29/00



# Distinctive Women

*It was yet another honour for West Elgin native Charlene Carroll, centre, as she was honoured with a Young Woman of Distinctive Award by the Elgin-St. Thomas YWCA. The banquet is held every two years to honour women in Elgin County who have made significant contrib tions to their local community. This was the first year for a 'young woman' category. Carroll is pictured her with West Elgin's Rosalie Krebsz, left, '98s Woman of Distinction, and Kate Young from The New PL, who was the guest speaker at the awards ceremony.* MAY 9 2000

## Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary
## Art & Jean Ross ~ March 25th, 2000



*Harold, Cindy, Matt & Nicole, Ron, Barb, Tyler, Evan, Kayla & Morgan wish to invite friends and family to attend an Open House in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, March 25th from 2pm to 4pm at the I.O.O.F. Hall, 154 Chestnut St., West Lorne.*

## CONGRATULATIONS
on your
67th Wedding Anniversary
"Mary & Ray Gammon"
March 18th, 2000



***Love from all your family & friends***

# Confirmation

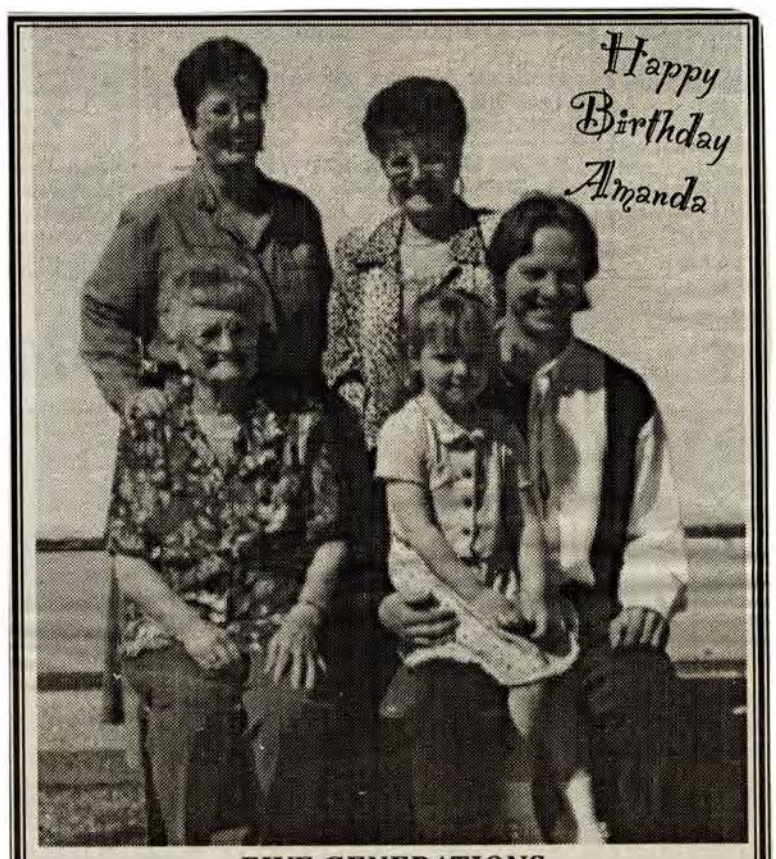
The West Elgin Pastoral Charge of the United Church of Canada (Calvary United Church and West Lorne United Church) welcomed 19 new members at a Service Confirmation held March 5.

Welcomed into the church were Jake Fischer, Mike Pinder, Katie S[illegible], Jennifer Pinder, [illegible]rew Schneider, David Dawson, Blair Noddin, Jonathan Wright, Craig Waterworth, Kim Kriter, Jonathan Woolsey, Justin Zander, Amanda Mistele, Chelsea Dionne, Brittany Jewell, Sarah Woolsey, Matthew Mistele, Hillary Kriter and Bryan Blanchard. MAR. 2000

## Margaret Scafe



## Happy 80th Birthday
## January 17, 2000
***"Best Wishes, Love Dave & Joy"***




***FIVE GENERATIONS***
Standing: ***Grandmother, Betty Ann Bobier; Great Grandmother, Betty Ostrander.*** Sitting: ***Great-Great Grandmother, Lois Mizon; Amanda Bobier; Father Donald Bobier.*** FEB 7/00

## GRADUATION



**THOMAS JASON KALITA**

Thomas Kalita graduated from the Ontario Police College in Aylmer. He is working for the Waterloo Regional Force. Tom also graduated from Fanshawe College on June 14, 2000, Electrical Engineering Technician. He was on the President's Honour Roll.

*We are all proud of you.*
*Congratulations.*
*Love, Mom, Gary & family*

## *Wedding Announcement*



***GRIEGOSCHEWSKI ~ FAUBERT***

*Bernard and Gwen Griegoschewski of Rodney, & Ron and Shirley Faubert of Chatham, are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Jonathan and Kelly, on September 30, 2000.*

***Happy Birthday Gomez!***



***Love,***
***Fester and Families***

**Happy 13th Birthday**
***Alex McFadden***



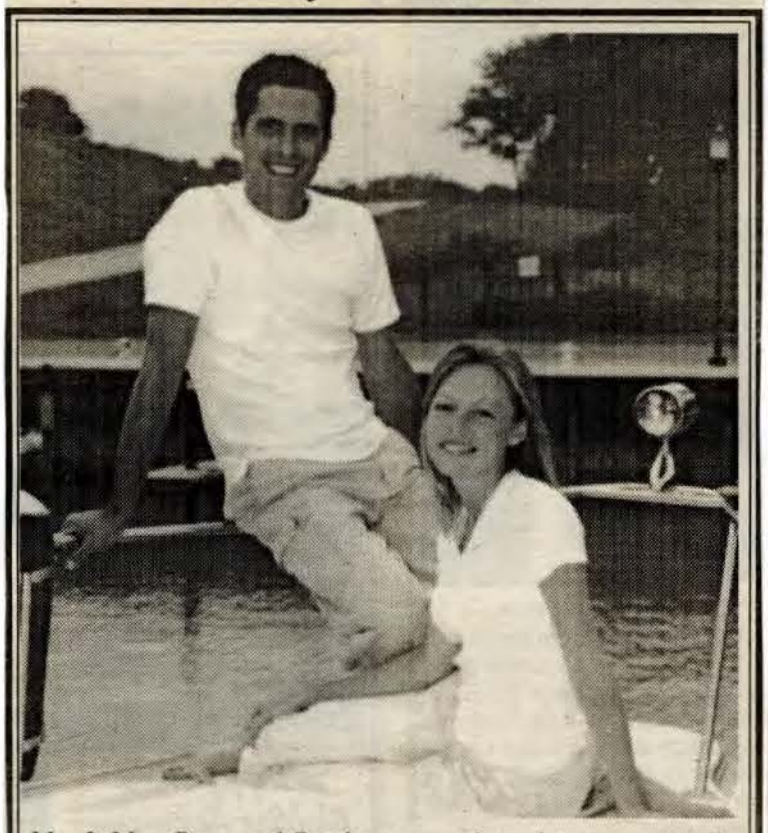
***From***
***Katie & Anna***

Happy 47th
Anniversary
Wilson Sr. & Violet Dodge
August 9, 2000



Lots of Love
Denise & Jorge

## Wedding Announcement



Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Buttinger are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Karen to John Machado, son of Mr. & Mrs. John Machado Sr. The wedding will take place on Saturday, August 5, 2000 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, West Lorne.

## Wedding Announcement



### Stephen and Krista Huver

Krista Anne Simpson and Stephen Roger Huver were united in marriage on May 27, 2000 at St. Mary's Church, West Lorne. Krista is the daughter of Brian and Joanna Simpson and granddaughter of Doug and Edna Simpson of Glencoe. Stephen is the son of Rudy and Els Huver of West Lorne. The wedding was officiated by Fr. Paul Nicholson and Fr. Joe Nevett. The maid of honour was Erika Simpson, sister of the bride. The bridesmaids were Sharon Huver, sister of the groom and Sarah and Theresa Simpson, sisters of the bride. Megan and Paul Simpson, the twin siblings of the bride were the flower girl and ring bearer. The best man was Jim Kolar, friend of the groom. The groomsmen were David and Mark Huver, brothers of the groom and Jacob Simpson, brother of the bride. Stephen and Krista went on a honeymoon cruise in the Mediterranean. They will reside in Brampton Ontario.

## Wedding Anniversary





Happy 30th Anniversary ♥ January 10, 1970 ♥ Rick & Lil Van Acker
♥♥♥ Love Your Family ♥♥♥

## Congratulations

**Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary**
**Dave & Joy Scafe**
**July 11, 1975 ~ July 11, 2000**



Congratulations to Dave & Joy on their 25th Anniversary.
Best Wishes ...
... With Love Always, Mom

Happy 90th Birthday
Bud Ford
Born September 23, 1910





*Family and friends are invited to an Open House on Saturday, September 23, 2000 ~2-4pm at the Duart Hall. Let your presence be your gift. With love and best wishes from your family.*

## Anniversary Announcement

**Phil & Vera Willits**
January 9, 1945 ~ January 9, 2000



**Still Looking Awesome After 55 Years!**
**Congratulations Mom & Dad, We Love You!**
**Phil & Vicki; Perry & Lorie; Jim, John, Phil & Joel**

**HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY**



*Come join us in celebrating*
***Rouina McDonald's***
***90th Birthday,***
***Saturday May, 20th ~2-4pm***
***144 Main St., West Lorne***
*"Best Wishes Only"*

## Graduation



***David W. Cassel***

David graduated from the University of Western Ontario with an Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in June. David was successful in maintaining an 80 percent average throughout his 4 years and was included on the Dean's Honour List.

***Congratulations and***
***Best Wishes***
***Mom, Dad and Michelle***



# Hooray for Canada

*Talk about getting wrapped up in country pride! As Canada Day weekend approaches, St. Mary's Grade 1 students Alicia Krebs, 7, left, and Darian Hamm, 6, are getting ready to whoop it up this weekend as celebrations are planned throughout the community.*

MAY 26 2000

## HAPPY 65th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



***Mary & Louis Ford***
***May 18, 2000***
***Love from your children Lewis, Louisa, Alice, Ruth Ann, Cathy & Families***



# Cancer Ride

*A group of local residents took the streets of West Lorne recently to take part in the Canada-wide Ride and Stride to Beat Cancer fund-raiser. The local event helped to bring in over $2,700 towards cancer research. Here, Mary Liepmann, left, Janet Holmes and Shirley Kenny get ready to hop on their bikes and pedal their way to a cure.*

MAY 2000 ***Photo by Karen Cormier***

*Happy 5th Anniversary, Mommy & Daddy*
*September 16th*
*Melanie & Steve Rose*



*Love, Allison & Katelyn*
*& all your family*
XOXO

*Happy 1st Birthday*
*Morgan Lopes*



SOCIAL 2000



**Roberta Cadogan**

Daughter of David and Dawn, granddaughter of Betty Ostrander will be attending Kikkawa College of Toronto to become a Registered Massage Therapist.

***Best of luck and best wishes, also Happy Birthday!*** 2000

## *Wedding Announcement*

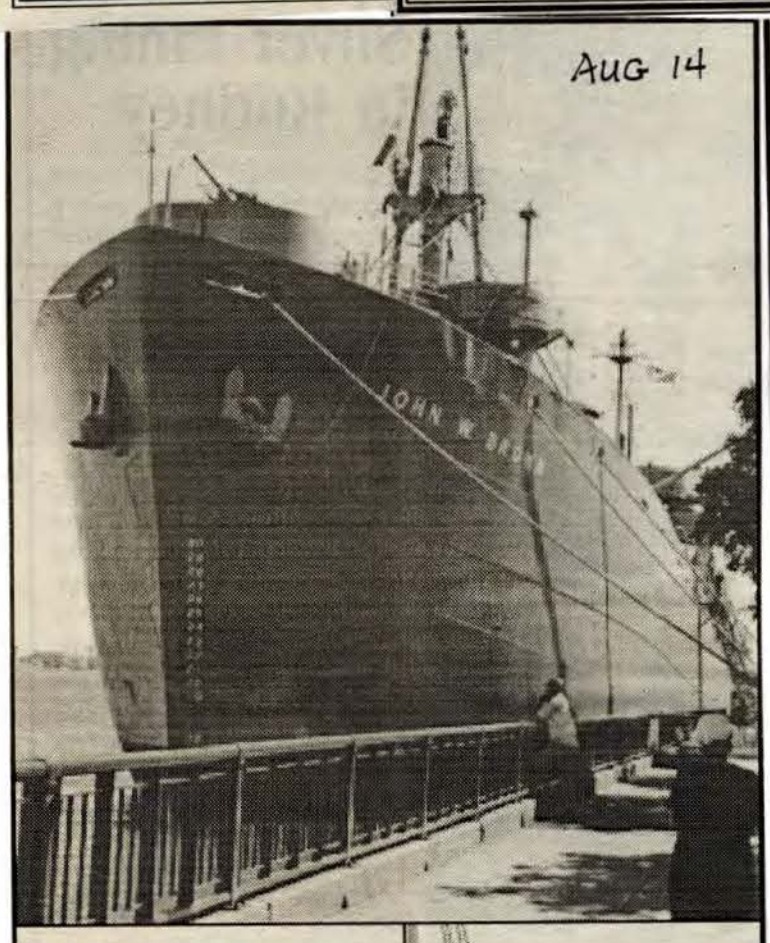


***Zelenak ~ Sloane***

*Clara and Ed Zelenak of West Lorne & Evelyn and Doug Sloane of Picton are thilled to announce the marriage of their children, Eleve and Travis on January 29, 2000. The couple met while both working in Japan last year. The ceremony took place in Toronto where the happy couple now reside.*



Catherine Jobson & Steven Adams were married at the Santa Clara County Clerks Office in San Jose, California on November 16, 2000. The bride is the daughter of Ray & Dagmar Jobson of West Lorne, Ontario. Catherine is employed as the Project Manager & Webmaster for LiteracyPro Systems, Inc., a software company in Sunnyvale, California. The groom, employed as a Senior Public Safety Officer for the City of San Jose for the past 10 years, is the son of Bill & Joy Adams of San Jose, California. The couple honeymooned on the big island of Hawaii. They live in San Jose, California. For more info, visit: ww.can8dn.com.






***Happy 25th Anniversary***
***Dawn & David Cadogan***
***Love, Mom*** 2000



# Bible Buddies

*The West Lorne United Church wrapped up its Vacation Bible School recently with the moms and dads allowed to enjoy the last day of camp, complete with singing and food. Here, Emily Kolar, left, Calvin Dowling and Lauren Johnston prepare to belt out a tune for the parents.* AUG 14, 2000

## WW II Musuem

*The John W. Brown "Fighting Liberty Ship" made a stop in Windsor recently and war veteran John "Bing" Humphrey of West Lorne, left, was able to visit the ship, which is now a maritime museum and memorial ship honouring the contributions of the shipyard workers, merchant marines and U. S. Navy Armed Guard who built, sailed and defended Liberty Ships during the Second World War.*





***Happy 40th Anniversary ~ August 20, 2000***
***Sandy & Jane***



***Love Deb & Martin, Kathy & Drew, Nancy, Don, Megan, Hailey, Jenica, Carson and Connor***

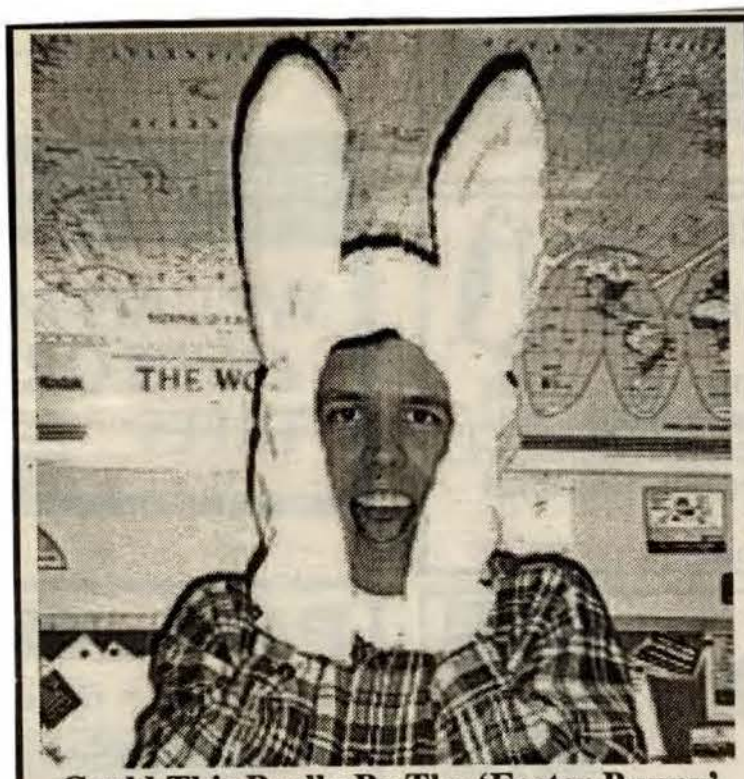
# Chronicle Kid!



*Name:* **Jessalyn Betsch**
*Age:* **6**
*School:* **Aldborough P. S.**
*Interests:* **Playing with Barbies, blocks and swings**
*Career Goal:* **Doctor**

*If you or someone you know would like to be a Chronicle Kid, just give us a call at 768-2220. Your picture will appear above and on our Internet site at www.execulink.com/~chronicl*

"SOCIAL" 2000



**Could This Really Be The 'Easter Bunny' Disguised As Paul Mayne, The Editor?**

***On April 22 (Earth Day)***

***Wish This Easter Bunny A***

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!***

***Happy 20th Wedding Anniversary***
***Cathy Marie Bickell & Peter John Mezenberg***
***April 19, 1980***



***Love the Bickell & Mezenberg Families***





**Dean Titus, C.A.**

BDO Dunwoody LLP wishes to announce that Dean Titus has recently been awarded his Chartered Accountants designation. We are proud of Dean's accomplishment. We are pleased to have Dean as part of our team of highly motivated and knowledgeable professionals serving the accounting and taxation needs of local businesses and agricultural clients.



# Tops at KOPS

*TOPS (Take Off Pousnds Sensibly) Chapter ON 792 West Lorne held its annual awards night last week, honouring members who have met or exceeded their goals. Three members were honoured as members of KOPS (Keep Off Pounds Sensibly), including Twila McWilliam, left (five year member), Blanche Graham (recent graduate into KOPS) and Jean McRae (nine year member).* APR 2000

**LOOK WHO'S TURNING 80 on April 25th**



***And Still Fiddling!***
***Love your wife***
***& family***



# Former West Elgin resident earns top geological award

If you need to find Ed Sudicky these days, chances are you'll find him spending countless hours with his University of Waterloo grad students talking hydrogeology over a beer.

It is this dedication to his students, along well over 70 research papers he has published that the Geological Society of America awarded Sudicky with the prestigious O. E. Meinzer Award.

This international award is given once a year to the author of a published paper or body of work that advances the science of hydrogeology or some closely related field. Hydrogeology is the branch of geological sciences which is concerned with the character, source, occurrence, movement, availability of water.

"When I first learned that I was to be this year's recipient of the Meinzer Award, you can't image how completely surprised and overwhelmed I was," says Sudicky, who received the award in GSA Annual Convention in Denver.

"I am indeed humbled that those three papers will be included in the impressive list of Meinzer Award papers."

Sudicky joined the UW faculty in 1985 and has worked his way to become a full professor and is now the chairman of the earth sciences department.

"Ed's teaching abilities have influenced a large number of students over the years. In Waterloo's porous media course Ed's lectures on stochastic approaches to dispersion initially blew most of us away," says Carl Mendoza,a professor at the University of Alberta and a former Ph.D. student of Sudicky. "Ed is a terrific supervisor who cares deeply about his students. To a large degree the enthusiasm and ease with which Ed approached teaching led me to pursue an academic career path."



*Ed Sudicky*

The specific paper which won Sudicky the awards dealt with heterogeneous and fractured media - or the way water and pollutants move through the ground.

Sudicky was sure to recognize the major contribution of the paper's co-authors Darin Burr, Motomu Ibaraki and René Therrien, all former graduate students.

"As Carl mentioned, many of my Ph.D. students have gone on to pursue productive academic careers supervising their own graduate students, and all of my former M.Sc. students are either making positive contributions in the consulting industry or have gone on to Ph.D. studies.," says Sudicky. "During their studies, I try to provide a research environment that is both stimulating and enjoyable, and as Carl noted, rather informal."

The preferred venue to meet with students is the Grad House.

"I want to thank my father, Andrew, who sadly passed away last year, and my mother Doris for all their support and encouragement," he says. "Dad never received a formal education, but was a very intelligent man who read books prolifically.

" I remember when I was still a graduate student and he paid one of his frequent visits to the university. While espousing his latest opinions about groundwater research directions in the presence of Bob Farvolden (professor) and I, Bob happened to mention to him that he thought that I was a pretty smart young student. Dad quickly turned to Bob and stated "that's because I taught Ed everything he knows". Thank you very much, Dad, for that education."

SOCIAL 2000

## Happy 50th Anniversary



*Earl and Sophia Howse*
*Oct. 7, 1950-2000*
*Love, Linda and Kerry*

## Engagement Announcement



***MCINTYRE - BARTLETT***

*It is with great joy that Dale & Lynn McIntyre of R.R. 1, West Lorne, announce the engagement of their daughter Megan Ruth to Douglas Franklin Bartlett, son of Don & Marie Bartlett, R.R. 1, West Lorne. The marriage will take place Saturday, October 21st, 2000 at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Tyrconnell.*



# Christmas Tour 2000

*The Christmas Home Tours 2000 was a great success this year with proceeds going to Tiny Tots Co-op Nursery School and the West Elgin Pool Fund. Six homes in and around West Elgin took part in the two-day event, including the home of Steve and Brenda Browne of West Lorne. Here, Marg Webster, of Webster's Flowers in Glencoe, puts a few final touches on the Christmas tree she decorated, along with the rest of the interior of the home.*

# Mabel Kriter turns 102 years young

The Village Retirement Residence in Ridgetown recently celebrated the birthday of resident Mable Kriter, who turned 102 last Aug. 30 and joined the exclusive Three Century Club.

Mable was born in Minto Township in 1897, where she lived with her parents William and Fanny Smith and sister Norma until she graduated from high school at the age of 15.

She helped her mother who was a seamstress until she was old enough to attend Stratford Normal School. Upon graduation from teachers college. Mable taught for two years in her hometown of Palmerston, one year in Chatham and two years in Kerr School in Aldborough.

She married Reuben Kriter in 1921 and joined him on the home farm where they raised three children, Donald, Bruce and Jane. Following the death of her husband, Mable returned to Kerr School to teach until 1965 when schools amalgamated.

Following her retirement Mable travelled extensively throughout Canada, the USA and Europe. One of her favourite pastimes was needle work and quilting. Mable is the last surviving member of the Senior Ladies School Class of Aldborough.

She is a valued member of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and has held many offices in the Women's Missionary Society. She is presently a member of the Rodney United Church and UCW.

Mable has six grandchildren, Kevin and Carol Kriter, and Debra, Nancy, Kathryn and Donald McColl and 10 great grandchildren.

The Village has been Mable's home since 1991 where she continues to enjoy visiting with her family and friends.

She says she has lived a good life and attributes her longevity to simply living each day as it comes.



*Mabel Kriter had a great 102nd birthday at The Village with her daughter-in-law Velma Kriter, left, and daughter Jane McColl.* **Submitted Photo**

JAN 31 2000



# Music Man

*The residents of the Bobier Villa in Dutton can't get enough of some great music, so they were more than happy to have West Lorne resident James Kovach pay a visit to play and sing a wide variety of favourties. The residents enjoyed Kovach so much they look forward to his next visit to their home.*

NOV. 2000

# West Lorne resident kicks up a storm

*By Chris Leys*

My daughter Stephanie and I competed at the World Kickboxing Association Championship in Kentucky this past September with a total of 16 countries represented. We were part of the Canadian National Karate Team that dominated the competition.

Canada finished with a total of 78 medals (25 Gold, 21 Silver and 32 Bronze). The United States was second with 52 medals followed by England with 31. Canada was also dominant in the team fight competitions, winning the women's, boy's, girl's divisions and second in the men's division.

There were 20 students from Bernardo Karate in London, where Stephanie and I train, who brought home 11 of Canada's medals.



*Chris Leys receives his bronze medal.*

Stephanie's first fight was against the defending world champion. She fought well but lost. She is hoping to do better next year in Vienna, Austria. Earlier in the year she won a bronze medal at the IAKSA Junior Cup in Ottawa.

My division consisted of 20 fighters. After a bye in the first round, my first fight was against the top-rated USA fighter. The cheering was so loud and constant for both of us that it was difficult for me to hear my coach's instructions.

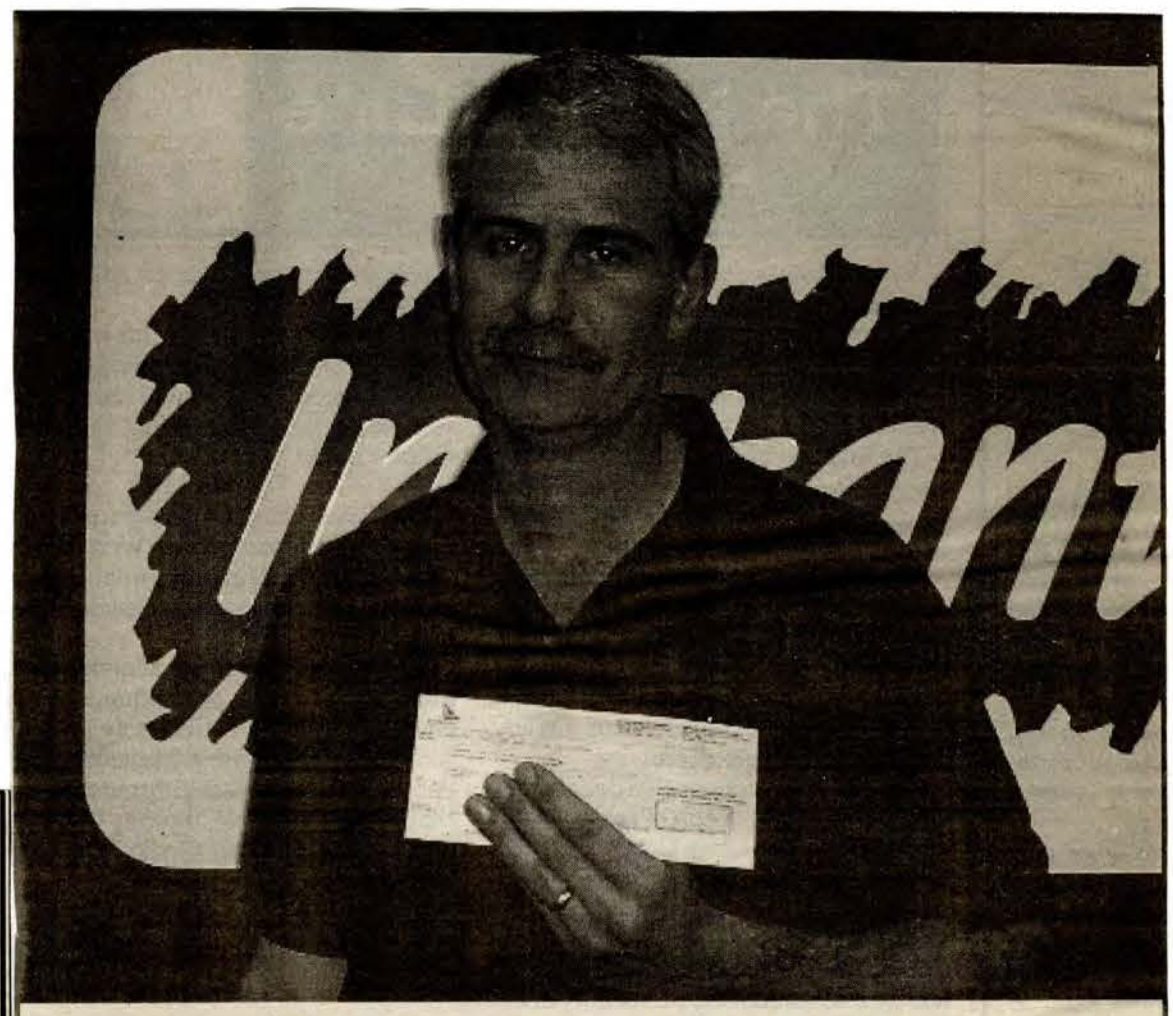
It was a close match and I ended up winning by one point. This was a very satisfying victory as the Canadians continued to cheer and the Americans fell silent. In the quarter finals my opponent was from Austria. This match was much easier and I defeated him to move to the semi-finals.

This match was my most difficult as I was evenly matched with the Czech Republic fighter as we had very similar fighting styles. It was a back and forth match with the lead changing frequently. At the end of regulation we were tied.

This sent us into a one minute overtime where I came up just short and lost by a single point. I ended the tournament in third place and received a bronze medal. Like Stephanie, I too look forward to Austria in 2001.

OCT 16/00



# After Dinner Treat

*It was probably the best dessert West Lorne's Peter Soos ever had. The 38-year-old school bus supervisor had three bucks left over after paying for dinner at Machado's Family Restaurant and decided to pick up an Instant Crossword scratch ticket. Next thing you know, he was $50,000 richer. "I don't buy tickets very often," says Soos. "I happened to have three dollars in my pocket after I paid for dinner, so I thought I'd try my luck." Soos and his wife, Kathy, have two sons, ages 11 and 13. He plans to pay off his mortgage and bank the remainder.*

DEC. 18, 2000



*Joined in holy matrimony by Rev. Kirby Breithaupt at Rodney United Church, in a beautiful evening ceremony, November 11, 2000 were Lisa Jarvis, daughter of Lloyd & Jane Jarvis of Rodney and Matt Hind, son of Bonnie McGill of West Lorne & William Hind of Bothwell.*

# Remembering loved ones during the holiday season

The 6th annual Angel Tree Ceremony (Dec. 17), to honour the memories of loved ones who have died, was brought indoors this year due to weather. But cold temperatures did not dampen a wonderful evening of remembering friends and family members who are no longer with us.

There was $60 raised during the ceremony for the Children's Hospital in London.

The following names were read during the ceremony:

Sid & Josie Authier
Katherine Lynne Alderton
Abigail Kate Bandeen
Matthew Earl Bandeen
Christopher Beer
Josy Beer
Michelle Burk
Christopher Cowan
Pam Cowan
Shane Cowan
Timothy Cowan
Andy DeWulf
Lloyd Cecil Doan
Michael Doan
Marnie Fleming
Michael Gammon
Jason Koyelaitis
Ashley Ann Murray
Margaret McColl
Jeremy Robinet
Willy A. R. Merks
Sonia Oliveira
Alicia Marie Tomczyk
Elaine Watterworth
Patty Winter
Janet Oakey
Donna Smiljanich
Munro McMillan
Nickie Lipan
Sophie Lipan
Grace Havens
Ken Okolisan
Jim Shostak
Bill Griffin
Lorne McGill
John Hulaj
Yancy Begin
Justin Ray Bell
Roy Dos Santos
Chris Ayling
Gordon Haven
Chris Kauzen
Ron Jones
Murray Keys
Joanne Bell
Armindo Coelho
Edna Ray
Jean Wyatt
Joe Simpson
Ralph Simpson
Jamie Schnekenburger
Steve Vaterlaus
Andy van Koeverden
Dennis Dodge
Wilson Pete Dodge
Charles Dodge
Mary Campbell
Nellie Hewings
Herbert Leith
Manson Robinson
Helen Rewbotham
Ethel Ripley
Annie Pituk
Barbara Spring
Constantine Lipan
Mary Lipan
Sam Lipan
Aunty Rose
Grandad John
James Hale Sr.
James Hale Jr.
Alice Hale
Katherine & George Driver
Bill Nash
Joe Nash
Wayne Van Breda
Sydney Miles Duffus
Helen Woods
Madison Robinson
Susie Staddon
Hazel Stalker
Patty Moody
Fred & Frony Redinger
Paul Babanin
Jose Dos Santos
Marie Sadecky
Ivan Buck Edwards
Charles Begin



# Feeding Time

*Even wooden animals get hungry now and then. Just ask two-year-old Kailey McMillan, daughter of Joe and Wanda of West Lorne, who took time last week to feed a little hay to the cow in the Nativity scene at Dutton's recent Christmas in the Park. See additional photos Page 2.*

***Photo by Ruth Ferguson***

2000 SOCIAL + LOCAL ACTIVITIES



## Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary





**Donald and Florence Kelly ~ August 26, 2000**

The family would like to welcome their friends and relatives to an Open House on Saturday, August 26 from 2 to 4pm at 229 Monroe Street, Rodney, Ontario.

*Please join us to celebrate this joyous event. Best wishes only.*

## 50th Wedding Anniversary



**Glenn and Alberta Jones were married on June 17, 1950 at West Lorne United Church. Congratulations ... from your family.**

## Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary ~July 5, 1975

**Christine Monica Bint & Curtis John Hay**



*Love Michael, Meaghan and Marci* 2000

## Happy Birthday

**Szanadue DeWilde**



***"We Love Ya Sweetie"***

***With Love ... Grandma & Gumpy***

***xxxooo***

## Happy 97th Birthday

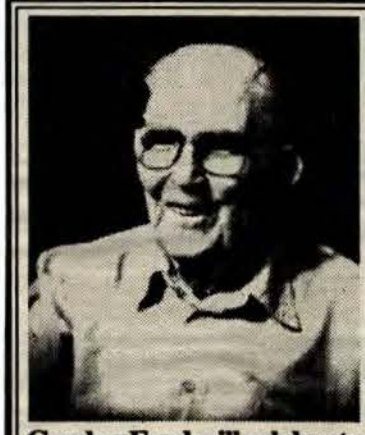
***Mary (Nana) Ocolisan***

***June 29th***



*Love From All Your Family*
*xxxx 0000* 2000

**100th BIRTHDAY**
**Gordon Ford**



**Gordon Ford will celebrate his 100th Birthday at the Bobier Villa, Dutton on Saturday, May 20th. Family and friends will be welcome 2pm to 4pm.**

***"Best Wishes Only"***



*Jesse Sojak, 15, of Wallacetown, prepares to do his part for the Trans Canada Relay 2000 in West Elgin at the corner of Hwy. #3 and Furnival Rd. He carried a bottle of water from the Arctic and Pacific Oceans.*



*Sojak passes the water on to the next carrier, Eagle's Rita DeWild who walked her portion of the route.*



*DeWild passes the water on to Dutton resident Ron Poisson who hopped on his bike to continue the relay into Dutton-Dunwich.*



*Poisson hands-off the water to London's Susan Charron for the next leg of the route.*



*Charron passes the water to Dutton-Dunwich Mayor Rien Van Brenk in Wallacetown.*



*Van Brenk arrives at the Backus-Page House in Tyrconnell to the cheers of dozens of supporters.*

# Trans Canada Trail rolls through Elgin

With the sun shining brightly, Canadian history was made in Elgin County last week as the Trans Canada Relay 2000 made its way through West Elgin and Dutton-Dunwich, part of the 16,400 km trail that spans across Canada.

The trail, the longest of its kind in the world, winds its way through every province and territory, linking our major cities, small towns and countless communities.

Water from the Arctic (filled Feb. 19), Pacific (filled April 7) and Atlantic (filled May 5) Oceans are being carried across the country in anticipation of a Sept. 9 gathering in Hull, Quebec where all three will be brought together.

The water from the Arctic and Pacific made its way through Elgin County. The Atlantic water is being carried by the Quebec team.

To date, more than 3,300 carriers have passed the water along the route.

"We've come a long way to see this trail come through our community," says Dutton-Dunwich Mayor Rien Van Brenk. "I'm honoured to have had the opportunity to walk with the water."

## Happy 1st Anniversary ~ June 12th, 2000



All My Love Always .... Melissa

## Steve & Audrey Cabral



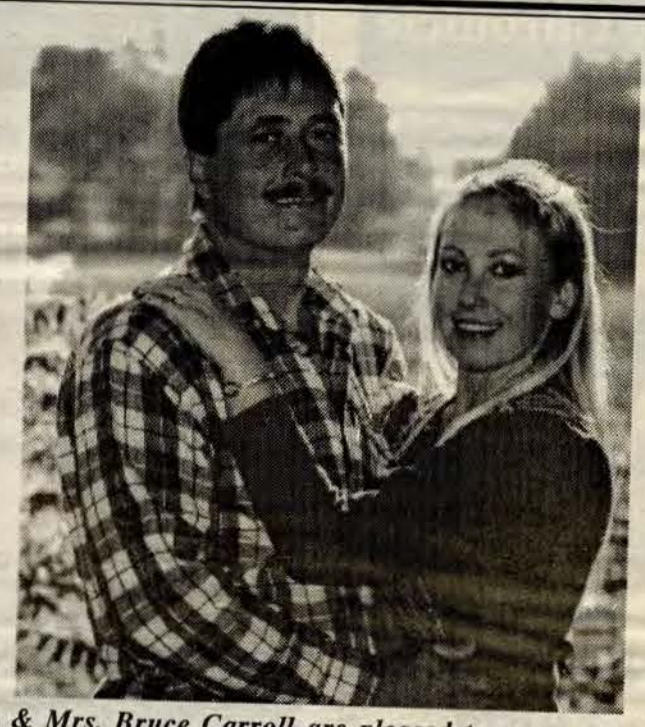
*Congratulations to Steve & Audrey on their recent marriage on May 6, 2000 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Lorne.*

## Wedding Announcement



***Greg and Wendy Begin are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Danielle Leigh-Anne to Jeremy Peter, son of Mac & Dale McGill of Muirkirk. The Wedding will take place June 24, 2000 at St. Michael's Church in Ridgetown.***

## Wedding Announcement



***Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Carroll are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Alanna Beth to Kevin Dennis VanRaes, son of Mr. Daniel VanRaes and Ms. Nancy VanRaes. The wedding will take place on Saturday, June 17, 2000 at 2:00pm at the Calvary United Church.***

The West Elgin Chronicle MAY 15, 2000



# Timmmberrrrr

*High winds and heavy rains pounded West Elgin last week, leaving behind in its wake a number of down trees and power outages. The residents of this home on Mary's Street in West Lorne received a rude awakening when a tree fell on their roof. Another tree on the property, a large pine, also toppled over but luckily landed in the driveway. There were other reports of downed limbs on cars as well as other branches on roads.*

## 50th Wedding Anniversary



***Norman and Agnes Rose***

***In honour of our parents 50th Wedding Anniversary, we welcome you to attend an***

***Open House on Saturday, May 6, 2000 ~ 2-4pm at St. Mary's Parish Hall, West Lorne***

***Best Wishes Only***

SPORTS
1999

FEB. 15/99



# Fun "Disc"overy

*There have been numerous reports of flying discs in Miller Park lately, but not to fear, they're the friendly kind. Actually, it's frisbees that have been seen soaring through the park. The newly installed nine-hold disc golf course is up and running in the wooded lot of Miller Park. The course is open year-round and is playable by all ages. Here, WESES Grade 8 student Jessie Jones finishes off one of the holes during a recent phys. ed. class.*

*Take one, it's FREE!* **February 8, 1999**



# Welcome Back!

*West Elgin welcomed back some familiar faces recently as Paul Duarte, left, and J.J. Wrobel returned to the ice where they played their minor hockey. The pair, who play Senior A hockey for the London McMaster Chevy's, were at the West Elgin Arena for a regular season match-up against Bothwell. Here, 13-year-old Kyle Chouinard gets a couple of autographs prior to the game. London ended up crushing Bothwell 15-3. London may be making a return engagement to the West Elgin Arena for an upcoming playoff game against Petrolia. Check the Chronicle for details.*

***Photo by Kathy Hollingsworth***

SPORTS 1999




# Sister Act

MAY 1999

*It's all in the family for West Lorne sisters Colleen, left, and Stephanie Tobias. The duo are currently showcasing their baseball talent in London's Tier I Girls Fastball League. With the season underway, Colleen (midget) and Stephanie (bantam) are tearing up the league.* ***Photo by Kathy Hollingsworth***



# Medal Marvels

*Members of the West Lorne Figure Skating Club are the proud owners of a handful of medal after a some recent competitions. In top photo, local winners from the Kent Regional in Tilbury include, back row from left, Janine Vergeer, Trina Lebedz, Brittany Eichenberger, Danielle McGill and Joe Armstrong. Front row from left are Nathan Beke, Cassandra Clayworth, Kaitlyn Connolly, Elysia Peskor and Jennifer Drummelsmith. Absent were Dan Armstrong, Jennifer Oliviera, Amy Mezenberg, Courtney Besley and Lindsay Besley. In centre photo, winner from the Stars Unlimited Competition in Dresden included , from left, Cassandra Clayworth, Eichenberger and Melanie Ganhadeiro, who won the John KcKay Trophy for "competing for the fun of the sport." Absent from photo are Kayla Poels and Jan Kool. In bottom photo, Glencoe Sweetheart Competition medal winner included, from left, Emily Vandenberg, McGill, Clayworth and Vergeer.*

MARCH 1999

SPORTS 1999

# Arvai planning OHL career after Battalion takes West Lorne native

By Paul Mayne
*The Chronicle*

The hot summertime weather is upon us and thoughts usually turn to baseball and soccer, but for Darryl Arvai he's too busy thinking about hockey.

And for good reason. The West Lorne resident began his summer being selected by the Brampton Battalion of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL). Arvai was invited by the Central Scouting Bureau to attend the draft, which coincidentally held in Brampton.

"I was invited to the draft last year as well as an under-ager, so I really wasn't expecting anything," says the 17 year-old Arvai. "This year I was expecting more."

And that expectation paid off for the burly forward who played last year with the Jr. B Petrolia Jets, helping them to fourth place overall finish in the league. Arvai was billeted with a family in Petrolia during the hockey season and just recently returned home after school ended at LCCVI.

Brampton was actually his first choice of teams because of "the schooling and the overall package." Arvai had also expressed interest in going to Toronto and Barrie.

Following the June draft, which parents Louis and Marlene and brother Tyler attended, Arvai took part in a two-day mini-camp. "There really wasn't too much ice time involved," he says. "It was more about fitness tests."

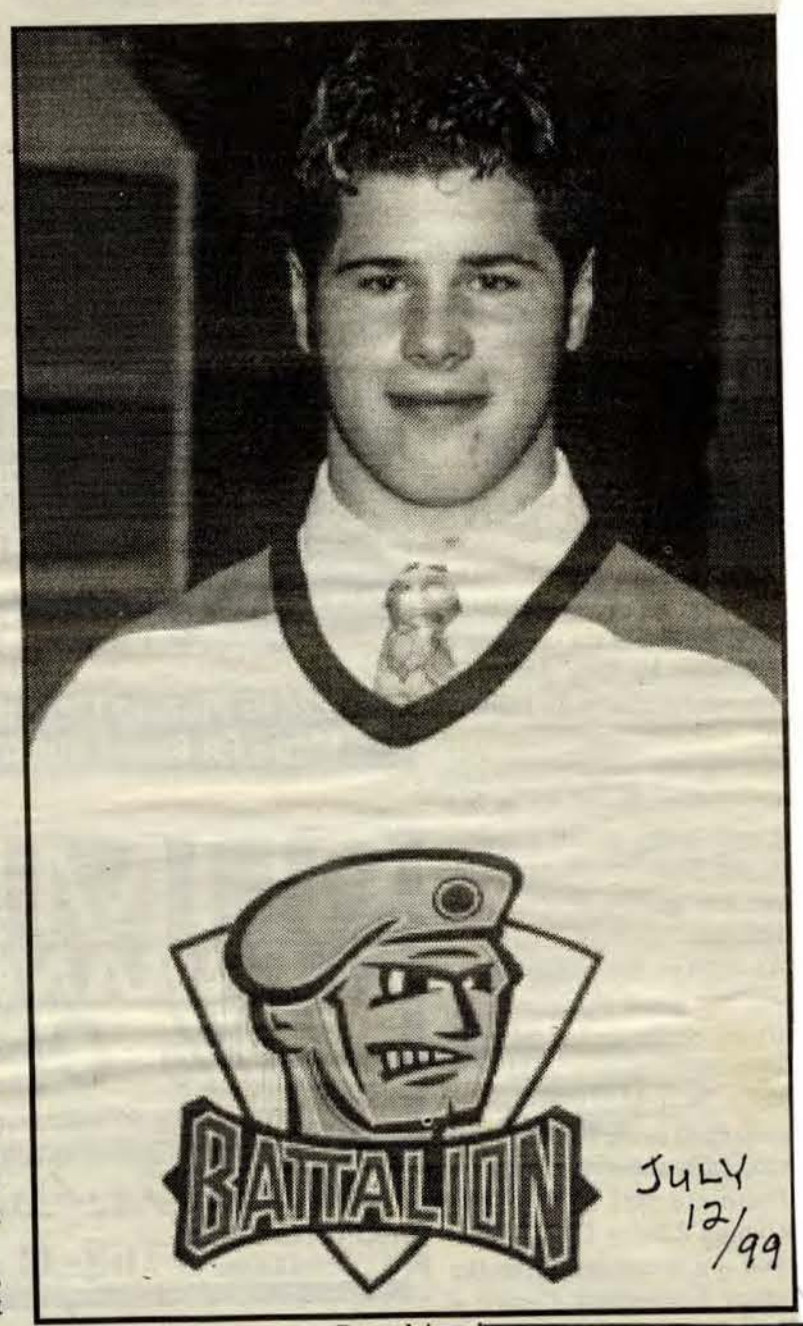
But that will change Sept. 1 as he heads back to Brampton for training camp and an opportunity to fight for a spot on the team. And Arvai is confident he's ready.

"Sure there'll be nerves at first, but once you get on the ice that all changes," he says. "I'm right where I want to be as far as my skills. There's going to be some adjustments that you have to make no matter where you go. I had to made adjustments for Jr. C and Jr. B, so this is just one more adjustment."

Arvai, who will enter OAC this coming school year , says the OHL is first and foremost in his mind, but the possibility of a hockey scholarship is in the wings.

"I've already taken my SATs for that specific reason," he says.

Arvai is currently following a workout program given to him by Brampton coaches and says he will be in "OHL calibre" form come September.




JULY 12/99

Darryl Arvai



# West Lorne U5A Champs!

*The West Lorne U5A soccer team, sponsored by PJ's Pizza, picked up gold medals recently at the Wallacetown Youth Soccer Tournament with a first place finish. The team is made up of, front row from left, Logan Poels, Jesse Tilbury-Brennan, Jake Silva, Jessalyn Betsch and Jason Alves. Middle row from left is Aidan Roos, Tyler Duarte, Kyle Barber, Brandon Pereira and Amy Oliveira. Back row is assistant coach Roy Delgado, left, and head coach Abel Duarte.*

JULY 1999 90



**U16 B Girls (Weste Lorne) - Silver**



**U16 A Girls (West Lorne) - Silver**



**U6 (Rodney) - Gold**



**U8 (Rodney) - Silver**





# Big Time Bikers!

*Some local BMX bikers are blazing the trails of Michigan's bike trails - and they have the jerseys to prove it. From left Brad Seed (4th: 15-year-old rookie), Eric McGill (5th: 11-year-old rookie), Ricardo Malva (7th: 15-year-old rookie), Cam Milliken (1st: 35-39 cruiser and 30 and over novice) and Krista Milliken (6th: 6 to 7-year-old girls), are all members of Shallow Creek BMX out of Chatham. Honourable mention also goes to Jacob Ferguson and Cole Schnekenburger for their efforts last season. The upcoming season is scheduled to get under way at the end of this month. For more information on the Shallow Creek BMX club, call Ken Belanger at 351-3830 or check out the internet site at www.webwurx.com/shallowcreekbmx.*

APRIL 1999

# Synchronized Skating Sensation

*West Lorne's own Kim Doan will be heading to Montreal this week to compete in the Canadian National Synchronized Skating Competition. The 16-year-old WESS student is a member of the Synchronicity Junior team out of London. The 22-member team, made up of girls ages 13-18, advanced past the Western Regionals to make it to the nationals. Should they finish in the Top 7 of the 23 teams competing, Synchronicity Junior would receive internatinal status. If they finish in the Top 3 they would move on to the World Synchronized Skating Competition next year. Good luck to Kim and the Synchronicity Junior squad.*



SPORTS
2000

# West Lorne Atom Gold, Novice teams tourney champs

It was a clean sweep for the West Lorne Novice and Atom Gold teams at the Ridgetown Christmas Classic Atom and Novice Hockey Tournaments played over the Christmas break.

With entries from Ridgetown, Glencoe, Wallaceburg, Chatham, and Blenheim, the West Lorne Novice squad took gold in a tight 3-2 win against Ridgetown followed by the Atom Gold team who squeaked a 1-0 win over their rival West Lorne Black Comets in the Atom final.

The West Lorne Novice team took two out of three in round robin play, outscoring the opposition 14-3 to move into the gold medal game against the host Ridgetown.

In a tight checking game, the West Lorne defence held the hometown favourites to only two goals in the first two periods, sending the game into the third period knotted at 2-2.

It took teamwork and hot goaltending from Matthew Payne to keep the game tied until, with just minutes left, the winner was scored by West Lorne's Travis Roodzant - his third of the game.

In the Atom tournament, the West Lorne Black Comets tied their first game 3-3 against the hometown Ridgetown Penny's and won their second match-up 4-1 against the Chatham Screencraft.

With a shot at the tournament title and a chance to play their undefeated league rivals on the line, the Black Comets dominated from the opening whistle and pounded the Chatham Awards 13-0.

In the first period of the Atom medal game, the Gold Comets needed strong goaltending and a tough defensive effort to keep their opponents off the board as the Black Comets pressured goaltender Patrick Whalen.

The Black Comets had the offensive edge in play until 2:36 of the second period when Shane Briand fed a Steve Nagy pass to Luke Emmett who put it past the goalie for the only goal of the game.

Through the remainder of the second period, the game momentum seemed to shift as the Gold's defensive play, quarterbacked by Emily Dryfhout and Travis Small, moved to a higher level. Matt McFadden, who relieved Whalen with four minutes left in the second period, faced only four scoring opportunities as his team neutralized the Black's offence to win 1-0.

Congratulation to both the Novice Comets and Atom Gold Comets on their gold medal performances, and to the Atom Black for the solid silver medal showing.



## Atom Champs - West Lorne Gold

*The West Lorne Gold brought home some major hardware from Ridgetown. They are, back row from left, Emily Dryfhout, Travis Small, Steve Nagy, Tyler Wood and Mike Emmett. Middle row from left are Caitlin McMillan, Ryan Brown, Chris VanLoon, William Drummelsmith and Shane Briane. In front are goalies Patrick Whalen, left, and Matt McFadden. Coaches include Steve Wood, Henry Dryfhout and Tim Emmett.*



## Novice Champs - West Lorne Novice

*The West Lorne Novice squad tookcare of the host Ridgetown for their title. The team includes Matt Payne, Amanda Russell, Taylor Trudell, Carl Everett, Matt Burdett, Matt Zoller, Jordan Emmett, Shelby Willicocks, Kaylie Wood, John Gregory Drummelsmith, Krista Walker, Ryan Vanoverbeke, Paul Lee, Travis Roodzant and Dawn Marie Welch. Coach is Jamie Welch.*





## Pool Popcorn

*The students at WESES sure do love their popcorn. Through the sale of the delicious snack, the students managed to raise $500, which they chose to donate to the West Elgin Pool Fund. Here, student council representatives Richa Sharma and Craig Hoglund present the cheque to West Elgin Pool Committee member John Eagleson. In back are Dale Peacock, teacher advisor, council members Adam McKillop and Emma Sharpe, and teacher advisor Donna Baran. The students at WESES extend a challenge to other area schools to meet or match their fund-raising effort for the new community pool.*



## OWHA Champs!

APR. 24, 2000

*The West Lorne Comets Intermediate Girls hockey team had a golden weekend recently in Mississauga as they returned home with the Ontario Women's Hockey Association provincial championship. In only their fifth year in action, the team has made great headway in girls hockey.* *See story on Page 9.*

92

SPORTS 2001



***OMHA champions!***

***Members of the West Lorne Comets Novice Travel OMHA gold medal team are, left to right: front - goalie Matthew Payne; middle row - assistant trainer/manager Larry Okolisan, Jordan Hamm, Mike Johnston, Jason Eichenberger, Brandon Vergeer, Jeffery Reno and trainer Ron Eichenberger; back - coach Paul McWilliam, Michael Parezanovic, Ty Schnekenburger, Adam Okolisan, Troy Cook, Andrew McWilliam, Clark Machado, Mick Schnekenburger and assistant coach Mike Rivard. Absent was Brian Kelly.***

# West Lorne earns OMHA gold medal

After eliminating Ilderton in the OMHA semi-finals, the West Lorne Comets Novice Travel team advanced to the finals against Cayuaga.

Winning the opener at home, the next game was played in Cayuaga, and despite a home ice advantage Cayuaga lost, giving the Comets a two-game lead.

Game 3 was played back in Cayuaga with the Comets taking a 3-2 loss.

Back in West Lorne for game 4, Cayuaga earned a 3-2 win to tie the series two all.

Having to travel back to Cayuaga, the Comets came out in full force knowing they had to have a win for the title.

They held Cayuaga 2-1 going into the third period with two more scoring opportunities giving them a 4-1 win.

Congratulations to the team for their determination and hard work.

**(continued from page 4)**

A player from one family. Of the Hunter brothers, three are naturally right-handed but shoot left. Another, Mark shoots from the right but when he signs autographs, he uses his left. Part of their success is that all four have their dominant hand on the top of their sticks and shoot the proper way.I know of at least one NHL player who actually switched hands when he was in pee wee. I've switched 25-35 kids over the years and I've never had a complaint.

It's up to the parents and the coaches to ensure their kids are learning and developing to their maximum potential. Hockey is a game of muscle but it's also a game of precision-like skills.

When I hear the people who run hockey looking at longer practices, lighter pucks, checking, more tournaments, taking the centre line out of the game to make players better they are putting the horse before the cart. Teach the kids to shoot the proper way and everything should fall into place.

Mike Rivard





***West Lorne 3-on-3 International Champs***

***West Lorne's 94's/95's entered the 3-on-3 International Hockey Tournament in London on the April 21st-22nd weekend. They won all four games in their division putting them into Sunday's final. They went up against Thamesford defeating them 6-2 for the championship. Good work boys! Team members include, from left to right: back row - coaches Jon Collard, George Gosnell, Abel Duarte and Tim Horvat; centre row - Bowie Horvat, Tyson Ford, Jacob Dymock, Michael Verboom and Tyler Hull; front row - Kurtis Gosnell, Tyler Duarte, Nolan Collard, Jason Alves and Kyle Barber.***

SPORTS 2001



## Officially Open

JUNE 4 2001

*With a quick snip of the scissors, the red ribbon was cut to open the new West Elgin Community Pool in Rodney on Saturday, May 26th. Taking part in the ceremony were, left to right: former lifeguard Bob Padfield, Melanie Roditsky, who chosen from the crowd, West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail, and 2001 pool staff co-supervisors Rosemarie Almeida and Lisa Smith.*

## West Lorne's Kirschner has promising hockey career ahead

West Lorne minor hockey player Jamie Kirschner has a promising future with sports, especially hockey if he continues with his good skills.

The 14 year old says his goal right now is to nail down a US University or college scholarship which will propel him to his goal of playing in the big leagues.

Kirschner has just completed the spring season of hockey with Team Eagle, a AAA hockey team based in London.

Jamie was the only player from Elgin County in a team consisting of players from Middlesex, London, and Brantford. and was invited by the coach of the team who was impressed with his hockey skills.

Over the years Jamie has proven he can pass the puck and score, but more importantly he is not intimidated on the ice, nor is he easy to push around.

At 160 pounds, Jamie is a heavy hitter on the ice.

His last seasonal game was at Toronto Lakeshore Invitational where they played and defeated a US team and went 2-2. During the tournament, Jamie scored five goals and grabbed seven assists.

Jamie says his hockey career wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for the generous support the 30 local people who have sponsored him. He says his equipment alone costs $6,000.

While his hockey is good, Kirschner knows his academics have to be equally as good and he continues to strive to do well in school. This past year he received a student of the year award.

He says he doesn't have an idea on what he wants to major in academically.

"I'm undecided. Maybe business, but I'm really leaving my options open," says Kirschner.




**Jamie Kirschner with two trophies he won during spring hockey with Team Eagles**

JULY 2001



**The West Lorne U6 Soccer Team, sponsored by Timmerman's Drainage won the Gold Medal, after going undefeated against the Wallacetown, Shedden, Rodney and Glencoe teams at the Final Soccer Tournament held in West Lorne on August 18. The team consists of, starting with the back row from left to right: Ron Wilkins, coach, Tiffany Kalita, assistant coach; and Albert Vergeer, coach. In the second row, Jason Timmermans, Breyanne Serle, Mackenzie Dick, Aidan Roos, Dylan Colpaert, Erica Kuska, Gina Toth, Steven Wilkins and Hassan Jabara.Third row: Bethany Morton, David Vergeer, Amanda Charlton, Bradin Vauterlaus, Cole Kalita, Cody Welsh and Peter Schadenberg.**

AUG 2001

SPORTS 1999




# NBC Champs!

*The West Elgin NBC (No Body Contact) wrapped up the season recently and handed out the top awards for the year at their banquet held at Hollywood Nights. Champions for this year are the Dutton Golf Course Sharks and are made up of, in front from left, Bill Lockery, Phil Page, Brian Coutts, Dean Thomas and Jeff Carmichael. Standing from left to right are Jim Corneil, Jason Falkins, Paul Mills and Todd Brophy. Absent from photo were Cory Kentner and Ken Lockery. Each player received a jacket for their efforts. Second place went to the Hollywood Nights Sabres (hats) and PJ's Pizza Devils (tote bags) took third place.*

***Photo by Shirley Slaats***



# Bowled Over

*West Elgin is now the home of the Elgin/Oxford District 31 Ontario Senior Games 5 Pin Bowling champs. West Elgin Team 2, made up of Patricia Lloyd, left, Veronica Lane, Lena Campbell, Bob Virgin and Doris Sudicky, placed first out of 16 teams at the Woodstock Bowlerama. The Rodney squad (Team 2) placed third overall. West Elgin Team 2 now heads to the Chatham Senior Regional Games July 14. Good luck, gang. Don't leave any pins standing!*

MAY 1999



# Figure Skating Significance

*The West Elgin Figure Skating Club now has their much deserved spot in the West Elgin Arena to show off their accomplishments. Here, club president Elizabeth Timmermans and skater Melanie Ganadeiro show off the John McKay Memorial Trophy, just one of the many items on display. The trophy case, designed by Oliveira's Cabinets and Trim in West Lorne, was paid for through bingo fund-raisers.*

NOV. '99

SPORTS 2000



**New West Elgin Skating Club Executive**

**Front row l-r, Alison Beer (Canskate Chair), Linda Van Raay (Secretary), Deb Slaats President, Pam Parezanovic (Club Professional). Back row: Sharon Neilson (Carnival Chair), Suzanne Doan (Fundraising Chair), Margaret Perry (Bingo Chair), Lynda Pelcz (Treasurer). Absent from the picture were Dianne DeLouw (Past President), Karrie Vandenberg (Test Chair) Patsy McGill (Club Professional).** 2000



# SPORTS

## West Lorne lawn bowling news

Bowlers from Chatham, London, Ridgetown and Sarnia travelled to the West Lorne Lawn Bowling Club to compete in a local tournament sponsored by McNaughton Automotive in Newbury.

Taking first place honours were Terry Gardner and Sharron Farrish from the London Fairmont Club. Second place went to Ed and Edna Braithwaite from the Sarnia club, with Barry and Verna Gibson from Chatham finishing third.

Local bowlers Ross Lashbrook and Ken Willson were the top West Lorne finishers. The 'Best Effort' nod went to West Lorne bowlers Glen Jones and Jean Besley.

The West Lorne club wish to thank McNaughton Automotive for their sponsorship of this successful tournament. The next tournament will be held Aug. 4 and will be sponsored by Swain Greenhouses.

The club welcomes everyone to the next euchre party this Wednesday at 8 p.m. Bowling is held every Monday and Thursday at 7 p.m.



## Soccer Skills

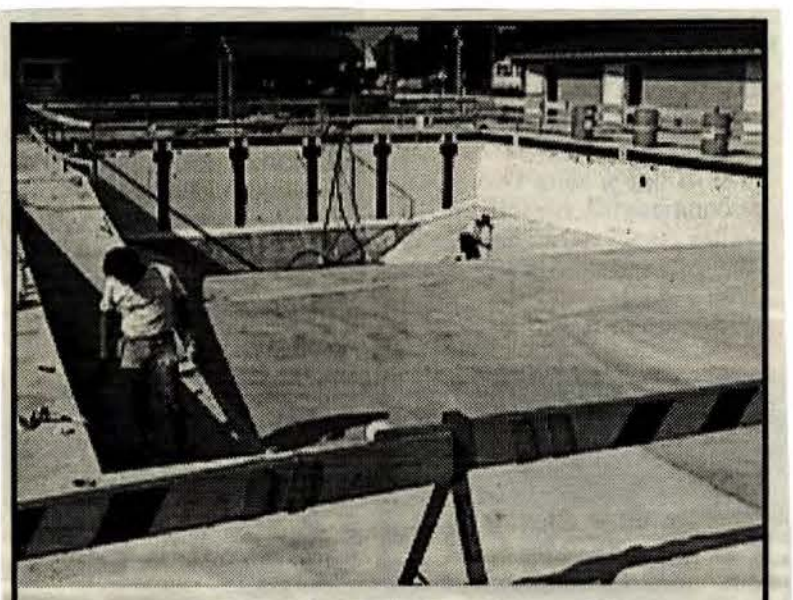
*World Cup here we come! Well, that may be a ways off for the local children who took part in the "Soccer Camp of Excellence' at Miller Park, but it's fun to dream. The week-long camp was put on by the Elgin-Middlesex Soccer Association. Here, goalie Mitch Kuska, 7, makes the save on six-year-old Jason Alves during one of the practice sessions.*





## What A Season!

*You can't get any better than a perfect season. That's just what the West Lorne PJ's Pizza U-6 soccer team did this past season, culminating by winning the Final Cup Day Tournament recently in Glencoe. Along with the perfect season, the local squad also won the South-west Elgin Minor Soccer League Championship, Glencoe Tartan Days Tournament and the Mini Soccer Festival Tournament in Strathroy. The team is, back row from left, Abel Duarte (coach). Amy Oliveira, Jacob Silva, Ricky Oliveira, Jason Alves and Alicia Oliveria. Front row from left are Brandon Pereira, Kyle Barber, Tyler Duarte, McKenzie McGaffey, Jason Westelaken and Roy Delgado (coach).*



## Got Water?

*By Sept. 3 there should be, according to West Elgin Parks and Recreation Superintendent Jeff Slater. Work left to complete includes putting up the fence and diving board, installing the liner, some plumbing and hooking up to the sewer line. Plans are to have the pool open evenings and weekend in September.* AUG 28/00



## Novice A Golden

*The West Lorne Comets Novice A team took the gold medal at the recent West Lorne Black & Gold Tournament. The Comets outscored their opponents in their three wins (4-1 over London, 6-2 over Thamesford and 2-0 over Lambeth). The local squad also recently brought home medals and a plaque for winning the Consolation B side of a Glencoe tournament.* DEC. 2000 **Photo submitted**

96

WEST LORNE W.I. 1999

Date Oct. 1999

International Year Of The Older Person
By Twila McWilliam
A Grandmother's Legacy

Born June 24, 1923 at home, home births were very common especially in rural areas. Twenty- two years Later when I had my first child, an uncomplicated delivery, could mean a hospital stay from 5 to 10 days. How things change.

I've seen many changes in my 76 years, and would like to tell you about my life and the changes that have Occurred.

I remember when I was 4 years old. We lived on 21 Highway near Wabash, the highway was gravel. Department of Highways paved it from Thamesville to Dresden, and my mother boarded the workers. When I was a young child in the 30's, I learned the values of working hard and that even hard work meant you still might have to do without. I was lucky and my parents always made sure my sister and I had food To eat and warm clothes. Even though the "great depression" has been painted by history as one of the "worst of times" my sister and I had a great childhood. I remember Sunday afternoons in January when my father would hitch the horses to the "bob sleigh" loaded with hay and go up and down the concession roads and neighbor children would come out for a ride. I also remember knocks on the door and strangers wanting to work for a meal. Even if there was no work they were never sent away hungry and were offered a warm bed or a place to sleep in the barn. People are still in need as we approach the new millennium and we should remember to offer food and shelter to those less fortunate.

In 1941 I graduated from Chatham Vocational School and went to Chatham Business College. After graduation I worked in offices as temporary ( while some on holidays) Full time jobs were hard to find. Part of the Wallaceburg Brass factory was converted to a "bomb room"for making gun shells for World War 11. The pay was much better than office work and many around me in the office were going to the Bomb room , so I too became what was referred to as a " Rosey the Rivetter" Mother felt I was throwing My education away. I quit the factory in 1943, twenty days before I got married, as I had a home wedding which required much preparation and for a sit down dinner for over 80 guests.

In 1945 my husband and I had taken over the operation of the family farm. We had a new baby. my husband received notice to obtain his medical to see if he was fit for active duty. The Dr. determined his Heart was not sound and declared him unfit for war. I was relieved he didn't have to go to war, however His heart condition would change my life greatly. Today wars are called conflicts and there are so many we"ve stopped numbering them but the loss of human life remains the same.

We left the farm and started our own business in 1946. My husband was very mechanically inclined, So we purchased a garage with living quarters attached, built two cabins and renovated to include a small restaurant. Boy were we ambitious! There were no 400 series highways and # 3 highway was a busy place (great for a hard working couple) I still shake my head and know my children doubt me when I Tell them about the Americans that would stop during the hottest part of the summer and wonder where The snow was. They knew very little about Canada back then. This was not surprising, few people Had the new invention called television and what you learned was in the paper or on the radio. Our world was much smaller back then. Today with the Internet and air travel so available to everyone We have a greater knowledge about people all over the world. My husband had no mechanic license And studied every evening finally getting the opportunity to try exams in January of 1947 which he Passed getting the Class A license which was the highest at that time.

In the early 1950's the #3 highway was reconstructed from Eagle to Kent Alboroough Townline, takiing Out many steep hills that had caused so many fatal accidents which proved beneficial to the wrecker And garage business, but bad on my husbands health. The province offered us a good price for our Property, it was too close to the road, and we sold and we moved to New Glasgow in 1957.




**Deserved Honour**

*The West Lorne Women's Institute paid tribute to one of its members last week by honouring Twilia McWilliams as its oldest member for 2000. McWilliams read a story of her life history, which will be going into the Tweedsmuir Book at the West Lorne Library.*

Continued page 2 The International Year of the Older Woman

With four children, cleaning , canning and helping with the business (running for parts) I had little time For outside activities. I joined the Presbyterian Church at New Glasgow in 1947 and have always been actively involved.. Many laughs, recipes, friends and worthwhile pursuits have taken place in the New Glasgow Ladies Aid Society. My kids say they can't look at a penny without thinking about our penny Drive for the Missionary Society, and the traveling basket ( another fund raiser) was always a hit at Our house. Today I'm still raising money for the church. I'm grateful I can't remember how many pot Scratchers I've crocheted for "Mission for Kids", but I'll keep crocheting because we are nearing $6,000. I am so proud of the help we are giving to local families and children in Northern Korea Orphanages.

1963 will always be remembered as a tragic year. My husband died of a massive coronary. A thriving business and four children, thank goodness for family and friends. The garage was rented and I remarried. My new husband was a great friend and a great father, I stopped pumping gas and driving to the city for car parts, and started bailing hay and feeding pigs, and cattle. My mother-in- law had a huge garden and enjoyed sending green beans by what seemed the bushel basket. None of my children will eat a green bean to this day. I was also sewing and made several bridesmaid dresses for local brides, this proved to be a lot of work and very little money. My daughter and I started to figure out what I was working for. It was too depressing to think about. I still enjoy sewing and crafting, but realize you could never be compensated for the time and care you put into an item.

After 15 years of marriage my husband died from Diabetes. I met my third husband at a church function In 1981. We enjoyed 12 wonderful years together before he passed away in 1993 after several strokes. I Am a grandmother of 4 and 2 great granddaughters.

# WEST LORNE W.I. 1999

## -- GRANDMOTHER'S LEGACY CONTINUED...

As a widow I try to keep busy in my community. I am active in the church missionary society, choir, Craft group, and Women's Institute. I joined the Institute in 1986. The W.I. is trying to implement In health care and our efforts to ensure rural communities have access to similar health related services And technology available to those in metropolitan areas. The W.I. promotes education in rural areas, Such as, breast screening, osteoporosis education and prevention and the community abuse program of Rural Ontario, In the over one hundred years of the W.I. many changes have been implememted, Pasteurized milk, sliced bread, signs on buses, slow moving vehicle signs and substantial local donations such as money to build the old town hall in West Lorne. W. I. Also donated much to the New hall.

I would like to thank the W. I. Honoring me as the oldest member in out branch. I have shared some of the changes I have experienced in my life, the changes of W.I. has invoked in their communities make Me proud to be associated with such a worthwhile organization. I hope to continue working with the W.I. for many more years.

I have been a member of the West Lorne Women's Institute for many years. The year 1999 Was declared The International Year of the Older Person.

Our meetings are always the 1st Tuesday of each month. In late Sept, our secretary received a Letter from head office. The letter asked for the eldest member to write a Grandmother's Legacy, To be sent to hjead office by the end of Sept, consequently we did not receive it on time.

At our Oct. meeting they asked who was the eldest, which happened to be me. It was agreed That I would write it, and would be put in our Tweedsmuir book, which is kept at the library in West Lorne.

I completed it and gave it to the president at the end od the November meeting.

At our Christmas dinner Dec. 1999 when all the husbands and children attend, when dinner Was finished, one member came to me with my legacy, and asked if I would read it. They pinned A corsage on me and pinned a ribbon with the words International Year of the Older Person, plus The home newspaper came and took my picture. When I finished reading I received much applaus Plus a standing ovation. I was very surprized as I had no idea what to write about.

This year 2001 the Head Office published a book of Grandmother' Legacy's, so of course mine Was not published, due to being too late.



# West Lorne WI learn the benefits of 911 emergency service

The October meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute was held in the West Lorne Complex with nine members and two guests present.

Mary belle Cook introduced the guest speaker Dennis Harwood. He is a community service officer with the Elgin OPP. He has been with the force for 25 years.

Harwood spoke on the 911 service and how it is set up. He encouraged people to use the system and not be frightened by it. Ambulance, fire and police are served through this service.

Harwood also answered questions in regards to the justice circle and scams. Cook thanked the speaker for the informative presentation.

Plans to attend the Cancer Tea were finalized. A letter was received from Aldborough Public School for reading volunteers to help with the reading program.

The Museum Tea is planned for Dec. 3 while the London area convention will be in Mt. Brydges on Oct. 28. Shirley Walker gave a report on the District Directors meeting.

An additional letter was received from Beattie Haven regarding the new housing planned called Riverview Terrace.

# West Lorne Women's Institute

The April meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute was held at the West Lorne Complex with ten members in attendance.

Following the opening exercises it was decided to have the May meeting at the Cosy Restaurant in Rodney at 6:15 p.m.

The environmental group invited us to join them at their meeting on April 19. Following several other letters of correspondence it was decided to give a contribution to WESES to help them with their book, which is in celebration of the Year of Older Persons. A contribution will also be sent to the Childrens Miracle Network Telethon.

The WI will be catering to a noon day luncheon and the proceeds will be donated to the refugee fund.

A Dutch action followed the meeting. A delicious lunch was served by Leola Lawrence and Helen Mooser.

1999

*West Elgin Free Press - Page 9*

## *WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE*

Thirteen members of the West Lorne Women's Institute met in the town complex for the October meeting. Marina Lundrigan, the director of the Health Centre was introduced by Mary Belle Cook. Marina spoke about the services available at the centre, staff is salaried and about new services that will be coming in the future. There are 55 health care centers in Ontario. Two full time Medical Doctors are available now and a second nurse practitioner will soon be available.

Following the morning exercises, treasurers and secretary reports were read, plans were made to attend a London area convention to be held in Kirton. Plans were made to cater to the Kiwanians installation of officers. Thanks to Nancy Baily for supplying many articles for the new kitchen. Plans were made for next meeting when Crinan, Clachan and Wallacetown W.I. will be our guest to hear the Area President Ann McLean speak. Please bring a recipe. In place of roll call bring a new tea towel for the hall. Cancer tea is in Fingal United Church on October 24th Meeting closed with the Lords Prayer.

FW10 1999

The West Elgin Chronicle APRIL 1999

# Elgin County Women's Institute

The Spring board of the Elgin County Women's Institute met recently at the County of Elgin building.

Public health nurse Kathy Nisbit spoke on major health problems of seniors who are less active following a fall, due to such things as balance problems, medication or brittle bones.

A Seniors Safety Committee office will be located in East, West and Central Elgin for home assessment. Brochures from Active Coalition for Living Adults and Community Food Supervisor Sherri Sanders were circulated.

Correspondence from F.W.I.O. regarding a campaign against Iodine deficiency was received. All fees are due to District Treasurer by June 1.

Provincial Advisory Councillor, Willa Johnston, stated nomination for offices at the provincial level of president elect, four board directors, education coordinator and P.A.C. 18 (this subdivision) member plus an alternate are required.

Membership cards will be issued following payment of member fees. A provincial fund-raiser to consider the sale of address labels was recommended to the marketing committee as a sale item.

The Booth Committee for the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair will consider a recommendation to ask a different W.I. celebrity to be present in the booth, as the budget will allow.

Eligibility criteria for the 90th Anniversary Educational Award, the Helen McKercher Scholarship and the Erland Lee Award was presented. Reports were heard from the convenors urging branches to forward their report to the District Governor prior to May 1.

The Elgin Farm Safety Association will hold a two-day seminar for children June 26 at the Rodney Recreation Centre for children seven to 11 years of age from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Information about Conference '98 at Loyalist College (Belleville), was received. The theme will be "Today's Family Shaping Tomorrow's World."

Plans for Elgin Women's Institute District Annual were made for May 12, with registration at 1 p.m at North Yarmouth Presbyterian Church.

Stand up! Speak out! Be proud to be a W.I. member.

# Elgin County Women's Institute elect new officers

Elgin County District Women's Institute held their annual meeting at St. James Presbyterian Church recently. The theme for 1999 is "The Older Years - The Golden Years."

Sixteen branch directors or alternates were ratified by PAC member for sub-division 18 Willa Johnston. Correspondence was received from Erland Lee Home announcing a June 15-16 luncheon. The June 23 Strawberry Social will be held at the Elgin Pioneer Museum. Farm Safety Days are planned for June 26 at the Rodney Recreation Centre and the Malahide Fire Hall No. 1 Mount Salem on July 10.

The resolution regarding a name change for the Women's Institute of Ontario declared Elgin members to be opposed to this name change.

Shedden WI conducted an In Memoriam service remembering departed members, closing with Psalm 23. A display from the health unit announced an open house at the Elgin-St. Thomas General Hospital, presenting an opportunity to view the new mammography suite.

Johnston gave the FWIC report stating nominations are open for the following provincial offices - president elect, education coordinator, four board directors, 10 PAC members including subdivision 18.

Winner of the Dorothy Futcher Scholarship is Marie Brown of Woodstock and alternative winner is Elizabeth Clark of Blenheim. The 1999-2000 officers were installed by Pauline Lindsay, president of the London area

MAY 99

**President**
Madeline Jenkins Belmont
**Vice-President**
M. Veenstra &
Pauline Linsday
**Past President**
Ann McLean
**Program Coordinator**
Pauline Lindsay
**Secretary/Treasurer**
Grace Campbell
**Public Relations**
Eleanor McMillan
**Resolutions**
Betty VanPatter
**Tweedsmuir History**
Evelyn Hoshal

# Elgin County Women's Institute

Elgin County District Women's Institute held their annual Winter Picnic in Talbotville United Church. Hostess branches for the day were Calton & Clachan. The Institute Grace was sung followed by a bountiful smorgasbord meal.

President Ann McLean welcomed approximately 75 ladies and introduced Pauline Lindsay, President of the London Area Women's Institutes and provincial advisory council representative Willa Johnston.

Theme for the day was Safe and Healthy Communities with each branch giving a five minute presentation on various topics.

An institute song was sung using the theme 'It's a Small, Small World.' A penny table of gifts were drawn with many winners.

Promoting a safe and healthy community is the Farm Safety Association's, who will host day camps on June 26 at the Rodney Recreational Centre (contact person is Lois Woolner at 693-4343.

The other camp will be at Malahide No. 1 Fire Hall, Mount Salem on July 10 (contact person is Ron Hewson at 773-3321. Both camps will run from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. FEB. 1999



WEST LORNE W.I
DEC. 5, 1999
WE ENTERTAIN AT
BOBIER VILLA

## West Lorne WI

The West Lorne Women's Institute have been busy the last few weeks. Three members took baking and attended tables at the St. Thomas Elgin Museum on Dec. 3. Thanks ladies.

Members gathered Dec. 3 at the home of Helen Mooser to decorate the float for the Santa Claus Parade. Helen served delicious home rolls, soup and dessert for supper. Thanks Heien. A great time was had by all even in the damp weather and getting first prize for the best illuminated float.

On Dec. 5, institute members, with help from local talent, put on an old fashioned Christmas program for the residents of Bobier Villa. Betty Patterson on piano and Mark Patterson on mandolin accompanied solist Jennie McDonald and duets by Ester Titus and Gary McNeil.

Mike Miller was great on the trumpet as were junior dancers Katie Miller and Charlotte Noddin. Other participants included senior dancers J. Hilliard (danced in Huron County Playhouse in Singing in the Rain), Breane Podebry, Caitlin and Tanya Van Raes played the piano.

Mary Belle Cook read "The First Christmas", Anita van Raes read Rudolph and singsong followed with a visit from Santa. Each resident received a gift. Thank to everyone that helped bring cheer to the shut-ins.

Members of the institute and their families held their Christmas party at the West Lorne Complex Dec. 7.

Twilla McWilliams was presented with a banner and flowers as she was chosen as the oldest member and to write her memoirs for the Tweedsmuir Book, which is kept in the library. Job well done Twilla.

Dec. '99






NANCY BAILLIE HANDS OUT GIFTS






WEST LORNE W. I. 2000

**STALKER**

*Hazel Lavina Stalker* of West Lorne passed away on Tuesday, March 7th, 2000 at the Four Counties Health Services, Newbury in her 75th year. After a lengthy illness, she left this life peacefully surrounded in love by her four daughters. She was predeceased by her husband Bruce in 1981. She will be deeply missed by daughters Carol Stalker, husband Greg McCaughey of Kitchener and their son Ian Dick of London, Betty Stalker of London, Beverly Witroway, husband Glenn and their daughter Crystal of West Lorne, and Helen Kriter, husband Lorne of Rodney and their sons Brian of Toronto and Brad of Rodney. She will be lovingly remembered by sisters Viola Gilbert and husband Ray of London, Rose Warkentin of Kingsville; brothers Douglas Staddon and wife Dorothy of West Lorne. Norman Staddon and wife Pam of St. Thomas, Carl Staddon and wife Georgina of West Lorne, Richard Staddon and wife Carol of Rodney; and sisters-in-law Mary Belle Watterworth of West Lorne and Bertha Stalker of Wardsville. Friends called at the Rodney Chapel, 212 Furnival Road, Rodney on Thursday 2-4 and 7-9pm. Funeral service was held at the Church of Christ (Disciples), West Lorne on Friday at 1pm, with Rev. J. Burner officiating, assisted by Rev. F. Ritchie. Interment Oakland Cemetery. If desired, donations to Four Counties Health Services or ALS Research - Dr. M. Strong, University Hospital would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to the Padfield Funeral Home (519) 785-0810.



HAZEL STALKER

# Bald eagles soar over West Lorne WI

The March meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute was held at the West Lorne Complex with 11 members in attendance. Mary Belle Cook introduced guest speaker Keith Kelly.

Kelly gave an interesting presentation on the bald eagle. It was 14 years ago, while cutting wood in his bush, that he noticed a pair of bald eagles. He continued to follow these birds and their habits each year.

In 1993, the Ministry of Natural Resources came and helped secure their nest. Each year they hatched two to three chicklings and they are banded to help monitor their progress.



Kelly also brought along the local post office manual of all the local post offices and who ran them. The WI plan to purchase one for the library if they do not have one.

The minutes and treasurers report were given and correspondence was dealt with. It was announced that a garage sale will be held at the home of Nancy Baily on May 20.

The May meeting is scheduled at the Golden Key Restaurant in Wardsville beginning at 5:30 p.m. The WI will be looking after the May birthday party at the Bobier Villa and the tea room on May 28. Arrangements are also being made for the group to attend *The King and I* at the Grand Bend Playhouse in June.

APR. 2000

WEST LORNE W.I. 50th BIRTHDAY



**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE** was celebrated on Thursday afternoon with almost 100 members and guests from neighbouring Institutes attending. Pictured here are three charter members and two of today's officers. They are, left to right: Treasurer Mrs. T. F. Ripley, charter president Mrs. T. W. Sims of Brantford, whose husband owned The West Lorne Sun and The Rodney Mercury until 1921; Mrs. W. T. Merrett, who has been a member ever since the Institute started, Mrs. W. A. Becker, the former Mrs. Hugh McKillop of St. Thoimas, and 1963 president Mrs. Chas. Cooper.

### Three Charter Members Attend

# WI Marks 50th Birthday

The West Lorne Women's Institute marked a milestone in its history, Thursday, January 31st, when its fiftieth anniversary was celebrated in the Community Hall with an attendance of approximately one hundred.

Mrs. T. W. Sims of Brantford, the first president, and Mrs. W. Becker of St. Thomas, the first secretary-treasurer, were present and recalled memories of the founding and of the early days of the Institute. Mrs. Sims spoke of making a house to house canvass to find women who would be interested in the project. Mrs. W. T. Merrett, the third charter member present, has remained a resident of West Lorne and has been pianist almost continually for the 50 years.

Visiting officers in attendance were: Mrs. M. Hicks of the Provincial Board; Mrs. Daniels, London Area chairman; Mrs. E. S. Downs, president, Mrs. V. Pow, 1st vice-president, and Mrs. J. D. Galbraith, past president of the West Elgin District, and Mrs G. Young, secretary of the West Elgin Museum. Guests were present from Dutton, Rodney, Crinan and Clachan Institutes.

An interesting program was presented with Mrs. Charles Cooper, present president, in the chair. The meeting opened with the Institute Ode and Mary Stewart Collect. Miss Tena McKillop gave the highlights of the Institute for the past 50 years, relating its activities with the motto "For Home and Country."

Mrs. Harvey Wales of Komoka, past London Area president, was guest speaker. She was introduced by Mrs. Wolfgang Liepmann. She gave an interesting account of the National Convention of the Women's Institutes of Canada which she attended last year in Vancouver, B.C. Mrs. Basil Fisher, West Lorne, favored with two beautiful solos.

Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. T. F. Ripley, Mrs. Neil Nickleson took part in an In Memoriam service, Miss Turner singing an appropriate solo. One minute of silence followed. Mrs. Merrett was pianst throughout the program.

There was an interesting display of antiques in the alcove during the afternoon.

A bounteous lunch was served from a prettily decorated table centred by the anniversary cake. Mrs. Sims and Mrs. Becker poured tea. Mrs. Jon Jewell, Mrs. Philip Willits and Mrs. Winnifrid Liepmann assisted Institute members in serving.

The visiting Institutes expressed their thanks and pleasure at being present.

The food committee included Mrs. P. Schleihauf, Miss T. McKillop, Miss M. Turner, Mrs. Harry Humphries, Mrs. Irene Dymock. The table committee consisted of the food committee and Mrs. V. E. Lemon. Mrs. R. E. Evans and Mrs. Lloyd Butler provided the attractive flower arrangements and looked after antiques. Mrs. Wolfgang Liepmann received the guests. Miss Mima Currie had charge of registration. Mrs. Earl Graham presented special corsages to the members. Mrs. J. Witherden passed out favors to all as they entered. The cake was made by Mrs. T. F. Ripley and iced by Mrs. H. Humphries and Mrs. Walter Cadogan.

At 7.30 the Institute members enjoyed a smorgasbord lunch served by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Peckham. An anniversary cake was provided as a treat by Kiwanis.

On this occasion Mrs. Merrett, charter member, was presented with a copper-tooled planter, the work of Mrs. R. E. Evans.

Messrs. Lemon, Liepmann and Deshpande expressed the appreciation of the men present.

Thanks are due Mr. and Mrs. Doan for their loan of a Hi-Fi and to Mrs. Melani Por for providing records.

Mrs. Cooper, president, and Mrs. Ripley, secretary, deserve a treat deal of credit for working ut the details of this anniversy.



SUBMITTED BY MARY LIEPMAN
DAUGHTER OF MRS CADOGAN

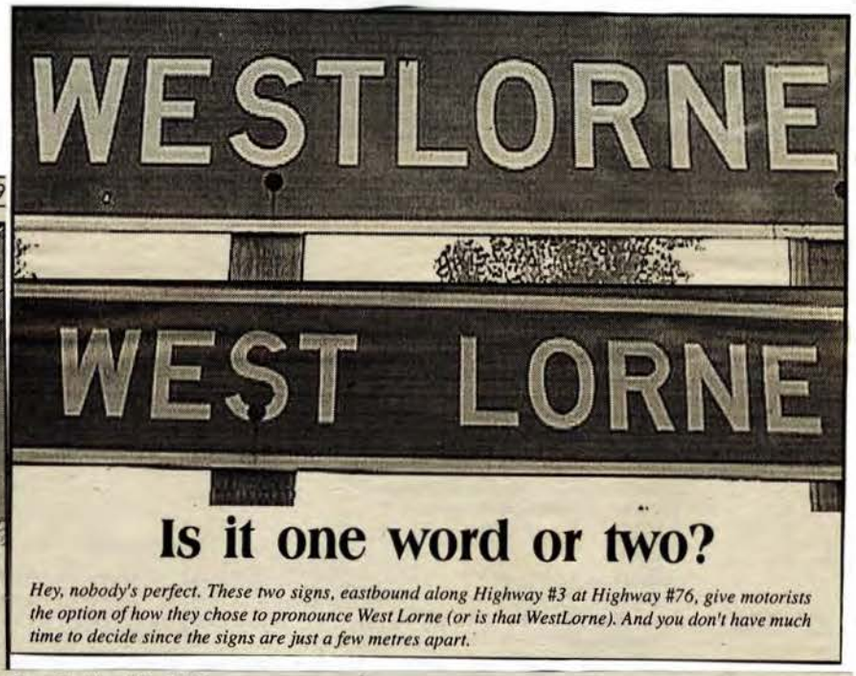
WEST ELGIN
1999

July 26, 1999 - Page 19



# Constant Training

*West Elgin Council is proud of the fact that its employees are constantly keeping up-to-date with their training and they honoured the latest worker to do so. Municipal employee Chad Yokom, left, receives his certificates from West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail for completion of the Electrical and Utilities Safety Association of Ontario Backhoe/Loader Operator course and the Utility Operators Licencing Program course in Water Distribution Systems.*




# Is it one word or two?

*Hey, nobody's perfect. These two signs, eastbound along Highway #3 at Highway #76, give motorists the option of how they chose to pronounce West Lorne (or is that WestLorne). And you don't have much time to decide since the signs are just a few metres apart.*

Page 2 - May 17, 1999



# Mohan Mania

*West Elgin is keeping the tradition alive as producing some of the county's best drivers. Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford/Haldimond, Norfolk Counties held their joint Safety Truck Roadeo for municipal workers on April 28. A total of 56 drivers, including 13 from Elgin County, took part in the day long test of driving knowledge and skills. West Elgin roads employee Tom Mohan took the top spot for all of Elgin County and moved on to the provincial competition where he finished second. Here, Mohan, centre, receives his trophy from West Elgin Roads Superintendent and Elgin Roads Superintendents President Rick Jackson, left, and West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail.*

December 20, 1999 - Page 3

# McPhail wins Elgin County Warden seat

West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail will have another gavel to pound after he was elected Elgin County Warden for 2000 at meeting of County Council members last week.

An eight-year veteran of Elgin County Council, McPhail, who ran against Aylmer Mayor Bob Habkirk, looks forward to the challenge

"My goal as Warden for the year 2000 is straight forward - to stay the course of restructuring," he says. "Tough decisions were made in 1997 when we restructured. The goal now is to continue to implement the restructuring proposal in a manageable way."

McPhail spoke of how council reduced the number of elected officials, downsized staff and made everyone more accountable.

"Most importantly, we found a local solution, one made in Elgin," he says. "It was not imposed on us by a government appointed advisor. In Elgin we have accepted the provincial restructuring challenge."

He adds that an accountable and efficient municipal government is a pledge all councillors must stake their reputation on.

With his political plate already full of a number of responsibilities, McPhail is confident he will be able to take on this new and challenging role.

"Given the recent restructuring policies of Queen's Park, I believe our main goal for 2000 is to promote our unique circumstances in Elgin, to defend our decisions and to stay the course," says McPhail. "We have demonstrated in the past, and will continue to do so in the future, an ability to change when change is required. But that change will be decided locally."

McPhail says he will work towards the redevelopment of Elgin Manor and finding a solution to the archives question.

"But, as Warden, I am only one voice on council, with one vote," he says. "The real work is done by the majority."



*West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail has added Warden to his political resume as he was offically sworn in as Elgin County Warden for 2000. Here, McPhail poses with his family, from left, sons Shawn and Brent, daughter Heather, wife Liz and daughter Nicole.*

# Liberals take Elgin; Harris gets majority

JUNE 7, 1999

**Paul Mayne**
*The Chronicle*

In one of the closest races across the province, Liberal candidate and St. Thomas Mayor Steve Peters ousted Conservative candidate Bruce Smith to take the newly formed riding of Elgin-Middlesex-London.

The race was too close to call and wasn't determined until the final polls were in. When all was said and done, Peters grabbed 20,417 of the 44,201 votes cast in the riding. Bruce Smith followed with 19, 249.

Others garnering votes included NDP candidate Dave LaPointe (3,455), Freedom Party candidate Ray Monteith (405), Green Party candidate John Fisher (391) and Independent Corey Janzen (284).

"It was an exciting evening and a long evening," an exhausted Peters told **The West Elgin Chronicle**. "But I entered this race with one thing in mind and that was to win."

Peters, who will hand in his resignation as St. Thomas Mayor tonight, feels it was his strong reputation of "getting things done" that won him this election.

"My work in St. Thomas and my contact throughout the county helped me tremendously," he says. "I am more than prepared to take on this new role. I know I have a lot to learn and want to get started right away."

Despite the hectic and crazy election night, Peters, along with a his brother and close friend, found time to visit his father's grave. Percy Peters was a former St. Thomas councillor and longtime Liberal supporter.

"It's become a tradition that every election we visit him," says Peters. "He died in 1990 so he never even got to see me become mayor. I know he's pretty proud right about now."

Peters adds among all the congratulatory phone calls, he has already received concerns from his constituents.

"That's what I want for Elgin-Middlesex-London. I want us to have a loud voice when it comes to provincial issues," he says.



*Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP Steve Peters*

"Although the rest of the province may have spoke differently, it's time to get down to the business of running this province."

In the Lambton-Kent-Middlesex riding, which includes the Wardsville, Newbury and Glencoe area, it was another nail-biter as Conservative candidate Marcel Beaubien was re-elected as MPP by defeating Liberal candidate Larry O'Neill by 896 votes (19,561 to 18,665).

Other candidates in the riding included the NDPs Jim Lee (4,161) and Freedom Party candidate Wayne Forbes (1,079).

As far as the province was concerned, it was a strong show of support for the Conservatives and Mike Harris as they took 59 of a possible 103 seats. The Liberals and Dalton McGuinty managed to grab 35 seats, an improvement over the 1995 election when they took 30 seats, but not enough to avoid a Conservative majority.

Howard Hampton and the NDPs may have had the roughest election by managing only nine seats, which may but their party status in jeopardy. Twelve seats are need to keep party status.

In addressing supporters, Harris said he plans to continue with health cuts, welfare crackdown and providing more funding for health care and education,

"That's what makes this province great, it's people," says Harris. "For Ontario, the best is yet to come."

Despite the disappointment, McGuinty says things aren't over yet, in fact it's just beginning.

"This fight is not over," he told supporters. "We fought a fight for all the good reason: good schools; good hospitals; good health care; good education.

"Close to 2 million Ontarians voted Liberal. More than half said they wanted change."

Hampton, however, was a bit more subdued with the election results. He stated that he was happy to have won his home riding of Kenora-Rainy River in Northern Ontario and will stay on as leader of the NDP, despite its worst showing at the polls in more than 40 years.

## Elgin-Middlesex-London

| *219 Polling Stations* | Votes | % |
|---|---|---|
| **Steve Peters - Liberal** | **20,417** | **46.19** |
| Bruce Smith - PC | 19,249 | 43.54 |
| Dave LaPointe - NDP | 3,455 | 7.82 |
| Ray Monteith - Freedom Party | 405 | 0.92 |
| John Fisher - Green Party | 391 | 0.88 |
| Cory Janzen - Independent | 284 | 0.64 |

## Province of Ontario

| *103 Total Seats* | #of seats |
|---|---|
| **Mike Harris - PC** | **59** |
| Dalton McGuinty - Liberal | 35 |
| Howard Hampton - NDP | 9 |

## Lambton-Kent-Middlesex

| 217 Polling Stations | Votes | % |
|---|---|---|
| **Marcel Beaubien - PC** | **19,561** | **45** |
| Larry O'Neill - Liberal | 18,665 | 42.94 |
| Jim Lee - NDP | 4,161 | 9.58 |
| Wayne Forbes - Freedom Party | 1,079 | 2.48 |

# Provincial Election '99

*With a mixture of urban and rural residents, the riding of Elgin-Middlesex-London provides its six candidates with task of balancing the needs of constituents while keeping the promises of its provincial leader. Below, the six candiates all have their say in the Chronicle's election preview.*

## Ontario voters have their say June 3

There are a variety of issues that each political party finds to be the a key factor in the upcoming election. Everything from health care to education, voters will decide June 3.

Locally, West Elgin and surrounding areas will be casting their votes for one of six candidates: John Fisher (Green Party), Cory Janzen (Independent), Dave LaPointe (NDP), Ray Monteith (Freedom Party), Steve Peters (Liberal) and Bruce Smith (PC).

The West Elgin Chronicle has given each candidate the opportunity to let the voters know what issues they feel are important to the residents of Elgin-Middlesex-London.

Now that you know what each candidate stands for, it's time to vote, but your name must be on the List of Voters. If you are qualified to vote and have not received your Notice of Registration card for your current address, you should obtain a Certificate to Vote by 8 p.m this Wednesday (June 2).

If you have recently moved and Canada Post has forwarded your card from your previous address, you should register and vote in the electoral district where you will be residing on election day. In West Elgin, you will vote at the West Elgin Arena between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

You can also be added to the Voters List on election day if you make a statutory declaration and show the following documents to the poll official:

✔one identification document with your name, address and signature (such as a driver's licence), or

✔two identification documents: one with your name and signature and one with your name and address. Some examples would be a health card, hospital card, citizenship card, passport, utility bill, credit card, etc.

## Green Party recognizes earth's values

The Green Party is the political wing of the environmental movement. It recognizes the earth (land, air, water, etc.) as the source of life and of all economic activity.

It is therefore essential that society treats the environment in ways that will sustain mother earth from one generation to the next. Greens believe that certain community actions are required to maintain a healthy economic, social and political system. To encourage citizens to act in positive ways to environment and to each other, the Green Party suggests a tax shift.



*John Fisher*

High taxes on business, wages, bicycles, books, houses and all the 'good' things people need dampens demand, discourages job creation and harms community health and education standards.

Conservatives, Liberals and New Democrats all support the sales and income tax complete with exemptions, rebates and loopholes. If taxes kill jobs, and they do, why did the Conservatives give us the provincial sales tax in stages of three, five, seven and eight per cent? Why did they kill more jobs by giving us the provincial income tax?

Only the Green Party suggest a tax-shift from the 'goods' to the 'bad', like stripped forest, urban sprawl, pollution and its related health costs, waste and criminal activity. These costs to society are currently not factored into the costs of products. Greens want full cost accounting.

Keeping resources artificially cheap (i.e. low taxes) only leads to overuse, land speculation resulting in the push to the suburbs, the car culture and the loss of revenue for social needs like local schools and hospitals.

This tax-shift will encourage positive community actions and penalize harmful actions. A key element in the Green Party platform is the focus on community oriented economic and social involvement and the associated activity. Greens would favour family farms, small business and local decision making.

Greens wants proportional representation in government whereby a certain percentage of the popular vote would translate into seats in Parliament.

Please vote from the heart and elect the candidate that offers incentives for economic growth and social justice based on a healthy environment. Vote Green Party and John Fisher.

## Peters to put needs of the community first

A strong, thoughtful leader, who believes in consensus building. Steve has made, and will make decisions that benefit the greater community.

Steve Peters was first elected Alderman to St. Thomas City Council in 1988. In a landslide victory, 1991 saw him elected the youngest mayor in the history of St. Thomas. His constituents spoke loudly and clearly when he was re-elected mayor in both '94 and '97.



*Steve Peters*

Steve first faced a community that was gripped in economic crisis. He ushered in an attitude of increased communication both in the city and the outlying county areas.

St. Thomas is now the envy of Ontario municipalities as a leader in attracting new business, residential development, and industry.

"Public service is about being open and accessible, and encouraging input and ideas from the community," says Peters. "I have spent the last eight years putting a personal touch on politics, taking my work to the streets, as part of the community I serve. I know the people and the issues, and deal with those on a daily basis."

Steve believes in listening and being accountable to those he represents. "I believe in balance. My experiences have taught me that you must balance the needs of the community with fiscal responsibility. That is how you continue to provide and deliver the services that citizens want and deserve.

"This is where the Harris government has erred. There has been no consideration for the human costs involved. I am not opposed to change, but change should occur with thought and consultation. We must look at how our actions today are going to effect the people tomorrow."

This election is about respect. It is about how we live and where we live. This election is about how we as a community take care of each other. It is about protecting the integrity of health care services and maintaining a first-class education system for both rural and urban Ontario students.

On June 3, the voters of Elgin-Middlesex-London have a very clear choice. "I am asking you to help me put the people of our communities first by supporting 'The People's Campaign'."

## LaPointe to stear clear of American-style health care

Allow me to introduce myself as the NDP candidate for Elgin-Middlesex-London. My wife Donna and I live in St. Thomas with our two children, ages six and eight.

My community involvement includes the Presidency of the Elgin-Middlesex-London NDP Riding Association, Recording Secretary of CAW Local 1520, First Vice-President of the United Way Board of Directors (St. Thomas), and an executive member of the St.Thomas and District Labour Council. I find the volunteer work I do for Christmas Care of St. Thomas very rewarding.



*Dave LaPointe*

I am running in this election because I feel Ontarians have had it with Tory cuts and Liberal flip-flops. Working families and retirees need MPPs who will fight for them. Only the NDP will roll back tax cuts for the six per cent of Ontarians with taxable incomes over $80,000 per year, and this will generate $1.5 billion dollars in revenue.

In our first year of office we will stop the move to American-style for-profit health care and home care. We'll guarantee assessment by trained staff of all emergency cases within 15 minutes of entering the hospital.

We will cut university and college tuition fees by 10 per cent, restore rent control, build affordable housing and help the homeless rebuild their lives. We will restore worker protection laws and get tough on polluters by hiring 500 new environmental officers to inspect, monitor and enforce environmental regulations. We will keep these six commitments without raising the deficit a single cent.

I believe in an Ontario where everyone is given a chance to succeed and no one is left behind -- an Ontario where children don't have to sell chocolate bars to pay for basic school supplies, and where qualified young people can go to college or university without mortgaging their future.

I believe in a province where we can all count on quality emergency health care when we need it. Life in Ontario can be better for all its citizens - and I will do everything I can to make that happen.

## Smith's says children should never settle for second best

**Name:** Bruce Smith
**Riding:** Elgin-Middlesex-London
**Age:** 37
**Family:** Married
**Occupation:** Planner

It has been a great privilege and honour for me to play an integral role in the reform of the education system in Ontario since being elected in Ontario in June of 1995.

In my opinion, the children of Ontario should never have to settle for anything less than the best. As Parliamentary Assistance to the Minister of Education and Training, I met with and listened to students, individual parents and parent groups, school councils, teachers and community groups to ensure a clear plan was put in place to improve the quality of our children's education.



*Bruce Smith*

A rigorous curriculum, report card that parents can read and understand, standard province-wide tests, and more teacher time in the classroom are all part of this plan.

I am dedicated and committed to ensuring that all education reforms are to the benefit of the children in this province in order that they are prepared to find meaningful jobs and live fulfilling lives for future generations.

I believe that the people of Elgin-Middlesex-London share my opinion in that they want the very best for their children and families. On June 3, I would appreciate the support of the voters of Elgin-Middlesex-London in order to make Ontario a better place to work, live and raise our families.

# WEST ELGIN COUNCIL 2000



## Who's In Charge?

*The Thames Valley District School Board passed the reigns of a number of its principals to local business and community leaders last week. The 'Principal for a Day' program was held across the province. Here, WESS principal Martha Foster hands over some of her daily paperwork to County Warden and West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail who had his hands full for the day.* APR. 17/00

MAY 15





## Mohan Can!

*West Elgin roads employee Tom Mohan continued his domination behind the wheel at the Association of Ontario Road Superintendents Safety Truck Roadeo competition, finishing first in Elgin County for the second year in a row. Fellow employee Gary Long finished third. Mohan then took the overall title among the four competing counties (Middlesex, Elgin, Oxford and Haldmand-Norfolk) and will move on to the provincial finals in St. Mary's September 14. Here, Mohan, centre, receives his trophies from West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail, left, and Road Superintendent Rick Jackson.*

## Not much competition yet for local elections

The run for Mayor of West Elgin will now be decided by the voters as West Lorne resident Joe Fischer has tossed his hat into the ring for the Nov. 13 municipal election. The former reeve of the Village of West Lorne and past councillor and deputy reeve of the former Municipality of Aldborough filed his intent to run against incumbent Duncan McPhail late last week.




New to the election scene is Tom Jones, who filed last week for the position of Deputy Mayor. He will be running against incumbent Graham Warwick. The three other councillor positions have no challengers as of late Friday afternoon. In these races the incumbents Mike Mooser (Ward 2), Trudy Balint (Ward 3) and Brad Bandeen (Ward 1) would be acclaimed.

In Dutton/Dunwich, so far there are no races to speak of. Current Mayor Rien Van Brenk, Deputy Mayor Bonnie Vowel and Councillor Elizabeth Kornaker (Ward 1) have all filed their intent to run again. Newcomer Fred Groch has decided to run in Ward 2, where two positions need to be filled. Current councillors Leta West and Peter Hentz have chosen not to run again.

Nominations to run in West Elgin or Dutton/Dunwich must be received at the respective municipal office by this Friday (Oct. 13) at 5 p.m. 2000

## Knutson paints Elgin red, again; Chrétien wins third majority

DEC. 2000

In one of the closest races in southwestern Ontario, Liberal incumbent Gar Knutson was able to hold on to his seat by just over four per cent, to win his third term in office. Knutson finished with 17,080 votes (40.83%), ahead of Canadian Alliance candidate Bill Walters with 15,502 votes (37.05%).

On the national front, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien became the first Canadian leader in 55 years to win three consective majority governments.

In fact, the Liberal government added seven additional seats (now with 172) from when they called the election six weeks ago. The Canadian Alliance gained slightly picking up nine additional seats to return to Ottawa as the Official Opposition.



*Gar Knutson*

The Bloc Quebecois hold 37 seats with the NDP and PC just barely holding onto official party status with 13 and 12 seats respectively.

### Elgin-Middlesex-London

With 229/229 polls reporting the election results are as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Gar Knutson, Lib** | **17,202** | **(41.02%)** |
| Bill Walters, Alliance | 15,496 | (36.95%) |
| Delia Reiche, PC | 6,080 | (14.49%) |
| Tim McCallum, NDP | 2,319 | (5.52%) |
| John Fisher, Green | 431 | (1.03%) |
| Ken DeVries, CHP | 407 | (0.97%) |



## McPhail wins second term as Elgin County Warden

West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail will once again assume the mantle of power in Elgin County as he was elected to a second term as warden.

Aylmer Mayor Bob Habkirk also ran for the warden's seat.

McPhail, who recently won his second term as mayor of West Elgin, is looking to continue working on the number of issues that county council began over the past year. Some of the issues McPhail hopes to see come to fruition include:



*Duncan McPhail*

✔beginning of the OPP policing contract and police services board.

✔breaking ground for the new Elgin Manor.

✔taking over ambulance service as of Jan. 1.

✔starting an archives for Elgin County.

✔working with an agriculture commodity group in conjunction with county council.

"There's going to be so much going on in the next year that I wanted to see these projects through," says McPhail.

Despite his political experience, McPhail is still aware that each new term in office holds its own surprises.

"I remember last year when I was elected warden I told council that I didn't know what to expect," he says. "And after one year on the job you still don't know what to expect as warden. The county continues to move and reshape itself and you have to change with it and make the best of it."

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS 2000

# CIVIC ELECTION 2000

## The Municipality of West Elgin Council



**Duncan McPhail**
*Mayor*



**Graham Warwick**
*Deputy Mayor*



**Brad Bandeen**
*Ward 1 Councillor*



**Michael Mooser**
*Ward 2 Councillor*



**Trudy Balint**
*Ward 3 Councillor*

# Some familiar, some new faces on local councils as voters speak up

The voters of West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich hit the polls last Monday to choose who would lead them for the next three years. And there will be some new faces to remember - in Dutton/Dunwich at least.

The Municipality of West Elgin, however, will see the same faces for the next three years, minus Councillors Paul Gangle and Bob Coles who chose not to run. The current council of seven, due to amalgamation, will be reduced to five.

Duncan McPhail will keep his mayor's chair after defeating Joe Fischer (954-685), Graham Warwick will stay on as deputy mayor with a defeat of Tom Jones (898-701) and Councillor Brad Bandeen will continue on as Ward 1 Councillor after defeating Terry Carson (522-203).

Councillors Michael Mooser (Ward 2) and Trudy Balint (Ward 3) were both acclaimed.

"There is reason out there that indicates there is a comfort level out there," says McPhail. "But we all know that the homework doesn't end. We all have three years under our belts together and we have to grow on the success we've had to date."

The Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich will have two new faces for sure. John Yokom (363) and Rosemary Sealey (290) will serve Ward 2, defeating candidates Robert Stone (259), Fred Groch (193) and John Gillett (83).

In Ward 1, newcomer Gerry Leeson defeated incumbent Elizabeth Kornaker (227-223), however, a recount was scheduled for this past weekend.

For the position of deputy mayor it was the incumbent Bonnie Vowel defeating Hugh MacGinnis (803-328). Mayor Rien Van Brenk was acclaimed.

"It's always good to get some new faces and new blood on council every now and then," says Van Brenk. "A lot has happened over the last three years and I'm prepared to work hard with our new council."

## The Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich Council



**Rien Van Brenk**
*Mayor*



**Bonnie Vowel**
*Deputy Mayor*



**Gerry Leeson**
*Ward 1 Councillor*



**Rosemary Sealey**
*Ward 2 Councillor*



**John Yokom**
*Ward 2 Councillor*

The West Elgin Chronicle

### Liz McPhail passes away

The communities of Elgin County are in mourning after the unexpected passing away of a cherished woman in the community.

Liz McPhail, 49 years old, wife of Elgin County Warden and West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail passed away on Tuesday June 26, after being diagnosed with cancer earlier in the month.

McPhail, known for her wit and charm was also a well-known hairdresser in the community of Rodney and was also a common sight at numerous community events and functions held within the county.

She is survived by her husband and children, Brent, Shawn, Heather and Nicole. Close relatives live throughout the province and United States.

The funeral was held on Friday afternoon where she was laid to rest at Purcell-McLean Cemetery.

2001

## Council praise work of former councillor Coles

DEC 2000

West Elgin Council honoured Bob Coles, one of the areas longest running community activists, with a number of kinds words at council last week.

Coles has been involved in the community, whether it be as a councillor or member of a local committee for 57 years. He chose not to run this past municipal election but remains on the policing committee.

"It was very annoying when he was right - and he was always right," joked Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick, "Thanks to Bob for passing his knowledge on to us younger people."

"Bob needs to be honoured for his long devotion to the area and he'll be missed on council," said Councillor Mike Mooser. "With all the good service he's done he'll be remembered for years to come."

"I met Bob three years ago and he was just full of knowledge and wisdom," says Councillor Trudy Balint. "I hope I can take some of that with me for the next three years."

"It's going to be tough to fill Bob's shoes for the Village of Rodney," says Councillor Brad Bandeen "But not to worry, I know where he lives."

Council plans to honour Coles at a more official ceremony at a later date.

"It's been an honour to sit on council these past years and I wish everyone the best in the years to come," said Coles.

# Is council forgetting West Lorne?

According to members of the West Lorne Business Association (WLBA), the Village of West Lorne is lacking when it comes to services such as street cleaning, snow removal and weed control.

Members of the association met with West Elgin Council last week to discuss the matters they feel are taking away from the success of local businesses.

"If you consider the half full/half empty scenario, we're the half full kind of people," says Tom Jones, Chairman of the WLBA, of the members polite approach at the meeting. "So you can imagine what the other ones are saying."

Also on their list of concerns were updating street lights in the downtown core, the on-going problem with the traffic lights, changing the sign on the municipal building to promote unity, and the hiring of a promoter for the West Elgin area.

"There seems to be more garbage up town than before," says Jones. "It seems a year ago we didn't notice it as much but there's now more garbage and sludge. When you walk off the curb it's there. We're not here to point fingers and lay blame, but it [West Lorne] needs more maintenance."

West Elgin hires a company from London once a year to clean the main roads in Rodney and West Lorne at a cost of $3,500.

The association also noted the garbage

*See 'Improving' Page 2*

# Cops nab $1 million in pot

Elgin OPP, in conjunction with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, netted $1 million in marijuana plants from West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich during a two day blitz of the area.

Entitled 'Project Chopper,' this drug eradication program targets local farm fields for marijuana plants. A military helicopter assisted in this latest effort, radioing to ground troops of plant locations.

"You'll find people planting them in corn crops figuring they'll be hidden," says Elgin OPP Community Services Constable Dennis Harwood. "Not only are they producing an illegal drug, but farmers are losing a substantial amount of crops. And that's money out of their pockets."

Harwood encourages farmers and local residents to keep a watchful eye out for suspicious cars in the area, especially those seen in remote areas near farmers fields.

"And there's a spin-off to this as well," adds Harwood. "They're already attempting to grow marijuana illegally, so what's to stop them from stealing farm equipment, ATVs or even break into your home."

This latest bust brought in 1,000 plants, each with a street value of $1,000.

*See OPP Briefs Page 2* SEPT 25/00

# Councillors approve 25% pay hike

DEC. 11 2000

## *To split councillor savings with taxpayers*

In one of the first motions of the new West Elgin Council, councillors Mike Mooser, Trudy Balint and Brad Bandeen voted themselves a 25% pay hike for the new three year term. Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick will see a 23% raise while Mayor Duncan McPhail will bring in an additional 12%. All will receive a $30 increase per meeting.

The additional money comes from the savings of two less councillors this time around. Council decided to split the savings between themselves and the taxpayers.

"I think we have to have an increase for our meetings," says Mooser. "We've had no increase over the last three years. We now have a bigger area to cover. I'm not in here to get rich but you have to look at reality with the way things are set up."

"If you do nothing to keep council current by moving this [raise] along over the years, you're leaving some council in the future way behind and leaving them with an increase that will be hard to justify," says McPhail.

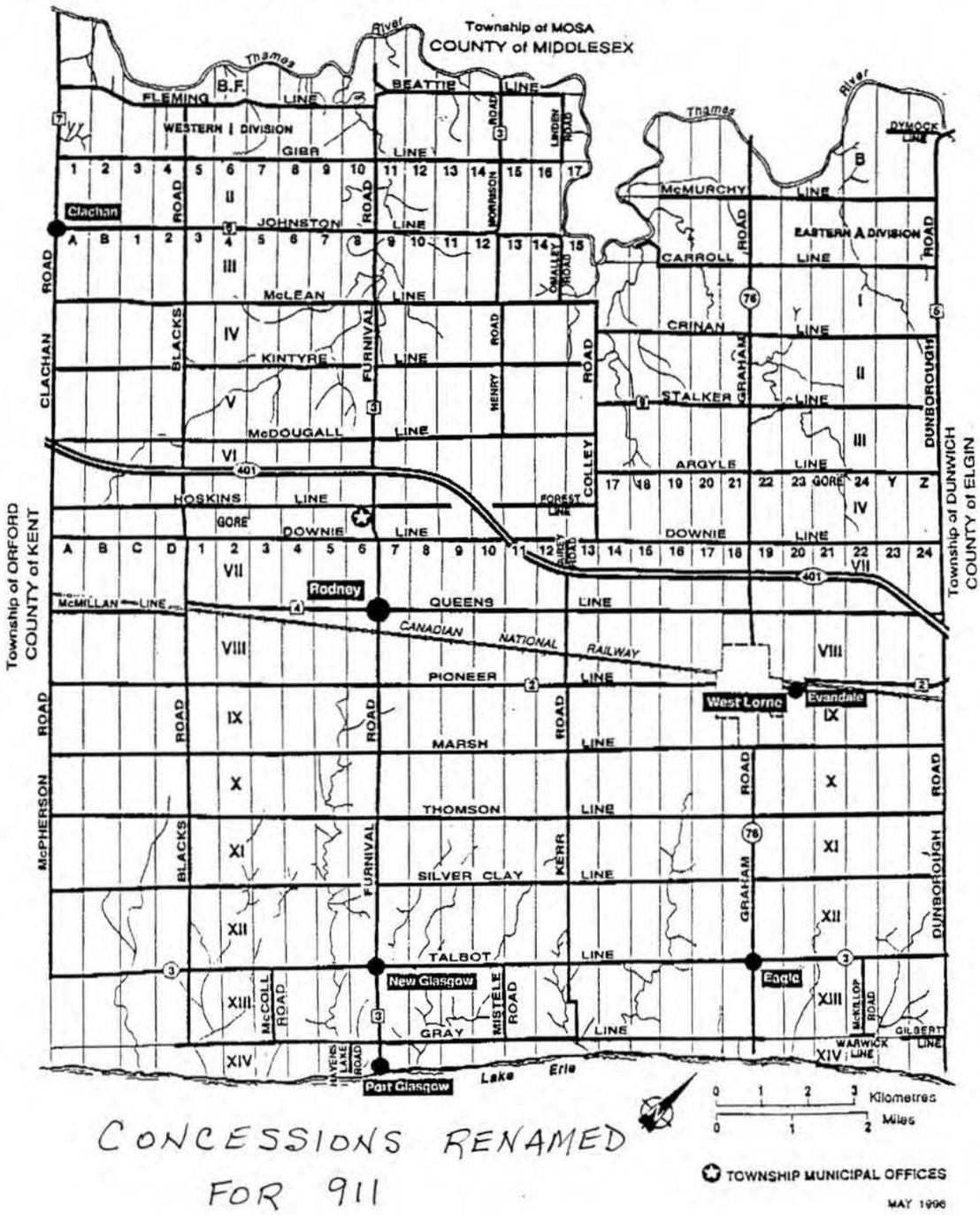
Along with an increase in regular meeting pay, increases were also made for committee meetings, special meetings and mileage.

## West Elgin Council remuneration

| | | From | To |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Regular meetings:** | | | |
| | *Councillors* | $120 | $150 |
| | *Deputy Mayor* | $130 | $160 |
| | *Mayor* | $250 | $280 |
| **Special meetings:** | *All Council* | $85 | $100 |
| | | (Three hours or less) | |
| | *All Council* | $120 | $150 |
| | | (Three hours or more) | |
| **Committee meetings:** | *All Council* | $85 | $100 |
| **Mileage (per km):** | *All Council* | 30¢ | 35¢ |

# Township of ALDBOROUGH

WEST ELGIN
2000




CONCESSIONS RENAMED
FOR 911

# OHS offer $1.45 for West Elgin utility

*By Paul Mayne*
*The Chronicle*

The numbers are finally in and now comes the hard part - the decision.

West Elgin Council made the figures public last week in regards to the potential sale of their hydro utility to Ontario Hydro Services (OHS). The offer came in at $1,450,000 to take over the approximately 1,250 customers in the Villages of Rodney and West Lorne, very close to what they expected after getting a financial analysis completed by BDO Dunwoody.

The municipality, like others across the province, are "in somewhat of a dilemma" according to West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail. A decision must be made, and it won't be an easy one.

Because of Bill 35, introduced by the provincial government, all municipally-owned utilities must either incorporate under commercial/business legislation or sell the utility. This must be completed by this November.

"We've gone into the market place and gathered up as much information we could get our hands on," says McPhail.

"Our situation is unique because we share with the water treatment plant. We've had a lot of discussions around the table. This is not an issue council has taken lightly."

The offer from OHS would include everything from the trucks, building, poles, wires, etc. The current West Elgin employees would be hired on by OHS with their seniority honoured as well as a higher pay rate and a better benefit and retirement package.

## Shedding light

**Who:** Ontario Hydro Services (OHS).
**What:** Bidding to purchase hydro services.
**Where:** The Municipality of West Elgin
**How much:** $1,450,000
**Why:** Bill 35 states that all municipality-owned utilities must either incorporate or sell.
**Decision:** West Elgin Council must make their decision by the end of this month.
**Deadline:** November, 2000.

Plans would be for West Elgin to be serviced out of Strathroy and Chatham. OHS also guarantees rates will be frozen, but McPhail is skeptical.

"Take that with a grain of salt," he says. "In all honesty, the possibility for increasing hydro rates is out there. I don't think we're going to escape that."

The Ontario Energy Board will be setting the rates the utilities can charge.

Should council decide to sell their utility, they would avoid a 33 per cent Capital Transfer Tax on the value of the utility. Should they choose to sell after the November deadline they would face the tax, somewhere in the neighbourhood of $500,000.

"I'm not in favour of selling," says Councillor Mike Mooser. "The instant money sounds great but in three years down the road your money is gone and your utility is gone. It's a one-time gain for a longtime loss. You know the money is going to be gone.

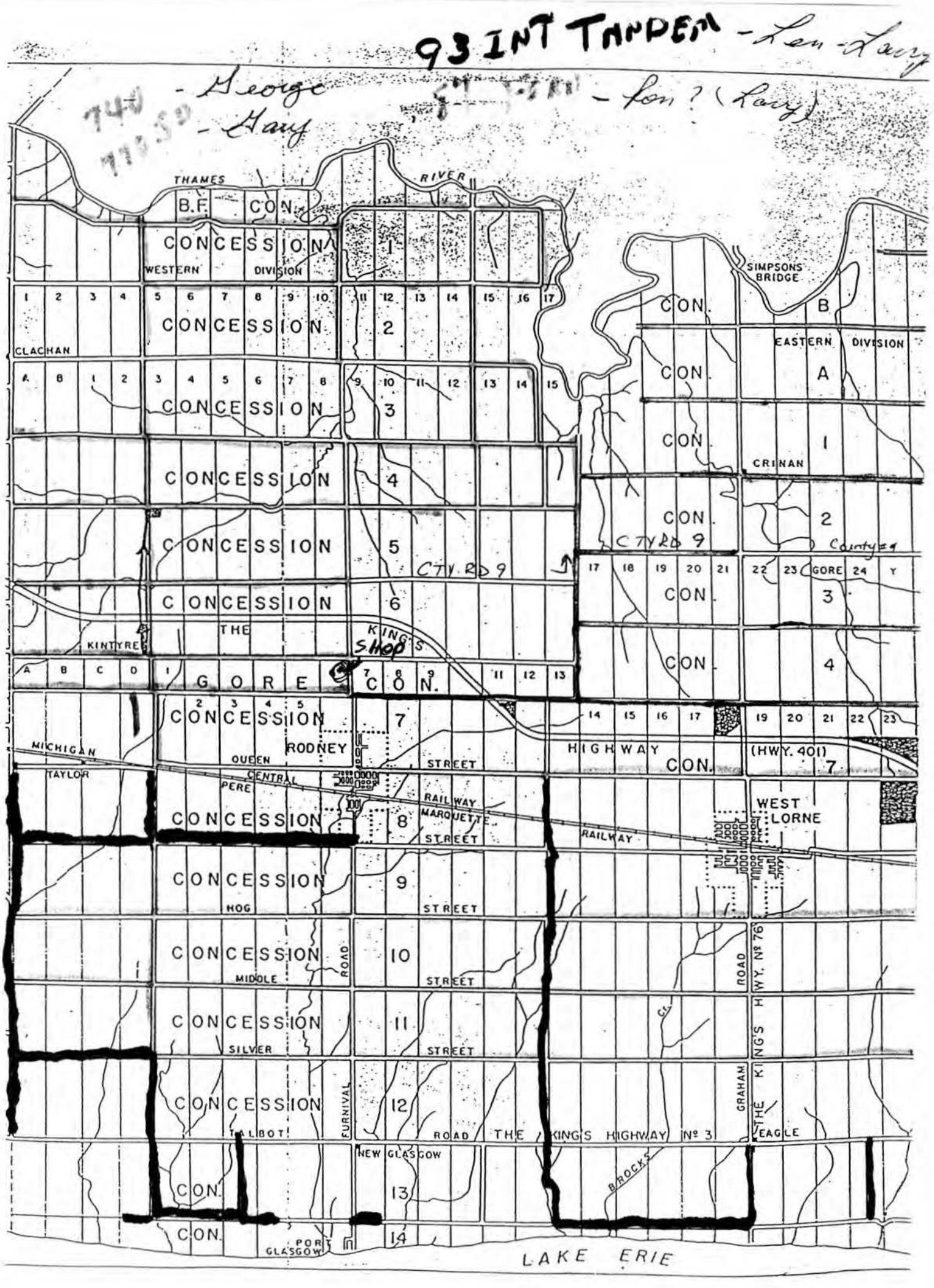
"I believe we can do it on our own and be profitable at it. We gave a lot of options. It's going to be tough at first but we can do it."

With the option of retaining the utility, a financial analysis revealed that West Elgin could see a profit level of approximately $27,800 in the first year, with close to $425,000 profit over a 10 year period.

"There's a new way to do business and, if we decide to do it on our own, we do

*See 'Major' Page 3*

MAY 2000


93 INT TANDEM - Len - Lary
74 - George
77 - Gary
- Lon? (Lary)
THAMES RIVER
B.F. CON.
CONCESSION I
WESTERN DIVISION
SIMPSONS BRIDGE
CON. B
EASTERN DIVISION
CON. A
CON. 1
CRINAN
CON. 2
CTY RD 9
County #9
CON. 3
CON. 4
CONCESSION 2
CLACHAN
CONCESSION 3
CONCESSION 4
CONCESSION 5
CTY RD 9
CONCESSION 6
THE KINGS SHOP
KINTYRE
GORE
CON. 7
CONCESSION 7
RODNEY
MICHIGAN
QUEEN STREET
HIGHWAY CON. 7 (HWY. 401)
TAYLOR
CENTRAL PERE RAILWAY
MARQUETTE STREET
CONCESSION 8
WEST LORNE
RAILWAY
CONCESSION 9
HOG STREET
CONCESSION 10
MIDDLE ROAD
STREET
HWY. Nº 76
KING'S
CONCESSION 11
SILVER STREET
CONCESSION 12
TALBOT
FURNIVAL ROAD
THE KINGS HIGHWAY Nº 3
GRAHAM
THE EAGLE
NEW GLASGOW
BROCKS
CON. 13
CON. 14
PORT GLASGOW
LAKE ERIE

# WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



# TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY

## VOLUME 5 - 1994-1998

COMPLETED BY Leola Lawrence

AN 2010-26

# TABLE OF CONTENTS


| | PAGE # |
|---|---|
| BUSINESS + INDUSTRY... | 1 - 21 |
| CURRENT EVENTS... | 22 - 93 |
| EDUCATION ... | 94 - 111 |
| HEALTH + WELFARE ... | 112 - 120 |
| SERVICE CLUBS ... | 121 - 136 |
| SOCIAL ... | 137 - 147 |
| SPORTS... | 148 - 154 |
| WEST LORNE W. I. | 155 - 162 |
| ELGIN W. I. | 163 - 169 |

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 1995

# Krebsz celebrates 20 years in business

By Ruth Ferguson

It's hard to believe that 20 years have passed since Konrad and Rosalie Krebsz opened their jewelry store in West Lorne.

Formerly Dempsey's Jewellery and originally located in the Sears store, Krebsz' have been at their present location at 172 Main Street for the past 15 years.

Over the years, Rosalie says that they have been blessed with very loyal and dedicated staff members. Erie Bird and Linda McCann were two of the original staffers, with Jannette Fisher, Mary Rose, Lou Rushmere and Chris Kirschner joining over the years. Currently, July Begin and Marg Varga are on staff. "They've bcome like family," said Rosalie.

Shortly after opening the business, Rosalie began studying by correspondence to earn her Graduate Gemnologist degree. She also learned a lot by attending seminars offered by the Jewellery Association.

Owning a jewelry store seems to be fate for Rosalie. She remembers that at the age of 10, she took apart her mother's necklace and redesigned it.

While traditional pieces are timeless, jewelry, like fashion, does follows trends with colors changing with the seasons and styles changing to match a person's age.

Because of this, stores have to be careful when they make their purchases but Rosalie says that it is very refreshing to order the spring and summer stock on a snowy winter day.

Over the years, Rosalie has learned what the area wants and needs. Jewelry stores have to cater to the differing needs of their clients which also means carrying items in various price ranges.

Jewelry prices fluctuate according to market prices, especially gold and silver. A strand of pearls that cost $100 in 1975 would now cost about $800, depending on the quality.

Rosalie is always on the lookout for new ideas for displays and designs. Crystal, silver and clocks remain good gift ideas.

Jewelry appraisal clinics are a relatively new service which was started in order to meet changes in today's society. With the increasing cost of jewelry as well as rising crime, having an accurate appraisal for insurance purposes is a must. Heirloom and antique jewelry also need up-to-date appraisals to ensure the value of the items is accurate.

Krebsz Jewellery provides many services with most of their business being jewelry repairs. They provide free estimates on repairs as well as checking claws and cleaning jewelry free of charge.

Watch repairs, engraving and ear piercing are also available. Krebsz' recently hosted their third on-site jewelry appraisal clinic.

Free gift wrapping is provided and a layaway plan is offered.

An interesting service provided is custom designing of jewelry and redesigning of old jewelry. This is a satisfying aspect of the business because it allows people to update an old style to something they are comfortable with and will wear.

As a guest speaker for various groups, Rosalie has been happy to share her knowledge of the jewelry industry.

Personal service is very important to this small town business. "We look after our customers afterwards, too," said Rosalie.



**Two decades in business: Rosalie and Konrad Krebsz, celebrating 20 years in business. (photo submitted)**

**February 8, 1995**

February 27, 1995 -



***Rebecca Skeldoch of the Sears outlet in West Lorne held a cake decorating workshop last Saturday. The store now stocks a large selection of novelty and large square cake pans available for rental. The fee is $2 for two days and there is something for all occassions. Cake decorating kits are also available at the store. For more information or to reserve a pan, call 768-1400.***

***(K. Robinet)***

# "Cherub's Delight" opens in Downtown West Lorne

February 22, 1995

By Ruth Ferguson

A brand new business opened in downtown West Lorne on Monday, Feb. 20. Cherub's Delight, owned by Joy and Rob Cozzolino, offers something new to people in the area.

Ice cream is meant to be the feature of this restaurant. To start with, they will offer five basic flavors: strawbery, chocolate, french vanilla, cherry cheescake, and rum and raisin. By summer they hope to have at least 15 different, delicious flavors to choose from.

You can satisfy your sweet tooth with a banana split, sundae, an ice cream float, or a simple hand-scooped cone.

The menu will also offer homemade fries, burgers, sausages, and other typical menu items.

The Cozzolinos have always wanted to open their own business, and after 10 years of talking about it, finally made the plunge.

Having lived in West Lorne only since September, moving here from Camden East, they kept eying the empty coffee shop location and decided around Christmas to make their dream come true.

The restuarant will be operated by the Cozzolino family with Kathy Thorpe as the only other employee.

Located on the northwest corner of Graham and Main streets, Cherub's Delight will be open Mondays through Fridays from 6 am to 10 pm, Saturdays from 8 am to 8 pm and closed on Sundays. Summer hours will be determined in the future.

Take out is available by calling 768-2870.



Joy Cozzolino

# CAERAN offers environmentally & people friendly products

BY: KAREN ROBINET

The name may sound a little strange, but Carol Crump of West Lorne says she likes what it stands for.

Crump recently began selling CAERAN products, which is a short form for Caring And Environmentally Responsible and Nurturing.

As someone with sensitive skin and allergies, Crump says she had been a customer of the CAERAN company before deciding to try selling the product.

The company itself is five years old, and offers consumers a range of environmentally friendly products for both personal use and for cleaning up at home or work.

CAERAN is actually the brainchild of a Brantford woman who decided to start her own company after tracing her own son's allergies to the detergent she was using. After managing to pinpoint detergent as the source of irritation, CAERAN's founder was unable to get the large companies to divulge the ingredients of the detergent.

Working with an environmental chemist, they came up with a product which is effective and phosphate and nitrate free. According to Crump, most detergents - even those which claim to be environmentally safe - contain chemicals which are actually harmful. Most phosphate free detergents do contain harmful nitrates which mobilize the heavy metals in fresh water bodies such as the Great Lakes. "I've learned so much it's scary," says Crump, who insists she's not an environmentalist, but is concerned about doing her bit to protect the environment. She is especially adamant about eliminating bleach from people's stock of cleaning ingredients. "Bleach is really scary," she says.

And, as the mother of Sarah, Crump ensure the quality and integrity of the products. "There is a limited number of products - about 30," says Crump, "theyr'e growing little by little."

While people can order the products through the mail, Crump says it's is better to order from a representative to avoid the shipping charges. While the cost of the products is somewhat higher than you would expect to pay in a store, Crump says the products last significantly longer because, "you just need a little bit." And, some of the products can be diluted by as much as 50 per cent.

While some customers have commented that products like the detergent don't get as sudsy as others, Crump points out that they are just as effective at getting laundry clean.

The products are made in Canada, with no animal testing, and break down quickly in the environment, which makes them especially good for those using septic systems, says Crump.

CAERAN has been featured on several television shows, such as W5, 1 O'Clock Live and on the Women's Network. It is registered with the Better Business Bureau, and Crump says larger quantities are available for commercial customers. The products are in use at some daycares and nursing homes, she says.

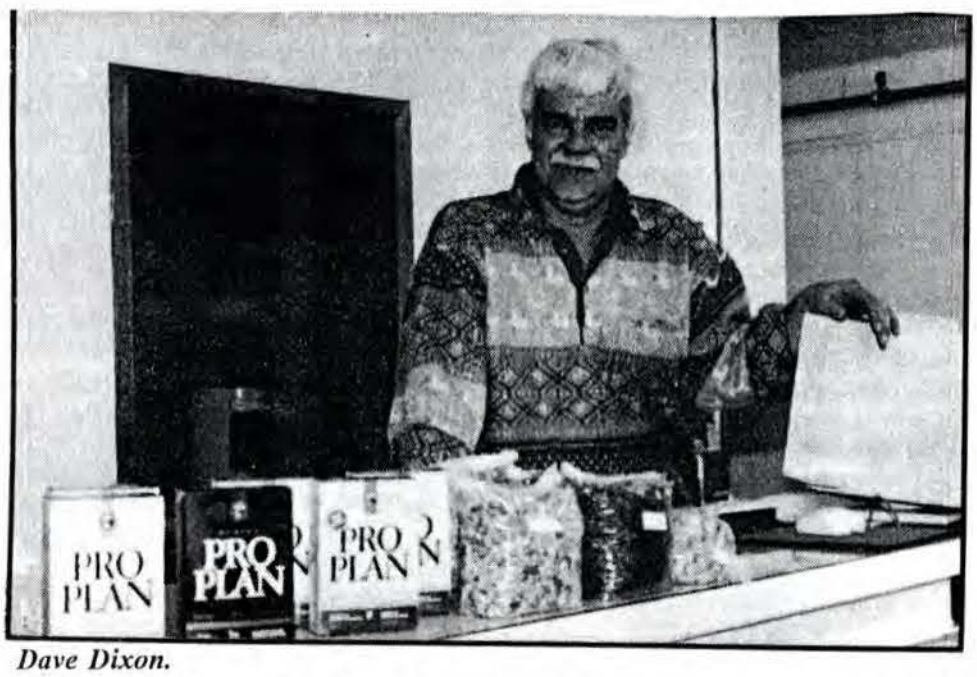
"I'm anxious to get the word out here," says Crump, adding that, "I think West Elgin is ready for this product."

She is willing to do home demonstrations for people who are interested in the product, and if there is enough interest, she will host a demonstration herself. Future plans include becoming involved with the company's special fundraising program for charities.

For a free catalogue or to find out more about CAERAN, call 768-1578.



*Carol Crump with daughter Sarah.*




*Dave Dixon.*

# New business offers full line of animal feed

BY: KAREN ROBINET

After spending the past year and a half servicing the area as an outside salesman for Ralston Purina, Dave Dixon has recently opened up his first feed outlet.

Dixon Feed Service opened February 1 in the old Co-op building in West Lorne, and already, Dixon says he's pleased with the response he's had from the community.

Dixon is still on the road selling bulk feed to farmers, but the local outlet will be staffed by two local people, including Pat Wilson, as well as Dixon and his wife Colleen.

While this is his first taste of owning a business, the London-based Dixon says he has been, "in sales for a number of years," the last 15 of which have been spent in agricultural sales.

He says that Purina feed is a very good product, and Dixon offers a full line of feed and seed for virtually every bird and animal imaginable. "Some of my customers have emus," he says, adding that he can also supply monkey chow, as well as feed for the more traditional pets and farm animals.

In the store, feed is sold by the bag or in bulk, and Martin's pet foods, as well as Regal products are available. Purina's Pro Plan line is also in stock and is especially popular with breeders and kennels.

The store is also handling some hardware products, such as gloves, buckets, shovels etc., and Dixon says he hopes to move into animal health products as well. He is open to suggestions and says he hopes that customers will let him know what they're looking for so he can stock it for them.

The store is currently open Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 768-1570.

FEB. 20, 1995

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 1995

# JC's Country Treasures offers craft and gift ideas

By Ruth Ferguson

JC's Country Treasures has been at its new location at 225 Graham Street in West Lorne for about one month now. Owner Judy Deacon originally started the business in Rodney in Septemeber 1994 but moved to the West Lorne location in order to have a smaller, more "cozy" store.

From Ridgetown, Judy used to work out of her house but soon outgrew this space.

JC's Country Treasures offers wreaths, swags, and flower arrangements. Tole painting, and tole painting supplies are also available.

Great gift ideas such as stuffed country animals, scented and non-scented candles, and dried and silk flowers are stocked.



Judy Deacon at JCs Country Treasures

Custom orders for parties, are taken. Judy also does home parties.

An estitician by trade, she found that there was not a great demand for this service. She decided to take a small business course through Canada Employment and began her business from there.

Her dad had always wanted to have his own business and she likes to stock items that he might have had in his own shop like wood shelves.

Along with the shelving units, she carries other wood items such as plaques and figurines.

Judy also does grapevine windows, bowties, etc.

The wood shelving units are sold both finished and unfinished. Judy will finish the shelves to customer's wishes as well.

There are monthly draws at this new business. Each month is a new item. A ballot is given with each $10 purchase. Names from previous months will remain in the draw until the end of the year.

Winter hours at JC's Country Treasures are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 10 to 5, closed Wednesdays, Fridays 10 to 6, Saturday from 10 to 3, and closed Sundays. Summer hours will be determined later.

If you have any questions about what Judy has to offer, call JC's Country Treasures at 768-2502.

# Realty office offers wide range of services

April 3, 1995

BY: KAREN ROBINET

With the opening of the new Land Office Inc. in Dutton, broker/owner Lynne Waram says she is thrilled to be fulfilling a lifetime dream.

"It's something I've always wanted to do," says Waram, who gave up a good job with Victoria Hospital to enter real estate three years ago. In February, she received her broker's licence and forged right ahead, opening Land Office Inc. on March 1.

The new company is a member of the Multiple Listing Service (MLS), which gives customers access to a wide network of other agents and customers. "We can provide up to date information," on listings, says Waram, and an in-house computer program allows customers to make an automatic offer on a home.

Waram says that honesty and integrity are the two key components at Land Office, and she says that all members of the sales team must also adhere to those ideals.

Sales associate Bob Hatch is credited with the unique concept of the company. "In the Southwestern States they didn't have real estate offices, they had land offices," he said, "and I thought it sounded like a good name." Despite a little difficulty getting the name approved, Hatch says the concept has since met with a lot of positive feedback from the community.

As well as the innovative signs, Land Office also managed to come up with a one-of-a-kind phone number; 762-0001, which Hatch tracked down manually.

The office decor also reflects the Southwestern theme, and Waram says she's, "really pleased with the way it turned out." She adds that, "we want to behave in a professional manner in a professional setting."

And, the concept seems to be working. "We've had a lot of satisifed customers and made a lot of new friends," she says. Waram adds that one of the reasons she wanted to work in real estate is because, "I enjoy people and working with people."

While the company is still in its infancy, Waram says that, "long-term, we would certainly entertain the idea of branch offices," elsewhere. "Who knows what the future holds?" she asks.

While she says the real estate market is still depressed, Waram says that lately, "there have definitely been more calls and showings." She adds that, "people are still a little apprehensive and I don't think that's it's interest rates," holding them back. "It's a question of security in their own jobs and future," she suspects.

In most cases, Waram says a real estate agent is working on behalf of the person selling a home; not the person buying. However, that type of arrangement is possible. Land Office Inc. offers sellers a written service warranty which outlines what the company will offer and allows the customer to "fire them," if the services are not provided. They include:

- Providing a sign within 24 hours
- Providing a competitive market analysis upon request
- Providing information to enhance property saleability
- Offering their services in finding the customer a new home
- Submitting all offers and assisting in negotiations
- Providing an estimate of net proceeds from the sale
- Publishing a 'just listed' local advertisement
- Screening prospective buyers before showings
- Protecting house keys and relocking locks if keys are lost
- Keeping customer informed as to buyer comments
- Displaying photo and features for public viewing.

In addition to Hatch, Curtis Hay has recently joined the company as a sales associate, while Ken Lyons is also on staff as an associate broker.

For more information on Land Office Inc., call 762-0001 or drop into the office at 196 Main Street, Dutton.



*Pictured here are: (left to right) Bob Hatch, Lynne Waram and Curtis Hay.*

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 1995




*Johnston's Canadian Collision Services II held its grand opening of the new location in West Lorne last Saturday. Pictured here are: (left to right) co-owner Jim Johnston, Jerry McGill, Wendy Begin and co-owner Mac Johnston.*

June 21, 1995

# Ripley's Quality Home Centre celebrates 1st anniversary

By Brian Outhouse

After the old paint store closed in West Lorne two years ago ,local businessmen Jack Ripley and Mike Crump felt there was a need for a paint store in West Lorne so they opened Ripley's Quality Home Centre a year ago at 169 Main Street in West Lorne.

The first year of operations have been so good that the two businessmen have expanded the size of their store to almost twice the size of the original store. Mike Crump stated "that the expansion will enable them to carry more product lines for their customers."

"It's not just a paint store" added Crump" as we carry a full range of painting supplies, carpeting,ceramic,hardwood,and vinyl tile for your flooring needs. We also carry ceiling tile and our prices are comparable to other paint supply stores in the county."

The store also offers installation of any type of floor and services Elgin County and beyond.

Ripley's Quality Home Centre is open from 9-6 Monday thru Thursday, and 9-9 on Friday, and 9-6 on Saturday.

The two businessmen will soon be able to offer area residents a new service as they will be opening a Sears outlet in West Lorne on June 26.




**Mike Crump co-owner of Ripley's Quality Home Centre, stands in front of the stores new expanded facilities. The store is celebrating its 1st anniversary. By Brian Outhouse**

# New automotive store has grand opening in West Lorne

Deland Automotive Parts store held its official grand opening on Saturday July 8th. The new UAP outlet is co-owned by Bob Loveland who lives in Glencoe and Ken Degraw from Newbury. The two entreprenuers currently operate a UAP store in Glencoe and felt there was a need to expand their service to include the West Lorne area so they opened the West Lorne branch.

The new UAP outlet is housed in the former spot where the McKerlie Millen store was on Graham Street, but the new owners have totally renovated the old store and added on to it.

Both Bob and Ken bring their combined 28 years of experience in the automotive industry to the new store. Dave Clements from Wardsville will be the new store's manager.

Deland Auto Parts are fully capable of supplying any industrial or farm needs for area consumers . The new auto store also caters to area garages in Dutton, Rodney and West Lorne ,and offers free delivery to area garage owners.

The store also carries a full line of body shop products such as alignment racks, body tools, Dupont paint products, panels, etc.

On the automotive end the store carries a wide stock of replacement parts from hoses to fuel pumps, and tools they carry it all.

Owners Bob and Ken have also introduced a full line of radiators for their customers convenience.

Store manager Dave Clements also stated that "if a customer comes into the store and we don't have the part they need, we can have that part the next day for them".

Clements also added" that the new store offers area residents competitive prices and most off all excellent service".

July 12, 1995



**Deland Auto Parts had its grand opening on Saturday July 8th. Pictured are the staff of the new UAP store in West Lorne (from left to right) Jim Carmichael., salesman, Dave Clements, store manager, Bob Loveland co-owner, and Ken Degraw co-owner. Photo by Brian Outhouse**

During the grand opening on Saturday July 8th, the store gave customers a chance to win a variety of door prizes that incuded hats, shirts, and jackets.

A car wash and BBQ was also held in conjunction with the grand opening festivities. The car wash and BBQ was operated by the Junior Optimist Club of West Lorne. The young Optimists raised $145.15 which will go to the West Lorne Community Complex project.

The West Lorne UAP's store hours are from 8-5 Monday through Friday and on Saturday from 8-1.

August 16, 1995

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 1995

# A blooming affair for people ... a paradise for bees

by Brian Outhouse

Hundreds of area residents made the trek to thee 2nd annual Mezenberg Dried Flower Festival on Saturday and Sunday August 12 & 13.

Flower lovers had their choice of thousands of different types of dried flowers at the festival.

Patrons could buy dried flowers that were already cut or stroll to the back field and cut their own.

Cathy Mezenburg owner of Mezenberg Flowers stated that "people tend to buy more dried flowers during the month of August thru mid September and that this is their busy time of year".

Cathy Mezenberg also added "that she will be offering dried flower classes which will be held at the store and that they will start in mid September. Cost for these classes are $ 10 plus the costs of materials. Instructor for the classes will be Mary Bickle. For further information on these classes call 768-2914.

Also on hand at the festival was Cathy's father Don Bickle with his assortment of hand made wood products. Some of the wooden items for sale were cabinets, shelves, and cupboards.

The festival also included a booth of cookies, pies, and tarts which was operated by the West Lorne Chapter of the I.O.D.E.

Also on hand at the festival was Karrie Vandenberg with her beautiful assortment of ceramic figurines which were for sale to the public. Karrie also takes orders for her ceramic products and if any one is interested in ordering some of her ceramics they can call 768-1562 after 5:00 p.m.

A face painting booth was also available to entertain the whims of the young and old at heart.

The West Elgin Track and Field club also had a booth where patrons could buy a ticket on a $ 250 ladies Bulova watch.

Shoppers could also dine on BBQ'd Hot Dogs and Hamburgs at the festival.



**Bargain Hunters Jackie Oliveira (left) from Tupperville and Sandy Richards from London check out some of the thousands of dried flowers that were available at Mezenberg's Dried Flwer Festival which was held on August 12 & 13. Photo by Brian Outhouse**

September 6, 1995

# An offer you can't refuse...Godfather's Pizza




**Godfather Pizza employees Carrie Reis a grade 11 student at WESS and Olivia Durka pose for this shot in front of the new pizza outlet on Graham Street in West Lorne. Photo by Brian Outhouse**

by Brian Outhouse

There's a new business in town --Godfather's Pizza has opened a new outlet on Graham Street in West Lorne.

The new pizza parlour is the newest outlet in the chains 26 outlets which stetch from Ottawa to Kingsville.

Store manager Cindy Sparry states "that Godfather's is very community orientated and bases outlets in small communities throughout Ontario, which gives the company that home town feeling".

The new pizza parlour currently employs 13 store workers and three delivery drivers.

Godfather's not only offers area residents pizza, but also a delectable array of salads and subs made to your specifications. The new store also caters to the lunch time trade offering its customers a large slice of pizza and a pop for only $ 2.50.

Godfather's is open Sunday through Thursday from 11:00 a. m. to 12:00 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday the store stays open until 2:00 a.m. Delivery of your favourite items is no problem at Godfather's as it is delivered piping hot from the stove to your door by their courteous and friendly drivers.

Delivery starts at 4:00 p.m. each day and customers in nearby Dutton, Rodney and Eagle can receive the same service as West Lorne residents.

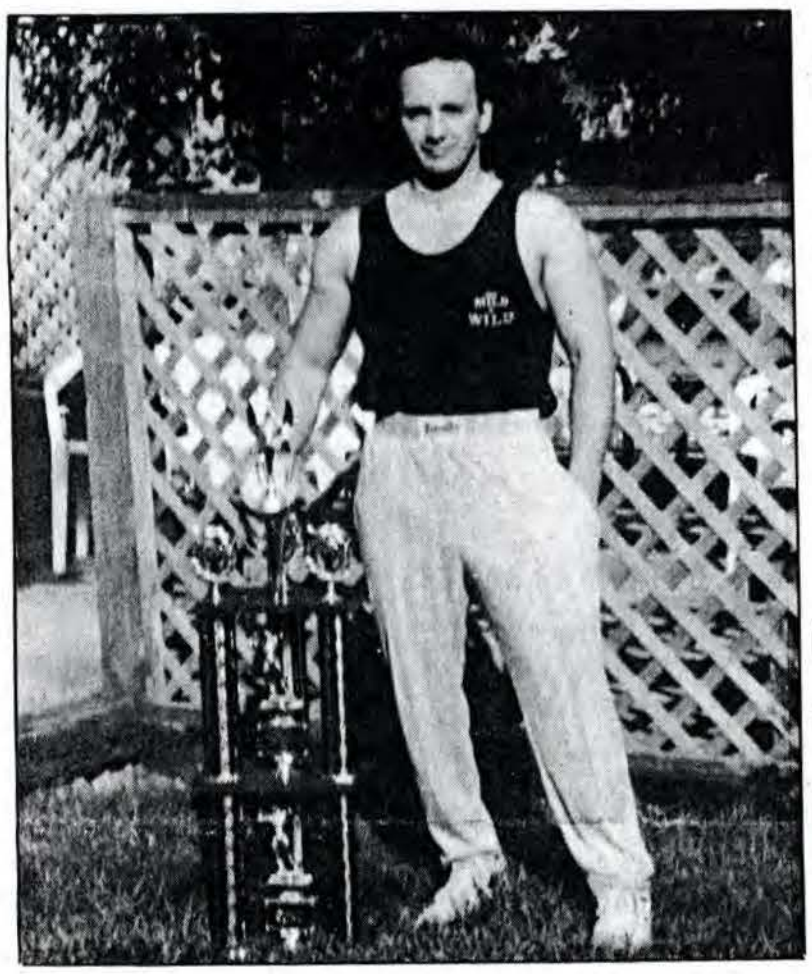
Godfather's currently offers its customers an opening special which includes 2 large pizzas for $18.99, 2 medium 's for $14.99, 2 small $ 10.99 and a 2 litre bottle of Pepsi for .99.

So the next time your taste buds yearn for a delicious Pizza call Godfather's.

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 1995

June 21, 1995

# Local body builder wins big



Area body builder Kimble Kirshner, stands beside the trophy he recently won at the body /building competitions in Stratford.

**By Brian Outhouse**

Kimble Kirchner of West Lorne has known what he wanted to be ever since he was a small boy, a body builder. Kimble's childhood idol was Arnold Schwarzennegger.

Kirchner started to train his body and build it up at an early age so he could enter body building competitions.

He stated"that he liked the lifestyle of a body builder because its clean and healthy, and it also helps to stengthen his neck which he injured years ago."

"To be a good body builder one must stick to a scheduled routine of diet, body building and exercise to be competitive remarked Kirchner".

A normal days routine for Kimble is to get up at 6:00 a.m. and do 45 minutes of cardio-exercises, eat then go to work, come home and work out in the gym for two hours, then 45 minutes of cardio- exercises before bed. His diet is also important to his profession as he eats roughly 6000 calories a day, which consists mainly of 4 1/2 pounds of skinless chicken breasts, egg whites, plain baked potatoes, white rice,and canned tuna.He also takes a variety of vitamins mainly amino acids and protein powder which cost him approximately $60 a week.

As a competition draws closer Kirshner intensifies his routine and will lose up to 30 pounds before the event. During the last three days before a competition Kirchneer will eat nothing but baked potatoes, one an hour. This is called "carb loading"states Kirshner".

He also added that" a lot of people don't realize that in Ontario the sport is drug free as athletes are randomly tested for drug use, and that judges do not look for the quantity of muscles on a body builder but the quality of the muscles".

Kimble won his first competition in Stratford placing third in level one competition. He is now entitled to move on to level two competition which he hopes to participate in this fall in London.

The only problem Kimble has after a competition is that he is tired and fatigued from the rigourous schedule and it takes his body a few weeks to wind down from the stresses of the competition.

Kimble is not alone in his body building quests in this area as Jason Szavo, Jeremy McGahn, Dwayne Catrell, and John Wills also like the competitive nature of the sport.

Kirchner added "that body building is an expensive sport as he has to pay for entering the various competitions, motel rooms at events, meals and vitamins are just a few of the expenses occured in the sport".

Kirchner is also the owner of a body building gym in West Lorne called Shapers. The gym is open to anyone and the fee for joining is $49 initial fee and $32 a month thereafter. Kimble will set up a tailored program for anyone at the gym as well as advise them on a proper diet.

August 23, 1995

# North End Mini-Mart carries all your needs

**by Brian Outhouse**

The North End Mini Mart has been serving area residents for over 19 years, but the more recent owner of the store Winnis VanLierop has operated the store for the last 10 years.

The store carries a full range of groceries, pop, chips, confectionaries, lotto tickets,ice cream ,and slushies for the younger set. Also available at the store is a variety of ready to go foods such as subs, and sandwiches. North End also carries a complete line of school suplies, and office supplies.

The store also has a wide range of videos for rental and it also carries a wide range of greeting cards and paperback books.

According to store owner Winnis VanLierop"we carry a little bit of everything and our motto is service with a smile and help the customer with what they need and hopefully they will come back".

Van Lierop also added that "she likes working with the public and she also enjoys working with her young staff which are mainly all high school students". She also enjoys watching the young people mature and she also urges her staff to stay in school and further their education.

The North End Mini Mart is open 7 days a week and" Winnis invites her old established clientele to stop by and say hi as well as anyone else who would like to stop by and check out their store which exemplifies the old time strategy of service and hospitality to the customer".



Ninety Five year old Charlie Pfeifer (left) a daily visitor to the North End Mini Mart joins store owner Winnis Van Lierop (centre) and store assistant Kathy Keech behind the counter for this picture. Photo by Brian Outhouse

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 1995

# The Chronicle comes home again!

After a year of being owned by an out-of-town company, The Chronicle has been purchased by a local businesswoman.

Shirley Slaats, sales representative for the paper announced last week that she has purchased The Chronicle from Chris Cooke, president of Huron Web in Wyoming.

Slaats has been involved with The Chronicle since its inception doing some reporting and layout, and says she believes in the product and the newspaper's potential for growth in the future. "I think the people of West Elgin have told us loud and clear that they like what we're doing and they want us to continue," said Slaats, who has been a resident of Rodney for over 20 years.

"We have a formula that's working and we're all anxious to continue and move forward with The Chronicle," she added.

With a weekly of circulation of 4,500 newspapers, The Chronicle is the largest community newspaper in West Elgin. The paper is delivered free to all homes and businesses in the area, which makes it an asset, both to readers and advertisers, Slaats says.

She encourages anyone with suggestions or ideas to contact her at 785-2455 or stop by the office.



*Shirley Slaats.*

SEPT. 11/95



OCT. 1995



*Chris Hay is pictured here with Malcolm Gray at her new West Lorne office.*
*(L. Swain)*

## New office holds grand opening

West Elgin now has a new Registered Insurance Broker. Chris Hay officially opened the doors to her new office in West Lorne last Friday, with an open house.

Hay will be running the local office of Malcolm Gray Insurance Brokers Ltd., based in Strathroy.

Hay has lived in West Elgin all her life and prior to becoming a broker, worked for the Ontario Crop Insurance Commission for six years. The West Lorne office, located at 183 Main St., will be open Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Tuesday and Friday afternoons from 12 noon to 5:30 p.m.

Malcolm Gray Insurance represensts some of Canada's largest insurance companies, including Zurich, General Accident, Dominion of Canada, AXA, North Waterloo and Western General.

Hay can be reched at the office at 768-2811, at home at 768-1714 or at the Glencoe office at 1-800-634-9897.



**Christine Stuart, works behind the counter of West Lorne's newest business, the T.L.C. Corner Store and Gas Bar which opened its doors recently. Photo by Brian Outhouse**

# West Lorne gets new variety store

**by Brian Outhouse**

Fred Havers a businessman from London has recently opened the T.L.C. Corner Store and Gas Bar in West Lorne.

The new variety store carries a full line of groceries, pop, chips, school supplies, ice, ice cream and a huge selection of movies.

The store also has lotto tickets, and offers a photocopying service to its patrons. T.L.C. also carries a line of car care products which ties in with the gas bar.

The new store is open from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday Thru Friday, Saturday from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 8:00 a. m. to 9:00 p.m.

Haver's stated" that the store will give customers what they want when they want it and if a customer can't find what he or she wants he will order the item for them.

Opening Specials include reduced movie rates, 4 Litres of milk for $ 2.79 and many other specials for the bargain hunter.

Havers added that the new store is designed to be a one stop shopping centre for area consumers.

NOV. 1995



*udy Deacon and Teresa McCann of JC's Country Treasures.*

1995 BUSINESS + INDUSTRY

## JC's Country Treasures having open house

BY: KAREN ROBINET

In case you've been wondering what's happened to JC's Country Treasures, formerly located in downtown West Lorne, you don't have to look too far.

The business is now located at 82 Graham St. in the village (heading towards Eagle), at the home of Teresa McCann. McCann has recently joined forces with owner Judy Deacon to bring area residents a wonderful selection of crafts and craft supplies. McCann is also a crafter, and does larger, fancy floral arrangements and weddings.

Deacon says shelving units, both plain and decorated continue to be a popular item with shoppers, as well as centrepieces. With Christmas coming up, people are anxious to decorate their homes and JC's has a large selection of seasonal and country crafts for sale. Scented wooden apples and decorated decanters filled with potpourri help set the mood with their festive and floral fragrances, and handmade dolls, stuffed and wooden animals abound.

The women do home shows and craft shows, and have the wares featured at the crafters' market in London. They also plan to add home decorating to the list of services they offer to their customers. Craft supplies are in stock, and special orders are also taken.

Christmas orders are now being taken and, if you happen to see something that catches your eye, you can put it on layaway for a nominal fee.

A special open house will be held this Friday, November 17 from 12 noon until 8 p.m. Door prizes, specials and refreshments will be available and everyone is invited to see the new location.

Regular hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The store is closed on Wednesdays. For more information, call 768-2502.

NOV. 1/95



**Valerie Jones, of West Lorne displays some of her homemade candles. Photo by Brian Outhouse**

# Lighting up your life

**by Brian Outhouse**

Today we rely on hydro to provide us with lights to see at night but not too long ago candles were the main source of light for people. Today we think of candles only on special occasions such as Christmas, and romantic candlelight dinners or when the power fails as emergency lighting.

Most candles today are made mechanically , but Valerie Jones of West Lorne makes candles the old fashioned way -- one at a time.

Valerie got interested in making candles quite by accident. While she was volunteering for the Girl Guides and looking for a fundraising prioject for the group she stumbled upon the candle making idea. Ever since then she has turned out hundreds of different style candles and has turned a hobby into a part time job.

Each of Valerie's candles are made from beeswax. To make a candle she takes a sheet of beeswax 16 inches by 8 inches and places a wick in the middle of the sheet ,then she gently rolls the beeswax into the shape of a candle. Once this is done she cuts up strips of beeswax to make a flowery base for the candle then places the candle in a holder finishing the process. It takes about 2 1/2 hours to make a pair of candles.

Her candles come in a variety of colors and she even makes multi colored candles. Valerie's small candles will burn for approximately 2 hours while her large candles burn for over 4 hours.

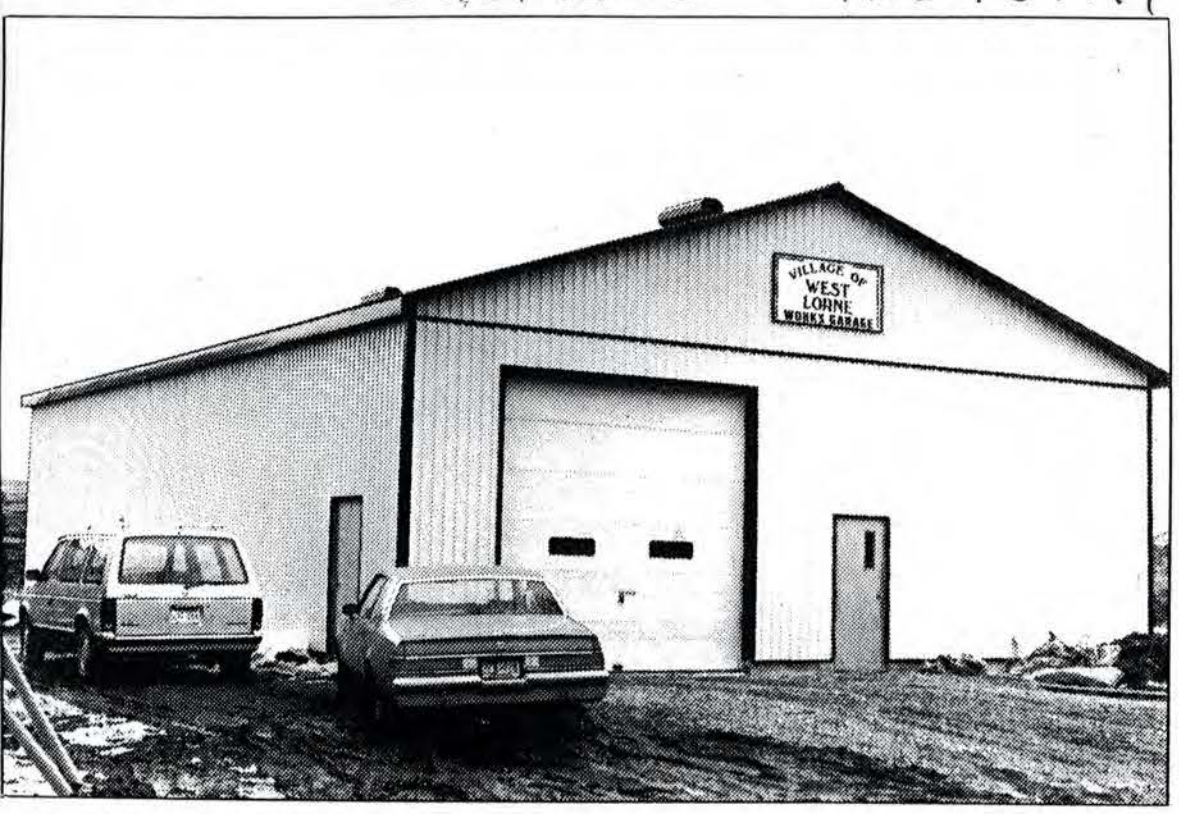
Valerie likes her hobby but hopes to someday return to her profession of teaching as she taught for 4 years at the London Middlesex Catholic Board, but until then she will continue making candles and helping out with Girl Guides as she is currently the District Commisioner for Guides in the area.

To get a glimse of these works of art she will have her candles on display at the upcoming craft show on November 11th, at the Rodney Recreation Centre.

March 19, 1996

# BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 1996

May 20, 1996




**WORK PROGRESSES ON NEW WORKS GARAGE** -- The new West Lorne works garage which will soon be used by town employee George Nute to house the town's vehicles and equipment.
**(Photo By Brian Outhouse)**



***West Lorne Reeve Dianne Buchanan planted a tree in front of the new fire hall on May 10 to mark Arbor Week. She is pictured here planting a white ash tree with the help of Clark Haskins, conservation events planner for the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority. The authority is currently in the process of planting 80,000 trees.***

The Star — June 26, 1996



***Straddling the rafters-*** *These construction workers for Van - Ver Construction are seen installing the framework for the roof of the new Town Hall in West Lorne recently. Construction of the final phase of the Community Complex has been moving along on schedule according to the builders of the new structure.*
*(Photo by Brian Outhouse).*

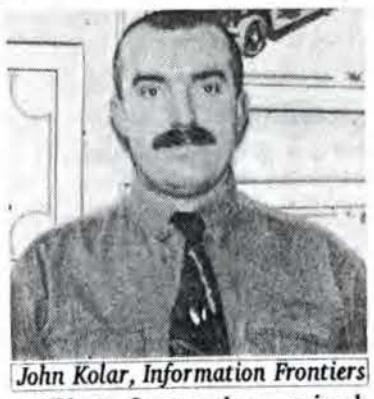
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 1996



*On hand for the official opening of the new bank machine at Bank of Montreal in West Lorne last week were: (left to right) Ann Neville, Irene McGregor, Marlene Goos and bank manager Veronica Sewell.* *(S. Slaats)*

SEPT. 1996

# Information Frontiers



*John Kolar, Information Frontiers*

West Lorne has gained another new business 'Information Frontiers' which is owned and operated by John Kolar.

John first became interested in computers at an early age and his first job was with the Federal Government in their data processing and programming department.

After leaving the government Kolar joined the Military and is currently stationed at the old Wolsey Barracks in London.

His duties at the base include the supervision of all the military installation's computers which control the operations of several bases.

Since moving to West Lorne John decided to start a small business out of his basement at home and teach area residents how to use a computer so along with his wife Information Frontiers was born.

The new venture by Kolar specializes in computer consulting and training people on the various programs thatr are out there and how to operate a computer. Information Frontiers also sells and services computers.

The new firm also offers full Internet service to its customers and Kolar is offering a new system called OS4 which replaces the old OS2 program.

John has also recently started a Computer Club in the area called WECUG (West Elgin Computer User Group). Meetings are held at Information Frontiers which is located on Siver Strret (Concession 12) , the last house on the left side before the Aldborough Townline. Anyone interested in joining the group are welcome to attend.

For more information on 'Information Frontiers ' and the services John offers call 768-3590.

DEC. 96



***A family affair-*** *The new discount store that has recently opened in West Lorne is truly a family affair with 3 generations involved in the operation of the store. From left to right they are: Samantha Swain, daughter of Tammy Swain (centre) and her mother Betty Ostrander.* *(Star Photo).*

# West Lorne residents get a di$count

West Lorne has gained another new business, U-Need-A-Discount. The new store is located where the West Lorne Sun was and it offers area residents a large assortment of items at bargain basement prices.

Store owner, Tammy Swain stated that she felt there was a need for a discount store in the area and that the store will carry some products that residents had to go to London to get. She also added that if a customer doesn't see what they need she will do her best to get that item for the customer.

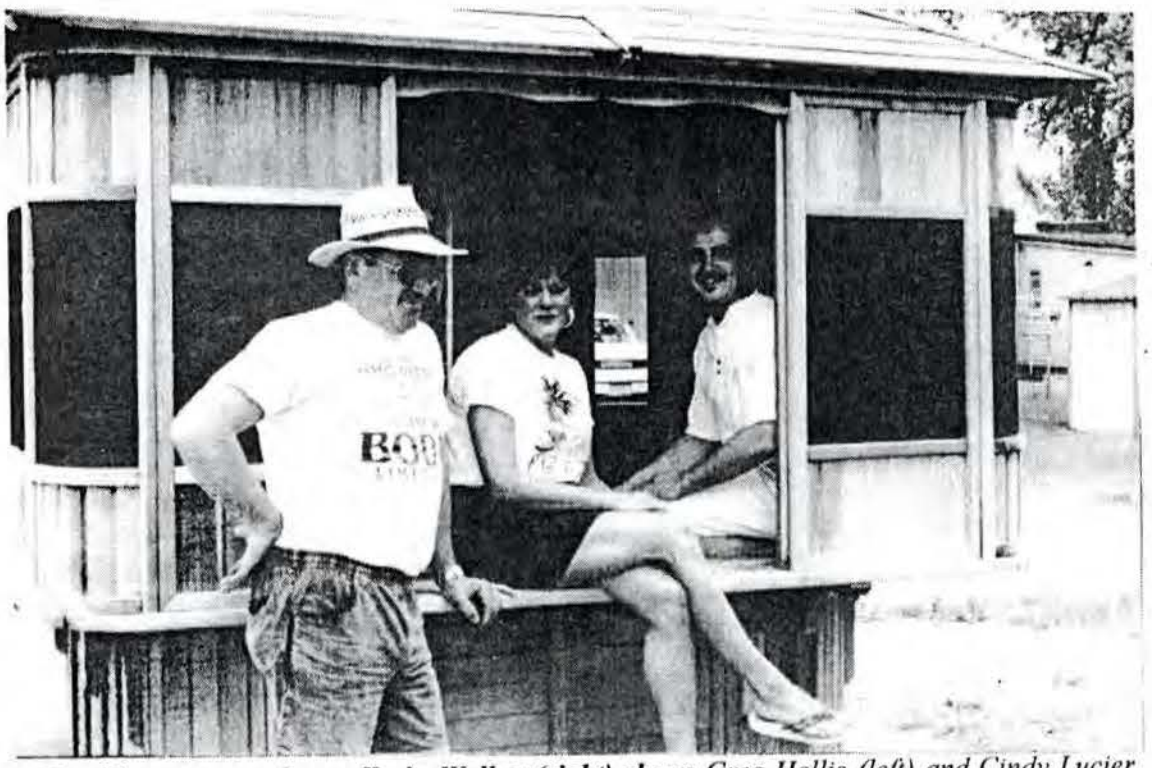
The new store carries a large assortment of greeting cards, toys, party supplies, school supplies, chips, pop, candy, jewellery, make-up, candles, giftware, baby supplies, paper products pet supplies, and assorted hardware supplies.

Store hours are: Monday and Tuesday from 10-6, Wednesday, 10-1, Thursday 10-6, Friday 10-9 and Saturday from 9 - 5.

So if your looking for that special something different or you want to just browse around and check out the bargains try the new discount outlet.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
1996

June 12, 1996



*Checking out a cool spa- Kevin Walker (right) shows Greg Hollis (left) and Cindy Lucier (centre) the "Muskoka House"Spa at Clearwater Pools grand opening that was held recently in West Lorne. (Photo by Brian Outhouse).*

# Clearwater pools celebrate grand opening

by Brian Outhouse

West Lorne's newest enterprise held its grand opening recently much to the delight of area pool owners.

Hundreds of area residents stopped by Clearwater Pools to check out the bargains on pool chemicals and other pool accessories that the new firm had on special for the opening ceremonies.

Owners Kevin Walker and Rob Hakker also had a "Muskoka Spa" on display which was quite popular with area residents.

The grand opening festivities didn't only feature good buys on various pool items as there were plenty of hot dogs, hamburgs and cold drinks to help celebrate the occassion.

Clearwater pools offers residents of West Elgin the latest in pool designs plus an excellent service package for area pool owners.

The new business is located behind Beckers in West Lorne and their hours of operation are from 9:00 to 6:00 Monday thru Thursday and 9:00 to 9:00 on Fridays and 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

For friendly and speedy service for your pool or spa call 768-3510.

OCT 1996

Page 2



***A family affair-*** *D J's Appliance staff member Heather Seman, and store owners Donna Bowles and Jason Bowles display some of the used appliances that are available at West Lorne's newest store. (Star Photo).*

# *D&J Appliances opens store in West Lorne*

West Lorne has gained another new business at the corner of Main and Graham (where Cherub's Delight used to be).

The new store called D&J Appliances is an outlet for used fridges and stoves, washers, dryers, and other appliances with some used furniture to be added in the near future by owners Donna Bowles and her son Jason.

The mother and son team from Wardsville felt that area folks needed a place they could go and buy reliable used appliances at a reasonable price so they opened the store here in West Lorne.

The store will also operate a repair service for fridges and stoves as Jason Bowles is licenced to repair all makes of gas and freon systems. All appliances at the store are guaranteed for 30 days from the date of purchase.

Patrons will also be able to buy replacement burners and other stove fridge and washer and dryer parts from the new firm.

D&J's will also buy and take old appliances on purchases of their stock.

Store hours for the new shop are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9 - 6 p.,. , Wednesday from 9 - 4 p.m. and Friday from 9 - 9 p.m. D&J's also offer free delivery to area residents.

Staff members urge everyone to join them for coffee and donuts at their Grand Opening this Saturday Oct. 12 and check out the bargains galore that they offer area residents.




NOV. 1996

## Heather Bell's Sewing Studio

After working in marketing in Toronto, Heather Bell moved to this area eight years ago.

In 1991, after a lifelong interest in textiles, she decided to go into business for herself.

Bell is a fully authorized Pfaff Canada sewing machine distributor, as well as a sewing teacher and seamstress.

Pfaff sewing machines are made in Germany and have a lengthy tradition of over 130 years of experience behind them.

Bell enjoys running her classes, which are for everyone from youngsters to seniors, and she says people are amazed at the things they can make, either for themselves or as gifts.

From simple items, such as placemats, to more mplex projects, Bell guides small groups from start to finish. Some items take just one class to complete, while others may take three, four or more sessions.

Sewing classes are set to being in the next few weeks, and Christmas crafts will be offered. Class sizes are usually four to six people and are very reasonably priced. Bell says she likes to keep the prices as low as possible because students must also buy their own materials.

Since sewing is not offered in schools like it used to be, Bell says she especially enjoys working with young people, and says she's surprised to find many women who can't even mend their childrens' clothing.

Bell is also qualified to do repair work on all makes of machines, and anyone who purchases a Pfaff machine can be sure they'll receive expert instruction before they take it home. For more information, call 768-1284.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 1997

MARCH - 1997



**Checking out the new West Lorne Postal Outlet at TLC-** *Maria Tennant , Manager of the TLC Corner Store & Variety Store in West Lorne looks after one of the new Postal Outlets first customers George Nute from West Lorne.*



**Dixon Feeds opens new store-** *Dave Dixon has officially opened his new store in West Lorne. The new facilities are located on Graham Road across from the old Beckers store. Pictured here in their new quarters are Cheryl Daniels (employee) and Dave Dixon (owner).*

# Dixon Feeds now in new quarters

Dixon Feeds are now operating from their new home on Graham Road across from the old Beckers Store.

The new facility has an expanded showroom and a huge 40 x 60 warehouse to better accommodate the consumer.

The new store will feature the same friendly and reliable service that Dave has given his customers in the past. The new store will carry an expanded line of pet accessories and an expanded line of horse accessories.

Dixons also carries name brand feed products, health foods and animal health products for its customers.

Dave will be holding some Grand Opening Specials in the near future for area residents. The store is currently open from 9 to 5 Monday through Saturday.

One of the stores current specials for area shoppers is that they can buy any size Nutrim Adult Cat Food and receive a 1.8 Kilo free (this offer expires on March 18).

*November 12, 1997.*




**West Lorne's Newest Business-** *Ron Snelgrove and his wife Donna are West Lorne's newest business members of the community ( Forest City Roofing & Siding).Ron and Donna recently moved from London to West Lorne. Ron has been in the roofing and siding business for over 18 years.*

# New roofing & siding business locates in West Lorne

West Lorne has some new residents in town. Ron and Donna Snelgrove have recently moved to our little corner of the world. They bring with them their roofing & siding business, Forest City Roofing & Siding.

Ron has been in the business for over 18 years , so he has plenty of experience to handle all your roofing, siding, window and renovations that you may need.

Forest City Roofing & Siding has the capabilities of handling small or large jobs.

The firm has a long standing reputation in the Middlesex area as being highly professional, and a reputation for providing their clients with quality workmanship and they also stand behind their work.

The new firm also offers area residents free estimates, and when Ron's wife Donna isn't busy being the office manager for the firm she is looking after their boy Robbie.

The pair are very community minded and hope to get more involved with area community projects.

In Ron's words we live, work and socialize here so why not get involved with the community.

So if you need any work done on your house or business give Forest City Roofing & Siding a call at 768-0022, you won't be disappointed with the service and job that this highly professional organization will give you from the time they start until they finish the job.

*September 3, 1997 -*



**New Store Owners-** *Glen and Sue Cook are West Elgin's newest entrepreneurs as the couple are opening a new sports store in West Lorne. The new store will be called West Elgin Sports and it will carry a full line of sporting needs for West Elgin residents to enjoy.*

# New West Lorne store caters to area sporting enthusiasts

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 1997



**New Branch Manager-***The West Lorne branch of the Bank of Montreal has a new Bank Manager in Paul Gunn from Chatham. Paul takes the place of the retiring Veronica Sewell.*

# Bank of Montreal gets new bank manager

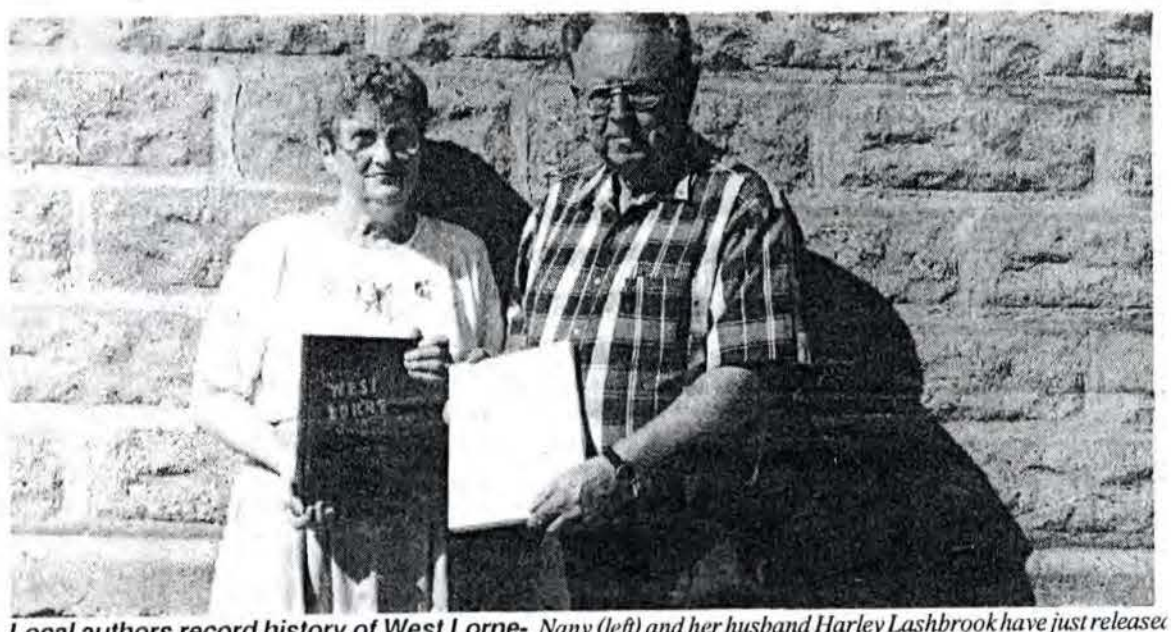
The West Lorne Branch of the Bank of Montreal has a new manager in Paull Gunn from Chatham. Paul replaces the retiring Veronica Sewell.

Paul started his banking career in Chatham in 1990 holding the position of Accounts manager. In 1996 he was tranferred to Bothwell where he assumed the duties of Service leader before coming to West Lorne to take over the managerial duties of the West Lorne branch.

Paul believes in a more personal aspect of banking and is currently getting in touch with many of the bank's customers to get to know them better and to better know their banking needs. He hopes to spend more time out in the field talking tpopeople than being bound to his desk at the bank.

Paul resides in Chatham with his wife Lorrie and his two children. Paul's wife teaches figure skating in Chatham, while Paul likes to spend his spare time playing hockey and baseball.

So if your in the branch drop by and say hi to your new bank manager.



**Local authors record history of West Lorne-** *Nany (left) and her husband Harley Lashbrook have just released a new book entiled West Lorne, which for the first time records 90 years of West Lorne's history.*

# Ex-newspaperman and his wife pen book on the history of West Lorne

OCT. 15, 1997

Local residents Nancy and Harley Lashbrook have recently launched a book that records the history of West Lorne.

The couple undertook the project a few years ago as they realized that nothing had ever been done to record the history of the village and they felt that it was long overdue to get the village's history in print before many important events of the past were lost forever. After scouring microfilm at the local library, tracking down old photos of people, places and events and talking to older area residents their dream has become a reality.

The book stretches back as far as the days when West Lorne was divided into two small towns Bismark and West Lone.

The book covers a wide range of historical photos, events and changes throughout the village's history. Highlights include West Lorne sports teams, churches, schools, councils, West Lorne industry, the depression and war years in the village plus many many more interesting stories about the village.

The couple also felt the need to finish the book before amalgamation takes place because West Lorne will cease as a village when the new municipality of West Elgin is born next January.

Nancy and Harley hope to pen another book on the village as they have a ton of information yet to use.

The books come in hardback or paperback form and sell for $40 hardcover and $30 softcover.

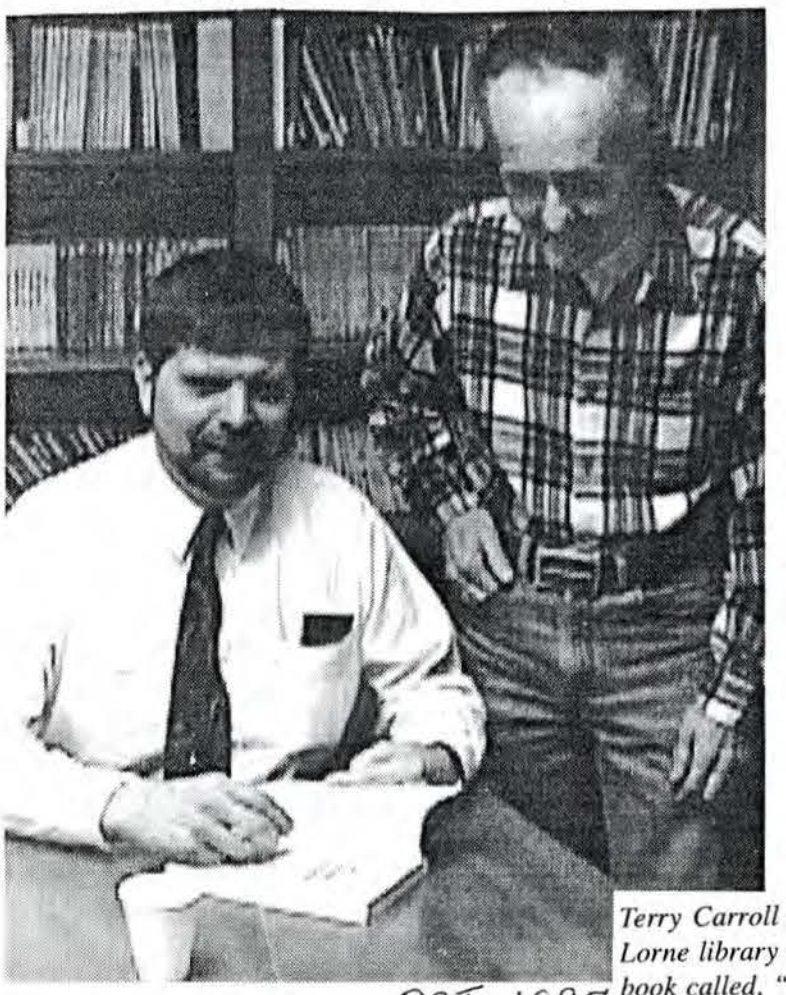
The two authors will be holding a book signing at the West Lorne Town Hall on October 16 & 17 from 2- 4:30 p.m.; so drop over and say Hi to Nancy and Harley and purchase one of their books before they are all gone.

OCT. 22, 1997

## *Former West Lorne resident inducted into UWO Hall of Fame*



John Wydareny, formerly of West Lorne, was inducted into The University of Western Ontario Club Hall of Fame. John started his football career with the Western Mustangs. He played halfback with the Toronto Argonauts for three seasons and with the Edmonton Eskimos for seven seasons. While playing with the Eskimos he held the Canadian Football League single season record for eleven pass interceptions. He was a Canadian Football League Western Conference All Star and Winner of the Jackie Parker Trophy as the Eskimo's Most Valuable Player. John and his family now reside in Edmonton and he is the brother of Sophia Howse, brother-in-law to Earl Howse, and Uncle to Linda and Kerry Kulak. They attended the induction ceremony at the University of Western Ontario on Friday, October 3, during Homecoming.



OCT. 1997

*Terry Carroll was at the West Lorne library to talk about his book called, " No Blood Relative". Carroll, originally from Aldborough township, lives in St. Thomas. Above: Carroll (left) signs a copy of his book for Ron Payne of Eagle. (W. Tunks)*

February 12, 1997,



**New entreprenuers-** *Kim and Scott Hwang are the new owners of West Lorne's newest variety store , B&J Variety. The couple have re-opened the old Beckers outlet.*

# New variety store hopes to keep P.O. outlet

The old Becker's store in West Lorne has been re-opened by a young businessman from Windsor and his family. The new variety store will be called B & J Variety and store owner Scott Hwang and his wife Kim plan to offer area residents specials every week.

The young couple hope to keep the Post Office right where it is but the final decision is up to the government if they keep the postal operation, until then the Hwang's will continue to operate the post office in West Lorne.

The new store will operate 7 days a week and be open from 7:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.

B& J Variety is offering area residents several bargains for its Grand Opening week which include 4 ltrs. of 2% and 1% milk for $2.99, assorted chocolate bars 2 for .99, canned pop 2 for .99 and cat food , 3 for .99.

Kim and Scott offer smokers a bargain with their cigarettes as a carton goes for $26 tax included and two packs of smokes for $6.80 tax included.

B & J urge area residents to watch for their weekly specials.

The young family has two children which attend St. Mary's School.

## Postal outlet relocating

Canada Post Corporation has announced that postal services for residents of West Lorne will be available at a new location, beginning today.

The retail postal outlet had previously been located at Becker's and the new owners of B&J Variety - Scott and Kim Hwang - at the same location, had hoped to retain the service.

However, Canada Post has announced the outlet will be located at TLC Gas Bar & Corner Store at 265 Graham Street. Hours of operation for the postal outlet will be: Monday to Friday from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

- October 1, 1997,




**A Grand Affair-** *Helen Rose, proudly stands in front of her new Flower Shop (The Village Green) in West Lorne at the store's "Grand Opening " Celebrations.*

# The Village Green Flower Company holds "Grand Opening Ceremonies

Gary and Helen Rose , owners of West Lorne's newest business 'The Village Green Flower Company' held their Grand Opening Celebrations recently.

Several area residents took the chance to view the new store and purchase some of the grand opening specials that were offered.

The new store offers area residents a full flower shop service, plus a wide variety of silk - like flowers, wicker, gifts and a host of balloons for a special occasion.

Village Green also offers free delivery in West Lorne for its customers and they charge a small fee for delivery in the surrounding territory.

With the fall season here the store has many fall decorations and other items on special to bring that burst of summer color into your home during the drab dull days of winter.

Village Green, is open from Monday to Saturday from 8:30 to 6:00 p.m. The phone number of Village Green is 768-2818.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 1998

January 26, 1998

# Unique store for West Lorne

One of West Lorne's newest businesses is giving everyday items a second chance.

The Consignment Shoppe, located at 225 Graham St., opened its doors this past November to Elgin residents giving them a store unique to West Lorne.

"There really wasn't something like this in town," says Cathy Cooper, who owns the retail establishment with K. M. Dardarian. "That was the main reason for opening a store such as this. There's a big demand for shops like this."

The Consignment Shoppe offers both new and used items ranging from jewellery, coins and crafts to books, toys and clothing, for both adults and children.



Cathy Cooper

The idea of the store is for the public to bring in items to the store that they want to sell. If Cooper feels that she would be able to sell the items, a contract is signed.

When the item(s) are sold the customer is notified and receives a percentage of the selling price, which is worked out in the contract.

Dardarian also deals locally with jewellery and coins through his own website at www.diamondcowboy.com

Customers can visit the site and check our the vast array of items available, and and great prices.

The Consignment Shoppe also boats a handful of antiques, including and beautiful brass cash register, which unfortunately is not for sale but is worth checking out.

The store is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. and are closed Sundays and Wednesdays.

The Consignment Shoppe will be holding their Grand Opening this coming Friday and Saturday (Jan. 30-31). Everyone is welcome to stop on by.


GRAND OPENING
Fri, Jan 30 &
Sat, Jan 31

225 Graham St.
West Lorne
768-2893

The
CONSIGNMENT
Shoppe

CLOTHING • JEWELLERY • ACCESSORIES




Many items reduced to
50% OFF

COMPLIMENTARY
COFFEE &
DONUTS


January 19, 1998

# Elgin County OPP assisting Ontario ice storm victims

Four Elgin County OPP officers are part of the approximately 60 officers from the western region of the OPP that are currently in eastern Ontario assisting with the aftermath of the ice storm.

"If we have the opportunity, and we did, we send officers if needed," says Constable Dennis Harwood, Elgin County OPP Community Services Officer. "We know that for all intents and purposes this could have been us in the ice storm and we would have needed the assistance. The truth is, we're glad to be sending (officers) than accepting."

Elgin County officers currently helping in eastern Canada include Constables Ron Bell, Tina Forrest, Deb Hodgins and Paul Stevenson.

An Incident Command Post has been set up in the region. There have been no specific duties given to the officers.

They will provide support services and response to any assistance required at the scene of an emergency. Hundreds of thousands of residents and business still remain without power after more than two weeks in the dark and cold temperatures.

Unless needed further, the officers are expected to return this Tuesday.

# West Lorne Kiwanis to hold info session on alternatives to deal with young offenders

In 1996, a report entitled "Community Health and Well-being in southwestern Ontario" clearly illustrated a sobering fact - the physical, social and emotional health of youth in our area is at higher risk than in other area of Ontario.

For example, auto thefts in Toronto are 8.9 per cent (in southwestern Ontario it's 11.6 per cent), marijuana use in Toronto is 50.5 per cent (in southwestern Ontario it's 64.8 per cent) and assaults are 11.6 per cent in Toronto (it's 18.6 per cent in southwestern Ontario).

Unfortunately, the youth of West Elgin are part of the southwestern Ontario data. Clearly there is a great need to improve the conditions for West Elgin youth, their families and the community at large.

The West Lorne Kiwanis Club is sponsoring an information evening this Thursday evening at the IOOF Hall about the efforts taken by the community of Byron.

Now part of London, Byron has addressed the issue of troubled youth by establishing an innovative program that provides support for its youth and their families. It is called the Community Justice Circles.

The program, which uses an alternative to court appearances for some young offenders, is based on the healing circles used in native communities.

People from the community, including the victims, determine an appropriate punishment. The program gives the young offenders a connection to the community and in return the community gains insight into the real problems experienced by young people.

"We are following the adage that it takes a community to raise a child," says Alice Lewis, the program's founder in Byron.

The Thursday evening information session begins at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome to attend at no charge. If people wish to attend dinner ($7) which begins at 6 p.m., please notify Bob Walker (768-1095) or Ray Jobson (768-0482).

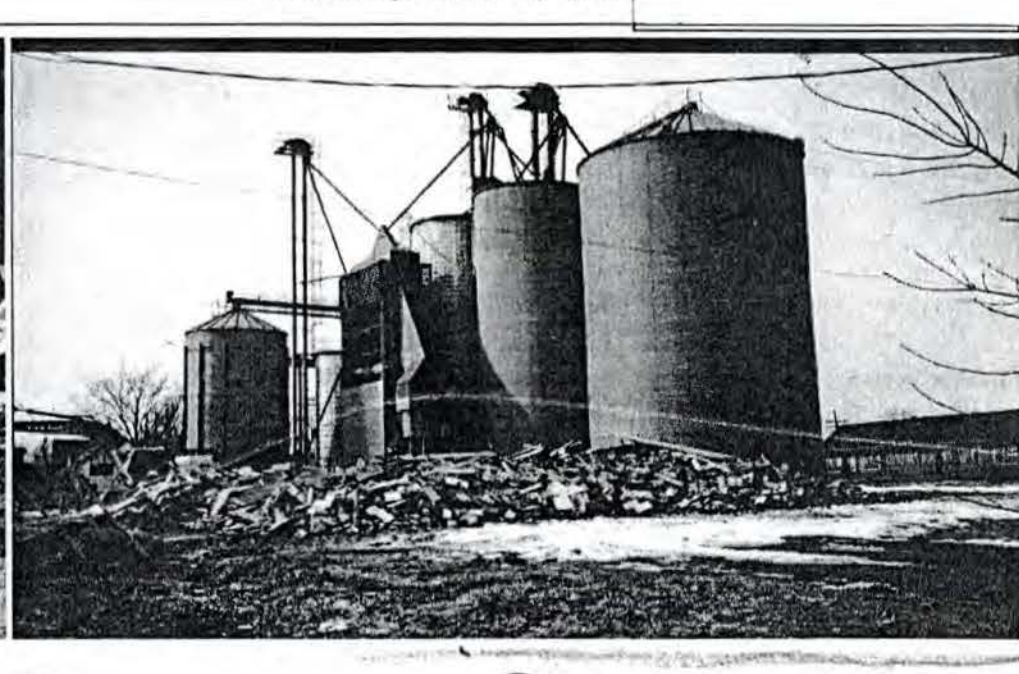
JAN. 12, 1998

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 1998

# WEST ELGIN FREE PRESS

Volume 1 Issue 1 Wednesday March 11, 1998



## Going Going Gone...

One week in January we saw the demolition of the Elgin Co-Operative buildings. A land mark for many years it was formerly owned by the McLandress family. A very important and active part of the community saw wagons of grain hauled in from many miles around. The feed part of the business saw a dependent area of farmers making their way for all sorts of farming essentials.

A substantial amount of men held jobs here, they ground the grain, mixed feeds and shipped to various outlets. In an old film resurrected of the village on or around 1947, one can see that men returning from the war found a job here. It was the beehive of activity for the village and surrounding area.

It is safe to say it was a McLandress family operation, James A. McLandress and his two sons Bill and Mac.

It is thought that it was eventually sold to Elgin Co-Operative in the early fifties.

Farmers continued to bring their grain to the mill, many by wagon, but in later years wagons drawn by tractors started coming. During harvest it was nothing to see these deliveries waiting to be unloaded for hours and well into the night.

Feed was still being made and the farmers would bring their grain to be ground up for feed, leaving in the morning to pick it up later in the day.

The Co-Op had branched out into a sort of hardware store in the later years, and it was a one stop trip for a busy farmer that needed posts for fencing, fence wire, staples, nails, even medication for his animals. It became the dropping place for chicks, ducks and wee turkeys. It was a feed supply source of these as well as horses, rabbits, etc. It was not uncommon to see pickup vehicles lined in front of the entrance. The farmers had their little visit with each other, I suppose they exchanged the weather, the crop situation, and sometimes general news about the neighbor who wasn't in their speed bracket. When the co-op closed its doors it became a vegetable and produce outlet run by Tom Jones and Tammy Swain. They decided to move onto other things and sold it to Betty Ann and Don Bobier which was cozy corners for many to come and have coffee and purchase items. When the Bobiers decided to give this up do to Betty Ann's ill health it again became a feed store known as Dixon's Feeds. They too had a good business, but felt when the opportunity arose, that they would build a store of their own with living accommodations above.

For a while after the Dixon's moved, it stood there, a monument of other days, well weathered by the years, but it was a noticeable landmark and only when it was evident that it was coming down did one realize then what a part it played in our community life. Unlike other old buildings it came down gracefully and quickly. It was cleaned up in the shortest possible time if it has any significance on many? To me it was the end of an era, the old giving way to the new. I was a bit sad, but I thought how graceful it was to end it while it was still intact, no walls down, no windows out, built long ago to sustain the course of time. Yes, you are gone, but us older people remember, you are still in our minds what you gave to us. There will always remain the ghostly activities that provided for so many.

by: Irene McGregor

## Gangle Insurance celebrates 20 years

Paul Gangle will be celebrating his 20th year in the insurance business this Friday (May 1) and he sums up the reason he's still going strong - "hard work and dedication."

For Gangle, it began back in 1978 when he literally started from scratch. He saw the need for an insurance company in West Lorne, so he started his own.

"I got myself a desk, a phone and a filing cabinet and went at it," he says, from his office at 173 Main St..

And the business has come a long way since then. To-date Gangle has purchased three brokers: G.R. Hanley Insurance ('87), John Watterworth Insurance ('88) and part of the portfolio from Craig and Van Oirschot, through McNeil Insurance Brokers ('94).

Gangle Insurance Ltd. covers many types of insurance policies from home and farm to tenants commercial.




significant changes in the insurance business from 20 years ago.

The length of insurance forms is one, laughs Gangle, but it's more to do with the onslaught of the information age.

"The business is much more complicated and complex these days," says Gangle, who also serves as a councillor for the Municipality of West Elgin. "More information is needed with ongoing changes to legislation.

demanding and knowledgeable than ever," he adds. "We're expected to know our business, and rightly so, but we also need to know the customers business in order to better meet their insurance needs."

Gangle admits to be successful in any business you have to be willing to go that "extra mile" to satisfy the customer. For example, he recalls meeting a farmer in the middle of his field at 6 a.m. to do business.

"We're selling an intangible here," says Gangle. "We're in the people business, the service business."

And Gangle remains strong in the business thanks to his staff. Melanie Rose has four years experience while Cindy Ross is celebrating her 15th year with Gangle Insurance.

If you have any questions in regards to insurance you can call 768-2831, toll-free at 1-800-380-4250 or stop by Gangle Insurance this Friday (May 1) from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. for an Open

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY



1998

Wednesday April 1, 1998

## Alborough Township Council Meeting

March 26th, 1998 at 9:30 a.m. Members present: Trudy Balint (Councillor), Michael Mooser (Councillor), Paul J. Gangle (Councillor), Robert F. Coles(Councillor), Brad Bandeen (Councillor), Rita DeWild (Clerk), Joanne Groch (Administrative Treasurer), Graham Warwick (Deputy Mayor), and Duncan McPhail (Mayor).

Issues discussed included: Milner Rigsby Minor Variance and Storm Water Management.
Planning Matters included: A Bethel Park update, Kriter's Severance, Fordham Development, Civiero Subdivision, Site Plan Guidelines and the Position Paper on Elgin County.
Roads discussed were: Gilbert Street in regards to Erie Flooring, Walker's Bridge in Middlesex County and the Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways and Bridges.
In regards to Milner Rigsby, there was a petition signed by 15 tenants residing at Maple View Apartments. Ideas were passed about a fence barrier for a safe playing environment and a little noise insulation. The factory will proceed with building a new and bigger storage facility. The conditions are as follows: the warehouse is for storage only, a storm water management report will be submitted and approved by the committee, a planning scheme for a tree buffer submitted and approved. It is to be a compromise for the Senior Citizen's Apartment and the factory, Milner Rigsby.



*Former Aldborough Township employee George McDonald was honored for his 22 years of service to the roads department. Here, McDonald, left, receives a replica of a Champion Series V motor grader from West Elgin roads superintendent Rick Jackson. McDonald retired last November.*

 MAR. 25, 1998

# ENHANCED 9-1-1 IS COMING TO ELGIN COUNTY

Following a lot of coordinated hard work and effort, 9-1-1 emergency telephone service is soon to be a reality in Elgin County.

**Until you are notified that 9-1-1 is operational, please continue to use your seven digit emergency telephone numbers for police, fire or ambulance, or 1-888-310-1122 for O.P.P.**

Check your newspaper, municipal mailings, or your children's school newsletters for more information about 9-1-1 in the coming months.

**Resident's: Be Ready ...**

**To be part of the 9-1-1 system, residents must have a municipal address.** This address consists of two opponents: **Your Address Number AND Your Road Name.**

(a) property identification sign
(b) road intersection sign

When the Address Number is combined with the Road Name the result is an address which is unique to your property and your property only. In townships, your address is located on the blue sign close to the entrance of your driveway.

In the towns, villages, hamlets, and sub-divisions municipal civic addressing, for the most part, was already in place. Other than specific problem areas, the civic addressing system remained unchanged for these areas.

**It is important that you know the correct name for the road in front of your property. The name you know the road by may not be the same as the name adopted by the road authority.**

An example of a typical intersection sign is as follows:

**Road Name**
**<12344 12345>**

To assist with identifying the proper road name, road intersection signs indicating the adopted municipal road name and numbering sequence are, or will be, located at most local intersections. Signage along provincial highways will be modified to reflect proper road names and civic addressing information.

**Why You Need An Address?**

A proper civic address is required for the 9-1-1 emergency call answering system that is being implemented throughout Elgin County.
The Municipal Civic Addressing System implemented in Elgin County is intended to be more than just an emergency number or fire number. Your address should be used to assist visitors, repair and delivery services, school bus drivers, and utilities when locating your property. Remember the ability of individuals to find your residence is based upon the information you provide them.

Overall your municipal address can be used for emergency personnel, for business, and for personal uses. It is a widely accepted standard means of addressing properties.

**IMPORTANT:**

**When the 9-1-1 system is activated in Elgin County,** it is only to be used in an emergency situation when Police, Fire, or Ambulance services are required. It is not to be used for general inquiries or administrative calls. If you need Police, Fire, or Ambulance services in a non-emergency situation, please consult your local telephone directory.

**BELL Will Be Calling You!**

Bell representatives have begun calling residents of Elgin County to verify that the information on their telephone data base is up to date. When you are called they will be asking for your full property address - ADDRESS NUMBER AND ROAD NAME.

**If you do not know your property's address, please contact your municipal office to find out what your address is.**

**Property Signs:**

Township employees and volunteers have been busy installing individual property signs on each township property. As this project nears completion there may be a few properties which are not yet addressed.

**Once your sign is installed it is your responsibility to ensure that your house number or blue property sign is kept posted and visible at all times.**

**Your Mailing Address:**

Your new municipal address does not affect the legal description of your property. It also does not result in an immediate requirement to update your driver's license.

The municipal address is an addition to your existing address:

**Sample Rural Mailing Address:**
John Smith
12345 Any Road or Line
RR#4
Your Town, ON
Postal Code

If you live in an urban area that is renumbered it will be necessary to change your drivers license, etc..

**Elgin County, Bell Canada, Amtelecom, Emergency Services, and your municipality are working together to make Elgin a safer place to visit**

17

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 1998

Wednesday May 6, 1998

# *NEW BUSINESS OPENS IN WEST LORNE VILLAGE TRENDS*



Shelley Poels from West Lorne decided to start her own business after being a Nurse for ten years. Due to the fact of lay offs and cut backs at the Hospitals in London, Shelley decided to go out on her own as she wants to work with the public. She is a wife and a mother of four small children.
Shelley went back to school on a part time basis to pick up courses and now specializes in manicures, pedicures, medical foot care, acrylic nails, fiberglass nails, nail art waxing and tanning. Upcoming services are electrolysis, reflexology, aromatherapy, facials, make-up application and airbrushing. She is located at the Corner of Graham and Main Streets, West Lorne.
THE BEST OF LUCK TO SHELLEY IN HER NEW ADVENTURE.



**NEW OWNERS AT NORTH END MINI MART:** Left to right Christie, Darlene (MOM) and Cindy

***North End Mini Mart changes hands***

As of May 5, 1998 the North End Mini Mart changed hands as it was recently sold and the new owners took over.
The new name will be "Durrant's Mini Mart" and is owned by Mr. & Mrs. William and Darlene Durrant with their two daughters, Christie and Cindy helping in the store. A third daughter, Jo-Dee has one son and is presently expecting another child and she will also help in the store when required.
The Durrant's are living in London presently and want to see how things go and possibly will move here in the fall. They have been in the retail business for 20 years and have seen the good times and bad times of the business.

MAY 13, 1998

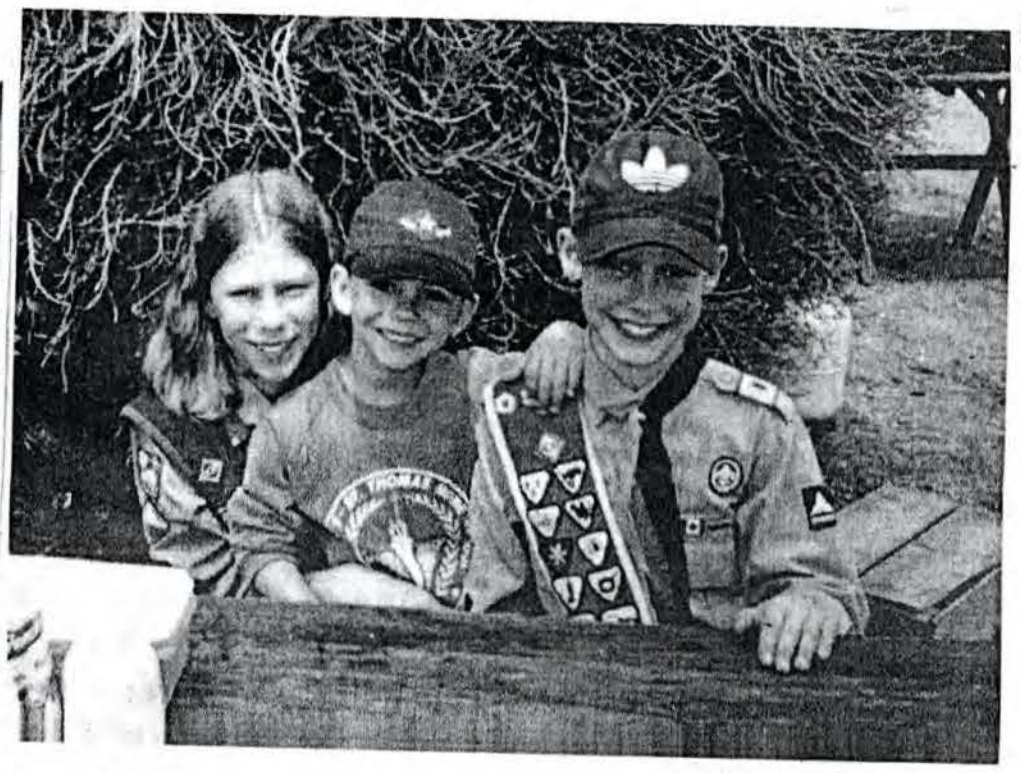




*The Bank of Montreal in West Lorne will be giving its customers who are interested in doing their banking via the computer a quick run through of the services. mbanx allows you to have full service banking by phone fax, mail, ABM and PC, 24 hours-a-day, 365 days a year. Bank of Montreal's NetBanking service also offers 24 hour-a -day convenience. Wherever you have access to a PC and the Internet, that's where you can enjoy access to all accounts. Bank employees will be giving customers a quick lesson from May 11-22 during regular banking hours. If you can't make it during that time, you can call for an appointment. Here, bank customer Winnis Van Lierop (sitting) gets a quick preview from customer service manager Wendy Vergeer and Paul Milne of Paul Milne Computer Consultants, who is donating the computer and Internet time (through Odyssey Network Inc.)*



Come and Visit Erie Gardens.



Pictured here are Breanne and Derek Podebry from West Lorne Scouting Family who were out cooking hot dogs for Erie Gardens and in the middle is a little helper.

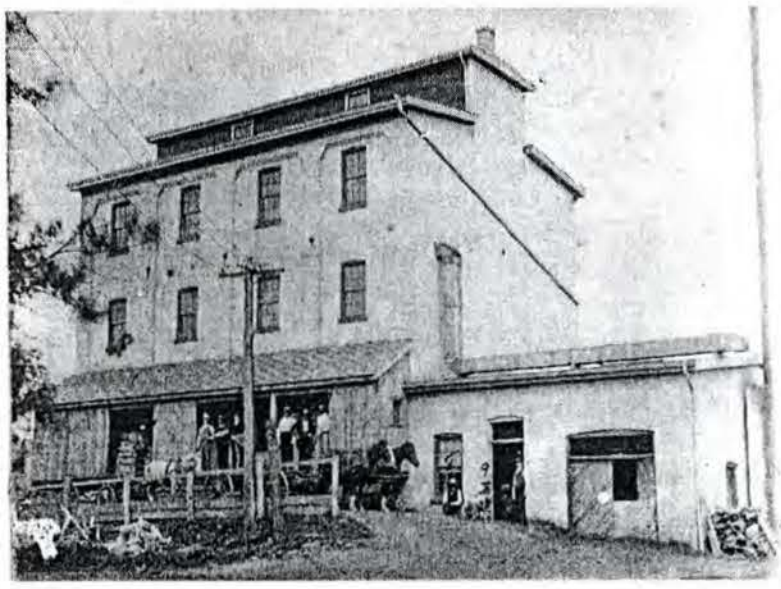
18

# WEST ELGIN FREE PRESS

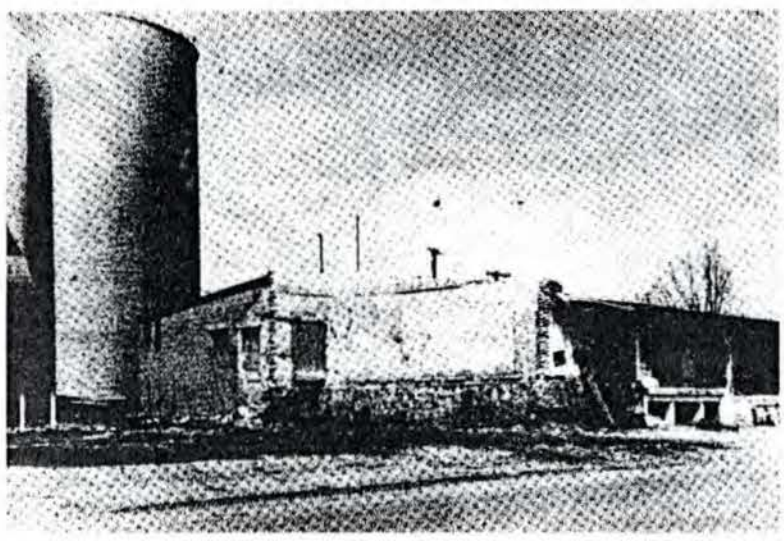
Volume 1 Issue 12 Wednesday May 27, 1998


BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 1998

# AN ERA. . .



**19th Century Flour Mill** - This picture which shows the original flour mill built in the 19th century and was then purchased by Elgin Co-Operative Services in 1944.



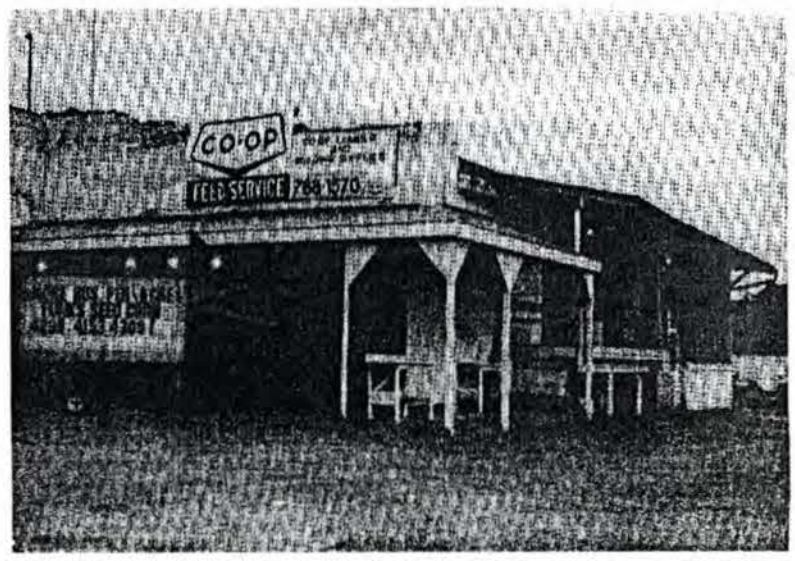
**Elgin Co-op After Demolition** - This is how the co-op appeared after the old white brick mill, which was built before the turn of the century, was demolished to make way for modern grain storage silos.

West Lorne has recently seen the demolition of the 19th century flour mill that was located on Main Street. The flour mill was built in late 19th century by A. McKillop and Sons and it changed hands several times before the co-op purchased the property in 1944.

The Elgin Co-op after running in this location for 46 years was sold in 1990 to J.R. Richardson and Sons, Limited of Winnipeg (known in Ontario as Topnotch). At that time the assets sold went for $7.8 million according to general manger at the time - Doug Best. At the takeover some head office employees were offered severance packages and other were hired by Richardson to continue.

The reason behind the sale of the Co-op was a $2 million grain loss in 1981-82 and that made it hard to ever get ahead in the next few years. The Co-op ended up in debt $3 million. When the Topnotch store closed in 1992 they then rented it out to various business interests - flea market run by Tom Jones and Tammy Swain; then operation was taken over by Don & Betty Ann Bobier; and then most recently Dixon Feeds was operated out of the building. The Topnotch grain elevator then ceased to accept grain and closed its elevator in the fall of 1996. After all the history of this location and the several business operations that were run out of here, all that remains now is a clear lot with all evidence being removed, so that if you were a newcomer to West Lorne you would never know what history sat on this location.

# GONE




**Elgin Co-op Sign to Change** -The 46 year-old farmers' co-operative was sold to James Richardson of Winnipeg in 1990 and at this time they are represented in Southwestern Ontario by Topnotch Feeds.



**All That's Left** - This is all that remains of a historic building that has been torn down and renovated several times - from flour mill to grain elevator to flea market to feed store to a pile of rubble.

## Bank CEO says West Lorne branch will not close with proposed merger

Bank of Montreal chairman and CEO Matthew Barrett has assured the customers of the West Lorne branch that the proposed merger with the Royal Bank of Canada will not affect the service they receive at the Graham and Main Streets location.

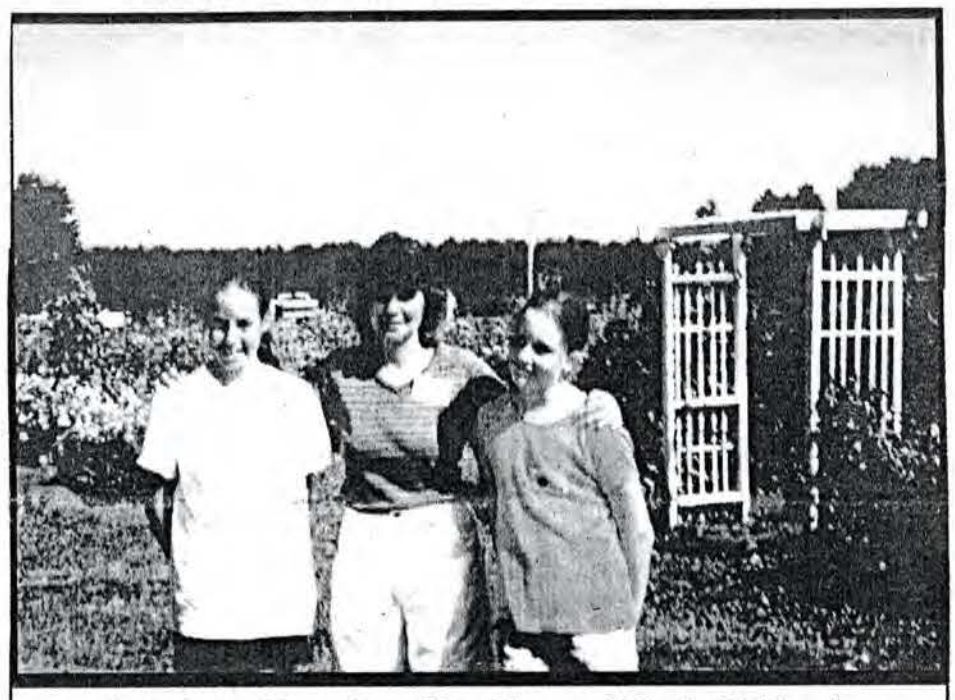
"Service excellence continues to be a primary goal of the new bank and we intend to offer our customers a full range of products and services," says Barrett. "Bank of Montreal is proud to have been part of your community and we look forward to our continuing partnership with our customers and the residents of West Lorne."

Barrett adds that "no small community, small town, or rural location will lose branch service because of the proposed merger."

The merger between the two banks was proposed in January and must still receive government approval before it goes through.

Toronto-Dominion and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce have also announced plans for a merger.

## *MEZENBERG'S ANNUAL DRIED FLOWER FESTIVAL*



***Here is Cathy and her nieces Lisa King and Nicole Bickle who have been helping Cathy for the past few years.***

Craft and flower enthusiasts attended Mezenberg's annual Dried Flower Festival on the Weekend. The beautiful weather brought people out from all over. Over 20 exhibitors were out to give a wider variety of goodies for everyone.

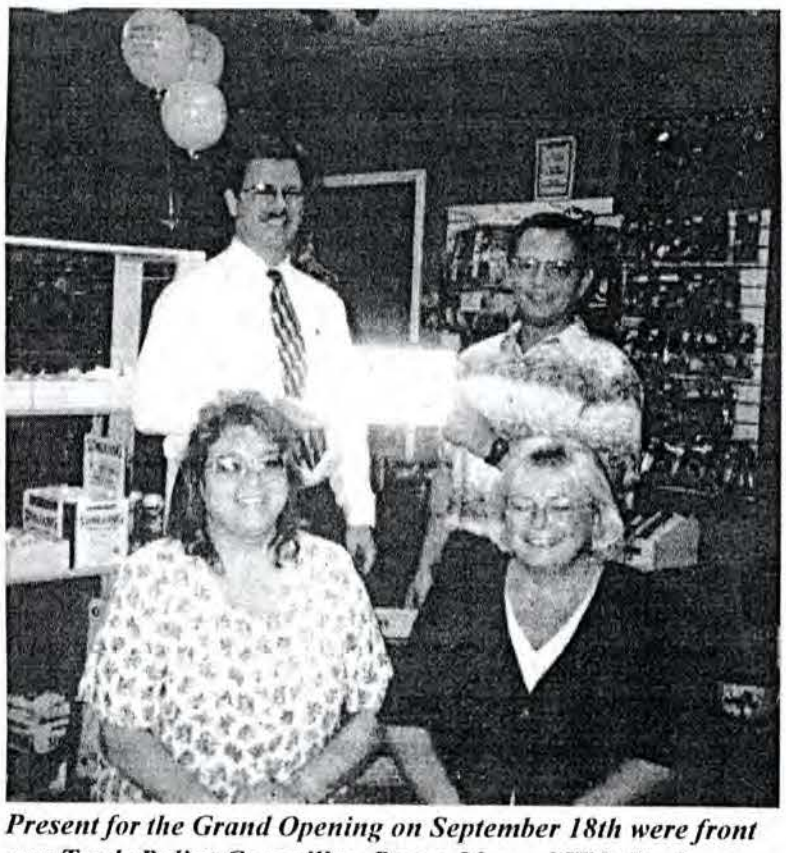
Shoppers had a variety of booths to shop from including ceramic tables, clothing, knitted items, quilts, and wood crafts of all kinds. The members of IODE were out with a bake table and the Optimist Club were out cooking food to those that were hungry. The rafters of the barn were filled with dried flowers of all colours and types. If dried flowers wasn't what you were looking for you could go out to the back forty and dig your own perennials.

Fresh fruit and vegetables were available and artist Paul Stephenson was out with his Northern Landscape pictures. If you were interested you could watch the furniture being made which thrilled a lot of those who attended.

Each year the event grows bigger and better. So if you were looking for something to brighten up your home for the winter months you likely were able to find it at Mezenberg's.

Don't forget it's not to late to go out and get your dried flowers for your home.

## *MTO GRAND OPENING*



***Present for the Grand Opening on September 18th were front row Trudy Balint-Councillor, Penny Masse-MTO. Back row Region Director from the Ministry, Warren Blackmore and Glen Cook. Licensing Hours are Mon.- Fri. 9-5 and Sat. 9-12***




## The West Elgin Chronicle moving to West Lorne

***The West Elgin Chronicle** is headin' on down the road. After being purchased by Rodney's Shirley Slaats three years ago, the community paper's home base will be moving from Rodney to West Lorne. As of Monday, Aug. 31, you will find the staff of **The West Elgin Chronicle** working as hard as ever at 242 Graham St., in the former N&W Country Video store. Our hours will remain the same (Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.) but our new phone number will be 768-2220 and our fax number will be 768-2221. See related story on Page 3 to find out more about the move.*

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 1998



**OPEN HOUSE AT THE WEST LORNE LIBRARY, JUNE 11, 1998**



**West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail, Library Supervisor Shelly Fleming and Elgin County Warden Perry Clutterbuck helped cut the ribbon to the opening of a larger library.**



# Memorial Tree Planting

*The Municipality of West Elgin have honored the memory of former employee Lynn Tunks with the planting of a tree behind the municipal office on Hoskins Line. Lynn, a long time member of the roads department, passed away earlier this year. Here, Lynn's wife Judy tosses the first shovel of dirt on the new tree.*



## *THE COMMUNITY WELCOMES JEFF, TERESA AND FAMILY AND YOUR GRAND OPENING OF HOMEHARDWARE SEPTEMBER 17th - 20th*



***New Owners of the Home Hardware are Jeff and Teresa Knight. In the front row are their two children Holly and Corey.***

CURRENT EVENTS 1994



*As it stands now...*

**West Lorne Council has been approved funding to build a new town hall, complete with a fire hall and library. The present building is pictured here as it appears now. A new town hall might mean the destruction of the present building or could mean a great deal of renovations and expansion. Council will be talking with their architects to determine what is best and most economical.**

1994

# West Lorne gets $300,000 fire hall, municipal office

The province has approved construction of a new building which will house the Village of West Lorne municipal office, fire hall and works department.

Reeve Diane Buchanan says construction on the $311,583 project is expected to start in November and be completed by September 1996.

Funding under the Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Works program was announced on the weekend by MP Gar Knutson and Municipal Affairs Minister Ed Philip.

Reeve Buchanan says the building will enhance community service to residents and provide sufficient space for village vehicles and equipment. "It is expected that the building, located in the main commercial intersection of the village, will attract other businesses to the area.

Construction will generate an estimated 330 person-weeks worth of short-term employment.

"We as council of the Village of West Lorne are very pleased with the approval of our project for the fire hall/ municipal complex," said Reeve Buchanan. Being a small municipality, this project enables us to provide accommodation for our fire equipment, and barrier-free access to the municipal offices means that we are better able to serve all of our residents."

Mr. Knutson also praised the project. "Construction of this new building translates into better services and jobs for the citizens of West Lorne. I am glad to see such needed projects funded by the infrastructure program."

Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Works is a $2.1 billion shared cost program designed to create jobs through local priority projects which will improve the province's infrastructure and therefore its competitive position. Canada, Ontario and local partners are each contributing one-third of the project funding.

CURRENT EVENTS 1994



# Everyone involved in run

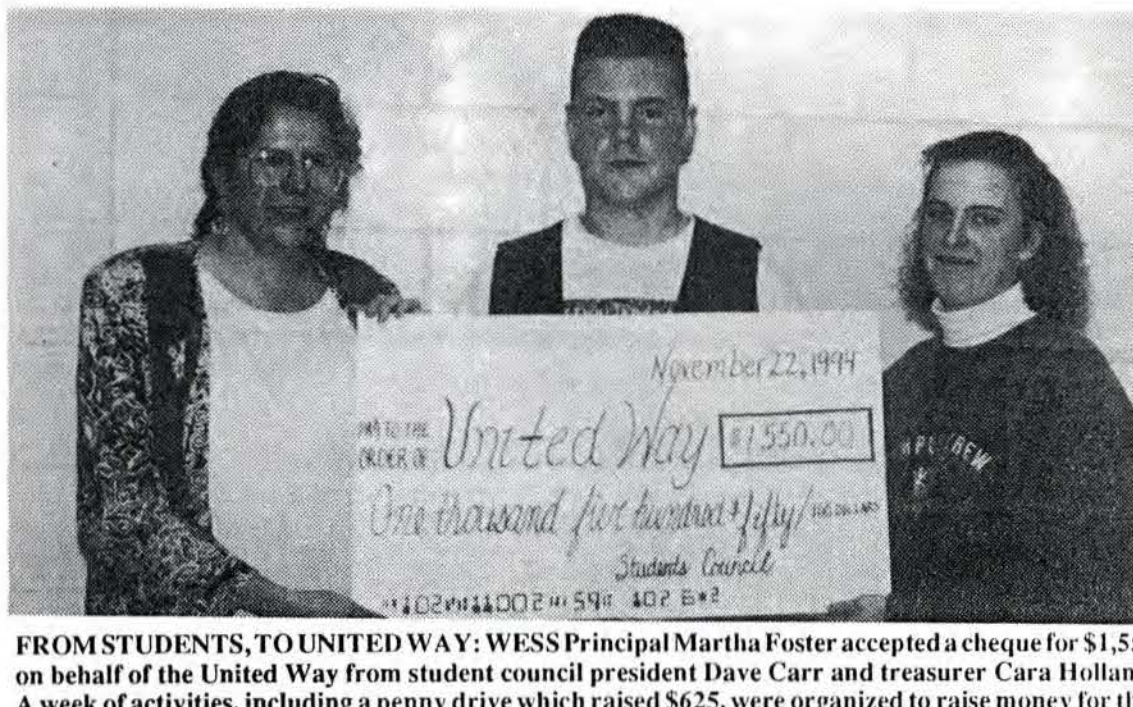
There was a chill in the air, but not in the hearts of the 220 students participating in the sixth annual Terry Fox Run held at West Elgin Senior Elementary School last Wednesday.

The youngsters all ran, walked or jogged six kilometres to help raise money for cancer research. Both groups of junior kindergarten students also participated, and covered one kilometre for the run. Pledges were collected by the students from among their friends and family, and while the exact dollar amount is not known yet, the school has managed to raise a total of $23,192.52 in the past five years.

Teacher Cathy Bell has organized the event for the past three years and says the school had 100 per cent participation this year. "The kids love it," she says, adding that the Terry Fox Foundation helps boost interest in the run by providing bookmarks and buttons for the young runners, as well as supplying videos to the school so the students can understand exactly what it is they're raising money for. Trophies are awarded to the three senior students with the most pledges, as well as an individual trophy for the highest pledge collector in each of the J.K. classes.



*Even the youngest WESES students got into the act and participated in the Terry Fox Run held at WESES last week.*




**FROM STUDENTS, TO UNITED WAY: WESS Principal Martha Foster accepted a cheque for $1,5 on behalf of the United Way from student council president Dave Carr and treasurer Cara Hollan A week of activities, including a penny drive which raised $625, were organized to raise money for t worthy organization.**

NOV.

# Meeting skating stars a dream come true

**BY: KAREN ROBINET**

She may not be able to skate herself at the moment, but 11-year-old Ashley Murray still loves to watch, and when it comes to professional skating, there are few better than Lloyd Eisler and Isabelle Brasseur.

Last weekend, Ashley, who has cancer, had the chance to meet the skating superstars through the efforts of Beth Evans, a coach with the West Lorne Figure Skating Club and the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada.

Evans coaches Eisler's niece in another skating club, and says that both the professional skaters work with the Children's Wish Foundation. When asked if they would meet with Ashley - who is a former member of the local figure skating club - they quickly said they would.

Evans says she immediately called Children's Wish, "and they set it up for them." Evans says she was impressed at how quickly the trip was organized. Before leaving, Ashley received a skater figurine and sweaters from the skating club, as well as some balloons from Cherie and Company.

Ashley and her family left West Lorne at noon on November 25 in a white limousine headed for the Sheridan Centre, where they received two bedrooms, and an adjoining parlour. Lillian Murray says Ashley, "had a wild time," in the hotel rooms, which offered a bird's eye view of the skating rink where Ashley and her brothers could watch the skaters practicing. At about 4 p.m. on the Friday, a representative of Children's Wish stopped by with a photographer to take some pictures. The highlight of the trip was the personal visit by Eisler and Brasseur who spent about half an hour visiting with the Murrays.

The skaters presented Ashley with a sweater and t-shirt, and she presented them with a number of items to be autographed. During their show that evening, Eisler and Brasseur made a special presentation of roses to Ashley, and the youngster can now tell all her friends that she was actually kissed by Lloyd Eisler.

"On Saturday we took the kids to the CN Tower," says Lillian, adding that Ashley wanted to buy a camera with her spending money, so, "we took lots and lots of pictures."

Ashley is currently undergoing chemotherapy and as of last Thursday had been hospitalized with a slight fever, which Lillian says is very common with cancer patients. She said she expected Ashley would be home again in a few days.

Just after the Murrays got home from their Toronto trip, they were notified by the Sunshine Foundation that a trip to California for Ashley had been set up for the following week, but because of Ashley's chemo, the trip will have to be postponed. Now, the family is hoping the California trip will take place in February.



24

CURRENT EVENTS 1994

# Winners from McFadden's Threshing

A variety of contests were held at the McFadden Antique Show and Threshing.

Winners in the wagon backing were Bob Paterson, first; Brian McGill, second; Larry Howard, third. In the coverall race Bill Okolisan took first, Pete Soos was second and Simon Ecker, Jr. was third.

In the children's nail driving contest the winners were John Watterworth, first; Adam Newman, second and Casey Okolisan third.

The ladies nail driving contest saw Pat Watterworth take first place, Brenda Steel placed second and Shirley Brown was third.

In the men's nail driving contest Jim Payne was first followed by Harry Vergeer in second and Pete Soos in third.

Winners in the log sawing pairs were Bob Kuska and Jim Payne, first; John McIntyre and Bill Graham, second; Bill Graham and Ray Hull, third.

And finally, those naming ten items on board were Harold Lamb followed by Art Ross.



*Bruce Davey.*

NOV. 1994

# West Lorne man reported missing

A 60-year-old West Lorne man is missing and it has family members and Dutton OPP worried.

Lawrence Davey has been missing since last Thursday. He was last seen driving a 1981 Malibu licence 853-LAV.

Mr. Davey is described as six feet tall, weighing 220 pounds with white hair, green eyes heavy build.

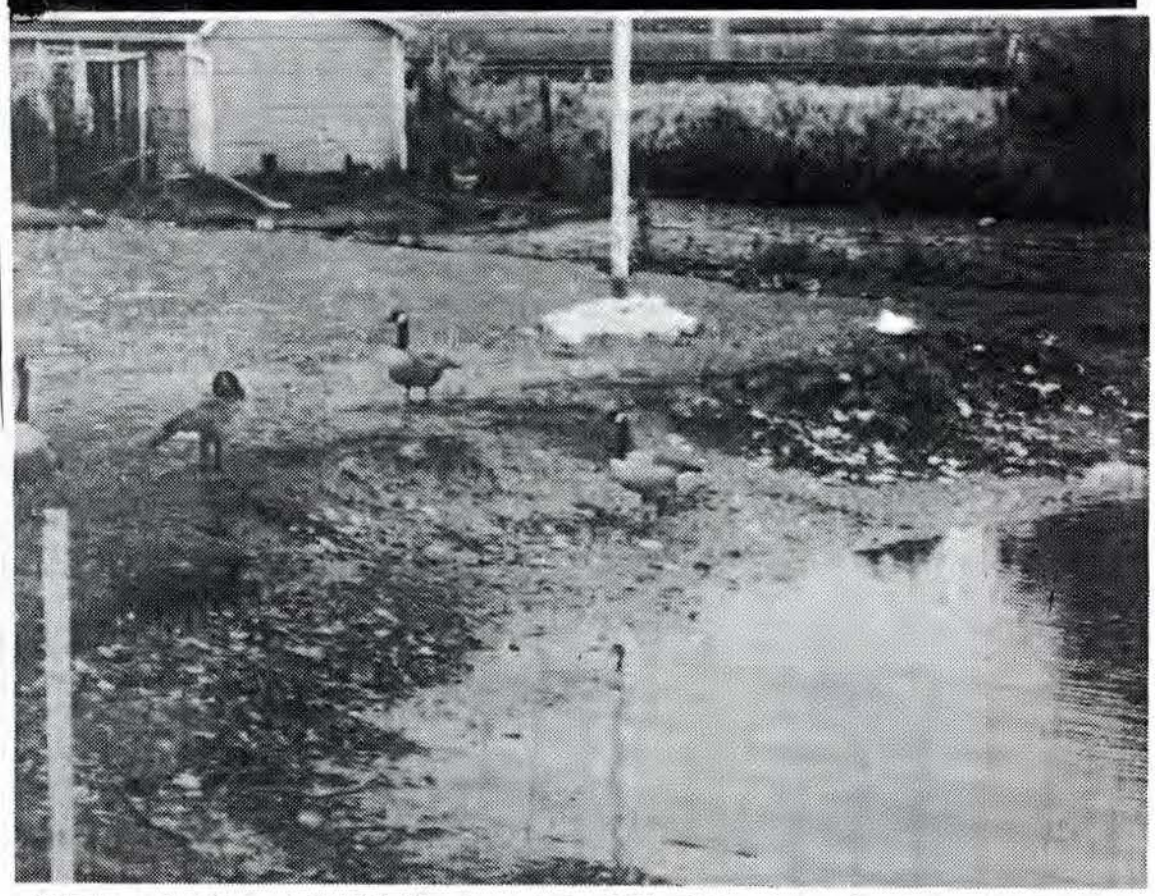
He was last seen wearing a beige suit coat and overcoat.

Dutton OPP and family ask residents to check their properties for the vehicle or for Mr. Davey.

Those with information are asked to contact Dutton OPP at 762-2833

Wednesday, November 9, 1994

# Brown's Wildlife Sanctuary



All looks well at Brown's Wildlife Sanctuary just outside of West Lorne, but the truth is, the birds are missing their keeper, Roy A. Brown who passed away on October 29, 1994.

**Roy A. Brown**

# Area's naturalist will be missed

WEST LORNE -- West Lorne residents were saddened with the news that Roy A. Brown passed away.

Residents were concerned about what would happen to the bird sanctuary that Brown was so faithful to. Brown was likened as West Elgin's own "Jack Miner". Coincidently, in Kingsville last weekend was the 50th anniversary commemoration of Jack Miner's death on Nov. 3, 1944.

**Roy A. Brown**

Brown passed away at Four Counties Hospital on Saturday, October 29, 1994 in his 76th year.

Born in West Lorne, son of Charles Brown and Annie Hodge, he was a devoted naturalist. He was predeceased by brothers Harley (1941), Harry (1975), Clifford (1985), and Alvin (1989).

Dearly loved and sadly missed by his wife Betty (Bell); daughter Bonnie Rodger of London; sons

Robert and his wife Shirley of Woodstock, Harley of London, Gary and his wife Shirley of West Lorne; sister Bertha Cooper of Elgin Manor; grandchildren Aaron, Carla, Christopher, Rhonda, Dana and great grandson Warren.

Friends called at the West Lorne Chapel on Monday and Tuesday where service was held on Wednesday, Nov. 2 with the Rev. T. Godfrey officiating. Interment Evergreen Cemetery.

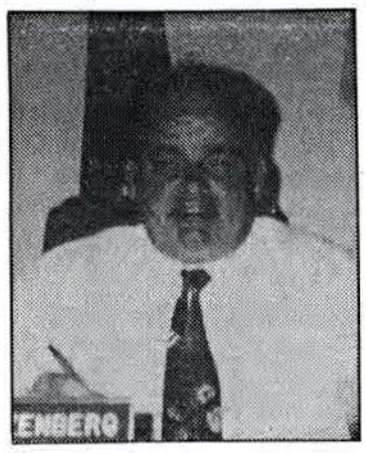
If desired, donations to the Hearth and Stroke Foundation were appreciated. Arrangement entrusted to the Padfield Funeral Home, Rodney.

CURRENT EVENTS 1994

DEC 1994
The Chronicle

# MUNICIPAL ELECTION '94

## Harry Mezenberg returned to office




## Alborough Township results

| Reeve | | Deputy Reeve | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Harry Mezenberg** | **913** | **Duncan McPhail** | **1114** |
| John Fisher | 420 | Roderick O'Conner | 361 |
| George Okolisan | 228 | | |

**Councillors (three to be elected)**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Joann Vergeer** | **857** |
| **Graham Warwick** | **780** |
| **Sebastian Begin** | **679** |
| John Zsoldos | 536 |
| Robert Coles | 505 |
| Charles Rushmere | 318 |
| Robert White | 229 |
| Bill Fry | 772 |
| Leigh Allossery | 528 |

## West Lorne results

**Councillors (three to be elected)**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Helen Okolisan** | **189** |
| **John Shields** | **248** |
| **Perry Willits** | **181** |
| John "Bing" Humphrey | 176 |



***The new members of West Lorne village council are: (front row left to right) Reeve Dianne Buchanan, Deputy Reeve Tammy Swain, Clerk-treasurer Brenda Fleming (back) Councillor Perry Willits, Councillor Helen Okolisan and Councillor John Shields.***

NOV 1994

# New clerk begins duties

**BY: KAREN ROBINET**

The Village of West Lorne now has a new clerk-treasurer.

Brenda Fleming began her new duties on October 31 in the municipal office, and says she's enjoying her time in the area already.

Fleming - who is newly married - is originally from Wallacetown, although she moved to St. Thomas about a year ago. She completed a three-year business administration course at Fanshawe College and is currently a finalist in the Certified General Accountants program.

Before coming to West Lorne, Fleming spent two years in retail accounting with LOEB Inc. "I wanted to do something that mattered," says Fleming in explaining why she was interested in the clerk's position. "I wanted to do something to help the community, not just fulfill a function," she said.

This is Fleming's first municipal posting, and while she says she feels quite confident in the treasurer part of her new job, she is working with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to bring her up to speed on the clerking end of it. She will also be enrolled in the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers program in January.

"It's a really busy office," Fleming says of the West Lorne office. She says that arriving just in time for the municipal election, "formed me to centralize on the pertinent issues." She adds that, "I am prepared to deal with the issues. It's very challenging," she says. "I'm really enjoying the work."

First and foremost on Fleming's priority sheet is the election, and as returning officer, Fleming is busy making sure that everything is properly in place for November 14. "I have to make sure the proper procedures are undertaken," she says.

Other important issues she will be dealing with include the sewage treatment plant and the proposed new municipal/ fire hall. She calls the new building, "something the whole village is excited about." Fleming says she also anticipates that policing will become an even more pressing interest than it is now.

Even though she lives in St. Thomas now, Fleming says she attended W.E.S.S. and understands what living in the village is all about. "I know what it's like to live here," she says. "Im familiar with what the residents go through."



***Brenda Fleming.***

CURRENT EVENTS 1994

# *Second annual nightime Santa Claus parade draws huge crowds*

Despite the cold temperatures hundreds of area residents clogged the downtown core of West Lorne recently to watch the second annual nighttime Santa Claus Parade.

The crowd gathered downtown early for the parade and while they anxiously awaited the arrival of Santa the air was filled with Christmas music which got the crowd in the Christmas Spirit early.

The Legion Color party led of the procession which lasted a little over 45 minutes.

This year's parade featured the Royal Scots pipe band from London.

It seemed that almost every service club and business in the area entered the parade this year making it the biggest parade area residents have seen in years.

As the procession of floats and other entries past by the crowd the anticipation of the little ones in the crowd erupted into cheers of Santa as the jolly old fellow and his sleigh proceeded down Graham Rd.

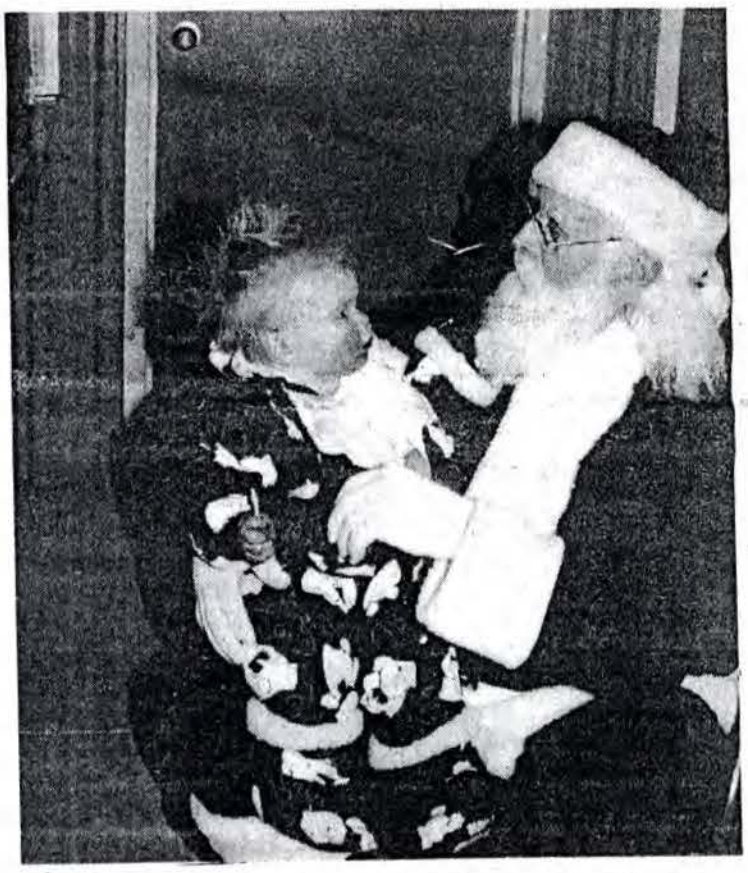
And just like the age old story of the Pied Piper they followed the man in the red suit to the firehall to tell Santa their wishes for Christmas Eve.

The Junior Optimist Club offered a babysitting service at the firehall which gave mom and dad a chance to do some Christmas shopping in the stores downtown.

During the parade Pine Creek Gallery dished out cups of hot cider to help the crowd bear the chilly air and the Star gave out chili to the parade goers.

After the parade several residents took advantage of taking a ride around town on Mike Closes team and his wagon.

It was a parade that area residents will be talking about for years to come. Hats off to the parade committee for a job well done. Thanks to Julie Lawrance, Robert White, Karen Cormier, Shirley Lorch and Bob Stewart for giving the residents of this area such a beautiful parade to kick of the festive season.



***Who is this fellow with the stange looking outfit on !*** *- This little gaffer, Shannon Pyka from West Lorne seems to saying , get me away from this guy in the red suit and the beard Ma! The jolly old fellow from the North Pole made his annual trip to check up on the little folk in the area before his big trip on Christmas Eve.*



**WEST LORNE**

# Reeve plans to apologize for comment about Portuguese and traffic signs

'We were concerned that the Portuguese would not understand the concept of a four-way stop,' Dianne Buchanan was quoted as saying of the former village council.

**By Sandra Coulson**
*St. Thomas Bureau*

WEST LORNE — A tearful village reeve said Friday she was "extremely apologetic" for a comment she made this week about the Portuguese community.

Dianne Buchanan said in an interview she will contact leaders of West Lorne's Portuguese community to apologize in person. She added she especially regrets the remark in light of the contacts she has built with the community in the last year or two. "I hope and pray I haven't knocked those building blocks."

Her controversial statement came at Monday's council meeting when a delegation asked for a traffic light or crosswalk at the village's main intersection. They were told that several years ago, the provincial transportation ministry said four-way stop signs would be better for the intersection. But council at the time rejected that advice.

"We were concerned that the Portuguese would not understand the concept of a four-way stop," Buchanan was quoted as saying at Monday's meeting in her explanation of why the earlier council had turned down the signs. Buchanan is the only member of the current council who sat on council when the decision was made. Buchanan then added the remark was council's concern, not hers personally.

But Buchanan said Friday she didn't intend for the comment to come out like that. She said she had wanted to explain the statement was council's concern before she made the statement, not after.



**West Lorne Reeve Dianne Buchanan became choked with emotion when she talked about the possibility her comment will be a setback in relations with the Portuguese community.**

**FORGOT PAPER:** She said she had anticipated she would be asked about the former council's decision at Monday's meeting. Because she is on "heavy medication," including a pain killer, she wrote out what she wanted to say. But she left the paper at home.

But she added, "I'm not using that (the medication) as an excuse."

Armenio Almeida, president of the Portuguese Club in West Lorne, said Thursday he was waiting to get more information on the meeting before acting. "We are definitely going to do something. It (the remark) was as low as you can go."

Another community member, Angelino Oliveira, said Thursday he was "very upset" by the comment. "There's no perfect race. We all make mistakes. But I think the Portuguese are doing a good job in this country."

Buchanan became choked with emotion when she talked about the possibility her comment will be a setback in relations between Portuguese immigrants and those who have been in West Lorne for generations.




**TRIED:** "I've tried since I've been on council to work with the Portuguese community to gain their trust, respect and all that good stuff because councils past ignored one-third of the people in my opinion."

The Portuguese make up an estimated one-third of the village's population of 1,500.

For example, Buchanan said, she pushed the village to set guidelines for some of its unclear procedures for getting permits for parades and other events on public property. The Portuguese hold two major religious festivals a year in the village. Buchanan said she attended one festival as reeve and was encouraged to see other non-Portuguese residents of the village had also come.

She said she will apologize for making the comments and "for putting my foot in my mouth."

**January 9, 1995**



***Architect's model shows the new fire hall on the left, where a parking lot is now located.***

# West Lorne council looking at funding for fire hall, municipal office this week

West Lorne council will investigate ways to fund a new fire hall and muncipal building at its meeting on Monday, Jan. 9.

Council and the West Lorne Fire Fighters Association met with the architect Wednesday night.

Association president Robert White said "nothing is set in concrete, but hopefully if the vote goes right the project will be a go as of Monday night."

He said the fire fighters' association, which already has carried out some fundraising activities, will continue to do so.

A breakfast was held in the fall, bingos are on-going and the association is also looking at a ball tournament for the summer, perhaps held in conjunction with a casino.

The estimated cost of the project is $311,000 and the fire hall is estimated to cost $190,000 of that amount.

CURRENT EVENTS 1995

FOUR-WAYGATE

# No resignation forthcoming from reeve

BY: KAREN ROBINET JAN. 23/95

Despite the controversy surrounding recent comments, and a petition calling for her resignation, West Lorne Reeve Dianne Buchanan said last week that she has, "no intention of resigning," and added that, "I don't want to make any more comments."

At the January 9 council meeting, Buchanan was quoted as saying that four-way stops in the village had been dismissed by a previous council because Portuguese residents in the village would not grasp the concept of them.

Among those in attendance at the meeting were Elgin MPP Peter North. North and his executive assistant had been at the meeting to help liaise between council and the Ministry of Transportation regarding stop signs in the village. In a telephone interview last week, North said he had also hoped to meet with the new council members and, "see if in the future we could meet with them." He deemed Buchanan's comment as, "really unfortunate," and pointed to the positive contributions made by members of the Portuguese community throughout West Elgin.



*Dianne Buchanan.*

Reaction to Buchanan's comments within the village was swift, and Armenio Almeida, president of the West Lorne Portuguese Community confirmed last Wednesday that a petition is being circulated requesting the reeve's resignation. Asked if the petition was being circulated under the auspices of the Portuguese community, Almeida said that there is also backing from other members of the community.

However, Buchanan admitted that, "I have medical problems I have to take care of and until further notice am under medical care." Buchanan said that perhaps she has been, "trying to do too much maybe," and cited chronic pain as part of the problem. She reiterated that, "at this point I have no intention of resigning, but once I get medical treatment, at that time there will be something forthcoming."

West Lorne clerk-treasurer Brenda Fleming confirmed that Buchanan has taken a leave of absence from her council duties and has left the remaining members of council to deal with upcoming issues, with Deputy-Reeve Tammy Swain at the helm.

While there has been some discussion of a special meeting to deal with the matter and Buchanan's political future in the village, as of press time, no meeting had been set up through town hall.

North, who says Buchanan's comment was, "completely inappropriate," says it will be up to Buchanan to decide whether or not she should tender her resignation, but he added that, "if I were to make a statement like that, I would be in a very difficult situation." Whether he would resign or not in, North wouldn't say. Even if Buchanan was only repeating something that had been stated previously, as the reeve maintains, North said, "it didn't bear repeating." He said it will be up to Buchanan to make a decision based on the wishes of her constituents and the rest of her council.

# West Lorne council has no legal recourse, yet

BY: KAREN ROBINET JAN. 1995

Even though West Lorne council, as well as a majority of voters in the village ave clearly expressed their wish for Reeve Dianne Buchanan to resign her osition, there is no legal manner in which she can be forced to vacate her seat.

Roger Moyer, a municipal adviser with the Southwest Region of the Ministry f Municipal Affairs said last week that, "there is no provision in the Municipal .ct in that you can force a member of council to vacate his or her seat."

He said that, "the balance of the members can request the resignation, but it as no legal effect." Moyer added that, "the decision is completely that of the eeve's." He added that there are more measures in place to prevent someone for anning for the position in the first place than there are to force them to vacate ie seat.

According to Moyer there are only three instances cited in the Municipal Act which a member of council can be forced to resign. These include being an ndischarged bankrupt, being in prison for a crime, or missing more than three onth's worth of meetings.

Moyer said there are no provisions within the Act that would allow for uchanan's impeachment or a vote of no confidence. He said current legislation akes it very clear that, "it's her sole decision whether she chooses to resign."

While Buchanan had submitted a written request to council to allow her, "to absent from three or more successive meetings," that request was turned down council. However, the Act also states that Buchanan is within her legal rights take up to three months off without council approval.

At Monday night's council meeting, some concerns were raised as to what the eve's situation is, but Buchanan did indicate she would be on hand for the xt council meeting. However, Councillor John Shields says he feels Buchanan as "almost missed two meetings already." Deputy-reeve Tammy Swain told ouncil that, "we'll just have to wait our three months."

*Watch for PROWL*

# New West Lorne complex: group agrees to a plan

MAY 1995

On Wednesday, May 10, 1995 an open meeting was held at West Lorne Town Hall to outline the various options that were available for the layout and design of the proposed community complex.

All organizations within the community were invited to send representation. It was a very informative meeting with over 30 people attending including a representative of the architects who have done the preliminary planning.

There were representatives from eight community organizations present. There was considerable discussion concerning layout, design and related costs and many questions were answered about the project.

The main result of this meeting was that a tentative plan was selected and a volunteer steering and fundraising committee was formed.

On Wednesday, May 17, the newly formed committee met for the first time, again including a representative of the architectural firm.

The committee consists of Jerry Prince, Rosalie Krebsz, Hazel Stalker, Leola Lawrence, Carlos Oliveria, Robert Stewart, George Nute, Ray JObson, Ric Whyte, Perry Willits, and John Shields.

The layout of the complex was discussed and with advice from the architect, a tentative design was chosen. The financial details were provided and the fund raising goal to achieve the desired plan was set at $175,000.00

Considerable discussion ensued and a number of fund raising ideas including 50/50 draws, car raffles, community canvass, dances, community yard sale, car washes, etc. were discussed.

The architect promised to produce a conceptual drawing of the layout as well as a brochure that could be provided to the public prior to any fund raising being initiated.

A slogan for the fundraising was suggested and met with general approval and enthusiasm as follows-

"PROWL" which stand for "Proud Residents of West Lorne." It is worth noting that any donations that are given to "The Village of West Lorne-Building Fund" will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

This worthwhile project will succeed without doubt but will require the support and help of our community.

The next meeting of the PROWL committee will be on Wednesday, May 31 in the village council chambers at 7:30 pm. Any citizens interested in this project are invited to attend and become part of it.

CURRENT EVENTS 1995




**IT'S OFFICIAL: The sign marking the site of the new West Lorne fire hall and municipal complex was erected March 13. Mar-Con Construction donated the use of their backhoe to help dig the hole for the sign, and backhoe operator Dennis Chevalier also donated his time.** MAR 95

July 17, 1995



***Ripley & Giles Petrocan station has donated $500 to the West Lorne community complex. Pictured here are: Bob Ripley (left) and Al Giles (right) making the presentation to fireman Jim Johnston. The business has also donated a cooler to be used in a raffle.*** APR. 7/95 ***(K. Robinet)***




***The Bank of Montreal in West Lorne will be donating $4,000 to the construction of ther West Lorne Municipal Complex. The bank is donating $2,000 this year and the same amount in 1996. Pictured here left to right in front of the building site are left to right: Perry Willits and Ray Jobson both of the PROWL committee, Peter Wiles, manager of the Bank of Montreal and Jim Johnston, a West Lorne firefighter.***



***Construction on the new West Lorne fire hall is well underway and it should be completed some time next year. Recently announced cutbacks to projects by the provincial government have not impacted on the project with the Canada-Ontario infrastructure funding left intact. Estimates for the combined fire hall/municipal complex have increased though, currently sitting at approximately $450,000. About $240,000 must be raised locally for the facility.***

AUG. 14, 1995 ***(K. Robinet)***

APR '95 CURRENT EVENTS 1995



CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED: The Canadian Cancer Society sold their daffodils at the West Lorne IGA to kick off the start ofApril as Cancer Month. The Great Ride Against Cancer in West Lorne is set to take place on April 30, leaving from the West Elgin Arena. Bob Walker took his shift at selling the beautiful buds.
(photo by Ruth Ferguson)

June 28, 1995




West Lorne senior's captured their share of medals at the recently held Senior's Games in Rodney on June 22nd. Pictured from (Left to Right Back Row) Hugh Mills, 1st in Lawn bowling, Ross Lashbrook, 1st, in Lawn bowling, Mary Fluker, 3rd in walking, and Charlie Cronkite, 3rd in golf. (LtoR Front Row) Jean Vanscader 1st in Lawn Bowling, Helen Faucette 2nd in cribbage, Ed McCallum, 3rd in Cribbage, Nellie Butler 2nd in cribbage, and Gwen Szabo 3rd in golf. Photo by

October 11, 1995



West Lorne Reeve ,Diane Buchannan (left) receives an aerial view of West Lorne's new Sewage Treatment Plant from Mr. Hisham Slim of M.M. Dillon . Photo by Brian Outhouse

CURRENT EVENTS 1995



**VERONICA SEWELL**

BANK OF MONTREAL is pleased to announce the appointment of Veronica Sewell, Full Service Manager, West Lorne. Veronica has spent 29 years with the Bank in various positions throughout South Western Ontario, (with her most recent appointment in Bothwell).

As Manager, she will be responsible for working with personal, commercial, and farm customers in assessing their financial needs.

NOV. 1995



**Winners in the grade 7-8 spelling bee at the West Lorne Kiwanis Talent Show were, l-r: Natalie Ford, 1st, Dennis Ocolisan, 2nd, Tina Boyd and Krista Mooser, tied for third.**



**Winners in the grade 3-4 spelling bee at the West Lorne Kiwanis Talent Show were, l-r: Matt Mistele, 1st, Scott Bray, 2nd, and Josh Lilley, 3rd.** **(photo by Ruth Ferguson)**

APR. 1995

# Bank employee retires

**by Brian Outhouse**

It was a sad but joyous day at the Bank of Montreal for both customers and employees at the Bank of Montreal in West Lorne last Thursday as long time employee Jackie Leitch retired . She spent the day saying good-bye to customers and her fellow employees and reflecting on the last 36 years.

Jackie started with the bank back in 1959 in Bothwell as a draft clerk. In those days she stated" her job was a collection clerk where she would go from business to business with a draft form with which businesses would fill out to pay their bills.

She was later promoted to the position of teller which she held for many years.

She came to West Lorne in 1964 where she assumed the position as a teller.

Jackie eventually worked her way up to become a customer service clerk which she enjoyed immensely. Upon leaving the bank Jackie held the position of Assistant Manager.

During her years at the bank she stated" that the most notable change in the banking industry over the years was the introduction of the computer". " It saved us time she added but it also created work as it took more employees to do what we used to do manually". When computers first came on line in the early 70's she never thought they would ever learn how to use them, but today we can't live without them she added. She also stated " that today's banks offer customers more services such as paying their utility bills at the bank and also the banks offer customers a wider variety of accounts to chose from."The ATM has also cut down on the number of people requiring personal service and that it is sometimes more convienient and quicker for a customer to use an ATM than come into the bank".

During the day on Thursday customers could have a piece of the specially made retirement cake for Jackie and a cup of coffee and chat with Jackie wishing her the best and remembering days gone by.

On Thursday evening the banks current and some of the past employees that Jackie worked with held a surprise retirement party at the Town and Country Restaurant in West Lorne for a farewel l banquet in her honor.



**Marg Varga (right) ex- Bank of Montreal employee wishes Jackie Leitch whose last day at the bank was last Friday, her well in her retirement. Photo by Brian Outhouse**

MAY 10, 1995 CURRENT EVENTS 1995



It only took about two hours for volunteers to collect about 50 bags of garbage by picking up litter off of West Lorne streets. About 50 people took part in the IGA community clean up day. Participants were treated to juice, coffee and muffins. A discarded bike, car tire and wheel rims were some of the larger items found. Pictured are the volunteers with the trash they collected. In front are Steve Mosher, left, and Steve Browne, owner of West Lorne IGA. Steve Mosher was the lucky winner of the AM/FM cassette CD player given away by IGA. (photo by Ruth Ferguson)

October 18, 1995



It was Apple Day for area cubs, scouts and beavers in West Lorne and area recently and seen here preparing the baskets of apples at 1st West Lorne Scout Hall is (from left to right) Cub, frank Hatch, Cub, Breanne Podebry, Cub Leader Anna Podebry Beaver, Derek Podebry and Cub, Michael Hatch. Apple Day is one of the main fundraisers for the scouting movement. Phot

December 13, 1995

# Area residents gathered around the "Angel Tree"

by Brian Outhouse

Despite the sub - zero temperatures and bone chilling winds over 50 area residents gathered outside the front of the new fire hall in West Lorne to participate in the village's first ever Angel Tree ceremony.

Due to the cold weather the bulk of the ceremonies were held inside the fire hall with Darrell VanOrischot starting the proceedings with a rousing rendition of the song "friends".

As Darrell sang, a stillness came over the crowd who gathered to remember loved ones that have passed on and for one brief moment in time the minds and hearts of many people were molded together as one.

After Darell's heart wrenching rendition, Master of Ceremonies, Helen Jones introduced Doug McGill who read a poem.

The crowd then listened to a song sung by Jennifer Kelly from Goderich. After Kelly's song the crowd lit their candles and moved outside surrounding the little tree that meant so much to so many people. As the crowd stood in the freezing temperatures and sang "Silent Night", organizer Helen Jones threw the switch and the little tree became aglow with tiny white twinkle lights.

The little lights glowed in the night and resembled the stars in the nighttime sky overhead bright and yet they projected a warmth in the hearts of the crowd that is seldom seen. After the tree lighting ceremony the crowd moved back into the fire hall where a few more songs were sung and tributes made to those loved ones that we miss so much.

At the end of the ceremony the crowd mingled amongst each other and enjoyed Hot Apple Cider, Hot Chocolate and Donuts.

Helen Jones organizer of the event wished to thank the following organizations for their contributions for making this years event a success: The West Lorne IGA, Donut Delite, Home Hardware, Rene VanBrink, and West Lorne Town Council.

Proceeds from this year's tree lighting ceremony went to the Sunshine Foundation. The tree was donated by Don & Betty Bobier in memory of Ashley Murray.

The tree will remain lit until the new year in remembrance of our loved ones. It is hoped that the tree lighting ceremony will become an annual event in West Lorne.

OCT. 1995

# New Air Cadet Squadron coming to West Lorne

by Brian Outhouse

Have you ever stood still and looked up and watched a plane fly overhead and wonder where it was going, or wished you could be the pilot of that plane?

Well thanks to two local men, Bill Scott and Walter Podebry local teenagers can have a chance to get their wings by joining the new Air Cadet Squadron which will be starting up soon in West Lorne.

The two men picked West Lorne as the base for the new squadron as it is in a central location to the surrounding communities of Dutton, Rodney, Eagle, and Wardsville. In order for the Department of Defence to authorize the new squadron the new unit must initially have a membership of 50 cadets. Air Cadets is open to both boys and girls.

On October 13, 1995 at 12:00 Noon the two men will hold an assembly at W.E.S.S. in the hopes of getting a number of interested youths signed up to be part of the West Lorne Squadron.

Air Cadets is more than just drilling it's learning about different weather patterns, morse code, how to file a flight plan and other important courses relating to getting your pilots licence. The following is a list of questions pertaining to becoming an Air Cadet.

**1. How old must I be to join Air Cadets ?**

You are eligible to join a squadron if you have reached your 13th but not your 19th birthday.

**2. What are the requirements of Membership ?**

All potential cadets must be of good character, interested in the program and prepared to attend parades regularly. Parent's permission is also required.

**3. What about medical exams ?**

You must produce evidence of physical fitness before being accepted as an Air Cadet.

Air Cadets must also be examined by a doctor before going to camp, undertaking flying training or other special assignments.

**4. Will I have to pay dues ?**

No - but you may be asked to join in on fundraising activities such as tag days, special parades etc.

**Cont'd page 2**

MAY 10, 1995 CURRENT EVENTS 1995

# West Lorne welcomes new doctor

By Ruth Ferguson

West Lorne's newest doctor arrived in the village May 1. Dr. Shelley Subhash Sharma has joined Dr. Anna Rogers as a partner in her medical clinic.

Born in Kenya and raised in England, Dr. Sharma did all of his medical training in England. Since coming to Canada, he has been awarded certification as a family physician.

Moving from England to Eriksdale, Manitoba about three-and-a-half years ago, Dr. Sharma has about 15 years experience and has a special interest in geriatrics.

In Manitoba, he was a practicing family physician, as well as training medical students at the Univ. of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine. He was also a mecial examiner.

Here, Dr. Sharma will continue as a teaching physician, training students in family practice.

Because the Highgate/Orford/Duart area has been officially designated as under-serviced, Dr. Sharma was able to relocate to West Lorne under a government program. He hopes to draw patients from that area.

Dr. Sharma will divide his time between Dr. Roger's clinic in West Lorne,and Four Counties General Hospital in Newbury. He will be in West Lorne on Mondays and Fridays. His office at the hospital is currently being set up and, once ready, he will be there Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, with office hours from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dr. Sharma will be doing some evening and Saturday clinics with Dr. Rogers.

"The people have been extremely kind. I want to thank Dr. Rogers and the staff who have made it so nice for me. They have treated me like family," stated Dr. Sharma.

"The people from the community have been very good to me," he said. "I hope to reciprocate by looking after them."

Dr. Sharma is married with three young children.

Appointments can be booked with Dr. Sharma by calling Dr. Roger's medical clinc at 768-2545. Office hours ae Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 5, with extended hours on Tuesdays.



**West Lorne's newest physician, Dr. Shelley Subhash Sharma**

# Mezenberg appointed Warden of Elgin County for 1996

BY: KAREN ROBINET

The coming year could be one of the most challenging in Elgin County's history, and Aldborough Reeve Harry Mezenberg will be at the helm.

Mezenberg was appointed to the warden's position, replacing outgoing Warden Vane Chute at a special meeting held last Tuesday at the county building in St. Thomas to elect the new warden. Mezenberg had been the only county councillor to throw his hat into the ring prior to that date, and nobody else came forward at the meeting, meaning an election was not needed and Mezenberg was appointed to the position for a one-year term.

During a brief ceremony, Mezenberg signed a declaration of office, swore an oath of allegiance, and then slipped into a gown to be presented with his ceremonial chain of office, the Lord Elgin watch and the gavel of office, by Chute.

Mezenberg then made his first address as warden, thanking his fellow councillors for, "the honour you have bestowed upon me." He then commented on the progressive changes that have been made in the county over the past decade, and said those changes will enable the county to better tackle, "unprecedented (funding) cutbacks and restructuring." Mezenberg said that tough decisions will have to be made which will affect not only the county, but each of the 15 municipalities within it.

"We will have to search our hearts and souls and look at at services, re-evaluate and see what we can afford," said the new warden.

He said the county will begin the year with two days of "shirt sleeve sessions," to begin dealing with the challenges ahead. Mezenberg said he anticipates a closer relationship with the city of St. Thomas and more shared services.



*Past Warden Vane Chute congratulates the new Elgin County Warden, Aldborough Reeve Harry Mezenberg.*

CURRENT EVENTS 1995

# Harold Lancaster: The Birdman of West Lorne

BY: KAREN ROBINET

Ever since he was a young boy, Harold Lancaster of West Lorne remembers being interested in birdwatching. He credits his public school teachers with encouraging this interest by keeping a rudimentary log of the first bird spotted each day and the name of the student who saw it.

"I gradually became more interested in it," says Lancaster, who retired nine years ago and moved to West Lorne with his wife Evelyn. Unlike Lancaster, Evelyn is interested in birds, but is not, "an ardent birdwatcher."

Lancaster, on the other hand, has recently completed an extensive project which brought together a lifetime of notes and journals on birdwatching. He put the book together on the computer, and it is a large and extensive overview of his hobby.

The book records a staggering 746 species spotted by Lancaster, who says he's seen two more since completing the book. He compiled the book in the same order established by the American Ornithologist's Union.

He is quick to point out though, that all those sightings were not just in Canada. The Lancasters have travelled extensively, not only throughout North and South America, but in Europe, Britain and the Caribbean as well. And while the trips were not specifically birdwatching expeditions, but holidays, Lancaster says that whenever the time allowed, he would grab his binoculars and telescope and head off to see if he could add another bird to the list.

Lancaster did the same thing during a year spent overseas in World War II. After spending three-and-a-half years in Canada as a flight instructor, Lancaster was eventually posted to Northern Europe and the British Isles where he spent his free time birding.

Nowadays, birdwatching is gaining in popularity, says Lancaster, adding it's quite a contrast to the 1930s and '40s when birders all knew each other.

But, Lancaster says he's pleased to see families and young people out to look at the birds. Apart from a good pair of binoculars and a field guide, Lancaster says birding is an expensive, but exciting hobby. And, as an added bonus, you can do it anywhere. Patience is a virtue when it comes to birdwatching, but Lancaster says the challenge is worth it. "No matter where you go, there are birds of some description," says Lancaster, pointing out that birds can be found year-round. Many people just watch the birds at their own homes, and occasionally they'll spot something unusual, he says.

He says West Elgin is a good spot for birders. Birds don't like to fly too far from land, and our proximity to Lake Erie means there are many species of birds crossing locally. Birds travel by night, when they navigate using the stars, but during the day, they seek out land.

Lancaster says the 14th Concession of Aldborough has always been a good spot for birdwatching, but recent years have brought a decline in the numbers, which he blames on the loss of their environment; the forests.

"Birds aren't as plentiful as they used to be," he says, although blackbirds continue to thrive. But, Lancaster says that small songbirds have suffered tremendously from the loss of their habitat.

Field loving sparrows have also diminished in number, and grasshopper sparrows which abounded in Lancaster's youth, have all but disappeared. "I haven't seen one for a couple of years," he says.

But, West Elgin remains one of the best areas for the hawk migration, especially the Broad Winged Hawk, which enters at the end of Lake Ontario and travels this way. "Hawks don't like crossing large bodies of water," says Lancaster, adding, "they follow the lake until they get to the land on the other side."

Today, when the Lancasters travel, they use a fully-equipped van, which allows them to get into places a trailer wouldn't. Getting off the beaten track is something Lancaster enjoys doing because it means a better chance of seeing something different or unusual. For a birder, spotting a bird which is quite off of its course is always an exciting experience, and always gets the birder 'hotline' going.

"There are a number of rarities in Ontario from the west or south, and even the odd one of a Eurasian species," says Lancaster. He says some birds travel to Alaska from Siberia and then get stranded.

During migration, waterfowl move in flocks while smaller birds move en masse, sometimes with different species intermingling and migrating together.

To understand what birders are looking at, Lancaster says a good bird guide is essential, and he recommends two: A Field Guide To The Birds East Of The Rockies by Roger Tory Peterson and the National Geographic Society's Field Guide To The Birds Of North America.

Because there are so many subtle differences between species of birds, as well as the same bird at different times of the year, Lancaster says it's crucial to refer to the guides, which also give information about where a particular bird is native to.

The West Elgin Nature Club has a number of birdwatching enthusiasts in the group, and as a charter member of the club, which marks its 50th anniversary next year, Lancaster says he's pleased to be associated with the group.

The club meets the third Thursday of each month, except during the summer and in December, when the annual bird census is held December 27. When it first started, Lancaster says the club had between 12 and 15 members, and today the number has grown to about 50. Members are interested in a number of things, including those who are keen on birding, as well as others interested in flowers, reptiles and amphibians. The environment figures prominently in the concerns of all involved, and Lancaster says the club boasts, "a good cross-section of people."

The club occasionally organizes outings and has a number of guest speakers at their meetings at W.E.S.S.

MAY 17, 1995



# Lorne tractor made right here

This picture was brought to Mercury-Sun by Brad ive.

This is a Lorne tractor, built West Lorne by the Lorne actor Company. Hugh rmichael, who owned the siness, probably built this chine around 1916-17.

The Lorne Tractor Company also built the first fire pumper for West Lorne in 1917.

Mr. Carmichael moved out of the area, eventually settling in Ingersoll where the company manufactured Lorne firetrucks.

The original business was located in approximately the same spot as Ripley and Giles garage is now.

Mr. Reive was given the picture and would like to find out more about the Lorne Tractor Company, and the products it manufactured, and any other relevant information. If you have any information that might be of use to Mr. Reive, he can be reached at 768-1365.

# St. Mary's Pastor Retires

By Brian Outhouse

It was a joyous,and yet a sad day at St. Mary's Church on Sunday June 11, as Father Ronald G. Paquette retired from the Ministry after 40 years of service.

Over 300 people, friends, congregation members and former classmates of Father Paquette's graduating class gathered at St. Mary's Hall on Sunday to celebrate the Father's retirement.

It was a day filled with memories, laughter and tears as the end of an era at St. Mary's was coming to a close.

Father Paquette served not only the congregation of St. Mary's but his warm nature and captivating smile was loved by everyone in Elgin County. Father Paquette will surely be missed as he moves on ,but not forgotten in the hearts and minds of those he has touched over the years.

JUNE 14, 1995

CURRENT EVENTS 1995




**Although Father Paquette is leaving St. Mary's he couldn't resist the chance to promote the church's building fund as Father Paquette poses for this shot with fellow clergymen and former classmates of the 1955 graduating class. (From L-R) Father Armindo Vaz, Father Paquette, Father George Vaz, Rev. Edward P. Gotfield, and Rev. Frank White. Photo by Brian Outhouse**

# Rev Stover to pastor local United churches

1995

By Ruth Ferguson

After going without a minister for a year-and-a-half, the Rodney and West Lorne United Churches finally have a full-time pastor again.

Rev. Colin Stover stepped into the pulpit on Jan. 1. His covenanting service was held on Jan. 22.

Rev. Stover and his family, wife Annettee; son Joel, 9; and daughter Cara, 7, moved to Rodney from Grand Bend. Rev. Stover had been the minister at Grand Bend United Church for the last five-and-a-half years.

Rev. Stover earned his B. Arts in Social Sciences from the Univ. of Windsor, going on to obtain a M. Div. from St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 1987.

Born in St. Thomas, Rev. Stover grew up in New Jersey, returning to St. Thomas around the time he entered high school.

Moving to Rodney is unlike his first two churches in that there are a lot of connections here. There are many people in the area who have mutual friends or relatives that the Stovers know. From living in Elgin County previously, Rev. Stover is familiar with the area so the transition to Rodney has been quite easy to make.

Rev. Stover was first approached by Rev. Evelyn MacLachlan from the Dutton United Church, a member of the search committee, and a friend from college. At the time, he was not interested and turned her down. Some time later, Bob Karn from Rodney United Church contacted Rev. Stover



**Rev. Colin Stover who recently returned to Elgin County with his family.**

**(photo by Ruth Ferguson)**

asking for his resume which turned out to be the first step to the Stover accepting the call to Rodney.

"I know I'm definitely called her. I was very comfortable where I was but both my wife and I felt called to come here," Rev. Stover said.

Rev. Stover says that he is glad that there is so much leadership in the congregation. The West Lorne United Church has approximately 80 members, with the Rodney church having about 90 members.

The West Lorne United Church services begin at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings with Sunday School taking place during the service.

In Rodney, Calvary United's Sunday morning services begin at 11:10 a.m. with Sunday School for older children before the service and for younger children during the service.

*tours.*

SEPT. '95

# St. Mary's addition

BY: LISA SWAIN

According to Principal Bob Thibert construction on the new wing of the St. Mary's /St. Thomas More School in West Lorne is proceeding slightly ahead of schedule and currently under budget.

The project, which began construction near the end of June, is slated for completion December 15th. Ideally, the new classrooms will be ready to greet St. Thomas More students after the Christmas break.

The new wing is set to include seven classrooms, an extension onto the library, a new principal's office, a meeting room, a teacher's workroom, and an expanded staff room. In addition, the school board has aquired extended leases on five adjoining lots and plans are underway to level and seed the lots next spring for use in the fall of 1996.

This year, however the size of the school yard will be significantly reduced. The school plans to increase it's intramural program in an effort to accomodate this loss.

Although most of the work involving heavy equipment has been completed, the school has several safety concerns to address during construction. An assembly outlining possible hazzards and safety precautions is planed for the first day of classes. As well the school has scheduled increased supervision in the school yard with three teachers on duty rather than two which has been the case in previous years.

Principal Thibert credits excellent communication for the success of the project thus far. Meetings are held every two weeks to discuss progress and changes.



***Construction continues on the addition to the St. Mary's/St. Thomas More School.***

CURRENT EVENTS

# Jesse's Journey makes stop in West Lorne

Aug. 1995 1995



Reeve Dianne Buchannan welcomes Jesse to the Village of West Lorne. Dianne gave Jesse a cheque for a $100 to Jesse's cause on behalf of the Village of West Lorne. Photo by Brian Outhouse

by Brian Outhouse

As most of us rose on Friday morning August 18th to another hot sweltering day and go off to another hum drum day of work , the efforts of a 15 year old Jesse who suffers from "Duchene" Muscular Dystrophy and his partner and father, John began another day in their trek to journey across Ontario raising funds for gene therapy so that some day this disease can be wiped away from the face of the earth.

The West Lorne Fire Department went out to meet Jesse and lead him into West Lorne. Joining Jesse's caravan were several residents from the area as well as members of the West Lorne Firefighters who carried firemen's boots for a boot drive into town. As the procession made its way into West Lorne area residents who dotted the highway responded to the boot drive and urged Jesse on to his goal.

Upon arriving in West Lorne Jesse's Journey was greeted to hundreds of area residents that lined the main street of West Lorne to support and urge this brave young man on to victory in his quest to help defeat this debiliating disease.

As the caravan stopped in front of the Town Hall in West Lorne residents swarmed over Jesse, outpouring their love and their wallets to help his cause.

Locally Reeve Dianne Buchannan welcomed Jesse to West Lorne and donated a cheque for $100 to his cause on behalf of the Village of West Lorne.

Other service clubs and businesses in the area also donated to Jesse's plight.

September 20, 1995




Pictured above is this year's Rodney-Aldborough Fair Queen, Kristine Bitterman

September 18, 1995




*The Kintyre-Rodney-New Glasgow (KRN) committee in front of the 55 acre project sign on #3 Hwy. Pictured are: (left to right) John Miller, Bill Downie, David Clements, Earl Morden, Bob King and Kevin Schleihauf.*

*(photo supplied)*

## Foodgrains bank project now underway

Have you seen the sign on #3 Hwy. west of New Glasgow for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank growing project? The 55-acre community project is on the farm of Bob and Betty King. This project is spearheaded by Kintyre-Rodney and New Glasgow Presbyterian churches with support from the local community.

John Miller and Kevin Schleihauf of the Rodney United Church are the production and harvest chairmen. Bob King is co-ordinator; Earl Morden, chairman of the committee for the 18-acre plots and Bill Downie, Brian Cornwall and David Clements committee members.

Seed for the 18 one-acre plots was supplied by Mycogen through Joe Fischer; Great Lakes by John R. Johnston; Funks by Ron McIntyre and Hyland by W.G. Thompson & Sons Ltd.

Seed for the 55-acre project was supplied by Pioneer Hi-bred through Allan Woolner.

Fertilizer and herbicides are suppled by W.G. Thompson, Cargill, Shur-Gain Highgate and suppliers of Dual, Pardner, Ultim, Marksman, and Round-up. Orford Famers Co-op Ltd. will dry and store the corn.

Harvest Festival Day for all supporters and interested people is planned for Saturday, October 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Knox New Glasgow Church. A tour of the community project, a visit to W.G. Thompson & Son elevator and Downie Farms to observe harvesting and corn drying operations will be part of the day. Lunch will be available.

The 1995 projects will be donated to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and when matched by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) 4-1 will help feed the hungry in our world.

July 12, 1995 CURRENT EVENTS 1995



Remember when everyone owned or wanted to own these old Ford's which were affectionately called "Tin Lizzies" or "Flivers".This vintage vehicle was spotted on the main street of West Lorne last week. The old "fliver" is a 1921 Model "T" Ford and is owned by Art and Jean Ross of West Lorne. When Ross was a kid a neighbor had one of these old baby's and he always wanted one , but he had to wait for years until he found one of Henry's earlier production models.Photo by Brian Outhouse

July 5, 1995

# Grand opening of Marina attracts huge crowds

By Brian Outhouse

Hundreds of area residents flocked to the grand opening of the new Port Glasgow Marina . The celebrations were held in conjunction with Canada Day festivities.

Opening ceremonies were conducted by Al McGregor of CFPL TV in London with local dignitaries Harry Mezenburg Reeve of Aldborough Township and Peter North MP, heralding the completion of the marina complex which at times seemed in doubt ,but persistance and co-operation by all parties concerned have given area residents a first rate marina complex.

The boats in the harbour were ablaze with color as they were decorated with balloons and flags ceebrating not only the opening of the marina but also Canada's 128th birthday. Prizes were awarded to the best decorated boat and Ross Lashbrook from Rodney won first prize for the decorations on his boat "Eggcelence".



Pictured are the bevy of decorated boats that adorned the harbour of the grand opening festivities of the new Port Glasgow Marina which were held in conjunction with Canada Day Festivities on July 1st. Photo by Brian Outhouse

To officially open the marina a string of coloured ballons were strung across the harbour opening and then the Charter Boat Lee-Jay cruised through the string, releasing the balloons and becoming the first ceremonial boat to leave the harbour.

The day long event featured a variety of entertainment including rock bands, line dancers, vocalists and local comediennes. The day's events were capped off with a huge display of fireworks!which lit up the night sky in a blaze of colours which dazzled young and old alike.

The West Lorne Knights of Columbus served up over 500 mouth watering dishes of perch to the hungry crowd.

# Meals on Wheels volunteers are served

by Brian Outhouse

The tables were turned on the local volunteers for the Meals on Wheels chapter recently as they were treated to a lavish banquet at the Town & Country Restauraunt.

Kay Diles, owner of the restaurant has sponsored the lavish affair for the last three years. She states "it's her way of thanking the volunteers for the work they do in the MOW program.

These dedicated volunteers quite often become attached to their clients and a long lasting friendship is made. For some clients the volunteer is the only contact they have with the outside world,therefore the Meals On Wheels people not only provide the client with a good meal they become a part of the family.

Meals on Wheels is available to people on a temporary or long term basis according to the clients needs. Some meals are tailored to fit a person's dietary needs and clients have a choice of what they want to eat. Clients receive their meals three days a week.

If you have a few extra hours a week and you'd like to get involved with the program contact the local chapter for further details.

The local MOW chapter is funded partly by the government and local donations. The group currently has over 18 volunteers which serve all of Aldborough Township.



Pictured are the volunteer members of the local Meals on Wheels Chapter about to enjoy a sumptuous meal provided by the Town & Country Restaurant for their efforts. In the background Kay is waiting on a volunteer while employee Jodie Steinbacher (Front) takes an order. Photo by Brian Outhouse.

DEC. 6/95

CURRENT EVENTS 1995

# Local musician aims for singer/songwriter career

**BY: KAREN ROBINET**

After starting to put together the material for his first album three years ago, West Lorne area native Dan Rivard, 25, had to put the project on hold until he could afford to produce it.

But now, only about a month after it came out, 150 copies of the album - titled Demolition - have been sold. That, says Rivard is pretty good, "considering I'm not playing anywhere."

Ironically though, Rivard says that Demolition is nothing compared to what he is capable of doing now, and says there will be a follow-up album coming out sometime this spring. Demolition is currently available at TLC Gas Bar in West Lorne, where Rivard works, as well as the Disc Shop in St. Thomas and Sam The Record Man at White Oaks Mall.

While Rivard's main interest is in rock, he says he enjoys many different types of music and is influenced by all of them. He is quick to point out that his music isn't heavy metal, and he finds it difficult to understand why so many bands who cater to younger audiences put out such, "weird and unsettled stuff." He says it seems like a reflection of the times.

By contrast, Demolition offers the listener a good selection of music, reflecting Rivard's own, "life experiences."

Rivard says he began playing guitar at the age of 16, "and gradually began writing songs and working on my playing until it's at the level where it's ready to be heard." He has played with two local rock bands: Addiction and Release, and is working on putting together a new band now. Rivard sings and plays the guitar, and most recently began playing some of his own original songs, interspersed with covers. "I'm writing a mix of everything," Rivard says, and although it's, "pretty much rock, there are all different styles and it all fits together."

One of the highlights of his musical career so far was opening for Harem Scarum a year ago in St. Thomas. At that time he played some of his own material and says, "the feeling you get when you play your own stuff and the crowd is into it is unbelievable." He admits that, "you don't want to get off the stage."

Rivard says he is "really looking forward," to working on his next album, and says he has about 50 original tunes to choose from." Since Demolition came out, Rivard says his songwriting ability, "has really jumped," and he promises that, "if you like the first one, this next one you'll melt for; that's a promise."



*Dan Rivard.*

As well as working with a new band, and continuing with his songwriting, Rivard says he plans to try and sell some of his material to music producers and hopes to have other artists record some of his songs - at least the ones he isn't too attached to. He says the music industry in Canada isn't overly kind to new artists and says, "there isn't any money getting started." Nevertheless, Rivard is persevering and says, "the music I do for free."

He and a partner are planning to put together a state of the art recording studio in Rodney, but says he anticipates moving the studio to London within a year.

Rivard says his dream come true would be, "to write songs for a living and playing as a living... you might as well do someting you'd do for free."

The most important aspect of his music, says Rivard, is being able to move people. "You feel good when people say it's touched them."

As he contemplates his second album, Rivard says, "it's way better (than Demolition), but I'm trying not to get my hopes up."

All in all though, Rivard enjoys being in the music industry, and says, "there are so many opportunities and different roads to take on it. Every day is an experience."

# Bears from around the world find a home



Lost in a sea of bears are Christl Kirschner aged 4 and her grandmother Christl Kirschner in the family's bear room. Photo by Brian Outhouse

**by Brian Outhouse** JULY 1995

Christl Kirshner has an unusual hobby, she collects bears. Christl has over 500 different bears. The bears are all sizes different shapes and colours.

Kirschner started her collection some 25 years ago when her husband Fred brought home her first bear. That first bear was a 3 foot bear which Fred bought at the A&P store for $7. Since then the collection has mushroomed so much so that the couples second floor of their house has been transformed into "Bear Heaven".

Christl has bears from as far away as Germany, Hawaii, Ireland, England, India, Scotland and the U.S.A.

Her collection also consists of various collectible bears such as Paddington bears from England,Gund bears, limited edition German bears,Darby Bbears which are one of a kind bears which are hand made by a lady in Port Stanley.



A bit of England visits West Lorne area as Les Sewell from West Lorne has his brother from England visiting him. Pictured from left to right are: David Sewell and his wife Yvonne from England and hosts Les and Shirley Sewell. Photo by Brian Outhouse JULY 1995

# West Lorne ~ the land of milk and honey

Les and Shirley Sewell residents of West Lorne experienced a reunion of sorts last week as Les's brother David and his wife Yvonne came from England for a visit. It was David's first trip to Canada in 17 years.

Les and Shirley Sewell emigrated to Canada in 1957 and lived in the London area for a time before settling here in West Lorne.

The visiting Britons found many differences in the way we Canadians live compared to the way life is in Britain.

David Sewell was amazed at the wide open spaces and the lack of traffic jams in the area. The couple found that groceries, clothes and even gasoline were at bargain basement prices and they felt as if merchants were giving the items away.

Yvonne was thrilled with our shopping malls and the huge variety of clothes a person has to choose from especially the price of blue jeans.

David stated that"back in England a gallon of gas sells for $5.50, a pack of twenty cigartettes sell for $6, a case of 24 cans of pop would sell for $12.99 in England whereas that same case of pop is $5.99 over here. David also found the price of our beer cheaper and he liked the taste of our brew better than the beer back in Britain.

Another difference the couple found was that we pay less taxes than they do, as in Britain everything is taxed to the tune of 171/2 percent.

CURRENT EVENTS 1995



Head Librarian Shelley Fleming (right) and assistant librarian Anne Bray (left) welcome their new assistant Janet Givens to the library in West Lorne. Janet will serve at both the West Lorne and Rodney libraries. Photo by Brian Outhouse

# New Librarian for Rodney/West Lorne

**by Brian Outhouse**

Janet Givens of West Lorne joins fellow librarians Shelley Fleming and Anne Bray in serving the reading needs of area residents.

Janet is an avid reader herself and brings her years of experience of working with people to the Rodney -- West Lorne Libraries. She is also a mother of two children and in the fall Janet will take over the duties of teaching "Tiny Tales" to her young charges which are aged from 1 to 3 years old. Janet replaces the recently retired Alberta Jones who served the library for 25 years.

Shelley Fleming will assume the head librarian duties for the two libraries.

The Rodney library has a long history with its beginnings in 1893 when it was called the Mechanic's Institute.

In 1901 Mrs. Gray became the first librarian. At that time the library was housed in the back room of a barber shop which was located in Dave Peters Hotel. Mrs. Gray received $ 1.50 a month for her services.

Mrs. Ludy assumed the librarian duties in 1927 and held that position until her retirement in 1976.

In 1951 the library found its current home when the McMillan Brothers donated the money to build both the West Lorne and Rodney Libraries.

At that time each library operated independently until 1956 when the Rodney and West Lorne library joined the Elgin County Library System. Since joining the county system residents have enjoyed the luxury of inter-branch loaning of books.

Current head librarian Shelley Fleming stated that she has seen many changes since she came to the library nine years ago. "Being a small library and having not only financial but space restrictions it's a tough time keeping up with the ever changing reading habits of the public" added Fleming, "but we do our best to satisfy our readers needs."

The library offers several programs for area youngsters which is intended to get them interested in reading at an early age. These reading programs have been successful according to Fleming who also added that some of the parents have caught the reading bug also".

The library features special days for children such as PD days, Halloween Party's and at the end of August West Lorne library is going to feature a puppet show for area youngsters.

The library is also very heavily involved in the community by providing books to shut - ins,

and putting a float in area parades.

In order to keep updating the libraries resources a variety of fundraising projects are held throughout the year such as its annual book sale, collecting Knetchel Food Tapes, and donations from the public ensure that both the Rodney and West Lorne Libraries keep abreast with the times.

The library is currently starting a video collection for patrons.

So if your looking for something to do drop into the West Lorne or Rodney Library and check out a book, and relax with a good mystery, adventure or fiction book.

# Long time West Lorne Librarian retires after 25 years

JULY

**by Brian Outhouse**

It was a special day at the West Lorne Library on Friday, June 30th, as both the public and her co-workers Karen Mack, and Ann Bray got a chance to say good bye to head librarian Alberta Jones as it was the last day of work for Jones after serving the library for the past 25 years.

Alberta recalled that back in 1970 she applied for a part time a job at the library to help feed and clothe her children. She got that job and has remained here eversince. "That first job was 2 hours a day for 3 days a week and I only made S 14- S16 a month but I loved it" she added.

At that time Mrs. Pearl Cummings was the supervisor and West Lorne had only been under the Elgin County System for a short time, whereas the library was previously operated by the village.

Alberta's intentions were to stay at the part time job until she could find something better, but, shortly after she started Mrs. Norris, the library's assistant became ill and left the library. Alberta was then promoted to assistant librarian at the West Lorne Library.

She worked under Mrs. Cummings until she retired in 1978, and then Alberta was promoted to head librarian of the library.

There have been many changes over the years at the library Jones recalls as she remembers when the library loaned out 16 mm camera equipment to not only the local schools but the general public. Today the rage is videos which the library carries a number of them. She also remembers when a person wishing to check out large print books could only with a doctor's prescription day anyone can check out print books, and the library large assortment of the cas read books.

Although Alberta dedicated her life to the lib she has one pastime that she en immensely and that is L Bowling. Alberta is a membe the West Lorne Lawn Bow Club.

As for her retirement p ,Alberta is planning on a tr Alaska, then maybe to Europ

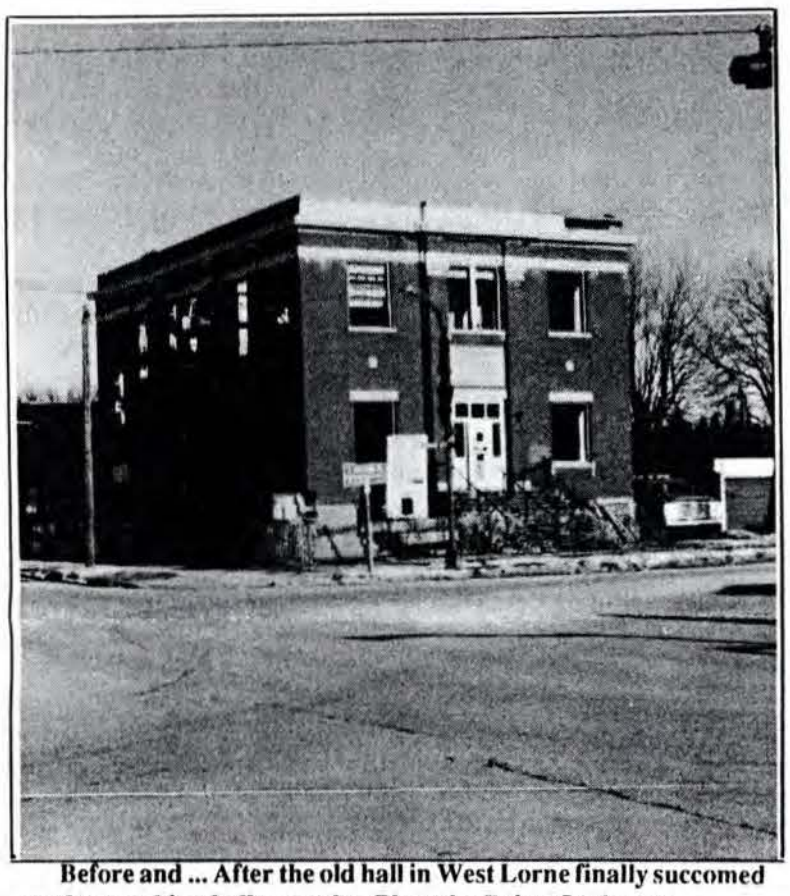
With a departing tho Alberta "wishes all the patro the library well and wishes successors as much enjoyme she has had over the last 25 y and that she will be back to c in on them from time to tim

CURRENT EVENTS 1996

# Community Hall crumbles into history

by Brian Outhouse

Phase II of the building of the new West Lorne Community Building Complex kicked into high gear last Tuesday as the old Community Hall which served West Lorner's for the last 66 years came tumbling down.



Before and ... After the old hall in West Lorne finally succomed to the wrecking ball recently. Photo by Brian Outhouse

The old hall didn't fade into history quietly as hundreds gathered in the downtown core to watch the big backhoe claw at the building that was the centre of the town for many years.

As the bachoe lumbered up the front steps of the hall and outstretched its gaping shovel to collapse the walls, the old hall retaliated in her death throw by letting her first floor collapse , sending the huge machine careening on its side to the bowels of the old structure.

The old hall had bought some more time as workman scurried to upright the 70 ton machine. It took workers and another crane hours to upright the machine before the demolition of the building resumed. And , through this proceedure the old hall stood stately defying man and machine, gasping her last breaths before fading into the pages of West Lorne's history.

The old Community Hall was officially opened on June 3rd, 1930. The architect of the old hall was John T. Finlay of St. Thomas but the driving force behind the construction of the hall was the West Lorne Women's Institute who put up $3,000 of the $20,000 needed to build the hall. The Women's Institute also bought a war memmorial that was placed in the lobby to commemorate East Aldborough's fallen comrades.

The site the hall was built on was originally purchased in 1913 by the Federal Government for a Post Office , but WWI postponed that idea. It wasn't until 1920 when the Women's Institute took up the charge again to build a community hall and in 1930 the long time dream became a reality for West Lorne residents.

The original hall housed a jail, post office, playhouse and facilities for town council.

In it's earlier years the top floor of the hall played host to many fine plays, which were performed by the Young People's Dramatic Society of West Lorne.

The birth of the hall was ushered in with great pomp and ceremony as the hall was decorated with flags and the St. ThomasCanadian Legion Pipe Band led by piper John Wright led a procession of dignitaries to the opening ceremonies which included a ribbon cutting ceremony by local dignataries and MP's. After the opening ceremonies the procession marched to Memmorial Park where a baseball game was held between West Lorne and Shedden with Shedden winning 5-3. After the game the Ladies' of the Womens Institute served up a marvelous supper back at the hall for everyone. The day's festivities concluded in the hall's upstairs playhouse with a concert from the Scubert Concert Company of London.

Since then, the old hall has seen many heated council debates and it has been home to many of the area's service clubs including the Womens' Institute, Kiwanis, Eastern Star and many more.

It is fitting that the old hall went out in a blaze of controversary and glory as hundreds of area residents gathered in the cold damp weather to watch the demolition crew tear down the old structure.

Now, that the old hall is gone it is time for West Elgin residents to support the buiding of the new Complex which will serve area residents well into the next century.




Going Going Gone... The Old West Lorne Community Hall came tumbling down last week but not before this heavy construction vehicle was uprighted after falling through the ground floor into the basement of the old hall. Photo by Brian Outhouse.

CURRENT EVENTS 1996

April 17, 1996 Single Copy 55¢ + GST

# West Lorne Sun closes

**This issue marks the last for the *West Lorne Sun*. The area's community newspaper for the past century or more will cease publication this week, its publishers have announced.**

**Among the oldest continually published newspapers in Southwestern Ontario, *The Sun* closes almost seven years after long-time publisher and editor Lynn Lashbrook sold the weekly to Laurentian Newspapers in 1989. Included with that purchase was the *Rodney Mercury*, which is also publishing its last issue this week.**

**Ironically, the death of the two local newspapers comes only weeks after the March 20 death of Lashbrook.**

**The newspapers' closure can be linked directly to a lack of advertising revenue. A new management team was introduced at the newspapers' in early February, and despite significant revenue gains since that time, and a marked improvement in the newspapers' appearance and representation, it was concluded that the long-term financial health of the two weeklies was inadequate.**

May 1, 1996 Your Community Newspaper Vol.1 Issue 1

# WEST LORNE STAR

## West Lorne Star shines bright in West Elgin

With the demise of the West Lorne Sun and the Rodney Mercury recently it became apparent to Karen and myself that the area needed a newspaper to provide coverage of the local news and events that are important to the residents of West Elgin so we began the Star. We will endeavour to report the news that matters to the residents of this area and we welcome your comments and suggestions on how we can make **your** paper a better paper as time wears on. We also hope the community will gather around the paper and support it through advertising so that we do not lose another voice in West Elgin.

The Star, unlike its predessesor will be a free publication and we hope you enjoy receiving it in your mailbox each Wednesday. We look forward to hearing your comments on this inagural issue of the Star, so please drop by our office and visit us at 225 Graham Rd., West Lorne.

*Brian Outhouse and Karen Cormier*






***Making the world a little safer-*** *West Lorne Block Parent Organizers Marg Weed (left) and Sharon Mosher (President of the West Lorne Chapter) stand with Ontario Chairperson of the Block Parents program Marianne McBride and executive member Ric Whyte at a recent meeting for area parents at the West Lorne Legion.*

November 27, 1996

## *Block Parents a step closer to reality*

Block Parents will soon be up and running again in West Lorne thanks to the efforts of Sharon Mosher and Marg Weed and Br. 221 Legion.

The new program already has a number of applicants that have passed the screening tests by the police and more will be forthcoming.

During the past week the local organization has brought the Ontario Chairperson for Block Parents to West Lorne to talk to children at area schools about the program and what they should do if they feel they need help.

The response at the local schools was overwhelming according to local organizer Sharon Mosher as kids asked several key questions, but in the end they left feeling safer that the familiar red and white signs would soon be displayed in windows of various area homes and businesses.

Block Parents last had an organization in West Lorne over 20 years ago.

CURRENT EVENTS 1996




***Digging- In-*** *Area politicians are seen breaking the ground for the new 57 unit Bobier Home which will be built in the near future. From left to right they are: Eva Richardson, representing Gar Knutson's office, Bob dela Penotiere, representing Peter North's office, Gordon Flum, Harry Mezenberg, Warden of Elgin County and Rien Van Brenk.* *(Photo by Brian Outhouse)*

MAY 96

# Sod turning ceremonies held for new Bobier Home

*By Brian Outhouse*

Hundreds of area residents braved the cold winds and chilly temperatures to watch the long awaited sod turning ceremonies for the new 57 bed Bobier Home which will be constructed in Dutton in the near future.

The Old Elgin Band from St. Thomas filled the air with music before the ceremonies got underway.

Master of ceremonies for the ground breaking ceremony was Fred Boyes, current administrator for the home who introduced a gaggle of politicians that included the Warden of West Elgin , Harry Mezenberg, Eva Richardson, who represented Gar Knutson, MP Elgin/Norfolk, Bob delaPenotiere from Peter North's office, MPP Elgin, Rien VanBrenk, Homes and Social Services, Past Warden Vane Chute, Hugh MacGinnis, Reeve of Dutton, and Peter Hentz, Reeve of Dunwich.

Also on hand for the momentous occasion were David Harvey, Program Supervisor for the long term care division of the Ministry of Health and Mrs. Leta West, Chairperson for the fundraising committee for the new home.

After the speeches by the politicians were made, Rev. Evelyn McLachlan gave the blessing and urged everyone to toss into the wind the mustard seeds that were passed around to the crowd by volunteers which symbolizes strength and growth for the new facility.

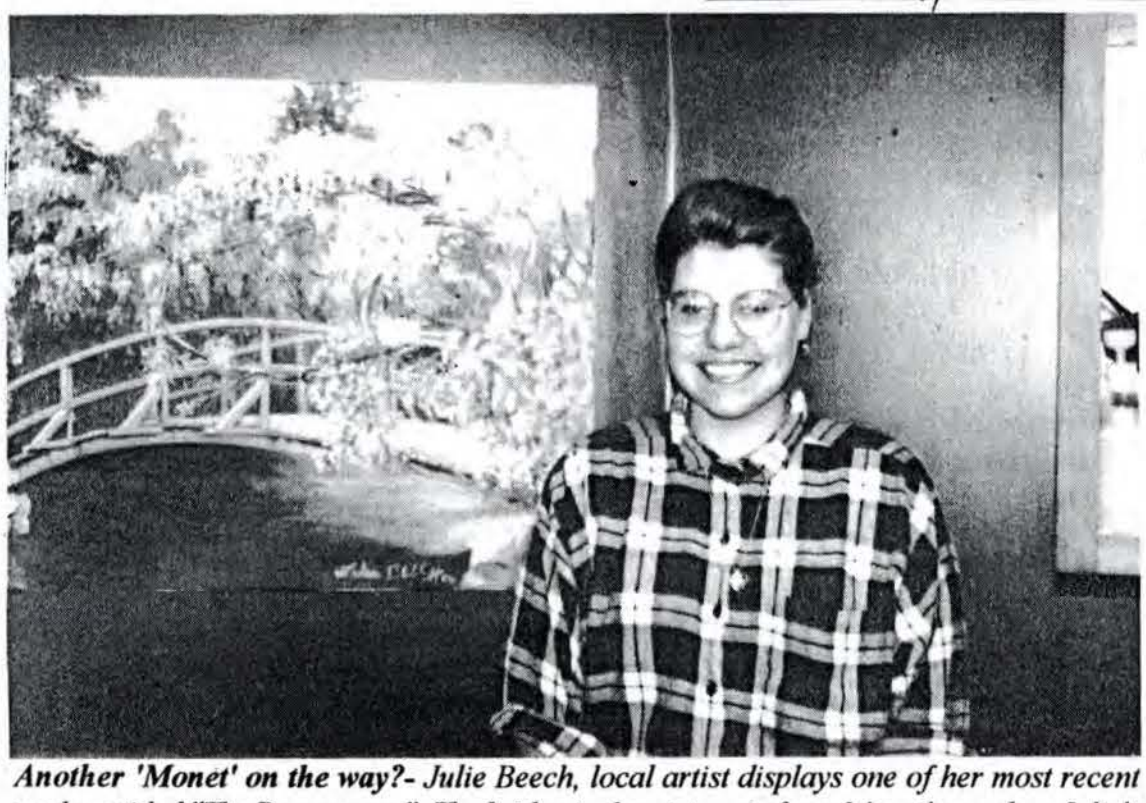
The fundraising for the new facility got an immediate jump start as Jean Edwards, President of the Resident's Council for the home presented a cheque for $1,000 to the fundraising chairman.

After the ceremonies residents and dignitaries adjourned to nearby Colonial Gardens where tea, coffee and an assortment of baked goods were enjoyed by all.

SEPT. 1996



***A camera crew was at Port Glasgow last Monday morning to complete filming of the Scottish coming ashore in 1818. The tall ship Pathfinder was also in the area to help with the 45-minute production, which is being made by a group of Scottish people in Lambton and West Middlesex. Former Lambton-Middlesex MP Ralph Ferguson (plaid shirt) was overseeing the filming.***
***(K. Robinet)***



***Another 'Monet' on the way?-*** *Julie Beech, local artist displays one of her most recent works entitled "The Passageway". The bridge in the picture is from Monet's garden. Julie's work is available at Modern Beauty Salon in West Lorne.* *(Photo by Brian Outhouse).*

September 23, 1996

She recently won the Remembrance Day Poster Contest sponsored by the West Elgin Legion and went on to the Zone competition where she placed second.

Her artwork hasn't gone unnoticed at the Rodney Fair either as she has won several first place finishes for her paintings.

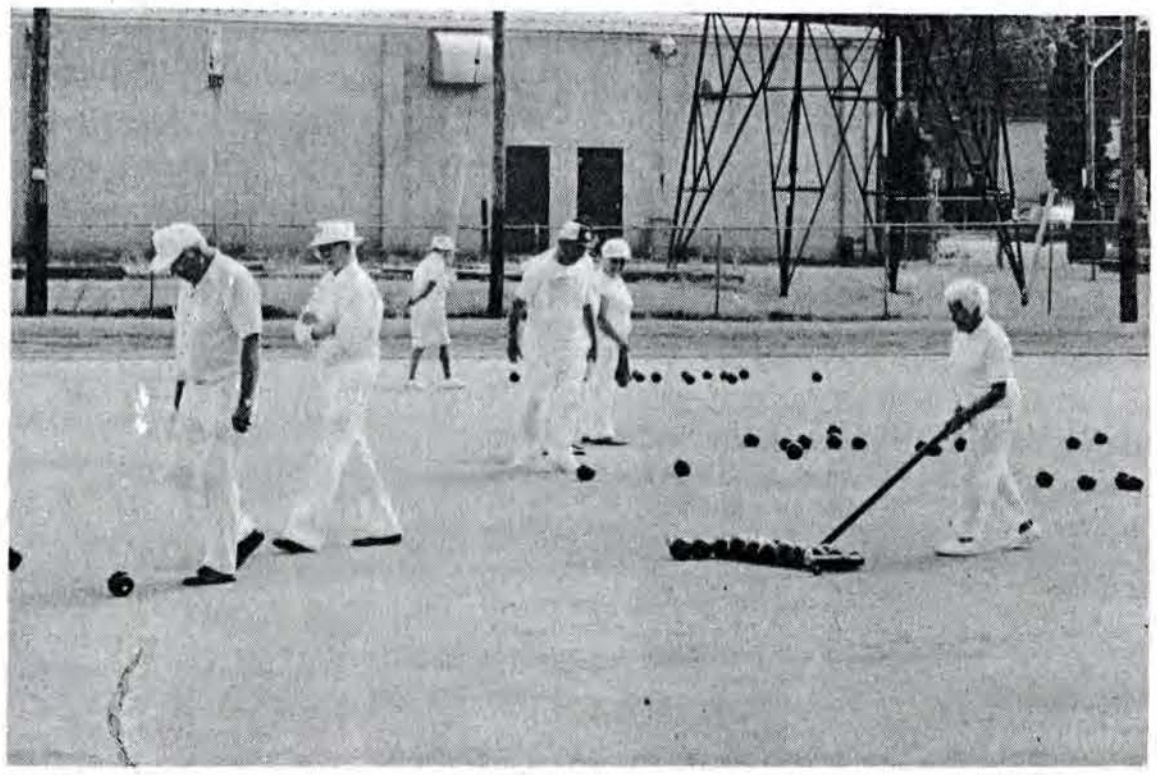
Julie likes to work with acrylics but she specializes in working with oils. She prefers to paint natural scenes such as landscapes, animals and even some abstract pieces.

When she paints Beech uses 5 colors, blue, red,yellow, white, and brown. To get other colors she mixes them together to get the desired colour.

Her average painting takes her over 40 hours to complete.

Beech is currently taking lessons from local artist Harry Wilkinson and she is going to further her art studies at college.

Her work is currently on display at her mother's Beauty Salon in West Lorne and all her paintings are for sale. So visit Modern Beauty Salon and purchase one of these original works of art before she makes the big time. You could be buying a valuable piece of art.



***The West Lorne Lawn Bowling Club was a hot spot last Wednesday as 60 bowlers competed in the club's annual M&M Tournament.*** *(K. Robinet)*

October 28, 1996



***Members of the West Elgin Environmental Group are shown here with the garbage they recently collected from part of Highway 76.*** *(photo supplied)*



**Winning family-** *The Ocolisan family from West Lorne brought home their share of awards at the Beef-A Rama '96 competitions that were held recently in Lindsay, Ontario. Showing their trophies are : Dennis Ocolisan and his sister Paula in the back row while little brother Wyatt and sister Kanda display their winning ribbons.* JULY 96 *(Photo by Brian Outhouse).*



**Rocking the day away-** *Members of the Eagle Adult Club along with other seniors in the area rocked away in their rocking chairs at the West Elgin Community Health Centre to raise funds for the Bobier Home. Some of those rockin the day away were from left to right : Edna Lorch, Helen Timmermans, Shirley White and Ken Watterworth. The group raised $600.* OCT. 96

# Mezenberg to serve second term as warden

**BY: KAREN ROBINET**

Area residents were in a win-win situation when it came time to elect the 1997 Warden of Elgin County last Tuesday.

Both candidates for the position were from the west end of the county as the incumbent warden - Aldborough Township Reeve Harry Mezenberg - squared off against Village of Dutton Reeve Hugh MacGinnis.

No new contenders came forward at the meeting and both men addressed county council.

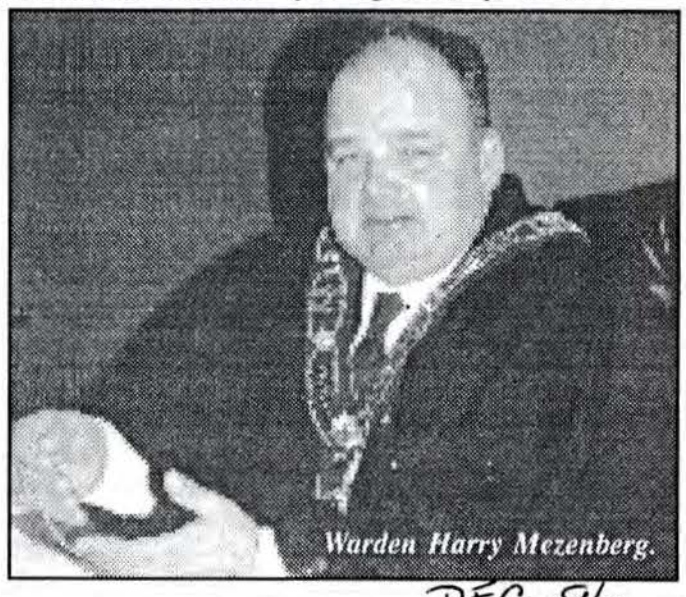
MacGinnis told council he has had to make difficult decisions in the past and said he would be able to make difficult ones in the future. He called the 1997 term a period which, "will affect the quality of life for all of Elgin." He urged council to work together for the betterment of the county.

Mezenberg said that with all the changes anticipated for the coming year - most notably county restructuring - continuity will be more important than ever before. He said the county's time frame is shrinking to come up with a local restructuring solution, and he said, "the provincial government will not tolerate indecision." Mezenberg added, "I'm not prepared to gamble with the fate of Elgin County."

Following a secret ballot election, Mezenberg was declared the winner and was sworn in to his second term as warden. He was then presented with the chain of office, the Lord Elgin watch and the gavel of office by Past Warden Vane Chute. In presenting the gavel, Chute told Mezenberg that, "with the matters of seriousness we'll be dealing with in 1997, you just may wear this out."

Mezenberg then congratulated MacGinnis for a well-run race and thanked those who had supported him. He said, "1996 has been a year of challenge and uncertainty," and said that the coming year will be one of decisions. "We'll have to diligently work together to form a structure of responsible government for all ratepayers in Elgin.

Mezenberg said the county will have to work closely with the City of St. Thomas in the coming year. "We may be heading to the altar," he said. "Let's hope it's not a shotgun wedding." He said council is going to have to be aware of the impact of their decisions on staff throughout the county system, and also acknowledged there will be a reduction in the number of municipal councillors. "We'll have to do a lot of soul searching and we'll probably have to make the toughest decisions in the history of Elgin County," he said.



*Warden Harry Mezenberg.*

DEC. 96

CURRENT EVENTS 1996



*Janice Henderson and son Michael stand in front of a '54 Ford Crestliner at the Show & Shine Car Show in West Lorne.*

# Thousands attend West Lorne CanadaFest

Despite the hot humid weather thousands of people flocked to the West Lorne arena grounds to participate in the first annual CanadaFest put on by the village.

The weekend was filled with many different activities which were geared to please both young and old.

Lyn Hanley and her line dancers got the festivities off to a rousing start at the arena.

Lyn and her dancers put on a dazzling display of footwork and teamwork and before long half the crowd joined the troupe on the floor in a lively dance routine.

Following Lyn and her dancers the band "The Ozarks" from London rocked the rafters of the old arena playing a variety of country music by artists such as Garth Brooks and Alan Jackson. It was a real toe tapping affair.

Also on Saturday night the PROWL committee held the draw for the Wayne Gretzky jersey with Shannon Grogan of Watford winning the autographed jersey.

On Sunday the grounds of the West Lorne Arena were graced with over 100 of the finest mass produced cars that ever emerged from Detroit.

Thousands browsed and oogled over the old cars and for some the old vehicles carried them back to a time that was dear to them, perhaps they owned a car just like the one at the show and seeing one again would be like seeing a long lost friend, triggering emotions and memories long forgotten.

Entrants for the Show & Shine Car Show came from as far away as North Bay. Trophy winners for the car show were: Morris Jones from St. Thomas for his 1940 Packard (People's Choice), Brad and Shirley Wade from Mt. Brydges for their 1937 Ford Pickup and Miller Motors won a trophy for their entry.




While patrons were drooling over the vehicles outside a number of vendors were busy selling their wares at the giant flea market that was going on inside the arena.

To coincide with the flea market at the arena downtown merchants held a giant sidewalk sale of their own, offering area residents bargain basement prices.

Hundreds of residents lined the flag draped streets to watch the Canada Day Parade. The parade stretched from one end of Graham to the other and it featured many different floats, bands and local organizations.

Like the pied piper of olden days the crowd followed the parade to the arena grounds to view the antique farm machinery on display and for some to compete in the log sawing competition.

In the afternoon the Lambton-Kent Mini- Tractor pullers put on quite a show as hundreds cheered their favourite tractor across the finish line.

Inside the arena Cam Milliken, and his team from Cycle Path put on a death defying show of bicycle acrobatics, leaping through the air and performing jumps over ramps.

As Monday evening approached the crowd gathered to watch the finals of the baseball tournament.

The weekend festivities ended with a bang as hundreds watched the best fireworks display the area has seen in years.

The draw for the Mini-Monster truck was held also on Monday night with John Baillie winning the truck.

It was a great weekend for West Lorne and it was a great Birthday Party for our country. Happy 129th Canada!!

1996




***Flying high-*** *West Lorne PUC workers are seen raising one of two banners that herald the announcement of the upcoming Canada Fest celebrations in the village.*

CURRENT EVENTS 1996

July 24, 1996.

# Why Not Marathon makes stops in West Elgin

The Why Not Marathon wound its way through Elgin County recently making brief pit stops in Rodney, West Lorne and Dutton.

The caravan of six vans and an ambulance along with a police escort rolled into West Lorne with Gilles LeBlanc, from St. Thomas bearing the torch from Rodney who then passed the torch to West Lorne Reeve Diane Buchanan.

While the marathoners stopped in West Lorne Reeve Buchanan welcomed the group and stated that the world needed more groups like the Why Not Marathon that supports the Para-Olympics and that we can make a difference.

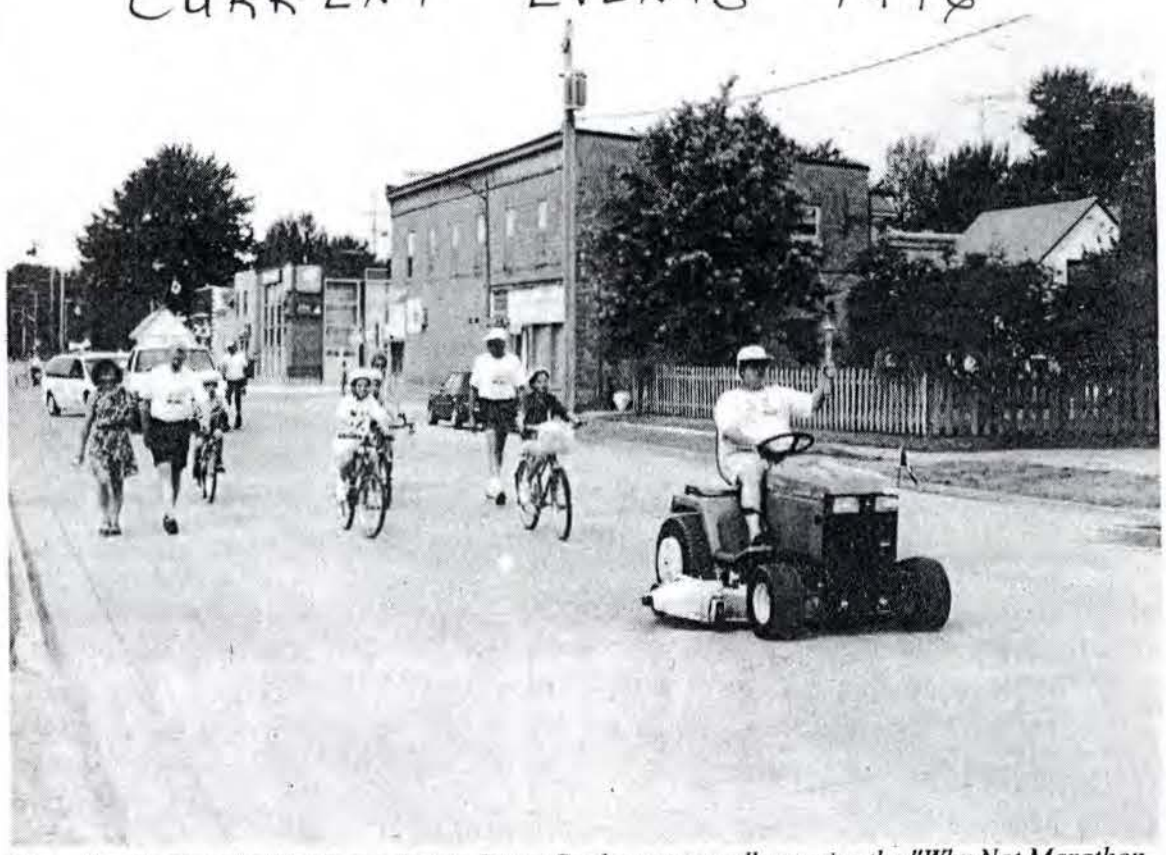
The Reeve was presented with a silver medal for her fundraising efforts ($635).and Amber Ogilvie from St. Thomas was presented with a gold medal at the small

As the caravan left West Lorne the Reeve donned her John Deere riding Lawnmower tractor with torch in hand and proceeded to lead the procession from West Lorne to Dutton. Following the Reeve were a number of bikers from West Lorne.

Upon arriving in Dutton the Village Town Crier (Dave Phillips) welcomed the group and read a decree from the village fathers.

As the entourage departed Dutton little Nicole Sanford who has Cerebral Palsy proudly carried the torch out of town.

The Para- Olympics are held each year, two weeks after the regular games and this year over 140 Para-Olympians from Canada will be competing with other athletes from 120 countries in the Para - Olympic games that will be held in Atlanta.



**Carrying the torch-** *West Lorne Reeve, Diane Buchanan proudly carries the "Why Not Marathon Torch" out of West Lorne on her riding lawn mower while in the bottom photo (left to right) Marg Weed, Julia Mosher, Heather Weed, Adam Weed, and Matt Weed prepare to join the marathoners in their quest to raise funds for Para-Olympians.* *(Star Photo).*





**A trip back to the gay nineties?-** *These five bikers call themselves the "Wheelmen".The five are headed to Ohio from Toronto on their late 1800's "Penny Farthing " bicycles.From left to right they are: Pete Matthews from Dublin, Ireland, Glen Norcliffe, from Maple, Howard Barclay from Niagara On the Lake, Larry Strung from Aurora, and Ron Miller from Maple. The cyclers made a brief pit stop in West Lorne on their journey.* *(Photo by Kim Lyvang).*

JULY 1996

MAY 96

CURRENT EVENTS 1996

# Local father-daughter combination win big in Ohio competition

*by Brian Outhouse*



***Flying high-*** *Campbell Milliken, of West Lorne leaps through the air on his BMX bike at the recently held "Buckeye Nationals" in Akron , Ohio. Milliken placed second overall at the event.*

While most five year old girls are content to play with dolls and play house or skip Kristen Milliken of West Lorne, has another interest... bike racing.

Kristen got the bike racing bug from her father Campbell who is a professional BMX rider.

The father and daughter racing duo recently travelled to Akron , Ohio and competed in a National racing event.

Despite the intense competition and the large field of riders young Kristen has that natural born instinct to race as she placed 6th overall at the "Buckeye" competition. Each race consists of 1 lap of 1/4 mile with the riders going full tilt (12mph) over various hills and jumps.

When asked what she wants to do when she grows up her reply was "A Professional bike rider like her father".

Kristen's next competition will be in Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania where she will get a chance to add to her overall point standings.

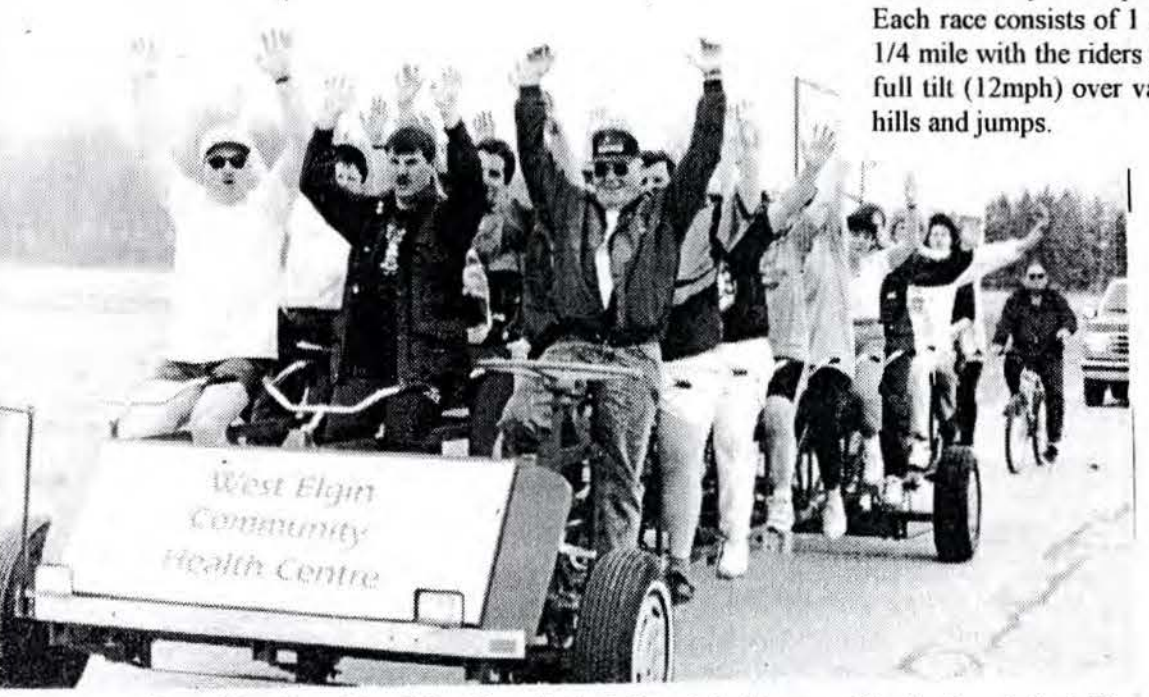
While Kristen is honing her racing skills and learning from dad, he has made his own mark in the bike racing world by becoming a three time Canadian National Champion, a three time Eastern Canadian Champion, and he also holds 13 Provincial titles.

Campbell has been racing for the last 16 years and his goal is to some day compete in the world nationals. He hopes to qualify for the Grand Nationals on Labour Day, which are held in Louisville, Kentucky this year.

Milliken and his daughter travel far and wide to compete and he has recently gained Cycle Path as a corporate sponsor.

In addition to his own racing, Milliken has taken on the responsibilities of coaching a five man racing team for "Cycle Path". The group also performs demonstrations of bike riding at various events and they are going to perform here in West Lorne on the Canada Day weekend.

I'm sure we haven't heard the end of Kristen's racing history as this is probably only the beginning of her rise to the top of the bike racing world.




***The Great Bike Ride-*** *These thirty bike riders climbed aboard the Heart and Stroke Foundation's big bike recently and made the trek between Eagle and West Lorne raising over $2,000 for the foundation They are seen here giving a hearty cheer to passing motorists along the way.*
*(Photo by Brian Outhouse).*

# Area cyclists raise over $2000 for Heart & Stroke

*by Brian Outhouse*

Despite the chilly temperatures and the threat of rain thirty area people climbed aboard the "Heart and Stroke's thirty passenger bicycle and peddled their way from Eagle to West Lorne.

The cyclists took about 45 minutes to make the trek between the two villages and raised over $2,000 in pledges towards for the Foundation.

Kiwanians Ray Jobson and Win Liepmann escorted cyclists between the two villages.

Upon returning to the Community Health Centre in West Lorne the group refreshed themselves from their journey with pop and juice which was donated by McDonalds and IGA, and goodies baked and prepared by Catherine Lee.

The ride was organized by Patricia Potter, Program Co-ordinator for the Community Health Centre in West Lorne.

Riders for the big bike were: Bruce Sweetman from P.J.'s Pizza, George Okilsan from Pine Creek Gallery, Dennis Howard from the OPP, Steve Browne from the IGA, Bill Graham from the Kiwanis Club, George Nute and Robert White represented the West Lorne Fire Department, from WESS, teacher Jim Ryan and students Laura Lackey and Rob Smith, Doug Parent from the On Your Feet Club, Anna Silva from Donut Delite, Alcina Paiva from West Elgin Pharmacy, representing the Health Centre were, Dr. Steven Jones, Robert Taylor, Iona Wooley, Patricia Potter, Paula Alves, Theresa Roos, Mary Fluker from West Elgin Walkers, John Ross, Bruce Pierce, Earl Bobier, and Karen Cormier from the West Lorne Star.

The big bike is one of four bike's that the Heart and Stroke Foundation use for fundraising across Canada and the bike that was used in the West Lorne ride, raised over 900 million dollars for the Heart and Stroke Foundation last year.

Nov. 1996



***The West Elgin Dramatics Society will open its fall show on November 29. The group is performing two one-act plays: Gift Of The Magi and The Nutcracker. Here, Sharon Nielson and Martin Joldersma are shown in a scene from Gift Of The Magi, directed by Evelyn McLachlan.*** *(K. Robinet)*

CURRENT EVENTS March 27, 1996 1996

# Lynn Lashbrook remembered for his newspapers, his community involvement



Lynn Lashbrook

**By Laurie Lashbrook**

Lynn Lashbrook, former publisher and owner of the *Rodney Mercury* and the *West Lorne Sun*, died March 20 at Four Counties General Hospital. He was 72.

Lynn started his newspaper career as a printer's devil under his father, who published the Rodney paper, and became a full-time employee in 1941. He graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1949 with a B.A. in Journalism. Having operated the *Mercury* each summer while at university, Lynn purchased it from his father upon graduation. The following year he acquired the *West Lorne Express*.

His career as a publisher and journalist was a distinguished one and his achievements were often lauded by his peers with national awards for editorial excellence and for publishing the best all-round weekly newspaper.

He was active in the community newspaper associations, both provincially and nationally, for more than 20 years. He served as president of the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association in 1963 and in 1977 was elected president of the Canadian Community Newspapers Association.

Best known by his readers for his "One Man's Opinion" editorials, he offered up his incisive and often caustic comments each week on a wide range of issues of local concern.

He viewed the best interests of the community as inseparable from his own. Through the pages of his newspapers, he encouraged what he believed to be right and never hesitated to voice outrage at what he felt was wrong for his community.

Lynn was dedicated to boosting the local economy and worked in many capacities to bring industry and tourism to the area. He served on Aldborough council for two years.

He was a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Rodney and dedicated many hours toward thr realization of a number of community projects such as the Rodney pool and seniors' apartments. He was recently made an honorary life member.

Despite his love of Rodney, he was often struck with wanderlust and travelled widely with his wife and family whenever possible.

Lynn Lashbrook will be sadly missed by the communities of Rodney and West Lorne.

- June 3, 1996



*Members of the Eagle Adult Club prepare for their annual walk to the lake.*

*(D. Robinet*

## Annual walk held

Sunny skies prevailed for the Eagle Adult Club's annual trek to the lake last Saturday.

Those taking part in the walk were: Aileen MacGregor, Mary Rose, Bruce Rose, Ken Watterworth, Peter Timmermans, Helen Timmermans, Francis Graham, Mary Payne, club president Shirley White, Harold Lancaster, Madeline Wilton, Reeve Harry Mezenberg and Deputy-Reeve Duncan McPhail.

While they walked, Anna Baker, Edna Lorch and Mary Belle Watterworth waited back at the community centre.

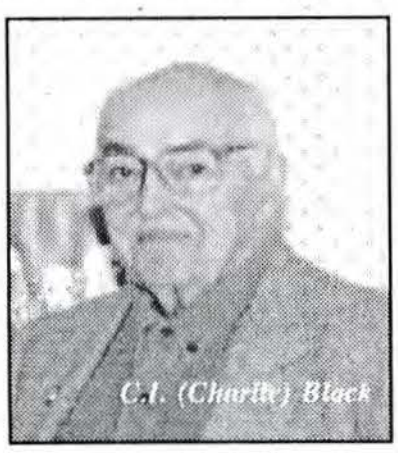
## Longtime Aldborough clerk passes away

JULY 1996

C.I. (Charlie) Black passed away last Monday, July 8 at Four Counties Hospital, Newbury in his 77th year, following a short illness.

Black was born in Ireland and came to Canada in 1930, settling in Toronto. Three years later he moved to Aldborough Township, and served as Clerk, Clerk-Treasurer and Chief Administrative Officer from 1943 to 1984. He also served as Reeve of Rodney.

Black is survived by his wife Jean, daughters Carol and her husband Winston Wong, and Jan and her husband Tom Weiss, all of London. He is also survived by grandchildren Jennifer and Danielle Weiss, as well as a brother, Vincent Black and sister Kathleen MacArthur, both of St. Thomas. Black was predeceased by a brother James (1986) and granddaughter Allison (1995).



*C.I. (Charlie) Black*

Black was a member of the Masonic Order, Past Master of Rodney Lodge A.F. & A.M. #411, Past District Deputy St. Thomas District 1963, and a life member of Royal Arch Masons.

Following cremation, a memorial service will be held at Grace Anglican Church in West Lorne this Wednesday, July 17 at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Meurig Lloyd officiating.

At last week's Aldborough council meeting, Councillor Graham Warwick said Black will be missed: "He had a good sense of community and a good sense of politics."

# 'West Lorne goes 'Western' during 'Western Days'

CURRENT EVENTS
1996

Aug
1996

Shades of the old west were evident in West Lorne over the weekend as hundreds attended the second annual Western Days Festivities.

Weeked events included a giant sidewalk sale on Friday and Saturday by cowboy and cowgirl clad merchants who had bargains galore for area shoppers to lasso unto.

On Saturday, area residents met at Dixon's Corral to climb aboard the West Lorne stage for a leisurely ride around the village with Wayne Close and his team of eight year old Belgian horses.

The horse drawn wagon rides could carry between 15 and 17 people each trip and more often than not driver Wayne left a crowd waiting at the corral waiting for his retrurn. Driver Close expertly led his team around the village shouting commands to his trusty steeds such as 'Haugh' (left) and 'Gee' (right) and the ever populart Woah!

One of the more popular stops on the tour of the village was the BBQ in front of the IGA store that was staffed by the West Lorne Scouts. The scouts offered area residents a menu with prices that reflected the old west , with a burger, hot dog and a pop going for a mere $2.50 and $2.

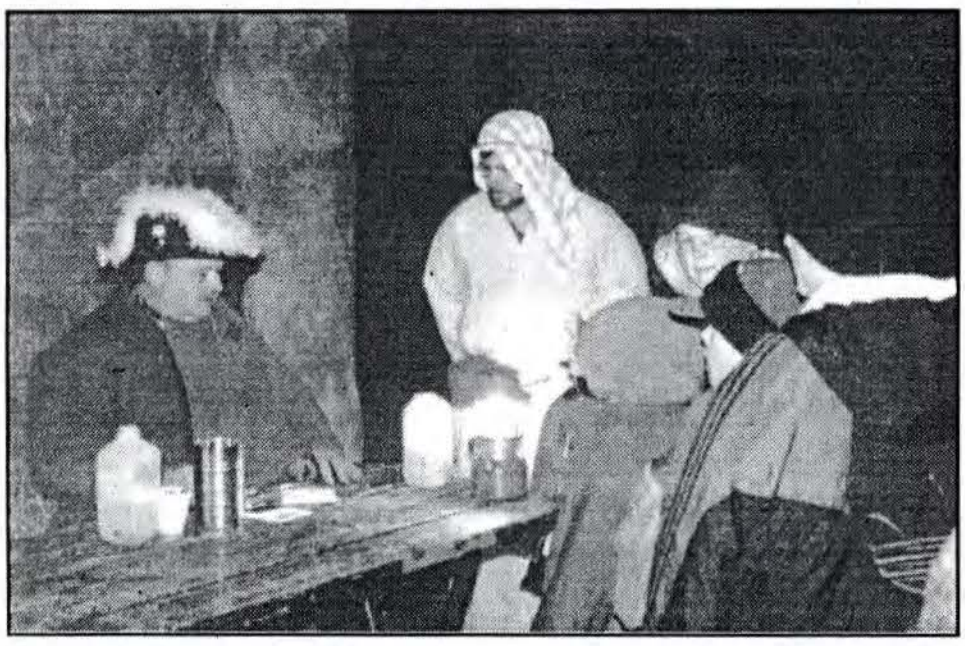
The two day event was a huge success mainly due to the efforts of Dave Dixon (Dixon's Feeds and Service and Steve Browne of the IGA.

Members of the West Elgin 4-H club were also out in force over the weekend selling tickets on a riding horse for $2.which many cowboys and cowgirls took advantage of.

*The photo on the right is Wayne Close driving his team of Belgian horses around town with a few of the hundreds of passengers he carried throughout the day.*



# 1996 Journey of Love





*At left, Harry Mezenberg is the tax collector, with guard Dave Page. Above, are wisemen Lyle Mann, Norma Mann and Ken Girard. Lower left is the nativity scene including Lynne Palmer, Brandie Elliott, Glenn Elliott, Joe Elliott, Nicole Elliott, Norma Elliott, Hugh Palmer and Karen Elliott. Below are Louise Verhoeven, Betty Mezenberg, Jim Verhoeven and Janneke Fleuren in a scene from the marketplace.*

*(D. Robinet)*





CURRENT EVENTS 1996

# Tempers fly in West Lorne council chambers

BY: WENDY TUNKS

Last Monday's meeting of West Lorne council was emotion-charged as various council members butted heads over several issues.

On the agenda was a letter written by Councillor John Shields to Reeve Dianne Buchanan regarding personal use of the village's fax and photocopier machines. Shields wondered whether the village had been reimbused and Buchanan responded that a tally is being kept and payment will be forthcoming.

Then Buchanan presented a prepared statement in which she stated she has been experiencing frustration at comments made by council members, and the argumentative approach of one council member in particular.

After contacting several provincial and federal agencies, Buchanan said she felt she had no recourse but to, "pursue my legal rights," for what she perceives as "workplace harassment," against Councillors Perry Willits and John Shields and Deputy-Reeve Tammy Swain. Buchanan said she was tired of the constant criticism of council members and she urged them to, "stop the hidden agenda, act with responsibility and do what you were elected to do."

At that point, Councillor Helen Okolisan read her own prepared statement, saying that she had taken offense at a statement made by Shields on the "plodding" pace of the previous council. Okolisan added she is ashamed of how people all over are laughing at West Lorne council and how it runs. She expressed her desire for the council to, "work together and get along."

Shields said he feels it's a free country and it is his right to express his opinion. He added he is comfortable with everything he has said about the previous and current councils.

Shields and Willits both said they felt it was unfair that Buchanan's statement was not on the agenda and promised that they will have their own statements at the next council meeting.

Swain told Buchanan she has never publicly made any derogatory comments about the reeve, and Buchanan ended the fiery session by stating she was, "not threatening but promising legal action if Shields and Willits don't cease workplace harassment." Willits then responded that if Buchanan would behave like a reeve, she would be treated like a reeve.

Following the meeting, Buchanan told *The Chronicle* she has no intention of resigning from her position, and asked if she feels anyone else on council should, the reeve responded with, "no comment." She added that there is too much going on now for council to be divisive. "We have got to work together as a team; we can't be pulling in different directions," she said.

Swain agreed, adding that she hopes council can put this episode behind them and move on. "We all have to pitch in together and work as partners, not as enemies. Threatening is not going to help," she said.

OCT. 96

# Municipal complex running behind, but on budget

BY: WENDY TUNKS NOV. 25, 1996

The good news for resident of West Lorne who are wondering when the new municipal complex will be open and ready for business is, that the project looks like it's within budget. Project manager Don Roughley indicated the library will be open by November 30 with "99.9 per cent of the work completed." He states, "only a few finishing touches," need yet to be done. Those finishing touches are slated to be completed on Tuesday The municipal building proper should be open a few weeks after that with some flooring, carpeting and paint touch-ups required.

Roughley reports that the $536,664 budget allotment has not been exceeded. And although there is still some work left to be done to the firehall and the basement of the municipal building proper, Roughley is optimistic those items will not increase costs too dramatically.

The break-downs of costs for the new building are as follows: The firehall is costing $260,118; the municipal building & library project is budgeted at $222,618; demolition of the old town hall cost $30,761 and the subsurface work cost $42,447. The total cost of $555,944 is offset slightly by a $19,280 rebate.

The Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Program is covering two-thirds of the original total project costs of $311,000, with both the provincial and federal governments each contributing a third of those costs. When the plan was expanded to cover the library, a larger meeting hall and kitchen facilities, the cost of the project escalated, but the provincial and federal grants remained the same. According to Diane McArthur-Rogers of the Infrastructure program in Toronto, the village has exhausted the program's funds and no more monies are forthcoming.

The provincial and federal grant will cover approximately $207,000, with the village of West Lorne paying the lion's share of $329,000 of total project costs.

## Becker's could be closing

While its head office in Toronto says negotiations are still ongoing, The Chronicle has learned that the West Lorne Becker's store could be closing as early as January, 1997.

Store manager Al Palazzo will be relocating to a Chatham Beckers, and Canada Post will look at moving its retail operations to another outlet in West Lorne if necessary.

CURRENT EVENTS 1997

# Community policing awaits council approval

BY: WENDY TUNKS

Constable Bob Maginnis from the O.P.P. spoke to a small but enthusiastic group on Monday evening at W.E.S.E.S. to explain the purpose, goals and format for Community Policing in West Lorne.

As of January, 1998, all municipalities are to provide adequate and effective police services. Each community is required to form a police services board comprising service groups, businesses and residents who are concerned about police matters. Maginnis explained this board will, "send a clear message for the people of West Lorne. The day the community says, 'I have had enough,' it will become a peaceful community."

There are currently 576 municipalities in Ontario not paying directly for police services. In January, every municpality will be financially responsible for providing police services, by either creating their own police, contracting an existing police service or contracting the O.P.P. Maginnis feels the first two options are cost prohibitive as minimum standards must be in place, and canine units and special crime units must be provided for.

Maginnis stated that 14.8 per cent of reported crimes of Elgin County occur in Aldborough (West Lorne and Rodney included). This may seem like a low figure, Maginnis said, but it may not reflect the true statistics if people do not report crimes. Even if an officer is not dispatched, figures are entered in the crime statistics data bank. He urged everyone to report crimes, saying ,"the best weapon is a pen."

Soon a police services board will be created and Maginnis urged the group to contact service clubs, businesses and other residents. An officer for the O.P.P. is going to be set up in the municipal building, but this has been stalled due to the fact there is no council to sign an agreement.

FEB 97

THE LONDON FREE PRESS TUESDAY, April 8, 1997

WEST LORNE

# Municipal affairs official named to take over village council duties

## The province was forced to step in after council didn't have a quorum for 60 days.

**By Kathy Rumleski**
*Free Press St. Thomas Bureau*

WEST LORNE — A non-elected official has been appointed by the province to take over duties from the embattled village council.

Kent Murray, a municipal adviser in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' London office, will conduct council's affairs until municipal elections in November, Municipal Affairs Minister Al Leach announced after officially declaring the five council seats vacant.

"I'm quite honored," Murray said in an interview. "I realize it's a great responsibility representing the village."

He said a ministry appointment like this is rare. "This is the third time since the mid-'80s. The other two times were in eastern Ontario.

Leach was forced to either make the appointment or order an election after council didn't have a quorum for 60 days.

**CONSTANT INFIGHTING:** Three councillors withdrew from council Jan. 16 because Reeve Dianne Buchanan refused to resign. The call for her resignation came because of constant infighting between her and the councillors. When she refused, four councillors walked out but Coun. Helen Okolisan later changed her mind and stayed on.

Perry Willits, one of the councillors who resigned, said West Lorne has already been sold out and it doesn't really matter what happens next. "I don't have a lot of faith in the whole system now."

Willits's main complaint was that West Lorne residents did not have enough chance for public input into Elgin County restructuring talks. He said in hindsight perhaps a mass resignation wasn't the solution to council's woes.

But he said a group of people who claimed to represent villagers asked the councillors to resign if the reeve wouldn't.

"The pressure was put on us. It maybe wasn't the best thing to do. There's a lot of unhappy people in town, I'll tell you that," he said.

Murray's appointment is retroactive to April 1 and he held his first council meeting Monday night.

**ACTS LIKE ANY COUNCIL:** He said he is able to pass resolutions and bylaws, hear delegations and act as any council normally would. Residents can also still appeal decisions with which they don't agree.

Murray said there may be a backlog of items to go through initially but he doesn't believe the job will require him to be in West Lorne full-time.

"The current staff have been carrying on the day-to-day operations of the municipality with the advice of their solicitors. There will be some things that require council (his) consent," he said.

John Judson, the municipality's solicitor, said ratepayers should be well served by the appointment.

"The minister's appointee will, I'm sure, do the best he can to keep things going in West Lorne until the fall. Up to this point in time, the municipality was in a state of not doing normal business. At least things can carry on and the ratepayers can be served as best as possible."

Reeve Dianne Buchanan could not be reached for comment Monday but said earlier that she would abide by any decision the government made.

**WHAT RESIDENTS HAVE TO SAY**

Reaction from West Lorne residents on the appointment of a provincial official to run the village:

- "I guess anything will be better than what it's been. Maybe it's better to appoint somebody." **C. B. Cantelon**
- "I think somebody locally could have done the job. At least a local person understands the situation." **Harley Lashbrook**
- "I'd prefer to keep government out of it and run our own affairs. I wish they'd have kept it at a local level." **Ron Ripley**
- "Something had to be done. It saved money by not having an election but I hate to have us not have representation. Some of the councillors worked very hard but what I objected to was the constant bickering that went on. That's why things had to come to a head." **Rosalie Krebsz**

CURRENT EVENTS 1997



## Final moments for council

BY WENDY TUNKS

April 1 marks the day when the Minister of Municipal Affairs decides the political fate of West Lorne, since the resignation en masse of the majority of council two months ago. Council members resigned to protest the refusal of their reeve to resign over what they - as well as some members of the public - believed to be less than credible leadership.

The 60-day period is up on March 28, but with that being Good Friday, and then Easter Monday falling on the next work day, ministry representative John Currie said the order will probably be released on Tuesday.

Although Currie was unable to divulge exactly the plans of the ministry, he was able to say the minister wouldn't want West Lorne residents without representation. A trustee will be appointed immediately until the time an election is called. Currie said according to Section 48 of the Municipal Act, an election shall be held. Currie points out the cost of an election is an unfair burden for the residents at this time as an election is slated for November. The minister may use the November election to satisy the election requirement.

While waiting for representation by election, a trustee will be appointed. This person will probably not be from the area and will have considerable knowledge of municpal affairs, possibly as an ex-clerk or a solicitor. The trustee will have the same power as a regular council. When asked how one person would serve on an implementation comittee for amalgamation, when two are required, Currie said the person would have, "sufficient power to appoint some to attend as well."

Last words:

Former Councillor Perry Willits feels Reeve Dianne Buchanan should have stepped aside when her resignation was called for. He feels it wasn't in West Lorne's best interests to enter amalgamation talks without representation. Willits said had Buchanan stepped aside, the residents would have had a stronger voice. He added ,"the right way for amalgamation would have been with Dutton and Dunwich." He also feels disappointment with those who spoke at the last West Lorne meeting in January as representatives of the community, as those people had an opportunity to serve council when a seat became vacant after the resignation of Councillor John Shields.

Former Deputy Reeve said she hopes, "the future for West Lorne looks better than the past." Buchanan and Councillor Helen Okolisan had a resounding, "no comment."

**Academy Award winner's mother West Lorne native... see page 8 for interview!**



*It's the end of an era for West Lorne. This week the Minister of Municipal Affairs is expected to dissolve council and appoint a trustee to manage the affairs of the village until the fall election, when West Lorne will amalgamate with Aldborough Township. Pictured here at the beginning of their term are: (back row left to right) former Councillor Perry Willits, Councillor Helen Okolisan, former Councillor John Shields (front) Reeve Dianne Buchanan, former Deputy-Reeve Tammy Swain and former Clerk-Treasurer Brenda Fleming.* *(K. Robinet)*

CURRENT EVENTS APR. 2, 1997

**MUNICIPAL POLITICS**

# West Lorne awaiting word on who's in charge

## Municipal Affairs Minister Al Leach has several choices on how to deal with the dilemma, caused by the resignation of three councillors.

**By Kathy Rumleski**
*Free Press St. Thomas Bureau*

WEST LORNE — Bills are piling up, the budget is not approved and residents are awaiting word on who is going to administer their village.

That word is expected to come from the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs this week.

Reeve Dianne Buchanan and Coun. Helen Okolisan are still attending council meetings — the next one is Monday — but the three other council members resigned last January.

"I'm going to be watching the parliamentary channel . . . to see if there is any hint (from Municipal Affairs Minister Al Leach). I haven't heard anything," Buchanan said.

The walkout of councillors came after a small delegation of residents attended a council meeting and asked for Buchanan's resignation because of constant infighting between her and councillors. She refused so the three other councillors wrote out their resignations and left the meeting.

Buchanan said Leach has several choices on how to deal with West Lorne's dilemma.

He can dissolve council and appoint a trustee to run the village. He can leave the two present council members on and appoint another member to make a quorum or he can appoint three members who have been duly elected in the past.

Buchanan said she will abide by any decision the minister makes, but right now she continues to sign cheques for payroll and minimal bills.

**BILLS PAID:** West Lorne acting clerk Diane Van Dyk said all necessary expenses are paid up, but some items have been put on hold, including the completion of the new municipal office, which still needs shelving and a room in the basement finished.

"It's going to be difficult to catch up. We'll have to go through agendas from the past three months. It's just going to be a lot of backtracking and going through and approving the bills that haven't been approved. Most people are sympathetic and they understand the position we're in."

Buchanan said her only worry is that if new councillors are appointed, they must have a good understanding of municipal politics.

". . . There are so many restructuring issues coming up fast and furious and there needs to be somebody with some knowledge. What politicians are supposed to be all about is the best for the whole community.

"Hopefully, whoever Al Leach puts in does the best for the whole community. It's a rather onerous job, especially right now."

-May 12, 1997

# A new face at West Lorne municipal office

**BY: WENDY TUNKS**

Rita DeWild from Aldborough Township municipal office has been appointed Deputy Clerk of West Lorne. This appointment will smooth the transition when current clerk, Diane Van Dyk is on maternity leave as DeWild will take over the clerkship at that time. Government appointee Kent Murray explained at last Monday's West Lorne council meeting it will help when Aldborough and West Lorne amalgamate at the end of the year.

Roy Lyons from the St. Thomas Fire Department was on hand to give a small presentation on a new paging system. The new system would see the use of VHF/UHF radios and the department would no longer rely on land lines. Currently, a fire request would be handled through a telephone call to Star Communications and Star would relay the location to the fire department. Lyons said radios would take over fire emergency dispatches with fire department employees directing calls. If assistance was required from another fire department, Lyons said a fire chief would "flip to the mutual aid station," and other fire departments would be called. Lyons also explained the St. Thomas Fire Department is offering the paging system to Rodney, Aldborough, Dutton, Dunwich and West Lorne for a three-year contract with no rate increase and brand new equipment. West Lorne Fire Chief Dave Cadogan said, "this proposal has my full support." Murray said the plan deserved to be looked at and there would be further follow-up.

Elaine Gray was on hand to ask for West Lorne approval of the 'crossing buddies,' program so maps and information can be distributed to St. Mary's. Murray approved this resolution. Gray also requested signs warning people of children crossing. Road Superintendent George Nute felt this was an excellent idea, but noted since the school boards are tendering out the school routes in September, the school routes can change and the crossing areas may not be the same. A sign is to be posted at the entrances of the village urging motorists to watch for children.

Resident George McGill spoke about his ongoing problem with the municipality and parking his truck. McGill feels he is being unfairly singled out as he says there are five or six other truckers parking their trucks and trailers in residential areas. Parking enforcement officer Marthe Rook explained to McGill that by parking his truck on the road allowance, he is breaking a by-law. Murray advised McGill to adhere to the by-law and others will be notified through the newspaper reminding them of the by-law and parking.

The issue of handicap parking was also raised. George Nute said it could take years to have two spots designated as handicap parking in front of the Health Centre. He added the signs are very costly. Nute said it was his understanding the two spots at the back of the IGA that are already designated handicap parking were going to be shared with the health unit. Murray advised Nute to further investigate.

The PROWL committee had a written request to have their Canada Day celebrations be designated a community event so a liquor licence could be secured. The request was granted.

# Local man to represent Canada at World Karate Championships

Chris Leys of West Lorne will soon be making a trip to merry old Ireland in search of Gold. No he's not trying to catch one of those elusive Leprechauns and their hidden pot of gold, he will be trying to win the gold medal at the World Karate Association Championships that will be held in Dublin this fall.

Leys is one of three Canadians in his weight class to represent Team Canada at the World Competitions. He qualified for the event by winning the Bronze medal in the recent Canadian Championships that were held in Mississauga recently.

Chris took up the sport a scant two years ago and since that time he has won many competitions , but going to the World Competitions has to be the highlight of his Karate career.

He got interested in the sport quite by accident, when he attended a local practice session at the Bernardo Studios in London and since that time he was hooked. Chris joined the club and has advanced to the point where he has risen to the title of carrying a purple belt.

He currently works for Jones Packaging in London .

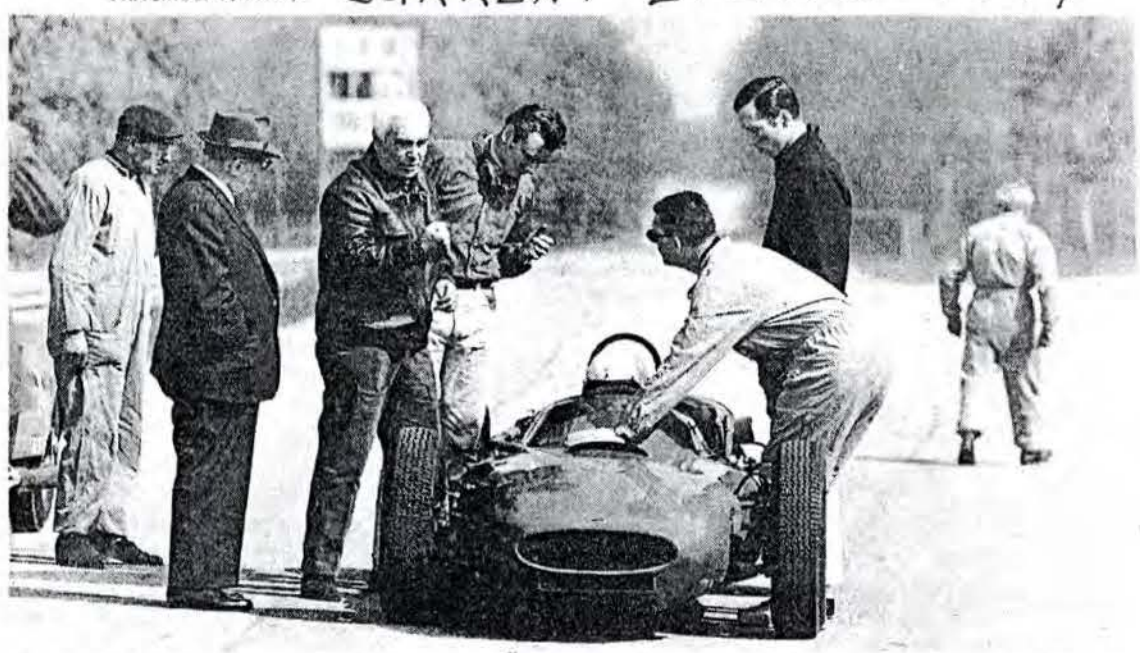
Chris states that from now until the world competitions he will be practicing intensely to keep his mind and body ready for the competitions.

As for Chris's wife and family they are behind him one hundred percent and hopes he will bring home the gold for Canada at the World Competitions.

JULY 1997



**In winning form-** *Chris Leys from West Lorne will represent Canada in the World Karate Championships this fall in Dublin, Ireland. Chris shows off some of the trophies he has garnered in his Karate career over the last two years.*



**Just another day's work-** *Craig Hill, 3 Tinme Canadian Driving Champion finishes another successful run in a race in Italy. Piero Taruffi gives Craig a well done after driving his Formula One Cooper. Craig is in the car while Piero taruffi, 'The Silver Fox " is in the centre of the picture.*

# Three time Canadian racing champ moves to West Lorne

West Lorne has a new resident, 3 time Canadian Racing Champion Craig Hill. Craig has been racing cars since the days of the old oval dirt tracks that were speckled around the country during the late 40's and 50's.

He first got interested in racing when he was going to high school. His first car was a 1937 Ford Coup with an old Flathead V-8 under the hood. At that time he raced at such tracks as Delaware, Nilestown, Brantford and many others.

After racing the dirt track circuit Hill moved up to race sprint cars and midgets during the early '60's.

Eventually his love of racing carried him to tracks all across the USA, Canada and even Europe. Craig has raced with the greatest at such tracks as Taladega, Charlotte, Mosport as other major tracks.

He won his first Professional Road Race in Canada in 1954 , driving a DT type Jaguar. The three time Champ was recently inducted into the Canadian Motorsport Hall of Fame in Toronto.

In his heyday Craig raced for such racing teams as Leyland, MGB and Lotus.

He recalls that when he started racing it was racing in a very primitive form compared to the cars on the tracks today. In the early days it was basically a 'Seat of Your Pants" racing, but today's cars have onboard computers which virtually tell the driver when he should accelerate, change tires etc.

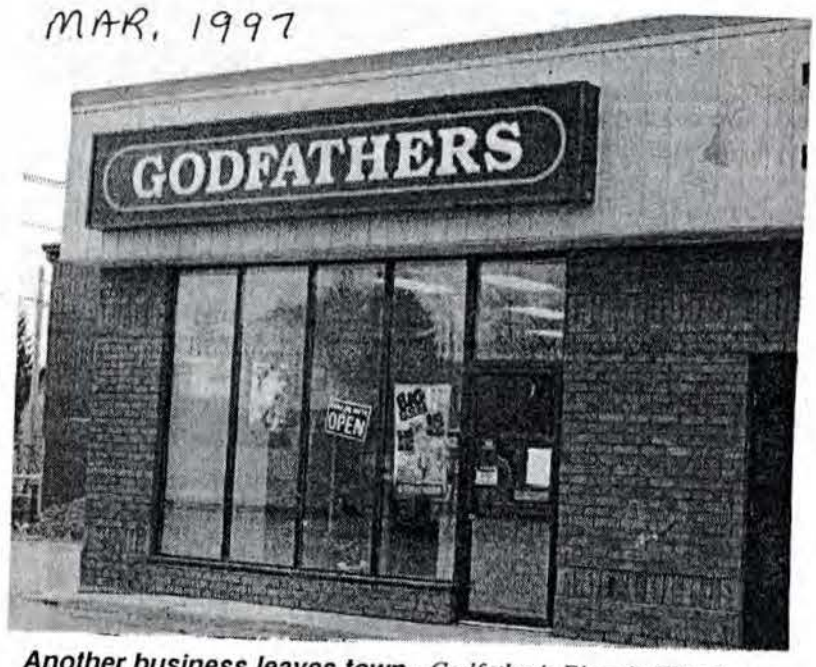
Hill was also the founder of the Atlantic Canada racing series.

His career includes 27 years with Castrol Lubricants Canada, where he headed up the Advertising Dept., and Castrol's Canadian Motorsport Programmes.

Currently Hill keeps his hand in the racing world by doing colour commentary for TSN on the CASCAR Circuit.

He is very glad to see that Canadian racers are doing well in the sport today and that he was glad to be one of the pioneers who paved the way for the young drivers of today.

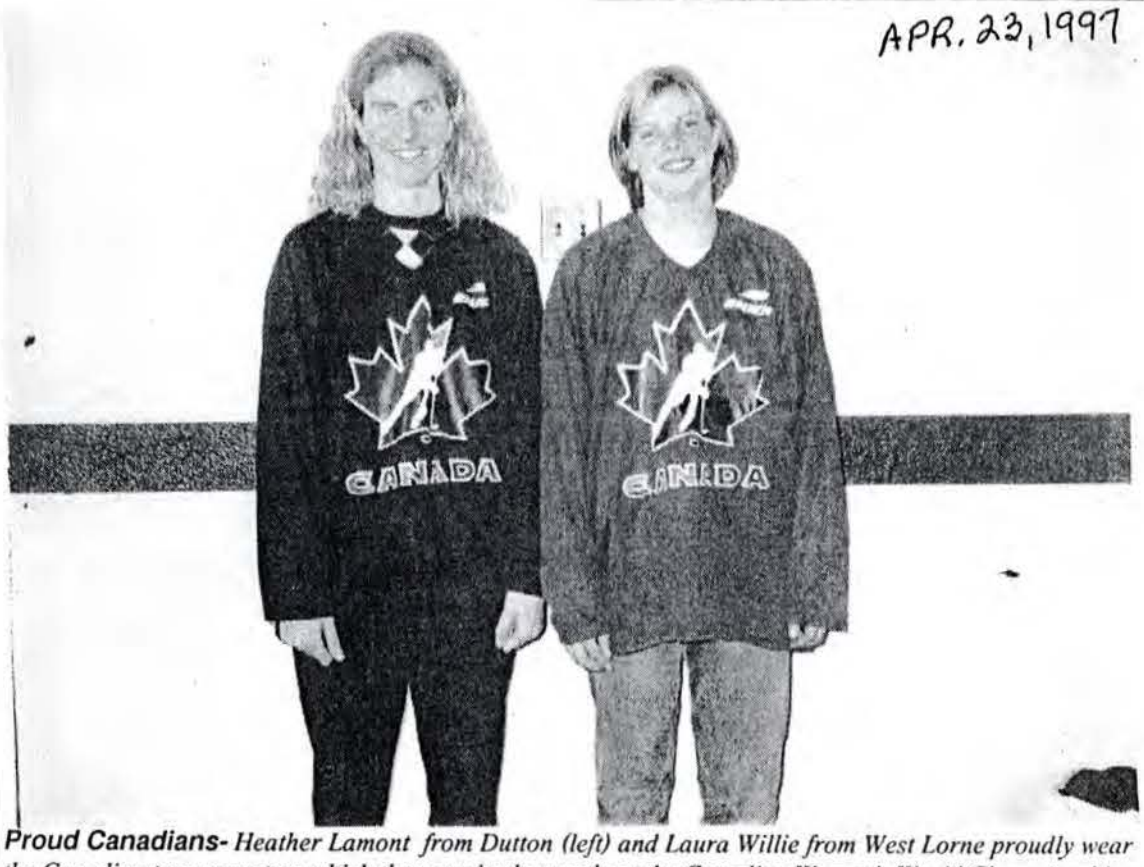
MAR. 1997




**Another business leaves town-** *Godfather's Pizza in West Lorne will be but a faded memory in the anals of West Lorne history as it closed its doors after only serving the public for a little less than one year. The giant Pizza chain closed its doors because it did not reach the intended revenue it thought it would from this area.*

APR. 23, 1997

CURRENT EVENTS
1997




**Proud Canadians-** *Heather Lamont from Dutton (left) and Laura Willie from West Lorne proudly wear the Canadian team sweaters which they received recently at the Canadian Women's World Championships that were held in Kitchener. The pair were part of the in between periods entertainment at the Championship event.*

# Local girls strut their stuff at the Womens World Hockey Championships

The Women's World Hockey Championships that were held recently in Kitchener may be over, but for two local girls the event will linger in their minds for the rest of their lives as they were chosen from an elite few skaters to display their skating talents in between periods of the Championship series.

Heather Lamont from Dutton and Laura Willie from West Lorne were selected by a committee from Bauer Sportswear to represent their team and league at the event.

In the opening ceremonies Heather had the honour of carrying the Chinese flag and she also participated in the skills competition between periods of the opening game between Switzerland and Canada.

Laura Willie had the honour of skating in the skills competition in the semi-final game between Finland and Canada.

Both girls play hockey for the West Lorne Comets which is a part of the Lambton Girls League. The league consists of 17 teams from as far away as Goderich and Seaforth. This year the team finished in 5th place and defeated Goderich in the "B" Division consolation round. The

local girls team has only been in existence for three years and is currently coached by long time local hockey advocate Alphonse Willie.


**Happy 50th Anniversary**



***The children of Frank & Katie Nemeth invite friends, neighbours & relatives to join us to celebrate this special occasion. Open House at St. Mary's Hall, West Lorne on Sunday May 4, 1997 - 1pm to 4pm***

***Best Wishes Only Please...***


JULY 2, 1997

# West Lorne lad meets royalty

Eight-year-old Philip Ouellette of West Lorne had the thrill of a lifetime Thursday, June 26, when he presented Queen Elizabeth with a pair of carnations during her walkabout tour in London's Victoria Park.

The outgoing Philip, son of Alice and Jim Ouellette of Gilbert Street, was given the opportunity to present the flowers by a London police officer working security during the Queen's visit to the Forest City.

"We where standing by the veterans because we figured she would stop and talk to them during her walkabout," Alice explained. "We were standing right behind the barricade so we would have a good view."

Jodi Sweet, from Waterdown, Ont., gave the Ouellettes a white and red carnation to give to the Queen.

"She asked the boys to do it. Carl (her 13-year-old) is a little shy and said no but Philip said he wanted to do it," she said.

As the Queen made her way along a two metre walkaway in the park, the police officer allowed Philip and another little girl and boy out from behind the barricade to present flowers to the visiting monarch in an impromptu ceremony.

"I thought she looked beautiful," Carl recalled, as he watched his younger brother present the carnations to the Queen.

Philip, who thought the Queen was taller than she appeared in real life, said the British monarch was very gracious when accepting his little gift.

"She said thank-you," Philip beamed.

"I don't think he really understands how excited I am about it," said a proud mom Alice. "He may not understand it now but it is something he'll remember all his life.

"Of all the people there and for him to actually give the flowers to her, you're really quite in awe."

Unfortunately for the Ouellette's, they didn't get a picture of Philip's little gift giving adventure.

"My camera froze just as it was happening," said Alice.

She is hoping someone may have snapped a picture of the event and may be able to get a copy or two.



**A Proud Canadian-** *Eight year old Phillip Ouelette proudly waves the Canadian Flag and the old Union Jack in celebration of Canada Day. Phillip had the honour of presenting Queen Elizabeth a bouquet of carnations during her recent visit to London on her Royal Tour of Canada.*

# London's Women of Distinction

January 8, 1997 -



**Keeping a beat to the music-** *Area seniors were entertained recently at the West Elgin Community Health Centre during their 'Stone Soup' gettogether by the band 'The Lake Erie Woodchoppers'. Members of the band from left to right are: Earl and Betty Bobier, and Pat and Kay Waite.*

APR. 30, 1997

## March of Dimes raises $3,200 in West Elgin

The West Lorne and East Aldborough March of Dimes Campaign for 1997 was successful in raising $3,200.

We would like to acknowledge the great effort made by our volunteers. The following is a list of those who canvassed this year: Julie Begin, Alice Ouillett, Bonnie Robertson, Mary Prud'homme, Caren Walker, Geri Hind, Donna Kleinjan, Louise Harrison, Bob Carmichael, Shirley Walker, Cheryl Verbrugge, Scott Allen, Evelyn Vandenberg, Ruth Ann Howse, Mary Belle Watterworth, Darlene Johnston, Els Huver, Frances McCallum, Dawn Cadogan, Marigold Pearce, Clara Sample, Kay Attridge, Helen Timmermans, Joyce Bree, Leola Lawrance, Mary Hogland, Paula Alves, Krista VanRaes, and Alison Beer.

As well, we thank all who donated to help disabled adults lead more active and dignified lives.

JUNE 1997



**Looking after the environment-** *Members of the West Lorne Horticultural Society led by President George Lippold planted a sugar maple tree recently in the park by the tracks in West Lorne.*



**JANE PECKHAM**

"I was fortunate Fran Eberhard (now retired from UWO's faculty of education) was my mentor and role model. She really set an example in what to do and how you do it and hopefully you'll inspire other people to carry on in the field. Sport and coaching has traditionally been male dominated by virtue of the women's role as mother and caregiver but I see that changing. There's more opportunity for women now but I'd like to see more promotion of physical education in the schools and with education cuts, I think were unfortunately not moving in that direction."

**CATEGORY:** Sport, Fitness And Recreation

Jane Peckham is an accomplished teacher and coach who is acknowledged by the amateur athletic community as a leader in the field of youth sports, particularly volleyball and track. She currently teaches physical education at Oakridge secondary school. Peckham has coached a number of high school individual and team champions, demonstrating her ability to create and sustain an atmosphere in which excellence flourishes. Her contribution has been honored by the 3M/London Free Press coaching recognition program. She shares her love of teaching with dedication to development of athletes, particularly young women.

JANE WAS A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW OF ALICE PECKHAM A W.I. MEMBER

July 14, 1997

# A Salute to Seniors



*Lois Carroll was one of 21 seniors across Ontario honoured in a special ceremony held recently in Toronto. She received an Ontario Senior Achievement Award from Hilary Weston, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (left) and Minister Responsible for Seniors Cam Jackson.*

## Local woman's efforts did not go unnoticed

Years of service to her community have not gone unnoticed, and Lois Carroll of RR1 West Lorne was recently honoured with an Ontario Senior Achievement Award.

The award was established in 1986 to recognize outstanding seniors who exemplify generosity, goodwill and commitment to their communities, and Carroll fills that description in every way.

A very active member of the Crinan Presbyterian Church, she is also a dedicated volunteer for the Canadian Cancer Society, driving patients to various appointments, and organizing special events within the community.

And, since 1969, Carroll has been an active member of the Daffodil Auxiliary, and has been a driving force behind the auxiliary's Christmas care boxes.

This award is only one of the accolades Carroll has received for her work in the community. She has previously been named Dutton-Dunwich Community Volunteer of the Year. Along with husband Lorne, she also received the Helen Keller Fellowship by the Dutton & District Lions Club. In 1996, she was nominated for an Elgin Woman of Distinction Award in 1996.

Aldborough Councillor Joann Vergeer was among those in attendance when Carroll received the award, representing the township. Aldborough nominated Carroll for the award, but the nomination was also endorsed by the Canadian Cancer Society, Dutton PUC, Dunwich Township, Rev. Ralph Fluit and Norma McMillan.

Vergeer said she was struck by the humility of the 21 recipients of the award and applauded the selection of Carroll. This year, there were almost 200 nominations received by the province for the prestious award.

Congratulations Lois!

November 3, 1997

# New bus makes programs accessible

A new wheelchair accessible vehicle is a welcome replacement to the original Four Counties Community Transportation Service Van, which was purchased as a used vehicle.

The new van seats 12 passengers and can accommodate two wheelchairs. Cost of the vehicle was shared equally by the FCGH Foundation and the Ministry of Transportation. The Foundation provided $35,000 toward the purchase.

Foundation chair Dale Peters said the Foundation was pleased to contribute to the vehicle, which makes it possible for clients with no transportation to attend FCGH, where they participate in social, as well as health programs.

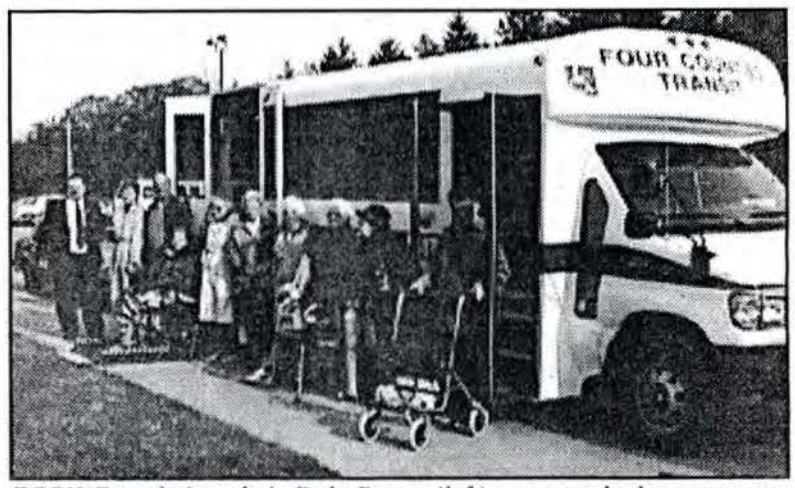
The service is also used by clients to access a number of programs within the area. Rides to medical appointments, grocery shopping and visiting friends can be arranged through the Four Counties Community Transportation Service, which started in April of 1994 with a refurbished van and services residents north to Alvinston, west to Highgate and Ridgetown, south to Lake Erie and east to Appin.

Accessible, affordable transportation improved the quality of life for seniors and assists them to remain living in their own homes.

The sponsoring municipality is Aldborough Township, which provides administrative support for this service with a local transit board overseeing the day to day running of the service.

Duncan McPhail, chairman of the Four Counties Community Transportation Service, explained that daily operation of the non-profit service is handled by a paid driver and dispatcher.

He noted the support of area Legions and service clubs was instrumental both in starting the service and in providing ongoing support.



*FCGH Foundation chair Dale Peters (left) presents the keys to a new wheelchair-accessible vehicle to Jean Phillips, Adult Day Centre supervisor, and transportation committee chair Duncan McPhail. On hand for the presentation were program participants (from left) Josie Schnekenburger, Violet Alderton, Margaret Smith, Marjorie Gillis, Margaret Clarey, Georgina Livingstone, Isabel MacLean and Alma Peckham.*

CURRENT EVENTS
1997

MARCH 1997

## "The Best In The West"

**West Elgin's Special Person** **Elaine Gray**



Elaine was born and raised in Rodney then moved on to London to attend U.W.O. acquiring not only one, but 2 degrees. A bachelor of education and a bachelor of fine arts. Since then she has married and had 4 children.

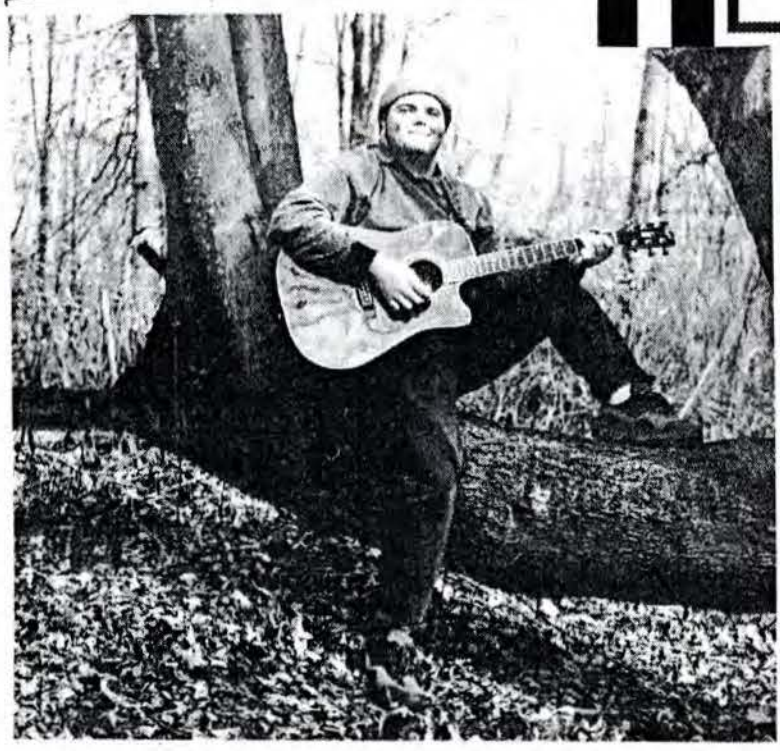
Elaine started volunteering at Aldborough Public School 3 years ago where she helps with reading programs. She also helps 2 afternoons a week with a resource program at West Elgin Senior Elementary School. She further spends one hour every afternoon there supervising the craft club.

She recently took a rural outreach course to enable her to be part of an adult literacy program at West Elgin Community Health Centre.

She feels her greatest accomplishment is ensuring the safety of our children at her local bus stop. Last October when it was necessary to change some bus stops out to the main roads in West Lorne Elaine became concerned and did some research then became a Crossing Guard. Unfortunately Elaine can only be in one place so other helpers are still needed. If you can help please give her a call. Another of Elaine's projects is the wonderful mural she and a friend are painting on the hallway at the Health Centre.

**Elaine, you really are a special person...**

NOV. 26/97



***A little touch of Country-*** *Local musician Jay Allan relaxes in a country setting practicing one of his many songs, that have skyrocketted the youngster to the brink of musical stardom.*

## local musician to hold premiere CD release in West lorne

Merlin may have its Country Singing Sensation Michelle Wright , but West Lorne has its own rising star in Jay Allan.

Jay got started in his musical life at an early age as his father Allan has loved music for years. And through the encouragement of his father and mother Jay started to play the guitar. He soon fell i\n love and started to write his own songs.

As he grew older so did his love for music and he has become a popular figure among the local residents as he has gained quite a following of music lovers.

Jay's natural musical talent plus a voice like Bing Crosby's makes him feel at ease when performing in front of a large or small audience.

In the past year Jay's career has skyrocketed , so much so that he has recorded his first CD entitled "Please Don't Change". To celebrate this momentous occasion in Jay's career a premiere showing of the CD and his musical talents will be held at a gala New Year's Eve Party at St. Mary's Parish Hall in West Lorne.

Jay's success has not come easy as several local musicians have helped nurture the teenager along the right road. Those talented people offered advice, friendship and a few skills of their own to this budding star. Some of those who have helped Jay are Rodney's own Larry Cote, Tony Meriano from Chatham, Frank Yankovich, Mike Houston, Marie Begin from West Lorne, James S. Kovach from West Lorne, R. Steven Hicks from Lambeth and Bill King from New Glasgow.

It isn't often that one of our own holds a premiere opening in West Lorne , so if your into watching a rising star perform attend Jay's New Year's Eve CD release at St. Mary's Hall.

# Local man pens book on Aldborough history

Local history buff Bob King has turned author by penning his first book entitled "I Will Be King Someday". The book contains the history of some of Bob's ancestors who were some of the first settlers of Aldborough. The book explains in great detail the trials and tribulations that these early pioneers encountered in settling Aldborough.

His writings also trace the histories of eight families: the Kings, Lalondes, Huffmans, Gaynors, Friedrichs, Steins, Gutmans and Slovaks which are all ancestors of Bob's. The history of these families dates back some 350 years.

Most of the families described in the book are still living here in Aldborough. The book is rich in history with old tales, stories and pictures of people and places that have faded into the pages of Aldborough's history.

According to King the book was a labour of love and that he had fun doing it. He also stated that the most interesting part of doing the book was interviewing the older members of the families featured in the book and interviewing them, getting their recollections of past events. In chatting with some of these people King stated you could almost see the pictures of past events flashing through their mind and eyes as they described in great detail the happenings of years ago.

The book will be available shortly for area history buffs to purchase and thanks to Bob another piece of Aldborough history is saved through his tireless efforts to research and gain the information used in this book which will preserve for eternity the history of the King's.

JULY 23, 1997



***Local man turns author of local history book-*** *Bob King local history buff has turned author by releasing a book called 'I Will Be King". The book is about the history of his family tree and encompasses over 300 years of history.*

CURRENT EVENTS 1997

April 23, 1997 -

# 47th ANNUAL KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL



*Mallory Peternel proudly displays her first place award for winning the spelling bee in her division at the recent Kiwanis Musivc Festival that was held in West Lorne.*



*Winners in the Keyboard category for ages 8-11 were from left to right: Julie Oliveira 1st, Jennifer Pinder 2nd, and Ashley Woolsey 3rd.*



*Wind Instrument Duet Award Winners- Front row left to right: Connie Small and Jennifer Moss, (Back row left to right) Amanda Breen and Stephannie Cushman (Trumpet), Lindsay Hull ( Clarinet) and Mallory Peternel (Trumpet).*

JULY 2, 1997



**Getting ready for the Great Space Race-** *These four youngsters were just a few of the area's youth who have entered the summer reading program at the West Lorne Library. From left to right they are: Justin Walker, Krista Walker, Tina Cowell (Librarian), Shelby Pyka, and Tanya VanRaes.*

## Area youngsters enter the 'Great Space Race'.

Twenty five youngsters from the area were busy making their wallets and getting ready to play the Great Space Race Game at the West Lorne Library's Summer Reading Program that is held every summer at the library.

The idea of the program is to get the youth of our area interested in reading books during the summer months. Children receive coupons for every book they read which they can build up, store in their wallets and exchange them to play games at the library's annual carnival.

The librarians at the library help to make reading fun for the kids by playing the great space game, which is a huge board at the library and everyone gets a man and moves around the board until they reach the finishing line. Children are introduced to a number of different areas in their summer reading program.

It is a fun time for both the staff and children and in the process the joys of reading and stimulating those young minds are met through the wonderful world of books.

CURRENT EVENTS 1997

## Great ride and stride for cancer

APR 1997

# A success for West Elgin

Although the weather was a little on the cool side things warmed up in West Elgin for the Canadian Cancer Society as riders and striders gathered at the arena in West Lorne and in Dutton to raise an astounding $4,800 for the society.

In West Lorne a group of over 40 people gathered at the arena for the jaunt to Dutton and back to raise funds for the society. The West Lorne group raised $2,958 while Dutton raised $1,870.

Prizes were awarded in West Lorne for the following categories: **Youngest Participant**- Sara Peternel, **Most Senior:** Ann Schaeken, **Most Family Members:** John Thompson Family,**Best Decorated Bikes**- Caitlin & Tonya Van Raes, **Rollerblades**- Katrina Mark, **Rider raising the most Money**- Helen Mooser, **Best Dressed Lady**- Rosalie Krebsz, and **Best Dressed Gentleman**- John Thompson.

The draw winners were: Mary Jane Milne, Sara Peternel, Phil Marks, Penny Knapp, David Van Raes, Nicholas Knapp, Cathy Mark, John Thompson, Trina Lusse, Connie Mark, Marsha Knapp, Bobby Marks and Peter Thompson.

The West Lorne Branch of the Cancer Society would like to thank the following businesses for making this year's run such a success: P.J. 's Pizza, West Elgin Pharmacy, Modern Beauty Salon, Rosa's Beauty Salon, Judy's Hair Loft, McDonald's, West Lorne Star, West Lorne IGA, Krebsz Jewellery, West Elgin Arena Staff, Kiwanis Club, Rick White, West Elgin Legion and a special thanks to all the riders and stridders and sponsors who took part in this year's run.

The results of this year's run meant that West Lorne has reclaimed the trophy from Dutton who won it last year.



***Making strides for Cancer research-*** *This trio of local women participated in the Great Ride for Cancer that was held recently in West Lorne. From left to right they are: Florence McCallum, Rosalie Krebsz and her dog along with Shirley Sewell.*

MAY 5, 1997



*Among those taking part in the ride were John Thomson and grandsons Scott Campbell and Peter Thomson.* *(S. Slaats)*

# West Lorne Great Ride 'n Stride a resounding success!

Thanks to the great weather and 47 riders and striders, and their sponsors, a total of $2,958 has been raised to date. A number of prizes were awarded:

Youngest participant, Sara Peternel; most senior, Ann Schaeken; most family members, John Thomson family; best decorated bikes, Caitlin and Tonya Van Raes; roller blades, Katrina Mark; rider raising the most money, Helen Mooser; best dressed lady, Rosalie Krebsz; and best dressed gentleman, John Thomson.

Draw winners were: Mary Jane Milne, Sara Peternel, Phil Marks, Penny Knapp, David Van Raes, Nicholas Knapp, Cathy Mark, John Thomson, Trina Lusse, Connie Mark, Marsha Knapp, Bobby Mark, Peter Thomson.

Many thanks to all who donated prizes.

CURRENT EVENTS
1997



**Riding for Cancer-** *Residents from the surrounding area climbed aboard the big red 30 seat bicycle at Four Counties Hospital to raise funds for the Heart & Stroke Foundation. The bike also made a run earlier in the day in Werst Lorne.*

# Area cyclists ride for Heart & Stroke Foundation

The Heart & Stroke's big red 30 seat bicycle was busy in West Elgin recently raising funds for the association. Members of the community in West Lorne rode the bike in the morning and in the afternoon the bike journeyed to Four Counties Hospital where area residents climbed aboard the big red machine to raise more funds for the association.

In West Lorne the ride raised over $1,800 for the foundation.

Verbrugge Realty from West Lorne had the greatest number of riders on the bike as Dennis Lee, Paula Verbrugge, Michelle Verbrugge, Linda Verbrugge and Paul Verbrugge rode in the fundraiser. Other bike riders were: Jim Holdaway from W.G. Thompson's, Rosalie Krebsz, Krebsz Jewellery, Marina Lundigan & Ralph Fliut from the Health Centre, Wendy Vergeer, Bank of Montreal, Karen Cormier, West Elgin Star, Debi Seed, Doug Parent for Ripley & Giles Motors, Bill Graham, Kiwanis Club of West Lorne, Janet Given, Barb Page, P.J. 's Pizza, and Deb Skorbowski from TLC.

May 5, 1997



***Lila McGill and Sharon Gilchrist of Knox Presbyterian Church in West Lorne were busy selling baked goods at the annual rummage and bake sale held last Saturday.***

***(D. Robinet)***

CURRENT EVENTS 1997



**Cooking up a storm-** *Members of West Lorne's Block Parents Association held a BBQ in front of the CHC recently to raise funds for the organization. Mr. & Mrs. Bobier are seen sampling one of the delicious dogs that the group were serving up to the public. Workers at the BBQ were Sharron Mosher, and Heather Johnston ( head cook). The group raised $200 at the cookout and they would like to thank the West Lorne Legion , West Lorne IOGA, and the Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit for their donations towards the BBQ fundraiser.*

August 18, 1997

JULY 2, 1997



*The family and friends of the late Roy A. Brown presented the Village of West Lorne with a Robert Bateman print in his memory. Pictured from left to right: Aaron Brown, Shirley Brown, Shirley Ecker Brown, Carla Brown and Don Bobier. Brown's five acre bird sanctuary was home to more than 175 types of birds and every year migrating birds stopped there. Neighbour Don Bobier collected money for flowers when Brown passed away in 1994. The money left over, with the village matching a donation, was put towards the picture that will hang in council chambers. Mr. Brown is survived by three sons, Robert, Harley and Gary, daughter Bonnie and wife Betty.*

*- December 17, 1997.*

# *Angel tree comes aglow at annual lighting ceremony in West Lorne*

Despite the cold bitter temperature over 75 people gathered outside of the West Lorne Town Hall to take part in the Angel Tree Lighting.

The festivities started off with Prayers by Father Joseph Nevett who also later performed mass and read a poem. Pastor Savic and Margaret Murray also read a poem during the evening. This special ceremony is in memory of area loved ones who have been called home. Special poem was read by the crowd called the Angel Tree:

**"THE ANGEL TREE"**

Just beyond the dark of night lies the break of dawn. And though to us the path is blocked. There the light of God's own love has gathered to His throne in gentlest arms of tender care. The ones we called our own. May it somehow bring you peace To know they're not alone but God above who knows what's best has simply called them home.

After the ceremony the crown gathered on the steps of the town hall to listen to Christmas songs sung by the Interdenominational choir and the organ was played by Shirley Walker.

All those remembered in this poem are:

Sid and Josie Authier, Katherine Lynn Alderton, Abigail Kate Bandeen, Mathew Earl Bandeen, Christopher Beer, Joey Beer, Michelle Beer, Christopher Cowan, Pam Cowan, Shane Cowan, Timothy Cowan, Daniel Cowan, Andy Dewulf, Lloyd Cicil Doan, Michael Doan, Marrnie Fleming, Michael Gammon, Jason Kayelites, Ashley Ann Murray, Margaret McColl, Jeremy Robinet, Willie A.R. Merks, Sonia Oliveira, Aleisha Marie Tomczyk, Elaine Watterworth, Patty Winter, Janet Oakey, Donna Smeljanich, Munroe McMillian, Nickie Lipon, Sophie Lipon, Sam Lipon, Grace Havens, Ken Okolesan, Jim Shostale, Bill Griffin, Lorne McGill, Hohn Hulai, Yancy Begin, Justin Ray Bell and Bob Carroll.



**A moment to remember -** *These three youngsters joined in on the festivities of the Lighting of the Angel Tree in West Lorne .*

 CURRENT EVENTS 1997

# Be on the lookout: big cats spotted in area

BY: KAREN ROBINET

At least one local family is hoping for a speedy end to a frightening episode in their lives. Last Monday evening, Tim and Marilyn Howse were relaxing in their hot tub on Queen St., just south of Highway 76 when they noticed two large cats, about 20 feet away, ready to attack their dog Tyson.

Tim screamed at the cats who then retreated into the woods. The following day, he found large tracks confirming his suspicions that one of the animals is a cougar or lion. Reports of a large cat or two large cats have been widespread across the area in recent weeks, and the other animal may be a jaguar. Speculation is that the cats may have been raised together, as pets, then abandoned into the country when they became too large or unwanted.

Local hunter Rae Axford has been asked by Aldborough Township to try and capture the cats and he has placed a trap at the Howses' home. Axford calls the situation "bizarre," and said he's not anxious to kill animals that have been raised as pets.

However, Tim Howse says he's worried about the safety of his family and pets, and has forbidden his two sons to play in the woods for now. He said he also urges parents to be cautious when their youngsters are outside playing or waiting for the bus.

"They're really quiet," Howse says of the animals, and adds the whole episode has really shaken him up. He also reports that a neighbour has noticed a number of barn cats disappearing recently.

The animals are causing fear and confusion around the area, with reports of animal attacks, and widespread sightings of one or both of the cats.

"A lot of people are scared," said Axford, adding the outlook for the animals themselves is grim.

Axford says that even if captured alive, they would be ill-prepared to survive in a zoo or similar environment.

So far, the animals have eluded capture and Axford says he's not overly optimistic of the chances of being able to capture or kill the animals.

## OPP conduct aerial search for big cats

The investigation is ongoing into reports of one or two large cats thought to be in Aldborough.

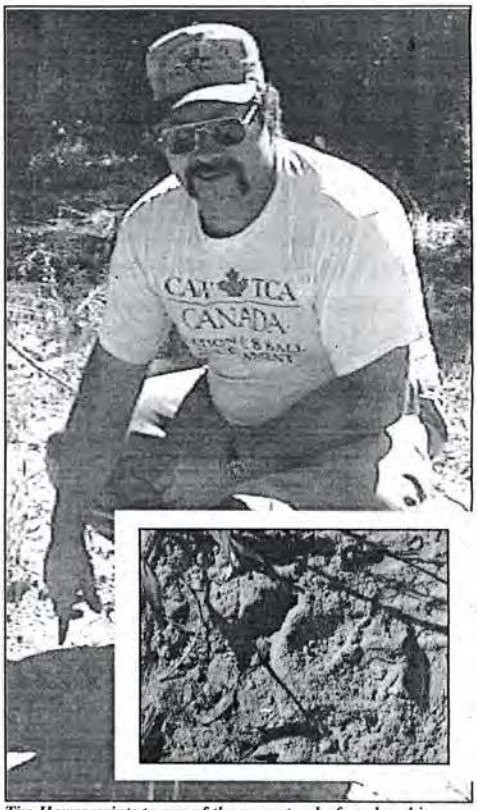
As of press time Friday, the cats had not been captured, and local hunter Rae Axford was continueing to work with the OPP in an attempt to apprehend the animals.

While rumours abound, there is no official statement on where the cats might have come from. There is also some skepticism as to whether or not the cats even exist. The OPP have contacted a number of exotic animals experts, including those from the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo and African Lion Safari as part of their investigation. The Ministry of Natural Resources has also been contacted.

Sightings have been reported in Aldborough, Dunwich and Ekfrid, and calls have been received from as far away as Ingersoll. OPP are warning that improper traps could be a threat to public safety and they ask that any sighting be reported to the OPP Communications Centre at 1-888-310-1122.

Last Tuesday, the OPP's helicopter was flown in from Sarnia after a large, black cat was spotted in the area of Thomson Line and the Kerr Road in Aldborough. The animal was seen running across the middle of an open field as several tobacco workers were on a break. Axford was also on hand, helping with a ground search.

At that time, OPP were warning the public to stay out of the area, and also took castings of pawprints found in the area.




*Tim Howse points to one of the many tracks found on his property. (See closeup right).*



*OPP officer Rob Jamieson runs for the helicopter which will take him up to do an aerial search for the cat(s) believed to be in Aldborough. An aerial search last Tuesday didn't turn up the cats, but police did spot some marijuana plants.* *(K. Robinet)*



*The Rodney-Aldborough Interdenominational Church service was held Sunday in the community centre with a large attendance. Among those on hand were: (left to right) guest speaker Gus Ayim; fair president Barbara Bijker and service co-ordinator Rev. Wilbert Zavitz.* *(photo supplied)*

# Reflections of the Past

## A Chat With Mrs. Russell Reid

By Alan Youngash

A conversation with Mrs. Agnes Reid, as promised in the last edition of "Reflections" proved enlightening and her memories of our community, as it existed 50 years ago, is truly an inspiration.

Firstly, the featured crest...this crest is a keep-sake of Mrs. Reid and belonged to husband, Russell. The Athletic Society of 1943 had its meetings in the old town hall and was responsible for the goings-on of sport in the community. Our ball diamonds are a result of the efforts of this group.

From 1947-1958 Mrs. Reid was the proprietor of The Shirley Shop which specialized in Ladies ready-to-wear fashions and then expanded to include children's wear. The business operated in what is now Mr. Jack Ripley's shop " Ripley's Quality Home Centre".

In 1948 Russell Reid bought the grocery business from Milo Campbell who moved to Chatham to live. The business was situated in part of Norman Thomson's "Men and Boys Clothing Store". This shop became Prim Fashions.

The Grocery Store was an old fashioned store with a stove and a chair on each side. People would come into shop but also but there were many that just came in to sit and have a visit....Agnes tells me that some tall tales were shared, friendships made, and memories created that have lasted a lifetime.

It was during this time that Russell developed a fondness for Agnes and the two became partners in business and in life.

Russell Reid's brother, Cecil Reid, had the butcher shop on the other side of Graham Road next to the Hardware Store first owned by Campbell and Craig and then Fisher and Kemp as recalled by Mrs. Reid. Joe Weiss worked in the butcher shop for many years eventually going to the Superior Store in the newly renovated Theatre run by Allan Ross Sr. and then by Allan Ross Jr.

Russell Reid's grocery business was not self serve. Customers were given the royal treatment and their every need was catered to in a real old-fashioned hospitality style business. Sugar , dates, raisins, and potatoes ( to name a few products) were bagged and cheese was cut from a large slab. Bacon and cold meats were cut as the customer waited. Cookies and candy were out in the store in open boxes and canned goods displayed neatly on the shelves.

Frozen food counters were just getting popular when Russell Reid sold his business in 1964. This allowed Mr. Thomson to enlarge his store.

The community once had 4 little grocery stores but the population and the times seemed to provide a living for all.

Much of the above script was prepared in a hand written document by Mrs. Reid. The Star and the writer would like to express our appreciation for a nice visit and a pleasant conversation on an era that still is reflected in the commerce of 1997.....some 50 years later.

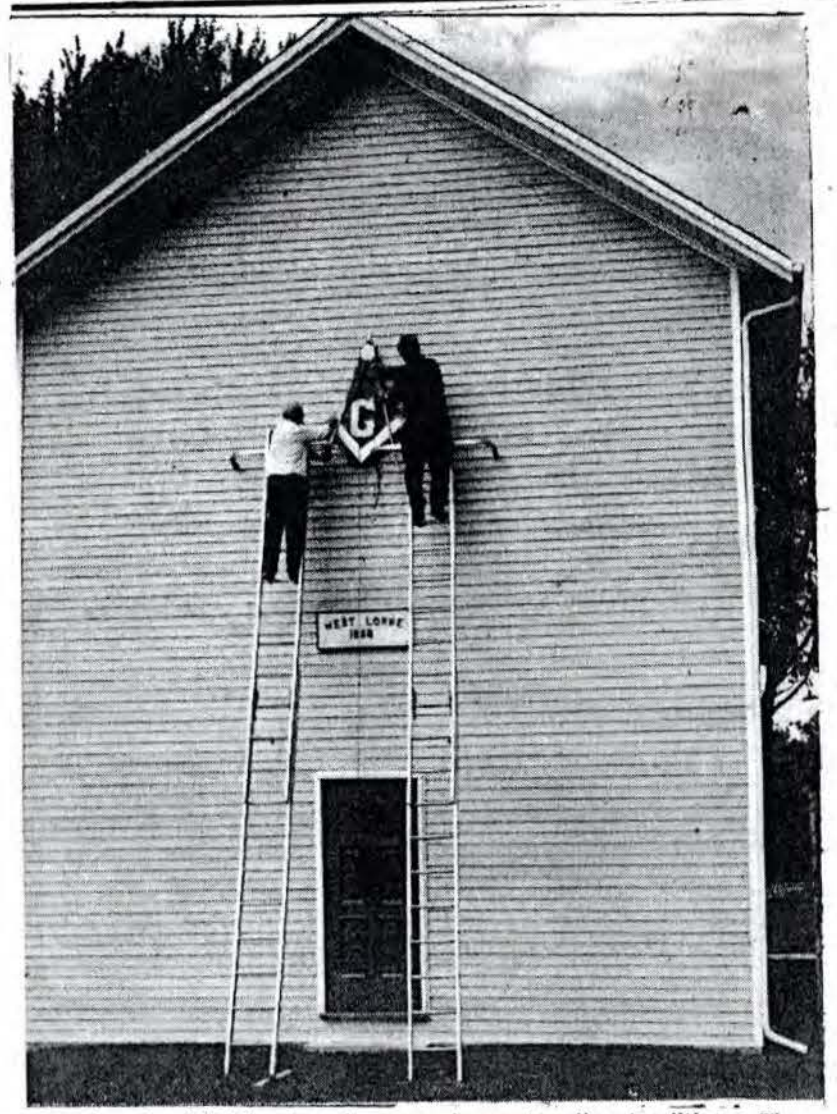
CURRENT EVENTS 1997

## 50th ANNIVERSARY



*Congratulations to John & Alma Perger on their 50th Wedding Anniversary March 20, 1997. Best Wishes from your family.*

OCT. 1997



**Putting the finishing touches on a long standing tradition -** *The Old Masonic Temple ( McColl Lodge 386 ) located on Frederick Street has just gone under some extensive renovations by Lodge Members. The Lodge was first built in 1880 and at one time it was the Town Hall and the Jail for West Lorne. The Secretary of the Lodge Bill Graham (left) and Past Master Doug Cavener put the finishing touches on the renovations by hanging the Lode Crest on the front of the building. The Past District Deputy of the Lodge , Ray Jobson was also on hand for the final touches of the building.*

NOV. 10, 1997

# Milner-Rigsby working to curb emissions

## *Municipal building one step closer to completion*

BY: WENDY TUNKS

By-law enforcement officer Marthe Rook was on hand to discuss the Ministry of Environment's findings from residents' complaints at West Lorne council meeting last Wednesday.

She said the MOE representative only had time to investigate complaints involving Milner-Rigsby and was going to come back to meet with Erie Flooring officials.

Rook said the MOE representative looked at soot, noise and smoke emissions from Milner-Rigsby. The company has been asked to voluntarily look for solutions for soot and noise complaints. Rook said the company is already investigating an increased maintenance schedule and better dampers.

The company was also advised to hire a private consultant to address the noise complaint as the MOE is swamped and unable to handle the problem at this time.

As for the smoke complaint, the source of the smoke is wood-burning and sawdust. The representative felt the height of the smoke stacks were irrelevant and wind direction would determine how area residents were affected. Since the emissions are not toxic, no action could be taken.

The company has been given four to five weeks to prepare a report on recommendations to improve the soot and noise situation.

Rook also informed Kent Murray that Milner-Rigsby's parking lot does not comply with the town's by-law. She said there was inadequate parking for the employees. Rook said the company would investigate this further.

Building contractor for the new municipal building, Don Roughley, was on hand to give an update on the completion of the building. He said electrical deficiencies should be corrected by Dec. 2.

The source of a crack in the foyer tile floor is a mystery to both him and the manufacturer of the floor, Roughley said. In the final analysis, the conclusion has been drawn that the wood frame of the building was left exposed to inclement weather for five weeks in the early stages of construction due to a backorder of the trusses. In the winter, the wood frame would expand, causing the crack to become more pronounced. In the summer, the crack is hardly noticeable.

Roughley said most of the building deficiencies have been corrected. The steps to the front entrance need to be increased by 3/8" to pass inspection. Also the handrails need to be installed. Building inspector Lorne McLeod said he is awaiting the final reports from Roughley so he can sign off the building.

Kent Murray said the next council meeting, slated for Dec. 17 at 10 a.m., would be his last as the new council of West Elgin would be in place for Jan 1.

CURRENT EVENTS 1997

# Local students win in recent 'Farm safety poster contest'

Elgin County Rally met at Yarmouth Centre Fire Hall No. 2 for the November meeting. Mrs. Pauline Lindsay presided, assisted by Lillian Larson. Correspondence included an appreciation letter from our scholarship winner Ann Doelman.

Suggestions as to future Farm Safety Poster regulations, and from Elgin Farm Safety Council as well.

It is possible this will change with restructuring in the county.

Guest speaker Steven Parsons, Fire Prevention Officer spoke to the group about Fire Safety awareness. He also suggested that students are the number one avenue of taking information home to parents. Do not play with matches, lighters, etc as these are not toys.

Small extinguishers are not sufficient in preventing fires. Stop ! Drop ! & Roll ! if clothes catch fire. In a smoke filled area crawl as close to the floor as possible. Have an escape plan in your home, draw this plan including a meeting place and call from a neighbour's home.

Poster award winners were:

**Kindergarten- Poison in Kitchen Cupboard**

Brian Pelez- Aldborough Public School, Second place entry.

**Grade 1 & 2- Poison in Father's Garage**

1st. Robert Wilkins of Aldborough Public School.

2nd. Tracy Donaldson of Dutton Dunwich P.S.

**Grade 3 & 4- Poison around the Farm**

1st. Natalie Gash of Aldborough Public School.

2nd- Jennifer Drummelsmith of Dutton Dunwich Public School.

**Grade 5 & 6 - Poison in the Community**

1st. Jane McGill of Aldborough Public School.

2nd Jessica Ambrose of Dutton Dunwich P.S.

Gifts were awarded to these winners by Pauline Lindsay of the Women's Institute and Shirley Bechard of Elgin County Farm Safety.

NOV. 1997

OCT 97

# Area WI members to visit Toronto's Casaloma

The Elgin County Women's Institute Rally Social was held on Tuesday evening in Knox Presbyterian Church, Fingal hosted by River Road branch.

The chairman Pauline Lindsay led the Institute Grace before the bounteous six-thirty pot-luck meal.

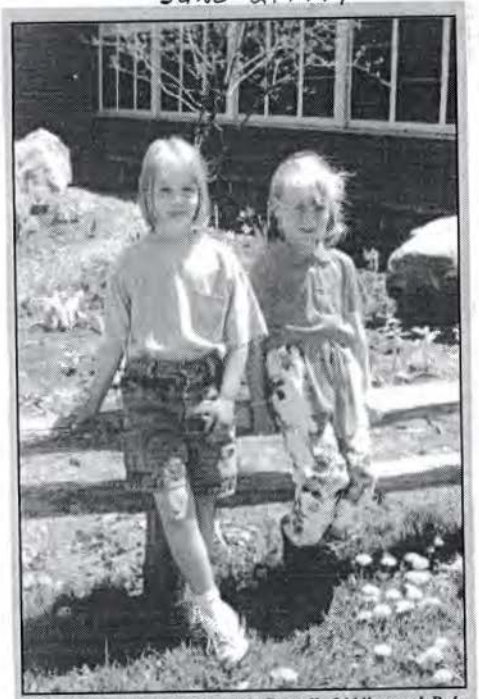
The program arranged by chairman Pauline was on the 100th Women's Institute anniversary celebration held in June in Hamilton. Those taking part included Grace Campbell, Will Johnston and Pauline. Twenty-two countries were represented at this convention. Of several interest were two tapes: one from the Sussex federation, first organized in 1915 with 6000 members in their 151 branches - a second tape was of church bells being tolled on Feb. 19, 1997 the 100th anniversary of the founding of Women's Institute. The branches in Great Britain sing Jerusalem to open their meetings. In Canada we sing the Institute Ode.

The Erlana Lee Museum Home are filling a time capsule with commemorative articles of the 100th anniversary to be opened in 2047.

Special events were announced by several branches. River Road is hosting a coffee break Nov.6 9:30-12:00 a.m. at the home of Mary Veenstra. Calton are hosting their annual bazaar Nov.17, 8p.m. in the Calton Hall.

Betty Rodgers chairman of the Elgin County Pioneer Museum Voluntary committee announce the Museum are sponsoring a bus trip to Casaloma in Toronto on Nov. 21st. The Dec. 5 coffee break is 9:30-11:30 with Elgin East District in charge of the Kitchen and server at this event. Pauline reminded the group of Lady's Day at the Royal Winter Fair Nov. 7.

The next rally meeting is Nov. 8 at Yarmouth Firehall #2 north of Yarmouth Centre at 2p.m. with farm safety awards presented at 2:30.



*Melanie Scottwoods and Amanda Russell of Aldborough Public School stand in front of the butterfly garden.*

## Butterfly garden awaits winged visitors

Over 30 volunteers met at Aldborough Public School last Sunday to plant the butterfly garden.

The project initiated by Susan Peternel and Pat Watterworth is a huge undertaking to beautify the front of the school whiel giving students of the school a firsthand learning tool to observe the life cycle of plants and insects.

Plants and shrubs that are high in pollen were donated by residents and groups to encourage butterflies to make their home in the garden. If you would like to become a Friend of the Butterfly Garden, the group is still taking cash donations and plants. You can contact Peternel at 768-2842 or Watterworth at 768-1657.






**Meeting their goals-** *These two local members of the TOPS organization were recently bestowed with 'The Best Acheiver Award" at a TOPs rally in Dorchester recently. From left to right they are : Sina DeHaan from Wardsville and Olive Chambers from West Lorne.*

## TOPS hold CTC rally in Dorchester

Our Challenge to Change Rally was well attended with 85 present from the areas of Huron, Perth, Elgin and part of Middlesex. Our area Captain Pam Baddams is kept busy watching over the 28 chapters involved.

The "Area Best Acheiver" award was won locally by Olive Chambers of West Lorne. with her loss of 68.25 lbs. and Wardville's Sina DeHaan lost 50.25 lbs. for runner up. Both ladies hold KOPS (Keep off Pounds Sensibly) status with Sina celebrating her first anniversary on Nov. 6.

Jean McRae of Ont. # 792 a 7 year KOPS received an award for " No Red Mark" on her 1996 weight chart. Judy Tunks was recognized as a "Backslider" with a loss of 37.50 lbs. with 3.5 lbs. to go. Way to go Judy. Colleen from the same chapter On. # 4589 has lost 27.5 lbs. since July.

Rally Day afforded us a great motivational speaker, Mike Moore who explained that while we are laughing it's impossible to worry- laughter is the best medicine.

Many recognition awards were given out during the day that harmonized well with the singing, skits and comradeship shared by all.

This months TOPS Program focuses on our "Super Seniors" with a discussion on the changing expectations of fitness and how exercise wards off the effects of aging.

Staying socially active by volunteering and talking to children to bridge the generation gap will help give seniors a productive, healthy and mentally active life. To contact TOPS call 1-800- 932-8677.

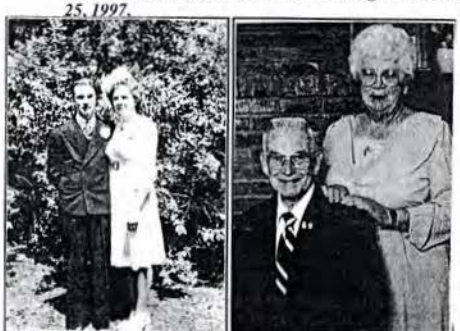


*The family of Fred & Frony Redinger of West Lorne were blessed to be able to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on July 25, 1997.*

NOV 1997



**Christmas is in the air-** *Karrie Vandenberg and Florence McCallum were the organizers of the third annual Christmas Craft Show at the Eagle Adult Community Centre recentlly. Once again the showe was a tremendous success as shoppers had a wide varirty of items to choose from. Pattrons had the choice of buying many hand crafted items, including Christmas decorations, woodworking items, and country cradft collectibles.*



***The family of Ed & Anna McCallum invite you to attend the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, May 31, 1997 from 7:00pm to 10:00pm at the West Elgin Legion Br. 221, West Lorne. Best Wishes only please...***

CURRENT EVENTS 1997





*On hand for the ribbon cutting on Friday were: (left to right) Elgin County Warden Harry Mezenberg; Gail Ure, Regional Director, Long Term Care Division; Dan Newman, MPP Scarborough Centre - Parliamentary Assistant to Minister of Health; Fred Boyes, Director/Administrator, Elgin County Homes and Rien Van Brenk, Chairman, Homes for Senior Citizens, Elgin County.* *(K. Robinet)*

# "...a beautiful day in Elgin County!

**BY: WENDY TUNKS**

Rain didn't dampen the spirits of the residents and guests of the Bobier Villa's official opening ceremonies last Friday.

The opening, orginally planned as an outside event was held in the beautifully decorated auditorium.

Fred Boyes, Director/Administrator said September 11, 1977 marked a milestone in Elgin County history when Terrace Lodge in Aylmer opened. He praised the same commitment then as today. "Today we can look at the Bobier Villa with the look of commitment and leadership." Boyes offered words of praise to the politicians, architect, contractors and other members of the committees who worked over and above a working day to complete the building.

Warden Harry Mezenberg opened his remarks with, "it really is a beautiful day in Elgin County, even if it is raining outside." He commended the planning commitees and volunteers for a well thought-out building. He also thanked Boyes: "If it weren't for the dedication of the staff, we wouldn't be here today and that thanks goes to Fred Boyes." Mezenberg also said the project was brought in on time and on budget.

He said people proved there is a commitment in West Elgin. Mezenberg closed his remarks with a call to the residents of Elgin County to start realizing the need for a senior's home in central Elgin. It is his hope a new building will be realized within two years.

Dutton Reeve Hugh MacGinnis said it would take all day to thank the many people involved with Bobier Villa. He felt the best day was when the residents moved from the old Bobier home into their new quarters.

MPP for Elgin county, Peter North said, "it is the character of the residents of Elgin to contribute to such a project."

The 57-bed, $5.7 million building was constructed under the Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Works program. The federal and provincial governments each contributed $484,000 with the county providing the remaining $4.3 million. Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Gar Knutson, who was unable to attend, sent his comments with his assistant Eva Richardson.

"I am very pleased to join my infrastructure partners in the offical opening of Bobier Villa. As well as being a haven for convalescent seniors, it offers a wide range of home support services that make it possible for seniors to remain in their own homes.

"I congratulate all those who have worked so diligently to bring it to completion. It is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when governments work together to benefit the local community," said Knutson.



CURRENT EVENTS 1997



**Mother nature unleashes her fury-** *The residents who live in this house on Graham St. in West Lorne awoke on Friday morning to discover that the tree in their front yard was resting on their truck and the front yard was littered with fallen debris. They were only one of the many residents in the area who had fallen trees and branches on their property after the ice storm left the area. (Photo By B. Skeldoch).* MAR. 97

# Ice storm cripples West Elgin leaving many residents without power for days

Mother nature visited West Elgin and the rest of Southwestern Ontario with a vengence last week by putting an icy grip on everything as we experienced the area's worst ice storm in years.

Fortunately her icy grip released during the daylight hours, but as residents awoke last Friday morning they were astounded to see the number of trees and branches that collapsed under the weight of the ice. Roadways were blocked by branches and limbs , well several thousand area residents woke to find that they were without hydro. For some it was a cold icy vigil of over 24 hours as hydro crews worked around the clock to repair fallen lines and restore service to area homes and businesses.

In Rodney most of the downtown core closed its doors because of the lack of power.

Some area businesses benefitted from the storm as the local gas stations (TLC, & the Dutton PennyPincher) sold record volumes of gas as the service centres on the 401 were shut down because of the blackout. Area tree removal and tree trimming services were swamped with calls from residents to remove the fallen debris of trees, limbs and branches from their properties and area heating companies strived to keep up with the demand to get oil, gas and propane furnaces going again after the blackout.

It took area residents a few days to clean up the debris left behind by Mother Nature's icy blast but just think according to the calendar spring is just around the corner, but which one !.



**Another first for West Lorne-** *Figure Skating Coach Patsy McGill (left) stands proudly beside her young pupil Diann Vergeer as the pair get ready to compete in the All Ontario Competitions in Waterloo later this month.* MAR. 1997

# Local figure skater to compete in All Ontario

For the first time in recent memory West Lorne has a member from its Figure Skating Club competing in the All Ontario Competitions and that person is Diann Vergeer, who has skated her way to the prestigious event which will be held in Waterloo on March 15 & 16.

Diann recently placed second in the qualifying round on Saturday at the Western Ontario Competitions that were held at Jordan (near Niagara Falls) and then on Sunday she placed third which gave her a final finish in the top three which entitles her top compete in the All Ontario Competition.

She will compete at the All Ontario competition as a member of the Western Ontario Section Team.

Diann is the daughter of Harry and Joanne Vergeer and her skating coach is Patsy McGill. We all wish Diann Good Luck at the All Ontario Competition.




**Moving up to the big leagues** - *Ryan Rivard, from West Lorne proudly wears his new colors of the OHL Owen Sound Platters. Rivard was picked by the OHL club early in the 4th round draft recently.*

# Local hockey player drafted by OHL 'Platters' JUNE 1997

The Red Wings have just won hockey's most coveted treasure "The Stanley Cup' and they have players like Stevie 'Y' , and the Russian line but West Lorne has Ryan Rivard.

Rivard was drafted last week in the underage draft by the Owen Sound Platters of the Ontario Hockey League. The move up to the Platters is a dream come true for the West Lorne native who has always dreamed of playing in the OHL and maybe just maybe the NHL.

Last year Rivard plated Tier II Jr. A hockey with the Quinte Hawks.

Rivard plays right wing and is 6' 3" and 185 lbs. can throw his muscle around with the best of them.

He reports to the Platters on June 26 for fitness tests and will also be joining them at their hockey camp which opens Labour Day Weekend.

To get in shape for the bigger leagues Rivard is currently taking some conditioning training from Dave Vowel and is also doing some power skating with the help of Wally Black to make sure he is in step with his teammates come this September.

We all wish Ryan all the best in the upcoming hockey season .

CURRENT EVENTS
1997

February 19, 1997 -



**Another lucky winner-** *Members of the PROWL Committee recently drew the winner of the limited edition Peter Robson print that was donated to them by Godfather's Pizza in West Lorne. The draw the Bank of Montreal and the lucky winner of the print was Shirley Walker of RR #2 West Lorne. The Committee generated $586 on the sales of tickets that will be donated to the Community Complex. Shown drawing the winninmg ticket are PROWL members from left to right: Rosalie Krebsz , Alberta Jones, Ray Jobson, Veronica Sewell from the Bank of Montreal and Hazel Stalker.*

- July 7, 1997



*Ed Woelk of Leamington with his 1949 Ford pickup.*

# West Lorne Canada Day

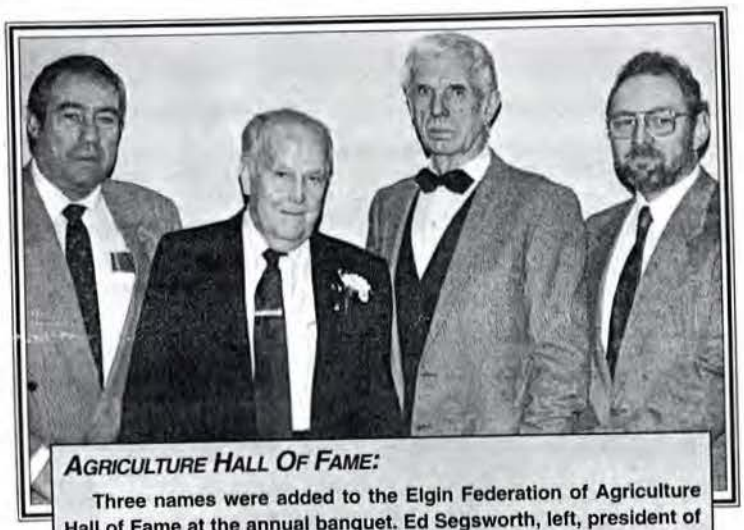


*Bargain hunters checked out the specials at Krebsz Jewellery as part of the Friday/Saturday sidewalk sales. Marg Varga was among the shoppers helped by Rosalie Krebsz and Julie Begin.*



*It all ended with a bang.*

CURRENT EVENTS 1998



**AGRICULTURE HALL OF FAME:**

**Three names were added to the Elgin Federation of Agriculture Hall of Fame at the annual banquet. Ed Segsworth, left, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, was on hand to congratulate those inducted into the Hall of Fame, including Kenneth Watterworth and Giles Hume. At right is Paul Mistele, president of the EFA.** *(T-J photo)*

# Three join Elgin's Ag Hall of Fame

BY MARG BERRY
*TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF*

Three new names were added to the Elgin Federation of Agriculture Hall of Fame at the federation's annual banquet on Saturday.

About 350 people attended the 1998 annual dinner and dance, which EFA president Paul Mistele said was meant to be a fun night for people to enjoy.

The EFA Hall of Fame recognizes those who have contributed outstanding service to agriculture in Elgin.

"Often these people are not appreciated in their home town," Mistele explained. "So we have three individuals each year that we like to recognize for endeavors in the realm of agriculture."

The three new names to be inscribed on the Hall of Fame plaque this year are Dorothy Futcher, Kenneth Watterworth and Giles Hume.

Futcher received the honor posthumously for her service to agriculture which included her involvement with the Women's Institute, her major role in founding the Elgin County Pioneer Museum, and her service as a director on the University of Guelph board of directors and the Royal Winter Fair Board. Two of her adult children, Al Futcher and Isabel (Futcher) Martin, were in attendance Saturday. Her two other adult children are John Futcher and Robin (Futcher) Jeffrey.

Watterworth received his honor because of his expertise and success in the cattle industry. In the 1950s he sold a bull to the Japanese for breeding stock. He also served on the Chicken Board of Ontario.

Hume was recognized for cultivating leadership among the youth of Elgin. He was heavily involved with the promotion of the 4-H Club program, and helped organize a 4-H camp. Mistele said Hume was also a top producing dairy farmer in his day.

Ed Segsworth of Milton, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, was at the annual banquet. Before the dinner he said he was pleased to be there. "I have met the inductees, and they are very fine gentlemen," he said. "They are well-deserving of the award."

In his speech to those in attendance, he said the OFA would continue to lobby the government to reinvest in agriculture in Ontario. He also talked about the devastation of the January ice storm on farm communities in the east. "That's high on our priority list right now," Segsworth said.

On a lighter note, special guest speaker Neil Aitchison talked about nonsense and how beneficial it can be. He delivered some tips on how to handle change and stress. "We have to learn to take ourselves much less seriously," Aitchison said.

February 2, 1998 -

## Three residents to enter EFA Hall of Fame

The Elgin Federation of Agriculture (EFA) will induct three local residents into the EFA Hall of Fame this weekend at a banquet in St. Thomas.

Receiving plaques will be Giles A. Hume (RR #2 Springfield), Mrs. Dorothy E. Futcher - deceased (formerly of RR #1 St. Thomas) and Kenneth D. Watterworth (West Lorne).

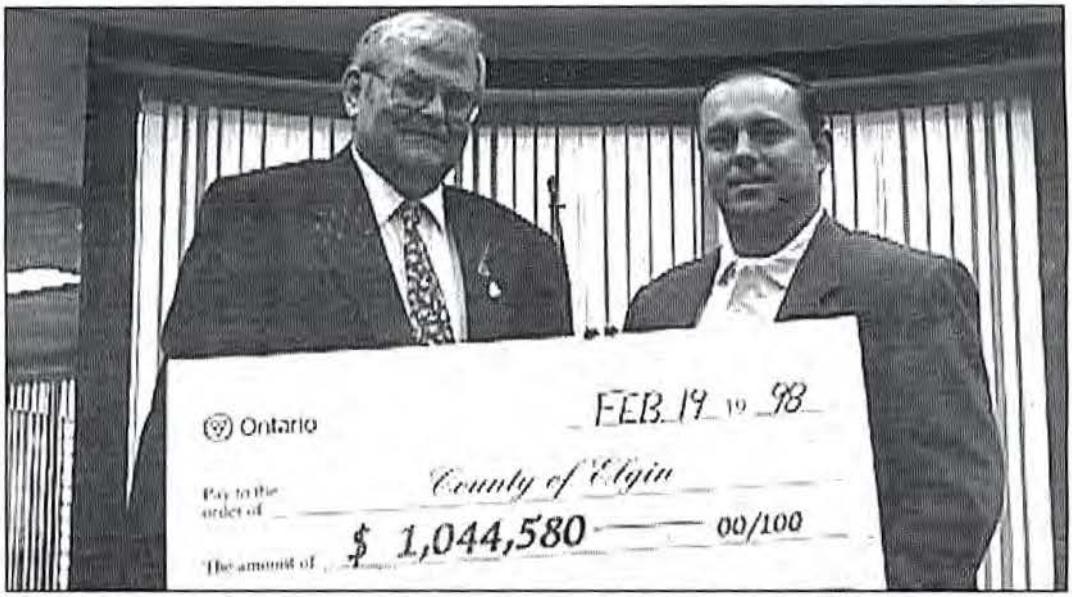
Watterworth, 82, has had his hand in farming since the age of five and it wasn't until recently that he retired. Over his 77 years in the business, Watterworth dealt in cash crop, cattle farming and egg farming.



Kenneth D. Watterworth

CURRENT EVENTS 1998






*Elgin County has received additional funding from the provincial government to help fund highway maintenance and bridge repair on the roads that have been transferred from provincial to municipal control. Here, Elgin County Warden Perry Clutterbuck, left, accepts the cheque from Middlesex MPP Bruce Smith.*

# Elgin gets $6.7m - but want more

Elgin County received a third instalment for highway maintenance and bridge repair this past week with a cheque for $1,044,578 from the provincial government. But that's not enough according to county officials.

The latest cheque brings the total received from the province to $6.7 million. The funding is part of an initiative to assist municipalities with their new responsibilities for highways which have been transferred from provincial to municipal control.

But Elgin County Manager of Engineering Services Clayton Watters says the $6.7 million isn't enough.

"We figure we need $16.8 to cover the work needed on the roads that are now our responsibility," he says. "If we don't get it from the government it would have to come from the taxpayers."

A total of 135 kilometres of highway were transferred from the province to Elgin County. They include Highways # 3, 4, 19, 73, 74 and 76.

Watters says the money given to Elgin County was a certain percentage for the roads they received. The money is needed for road maintenance and capital work.

Elgin County officials will be meeting with Transportation Minister Tony Clements this Tuesday to request additional funds.

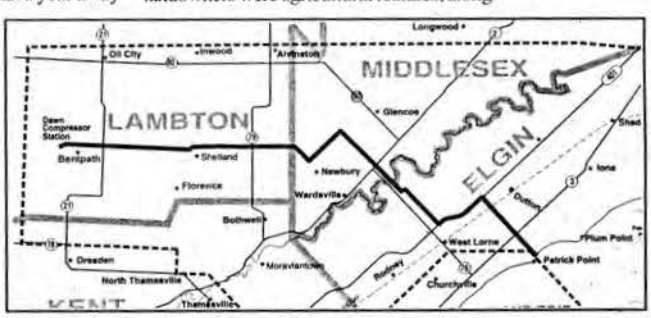
# Pipeline project moving ahead

**Paul Mayne**
*The Chronicle*

St. Clair Pipelines and TransCanada PipeLines are still more than a year away from laying the first pipe in the 146 kilometre Dawn-Lake Erie Pipeline Project, but the next step, which is to finalize the preferred route and make an official application to the National Energy Board (NEB), is being done.

All parties involved in the $178 million project were in West Lorne recently as part of a public forum to answer questions and address any concerns that landowners on the route may have. There are approximately 125 properties on the proposed route affecting about 100 landowners.

The most important concern of landowners were agricultural features, along with environmental and socio-economic features. Minimizing disruption to agricultural land, tile drainage and avoiding diagonal severances were also important factors brought up in many of the forums held along pipeline route.




And that's what Bill Wachsmuth of St. Clair Pipeline says the route will attempt to do.

"We're making the attempt to talk to those who are affected by the pipeline and assure them that we're not going to do something that will hurt them," he says. "None of these plans are set ion stone. That's why we have these forums - to get input. Every concern is legitimate."

Once approval is given from the NEB, construction will begin begin in

See Pipeline Page 3

CURRENT EVENTS 1998



# West Elgin

## Council Briefs

### WE tax bills running late

You may be wondering why you haven't received your tax bill yet. Don't worry, it's on its way.

There have been some difficulties at the municipal offices in printing the bills. However, the problem has been solved and bills will be sent out beginning today (March 16).

Due to the fact the bills were late getting to residents, the return deadline has been extended. The previous deadline of March 23 has now been extended to April 6.

employee.

VanVaerenbergh, who began work Feb. 23, brings close to 20 years experience to the roads department.

### Park proposal in West Lorne

West Elgin Council was in agreement on a request to use the area along the railroad in West Lorne for a conservation park.

The request was made by Harold Lancaster of the West Lorne Horticultural Society. Council suggested that the railroad company by contacted to see if they have any concerns.



*West Elgin's newest fire station is beginning to take shape . The five-bay station, located next door to the West Elgin Municipal offices, is scheduled to be complete in mid-May. Here, Bill Smith of William A. Smith Construction cuts plywood for the roof.*

February 23, 1998



*Paperwork for Elgin County OPP Constable Bob Maginnis will be easier and faster thanks to the Rodney Community Policing Committee. The group raised funds locally to purchase a brand new Pentium 200 computer for Rodney office, based out of the town hall. The computer was a much needed update for the OPP, who wish to extend their thanks to everyone who helped out in this cause. Here, Maginnis takes a break from his paperwork to check out the OPP Internet site.*



*Ted and Kathy Johnston from West Lorne were lucky to beat the rainy weather during their walk to raise money for cancer research.*

# Cancer fundraiser shines despite the rainy weather

Rain didn't damper the spirit of dozens of members of the community who took part in the Great Ride 'n' Stride for the Canadian Cancer Society recently. Our community helped to raise almost $2,300 for research to help find a cure for cancer.

"We're really happy with the amount of people considering the rain," said Leola Lawrence, coordinator of the April 26th event in West Lorne. In the last 15 years since she's coordinated the annual event, over $40,000 has been raised in our community.

This year fewer people participated but the pledges were larger. Participants received a "goodie bag" of items donated from local businesses, such as toothpaste, toothbrush and water bottle.

Lawrence thanks everyone who walked or rode their bike, as well as those who gave money to help make a West Elgin rainy day into a sunny day, by helping fund research.

The money raised will help fund the most promising cancer research across Canada, prevention and early detection programs and support services.



**Lucky Winner of the 10K Family Ring in the Mothers Day draw at Krebsz Jewellery West Lorne is Mary Steinbacher with Rosalie giving her the ring. It also was Mary's Birthday.**



One of the Winners from the Mothers Day Contest. Marilyn Howse who donated the gifts for the girls to be given to their mothers. Dawn Bennett received her 3 plants for her mother who is also present in the picture. The other girls were not able to attend for the pictures, they were Melissa Gray and Katrina Mark.

Wednesday May 13, 1998



Georgina Jensen - President for West Lorne

**Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada - Elgin County Chapter**

**Our Mission: To be a leader in finding a cure for multiple sclerosis and enabling people affected by MS to enhance their quality of life.**



The ladies from the Horticulture Society were planting flowers in the flower boxs in West Lorne last Tuesday the 12th.

CURRENT EVENTS 1998

# WEST ELGIN FREE PRESS

Volume 1 Issue 11 Wednesday May 20, 1998

## *WEST ELGIN SECONDARY SCHOOL TAKES TWO SILVER IN MONTREAL*



*Pictured above are the students from West Elgin Secondary School who went to Montreal recently.*

**West Elgin Secondary School tour Quebec City & Montreal**

On Friday, May 8th the West Elgin Secondary School Concert and Jazz Bands left for their annual trip to compete at the school festivals held in different cities in Canada and United States each year. This year under the direction of Mr. Enns the bands brought home two silver medals.

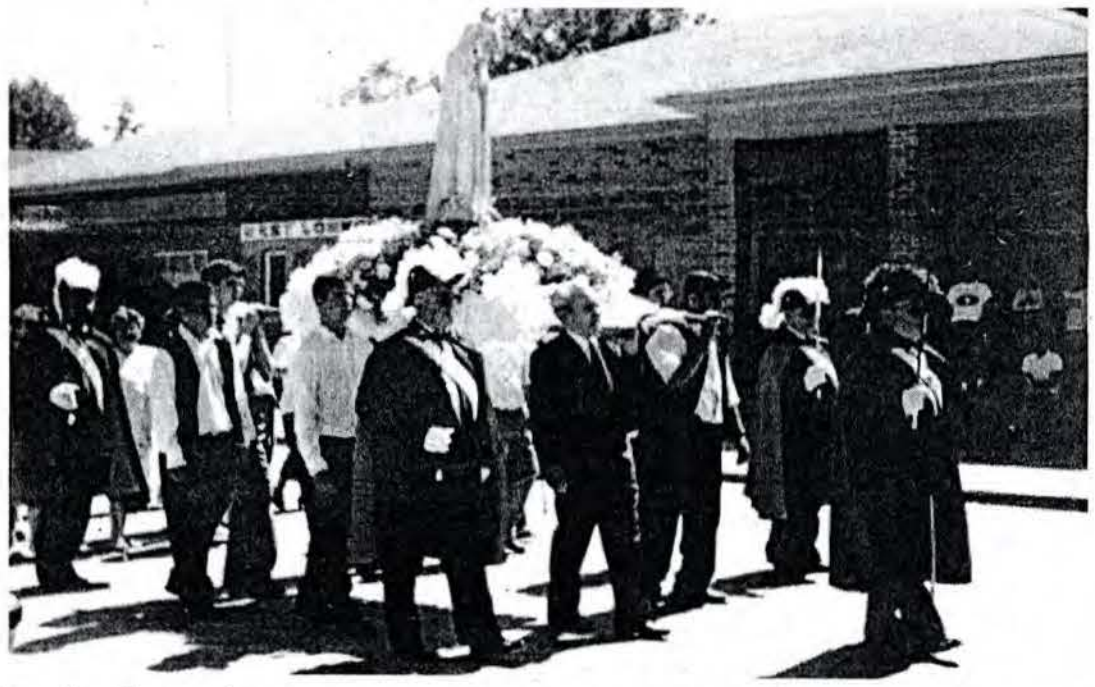
Some of the highlights of this years trip included meeting the Prime Minister of Canada as he was staying at the hotel where they attended an awards banquet and dance after their competition was complete. Some of the band members shook his hand and took his picture. The students attended the "Festin du Gouverneur" on the Isle St. Helene where a taste of Colonial Quebec was discovered. They enjoyed dinner and entertainment with French songs and comedy. A highlight for some was swimming in an Olympic size pool that was used in the summer Olympics held in Montreal in 1976.

The residents and families of West Elgin can be very proud of the students who take the time each morning to practice in the two bands and work hard to raise funds so that they can travel and compete in these festivals each year.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST OF LUCK IN THE FUTURE TO ALL THE BAND MEMBERS AND THEIR TEACHER MR. ENNS!**

## *WELCOME BACK CAMPERS FROM WEST ELGIN*

### OUR LADY OF FATIMA



Fatima, the village and sanctuary is located on the tableland of Cova da Iria, 18 miles southeast of Leiria. Named for a 12th century Moorish princess, Fatima has since 1917 been one of the greatest Marian shrines in the world, visited by thousands of pilgrims annually. On May 13, 1917, and each subsequent month until October, three young peasant children, reportedly saw a lady who identified herself as the Lady of the Rosary. On October 13, a crowd of about 70,000 gathered at Fatima witnessed a "miraculous solar phenomenon" immediately after the lady had appeared to the children. After initial opposition on October 13, 1930, the children's visions were accepted as the appearance of the Virgin Mary. In the same year papal indulgences were granted to pilgrims. The content of the devotion includes frequent recitation of the rosary and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The first national pilgrimage to Fatima took place in 1927 and the basilica was begun in 1928 and consecrated in 1953. It has a tower, 213 feet high, surmounted by a large bronze crown and a crystal cross, it is flanked by hospitals and retreat houses and faces a vast square in which is the little Chapel of the Apparitions.

On the 50th anniversary of the first vision, May 13, 1967, a crowd of pilgrims, estimated to number 1,000,000 gathered at Fatima to hear Pope Paul VI say mass and pray for peace.



In March-a party of thirteen gathered at the Harmony House in London to Celebrate the 85th birthday of Nellie Butler of West Lorne. Relatives gathered from Ottawa, St. Thomas, London and Wardsville. Mrs Butler is the widow of Lloyd C. Butler who worked for the Erie Flooring for many years.
Also on March 28th Mrs. Magda Kriter, of West Lorne entertained a luncheon of six to honour Mrs. Butler. Thank you all.

APR 29/98

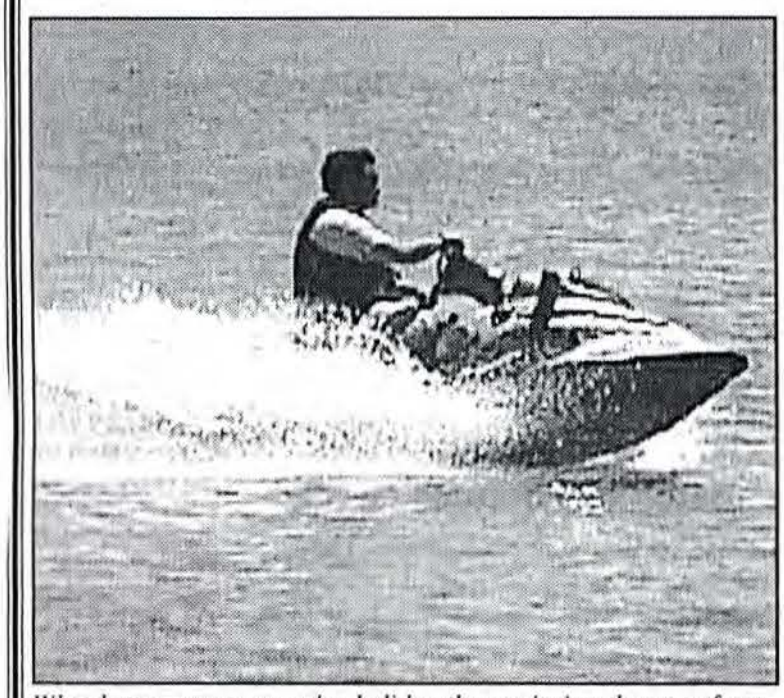


Pictured here are Marg and Doug Cavener. Doug is the new President-Elect for the West Elgin Legion Branch 221.

CURRENT EVENTS 1998



# HAPPY 131st BIRTHDAY CANADA!



*What better way to spend a holiday than enjoying the waterfront. That's just what West Lorne's Jeff Bechard did as he takes a spin on a jet ski on Lake Erie.*

## Canada's Birthday Bash!

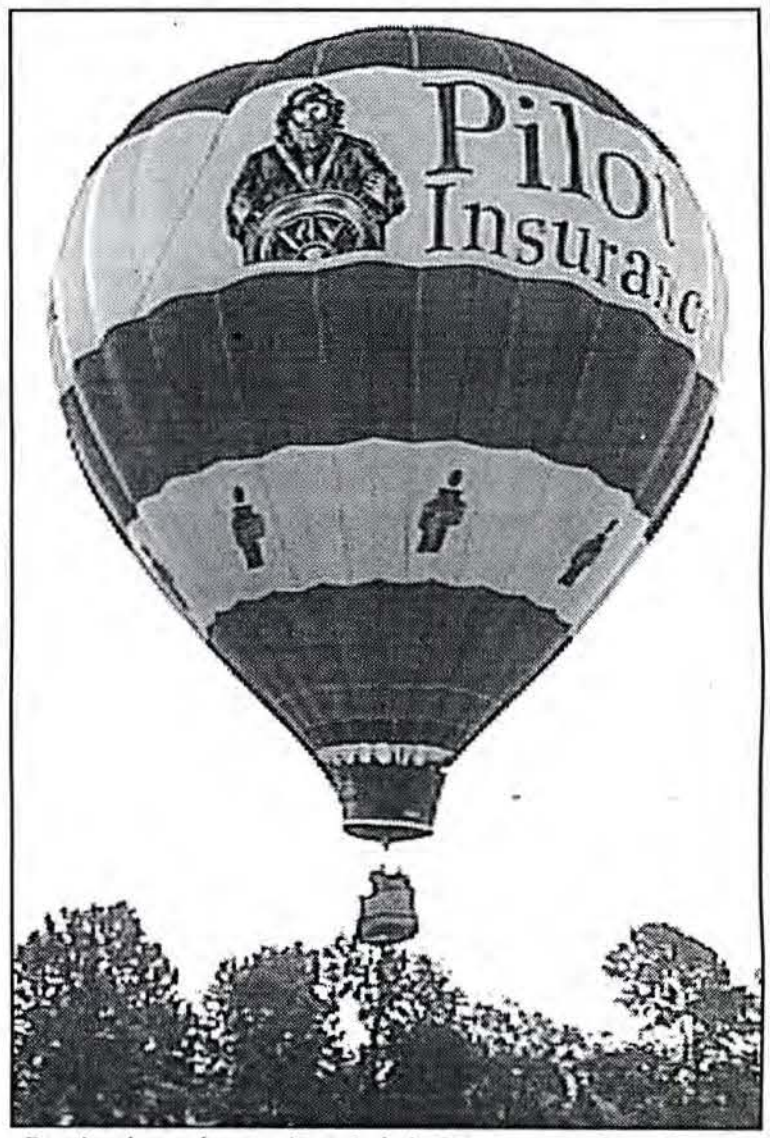
Activities celebrating Canada's 131st birthday were happening all across West Elgin and Dutton.

Whether you headed out to the beach, the cottage, went camping visited friends, watched the parade or simply spent the day with your feet up in your back yard, there was no wrong way to celebrate Canada Day.

And what better way to wind up the day's celebrations than with a big boom - fireworks, that is. The late night pyrotechnics lit up the skies in both West Lorne and Dutton.



**Photos by Kathy Hollingsworth and Paul Mayne**




*Despite the early morning winds in Dutton a number of people still got the chance to take a brief ride in the Pilot Insurance hot air balloon that is making its way across Ontario this summer. The balloon was tethered and rides were given for a donation to the Fire Truck Fund.*



*No matter where you were on Canada Day, flag waving was a popular activity.*



The West Lorne Legion Color Guard led the way for this years Canada Day Parade in West Lorne.

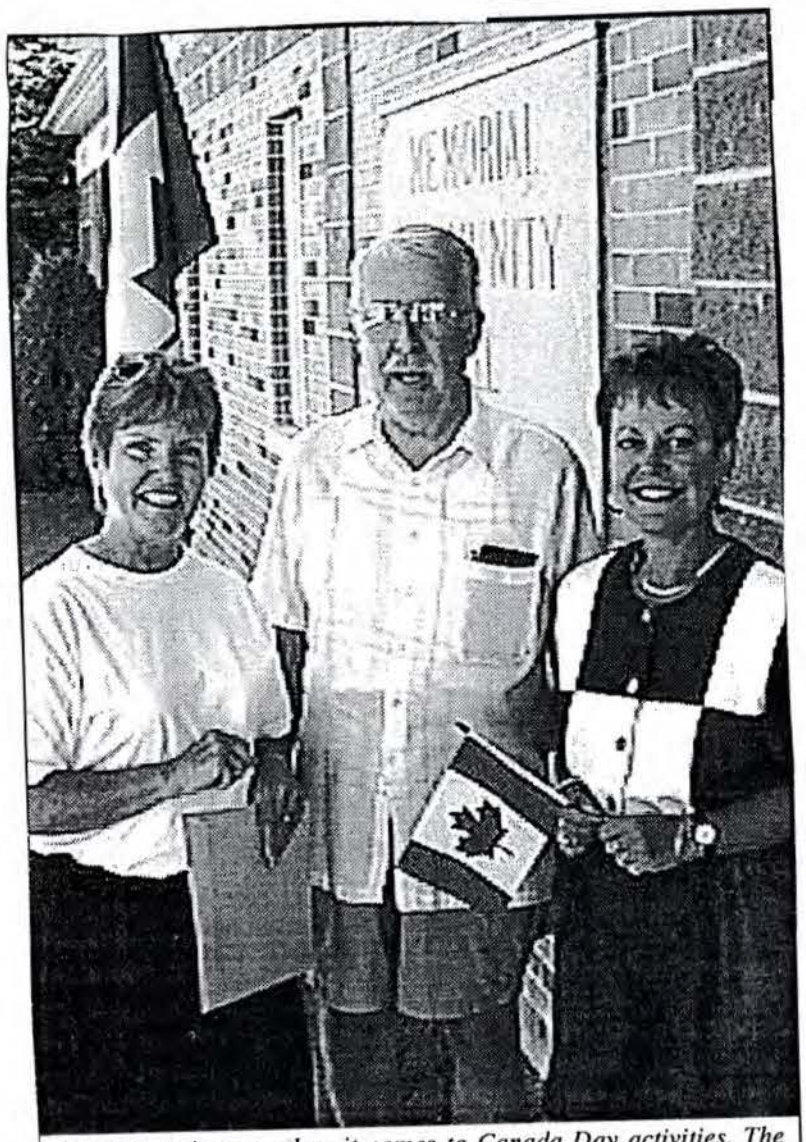



*1997 Rodney-Aldborough Fair Ambassador Charlene Carroll was all smiles during the West Lorne Canada Day Parade.*

CURRENT EVENTS 1998







*West Lorne is tops when it comes to Canada Day activities. The Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit held a Canada Day Community Active Living Challenge for Elgin County. Seven Communities took part. Certificates went to all, but prizes went to West Lorne ($200) and Aylmer. West Lorne also received a plaque for their community activities. Here, Jory Parent, left, physical activity promotions officer for the health unit, presents the cheque to PROWEL (Proud Residents of West Elgin) representatives Ray Jobson and Rosalie Krebsz. The money will be used for future community activities.*

# *CANADA DAY WEST LORNE*






*The Municipality of West Elgin bank account is a little bigger now - $253,613.60 bigger to be exact - thanks to a cheque from the province. The money is part of a $70 million Municipality Restructuring Fund that was created by the Ontario government to assist communities with the expenses that go along with restructuring. Here, West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail, left, accepts the cheque from Middlesex MPP Bruce Smith.*

# WEST LORNE'S BACK PORCH COUNTRY & GOSPEL



*West Lorne's Back Porch Country and Gospel are going to center stage at Roy Thomson Hall: Front row is Teresa Bobier Back row Jim Carmicheal, John McIntyre, Carl Bobier and Bill Graham*

WEST LORNE'S BACK PORCH COUNTRY & GOSPEL
take center stage at ROY THOMSON HALL
in the
TENTH ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION
of the
ROYAL BANK SENIORS' JUBILEE

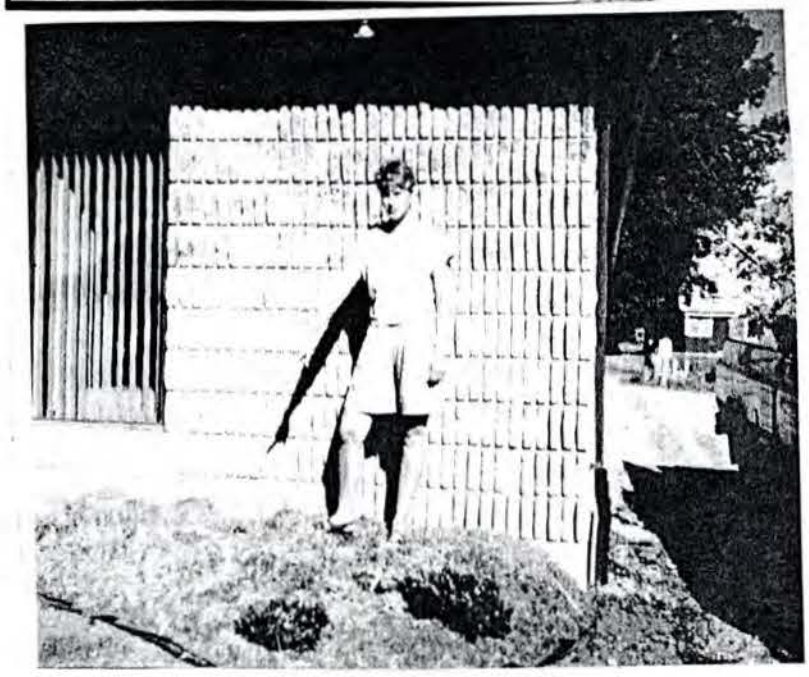
A Week-long celebration of ageless talent!
August 17 to 21, 1998
Crowning ten years of phenomenal success, the 1998 Royal Bank Seniors' Jubilee comes to Roy Thomson Hall for the tenth anniversary celebration August 17-21. The week-long event, officially proclaimed "Seniors' Jubilee Week" by the City of Toronto, will feature more than 1300 performers from over 75 Ontario communities, and is one of the province's most anticipated happenings. Over the years Canada's largest annual seniors' entertainment showcase has provided thousands of performers with the opportunity of fulfilling a dream, advancing their talents and being challenged anew. As only Jolson could put it- "You ain't seen nothing yet"! The JUBILEE presents a new experience every year and each day's production is unique. What a spectacular kaleidoscope of entertainment…the variety show that has the best of everything … the beauty and grace of ballroom dance and the fast stepping beat of cloggers; the lyrical Celtic rhythms and the lilt of romantic ballads; the story telling songs of country and folk singers and the harmony of barber shoppers; the popular melodies of today and the nostalgic tunes of yesterday; the soloists, the duets, the trios, and the choral groups … and the bands … big brass bands, dance bands, polka and fiddle bands. Add to the perfect mix … comedy and magic and a few surprises and voila … great entertainment!
As JUBILEE '98 "Strikes Up the Band" West Lorne's Back Porch Country & Gospel take center stage in the cast of the best ever variety showcase. These exceptional entertainers perform extensively throughout the community and they are a welcome addition to this year's salute to talented seniors.
Reprising his role of Master of Ceremonies is famed broadcast journalist and writer Bill McNeil. Known to audiences across the country as the "Voice of the Pioneer" and host of CBC Radio's Fresh Air for over 20 years, Bill McNeil has brought his unmistakable voice and charming personality to the JUBILEE since the beginning.
Another special feature is the annual presentation of the Pauline McGibbon Life Achievement in the Arts Award. Soprano, Adriane Stewart will be this year's recipient. Adriane's musical career began early and she has performed in major venues all over North America. Now living in Whitby, she continues her musical training and study on a regular basis, performs as a soloist and is a member of the Whitby Jubilee Choir. "Music is my life" says Adriane whose motto is "just keep on singing".
To add to the festivities this year the JUBILEE, creators and producers, Wayne Burnett and Glenda Richards, Richburn Entertainment will introduce more new acts and performers than ever. And for the first time there will be door prizes and a draw for a fabulous trip for two to Spain's Costa del Sol, courtesy of SENIOR TOURS CANADA.
So if you have a chance and want to go to see the West Lorne's Back Porch you can call1-416-872-4255 for single tickets or 1-416-593-4822 ext. 225 for Groups of 20 or more.

## 25th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



*Family Members from Back Row Left to Right: Ian Moore, Debbie & Donny Bobier, Lillian and Doug Murray and Craig Elliot. Middle Row Left to Right: Sandi Moore, Myrtle & Chuck Joyce, and Miranda Joyce. Front Row Amanda Bobier and Mike Murray.*

Chuck, Myrtle and family would like to thank family and friends for Celebrating thier 25th Wedding Anniversary on July 20th, 1998.



***Judy Gangle is MAD***

On Saturday Judy, Paul and their two boys worked cleaning up and reseeding the front part of the P.J. Gangle building on Main St. When Judy came to water the shrubs on Monday morning low and behold someone had stole some of the shrubs out of the flower beds. Judy said that they were trying to help make the business look a little nicer. This was not the first incident, back about a month ago other shrubs were taken and she knows who it is. Some of the shrubs that were taken were Blue Rug Yew, and Blue Colorado Stand.
Well now they aren't going to be able to take anything as Judy and Ryan have taken every last one out leaving the landscaping

## 85th BIRTHDAY PARTY

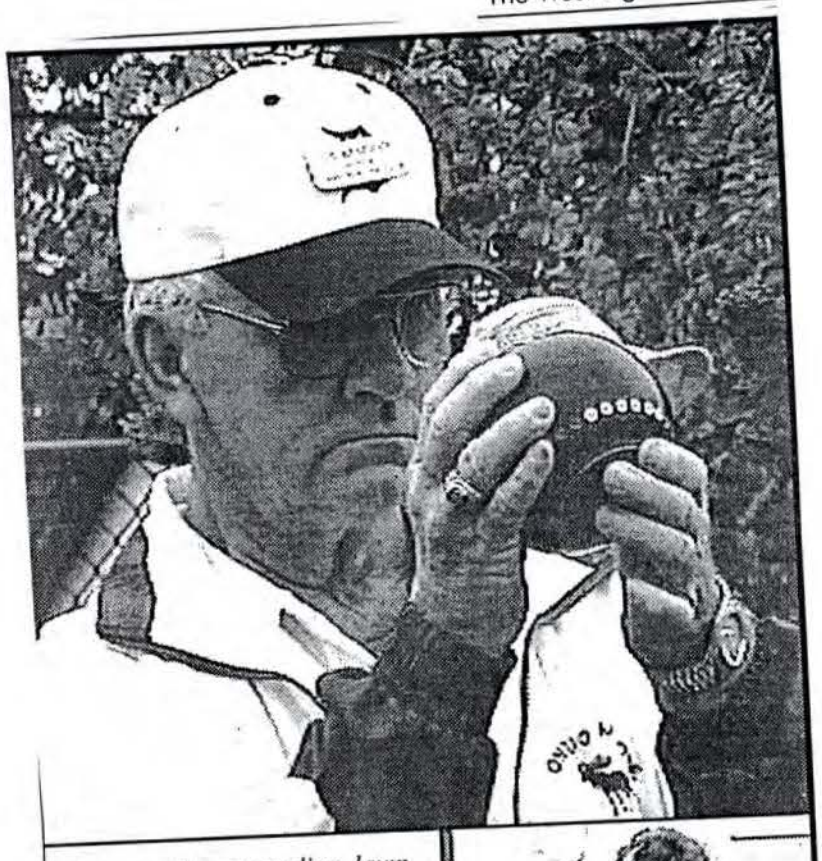


***Celebrating Mac Websters birthday are daughters Helen Mooser, Mac Webster and Mary Taylor. His other daughter Linda Russel of Ottawa was unable to attend.***

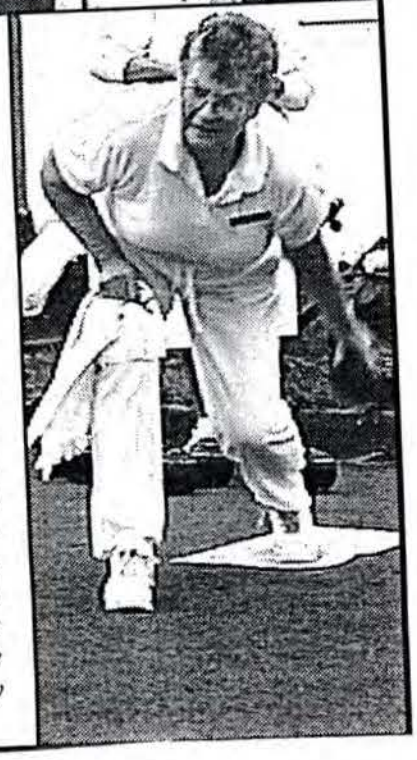
Mr. Mac Webster celebrated his 85th Birthday at the Bobier Villa on Saturday, August 8th, 1998. He is from Wallacetown and retired to Dutton. He was a farmer for 35 years. Mac said there has been a lot of changes in the past years and they have been good ones.

CURRENT EVENTS 1998

The West Elgin Chronicle



*The annual year ending lawn bowling tournament, the Merchant & Manufacturing plus the Lashbrook Memorial Trophy, was held last week at the West Lorne Lawn Bowling Club with more than 100 bowlers on hand, including Jim Kenehan, above, from the Sarnia club and Joan Lashbrook, right, from the West Lorne club. Taking top honors on the day were Ed Braitwaite and team (Sarnia). Second place went to Frank Boussen and team (Aylmer) and G. Lane and team (Sarnia) took third place. The members of the West Lorne Lawn Bowling Club wish to thank all the businesses and individuals who gave generously to make this a very excellent tournament.*



## *25 YEARS OF SERVICE*
## *WEST LORNE FIRE CHIEF RETIRING*



On October 31st, 1998 Mr. Dave Cadogan will be retiring from the West Lorne Fire Department.

Dave handed in his resignation at the August Council meeting. He has decided it's time to relax, take it easy for awhile and maybe spend more time with his wife of 23 years. Dave has been a member of the fire department for the past 25½ years, the last 14½ years as the fire chief. He is a long time resident of West Lorne and has worked at Timken in St. Thomas for the past 25 years. When asked about the last quarter-century on the Department, what stood out most were the differences between then and now. "There have been so many changes over the past 25 years." Dave said. From a Department that had no radios then, to one that has just been connected to the 911 system. There are a new fire hall, new trucks and now a new tanker is on the way sometime in the middle of December. There has been such a dramatic increase in the work load and in the associated paper work because of new government regulations. Dave stated, "I will miss the Fire Department and working with all the men."

We hope he enjoys his retirement and thanks for your dedication over the years.

SEPT, 1998

*Wednesday September 30, 1998*

## *DANCE FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART*



***Here is Heather Timson, Cherie Ansems Dance Instructor, Corey Hilliard, Helen Mooser and Denise Noddin***

Dance Instructor Cherie Ansems from Harrietsville comes to Rodney each week to teach Dance, Ballet and Gym. You're never to old to learn how to do any of these. If you are interested in learning how just come out to the Rodney Rec. Centre at 9:00 a.m Saturday mornings for Adult dance or call Sheila Flemming at 785-0919



## Caring Community

*The offering from the Rodney-Aldborough Fair Interdenominational Service was given back to the community via the Caring Cupboard. Here, Larry Schneider presents Sylvia Logan of the Caring Cupboard with the $418.85 collected.*



# Cruisin' with Chevy Blue

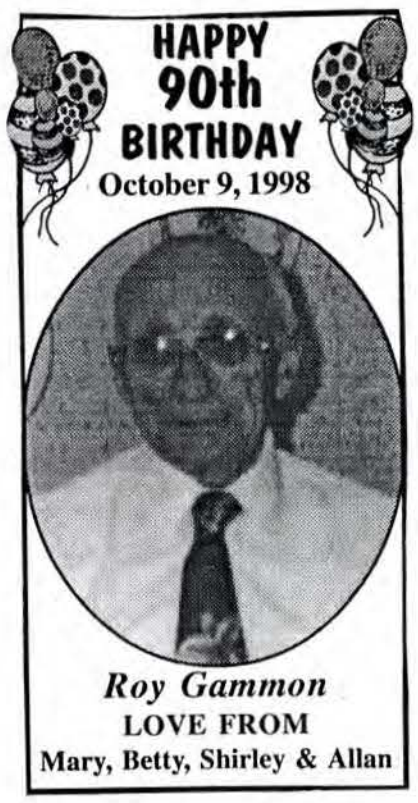
*Live music is the best and when you can find it close to home, even better. Founded almost 20 years ago by Richard Szewczyk and Jerry Marsh, Chevy Blue has incorporated the talents of many fine musicians to suit the needs of its audience. The band has recently added Gerry Bock, an excellent London-based keyboard vocalist and guitarist to help the band with its wide range of songs, from the 50s to the 90s. Chevy Blue is, clockwise from bottom left, Marsh, Jim Ryan, Bock, Szewczyk and Steve Browne. And the fact that all five band members sing, they can cover tunes from the Rolling Stones and CCR to Blue Rodeo and Sugar Ray. If you want to check them out for yourself, Chevy Blue will be playing Hallowe'en night at the Rodney Legion. They're also booked at the legion for New Year's Eve.*

45th Wedding Anniversary



*Bruce & Velma Kriter ~ October 24, 1998*
*Happy Anniversary Mom & Dad*
*Love, Kevin, Carol*
*& Families*




25th Wedding Anniversary



*Ted & Frances Sobieralski*
*November 17, 1973*
*Happy Anniversary to you*
*Love, from the families*

## *LOCAL ARTIST TAKES 3rd*



***Jodie Beech, daughter of Harry and Mary Beech 3rd place at Western Fair.***

## *JODIE'S STORY*

My first memory of art is Mrs. Kelly's kindergarten class with a miniature easel and paints. Through out grade school art was my favorite subject . When I started high school, I found there were many aspects medival to art. I first started painting on my own using acrylic paints on canvas board. At 16 I started classes with Harry Wilkinson . Harry taught painting with oil paints on canvas. It was strange to work with at first but I found I liked it much better. He has taught me so many things over the period of time I was taking classes such as making you think in different ways and to try challenging subject matter. Recently I won 3rd place in the outstanding competition at the Western Fair. "The Passageway" was the second painting I had completed, it was very difficult and time consuming. To enter my paintings they were to be photographed first. The photos were to be submitted for approval of entry before being accepted into the competition. Then if they were excepted they would call you to bring them in. Two out of the three pieces were accepted. I never expected to win anything but I was very surprised to take home a ribbon. At the present time I am not taking lessons but I hope to go back to Harry's classes soon. Painting is not easy it can be very frustrating. But as Harry always said, when we would get discouraged, "if painting was easy; everyone could do it."

CURRENT EVENTS
1998

# JOHN & RENA SLAGHT ONTARIO HEREFORD BREEDER OF THE YEAR AWARD



*Here are the proud winners of the John & Rena Slaght Ontario Hereford Breeder of the Year Award front row Karla, Ella, Wyhatt. Back row Theresa, Dennis, Adrian, Paula, and Peter Ocolisan.*

Sandy Ridge Farms is in its Fourth Generation as a family business. The business started in the early 50's. There were 5 Zones in Ontario for them to compete in. Over 750 breeders that compete and Ontario is one of the largest cattle breeders next to Alberta.

The John & Rena Slaght Ontario Hereford Breeder of the Year Award was presented to Sandy Ridge Farms of West Lorne, Ontario, at the recent Ontario Hereford Association Annual Meeting. The requirements for this award are as follows:

- each board of director of a zone was eligible to nominate one breeder(Ontario is made up of 5 zones) Also any member of the Ontario Hereford Association may nominate a breeder at large.
- has served or is currently serving on zone, Ontario Hereford Association or Canadian Hereford Association boards.
- consigns to Ontario Hereford Association and zone sales.
- attendance at Ontario Hereford Association meetings annually
- generally supportive of new breeders
- keeps accurate and current records
- record of performance data
- maintains a base of 15 or more breeding females
- uses and supports Record of Performance Records
- consigns to bull test centers to compare and evaluate bulls with other breeders
- participates at Canadian level in Total Herd Evaluation Program

***FAIRS***

- supports local fairs - up to 10-15 years, supports major fairs: Royal Winter Fair, mark of Excellence Shows across Ontario.
- shows cattle outside Ontario-many Junior Shows including: Quebec, Manitoba, Michigan and most recently national Junior Show in Springfield, Illinois where over 750 head of Polled Herefords were shown
- supports the Prestige Centre - a display centre located in Rockwood, Ontario, where females were on display for the summer to expand Ontario markets to all parts of the continent and the advertisement of the Hereford Breed
- maintains a complimentary environment for farm viewing

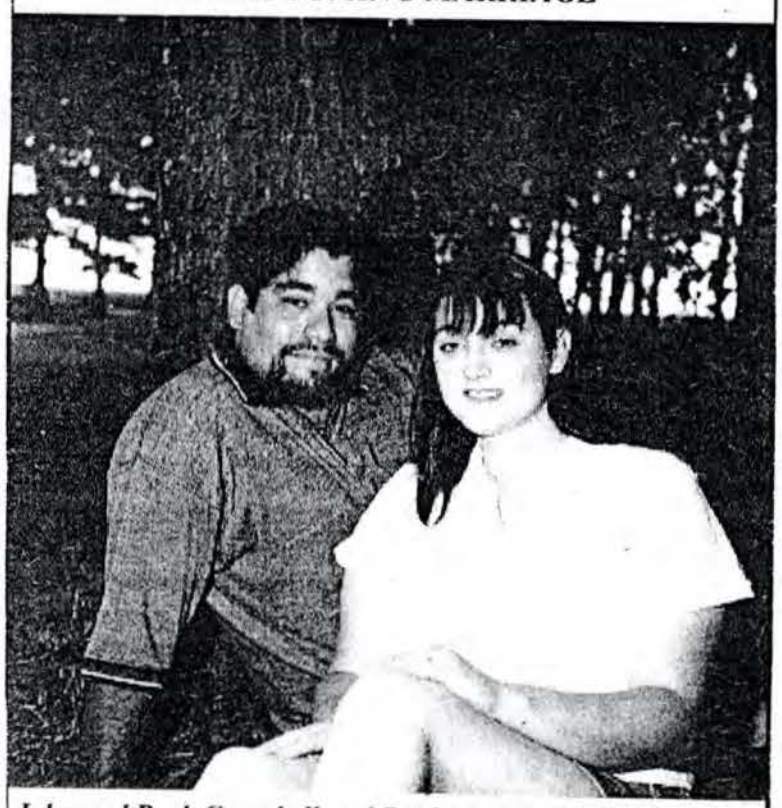
***SALES***

- develops and participates in export sales
- have been instrumental in previous exports to different parts of the world and the U.S.
- successful in private treaty sales including sales of bulls to different breeds of cattle
- consigns to production sales-have been holding successful production sales for the past four years.

In conclusion 1998 will see a climax not only with the Breeder of the Year Award, but also with the complete partnership dispersal sale at ***Sandy Ridge Farms*** on ***Saturday, September 5, 1998 in West Lorne.***



## *FORTH COMING MARRIAGE*



***John and Barb Campbell and Paul and Cathy Thompson announce the Marriage of their children, Melissa Dawn and Mattew Paul. The ceremony will take place on Saturday, November 14th in Chatham at St. Agnes Catholic Church. Melissa is an ECE Resource Teacher in St. Catherines. Matt is a Teaching Assistant at Niagara College in Radio and Television Communication.***

***Village Green Celebrated their First Anniversary last week. Helen and Gary held a draw the winners were Tony Vergeer,Cynthia Roodzant and Lena Wolodchenko.***



CURRENT EVENTS 1998

# Drug awarness topic of educational meeting

Kathy Hollingsworth
*The Chronicle*

Hash oil, marijuana and magic mushrooms are the top three drugs being used in West Elgin, according to OPP Constable Rob Jamieson.

Jamieson was one of a handful of speakers at the Elgin International Club last week, brought together by the West Elgin Drug and Alcohol Awareness Committee for educational evening on the affects of drugs and drinking and driving.

Entitled "In Your Community You Can Make A Difference," the evening focussed a growing problem in rural communities not just in the cities.

"We're trying to expose the community to the resources available to parents trying to educate their children on drugs and alcohol," says Kathy Nesbitt, public health nurse from the Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit. "The more information and supports systems available the better to tackle the issues."

"It is your community and together as a community we can make a difference," says committee member Sue Jacobs, who is also a Grade 4 teacher at Dutton/Dunwich Public School.




*Elgin County OPP Constable Dennis Harwood talks to a group of people at a recent drinking and driving educational evening at the International Club. The evening was sponsored by the West Elgin Drug and Alcohol Committee.*

OPP Community Services Officer Constable Dennis Harwood informed those in attendance of the dangers of drinking and driving. He then proceeded to read from a very long list of alcohol occurrences since May 1 of this year that have occurred in the area.

"In my opinion alcohol tears families apart, they can't seem to get off that cycle," said Constable Harwood. "At least you people have taken that one step forward instead of burying your heads."

Drinking and driving is the largest single criminal cause of death and injury in Canada. It is a criminal code offence to drive with more than 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 milliliters of your blood (.08 per cent blood alcohol level).

"Lets keep trying for the day there is no impaired drivers on the road, then we've succeeded," adds Harwood.

Kirk Sinclair, of the Alcohol and Drug Services of Thames Valley, returned again this year to speak on moderate drinking.

"Set limits for yourself - it can be a positive experience not a negative one," says Sinclair, who has written a book entitled Drinkers Handbook Guide to Lower Risk Drinking.

Darlene Smith of West Lorne brought her 10-year-old son Sam and 15-year-old daughter Stephanie to the meeting believing it's important they receive as much information on the affects of drugs and alcohol.

"As a parent I want to support the committee in its effort to educate the community," says Smith, adding it makes for good dinner table conversation.

When asked what he would say to a person who was drunk and getting behind the wheel of a car, Sam answered, "I'd tell them to come with me on the bus instead of driving."

The West Elgin Drug and Alcohol Awareness Committee members are a cross section of people within the community.

In its second year, the committee continues to work throughout the year to bring awareness about drugs and alcohol to the community.

The West Elgin Chronicle

# COP program to police West Elgin

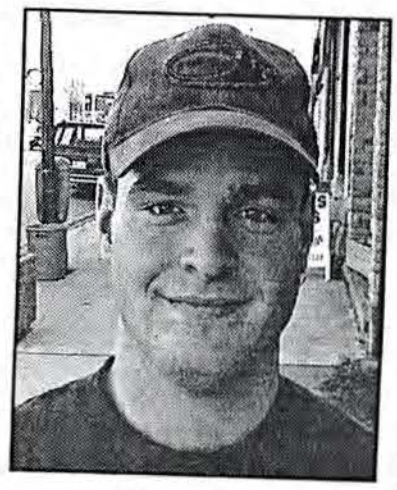
Calling all COPs!

The West Elgin Community Policing Committee is on the lookout for concerned volunteers who want to make their community a safer place to live.

The Citizens On Patrol (COP) program is a mobile watch program comprised of volunteers who are willing to spend a few hours of their time once or twice a month patrolling the communities of West Elgin.

They would act as a second set of eyes for the Elgin OPP by getting licence numbers of suspicious cars and ple in the neighbourhood.

Here's how it works. Two volunteers patrol their community (much like an OPP patrol) in a car from about 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. (though they can put in only a couple of hours). If they see any criminal activity, they have a cellular phone (supplied) to contact the OPP, who will then respond. The volunteers also record non-criminal activity in the Patrol Log Book.



**Jeremy Lapadat**

Along with the cellular phones, volunteers will also be provided with large flood lights to check out dimly lit areas, and binoculars to view at a distance.

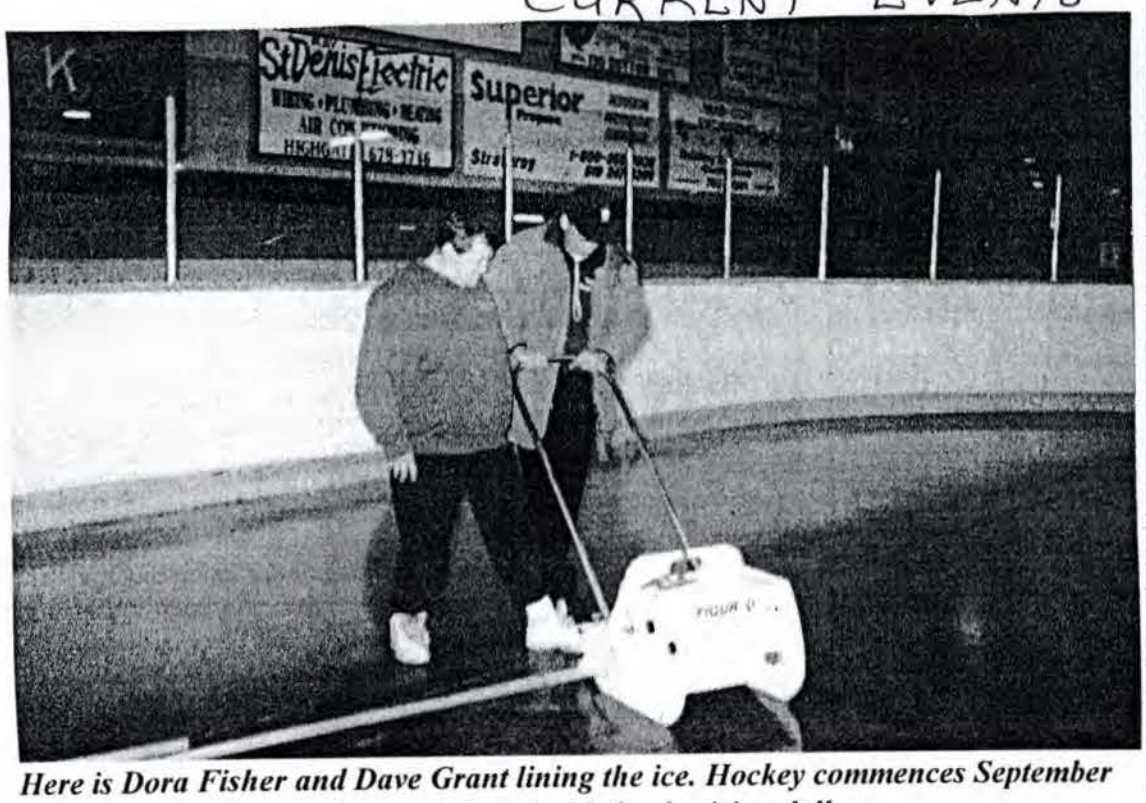
OPP remind volunteers that they are not to make an arrest, to intercept anyone or even get out of their vehicle.The COP program will act as a deterrent to criminal activity for both residential and business areas with criminals knowing he/she is being watched.

To be part of the COP program you can call Jeremy Lapadat, who will be heading up the project in West Elgin, at 768-2992.

Bag phones are also required for the program. Should anyone have such a phone they want to give or lend to the program they can call Lapadat.

Applications are also available at the Chronicle office (24283 Graham St., West Lorne).

CURRENT EVENTS 1998




*Here is Dora Fisher and Dave Grant lining the ice. Hockey commences September 16th. The new line machine purchased with fund raising dollars.*



In West Lorne - Graham Street is being repaved at each end. The intersection at Main and Graham at times can be confusing. When the men are working some day's there is a flag man. The curbs are dug up so becareful especially at night not to take sharp turns at the corners.

## *NEW ROOF STARTED*



*The new roof was started last week at the West Elgin Arena. Here they are unloading the roofing material. It won't take long if the weather co-operates with the workers.* OCT 98

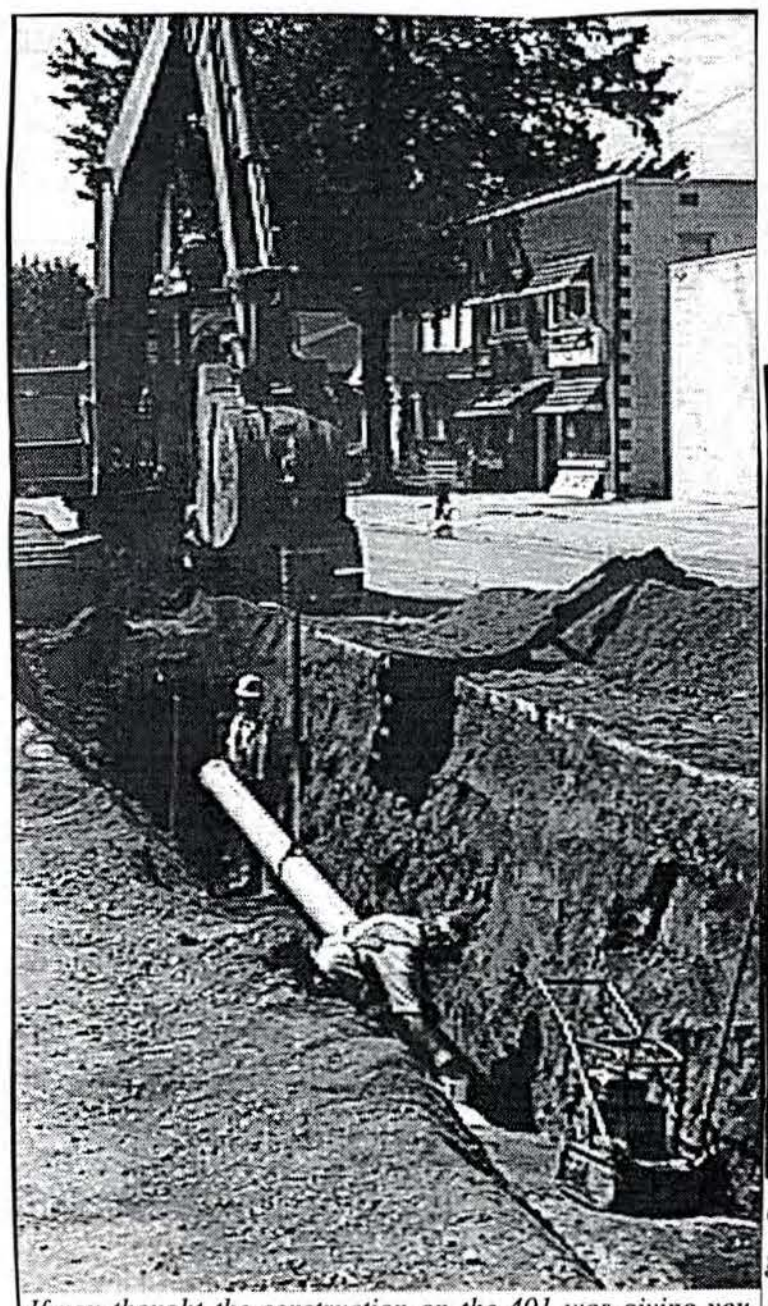
# Hwy. 410 construction to be around for awhile

We all like smooth roads to drive on, but we hate the construction that takes place to get to that point.

Expect a few delays for the next month on Hwy. 401 near Dutton. Construction crews are doing hot mix patching operations in both the east and westbound lanes. Traffic is down to one lane in both directions. Work is expected to be complete by mid-July

Also on Hwy. 401, between Elgin County Road 20 and 14, structure rehabilitation is being done on the CNR bridge. Traffic in both directions are down to one lane with minor delays expected.

For up-to-date information on construction projects in the area, you can call 1-800-268-1376.



*If you thought the construction on the 401 was giving you headaches, its now crept into downtown West Lorne. And not to worry, it won't be lasting as long as the work on the 401. The 45 day contract will see workers replacing watermains around the downtown block made up of Main, Ridge and Munroe Streets.*




***On August 12th the West Lorne and Rodney Fire Departments joined together to receive training on the New Fire House which they will be using in the Fall to show children and adults what to do in case of fire.***

AUG. 1998

## WEST ELGIN HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMMISSION SCHEDULE OF RATES AND CHARGES

The following hydro rates are effective January 1, 1999 and are subject to Ontario Hydro approval. The rates are as previously charged in 1998.

**RESIDENTIAL SERVICES** - Regular:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Energy Charges | | |
| First 250 kW.h | (per kWh) | 12.42¢ |
| All additional kW.h | (per kWh) | 7.40¢ |
| Minimum Bill | | $7.75 |

**RESIDENTIAL SERVICE** - Miscellaneous:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sentinel light - per kilowatt of connected load (unmetered energy) | (per kW) | $28.71 |

**GENERAL SERVICE** - Regular:
(0 - 5000 kW)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Billing Demand | | |
| First 50 kW | (per kW) | $0.00 |
| All additional kW | (per kW) | $5.40 |
| Energy Charges | | |
| First 250 kW.h | (per kWh) | 12.42¢ |
| Next 12,250 kW.h | (per kWh) | 7.92¢ |
| Next 69,700 kW.h | (per kWh) | 5.75¢ |
| All additional kW.h | (per kWh) | 3.58¢ |
| Minimum Bill - Under 50 kW of maximum demand | | $7.75 |
| Minimum Bill- over 50 kW of maximum demand - per kW of maximum demand during the previous eleven months or contracted amount whichever is greater | (per kW) | $0.60 |

**GENERAL SERVICE** - Miscellaneous:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sentinel Light - per kilowatt of connected load (unmeterd energy) | (per kW) | $28.71 |

**GENERAL SERVICE** - Time of Use

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Winter Billing Demand | | |
| Peak Period All kW | (per kW) | $13.86 |
| Summer Billing Demand | | |
| Peak Period All kW | (per kW) | $9.76 |
| Winter Energy Charges | | |
| Peak Period all kW.h | (per kWh) | 5.09¢ |
| Off-Peak Period All kW.h | (per kWh) | 3.45¢ |
| Summer Energy Charges | | |

**GENERAL SERVICE** - Time Of Use:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Peak Period All kW.h | (per kWh) | 4.50¢ |
| Off-Peak Period All kW.h | (per kWh) | 2.37¢ |

**STREET LIGHTING** - Regular:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Per kW of connected load | (per kW) | $26.10 |

**TRANSFORMER**
Losses:
adjustment shall be made in accordance with Section IV, clause 7 of the Standard Application of Rates
Allowance for Ownership:
(per kw of billing demand)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| service at less than 115kV | (per kW) | $0.60 |

**SPECIFIC SERVICE CHARGES**

| | |
|---|---|
| Customer Administration | |
| Account Setup Charge | $8.80 |
| Dispute Involvement Charges | $5.00 |
| Non-Payment of Account | |
| Late Payment | 5.00% |
| Returned Cheque Charge - Actual Bank Charges plus | $8.55 |
| Reconnection - during regular working hours | $17.60 |
| Reconnection - after regular working hours | $27.80 |

**Water Rates(Town and Rural Customers)**

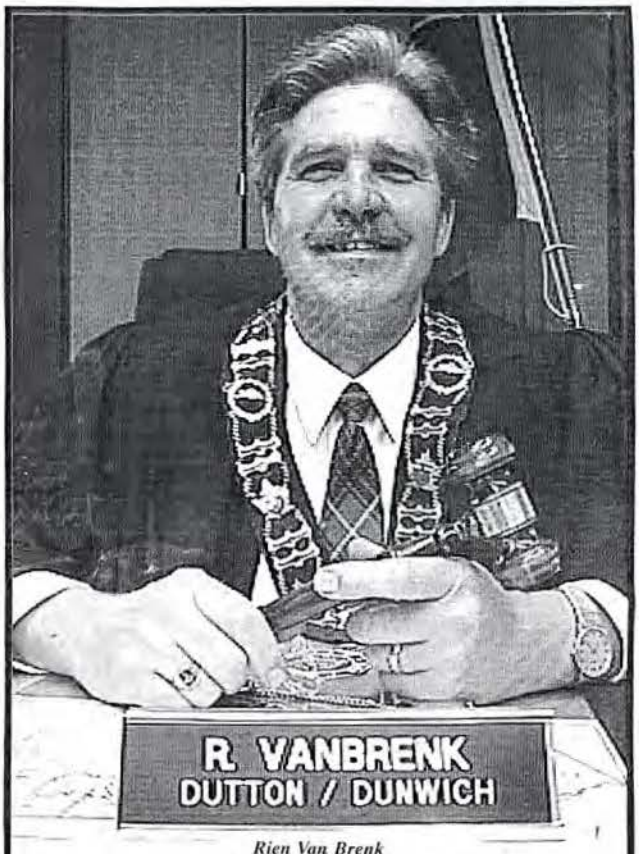
The following are the new water rates effective for all water consumers on or after January 1, 1999.

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL:
Service Charge - $18.50/Month
Water Charge - $2.95 per 1000 gallons or $.65 per cubicmetre
Surcharge to customers on Glencoe Line — $2.82 per 1000 gallons
(Due to wholesale rate from Glencoe PUC) — or $.62 per cubicmetre

RODNEY
Coin Station Key & Coin Customers - $10.00 per 1000 gallons of water

Sewage Rates

Rodney Sewage Rates = 133 % of total water bill
West Lorne Sewage Rates = 89 % of total water bill




*Rien Van Brenk*
*1999 Elgin County Warden*

# Van Brenk named 1999 Elgin County Warden

The Municipality of Dutton-Dunwich has its first-ever Elgin County Warden. Mayor Rien Van Brenk was elected to the post at an election Dec. 8 at the County Building in St. Thomas. Van Brenk will replace outgoing Warden Perry Clutterbuck. Van Brenk ran against Aylmer Mayor Bob Habkirk.

The last wardens from the area included Robert Purcell (Dutton - '86 and '87) and Albert Ford (Dunwich - '89). Jan. 1 of this year the two communities joined to form the Municipality of Dutton-Dunwich.

Van Brenk says he hopes to continue building on the many achievements Elgin County Council had over the past year. "As we all know, this was a year of transition and change in a restructured county system," he says. "We addressed the challenges and had a who lot of fun at the same time."

Van Brenk brings political experience to his new position including nine years on Dunwich Council, three yeas as Deputy Reeve and the last year as Mayor of the newly formed Municipality of Dutton-Dunwich.

*See 'Van Brenk' Page 2*

CURRENT
EVENTS
1998

# Hefty help for Heart and Stroke



*The Heart and Stroke Foundation received a generous helping hand from the students of St. Mary's School (Jump Rope for Heart & Hoops For Heart) and Aldborough Public School (Jump Rope for Heart). Students helped to raise more than $12,000 between the two schools. In top photo, St. Mary's principal Dianne Waite and staff coordinator Linda Van Raay present a cheque for $3,119.73 to Paul Lovelock, chairman of Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart in Elgin County. Helping with the presentation are, from left to right, Alex McFadden, Emily Vandenberg, Matthew Johnston, Crystal Witroway, Megan Regnier, Molly McWilliam, Jackie Hwang, Dakota Poels and Derek Reno. Below, Aldborough P. S. top money raisers Stacey Penney, Chelsey Wilson and Lauren Sheedy present Lovelock with a cheque for $9,027.80. Both schools wish to thanks the community for all their support in helping with these events.*








## Winners Take a Limo Ride to McDonald's

West Lorne - Ontario

Roll out the red carpet! Congratulations to all 17 students from the West Elgin Senior Elementary School who recently sold chocolate bars to help fund raise for their year end grade eight trip to Camp Celtic. During the two-week campaign, recently run in early March, any student who sold 100 bars or more was eligible for a free limousine ride with "A Class Above Limousine" and lunch at "McDonalds," compliments of **New Horizons Fund Raising Consultants Ltd.** Teachers Ms. Race and Mr. Lawrence, co-ordinators for the school fund raising this year, will also enjoy a ride and free lunch.

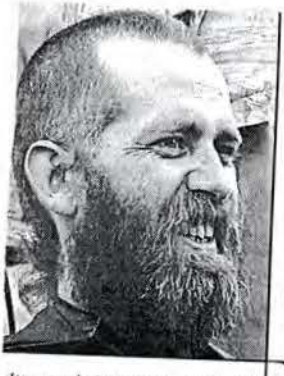
Following are the winners of this contest: Jessica Ambrose, Amanda Breen, Kyle Chouinard, Jessica Drummelsmith, Trevor Kuska, Jeff Leatherdale, Denis Nash, Nathan Newport, Carl Ouellette, Liz Rose, Erika Swallowell, Ryan Thomas, Ryan Thyssen, Bill VanRaes, Nicole Welch, Justin Whitney and Adam Wilton.



# Celebrating 170 years of faith

*What would a celebration be without cake! The Knox Presbyterian Church, New Glasgow celebrated 170 years of the Presbyterian Church being in the area. The July 5th service saw the tiny church overflowing with more than 260 parishioners and guests. Guest speaker Dr. William Klempa, moderator of the 124th General Assembly, spoke to the crowd on the church's rich history but also told of the importance of pressing ahead to keep the Presbyterian faith and vision alive. Guests also enjoyed an outdoor celebration and historical display of the New Glasgow Pioneer Cemetery. Here, Jack Buchan (left), the longest member of the church at 60 years, helps cut the cake with Dr. Klempa, Elsie Grey, a 50-year-member and Bob Buchan, who helped to arrange Dr. Klempa's trip to New Glasgow from Montreal.*

**Photo by Kathy Hollingsworth**



# Goin', Goin', GONE!



*It was a hair raising - or should that be hair shaving - experience for West Lorne resident Murray Kiers recently as he chopped off his hair and beard to help raise money for charity. Kiers collected more than $ 1,307 for Mission for Kids, a non-profit volunteer group that provides joy and comfort to the needy children of the world with toys, clothes and food. In top photo, West Lorne businessman Brian Hopkins (Siderite Home Improvements) made the highest bid and received the honors of shaving Kiers - including the first cut with a pair of garden shears. Jack The Barber (Jack Morrison) from Wardsville was also on hand to do a little tidy work. At right, Kiers presents the cheque to Mission For Kids president Betty King. The money will be used to purchase eight bed kits for Sleeping Children Around the World, as well as cash donations to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and the Notré Maison Orphanage in Haiti.*



CURRENT EVENTS 1998

# THE EAGLE UNION CHURCH






*Unveiling the plaque are Mr. Ron Payne and Mr.Lenord Linch a grandson to the Lindermans. The plaque after unveiling.*

by Mr. Ron Payne

Where does one start to tell the history of a building, especially a church, for at this date (1998) goes back in history some 130 years to the pioneer days in Aldborough. In those days, by the mid 1860's, Eagle was a thriving Village, with many businesses, hotels, stores, post office and a dock at the lake. The population was about 300 until 1872. Larger than the Villages of Bismark and Lorne (now known as West Lorne). The need for a church was great, so in 1865 the Eagle community church was built on this land donated by the Lindenman family.

The building of the church has a very interesting history - that history is as follows in part - a raft of logs drifted ashore at the lake, it was left unclaimed, until Robert Mowbray (and Dawdy Mill) offered to saw the logs into lumber for a new church, for it was to be a community project. For the church was to be a non-denominational church, to be used by any faith. The church in appearance was a very plain and simply designed colonial meeting house. The different religious body that used the church were the Disciples, Methodists and Presbyterians and the Methodists held their first service in 1877 and held it at night time during the week, later held their services on Sunday morning. The Presbyterians usually held a service once a month. The Disciples held services at night. Sunday School was always an important part of the church activities and which never lapsed as long as services were held. Attendance often as high as seventy children. These arrangements carried on for many years, by the late 1870 and early 1880, Eagle was on the decline due to the railways coming to the villages of Rodney and West Lorne.

The Disciples built in Rodney (1875) and in West Lorne (1904), this marked the end for the Disciples at Eagle. They struggled on for a few more years and then closed as a Disciple Church at Eagle.

The building continued to be used by the United Church for many years before it was completely closed in 1962.

The last service was held in the Eagle Church in 1967, for that time the village of Eagle, as a Centennial project, held a church service with the guest speaker being "William Sheeler" of London, (a former high school teacher). So in closing I would like to say that: the little eagle community church has had a great influence on so many people, for through its doors has passed, teachers, doctors, lawyers, members of parliament, missionaries and many other people it was just a great "joy and love," as they travel throughout life serving their Lord and Saviour.

***A LITTLE MORE HISTORY:*** The West Lorne Disciples became the overseers of the building; they have ownership of it because of the following circumstance. Though the building was erected as a Union church, for some reason all three trustees were Disciples. In 1870 when the deed was filed at the registry office in St. Thomas between the Lindermans and the trustees for the church, the trustees nominated and appointed for that purpose were Archibald McKillop, Archibald Munro and Archibald Purcel. The deed states that the church must believe in membership by total immersion and weekly communion; if the church ceases to exist, the building falls into the hands of the nearest church that has these belief's. So it is that the Eagle building became the responsibility of the West Lorne Disciples church. In the 1990's they also had the sad task of tearing the old church down.

(continued next week)

## *VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL*



Vacation Bible School was held in West Lorne between the United, Presbyterian and Anglican Churches. There were approximately 51 youth that participated during the week. They played games, bible study and many other fun activities. Heading the Bible School was Rev. Colin Stover and 10 program directors, and 12 pre school helpers (teens). It is always a great success. AUG. 1998

## Three congregations to join forces

The Presbyterian congregations in Dutton, West Lorne and Wallacetown have decided to embark upon a two-year trial amalgamation.

Having discussed the pros and cons of amalgamation for some years, and following a number of surveys where the congregations discovered that the majority of their members wanted to seek God's leading for the formation of a new congregation, all of the ministries, programs and worship services of the pastorial charge are now to be combined in the Dutton Church beginning Sept. 1.

The first worship service is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 6. The new congregation will be known as Community Presbyterian Church and will offer a wide range of ministries to every age group.

Since the three previous congregation have had a very active involvement in the community, Community Presbyterian Church will continue in this tradition, enlarging service and outreach ministries to adults, youth and children.

The church will also offer a number of different kinds of worship experiences catering to every age group and musical preference.

# A TRIBUTE TO ROY DOS SANTOS

## Dos Santos

Suddeniy as the result of a construction accident on Tuesday, November 17th, 1998, Roy Dos Santos of West Lorne, in his 31st year. He was a well known coach of minor hockey and soccer.

Dearly loved and sadly missed by his parents Manuel and Natalia Dos Santos of West Lorne, fiancee' Nancy Dieleman of Wallacetown, brother Joe Dos Santos of West Lorne, and sister Isabelle Cassidy and her husband Tim of Lucan.

Friends called at the West Lorne Chapel on Friday, November 20th 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. where prayers were offered at 2:15 p.m. Funeral mass was held at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, West Lorne on Saturday, November 21st at 11:00 p.m. the Rev. Fr. J. Nevett. celebrant Internment St. Mary's cemetery

Donations to the West Lorne minor hockey and soccer were appreciated.

Arrangements entrusted to the Padfield Funeral Home Rodney (519) 785 - 0810

ROY'S BANTAM TEAM





***WHAT ARE VOLUNTEERS?***
Volunteers are like ***FORD..***
They have better ideas.
Volunteers are like ***COKE...***
They're the ***REAL THING***
Volunteeers are like ***PAN AM..***
They make the ***GOING GREAT.***
Volunteers are like ***PEPSI..***
They've got a ***LOT TO GIVE.***
Volunteers are like ***VO-5 HAIR SPRAY..***
Their ***GOODNESS HOLDS IN ALL KINDS OF WEATHER.***
Volunteers are like ***HALLMARK CARDS ..***
They ***CARE ENOUGH TO SEND THE VERY BEST.***
But most of all,
Volunteers are like ***FROSTED FLAKES ...***
They're ***GGGREAT!***



## *A TRIBUTE TO A CO-WORKER*

On November 17th, 1998 the West Elgin Free Press lost a good friend and supporter, Roy Dos Santos. Roy has been a friend for years; having Roy writing his articles for us was a pleasure. Roy always spoke his mind and called it as he saw it. He was known for being outspoken but would admit or apologize when he was in the wrong. Roy's life was sports and coaching youth as well as being a referee. Roy was respected and looked up to by "his kids" because he was always there for them.

Roy was happy when he received letters to comment on his column "It's My Call". To him it meant people were reading what he had to say and they took the time to write.

What happened to Roy was a very sad, tragic accident and he will be greatly missed by many and by us at the West Elgin Free Press.

Our Deepest Sympathies go out to his family and to Nancy.

Barb



*Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Gar Knutson was in West Elgin last week to discuss the Eco-Communities Program with local residents. Here, Hazel Stalker talks with Knutson with regards to the accessing funds from the program for West Elgin.*

CURRENT EVENTS 1998



# WEST LORNE'S 4th ANNUAL SANTA CLAUS PARADE







## BEST ENTRY AWARDS

***BEST ILLUMINATED***
Women's Institute

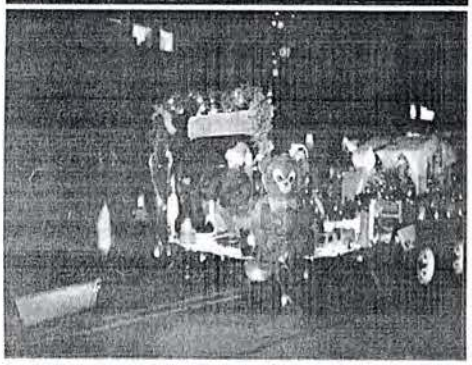
***YOUTH***
Tiny Tots

***SERVICE CLUB***
Shriners of London

***BEST COMMERCIAL***
T.L.C.

***BEST NON-COMMERCIAL***
Sudicky









## Warm & Wooly

*The staff of the Bank of Montreal in West Lorne wish to thank all those who helped out with their "Warm &Wooly" tree. Here, bank employees Marlene Goos, left, and Andrea Noah check out one of the many mittens, scarves, gloves and hats that were generously donated.* DEC, 1998

CURRENT EVENTS 1997

JAN 97

# St. Mary's - St. Helen's Parishes remembers one of their own

Members of St. Mary's and St. Helen's parishes gathered together at St. Mary's to remember one of their favourite priests Father DeJonge at a special mass held in his honour.

For years the 7:30 Children's Mass was celebrated by Father DeJonge so members of the parish and Father Paquette thought it was fitting to honour the Father at this mass which he loved doing, because he loved the children of the parish so much as they loved him in return.

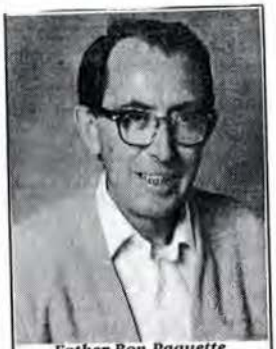
It has only been a short time since the Father has left us and in the words of Father Paquette 'This Mass is for Father James DeJonge a friend of this parish for over 40 years and it is only fitting that we should have some kind of memorial to remember his contribution to this parish'.

After a short sermon Father Paquette blessed the plaque which will be placed in the church by the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

And then the members of the congregation and the little ones sang the song that was played at Father DeJonge's funeral 'On Eagles Wings'. As the melody of the song unfolded the angelic voices of the children reached a cresendo that surely could be heard in heaven by their beloved Father who they have missed so much.

Father DeJonge performed his first Mass at St. Helen's Church in Wallacetown in 1950.

It was a very special ceremony and although Father DeJonge may be gone his memory will always burn brightly in the hearts and minds of those he touched during his tenure at St. Mary's and St. Helens.



**Father Ron Paquette**

*The parish family of St.Mary's-St.Helen's wish to invite friends and parishoners to a pot luck dinner immediately after the 11:30 mass Sunday June 8th, to be held at St. Mary's Hall in West Lorne.*

*This will be a farewell dinner for Father Ron Paquette prior to leaving for his new appointment.*

*Father Paquette has served St. Mary's-St. Helen's for the past 9 years and it is with a feeling of sadness that the congregation bids him good-bye and goodluck with his new posting.*

*Since Father's arrival in West Lorne a new parish hall and rectory have been built and he also was instrumental in bringing about the amalgamation of two schools, St. Mary's and St. Thomas More by providing the necessary space needed for a playground. His acheivements, despite his illness, have added greatly to not only the Catholic community but to the Village of West Lorne and for this we say thank you...*

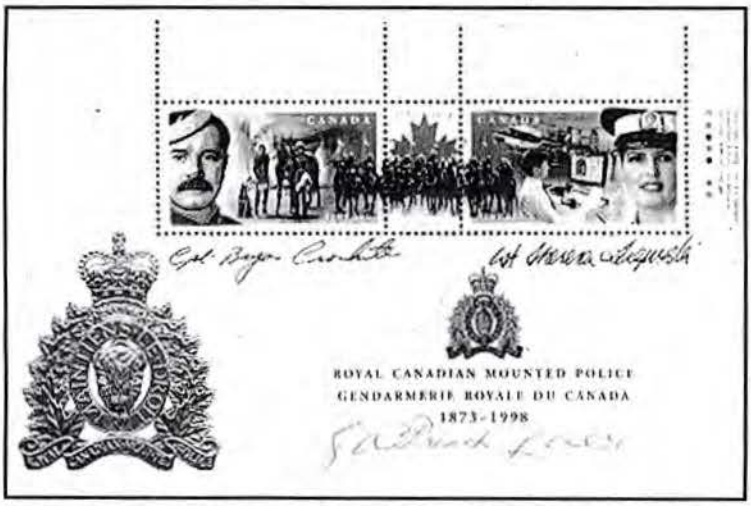



**Always remembered-** *This special plaque was dedicated to the memory of Father DeJonge for his years of dedication at a special mass that was held recently at St. Mary's Church in West Lorne.*

JUNE 4, 1997

CURRENT EVENTS 1998

# A GREAT HONOUR




*The young gentleman on this postage stamp was originally from this area. His name is Brian Cronkite, now from Winnipeg were he lives with his wife and two children. Brian's father Clifford passed away a few years ago and his mother Pat lives in Godrich.*
*Brian went to College in London and then joined the R.C.M.P.*
*This is a great honour and he was chosen because of his outstanding record.*
*The stamp is uncirculated as of yet and it may take a few years for it to be out.*



# WEST LORNE BUCKS DRAW



*On Monday January 4th the lucky winner for the West Lorne $1,000 Bucks. The draw was made by Councilor Trudy Balint. The Lucky Winner was Maxine Voll.*

# Government assistance too little too late: Mistele

JAN. Paul Mayne *The Chronicle* 1999

According to Elgin Federation of Agriculture President Paul Mistele, hog farmers are "hunkering down in a siege mentality" with the province and its $40 million aid package.

The emergency relief funding announced by the Ontario government, in conjunction with a $1 billion federal aid package, have yet to be distributed to farmers in need. And when it is, not every hog farmer will be receiving help. Money from the assistance package will also go to help some cattle and crop farmers.

Application forms for receiving assistance are scheduled to be mailed out Jan. 20, with cheques to follow in February.

Mistele, himself a hog farmer, says despite still "losing $2,000 bucks up the wazoo each week," he won't be receiving any assistance. He self-insured himself by diversifying his business to include other areas such as cash crop.

"I feel this aid package is too little too late," he says. "

Farmers across the country began to feel the affect of dropping hog prices in November of last year after the evaporation of the Russian market and the collapse of the Asian economy. Prices dropped dramatically with farmers losing as much as $100 per market hog around Christmas time. Prices have crept back to the level where farmers are losing $60 per market hog.

Mistele says banks remain "on our side" as far as financial support is concerned, but adds suppliers are starting to make their move.

"Sort of a pre-emptive strike. Some have even taken it to court."

Mistele says that despite that the "media hoopla' is gone, this issue is "far from over."

Area hog farmers are taking their future into their own hands. A meeting is planned for this Wednesday (Jan. 13) at Quality Swine Co-op in Shedden where different marketing strategies plan to be discussed.

# New club

West Elgin has itself a new club!

On Jan. 11, a meeting was held at the West Elgin Community Centre to form a new adult club. It was unanimously agreed on the name of the group to be the West Elgin Adult Club.

The next scheduled meeting is planned for Monday, Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. At this time the new slate of officers will be presented. Anyone interested in joining the club is welcome to attend at this time.

CURRENT EVENTS 1998

# History in the making



**The joining of two communities-** *The new council which will serve the residents of the new community of West Elgin were sworn in recently at the Aldborough Township Offices. From left to right back row the new members of council are: Mike Mooser, Trudy Balint, Brad Bandeen, Paul Gangle, and Bob Coles. Front row left to right: Graham Warwick (Deputy Mayor), Duncan McPhail (Mayor), Joanne Groch, (Administrator - Treasurer) and Rita DeWild (Clerk).*

## A new era begins for West Elgin residents

As with each new year it heralds a new beginning and a fresh start on the year ahead. The birth of 1998 ushered in a new age for residents of the area as the marriage of two communities was finally consummated with the swearing in of the new West Elgin Council which will lead us into the next millennium and beyond.

The official swearing in ceremony of the new Mayor , Deputy Mayor and councillors was held on Monday at Aldborough Council chambers.

The gala affair stated off with the new Mayor, Duncan McPhail of the new municipality of West Elgin taking his oath of office and allegiance to serve queen and country to the best of his ability.

The next one to be sworn in was Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick followed by councillors Brad Bandeen, Bob Coles, Paul Gangle, Mike Mooser and Trudy Balint.

After the council had been sworn in by administrator - Treasurer Joanne Groch, Rev. Colin Stover blessed the council.

The passing of the ceremonial gavel from the old guard to the new Mayor was next as Ex- Reeve Harry Mezenberg transferred the traditional gavel of power to Mayor McPhail.

Once all the ceremonies were completed each member of the new council made a brief statement of their hopes and dreams for the new municipality of West Elgin. This is what they had to say : Mayor Duncan McPhail: He welcomed the new council to chambers and said that he thought that the mix of old and new faces would be a good mix to lead the new municipality into the next century. He especially welcomed the new members to the fold as their fresh ideas and new concepts would be helpful in forging the new council into an effective unit.

Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick stated that he felt that the mix of new and old would be up to the task of meeting the challenges that lay ahead.

Councillor Paul Gangle stated that he was honoured to be a member of the new council and that one of his pet projects would be to see if an amalgamation with Dutton Dunwich could be possible in the near future.

Councillor Mike Mooser stated that he was proud to be a member of the new council and that he would like all the other members of council would do their best in serving the residents of West Elgin.

Councillor Balint stated that she was honoured to serve on West Elgin's inaugural council.

Councillor Bandeen stated that he was excited about being on council and that he looks forward to helping meet the challenges that lay ahead for the new municipality.

Councillor Coles stated that he looks forward to helping to make West Elgin a prosperous place for residents to live in.

After each councillor made their brief statements the new council got right to business and passed a few standard by - laws that are needed to form any new council.

Some of the problems that the new council will have to face in the coming year is what to do about library services in our area because of a reduction in funding from the county level.

Finding ways to cut costs on existing services without reducing the level of service we now enjoy without raising taxes or imposing user fees on local taxpayers.

Probably the most monstrous problem will be that of the costs of policing.

Another task the new council will face is what to do about the West Lorne Town Hall.

These are just a few of the many issues that are on the plate for the new council. It will be interesting to see how they will tackle these problems and the solutuions they choose to make West Elgin a prosperous place to live and work in .

The next council meeting is on January 22/98.

The Kiwanis Shopping Spree Winner Was David Wheeler $ 500



*It was a changing of the guards this past week as outgoing Reeve Harry Mezenberg presented West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail with the gavel to officially signify the beginning of a new era of council in West Elgin.*

EDUCATION JUNE 15 1995

## WESS ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



*Athlete of the Year awards were recently handed out at West Elgin Secondar School. Pictured here are: (left to right) Senior Athletes of the Year Mac Littlejol and Sylvia DaSilva and Junior Male Athlete Simon Ecker. Absent is Jun Female Athlete Jody McLachlan.*

# New Principal at Aldborough Public School

While most of us were enjoying the summer holidays the staff and caretakers at Alborough Public School were busy cleaning halls, rooms, getting books ready andsetting up this years curriculum under the watchful eye of A .P. S.'s new principal Betty Clements.

Betty comes to A.P.S. with years of teaching experience under her belt. Betty is no stanger to running a school the size of A.P.S. as she held Vice-Principal positions in Dutton and Edward Public School in St. Thomas.

She states that " she is looking forward to the challenge of being principal of A.P.S. and that she looks forward to working with her staff, students, and parents in the coming year.



Pictured is Aldborough Public School's new Principal Betty Clements who will be at the helm of the school. Betty is replacing former Principal Dave Ballantine who served Aldborough faithfully for many years. Photo by Brian Outhouse

SEPT 5/95



Pictured are Robert Thibert, Principal of St. Mary's and St. Thomas More School, Father O'Donell, Dillon Pinter and Bonnie Roest cutting the ceremonial cake at the closing ceremonies of St. Thomas More School. Photo by Brian Outhouse

# St. Thomas More School... the closing of an era

by Brian Outhouse

Area politicians, teachers and teary eyed former students gathered at St. Thomas More School in Rodney to participate in the closing ceremonies of the school which saw hundreds of area children pass through its doors over the years.

The school was first built in 1956 when the board purchased four acres of land from Walter Zynski at a cost of $3,500. Construction was started soon after and on September 9th, 1957 the two room school opened its doors to the public with an initial enrollment of 54 pupils.

The first Principal of the school was Miss Genevieve Heenan who taught grades 5-8 while Miss M.E. Freiday taught the junior room which had 34 pupils.

As the years passed the two room school became cramped and in 1963 two more classrooms, two storage rooms and a custodian's room were added to the school.

The school remained on it's own until it amalgamated with the Elgin County Separate School Board in 1969.

Attending the closing ceremonies of the school was Father O'Donnell who supervised the sod turning of the school back in 1957.

A Mass was held by Father Paquette from St. Mary's Chyurch in West Lorne, but the students played an important role in the closing ceremonies as they took part in the ceremony by reading several passages from the scriptures.

Area politicians and teachers praised the staff and students of the school for their hard work and dedication to the betterment of the community and laying the groundwork for solid citizens.

Tears welled in the eyes of former students as the present students and the old school, were blessed for the last time and as the crowd filed out of the building, along with it went the many memories of their youth. The school will sit idle , with only the faint echoes of children laughing and playing echoeing from the hallowed halls of this grand institution.

Next Wednesday will b moving day for the teachers an staff of St. Thomas More as the move to their new quarters at St Mary's in West Lorne. The closin of the school will mean that al separate school students wil attend St. Mary's School after th Christmas break, making it easie for students, parents and staff alik to educate their charges.

The closing of the old schoo was an end of an era but it wa also the dawn of a new age for th Separate School Board in this are

December 20, 1995

EDUCATION 1996

FEB. 21/96

# A.P.S. Grade Two class dreams of Jurasic Park

by Brian Outhouse

Mrs. Mooser's grade two class at A.P.S. have just completed their studies on the dinosaur era and to celebrate , the class got a chance to make their own version of what dinosaurs looked like.

No, they didn't experiment with DNA like they did in the movie to make their creatures which roamed the earth millions of years ago.

The class made their creations from greenware clay with the help of Mrs. Fordham who instructed the youngsters in how to mold the clay in various shapes to create their voraciuos looking beasts.

After, each student made their dinosaur Mrs. Fordham will take the creatures home with her and fire the clay, returning each piece to the class as a ceramic figurine.

The class will make a trip to the Children's Regional Museum in London in the near future to learn even more about dinosaurs.

It was a great way for the class to end this section of their studies where they learned all about these ancient creatures which controlled the earth for many years.



Pictured are some of Steven Spielberg's helpers, actually they are some of Mrs. Mooser's grade two class at APS. From left to right back row they are : Laura Ford, Scott Manneke and teacher Mrs. Mooser. (Front Row L-R) Erica Eckersley, Danielle Fordham, Instructor Mrs. Andrea Fordham,, Terri Mosher, Steven Robertson and Blair Noddin. Photo by Brian Outhouse

March 5, 1996



VANDALS STRIKE -- Peter Soos ,is seen changing one of the many tires that were damaged by vandals recently in West Lorne.

# Vandals cripple West Elgin's school buses, kids get day off

By Brian Outhouse

Students in West Lorne , Rodney and Dutton area got an unexpected day off from school last week as some area youths vandalized several of the Board of Education's school bus fleet, which is housed in West Lorne.

The vandals broke into the school bus compound late Monday night and punctured holes in the tires of 22 school buses making them inoperable for the Tuesday morning run.

According to a school board spokesman from St. Thomas, the vandals gained entrance to the compound by cutting a hole in the wire fence that surrounds the compound and then they proceeded to puncture the tires of the school buses with what police think was either an ice pick or an awl. The spokesman says the vandals didn't seem to do any other damage to the fleet although the tire damage will cost the board several hundred dollars to repair or replace.

OPP are investigating and later last week had apprehended a few suspects for questioning.

It took repairman Peter Soos and other maintenance men all day to repair the damage done by the vandals.

## Education Week took flight at W.E.S.E.S.

Students at W.E.S.E.S. ended their unit on flight with something a little unusual; a visit from the U.S. Coast Guard.

After making kites and learning all about flight in class, the youngsters had the opportunity to get up close and personal with the most advanced search and rescue helicopter in the world.

Lieutenant Kirk Pickering piloted the helicopter with two other U.S. Coast Guard crew members last Wednesday.

The $4.5 million chopper is the same as one featured in the popular TV show Baywatch. The helicopter which visited West Lorne is part of Coast Guard Air Station Detroit, based at Selfridge Air Force Base in Michigan. Pickering told the excited students and staff that the helicopter is capable of flying up to 196 miles per hour, has two jet engines and is especially durable because it is made of composite materials.

Pickering said Coast Guard staff do a lot of public service appearances and the crew especially enjoys meeting with young people. Among the rescues Pickering and his crew have been involved with include the recent rescue of a Rodney area couple whose light aircraft landed in Lake Erie.

May 13, 1996

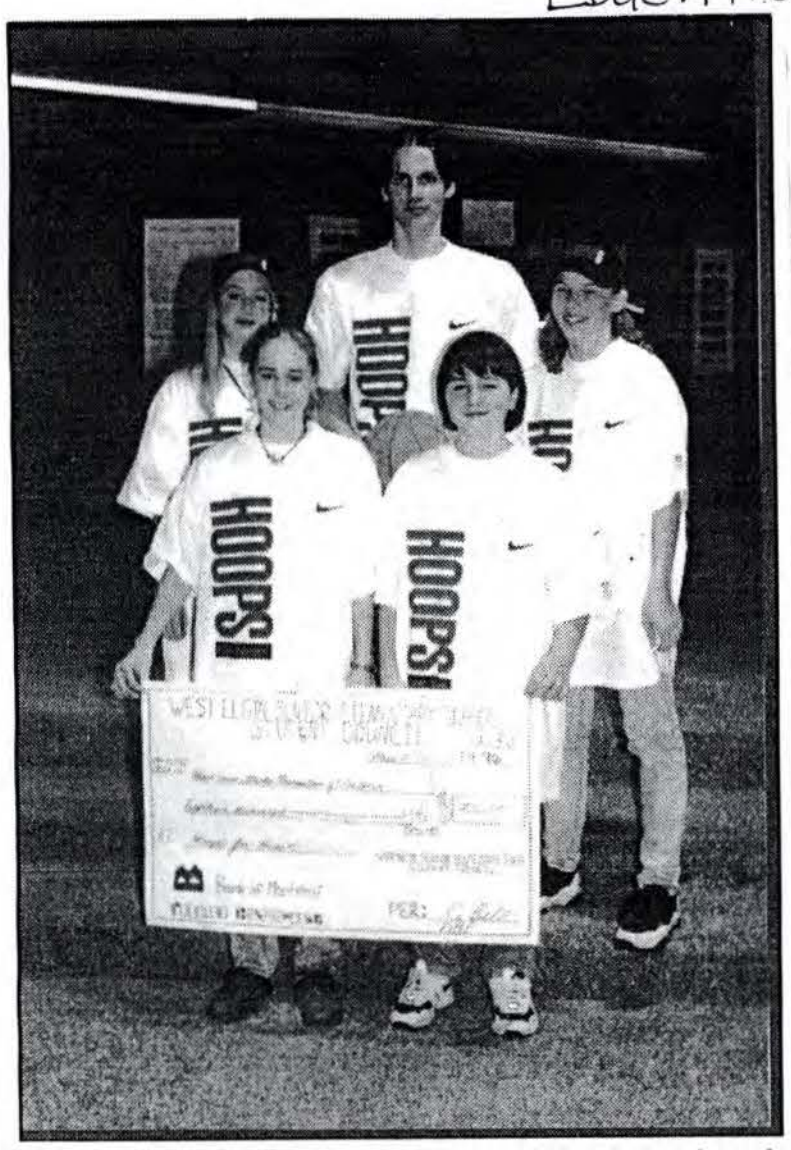


*U.S. Coast Guard Lieutenant Kirk Pickering talks about his helicopter to a group of students at W.E.S.E.S. last Wednesday. The helicopter landed in the schoolyard as part of Education Week activities at the school and as a fitting end to the students' flight unit.*

*(K. Robinet)*

EDUCATION 1996

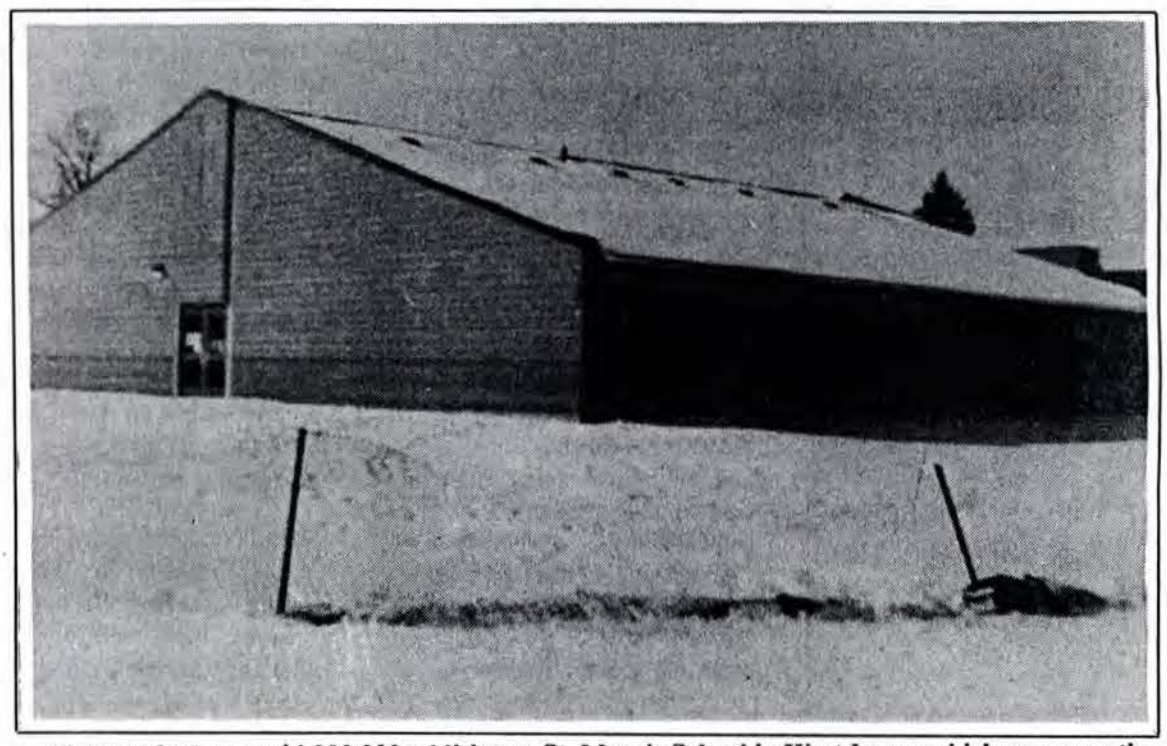
Vol. 103 No 41 January 17, 1996



*West Elgin Senior Elementary School raised approximately $1,800 for the Heart & Stroke Foundation with the Hoops for Heart program. Throughout the month of March, students who raised pledges will play three on three basketball. Teacher co-ordinators Dale Peacock and Mike Stiles were pleased with the school's first effort. Pictured here are student helpers: (back row left to right) Sarah Molner, Stewart Murray, Amy Coates (front) Krista Mooser and Hayley McMillan.*

*(K. Robinet)*

MAR. 96



**Pictured is the new $1,000,000 addition to St. Mary's School in West Lorne which was recently opened to accomodate the students from St. Thomas More in Rodney that was closed in December. Photo by Brian Outhouse**

# St. Mary's School in West Lorne opens new addition

**by Brian Outhouse**

The Separate School Board took a giant step last week when the new addition to St. Mary's School was opened to the delight of both parents and students.

The new addition to the school will now mean that sisters and brothers will be going to the same school from JK to grade eight for their elementary education and parents will no longer have to shuffle between Rodney and West Lorne if they have more than one child attending school.

The new $1,000,000 addition to the school includes a new principal's office, an expanded teachers work room, complete with storage facilities, photocopiers and a quiet room. A large library and resource center and seven huge brightly lit classrooms. The new wing is equipped with the latest technological innovations including automatic fire doors, a computerized heating and air conditioning system which circulates the air in the classrooms constantly.

Use of natural light is also implemented with huge skydomes placed in the ceiling.

With the new addition the school has also expanded its playground, and when the new soccer fields are finished behind the school, St. Mary's will have access to them.

The transition from St. Thomas More to St. Mary's for the eighty students seem to have gone smoothly as students enjoy their new surroundings.



**The Communities of West Elgin would like to welcom June Harkness to WESES. June will be the new principal at the school and she comes to the area with a wealth of experience behind her.** AUG '96




***St. Mary's rodeo winners-*** *Pictured are the high score winners for their division in the annual St. Mary's bike rodeo, along with the winner of the new bike that was donated by the Optimist Club. From left to right they are: Jeremy Conway, Lisa Silva, Danny Diaz bike winner Bruno Ferreira and Past President of the West Lorne Optimist Club Dorothy Staddon who made the presentations to the students.* JUNE 96 *(Photo by Brian Outhouse).*

96

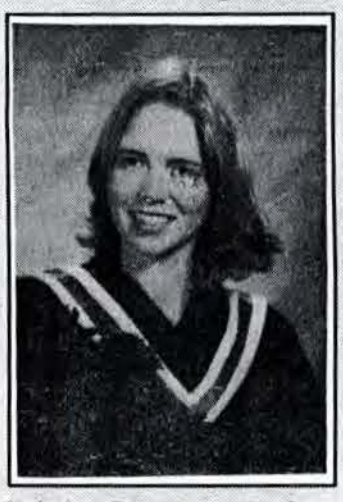
EDUCATION 1996

JULY 1996

OCT 1996

# Congratulations W.E.S.S. 1996 Ontario Scholars

***The Principal has recommended to the Minister of Education that the following students be recognized as Ontario Scholars.***



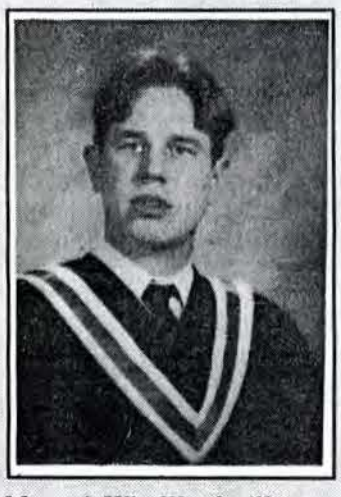
***Kristine Bitterman,*** *Rodney*
*Daughter of Roland & Louise Bitterman.*
*University of Guelph - Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology.*



***David Cassel,*** *Rodney*
*Son of Paul & Diane Cassel.*
*University of Western Ontario - Visual Arts.*



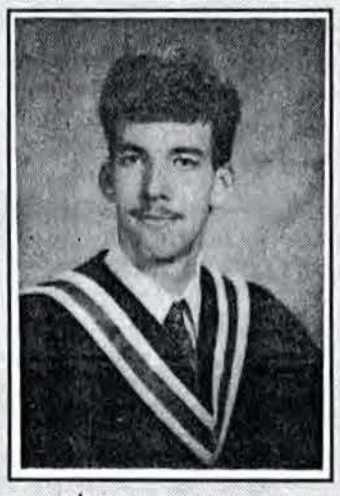
***Anita Cunningham,*** *West Lorne.*
*Daughter of Wayne & Marg Cunningham.*
*University of Toronto - Social Sciences in Journalism.*



***Marc deWit,*** *Wardsville*
*Son of Marcel & Attie de Wit.*
*University of Guelph - Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.*

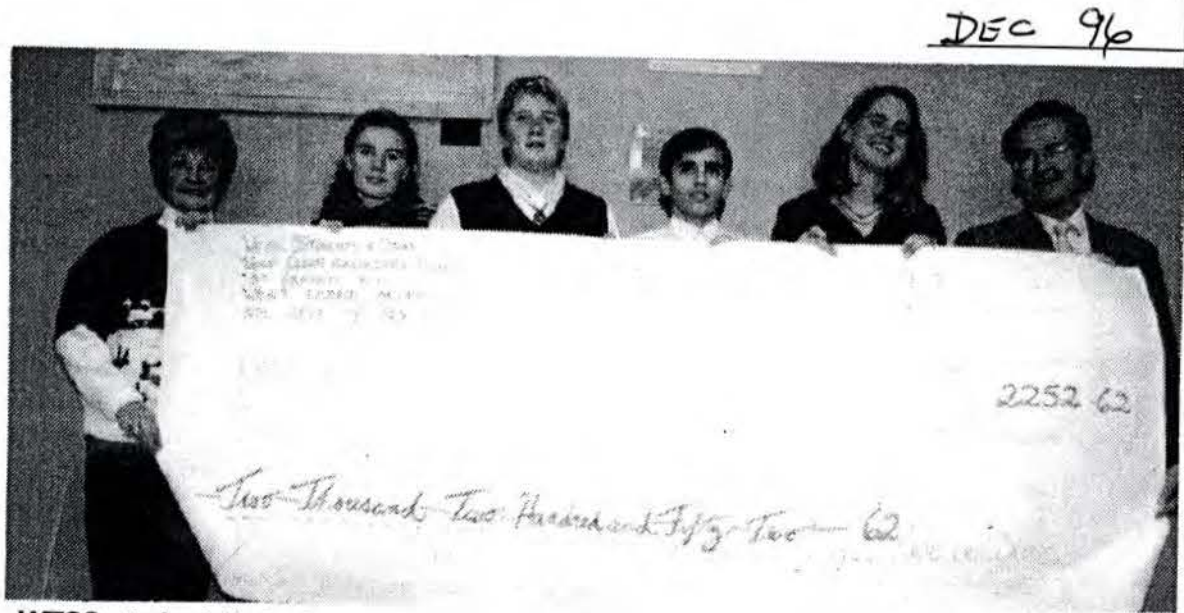


***Jeanette Heyblom,*** *Dutton*
*Daughter of Adrian & Bonnie Heyblom.*
*University of Western Ontario - Social Sciences.*



***Dan Schipper,*** *Wallacetown*
*Son of Ben & Joanna Schipper.*
*University of Waterloo - Engineering.*

DEC 96




***WESS students help the needy-*** *The students of West Elgin Secondary School held a fundraiser recently to help the areas needy. Seen presenting a cheque for $2,252.62 to Lois Carroll of the Daffodil Society are from left to right: Lois Carroll from the Daffodil Society, Jody McLachlan, Sarah Padfield, Helder Neves, Loes deWitt, and Jim Reath.* *(Photo by B. Skeldoch)*



PHOTOS/LISA VERGEER/OUR COMMUNITY PRESS

**Top winners at West Elgin's commencement ceremony included, top left: valedictorian Simone Ferriera, top male student David Cassel and top female Anita Cunningham. Bottom left: Also honored were Sarah Jarvis, Melissa Kennedy and Maxine Hounsell.**



# Ferreira says grads will create future

WEST LORNE — West Elgin Secondary School (WESS) valedictorian Simone Ferreira told fellow grads that the future was theirs to create at commencement here Saturday.

Ferreira, a student at King's College where she is studying general arts, is the daughter of Arlindo and Maria of West Lorne.

While reviewing the ups and downs of high school, she also thanked teachers for encouragement, support and friendship and "in guiding us in the right direction."

She encouraged grads to believe in themselves and their capabilities. "You can't live up to anyone's expectations but your own."

The Gov.-General's academic medal was won by Ontario scholar Anita Cunningham, the daughter of Wayne and Marg of West Lorne, who was also awarded the honor of top female student. She is studying humanities at the University of Toronto and hopes to become a journalist.

Top male student was Ontario scholar David Cassel, the son of Paul and Diane of Rodney. He is attending the University of Western Ontario in the visual arts program with a minor in computer science. He hopes to become a computer designer.

Other significant award winners:

• Kristine Bittermann, Melanie Brown, John Campbell, Aaron Coates, Anna Czajkowski, Ontario scholar Marc deWit, Joanna Ford, Ontario scholar Jeanette Heyblom, Maxine Hounsell, Sarah Jarvis, Laura Lackey, Tara Lamb, David Long, Mark Long, Cindy Machado, Denise Manchester, Jennifer McColl, Megan McIntyre, Rick Moore, Kathy Mullin, Joseph Orosz, Tim Pedersen, Lionel Pellerin, Myles Rawluk, Ontario scholar Dan Schipper, Shawn Szusz, Kelly Towersk, George Van Ceedar and Jason Weed.

EDUCATION 1997

*The Star, September 10, 1997 -*

# *Some new faces at APS this year*



Larry Anderson- Larry is the new Principal at APS. This is Larry's first appointment as Principal. Last year he was the VP at the Early Childhood Education Centre in St. Thomas. Larry is excited about the new curriculum, and the mixture of old and new staff that the school has to offer its students. He is also happy about the amount of musically inclined staff that are at the school and he hopes the music program can be an integral part of the school year's activities.

He is also pleased with the positive responses from both staff, parents, and the parents association for their help and suggestions for the upcoming year.

Larry also stated that his door is always open for parents who want to talk to him about their child.



Kellie Geffros- Kelly will be teaching the Grade 3 class at APS. This is Kellie's first teaching assignment as she has just graduated ftrom Althouse College in London. She will be involved in coaching basketball and intramural soccer at the school this year. She also teaches French to the Grade 2&3 classes.



Keith Tuohy- Keith will teach the Grade 4 classes at APS this year. He is also going to lead the Junior Choir in a special Remembrance Day Service and hopes to have other musical highlights throughhout the school year.



Kristen Egèner Black- Kristen will be teaching the Grade 4 classes at APS. This is her first teaching position and she is looking forward to meeting the parents of the area.



JUNE 25 1997

***WESES Valedictorian-*** *Andy McGuire delivered the Valedictorian address to his fellow students at the recent graduation ceremonies at the school. Andy also received the school's McKillop Award, the County English & Math Award which is presented to the top academic student in West Elgin. He also received the school's Citizenship Award.*

# *The 'Brightest and the Best' saluted at WESES graduation ceremonies*

NOV. 1997




*West Elgin teachers walk the picket lines at WESS in West Lorne.*

# Week One: Teachers digging in

**BY: WENDY TUNKS**

Teachers who teach at the four local schools say it's not about money. They say Bill 160 is a disastrous piece of legislation that will dismantle education and divide the system into two separate levels - private and public - and that it will allow non-certified people into classrooms to teach children.

On the first week of their political protest, teachers feel their hands are tied because of the government's refusal to recognize what this bill will do to education.

They said even criminals have an appeal process but with Bill 160, they are stripped of their rights to question any decision the government makes. They feel the chaos the education minister has created is a result of changing curriculum without teacher and parent input and allowing charter schools to pop up all over Ontario.

Principal of WESES, June Harkness, said the government is headed toward a system of elitism that is found in Britain, where those families with money attend private schools and the rest attend public schools. She feels it will create a "have and have not" situation thus ending the universality of education.

Many teachers demonstrating pointed to the fact in 1991 and 1992, Ontario scholars were globally recognized at the top of the academic field. The next year, the provincial government started chopping from the education budget. Children now have to share text books, librarians were let go, and shop and family studies were cut from the curriculum due to a lack of funding.

They feel comparative test results from China and Japan are skewed. In those countries, there is one language and one way of life. In Canada, many children of different cultures and languages are enrolled in the schools and teachers are given few resources to educate these children. Most English as a Second Language (ESL) programs have been dropped from schools in Ontario.

Also included in Ontario test results are students in resource programs. These children have their learning adapted to their special needs. In other countries, after Grade 6, special needs children are not included in test score results.

The teachers in this community said they want to be part of the consulting process when it comes to decisions affecting the children. Most of the teachers have never been from their desk as a result of a work action but felt it was necessary to inform the parents, students and the community on how Bill 160 will affect the classrooms in Ontario.

EDUCATION 1997

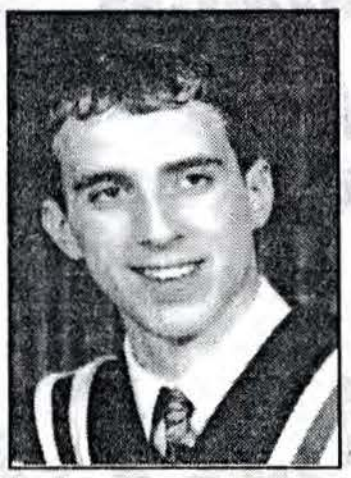
November 3, 1997

# COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES ~OCTOBER 25TH

## VALEDICTORY ADDRESS BY MATT MCINTYRE

Good evening parents, teachers and welcome back graduates. It is with pleasure that I am up here speaking on behalf of the entire graduating class. It seems that so much has changed since the first day of grade nine. We all can remember walking into this massive building with our eyes as big as saucers, not knowing what to expect. We all wanted to experience it all, happiness , sadness, love. But more importantly we all wanted to acquire knowledge. With each year we all became a little more confident. This new confidence allowed new friendships to blossom while some old friendships were discarded. We all discover what we excel in and began to understand what we were not good in. Here at West Elgin we all grew, became individuals, and became prepared for each little detour that might come along in the long road of life.

The memories contained within these walls are too numerous to count. Two examples of these memories are the double OFSAA victories. If you were unaware, both our senior girls and senior girls and senior boys volleyball team captured the gold at their respective tournaments. Other accomplishments include countless hardware at music festivals from all over won by our senior concert bands, countless awards from various math contests, the senior girls soccer team winning WOSSA, and for some of us the many breakfasts at the Town and Country.



All of these accomplishments are due in part to the wonderful teachers and coaches that helped us along the way. One of the major difference between secondary and post-secondary education, and an aspect I miss the most, in the closeness we all had with the teachers. It is certainly scary to think of what would have happened to us if we didn't have the support or encouragement of every teacher in this institution. I would like to take the time to thank the teachers on behalf of the entire graduating class.

Unfortunately, our time at West Elgin was not always a wonderful ride. There were certainly bumps along the way. Each of us experienced disappointment in our own way whether it is losing a semi-final game in volleyball or soccer or even, heaven forbid, failing a finite test. Personally, I am glad to stay the good times out weighted the bad by a wide margin.

As with and Valedictorian speech, I believe that this is the part were I use a metaphor to describe the graduating class. I have thought long and hard about this and came up with a crack. The graduating class posses many characteristics which are closely related to that of a crack. For instance, we all started out small and timid. In this stage we were only the start of a crack. As the years went by we grew physically, mentally and spiritually and in turn the crack grew also. We see at the bottom of the crack a separation line like branches stemming off a tree. This stage symbolizes our final year at West Elgin. We all became a little more independent. We all became young adults. Finally the last stage is the leaving stage. After the crack spread it seems to have stopped. This is when we said our good-byes and turned to walk away; however, if we were to look back even though the crack has stopped it is evident that the class of 96-97 has certainly made their mark.

Well friends we did it. In this day and age where education seems to have lost all respect, where we were never sure if mom or dad were going to be working tomorrow we persevered and came out on top. Everyone believe me when I tell you will never if your life meet a nicer bunch of "kids". I am proud to say I know you . The great poet Allen Ginsberg once stated in his poem "How I", that he saw the 'greatest minds' of his 'generation destroyed by madness'. I however am happy to say I saw the greatest minds of my generation rise above the madness.

Ladies and gentleman, I am proud to give you the Graduation of Class of 1997.

March 10, 1997 .




***West Elgin Wildcats senior girls' volleyball team brought home the OFSAA gold last week as they defeated Rockway Mennonite. Members of the team are: (back row left to right) Allison Padfield, Monica Murray, Colleen Bobier, Heather Lamont, coach Dave Inglis, Marlene Lunn, assistant Ben Peco, captain Sarah Padfield (front)Teresa Small, Heather McPhail, Jody McLachlan, Judy Van Oorspronk, Krista Seed and Sarah Leitch.*** ***(K. Robinet)***

EDUCATION 1997

MARCH 24, 1997




*Over 200 WESS students took to the streets last Thursday to protest Bill 104.*

# High school students protest Bill 104

**BY: KAREN ROBINET**

Concerned about the potential impact of Bill 104 on their education, about half the student population of West Elgin Secondary School took to the streets last Thursday morning. Bill 104 is the legislation which will see the reduction of school boards across Ontario as of January.

Waving signs that read 'Kill the Bill,' '104 out the door,' and 'Save our Schools,' the students marched downtown where they staged an orderly protest, watched by police in a nearby O.P.P. cruiser.

The protest was organized by grade 12 student Sarah Simpson, who said it's the first time she's ever been so involved in something for her school.

She said the main reason for the protest was, "to prove a point to the community and the government. Just because we're not adults, it doesn't mean they don't have to consider our thoughts." Simpson said she's not opposed to the number of cutbacks to school boards. What she is upset about is the potential loss of programming at WESS as the school is swallowed up by the vast Elgin-London-Middlesex-Oxford (ELMO) School District.

Simpson said she's concerned that ultimately, programs such as art and music, as well as sports could become a thing of the past at WESS; victims of budget cuts. As a rural school on the outer fringe, Simpson doesn't feel there's any hope WESS will receive the same kind of advantages students in larger schools enjoy.

Many of the students participating in the walkout agreed.

Susan Dieleman said she's worried about the loss of extra-curricular activities, and said, "we're already a small school that gets lost in the shuffle."

"It's our future at stake," said Margery Schostak, adding that the new school district boundaries don't bode well for WESS.

Dave Joyce said, "Bill 104 and other cutbacks could take away our secretaries, librarians, sports, drama... it just sucks."

Bill Dodge is concerned that the new school district will be, "uncontrollable." He said that, "the resources already don't make it here from St. Thomas," and that situation could only get worse once WESS comes under the umbrella of the ELMO school district.

Principal Martha Foster said she couldn't officially condone what the students did, but says personally she feels proud that they took a stand for something they believe in.

"Part of the education process involves teaching students to make informed decisions," she said. Copies of Bill 104, as well as a four-page precis were available to students who wanted to examine the Bill themselves.

Foster said students were reminded to, "know what you're doing and why." She said that anyone walking out just to walk out would make a farce of the protest.

Generally speaking, she said the majority of students taking part in the protest were well-informed about the Bill and were legitimately concerned about its potential impact on the school.

Following the first period protest, most students went back to their classes.

EDUCATION 1998





# Tutor Time

*Youth Tutors Elgin (YTE) are once again taking the fear out of learning and replacing it with fun with one-on-one tutoring, after school clubs and other programs. YTE is a Youth Service Canada project funded by Human Resources Development Canada and administered by the YWCA of St. Thomas-Elgin. The program is made up of 12 individuals who are out of school, out of work and between the ages of 18-24. They are hired full-time for a 30 week period. Three centres of operation - East, West and Central Elgin - have been established in order to meet literacy needs. The tutors for the West Elgin area are, from left, Tim Nelhams, Angela Larson, Suzie McKnight and Melissa Skirtschak. Along with visiting local schools, the four also work out of the West Elgin Health Centre. The program will be seeking volunteers to continue the program once the 30 week period ends in July. For more information or to volunteer your time with YTE, contact any of the local tutors at 768-1715.*



***Mr. Lawrence's grade eight students from W.E.S.E.S., pictured here with Helen Mooser and Terry Heeney, collected the largest amount of nonperishables of all the different classrooms to donate to the Daffodil Society***

## WEST ELGIN SENIOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE

WESES has just completed its annual Christmas food drive in support of the local Daffodil Society.

Teacher organizers, Dale Peacock and Sharon Nielson, congratulate the students and parents for their support. This is by far our most successful campaign, as we received:

-about 2,000 food items

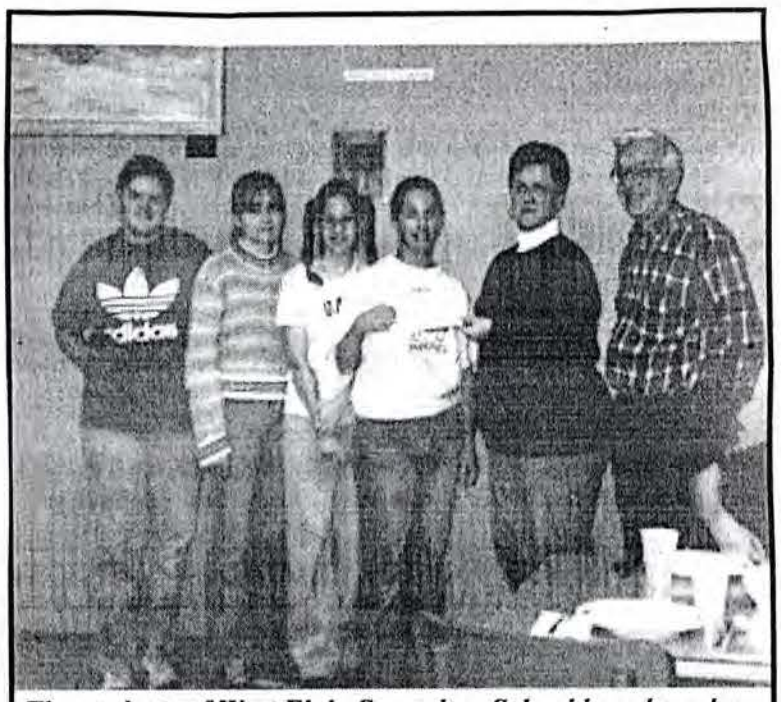
-$200.00 cash that will help purchase turkeys

-$143.00 in Canadian Tire money to purchase gifts for children.

Thanks must go to Jake Fischer (Student Council President), Mrs. Fischer and Jonathan Fleming for going to London and purchasing these gifts.

Special thanks go to class 8L, 7B and Junior Kindergarten for their incredible effort.

Well done, WESES.



***The students of West Elgin Secondary School have been busy fundraising for the Daffodil Society's Gift to Gobble. The school raised $1345.99. Here presenting the cheque to Helen Mooser and Terry Heeney is Carrie Slaats. Other students present were Stephanie Smith, Tiffany White and Shannon Lundy. Total funds raised over the past four years is $6500.,Mrs. Eggel's grade 10 class ranked top fundraisers. The teachers served a meal to students showing thanks for a job well done.***

EDUCATION 1998



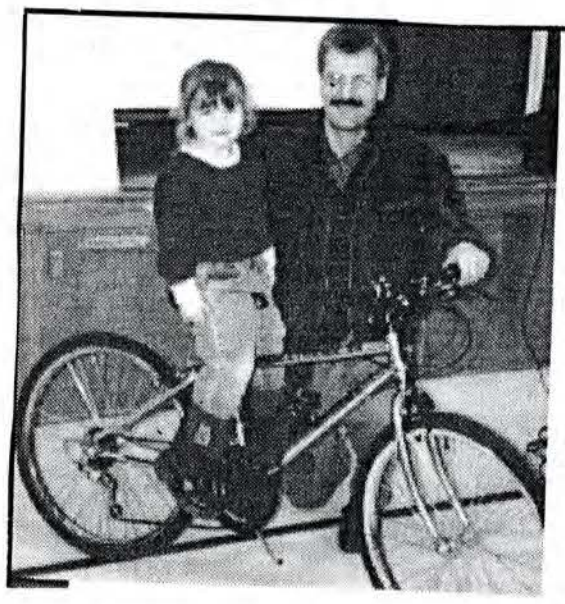


*No, these are not the new uniforms at Aldborough Public School, although these students wouldn't have a problem with it. The Grade 1 students recently completed a unit on clowns and wrapped up their studies with a little clowning of their own. Here, Brett Fleming, left, Jacob Zoller and Kayla Denomme concentrate on the task at hand - the bean bag toss*

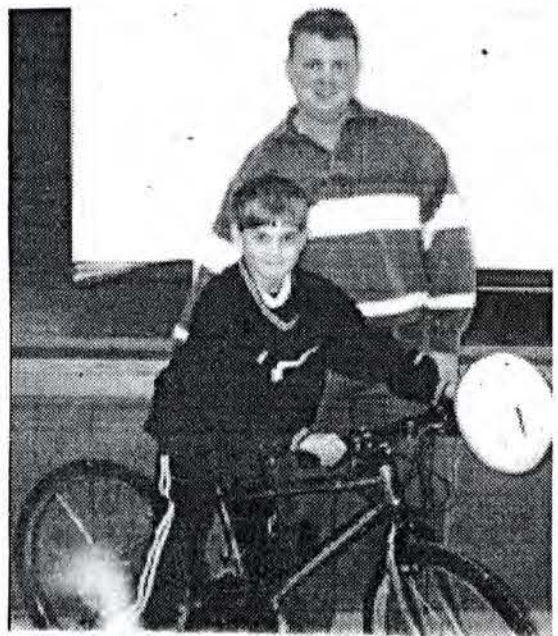



*With February being Heart and Stroke Month, students from West Elgin Secondary School are will once again be knocking on doors to collect money for the local campaign. Approximately two dozen student volunteers will be canvassing neighborhoods in West Lorne and Rodney until the end of February. Here, West Lorne resident Bonnie McGill talks with students Donna McKillop (Gr. 11) and Celia Almeida about the campaign. The students of WESS wish to thank the residents of West Lorne and Rodney in advance for their support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation.*

FEB 28, 1998



*There were about 120 adults and children on hand for the Fire Safety Awareness Night At Aldborough Public School recently, presented by Rick McFadden of the Rodney Fire Fighters and hosted by West Elgin Mutual Insurance. Two lucky winners went home with new bikes. Above, Emily Varga receives her bike from Bernie Wiehle of Orford Farmers Co-Operative, while below, David Clements tries out his bike with David Fink from W. G. Thompson & Sons. The two companies generously donated the bicycles for the draws.*



EDUCATION 1998

March 9, 1998



*Students at WESES were making beautiful music together recently as 59 of them participated in the recent St. Thomas Rotary Music Festival. The students participated in everything from solos, duets and trios to quartets, small ensembles and bands. The alto saxpohone quartet were the school's representatives at this past Friday's Key Notes Concert at the Salvation Army in St. Thomas. Huge thanks goes out to the students for their efforts, the parents for theri support and Heather Koscik for practising with the studnets and accompanying them to the festival.*




*The West Lorne Optimist Club held its annual Oratorical Contest recently at St. Mary's School. Contestants competed for top honors in order to move on to the zone finals. Here, Optimist Club representative Jim Coburn poses with participants (in back row) Bradley Tunks (1st), Kyle Van De Vooren (2nd) and Brooke Roest. In front are Richa Sharma (1st), Simone Loeters (2nd), Devon Johnston (3rd) and Becky Koscik. Tunks and Sharma will move on to the zone finals. From there they can advance to the regionals and then the district finals, where winners receive a $1,500 scholarship.*

March 18, 1998




# *WILD CATS STRIKE AGAIN*

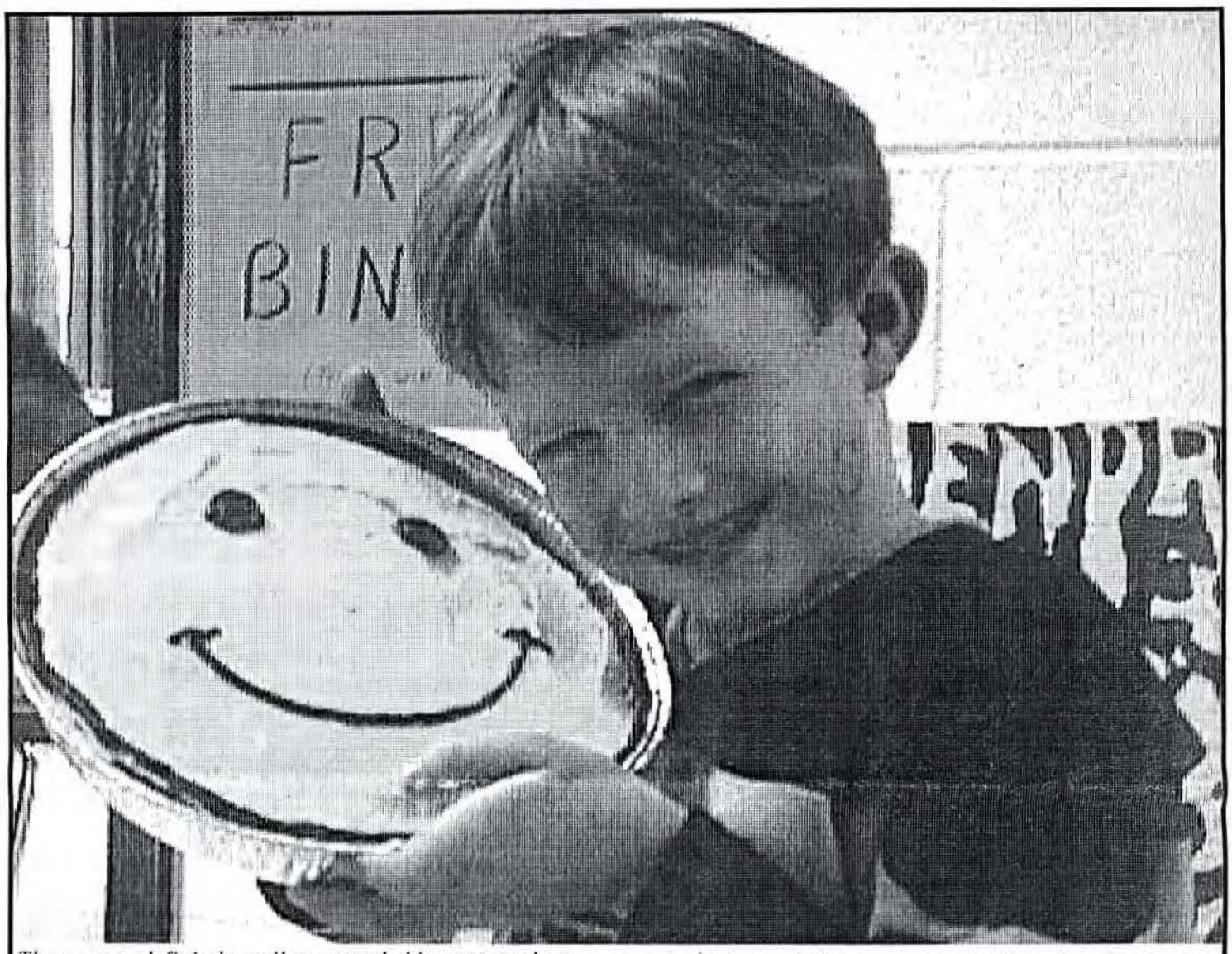
## Congratulations to W.E.S.S. Senior Girls Volleyball for winning the O.F.F.S.A. championship for the second year in a row!

Thursday, March 12, the West Elgin Wildcats defeated Clarke High School of Newcastle, Ontario with a 15 - 9 and 15 - 3 win. The starting 6 were Krista Seed, Monica Murray, Judy VanOorspronk, Jennifer Arvai, Marlene Lunn and Allison Padfield.

103

EDUCATION 1998

March 2, 1998




*There were definitely smiles around this past week at Aldborough Public School as they held Funfest '98. There were prizes, games, baked goods, crafts, hot dogs and so much more. It definitely kept parents, teachers and students busy to try and do it all. Here, six-year-old Evan Labadie does an imitation of the cake he just won at the Cake Walk game. The event managed to raise just over $1,700 for the school's Volunteer Parents Association. See additional photos on Page 3.*

# 452 teachers laidoff

***13 teachers lose jobs in West Elgin area***

**Paul Mayne**
*The Chronicle*

Due to the result of the government's new funding formula, 452 teachers in the newly formed Thames Valley District School Board were given their pink slips last week. The layoffs will take effect at the end of this school year.

"The Board is disappointed to have to issue these notices, and we regret the obvious impact on staff," said Heather Wice, chairperson of the Thames Valley District School Board. "We are hopeful that, as we continue to analyze the provincial formula, some of these teachers can be recalled."

The notices include 327 secondary teachers and 125 elementary teachers. Some of the individuals receiving their notices work part-time, therefore, the 452 notices equate to 404 full-time equivalent teachers jobs (303 secondary and 101 elementary). This now brings the number of full-time equivalent teaching jobs at the Board to 4,727.

Wice adds, however, that she remains concerned that fewer teachers will be available to provide support for programs and co-curricular activities in the schools while the student population continues to grow.

Of the 13 teachers laidoff in the West Elgin area, the breakdown is as follows:

APR. 6, 1998 The West Elgin Chronicle



*Students from Helen Mooser's Grade 2 class at Aldborough Public School created some scary critters recently - prehistoric friends, to be exact. The class visited the Children's Museum in London to check out the dinosaur exhibit and upon return made their own creatures. Showing off their dinosaurs are (in back) Amanda Russell, Jacob Ferguson, Robert Nutel, Justin Lapadat and Aaron Ford. In front are Charlotte Noddin, Kaitlynn Connolley and Jamie Vanceeder.*

EDUCATION 1998



# Happy Retirement!



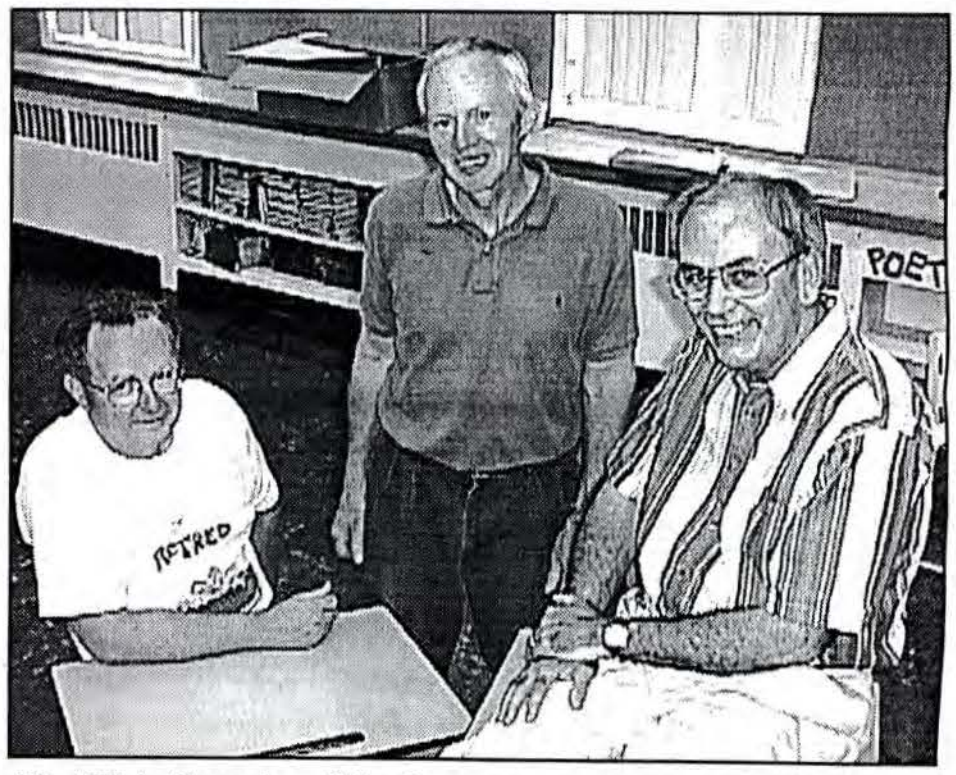
**West Elgin Senior Elementary School** - *Elaine Brown (Junior Kindergarten).*



**Aldborough Public School** - *From left to right, Ebba Schmid (Grade 1), Helen Mooser (Grade 2), Lisa Wolf (Learning Support Teacher), Sylvia Fischer (Secretary) and Ron Alderton (Grade 5).*



**Dunwich-Dutton Public School** - *Front row from left, Ruth Agar (Secretary), Anne Reeves (Grade 3), back row from left, Karen Sloetjes (Music) and Winnifred White (Grade 5).*




**West Elgin Secondary School** - *From left to right, Jim Reath (Head of Math Department), Colin Kittmer (Math & Computers) and Bob Karn (English, Head of French Department). Absent from photo is Vince Rocco (Business).*

## *A.P.S. BUTTERFLY GARDEN EXPANDS*



***This week seemed the perfect autumn time for Mrs. Bandeen's Kindergarten class to plant the very own daffodils. The grade 6 students assisted with the planting (roots down) of over 200 bulbs that will be showing their presence come spring.***

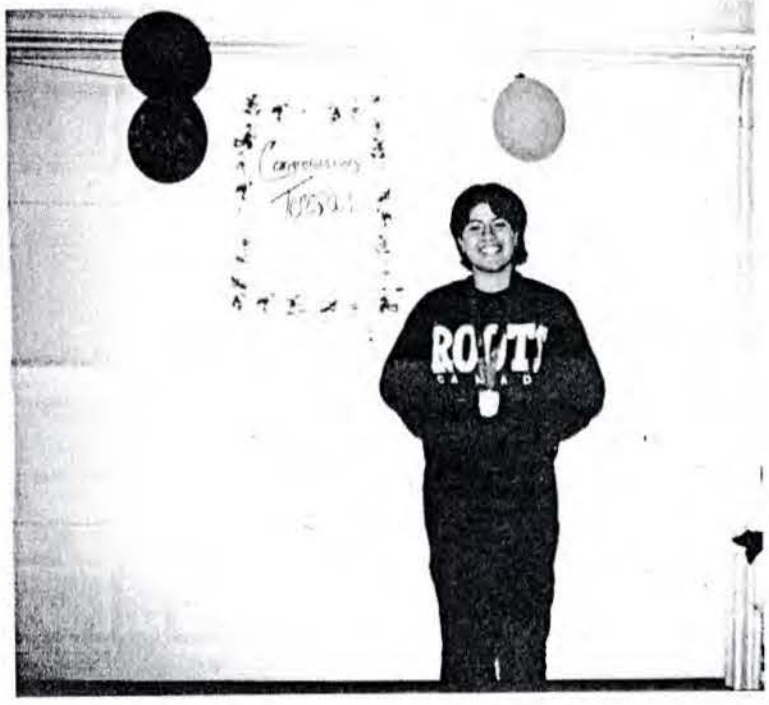
***Mrs. Lippold and Mrs. Laurence of West Lorne Horticultural Society were on hand to answer questions.***

***Mrs. Peternal and Mrs. Waterworth and Committee welcome you to enjoy the array of colour over the seasons.***

105

EDUCATION 1998

# LOCAL GIRL GOES TO OFSAA



Theresa DaCosta a grade eleven student from West Elgin Secondary School has just returned from Sudbury where she was entered in the shot putt event. She was the first student from West Elgin in 40 years to make it this far and last year Coach Coran talked to Theresa about her talent and she then decided to go our for shot putt this year. This year was the 50th Anniversary of OFSAA and before arriving at OFSAA Theresa competed at the local track meets; Oxford Elgin meets, WOSSA and then onto OFSAA.

On Friday she travelled to Sudbury where she says it was very cold and began competition on Saturday at 9 a.m.

Theresa says that the best part of the competition was watching the top athletes from Ontario competing and 46 medals went to London area schools of which 19 were gold. Some of the different things they were able to do while there were visiting Science North; Big Nickel; the Imax theatre and bowling; and also took a trip into the mines at Sudbury.

As a community we are very proud of Theresa's accomplishments at every level of competition and at this year's OFSAA meet she came home with a silver medal. CONGRATULATIONS THERESA from everyone in West Lorne.



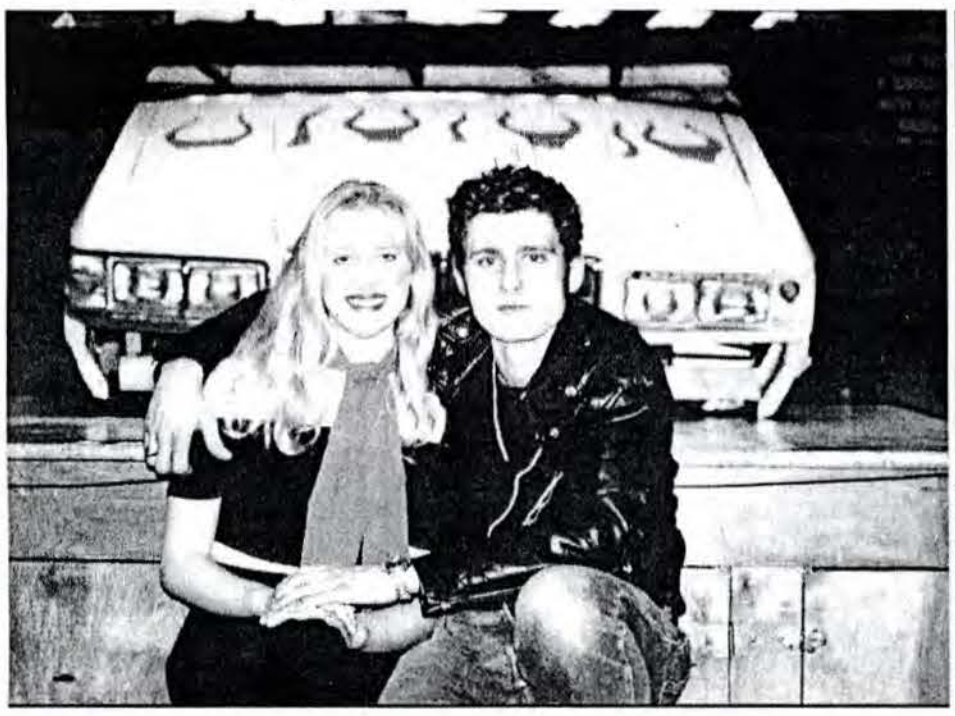
# Provincial Champs!

*The Bantam Boys Forest City Volleyball Club won the Ontario provincial championship in Oshawa recently, taking care of Ottawa in the semi-finals and Durham in the finals.*
*The team includes, back row from left, Cathy Robinson (asst. coach), Aric Sudicky, Steve Hebden, Chris Robinson, Pavel Kucharski, Andrew Gottschalk, Pierce Brudnell and Joffre Ribout (coach). Front row is Mark McKillop, Shawn Brac and Frank Longo.*

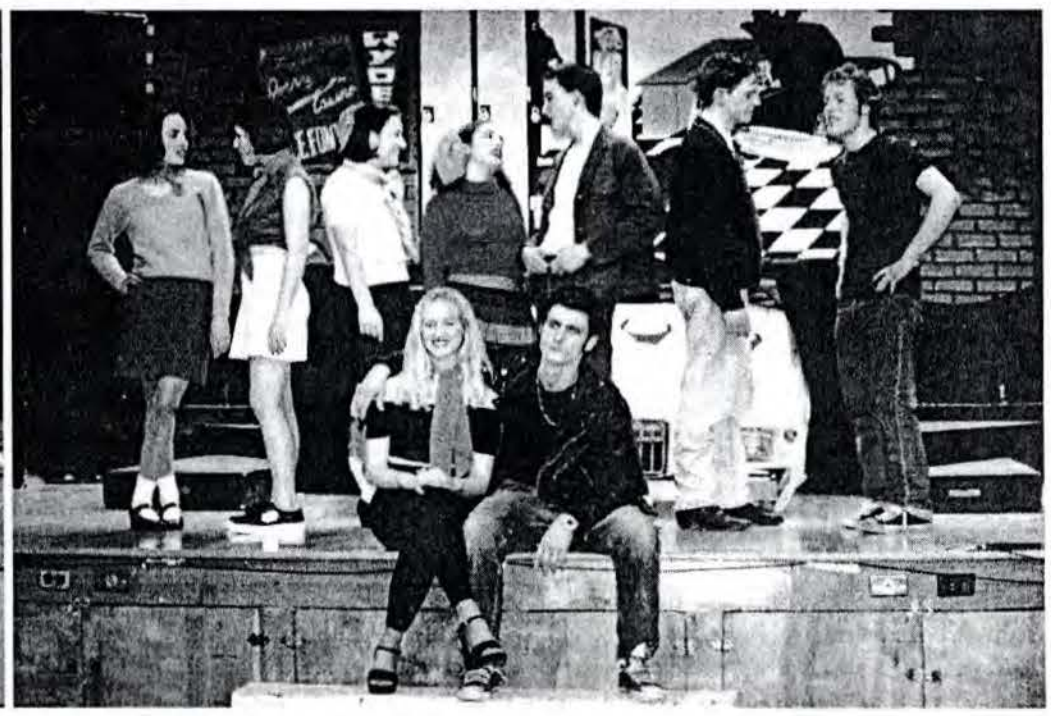


# I DID NOT FORGET ANY OF YOU

# GREASE



Grease Lightening - Charlene Carroll and Alex Nesic



**Grease Lightening:** Front Row: Charlene Carroll, Alex Nesic. Back Row: Erin Deyle, Lisa Vergeer, Lisa Smith, Kasandra Langevin, Carl Prey, Dan Boyd and Travis Boyd.

# Grease a Great Success

West Elgin Secondary School performed the school play "Grease" last week running from April 1st to the 4th. It was a wonderful and pleasurable play to watch. Everyone involved did remarkable. The band played well, the voices were admirable, and the acting was believable.

The play was directed by Mr. Paul Sydor, with musical direction by himself as well as Cheryl Koscik.

The band members consisted of: Cheryl Koscik on piano, Nathan Ouellette on lead guitar, Bruce Bobier on rhythm guitar, Kevin Bobier on bass guitar, Aaron Welch on drums, Shannon Cushman on first tenor saxophone and Melissa Eston on second tenor saxophone.

Choreography was done by Charlene Carroll and Lisa Smith.

The cast of the play included: Charlene Carroll as Sandy, Lisa Vergeer as Rizzo, Lisa Smith as Frenchy, Erin Deyle as Marty, Kasandra Langevin as Jan, Kelly Morden as Patty, Heather Haskett as Cha-Cha, Amy Champigny as Miss Lynch, Alex Nesic as Danny, Dan Boyd as Kenickie, Rob Cozzolino as Doody, Travis Boyd as Roger, Carl Prey as Sonny, Josh DeBoer as Eugene, Cory Welch as Vince Fontaine, Scott McPherson as Johnny Casino and Nathan Wright as Teen Angel.

All the cast and crew of this play should receive a standing ovation and plenty of applause. They all did an astounding job.

Given the limited equipment, and knowing that the stage in the high school is not made for a big production such as this, they made do with what they had, and showed the audience that they could still put on a marvelous performance.

Hats off and a round of applause to the cast and crew of "Grease."

106

EDUCATION 1998



# W.E.S.S. ONTARIO SCHOLARS

*The Principal has Recommended to the Minister of Education that the following Students be recognized as Ontario Scholars.*



***Peter Benneto, Dutton***
***Parents:*** John and Norah Bennetto
***University:*** Waterloo
***Program:*** Honors Co-op Computer Science
***Career Ambition:*** Bill Gates Jr.



***Simon Ecker , West Lorne***
***Parents:*** Simon and Brenda Ecker
***University:***University of Guelph
***Program:*** Bachelor of Science in Agriculture
***Career Ambition:***Agriculture Profession



***Zidra Ferreira, West Lorne***
***Parents:*** Arlindo and Maria Ferreira
***University:*** Waterloo
***Program:*** Environmental Engineering



***Cindy Holland, Fingal***
***Parents:*** Ken & Elaine Holland
***University:*** Brock University
***Program:*** Honours Linguistics & Applied Language Studies
***Career Ambition:*** Speech Pathologist



***Brad Kriter, Rodney***
***Parents:*** Lorne & Helen Kriter
***University:*** Waterloo
***Program:*** Mechanical Engineering
***Career Ambition:*** Mechanical Engineer



***Monica Murray, Wallacetown***
***Parents:*** Dave & Brenda Murray
***University:*** University of Western Ontario
***Program:*** Beginning in Social Science then entering Honours Business in 3rd year



***Allison Padfield, Rodney***
***Parents:*** Bob & Bev Padfield
***University:*** University of British Columbia
***Program:*** Human Kinetics and Exersise Science
***Career Ambition:*** Medicine



***Christine Pennings, Dutton***
***Parents***: Henry & Coby Pennings
***University:*** Waterloo
***Program:*** Bio chemistry
***Career Ambition:*** Pharmacist



***Teresa Small, Iona Station***
***Parents:*** Fred & Louise Small
***University:*** Guelph
***Program:*** Bachelor of Science



***Margaret Ellen Stevenson, Wallacetown***
***Parents:*** Wayne & Mary Jane Stevenson
***University:*** University of New Mexico
***Program:*** Political Science
***Career Ambition:*** Career in United Nations

## *THREE NEW CURRICULUMS INTRODUCED TO ONTARIO STUDENTS*

Queen's Park-Bruce Smith, MPP for Middleses, praised the release of three new elementary school curriculums. Formally introduced by the Minister of Education and Training, the Honorable David Johnson, the new Arts, Physical and Health Education, and Frnch-as-a-Second Language Curriculums will be implemented starting this September.

"The new curriculums respond to demands for more challenging standards that are specific, clear and consistent. They are designed to improve student achievement and increase the education system's accountability to parents," stated Mr. Smith. The Arts curriculum will ensure that Ontario elementary students have formal instruction in the basics of music,visual arts, dance and drama. I also ensures students develop their crative, planning, interpretive, and critical skills by creating and performing their own works, as well as interpreting and critiquing their own work, and the work of others.

The Physical Education program helps students develop their large motor skills as they move through the elementary grades. This will be done through participation in idividual and team sports, as well as activities such as power walking, push-ups, and skipping rope. Students will also learn about issues related to their physical development and health; from good eating habits in Grade 1 to issues dealing with sexuality, and alchol, drugs and cigarettes in later grades.

The French-as-a-second language curriculum focuses on grammar, language conventions, and vocabulary. Descriptions are provided of grade-by-grade knowledge and skills that students will acquire in Grades 4-8. The curriculum emphasizes the development of oral communication first, with reading and writing skills phased in. Core French is mandatory for grades 4-8 in English-language elementary schools. By the end of Gráde 8, students must have had a minimum of 600 hours of French instruction.

"As the Parliamentary Assistant to Minister Johnson, I have been pleased to assist in the development of these new curriculums. Improving the education our children receive remains this govenment's priority," said Mr. Smith.



***Lisa Vergeer, Rodney***
***Parents:*** Henry & Mary Vergeer
***University:*** Wilfred Laurier
***Program:*** Political Science



***Matt Vergeer, Rodney***
***Parents:*** Joe & Florence Vergeer
***University:*** Wilfrid Laurier University
***Program:*** Communication Studies

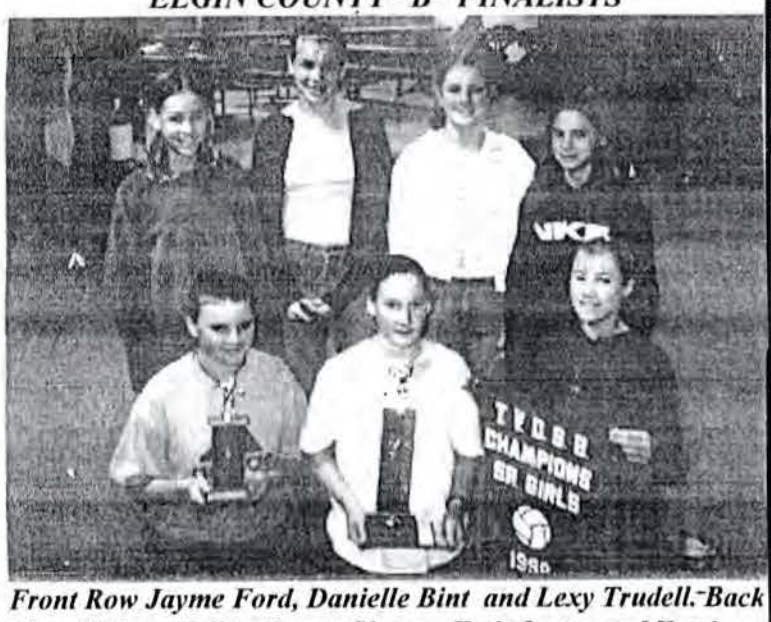


***Asaph Warwick, Wardsville***
***Parents:*** Grahm Warwick and Elizabeth Sebestyen
***University:*** Western
***Program:*** Science

EDUCATION 1998

*West Elgin Free Press - Page 8*

***W.E.S.E.S. GRADE 7 GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM ELGIN COUNTY "B" FINALISTS***

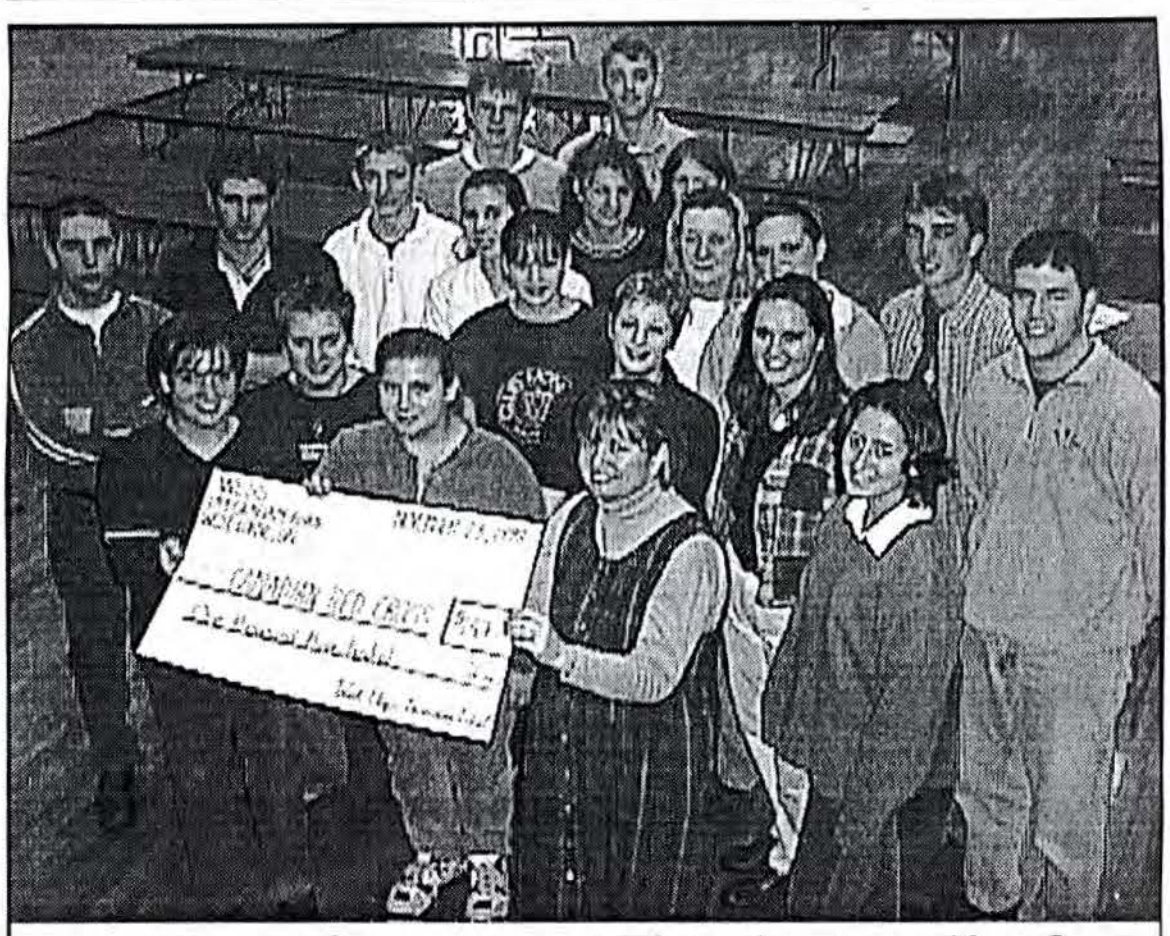



***Front Row Jayme Ford, Danielle Bint and Lexy Trudell. Back Row Tiffany Kalita, Emma Sharpe, Katie Lyons and Kendra Goos.***




*There are plenty of new faces at Aldborough Public School this year. They include, back row left to right, Tim Coombs (Gr. 3), Caryl Waters-Coulter (Secretary), Diane Pease (Gr. 5), Kim Truax (Gr. 2) and Natalie Fowler (Gr. 4). In front, from left to right, are Scott Dunn (Resource), Jennifer Russell (Gr. 1), Christine McCoubrey (Resource) and Sherry-Lynne Kirschner (Gr. 6).* SEPT. 1998





# Hurricane Mitch Relief

*Miss Beattie OAC World Issues class at WESS decided to more than just study world issues - they spearheaded a money drive to help the victims of Hurricane Mitch in Central America. More than 11,000 were killed and thousands more injured in the devastating storm. The entire school took part on the fund-raiser which brought in $1,300. Miss Sethi's homeroom topped all classes by raising $152.30. Honourable mention goes to Mr. Lougheed's and Mr. Enn's class. Here, Cindy McIlmoyle and Paula Verbrugghe present the cheque to Sharon Lechner of the Elgin-St. Thomas Red Cross.*



***W.E.S.E.S. GRADE 8 GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM - ELGIN COUNTY "A" CHAMPS***




***Front Row Kayla Long, Devon Johnston and Carolyn Tunks. Back Row Cherie Hunter, Lindsey Webber, Justina Campbell, Ashley Thompson. Absent Jennifer Pinter and Shannon Kryhul. These girls won M. Bruyere Invitational, Tecumseh Invitational and Morrison***



# Aldborough Public School Show They Care

*Aldborough Public School students have done their part once again this Christmas as they filled a number of boxes with non-perishable food items to be donated to the Caring Cupboard. Here, Sylvia Logan, representing the Caring Cupboard, receives the food from students Philip Ouellette (Grade 4), Amanda Jamieson (Grade 4), Lauren Sheedy (Grade 2), and in front Matthew Payne (Grade 2), Mitch Kuska (senior kindergarten) and Kelsie Zoller (senior kindergarten).*

108

EDUCATION 1998

## VALEDICTORIAN'S ADDRESS

***WESS October 24, 1998***

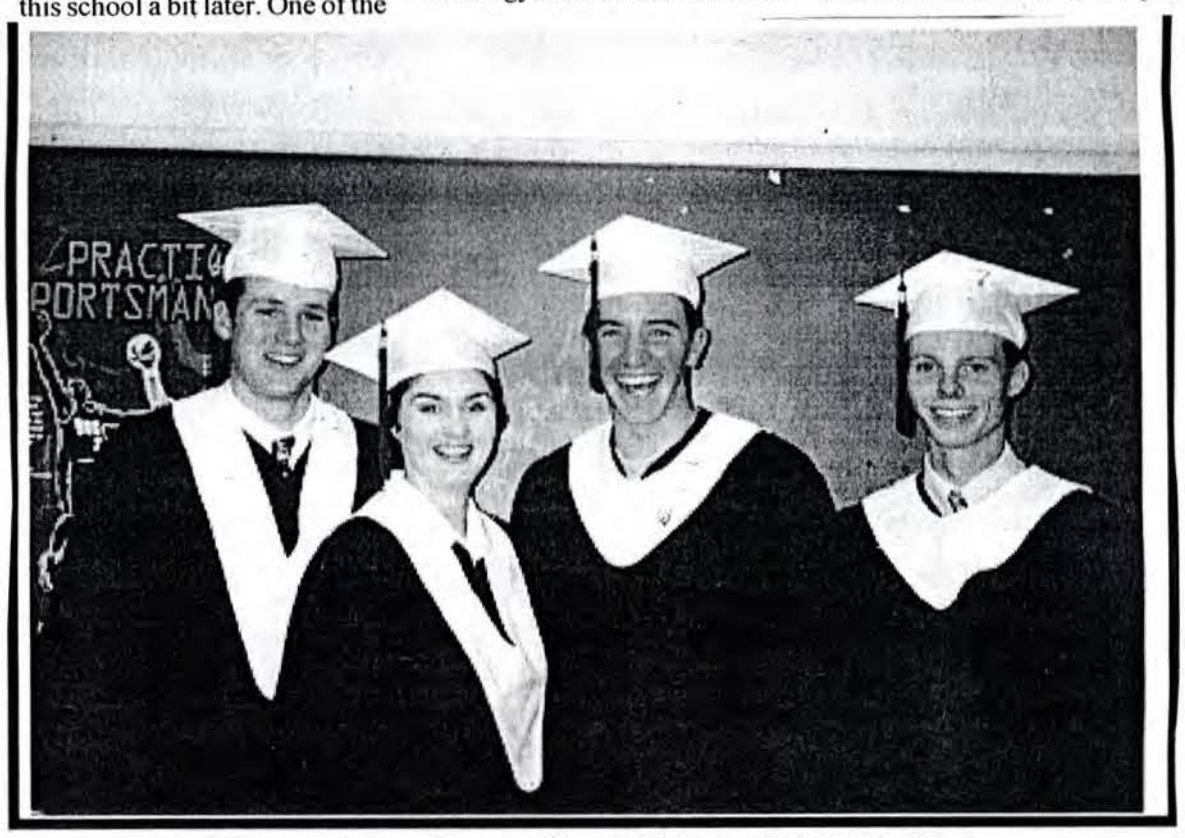
"They're going to close our school!... Graduating class, Mrs. Foster, Staff, family and friends: this is only a rumour, but for many rural Ontario schools, it is a reality. My classmates and I were fortunate to have completed our years here at West Elgin without too many drastic changes. I'm concerned about the younger students, and whether or not this school will be here for them in the future. Schools are already being destroyed in rural Ontario today. This affects our class, students from the past, and new students to come. When might the last Valedictorian speak here at commencement? When will the last national anthem be played? Where will this community be without our school? When our "rural schools are tied to the economic, cultural, and social viability of the community ... To close our school would be like closing our community."* As I looked back over the past years spent within the walls of this school, so many thoughts and feelings were rekindled in my mind. How about the first day of school? ***Nervous? Lost?*** But excited all in one. We anticipated making new friends, feared some teachers, or perhaps dreamed of that first high school romance. Grade nine was a time when the girls towered over the boys, we had cafeteria food for the first time, we received marks for showing up to class and behaving. Grade nine was also a time when Vanilla Ice was still considered cool. Grade nine was only the tip of the iceberg. At that time, we didn't realize the significance of the adventure we were embarking upon. Looking back on the happenings and memories that being together at WESS provided, we realize how truly lucky we were. While thinking about what I would say today, only the most important things stuck with me. The bad times, or the disputes among peers and with teachers, or even that time in detention, all seemed quite insignificant. The pressures of student life, like exams, projects, relationships and extra curricular activities were circumstances that we all shared. Together, we struggled with many of the same stresses, problems and tragedies of this small school. At times, it seemed quite difficult to overcome certain obstacles, but we used each other, our teachers and community for strength and support. We have literally grown up together. Some of us grew up here while others joined this school a bit later. One of the




***Heather McPhail was honoured with being Valedictorian for the Graduating Class of 1998.***

graduates, who moved here from another place, described how he had elementary classes in the city, and barely recognized the faces in his own classroom. This student said that being at WESS he felt like a part of something big, and loved to feel accepted. Another impressive aspect of this school was its energy. There were hundreds of memorable school trips, hot plates, band trips, concerts, and competitions. We developed many successful sports teams over the years. Track and field, volleyball, field hockey, basketball, badminton, ice hockey, football, golf, soccer, and a competitive modified sports teams. We must not forget about our dedicated cows in the pasture. Not only did they support our Wildcat teams on the field in all weather, but they also taught us many things about the birds and the bees! The SAA and Students council were both energetic and very public organizations which gave us some breaks from the usual classes each day. They were a lot of fun for us, while they also reached out to the town. These groups raised money for charitable events like the Terry Fox run, the United Way, and many food drives. Those were just the "biggies". I think that the hard work involved on our annual blood donor clinic, as well as the brave souls willing to donate blood should be recognized. Al of the other clubs like yearbook drama, dance committee, art and school reach added to the atmosphere. And Superstars? We had them too! I'm talking about the cast of our smashing production Grease. Thanks to the new hall monitoring cameras, anyone could be a star! I is a bit overwhelming to remember all of the extraordinary things that happened here. I'm sure that everyone here today has some memories stirred up from these lists of events. We share most of these memories because they were experienced

*Continued on page 6*




***Brad Kriter, Monica Murray, Simon Ecker and Kevin Bobier.***

## SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS




***Front Row Left to Right Cathy Holland, Simon Ecker. Back Row Left to Right Monica Murray, Heather McPhail, Matt Vergeer and Tina McLeod.***

EDUCATION 1998



# WEST ELGIN SENIOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Oct 15th 1998

***By: Craig Hoglund***

During this past week W.E.S.E.S. has been preparing for many upcoming activities. Student Council had it's second successful meeting. The following students were selected by their classmates for classroom representation: 7B: Jan Kool, Richa Sharma, 7C: Craig Hoglund, Jessie Jones, 7S:Jenna Campbell, Emma Sharpe, 7T: Katie Lyon, Jeff Okolisan , 8B: Matt Mistele, Carolyn Tunks, 8L: Kayla Long, Lindsay Webber, 8P: Amy Mc Landress, Sheri Hunter, 8PT: Becky Gray and Megan McLandress. These students have volunteered to be on one of these committees: Public Relations, Economics, Social or Athletics.

Saturday, October 17 was our first volleyball tournament of the season for the grade 7 and grade 8 boys. It will be held in the gymnasiums of W.E.S.E.S. and W.E.S.S. from 9:00 to 3:30. We wish you success.

Ms. Race is working with our Cross country running team preparing for the meet on Tuesday October 20th in Alymer at Optimist Park.

The interm reports will be going home on October 22. Parents with any questions please contact the school . W.E.S.E.S. is holding a book fair during the week of October 26 - 30 Students: if you have any spare change, purchase a book.

Do not forget about the musical presentation "From Bach to Beatles" on October 27th. Rifle through the closets and bring a costume to school for our Halloween dance on October 31st. Read next week's paper for more details on our school's activities.

# WESES UPDATE

October 16th 1998

***THANKS !***

Thank you for your support of the Terry Fox Run and the fundraising for Camp Celtic! Sharon Leatherdale assisted us by counting the cash and organizing the efforts and we thank her for the hours of work spent.

**COLLECT:**

We are collecting the grocery tapes from Zehrs, Dutton Knetchels, and West Lorne IGA for cash return, and now we add the collection of Campbell Soup product labels. We hope to get computers, musical instruments etc. by bringing labels from all soups and Pepperidge Farm, Goldfish crackers. Large soup can labels count as five times more than small ones, but all help the cause. Please send them in with students.

**JOIN US:**

We will be attending the Remembrance Day Ceremonies at the Cenotaph on Nov.11 to lay a wreath. Please join us in celebrating our freedom, won by the bravery of others.

**LEARN:**

The Health Unit is sponsoring a six week session locally, geared to parents of young children and early teens. It is called "How to talk so kids will listen" Call the Health unit at 1800-922-0096 for more information.

**JUST FOR YOU:**

Please use our answering service to leave messages about your child's absence from school . A message left saves our secretary hours of calling to verify your child's safety.

***CALENDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS:***

**October**

19 Vision testing for JK
20 Vision testing for JK
21 Stamp collecting workshops for interested students
22 Interm Reports go home
26 Hep B shots for grade7, School council mtg. 7:00p.m
27 From Bach to Beatles presentation :1:00p.m.
28 Cookie dough and candles are delivered- please come for your order, Magazine subscription kick off (this is for new and renewal subscription)
29 Celtic Meeting 7:00 p.m.
30 School Dance ($ 1.00 admission in costume, $ 2.00 without) 1- 3:15p.m.
31 Volleyball tournament for girls (WESES and WESS)

# ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NEWS

The JK's and SK's in Mrs. Milne's class had a super time at the pumpkin patch! They picked pumpkins for the class, saw how pumpkins were washed for the market, had a hayride , and everyone was able to take home a pumpkin. They would like to thank Joy and Dave Westelaken for the tour and also the parents who helped make the trip fun.

The SK room became a very scary looking place as they continued to decorate their room with witches, skeletons, and jack-o-lanterns. They are learning the colour words orange and black and the number 3. They also searching for as many words as they can that start with the letter p.

The Grade 1 class just completed a unit on Living and Non Living things found in our school yard. They went for a walk around the school yard and sketched a picture of what they saw.

Grade 2 enjoyed making apple crisp, but the best part was eating it with ice cream and sipping apple cider. They want to thank Mrs. Griegochewski for helping them. They also sang thankful songs and dramatized a turkey poem. They learned about the first Thanksgiving.

This month in Language Arts the Grade 3 / 4 students have been reading short stories and will begin putting together a personal collection to tell others about themselves. The new math unit is about place value and working with large numbers. In religion they buried a time capsule to preserve what they are like right now. They will dig it up when they graduate from Grade 8. They had a test on basic map skills and are moving on to learn about world maps. The science unit about habitats has just finished and they will be doing a research project. Book reports are due at the beginning of November. They are reading, reading , reading!! Mrs. Dupuis' Grade 4 students have been busy collecting, organizing and interpreting data. They are moving on to numeration. They buried their time capsule and plan on digging it up on graduation day in 2002. Environmental Studies finds them learning about the interdependence of living things. They are also looking forward eagerly to Hallowe'en. Grade 5 hopes that the turkeys they made got home in time for Thanksgiving! They are getting ready for Hallowe'en and made scary paper mache spiders. The students have received a communication book. It will contain all homework, reminders, and notes from teachers, and will be sent home each night with the students. Parents are being asked to initial the book after reading it, and checking to make sure that their child's homework is complete. The teachers are hoping that this will help students become better organized and responsible and will keep parents well informed. The Grade 6 students have completed the novel, The Ivory Claw, by Sylvia Sikundar and Mrs. Small enjoyed the personal responses by students to the story and about the conservation of elephants. The oral questions for individual chapters indicated that most students were responsible for the homework assigned and displayed a good understanding of the story. The class has been working on decimals and patterning in math. They are very interested in their science unit on The Diversity of Living Things, especially since the introduction of the microscope. In social studies they are continuing to work with the atlas on mapping skills.

The Grade 7 students had a chance to find out about preparing a big meal as they made a Thanksgiving dinner for the Grade 8 class and the staff. They did a great job and everyone was stuffed! They are working on measurement in mathematics and learning formulae for perimeter and area. In history they are studying the native peoples of Canada and are doing some research in this area. They have been reviewing their keyboarding skills on the computers and are going to learn how to use the word processing programs to do reports.

Grade 8 students are working on statistics and probability in mathematics and are making graphs, as well as interpreting them. They are enjoying their mystery and wonder unit in English and are reading mystery novels for a book report. They would like to thank the Grade 7 class for the wonderful Thanksgiving meal. In religion they have selected a community service project to work on for 25 hours in preparation for Confirmation.

Intramural sports are running for all divisions and are a form of volleyball. Students are having fun playing each other during the recesses and noonhour and are also improving their skills. Mrs.. Seed and Mrs. Dupuis have chosen a Junior Girls Volleyball team and hoping to schedule some games for their team.

The Senior Girls and Boys Volleyball teams are in full swing. They are in a league with other separate schools from Glencoe, Delaware, Byron, and London, are doing a lot of travelling and playing.

Elections for Student Council took place this week after campaigning and speeches. The Phys. Ed. Council is selling chips on Fridays. They are also helping with the intramural sports programs that are running, and are working on keeping the equipment room in the gym neat and tidy.

# A.P.S. BUTTERFLY GARDEN EXPANDS



***This week seemed the perfect autumn time for Mrs. Bandeen's Kindergarten class to plant their very own daffodils. The grade 6 students assisted with the planting (roots down) of over 200 bulbs that will be showing their presence come spring.***

***Mrs. Lippold and Mrs. Laurence of West Lorne Horticultural Society were on hand to answer questions.***

***Mrs. Peternal and Mrs. Waterworth and Committee welcome you to enjoy the array of colour over the seasons.***

OCT. 1998



*So, do you recognize anyone? Submitted by Eleanor Coleman, the picture at the Rodney basket factory was taken sometime in the 1930s. All have been identified but one (circled). Back row from left are Roy Haskell, Carl Little, Joe Payne, Lloyd Elliott, Fred Galbraith, Margaret Baxter, Rena Haskell, Albert Wells and Gord McDonald. Middle row from left are Nola Davis, unknown, John Meserschmit, Bob Gray, Bill Constant and Jim McGhan. Front row from left are Peter McVanell, Ernie Schibe, George Doan, Charlie Hyland, Carl White, Russ Knight, Frank Hurdle, Claude Shaw and Dick Johnson. If you have an idea who the person circled may be, give us a call at the Chronicle (785-2455) and we'll pass it on to Eleanor. Thanks!*



***West Lorne Public School Junior 3 & Senior 3 1927-28***

Teacher: Miss Tena McKillop

**First Row (sitting) left to right:** First person unknown; Arney Brock; Glen Ross; Leonard Brock; Jack Tochak; Fred Hill; Ken Roat; Morley Gammon; Clarence Gibson; Ray Edwards.

**Second Row left to right:**

Vera Clark (kneeling); Bessie Watterworth (sitting); Florence McGill; Edna McGill; Dorothy Loucka; Thelma Handy; Lois Carson; Merle Frank; Connie McPhail; Isobel Sloan; Mabel Gammon; Lena Webber; Jean Schlechauf; Kathleen McPhee (kneeling).

**Third Row left to right:**

Leta Butler; Margaret Scott; Archie Hill; Frank Taylor; Myron Smith; Dick Schlechauf; Ray Lemon; Dan Dymock; Gordon Smith; Cliff Brown; Glen Schlechauf; Fred Taylor; Tom Dymock; Alice Gammon; Dorothy McColl (crutches).

The names were sent in to us from Mrs. Connelly of London. Thank you.

JUNE 1995



*Gayle Bogart, AES manager.*

# AES still has a presence in West Elgin

BY: KAREN ROBINET

Unlike what's happened in years gone by, Agricultural Employment Services (AES) oes not have an office in West Lorne this year.

However, area residents do have access to the federal service through the Rural utreach Office in West Lorne. AES Manager Gayle Bogart is in the outreach office Vednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Bogart says the West Lorne branch office became a casualty of cutbacks, but says ne's pleased to be able to get out to this area weekly. She says the elimination of the easonal West Lorne office is quite a blow for the area as it has been in place for the ast 20 years.

She is now in the process of compiling a database of people looking for agricul- ural employment through to the harvest. "It's easier to get job orders in from employ- rs than it is to get people registered," she says. Bogart says it isn't easy to track down nose who are looking for work in the agricultural sector, and she says it's important or people to be registered. Even though she is only in the outreach office once a veek, Bogart says application forms are available there every day, so anyone inter- sted can stop in and fill one out.

While there are still lots of job opportunities in agriculture this year, Bogart says oungsters who have traditionally gone corn detasseling will be in for a disappoint- nent. Because of Pioneer's decision to grow its corn in the U.S., there won't be etasseling jobs this year. "It's going to be hard on young people," says Bogart. "It's een a good income for them." Detasseling has meant jobs for "a couple of hundred ids," in past years she said. However, there are still options for young people, and ogart says while there are no age restrictions for agricultural labourers, she says arents must make the final decision on whether or not a youngster can handle the emands of work.

As far as older employees go, Bogart says, "we want to hear from them because of e jobs here that are available." Each year, about 1,000 people in Elgin County find asonal and/or casual work in agriculture.

As well as matching up employees with employers, the AES also does a lot of other ings, including serving as a resource for employers. The AES is also working in rtnership with the provincial Summer Assistance Wage Experience Program and currently exploring ways of creating new partnerships to try and head off the fed- al government's plans to eliminate the service as of next March. Agricultural groups e also lobbying the government to keep the AES alive. Bogart says people can also ntact MP Gar Knutson, who she says, "has been trying to help us."

Bogart says the elimination of the AES will be a major setback to the farming mmunity. "It's such a specialized service," she says, adding that farm produce, "is different from other commodities; crops that are perishable, the weather... We ow the business."

But for now, Bogart says it's business as usual. "The jobs are here and we are doing siness," she says, adding that, "the west end has not been forgotten!"

For more information, call AES at 519-631-3240 or 519-773-5307.

HEALTH & WELFARE 1995

December 4, 1995 -

# Health centre has new program co-ordinator

BY: KAREN ROBINET

Anyone stopping in at the West Elgin Community Health Centre will see a new face.

Patricia Potter has just begun work as the new program-co-ordinator at the centre. Potter has moved to West Lorne from Brook's Falls, near Huntsville, where she was the co-ordinator of community services and community development at the Almaguin Community Health Centre.

Potter says there are a number of similarities between the local health centre and the Almaguin one, which had seniors and disabled adults as its targeted population. Potter's position in West Lorne was most recently held by Donna Lunn, and Potter says she wants to continue the work that has already been done to this point. At the Almaguin centre, which was a new facility, Potter developed palliative care, respite care and meals on wheels programs, and learned the ins and outs of working in a rural setting, where she dealt with 16 different communities.

While she says she initially met with some skepticism up north, once people got to know her and understand what she was doing, things went very well, she says. Coming from a farm family has been a definite asset, Potter says, as it enables her to understand the challenges and unique concerns of people in rural communities.

Although she is new at the job, Potter says she already has some ideas on things she'd like to do, including helping the health centre expand into the Dunwich area. She's also meeting with various community agencies to see what is available to local residents, as well as what is not. She said the health centre's board of directors is currently prioritizing what it would like to see done, and she will be working closely with them to turn the needs of the community into reality.



***Patricia Potter is the new program co-ordinator with the West Elgin Community Health Centre.***

HEALTH & WELFARE 1995



*Organizers of the Funshop held in West Lorne last week were: (back row left to right) Ron Jones, Agnes Gosnell, Mary Frances O'Hagan, guest speaker Dan Needles (front) Mary Payne and Hilde Morden.*

# Funshop brings participants of study together for results, entertainment

**BY: KAREN ROBINET**

St. Mary's Parish Hall in West Lorne was busy last Wednesday as over 80 area seniors gathered together for the Making It Happen funshop, the wrap-up to phase one of the West Elgin Seniors' Project.

The seniors' project was initiated in January of this year, with the goal of allowing seniors in West Elgin to live as full a life as possible and how new supportive housing services could best enhance seniors' well-being.

Project Co-ordinator Mary Frances O'Hagan opened the day-long workshop with a few statistics to show that the senior population is on the rise. In 1991, she said the population of Canadian seniors was 11.6 per cent, but by the year 2031, that number is expected to more than double, to reach 24.5 per cent. And, during that period, the number of seniors over the age of 75 is expected to triple. And, while 25 years ago, there were twice as many teens as seniors, by the year 2031, there will be three times as many seniors as teenagers. "We've got to do a lot of planning now," said O'Hagan.

To that end, a series of 17 focus groups was held across West Elgin, with a total of 158 seniors participating.

O'Hagan said the concept of the seniors' study is part of a new thrust to see community projects initiated and tackled by members of the community. "In the past, things have been dictated from on high, but things are changing; things are coming back to the community," she said. "We want to build momentum so you seniors can be part of the change process."

Four senior volunteers made up the project team; Hilde Morden, Agnes Gosnell, Ron Jones and Mary Payne and they were instrumental in gathering material from others to get a picture of how seniors in West Elgin perceive their assets, contributions and strengths. Much of what was discovered was very positive. "Every person in this room has an asset or a contribution they make not only in the community but sometimes around the world," said O'Hagan. Not surprisingly, study participants who reside in seniors' homes saw themselves as more dependent on professional services than those who live at home. However, O'Hagan said that residents at Beattie Haven, "have a tremendous sense of involvement in that community."

Some primary concerns of all seniors are safety, security and community support, and emphasize that socializing greatly influences a person's quality of life. Many participants discussed formal programs like Neighbourhood Watch, while others rely on a more informal system between neighbours. On the practical side, sidewalks and lighting are pressing issues for many seniors, while friends and neighbours are the most important support people for seniors, not professionals. O'Hagan said that the church is the most important institution to seniors, while local organizations are also very important, including the Womens' Institutes, horticultural societies and the Daffodil Society. Organized recreational activity is also seen as vital. Transportation came up again and again as an issue, as did the need for friendly visiting. Long distance telephone charges, particularly for seniors in Rodney and West Lorne were viewed

*(continued on page three)*

- February 26, 1996

HEALTH + WELFARE 1996



*The results and recommendations of the West Elgin Research Report on Optimizing Capacities In A Rural Community was discussed on the television show This Business Of Farming on February 25 and 26. Taking part in the program were: (left to right) Hilde Morden, Agnes Gosnell, Ross Daly and Mary Frances O'Hagan. Copies of the report are available at a cost of $5 each by calling 1-800-265-4588.*

October 14, 1996



*At Funshop 2 for Seniors, John Davidson of Jesse's Journey was the keynote speaker. He is flanked here by: Hilde Morden, chairperson of the West Elgin Seniors Project (left) and Jill Soos, chairperson of Funshop 2.*

*(K. Robinet)*



***Volunteers recognized*** *Several volunteers from the West Elgin Funshop 2 program were recognized for their talents and hard work in making the workshops such a success recently by project co- ordinator Mary Francis O'Hagen. The recipients of the awards were from left to right front row: Mary Paine, Agnes Gosnell, Hilde Morden and Ron Jones, (Middle row l-r) Jill Soos, Eleanor Blain, Mary Frances O'Hagen, and Jean Georgevich, (Back row l-r) David Haweg, Bob Walker, Terry Heeney and Keith Kelly.*

NOV 1996

April 2, 1996

HEALTH & WELFARE 1996

# Dinner for one



DINNER ANYONE - Shirley Kosky, from the St. Thomas Health Unit demonstrates to a crowd of people at the West Elgin Community Centre how to cook nutritional meals.

**By Brian Outhouse**

Area residents gathered at the West Elgin Community Health Centre recently to learn how to prepare nutricious meals. The day long event featured Public Health Dietician Shirley Kosky from St. Thomas explain to the crowd that cooking for one or two does not have to be an expensaive proposition and that a good bowl of homemade soup is full of nutrients.

Kosky used a number of charts and graphs in her presentation which depicted a wise choice of the basic food groups,dairy,meat, vegetables, and fruit to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

As for dieters Kosky explained that those people who want to lose those unwanted pounds can do so by eating smaller portions at mealtimes and start a regime of exercise.

After her presentation a group of people joined Kosky in preparing a healthy dish composed of meat, cheese, and other ingredients which all the participants enjoyed.

Kosky is available one day a week at the Community Health Centre and she will be glad to help anyone with a dietary problem as long as they have been reffered to her by her their family doctor.

The Community Health Centre has several more programs upcoming for area residents to participate in the near future.

October 14, 1996




*Helen Fawcett listens as Robert Taylor explains chiropody.*

JULY 1996



*Dr. Anna Rogers chatted with supporters (left to right) Venus Trudell, Szanadue Trudell, Tabitha Bouw and Connie Bouw following the rally for Rogers last Thursday at the Rodney Legion. The group were dressed up to protest government cutbacks.* *(K. Robinet)*

HEALTH + WELFARE 1996

# New physician in place at Community Health Centre

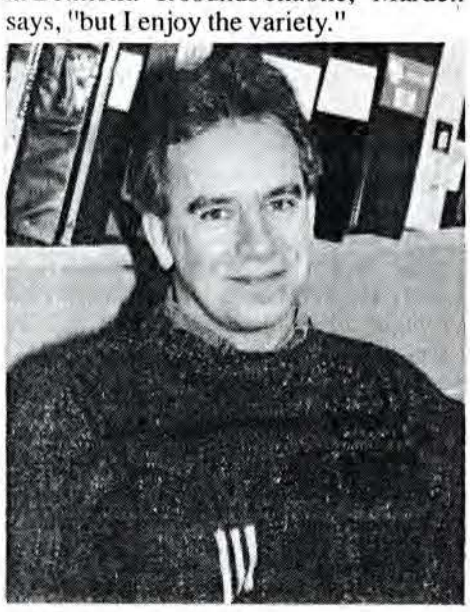
BY: KAREN ROBINET

Even though he's been working at the West Elgin Community Health Centre since November, Dr. Kevin Mardell has only recently begun keeping regular hours at the facility.

Mardell, a family physician, is now working at the health centre Mondays and Tuesdays, as well as every other Wednesday.

Born in England, Mardell emigrated to Canada as a teenager, locating in Hamilton with his family. He attended McMaster Medical School and then went to the University of Western Ontario where he had his two years of Family Medicine training.

He now lives in Belmont with his wife and two young sons. Since finishing his medical training six years ago, Mardell has been busy doing *locums* (temporary placements) for vacationing doctors, primarily in the St. Thomas and Aylmer areas. He also has his own evening practice in Belmont. "It sounds chaotic," Mardell says, "but I enjoy the variety."



*Dr. Kevin Mardell.*

When the position in West Lorne came open, Mardell felt it would be a good step for him. As much as he enjoys the variety of doing locums, "there are tradeoffs," he says. "You don't get to know people as well as you'd like to, and maybe this (position) will give me that."

The health centre currently has only one other physician, Dr. Stephen Jones, who is employed full-time. However, he is currently involved in some community outreach and developing different programs, so another physician was needed to fill the gap.

Although this is his first time working at a community health centre, Mardell says the concept is very similar to the way the Victoria Family Medical Centre in London is run. "The general philosophy is very similar to a teaching family medical centre," he says, pointing to the team environment in particular. Mardell says he enjoys the atmosphere of the health centre, and appreciates the fact that referrals and recommendations can be done internally.

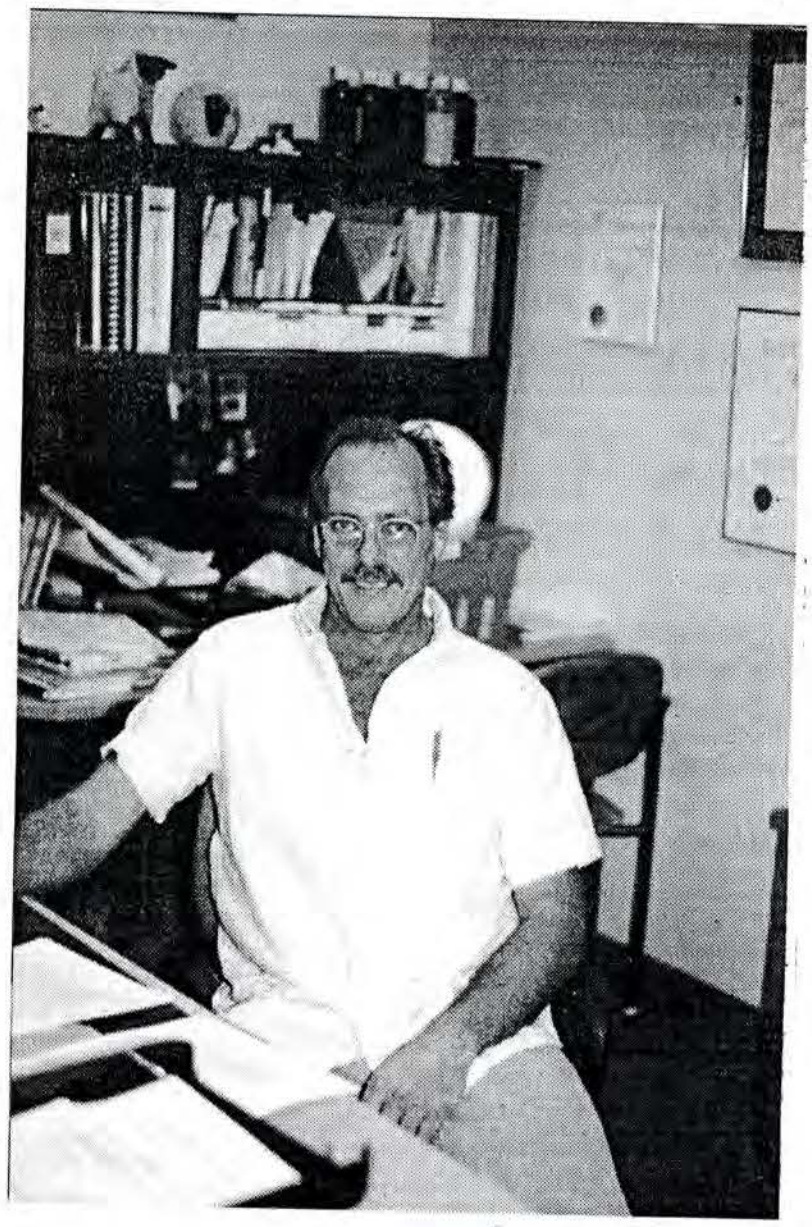
However, while he believes that health centres are philisophically the way to go in health care, Mardell says that it is a costlier alternative to the more traditional method of health care delivery. With a focus on prevention, Mardell says the benefits are more long-term than short-term, which doesn't always translate well to politicians. But, he does believe that centres such as the one in West Lorne are being looked at carefully and their benefits will ultimately be considered.

As well as working at the health centre, Mardell is also affiliated with and has privileges at St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital, while Jones has privileges at Four Counties. Mardell says he hopes to be able to work with patients from the Dutton-Dunwich area who use the St. Thomas hospital.

In addition to having Mardell, the health centre will also have the services of chiropodist Robert Taylor available on a full-time basis as of February 14. Funding has been approved that will see the 'foot doctor' working out of West Lorne full-time until at least March of next year.

For more information on the health centre, call 768-1675.

FEB. 12/96



***WECHC gets new worker-*** *The WECHC has aquired Tony Vanderloo under a co-op program to help aid and work with the youth of our area.*

November 6, 1996

# WECHC gets new youth social worker

The West Elgin Community Health Centre has added a new person to its staff. Tony Vanderloo is a co-op student from Lambton College. Tony is enrolled in the Child and Youth Worker Program which combines both classroom studies and field placement.

Tony is originally from the West Lorne area. In 1995 he moved to Alvinston to attend Lambton College. Tony pursued his college education out of an appreciation of the needs of today's youth. He feels that young people need someone to talk to and more importantly someone to listen to them. He believes that by working with them on youth related community concerns that they will be involved in finding a solution.

Tony's previous co-op placemerrts have been quite different from what he will be doing at WECHC. In Forest he worked in an open custody facility where he worked closely with troubled teens.

He also had experience working in the London Public School system where he helped young kids cope with everyday stresses that they experience.

At WECHC Tony will be involved in a wide range of activities. He will be involved in individual and group counselling at the centre as well as being out in the community working with the local schools and pulling together a youth advisory committee. Tony is at the Centre on Thursdays and Fridays.

HEALTH & WELFARE 1996



# WECHC gets new executive director

The West Elgin Community Health Centre has a new administrative director in Marina Lundrigan.

Marina comes to West Elgin with plenty of experience under her belt as she was a consultant to the non- profit sector, supporting them in new directions and programs.

She has a Master's degree in Environmental Studies from York University and she was also the co- founder of the London Inter Community Health Centre which stresses an urban multicultural theme.

After working for several years in the big city Marina felt the need to return to rural roots and that is why she chose to come to West Elgin.

She firmly believes that a small community such as ours is a tighter knit body of people and that the centre could play development of the community through various programs and services that are provided by the centre.

Lundrigan is a people person and her main goal at the Centre is to make area residents feel comfortable about the centre.

She hopes that area residents will continue to feel "an ownership" of the centre. She stressed the centre is there to respond to the community's needs.

She also stresses that the health centre is not a walk in clinic per say but the centre does offer on an appointment basis area residents primary health care with a qualified physician on the premises as well as other health professionals such as a social worker, a foot doctor, and a dietician.

Lundrigam also noted that the area is in desperate need of good health care as some doctors have left Elgin County the Health Centre will do its best to provide an excellent standard of health care for area residents.

Marina also stated that the health centre will be more involved with the community in the future as the centre has some new programs slated for the future which should be attractive to the residents of the area.

Marina urges all residents in the area to check out the centre to see just what the centre offers and make suggestions about what they would like the centre to be.

All area residents are invited to come to the Centre's Open House, September 18 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or the Annual General Meeting from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.



***New Director-*** *Marina Lundigan the new executive director of the West Elgin Community Health Centre is hard at work planning new activities at the centre. (Star Photo).*

HEALTH & WELFARE 1997



# Being a senior isn't sissy stuff, Funshop III participants hear

BY: KAREN ROBINET

Being a senior isn't for sissies. That was the theme of last Wednesday's Funshop III held at the Rodney Legion.

Sponsored by the West Elgin Seniors Project, the Funshop has become an annual event, drawing seniors from across West Elgin.

Last week's event attracted over 100 seniors who got together for fun and fellowship. "We're here to learn, to laugh, to listen to others and be listened to," Funshop chairperson Jill Soos told the crowd.

The first guest speaker of the day was Nancy Fazackerley, CEO of the Elgin Community Care Access Centre (CCAC).

Fazackerley outlined the origins of the CCACs, which were set up across the province, primarily on a county-wide basis in 1996 by Health Minister Jim Wilson.

She said the CCACs are designed to create some consistency in the delivery of services and provision of information to those interested in long-term or short-term care, as well as help seniors access services so they can stay at home longer.

A volunteer board was established in Elgin, consisting of 10 people, including local representative Jean Georgevich. In the future, Fazackerley says the plan is to move towards elected board members, similar to hospital boards.

Creation of the CCACs resulted in the amalgamation of home care services and long-term care services, forming an umbrella organization which takes in many aspects of care provided not only to seniors, but to disabled adults within the community.

Services provided through the Elgin CCAC include physical and occupational therapy, as well as homemaker services and dietary counselling. The CCAC also works as a go-between for clients and care facilities.

Fazackerley said that with patients being released from hospitals sooner than ever, the services of the CCAC are becoming increasingly important.

"We may be called in to change dressings, look at assistive devices and so on," she said.

And for those considering moving out of their homes, the CCAC will assist clients in exploring all of the options available to them. Fazackerley says her office is available to answer numerous questions and deals with queries such as is anyone available to trim the toenails of a senior who is no longer able to, or whether respite is available for senior caregivers.

She said that short-term care is available and can be a great help to seniors caring for their partners at home. Whether it's just for few days or a few weeks, Fazackerley said short-term admissions to facilities are available.

She also told those in attendance that the CCAC can help set clients up with such things as hospital beds, meals on wheels programs, or homemaker services.

She urged anyone who isn't familiar with the program, or who has questions to call. On the first phone call, a receptionist will ask for some information and determine whether or not the client needs to speak to a case manager or placement co-ordinator. "We will work together in developing a plan of care for you," said Fazackerley, adding that as the needs of the client change, so do the services provided. "We're very flexible," she said.

However, she also reminded the group that, "the health care system can't be all things to all people," and that friends and family are appreciated when it comes to caring for people.

For more information on the CCAC, call 1-800-563-3098.

The day also included smaller group discussions, entertainment and keynote speaker Eleanor Wood, who spoke on the need for a positive attitude, and suggested that, "old age isn't so bad if you consider the alternative."



*Organizers of this year's Funshop III are: (back row left to right) Agnes Gosnell, Elgin Seniors Project chairperson Hilde Morden, Funshop III chairperson Jill Soos, Jean Georgevich (front) Mary Payne and Terry Heeney.*



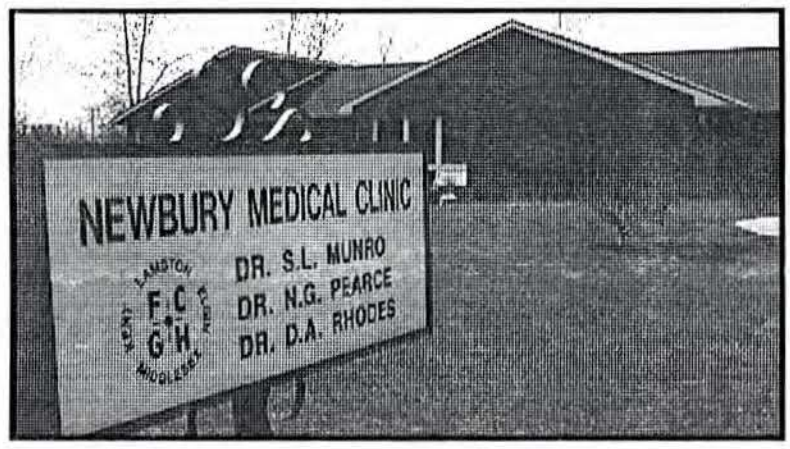
*Nancy Fazackerley.*

# Dr. Pearce, Munro leaving

The names of the two area doctors planning to leave this summer are Dr. Glenn Pearce and Dr. Susan Munro.

Dr. Pearce confirmed with **The West Elgin Chronicle** that he and Dr. Munro will be leaving effective June 30. Dr. Munro will be heading to Chatham, where her husband is a school teacher. Dr. Pearce says he is moving top the Kitchener-Waterloo area.

Both doctors are currently located in the Newbury Medal Clinic, located next to Four Counties Health Services (FCHS). According to Dr. Pearce, all medical equipment in the office, along with computers, etc., are owned by himself and Dr. Munro and will be taken with them when they leave.




With the departure of the two doctors it brings the total number of family physicians with active privileges at FCHS to just four. Of those four, only three cover the hospital's emergency room.

The four counties area, which serves approximately 16,000 residents in Middlesex, Elgin, Kent and Lambton Counties, has been recognized by the province as having a physician shortage under the Underserviced Area Program. The program states that 10 family physicians are needed to properly serve the four counties area residents.

Hospital officials continue in their efforts to recruit new physicians to the four counties area using such methods as a mass mailout to 3,500 family physicians across Canada.

## *RESOURCE CENTRE OPENS*



***Present for the ribbon cutting were Peter North-M.P.P., Trudy Balint-Councillor, Janet Pinter-Co-ordinator and Mayor Duncan McPhail.***

On Friday, September 25th the grand opening of the West Elgin Community Parent Child Resource Centre was held with a ribbon cutting.

Hot dogs, pop, balloons were passed out. Everyone was able to sit and enjoy Bill Graham and Carl Bobier as they played music for the children.

Jasper the Jester went around to see all that attended. The Royal Bank's own Lion was out visiting as well.

The proposal was brought to Council in March and with the Community's support this has become a reality. There will be a drop in centre, toy lending, lounge for parents downstairs and Tiny Tots will still be upstairs.

HEALTH & WELFARE 1998



*The Board of the Bereavement Resource Council of Elgin (BRCE) recently met to welcome Tammy Herring-Kittelberger back to the position of part-time coordinator. Pictured here, back row from left, are Daphne Spence, Malcolm Rust, Ron Allen, Darlene Toogood, Joy Scafe, Pam Page and Tina Dueck. In front, from left, are Mary Frances O'Hagan, Herring-Kittelberger and Wendy Farmer*

# Good Greif lectures for West Elgin

"We laugh, we cry, we remember, we go on."

*This is the motto of the West* Elgin Committee of the Bereavement Resource Council of Elgin (BRCE) which is organizing another series of six "Good Grief" lectures.

These will be held on the last Monday of each month, starting April 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the IOFF Hall in West Lorne. The first lecture, Forever Changed, will be given by BRCE coordinator Tammy Herring-Kittelberger.

The BRCE is a non-profit organization that provides information, support and education for those who have experienced a loss by death. All board members are volunteers from various communities throughout Elgin County.

The BRCE, which is funded by the United Way of Elgin and charitable donations, has a part-time coordinator and a toll-free long distance call line.

There are three BRCE working committees (West Elgin, East Elgin and St. Thomas) that develop programs to meet the needs of each local community.

The members of the BRCE West Elgin Committee are Bob Karn, Diane Sercombe, Pam Page, Joy Scafe and Mary Frances O'Hagan.

Adult support groups are held in St. Thomas , Aylmer and West Elgin. A baby loss group and a youth group are also offered in St. Thomas. Upon request, teen support groups are held in high schools throughout the county.

For example, one support group was recently held at a high school for 13 teens that had experienced the death of a parent. The support groups are lead by trained facilitators. The BRCE also offers crisis support services, such as in the case of a multiple death or a community tragedy.

Most experts in the field of grief and bereavement report that in the vast majority of cases, healthy grieving is best achieved through individual or group support and does not require professional counselling or medication.

The bereaved usually say they have lots of support immediately following the death, but this support tapers off and by three to six months they are expected to "get on with their lives."

Often the bereaved person hesitates to ask for help from family or neighbors, as they don't want to be a bother as "everyone is so busy with their own problems and chores."

Also, in western culture, grief has become sterilized and is often regarded as an illness or at least an unhealthy condition. For these reasons, people often do not receive healthy supports that will help them in their grief work.

The BRCE is one organization that provides a healthy support system for the grieving and the bereaved in Elgin County.

For more information about the BRCE, call 633-2149 or long distance toll-free at 1-800-463-1810.

# - Staff Changes -



Welcome to **Lorraine Thomson**, our new Nurse Practitioner, who replaces Joanne Opsteen who had been with the Centre since its early beginnings. All the best, Joanne.

Lorraine joins us from the Ogden East End Health Centre in Thunder Bay, where she practiced for five years. We look forward to benefitting from her skills, not only as a NP, but also from her understanding of rural health concerns. She has a great sense of

addition to the CHC team and to our community.

**Cynthia Roodzant** has been with the Centre since September. Don't be surprised if you haven't seen her when you visit the Centre, but her role as a Child Youth Worker keeps her very active at West Elgin Senior Elementary School. Cynthia's role is to provide one on one counselling and, with the help of Edith Roberts, our Child Youth & Youth Worker student, to run groups for students, such as Anger Management, and Self Esteem.

Cynthia obtained her training from Fanshawe College and has experience in open custody and group homes. She moved to West Elgin eight years ago with her husband Ken, a farmer in the Rodney area. She has formed strong community links through her involvement with the Tiny Tots Nursery School and the School Advisory councils of both Aldborough and WESES. Since joining the staff at WECHC she has been actively involved in the West Elgin Drug and Alcohol Committee and the Centre's Youth Action



Funding for Cynthia's position is a joint venture between the United Way and WECHC. It is already apparent that there is a need to expand Cynthia's role. If this is to happen, it will be necessary to look for financial support from not only the United Way and WECHC, but from organizations and groups in the West Elgin area. Program staff will be looking for cost-effective ways to meeting the increasing demand for her time.

# SERVICE CLUBS 1995



MAY 31/95



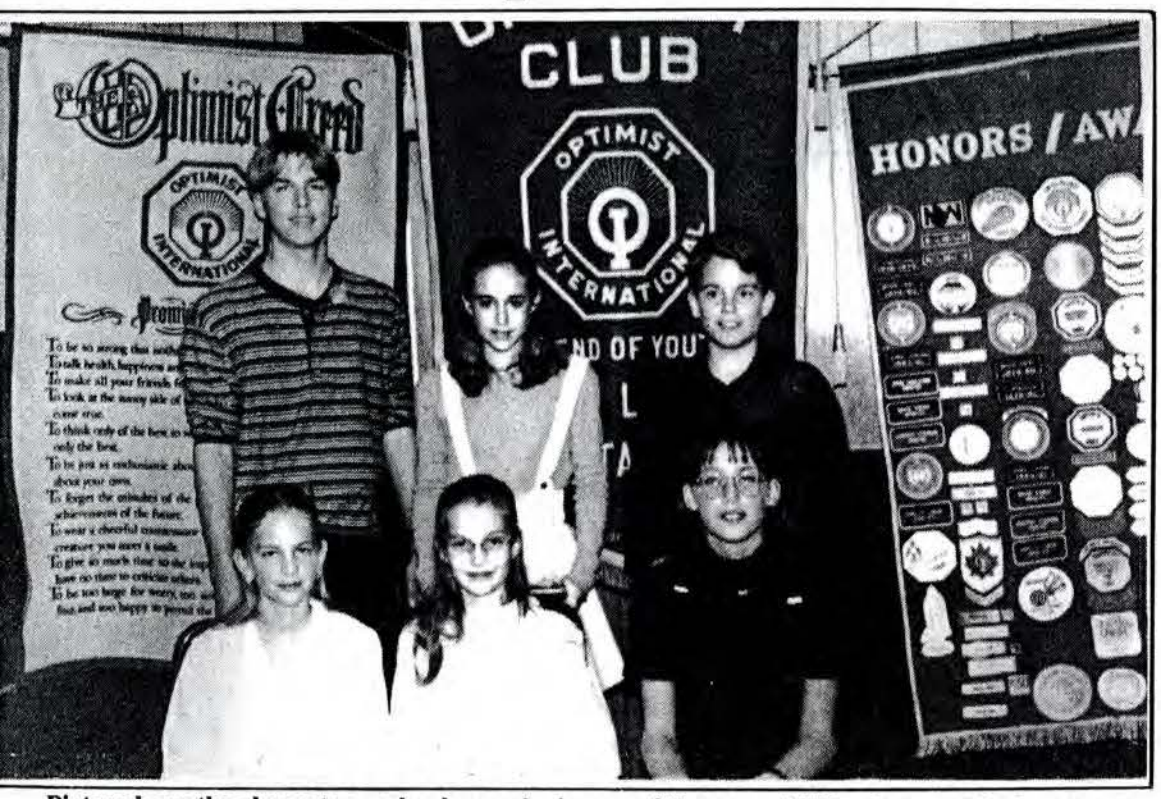
Rebekah Lodge members Margaret Cavenor, Noble Grand; Georgina Jensen, LSVG; Gladys Lowes, JPNG; Loraine Tunks, IG; and Veronica Lane, from the horticultural society. This is the sixth tree the lodge has planted in West Lorne.




The West Lorne Kiwanis Club held its 45th anniversary recently and to show their appreciation to the women who have cooked their meals on meeting nights they were recognized for their help in making the Kiwanis Club the success that it is today. Pictured are (from left to right, back row) Shirley White, Sophia Howse, Kiwanis President Les Sewell, Fran Graham, Leola Lawrance, Mary Lippold (Front Row L-R) Hazel Stalker, Jean Jamison, Mary Rose and Kathleen McLarty.

November 29, 1995

# West Lorne Optimists hold Youth Appreciation Night




Pictured are the elementary school award winners of the annual "Youth Appreciation Night" sponsored by the West Lorne Optimist Club. From leftto right back row they are: James Murray (WESES) Krista Mooser (WESES) and Jason Vandenbrink (St. Mary's). Front row left to right Sarah Vandevooren (A.P.S.) Julia Mosher (A.P.S.) and Teri Schnekenburger (St. Mary's). Photo by Brian

**by Brian Outhouse**

Over 70 proud parents , teachers, guests and Optimist members joined together last week at the I.O.O.F. Hall in West Lorne to pay tribute to the youth of our area. The young recipients were recognized for their all round contributions to home, school and their community.

The event was chaired by Doctor John Shields who introduced the young award winners to the audience, and then the teachers and principals from their respective schools stated to the crowd why each student was picked to receive the honour.

Award winners from WESES were: James Murray, and Krista Mooser. Aldborough Public School winners were: Sarah Vandevooren and Julia Mosher, while St. Mary's honourees were: Jason Vadenbrink and Teri Schnekenburger. WESS award winners were: Grant Karn, Rob Smith, Sarah Padfield and Charlene Carroll.

Optimist President Jim Coburn presented the awards to the students.

The Optimist club is a stong supporter of the youth movement in our area and the club has been honoring outstanding youngsters for their acheivements in the area for several years.

To honour all the youth in the area the West Lorne Optimists held a free skate at the arena last Sunday.

SERVICE CLUBS 1996

# West Lorne's premier service club The Lorna Rebekah celebrate 75 glorious years



**Members of The Lorna Rebekah Lodge in West Lorne celebrated their 75th, anniversary recently at the I.O.O.F. Hall in West Lorne. Pictured are the members of the lodge . From left to right back row they are: Fran Graham, Marion Hauser, Shirley White, Art Ross, Marie Timson, and Mary Belle Cook. (Middle Row L-R) Lauren Tunks, Dora Robbins, Marg Cavenor, and Sophie Howse. (Front Row L-R) Madeline Wilton, Jean McRae, Gladys Lowes and Jean Ross. Photo by Brian Outhouse.**

**by Brian Outhouse**

One of West Lorne's premier service clubs the Lorna Rebekah Lodge ushered in their 75th anniversary in grand style recently at the I.O.O.F. hall in West Lorne.

The hall was a blaze of color as hundreds of balloons and streamers adorned the walls and ceiling of the hall heralding the grand event which will be etched in members minds for years to come.

Attending the festivities which included a ceremonial cake cutting by high ranking members of the fraternity were several guests and past members of the lodge from Rodney and St. Thomas, including Agnes Norris from Strathroy, Jr. Past President of The Rebekah Assembly of Ontario.

The Lodge has a distingushed record of service in the West Lorne area over the years particularly for their humanitarian efforts.

Lorna Rebekah loans hospital beds, wheelchairs, crutches, canes and walkers to those who need these items and every year the Rebekah's support the Salvation Army, the Daffodil Societyand the March of Dimes.

Over the years the Rebekah's have also made donations to hospitals in London, St. Thomas , and Newbury. They have also made donations to our local fire departments and area nursing homes.

The Lorna Rebekah Lodge was born in West Lorne on January 10th, 1921. Those few early dedicated women held their meetings in the Campbell Block on Graham Street in West Lorne. The rental fees for their first facility were $ 50 a year and the ladies had to maintain the rooms and do their own janitorial work.

In those early days meetings were held every Thursday evening and officers were elected twice a year.

In March , 1930 the lodge found new accomodations and moved their meetings to the Eastern Star Lodge Rooms which were located in the MacDonald Block. The rent for these new facilities was $15 a year paid in advance.

During the war years the Rebekah Ladies' did their part to support the war effort by aiding the Red Cross, knitting socks, sweaters and making Navy ditty bags for our boys.

The Rebekah's moved again in 1964, to their current home, the I.O.O.F. Hall on Chestnut Street in West Lorne.

In 1968 fire struck their new home , but the ladies' pitched in and helped repair the hall to its former glory.

The West Lorne Chapter also supports the 'President's Project' annually , and this year it is the Arthritis Society.

Sister Jessie Rose was the first District Deputy President for the West Lorne Chapter. She also served as Treasurer for 16 years with the club.

Currently the Rebekah's President is Noble Grand Sophie Howse and the Vice- Grand is Shirley White.

The group meets every 2nd and fourth Tuesday of the month and if anyone is interested in joining they can contact Sophie Howse or any other Rebekah member.

The West Lorne chapter of Rebekah has served the community and the area well over the last 75 years and may these deicated women serve the area for another 75 years as they have made a difference in our community.




***The 1995-96 executive of the West Lorne Optimists are pictured here after their recent installation by Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner. (Back row left to right) Vice presidents Jon Lorch and Jim Carmichael, Directors Doug Staddon, Bill Trask and John Shields (front) Treasurer Rose Carmichael, President Jim Coburn and Secretary Dorothy Staddon.*** OCT 23/95 ***(photo supplied)***

SERVICE CLUBS
1996




***Riding for Cancer*** *- These local residents rode the distance in the battle against Cancer recently in West Lorne. From left to right back row they are: John Thomson, Leola Lawrance, Kathy Attridge, Bob Walker, Helen Mooser, and Mary Liepmann. Front Row left to right: Cam Milliken and Krista Milliken. The group raised $1,500 towards the fight against cancer.* 1996 *(Photo by Brian Outhouse).*



# A blooming affair...

*by Brian Outhouse*

The West Lorne Horticultural Society held its annual May Flower Show at Grace Anglican Church recently with the theme "Spring Forward".

Members of the society submitted several varieties of garden flowers that were judged in different categories. The categories for the event were:

*** Container of fresh garden flowers.**

1. Daffodil- trumpet, one bloom, yellow
daffodil - trumpet three blooms, any color.
2. Tulip, Darwin type, one bloom,any color.
Tulip, Parrot type, one bloom any color.
3. Lily of the Valley, ten blooms and their foliage
4. Flowering branches, three of any combination, twenty four to thirty inches.
5. Iris, one stalk any type.

*** House Plants**

6. African violet, single crown, single bloom, any color
7. African violet, multiple crown or semi double any color
8. African violet, single crown, miniature any color.
9. Geranium, blooming any color.
10. Cactus collection, five in separate pots, may include succulents.
11. Hanging plants, trailing type plant
12. Spider plant, with trailing baby.

*** Annual plants grown from seed four plants**

13. Tomato plants, name and type
14. Pepper plants, name and type
15. Cabbage plants, name and type.
16. Petunia and marigolds.

*** Decorative Division "Spring Forward".**

1. Miniature, not over five inches.
2. Irish eyes- design in green foliage.
3. Mini roses- not over eight inches in any direction
4. Design in a basket- any size, pot pourri
5. Oriental design

**Men Only**

Decorative design in a boot- use your own imagination.

Winners of some of the different categories were : Frita Walker for her entry of Lillies of the Valley, George Lippold for his geranium entry, Mary Lippold for her miniature design, and Marie Steltenpool for her exotic white orchid plant.

Ralph Lane won for his Irish entry and Helen Timmerman walked away with her entry of Flowering Branches.

All the entries were judged by Henry Wyman from the Agricultural School in Ridgetown.



*A blooming affair- Mary Lippold , Secretary (left) and Veronica Lane (treasurer) of the West Lorne Horticultural Society survey some of the winning entries in the society's Spring Flower Show that was held recently at Grace Anglican Church.*

*(Photo by Brian Outhouse).*



***It's springtime-*** *George Lippold (left) and Leola Lawrance of the West Lorne Horticultural Society plant some geraniums and impatients along with some spikes in one of the villages flower pots along Graham Street.*

*(Photo by Brian Outhouse).*

SERVICE CLUBS

1996

## Women of distinction honoured at dinner

When 13 women were honoured as Women of Distinction at a dinner last Wednesday in New Sarum, three area ladies were among them.

The Women of Distinction Dinner was sponsored by the St. Thomas YMCA and held at the New Sarum Diner.

Lois Carroll was nominated for her work with the Crinan Women's Institute, West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary, the Canadian Cancer Society and for her church work.

Ruth McKillop is an elder and a U.C.W. member of the United Church of Canada in Wallacetown. She is also the founder of Community Outreach and a Caring Cupboard volunteer.

Norma McMillan is the quilt draw convenor for the Women's Institute, patient services chairperson for the Canadian Cancer Society, and a member of the W.M.S. She is also a community volunteer in Dutton-Dunwich.

Congratulations to all three women.

APR. 96



***West Lorne Kiwanians receive awards-*** *Three long time members of the West Lorne Kiwanis Club were recently bestowed the honor of receiving the Mel Osborne Fellow award for their long time service to the club. The award is one of the highest a Kiwanian can receive. From left to right they are: Les Sewell, President of the West Lorne Kiwanis, Win nifred Liepman, award recipient, Harley Lashbrook, award recipient, Ray Jobson, award recipient and Kiwanian Bill Graham.*

JULY 96 *(Photo by Brian Outhouse).*



***Supporting Cancer -*** *Bob Walker (left) Betty Field (President of the Elgin County Cancer Unit) and Mary Liepmann were just a few of the people who attended the annual dinner for the Cancer Society which was held at the West Lorne Legion recently.*

## West Elgin Cancer unit holds annual dinner

The Elgin County Cancer Unit held its annual dinner at the West Lorne Legion recently with over 100 people attending the annual event.

Opening ceremonies were conducted by Betty Field, President of the Elgin Unit who welcomed those who attended the meeting.

After Bill Simmons introduced the head table Jerry Cousins awarded Betty Field her 10 year certificate for aiding the Cancer Unit. Certificates were also handed out to Arn Funeral Home and Padfield's Funeral Home.

It was also noted at the meeting that the great ride for cancer was a huge success in the area and a certificate was presented to the Community Press for their coverage of this event.

After the ceremonies were over the Bob Walker introduced the Brieda Boys Band who entertained the crowd for the remainder of the evening with their blend of Irish and Scottish tunes.

Several door prizes were also given out at the event. These door prizes were donated by Mezenberg Flowers and West Elgin Pharmacy in West Lorne.

The evening was deemed a success by the organizers and they would like to thank the West Lorne Legion for donating the facilities . In closing the President of the Elgin Unit thanked everyone for attending and urged residents to keep supporting the cancer society. CANCER CAN BE BEATEN.



***Scouting family aids area hungry-*** *Local Beaver members of the West Lorne Scouting Community have been saving their pennies to buy food for the area's needy. The group raised $31.50 in pennies which their four leaders matched making the tota;l $63. The group is seen here after purchasing the food at the West Lorne IGA where it was left in a drum to collect food for the area's food bank.*

DEC. 1996 *(Photo by : B. Skeldoch).*

SERVICE CLUBS 1996



**Another donation for the town hall -** *Hazel Stalker (representing the PROWL committee) accepts a cheque for $500 from Mary Lippold on behalf of the West Lorne Women's Institute.*

OCT 1996



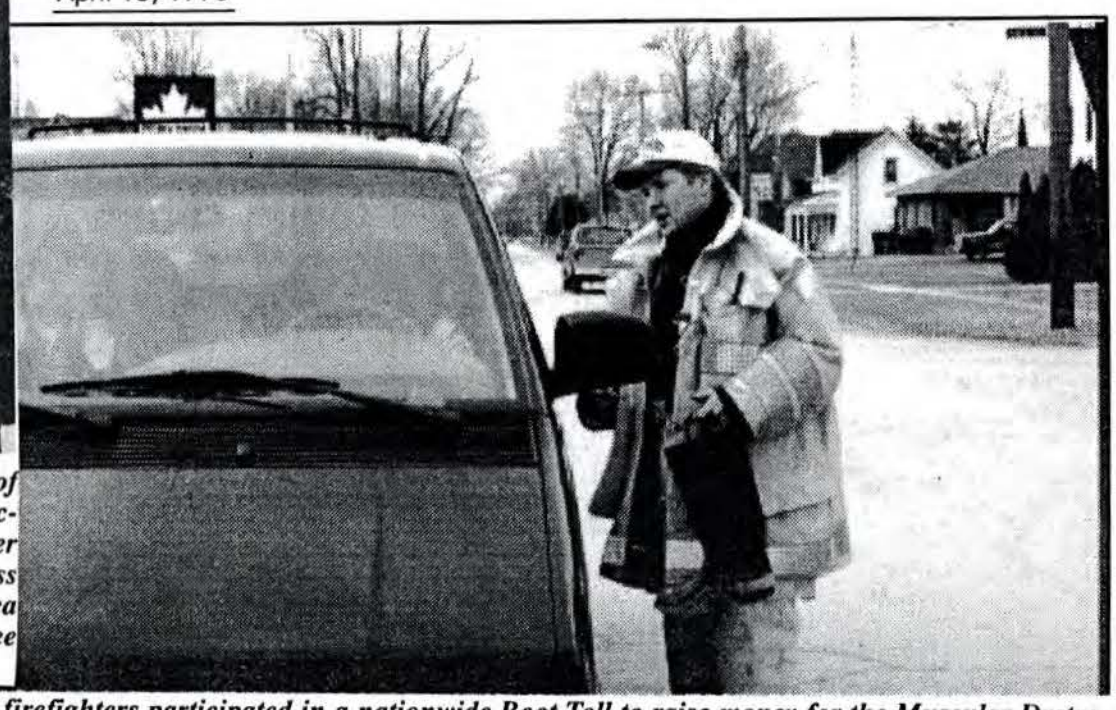
***The West Lorne PROWL committee held a successful bake sale recently, raising about $400 for the municipal complex project. Pictured here are: (left to right) organizer Helen Okolisan and Eileen Humphrey.*** *(K. Robinet)*

FEB. 96



***The Royal Bank recently made the first of two installments on a donation of $2,300 to the West Lorne PROWL committee for its building campaign. Pictured here are: (back row left to right) Jerry Prince, Dutton branch Manager Gary Mills, Rodney branch Manager Peter McConnell, Manager of Business Banking in West Elgin Dave Wright (front) Rosalie Krebsz, Hazel Stalker, Area Royal Bank Manager Gary Browne, Leola Lawrence and PROWL committee chairman Ray Jobson.***

April 15, 1996



***Area firefighters participated in a nationwide Boot Toll to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association last Saturday. West Lorne firefighter Mike Reive was among those collecting donations from passing motorists.*** *(K. Robinet)*



***A bake sale and poor man's lunch was held at the new West Lorne firehall last Saturday as a fundraiser for the municipal complex. Among those volunteering their time and talents were: (left to right) Hazel Stalker, Sophie Howse and Helen Okolisan.*** *(K. Robinet)*

SERVICE CLUBS 1996

# West Elgin Nature Club hits half century mark

BY: KAREN ROBINET

It's been 50 years since the West Elgin Nature Club was organized, and club members and guests marked the occasion with an anniversary celebration at St. Mary's Hall in West Lorne last Saturday evening.

Attendance at the event far exceeded organizers' early expectations, with approximately 170 people joining in the evening's festivities.

After being welcomed by club president Marjorie Prieksaitis, guests enjoyed a meal catered by club members Joan Neil and Joanne Reive.

Following the dinner, Harold Lancaster, a charter member of the club gave a brief outline of its history. "I'm glad to see the club has carried on and expanded over the past 50 years," he said, adding that, "this club has carried on well," when so many similar clubs have failed over the years.

Club members praised Lancaster's devotion to nature and birdwatching in particular. Upon retiring back to the area 10 years ago, Lancaster began and has recently completed compiling his five decades worth of nature notes into book form. To date, Lancaster has observed 748 species, and is well-known for his catchphrase: "the bird doesn't really care if you see it or not."

Plaques were presented to a number of members, including Harold and Evelyn Lancaster, along with their daughter Sharon Stewart, who were all in attendance at that first meeting, even though Stewart was just a baby at that time.

Jim and Bob Lemon accepted an award on behalf of their late father Earl Lemon, who was the first president of the club. Dougald Murray was presented with an award. Murray made his mark in the club with the first local sighting of a Red-bellied Woodpecker in his woodlot in 1951. Other recipients were Ron Prevett, John and Eunice McKishnie, Marshall and Dolly Field, Bill and Francis Girling, William and Eileen Stewart and Frank and Dorothy Cook. An award was also presented posthumously to Joe Schmid for his contribution of a 50-acre parcel of land donated to the Village of Rodney. Joe's Bush is located south of Rodney on Concession 12, three km west of Furnival Road. The site is open to the public, and boasts many Carolinian trees, ferns and plant species. Trails are wheelchair accessible and well marked. Schmid was a charter member of the nature club.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to Friends of West Elgin Nature Club: Shirley Vojin, Curtis Hay, Charles Black, Harry Mezenberg, Graham Warwick and Iona Woolley for their contributions to the club.

A highlight of the evening was a draw for a large bird feeder, handmade by Ken Wilton. Joyce Axford was the winner of that prize. A number of other door prizes were also awarded.

New members are always welcome to join the club, which holds indoor meetings the third Thursday of each month from September through April at W.E.S.E.S. Field trips and outings are also held, and a Christmas Bird Census is done each December 27. For more information, call Bill and Marjorie Prieksaitis at 785-0176, Brad and Joanne Reive at 768-1365 or Harold and Evelyn Lancaster at 768-2566. The next meeting of the club is this Thursday at the school. Brad Peterson of the Canadian Wildflower Society in London will discuss Wildflowers.



*Ken Wilton built this birdhouse and donated it to the West Elgin Nature Club to be drawn during its 50th anniversary celebrations last Saturday evening. The lucky winner was Joyce Axford*

# Famous wildlife artist visits West Lorne

West Lorne and area residents were treated to a rare treat at the Elgin International Club last weekend as world renowned wildlife artist Robert Bateman visited our area.

The International Club was packed with art lovers as well as nature lovers anxious to get a glimpse or a chance to talk to a man who has transformed the sights of nature's wonders so easy on canvas.

The evenings festivities started with Marjorie Prieksatis, President of the West Elgin Nature Club welcoming the audience to the Bateman showing.

Following Marjorie's welcome David Stanfield another naturalist showed the crowd a dazzling display of nature at its finest on several slides which he called the 'Sights and Sounds' of Nature.

Robert Davis of the West Elgin Nature Club had the honour of introducing Robert Bateman who stepped to the podium to a round of appreciative applause from the crowd.

Bateman gave a short speech on how the environment has changed so drastically in the later part of this century and that we humans are the only thing that can change the environment and make it better than it currently is.

After Bateman's talk the crowd stood and gave him

OCT. 96

**March 18, 1996**




*Among those on hand for the 50th anniversary of the West Elgin Nature Club were: (left to right) charter members Sharon Stewart, Evelyn and Harold Lancaster and current club president Marjorie Prieksaitis.* *(K. Robinet)*

SERVICE CLUBS 1996

APR. 1996





***Tree planting ceremony held-*** *Members of District 10 horticultural societies planted an Irish lace tree in celebration of the annual meeting of the district's horticultural societies. Pictured from left to right they are: Doris Montgomery from Stratford, Florence Kelly,District Secretary, Joan Greve from West Lorne, George Lippold from West Lorne, Eunice McKishnee, President of the West Lorne chapter and Carolyn Guest, President of the Rodney chapter.*

*(Photo by Brian Outhouse)*

# District horticultural societies meet in West Lorne

***By Brian Outhouse***

Over 100 members of the Thames Valley District 10 of the Ontario Horticultural society met recently at West Elgin Secondary for their annual meeting.

Seventeen horticultural societies from the counties of Perth, Elgin, Orford and Middlesex attended the event.

Master of ceremonies for the day was Dr. Eunice McKishnee who welcomed the delegates and took them on a brief tour during the lunch hour showing them a variety of over 50 different types of trees within walking distance of the high school.

One of the guest speakers of the meeting was Laurie Scott from OMAFRA who lauded the Master Gardeners program stating that since its inception Master Gardeners have volunteered over 28,000 hours to help beautify their respective communities.

The Flower Show was the highlight of the day with 42 entries of different flowers being submitted for judging. The West Lorne chapter entered all 8 classes winning ribbons in seven of the categories.

District Director, Gary Chittick presented a special service award to Florence Kelly of Rodney who is retiring after three years as Secretary of the District. The West Lorne chapter presented Kelly flowers in appreciation of her hard work over the years.

To mark the 1996 Thames Valley District 10 OHA meeting four trees were dedicated to the railroad park.

After the annual meeting was over the President of the West Lorne Society and some members of the group planted one of the trees in the park. To plant the tree President Lippold used a shovel from 1906, the year the Ontario Horticultural Association was formed.

Chittick reminded members that the Ontario Horticultural Society will be celebrating its 90th birthday next year.

The annual meeting for District 10 will be held in Rodney next year.

SERVICE CLUBS 1996

. July 31, 1996

# Local Masons save a part of our heritage



**McColl Lodge gets facelift !** - *Members of the West Lorne Masons (McColl Lodge #386) are in the process of giving the old building a facelift , which will include some minor repairs and new siding. The old Lodge was built in 1888 and it use to serve as the town hall for Bismark and West Lorne.* *(Star Photo).*

The West Lorne Masons are giving the old McColl Lodge a facelift.

The old lodge was built in 1888 by the town council with the help of the Masons.

For several years the building housed the town hall on the bottom floor while the Masons occupied the top floor until 1930 when they moved to the Lemon Block.

The Masons held their meetings above Lemon's store until 1982 when they purchased the old town hall and returned to their old home.

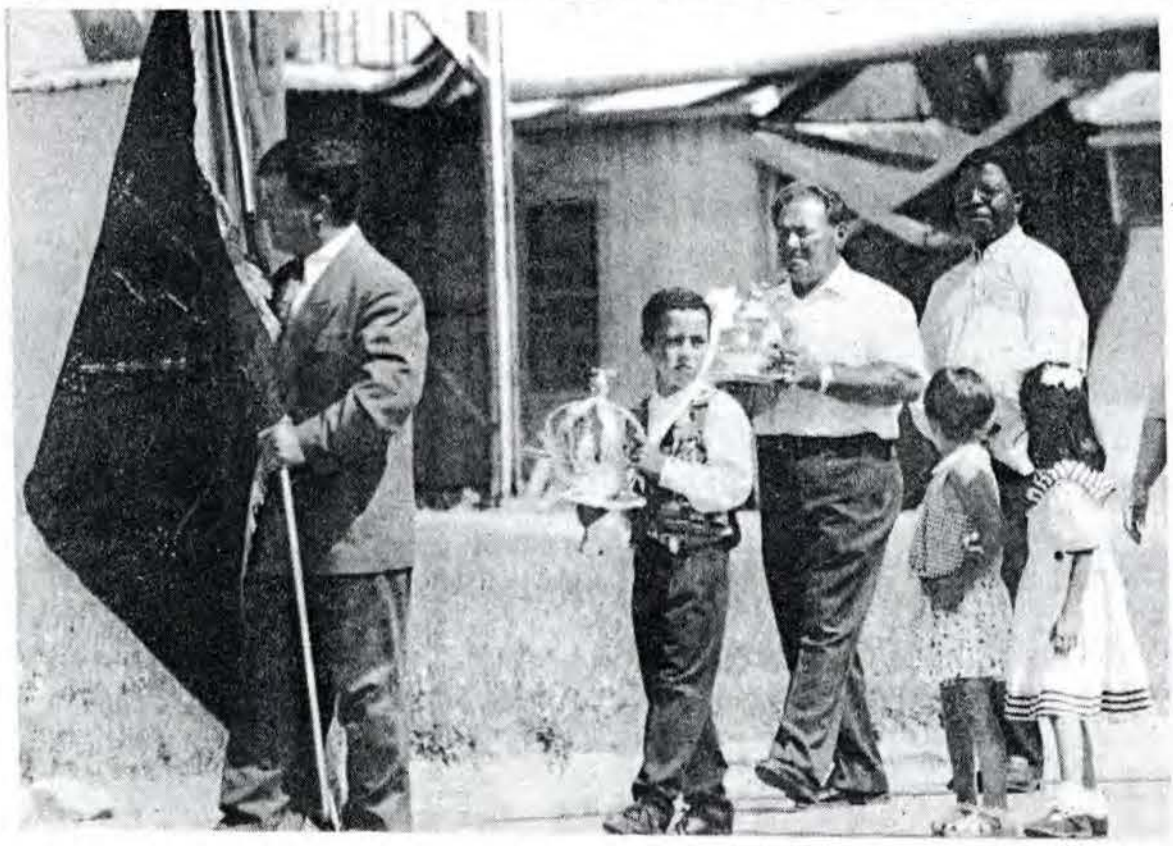
Over the years the Masons have maintained the old hall but according to DDGM Ray Jobson, and Worshipful Master Doug Cavener, of West Lorne the building is in need of some major repairs and members felt that the old building was a part of the area's history and rather than build a new lodge the group decided to fix up the old building by making the necessary repairs and remove the brick facade and replace it with siding.

All the work will be performed by members of the lodge with a completion date set for September.

The Masonic Lodge in West Lorne has played an important role in the development of the area ever since its inception in 1879.

# Annual Holy Spirit Fest' celebrated by Portuguese Community

AUG. 1996



**A solemn march-** *Carlos Oliveira, (left) carries the flag of the Holy Spirit , and is followed by Justin Azevedo and Izalino Silveira who are both carrying Crowns of the Holy Spirit. The two little girls in the picture are Tanya Oliveira and Vanessa DaCosta.* *(Star Photo).*

The annual Holy Spirit was celebrated by the local Portuguese community over the long weekend. Portuguese communities from Listowell, London, Sarnia and West Lorne participated in the Holy festival.

The Holy Spirit festival is the second most religious holiday celebrated by the Portuguese community with the Our Lady of Fatima Festival revered as their most religious holiday.

Preparations for the festivities began on Friday with the local community setting up the arena and cooking the huge amounts of beef needed to feed the hundreds that would attend the festival.

On Saturday night hundreds attended the dance with music provided by the band Playboyz from Leamington.

Also at the dance was the bazaar where patrons took their chance on winning a prize by purchasing 20 tickets for $1. The kitchen at the arena was in full swing during the entire event as patrons could relish the tasty Bifanas (beef on a bun) , shrimp, hot dogs and coffee.

On Sunday morning hundreds of people jammed St. Mary's Church for a special mass which was followed by a parade from the church to the arena.

The parade consisted of several hundred people marching solemnly and proudly to the beat of a marching band from Kitchener.

Once the parade reached the arena the different Portuguese communities gathered in their groups and stood silently while the band played the march of the Holy Spirit song. After the song the Holy Spirit Crowns from each community were placed on a table in the middle of the arena.

Following the placing of the crowns the crowd enjoyed a traditional meal of beef, bread, and sausage which was in the form of a soup.

After the meal the crowd was entertained by a group of traditional Folk dancers from Strathroy who performed several traditional dances from the islands.

The festivities culminated with another dance with the band Playboyz providing the music.

It was good to see several members of the community out supporting the Portuguese community during their festival.

# SERVICE CLUBS 1997



***West Lorne Kiwanis Club met last Wednesday to induct new officers. Lt. Governor Peter Guyitt officiated the proceedings. Pictured are: (left to right) Bob Walker, president; Guyitt; Peg Wheeler, vice president; Mary Frances O'Hagen, past president; Ray Jobson, treasurer and Win Liepmann, secretary.*** ***(W. Tunks)***

OCT. 6/97

OCT 1997




***West Lorne Optimist Club installs new executive-*** *The West Lorne Optimist Club nominated its new executive for the coming year recently. The new executive is from left to right back row: Don Boos, President Elect, John Eagleson, Director, Rose Carmichael,Director, Nancy Coburn, Vice President and Jim Carmichael, Vice President. Front Row L-R Bill Trask, Treasurer, Doug Staddon , President and Marg Varga, Secretary.*

# Branch 221 honor their members

The West Elgin Legion Branch 221 held their Honors and Awards night recently, honoring members for their years of service.

Those who received their medals included:

**5-Year Associate Pin**
Reginald Audet, Marg Cavener, Frank Gratton, Lou Ann McCallum, Sally McIntyre, John McIntyre, Scott McIntyre, Patricia Monette, Henry Mooser, Mike Mooser, Helen Mooser, Pete Palmer, Rein Vanbrenk, Helen Vanbrenk, Louis Varga, Dana Varga, Agnes Virgin and Mike Kruyz

**10-Year Associate Pin**
Jean Jamiesson, Anna McCallum, Danny McCallum and Brenda Odanski

**15-Year Associate Pin**
Rick Falkins, Marg Varga, Duncan McWilliam and William Rogers

**20-Year Associate Pin**
Ian Cruickshank Jr., Don Jamiesson and Gary Jamiesson.

**25-Year Associate Pin**
Ed Bell and Jim Carmichael

**5-Year Ordinary Members**
Reginald Audet Jr., Robert Virgin and Harry Kolterman

**10-Year Ordinary Member**
Lenard Cline, Douglas McCallum and Harry Lancaster

**15-Year Ordinary Member**
Raynor Johnson

**25-Year Ordinary Member**
Doug Cavener, Lonnie McCallum and Ian Cruickshank Sr.

**30-Year Ordinary Member**
Richard Hale, Robert White, Stanley Krzyworaczka, Margaret Rogers and Ozren Zivkovic.

**45-Year Ordinary Member**
Eric Lippold

**50-Year Ordinary Member**
George Lippold, Edward ,McCallum and Stanley Oake

**Past President Medal**
Pete Palmer



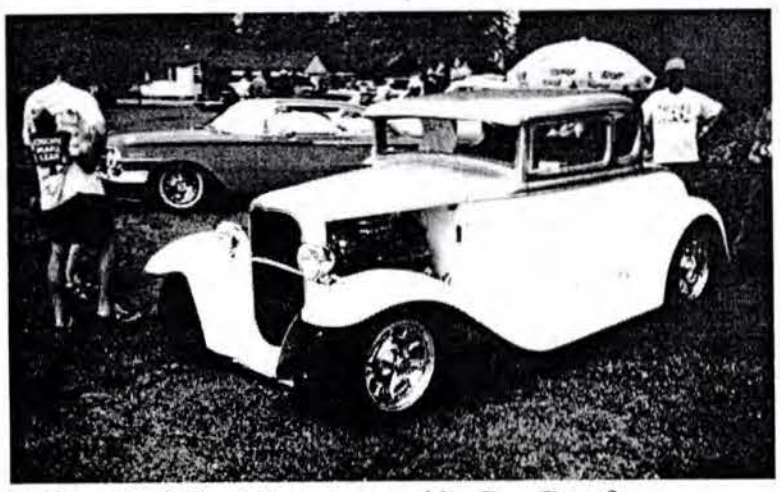
*The Royal Legion Branch 221 held their Honors and Awards night recently in West Lorne. Receiving their 50-Year membership pins were, from left, George Lippold, Stanley Oake and Ed McCallum.* *(J. McClory)*

Tuesday June 30, 1998

## WEST LORNE KIWANIS CLUB CAR SHOW




Pictured here are Ray Jobson, Dr. Jones and Harley Lashbrook. Serving up food and cold drinks.



White - 1931 Ford Coupe owned by Ron Box from Denfield.



Ford Model T , 1916 Roadster owned by Bruce Johnson from Dutton.

Wednesday June 17, 1998

## *SCOUTING NEWS*



**Here is Caw Shaw showing the Cubs the proper way for Archery**

On June 5th-7th eleven West Lorne Cubs, 3 leaders and 2 helpers, former Cubs and Scouts participated in the Elgin District Challenge Camp at Camp Timken in Iona. There were numerous activities - canoeing, bronco bucking, bosun chair ride, house fire demonstration, compass course, archery, paper airplane flying contest, black powder demonstration, miniature rockets, giant and mini Jenga, Carl Ross NASCAR display, Bannok making, mud puppy, firemens hose where you pushed a bucket on a rope the fastest, raw egg race game to name a few. Each group was awarded points for participating in each activity and the West Lorne Pack met the challenge of the Camp and came in second, winning a $50.00 Canadian Tire gift certificate. Saturday night there was a huge campfire, with lots of skits, songs, cheers. Sunday morning Scouts Own and Camp Closing was held and awarding of prizes.

The West Lorne group had several tent inspections for neatness and 1st place winner was Jessica VanVugt; 2nd Nikita VanBeers, and 3rd Andrew Simpson. Each of them received a nice crest! All participants will get a camp crest but they were not ready yet! The weather was cool, but all in all everyone had a great time! When our regular meetings start again in September we are in need of adults, age 18 or over, for leaders, especially in the Beaver Colony, Scout troop and or group committee where we need a secretary. Anyone interested in any of these positions please call group committee chairman, Walter Podebry at 768-2858 or Helena VanVugt 768-1796.

# *ED McCALLUM RETIRES AFTER 52 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE.*




***Above is President Doug Cavener presenting Ed with a spring jacket to help keep him warm on those cool nights.***

SERVICE CLUBS 1998



# THE 48TH ANNUAL KIWANIS CLUB TALENT SHOW '98'



From Left to Right Tap Dancers: Breanne Podebry, Jennie McDonald, Jay Hilliard, Brooke Roest, Meghan Morwood and Carolyn Tunks.

Wednesday April 8, 1998



Ballerina's From Left to Right: Charlotte Nodden, Meaghan Schneider, Cherie Ansems (Dance Instructor) Katie Miller and Jasmine Dyck.

APR. 8. 1998 The West Elgin Chronicle



**This years recipients were, as in the picture, front, Beaver Eric Smith, Back left to right, Scout Breanne Podbry, Andrew Conway, and presenting the award, Lena Dewulf.**

## ANDY DEWULF AWARDS

Recently the West Lorne Scouting Family, held their Annual Banquet, and Awards night, at the West Lorne Legion Hall, which started with a pot luck supper. After all had had their fill, each section, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, entertained parents, and guests with skits and songs.

Then came the moment, for the Andy Dewulf Memorial Award Recipients, from each section to come forward. This award is presented to the youth, whom most resembled Andy in nature, and contribution to the movement, during the year.

In the back ground , in the picture, is a photo, of the founder of Scouting, Lord Baden Powell.

Guest speakers for the evening were, Elgin District President Pat Dale, Service Scouter Werner Stoss, and Scouting Partner, West Lorne Optimist Club's President, Doug Staddon, each gave a brief message, which concluded the evening. The evening was enjoyed by all.




*There was some local flavor to the Ontario Legion Zone Poster/Essay Contest with four winners from the West Elgin area. Showing off their awards are, from left, Jennifer Ford - (2nd place - essay), Leanne Carroll (1st place - black & white poster), Beatrice Sacher (1st - colored poster and 2nd - essay). All the girls are St. Mary's School students but Carroll, who is from WESS. Representing West Elgin Legion Branch 221 is Michael Mooser, left, and St. Mary's staff advisor Brenda Odanski.*





***WEST ELGIN FREE PRESS EASTER COLOURING CONTEST WINNERS.***

***First picture is Shelby Nielson-2 years old, from Dutton she won for her age division.***

***First place winners Rebecca Gray-12 years old won for her age division and Victoria Miller-5 years***

APR. 8, 1998




On April 1, 1998 the West Lorne Fire Department had a draw. The tickets were drawn by Councillor Trudy Balint and Fireman George Nute. First Prize was a riding lawn mower the winner was Shirley Sims of St. Thomas. Second Prize was push lawn mower won by Mike Mooser of West Lorne and Third Prize was a weed eater won by Julie Lawrence of West Lorne. The money raised from this event will go towards Uniforms. SPECIAL THANKS goes to Barb Campbell for her support and everyone who helped out.

SERVICE CLUBS 1998



OCT 26, 1770

# Optimist Club elects new officers!






OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
Friend of Youth

*The Optimist Club of West Lorne installed the new slate of officers for 1998'-99 at a dinner meeting on Oct. 6. The new officers are, back row from left, Ken Neil, Dick Hale and John Eagleson (Directors), Bill Trask (Treasurer) and Jim Carmichael (Vice-President). Front row from left are Julie Lawrence (Director), Gary Cassenbrood (Lt. Governor), Don Boos (President), Doug Staddon (Immediate Past President) and Marg Varga (Secretary). The Optimist Club also handed out the President's Award for outstanding service for the year 1997-'98. Here, Doug Staddon (right), as his last duty as president, presents Bill Trask with the award.*





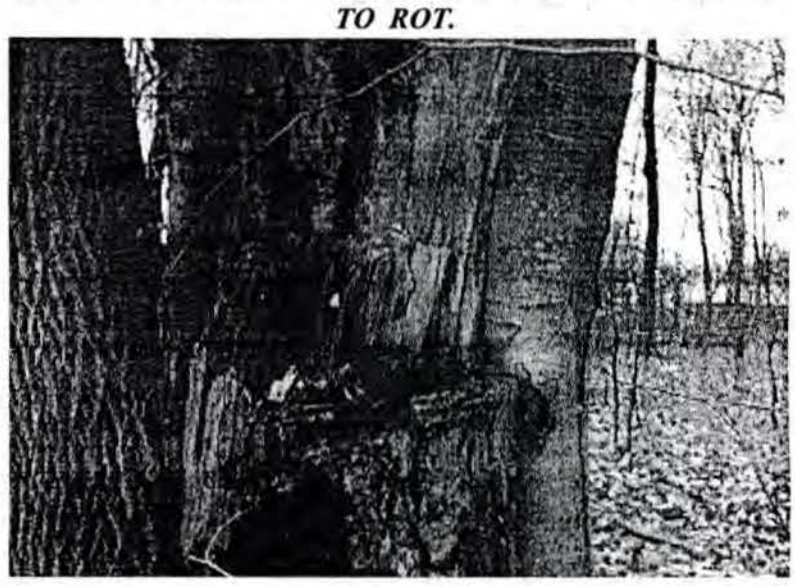

# Original Charter!

*There was a lot of excitement at the West Elgin Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 221, last week as they celebrated Legion Week. And to cap the week off the branch's orginal charter was located in the home of one of the members. Still in great condition, the charter was framed and put on display at the legion. Here, senior legion members Ed McCallum, left, and George Berdan look over the new found treasure.*

## *MILLER PARK CLEAN UP*

Recently phone calls came into our office about what was happening in the woods at Miller Park. Well, I contacted Charlie Cronkite and we went for a walk and he was explained the plan.
Parks and Recreation has started a major clean up of the woods that maybe should have been done some time ago. Trees have been marked at some point in time by the Ministry and never removed.
They are cleaning up the underbrush and dead trees to turn the woods into a picnic area for seniors or anyone wanting to use it for family reunions or just to sit and enjoy the shade.
For every tree that may be removed one or two trees will be replanted to rebuild the woods. Charlie said "We are not destroying the woods, but making it better".
They have been working under the advice of a tree expert Bing Humphries. Some of the trees are so rotten down the centre a good gust of wind may bring them down and possibly injure someone and then the Village would be sued for the mishap.
The swampy portion of the woods will be tiled to take off the excess water.
The undergrowth in the woods is killing off all vegetation and this will all be cleaned up and removed. Possibly wild flowers will be planted in areas of the park.

***A FEW TREES THAT NEEDED TO BE CUT DOWN DUE TO ROT.***



Inquiries have been made about a roadway at the end of Chestnut Street to Wood Street. This is not a roadway but a laneway off Chestnut to the soccer fields. This is to help cut down the traffic on Wood Street during the summer months.
All garbage that is in the woods, put there by others such as truck tires, an old truck and just garbage is being removed and disposed of properly.
If you are interested in helping in any way call Charlie Cronkite at 768-1382 or anyone on the Parks and Recreation Committee.

NOV 1998
133

SERVICE CLUBS 1998



# THANKS FOR BEING THERE FOR US!

JOHN SZABO TV
191 Queen St., Rodney
Sales & Service
•TV's•VCR's•STEREOS
•CAMCORDERS
Satellite & Antenna
Sales, Service &
Installations
785-0090

## REMEMBERANCE DAY CHURCH SERVICE

Rodney Legion Branch 525 and West Lorne Legion Branch 221 are holding a Rememberance Day Church Service. November 8th, 1998 at 11:00 a.m. at the Anglican Church, Dutton. Everyone Welcome

THE WEST LORNE KIWANIS

For all your Sporting Needs
SANTAROSSA SHOOTING SPORTS
Tues. - Thurs. 9-6, Fri. 9-7, Sat. 9-4
Hunting Safety Course
November 6,7, & 8 Call for Details
102 Furnival Road, Rodney
785-2322

Home hardware
Jeff and Teresa Knight and Staff
232 Graham
West Lorne, Ontario
N0L 2P0
Phone: 768-1840
Fax: 768-1490



A.J. De Long, vice-president of the West Elgin branch of the Canadian Legion, welcomes George G. Bell and his three veteran sons at the community's welcome-home banquet on Wednesday evening. Here they are grouped from the left, Staff Sergeant Jim Bell, who served with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment; Tpr, William Bell of the Canadian Armored Corps; the father; Pte. George Bell, who served with the Algonquin Regiment and who was a prisoner of war; and Mr. De Long. Taken January 31, 1947.

The Optimist Club of West Lorne
"Friend of Youth"

WEST LORNE FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Dave McDonald Auctioneer
Household - Farm - Antiques
"We Aim To Please"
We Also Buy Estates
Call Anytime 785-0776
234 Stinson St., Rodney

WEST ELGIN FREE PRESS
225 Graham Rd.
West Lorne, Ontario
Phone: 768-0880
Fax: 768-0770

## IN FLANDERS FIELDS

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow*
*Between the crosses, row on row,*
*That mark our place; and in the sky*
*The larks, still bravely sing-ing, fly*
*Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago*
*We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,*
*Loved and were loved, and now we lie*
*In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe;*
*To you, from failing hands we throw*
*The torch; be yours to hold it high.*
*If ye break faith with us who die*
*We shall not sleep, though poppies grow*
*In Flanders fields.*
*JOHN McCRAE*



George Bell was out out the past few days distributing poppies for the West Lorne Legion.

Fairles' "K" FOODMARKET
Over 70 Years Servicing Rodney, West Lorne and Area.
Meats, Groceries and Produce
Full Deli and Bakery
(Fairles' for quality)
Proprietors: Brian & Clare Scafe
RODNEY 785-0670

PROFESSIONAL CARPET UPHOLSTERY CLEANING BY LABADIES
LABADIES' CARPET CLEANING
WEST LORNE
768-2620

SIDERITE Home Improvements
BRIAN HOPKINS
Quality Workmanship
R.R.2 West Lorne
Ontario, NOL 2PO
(519) 768-2586
Mobile (519) 641-9109
1-800-354-9168



West Elgin Sports Centre
188 Main St.
West Lorne
768-0606
Team Uniforms
Trophies & Awards
Casual Wear
Mon. 10-6
Tues. - Fri. 9-6
Sat. 9-5

RODNEY ONE STOP CONVENIENCE & AUTOMOTIVE
Mon-Sat 6:30am - 9:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am - 9:00 pm
Gas Bar - Diesel - Propane - Variety
TIRE REPAIR AND 24 HOUR TOWING
Licensed Mechanic
(519) 785-0160

Bob Jones Auto PRO hardware
228 Furnival Rd.
Rodney, Ont.
785-2222
Mon.-Thurs. 8:00-5:30
Fr.-8:00-8:00
Sat. 8:00-5:00-

Zeigers Eatery
Ice Cream Parlour
173 Main Street, Dutton, Ontario
762-0080

PETER R. GIRTY
Chartered Accountant
Accounting and Income Tax Services for
Personal Income Tax Returns
Corporations - Partnerships
Proprietorships
Farm Businesses
178 A Main Street, DUTTON
Phone 762-2853 Fax 762-2149

ROYAL BANK
206 Main Street
DUTTON
762-2060

WEST ELGIN PHARMACY
229 Graham St., West Lorne
768-1440
Gifts - Cards
Health and Beauty Aids
Baby Needs

The Villager (Rodney) Ltd.
Featuring . . . . .
SEARS CATALOGUE AGENCY & CANADIAN DRY CLEANERS
(Tuesday & Friday Delivery)
215 Furnival Road,
Rodney, Ontario
785-0410

SERVICE CLUBS 1998



# HAPPY 30TH ANNIVERSARY WEST LORNE SCOUTING

SCOUTS CANADA

## WEST LORNE SCOUTING HISTORY

Scouting is no longer called Boy Scouts because in a few places, including West Lorne, this organization as become co-ed. We now officially known as Scouts Canada.

The first section started in West Lorne in September of 1968 by Mrs. Charles (Madeline) Moore, was Cubs. Cubs are for youth aged 8-10. The original sponsor was the Kiwanis Club. Later the Booster Club and then the Optimist Club, who are still the sponsor. Past and present Cub leaders are Mrs. Dave Kelly, Janis Pinter, Mary Paradine, Betty Johnston, Della McGill, Marylin Shaw, Bev. McFalls, Dorothy Vanderaa, Marg Varga, Marg Ross, Lotty Driver, Frank Kassa, David Varga, David Lunn, John Kolar, Jim Breedan, Cheryl Lunn, Phil Mark, Rick Lashbrook, Joanne Barnard, Dave Huver, Jonathon Pinder, Georgina Jensen, Carole Giles, Helena Van Vugt (30 years too!), Anna Podebry, John Van Beers, and Rick Van Vugt.

Scouts age 11-14 was started in West Lorne in 1970 by Ralph Reinhardus. Other past and present Scout leaders are Roy Peterson, Gary Kalita, Bill Boyer, Tom Page, Charles Moore, Bill Moore, Art Ross, Joe Jenssen, Bill Staddon, Rick Barnard, Robert White, Julie Lawrence, Jim Breedon, Dave Lunn, David Varga, Phil Mark, Connie Mark, Mike Rowe, Bruce Skeldoch, Diane Okolison, Jim Kolar and Noreen McMurchy.

The next section, Venturers, age 14-18 was started in 1980 by John Kolar, but unfortunately, only lasted for a short while. Past leaders were Art Ross, Joe Seman, and Jim Breedon.

The last group to organize in West Lorne was the Beavers age 5-7, which was started in September 1990 by Brian Hopkins. Past and present leaders are, Rebecca Skeldoch, Connie Mark, Carole Giles, Bonnie Robertson, Ann PrudHomme, Lisa Van Beers, Karen Moore, Darlene Smith, Joanne Hartin, Rick Parcels, Kim Vanoverbeke, Dora Foster and Sharon Huver.

Past and present Group Committee Chairpersons are Dave Kelly, Charles Moore, Barb Page, Brad Reive, Fred Rees, Gunnar Jensen, Rick Lashbrook, Angie Wood, Roger

***Wednesday September 23, 1998***

***WEST LORNE KIWANIS CLUB "WHEEL OF FRIENDSHIP"***




***From left to right are Ray Jobson, Ray Applebaum, Bob Walker, Hazel Stalker and Olive Chambers.***

At the September 17th meeting of the West Lorne Kiwanis club, guest speaker Ray Applebaum provided a presentation on community transportation. Ray serves as facilitator for the Community Transportation project, which is sponsored by the West Elgin Community Health Centre.

A broad range of community partners comprise the project steering committee: Victorian Order of Nurses; Canadian Cancer Society; Canadian Red Cross Society; Four Counties Transportation Service; Quad Counties Community Services; West Elgin Community Health Centre; Ministry of Health, Long-Term Care; and the Provincial Community Transportation Action Program, which provided project funding support.

The purpose of the project is to identify community transportation needs for residents in the Municipalities of West Elgin and Dutton-Dunwich; support available through formal and informal transportation services; and develop a network of accessible and coordinated transportation services to meet the communities' needs.

Transportation provides us with the ability to maintain our independence. As we experience a large and growing aging population in Canada, many seniors are no longer able to drive themselves or access needed transportation to medical/specialized appointments, shopping, banking, social/recreation activities, church, etc.

In conversation with local residents, service providers, and elected officials, Ray has confirmed that the need for community transportation affects all age groups including children, youth, and seniors. We must also address the needs of: persons with a physical disability; persons who are developmentally challenged; and residents who speak a language other than English.

The steering committee is reviewing a report prepared by Ray, which summarizes the first phase of the project and provides recommendations for actions to be undertaken during Phase II of the project, which is planned to begin in October and continue to March, 1999.

During the question period, one of the Cancer Society volunteer drivers mentioned that she "was in London recently at the hospital and found four other people in the waiting room who had driven from the West Elgin area that same day." It was recognized that the booking of appointments for a number of patients at the same time might be difficult, however, this example demonstrates the potential for improved coordination, wherever possible. Volunteer drivers are a scarce resource that we must recognize and nurture.

If you wish to learn more about community transportation and how you can get involved, attend the Skating & Corn Roast event to be held on Wednesday, September 30th. Skating from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at the Arena, followed by a barbecue from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. There is no charge for this event and donations collected will go towards the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of St. Thomas-Elgin in support of the Big Bunch program for West Elgin.

For further information, Ray can be reached at the West Elgin Community Health Centre at 768-1715.

Raymond Applebaum, Project Facilitatior West Elgin Community Transportation Action Program.

SERVICE EVENTS 1998



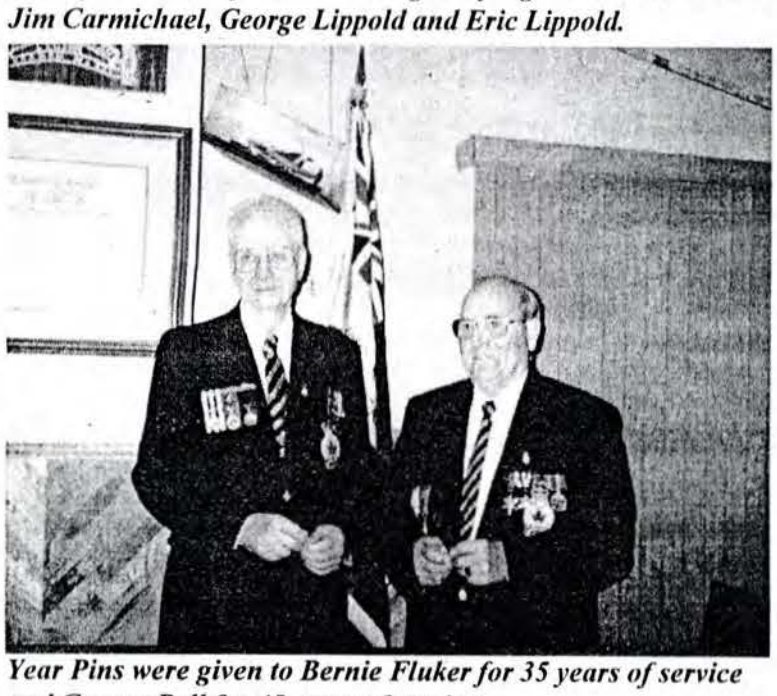
# WEST LORNE LEGION PRESENTATION



*Presenting the Original Charter are Zone Commander Marg Emery and President Doug Cavener*



*Family members of those that originally signed the charter are Jim Carmichael, George Lippold and Eric Lippold.*



*Year Pins were given to Bernie Fluker for 35 years of service and George Bell for 45 years of service.*



*Past Executive: Front Row left to right - Marg Emery - Zone Commander, Doug Cavener, Jean Jamieson. Second Row Marg Cavener, Julie White, Wendy Swan, Rick Falkins,Don Lyons. Back row Jim Orchard, Henry Mooser, George Berdan, Robert White, Pat LeClaire and Mike Mooser.*



*Past Presidents: Front Row Marg Emery Zone Commander, Eric Lippold, Ed McCallum and Bernie Fluker. Back row Henry Mooser, George Berdan, George Lippold.*

*The following are excerpts from an address by Doug Cavener, President, on the occasion of the re-presentation of the original Charter to West Lorne Legion:*

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 221, West Lorne was founded in 1932. At that time it covered the District of West Lorne, Rodney and Dutton.

The first Charter President was the late Earl Lemon and the founding members included Reuben Byfield, Earl Gardner, John Ward, John Atkinson, John McDonald, James Carmichael, Charles Petherick, Edward Newman and Dr. A. C. Steel. Meetings were held at Argyle and Elm Streets where the building still stands today. The Branch then moved to it's present location, which was an Erie Flooring Building, in 1970 and was officially opened April, 1971. Rodney had by that time founded it's own Branch. At the time of the move there were 92 members; now there are 265 and growing.

The Legion helps in supporting organizations such as Four Counties Hospital, Youth Projects, Minor Sports, Scouts Canada and the Annual Public Speaking Competition for students.

The branch also donates to the Community Seniors and to our Portuguese friends and last but not least our Veterans at Parkwood Hospital and in West Lorne. We are proud of the achievements of these groups.

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."

The original charter has been missing for 32 years and was just discovered recently by one of the members.

Names on the front of the original charter are: Gordon Ainestlie, John Ackinson, John Baldock, William Bird, Charles Bonner, Mrs. Florence Bonner, James Carmichael Sr., Aley Campbell, Ross Colley, Victor Cousin, Arthur DeLong, Ernest Drew, Walter Frederick, Earl Gardiner, Ernest Gardiner. The list of names continues on the back.

SOCIAL 1995 FEB 6/95

## Happy 50th Anniversary

MARCH 30, 1945-1995



**Mary & Bernie Fluker**

Love From Your Children & Grandchildren

## Staddon receives motorcycle award

Doug Staddon, 36, son of Dorothy and Doug Staddon of RR2 West Lorne was recently awarded one of 11 International Competition Awards at the 1995 Canadian International Motorcycle Super Show held in Mississauga.

Bar Hodgson, Motorcycle Awards of Excellence director and show producer said that Staddon's award was based on his accomplishments in international competition last season.

Competing in the American Historic Racing Motorcycle Association (AHRMA) circuit last season, Staddon took seven first places and was sixth overall in the championship, which featured some 40 riders.

Considering the fact that the races were held in California, Staddon only made it to about half the races. Of those races, the worst Staddon ever did was a third place finish. "I feel very honoured to be awarded," Staddon said upon receiving the award. "I am up there with some of the best racers. It's nice to be recognized."



*Doug Staddon.*

Staddon began racing while living in Vancouver, B.C. in 1985, and after suffering an injury in 1988, Staddon took a couple of seasons off. But, after moving to Markham in 1991, he began racing again.

Among his career highlights are the Canadian Pro Club Cup which he won in 1993, and a second place finish in the Super Vintage Heavyweight group. But, Staddon has no intention of resting on his laurels. He will be racing two bikes this year, and is sponsored by Ballantrae-based Ecurie Classics.

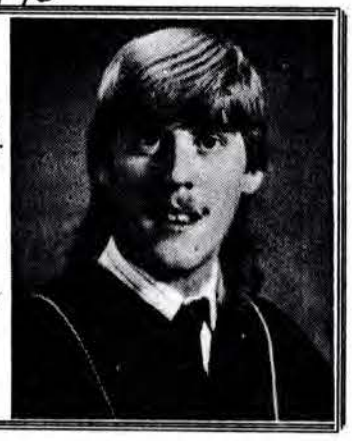
Wayne Alan Liepmann, son of Winfrid and Mary Liepmann, graduated June 3,1995 from Queen's University with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Economics. Wayne will be attending the MBA Program at Dalhousie University, Halifax in the fall.



JUNE 1995

***Dean Titus***

Fred & Esther Titus are pleased to announce the graduation of their son, Dean from the University of Waterloo. Dean received his Honours Bachelor of Mathematics, Chartered Accountancy Option/ Optimization degree on May 27, 1995. Dean is currently working at BDO Dunwoody in Ridgetown and is continuing his studies to achieve his C.A. designation.



## OPEN HOUSE



The family of Alberta and Glenn Jones invite you to an Open House in celebration of their birthdays, Alberta's retirement, and their 45th wedding anniversary. It will be held Sunday, June 25 from 2-4 at West Elgin Legion, Br. 221, 142 John St., West Lorne.

**BEST WISHES ONLY PLEASE!** 1995

## 50th ANNIVERSARY



**LIPPOLD**

The children of George & Mary Lippold invite family & friends to an Open House at the West Lorne Legion Sunday, December 10th from 2-4:30 pm in honour of their parents 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Best Wishes Only 1995



The Family of **BRUCE & MARY ROSE** invite family & friends to an

**OPEN HOUSE**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28**

**at West Lorne United Church**

**Graham Rd., West Lorne**

**from 1:30 - 3:30 pm** 1995

in honour of their parents 50th Wedding Anniversary

*Best Wishes Only*

SOCIAL 1996



*Bob & Shirley Walker are proud to announce the marriage of their daughter Cindy, to Ronald Aldred of Brantford. The marriage took place on July 20th, 1996 at Evangel Church, Brantford. They are residing in Brantford.*

***60th ANNIVERSARY * DECEMBER 12, 1936***



***Isabel & Dave Doan***

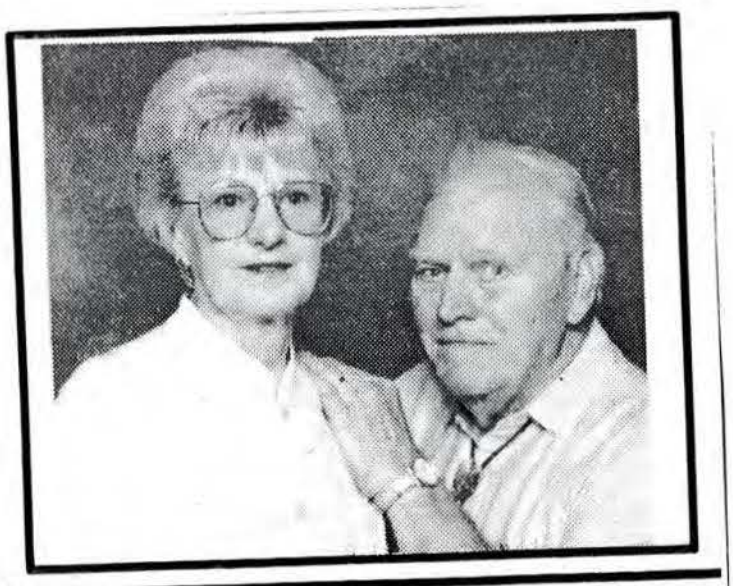
***60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE on Sunday December 8, 1996 (1pm - 4pm) at Valleyview Home, 29 Elysian, St. Thomas.***

*Isabel and Dave moved from St. Thomas and lived in West Lorne from 1954 to 1994. Isabel ran the Sears Cataloge Office and Dave owned Doan Electronics. They are now living in London and would be pleased to have you join them for their special occasion. Best Wishes only.*



*FRAN AND JOE WEISS. Congratulations on your 50TH ANNIVERSARY on December 3, 1996.*
*Love from Don & Sue, Rosemary & Herb, Jo-Anne & Brian, Tom & Jan, Deb & Jim and all your grandchildren.*

NOV. 1996



***Ralph & Veronica Lane are celebrating their 50th Anniversary on Saturday, September 28, 1996. Their family will hold an open house at the Eagle Community Centre from 1pm - 3pm. Friends, neighbors and relatives are invited to join in the celebration. Best Wishes Only...***



***Retiring Aldborough Township Road Superintendent Doug Staddon happily handed over the keys to his replacement, Rick Jackson, who has already begun his work for the township.***
***(K. Robinet)***

SOCIAL 1997

## 50th Wedding Anniversary
## RAY & ELEANOR COLEMAN



*Ray & Eleanor Coleman are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary with their family on February 22, 1997.*

JUNE 1997



***Admiring one of the winning entries-*** *These three ladies are checking out one of the winning entries at the West Lorne Horticultural Show that was held recently at Grace Anglican Church. From left to right the women are: Veronica Lane, Leola Lawrance and Hazel Stalker.*

# *West Lorne horticultural society hold annual flower show*

The West Lorne Horticultural Society held its annual Flower Show at Grace Anglican Church in West Lorne.

There were many beautiful exhibits entered in this years show and it seemed like a multitute of area residents filed through the one day event to look at the various exhibits at the show.

For the first time the show featured an added attraction this year as one wall of the room was adorned with drawings of flowers by grade one and two classes from Aldborough Public School.

Winners of each category were:

**Fresh Garden Flowers**
1. Peg Mitchell,2, N. Bailey, 3. Leola Lawrance.

**Danuven Type**
1. Leola Lawrance, 2. E. McKishnie, 3. Maribelle Cook and honourable mention went to George Lippold.

**Parrot Type**
1. (Any Color) Leola Lawrance, 2. Ken Watterworth.

**Lily of the Valley**
1. Leola Lawrance, 2. Rosa DaCosta, 3. Mary Lippold.

**Flower Branches**
1. V. Lane, 2. John Baillie,3. Leola Lawrance and honourable mention to Mary Lippold and George Lippold.

**Iris 6**
1. Nancy Baillie, 2, Mary Lippold, 3. V. Lane.

**Section B**

**African Violet Single**
1. Leola Lawrance, 2. K. McLanty, 3. Mary Lippold.

**Class9**

**African Violet- Varigated Leaf**
1. K. McLanty

**Any Flowering Houseplant Foliage**
1. Frances McCallum.

**House Plant Foliage**
1. Joan Marr, 2. Mary Lippold.

**Spider Plant**
1. Mrs. McLanty, 2. Fran McCallum.

**Native Flowers**
1. E. McKishnie, 2. Leola Lawrance.

**Herb Garden**
1. Nancy Baillie, 2. Leola Lawrance, 3. Mary Lippold.

**Miniature Arrangements**
1. Mary Lippold, 2. Peg Mitchell, 3. Eunice McKishnie

**All Green Arrangement**
1. Leola Lawrance

**Water Viewing**
1. Eunice McKishnee, Leola Lawrance

**Touch Wood**
1. Eunice McKishnee,2 V. Lane

**Men Only**

**Tool Time Arrangement**
1. John Baillie & George Lippold.

SOCIAL 1998

January 7, 1998 Independently Owned and Operated Vol. 2 Issue 33

T.L.C.
Corner Store
FULL SERVICE
Variety * Gas * Postal Outlet
NEW MOVIE RELEASES
Out To Sea
Conspiracy Theory
187
Sabrina The Teenage Witch
Graham St.
West Lorne
768-1071
Interac

The West Elgin
# STAR
Where West Elgin Gets Its News!
Distributed FREE to every home and business
in the Communities of West Elgin and Surrounding Area

PROFESSIONAL
CARPET
UPHOLSTERY
CLEANING
BY
LABADIES
LABADIES' CARPET CLEANING
WEST LORNE
768-2620

Ph. 519-768-2642 225 Graham Street, P.O. Box 129, West Lorne, Ont. N0L 2P0 Fax. 519-768-1358

JAN. 1998



MIKE HENSEN The London Free Press

Allison Peckham of Oakridge secondary school shows her SPECTRA award to her father, Vaughan Peckham, who teaches at Oakridge. Allie, thought to be the first unanimous choice of the award committee, has been coached by both her father and mother, Jane, who also teaches at Oakridge.

***Happy 64th Wedding Anniversary***
***Marie & Charles Pfeifer***



***Love and Best Wishes from your children, their spouses, grandchildren and great grandchildren.***

SOCIAL 1998

# CHRONICLE KID!



*Name:* ***Matthew Schweitzer***

*Age:* ***7***

*School:* ***Aldborough P. S.***

*Interests:* ***Basketball, riding his ski-doo***

*Career goal:* ***Dirt bike racer***

***If you or someone you know would like to be a Chronicle Kid, just give us a call at 785-2455.***

## CONGRATULATIONS



*Celebrating 65th Wedding Anniverasary*

***Mr. & Mrs. Roy Gammon***

March 18, 1933 - 1998

**Best Wishes & Love from Betty & Ted, Shirley & Tony, Cheryl & Allan. Grandchildren; Wayne & Sharon, Scott & Lisa Great Grandchildren; Luke & Aylssa, Scott & Julie**



45th Wedding Anniversary

April 25th, 1998

***Congratulations to Louis and Margaret Varga on their 45th Wedding Anniversary. Best Wishes from your family and friends...***

HAPPY 45TH ANNIVERSARY

MAR 25, 1998



*The second annual St. Patrick's Day Irish Stew Supper at the Crinan Presbyterian Church was a huge success, with almost double the number of guests compared to last year enjoying the delicious stew and home-made pies. Here, Sandra Payne and Ralph Fluit get their plates ready for some stew, being served by Gerri Hind. Money raised from the event will go to the church.* MAR- 23/98





Over 280 pets went through the Rabies clinic held on April 18, 1998 in West Lorne. The East London Animal Hospital was out to give the shots. APR. 22, 1998

# WEST LORNE CUBS

On March 19th during March Break, at 8 p.m. 12 cubs and 4 leaders arrived at the Scout Hall, to camp at the Park, behind the hall, at least for sleeping, having the hall for cooking and some activities, which weather did not permit to do outdoors. Thursday night the first activity was to set up tents, to have sleeping facilities. This was done with lighting from lanterns and flashlights. Once tents were up came the chore of carrying gear out there. Then all came inside to plant terrariums which is a Black Star requirement. Meanwhile mugup, bedtime snack of hot apple juice and smores had been prepared and were enjoyed by all. Friday morning after a hearty breakfast we spent some time picking up garbage throughout the park.. There was lots of that! Then all planted carrot tops, another star requirement.

Some time was spent building a construction out of wooden blocks to be judged as highest, sturdiest, most original. Lunchtime already. After lunch we covered another star requirement by touring Swains Greenhouse then onto the West Elgin Municipal building in Rodney for a tour. Now just for fun a game of bowling and back to the Scout Hall to prepare supper. In the evening an indoor campfire was held with skits, songs, cheers , followed by hot chocolate and homemade apple pie and out into the tents which were getting covered with freezing rain and snow. Bravery!! Saturdays activities consisted of packing and carrying gear back to the hall, tree leaves and branches identification, games of bingo, while leaders brought in stiff as boards - tents, which the cubs had to again set up inside to thaw and dry. How time flies when you're having fun. Time to prepare supper and then camp closing ceremonies. All had a good time and will soon be awarded with Stars and Badges they earned. We are still in need of egg cartons and are also interested in pop cans. Egg cartons may be dropped off at the local I.G.A. store, cans may be dropped off at the Scout Hall, preferably on a meeting might so they can be put indoors, Monday between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Tuesday 7 till 8:30 p.m.; Thursday at 7:00 till 8:30 p.m.

SOCIAL 1998

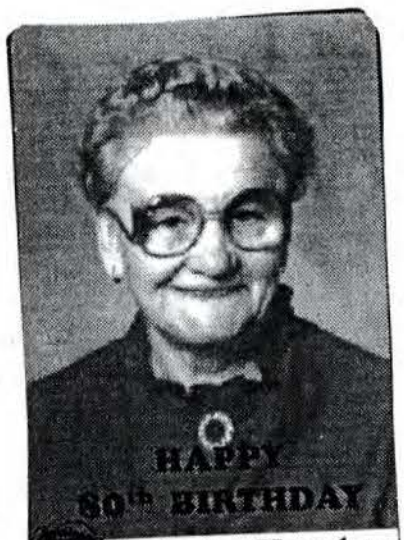
# NUNSENSE

APR. 1998

**A MUSICIAL COMEDY**



Front Row from Left to Right: Mary Jane Stevenson, Wayne Stevenson, Jonathan Farrell-Griffin, Heather Koscik, Chris Moore, Cathy Holland, Melissia Livingstone, Marigold Pearce, Dave Pearce, Dave Wright, and Martin Joldersma. Back Row Left to Right: Kris McDonald-Moriarty, Raina Wright, Ann Prud'homme, Susan McWilliam and Pat Kell.




*Katharina Mezenberg*
*Lots of Love from your family.*

An open house will be held in her honour on Sunday April 19th from 2:30pm to 5:00pm at St. Mary's Parish Hall, West Lorne,Ont.
***Best Wishes Only***



Jane, Joe and Jeff Hauser are proud to announce the Retirement of their father, Platoon Chief, Wayne Hauser after 35 years of service with the City of London Fire Department.
*Congratulations Dad and Happy Retirement.*



**Rodney Bowling Play Off Champions the Plums. From Left to Right are Jean Weber, Veronica Lane, Luther Weber and Patricia Lloyd. Annual Banquet held recently at the I.O.O.F. Hall in West Lorne.**





# Rosalie Elizabeth Krebsz

YWCA Woman of Distinction



BY TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF

A West Lorne businesswoman and community leader paid tribute to women — and men — of distinction in her own life Saturday when she was named St. Thomas-Elgin's 1998 Woman of Distinction.

Rosalie Elizabeth Krebsz, owner of Krebsz Jewellery, was one of 15 nominees for the biannual award sponsored by Elgin-St. Thomas YWCA.

She received the honor at a dinner at St. Anne's Centre where one of the community's most prominent women, St. Thomas-born actress Helen Shaver, was the evening's speaker.

In addition to a thriving business, Krebsz is active in her community. Her involvements include West Lorne Business Association, Rodney-Aldborough Fair Board, West Lorne Complex, Canadian Cancer Society and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

But she shared her tribute Saturday with her mother and mother-in-law, Frony Redinger and Elizabeth McMillan.

"They have shown me love and compassion and a sense of humor, and, also, strength and courage.

"Sometimes in your life, you have turmoil. And sometimes you feel you don't know how you're going to get through it but you do."

Krebsz has experienced turmoil in her own life. Just 18 months after her marriage to Konrad, he was disabled in an automobile accident.

Nodding Saturday to Shaver, who earlier told her audience that while not all women get to kiss Paul Newman, they all have equally important experiences in their own lives, Krebsz paid tribute to her husband of 33 years.

"He's the Paul Newman of my life."

Krebsz on Saturday also valued the friendships she has made in the community as a volunteer.

"Through the volunteer work I have done and the committees I have been on, I have found and have received so many new friendships. And I think that is really important in life."

Krebsz was one of 15 community leaders in St. Thomas and Elgin whose names were put forward for Saturday's recognition.

Krebsz called nominees "a group of dynamite women."

Past recipients of the YWCA honor include Helen Haddow, Pat Lepischak, Vi Shearer and Nancy Balsdon.

Krebsz received an engraved crystal vase from donor S'ine Herold.

SOCIAL 1998

## 40th Anniversary



***Russ and Grace Campbell and their family cordially invite you to a celebration of their 40th Wedding Anniversary. A dance will be held in the Melbourne Agriculture Hall on Friday, July 3rd, 1998 at 8:30 pm AND Grace and Russ will be at home on Sunday afternoon, July 5th, 1998 from 2 to 4:30 pm.*** **NO GIFTS PLEASE**

## *50th Wedding Anniversary*

***Lois & Lorne Carroll, June 12, 1948***



*Our parents have been greatly blessed with 50 years of marriage. On July 11, 1998 we welcome family and friends to join us in celebration at the Dutton Dunwich Community Centre from 7:30pm to 12pm. Best Wishes only please!!*
*For those who insist a small donation to Argyle Presbyterian Church will be accepted.*

***Congratulations Mom & Dad...***
***Love and Best Wishes***
***Anne, Audrey, June, Janice & families.***





Winners at Wardsville's Ladies Invitational Golf Tournament June 20 were Judy Talbot - Low Gross and Gwen Szabo winning Low Net. Both girls are members of the Wardsville Golf Club.

## WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT



***Mrs. Mary Steinbacker and Mr. Harry Beech and Mr. and Mrs. Steven Lilley wish to announce the wedding of their children Jodie Lynn and Steven Allan Edward. Marriage vows will take place Saturday, July 4, 1998 at Largie Presbyterian Church at 2:00 p.m.***

## *50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY*



***Don and Eleanor Branchflower***

Don and Eleanor wish to invite their family and friends to share in their Celebration.
An Open House will be held at the
Glencoe Agricultural Hall,
Saturday July 4, 1998,
2:00 - 4:00
In lieu of gifts a donation of canned good would be appreciated.

## Congratulations

**Graduation**



*On June 10, 1998 Karen Elizabeth McGregor graduates from U.W.O., Kings College with a Bachelor of Arts, Honours Degree in History. Karen is the daughter of Duncan and Nancy McGregor, R.R. 1 West Lorne.*

SOCIAL 1998

## CAR AND BODY FOUND IN THAMES

Almost four years has gone by after the disappearance of the West Lorne man. On Wednesday, July 29th some youth were swimming at the Big Bend Conservation Area in the river, when they discovered the car.

The Glencoe O.P.P. were contacted: The car was removed on Thursday, July 30th.

The 60 year old man a husband and father was last seen by his wife on November 10th, 1994, leaving their home in his 1981 White Chevrolet Malibu.

The body has been sent to Toronto to have dental records checked before determing that it was Lawrence Bruce Davey's body that was found in the car.

## FIVE GENERATIONS OF LADIES



Grandmother Cheryl McMillan (Bothwell), Mother Nicole Gowanlock (West Lorne), Great Great Grandmother Edna Schleihauf (Rodney) holding great great granddaughter Madisson Zoey Gowanlock. and Great Grandmother Mary Ellen Schnekenburger (West Lorne)

## *COMMUNITY PROFILE*



### MARY BELLE COOK

Every community should be so lucky to have someone like Mary Belle Cook! "I'm never home, I go out whenever I have the opportunity." You can locate Mary participating in several voluntary roles within West Lorne, including the West Elgin Community Health Centre where she volunteers her time in programs such as Soups On or helping with babysitting. Mary is pleased that the Portuguese ladies in town have started to participate in Soups On, it's really wonderful and the speakers are very helpful providing information on a wide range of topics. Her volunteer role with the Centre began about a year ago when she assisted with a United Way breakfast, and as Mary says, "the rest is history."

Mary's voluntary services are shared with numerous local groups including: Kiwanis, Women's Institute, and the United Church. Mary was born in Crinan, just north of West Lorne and moved to West Lorne some 40 years ago from her family's farm.

Mary has been a patient of the Community Health Centre since its early inception, some 4 years ago. In speaking about her experience as a patient at the Centre, Mary states that, "here your not just a number, your a person. My physician and other staff, take the time you need."

Mary recalls that at the time her husband passed away two years ago, the Centre was extremely helpful and supportive during this difficult period of her life.

"I hear negative things in the community about the Centre and wish that people understood that the Centre can only do so much with what it has. The Centre has standards that must be met, the staff are really under a lot of pressure. A lot of people think that the Centre is a walk in clinic, which has never been the situation. As a client of the Community Health Centre, it is nice to know that they are only a phone call away if I should need them."

Oh yes, you can find Mary at the Lawn Bowling Club for her regular euchre night!

## *EAGLE COMMUNITY YARD SALES*



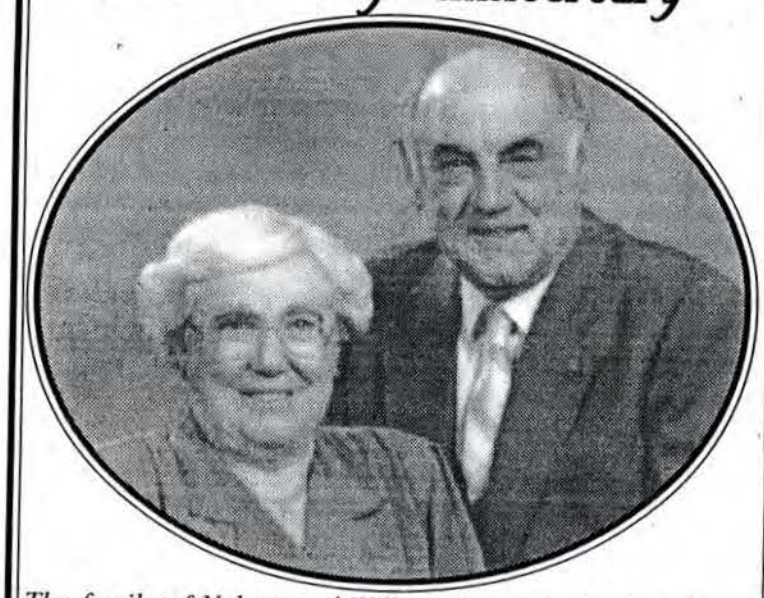
***Over 20 participated in the Annual Yard Sales at Eagle on Saturday, August 15th.***

## *MR. AND MRS. DARREN PATON*



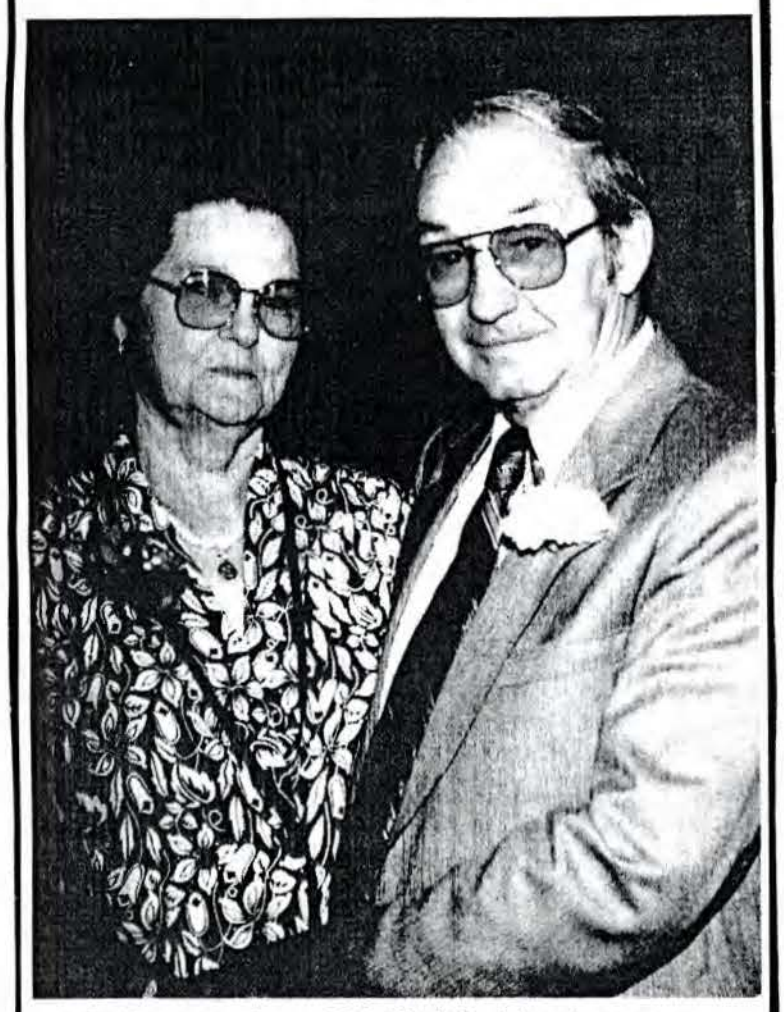
Mr. and Mrs. Herb Paton and Jim and Elaine Payne are happy to announce the marriage of their children. On July 1, 1998 at the "Couples" Resort in Ocho Rios Jamaica, Kathy and Darren exchanged their vows. Kathy and Daren celebrated with their friends and family on July ll, 1998 at the St. Mary's Parish Hall in West Lorne.

## *50th Wedding Anniversary*



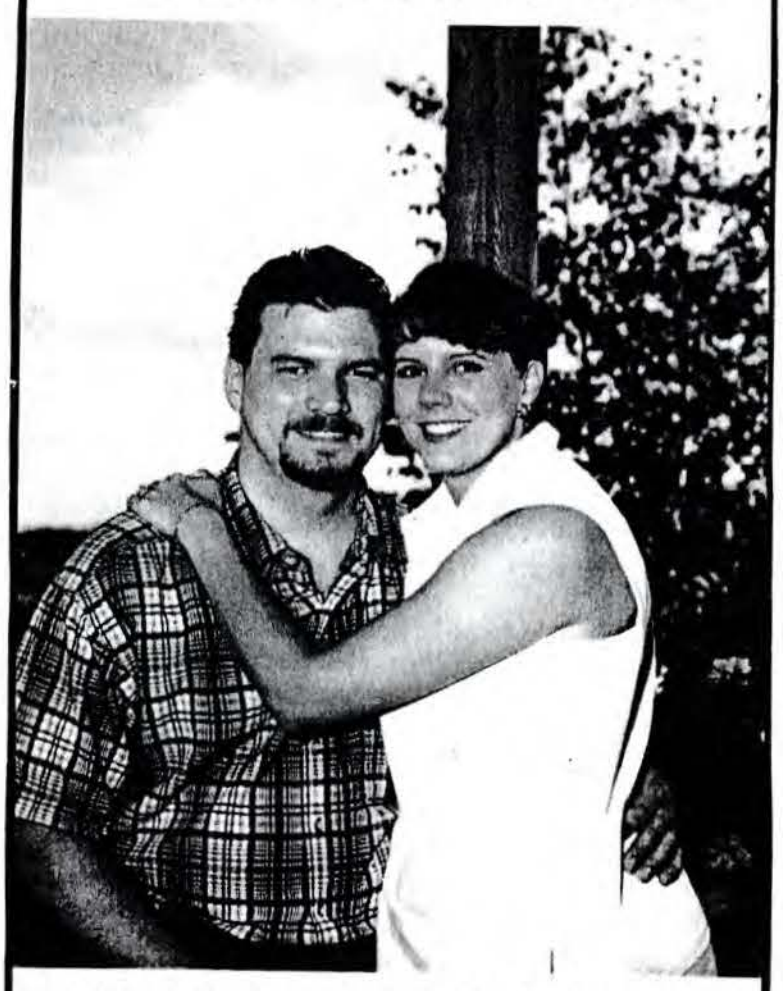
*The family of Nelson and Willa Johnston invite friends and relatives to an Open House on Saturday August 8, 1998 from 2:00 to 4:30pm at the home of Nelson and Willa.*
*Best wishes only please.*

## 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



*In honour of our 50th Wedding Anniversary we would like to thank our family for the Dinner and Trip to Vancouver.*
*Jack and Grace Vowel*

## WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT



*Mrs. Winnis VanLierop is pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of her daughter Christine to Mr. Douglas Kernaham. The marriage will take place September 12th, 1998 at Knox Presbyterian Church, West Lorne at 2:30 p.m.*

## 50th Anniversary



*The family of John & Carolyn Smith invite friends and family to an open house in honour of their parents 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, August 15, 1998 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Highgate Hall.*
*Best wishes only please.*

August 31, 1998



*West Elgin's Charlene Carroll was on top of the world recently as she was named the 1998 CNE Ambassador of the Fairs. Here, Carroll receives a quilt that was given to her by some of the past CNE Ambassadors who were at this year's competition.*

# Carroll named the CNE Ambassador of the Fairs

**Paul Mayne**
*The Chronicle*

Charlene Carroll has performed on stage many times in her young career, but her latest accomplishment has thrust her into the spotlight, and her biggest role to date.

With her beauty, poise and articulate personality, Carroll earned herself high marks by being named the 1998 CNE Ambassador of the Fairs. The three-day competition was held Aug. 21-23 in Toronto.

It was quite the experience for the 18-year-old Carroll, who'll be entering OAC this year at WESS.

"This is just so incredible. It's unbelievable," says Carroll in a phone interview from Toronto, where she remain until Sept. 7. "This is something I'm not going to soon forget."



Carroll, who won the 1997 Rodney-Aldborough Fair Ambassador, approached the CNE Ambassador of the Fairs competition with the thought of just enjoying the experience. And what she ended up experiencing was the furthest thing from her mind.

"I went to Toronto thinking 'there are 84 other Ambassadors there, what are the chances of them picking me' and I think that helped me relax and really enjoy the three days," says Carroll. "I met so many nice people, other Ambassadors, exchanged addresses; I wasn't there to win but to have a good time. If I were preoccupied with simply winning I wouldn't have enjoyed myself as much as I did."

But the calm and relaxed state Carroll had possessed throughout the last

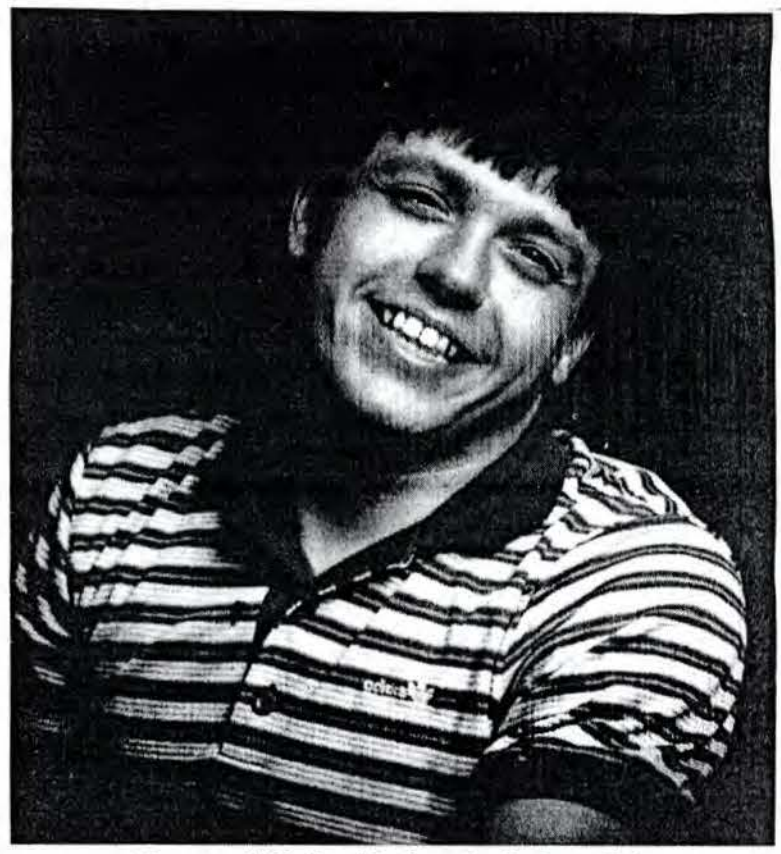


See 'Carroll' Page 12

# "THE FAIREST OF THE FAIR"



*Winner of the Ambassador of the Fair, Cynthia DeWild is pictured with 1st runner up, Jennifer Flemming.*



***Come and Pledge Mark at the Rodney Fair***

Mark Quinton is a young man confined to a wheelchair due to the fact he has Cerebral Palsy.

Mark has given himself another challenge in life and that is to support Jesse's Journey " A Father's Tribute".

With the help of Jesse's Journey staff, Parkwood Hospital Physio staff, his parents George & Janet and friends, Mark has undertaken to raise funds for this worthy cause.

On October 30th 1998 Mark intends to accomplish 100 km on the power trainer. A piece of gym equipment designed to help strengthen the arms and legs, Mark has been riding this bike for about a year now. Six weeks ago when Mark decided to take this challenge on he has been in training.

I asked Mark why he decided to do this and Mark's answer was "When I needed help the community was always there and so was my friends it's my way in giving back to the community and saying thank you."

Mark moved from home when he was 21 years of age to Parkwood Hospital in London. To Mark that was a big challenge. Talking with Mark I came to the conclusion that no matter what it is and how big the challenge is Mark takes them head on.

Mark is accepting pledges towards his 100 km ride, his goal is to raise $1,000 for the Jesse's Journey Fund. You can support Mark in his efforts by sponsoring this important event. Mark will be at the Rodney Fair and pledge sheets will be available, you also can pick one up at the West Elgin Free Press.

GOOD LUCK MARK






*West Elgin's own Charlene Carroll is back in town - and she had a pretty nice ride to boot. The OAC student at WESS returned home with the CNE Ambassador of the Fairs title she won in Toronto Aug. 21-23. The 18-year-old returned home not only with her crown, but with a handful of fabulous gifts - most notable a 1998 Chrysler Sebring convertible she gets to drive for a year. Carroll will be on hand at the 144th Annual Rodney-Aldborough Fair this Friday night to help crown the 1998 Rodney Ambassador of the Fair, which gets underway at the grandstand in Rodney at 6 p.m.*

SOCIAL 1998



OCT. 1998

## LONG TIME RESIDENT LEAVING



*Long time resident George Berdan of West Lorne is staying with his daughter in Newbury until he moves to the Bobier Villa in Dutton. He is seen in the above picture seated in the middle of the front row. The neighbors, relatives and friends wished him a farewell on Saturday October 10th at the West Lorne Legion. Mr. Berdan in his 89th year worked at Fords for four years and then joined the navy. When he returned he moved to West Lorne and worked at McKillops and then Erie Flooring. He has been a Legion Member for the past 53 years.*

**Congratulations**
*Alice Humphries*



**80 Years Young**
***Love from your family.***
Come help us celebrate Saturday, November 21st, 2 to 4pm at the West Lorne Baptist Church. Your presence will be your gift.

**"Her Love Shines On All Of Us"**



***Welcome to***
***Beatrice Hoglund's 80th Birthday Celebration.***
**St.John's United Church, Dutton**
**Sun. Oct.18th • 2-4pm**
***Best Wishes Only...***

Wedding Announcement



***Shirley Lashbrook and Earl and Sylvia Sherman are happy to announce the forthcoming marriage of the their children, Jane and Sandy on December 19, 1998.***






# Inspiration Night

*It was a night of appreciation and inspiration for TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ON792 West Lorne last week. A number of TOPS members were honoured for their achievements. They included, seated from left, Jean McRae (eight year numeral pin for consecutive years maintaining weight loss), Loraine Tunks (ribbon for inspiration and assistance to TOPS), Florence Pascu (ribbon and gift for completing 13-week KOPS (Keep Off Pounds Sensibly) program) and Twila McWilliam (charm for remaining below goal for four consecutive weeks). Standing from left are Sandra Reid, Mary Lou McMillian and Marie Reynolds (ribbons for recognition of good progress). As a group TOPS ON 792 West Lorne has lost 155 pounds this year. Absent from photo, but honoured, were Mary Liepman and Sharon Nielson.*



*FRED REDINGER*
***90th Birthday • November 24th, 1998***
***Promise of Peace***

Lord make me an instrument of peace,
Hear me, when I call your name.
Reach out for me in kindness,
When the heart is silent.
Sing unto me, a new song.
Let me know the thoughts,
Help me rise and capture the heart.
The wind that echoes God's word
The strength that heals the beat
Of His own song of perfect love.

Welcome me as your own child,
Set my heart upon your heart.
For I am for your peace,
As you are for my love
The light upon my soul.
Amen
*With Peace and Love,*
*your daughter Shirley*

***"Happy 90th Birthday Dad & Grandpa"***
***From your family***

Forthcoming Marriage



***Mr. & Mrs. Al Palazzo and Mr.& Mrs. Dan Carr are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Karrie Anne and David Gary. The couple will celebrate a December Wedding at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Lorne.***

147

SPORTS 1994

# Miller Park to expand and improve

By Denise Helmer

Land around Miller Park that is not presently being used is going to be cleaned up and the park will be expanded to encompass a larger recreational environment.

Presently there is land at the back of the park that is not being used for anything specific but has the potential to be transformed into park land. "Why is staff just going out there and cutting grass?" was the question that the recreation committee and chairperson Phil Mark asked themselves.

The Recreation Committee hopes to expand the park to better accommodate recreation in the village. The hope of the committee is to create "a safer environment for ball players and soccer players," said Mark.

Presently there is a conflict on the front field between baseball and soccer. Mark said when the older, stronger players get on the ball field that their game often interrupts the action on the soccer field. He said it posed a safety risk.

Also, there is a great need in the village for soccer facilities. With 150 youth soccer players on 11 different teams "field availability" has became an issue in West Lorne. "West Lorne used to have three large fields out there but the back ball diamond took one away," said Mark. For this reason the committee looked to the land that wasn't being used. "What we should be able to accomplish back there are two large fields," added Mark.

So last Christmas, with the help of West Lorne Minor Soccer, the West Lorne division of Scouts Canada, the Girl Guides and other volunteers, clean up and removal of old, dangerous trees began. Although the clean up of the land has started, there is still some stump removal and drainage that has to be done.

As well as installing new soccer fields the committee is planning on shifting one field down about 50 feet to create a "safer buffer" between the baseball diamond and the soccer field.

There are also plans to move the soccer field near Jessie St. (behind the lawn bowling greens). Presently it is situated too close to a fence. The field currently runs north and south but it will be moved so that it runs east and west, away from a nearby fence. According to Mark, this is much safer for the younger children that use the field because they often bump into the fence as they play.

Other improvements to the park include dug outs on the front field and a shaded tree area behind the Scout Hall that can be used for a variety of things. "It makes a nice shaded, picnic area out there at the back," said Mark of the wooded area. He said the area is a good, outdoor nature plot, with trees over 100 years old, right within West Lorne that the residents can enjoy without having to go any distance.

Mark also said that the new expansion and changes could allow for a pavilion if someone decides to take on such a project in the future.

According to Mark, there is $3,000 in the budget for "development of park land". The money from the budget will be used and money is also expected to come from donations. West Lorne Minor Soccer has already committed itself to the project.

Not only are people from minor soccer volunteering for clean up, minor soccer is also going to foot the bill for stump removal.

The park should be completed sometime in 1995.

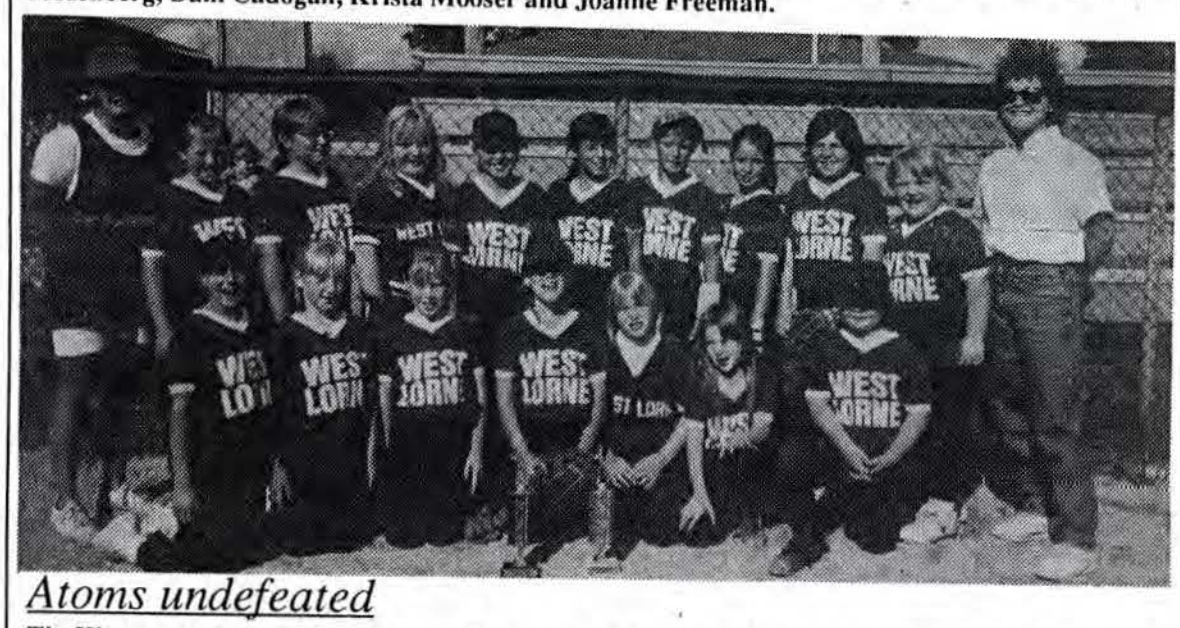
SEPT. 21, 1994





## *Squirts are season and tournament champs*

**The Squirt girls were Tournament A champions as well as regular season champs. Pictured here in back, from left are: Coach Gerry Minten, Marsha Knapp, Terri Schnekenberger, Leanne Carroll, Carla Brown, Stephanie Tobias, Colette Tobias, Jill Chevalier. Front row: Sarah Minten, Amy Mezenberg, Dani Cadogan, Krista Mooser and Joanne Freeman.**



## *Atoms undefeated*

**The West Lorne Atom girls had an excellent year finishing undefeated going into the playoffs, which**

SPORTS 1995





*The West Lorne Comets Bantam travel team was the Shamrock 'D' championship team this year. Pictured here are: (back row left to r ight) Coach Ray Pavey, assistant coach Bob McLachlan, Jason Vojin, Jarett Hoglund, Jamey McLachlan, Jason McDowell, Justin Mezenberg, Jarrod Charron, trainer Wayne Hoglund, manager Bob McDowell (front) Rob Tait, Darren Stafford, Shawn Szabo, Tyler Arvai, Shawn McCallum, Jason Chase and Josh Derraugh.* *(photo supplied)*

April 8, 1996

# WEST LORNE NOVICES BRING HOME OMHA GOLD



*The West Lorne Novice Travel Team defeated Ayr in three straight games, clinching the OMHA 'DD' championship on March 27. Pictured here with their trophy are: (back row left to right) manager Nick Coates, head coach Pete Mezenberg, assistant coach Henry Dryfhout, trainer Jim Knowles (middle) Wade Munn, Jamie Knowles, Scotty Mezenberg, Jamie Kirschner, Jonathan Woolsey, Craig Hoglund (front) Andrew Coates, Jonathan McDowell, Jonathan Dryfhout, Jeff Okolisan, Jeff Walker and Greg Arvai. Absent was Justin Walker.* *(D. Robinet)*

SPORTS 1996

# Oliveira looks forward to NHL draft year with Kingston

BY: DONALD ROBINET

*Special to The Chronicle*

Just four years out of the West Lorne peewees, Mike Oliveira is about to enter his most crucial season yet.

Oliveira, 17, is enjoying some rare time at home this summer as he prepares for his sophomore season with the Ontario Hockey League's (OHL) Kingston Frontenacs, and while there is always a sense of anticipation before every season, this year is extra special, since he is eligible for the NHL entry draft in June.

The OHL is arguably the best amateur hockey league in the world, but Oliveira took it all in stride last season, netting 11 goals and 27 assists on a team that many consider to be a contender for the Memorial Cup national championship this year.

"It was great," says Oliveira of his rookie campaign. "It was a good year." He added that it was a bit of an adjustment playing in the OHL, where the regular season is 66 games long and long bus trips are the norm, but Oliveira thrived under the intense system of practices, training, games and 10:30 p.m. curfew, all while adjusting to a new city and completing Grade 11.

And even though it was his rookie season, the Frontenacs showed confidence in him by placing him in crucial situations.

"I played on the powerplay quite a bit," said the offensive-minded centre, who also found time to work on his defensive skills. "I got the chance to play on the first line, second line. I was really happy."

Kingston is not the only organization that is showing confidence in Oliveira's abilities. He now has an agency working on his behalf, and not just any agency, but one that also includes Wayne Gretzky among its clients. Oliveira was approached by former Detroit Red Wing goaltender Eddie Mio of the International Management Group (IMG) while he was still playing for the Sarnia Bees of the Western Junior 'B' League. Mio is a good friend of Gretzky's and was the best man at his wedding when both played for the Edmonton Oilers.

Along with a few other top prospects, including Joe Thornton and Daniel Cleary, IMG showed the young players a taste of what to expect if they make it in the NHL. "I went to LA for eight days," said Oliveira. "They wanted to show us what we have in front of us."

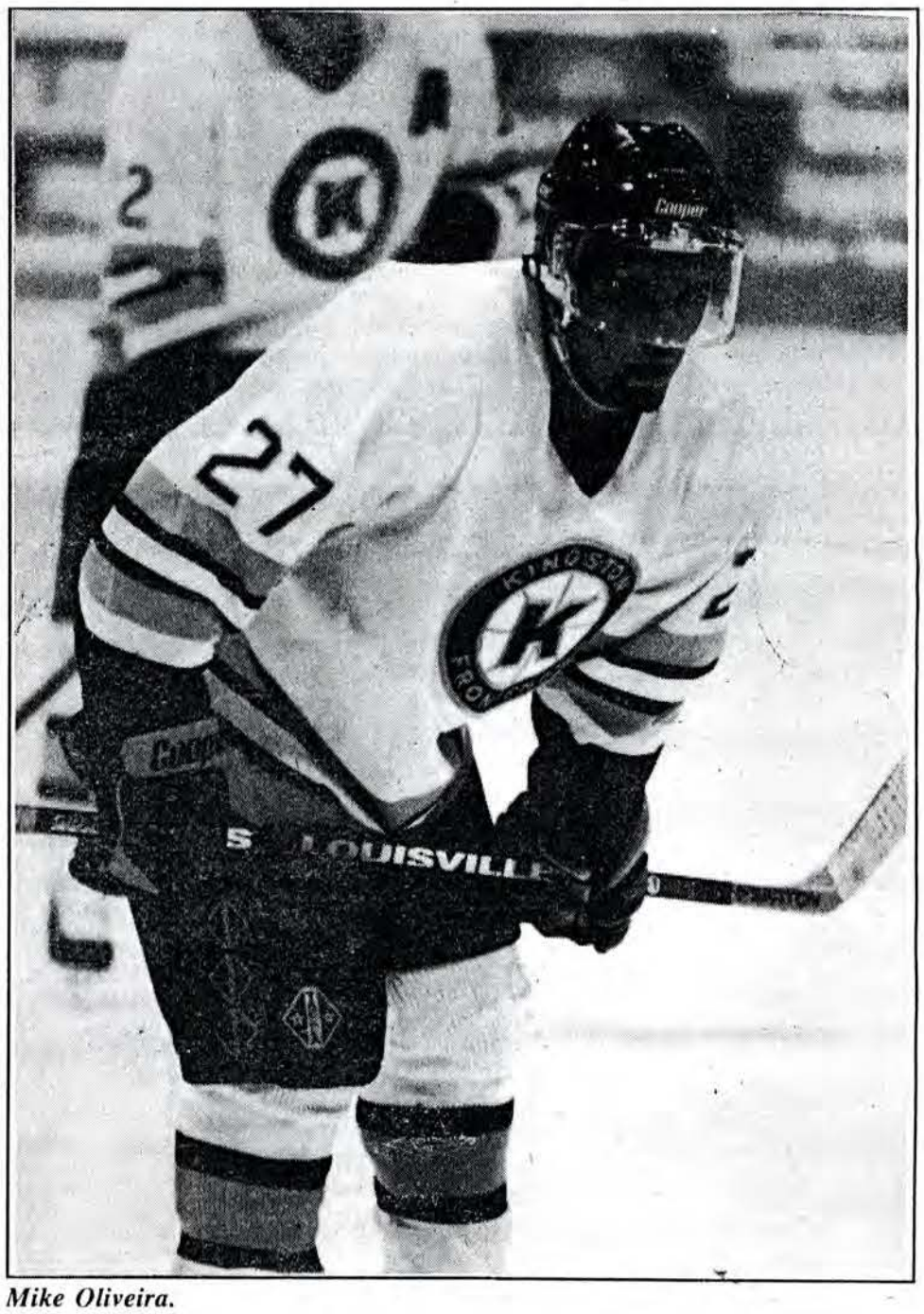
The young players were guests of Wayne Gretzky at his home, and they dined out with the all-time point leader, played golf, and also met other established NHL players including Alexander Mogilny and Russ Courtnall.

"They treated us real good. He's (Gretzky) a real nice guy," Oliveira said. Of his experience, he added, "it's amazing; I couldn't believe it."

Yet even though his successful career has taken him to the brink of professional status, Oliveira has both feet firmly planted on the ground and knows that there is still a lot of work ahead. He faithfully follows the daily training regimen given to him by the Frontenacs, and is required to report on his progress every two weeks. He also recently attended a two-day mini camp in Kingston. He reports to the regular camp at the end of August.

Now, in this crucial season, Oliveira is set to work harder than ever, and prove to the NHL scouts that he belongs in the big time.

"It's all up to me," he summarizes.




*Mike Oliveira.*

# MEET YOUR 1997 ALL STAR



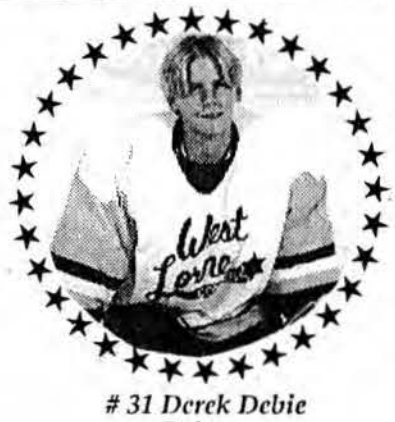
**# 5 Andrew Hentz**
*Wallacetown*
*Position : Right Wing*
*Born: 1984*
*School: St. Mary's, West Lorne*
*Parents: Mike & Ingrid*



**# 11 Brett McGill**
*West Lorne*
*Position: Centre*
*Born: 1984*
*School: St. Mary's*
*Parents: Mark & Patsy*



**# 4 Joe Hentz**
*Wallacetown*
*Position: Defence*
*Born : 1983*
*School: St. Mary's*
*Parents: Mike & Ingrid*



**# 31 Derek Debie**
*Rodney*
*Position: Goalie*
*Born: 1983*
*School: St. Mary's*
*Parents: Bill & Val*



**# 17 Lee Wilson**
*West Lorne*
*Position : Centre*
*Born: 1983*
*School : WESES*
*Parents: Stan & Marie*



**# 9 David Rivard**
*West Lorne*
*Position : Centre / Left Wing*
*Born: 1984*
*School: WESES*
*Parents: Mike & Marg*



**# 6 Joe Lyons**
*Dutton*
*Position: Centre / Right Wing*
*Born: 1984*
*School: WESES*
*Parents: Louis & Lucy*



**# 10 Jeff Hyslop**
*Rodney*
*Position : Defence*
*Born: 1984*
*School: WESES*
*Parents: Bill & Shelly*



**#7 Mark Vergeer**
*West Lorne*
*Position: Right Wing*
*Born: 1983*
*School: St. Mary's*
*Parents: Harry & Joanne*



**# 14 Daniel Lee**
*Rodney*
*Position: Defence*
*Born: 1983*
*School: St. Mary's*
*Parents: Dennis & Edna*



**# 8 Nathan Woolsey**
*Rodney*
*Position: Right Wing*
*Born: 1983*
*School: WESES*
*Parents: Bob & Wendy*



**# 18 Dwayne Munn**
*Rodney*
*Position: Defence*
*Born : 1983*
*School : WESES*
*Parents: Gerry & Debbie*



**# 30 Tyler Arvai**
*West Lorne*
*Position: Goalie*
*Born: 1983*
*School: WESES*
*Parents: Louis & Marlene*



**#15 Jonathon McCallum**
*West Lorne*
*Position : Right Wing*
*Born : 1983*
*School: WESES*
*Parent: Linda McCallum*



**Michael Hentz**
*Wallacetown*
*Duties: Manager*



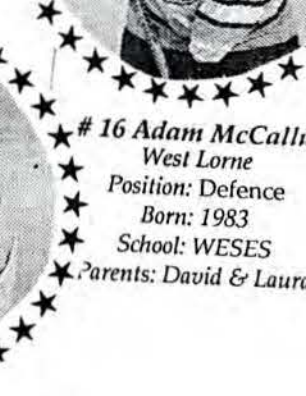
**Tim Horvat**
*Rodney*
*Duties: Assistant Coach*



**Paul Duarte**
*West Lorne*
*Trainer*



**Rob Schnekenburger**
*West Lorne*
*Duties: Head Coach*



**# 16 Adam McCallum**
*West Lorne*
*Position: Defence*
*Born: 1983*
*School: WESES*
*Parents: David & Laura*



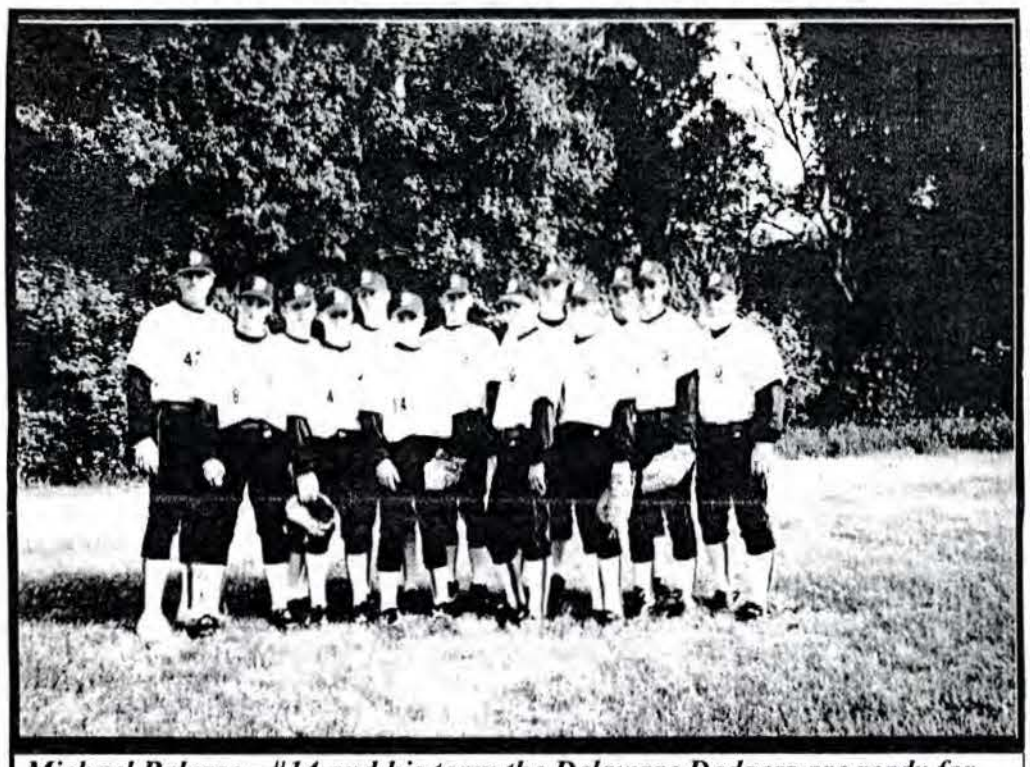
**# 12 Matt Mezenberg**
*West Lorne*
*Position: Left Wing*
*Born: 1984*
*School: St. Mary's*
*Parents: Pete & Cathy*

**1996-97' OMHA 'DD' CHAMPS**

West Lorne COMETS

SPORTS 1998

## *MICHAEL PALAZZO GOING TO THE PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS*



***Michael Palazzo - #14 and his team the Delaware Dodgers are ready for action for the Provincial finals being held in Richmond Hill Labour Day weekend.***

Michael 15, is the only player that is not from Delaware. Palazzo was given a chance to play for the team and he fit right in with the rest. Michael is usually 2nd baseman but also can pitch a few innings when necessary.

The Delaware Dodgers Select Bantam baseball team won the London and District CBL Regional Playoff Tournament to earn the right into the Provincial finals to be played in Richmond Hill on Labour Day weekend.

Michael, 2nd baseman for the Delaware team, hit .592 with 8 RBI's including a 2 run 350' home run to lead the Delaware team to convincing 6-0 and 12-2 wins over a strong Belmont team in the finals.

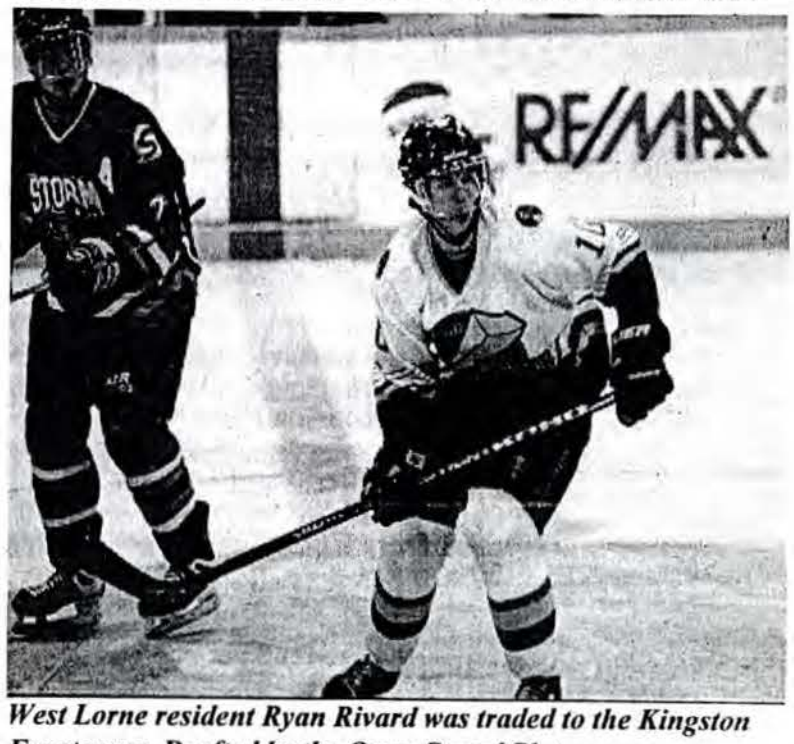
Other teams representing the London and district CBL were North London, Oakridge, EBBA, Southwest, Woodstock, and Poplar Hill.

The season record of the Delaware team is 39 wins and 4 losses, including a great game against Daytona Beach, the top Bantam team from the USA, who is now playing in the International Tournament in China.

At the upcoming provincial tournament there will be a chance for Michael to stand out for the more than 37 scouts that will be in attendance, including university, college and pro scouts and other scouts looking for players to fill spots on the provincial midget team.

We are sure that everyone in the West Elgin Area wishes Michael and the team the best of LUCK AT THE PROVINCIALS.

## *RIVARD TRADED TO KINGSTON*




***West Lorne resident Ryan Rivard was traded to the Kingston Frontenacs. Drafted by the Owen Sound Platers a year ago,Ryan received the phone call from GM and Head Coach of Kingston Larry Maverty of the trade. The trade consisted of veteran Jan Sulca and a 6th round draft pick to Owen Sound for Rivard to Kingston. Rivard will join another West Lorne resident. More details next week.*** NOV. 1998



# Da Costa nabs bronze at Ontario Summer Games in Guelph

**Paul Mayne**
*The Chronicle*

To win a bronze medal at the Ontario Summer Games is quite the accomplishment. But to win the medal in a sport you just started taking seriously this past spring is even more astounding.

That's just what Teresa Da Costa did this past Aug. 13-16 as she competed in the Ontario Summer Games in Guelph.

Da Costa ventured back into the world of shotput approximately five months ago on the advice of a coach. Prior to that, the last time she did shotput was in grade school.

"I was able to throw pretty far when I was in grade school but at that time I just assumed that everyone else could probably throw farther," says the outgoing 16-year-old.

But after finishing second this past year at OFSAA, the WESS student, who will enter Grade 12 this year, saw that she had the potential. Her toss of 11.06 was 10cm behind the first place finisher.

"I had a great time at the summer games," says Da Costa. "I met a lot of people and the competition was great."

It was also a bit intimidating at first. Many of the almost 3,000 competitors had coaches with them. The two girls who finished ahead of her shared the same full-time coach. Da Costa trained on her own.

"It wasn't that great at first but [illegible] I got to know my roommate and her friends it got a lot better. I didn't want to go home at the end," she says of her new friends. Da Costa also picked up a few pointers from some of the coaches which she gladly took.

But she was all business when it came to the competition. Her toss of 11.11 was just 4cm short of the silver medal.

"I like to dream really big. I want to go far with my shotput abilities," she says. "A year can make a big difference in how much you improve."

Da Costa plans to work out and train over the winter months and is thinking of joining a track club in either St. Thomas or London. But with her school work and a part-time job, her time is already limited.

The future may hold the possibility of a scholarship to a U.S. college or university for Da Costa, but he admits she won't jump at the first offer.

"Education comes first for me," she says. "Whether it a full scholarship or partial, I want to make sure the school offers the classes I want."

So the obvious question to ask would be 'Do you want to go to the Olympics someday?' And of course she would, but Da Costa is also realistic.

"There are women throwing them like 22 and 23. That's like double what I'm doing now," she says astoundingly.

But with the work ethic and competitive edge Da Costa has, that may not be out of the question.




*Teresa Da Costa shows off the bronze medal she won for shotput at the Ontario Summer Games in Guelph.*

152

SPORTS 1998

JULY 22, 1998

# J.J. WROBEL'S STORY TO FAME

J.J. Wrobel's dream in the hockey stage finally came into play a few weeks ago. J.J. age 22 was recruited by the Columbus Hockey club from Georgia in the Central Hockey League. However his climb to the top was a hard and rocky one.

Wrobel started early and participated in West Lorne Minor Hockey till he was a Bantam. During these years J.J. lead most of his teams in major championship. The first coming when he was at the Novice age where they won the region consolation Silver Stick. Later in Atom and Peewee J.J. was strong enough to play on two teams. In 1989-90 J.J. lead the Bantam team in the OMHA finals against Flesherton at the Pee Wee age. J.J. remained in West Lorne for one more year to play a very successful season playing both Bantam and Midget.

In 1991 J.J. signed with the St. Thomas Stars in the Western JRB hockey league, though his duties were to be used on the affiliate team the Belmont Bombers, a local JRD club. Times were hard and J.J. decided to leave the squad to return home for OMHA play downs. It seemed his future was in doubt, however J.J. bounced back to join the Elgin Middlesex AAA Midget team. There he won the scoring race and was brought up to play for the St. Thomas Stars in the playoffs.

Later in the fall of 1993 J.J. signed with cross town rivals,



HERE J.J. HOLDS ONE OF THE TROPHIES HE HELPED WIN

the Alymer Aces. During his successful season with Alymer. J.J. was sought by a handful of JRA clubs, but J.J.'s concern was perhaps a scholarship in a Prep US College team.

The next season many hockey fans from West Lorne were happy to see J.J. join Michael Oliveira, Drew Felder and the Sarnia Ranson. JR. Bees. Both J.J. Wrobel and Michael Oliveira team up on the ice and gave a spectacular performance for the local fans. At the end of the season J.J. lead the scoring race and Michael a close second.

The next season poor new management in Sarnia left the team in shambles, were J.J. Wrobeland Drew Felder were given no alternative but to ask for trades. Both found themselves in St. Thomas and gave the team a big boost as they went on to the finals. 1996-97 was J.J.'s last JR season. He seen in the past his local team mates Michael Oliveira in Kingston, and Drew Felder in Windsor.

But for J.J. Wrobel it was his best achievement ever. He lead the scoring championship in the league. He also participated in the annual All Star game and come away with the MVP of the game. The topping on the cake was that J.J. Wrobel was selected as the Most Valuable Player by the players of the St. Thomas Stars and the Western JRB Hockey League.

For the next season J.J. refused scholarship offers to join the new SRA club the London Admirals.

Here he had another successful season where he led the club into the Bolton Cup and the Allen Cup. One of the most prestigious Championships in all of hockey.

This summer J.J. sought employment as a councilor for kids in Major Hockey Camps through out the United States. Camps from states such as New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Massachusetts. J.J.'s experiences in hockey impressed organizers so that they promoted him to coaching instructor. Here J.J. coaches U.S. kids from all over the United States, were the age varies from 5 to 17. His stay was for three weeks, however organizers prolonged it for a number of more weeks. During his adventure J.J. joined Boston Bruin Joe Thorton and ex-line mate Ryan St. Clair of the St. Thomas Stars, in a Roller Hockey tournament in Boston.

After his employment in the States J.J. will return home for a brief stay and will report to the Columbus hockey club of the Central Professional Hockey League. Negotiations are not confirmed but it will be a good substantial salary. He will report to camp in September to join the club in Georgia, and stay throughout the season till his return home in April. Columbus won the championship last season and are thrilled to have J J join its squad.

I'm sure that the proud parents of J.J., John and Anne Wrobe are also proud, as well brothers Trevor, Kevin and David.

Personally I really am proud that this individual has achieved what most hockey players dream of doing. To me I did have the chance to coach J.J. in hockey as well as soccer, and it will be one I never will forget. Congratulations J.J. Wrobel, you've done well, not only for yourself, but your family, close friends, as well the general community. Way to Go.



*Pictured here Man of all Seasons Lee Wilson holding the Ontario Cup Trophy*

# A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

*by Roy dos Santos*

This summer Lee Wilson of West Lorne led Forest United Under 15 boys soccer team of London to the Ontario Cup to claim soccer's greatest prize. Lee, age 15, began playing soccer at the early age of four for West Lorne Minor Soccer. He played many years for the organization until 1995 when London Youth lured the young superstar to their squad.

He then joined the Forest United Soccer Club which played against teams such as Woodstock, Blue Water from Sarnia, and Strathroy Portuguese. This season Lee played 15 league games and notched an amazing nine goals. With his position as sweeper, which is a defensive role, Lee still managed to make the strong runs through the midfield and attack, a system that earned him respect from his coach Tony Tamblirro. This summer Forest United entered several major tournaments throughout the province in places like Burlington, their own Forest United tournament in London, and the most famous one of all, the Henderson Tournament, in which Lee's team won all.

Their ride to the Ontario Cup Competition began in Hamilton as they became winners of their group by defeating Milton, Oakridge, Sarnia and Burlington. In the semi-finals Forest United demolished North Mississauga Hurricanes at Centennial Stadium in Etobicoke 4-0. That set the stage for the final at the Soccer Centre in Vaughan, against the Scarborough Panthers. Forest United came away with a 1-0 win to become the reigning new champions of alkOntario.

Not only does the kid have time for a lot of soccer he also participated in Summer "AAA" hockey with the South Blades from Mt. Brydges. Under Coach Bill Wells Lee led the squad in the Stars Of Tomorrow Tournament in St. Thomas by winning it all and collected eight points in four games. This of course, along with his past success in hockey in West Lorne caught the eye of many hockey scouts throughout the area. In 1997 Lee, as Captain, led the West Lorne Pee-Wees to the O.M.H.A. championship. The Dresden Jr. Kings of the Great Lakes JRC Hockey League cashed in and signed Lee "hands down". In just the first four games Lee has scored an amazing 10 points. Dresden coach Al Houston is pleased with Lee and expects a lot of great things from this youngster. With this busy summer in soccer and hockey Lee also worked in tobacco for Dennis Fisher.

Lee's future ambition is to return to Forest United and defend the Ontario Cup. He also hopes to play JR. B. hockey. Down the road he would like to play in the OHL but would be equally happy with a scholarship in either hockey or soccer.

Lee's parents, Stan and Maria as well as sister Chelsey are very proud of Lee's successes in both sports. Way to go Lee, congratulations and good luck in the future!

SPORTS 1998

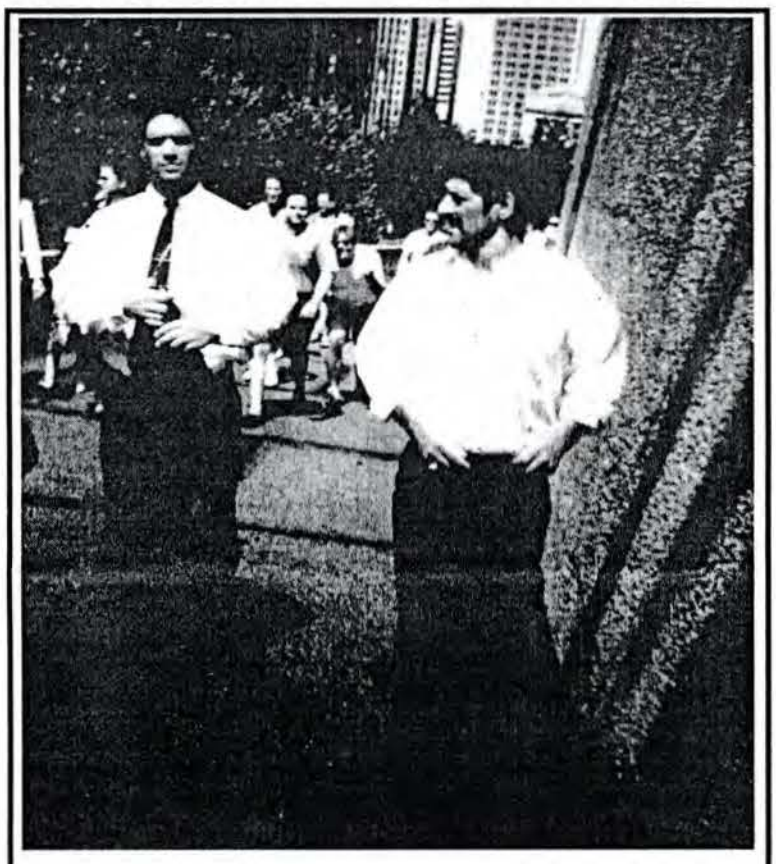
# MICHAEL OLIVEIRA STRUCK BY LIGHTENING

For reasons that defy explanations Michael Oliveira did not get drafted in 97 nor 98 by and OHL teams. However his run for the show seems the long way.

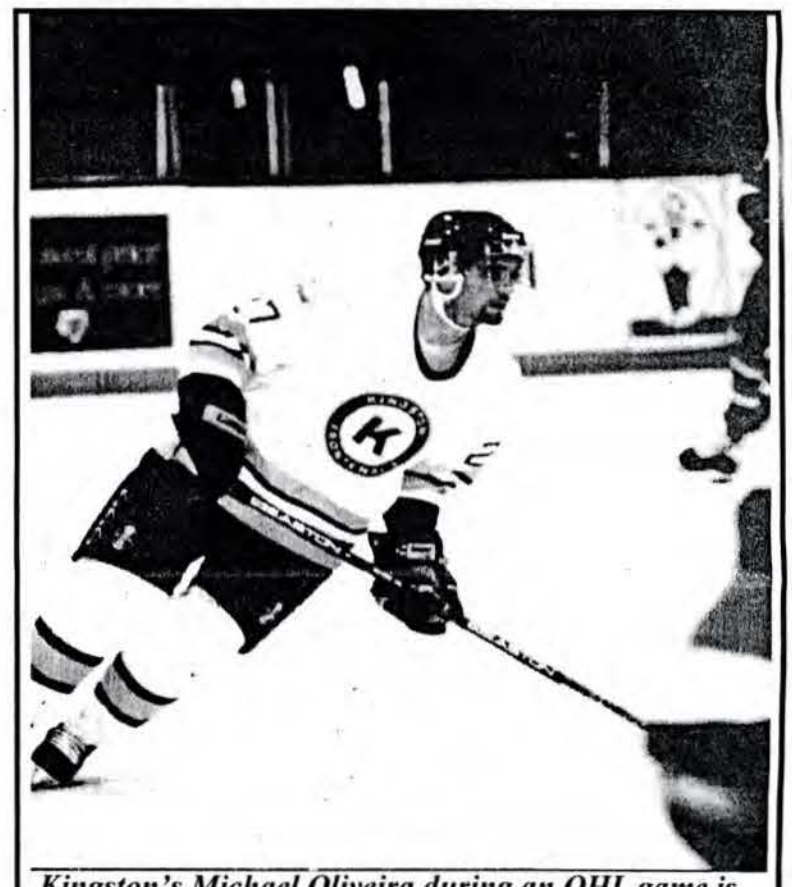
Oliveira age 19 (the Phenomenon, as his adopted name around this area in hockey) finally got his break to show his talent to a professional NHL team. Still young and firmly established as the best player ever from the West Lorne area, has his shot in placing a spot on the Tampa Bay Lightening Organization. Not only is Tampa interested in this young superstar as well other pro teams throughout the league. Teams such as Edmonton Oilers, Nashville Predators and San Jose Sharks just to name a few. In fact Oliveira was offered an AHL contract a few weeks ago for the Hamilton Bulldogs, the farm team of the Edmonton Oilers. The contract had to be terminated only because Management found out Oliveira was only 19, and to be signed by a AHL club the minimum age is 20.

Though his step is in the right direction, the climb to this offer has been a long awaited one.

Since 1992 Oliveira has been a curiosity through out South Western Ontario. During the Summer of that year Oliveira played for the Southwest Hawks, a Summer "AAA" team with the best of the best throughout the area. Oliveira "The Captain" played along side with Joe Thorton, Drew Felder, Jack McCraken, and my favorite Dennis Williams from Strat-



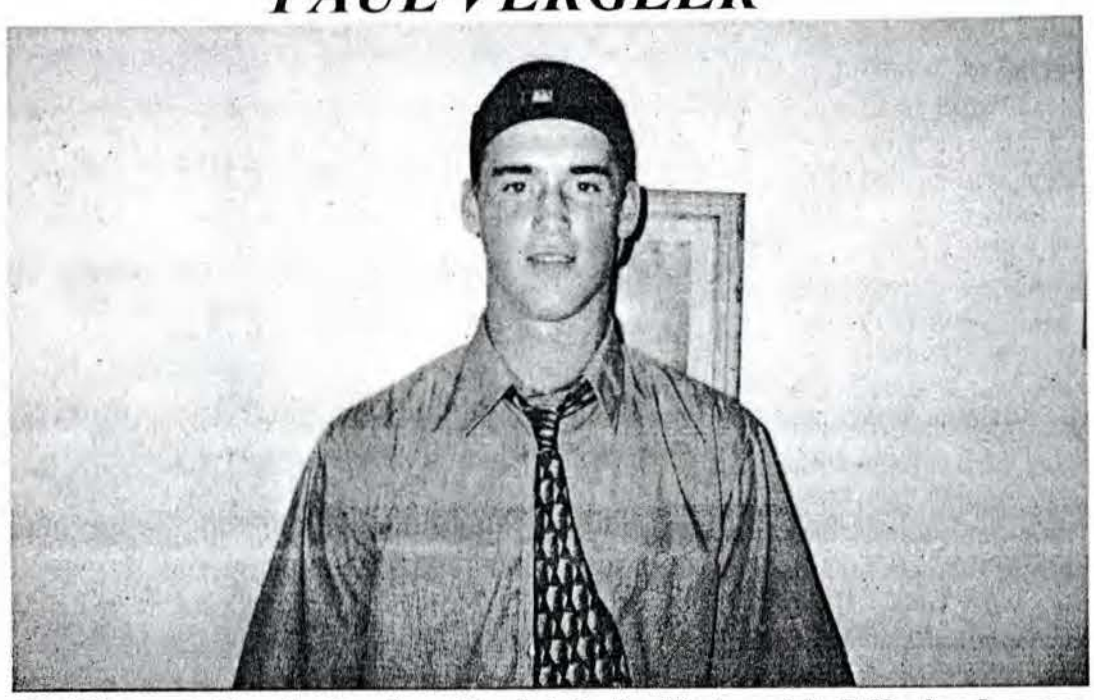
*Micheals father "Tony" gives Mike a pep talk before one of Michaels games.*



*Kingston's Michael Oliveira during an OHL game is ready for the show as he flies out to Tampa Bay's training came for September 11th.*

ford.

# PAUL VERGEER



*Paul Vergeer off to the Strathroy Rockets in the Western J.R. B Hockey League.*

Once again another one of our hometown heroes has entered a higher level of competitive hockey. Paul Vergeer, age 17, has signed with the Strathroy Rockets of the Western JR B. Hockey League. Pat Stapleton, expro hockey player and Director of Hockey Operations of the franchise, was pleased with their discussions and signed Paul on Saturday afternoon. Head Coach Richard Kemp has confidence that Paul will play a valuable role in their coming season. Strathroy Rockets believe that they will be in the final four and having Paul Vergeer on their team is a big, big, bonus.

Paul began playing hockey at the early age of four. He was one out of three that played three years of Novice Travel in West Lorne starting at age seven. In his first year he played a huge role in helping to win the 1988-89 OMHA championship. The next season Paul led the squad to the finals but fell short, losing to Port Stanley. Three years later, in his last year in West Lorne, Paul played a major role and led the West Lorne Atoms to the Regional and International Silver Stick Championships and to top it all off, the OMHA Championship against Haliburton.

Following that Paul joined the Elgin Middlesex "AAA" at the early age of Pee Wee. During his second season under Coach Bill Wells, Paul, as Captain, led the team to the Provincial Finals, only losing to the eventual winners, Lambton Lightening. In his last year with Bantam Paul was top scorer in the entire "AAA" Alliance League . This opened many doors for his future in hockey.

Last season was an excellent one for Paul as he joined the Mt. Brydges Bulldogs in the Junior Development league. In his rookie season Paul played 32 games and produced an astounding 41 points. This caught the eye of many JR. B. clubs for the 1998-99 season. However, since Mt. Brydges is an affiliate of the Rockets, that meant that Strathroy would have the first pick for Paul, and they went for it.

Paul feels it is going to be a competitive team, perhaps in the top four within the league. He also looks forward to playing against his old teammates from West Lorne, Darryl Arvai and Garrett Littlejohn.

Paul's future ambition is to succeed even further in competitive hockey and he hopes to receive a college scholarship from a U.S. team. His parents, Hank and Mary are very proud of Paul's success in hockey, as well as his sisters Kathy, Lisa and his brother Nick. .

Way to go Paul. Congratulations and Good Luck.

Roy dos Santos

SEPT. 1998

February 22, 1995

# West Lorne Womens Institute

The February meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute was held in the basement of the community hall with ten ladies in attendance. Twenty-nine Valentines boxes were packed for shut-ins.

Vice-president Anita Van Raes presided over the meeting in the absence of Shirley Walker. Meeting opened with the Women's Institute Ode followed by the Mary Stewart Collect.

Roll call was answered by your favorite Valentine gift from your sweetheart. The treasurer's report showed a substantial balance. Donations were made to various organizations.

Hazel Stalker read the correspondence. Catering to the Kiwanian meals was discussed.

Great concern was expressed with the limited meeting room space provided in the proposed new municipal building.

# West Lorne Women's Institute

The regular March meeting of the Women's Institute followed the open public council meeting concerning the space available in the new proposed municipal building. Leala Lawrence was spokesperson for the Women's Institute at the meeting.

Treasurer's reports revealed a substantive amount following donations. Thank you notes were read from Tiny Tots nursery and other participants receiving donations and Valentine boxes.

Outreach program letters were read and a discussion followed. The program will be held April 8 at Dutton-Dunwich Community Centre.

A letter was received from transit service from Newbury Hospital wishing a donation. A donation was forwarded to this service.

Hazel Starker reported on the collection of Heinz food baby food labels. These can be left at the IGA in a box at the rear of the store.

Members offered to take shifts in selling daffodils on March 31. MAR. 95

WEST LORNE W.I.
1995

WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
1995-1996 Programme

MEETINGS: 1st Tuesday at 7:30PM

WEST LORNE TOWN HALL

# Daffodil Society News

The Daffodil Aux. Cancer Tea and draw was hosted by the Crinan W. I. at Argyle Church, Crinan on October 5th.

Elgin West Women's Institute annually sponsor this event. Each group not only brought baking for the food table, but had representatives on duty to serve the large crowd in attendance.

Once again the famous "Fingal Quilters" donated a beautiful quilt which was won by Audrey Littlejohn of Wallacetown. The Afghan and pillow made by Madeline Farthing was won by Marion Craig of West Lorne. The individual members of Crinan W. I. donated enough food to have three hampers of groceries, was won by Darlene Ford, of Wallacetown, Karen McGregor of West Lorne and Annie Isabel Tait of Dutton and a cat by Mary Gow of Wallacetown.

It was gratifying to W. I. members to receive such response from the public, not only by being present at the tea, but also the purchase of many draw tickets.

MEMBERS

Kay Attridge: 768-2983
Vivian Ayling: 768-1498
Olive Chambers: 768-2579
Marybelle Cook: 768-1222
Fran Graham: 768-1798
Marion Hauser: 768-1537
Emily Hulaj: 768-1994
Batty Humphries: 768-1174
Marily Jamieson: 785-0822
Leola Lawrence: 768-1526
Mary Liepmann: 768-1224
Mary Lippold: 768-1244
Twila McWilliam" 785-0788
Peggy Mitchell: 768-1052
Anna Okolisan: 768-1215
Hazel Stalker: 768-1334
Anita VanRaes: 768-1819
Shirley Walker: 768-1095
Sefanie Zavitz: 768-1023
Joan Worsley: 768-1220

# West Lorne Women's Institute

NOV. 1995

Thirteen members and one guest attended the November meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute. Roll call was answered by what you remember about V.E. Day. Minutes from previuos meetings were read and adopted.

Hazel Stalker read the correspondence.

Members voted on purchasing a book for Home and Country, for members viewing and to be placed in the library.

A donation is to be made to Journey of Love being held in Rodney, Nov. 24, 25, & 26th. The December collections will be given to the Daffodil Society. Members were asked to bring toiletry items to the December meeting, which will be forwarded to the Daffodil Society. Pot-luck supper on December 5th at 6:30 p.m.

Mary Francis O'Hagen spoke briefly about the grief support programs.

Shirley Walker introduced our friend George Lippold who told us of training and experiences during World War II. Shirley presented George with a token gift for his presentation.

Mary Lippold modelled a dress made by Peg Mitchell. The dress was made from re-cycled flyer paper. After modelling the dress, Marion Hauser and Fran Graham served lunch.

MEETINGS

Sept 5: Potluck at Shirley's
Bring a friend night
Speaker: Hazel and Leola on PROWL
Roll Call: What was your most funny experience this summer.

Oct 3: Speaker: Florence Vergeer MARY F. O'HAGAN
Roll Call: What was your favorite costume for Halloween?
Lunch: Marybelle Cook, Shirley Walker

Nov 7: Speaker: George Lippold
Roll Call: What do you remember or have read about VE Day.
Lunch: Marion Hauser, Fran Graham

Dec 5: Christmas Party and Dinner
Bring Secret Pal Gift.

Jan. Winter Picnic
8 Feb 20-

Feb 6: Pack Valentine boxes
Roll Call: Name a special gift you received on Valentine's Day.

March 5: Speaker: Margaret Eberle
Roll Call: Name you favorite color and wear it.
Lunch: Anita VanRaes, Mary Liepmann

April 2: Annual meeting and dutch auction
Roll Call: Suggestions for next year
Lunch: Mary Lippold, Stefanie Zavitz

May 2: Dinner Meetings
Roll Call: Bring a Joke

June: Mystery Tour

# West Lorne Women's Institute monthly report

The September meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute was held in the community hall with 11 members and two visitors present. The roll call was answered by naming an interesting place you visited during the summer. Minutes from previous meetings were read and financial report given.

Members were encouraged to attend the Corner Tea Oct. 4, 9:30-12 in the Fingal United Church.

Concern was expressed by many members regarding the main intersection in West Lorne. Many felt it is a very hazardous intersection and how this could be improved.

*Members are invited to attend Corner Tea October 4 9:30 - 12*

Mary Lippold was guest speaker telling of her recent trip to England. Photos were enjoyed by all. Leola Lawrence thanked the speaker.

Shirley Walker and M. McRae served a delicious lunch.

The October meeting will be held the first Tuesday of the month with Geraldine Hind as guest speaker. Come and join us. Everyone welcome.

# Gerry Hind talks to Women's Institute

WEST LORNE—The October meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute was held in the community hall with eleven members and ten guests in attendance.

The roll call was answered by naming something native to Australia. Minutes of the September meeting were read and adopted. The financial statement was given with a substantial amount being reported.

Report of the successful Daffodil Tea was given.

Mary Lippold and Hazel Stalker will go with two Kiwanians to council regarding traffic at the main intersection.

Elgin Manor scheduling was discussed as well as Kiwanian catering.

The London Area Convention is in Mt. Bridges on Oct. 27, registration is at 8:45 a.m.

Marybelle Cook introduced the guest speaker Geraldine Hind. Gerry has been teaching in the local area for 25 years and recently she and her husband spent a year in Australia on an exchange program. Beautiful slides and most interesting commentary of the beauty of Australia, rocks, sheep, birds and much more was presented by Gerry.

Mary Lippold presented Gerry with a gift in appreciation of her presentation. Anita VanRaes and Olive Chambers served a beautiful lunch.

# West Lorne W.I. meet

1994

The November meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute was held in the Institute room with fourteen members and two guest present.

Following opening exercises the roll call was answered by "Why we wear a Poppy". Minutes from previous meeting were read and adopted. Treasurers report showed a substantial balance.

Moved to donated $25 to the Journey of home. Coffee Break to be held Nov. 3rd at 10:30 a.m. by River Road Institute. Members were reminded of the Volunteer Lunch on Nov. 16 at Terrance Lodge for Meals on Wheels drivers. Leola Lawrence was appointed representative to attend council regarding some Women's Institute memoirs.

Shirley Walker introduced Bob Johnson who joined the Army in 1943. Bob shared with the group his experiences and memories of the hardships, and friendships, and fun times experienced in the ware.

Mary Liepmann thanked the speaker and presented him with a gift in appreciation.

December meeting Dec. 6th at 6:30 with potluck supper and gift for your secret pal.

WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

1994-1995 PROGRAMME

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

1994-1995 Executive

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

MEETINGS

Sept. 6 : Bring a friend night
Speaker: Mary Lippold- on her trip to England
Roll Call: What did you do of interest this summer?
Lunch: Marybelle Cook, Shirley Walker

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Oct. 4 : Speaker - Gerry Hind
Trip to Australia
Roll Call: Name something native to Australia.
Lunch: Olive Chambers, Anita Vanraes

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Nov. 1 : Speaker - Bob Johnston on Rememberance
Roll Call: Why we should wear a poppy on Rememberance Day.
Lunch: Marion Hauser, Frances Graham.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

December 6 : Christmas Party & Dinner
Bring Secret Pal Gift.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Jan. : WINTER PICNIC

Feb. 7 : Pack Valentine boxes.
Roll Call: What was your favourite gift from your sweetheart?

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

March 7 : Tweedmuir History - Leola Lawrence, Olive Chambers
Roll Call: Your favourite local "Get-Away"
Lunch: Mary Lippold, Mary Liepmann

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Apr. 4 : ANNUAL MEETIND & DUTCH AUCTION
Roll Call: Suggestions for next year's programme.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

May 2 : DINNER MEETING
Roll Call: Bring a joke.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

June 6: MYSTERY TOUR

1996

WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
1996-1997 PROGRAMME

MEETINGS: 1ST Tuesday at 7:30 P.M.

1996 - 1997 Executive

Honorary President: Olive Chambers

President: Shirley Walker

Vice President: Anita VanRaes

Secretary: Hazel Stalker

Treasurer: Mary Lippold

P.R.O: Mary Liepmann

Tweedsmuir History: Leola Lawrence
Olive Chambers

District Convenor: Leola Lawrence
Mary Lippold

Elgin Museum: Twila McWilliam
Stefanie Zavitz

Pianist: Marion Hauser

Auditor: Leola Lawrence
Kay Attridge

Programme Co-Ordinators- Eva
Fran Graham
Marybelle Cook

Resolutions: Fran Graham

## MEMBERS

Kay Attridge: 768-2983
Olive Chambers: 768-2579
Marybelle Cook: 768-1222
Fran Graham: 768-1798
Marion Hauser: 768-1537
Marilyn Jamieson: 785-0822
Leola Lawrence: 768-1526
Mary Liepmann: 768-1224
Mary Lippold: 768-1244
Twila McWilliam: 785-0788
Helen Mooser: 768-1122
Peggy Mitchell: 768-1052
Anna Okolisan: 768-1215
Hazel Stalker: 768-1334
Anita VanRaes: 768-1819
Eva VanRaes: 768-2808
Shirley Walker: 768-1095
Stefanie Zavitz: 768-1023
Joan Worsley - 764-2743

# West Lorne Womens Institute report

Fifteen members and one guest met at the home of Eva VanRaes for the October meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute.

Following the opening exercises the treasurer's report was given.

Members donated money for the support of "Journey of Love".

Many upcoming events in the Women's Institute were discussed.

Kiwanian catering was brought up to date.

Following the meeting Mrs. Ronyson from Ronyson's Flowers, Rodney demonstrated and helped everyone make a decorated hat.

Lunch was served by Shirley Walker and Marybelle McRae. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. The club wishes to thank Eva for her hospitality.

OCT 1996

*December 11, 1996*



**And the winner is** - *Jeff Drenth from the PROWL Committee drew the winning ticket recently on the Women's Institute's 'Old Fashioned Santa Doll' and the lucky winner was Cindy Hauser from West Lorne. The Institute raised over $380 on the raffle which will go towards the Community Complex.*



**Another boost for the town hall** - *Members of the West Lorne Women's Institute raffled of an "Old Time Santa Claus" recently and donated the proceeds to the Community Complex. From left to right Leola Lawrance presents the cheque for $400 to Mary Lippold while Peggy Mitchell looks on.*

SANTA WAS MADE AND DONATED BY PEGGY MITCHELL AND LEOLA LAWRENCE

WEST LORNE MAY 1997

# Wallacetown W.I. to hold 100th anniversary celebration

May Meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute was held as a dinner meeting at the Town & Country Restaurant. Following a delicious meal. President Anita Van Raes opened the meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting were adapted. Treasurers report shows a substantial sum.

Roll call was answered by suggestions for meeting topics for next year.

Committee was appointed to look after the Womens Institute chairs which have been stored since the closing of the Community Hall.

Arrangements were made for the up coming garage sale to be held May 24th 8am - 1pm at Shirley Walkers.

Plans to attend the District Annual May 15th were discussed.

Plans were made to attend Wallacetown Women Institute Anniversary May 20th at 7 p.m.

June meeting will be held Wednesday June 4th at 1 p.m.at Mary Leemann. Following a Mystery tour a pot luck supper will follow.

One hundred dollars will be donated to the Manitoba flood relief.

Meeting adjourned.



**Giving a helping hand-** *The West Lorne Women's Institute gave the Bobier Home fundraing campaign a boost recently by donating $500 to the home. From left to right :Leta West from the Bobier Home accepts the donation from Anita Van Raes , West Lorne Women's Institute while Shirley Walker and Eva Van Raes looks on. Both Shirley and Eva are members of the Institute.*

APR. 2, 1997

Oct. 15, 1997

## West Lorne W.I. learn about Block Parent Program

The October meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute was held at the home of Eva VanRaes with president Anita Leesmann presiding. Following the opening exercises the roll call was answered by what involvement each member had with the Women's Institute. Minutes from previous meeting were adopted and the treasurer's report was given. The daffodil tea was reported on by Shirley Walker. This successful event the best yet made $5101.93 congratulations to all involved.

Plans were made to attend the area convention in Embro Oct.23. Preparations were made for upcoming catering and the Christmas Party invitation was received from Crinan Women's Institute to attend their November meeting to hear speeches of "abuse". Decisions were made to purchase a wreath for Nov.11. Anita Leesman introduced the guest speaker Sharon Mosher who spoke on the Block Parent Program. It was started one year ago and now has 20 block parents. The responsibilities and the great necessity for such a program was discussed. Sharon was presented with a cheque from the members to help with this most valuable project. Marion Howser and Shirley Walker served a delicious lunch. Meeting closed with the Lords Prayer.

## West Lorne W.I. meet to discuss Rodney Fair

The September meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute was held at the home of Helen Mooser with fifteen members and three guests in attendance.

Following the opening exercises a moment of silence was observed in memory of Princess Diana.

Following the previous minutes and the treasurer's report , many matters of business were discussed.

Discussions followed regarding the making of a float for the fair and the exhibit to be put on display.

It was voted on to continue catering to the Kiwanis suppers. The members will be catering for a supper at the Cancer meeting to be held on Sept. 15 in the Health Centre.

Donations are to be given to the Seniors Seminar to be held in Rodney in October.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. Anita VanRaes and Marybelle Cook served a delicious lunch. Next meeting Oct. 6 at Eva VanRaes. Come and join us and enjoy the fellowship of Home and Country.

SEPT. 10/97

## West Lorne W.I. gear up for Santa Claus Parade

The November meeting of the West Lorne Womens Institute was held at the home of Eva Van Raes with 16 members present. Following the opening exercises conducted by the president, Anita Van Raes, each member answered the role call by purchasing a poppy.

Mary Beth Cank read a Remembrance Poem followed by "Flanders Field" by Marilyn Jamieson. Helen Mooser showed some medallions from the first world war.

Preparations were made for a float for the Santa Clause Parade. Hazel Stalker presented a letter regarding the closing of the museum. Preparations were talked about to help the journey of home.

Christmas Party will be Dec. 1 at 6:30pm at the IOOF Hall. Please bring own plates and cutlery.

Anita Van Raes introduced the quest speaker Bob Padfull. Bob gave a very informative talk and demonstration on the past, present and possible feature of the Ambulance service. Bob was presented with a token of appreciation. Please remember paper production for the Daffodil Society at the Christmas party.

Mary Liepman displayed her Centennial award that she received in Embro at the London area Convention. The meeting closed with the lords prayer, delicious lunch was served by Fran Graham and Olive Chambers

# WEST LORNE W.I. 1997




W.I. FLOAT IN SANTA CLAUS PARADE

CONGRATULATIONS MARY



***1 in a 100*** *- The Womens' Institute Clubs across Ontario celebrated their 100th birthday recently and to honour special members the organization picked 100 women across the province who have contributed heart and soul to the organization over the years. West Lorne's own Mary Liepman was one of those chosen few to be honoured by her peers for her service and dedication to the W.I. over the years.*

## W.I. celebrates 100 years of service

Over 100 members from the nine Innstitute Clubs in the area which include Clachan, Crinan, West Lorne, Wallacetown, Payne's Mills, Cowal, Tyrconnell, Shedden , Boxall, River Road, and Middlemarch gathered at the West Lorne Lutheran Church to celebrate the Institute's 100th birthday.

The birthday party was combined with the clubs annual Winter Picnic which means that every club brings a little something to eat for the meal.

The evening also featured several static displays of old photos and old journals kept by the clubs down thorough the years.

To celebrate the special occassion Women's Institute's across Ontario used the same program to ring in their second century of service to the community.

## MEETINGS

Sept.: Potluck at Shirley's
Roll Call: What was a funny experience this summer.

Oct.1: Speaker: Mrs. Ronyson
Roll Call: Name your favorite flower.
Lunch: Marybelle Cook, Shirley Walker

Nov. 5: Speaker: Bob Padfield
Roll Call: Why I wear a Poppy?
Lunch: Marion Hauser, Fran Graham

Dec. 3: Family Christmas Party & Dinner
Bring Secret Pal Gift. 6.30 PM

Jan. : ~~Winter Picnic~~

Feb. Pack Valentine Boxes

Feb. 19: 100th Anniversary Meeting

March 4: Speaker: Lois Caroll
Roll Call: How can we promote our Institute.
Lunch: Mary Liepmann, Anita VanRaes

April 1: Annual Meeting & Dutch Auction
&
Tweedsmuir Report
Roll Call: Your best April Fools Joke.
Lunch: MaryLippold, Stefanie Zavitz

May 6: Dinner Meeting at Town & Country
Roll Call: Suggestions for next year.

June: Trip???

# WEST LORNE W. I. 1997




ANNIVERSARY CAKE MADE BY-
LEOLA LAWRENCE

CELEBRATING
100 YEARS



MARION HAUSER

WI Centennial Song

It's a hundred years since
Adelaide Hoodless was convinced
That milk should be pasteurized.
Then Janet and Erland Lee
Found it easy to see
That women should organize

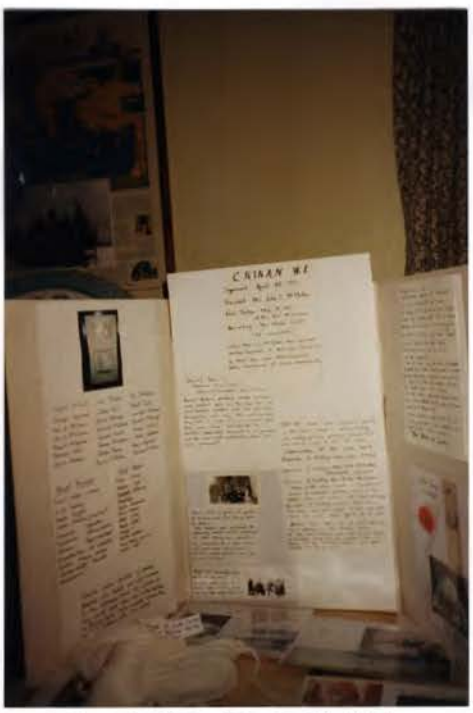
For Mrs. Hoodless knew
That informed women grew,
So they did mobilize,
Hundred and one women came
And things were ne're the same,
For they formed the WI's.

So this idea spread,
Round the world it shed
its light. Things modernized.
Then women's homes improved,
And country's laws were moved,
Their knowledge exercised.

To encourage, help and share,
Build a better world with care
is the work of the WI's.
Now a hundred years young,
Still there's work to be done,
Women's lives to be vitalized.

Now it's time to celebrate:
Achievements commemorate
With honour and with pride,
The Centennial salute
of the Women's Institute.
Women of the world, Arise!

Words and music by Marie F. Harris
October 1994




CRINAN'S DISPLAY

We hosted the 100th Anniversary Feb. 19, 1997 at Grace Lutheran Church for the area W. I's.
It was a lovely evening, only one mishap - leg on table collapsed unfortunely some antique dishes were broken.

# WEST LORNE W. I. 1997



## OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY




CAKE MADE BY LEOLA LAWRENCE



MARY LIEPMANN, CUTTING THE ANNIVERSARY CAKE AT OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY.



WEST LORNE W.I. 1998



CHRISTMAS PARTY 1994

## WEST LORNE WOMAN'S INSTITUTE PRESENTS PRINT TO BOBIER VILLA



From Left to Right are Anita VanRaes, Mary Belle Cook and Marilyn Fleck

## *WOMEN'S INSTITUTE*

The annual meeting of the West Lorne Womens Institute was held at the home of Eva VanRaes with twelve members and one guest present. Following the opening exercises the business part of the meeting took place.

Plans were discussed to attend the District annual to be held Wednesday, May 13th.

Woman of Distinction award was planned with an outstanding woman in the community being nominated. Watch for the results.

A print by Walter Campbell has been purchased and is to be hung in the Palliative Care room at the Bobier Villa.

The May meeting is to be a dinner meeting at the Town and Country at 6:30 p.m.

Group pictures to be taken at the May meeting for the 85th anniversary of the West Lorne Womens Institute.

Kiwanians will receive financial assistance in purchasing some tables and chairs.

A donation will be sent to Jesse's Journey.

A Dutch Auction followed the meeting. Helen Mooser and Leola Lawrence served a delicious lunch.

Presenting the Walter Campbell print to Marilyn Fleck, Assistant Administrator, Elgin County Homes, at the Bobier Villa were President Anita VanRaes and Vice-President Mary Belle Cook. Several members also attended the presentation.

The picture is entitled "Fantasy on Ice." Marilyn voiced her thanks on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Bobier Villa.

After the presentation, former Womens' Institute member who is now a resident of the home, Alice Morrish, took us on a tour of the lovely new home for our seniors.

The Womens' Institute presented the picture that will be placed in the family room to commemorate 85 years of the Womens' Institute in West Lorne.

APR. 22, 1998



WI MEMBERS LEOLA LAWRENCE & MARY LIPPOLD



Diane Macpherson



Rosalie Krebsz



Carolyn Cameron

# Local women honored for work in community

A group of 15 women from across Elgin County have been nominated by the by the YWCA of St. Thomas-Elgin for the prestigious "Woman of Distinction Award".

The award recognizes women from across the county who are outstanding in achieving their goals and their contributions to all facets of the community.

The fifth annual dinner was held this past Saturday in St. Thomas. The winner of the award was announced after the Chronicle went to press.

Three of the nominees include local women Diane Macpherson, Rosalie Krebsz and Carolyn Cameron.

Macpherson, of RR#1 Fingal, says being recognized like this is "not my style." She was nominated by her friend Laurie Hughson.

"I'm used to just staying in the background," she says. "I have to admit that I had a lot of great role models growing up, which influenced me a great deal. You work in your community because you want to."

Macpherson's work in the community includes her work with the Pearce Williams United Church Christian Centre and playing the organ at her church. She has also been involved strongly with parent advisory councils, previously in Southwold and currently in St. Thomas where she is chairperson of the Parent Advisory Council for Parkside Collegiate.

West Lorne businesswoman Rosalie Krebsz was "flabbergasted" when she found out she was nominated by the Women's Institute of West Lorne.

"To me it's a labor of love," she says. "It's easy to get involved when you truly care about your community. And so many friendships come from getting involved."

Krebsz' work in the community includes the Rodney-Aldborough Fair Board, the Business Association of West Lorne and the Fanshawe night school classes at WESS.

But is there a downside to doing so much work in your community.

"Its really hurt my golf game," laughs Krebsz.

Carolyn Cameron may be familiar to some from her hosting People and Places in Elgin County on Rogers Cablesystems, where she has been a volunteer for 8 years.

She was nominated by the Port Stanley Festival Theatre where she is president of the board of directors. Cameron, of RR#3 Dutton, was also strongly involved with the Ontario Teachers Federation before retiring.

"I think you have to do your part in the community and you have to love doing it," says Cameron."



CONGRATULATIONS "ROSALIE"

162

 FWID 1994

# W.I. hold social evening

Elgin County Women's Institute Rally held a social evening in Yarmouth Centre United Church with Elgin East branches as hostess.

Following tasty desserts the Women's Institute Ode was sung and the Marg Stewart Collect repeated. Federated Women's Institute of Ontario Provincial Board Director for Sub Division 22, Pauline Lindsay brought greetings and introduced the speaker Eileen Chesterman of Tillsonburg who told of her experience in Truro, Nova Scotia while attending F.W.I.C. convention. Some thoughts were live a meaningful life, remember the past, have a vision for the future for all, courage to change, and trust. Many slides were enjoyed.

Eileen also attended the official opening of F.W.I.O. headquarters in Guelph Township and showed slides of this. Then followed scenes from their trip to British Columbia and Alberta with many beautiful landscapes to view.

Betty Van Patten expressed appreciation to the speaker and presented her with a gift.

Elgin Women's Institute Rally will meet Nov. 5 at OMAFRA board room at 1:30 p.m. At 2:30 p.m. the Farm Safety Poster Awards will be presented.

The Education Advisory Committee announced workshops in Aylmer November 6 and Wallacetown November 7.

O Canada brought the evening to a close.

# Women's Institutes celebrate 80 years

OCT. 1994

MT. BRYDGES — The 80th annual convention of London Area Women's Institutes will be held at Carodoc Community Centre, Mt. Brydges on Thursday, Oct. 27.

The theme is "Come celebrate and communicate with our Women's Institute family." The Federated Women's Institute of Ontario President Donna Russet will address the convention.

Presentations will be given by a representative of the Adelaide Hoodless Home and rural community advisor, Kim DeKlein.

Presentations of the Maryn Pardy Scholarships and the Dorothy Futcher Scholarship will follow the evening banquet.

The guest speaker will be Peggy Knapp, a past president of Federated Women's institutes of Ontario and presently Area President for Canada of the Associated Countrywomen of the World. Her topic will be "Me and my sisters." For more information phone Betty Walther of Otterville at 879-6816.

# Morden wins quilt at Daffodil Tea

FINGAL — The annual Daffodil Auxiliary Tea was held at Fingal United Church on Oct. 4, hosted by the Middlemarch Women's Institute.

Once again the famous "Fingal Quilters" donated a quilt, which was won by Alma Morden of Muirkirk. The afghan and cushion made by Madeline Farthing of Dutton, was won by Ille Spangenberg of R.R.#1, St. Thomas. The gift certificate donated by Middlemarch Women's Institute was won by Madeline Parks of Shedden. OCT. 1994

# W.I. focuses on safe, healthy communities

After discussions ranging from budgeting, safety of citizens, child care, strengthening the work ethic, nutrition education to citizens' responsibilities, the Provincial Board Directors of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) voted at their March meeting in Guelph to launch a new focus for the organization; Safe and Healthy Communities.

Since 1988, the focus of FWIO has been the environment. In two years, members initiated over 350 projects. Across the province these included major recycling projects, tree planting, and refusing to use disposable items.

The first step towards Safe and Healthy Communities will be provincial seminar in the fall. Community leaders will be invited to identify and prioritize needs, develop ideas to address those needs and write the project descriptions required for funding applications. The Women's Institute will facilitate discussions with agencies that have expertise in the target areas. There will be opportunities to network with other community leaders.

Safe and Healthy Communities is intended to create a positive atmosphere for community living. The Women's Institute has a long history of involvement in community action for "Home and Country."

APR. 10, 1995

# W.I. launches drier project

The women of Wando Island, a tiny, wet island off the coast of South Korea, support their families by growing hot red peppers for export, diving for seaweed and producing vegetables from small gardens. At the recent triennial conference of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), of which the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) is a member, the Canadian delegates decided to help these women by providing them with a drier to properly dry the hot peppers to prepare them for market.

ACWW Area President (Canada) Peggy Knapp stated the women, "do not want charity." They feel they must contribute to their island community and be responsible for the proper running of their drier. In return for the drier, each woman has agreed to pay 20 per cent of her pepper sales for maintenance and 20 per cent to a scholarship fund to help children of members attend school on mainland Korea.

Canadian delegates are committed to raising $9,200 to buy the hot red pepper drier for the Korean women by the end of 1995.

The red pepper drier project is just one example of how women can work together to improve the quality of life for all people. April 29 was ACWW Day. On this day, W.I. members celebrated international goodwill

May 22, 1995

NOV. 1995

# W.I. hold annual fall meeting

Elgin West District Women's Institute held the fall board meeting at the home of President Willa Johnston recently. The Opening Ode was sung and Mary Stewart Collect repeated.

Roll call was responded to by telling of an interesting Women's Institute event you attended since district annual. Two branches were absent.

Provincial board director M. Armstrong presented the report of F.W.I.O. meeting. The executive secretary for F.W.I.O. is Chris Green. The Red Pepper project has been reassigned with two Uganda village groups, Tweyambe and the United Women's group to help AIDS orphans requesting funding to purchase milking goats and raising pigs. ACWW apologizes for the mix-up and hopes members will support this new project.

The name of the office new branch coordinator has been changed to membership coordinator at F.W.I.O. level and membership orgnaizer at area level.

A restructuring program is under discussion with some questions such as are changes needed to streamline our organization and if so what are they? Are all levels of F.W.I.O. needed? Is the provincial board too large in size? F.W.I.O. fees are increasing to $2 per member. In the spring of 1996, 500 of the Women's Institute Rose will be available. November 9 is ladies' day at the Royal Winter Fair. Conference '97, 100th anniversary at Hamilton Convention Centre will be June 17 to 22, 1997. Registration will be accepted up to October 31, 1996. Life memberships will continue after 1997 but all members will pay the annual membership fee.

Reports were given by program coordinator, resolutions, public relations, Pioneer Museum, farm safety, Daffodil Auxiliary, Elgin Manor, Tweedsmuir curator, Elgin Rally and Lakewide Management Plan.

Upcoming events are Rally and Farm Safety awards meeting at OMAFRA on November 18, and coffee break at Pioneer Museum on December 1.

# Elgin County W.I. meet

The Elgin County Women's Institute Rally met recently in the OMAFRA board room in St. Thomas.

Roll call was "a hint from one green thumb to another one." Members are reminded of the strawberry social at the Pioneer Museum on June 21.

Farm safety categories for 1996 were chosen. The theme is No Riders. For kindergarten, the theme is no riders on the lawnmowers; grade one/two, no riders on a tractor; grade three/four, no riders on machinery; grade five/six, no double riders on bicycles.

Officers for 1995-96 were elected as follows: chairperson, Mrs. Pauline Lindsay; past chairperson, Mrs. Eleanor McMillan; vice chairperson, Mrs. Willa Johnston; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Lil Larson; P.R.O., Mrs. Eleanor McMillan; scholarship committee, Mrs. Pauline Lindsay and Mrs. Grace Campbell.

The next meeting will be June 6 at 11 a.m. at the OMAFRA board room.

MAY 95

JAN. 95

# W.I. winter picnic held in Crinan

A bountiful meal preceded the program when Crinan W.I. branch of Elgin West District W.I. were hostess for the annual winter picnic held recently in Argyle Presbyterian Church, Crinan with a good attendance.

Mrs. Willa Johnston, District President welcomed everyone. Greetings from guests included Provincial Board Director Mrs. M. Armstrong, Oxford South President Mrs. I. Chest and Elgin East President Mrs. B. Van Patten and Rally Chair Mrs. E. McMillan. Mrs. M. May, OMAFRA and Mrs. N. Brown from VON Palliative Care were also present and spoke breifly about new programs being initiated.

Mrs. May spoke of the environmental farm plan which affects all the population. This is a confidential project about the effect of our environment on every living thing. A grant is being offered as an incentive on this project. Workshops are being held. For more info, contact Mrs. May at our OMAFRA office.

Mrs. Brown, the co-ordinator of a new program with the VON Palliative Care Program said this is a non-profit program and will be working with both Four Counties Hospital at Newbury and St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital.

Anyone who requires care, support or is terminally ill would qualify. Trained volunteers, as caregivers will add family support also. This is a community-funded project by service groups and organizations. Mrs. Brown will visit any group wishing to learn about this. A 15 minute video, For The Love Of Life is part of her presentation.

Mrs. N. McMillan gave the report of the coffee break held in October, when a good sum was realized.

Then came the fun part of the evening when humorous skits were presented by Boxall, Tyrconnell and Clachan. West Lorne was in charge of music and Cowal gave a poem. Theme for the evening was Come, Celebrate W.I.

## W.I. district annual

The 88th annual district meeting of Elgin West Women's Institute was hosted by Clachan Branch in Kintyre Presbyterian Church.

President Willa Johnston welcomed everyone urging us to Come Let's Celebrate. It was noted that Mrs. J.R. Hutchen of Middlemarch Branch was a president of F. W.I.O. from 1947 to 1950. Wallacetown is the oldest branch in Elgin West District.

Board director Margaret Armstrong ratified 11 district directors. River Road branch conducted the memorial service. Greetings were received from London Area W.I., Oxford South and Elgin East presidents and Elgin County Rally chair.

Entertainment was provided by Kintyre young people and West Lorne branch peeked into the future.

Elgin County will host London area convention on October 24 at St. Anne's Centre, St. Thomas. Each branch is asked to provide one dozen buttered muffins for coffee time.

Upcoming events are a strawberry social on June 19 in Elgin Pioneer Musuem; August 2-11 Country Quilt Fest at the Ontario Agricultural Museum; August 13, Tweedsmuir Curators workshop at Wallacetown; Elgin Plowing Match on September 7; car rally on October 6; W.I. Rally social evening, October 8; London Area Convention October 24 and Daffodil Coffee Break, 9:30 to 12 noon on October 26 in Shedden.

Slate of officers for 1996-97 is as follows:

President, Ann McLean; 1st vice, Faye Thorn; 2nd vice, Rena Campbell; past president, Willa Johnston; secretary-treasurer, Grace Campbell; public relations officer, Eleanor McMillan; program coordinator, Lynn Huffman; resolutions, Willa Johnston; Tweedsmuir history curator, Sally McIntyre, with assistant, Helen Van Brenk; auditors, Mary Lippold and Catherine Attridge.

Courtesy remarks were expressed by Faye Thorn. Gifts of appreciation were given to board director Margaret Armstrong and retiring president Willa

MAY 1996

FW10 1996

# FW10 makes major decisions regarding parenting, pollution and the ag museum

At the March Provincial Board meeting of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FW10), held at Crieff Hills, board directors expressed many concerns about the lack of formal training for the most important job that adults face today, parenting.

They agreed to support a proposal for a coordinated, integrated approach to effective parenting which would be compulsory throughout the school curriculum, from kindergarten to Ggrade 12. The long term results of this program would be responsible citizens living in a peaceful society. Other benefits would include a reduction in violent crime, a reduction in overall health care costs and a reduction in welfare costs.

Research shows that homes and offices have two to five times the level of outdoor air pollution. Many household cleaning agents and personal care products contain potentially harmful chemicals. Decreased ventilation in air tight homes may increase problems with biological pollutants. All these contaminants contribute to problems of asthma, allergies and chronic bronchitis.

Women's Institutes in some areas are supporting the CAN DO (the movement for Clean Air Now) program of the Lung Association. This program gives concrete suggestions for keeping contaminants out of the air and out of our lungs. The Ontario Women's Institutes also have available the Envionrmentally Friendly Hints book, which provides many altneratives to hazardous products that are now in wide use.

Women's Institute have been strong supporters of agriculture and of the importance of history.

APR 96

## W.I. Rally meets

Elgin County Women's Institute Rally met at Yarmouth Centre in the Yarmouth Fire Hall for the November meeting. The Opening Ode and Mary Stewart Collect opened the meeting.

Minutes of the June meeting were heard and financial statements presented by Mrs. Larson.

The Safety Poster Awards, which are jointly sponsored by the W.I. Rally and Farm Safety Association, were presented to April Kornaker, Dunwich-Dutton School; Amy Esiki, Southwold Public School; Charlotte Passmore, Summers Corner Public School and Erin Smith, Aldborough Public School, first prize winners. Megan Close, Aldborough Public School; Mark Godfrey, Dunwich-Dutton Public School and Jenny Hussey, Southwold Public School were second prize winners. Mrs. P. Lindsay and Mrs. B. Van Patter presented gifts on behalf of the Women's Institute and Farm Safety Organizations.

Mr. Steve Parsons spoke on fire safety and showed a film about the Power of Fire as it burns uncontrolled, devastating a building. A person must concentrate on escape. Sprinkler systems, and multiple smoke detectors assist in early detection of a fire.

Refreshments were served during a social time.

NOV 25, 96

FWIO 1996

August 26, 1996 -

# Tweedsmuir history workshop

BY: CATHARINE McLANDRESS

The Wallacetown Women's Institute hosted an annual Tweedsmuir History workshop at the South Dunwich Community Hall on August 13. Among displays by area members, the 96 attendees from all over the London area, learned more about finding and preserving historical information for future generations.

Local historian Alice Paterson gave a talk on the history of three local families, emphasizing how much history there is in every area. A member of the West Elgin Genealogical and Historical Society and the Tyrconnell Heritage Society, Paterson recounted tales such as the legend that has sprung up around the arrival of Nellie Campbell 200 years ago. Paterson also gave clues as to where to find information, such as tombstones and diaries, and how to preserve the information for the benefit of others, such as historical plays and local history publications.

Marg Harris, president of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario (FWIO), was present at the gathering and spoke of the scope of Women's Institutes mandates and their far-reaching effect on the welfare of all residents. A main focus is the preserving of local historical information through the keeping of Tweedsmuir history books, a venture that is taken very seriously by local curators and will prove invaluabe to future generations. As the FWIO heads into its 100th year next year, renewed emphasis is being placed on safe and healthy communities, and on dealing with marketing and more autonomy for the organization. Harris says, "the directors will be looking at strategic plans ... to make a secure base, a vision and what steps to follow."



*Among those attending a recent Tweedsmuir history workshop were: (left to right) Ruth Matheson, London area curator; Marcie Johnston, FWIO Tweedsmuir History curator; Marg Harris, FWIO president and Alice Paterson, local historian and guest speaker.* *(C. McLandress)*

OCTOBER 30, 1996



PHOTO/OUR COMMUNITY PRESS

**HELPING HAND: London Area Federated Women's Institute 2nd v.p. Pauline Lindsay of St. Thomas, left, looks on as Belmont's Brenda Coleman receives the $1,500 Helen M. McKercher Scholarship from provincial president Marg Harris of Kerwood and London area president Dolores Shaptor of Exeter at the Federated Women's Institute of London Area's 82nd annual convention last week at St. Anne's Centre. Coleman, a UWO masters of science student, is working on a thesis on chlamydia, a sexually transmitted disease that can make women infertile.**

MAR. 96

# Elgin West W.I. branches meet

Elgin West District Women's Institute met in South Dunwich Hall, Wallacetown, with a get-together of branches for a time of fellowship and to enjoy entertainment.

Boxall, Clachan, Cowal, Crinan, Middlemarch, Shedden, Tyrconnell and Wallacetown each depicted a decade of history as well as local and around the world events from each period of time.

Wallacetown branch of the W.I. were hostess for this event. Greetings were brought by representatives from Elgin East and Oxford South Districts.

Because of the Women's Institutes' determination we have pasteurized milk and railway crossing warnings, etc. Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, who organized W.I. was determined following the death of her son from drinking impure milk that we have pasteurization of milk. Sponsoring and leading 4-H clubs is also another active role of the W.I.

"For home and country," the Women's Institute motto commits members to personal growth and community action.

October 21, 1996

# W.I. hears of England

The Elgin County Women's Institute Rally held their social evening recently with Doreen Pearce, a member of Twyford Institute near Winchester in the County of Hampshire, as special guest and speaker for the evening. She told us of her village of 1200 with its school of 1861 still in use with some modernizations.

They have a post office, grocery stotre, petrol station, a church and two pubs. The branch, of which she is a member, was formed in 1917. As there was high regard for social class in those times, the vicar's wife was the first president of their Women's Institute. They have approximately 10 Institutes in their district and no Institute more than six miles apart. England and Wales have over 213,000 members.

Their $25 subscription is divided three ways - 1.2 for their own Institute and one quarter to both the county and national. Their meetings commence by singing Jerusalem. Their resolutions made at the grassroots level go on to national and can pass or not pass at local, but can be voted on differently at national level. Their Institutes, under the Voluntary County Organizer (VOCs) organize courses for the members. These might include computer skills, the art of money management, highlighting new diseases, food technology and handling of food courses as well as microwave cookery. Their Institute encourages women to speak out in public and they have public speaking courses. Their own college called Denkam College offers courses in garden design, bicycle maintenance, money management and writing courses which our speaker was a participant in. Grace Campbell expressed appreciation to Mrs. Pearce and presented her with a gift.

Pauline Lindsay welcomed members from East and West Elgin. A bountiful pot luck meal was enjoyed at St. James Presbyterian Church Hall hosted by Kingsmill-Mapleton & Yarmouth Glen branches. The next Rally meeting is Nov. 2 at 1:30 p.m. at Yarmouth Twp. Firehall. At 2:30 p.m. the Farm Safety Awards will be presented to the competition winners and fire prevention officer will be guest speaker. We were reminded of London Area Convention at St. Anne's Centre on October 24.

Branches are asked to bring two dozen muffins. If enough interest is shown in the Centennial Celebration in Hamilton in June of 1997, a bus could be chartered for this event.

A sing time led by E. McMillan and J. Phoenix highlighted The Centennial Song. O Canada closed a successful evening.

# CONGRATULATIONS to the WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE on their 100th BIRTHDAY

## Reflections of the Past.....and Present

All across the country members of Women Institute Clubs will be celebrating their 100th anniversary on February 19, 1997.

The Women's Institute came into being in 1897 as a result of a tragedy, and that tragedy was the death of a child of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless. Grief stricken Mrs. Hoodless was determined that something could be done to safeguard the children of the future from disease. Through her persistence a small group of women gathered in Squire's Hall, Stoney Creek on Feb. 19, 1897 and the rest is history as the Women's Institute was born.

The organization started out originally under the banner of the Women's Department of Domestic Economy in affiliation with the Farmers Institute,but that title was changed to what the organization is today "The Women's Institute".

The primary goals of the organization were to teach women Domestic Science and learn them how to sew. The organizations motto was 'For Home & Country".

Closer to home the West Lorne Chapter of the Women's Institute got its beginnings back in January 1913 through the efforts of Mrs. Tom Sims wife of the Editor of the Elgin Sun who called upon women of the area to attend a meeting in the Old Opera House (above Home Hardware today) to start a Women's Institute in West Lorne.

At that first meeting four women from Rodney came by train to assist in getting the organization started. Those four women were Mrs. C.A. Wray who was the District President at that time. Mrs. Mel.evy the District Secretary, and the two branch Directors, Mrs. Stinson and Mrs. Eggert.

The result of that first meeting led to the formation of the West Lorne Women's Institute. Those that attended that meeting paid their annual dues of 25 cents. After the first meeting at the Opera House meetings were held at various members homes thereafter.

When WWI broke out the Women's Institute were there to aid in the war effort by keeping war records and performing other tasks. Some of those tasks included fundraising to raise money to purchase yarn to make socks for the soldiers overseas and ditty bags, towels, pillowcases, sheets, pyammas etc. The organization also purchased candy and cigarettes to be shipped to the frontlines. In one month the Institute shipped 48 pairs of socks, 99 towels, 55 pillowcases, 22 pounds of candy, 86 pounds of fruit cake, 42 1/2 pounds of cookies plus numerous cartons of cigarettes to the boys overseas. The Institute also sent a monthly donation of $10 to the ...f Bread Fund.

...f the ways the West Lorne ... raised funds in those early ...s to serve banquets at the ... Corn Show that was held ...rie Flooring is today, and the Institute also had booths to sell its wares at the West Lorne Driving Club and the Lawn Bowling and Baseball fields.

The women also held concerts and held paper drives during the war to raise funds to meet their needs.

After the war ended the institute held a giant banquet for the returning soldiers. To remember those who had fallen during the Great War members of the Women's Institute spearheaded a campaign to build a new Town Hall in West Lorne in memory of those who had paid the supreme sacrifice during the war. It took the women of West Lorne two hard years of politicking and citizens meetings to finally get the go ahead and build the new hall in 1922.

During the next several years the Institute did what they knew best (hold fundraisers) to raise money to pay for the new hall. Once more they held banquets, Chataqua concerts, St. Patrick Days Suppers (admission 50 cents for adults and 35 cents for children). They also held plays, raffled off quilts and in late 1928 construction started on West Lorne's new town hall largely due to the efforts of the West Lorne Women's Institute.

During this time period the Institute didn't only concentrate their fundraising efforts on the town hall as they also made donations to the Children's Shelter, the War Memorial Hospital in London, The Memorial Hospital in St. Thomas, The Institute for the Blind, Salvation Army and many other worthwhile causes.

In 1923 the Women's Institute of West Lorne raised the funds and erected a building at the cemetery. During the twenties the Institute also held many plays and literary contests for area students. To help provide health care for area students the Institute supplied the school with paper towels, soap, peroxide and iodine and they also gained permission from the school board to allow Dr. Webster to examine the children once a year. The Institute also purchased playground equipment for the school buying teteer toters and swings at a cost of $90.

In June 1930 the fundraising efforts by the Institute had reached their fruitation as a huge dedication ceremony was held for the grand opening of the Town Hall in West Lorne.

During the 1930's the Institute raised funds to aid the drought sticken areas of Western Canada during the dustbowl years. Two carloads of friuts, vegetables, jams and jelies were sent by the Institute for this campaign. When the waterworks System in West Lorne was completed in 1939 the Institute held a gala banquet to celebrate the occassion.

When WWII broke out the Institute was there once again doing their part for the war effort by forming a unit for the Red Cross. They also set up a committee to send war boxes to the local fighting men overseas. These boxes contained cigarettes, clothing, candy, and other necessities to make life a little more bearable for our local fighting forces.

At the end of WWII the Institute played a major role in a huge homecoming celebration at Athletic Park for our returning vets.

In April 1947 the Institute held an oratorical contest for Public School students. The winner of this contest was Wilma Avery a grade six student from SS2 Aldborough who spoke on "My Hero and Heroine", the King and Queen.

By 1953 Wilma was attending West Elgin Secondatry School ,and the Institute rewarded her efforts by sending her to England to witness the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June of that year.

During the late fortie's the Institute held several Winter Picnics which were held either in Wallacetown, Dutton , Rodney, Clachan or West Lorne.

In 1950 theInstitute purchased two new gas stoves for the town hall at a cost of $45.70.

In 1952 Elgin County celebrated its Centennial and a huge celebration was held in Dutton during the Caledonian games. The Institute served meals to hundreds of the participants during the event.

Another popular event during the '50's was the Kiwanis Club Hobby Fair in which the Institute played a major role in making the event a success. The Institute also held several TB clinics in the area..

Since then the Institute has undertaken many tasks and today they are actively involved in raising funds for our new town hall, plus doing many other worthwhile projects.

Over the years the Women's Institute has been responsible for many innovations to make our lives a little better. Some of these things were: Having bread wrapped, Having white line painted on the centre of Provincial Highways, Having the red stripe removed from Bacon wrap, Having Flouresent paint used on sides of railway cars, Having garments labelled as to quality, Adding music to school curriculums, Having stop signs placed at railway crossings, having fowl graded for sale, requiring car owners to purchase liability insurance before getting a licence, making it mandatory for traffic to stop when a school bus is stopped, making hot lunches available in schools, the teaching of sex education in schools, the pasteurization of milk, having staples abolished on packaged food, having poison containers clearly labelled and providing dental and medical inspections in schools. This is just a small sample of what the Institute has accomplished over the last 100 years. May they enjoy another 100 years of service to our area.


Happy 100th FWIO

WEST LORNE OPTIMIST CLUB

Let the Sunsh... Keep the C... Enjoy Gr...

SCHNEIDER AVENUE
WINDOWS • SIDING • SOFFIT • KITCHENS & BATHROOMS
DRYWALL
Call (519) 785-2108, Ask...

Thank You West Lorne W.I. for your 100 years of service to our Community

PINE CREEK GALLERY -1934

Happy 100th West Lorne W.I.

PLANEVIEW REPRODUCTIONS 768-2642

CONGRATS FWIO
Congratulations FWIO on your 100th Birthday

P.J. GANGLE INSURANCE 2831

Happy 100th

on your 100 Birthday

West Lorne Women's Institute

ELGIN O... HEATING ...

RODNEY CYCLE & MACHINE
Fu...nival Rd. N., Rodney
EQUIPMENT FOR RENT
We now have a FULL SELECTION of equipment for rent.
785-0993

Congratulations on your 100th Birthday
West Lorne Women's Institute

Br. 221 West Elgin Legion

THE BARBER
Wardsville
Agents for almost everything -- We cut hair on the side
...93-7028

Congratulations West Lorne Women's Institute 100 years young
Bank of Montreal

May the FWIO enjoy a Second Century of Service

Happy 100th WEST LORNE KIWANIS


# W.I. 100 YEARS 1997

# Women's Institutes amalgamate branches in Elgin County

The Elgin West District Women's Institute (WI) held their final meeting prior to amalgamation of WI branches in Elgin County.

President Ann McLean welcomed everyone and read a poem "March." Minutes and the treasurers report were accepted as presented.

Roll call "Why you joined the WI" was responded to by those present. One branch was absent. Board director Wella Johnston reported from the province office saying Mrs. Peggy Knapp will be inducted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame in Milton this June. Knapp is past president of FWIO and is Canada's regional president to ACWW.

The Conference '98 theme "Today's Family Shaping Tomorrow's World" will be presented at Loyalist College in Belleville July 3-5.

Resolutions sustained were the Natural Health Product Act; request to the Department of Justice to investigate ways that children be protected from violence and sex on the Internet; request that reflective tape be on sides and rear of all farm equipment accessing Ontario roads; request the Ontario Ministry of Transportation enact legislation requiring the installation of a strobe light on all school buses and all primary grade buses be equipped with a safety bar; and, request the Ontario government to enact legislation prohibiting the possession of a loaded firearm within eight metres of the travelled portions of highways and township roads.

Elgin County Rally WI will meet in the County Building on April 28 at 1 p.m. Elgin Farm Safety are planning educational days during the summer for young people.

Pioneer Museum will host a volunteer coffee break on April 15 at 2 p.m. Bingo volunteers are required for May 13 from 5 until 10 p.m.

Nominations for 15-year awards have been submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Tourism. They are Marion McKenzie, Betty VanPatten and Catherine Smith.

The recording of attic artifacts is progressing. To celebrate 150 years since the Duncombe Home was built, special exhibits are being planned throughout the summer months. The "Venture into the Garden" workshop was held in March.

The district annual will be May 13 at Fingal United Church. Wallacetown WI will look after the In Memoriam.

The LAMP report mentioned concerns of contamination flowing into our lakes and asked what will be the long term effect on our crops, animal life and drinking water.

## Elgin County Women's Institute

The Elgin County Women's Institute Rally met in the County Building in St. Thomas for its April meeting. Pauline Lindsay, assisted by Lil Larson, conducted the meeting which began with the Opening Ode.

The IODE Sterling chapter are celebrating 50 years with a "Traditional Afternoon Tea" at the Elgin County Pioneer Musuem on Saturday, May 23 from 2 until 4 p.m. A thank you from Safety Poster award winner Rob Wilkins was read.

A scholarship letter from FWIO was received and plans were made to present this scholarship. The 1998 Scholarship Committee, consisting of Grace Campbell and Jean Gooding, were appointed.

Farm Safety Poster awards were discusses. It was decided to contact Farm Safety officials to measure their desire to continue this project with financial assistance as well as two representatives.

Members were reminded of the induction of former FWIO president Peggy Knapp into the Agricultural Hall of Fame June 14. Spring luncheon at the Erland Lee Museum will be June 16.

The committee for a display at the Elgin County Plowing Match will be named at the WI annual meeting May 13 at Final United Church.

## West Elgin District WI

West Elgin District WI held their final meeting prior to amalgamation to WI Branches in Elgin County.

Following the Mary Stewart collect, the President Ann McLean welcomed everyone and read the poem "March". Minutes and treasurer's report were accepted as presented.

Many changes are planned for OMAFRA in near future.

Roll Call "Why you joined the WI" was responded to by those present. One Branch was absent. Board Director Wella Johnston reported from the Provincial Office saying Mrs. Peggy Knapp will be inducted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame at Milton in June. Peggy is past president of FWIO and is Canada's regional President to ACWW.

Conference '98 theme "Today's Family Shaping Tomorrow's World" will be at the Loyalist College in Belleville, July 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

Resolutions sustained were the Natural Health Product Act; Request to the Department of Justice to investigate ways that children be protected from violence and sex on the Internet; Request Ontario Ministry Transportation enact legislation requiring installation of a strobe light on all school buses; and all primary grade buses be equipped with a safety bar; Request the Ontario government to enact legislation prohibiting the possession of a loaded fire arm within 8 metres of the travelled portion of highways and township roads.

Elgin County Rally WI will meet in the County Building on April 28th, at 1:00 p.m.

Elgin Farm Safety are planning educational days during the summer for young people.

Pioneer Museum will host a volunteer Coffee Break on April 15th, at 2:00 p.m. Bingo volunteers are required for May 13th 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Nominations for fifteen year awards have been submitted to the Ministry of Citizenship and the Culture and Tourism. They are Marion McKenzie, Betty VanPotter and Catherine Smith. Recording of attic artifacts is progressing. To celebrate 15 years since the Duncombe House was built, special exhibits are being planned throughout the summer months.

Venture into the Garden workshop was held in March.

District Annual will be held May 13th in Fingal United Church with a Boxall Branch hostess. Wallacetown WI will look after the In Memoriam.

LAMP report mentioned concern of contamination flowing into our lakes asking what will be the long term effect on our crops, animal life, and our drinking water. Work for a better tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned and Mizpah benediction repeated.

By: Eleanor McMillian P.R.O.

## Elgin County Women's Institute Rally

The Elgin County Women's Institute Rally met in the County Building on Sunset Drive for the April meeting. Mrs. Pauline Lindsay assisted by Secretary Mrs. Lil Larson conducted the meeting which opened with the Mary Stewart Collect and Opening Ode.

The IODE Stirling chapter are celebrating 50 years with a "Traditional Afternoon Tea" at Elgin County Pioneer Museum on Saturday May 23rd, 2-4 p.m.

A thank you from a safety poster award winner Rob Wilkins was read. A scholarship letter from FWIO was received and plans to present this scholarship were made. The scholarship committee, Grace Campbell and Jean Gooding were named for 1998.

Farm Safety poster awards were discussed. It was decided to contact Farm Safety officials re their desire to continue this project with financial assistance as well as two representatives if this program is continued.

Members were reminded of the induction of former FWIO president Peggy Knapp into the Agricultural Hall of Fame in Milton on June 14, 1998.

Spring luncheon at Erland Lee Museum June 16th, sittings at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The committee for a display at Elgin County Plowing Match will be named at the annual meeting on May 13th in Fingal United Church. Farm safety day for children age 7 years of age is July 11th at Straffordville Community Centre. Due to amalgamation of our two districts in Elgin County the President declared the Elgin County Women's Institute Rally disbanded as of April 30th, 1998.

# Elgin County WI stress early detection of breast cancer

Elgin County Women's Institute executive members and district directors met recently at the county building in St. Thomas. The group is now known as Sub-Division 18 comprising Elgin, Middlesex East & Northwest Districts.

Deborah Armstrong was welcomed and spoke on cancer screening. She stressed early detection of breast cancer , stating every woman is at risk. As women grow older, chances of developing breast cancer increases.

Breast cancer is a leading cause of cancer deaths. Screening, mammogram and examination of breasts is the best way to find cancer in the early stage. Early detection of breast cancer means most women can be treated successfully.

A new office called the Women's Health Issue Group is located on Talbot St. in London, and is of benefit to all women.

A nutrition education representative, Carolyn Kuntz then spoke on benefits to community and volunteers through food demonstration, cooking classes, presentations, shopping tours, breakfast clubs and TV cooking spots.

Provincial board director Willa Johnston explained the Scholarship Program and the new flow chart regarding the reorganized structure of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

This chart can be found on the centre pages of Home & Country.

Life memberships are available to anyone who has been a member for 25 years, not necessarily consecutive years.

Next year has been deemed the Year of the Senior. The year 2000 the New Millennium.

Betty VanPatter reported an excellent profit from the bus trip to Erland Homestead and Butterfly Conservatory.

Correspondence was received from Corinth and Springfield Branches saying they had disbanded.

Dates to remember include:

Oct. 24 - Daffodil Cancer Coffee Break 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Nov. 7 - Farm Safety Poster Awards at Dutton-Dunwich Fire Hall at 2 p.m.

Dec. 4 - Coffee Break at Pioneer Museum 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Feb. 15 - Winter Picnic at Talbotville United Church - 12:30 p.m. Clachan and Calton Branches are hostesses. The theme is Safe and Healthy Communities.

## *THE DAFFODIL AUXILIARY:*

The Auxiliary Cancer Coffee Break was hosted by Boxall Women's Institute at Fingal Ontario on October 24,th 1998.

West Elgin Women's Institute annually sponsors this event. Each group brought baking for the food table as well as representatives on duty to serve the large crowd in attendance.

Once again the famous Fingal Quilters donated a beautiful quilt which was won by Jean Gaudette of London, Ontario.

It was gratifying for the Women's Institute members to receive such public response, not only by the number of people present at this function, but also through the purchase of many draw tickets.

The needs of many cancer patients will be met by the numerous contributions of the public.

# Women's Institutes of London Area

The London Area Women's Institute (which includes Elgin, East and Elgin, West) held their 84th annual convention at the Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre with Huron South and Huron West hostesses.

Over 27 members and guests were in attendance with the theme "Working Together Shaping Tomorrow's World." The Presentation of the Flags by Margaret Dale and Delores Shapton was followed by the District banners to the skirl of bagpipes by piper Carl Mills.

Matiland W.I. conducted an "In Memoriam" service following the formal opening.

In her opening remarks President Gladys Egelton urged everyone to communicate more in our communities and get to know our neighbours.

Resolutions Convenor Delores Shapton presented a resolution dealing with the governments education formula regarding the closing of rural schools. The resolution was carried.

Members were also updated with respect to the many changes taking place at the provincial level by F.W.I. President Arthena Hekcer. The new structure of the provincial board will be made up of only the President, the President-Elect, the Past President and eight board directors.

Alternate board directors are now known as the PAC (Provincial Advisory Council). Six new branches have been formed, which includes 399 new members. London Area is now Subdivision 18 and 19. Margaret Dale gave a presentation on the Adelaide Hoodless Home.

FYI (For Your Information) began the afternoon with presentations from OPP Constable Tracey Coglin, Funeral Director Ruth Townsend and Heart and Health representative Deb Campbell.

Reports were then given by Public Relations, Tweedsmuir Curator, Membership Organizer, Children's Hospital and the Western Fair Association.

President Egelton reported on Conference '98 in Belleville and Fran Dougall reported on the A.C.W.W. held in South Africa.

The Maryn Pardy Scholarship went to Trent University student Kerry Humphrey, while the Dorothy Futcher Scholarship went to Kings College student Andrea Wills. Bell ringers, the "Joy Bells" from Mitchell entertained.

In the evening, guest speaker and author Gisele Ireland, in keeping with the convention theme (Working Together Shaping Tomorrow's World), spoke to us and told us that for 100 years we've been doing just that.

Gifts were given to retiring President Egelton and secretary Doris Spence. Egelton then presented the gavel and pin to incoming President Pauline Lindsay.

The flags were retired, bringing the convention to a close.

OCT - 98

Elgin West District Women's Institute held its 90th annual meeting at Fingal United Church, hosted by the Boxall Branch. The theme for the day was "A new beginning that starts with you."

The opening ode was sung followed by the Mary Stewart Collect. Eleven district directors were ratified by board director Willa Johnston.

Correspondence from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs advised of the coming structural change which will be better able to serve rural districts.

President Ann McLean spoke on the theme expressing desire for the new district of Elgin County District Women's Institute to combine efforts to promote the activities of the WI of Ontario.

The new Elgin County District Women's Institute became effective following a review of past history of branches in Elgin by Betty Van Patter and Grace Campbell. A candle lighting service united the two districts as one.

London area president Gladys Eggleton installed the 1998/'99 officers as follows:

**President**
Ann McLean
**Vice-president**
Madeliene Jenkins and Mary Veenstra
**Secretary/Treasurer**
Grace Campbell
**Program Coordinator**
Pauline Lindsay, assisted by Julie Morden
**Pu[illegible]lations**
[illegible] Millan
**Resolutions**
Betty Van Patter
**Tweedsmuir Curator**
Evelyn Hoshall and Sally McIntyre
**Financial Examiners**
Joanne Erickson and Joan Mansell

*WI Datebook:*

**July 14** - Induction of Peggy Knapp into Milton Farm Museum Hall of Fame.

**June 24** - Elgin County Pioneer Museum Strawberry Social.

**July 15** - Farm Safety Day Camp at Belmont Community Centre (Straffordville).