WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE TWEEDMUIR HISTORY

VOLUME 7 2001 - 2003

COMPILED BY LEOLA LAWRENCE

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BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 2001

The West Elgin Chronicle MARCH 12, 2001



Artistic talent recognized

West Lorne resident Kristyn Watterworth, right, age 16, with her father, Don, and grandmother, Mary Bell, look over the sketches she was commissioned to do of last year's Ag. Hall of Fame inductees. The framed artwork now hangs in the new Elgin Agricultural Heritage Room.

(photo contributed)

Agricultural Heritage Room Opened

Just a short time after the Elgin Federation of Agriculture inducted three more people into the Elgin Agricultural Hall of Fame, another testament to agriculture in the county was opened.

The Elgin Agricultural Heritage Room was filled to capacity for the official opening in late February.

It has a local connection, in that Kristyn Watterworth, 16, of West Lorne, created the pencil sketches of several hall of fame inductees which have been framed to hang in the room. She was among several people being considered to do the sketches.

Her father, Don, who is a member of the Elgin Federation of Agriculture, suggested her as a candidate. After seeing samples of her work, the EFA chose her to do sketches of last year's inductees.

"It was good seeing them," said Kristyn, commenting about having her art hanging for the public to see.

The room, located in the Elgin County Administration Building on Sunset Drive in St. Thomas, is a joint effort of the Elgin Federation of Agriculture, the County of Elgin and the Elgin County Pioneer Museum.

The idea for the special room came from an idea Paul Mistele, a member of the EFA Heritage Committee and a director with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, shared with West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail, in that he was looking for a place to hang the plaque bearing the names of those inducted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame.

While the walls were all full, there was a cloak room just inside the main doors that was not being used. The county funded changing the room into a place to showcase Elgin's agricultural history.

The heritage room also houses artifacts and photographs of past farming activities as well as having a mural showing past and present rural scenes.

PADFIELD FUNERAL HOMES



is pleased to announce that ***Bill Denning*** *has joined the staff.*

Bill is a licensed Funeral Director who now resides in Rodney. We welcome Bill to the community and wish him much success. JAN. 15, 2001



RECOGNIZE MANY YEARS OF SERVICE

Recently honoured by the Bank of Montreal for 25 years of service with the Wardsville and West Lorne branches, Ann Neville, pictured above, said that it doesn't feel that long. She has served as teller and currently holds the position of Financial Service Manager. She received a long service certificate, a diamond pin in the bank's coat of arms and a wall clock. Fellow staff also presented her with a gift. JAN 2001



Senseless destruction

The Elgin County OPP are investigating a break and enter at the TLC Corner Store in West Lorne on May 3rd. Thieves prised open a door to gain entrance and a quantity of cigarettes, dvds and cash was taken. They also did a significant amount of damage to the interior of the store, pouring oil and salad dressing on the floor, breaking ceiling tiles, spraying pop over the walls and items on the shelves. Here, owner Deb Skorbinski surveys the pile of videos which wound up on the floor when the racks were pulled from the walls. Anyone that might have seen anything or have information regarding this incident is asked to call OPP at (519) 631-2920 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-265-444. MAY 7, 2001

West Lorne Vehicle Licence Office Closing

With the closing of the West Elgin Sports Centre this Saturday, the vehicle licence issuing office located there will also be closed.

The last day for vehicle licence related work will be Thursday, Feb. 1st.

The Ministry of Transportation commented that they are in the process of completing the Business Demand Analysis to determine if there is a need for this service in the community. If it is decided to go ahead with re-opening another office, it would be a minimum of 3 months to establish.

Until that time, people will have to travel to Dutton (at CoTrac Ford) or in Bothwell at the corner of Elm and Main Streets. JAN. 29, 2001

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 2001

West Elgin Hydro Sale Done Deal

With the arrival of the cheque from Ontario Hydro for the purchase of the Municipality of West Elgin's hydro utility, the sale has now officially been completed.

The $1.5 million cheque was received last week with the turnover of service taking place on February 1st.

At this time, only $5,000 of this money has truly been allocated, having been earmarked as a donation toward the new community pool in Rodney.

How to use the remainder of the funds still has to be determined but it has been suggested that a possible use would be to pay down the sewer debt, which for the West Lorne system would be about $760,000.

Village customers will have new numbers to call regarding hydro issues. For power outages or emergency situations, residents of West Lorne will be required to dial 1-800-265-1190 while Rodney residents will call 1-800-265-0545. These numbers will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For billing or service inquiries, the number for both Rodney and West Lorne is 1-877-430-4575. This number, dedicated to village residents of West Elgin, is only accessible Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

FEB 2001

Aldborough farmer inducted

It was a great surprise when Phil Schleihauf learned that he was going to be inducted in Elgin's Agricultural Hall of Fame.

"I was very surprised, it never entered my head," said Mr. Schleihauf. Paul Mistele called to share the good news. "I couldn't hardly believe his words."

He was nominated for this honour by the Elgin Cattlemen's Assocation.

Mr. Schleihauf has farmed for close to 70 years and is still taking an active role, working on the farm whenever he is able. His son, Kevin, now manages the day-to-day operations.

The farm, located on Silver Clay Line in Aldborough Township, has been in the family since 1854. "My father was born on that farm," he said.

Altogether the Schleihauf's farm 600 acres which supports a beef herd, mainly Hereford, as well as cash crops including soybeans, corn and hay for the cattle.

It used to be a purebred Hereford herd and Mr. Schleihauf had played leading roles in provincial and national Hereford associations. He was named to the Canadian Hereford Association Honour Roll in 1984.

He is a past president of both the Ontario and Canadian Hereford associations. In the early 1980's he was the Canadian representative to the Hereford World Congress in Uruguay, when breeders from around the world gathered to form policy and exchange ideas.

Mr. Schleihauf served on the Rodney-Aldborough Agricultural Society for 50 years before retiring in 1994. He served as president of the board and was superintendent of the Beef Cattle Show for many years.

He was a member of the Aldborough Boys Corn Club, sponsored by the fair. As an adult he served as a 4-H leader for 20 years.

Among his other accomplishments are having been president of the Aldborough Old Boy's Association, chairman of the Ontario Bull Sales committee, past president of the Orford Farmers' Co-operative, past president of the Rodney Kiwanis Club and past chairman of the Canadian Automobile Association of Elgin-Norfolk.

He is a past reeve of Aldborough Township and was Elgin County Warden in 1955.

Phil and his wife, Mae, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in January.

The Elgin Federation of Agriculture inducted Mr. Schleihauf, Diana Anderson, of Vienna, and Alvin Lindsay, of Aylmer, into the Elgin Country Agricultural Hall of Fame earlier this month. They were chosen "in recognition of achievemen and service within the realm of agricul ture."

Two local youth also received award at the EFA annual banquet held in St Thomas. Stephanie Smith, of West Lorne was named Elgin's top 4-H member fo 2000 while Marijn Fleuren, of Rodney was honoured for his rural accomplish ments with a Youth Achievement Cer tificate.



Totally Surprised!

Rodney area farmer Phil Schleihauf was caught completely off-guard when he was called to be told he had been chosen to be inducted into the Elgin County Agricultural Hall of Fame. He is pictured with the plaque he received to commemorate the occasion.



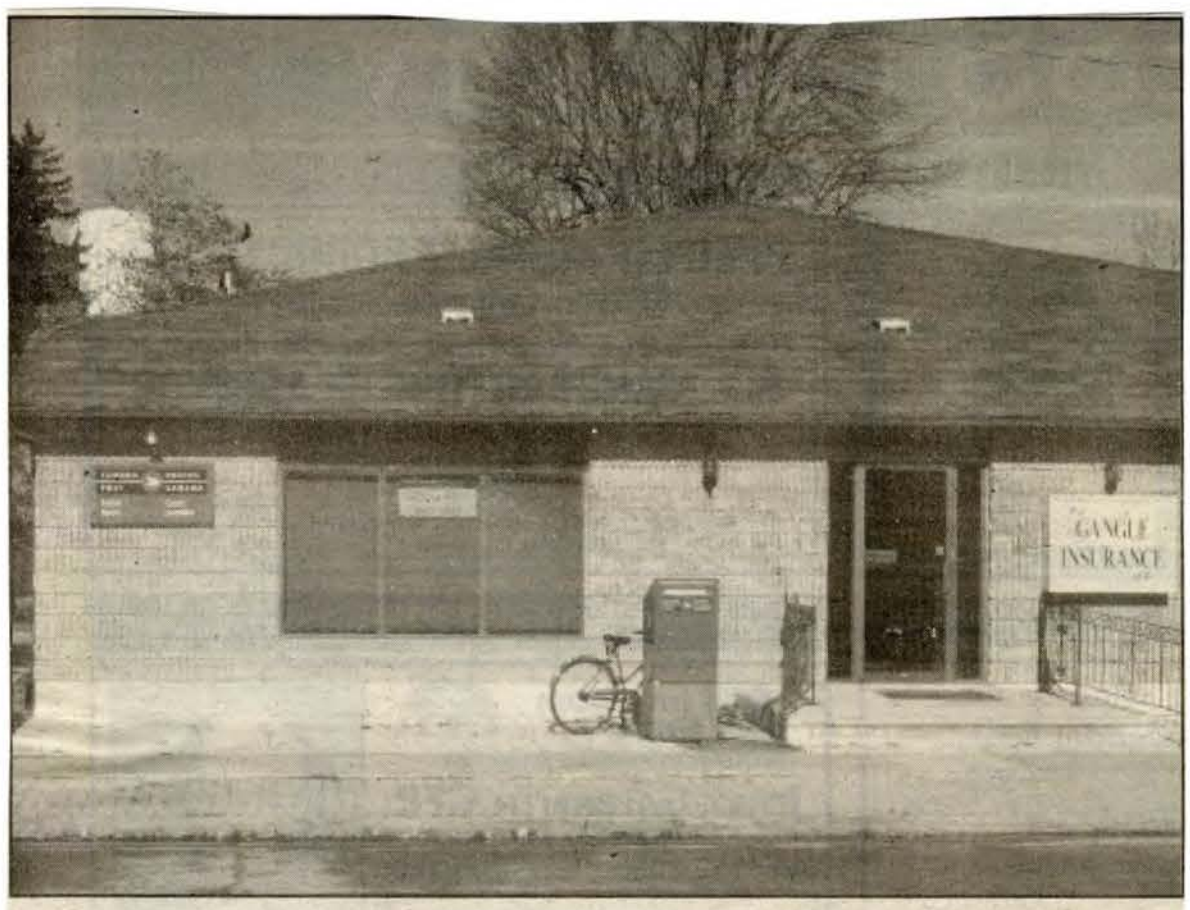
Signs of the times

Art Marentette, left, Don Watterworth, Linda McCallum, Peter Vergeer and Joe Krebs were among those who gathered locally to show their support of the farmers' Day of Action. The West Lorne 401 overpass was lined both sides with farmers and non-farmers alike, many who joined the long convoy of cars and trucks, many bearing signs, as it passed on it's way to Guelph.



Erin Smith of Rodney shows off one of her finished products at Swain's Greenhouse in Eagle, during the weekend opener of the Poinsettia Festival. Although the weather lately has been anything but festive, there is only 21 shopping days left until Christmas. Does that get you in the mood? DEC/01

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 2001



If you know what Canada Post's plans are with this building, the people of West Lorne want to hear it West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail confirmed last week they have met a dead end with getting the corporation to re-open the post office McPhail and others were upset about the company's lack of understanding on the town's desire to have a full fledged Post Office Currently postal services are being conducted out of B& J Variety on Graham Street McPhail says the people have shown satisfaction with new arrangement, but says the municipality is still monitoring the situation and will do everything to keep the issue alive

OCT 2001

Ocolisan takes Top Honours at Junior Beef show



Paula Ocolisan took top honours in the Top Meadow Farms National Junior Beef Heifer Show held at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto this month. Approximately 400 4-H members from across Canada participated in this event. 4-H members must first qualify in their own country to take part in this show. Paula was first selected Senior Champion Showperson and then competed in the overall championship class of each age division and was selected Grand Champion Showperson Overall.

Paula received a beautiful banner, numerous ribbons and also the use of a 18' Livestock Trailer for a year, with her name on it, sponsored by Granton Trailers.

Shown in the above photo is Eric Rincker (Judge), Paula Ocolisan and Mike Geddes (Top Meadows Farms representative.) Photo taken by Brown photography, courtesy of Ocolisan family.

NOV. 2001

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 2002

JUNE 24/02 The Chronicle

Erie Flooring shows employees appreciation



Some of the approximately 200 employees of Erie Flooring who gathered for a picture on June 13.

Employees of Erie Flooring and Wood Products gathered for a photograph this month during a luncheon and employee appreciation.

The year 2002 has been seen as a good year for the factory after achieving its ISO 9001:2000 certification. ISO establishes standardized codes of good management practice for business.

With a current staff of approximately 200 employees, the privately owned company has produced hardwood flooring for residential, commercial, and truck markets under its current ownership since 1970.



Sharon Burd of West Lorne was the winner in the West Lorne IGA draw for a Pepsi/7UP beach chair and umbrella, courtesy or Pepsi. Burd is seen with her friend Bill Santarossa and West Lorne IGA's Steve Browne.



Steve Browne of West Lorne IGA hands over a brand new gas barbeque to Merle Massé-Ciparis and her children Luke and Daniel Ciparis . The barbeque was compliments of West Lorne IGA and was drawn at the store draws held last week.



Bank of Montreal has given a corporate donation to the Parent Child Resource Centre for its new Early Years program. Handing a $500 cheque to Janet Pinder of PCRC is Wendy Vergeer (Mgr Bank of Montreal West Lorne) and Sherry Thomson (bank employee). DEC. 23, 2002



Erie Flooring in West Lorne did an amazing job raising money for the USA Relief Fund. Erie Flooring management raised $1620, Employees $1620 and also Deland Auto kicked in $100 to bring the grand total to $3340. Pictured are left to right, Saul Marques and Bruce Weber (IWA Reps), Alan Vandenbrink (General Manager), and Marilyn Tuffin and David Pinsonneault (Union Reps).

Success for Cdn Food Grains Bank

The Local 'Corn Share' Committee over the last two years has directed individual grower donors to contribute their one acre growing projects directly to the head office of the C.F.G.B. instead of through our Committee. Our community growing project this year has involved less people because the crop grown was soya beans, not corn, and previous involvement by former participants was

channeled into their own individual projects. The plot of land supplied by the John and Walter Miller families was planted by Ron Downie and harvested by John Miller. W.G. Thompsons did the spraying with material supplied by Monsanto.

Northrup-King donated the seed beans. All the above participants are to be thanked for their generosity.

In spite of the near disastrous drought conditions a modest yield of 32 bushels per acre was achieved. The net return to this effort of over $5000 when supported 4 to 1 by our Canadian Government resulted in a $25,000 value to assist in the day to day food needs of needy people somewhere in a war or weather ravished part of the world.

The Corn Share Committee is appreciative of the people of West Elgin who continue to support our efforts, either in the community project, through their own grain value donations or with direct cash through us or direct to Winnipeg office.

DEC. 9, 2002

Frost devastates local fruit crops

Record low temperature levels last week have created havoc on local crops, especially fruits, in some cases destroying the crop.

Local fruit growers are reporting disaster crops after blooming plants were bit by frost for three cons ectutive nights from Saturday May 18 to Monday May 20.

Farmers nearer Lake Erie, are reported to have faired a bit better than more inland farmers.

Dutton/Dunwich Mayor Rien VanBrenk and owner of VanBrenk Orhards outside Dutton says he has faired better than most because his apple trees bloom later because of the cooler lake effects. Unfortunately for VanBrenk, he still reports crop damage.

He suspects his plums and cherry crops have been destroyed.

VanBrenk says his apple crop is in better shape but he does have spots in his fields that have been damaged where there will be fruit.

VanBrenk says he had called earlier last week and the crop insurance companies had heard similar stories and claims made across the province by Wednesday.

Jeff Miller of Port Talbot Orchards of Dutton/Dunwich says he has never seen such destructive frost in his 25 years of growing fruit. He is reporting large damage in their peaches and plum crops and suspects the 2002 crops has been destroyed. Pears were also in question by the end of last week.

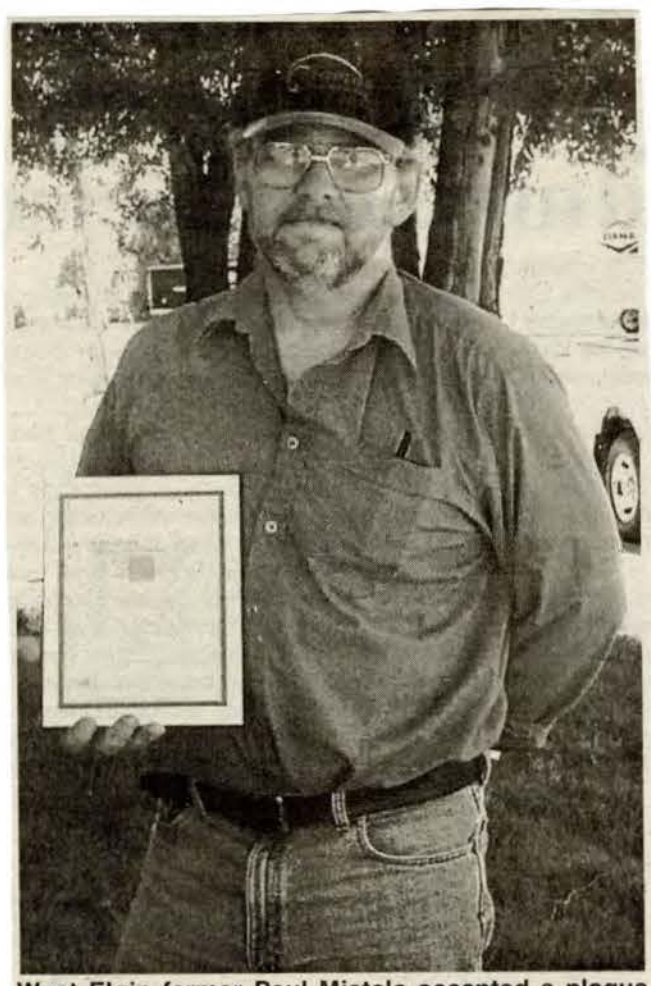
Strawberries were unknown by press time and a decision on the berries could not be made before the weekend.

Marianne Hatch of Bluegrove Blueberries of West Lorne says it was too soon to tell what damage the berry patches had but earlier plants were suspected to be hurt by the frost.

Many of the growers *The Chronicle* talked to, pointed out the major problem was the mix of sunlight in the day and major frost in the evening. During the day the sun was making plants bloom faster, but the heavy frost killed the bloom later in the day.

The growers all agreed the most devastating night was Sunday May 19. Growers noticed ice in their watering pails were quite thick by Monday morning.

Crops were not the only reported damage. The local Purple Martin population is reported to have dwindled after the birds were said to have starved without food - in particular, bugs, which did not come out in the cold.



West Elgin farmer Paul Mistele accepted a plaque this month from the Ontario Association of Food Banks for his help in feeding the needy and hungry in Ontario. The OAFB presentations were held in Peterborough. JUNE 24 /02



Vicki Slack was the winner of two new brand new Moskoka chairs courtesy of West Lorne IGA and the Coca-Cola Company. Handing the chairs to Slack were IGA employees Josh Knight (left) and Ryan Browne. JUNE 2002

APP 2002

Wallacetown Fair Winner



Eight year old Scotty Schaffer of Iona Station is the winner of a new bike after having the winning raffle ticket at last fall's Wallacetown Fair. Presenting Scotty with his new bike is Jeff Knight (left) of Knight's Hardware in West Lorne and Gerald Boyd, 1st vice president of the Wallacetown Fair.

The West Elgin Community Health Centre building committee has received a corporate donation of $5000 from RBC Royal Bank. Handing over the cheque at both ends is Terry Eckersley (left) Bank Manager of the Rodney RBC and Sharon Longbottom manager of Dutton RBC. Accepting the cheque in the middle is Doug Graham and Leta West of the WECHC building committee. Over seeing the cheque presentation is RBC mascot Leo.



The winner of the barbecue from Knight's Home Hardware is Daniel Blair of Rodney (at right). Turning over the barbecue is Jeff Knight. Every Home Hardware in Canada gave away barbecue's as part of a special store promotion. MAY 2002

The Chronicle

December 9, 2002 - Page 13

West Elgin's Mistele elected to OFA executive

Paul Mistele has added more to his plate, and it is not another helping of pork or chicken.

The pork, chicken and cash crop producer from West Elgin was recently elected to the four person Ontario Federation of Agriculture executive committee.

Also sitting on the committee are incumbents Allan Gardiner, Bette Jean Crews and Terry Otto.

Ron Bonnett, a beef cow-calf producer from Algoma District was also acclaimed as the new President of OFA. Jack Wilkinson has retired as president but has become the new president of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers.

This is just one of many positions Mistele has taken on in the past year.

Mistele is also chair of the West Elgin Community Health Centre Board of Directors, President of the Elgin Pork Producers, Chair of the Farm Animal Coalition pf Elgin and a member of the Environmental Committee for Ontario Pork.



Paul Mistele

Mistele said his biggest challenge will be working with the many liaison committees he has within his OFA responsibilites, including six committees representing many different commodities.

Mistele is also community minded and can be seen at various public gatherings.

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New website for *The Chronicle*

The staff of *The Chronicle* are proud to announce we have a new website to better meet the needs of our readership.

Our new website can be found at:
http://TheChronicle-online.com

The new site offers up-to-date weather temperatures from the London Airport including long-term weather predictions from The Weather Network.

Our new site also offers a section where stories will be archived from the pervious weeks.

In the upcoming months, more changes will be made to the site, with our readers in mind. We also remind people that not everything in the paper is found on the website. Subscriptions are still available to send *The Chronicle* anywhere in Canada, the USA and the world. Call our office at 768-2220 or drop into 242 Graham Street, West Lorne for more information.

JAN. 27, 2003

Dealing with grief can be hard part of job

A good sense of humour needed to help unwind from emotions of work



Funeral director Bill Denning finds helping people cope with their grief and plan their funerals can be more rewarding than it is difficult. *Chronicle photo*

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

At just 24 years old, Bill Denning has dealt with more grief and death than virtually anyone else his age.

"At times, it can be very challenging. It can be very emotionally draining," said Denning,funeral director at Padfield Funeral Home.



A day in the life ...of a funeral director

Being in a small town, it makes the job at lot harder at times when, for example, he has found himself arranging the burial of a friend or a friend's parent.

As a funeral director in a city, he said it would be much less likely he'd know the people facing the grief or facing grief of his own.

"It's difficult in this business to separate yourself from the day-to-day job," Denning said. "You don't just clock off at five o'clock and forget about it."

He said the absolute worse is planning a funeral for a child.

When a 90-year-old member of the community dies, the funeral becomes a celebration of a life well-lived, but when a child dies, Denning said it's a different kind of mourning and much harder to deal with.

"It's brutal," he said. "It's so unnatural and it's so emotionally draining."

And because of the private nature of the job, he said he can't just talk to his friends directly about what he's feeling.

"Everything that happens here, I have to keep myself. You have to be able to vent in other ways," said Denning. That's where he said having a good sense of humour can help. He's also a member of Rodney's volunteer fire department and finds the adrenaline rush of that job can help release some of the bottled-up emotions of being a funeral director.

"That helps you get through a lot," said Denning.

While living and having an active life in a village of about 1,200 people means knowing everyone and sharing more personally in their grief, it can also make some parts of losing a community member a little easier.

Denning said by knowing most of the people who come in to plan a funeral, there is already a more comfortable feeling between them that helps make the process easier.

"I think it's easier for folks who come in here and see a familiar face," he said.

"The good outweighs the bad," said Denning, adding he enjoys having a good rapport with the people in the community.

He said after planning a funeral and sharing in something as intimate as a funeral, when the mourning is over, he often has found he has new friends in the community.

And Denning finds the job rewarding in knowing that he is able to directly help people in the community during such a difficult time.

"When they come in, they're upset and not wanting to be here. By the time they leave, my job is to make sure they don't have to worry; that everything is done for them," he said. "That's what it's all about: helping people celebrate one's life."

To make it a celebration, he encourages people to include personal items that were important to the person who has died, which Denning said can sometimes mean seeing golf clubs set up next to a casket.

Denning grew up in a family of funeral directors and has been around grief, mourning and the celebrations of life that funerals present, for all his life.

It was just a natural step for Denning to take on a funeral director's role as well and at the age of 19, he was one of the youngest funeral directors out there, entering the working world.

From Strathroy Denning worked in larger funeral homes in secondary roles before eventually venturing out to Rodney to become the funeral director at both the Rodney and West Lorne chapels, out from under the shadow of his parents, both of whom are funeral directors.

He said the average age of students in a funeral director program is 30 and that most are moving into it as a career change after working in another line of work first.

Others have some post secondary education first before taking the program.

It leaves Denning as one of the youngest funeral directors around, something he said is much more noticeable in a small town.

He said it takes some people who don't know him by surprise and sometimes his friends are uncomfortable with his job at first.

"People have a lot of questions about what I do, but eventually, they develop a comfort-level," he said.

Dr. Tenki moving to Rodney

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Dr. Michael Tenki is moving his practice.

But the latest doctor to leave Four Counties Health Services is staying in the area.

"I like the area. I have my own practice. I live here. Why would I leave?" said Dr. Tenki.



Dr. Michael Tenki

Come Sept. 1, he plans to have his practice open at 226 Furnival Road in Rodney.

He's moving out of the medical clinic in Newbury where last month, he announced he was leaving the hospital.

"I'm feeling very good about the move," said Dr. Tenki last week.

Last month, he wasn't certain what his future plans would be when his two-month's notice was up at the hospital.

Patience were concerned he would leave the area but between words of support in letters to the editor in The Chronicle and The Bothwell Spirit and directly from the communities, Dr. Tenki decided to stay.

He said support from the communities had a "big role" in his decision to stay.

When he makes the move to Rodney, he said patients shouldn't notice much change in the transition, other than the location.

He chose Rodney because the bulk of his patience come from areas south and west of Wardsville and he thought it would be a more central location.

He expects his clinic will run full-time and said his practice is "pretty much full" at this time.

"I won't be taking new patients until I settle in," said Dr. Tenki.

After that, he'll look at how many more patients he can handle in his practice.

He closed the deal the last week of July and, last week, already had the phones connected as he begins the work of getting the practice ready to open in just a few weeks.

"It all happened in a week," said Dr. Tenki about how fast he came to be in possession of a clinic.

"I'm feeling very good about the move," he said.

BUSSINESS
+
INDUSTRY

JULY 2003

Home invaded

A residence in West Lorne was invaded by four suspects last Tuesday. Elgin OPP report that at the noon hour January 7, four suspects forced their way into the Jane Street residence as the lone occupant of the home slept.

The male victim was awoken and threatened by the suspects while they stole numerous pieces of electronic equipment.

The suspects fled in a small, older model red car in poor condition with a loud exhaust.

The suspects are described as being the following:

Suspect 1: a black male, in his mid-thirty's, 191 cms (6'3"), 113 to 127 kgs, (250-280 lbs) with short dark hair.

Suspect 2: a white male, late twenties, in his late twenties to early thirties, 175 to 183 cms (5'9" to 6'), with a couple days growth of hair on his chin, with a shaved head.

Suspect 3: a white male, 168 to 170 cms (5'6" to 5'7") in his late twenties to early thirties.

Suspect 4: a white male, 170 cms (5'7") in his late twenties to early thirties.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Elgin County OPP at 519-631-2920 (call collect if long distance) or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Elgin OPP community service officer Dennis Harwood said last week they are hoping that members of the public will be able to identify these suspects and any information they can provide will lead to an arrest.

JAN. 13, 2003

The Chronicle

Business is for women only

Sisters Pace Fitness offers exercise plan just for women

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

While it's run by sisters-in-law, Sisters Pace Fitness Centre is building success as a place for women to come and work out together in West Lorne.

"Women like to work out alone. They like to work out with women only," said Linda Keech, who operates the business with her sister-in-law, Shelley Coad, a medical secretary in London.

She said women are not as comfortable working out in front of men and decided there was a need for a place of women-only to be able to work out in the area.

Growing up in West Lorne and attending high school there, Keech said it seemed like a logical place to come back and do business, also seeing a need for a new work out facility.

"It was like me coming back home and giving something back to the community," said Keech, who believes that growing up in the area, she received a lot from the vibrant community as a member of its youth.

Opening Sisters Pace Fitness Centre, Keech and Coad offer a 30-minute hydraulic circuit training work out done to music.

"I've been having excellent results with a program like this," said Keech, deciding to make it available to other people.

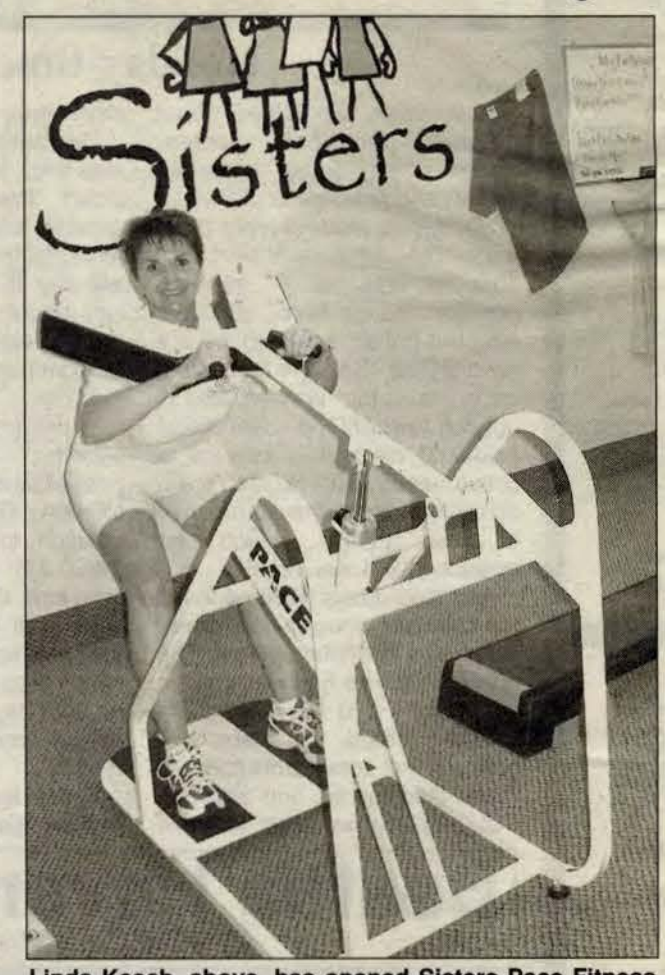
The equipment and work out program is geared toward toning and shaping a woman's body.

While men want to bulk up, Keech said women want to loose inches and gain body tone.

Instead of building bulky muscles, she said the 30-minute work out is designed to reduce inches while providing shape to a woman's body.

There's no big, heavy weights, but hydraulic equipment instead that simply tones up muscles between aerobic exercises done throughout the work out.

Since opening in early June, in less than a month, Keech said their clients have already been noticing lost inches and pounds and is looking forward to seeing the results in members in six months.



Linda Keech, above, has opened Sisters Pace Fitness in West Lorne with her sister-in-law, Shelley Coad.

Another plus to the women-only format is the opportunity it's providing to socialize.

Of her more than 80 clients now, she said many find a chance to socialize and have fun during their workouts.

The facility is open Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and again on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

They offer a range of membership plans that can accommodate snowbirds that leave in the winter or campers who only spend their summers here.

Licence office will open again

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

The Ministry of Transportation and the Municipality of West Elgin have entered into an agreement that should see a motor vehicle licensing office open again by this October.

"It's a win-win for everybody," said Mayor Duncan McPhail.

The office will be located in the old town hall on Rodney's main street, the same building that houses the Tiny Tots daycare facility.

Daycare staff will operate the office and it will also be open on Saturdays.

McPhail said there are minor renovations needed to set up the part of the building used as the community policing office and the facility will have to be made handicap accessible.

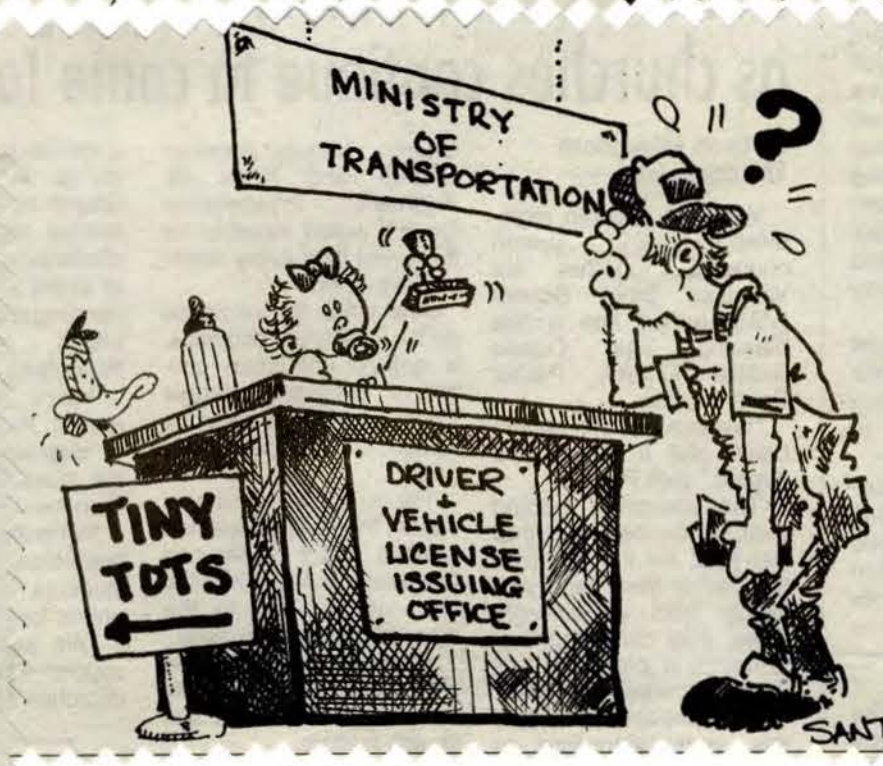
Cost estimates on the work are not available yet but McPhail said they hope to have the work completed by October.

The business community had been worried there would never be another office after the original one closed more than two years ago when the sports store that operated it closed.

Applicants to host another office had been unsuccessful in meeting ministry guidelines to operate a licensing office until the success of West Elgin's latest application was announced last week.

McPhail said having the office in Rodney will be great for drawing business to the area from surrounding communities such as Ridgetown and West Lorne.

The Ford dealership in Dutton is the only other licensing office in western Elgin County.



The Chronicle



Jeff Knight, owner/manager of Home Hardware in West Lorne presents Barb Wemp and her son Taylor with a Dremel Advantage Rotary Saw won in a nation-wide draw. Wemp was the second-prize winner.

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BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 2003

The Chronicle FEB 24, 2003



Rodney Ambulance Service general manager Jim Price, left, presents a print honouring the memory of late owner Bob Padfield to Glenn Szusz, the service's Rodney station supervisor, to hang at the Rodney station. Another print is being hung at the Dutton station as well.

The Chronicle MAY 19, 2003



Blair Schweitzer and West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail hold Schweitzer's first place trophy.

Schweitzer on top at Safety Rodeo

The Truck Safety Rodeo for municipalities was held in Woodstock at the end of April. Representatives competed from Elgin, Oxford, Haldimand, Norfolk and Middlesex Counties.

West Elgin municipal workers Blair Schweitzer and Gary Long were among the competitors. Schweitzer came away with a first place for Elgin County and Long a close second.

Pictured with West Elgin's Blair Schweitzer is West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail.

Schweitzer advances to the provincial AORS (Association of Road Supervisors) Finals to be held in Mitchell this September.

JULY 3/2003

Crops are finally planted

Will be fall before full yield impact will be known

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

It will be fall before farmers know how badly late planting has reduced their yields but last week, the last of the soybeans was expected to be in the ground.

"There were still some going in Wednesday and Thursday," said Adam Hayes late last week, a soil specialist for this area with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

He said some clay fields were kept too moist between periods of rain this April and May that they weren't able to dry out until last week's hot and dry weather.

Many farmers had to switch to soybeans because it was too late in the season to plant corn while rains continued to fall late this spring.

The timing got tight this past week for soybeans as well and Hayes said some crop insurers sent notices out preparing farmers for potential claims for unseeded acreages.

However, he said it looked like most farmers would get the soybeans in before Monday, when farmers became eligible for insurance claims.

"I'm assuming there won't be much unseeded acreage," he said.

Regardless of the crops getting in the ground, Hayes said most crops were in late which means yields will likely be reduced.

The full effects won't be known until the fall harvest, which will also be later this year and causes another concern for the potential of further harm to the crops if there's an early frost.

"If you have an early frost in the fall, that could cause some serious problems," said Hayes. The crops won't be able to dry down as good and will be of poorer quality if that happens.

Those who did have corn planted this year were able to take advantage of the decent weather for weed control applications and the season has actually not been as bad for winter wheat which is harvested next month.

Hayes said the recent wet weather has caused some concern for fusarium disease which can reduce the quality of the wheat crop but they are still monitoring how much of the disease is present in crops.

Meanwhile, he said the next big concern they are watching is the soybean aphids.

The tiny insects damaged crops across the region two years ago by sucking moisture and nutrients from the plants during an especially dry summer.

They greatly reduced yields and some Kent County fields have reported the presence of aphids this year.

Hayes does not know of any in Elgin County yet, but said they are watching for any signs.

Elgin fights for traffic fine money collected by OPP on Highway 401

For The Chronicle

Elgin county council is determined to lobby the province for legislation change that will allow Chatham-Kent to refund money for traffic fines collected on Highway 401.

An existing practice now means that tickets issued by 22 Ontario Provincial Police officers who patrol Highway 401 are now paid to courts in Chatham-Kent, even if the offence took place in Elgin county.

Administrator Mark McDonald said April 22 that practice is in place because Chatham-Kent had its Provincial Offences Act courts in place before Elgin. POA courts are where routine charges like speeding and other traffic offences are processed.

McDonald said that while Chatham-Kent agrees the money from those fines for Elgin tickets on Highway 401 should come back here, the legislation won't allow them to do it.

Councillors agreed the most effective approach is to meet with the Ontario attorney general and explain the situation. Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP Steve Peters has been asked to help schedule a meeting.

Going to Toronto for the meeting will be McDonald and the mayors of the three western municipalities affected, Jim McIntyre of Southwold, Rien Van Brenk of Dutton/Dunwich and Duncan McPhail of West Elgin.

In other business:

• County council deferred a decision on an emergency power generator for the administration building. While a staff report recommends improvements to the generator since the fire pump has been added to it, councillors want to see more details. It is used to provide power for essential parts of the building during outages.

• Councillors agreed with a staff recommendation in a report to lease a 2003 Ford F-150 pickup truck from Talbot Ford for a one-time payment of $15,507. The vehicle is to be used by the county engineering services department.

• Elgin municipalities overspent $61,000 on road maintenance in 2002, a report detailed. Municipalities are responsible for maintaining county roads and are reimbursed for the expense.

• Elgin county's portion of providing social assistance dropped by 2.6 per cent in 2002, said Chester Hinatsu, director of Ontario Works. That equates to a saving of $300,000.

Hinatsu said the department is facing big challenges in keeping up with technological changes and computer needs. A capital needs study and property assessment is expected in May.

• Elgin council indicated it has no interest in a financial partnership for the future disposition of the current Elgin Manor. Instead, a report on alternate uses for the property and building have been referred to Southwold township which must respond by July 31. A new Elgin Manor is being built and will be ready by June, right beside the existing facility.

• Council approved the purchase of furniture and other items for the new Elgin Manor. They included 12 chairs, three folding tables, four domestic refrigerators, three compact refrigerators, one range, an exercise table mat, upright bike, space saver staircase lounge chairs and bed monitoring system.

• Council reviewed a report that outlined the risk of potential insurance claims from workplace injuries for people working under job creation programs. Although the county could potentially be liable for a claim if an employee was injured, councillors said they were willing to continue with the program, since its benefits outweigh the risks, in the opinion of the county's management team.

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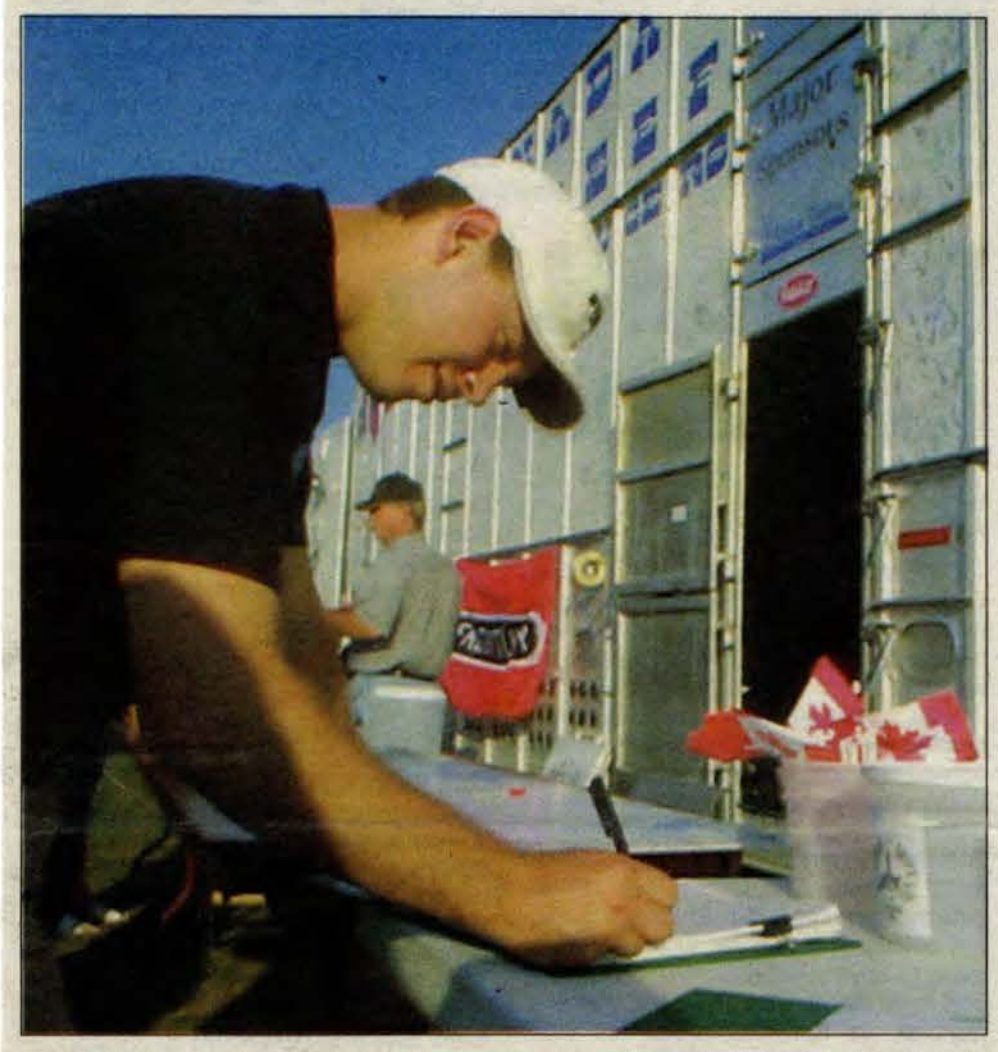
May 1/2003

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 2003

SEPT 18

Petition comes to Talbotville

Cross-country beef caravan makes a stop on its way to a Sept. 17 protest in Ottawa



Dave McKillop signs a petition calling for federal government action on BSE at a rally Sunday at the Talbotville Stock Exchange.

Submitted photo

For The Chronicle

TALBOTVILLE — West Elgin resident Dave McKillop would like to be a farmer.

But, says the 19-year-old Fanshawe College student who grew up on a farm, "I can't afford to."

And that's one of the reasons McKillop signed a petition Sunday in Talbotville calling on Ottawa to demand an international protocol setting rules how governments respond to BSE (mad cow disease).

McKillop's parents, Bob and Nancy, are beef producers who have seen the price for their animals in their feedlot drop by $800 each in one year.

And McKillop, himself, has experienced the fallout from the closure of borders to Canadian beef following discovery of BSE in one Alberta steer.

He owns two 4-H steers and doesn't know if he'll be able to cover his costs when he sells them.

"I've spent money on my steers and you don't even know if you'll get your own cash back."

McKillop was among about 250 cattle producers from the London region and supporters who gathered here Sunday to raise awareness about the impact of BSE on the agriculture community and on the nation at large.

They signed a cross-country petition calling on Ottawa to seek international guarantees that future outbreaks of BSE will be dealt with scientifically.

West Lorne farmer Paul Mistele, an executive member of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, estimates the BSE crisis has cost Elgin as much as $50 million in lost income.

"I think that much. I know that much."

He said the nation's economy will lose $7 billion in activity.

He said Canadians don't realize international borders remain largely closed to Canadian beef, and he said politics, not science, are much to blame as nations use BSE to further other agendas.

For example, Japan's ban on imports of Canadian beef just happened to bolster a domestic industry during an election, he said.

"It's all about politics."

Focal point of Sunday's rally was a 42-foot livestock transport bearing thousands of signatures of producers collected in Alberta, where the campaign began, and since Sept. 2, from B.C. east.

The trailer was destined for a rally yesterday on Parliament Hill.

Dale Young, a former cattle producer who left the industry for the Alberta oilpatch, but now is retired, said he organized the truck with Tim Wishewan because, "Somebody has to."

Said Young, "It's a pretty worthwhile cause. It's going to affect everyone ...

"In Alberta, we say we grow two things — we grow oil and we grow beef."

Also on board was Canadian Alliance MP Peter Goldring, who represents Edmonton Centre-East.

Goldring, whose riding is urban, said the campaign has opened his eyes to the needs of the beef industry.

Power generating project getting world-wide attention

Unique project has eyes of the world on Erie Flooring

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

A power generating project unique on a world-wide scale could be coming to West Lorne if the final Ministry of the Environment approvals are granted.

If so, eyes around the world will be on Erie Flooring.

"It's a very important milestone for us. We have a ton of interest from all over the world. People want to see it up and running," said Brian Richardson, Chief Financial Officer of DaynaMotive Energy Systems.

The Vancouver-based company is one of the key partners in the project that will see a 2.5 megawatt electric combined heat and power generator developed at Erie Flooring. It produces a form of "green energy", meaning it is produced from a renewable source and produces lower emissions in compliance with the Kyoto Accord the country entered almost a year ago.

While the technology is not new, using a process called pyrolysis to convert wood waste into a product called bio oil, Richardson said how they are implementing it is unprecedented on a commercial level. The bio oil is then burned in turbines and produces less emissions than traditional fuels.

In the Erie Flooring project, technology from DynaMotive and Orenda Industrial, another key partner, will produce the bio oil from wood waste and a gas turbine will be modified to use the bio oil and produce 200 megawatts of power.

In addition, steam produced in the process will be used to heat the facility and for drying its finished products.

While Erie Flooring uses wood waste to produce steam now, the new process would be a more efficient use of the waste. The wood waste would be used for generating power and the steam would be a byproduct of that process instead of the wood being used directly as a heat source for the steam.



The smokestack at Erie Flooring often is seen releasing black smoke that concerns some local residents. While the plant complies with environmental controls, a new form of energy creation will help reduce emissions.

Chronicle photo

"It will be the largest plant in the world of this type of technology," said Richardson.

The project moves the technology from research applications to a commercial level and he said potential customers around the world are waiting to see it in use at Erie Flooring.

> "IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT MILESTONE FOR US. WE HAVE A TON OF INTEREST FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD,"
>
> **— Brian Richardson DynaMotive**

"We'll want to show it off," said Richardson.

"It's going to be green energy. Hopefully this will take concerns away from residents about our smokestack," said Alan Vandenbrink, general manager, at Erie Flooring.

He said the company, which manufactures hardwood flooring, decided to seek the Dynamotive initiative as a way to reduce the facility's greenhouse gas emissions.

"If it works, I will be very excited," said Vandenbrink, stressing final approvals for the project are not in place and the commercial application is new.

"The emissions are cleaner than natural gas," he said. It's the cleaner form of energy that has Ontario Power Generation, a major provider of power in the province, interested and working as a partner in the project as well.

To date, OPG has made an investment in the feasibility study for the project and, if it's successful, James Perry, senior business development engineer, said it would allow OPG to increase its investment in the project.

The project, which also includes the Magellan Aerospace division-Orenda Industrial, a key provider of the components needed, has already received an undisclosed grant from Sustainable Development Canada.

OCT. 23/03

Continued on Page 2

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 2003

The Chronicle's
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 2 - Rodney Legion Dance to "Manpower" 9pm - 1 am. $6 at door.
August 2 - West Elgin Legion Yard Sale 7:30am - 3:30pm
August 3 - Port Glasgow Fish Fry, Music & Fireworks ~ 4:30pm to dusk
August 5 - Free lawnbowling for students 7 pm West Lorne Lawn Bowl Club
August 6 - Beef BBQ 5-7pm, Clearville Park 678-3657 or 674-3546
August 7 - Free adult lawn bowling 7pm West Lorne Lawn Bowl Club
August 9 - Iona Fish Fry 5-7pm Iona Hall
August 10 - Rodney Legion Ham & Turkey Bingo 2pm
August 11 - WEDS Performing Arts Camp. Call Lesley 762-6262.
August 12 - Geri Fashions at the Bobier Villa 10am to 3pm
August 18 - Vacation Bible School ~ Rodney Community Centre
August 23 - Rodney Kiwanis Elvis Dance, West Elgin Arena 8pm For tickets call 768-2825
August 23 & 24-'Talbot Trail Of Yard Sales'~New Glasgow to Port Burwell
Sept. 2 - West Elgin Chamber Meeting 7:30pm. Rodney Old Town Hall Meeting
Sept 9 - West Lorne & Community Hort. 7pm. Jennifer Grant
Sept. 9 - West Elgin South Aldborough Neighborhood Watch Meeting ~ 7:30pm, Rodney Legion
Sept. 10 - Ham & Turkey Smorgasbord, Iona Station Baptist 5-7pm - West Elgin Comm. Policing Committee, 7:30pm.
Sept 12-13-14 - Rodney Aldborough Fair. Come on out!
Sept 15 - Dutton Dunwich Hort Soc. Annual Potluck Supper Meeting. Speaker Dianne Vaughan St. Johns Church 762-2440
Sept. 16 - Rodney & District Horticultural Society ~ 7:30pm, Rodney Legion
Sept. 17 - Pre-Anniversary Beef Supper, Duff Church, Largie - Dutton Dunwich Chamber Meeting 7:30pm. Council Chambers
Sept. 20 - Dutton Dunwich Hort. Society Fall Plant/Bake sale 8am Centennial Park
Sept. 20 - 10am Guided walk on Dutton-Dunwich Trans Canada Trail
Sept 21 - 182nd Anniversary Service Iona Station Baptist ~ 11am
Sept 21 - 27 - Legion Week
Oct. 14 - West Lorne & Comm. Hort. 7pm. Bonsai speaker.
Oct. 15 - 'Funshop 9 for Seniors' ~ 9:30am - 2pm, Rodney Legion • 785-0460
Oct. 20 - Dutton Dunwich Hort. Soc. meeting St. John's United Church. 7:30pm. Speaker Tom Intven - bulbs
Oct. 21 - Rodney & District Hort Soc. Presentation Of Autumn with mums and ornamental grasses by Parkway Gardens
Nov. 1 - Annual Bazaar Auxiliary to FCHS
Nov. 11 - West Lorne & Comm. Hort Christmas Craft Night 7pm.
Nov. 17 - Dutton Dunwich Hort. Soc. meeting 7:30pm. Speaker Mary Kernohan. Christmas Decorating. St. John's United Church
Nov. 18 - Rodney & Dist Hort Society Christmas Workshop
Nov. 28 - 'Christmas in the Park' Dutton
Dec. 9 - West Lorne & Comm. Hort. Pot Luck Dinner ~ 6:30pm
Dec. 9 - West Elgin South Aldborough Neighborhood Watch Meeting ~ 7:30pm, Rodney Legion

This service has been brought to you by the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce and will be published monthly in the Chronicle (*last issue of each month*)
Please call 768-2220 fax 768-2221 or
Email: chronicle@bowesnet.com
to have your event published at NO CHARGE.

Paintball park set to open this spring

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

One of North America's most popular extreme sports is gunning its way into West Lorne.

Ballistik Paintball Park has set its sites on a May opening at the edge of the village.

"We're pretty excited about doing it," said Lydia Hawken.

Working with paintball enthusiasts Perry and Kim Penney, Lydia said she and her husband Don thought the area was ready for an organized paintball facility.

Using a portion of their 50-acre property, the group is in the midst of constructing two paintball fields and already have ambitions for more in the wooded area behind their Graham Street home.

"We've got one field just about done," said Lydia.

The wooded field features tree trunk bunkers positioned throughout a wooded area.

The goal will be for each of two teams to retrieve a flag in the centre of the playing field and get it back to their main bunker.

The challenge is to do this without getting "marked" by a paintball fired from a type of air-powered gun called a marker.

The second field is for a game called "speedball" where teams compete in an open field in a faster-paced game that can last minutes instead of hours like the first game.

The area will be netted off to protect viewers who can watch the game from an area of picnic tables being set up.

Safety is a priority of Ballistik and Lydia said they have purchased top-of-the-line equipment including face mask with full protection including ears.

The games will be refereed and time on either of the fields has to be booked ahead by at least six players to form two teams of three.

Any teams over six players will have two referees for serious competition.

There will also be open days where anyone can come out to try the sport, tentatively on every second Friday.

Markers are set to fire paintball pellets at 280 feet per second which Lydia said is a little slower than some fields but adds to the challenge because if an opponent is quick, he or she can duck the marker and stay in the game longer.

"It's challenging," said Lydia. "It's really been growing in popularitv."

Later this summer, they hope to hold a competition as a way to try out for a Ballistik team that will compete at tournaments like an international one the Hawken's recently attended in Toronto.

Team members will be given free use of the fields and equipment to practice and train for the tournaments in exchange for working as referees when people book the fields.

Lydia said they are aiming for next year to have the team competing and are hoping maybe even this year, to already host their first tournament on the field.

They're also looking at setting up a Wednesday night old-timers league.

Lydia said West Elgin council has been very supportive of the project as they seek a zoning variance to allow the sport.

While they hope to be operating by mid-May, she said they are aiming for an official opening celebration in June.

Lydia and Kim will be working the administrative side of the operation while Don and Perry will be in the fields working as referees.

For more information, people can check out the Web site at www.ballistik.ca.

New editor has joined team at The Chronicle

The Chronicle welcomes Scott Hilgendorff as its new editor.

The graduate of the Ryerson School of Journalism brings almost 11 years of daily and weekly newspaper experience to the team at The Chronicle, officially joining the staff full-time March 24.

Hilgendorff comes to The Chronicle from The St. Thomas Times-Journal where he works as an editor and reporter.

He is a former employee of publications within The Signal-Star Publishing Group in Huron and Bruce County, now part of Bowes Publishers Limited and sister papers to The Chronicle.

He began working as a reporter at The Kincardine News in Kincardine before moving to papers in Strathroy, Goderich and Seaforth. In Goderich he was news editor before becoming the editor of The Huron Expositor in Seaforth, leading it through an award-winning redesign.

He brings to The Chronicle team a strong sense of community news and a drive to produce well-rounded coverage that reflects all aspects of the community from the news stories that affect daily life to feature stories that help reveal what makes the communities in western Elgin County so special.

"We welcome Scott to our team at The Chronicle. With Scott's experience and professionalism, we look forward to positive coverage of our community's life and its needs," said Publisher Shirley Slaats.

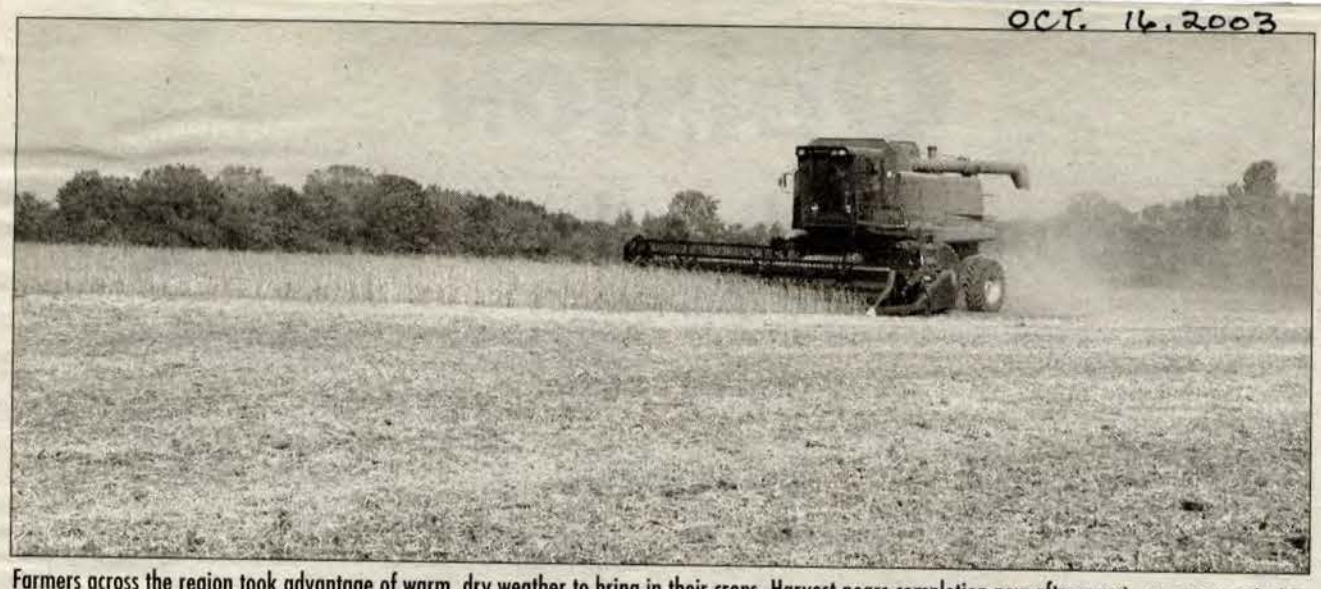
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FOR COMPLETE FLYER DETAILS SEE IN-STORE

OCT. 16, 2003

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

2003



Farmers across the region took advantage of warm, dry weather to bring in their crops. Harvest nears completion now after a wet, even snowy start to the season.

Chronicle photo

Lady beetles taking a bite out of western Elgin County

For *The Chronicle*

They're not your typical, pretty ladybug — these little insects bite, as residents across the region found out last week.

They're an Asian lady beetle, an insect lured out of the soil by warm fall temperatures and the local soyabean harvest, said Pud Hunter, a biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources in Aylmer.

Hunter said in late summer, the beetles burrow into the soil when temperatures cool and stay there over the winter.

But warm weather which blanketed the area last week, lures the beetles back out.

As they become active, they fly around, Hunter said.

Specifically, these Asian lady beetles were introduced to the United States about seven years ago to fight an infestation of another insect. They gradually moved northward.

"It has taken seven years for their population to build up," said Hunter.

The beetles found their way to the shores of Lake Erie and other large bodies of water and for that reason, will probably be seen in larger numbers in Lake Erie communities.

The reason there are so many is because they have had an entire year to populate before they've become active and started flying around.

The beetles feed on insects, aphids and humus layers.

Some are known to bite, said Hunter, but they are considered harmless.

"I've not heard of any issues because of their biting," said Hunter.

He said anyone walking near or along the Lake Erie shoreline will notice them and may get bit.

It's advisable to wear long sleeve clothing, he said.

June 12, 2003 - Page 9

Mandatory labels could benefit despite producer fears: Mistle

For The Chronicle

Mandatory country of origin labels on food sold in the United States could actually be an advantage to Canadians, suggests Paul Mistle, an executive member of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and a local pork producer.

As of October, 2002, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its Agricultural Marketing Service, is issuing country of origin labeling guidelines for voluntary use by retailers who wish to notify their customers of the origin of beef, lamb, pork, fish, perishable agricultural products and peanuts.

The mandatory use of this labeling is scheduled to take effect by Sept. 30, 2004.

In a post-Sept. 11, 2001, world, country of origin labeling, on the surface at least, is seen as an attempt by U.S. officials to further allay fears of bio-terrorism attacks.



Paul Mistle

But Canadian producers and, in particular, Ontario pork and beef producers, see the labeling as a very misguided attempt to deal with the perceived threat. And, in fact, the legislation smacks of non-tariff barriers, argues Paul Mistele.

"It is somewhat of a misguided effort to safeguard American industry, because it doesn't really address some of the issues in a practical way because of the way the processing industry is structured."

Simply put, the labeling guidelines leave far too many questions unanswered notes Mistele, a west Elgin pork producer.

"You may have an animal processed in one area and then that side goes somewhere else for further processing. And what if an animal is moved at three or four weeks of age on a truck into the U.S. and then reared there on grain from the U.S.. Then are they in fact Canadian pigs or are they American?"

Furthermore, said Mistele, with the high quality of Canadian pork and beef, the labeling guidelines may just backfire.

"It's our opinion at Ontario Pork that this would almost be an advantage for Canadian hogs because we feel we have a superior product when it comes to flavour, taste and lean yield."

And ultimately, it will be the consumer and primary producers who will absorb the cost of country of origin labeling.

"That's why we don't think it is practical," explained Mistele. "It would put a tremendous burden on our industry to all at once have to come into compliance so quickly. You would have all this extra paperwork for every truck going down the road, for every ship crossing the sea."

In fact, suggested Mistele, the country of origin may be important to some people, but the nutritional value is probably of far greater significance. And to that extent, the issue is likely more about protecting U.S. markets.

"This is just a ploy for a non-tariff barrier on a product to keep it out of the U.S."

In 2001, approximately 800,000 tonnes of pork was exported from Canada, with close to 340,000 tonnes destined for the U.S.

On top of that, Ontario alone sends about 30,000 feeder hogs each week into the U.S. and about another 8,500 market animals.

"So if the border were to be made unduly accessible," noted Mistele, "then what would happen is that we would have an extra 40,000 pigs a week that would need to be processed in Canada and this would put a lot of pressure on our own capability here and that would be a price driver in itself."

And with a little more than 16 months until mandatory labeling, Mistele is confidant U.S. authorities have plenty of time to beat a hasty retreat on this contentious issue.

"I think once the (U.S.) government thinks this out clearly, without the lobbyist pressure, you'll see a regressive type of movement on this issue.

It is so blatantly in abuse of world trade rules. This is almost Never Land."

Nov 13/03

The Chronicle



Drier weather late last week and on the weekend allowed many area farmers to get their corn crops off. Harvest is late this year due to a wet spring delaying planting, but corn yields are up this year. Soybean crops, however, faced a 10 bushel/acre loss this season.

Chronicle photo

Corn producing high yields, soybeans were not as strong

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Soybean crops have come in at about a 10-bushel per acre yield loss while corn is coming in at about 10 to 20 per bushel gains this year, despite a late planting season this year.

"The crop didn't look too bad," said Albert Tenuta of the soybean fields this year. He is a field crop plant pathologist from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food located at Ridgetown College.

But for the soybean crop, he said the problem came this summer when hot and dry weather hit.

"Those conditions had an impact on seed size," said Tenuta. The hot and dry conditions occurred as soybean pods were beginning to fill. The lack of moisture, presence of soybean cyst nematodes and some damage from aphids saw a 20 to 30 per cent reduction in the size of seeds.

But for corn, it's been a more positive story.

"So far, in the yields that have started coming in, it's been above normal," said Tenuta.

He said corn is more tolerant to the hot and dry weather that affected the soybeans and there was still enough rain to give corn the moisture it needed.

"We had enough rain at just the right time," said Tenuta.

He also said late-planted fields should still produce positive results when they are harvested.

Corn fields in the Dutton area faced the greatest impact from the wet spring because they have heavier soil than in West Elgin and take longer to dry out.

Those fields are being harvested later, but Tenuta said farmers should be pleasantly surprised by their yields there as well.

He said the main concern on later-harvested fields is corn stalk rot.

Wet conditions this fall have slowed the harvest in many fields but Tenuta cautions farmers to possibly consider taking corn off a little wetter than they would like if the corn stalks are starting to fall because of the rot.

He said the yield loss from fallen corn as they try to harvest it could cost more than having to dry the corn crop after harvest if it is still too wet when it's brought off the field.

"There is quite a bit of stalk rot that is starting to develop," he said.

But with drier weather last weekend and the latter part of last week, Tenuta said most farmers are finding they've been able to get their crops in.

Pounds of beef given away

For *The Chronicle*

Elgin County Cattlemen said thanks Saturday - one customer at a time.

Their local association gave away 1,200 pounds of lean Ontario ground beef to shoppers at Dutton Food Market

The producers were saying thanks for continued consumer loyalty to beef which has helped sustain the industry through a mad cow disease (BSE) scare.

Canada is the only country in the world with BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) where beef consumption has been unaffected, said Ian McKillop of Dutton, vice-president of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association.

"We're extremely grateful."

With prices down $300 to $400 for each animal following the collapse of exports, the impact of BSE on cattlemen has been devastating, McKillop said.

"But if we couldn't move the beef as well as we have for the last few months, it would have been just awful."

Customers who lined up for the Dutton market's 8 a.m. opening said it would take more than one cow with BSE in the Canadian herd to scare them away.

"As far as I'm concerned, there was nothing wrong with beef," said Helen Jones of Rodney.

In fact, Dutton Food Market owner Luis Leonardes said that if anything, demand for beef is up.

"The consumer confidence in Ontario beef hasn't diminished. Our sales probably have been stronger."

McKillop said Friday's announcement that the U.S. border is to be partly reopened to Canadian beef is good news.

But, he also said, it's only a first step toward a return to normalcy.

"It's a major step, but by no means are we out of the woods. There's still a major crisis."

In the meantime, he said the government must continue support programs.



Andi Owen, right, a volunteer with the Elgin County Cattleman's Association gives Walter Wojcik a pound-and-a-half of lean ground beef as members of the beef industry said thanks to area consumers who continued to eat beef despite May's mad cow disease scare.

Chronicle photo

CURRENT EVENTS

2001

West Elgin teen charged in McDonalds axe robbery

The Elgin County OPP have arrested a West Elgin teen following a robbery at the McDonalds on Highway 401 (Dutton) on Jan. 1.

At 9:49 a.m. a lone male armed with an axe and with his face covered with a balaclava, entered the restaurant and demanded money from the manager. As the manager tried to open the safe, the suspect was scared away prior to getting any money.

The suspect fled the scene in a black sport utility vehicle, and was arrested later that day in London. The vehicle was reported stolen from a West Elgin residence Dec. 27. The vehicle was found abandoned in West Elgin.

Charged with robbery, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, possession over and disguise with intent is 18-year-old Levi Hopkins. He is to appear in St. Thomas court to answer to these charges.

Police have also arrested two 17-year-olds in connection with this case. They are both facing charges of attempted robbery and possession over $5000 (in relation to the stolen vehicle.

JAN. 8, 2001

The 2001 West Elgin Downhill Derby results for our local racers

The following were the winners of the West Elgin Downhill Derby held in West Lorne on September 1, 2001.

Racers from all across Elgin County and neighbouring communities took part in the races which saw hundreds of people come out to West Lorne to support the kids.

Divsion A winners.
1st place- Elizabeth Neumann.
2nd place- Drake Campbell.
3rd place- Shawn Janes.

Divison B winners.
1st place- Lindsay Smith.
2nd place- Jordan Molzan.
3rd place- Danielle LeClaire.

Division C winners
1st place- Scott McLaughlin.
2nd place- Shane Lucier.
3rd place- Olivia Boka.

Division D winners
1st place Shawn Scott.
2nd place Tara-Lynn Pyka.
3rd place- Haydn Burdett.
Catergory Winners:
Best homemade cart- Brandi Holt.



Chris Wemp helps his sister Tabitha enter into the races in the 2001 West Elgin Downhill Derby, held September 1 in West Lorne.

Best commerical cart- Snap-on Car.
Best pit crew- R.P.M Racing.
Best overall car- Chris Farrow.
Sportsmanship- Meagan Bower. Congratulations to all the racers and participants in all the local races this year.

See you next year!

Worksite death of West Lorne man nets jail sentence

MAY 2001

By Mary Agnes Welch, Windsor Star

A justice of the peace has sentenced Fernando Gaspar to jail time for a 1998 construction accident that caused the death of his friend.

Gaspar, who was found guilty earlier this year, was sentenced to 30 days in jail, even though his lawyer and the prosecutor requested a minimal fine and no jail time.

Justice of the Peace Holly DeBacker said fines would not be enough to deter future workplace pranks and a death, though accidental, should be punished by more than "a slap on the wrist."

"Safety should be the foremost issue of constant concern," at a worksite, said DeBacker.

In November of 1998, while digging a trench on Chatham Street West, Gaspar used his excavator's bucket to direct water from a broken main toward his friend Roy dos Santos, who was also working in the trench.

As dos Santos tried to pinch the water line, Gaspar rushed to close the window on his excavator to avoid getting wet. In doing so, he accidentally triggered the excavator's bucket and it pinned dos Santos against the trench wall.

Dos Santos, 31, of West Lorne, died from massive abdominal trauma.

Gaspar, 45, was charged with engaging in a prank or boisterous activity at a worksite under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Criminal charges were filed after the accident but later withdrawn.

Gaspar's lawyer, Pat Ducharme, said he was considering an appeal of the sentence. Beyond that, he had no comment.

Gaspar was taken immediately to jail and will serve his sentence on weekends.

Chamber of Commerce proposes Community Co-ordinator to W. E Council

West Elgin Council met on Thursday October 18 to hear planning matters and review issues of recent importance.

Here are some of the highlights.

CHAMBER WANTS COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATOR

The West Elgin Chamber of Commerce has requested that there be a Community Co-Ordinator hired to work diligently in promoting West Elgin.

The proposed position would be paid by the municipality. The duties would be searching for potential grants for the community, working alongside service clubs, volunteer groups and business members in West Elgin.

In the past it was felt that the communities needed someone who could specialize in researching for federal and provincial grants. The person would also be expected to follow up on leads for potential investors and interested parties.

Although co-ordinating will be the biggest part of the job, promoting West Elgin communities will also be an important aspect. It will also be a liaison position between the municipality and interested groups, and the person will also be responsible for setting up and securing events in the future.

MARSH LINE HYDRANT WILL BE SHUT OFF

Council has taken a hard stance to find ways to get around continually dumping water in West Lorne to comply with new chlorine regulations.

Since the end of August, the hydrant at Marsh Line and Graham Road in West Lorne has been continually running to comply with this new regulations.

The municipality will be working on a cost benefit analysis plan to look at different solutions. They hope to have the problem solved and the hydrant will be shut off in the near future.

PORT GLASGOW IN THE YEAR 2015

Councillors said they would like to visit the new Elgin Manor when it is constructed and see how the sewage treatment can be done on the site. West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail said it brings a new future with how water and sewage treatment can be conducted.

Conversations later went on how it could possibly help grow remote areas like Port Glasgow.

McPhail advised council that they should begin strategic planning and discussion on how the Port Glasgow area, for example, could be transformed fairly easily to a much larger residential area "in some 10, 15 and s20 years from now!"

The Elgin Manor project houses its on treatment plant on the property, with no ponds or lagoons.

"If there's affordable technology out there, we should see it," said Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick.

DONATION TO SENIORS COMMITTEE

Council has decided to give the West Elgin Seniors Action Committee a $500 donation. Although the committee had not asked for a specific amount, council found fit to give the amount as it had been a few years since they gave money to the organization.

CURRENT EVENTS
2001



Memorial volleyball tournament

Members of the Dutton Sunday afternoon co-ed volleyball league organized a tournament to raise money in memory of one of their players, Tressa Gray. A total of $2,300, including the prize money donated by the two winning teams, was turned over to the St. Thomas chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Organizer Wayne Horst, third from left, presents the money to Lindsay Hoshal, President MADD Canada, St. Thomas Chapter, surrounded by members of the winning team, left to right: Hugh Hunter, Marion Jones, Tim Hansen, Jim Knowles, Anne Marie Hansen and Nancy Hunter. A total of 13 teams took part in the tournament which is hoped to become an annual event.



Kenzie Beer was the lucky winner of "Lickety" the official Children's Hospital Bear in West Lorne's Bank of Montreal's draw held during the month of May. Approximately $200 was raised for the hospital. The staff of Bank of Montreal would like to thank the entire community for their caring and generosity in all their fund raising efforts.

Compromise met with West Elgin Truckers over bylaw

BYLAW WILL BE RESCINDED WHEN COUNTY LAW GOES INTO EFFECT

by Keith Peever
The Chronicle

A compromise has been made between the municipality of West Elgin and its truckers.

On Thursday afternoon, a delegation of 40 truckers and their spokes people met with council to air their complaints against the strong bylaw that prohibits anyone from 'parking ambulances, buses, highway tractors (with or without trailers), dump trucks, flat bed trucks, box or cube van or vehicles used for hauling purposes in local driveways.'

In the end, West Elgin council decided that upon completion of the Elgin County parking bylaw, the 'truckers bylaw' will be rescinded. The County bylaw, when it goes into effect will also prohibit truckers from parking on the side of municipal, county or provincial roads.

The resolution that council passed in front of the delegation reads:

"Resolved that Council of the Municipality of West Elgin agrees that upon completion of the County Parking Bylaw, we as a council have agreed to rescind Bylaw No. 2001-31. And until that time Bylaw No. 2001-31 will only be used in severe cases, balancing the rights of both truckers and residents."

The new County parking bylaw is probably over a year in the making, according to Warden Duncan McPhail. The County bylaw will be enforced by the Ontario Provincial Police.

At the beginning of the meeting, the delegation showed their anger and fear of this bylaw which was passed on July 26. This bylaw was an amendment of the property standards bylaw.

Since appearing in the August 13 issue of The Chronicle, some transport operators have been in an uproar over what they feel is an unfair bylaw.

Council admitted on Thursday that the bylaw is strict, calling it a sledgehammer, but said something had to be done about the 'bad apples' who have been parking their trucks in inconvenient places, causing too much noise in the neighbourhood and obstructing people's vision of the neighbourhood and the roadways in the subdivision. SEPT 17/01



Local kids had days of fun participating in the annual West Elgin Downhill Derby held in West Lorne. Pictured here, local kids learn about the rules of the gold fish races that were held in the downtown on August 31. The derby itself went very well with almost 50 entrants. The weekend was also accompanied with dances, music and a car Show and Shine on August 31. The downhill races were held September 1. 2001

Water rates

by Keith Peever
The Chronicle

The days of cheap water rates will soon be a thing of the past.

Elgin County Warden Duncan McPhail says the writing is on the wall and there are many pressing issues which will force increases, straight across the board.

He says this is not going to be just for Elgin County. This is going to affect every municipality in the province.

Since the Walkerton disaster over a year ago, the province has been placing stricter guidelines on water supply and regulations.

According to McPhail, these regulations and guidelines are forcing municipalities to make tough decisions and inevitably look at increasing water rates.

For example, McPhail says the amount spent on testing has quadrupled, and he has seen that in his municipality of West Elgin.

"We have seen an additional $8,000 to $10,000 under the new drinking water regulations. Normally the tests are done once a year, now they are done quarterly," says Warden McPhail.

In the end McPhail says they will know that their water rates will be reasonable if they continually fall below the price of a litre found in stores.

McPhail says it is unfortunate the rates will be jumping, but admits in the past, compared to across the Nation, the local rates were very low.

"I think people just think the water falls out of the sky and it should be free," he says, adding, "yet we still have one of the lowest rates in the country."

McPhail noted the issue of water, purification and water rates was the main topic of discussion at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Across the province, McPhail can see the issue becoming a headache for many municipalities.

"There is tremendous amount of old cast iron piping in the ground. Some of it is 70 to 80 to 90 years old," says McPhail. Eventually it will have to be replaced, and there are regulations coming.

The major concern is what is known as 'residual chlorine', or spots in water lines which sit for long periods of time and become contaminated.

The level of chlorine per mili-litre is also a concern of the province, and municipalities will have to abide by one set level.

"The bottom line is it is clear there needs to be upgrades," says McPhail.

Warden McPhail agrees since the Walkerton disaster, the clean drinking water issue must be looked at and regulated, but he says the province has knee-jerked. He says the first regulations set down by the province "are too strict and too harsh," and said it will be a challenge to deal with the new demands.

Already this year the Tri-County area had increased its water rate from 30 cents a cubic metre to close to 40 cents.

AUG. 27, 2001

CURRENT EVENTS 2001

Grace Lutheran Church to celebrate anniversary



Grace Lutheran Church, West Lorne

By Pastor Eric Betsch

What is it like to enter a brand new house? Some of us can only imagine what that would be like.

How exciting it must have been 45 years ago on June 10, 1956, when Rev. John Scharrer stood outside the front door of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, West Lorne with key in hand.

After unlocking the front door the congregation entered the new church building for the first of three worship services that day.

It must have been like a dream come true on that day of the dedication. A ground breaking service had taken place back on October 5th, 1954 and now, a year and eight months later, it was time to move in.

Most of the construction work was done by members of the congregation and their pastor.

Quoting from a booklet prepared for the joyous dedication worship service are these beautiful words, "Our new church home represents the culmination of the consecrated efforts of our people, the fulfillment of our dream, the answer to our prayers. All Glory to God alone, Who has so graciously granted our petitions, put to shame our doubts and fears, blessed our labours, and permitted us to enter this new house of worship. Truly, the Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are indeed grateful. Not unto us, O Lord, but unto Thee be all the praise and the honour and the power and majesty forever."

Please join with us on Sunday, June 10, 2001, at 4 p.m. at 108 Graham Road, West Lorne to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the dedication of our worship facility. East District President Rev. Al Maleske will be the guest preacher.

Following the worship service, a pot-blessed supper will be served. We give thanks to God for blessing us over the years and hope the past, present and future members will join with us on this day of celebration.

A special offering will be received on this day for our Lift Project, to make the building accessible to all people.

Western Elgin supports Americans

2001

by Keith Peever
The Chronicle

People in Western Elgin have begun to show strong support both with condolences and financial support towards the families, victims and peace workers after the terrorist attacks in the cities of New York and Washington, USA.

To show that the people of Ontario care and are thinking of its neighbour, the Premier of Ontario has sent Books of remembrance to all MPP constituency offices across Ontario.

"The people of Ontario have been deeply affected by the tragedies in the United States," said Premier Mike Harris. "We want to make sure that everyone who wants to add their name to Ontario's book of remembrance has an opportunity to do so."

The office of Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP Steve Peters, has sent papers from these books to each municipal office in Western Elgin for the convenience of the residents, rather than driving to his consituency office in St. Thomas.

Residents will now be able to sign their names to these remembrance books that will available Monday (until Oct. 16) at the municipal offices of Southwold, Dutton/Dunwich West Elgin and also in the constituency office of Marcel Beaubien in Strathroy for those people in Southwest Middlesex.

The signed pages from all books will be bound and presented to the US government on behalf of the people of Ontario. Locally there will be a book for Elgin-Middlesex London and also a book for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex.

Helen Jones of Rodney has also started up a fund-raising campaign which will be sent to the American Red Cross. Jones said she felt she had to do something, and contacted the American Red Cross and the organization pleaded to her that money is desperately needed to pay for supplies for the many workers in New York still working in the rubble, looking for victims.

Many service clubs, churches and individuals have been rumoured to also be raising money towards the disaster relief and support the families who have been devastated by the tragedy.

One local man, Robbie Redman of St. Thomas, who is grandson of Ernie and Barb McFadden of Rodney, has returned from volunteering in New York as a medical assistant. His grandparents said they were concerned about Robbie going to New York during a dangerous time.

Fire destroys W. Lorne home

CAUSE WILL BE UNKNOWN BECAUSE OF INTENSE DAMAGE

July 2001

by Keith Peever
The Chronicle

West Lorne and Rodney fire chiefs have said the house fire they faced last Tuesday was too advanced for them to be able to save it.

The home of Vern and Barb Humphrey, of Graham Road, outside the village of West Lorne was completely destroyed after a fire erupted and its speculated to have blazed for close to half and hour before bystanders and neighbours noticed smoke and firemen were called.

Andy Kieraszewicz, Rodney Fire Chief and incident commander said 'time' was against them as the blaze was already too strong when the first West Lorne firefighters arrived shortly after 9:30 am.

Rodney fire department arrived shortly aftewards with more men.

Kieraszwicz doubted a dozen more men would have helped the situation, because the fire had probably been going 20 minutes to half hour before neighbours noticed smoke coming from the building.

Kieraszewicz said he speculated the fire could have started in the utility room. The dryer had been used earlier that morning.

West Lorne fire chief Allan Beer said they will never know because of the total destruction of the fire.

The firefighters believe it quickly spread throughout entire house. Kieraszewicz said the fire then went up through the walls, into the ceiling and passed through every

(continued on page 3)

Storm causes damage in West Elgin

A late morning storm, followed by an afternoon storm on July 4 created havoc in the municipality of West Elgin. Fallen trees and debris were scattered in the first storm which hit prior to noon.

Traffic was temporarily haulted on Furnival Road heading south, Queen's Line between Rodney and West Lorne and on Highway 3 between the two communities in the early storm which came with heavy winds.

Some property was reported damaged by residents but there were no injuries. Numerous trees had to be cleaned up by municipal workers. In the community of West Lorne, the fire department was called in to clean up one fallen tree.



Workers from the municipality of West Elgin were busy on July 4 cleaning up fallen trees after a late morning storm toppled trees mostly in the Rodney, West Lorne area. The region seemed to be hit hardest with strong winds, and later in the day, hail was reported in the village of West Lorne, and some crops have been affected.

The worst news came later in the afternoon when a hail storm hit the village of West Lorne and it has been reported that some crops in the outlying areas had been damaged.

CURRENT EVENTS 2001

OCT. 2001



New executive members were announced last week for both the Rodney and West Lorne Kiwanis Clubs. Pictured here are some of the new executive for each club. From left to right is: Bill Graham (President West Lorne), Ted Schmid (President Rodney), Dr John Button (Lt. Governor Division 4), Jim Hathaway (Past President Rodney), Duncan Colquhouin (Secretary Rodney). Absent from the photo are Martin Joldersma (President Elect West Lorne), Winfrid Liepmann (Secretary West Lorne), Ray Jobson (Treasurer West Lorne), Ron Downie (Treasurer Rodney) and Joe Kuranyi (Vice President Rodney).



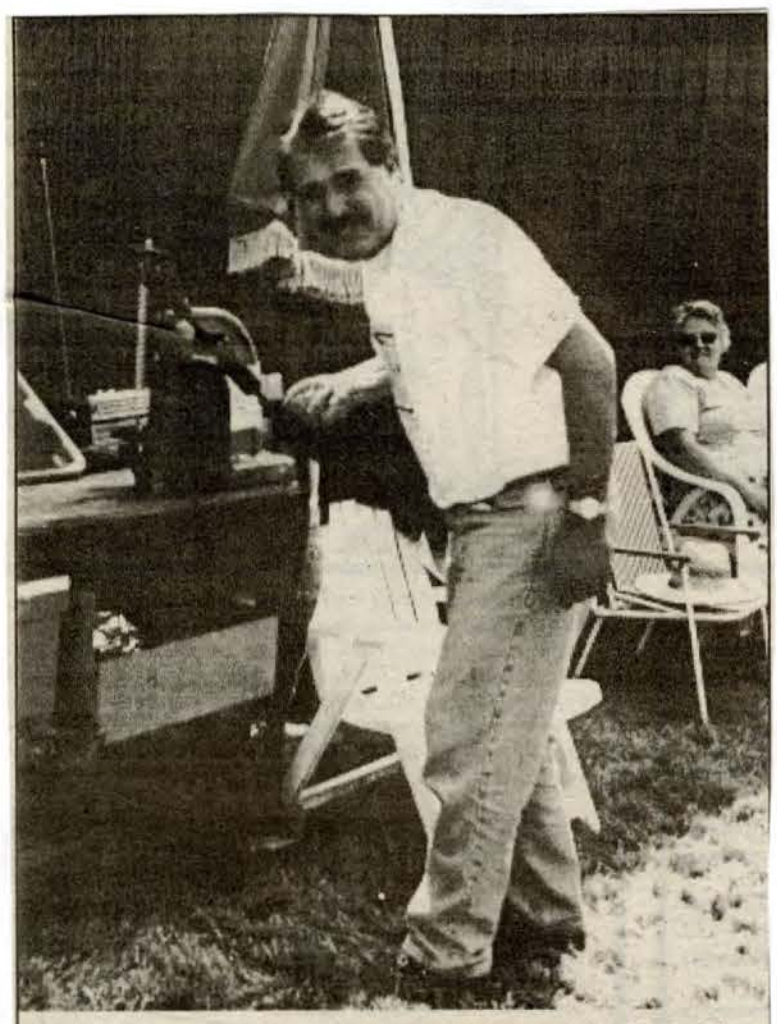
The fence along the home and property of Wayne Hauser on Graham Road outside West Lorne was colourfully decorated last week with- 'bras' of all things, in celebration of his 60th birthday. It brings up the question of: what will the culprits be doing for his 65th birthday?



A fundraising bridge was held last week at Bobier Villa to raise money for the Daffodil Society. Over 50 bridge players participated. Prior to the games, already $400 was raised. Pictured here are left to right Maurice Keck of St. Thomas (formerly of Dutton), Jean McCallum, bridge convenor, Dee Moss of Glencoe, Terry Heeney for the Daffodil Society, Jill Soos of Rodney and Helen Mooser for the Daffodil Society.

DEC. 2001

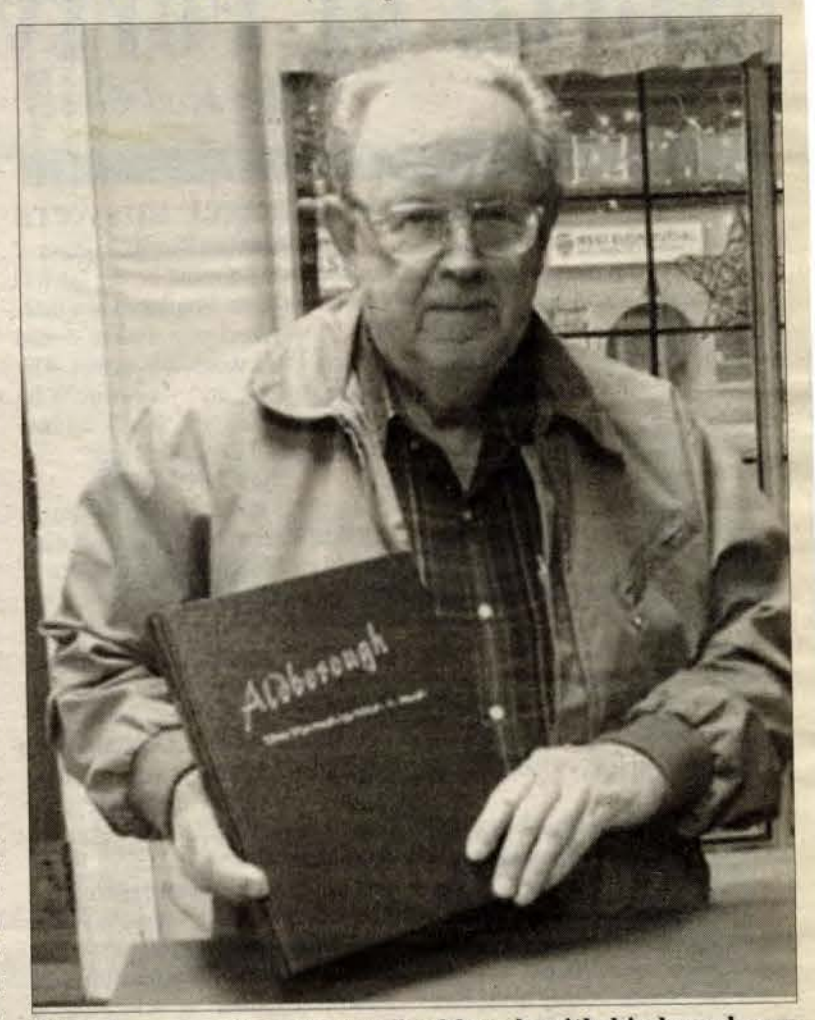
CURRENT EVENTS 2001



Elgin Middlesex MPP Steve Peters was spotted crushing cans last month at the 10th Annual Antique Show and Threshing Festival at Hugh and Joyce McFadden's Farm outside West Lorne. Asked where he got the energy to crush, Peters mentioned something about having frustrations from watching the provincial government. SEPT. 2001

The Chronicle DEC. 2001

New book remembers the history of Aldborough



West Lorne author Harley Lashbrook with his brand new book *"Aldborough- The Township with a Past."*

The much anticipated book by West Lorne resident Harley Lashbrook on the history of Aldborough is now off the presses.

Lashbrook said he felt compelled to write the book in a effort to preserve the history of Aldborough. "I felt somebody had to do it," said Lashbrook.

Research, articles and material in the book dates back as far as the earliest days of Aldborough, including 1650 when the first settlement began when the Fleming family arrived and built a home on 1st Concession, Aldborough. Each community, school house, bridge, structure found through time is listed with stories and facts in "*Aldborough- The Township with a Past*"

The book itself is a collaboration of contributed articles and photos by interested parties who found out he was writing a book. In addition there is a tremendous amount of personal research, and also articles and photos from the archives of the old Rodney Mercury and West Lorne Sun newspapers, which the Lashbrook family, including Harley and his brother Lyn, owned and ran until the late 1980's.

Lashbrook said some of material in the book will be a real surprise for many readers as there are many pieces of information, even photographs of days and events, long forgotten.

Lashbrook said a lot of time and effort went into putting the book together and the expense of making it came out of his pocket.

West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail said he was very excited to be able to read it soon. McPhail proclaimed he had a 'soft spot' for local history and was looking forward to getting the chance to read it.

"I'm very excited. I think Mr Lashbrook should be commended for taking the initiative to do such a book. It will be very educational for me to read it," said McPhail.

The Chronicle Editor Keith Peever was given a sneak peek last Wednesday when Lashbrook brought the book in to announce it is now for sale.

"I was extremely pleased to see such a tremendous balance of photographs and stories. I think it is definitely a must read," said Peever afterwards.

Lashbrook's "*Aldborough- The Township with a Past*" is now available in different stores and businesses in Rodney and West Lorne and a book-signing will be held on Tuesday December 18 from 10am to 12noon and 2pm to 4pm at the West Lorne Complex and selling for $40.

Outdoor Live Nativity held in West Lorne

An outdoor live Nativity scene was held two weekends ago in West Lorne.

A cast was put together of people of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church to play the biblical scenes of the birth of Jesus Christ. The nativity scene, was held across from the church at the Ocolisan farm.

The ceremony was held on two nights, Saturday December 15 and Sunday December 16.

The cast included: Pastor Eric Betsch, Rebecca Betsch and Jessalyn Betsch; Trudy Dengel; Scott and Linda Dunn; Julia Griffore; Cindy and Rhonda Knight; Baily Lamon; Brooke Painter; Frances Sobieralski; Al, Matt and Eric St. Onge; Terry Travers; David, Caitlyn and Tanya VanRaes; Krysta Walker; Barb, David, and Michelle Ward: and Nicole Wilson.

The donkey and sheep were provided by Tom and Ruth Rudavsky.

Construction and lighting was provided by Gabriel Griffore. Stage crew was Craig Knight and Josh Bakker. Make up and costumes were done by Joy Betsch. Refreshments were provided by Grace Women.



The cast of the Live Nativity Scene held at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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CURRENT EVENTS 2002

Storm creates havoc in region... but could have been worse

It was bad enough but it could have been a lot worse. That is the sentiment of many individuals, businesses and organizations after the ice storms of last Thursday January 31 and Friday February 1.

The communities of Southwold Township, Dutton/Dunwich and West Elgin all experienced power failures on Friday. Parts of West Lorne and Wallacetown were reported to have lost hydro for over 18 hours and still did not have electricity by late Friday night- *The Chronicle*'s press time.

Hyrdo One officials could not be reached for comment on how long the electricity shortage would continue to be for the areas of Wallacetown and West Lorne.

Because of the power failure in West Lorne, (reported to be blown out transformers), Glencoe's water supply from the West Lorne reservoir was greatly affected. The reservoir which brings water to Southwest Middlesex, including Glencoe, is powered by a electric pump. By Friday afternoon, Southwest Middlesex had approached media to announce to residents to conserve their water usage. Water pressure was greatly decreasing by the hour. On Friday afternoon Southwest Middlesex Mayor Doug Reycraft said without the pump sending water to them, their containers would have emptied "within a day-and-a-half."

Reycraft also said it was a benefit that the public schools had a P.A. day on Friday, because normally schools use a tremendous amount of water.

Later in the afternoon, Ontario Clean Water Agency had come to the rescue by donating the service of a generator to run the West Lorne reservoir.

Numerous trees were destroyed or damaged by accumulated ice and later strong winds on Thursday night and Friday morning. West Elgin Roads Superintendent Rick Jackson confirmed the worst areas were along Lake Erie. He said his employees were working steady on Thursday night clearing debris along the sideroads.

Dutton/Dunwich assistant Roads Superintendent Kevin Englehart confirmed there was a lot of cleanup to be made in the Wallacetown area after the storms.

Elgin OPP reported a large increase in police calls on Thursday. OPP community service officer Dennis Harwood said on an average day there are 37 calls but last Thursday there were 68. Harwood said of that there were 10 calls made based on dangerous road conditions, with debris, etc; two calls were made of fallen hydro wires; 20 calls were made on collisions and 10 calls were for police assistance for example- car breaking down or spinning off road.

Harwood said people should remind themselves of how dangerous it is to be driving on potentially dangerous roads, during what he calls "Nasty Evil Weather Systems." He said people should think twice about driving in the conditions and whether it is such an important risk to take, or not. If it isn't, Harwood said the easiest and safest choice to make is stay at home where it is safe.

Overall most officials were glad it was not a lot worse than it was. For example, the Simcoe area was hit hard by this storm and was still reeling from the damage on the weekend.

Some of the officials noted that the temperature and weather of January 31 changed at the right time before major damage could be done.

Jackson said many of the trees were showing signs of being too heavy with ice and also some power lines. Hours later the weather had turned warmer with rain, which saved a lot to them. Had the weather not changed there would have been problems, according to Jackson.

"It would have been a disaster for sure," said Jackson. "There would a lot trees down and a lot of roads would have been closed."

FEB 2002

The Chronicle APR. 2002

Popular magician comes to West Lorne this Saturday



Where:
West Elgin Arena
When:
Sat. May 4, 4pm & 7pm
Sponsors: Tiny Tots & Rodney Kiwanis.
How much are tickets?: Children $7, Adults $10, Family $35.

Time-travel with JOHN KAPLAN, decade-by-decade on a magical journey through the past century ... from Ragtime to Rap and beyond.

It all begins as John mysteriously appears centre stage from a furturistic space capsule. The audience is welcomed and in the dawn of a brand new millennium, invited to share the memories of the last 100 years.

The magic of Harry Houdini highlights the early 1900's when Charlie Chaplin was king of the movies and airplanes were just getting off the ground.

1921 saw the introduction of "Sawing A Woman In Half" by P.T. Selbit in England. Ever since, magicians have been sawing through people using woodsaws, crosscut saws, buzz saws, jigsaws, lasers ... just about everything. During his *Millennium Magic* performance, John Kaplan will attempt to saw a woman in half in a way never done before! (sorry, we can't let you in on the surprise here!)

The music of Scott Joplin frames a delightful period piece from Ragtime and takes us all the way through the "dirty thirties". Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra and big-band swing are the backdrop for magic from the 40's then on to the 50's and 60's for an energetic, colourful performance to the sounds of early rock-n-roll.

Along the way there's John's all new "Time-Twister" routine. Time doesn't just stand still, but actually rolls backwards, taking the audience with it.

Classic Rock, Disco, Hip-Hop and Rap, along with some truly amazing illusions cover the 70's, 80's and 90's, culminating in a mind-bending prediction of events yet to come.

Closing the show, and bringing us "back to the future" is John's innovative BLACK HOLE illusion ... where John partially disappears and then re-emerges from a void space.

A spectacular stage set, some all-new illusions, great music and a talented cast of dancers join John and "Rexdale the Wonder Rabbit" in an amazing, one-of-a-kind retrospective of the past 100 years.

The show is a fundraiser.

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CURRENT EVENTS
2002

401crash kills London woman



By Wednesday afternoon both westbound 401 traffic and eastbound traffic were detoured onto the Emergency Detour Route through West Lorne after a fatal collision on the major highway. Rubbernecking and gawking while driving was also a problem the OPP and other emergency response personnel noticed.



Two OPP officers assisted in West Lorne in the detouring 401 traffic going through Graham Road at Pioneer Line and enabling the trucks and cars to move as quickly as possible.

OPP ask for better driving during accidents

What began as a routine clean-up of a transport accident on 401 last week turned into tragedy as impatient and onlooking drivers jeopardized the health and safety of others on the major highway during the clean up attempts.

A London woman is dead following a chain of events on Wednesday on the 401, and a Brampton man is facing charges related to her death.

Margaret Budden, 66 years old of London was killed in a collision one kilometre east of the Currie Road off ramp. The traffic at the time was slow due to a normal detour to take transports out of the ditch.

Elgin OPP later arrested and charged Rajinder Singh Jutla, 38 years old of Brampton with one count of Criminal Negligence Causing Death in connection to Budden's fatal crash.

At 10 am on Wednesday, the OPP and roadside crews closed a section of the westbound 401 between Currie Road in Dutton/Dunwich and Graham Road in West Elgin.

Two transport trucks and trailers had to be removed from the ditch when they left the road the night before. Both units slid off the road in the icy conditions of Tuesday February 26. The detour was expected to take between one and two hours.

Tragedy struck at approximately 10:18 am when a serious collision took place on the westbound 401 between Iona Road and Currie Road in Dutton/Dunwich.

By noon Elgin OPP confirmed the accident took the life of one person. The collision involved 10 vehicles - four passenger vehicles, one cube van and five transport trucks and trailers.

In the afternoon OPP announced to media that emergency personnel were facing problems with eastbound traffic. The eastbound drivers were "rubbernecking and slowing to look at the collision scene. The OPP announced media to pass onto the drivers to continue driving and keep their eyes on the road.

OPP decided to then close the eastbound lanes from Graham Road to Iona Road.

Traffic was rerouted using the Emergency Detour Route section that went through West Lorne and turned onto Highway 3 at Eagle. From there the 401 traffic went to Iona were it was directed onto County Road 14 which brought them back to the 401.

By 2:30 pm, OPP were investigating two separate collisions which caused the closure of the *eastbound* 401.

Elgin OPP community service officer Dennis Harwood warned about the bad practice of 'gawking' or 'rubber necking' when there is an accident in the other lanes.

"Drivers have to concentrate on what they are doing - DRIVING. Not what is going on in the westbound lanes," Harwood told media on Thursday afternoon.



Roxanne Kirschner holds up one of her petitions asking for West Lorne crosswalks.

Krzyworaczka charged with attempted murder

Additional charges have been laid in connection with the April 26 shooting of a 43-year-old female in West Lorne.

Mike Krzyworaczka, 35, of West Lorne, was charged last Wednesday with Attempted Murder following an investigation by the Elgin County OPP Crime Unit. He was also charged with one count of point firearm, one count of discharge firearm with intent to endanger life.

The victim, a 43 year old woman from London has been released from hospital.

Elgin OPP will not identify her name as part of police policy to protect victims of domestic violence.

Krzyworaczka has been in custody since he was initially charged at the end of April with:

- 12 counts of Possessing a firearm while prohibited;
- 10 counts of unsafe storage
- 1 count breach probation
- 2 counts possessing an explosive substance
- 2 counts of production of a controlled substance
- 2 counts of possession of a controlled substance

On April 26, 2002, Elgin County OPP officers responded to a 911 call at a residence on the Pioneer Line in West Lorne and located the accused's girlfriend suffering from a single gunshot wound to her abdomen. She was hospitalized at the London Health Sciences Centre for three weeks as a result of her injury.

Krzyworaczka appeared Wednesday in St Thomas Court where he was formally charged with the additional offences. He was remanded until June 3 2002 to answer to all charges.

Detective Inspector Dave Cardwell of the OPP Investigation Bureau, Criminal Investigation Branch (C.I.B.) is in charge of the investigation. JUNE 3/02

CURRENT EVENTS 2002

Introducing The NEW ARRIVALS OF 2002



The Chronicle and the residents of our communities welcome you all here!

We thank your parents, grandparents, aunts & uncles and your friends for allowing us introduce you!!

More introductions on pages 12 & 13



Brady Jon William McGall
Born on January 25, 2002 to Jon & Brandi McGall. Grandson to Darlene McGall, Elaine Hoke and Sim Hoke



Paige Anne Doherty
Born on May 21, 2002 to Ed & Anne-Marie Dorherty. Granddaughter to Bob & Rose Doherty and Pete & Donna Kleinjan



Seamus Ferguson
Born on September 24, 2002 to Blair and Linda Ferguson. Grandson to Ian & Neva Carmichael and Guardian Angel Grandparents Len & Shirley Ferguson



McKenna Kerr McArthur
Born on October 23, 2002 to Ken & Cathy McArthur. Granddaughter to Cam & Jackie Leitch and Garry & Gloria Cowell



Matthew Albert Tenuta
Born February 22, 2002 to Albert and Geri Tenuta



Ethan Peixoto
Born on February 8, 2002 to Luis & March Peixoto. Grandson to John & Pam Baganha



Izabella Dorothy Marie Poisson
Born on November 17, 2002 to Ken & Christina Poisson



Anil Benjamin Louis Poisson
Born on June 24, 2002 to Ron & Pushpa Poisson

Granddaughter and Grandson to Ron & Evelyn Poisson
"A Real Day To Remember"



Logan O'Brien Dale
Born on December 6, 2002 to Greg & Kelly Dale. Grandson to John & Sally McIntyre, Mike & Karlene Dale and Duncan & Barbara O'Brien.



Mason Paul Joaquim Lopes
Born on February 14, 2002 to Victor & Tara Lopes. Grandson to Jack & Aurora Lopes and Paul & Carla Downs



Bailey Jacob Simpson
Born on January 23, 2002 to Scott & Autumn Simpson. Grandson to Linda Dove, Iain Simpson and Lee & Holly Gardner

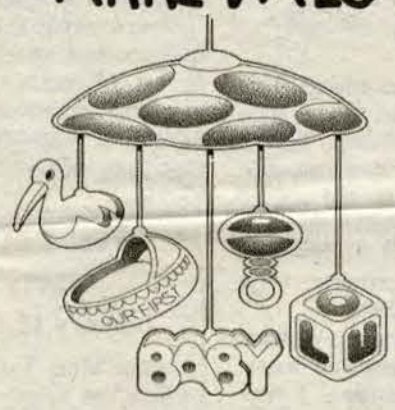


Owen William Giles
Born on February 3, 2002 to Will & Shannon Giles. Grandson to Pam Irwin, Bill & Sue Giles and Jim & Diane Irwin

CURRENT EVENTS

2002

THE 2002 NEW ARRIVALS





Dawson Muscutt

Born on January 24, 2002 to Shawn & Laura Muscutt. Grandson to Dave & Sharon Muscutt and Arnold & Lois Thomson



Ryan Mills

Born on July 24, 2002 to Mat & Tracy Mills. Grandson to John & Jane Mills and Mike & Margaret Stenger



Braden Auckland

Born on October 30, 2002 to Bob & Helen Auckland. Grandson to Harry & Pat Auckland and Frank & Helen Wolfe



Jillian Marie Bartlett

Born on September 26, 2002 to Doug & Megan Bartlett. Grand-daughter to Lynn & Dale McIntyre and Don & Marie Bartlett



Evan Mitchell Joseph Graham

Born on November 1, 2002 to Bill and Linette Graham. Grandson to Ron & Celine Bowman and Jake & Flora Graham



Ashley Kate Lowes

Born on April 30, 2002 to Christina Pearce & Bob Lowes. Granddaughter to Cecil Lowes, Kathleen McDonald and Brenda & Rick Alderton



Nathaniel James McIntyre

Born on March 10, 2002 to Scott & Joyce McIntyre. Grandson to John & Sally McIntyre, Janet McIntyre and Alan & Jan Kriz



Abagail Mae Bobier

Born on May 28m, 2002 to Don & Deb Bobier. Granddaughter to Chuch & Myrtle Joyce and Don & Betty Ann Bobier



Hunter J. Mezenberg

Born on July 5, 2002 to John and Sheri Mezenberg. Grandson to Edith Bray and Joe & Margie Mezenberg



The Chronicle



Volume 10 ~ Issue 36 **Monday, September 9, 2002** Established 1993

RESIDENTIAL CARPET UPHOLSTERY CLEANING BY LABADIES

LABADIES CARPET CLEANING

"Established 1988"

WEST LORNE

768-2620

Don't light that match! It's too dry!!

Think twice before lighting that match in Western Elgin and South Middlesex.

Local fire departments say the ground is too dry and it would not take long for a simple grass fire to spread and become a serious problem.

All fire chiefs in *The Chronicle* readership area have called for a zero allowance for burning policy.

Mischief in the Township of Southwold

Elgin County OPP and Southwold Volunteer Fire Department were kept busy last Monday, September 2 in the Shedden area.

During a one hour time frame, five grass fires were located in isolated rural areas at the side of roadways. These fires formed a "U" shape pattern around the Shedden area.

All the fires were extinguished by the Southwold firefighters without incident.

OPP are asking for the public's assistance in obtaining any information on who may have started these fires. Call Elgin OPP at 631-2929 or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Fire Chief John Brown reiterated to the public and media on Wednesday that they need to be very cautious around the dry grass. He said it can ignite very easily and quickly engulf entire areas.

Fire departments are pleading to motorists to not flick their cigarette butts out their vehicle windows and to instead use their ashtrays.

By the end of last week every fire department was showing zero tolerance burning anywhere in the municipalities.

This is the first time it has ever been recorded that fire departments in the municipalities of Newbury, Southwest Middlesex, West Elgin, Dutton/Dunwich, Southwold, Central Elgin and Malahide have issued zero burn policies at the same time.

CURRENT EVENTS
2002



Recognized for volunteerism in West Elgin

Rosalie Krebsz (at left) has been selected as West Elgin's Volunteer of the Year by the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce. She is presented with her recognition plaque by West Elgin councillor Trudy Balint. Last year Ray Jobson won the 1st Annual Volunteer of the Year Award. Right now Kresbz is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Beautification Committee, currently helping to raise funds for her Church to build a new wheelchair ramp, a member of the WESS 50th Reunion, and is an advocate for cancer awareness. Krebsz also won the Women of Distinction Award for Elgin two years ago. Krebsz said she was shocked and humbled by being selected for the volunteer award. She felt overwhelmed because "there are so many great people who try to do so many great things." Dutton/ Dunwich will also be presenting their Volunteer of the Year Award in the very near future.

The Chronicle JULY 2002

Bringing new families to area



New West Elgin residents Henk and Ans Deiker and kids with Ed DeWild (centre) and retiring West Elgin farmers Lyle and Diane Trudell.

Ed DeWild wants to keep bringing people to the four counties area. The Sales Representative for Remax Land Office Inc., says he really enjoys bringing Europeans to the area and recently helped Henk and Ans Deiker move to West Elgin.

In the following weeks they will be moving into the farm of Lyle and Diane Trudell, who are retiring from farming. They are moving to Dorchester.

Through dual agency which enables sales representatives like Dewild to work across borders, he can work with real estate agencies in Europe and bring clients to Canada. For DeWild, it is the four counties area. Normally DeWild works with local clients with houses and property, but occasionally he is able to work with European clients who he says find the four counties area attractive because of the Canadian dollar and its strong agricultural potential.

The Deiker's have four boys - Maikel, Twan, Paul and Ard.

DeWild congratulates the municipality of West Elgin for it's hard stance on nutrient management which will be followed by the new farm operations of the Deiker's. He pointed out not many municipalities have implemented such a hard stance that still works with farmers.

'White elephant' is popular

"It used to be the big white elephant, now everybody wants to use it," was the sentiment coming from West Elgin councillor Mike Mooser when finding out people have been lining up to use the board room of the West Lorne Complex.

This month, staff of the municipality have been instructed by council to look into costs of a possible program to beginning booking the board room and kitchen, at a cost.

Most recently service groups and individuals have been excluded from using the board room because they were not on the list. Administrator Joanne Groch pointed out to council at the last meeting that only a small group of clubs were ever supposed to use it, and they could use it free of charge. Somehow that list increased.

Due to the increased demand, council is now looking at the possibility of continuing the free list but also start booking the facility for meetings and gatherings on a rental capacity, for those willing to pay.

They are also looking at putting a lock on the kitchen to prevent abuse, which has been reported in the past.

Million dollar rains come

One of these days, it was bound to rain, but would it be too late for area farmers?

Local crop growers were quick to notice deteriorating crops last week as the first signs of drought began to show in fields of corn and soybeans.

Those feelings evaporated last Friday morning as the much needed rain finally arrived.

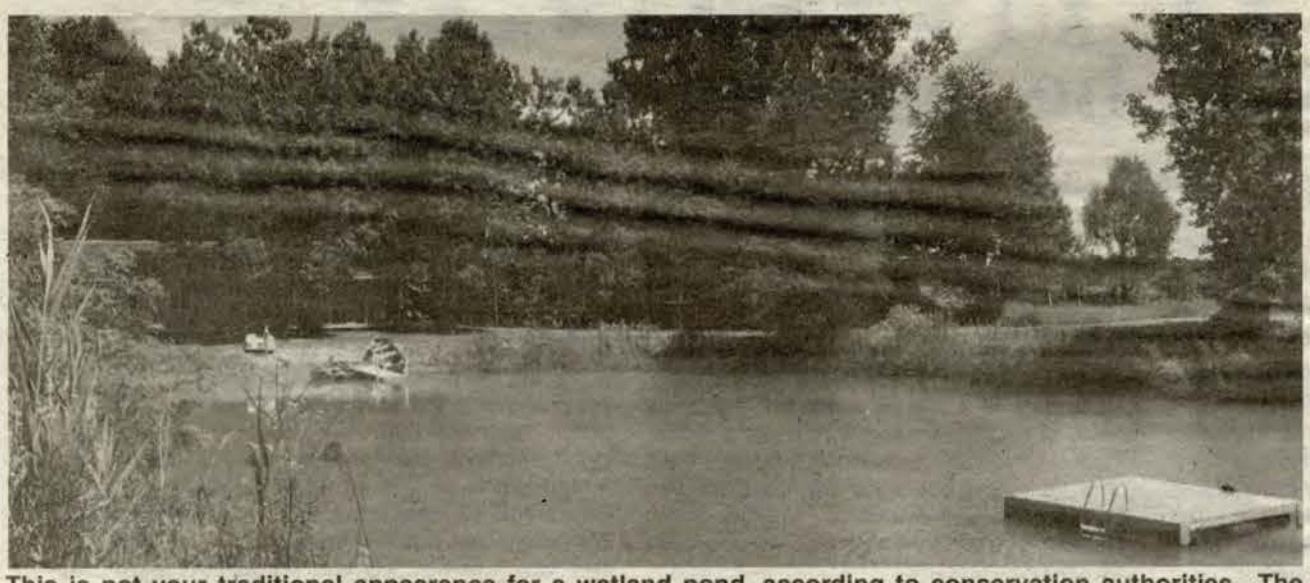
Local Environment Canada statistician Keith Kelly who has his station outside Rodney, said it was a bleak month up to that point. He reports that as of Thursday afternoon, July 18 there was only 1 millimetre of rain for the first 18 days of July. That sprinkle came July 8.

Last week early signs of drought were appearing across Southwestern Ontario in fields of corn and soybeans and among many vegetable fields. It is hoped last week rains were "million dollar rains" and saved the crops.

The Chronicle AUG. 19 2002

CURRENT EVENTS 2002

Attention grows on Eagle wetlands



This is not your traditional appearance for a wetland pond, according to conservation authorities. The floating dock and boats exhibit human activity which would be a disturbance, and may be a health concern according to the Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit. This wetland, located in Eagle has been in the news lately since an application has been made to build a church on the property.

by Keith Peever
The Chronicle

They have good intentions but have picked a bad location. That is the sentiment coming from neighbours of a property owned by Rick and Brenda Gordon who own part of the Eagle wetlands.

For the past three months, complaints have been coming to the Municipality of West Elgin over what residents feel is mistreatment of the Eagle wetlands by members of the Melody Fellowship Word of Faith Church property located at 10128 Graham Road in Eagle.

Those complaints led to a public information meeting on May 23 which aired concerns and heard the plans for a new church on the property by the owners.

This month, the Municipality and the Lower Thames Conservtion Authority have confirmed the property is classified as a wetland.

Neighbours came out to the May meeting and voiced their complaints about such an institution coming in for fear of disruption of the wetlands and how it would also affect the neighbouring agricultural lands.

Back in May, many of the neighbours proved they were not in favour of the church in the wetlands and voiced their concerns to West Elgin council.

Neighbours Marlene and Ron Payne said they feel they have been pegged as the main instigators of the revolt, which they said is not true. Marlene said they and many other neighbours just want the laws to be abided to and if the land is still designated as wetlands, then they should be adhered to.

Valerie Towsley, Resource Technician with the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, said the church parishioners should be concerned about the quality of the water in the pond for swimming or baptising, which some neighbours have already reported has happened.

Towsley said the pond has been used by ducks and other waterfowl and could have high levels of e-coli and she adds there are recent concerns for humans around wet areas with the latest threat of mosquitoes carrying the West Nile Virus.

When contacted, George Dawson Manager of Health Protections Program with the Elgin-St. Thomas Unit said he was very concerned about the issue.

"We do not recognize this as a bathing area. We consider it an irrigation pond," said Dawson on Thursday.

Dawson said the Health Unit will be acting as an adviser and will be contacting the Gordons stating the dangers of swimming or being in the pond.

Dawson said they have real concerns over levels of e-coli that may be in the pond.

"That pond is very deep and is open to wildlife," said Dawson.

According to Dawson this wildlife, like humans, carry e-coli and there have been no tests done to see if 015H7 e-coli, which was the fatal form of e-coli in Walkerton, is present in the pond and surroundings. Because it is private property there has been no testing by the Health Unit and it has never been designated as a swimming area.

The bacteria can also cause eye, throat and ingestion infections which Dawson said can be very dangerous.

"It makes people very sick," said Dawson.

Controversy still continues over the large storage shed that was built on the property. Neighbours have been questioning whether there have been church meetings in that building. The Pastors Rick and Brenda Gordon have stated publicly they have not.

West Elgin's Building inspector Lorne McLeod said the applicant was approved for a storage building and although there are extra additions, including drywall and a porch area, the permit is still valid.

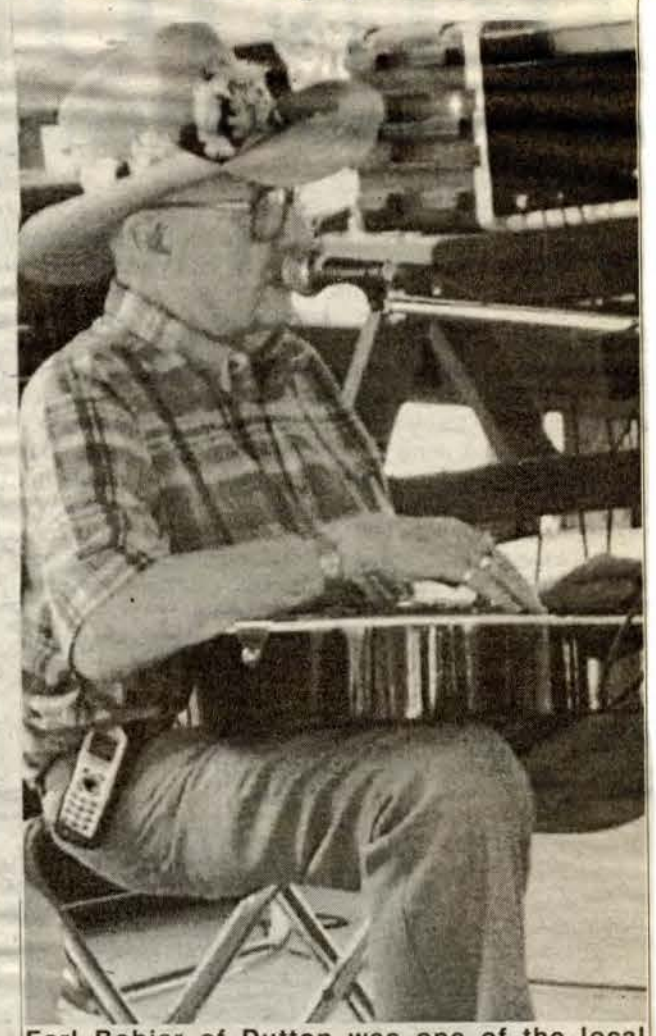
Three weeks ago the Municipality of West Elgin reviewed the latest complaints from Eagle residents and wrote a letter to the Gordons stating that church services are not to be held on the property or at their home.

The Gordons have an application to build a church on the property.

They declined to comment last week.

JUNE 2002

Local voices at popular Jamboree



Earl Bobier of Dutton was one of the local entertainers who performed at the 1st Annual Dutton/Dunwich Jamboree held June 1. Bobier is a member of the band - Lake Erie Wood Choppers.

The Chronicle JULY 2002

Relay for Life raises $100,000



This is the 6 am victory picture of West Elgin participants of the second annual Relay for Life held June 13 at St. Joseph's high school track in St. Thomas. Shown in front are, team Captain Darleen Ford and Jim Ford. Back row l-r are Bonnie Vowel, Nan Wardle, Rosemary Leith, Rosalie Krebsz and Helen Kovacs. Several friends showed support by joining them by walking through the night. The 45 teams involved raised $100,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. Several friends joined the relayers throughout the night on the track giving them moral support.

24



Some Yes We Can! participants from WESS., left to right, teacher Jamie "Mohawk" Fraser, Morgan McWilliam, Berta Prelaz, Beth McMurchy, and John Peternel. Fraser bet the students they could not raise 3,000 cans within a school campaign and agreed to have his head shaved if they did. The students raised 3,080 and Fraser will have a "mohawk" hairstyle on Monday December 16. Interesting enough, if the students had raised 920 more cans, *The Chronicle* editor Keith Peever would have lost his beard.

DEC. 2, 2002

Current Events 2002



Festival time in West Lorne! 2002

It was festival time from May 16 to May 19 in West Lorne as the Portuguese community held three days of events during the Holy Spirit and Lady of Fatima Religious/Cultural Event. Hundreds of people took part in the four day events. On Sunday, the procession was held with accompaniment by the West Elgin Secondary School Band and the West Elgin Legion Colour Guard. It was then followed by the well known feast held at the West Elgin Arena.

Monday June 10, 2002

Caravan of Caring made local communities proud



The first ever Caravan of Caring was been called an incredible success. Seen here are Rodney firefighters holding up the huge $3,728 cheque to Childrens Hospital of Western Ontario, while Michelle Slater, chief organizer looks on. At the right hand corner of the cheque is Rodney firefighter Travis Murray, along with Sparky the firedog. The caravan travelled through Rodney, West Lorne, Dutton, Wallacetown, Shedden, Iona, Talbotville, St. Thomas, Lambeth on June 1 and ended in London to at the Children's Miracle Network. Volunteer firefighters and caravan volunteers collected money from people in each municipality. Sirens blew alongside the happy faces of caravan volunteers and firefighters. Slater said the wonderful support has resulted in plans for another Caravan of Caring for 2003. 25 **(photo by Mona Blain)**

The first ever Caravan of Caring on Saturday June 1 brought many tears of joy and positive emotions and guarantees a second endeavour in 2003.

Michelle Slater chief organizer of the event said everyone involved had a great time and they were very thankful for the community spirit of giving. The first ever Caravan of Caring raised $3,728 for the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario.

Travelling from Rodney to West Lorne through Dutton, through Wallacetown, through Shedden, Iona, Talbotville, St. Thomas, Lambeth and onto London to arrive at the Children's Miracle Network, the volunteer firefighters and volunteers collected money from people in each municipality.

The Caravan was met at each municipality with a host firetruck that led the caravan through the town, villages and cities. One firetruck - the 1941 pumper from Rodney made the trip from start to finish.

Slater said they were busy accepting the donations throughout the 8 hour trip. At one point she said she called ahead to CHWO to announce a large cheque was coming. She said herself and CHWO members were expecting approximately $1,500 to $2500 at that point. When the final tally came up at $3728, everyone was ecstatic whether they were Caravan volunteers or CHWO workers.

Slater said they are thankful for the West Elgin donations on a very busy day and weekend. Two car shows, a jamboree, safety day camp, rounded out other activities and events for that day. The strong support has guaranteed there will be another Caravan of Caring for CHWO in 2003. It will be held the same weekend - as part of the Children's Network Telethon.

Must be thanked

Michelle wanted to thank the following for their tireless efforts:

Rodney Fire Department, West Lorne Fire Department, Dutton/Dunwich Fire Department, Southwold Department, St. Thomas Fire Department, London Fire Department and also the following individuals - Rick McFadden, Dennis Lee, Custer and Austin Carver, Les and Paxton Knott, Randy and David McDonald, Kevin Schleihauf, Travis Murray, Tim and Mona Blain and kids (Amanda, Taylor, Julia, Nat and Kelsey), Karry Howard, Ed Doherty, Katie, Kyle and Kelsey Slater, Mike Gardiner, Elgin Bus Services, Kellogg's and Coca-Cola.

Pre-event donations came from Knights of Columbus, St. Mary's Ladies, West Lorne Kiwanis and Rodney Lions.

CURRENT EVENTS 2002



Special to The Free Press

DEDICATED: Bob Padfield put "his whole heart and soul" into caring for his community.

County mourns 'Rodney Bob'

Bob Padfield's kind heart and hard work made him a legend.

SARAH YOUNG
Special to The Free Press

Elgin County lost one of its most dedicated — and possibly largest — ambulance operators when Bob Padfield died Nov 17.

He was 54.

At six-foot-six, Padfield was known in Rodney, a community of about 5,000, as a big, gentle bear.

He played football for the University of Waterloo, was drafted by the Ottawa Rough Riders then traded to the Saskatchewan Roughriders, but never played in the Canadian Football League.

Instead, he returned to Rodney to work for his father's ambulance service where he'd helped out since he was 14. He took over the Rodney Ambulance Service, which covers the west end of Elgin County, about 20 years ago.

Padfield was at the station every day, whether he was working or not.

"There wasn't anything Bob wouldn't do for the community," said Kevin Langlois, a part-time paramedic who knew Padfield for nearly 20 years.

Padfield was a generous man, Langlois said. He repaired and offered wheelchairs and crutches free of charge to residents who couldn't afford them.

"He loved his job. He put his whole heart and soul in it," Langlois said.

> "When a call came in the middle of the night, Bob would jump on his bike and come flying down West Alley. Even though we were sleeping there, he'd actually beat us to the ambulance."
>
> *Part-time paramedic Kevin Langlois*

Padfield's death was "a great loss to Rodney and a great loss to the EMS community," Langlois said.

"Bob was very professional. He had the same level of concern whether it was three in the morning or one in the afternoon."

Paramedics work a 12-hour shift, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m, with a crew on standby through the night.

Padfield would go home for the night, but the other medics often slept at the station.

"He always amazed me," said Langlois. "When a call came in the middle of the night, Bob would jump on his bike and come flying down West Alley.

"Even though we were sleeping there, he'd actually beat us to the ambulance.

"It turned into a race, with us always trying to beat Bob," he added.

Padfield was so well known in the community he often got emergency calls at home.

"If an elderly person fell and couldn't get up, people just said, 'Call Rodney Bob,' and he would go help them," said Jim Price, Padfield's brother-in-law and vice-chairperson of Health Trust, an emergency medical service provider to Simcoe County. Price is temporarily managing the Rodney Ambulance Service.

"His life was one that was truly dedicated to ambulance service, and that's what made him so unique," Price said.

"We will continue the service of providing emergency medical coverage to residents, with the kind of patient care that Mr. Padfield's high ethics and standards would be proud of," said Elgin County Warden John Wilson.

The Chronicle SEPT 2002

Gospel concert held September 22

SONGS AND PRAISE AT WEST LORNE BAPTIST CHURCH

"With a Voice of Singing," Marilyn Zivkovic of West Lorne and the Jazz Trio of Wayne Carroll, his nephew Patrick Carroll and Kevin Usher will sing and play "Praise Songs" in a Gospel Concert at the West Lorne Baptist Church on September 22 at 3 pm.

This benefit for the Baptist Church will also feature the release of Marilyn's new Gospel CD featuring traditional to modern music. Look for *The Holy City, The Lord's Prayer, He Touched Me, Wade in the Water* and many more.

The Jazz Trio will entertain with such instrumental favourites as *Old-Tyme Religion* and *Just a Closer Walk with Thee.*

This concert is sure to be an afternoon of superb Christian Music and we invite you to come and enjoy. Tickets are $10 and are available from West Lorne Baptist Church. Call 768-1023 or 768-0152.



West Lorne singer Marilyn Zivkovic will be performing with others at West Lorne Baptist Church

DeBoer convicted of counselling to commit murder

DEC. 9 2002

by Times Journal Staff

Cheryl Diane DeBoer of West was willing to pay $10,000 to have her husband killed, and was handed a 15-month conditional sentence Thursday after being convicted of counselling to commit murder. DeBoer was sentenced in Superior Court in St. Thomas by Justice John McGarry of London.

She was described as the long-suffering victim of years of spousal abuse by her husband, Reginald, against whom she directed her unsuccessful plot.

Her husband was incarcerated following convictions for assault against her in October, 2000. Later that month, DeBoer travelled to Drumbo, Ont., to visit a relative where she offered a distant relative, John McLean, $10,000 to kill her husband.

At one point DeBoer met with an OPP undercover officer who taped their conversations. Later, she met with the same person, and provided a picture of her husband and a cheque for $10,000.

Terms of her conditional sentence are that she remain in her home, leaving only to go to work, attend church, for medical appointments and weekly shopping trips. She must also perform 100 hours of community service. DeBoer was also fined $300 for possession of marijuana.

NOV 11, 2002

Chamber steps up

LOOKS TOWARDS CHANGES

The West Elgin Chamber of Commerce is ready to make big steps in social development and also build up the local commercial sector.

The most recent step came last week when the Chamber approved its own bylaws. This brings the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce under the umbrella of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

The community does not have to look any futher than the agenda and minutes of the meeting last week to tell the Chamber is ready to roll up their sleeves and get on with business.

• West Lorne cross walks. The Chamber will be writing a letter to the municipality in favour by the latest quest to see safety at the West Lorne intersection at Graham and Main Street. Currently West Lorne resident Suzanne Kirschner has a petition asking that there be cross walks at the intersection.

The Chamber has shown favour in seeing "no-parking" signage and markings where vehicles are not to park. The Chamber is also showing its favour in asking that there be serious enforcment of the current no parking bylaws.

The Chamber is trying to find common-ground on the issue without hurting downtown parking.

If a complete crosswalk is set up along Graham and Main Street, there can be no parking for 30 metres on either side of the lights. Chamber members are afraid that this would be very detrimental to downtown parking and eliminate too much parking space.

• Supporting the parades. The Chamber has decided to offer a trophy this year to the best business float that participates in both the West Lorne and Rodney Parades. The Chamber is hoping to see increased participation in both parades. Late last year the Rodney Parade commitee resigned after many years of service. Rather than letting the parade die, both the Chamber and Muncipality of West Elgin have been working to make the parade viable. A decision was made to have the parades one day after the other. This November 29 the West Lorne Parade will be held at 7 pm. On Saturday November 30 the Rodney Parade will be held at 1 pm.

• Members of the Chamber were also pleased to hear the "Welcoming Packages" have become a great success. Many different businesses have taken part in the welcoming package that includes unique deals for new residents and businesses in West Elgin. The bag that is used and given to each new individual has the picture of Nellie's Hill at Port Glasgow.

Chamber President Tom Jones said last week things were defintely coming together for the organization.

"Every aspect of the diversified committees are meeting their objectives. We are actually ahead of previous goals," he admitted.

"Due to this, the future looks promsing. The next thing to do is continue to build on our strong community ties and improve the quality of life in West Elgin."

NOV. 9, 2002 The Chronicle

Drunk driver gets four years

Eric St. Onge has received a four year penitentiary sentence after being convicted of impaired driving causing death. He received the sentence last Wednesday in St. Thomas court.

On March 23, 2001 the car driven by St. Onge ran a stop sign and t-boned a van driven by Tressa Gray with her daughter Jeffrica as passenger. Both died from the accident.

Last January St. Onge pleaded guilty to two counts of impaired driving causing death.

St. Onge has also received a 10-year driving prohibition.

St. Onge had a previous assault conviction from a bar fight in Rodney.

Tressa and Jeffrica are survived by their husband/father, Robin , and 13 year old son. Robin now lives in Brockville with their son, Cory.

-- with files from the London Free Press.

ARTICULE IN CHRONICLE

AUGUST 14, 2003





Susanne Wilkins of Town and Country Landscaping, has purchased the octagonal barn from Bianca Savik, in hopes of restoring the historical landmark and architectural rarity. She is currently dismantling the barn and will be moving it to Muirkirk.

Chronicle photo

Octagonal barn is on the move

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

An architectural rarity is being dismantled near West Lorne this month in hopes to preserve it later.

The octagonal barn owned by Bianca Savik, is one of only a handful left in Ontario and has stood on the Queen's Line property since late 1880s. It's now being taken apart to relocate it to Muirkirk, where its new owner, Susanne Wilkins, operates a landscaping business.

"This came as a surprise. This wasn't what I was going to be doing this summer," said Wilkins.

The barn can be seen from Highway 401 where hundreds of cars pass every day and Wilkins said, "I don't think I've ever driven by and not looked for the octagon barn."

Saviks has been at the farm since the 1950s and used to use the barn for sheep, cattle and pigs and stored hay in the mow.

No longer in use that way, Savik said there simply wasn't any more need to keep the barn anymore and she was concerned about having to maintain it.

At the same time, knowing it was rare, she didn't want to tear it down.

"I grew up with that farm. It's always been a part of life. I'd like to see it somewhere else rather than knock it down after it's got rotten," she said.

The barn was beginning to deteriorate and Savik has spent the past several months looking for someone interested in restoring its historical significance.

"We thought if we could find someone who would want it and would restore it, they could just come and get it," said Savik.

Wilkins heard about it back in May, had her father, Bob Spence, come back and look at it for a second opinion on whether or not she could effectively take it down and set it back up again.

She made herself wait a week to be sure she was making the right decision to take on the project and decided, "It's too important just to let go."

Savik said she was glad Wilkins was interested in the barn because Wilkin's artist mother, Marie Spence, had been commissioned several years ago, to paint a picture of the barn.

It was part of a municipal project to have paintings done of several of the area's landmarks.

"It's kind of nice that Marie's daughter is taking the barn," said Savik.

Wilkins is thinking about whether to try to put the barn in a place where the public has access to it because of its age and rarity but at the same time, it's still a functioning barn she is considering using.

Regardless, she still has to figure out how to get it back up again after they've finished taking it down and moving it.

She's had architectural drawings done and is numbering all the pieces to the drawing to help make it easier to put it back together.

The exterior came off easily for Wilkins but the roof and supports of the structure posed a harder challenge.

Working with her children and staff from the landscaping business, she's had some help with the project, but none have had experience with a project like this before.

"Ignorance is bliss. You can only deal with the next crisis as it comes," she said.

Wilkins expects it might be two years before it is restored at its new home.





PICTURES DONATED BY HELEN VAN BRENK WALLACETOWN W.I.





Crop circle the real deal, says researcher of event

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

There are crop circles that are hoaxes and legitimate crop circles that defy explanation and remain a mystery as to their formations.

The formation appearing in Lawrence Holland's wheat field last week is the real thing, said a specialist who came to the field Aug. 13 to investigate.

The wheat was bent over, bearing ring-shaped marking suggesting a heat source, a common attribute of legitimate crop circles, said Joanna Emry of the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network.

The organization she works for investigates and documents crop circles, determining which are hoaxes, deliberately made by someone, who which are real and remain unexplained as to their formation.

While the source of crop circles remains a mystery and little scientific research is done, thousands of the formations have appeared around the world.

In the past month, there have been circles appearing in the Hensall and Brussels area in Huron County and now one in Holland's field at Erin Line and Willey Road.

Holland has farmed there for 55 years and has never seen anything like it.

It was discovered last Tuesday while the wheat was being harvested and Holland left the area around the circles untouched to give investigators and spectators a chance to check it out.

One circle in the field is 21 metres around, connected by a narrow, 18-metre path that leads into a second, smaller circle that measured 13 metres.

Some theories say crop circles are formed by UFOs but Holland doesn't believe that.

He said it's difficult to break wheat stalks with anything but machinery but can't explain how they could have been laid down and matted in perfect circles.

"Whatever laid the wheat down did a beautiful job. It's just like a mat, a perfect mat," he said.

He speculates a whirlwind, a naturally occurring wind pattern farmers are familiar with, could cause such a phenomenon.

"It's not the case of spirits or kids," said Holland.

The circles attracted a steady flow of spectators last week, wearing a path into the field to be able to stand in the circles and check them out.

Calls also came to the Holland household, including one from a man in eastern Elgin County who attested to seeing UFOs in Elgin County and was certain their formation was caused by one.

Most calls were from media or family and friends.

People visiting had different theories but also leaned toward not really understanding what could cause the formation.

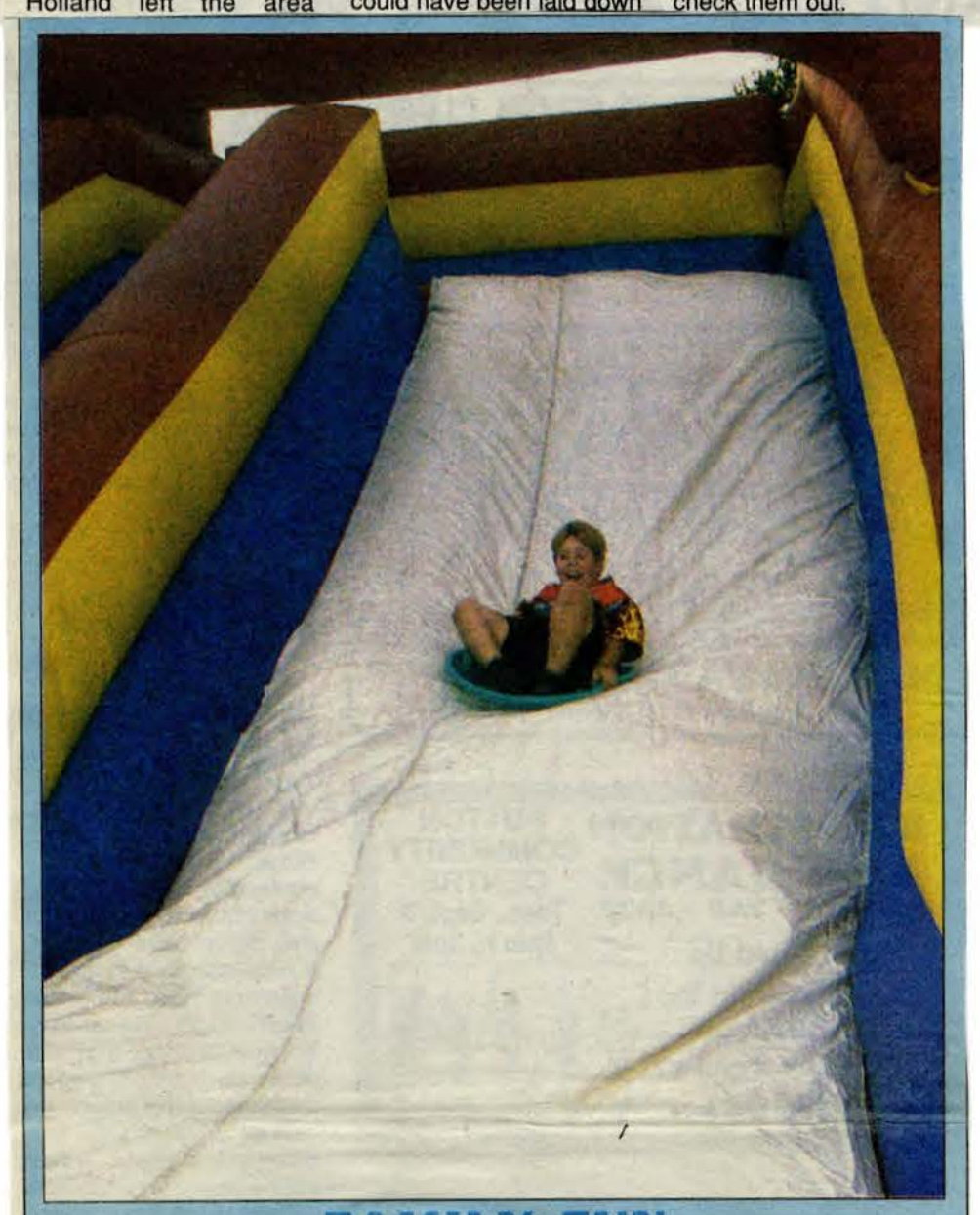
Whatever causes them, Emry said the Wallacetown circles were not a hoax.





Lawrence Holland stands at the edge of the largest of two crop circles that appeared in his Wallacetown wheat field last week while, below, a steady flow of spectators came to check out the formations.

Chronicle photo



FAMILY FUN

The West Lorne Downhill Derby Committee hosted a family fun night Friday on Main Street. Joshua Baddams of Rodney enjoyed one of the inflatible slides brought in for the event that also featured a cruise night for classic cars.

Sept 4/03

Chronicle photo

CURRENT EVENTS 2003

Black out causes no serious problems

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Western Elgin County survived last week's blackout with no major incidents reported.

"We got through without any problem. It wasn't a real hardship for everyone," said Dutton-Dunwich Administrator Ken Loveland.

He and West Elgin Administrator Joanne Groch said there was no need to enact any measures from the emergency plan, although firefighters changed their methods of communication and patrolled the neighbourhoods in Dutton and Rodney in case there was need.

Loveland said they could have implemented the emergency plan at any time but there was no need on Thursday or Friday.

While the power outage was widespread, affecting more than 50 million people across Ontario and into Michigan, Ohio and New York State, it didn't cause a huge impact on the rural communities of western Elgin County.

"We've had power out longer in the winter during a storm," said Loveland.

Power had been out for about six hours in Dutton-Dunwich.

In West Elgin, the largest impact was seeing the pool in Rodney closed Friday because the equipment to keep the water clean was not running.

Backup generators kept the West Elgin municipal office running and, more importantly, the water system, ensuring the safety of drinking water was never compromised during the outage, said Groch.

Elgin County OPP didn't report any major incidents as a result of the blackout but had extra patrols on duty including officers checking for stranded motorists on Highway 401.

Municipal offices opened Monday but were keeping power useage to a minimum, not using air conditioning or any unnessessary equipment.

Some businesses in the area were shut down Friday as roaming blackouts continued to affect the area while work was done to restore the power grid.

Monday, some area businesses continued to conserve energy but otherwise, there was no further significant impact from the power crisis.

However, concerns about further outages saw long lineups at area gas stations when unreliable power was restored across the area on Friday.

The potential remains, particularly the rest of this week, for further blackouts and brownouts.

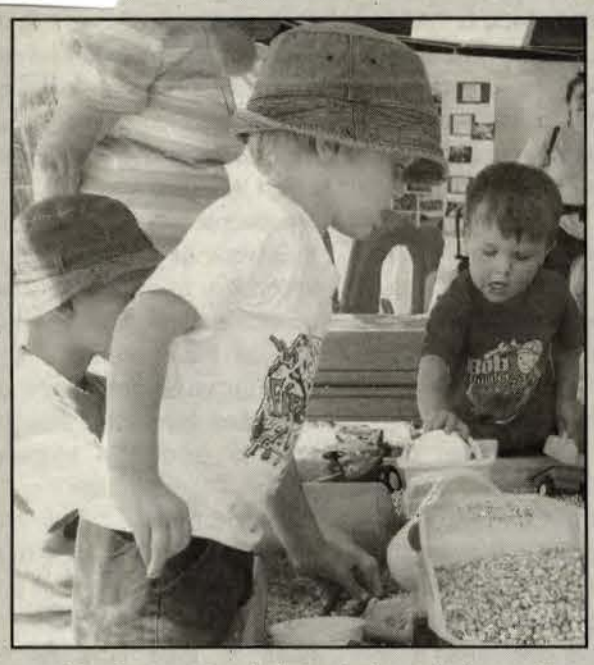
Government officials are urging people to continue to conserve energy, especially by avoiding the use of air conditioners, as hot temperatures are expected to return through the remainder of the week.

Aug 21/03

Sept

Agric Fair '03

Current Events 2003



Liam Brayton enjoyed playing in the crushed corn with friends in the children's tent on the fair grounds.
Chronicle photo



Fair ambassador Melanie Knapp holds up one of the pies auctionned off at the fair.
Chronicle photo



Trish Pearson holds the microphone for Jody Aldred who winds up for a "mom" calling as other contestants look on.
Chronicle photo



The MJM trio, Mike Bennet on the saxophone, Mark Godrey on guitar and Jen Pinder on drums, take part in the Battle of the Bands
Chronicle photo



Abigail Smith of Iona gives her partner a warning to settle down in the 4-H Showmanship class.
Chronicle photo

Fair Prince Cody Vandergulik and fair Princess Brianna Downie with Madelaine Cirka and her guinea pig Beatrice. Cody and Brianna helped judge the pet show. Madelaine and Beatrice won a prize for best dressed.
Chronicle photo



A message from the president

We live in an ever changing society, but the one thing the community of West Elgin does together, and has for the last 149 years, is celebrate the Rodney Aldborough Agricultural Fair. This year I invite you on behalf of the Board of Directors to "WHERE TOWN & COUNTRY MEET", September 12, 13 & 14.

Each year, countless hours are spent planning and organizing. The fair could not be possible without the support of many people including our loyal exhibitors, corporate sponsors, church and service clubs, municipal council and our dedicated volunteers. The hard work and enthusiasm put forth by these individuals make the fair a success year after year.

The Directors and Associate Directors cannot go unmentioned. Their hardwork, dedication and commitment are invaluable to the community. They make sure the community tradition happens.

So I invite you to be a part of the community tradition. Not by just attending the fair, but being involved. Enter a craft, bake good, or vegetable. Watch the cattle or sheep show for the first time or lead a goat through an obstacle course. By doing so, you will keep our tradition alive.

I look forward to seeing you there!

A Country Fair "Where Town and Country Meet!"

Jane McGregor

2003

Grandstand declared safe, fair is ready to go



Recreation supervisor Jeff Slater, Spriet Associates Engineer Kevin McIlmurray and fair board member Devon Pearson discuss the grandstand's inspection last Tuesday.
Chronicle photo

Sept 4/03

By Rachal Fleury
For The Chronicle

Engineers have officially declared the grandstand structurally sound and the Aldborough Rodney Agricultural Fair is ready to go Sept. 12-14.

"It's great what teamwork can do," said Devon Pearson, the fair's publicist this year.

While there wasn't any doubt in Pearson's mind once work began to upgrade the grandstand last month, fair board members feared the worst earlier this summer when they learned the grandstand was about to undergo an engineering inspection.

The inspection came about following a municipal safety audit of all public buildings. Staff determined the aging grandstand should be inspected by an engineer to ensure it was safe to hold the crowds that use it each year to watch some of the fair's special events.

The land in front of the grandstand in the agricultural park becomes centre stage to a variety of events each day and night of the fair.

An engineering report found the grandstand unfit to hold large enough crowds unless some steel reinforcements were made beneath the building. The need for proper railings along the front of the grandstand was also identified.

Fair board members took their concerns to West Elgin Council in July, worried that with the fair less than two months away, the work would not be completed on time.

Council agreed to make the grandstand a priority with as close to a promise as it could offer that the building would be in use for the fair.

Continued on Page 2

CURRENT EVENTS 2003

County looks at museum's future

AUG 2003

For *The Chronicle*

The Elgin County Pioneer Museum will remain in its temporary downtown St. Thomas home for at least the next six months, until a report drawing a clearer picture on a possible new home, is ready.

The resolution July 15 by county council to go on a month-to-month renewal of the lease for the temporary building was chosen over an estimated cost of $11,200 to move back into the museum's historic home.

The museum moved out earlier this year after the county put a halt on plans for renovations to the building to address accessibility issues.

Council decided because of the age and design of the building, it would not be a wise investment to try to make the building handicapped accessible.

The design of the building meant that even with improvements, the confined second floor could only accommodate a small number of visitors in wheelchairs and others with mobility issues.

The design also ruled out spending money on adding heat and air conditioning to the agricultural museum, a separate building, so it could be used for storage. Estimates for work on that building ranged from $48,000 to $67,000.

Dutton/Dunwich Mayor Rien Van Brenk said he supported staying at the temporary location, but not renovating the agricultural museum until the report on a new home was ready.

Malahide Deputy Mayor Paul Faulds, a member of the Elgin County Pioneer Museum Board, said the renovations to the agricultural museum would be an investment.

In a related move, council agreed to pick up the tab for lunch for museum board members and others who would be taking a bus trip to the Huron County Museum on Aug. 21 to tour the facility.

Why so many pinecones?

Years of drought, wet spring may be cause

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Recent years of drought mixed with a wet spring and warm summer could be the reason why the limbs of coniferous trees have been weighed down with pine cones this year, say local tree and weather experts.

"I'm always whacking my head on those cones," said Environment Canada Weather Watcher Keith Kelly of Rodney of what happens to him when he's trying to cut his lawn, home to several evergreens.

While he can't remember a time when he's seen this many pine cones, he's sure there have been other seasons, at least from his 1930s childhood, where the trees have been this loaded.

"I think it's a reaction to the seasons we've had," said Kelly.

With the past several dry seasons, Kelly believes the trees went into a state of hibernation but with adequate moisture this year, have been producing the bumper cone crop.

"Some trees that are stressed will put out more seed than other years," said Ministry of Natural Resources Forester, Steve Williams, from the Elgin County office in Aylmer.

SEPT/03 Continued on Page 2

Parking ticket solution close

Municipal administrators and police discuss bylaws

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

It looks like a solution is on the horizon that will see parking ticket enforcement the way Elgin County municipalities had hoped, rather than the zero-tolerance blanket enforcement that swept through parts of the county last July.

"We're going to go back to the way we originally planned it would be enforced and that is with complaints only," said Dutton-Dunwich Administrator Ken Loveland last week of the issue that largely surrounded overnight parking and parking on boulevards.

Loveland attended a special meeting in St. Thomas last Tuesday between municipal administrators and members of the OPP to discuss the issue that began to unfold in July.

> 'WE'RE GOING TO GO BACK THE WAY WE ORIGINALLY PLANNED IT,"
>
> **— Ken Loveland**
> **Dutton-Dunwich Administrator**

Canada Day will long be remembered as the day more than 100 parking tickets were issued in Rodney, largely for violations to overnight parking or vehicles on boulevards. Residents who had parked for years on boulevards, many not even having driveways, woke to find $25 tickets on their vehicles and no explanations why.

Very few tickets were issued for vehicles parked in "no parking" zones deemed dangerous because vehicles parked there obstructed views at intersections.

Similar scenes unfolded in several municipalities in Elgin County around that July 1 date and prompted discussions between municipalities and an emergency countywide police services board meeting in mid-July.

Police stopped enforcement of the boulevard issue and have all-but stopped issuing parking tickets altogether, since the new, countywide parking bylaw came into effect at the end of June.

The bylaw was an amalgamation of parking issues that affected various municipalities in an effort to make one, complete bylaw police could enforce.

Municipalities had been complaining for years that enforcement was needed, following complaints they received from citizens about people parking in front of driveways, obstructing views at intersections, parking in handicap spaces or blocking fire hydrants.

However, without a bylaw, OPP could not respond to those complaints with more than a warning.

Municipalities had hoped police would use the new bylaw to be able to respond to the complaints received, but instead, hundreds of tickets were issued for the full range of infractions listed in the bylaw.

While parking on boulevards was not an issue receiving complaints in Rodney, it was an issue needing enforcement in Port Stanley and included in the bylaw to ensure all municipalities could be properly served by the document.

Police agreed to use discretion in enforcing the bylaws and have since stopped enforcing the overnight and boulevard parking completely, until a solution could be found.

Municipalities considered everything from the possible need to scrap the bylaw and go with separate ones to enforcing parking complaints with their own bylaw officers.

After last Tuesday's meeting, Loveland said discussions centred on having the more secondary elements of the bylaw enforced through complaints. The complaints would likely have to be filed through the municipal offices. Those complaints could then be passed to OPP who could enforce an issue of a truck, for example, being parked on a boulevard in front of someone's home, blocking the residents' view for days.

Safety issues, such as parking in front of fire hydrants or blocking the view at an intersection will automatically be enforced by OPP as they have time, said Loveland.

He also said county roads are a different story, such as Furnival Road in

SEPT. 4/03 Continued on Page 2



EARLY YEARS CELEBRATED...

Clockwise from left, Ruth Ann Payler, literary specialist from the Ontario Early Years Centre, Dylan Graham, 3, speech therapist with Tyke Talk, Trish Major, and Mackenzie Ross, 3, enjoy a story during the West Lorne Early Years play group at West Lorne United Church last Wednesday. The Early Years program was celebrated in West Elgin as various agencies attended the regular play group meeting with information and goodies in West Lorne, Dutton and Rodney.

SEPT. 25/03 *Chronicle photo*

CURRENT EVENTS
2003

A brief history of the Rodney jail

By Suzanne McGregor
The Chronicle

Built in 1890 for $200.00, it was Rodney's first "lockup". The jail stopped being used to house "criminals" shortly after the Rodney Town Hall was built, where more modern cells were placed in its basement. In later years, the building was used as the office of the secretary of the fair board on fair days and as a ticket booth for the Rodney Agricultural Fair.

The jail measures 4.5 metres by 5.4 metres (15 feet by 18 feet); 24.3 square metres or 270 square feet. There is one door on the right side of the building that opens into a room with the magistrates chair and table. The pot belly stove located on the inner wall of this room was used to heat the building. The floors throughout are wood planking, and the two cells have wood walls and ceiling – cell doors are riveted steel flat bar – the outside walls are yellow brick.

The jail, has only two tiny cells inside it but is billed as the oldest, smallest jail in North America. The jail was built in 1890, making it the oldest of its size on the continent according to Rodney tourist officials. However, when they re-opened the jail in 1995 with that billing they were almost immediately challenged by other towns and cities.

There were initially several villages which contradicted Rodney's claim. Among them Port Dalhousie, near St. Catharines, claimed its jail was older by about 45 years. The people of Tweed, Ont. also believed they had the smallest jail. But Rodney stuck by their claim to fame because the building is more of a jail than the one in Port Dalhousie. The building there was only one room and needed restoration. Tweed eventually admitted Rodney had them beat because its jail, first opened in 1898, measured 4.9 by 6.1 metres (29.89 square metres or about 320 square feet).

When re-opened in 1995 as a tourist attraction, a book exchange was operated out of the building.

The preceding will appear on a sign in the jail. Any donations (preferably nothing valuable) will be appreciated.

JULY 10/03

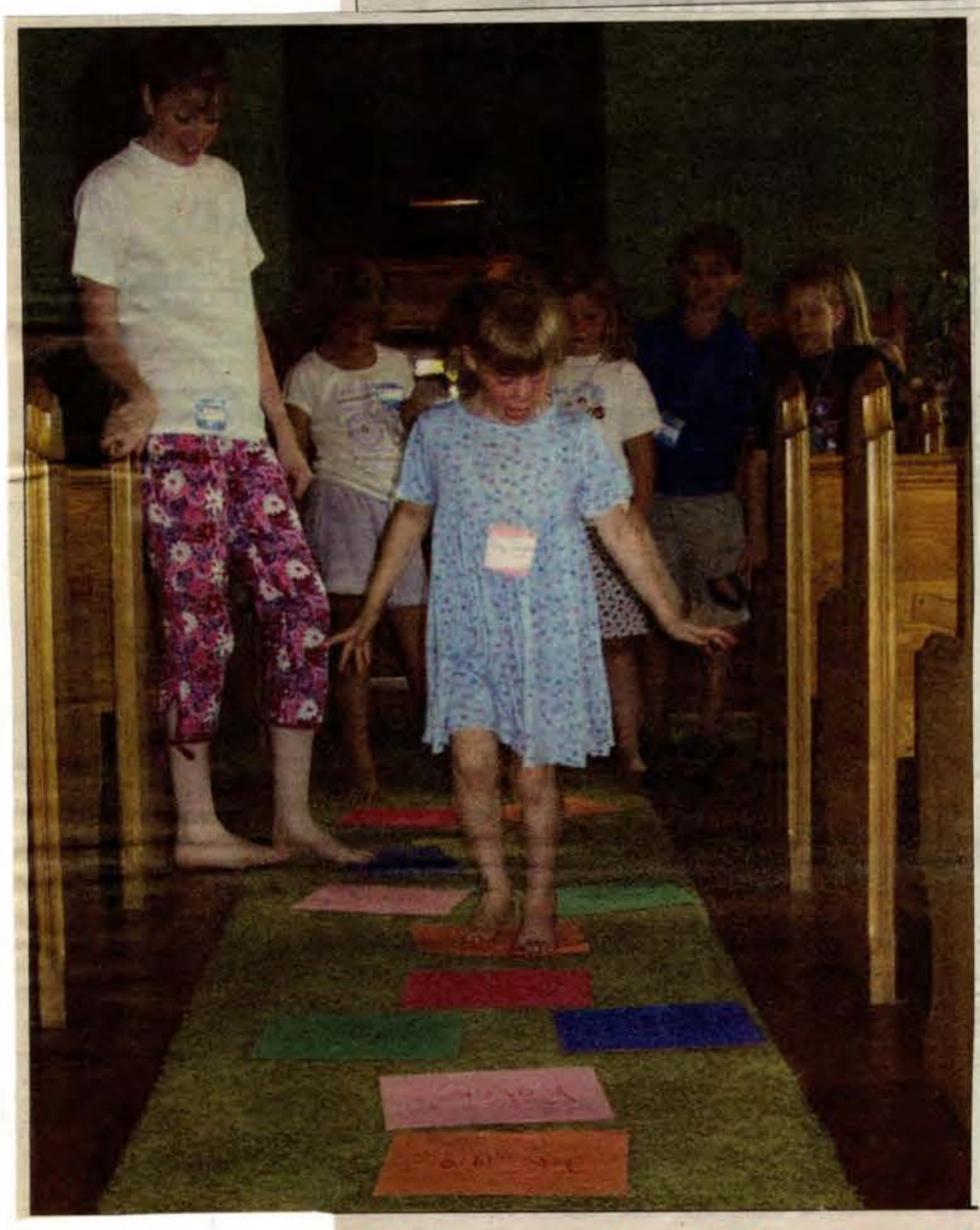
The Chronicle

JULY 10, 2003





Irene Puddester, on the right in photo to the left, was named West Elgin's Volunteer of the Year at Canada Day ceremonies last Tuesday evening at Miller Park. She is joined by last year's volunteer of the year, Rosalie Krebsz. In Dutton-Dunwich, Mike Carew and Ruth Mairleitner were named volunteers of the year. In photo to the right, Jim Carmichael pipes the West Elgin Legion colour guard during opening ceremonies before the fireworks.



Hopscotch with a twist

Amy Nash plays a game of hopscotch last Wednesday with words from a Bible verse on each square to help children memorize the scripture. They were taking part in the "Gone Fishin'" Vacation Bible School at the West Lorne Baptist Church last week.

JULY 24/03

401 bridge work comes as surprise

Bridge at Graham Road in West Lorne will be reduced to one lane on Aug. 1

For The Chronicle

A funding announcement last Monday by the Ontario government has caught local officials off guard.

Transportation Minister Frank Klees announced a $1.9 million investment "to preserve the Graham Road bridge over Highway 401." When completed, Klees added, "the project will substantially improve driving conditions in West Elgin."

That's news to West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail who noted the province has an ongoing maintenance program dealing with overpass upgrades along the highway and this work was not in response to a specific request from the municipality.

"We're not aware of any specific problems with the bridge, other than age," stressed McPhail. "This is just a maintenance announcement."

The work includes rehabilitation of the bridge that will result in traffic being reduced to one lane in each direction on the 401 from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31 this year. Temporary lane reductions will be in effect again from May through October, 2004.

McPhail indicated he was not made aware of any potential disruption to traffic on Graham Road itself, north of West Lorne.

Peter Dutchak, of Elgin county's engineering department, said it was his understanding there would be no lane reductions on Highway 401 and he had no concerns regarding disruption of traffic on Graham Road.

But a spokesperson for the Ministry of Transportation said there would be two extended periods of lane reductions on the Graham Road bridge.

Traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction on one half of the bridge deck from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31 this year and again from May 1 to Oct. 31 next year.

Dutchak said the county had no plans for any maintenance work on

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CURRENT EVENTS

2002

The Chronicle OCT 1/02

Local retired Fire Chiefs honoured

Elgin County's retired Fire Chiefs were honoured Wednesday night during a special ceremony held at the West Lorne Fire Hall.

Firefighters came from across the county, representing each department from east to west.

Guest presenter and Elgin County Warden Duncan McPhail said it was an honour to present the plaques that commemerated each firefighter for their years of service.

In the current light of the Attack on America and the devestation in New York that killed many firefighters during rescue missions, McPhail said the opinion on firefighters has changed dramatically.

He said that act of sacrifice has reminded many people how dangerous the job is and how thankful they are for such dedicated workers.

"The world is showing overwhelming support for your occupation. You fellows do a wonderful job that's often overlooked," said McPhail.



Honoured Retired Fire Chiefs with their plaques, many of which are still firefighters. Pictured, front row, l-r are Dave Cadogan (West Lorne), Robert Barker (Belmont), Merlin Norris (Bayham), Ken Laemers (Bayham). Back row l-r are Randy McDonald representing his late father George McDonald (Rodney), Gilbert Bouw (Dutton/Dunwich), Allen Hurst (Yartmouth Centre), Mel Vanlingen (Malahide Station 2), Phil Hudson (Belmont). Absent was Ken Hindley (Union Station) and Chuck Rickwood (Port Stanley).

Honourees

From Bayham:

Merlin Norris- Firefighter May 1969 to September 1985; Deputy Chief Sept 1985 to Aug. 1997; Training Officer Aug 1997 to June 1998 and Firefighter June 1998 to present.

Ken Laemers- Firefighter June 1980 to 1991; Training officer May 1991 to May 1992; Chief Bayham May 1992 to December 1997; Station Chief Jan. 1998 to April 1991; Firefighter May 1999 to present.

From Malahide Station 2:

Mel Vanlingen- Firefighter April 1981 to Dec. 1989; Deputy Chief Jan 1990 to Dec 1998; Chief Jan 1999 to Dec 2000; Firefighter Jan 2001 to present.

From Central Elgin Belmont Station:

Phil Hudson- Firefighter Jan 1980 to 1990; Deputy Chief Jan 1991 to 1997; Chief Jan 1997 to 1998 when he retired from the department.

Robert Barker- Firefighter Jan 1984 to 1994; Deputy Chief Jan 1994 to 1998; Chief 1998 to 1999; Firefighter Jan 2000 to present.

From Central Elgin Yarmouth Centre Station:

Allen Hurst- Firefighter Sept. 1979 to 1990; Chief 1990 to 1998; Firefighter 1998 to present.

From Central Elgin Union Station:

Ken Hindley- Firefighter Jan. 1955 to 1969; Chief 1969 to 1971; Firefighter 1971 to 1981; Deputy Chief 1981 to 1999; District Deputy Chief 1999 to Dec. 30 2000, when retired from department.

From Central Elgin Port Stanley Station:

Chuck Rickwood- Firefighter Jan 1945 to 1970; Deputy Chief Jan 1970 to 1999; District Deputy Chief 1999 to 2000; Firefighter Jan 2000 to present.

From Dutton/Dunwich Department:

Gilbert Bouw- Firefighter Feb 1972 to 1990; Fire Chief 1990 to 1995; Trainer Facilitator 1996 to present.

From West Elgin West Lorne Department:

David Cadogan- Firefighter May 1973 to May 1983; Deputy Chief May 1983 to March 1984; Chief March 1984 to November 1 1998 when he retired from the department.

From West Elgin Rodney Department:

George McDonald- Firefighter 1969 to 1983; Captain 1983 to 1984; Firefighter in later 1984; left department for five years; Returned as Chief in 1989 and retired in January 2000. Passed away July 17, 2001.

The Chronicle OCT 14/02

Podebry honoured

Walter Podebry of West Lorne, was presented with a medal for his outstanding work with the youth in his community, last month.

Podebry began his volunteerism with the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, #741 Elgin Squadron, where he taught youth navigation and flying scholarship. At his own expense, he would rent aircrafts on weekends, taking cadets up for familiarization flights.

After taking a hiatus from 741, Podebry volunteered through the 427 Wing in London. One of his highlights there was undertaking fundraising so he could take two busloads of cadets to Washington.

Podebry has voluntarily taught meterolology, joining the cadets in 1989 as a cadet instructor. When he transferred back to St. Thomas, he was able to increase the number of youths involved from 30 to 80.

On September 26 Podedbry was honoured for giving unselfishly of his time, and providing his services as a pilot under the guidance fo the Canadian Air Search and Rescue.

Walter and his wife Anna have also opened their home to many foster children through St. Thomas Family and Children's Services. He has led Scouts, been an active member of the Legion and the Knights of Columbus.



Walter Podebry, left of West Lorne, was recently presented with a Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal by Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Gar Knuston. Podebry was honoured for his volunteer work with the Royal Canadian Air Cadets and for serving as a pilot for the Canadian Air Search and Rescue. (Courtesy of Regan Photography Dorchester)

Queen Elizbeth honours outstanding local community contributors

The Queens Golden Jubilee Medals for outstanding contributions to community and/or country were handed out in St. Thomas on September 26.

Local recipients for the awards were Carolyn Cameron and Grace Campbell of Dutton and Walter Podebry of West Lorne.

The awards were presented in honour of Queen Elizabeth's 50th anniversary.



Jubilant Recipients: Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal recipients, were honoured for their work for their community and country recently at a reception hosted by Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Gar Knutson. The medals were given to selected nominees in honour of the Queen's 50th anniversary. The recipients, from left, were: front Suzanne Ferguson accepting for Edra Ferguson, Margo Code, Cathy Topping, Don Stokes, Karen Whitehead, Karen Benner, Bill Chipchase, Debbie Dawdy, Sharon Hertwig, Grace Campbell; back Jory Parent, Dave Morse, Max Moore, Ron Elliot, Lloyd Allen, Ron Smith, Munir El-Kassem, Bill Lynch, Gerry Holden, Bob Dymock, MP Gar Knutson, Walter Podebry, Dave Chambers accepting for Yvonne Harris, Deb Donkers, Giles Hume, Ron McNeil, George Maurer, Sam Chabar accepting for Abdul Chabar, Carolyn Cameron and Al Marr. (Photo Courtesy of Regan Photography Dorchester)

CURRENT EVENTS 2003

Tougher action being taken against vandals in Miller Park

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

The West Elgin Parks and Recreation Department is getting tough on vandalism at Miller Park in West Lorne and Rodney Park.

"We're trying to stop it," said Parks and Recreation Superintendent Jeff Slater of the lunch-hour vandalism that's getting out of control.

While it's a busy park and use of it is encouraged, a handful of students using it during lunch from the neighbouring West Elgin Secondary School are being blamed for the damage.

In one instance two weeks ago, Slater said a stretch of chain link fence along the ball diamonds was found tore down.

Parks staff repaired it in the morning and after lunch, found it tore down again, the wires holding the fence up had been cut.

Profane language has been spray painted in the baseball dugouts and holes in the dugout roofs have been tore open.

"The recreation committee had discussed banning the use of the park from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We decided not to go that route. It's a public park for everyone to use," said Slater.

He said it's a busy park that most people take care of with St. Mary's School students visiting last week to help pick up garbage.

But he said there's a handful who seem bent on damaging the property and using the park as a place to hold fights when students have a disagreement.

"It's quite aggravating. We do take quite a bit of pride in our parks," he said.

Instead of banning use of the park during the lunch hour when most of the incidents occur, Slater said they are now calling the police each time there is an incident.

Police were called April 16 when a fight broke out in the park during the lunch break.

"It's starting to cost us a lot of money and the fighting is not safe," said Slater.

He estimates damage this year at about $2,000 so far and said while the problem has been ongoing, this is the worst year he's seen in Miller Park.

Meanwhile, he said damage in Rodney Park is common but not as severe as in West Lorne and this year, the Rodney amount damage seems down.

Slater hasn't brought the recent round of troubles in the park to the high school's attention yet but said when they have called the school in the past, they are often told it's not on school property and there is little the school can do.

However, Principal Larry Schneider said any time a problem is brought to his attention, he addresses it with the students and finds they are good at cooperating.

He said the recent rash of trouble might be attributed to some students getting carried away with "spring fever" enjoying being outside now after a cold and long winter.

Knowing there is a problem in the park again, he said he will speak with Slater and address it with the students.

He said the majority of the students do not cause trouble and neighbours have found students willing to eliminate problems with noise, speeding cars and garbage in the past after neighbours of the school have complained and Schneider discussed it with the students.

"Whenever I am aware of an issue, I immediately get on the PA and make an announcement," said Schneider.

"The majority of the students eat lunch at the school and take part in the clubs and activities going on at lunch," he said.

In relation to the fighting, he said the school has a non-violence policy that they continue to reinforce, building values in the students of respect for each other.



Jeff Slater shows some of the vandalism being done in the dugouts at Miller Park. Most of the incidents are occurring during the lunch hour. Compounding the problem are fights taking place in the park as well.

Planting still delayed with more wet weather

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Weather is continuing to make spring planting rough for farmers, many now waiting to plant soybeans after failing to get their corn crops in on time.

"The intermittent rain has meant they're really far behind or have changed crops," said Christine Brown, a nutrient management and field crop technician at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Woodstock.

While the Rodney area is close to having been able to plant corn on schedule, Brown said the Dutton and Iona Station areas, which have more clay in the soil, are further behind because the soil has not been drying out between days of rain.

The same is true for most no till fields this year.

"The no till ground is just not drying out," Brown said.

Many farmers had to switch to soybeans.

Provincially, 90 per cent of farmers planning to plant corn were able to get it in the ground with 70 to 80 per cent in all of Elgin County.

As of last week, about 30 to 50 per cent of the soy bean crop was planted in Elgin County but the time frame is less critical for soybeans than corn.

The final date for planting corn for the best chances of a good crop this season passed earlier in May and the date for soybeans passed on June 4.

While the dates are not precise, they are a guide as to when the crop stands the best chances of producing the highest yield and quality when harvest arrives.

JUNE /03

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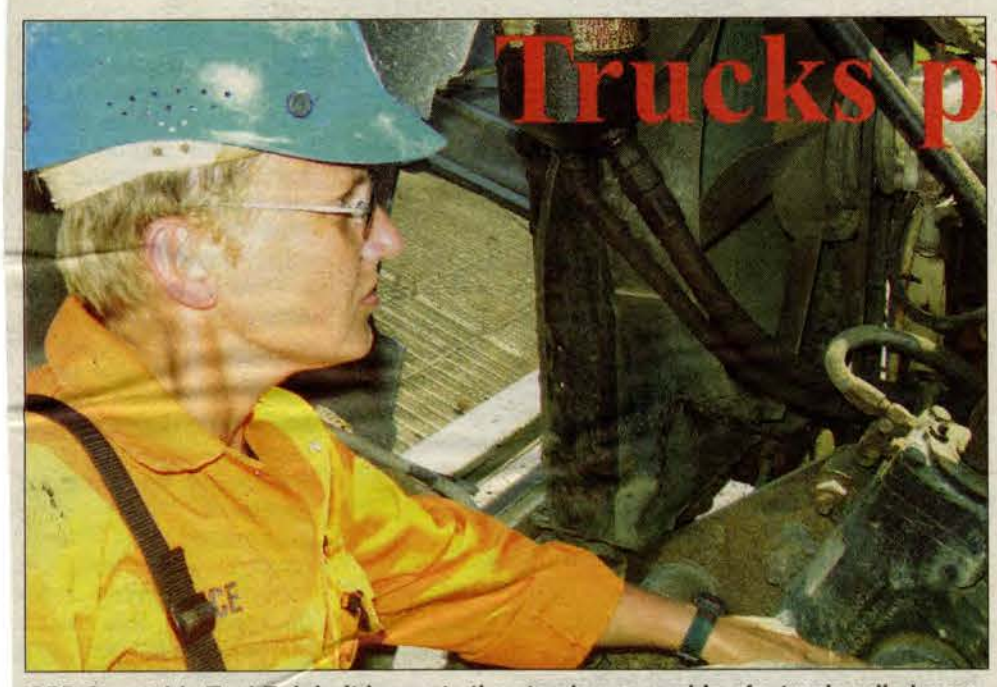


Million dollar smiles

Richard and Maxine Sterling won $10 million in last Friday's Lotto Super 7 draw. The Rodney couple bought their ticket at the 7-Eleven in Blenheim. Richard, 71, is a retired Navistar (Chatham) employee. JUNE/03

CURRENT EVENTS 2003

Volume 11 ~ Issue 26 July 3, 2003 Established 1993



OPP Constable Toni Reinholt inspects the steering assembly of a truck pulled over in a surprise safety inspection on Thursday in West Lorne.

Trucks pulled off the road

Police, MTO host surprise inspection

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Trucks that normally slip through the weigh-scale inspection cracks were pulled over and inspected in West Lorne last Wednesday, seeing five trucks pulled off the road for being unsafe.

"The potential is there for something hazardous to happen," said Constable Toni Reinholt of the commercial vehicle inspection unit within the OPP's Western Region Traffic Unit.

"We do truck blitzes to make sure everyone is up to good safety standards," she said.

Assisted by members of the Ministry of Transportation and the Elgin County Traffic Enforcement Unit, West Lorne became the 19th in a series of blitzes this spring and summer aimed at inspecting trucks that travel outside routes where they are subject to regular inspections.

Fifteen trucks, mostly delivery vehicles, were pulled over last Wednesday afternoon in West Lorne and inspected by Reinholt and Ministry of Transportation enforcement officers.

Four of those vehicles had their licence plates pulled on the spot and one was detained for violating a range of safety infractions from malfunctioning brakes to damaged steering systems.

Reinholt said they're pulling off the road an average of about 38 per

Continued on page 2

Grandstand not fit for crowds

Council scrambles to make upgrades by Rodney fair deadline

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

West Elgin council is scrambling to ensure the grandstand will be safe for the crowds in time for the Rodney Aldborough Fair, less than two months away, after an engineering report recommended it no longer be used until upgrades are made.

"We can't ignore it. We have to listen to what they say. We're liable," said Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick at council's June 26 meeting. "We're faced with a grandstand which is not usable for a fair that is underway in September."

He invited members of the fair board to the meeting where, two weeks prior, concerns were expressed at poor communication between municipal committees and the fair board that left fair board members surprised to learn the grandstand was being studied for safety issues, barely three months before the fair.

The fear was the grandstand would be rendered unusable now that the fair board has already committed and paid deposits for events that depend on the grandstand for seating.

The report referred to structural problems that make the grandstand unable to withstand the load of the approximately 680 people the building holds.

Continued on page 2

Cruising the car show



Bill Graham of West Lorne polishes up the "Batmobile", his 1961 Chrysler Windsor.



There were more than 95 cars at this year's Optimist Club Car Show in West Lorne Sunday at Miller Park. Questionable morning weather saw numbers down compared to other years. The event was a big success anyway with breakfast selling out and the food booth having to make a run for more supplies.



Rick Gordon and his daughter Amy of West Lorne, check out a 1962 400 Nova hardtop owned by Brad Robinson of Bothwell.

Current Events

2003



FAMILY FUN NIGHT...

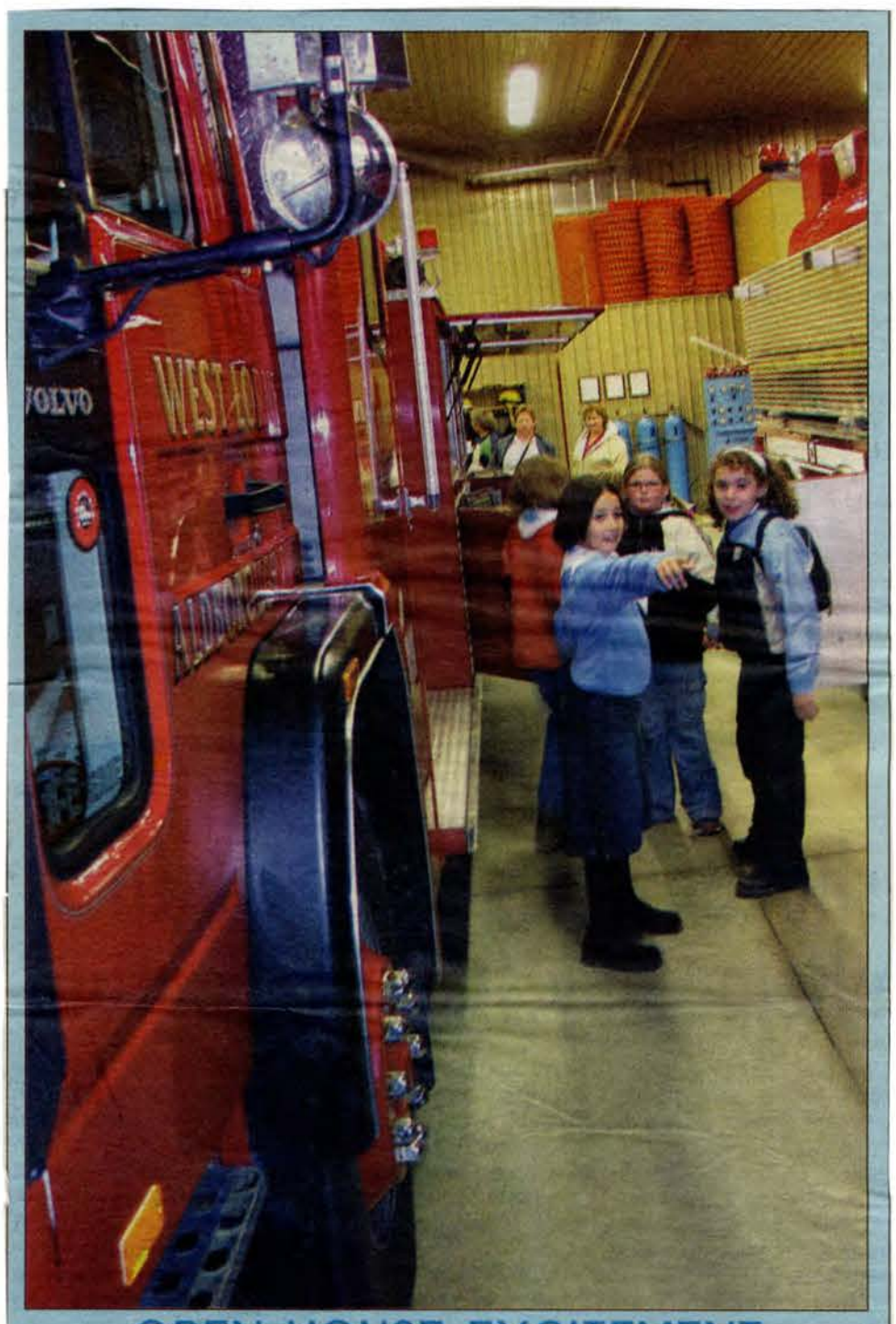
Danielle LeClaire, left, and Dana Kuska, right, of the Elgin 4-H Energizers paint faces on Main Street during the West Elgin Downhill Derby Committee's family fun night last Friday. Being painted are Kailey and Ashley McMillan of West Lorne.

SEPT 2003 *Chronicle photo*



LIGHTING FOR LAWN BOWLING

Elaine Brown of the Trillium Foundation grant review team, left, and West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail each present cheques for $6,000 which will go toward new lighting at the lawn bowling club in West Lorne. The lighting will extend the club's season and ability to host even more events. Joining the presentation is, second from the right, MPP Steve Peters. Receiving the cheques are Rose Daniel and Joan Lashbrook.



OPEN HOUSE EXCITEMENT

Sandra Hind, left, Katelyn Doan and Jess Evett Wilson were among the 18 First West Lorne Guides who took part in the West Lorne Fire Department's Open House, held last Tuesday night in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week.

OCT. 16, 2003 *Chronicle photo*

A message from the 2002 ambassador

My reign as Rodney Aldborough Fair Ambassador is quickly coming to an end, and it seems as if the year has flown by, as it always does. I have had many wonderful opportunities and experiences working with the Rodney Fair board, the community, and my fellow ambassadors.

I was able to attend various functions through out the year in my own and neighbouring communities as well as in Toronto. It was a once in a life time opportunity, and is one that I strongly suggest to any individual out there, male or female, to take part in. Even though the year has come to an end, the memories and friends that I have made will last a life time.

See you at the Rodney Aldborough Fair!

Devon Johnston

Rodney Aldborough Fair Ambassador 2002



This years Competitors for Ambassador to the Rodney-Aldborough Agricultural Fair



MELANIE KNAPP, REPRESENTING THE CRINAN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.
PARENTS: LARRY & PENNY KNAPPP



HILARY KRITER REPRESENTING THE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN'S GROUP, RODNEY
PARENTS: KEVIN & IRENE KRITER



JEN PINDER, REPRESENTING RODNEY LIONS CLUB.
PARENTS: BRIAN & JANET PINDER



CAROLYN TUNKS, REPRESENTING THE CLACHAN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.
PARENTS: JOHN & WENDY TUNKS

Competition will be Held Friday at the Rodney Recreation Centre. Program begins at 7 p.m. with entertainment.

35

CURRENT EVENTS 2003







'JUST SAY YES'...

West Elgin Dramatics Society presents "Just Say Yes" at the Performing Arts Centre in Dutton. The theatre production runs Nov. 28-Nov. 30 and Dec. 5-Dec. 6. Above, left, Dianne Downie portrays Nell with Greg Simpson as Arnold and Andrew Gibbes as Blaize. Above, right , Simpson, left, portrays Arnold with Adelle Lasson, portraying Faye. (Inset), Another scene from the comedy by Jack Sharkey and Tom Sharkey.

NOV. 27/03 *David Phillips photo*

Foul play not suspected in boater's death

Foul play is not suspected in the death of Glencoe resident Anthony Vanderloo.

The 53-year-old's body was positively identified Monday after being found near the boat launch at Canatara Park in Sarnia.

Police believed he had fallen overboard on Lake Huron while on a fishing trip in early November.

He had last been seen launching his boat on Nov. 4 at Sarnia Bay.

Police were awaiting autopsy results on Tuesday at deadline but Sarnia Police's media relations officer, George Linton said foul play was not suspected.

Vanderloo, who has family in West Elgin, enjoyed fishing.

His empty boat had been found still running on the lake near Grand Bend on Nov. 5.

An extensive search by police, the Coast Guard and family and friends had been unable to find Vanderloo.

His body was found Saturday morning on the shoreline near the Sarnia Bay boat launch.



A GOOD SKATE

Millie Baker, left, and Grace Wilson enjoyed the adult skate Monday afternoon at the West Lorne arena. Monday and Friday mornings offer a parent and child skate and Monday afternoons see a chance for adults to get together.

DEC/ 03 *Chronicle photo*

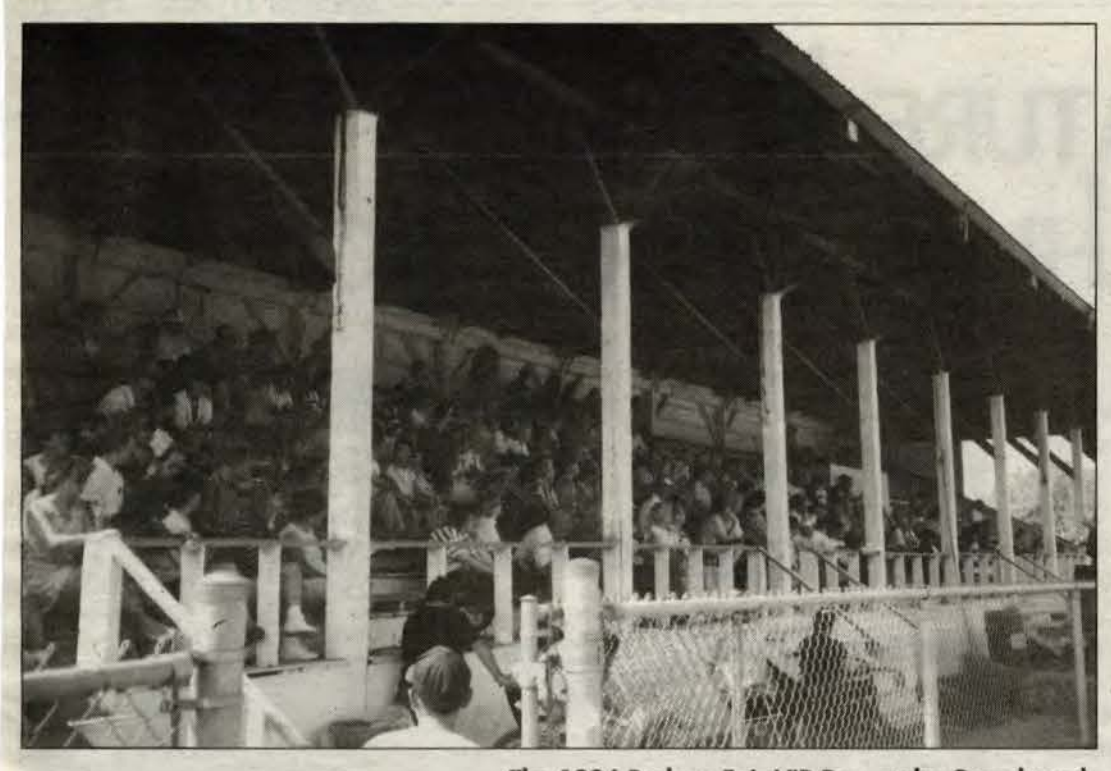


BRASS AND SONG...

The West Elgin Choral Society joined with London's Brassroots for the society's sixth annual Christmas concert. The brass ensemble accompanied the choral society for a number of selections at the Saturday night concert held at West Elgin Secondary School.

DEC. 11 /03 *Chronicle photo*

CURRENTS EVENTS 2003



The 1994 Rodney Fair VIP Day at the Grandstand



Bill Graham and Norbert Rivest entertain at VIP Day in 1994

A History of the Rodney Aldborough Agricultural Fair

Taken from the 'Souvenir History of the Aldborough Agricultural Society in 1954, written by Ernest G. Lusty and Lynn Lashbrook and called 'One Hundred Years of the Aldborough Agricultural Society 1854-1954'

In 1954, celebrating 100 years, the Rodney Fair was held Fri.,Sat., Sun. and Monday, Sept 3 to 6.

Inclement weather played havoc with the fair of 1898 and 1906. In the first mentioned.year the fair was scheduled to be held October 10 - 11. Both days were exceptionally wet and the Society was able to pay but 50 per cent of prize money and was forced to borrow $150 to pay off that much.

The books showed a deficit of $380.48 at the close of business that year. In 1906 the fair was postponed because of wet weather and finally held October 11 and 12, when the weather became so cold the plants and flowers in the Crystal Palace froze before being judged.

When Rodney Community Hall was built in the business section, Aldborough Township council had a proposition to make use of one of the two offices and council chamber in the new building. The move to accept the village offer and sell the township hall and jail to the Agricultural Society proved advantageous to both bodies. So in 1908 both buildings were purchased by the Society for $800. Oddly enough, although the society had been in possession of the property from 1873 to 1908, it never actually owned it In 1911 a five rod strip on the east side of the grounds was purchased from Mrs. Dundas for $200, plus $5 for every apple tree in her orchard which had to be removed.

A complicated financial deal was perpetrated in 1912 when the grandstand was built for $700 by the Lusty Lumber Co. The Rodney Women's Institute contributed $500 to the worthy cause, providing 75 per cent of proceeds from the fair night concert would become theirs. President E. G. Lusty, J. A. MacLean and Peter McVicor were appointed to act as the building committee, together with Mr. Angus McGugan for the Institute.

In 1915 the former Township Hall was moved next to Crystal Palace for convenience at fair time. Both buildings were used for show purposes during the days of the fair and as basket storage during the remainder of the year. In July that year, just two or tree months before the fair, the buildings burned to the ground with their contents of baskets.

OPP bust West Elgin crime ring, 10 people facing 44 charges

OCT 16 2003

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Elgin OPP have shut down a significant crime ring in West Elgin with 10 people facing a total of 44 weapons and stolen property charges.

Almost $14,000 worth of stolen property has been recovered.

The charges follow a three-month investigation by Elgin County OPP.

Uniformed officers and members of the OPP's crime unit were involved in the investigation and OPP released information about the charges late last week, following the execution of several search warrants.

"They're not independent crimes, some are family members," said OPP Community Services Officer Jennifer Wilks on Tuesday.

Among the items stolen were stereos, DVD players, firearms and machinery, many taken from residential break-ins.

"All sorts of stuff," said Wilks.

She said all the people charged were connected as either friends or family members.

Further details about how the group operated were not available at press time.

The people charged resided in both West Lorne and Rodney.

CHARGED

A 48-year-old West Elgin woman has been charged with possession of property obtained by crime under $5,000 and theft under $5,000.

A 26-year-old man has been charged with three counts of possession of property obtained by crime under $5,000, two counts of possession of a firearm obtained by crime, possession of a firearm while prohibited, mischief and break and enter.

A 22-year-old man has been charged with two counts of possession of a firearm obtained by crime, break and enter, mischief, and possession of property obtained by crime under $5,000.

A 33-year-old man has been charged with possession of property obtained by crime under $5,000.

A 29-year-old woman has been charged with possession of property obtained by crime, under $5,000.

A 55-year-old woman has been charged with possession of property obtained by crime, under $5,000.

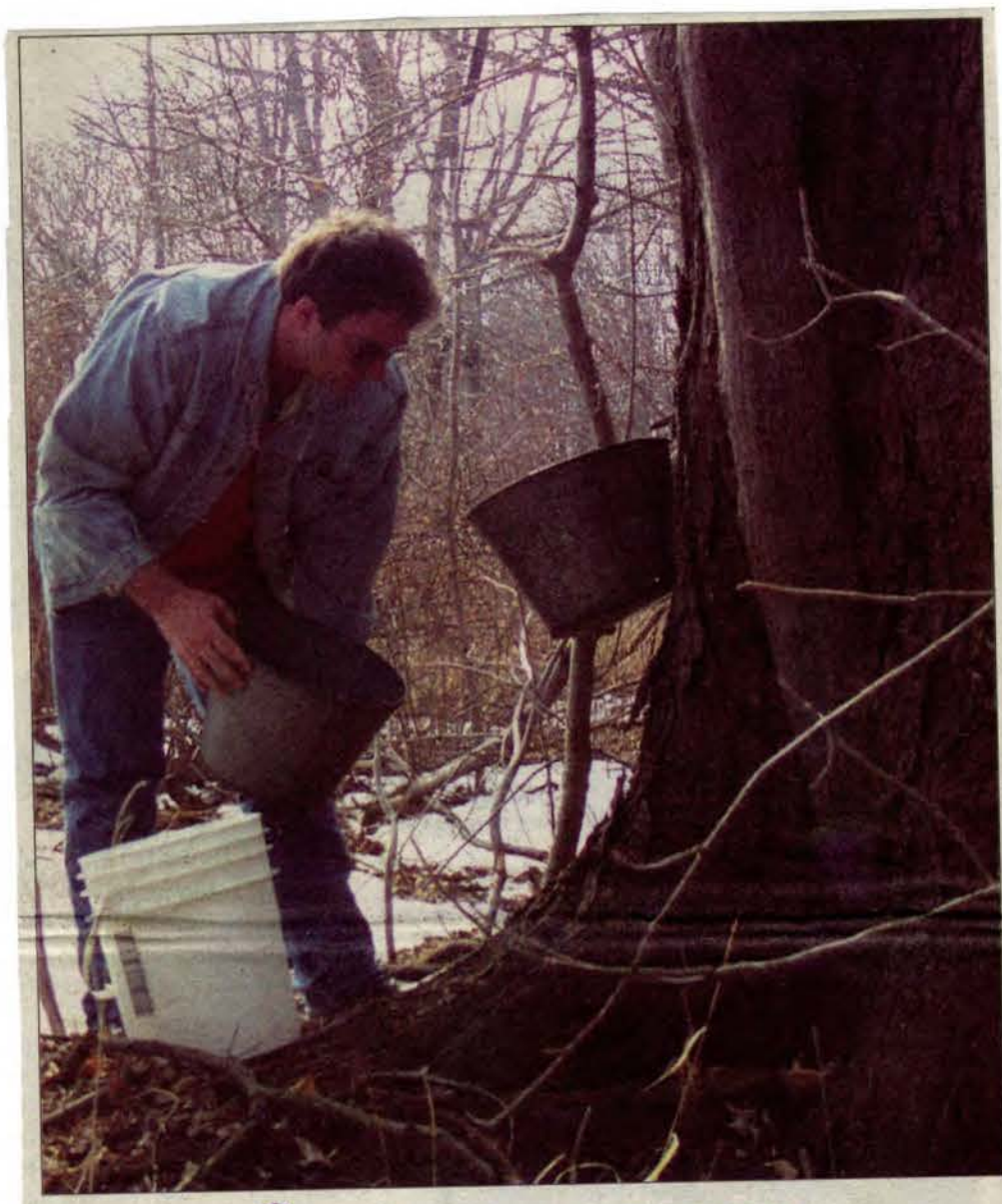
A 31-year-old man has been charged with three counts of possession of property obtained by crime under $5,000 and two counts of possession of a firearm obtained by crime.

A 31-year-old woman has been charged with three counts of possession of property obtained by crime.

A 43-year-old man has been charged with possession of property obtained by crime under $5,000 and two counts of breach of probation.

A 17-year-old male young offender has been charged with four counts of possession of property obtained by crime under $5,000, three counts of possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000, public mischief, break and enter, escape lawful custody, two counts of mischief under $5,000, two counts of possession of firearm obtained by crime.

CURRENT EVENTS 2003



Syrup season

Dave Huver empties the sap buckets from the trees he has tapped near the lakeshore south of Rodney. Unseasonably warm temperatures have hindered the flow of sap to be made into maple syrup. Buckets that are normally emptied twice a day are still not full after more than a day.



Big wheels

On a sunny day last Friday in West Lorne, Dylan Graham, 3 and Jake Lockrey, 2, check out the construction at the intersection of Main and Graham, as the crew continues work on upgrading the storm sewers. APR. 17/03

Sisters recognized in sports hall of fame

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

More than 50 years after dominating the diamonds as members of the Florence Chicks, West Lorne sisters, Jean Besley and Gwen Szabo's team is being inducted into the Dresden Sports Hall of Fame.

With players that could throw as hard or far as any man, the Chicks dominated the women's baseball scene in the region in the 1950s.

The stands were full for every game with crowds in excess of 1,000 to even 2,000 people coming out to watch.

"There were big crowds. There was no tv to watch then," said Besley.

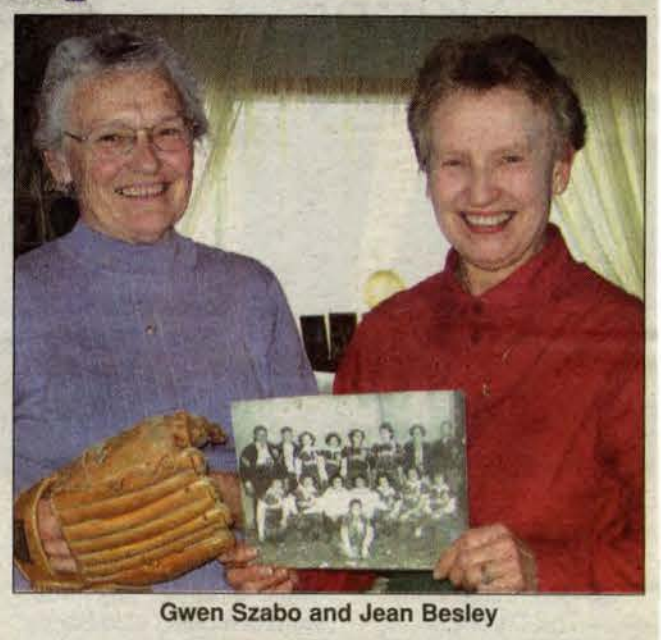
The team won five provincial titles that decade but Besley says it wasn't easy.

"I remember playing Mount Brydges one time and we played 14 innings," said Besley. "We won 2-1. I never forgot that."

It was one of their toughest games but she said most games were tight.

"You'd never know. They were just good games. They weren't walkaways," she said.

Besley played third base, right field and short stop for the Chicks, after being a catcher in West Lorne.



Gwen Szabo and Jean Besley

Her sister played first base.

"She was left-handed and it was pretty hard to beat her," said Besley.

Szabo didn't play with the team for as long as her sister but enjoyed every game.

"I watched them more than anything," she remembers of her time playing ball.

The two played for West Lorne before joining the Chicks but often went to Florence to watch the games.

"They were the best. Well, not quite because we beat them once," she said.



The 1950 Florence Chicks. In white blouses are Gwen Szabo and Jean Besley.

West Lorne was one of the teams that played against the Chicks and were almost always defeated.

Besley said there was a friendly rivalry but would never forget actually beating the Chicks before being recruited to the team.

Besley reluctantly admits that her and her sister's skills caught the attention of the Chick's manager, Wilbert North, his wife Doris and son Bob, who operated the team.

North owned a baby chick business and sold chicks to Besley's family farm, but the team had such a large following, they were well-known to Besley and Szabo without the family connection.

But North had watched the sisters play and saw something he liked in their skill.

Known for building a strong team, he recruited girls from a top London squad as well and was doing his best to keep the girls on top.

He liked their abilities enough that the sisters were picked up in West Lorne for games in Florence or away games across Ontario.

Beyond Ontario, the team's reputation was known in the United States as well.

Locally, they played in the Lambton-Kent County League with teams from Kent Bridge, Dresden, Rutherford, Wabash and Newbury.

The two grew up playing baseball in a family of seven siblings.

There were four girls and four boys and their parents that would play ball together on the farm when they were children.

Besley's mom and aunt both played on teams when the girls were growing up and she said fastball was just such a part of life in the area.

Szabo said the girls in the family played more ball than the boys.

"It really was just a lot of fun," said Besley.

Besley and Szabo were surprised last week to learn of the team's induction and aren't sure if they will be attending the April 12 dinner and induction ceremony, having received no official word from the Hall of Fame. 38

CURRENT EVENTS 2003

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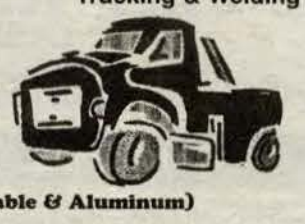
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CURRENT EVENTS 2003



Ariel Whalen performs Penguins in her Friday night presentation at the West Lorne Kiwanis Club's Talent Show.



Kelsey Shaw performed some contortionistic moves in her dance performance Friday night at the West Lorne Kiwanis Club Talent Show. The event was held April 25 and April 26 at the West Elgin Dramatics Society's theatre in Dutton.

Kiwanis Talent Show results

Friday evening

Opening Ceremonies featured the W.E.S.E.S. Choir.
Violin Solo. under 7 - Janine Noorloos
Violin Solo. age: 7 - Shayla Sample
Violin Solo, age: 11 - Hillary Hodder,
Conservatory only: - Molly McWilliams
Dance: Kelsey Shaw
Vocal Solo, age :10/11 - Shelby Wooley (" Handsome Butcher")
Vocal Solo, age :10/11 - Open Class - Hillary Hodder ("Who will buy")
Vocal Solo age: 13- - Nicola Borowski
Vocal Duet age: 11 - Allison Borton and Madison Hayes
Flute Solo , ages: 12 - 15 Sarah House
Violin Solo, age: 9 - 13 Sarah Oliveira, (9 yrs), Nicola Borowski (13 yrs)
Piano Solo, age: 13 - Conservatory - Lisi Hentz
Conservatory & Popular: Nicola Borowski
Piano Solo, age: 14 Amanda Ford
Piano Solo, Pop /Conservatory, age : 15- Sarah House
Piano Solo, pop /Conservatory, age: 16 - Candace Van den Dries
Piano Solo, Pop, age: 17 - Ashley Keane
Piano Solo, age: 15 - Michelle Smith
Piano Duet, age: 13 / 14 - Tracy Donaldson / Amanda Ford
Added: Vocal Solo, age: 16 - Erica Silver ("With A Song In My Heart")
Piano Solo, age: 15 - Pop /Conservatory: Sarah House
Piano Solo, age: 16 -Pop /Conservatory: Candace Van den Dries
Piano Solo Pop age: 17 : Ashley Keane
Piano Solo, age: 15 - Michelle Smith
Piano Duet, age: 13 / 14 Tracy Donaldson / Amanda Ford
Added--- Vocal Solo age: 16 - Erica Silver (With A Song In My Heart)

Saturday Afternoon

Piano Solo, age: 4 Janine Noorloos
Piano Solo, age:6 Rachel Frizzell
Piano Trio, age: 4- 8 - - Janine Noorloos, Megan and Danielle Dieleman
Piano Solo, age 7 - Tristan Fisher
Piano Solo, Pop /Conservatory, age: 8 - Katherine Stone
Piano Solo, age: 8 - Brandon Oliver- Ivey
Piano Duet, age 6 - Ryan and Rachel Frizzell
Piano Duet, age:8 - Allison Kornaker / Kayla Ross
Piano Duet, age: 10 Stephen and Brianne Carter
Piano duet, age: 7 - Ryan Alderton / Christin Fisher
Piano Duet, age :11 - Stephen van't Voort / Nathan Westerveld
Piano Duet, age: 9 / 12- Ian / Jordan McGuire
Piano Solo, Pop / Conservatory, age 9 - Scotty Schaffer
Conservatory only, age: 9 - Piano Solo, age: 10 - Brianne Carter
Piano Solo, age 10; Conservatory only: Andrew LaCroix
Vocal Solo, age 8/ 9 - Allison Kornaker
Vocal Solo, age: 12 - Open class: Vicki Close
Piano Solo, age: 12 - Rebecca Stone



Hillary Hodder performed in the open class for aged 10 and 11 entries in the vocal solo class.



John Kenneth Galbraith's sons, Peter, left, Allan and Jaime attended the unveiling of an Inuksuk monument to mark the Glabraith homestead. At right is town crier Dave Phillips whose wife, Jenny, organized the event.

Glabraith honoured, sends personal message

For The Chronicle

Dutton-Dunwich paid tribute to a famous native son Saturday, a man who loved the farm of his boyhood days and who eventually became a world-renown figure.

Saturday's one-hour ceremony, attended by about 100 friends, peers, neighbours and politicians, saw the unveiling of an inuksuk statue to John Kenneth Galbraith. The ceremony took place at the family homestead on Thompson Line, just outside Dutton. An inuksuk is an Inuit statue built from stone, meaning life of person.

Born in Dutton-Dunwich, Galbraith, now 94, worked on the farm as a boy before completing his high school education and moving on to the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, Ont. He later studied at the University of California, Berkeley and joined the faculty of Harvard University in 1934.

Galbraith administered price controls for the U.S. during the Second World War and went on to become a celebrated economist and statesman, serving as advisor to many presidents. Under President John F. Kennedy, he became U.S. ambassador to India and even as an American citizen, became the first non-resident of Canada to be awarded the Order of Canada.

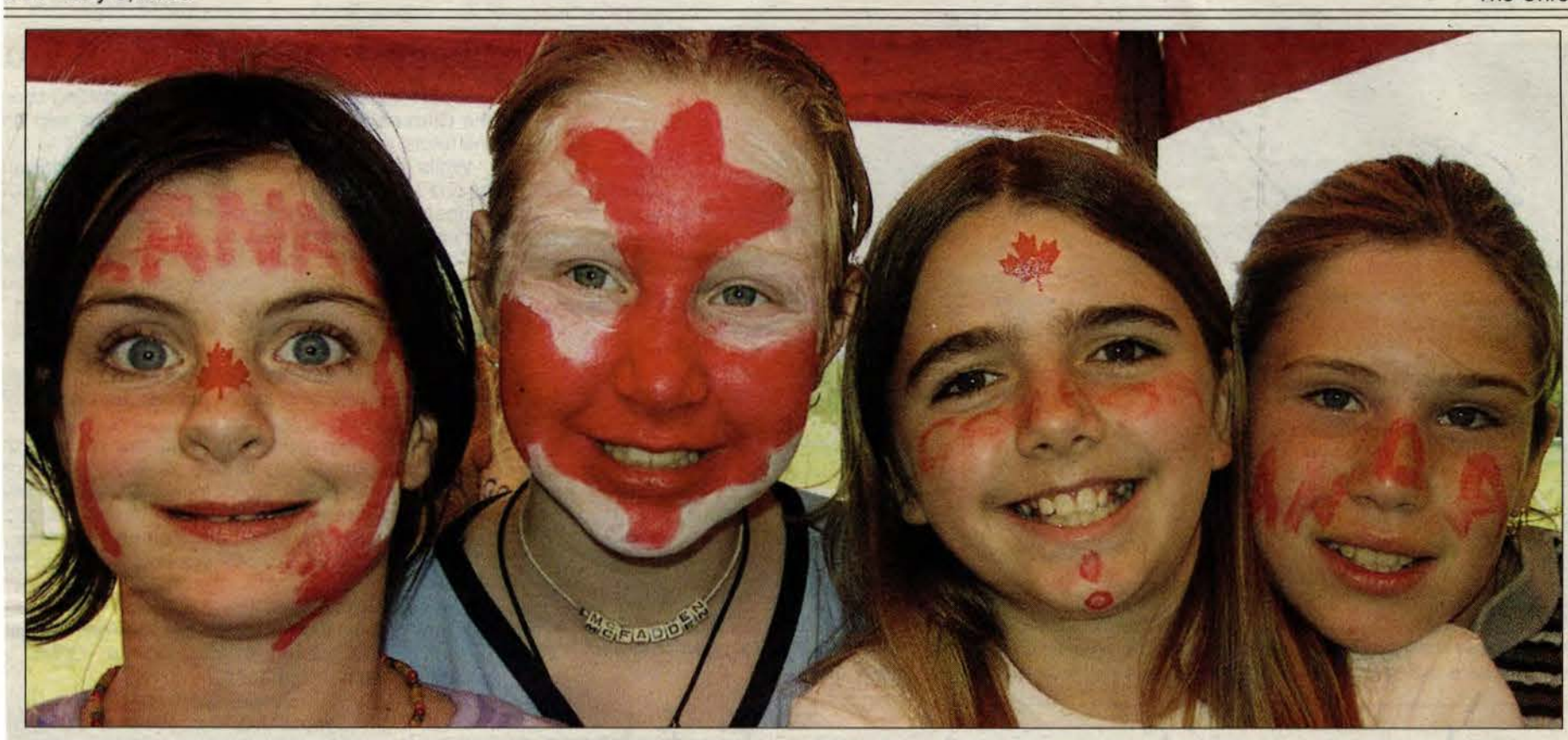
"Even though he has lived many years in the U.S., he has never forgotten to support this area," said Donald Page, a former chairman of the Toronto Stock Exchange.

"We honour a great Canadian and American who has done so much to shape discourse and public policy," said Morgan Hall, U.S. vice-consul general.

Hall said it was partly

Continued on page 2

40 MAY 22/03



Shalandra Wood, left, Ashley McFadden, Katie Dawson and Jessica DeGraw were among the Junior Optimists and friends who painted faces, including their own on Tuesday in Miller Park to help West Lorne residents celebrate Canada Day.

Crazy about Canada



Shelby Woolley competes in Dutton Idol, part of Canada Day activities in the park.



Samantha Hamelin, left, Sarah King and Mckayla Monden hold a "Go Shelby" sign during the Dutton Idol competition.



Caitlin Blake of Dutton spits a cherry seed during Dutton Canada Day celebrations and a cherry pit spitting competition.



James Gruenbauer competes.



Melissa Mann spits her seed.



Alyssa Monden sings Me and Little Andy by Dolly Parton at Dutton Idol.



Rob Reardon on fiddle joins Bob Miller on accordion. The two are part of Bob Bob A Lou, a Wardsville-area band that entertained during the West Lorne Army Cadets' roast beef dinner served at the West Lorne Arena before the fireworks. More Canada Day coverage appears next week.

Scott Hilgendorff photos



Caitlin's dad, Steve, competes in the class of the cherry pit spitting contest.

CURRENTS EVENTS 2003



A small group of drummers uses a variety of percussion instruments to create rhythmic music at Sharon Little's West Lorne area home. Little has started offering the program as a way to build community and help people overcome some of their fears about playing music.

Chronicle photo

Drum circles building community

Anyone can make music if they let go of their fear

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Walk the dog. Walk the dog. Walk the dog.

Say it to yourself out loud a few times and you can hear the rhythm in the words.

"Everyone has rhythm. Your heartbeat has a rhythm. You walk in rhythm. Life around you has rhythm," said Sharon Little.

Music and rhythm have almost always been part of her life. She's taught music in schools, leads the West Elgin Community Band and, most recently, has been promoting drum circles as a way to bring rhythm into anyone's life.

"People think they have to be at higher levels to be any good at making music. Yet people go out and play baseball for fun or skate for fun. They don't feel like they have to be a Wayne Gretzkey to play hockey. Something about music, you feel like you have to have some bizarre talent," she said.

Yet it puzzles her why people hold themselves back from playing and enjoying music the way they would sports and other recreational activities.

"I'm trying to break down the barriers people have," said Little, who holds drum circles in her home for now, but is looking for a bigger venue as the popularity grows.

A drum circle is one way she's trying to do that, helping people get past their fears and negative thoughts toward playing music, so they can see they can also go out in the world and do anything.

"We can't share our gifts when we're afraid," she said.

Drum circles have been around since times of indigenous cultures around the world.

Today, Little said the drum circles are mostly held to make connections between people and to build a sense of community in them.

She said they are used in various forms in homes for the aged, schools and prisons and in corporate conferences for team building.

The circle is nothing more than a group of people coming together to make rhythmic sounds, using percussion devices rather than more complicated musical instruments.

It requires no experience at all and complete novices can find themselves contributing to the group within minutes, whether or not they've ever played music before.

There's no sheet music to follow, Little simply leads the group through different exercises and methods of generating the rhythms and in minutes, percussion-based music is filling her home.

"For us to make music is completely natural," said Little.

Through the drum circles, she's watched people let go of the fears that hold them back.

Julie Morris of Iona Station was one of those fearful people who timidly began with the group when Little held her first drum circle earlier this summer.

"I was really apprehensive about coming. I'm not musical," she said.

She called Little, thinking the idea of a drum circle sounded inviting and interesting, but wasn't sure if she would really be able to participate. She had little musical experience and was apprehensive about starting.

Those fears are all gone now. During a break from a circle held late last month, Morris said, "When we all get into a groove, it's an amazing feeling. There's the idea of the whole being greater than its parts."

It was only her third time out.

"It's a wonderful feeling when you get going and listening to each other. When you focus on that one rhythm, you shut down everything else. All the stresses disappear. It's a sense of release. It's like you get into a zone," she said.

The other participants laugh at how timid Morris was, tentatively playing the drums and hesitant to make mistakes.

"There are no mistakes," she said, as she now plays as much and as assertively as the most experienced drummers in the group.

Driving home, Morris said she finds herself drumming rhythms on the steering wheel and even at home, where she has no drums, she's found other ways to practice rhythm.

"The dogs didn't' like it when I emptied their water bowls," she said.

Little's next drum circle is Aug. 11 at 7:30 p.m. and she is hoping to hold more in the fall.



Julie Morris



Sharon Little leads the group in a new rhythm pattern while Dick Hale finds his drumming pattern.

Chronicle photo

CURRENT EVENTS 2003

Risk of ash borer remains high for Elgin County

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Elgin County remains at a high risk for infestation of the emerald ash borer, a new insect to North America that is devastating the ash tree population in Essex County and being closely watched in the county by members of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

"In your area, you are in a high risk for the emerald ash borer," said Ken Marchant, a forestry specialist with the CFIA, currently working in an office in Essex, set up just to handle the ash borer crisis.

> "IN YOUR AREA, YOU ARE IN A HIGH RISK FOR THE EMERALD ASH BORER,"
> — Ken Marchant, forestry specialist, Canada Food Inspection Agency

The insect first appeared early last summer in Essex County and has already destroyed an undetermined number of ash trees.

Now, the area is under quarantine in an effort to prevent the insect from spreading. The quarantine means no unfinished, untreated wood products can be moved outside Essex County including firewood and nursery stock.

"It's a very difficult insect to control, almost impossible," Marchant said. "You don't know it's there until it's too late."

He said it does most of its damage inside the tree and by the time a person can see signs of an infestation, it is too late to save the tree.

He also said people in Elgin County have no idea just how devastating it would be if the borer spreads this far.

"Ash is a major component of woodlots in the area," he said, adding the ash tree is an environmentally important tree.

He said it grows easily in woodlots and is an important component of reforestation as it forces out weed varieties that overpower other trees like maples, that stand a better chance of repopulating when ash trees are present.

"Ash is one of few species that can outmuscle more harmful species," Marchant said. "It's loss would be a disaster with a capital "D" for Canada."

Right now, Marchant said the biggest worry about controlling the spread of the borer is people.

"People are the main cause of its spread," he said, adding it is largely through people moving firewood from out of the quarantine area.

After the first year of studying the insect, he said they now have proof it has been spread through the movement of firewood.

Anyone caught transporting wood outside the quarantine area is subject to large fines, said Marchant, adding as much as they are monitoring the movement of the insect, the agency is also monitoring movement of wood in the quarantine area.

2003

Continued on Page 2



MESSED UP FUN...

Grade 9 students were welcomed to West Elgin Secondary School Friday with an afternoon of games that involved oatmeal and other messes. *Chronicle photo*

Oct. 2/03

From a cancer survivor's perspective



by Rosalie Krebsz

It was only two weeks ago, on a sunny and brisk Sunday, that I was overcome by emotion so strong it brought tears to my eyes and my lips quivering. Hundreds of pink balloons decorated the stage, a rock band was playing and the mood was festive yet sad. I was with some friends in the midst of 30,000 people in Toronto at the CIBC Run For The Cure for Breast Cancer. What an awesome sight! All of these people in white T shirts with pink ribbons, running for someone special and raising over $311,000 for the Cure. As I looked around I saw a young mother pushing a baby carriage. She was obviously taking chemo and had lost her hair. I saw families walking together in honour of a loved one, smiling and holding on tightly to each other. Some were walking with their dogs that had pink ribbons on their collars.

I am a two time breast cancer survivor and on that day, I remembered a busy life that would be disrupted by fatigue, nausea and pain. It soon will be nine years since I was diagnosed. After the diagnosis ... what next?

First you cry, then your loved ones cry with you as you break the news. Your heart almost stops beating, waves of fear overcome you; you are so frightened and confused. After feeling all of this, I realized it was time to fight back and get on with it.

I believe that it is important with any disease or illness; you can do a number of things. Do your best! Learn to live with it, learn to live around it and learn to live in spite of it. Just live!

I can't begin to tell you how much the support of my loved ones meant to me, and how they helped me in my recovery. There are many times when we need help and people do feel good when they can help others.

Just over a year ago, I went through six weeks of radiation treatments, with my family and friends taking turns driving me in each day. There is so much support in our community, such as this issue on awareness, a Reach for Recovery program, and all of the wonderful volunteer drivers.

Medical treatments have improved immensely over the years and just last week a new drug was put on the market that I know will benefit me. Before my surgery, I told my doctor that I was in God's hands and his so please do a good job. He replied that he would do the best he could and I was comforted. I truly have been blessed with the care I have received from all of my doctors.

Hope offers cancer patients a brighter tomorrow. It is what a person diagnosed needs above all else. Because only with hope and faith can there be survival and ultimately a return to health.

On that sunny day in Toronto, I remember talking to a stranger telling her I was a survivor. I asked her how many years for her and she replied "one!". Then I told her I had eight years. She embraced me and with tears in her eyes, she said "I hope I look as well as you do in eight years." I was so moved.

Cancer has changed me. A life I thought should continue forever, is suddenly shown to have an ending. Yet, what cancer has given me, is the gift of recognizing that each and everyone of our days is precious - a gift to be used wisely, and richly enjoyed. God Bless.

From the heart and pen of Rosalie Krebsz in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

CURRENT EVENTS 2003

Erie winds could become power source

Nov. 6 2003

By Patrick Brennan
For The Chronicle

They say it's windy along the Lake Erie shoreline, but is there enough wind to power some turbines?

Test results from turbines erected in different areas in Elgin county along the Lake Erie shoreline should provide some answers in about a year, according to Chuck Edey, a senior business development officer with Ontario Power Generation.

One of the turbines is located on Dennis Zettler's property on Plum Point Road in Dutton/Dunwich.

Edey said the five others in Elgin are closer to Port Burwell. It's part of an Ontario Power Generation series of tests to determine where wind powered turbines to produce electricity will work best in the province.

Edey said OPG was urged to explore the Lake Erie shoreline as one test area.

"Everybody says it's windy out here," he said.

Surprisingly enough, he said, meteorological records show the windiest periods are the winter months.

Data is retrieved from the turbines by calling a cell phone.

The turbines will be hard to miss on the landscape. They stand approximately 360 feet high and are equipped with instrumentation to measure wind speed temperature and humidity. The turbine blades are 80 metres in diameter.

"It's attracting a lot of attention," Edey admits.

Attached to the scientific community exploring wind generation in Canada are meteorologists, engineers who erect the turbines, specialists in hydro generation and physicists.

As eye-catching as they appear, Edey said the turbines are nothing more than the latest generation of windmills erected centuries ago in countries like Holland to take advantage of the wind.

"This isn't a new science to the world, only Ontario," Edey said. "These are very sophisticated machines, but, they're much quieter than the old windmills."

A simple formula gives a glimpse at how much energy one turbine can produce. Doubling the windspeed going through the turbine nets eight times the energy, Edey said.

Finding the best place to put them is an adventure he admitted.

"It's a lot like hunting for gold," he said. Scientists know there are many potential places to put them, but finding the best place is a challenge.

Edey said the turbines being tested in Ontario are either a design from General Electric or a Danish firm.

"We don't design them ourselves, we take ones off the shelf."

The Chronicle — NOV 6/03

Remembrance Day a time to pause



On the Hill

by Gar Knutson

Nov. 11.

From coast to coast to coast, it's a day that gives Canadians time for pause. Indeed, it's a day that gives us all an opportunity to reflect on Canada's history, as well as what Canada is, and stands for in the world today. Above all, it is an occasion to think about the valiant men and women who sacrificed their lives in the interests of their country – our country.

On Remembrance Day, we think about the more than 1.5 million Canadians who fought for Canada in the First World War (1914-1918), the Second World War (1939-1945) and the Korean War (1950-1953). We recognize the more than 100,000 soldiers who died, and the enormous sacrifices made by their families – families split apart by war and tragedy. We also think about the men and women who have sacrificed their lives in the service of peace in such faraway places as Bosnia, and those who continue to defend our country and our interests today.

At the same time, we recognize the significance of what it is they have fought for, namely the values, freedoms and way of life that we cherish and are privileged to enjoy today. This includes the liberties that we take for granted, our ability to actively participate in political, social and cultural life in Canada, and the rights that protect us – all embodied in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which governs our everyday lives.

As Canadians, we remember those who gave their lives for us by wearing poppies – the flower of remembrance. We recall the poem In Flanders Fields, written by Lieutenant Colonel John McRae – a Canadian – during the second battle of Ypres, in the spring of 1915. We take part in Remembrance Day services and activities in our local communities. This includes observing two minutes of silence, which offers each and every one of us the chance to reflect privately on peace, and the forces that have shaped our country's great history.

There are many ways you can become involved in honouring our veterans and those who have made the supreme sacrifice. You can attend one or more of the many ceremonies taking place in the riding of Elgin-Middlesex-London. Purchase a poppy from members of the Royal Canadian Legion and proudly wear your poppy: it is an international symbol of remembrance, in tribute to the men and women who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.

In this regard, at a time when we are all much more acutely aware of how important peace truly is, today we can appreciate even more, our Canadian heroes, their bravery, and the great sacrifices they made.





BLASTED BY WINDS...

Last Thursday's high winds ripped through western Elgin County uprooting trees and tossing limbs around. Above, Wentworth Newman and Julie Begin-Newman look out on the damage caused to their home when two trees from the front lawn came crashing down Thursday morning. At right, a tree blocked Fingal Line in Southwold pulling down a power line. Police reported numerous calls about trees falling down but through it all, power was not lost in western Elgin County.

Chronicle photo

NOV 20/03

CURRENT EVENTS 2003

Paramedics make special delivery



Baby boy delivered in ambulance at crossroad in Wardsville

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

When West Lorne's newest edition came into the world last week, he was supposed to be born in a London hospital, not in the back of an ambulance in Wardsville, the opposite direction.

But Jeff and Linda Cipu are glad paramedics John Bryan and Rob Redman of the Dutton station for the Rodney Ambulance Service, were there when plans for the birth of their second child went astray early last Thursday morning.

"It was quite a rush," said Jeff on Friday, his wife back home already from what could have been an ordeal.

"It was quite an experience. I'd have never imagined anything quite like this," said Linda, who, through her pain, barely had time to realize what was actually happening.

"They did really great," Jeff said of the paramedics who delivered their second child, eight-pound Brett Jeffrey Cipu at 2:19 a.m.

It was the fifth time Linda had experienced labour pains; two placed her in the hospital and family had to take care of their two-year-old daughter Lauren, while they spent a night at the hospital only to find out it was false labour.

When Linda felt the labour pains again last week, they decided to wait a little longer before making another mad dash to London.

It was for real this time.

Talking to the hospital on his cell phone from Highway 401 to tell them they were coming, a nurse could tell from Linda's screams there wasn't going to be time.

An ambulance was needed and the nurse told them to pull over at Dutton and call "911".

They arranged to meet the ambulance at the OPP detachment and got there in minutes where an officer gave the couple some blankets .

No time for a London hospital, they informed a surprised Four Counties Hospital in Newbury that the ambulance was on its way and the hospital, without an obstetrics program, needed to be ready to deliver a baby.

Jeff was helping Bryan in the back of the ambulance, getting things he needed while Redman, his fifth month on the job, was in the driver's seat, racing against the baby to reach the hospital.

> "THAT WAS MY FIRST DELIVERY IN 12 YEARS ON THE JOB,"
>
> **— Paramedic John Bryan**

"I was kind of working as an ambulance attendant," said Jeff, as he assisted Bryan in the care of his wife.

They didn't make it to the hospital.

Jeff said Bryan all of a sudden yelled at Redman to stop the ambulance and call ahead. The baby was coming right then.

"The little fellow just wouldn't wait. It was strenuous. I don't need to do it again," said Bryan, adding he has been through the delivery of his own two children but never in an emergency situation at the side of the road.

They were at the hill in Wardsville on Furnival Road.

Bryan said they knew they couldn't make it to London in time and even without obstetrics, wanted to see the child born in a hospital setting, choosing Four Counties as their best chance at making it.

While they didn't make it, Dr. Stephen Jones, nurse Gabriella Ross and two nursing students from the hospital raced to meet them by car to help.

By the time they got there Brett was

OCT 9/03

Continued on Page 3



Linda Cipu holds newborn Brett while dad, Jeff, holds his two-year-old sister, Lauren. Brett was welcomed into the world by paramedics Rob Redman and John Bryan, bottom photo, left to right. The Dutton station of the Rodney Ambulance Service was called out early Thursday morning to meet the Cipus on Currie Road in Dutton. Linda was not going to be able to make it to Victoria Hospital in London and a nurse advised them to call 911 from the roadside.

Chronicle photo

Tribute given to John Kenneth Galbraith

Dutton Library named after him

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Professor John Kenneth Galbraith extended his own honours to the Dutton/Dunwich community and library in a letter read by his nephew, Jerry Galbraith at a special ceremony to officially rename the Dutton library as the John Kenneth Galbraith Reference Library.

"The honour you pay me is great. Your service to the community is much more," said Galbraith in his letter read last Wednesday night, regarding staff at the library.

While the guest of honour couldn't be there, a video tape of the event was being sent by courier to his Massachusetts home, where Galbraith is awaiting the release of yet another in a series of business and economic titles he has written.

His letter, written with humour, was one of the highlights of the evening, which featured a celebration of the renaming of the library in conjunction with Galbraith's 95th birthday yesterday and the library's 10th anniversary.

"There was a sense of discovery," said Galbraith in his letter of his time exploring the aisles in the original Dutton library he discovered as a high school student.

The library provided a means to quench his thirst for reading that, until then, had been left parched by little resources for a young boy growing up in a rural area.

In his letter, he humourously described the books available in stores in St. Thomas that would sometimes be bought for him as a child.

One series told tales of the adventures of a young girl living on a plantation at the time of the civil war and her eventual escape to Italy.

He asked what in the world kind of relevance those stories had to a farm boy growing up in Dunwich Township, before he found the library and resources there he could consume.

In later years, he said he watched the library grow and change, seeing the new building, new staff and new collections of books.

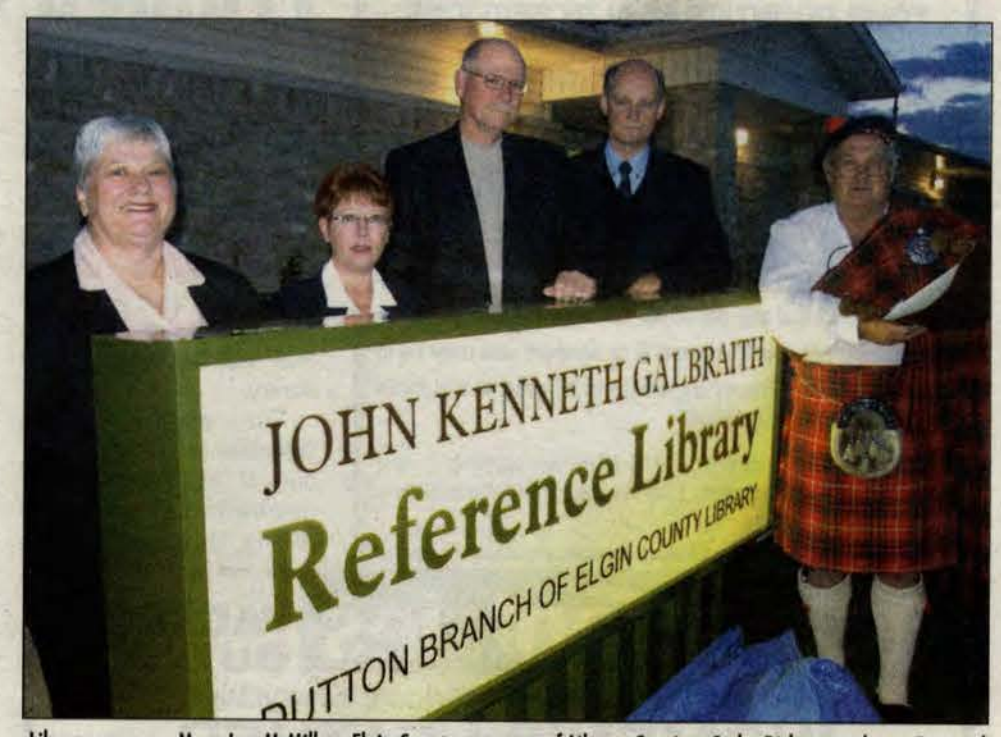
Ten years ago, Galbraith took an active role in fundraising for the new library. As a renowned economist and political advisor to several US presidents, including John F. Kennedy, Galbraith came to Dutton and held a speaking engagement at the University of Western Ontario, to help raise funds for the project.

"You get an impression of just how respected and important this man is when you see all these people here," said nephew Ron Galbraith of the crowd of more than 50 people who packed into the library branch for the event.

Representing the Galbraith family, he said the event and turnout honoured them.

OCT 23/03

Continued on Page 2



Library manager Mary Lou McMillan, Elgin County manager of Library Services Cathy Bishop, nephews Ron and Jerry Galbraith and town crier Dave Phillips unveil the new sign for the former Dutton Library.

Chronicle photo

T'IS THE SEASON



Noah Heard meets Santa Claus Friday night at the West Lorne Fire Hall. The Optimist Club invited Santa to meet with children after their parade.

Chronicle photo



While there was no snow for the parade Friday night, the West Elgin road's department was out in force with Christmas spirit in West Lorne.

See Page 11 for more photos DEC. 11, 2003

CURRENT EVENTS 2003



Ann Pfeifer, left, and Emma Wilkins were sledding their way through the Santa Claus Parade with friend Steve Wilkins (not shown) on the Pfeifer Metal Products float.

Chronicle photo

OPTIMIST CLUB OF WEST LORNE NIGHT-TIME SANTA CLAUS PARADE WINNERS

Best youth group - tied
1st West Lorne Sparks
1st West Lorne Girl Guides

Best Illuminated
Albert's Generator Service

Best Commercial Float
Rockland Industrial Products

Best Service Club Float
Employment Services Elgin

Best Family Float
Melody Fellowship Church

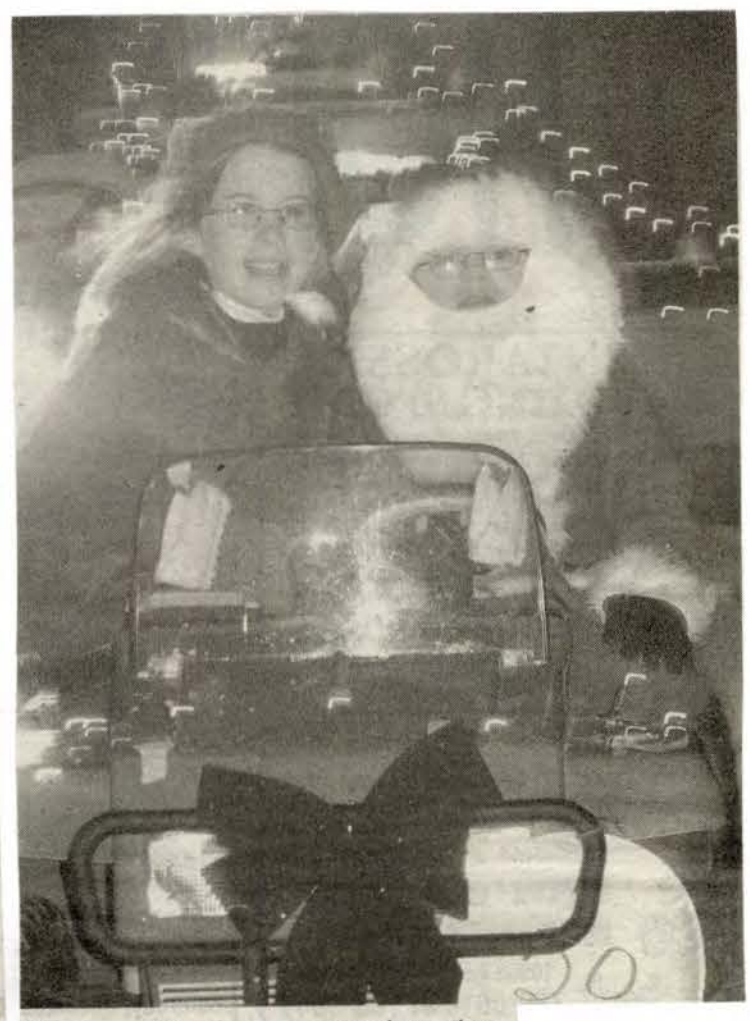
Best Decorated Float
Rodney Firefighters Assoc.



A flock of shepherds gathered on the float entry from Melody Fellowship Church.



Corrie Monaghan portrays Charlie Brown on the Rodney Lions Club entry in the West Lorne Optimist Club's Santa Claus parade.



Kylie Beer and Ben Thompson portrayed Mrs. Claus and Santa, at least, miniature versions of the famous pair, at the Optimist Club of West Lorne's Santa Claus Parade Friday night.

Chronicle photo



Sammy Wilson, left, Emma McDonnaugh, Emily Guigan and Aaliyah Clark sang carols on the float by the First West Lorne Sparks.

Chronicle photo

Scott Hilgendorff photos

DEC. 11 /03

EDUCATION WESS ACTIVITIES 2001

WESS prom was a great success according to organizers

by Keith Peever
The Chronicle

West Elgin Secondary School's prom this year was a great success based upon the feelings of the students, the school staff and the local police.

Sarah Langelaan, prom committee co-president and student said afterwards the event went off "amazingly."

For the first time the high school held the evening dinner at the school.

Langelaan said this made the prom a success because it insured that the students stayed at the school the whole evening.

"I think it really gets the people together and it certainly cuts down on the drinking and driving."

A special awards presentation was also held during the evening, where students could let loose with some special awards to faculty and certain students.

Langelaan, who co-produced the prom with fellow student Heather Kindornay, said the school should definitely look at having the dinner held at the high school next year.

"I think it really brings the graduating class together," said Langelaan.



WESS prom Princess Joanne Freeman dances with her Prince, Greg Nogrady. Freeman and Nogrady were selected along with Kelly McGill as prom King and Sophia Salgado as prom Queen. The WESS prom was a great success with no incidents.



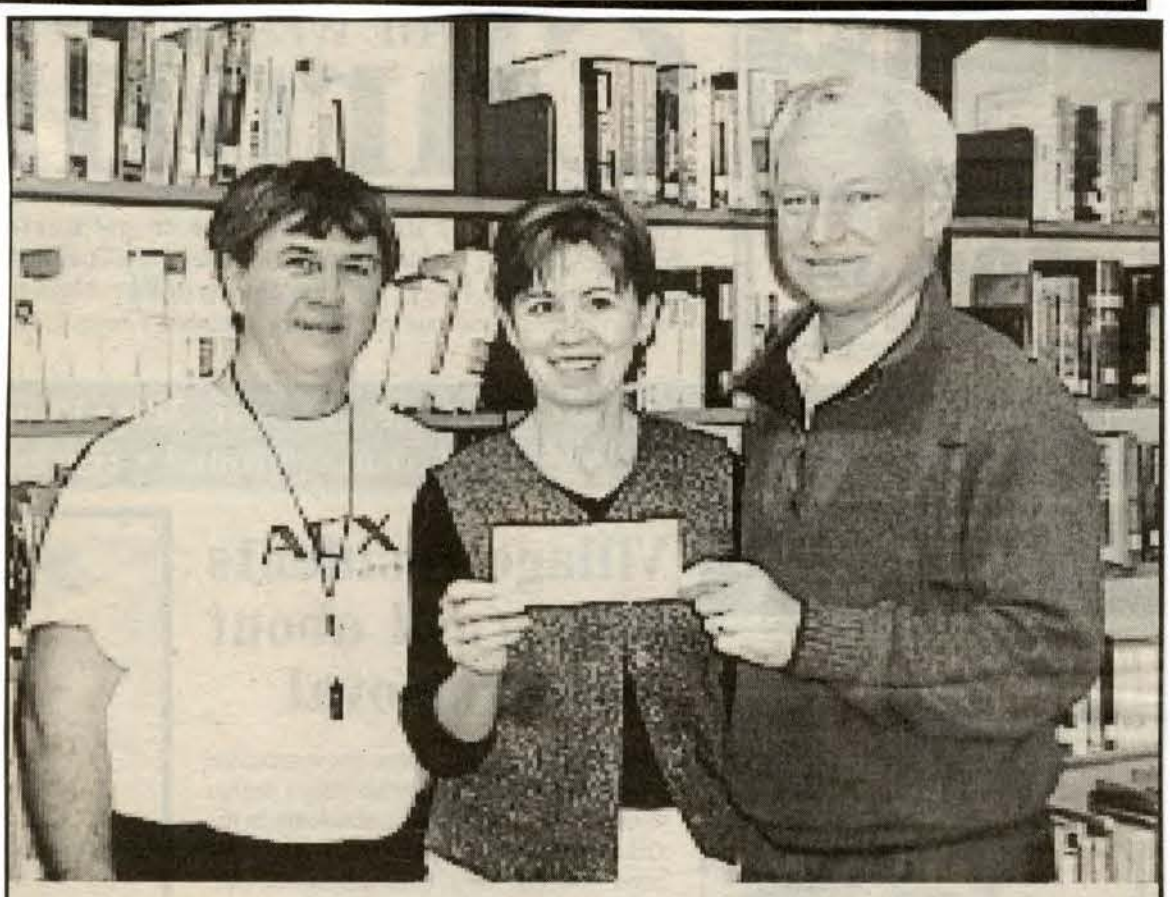
Serenade Future Students

Grade 8 students and their parents got a special treat when they attended the Grade 9 information night recently at West Elgin Secondary School. Members of Crescendos, left to right, Sarah Fischer, Scott Bray and Amanda Breen, performed for the visitors as well as being on hand for questions in the music room.



So, this is science

There was a great response to the recent information night held at West Elgin Secondary School for students entering grade 9 next year. A tour of the school was included in the session. Here, WESS Principal Martha Foster, right, goes over some of the highlights of the biology lab with Mike Van Raay and his father, Bert.



Encouraging Reading

With the presentation of a $1,000 cheque to the West Elgin Secondary School Friends of the Library, the Rodney Kiwanis Club has now provided two large comfortable chairs for the school library's reading pit. The area is a great place to hang out and read a good book. The funds were raised at a Quiz Night held on January 19th. WESS librarian Thea Schaeken, centre accepts the donation from Rodney Kiwanis Club vice-president Alan Youngash, left, and president Jim Hathaway. FEB. 12, 2001

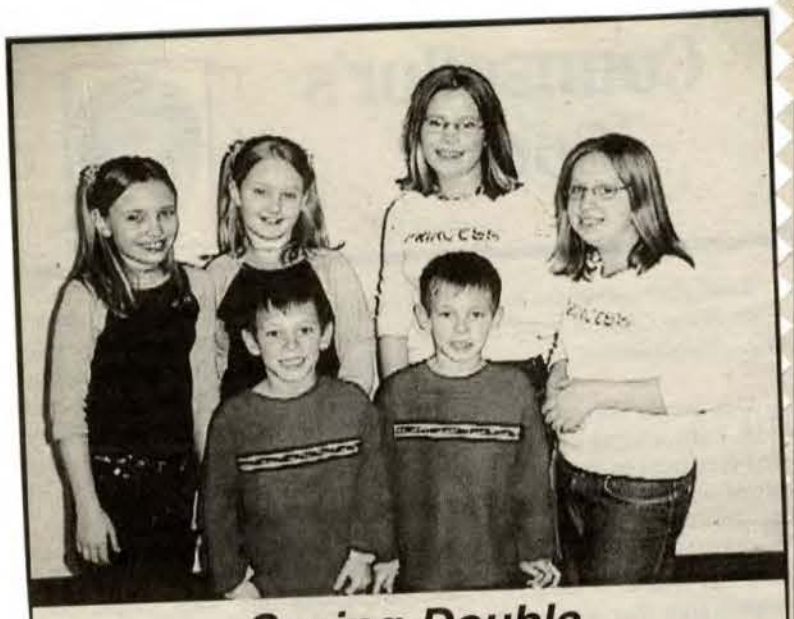


Fabulous fundraiser

Students at Aldborough Public School made a heart-warming donation to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Through their Jump Rope for Heart event, the school raised a total of $4,867.33 for this worthy organization. Pictured, holding the cheque are the students who raised the most individually: Sandra Hind, left, $425.00, and Brent Dunn, $269. In back are, organizers Mrs. Jane Jarvis and Sheila Fleming, and Sharanne MacDonald, Program Co-ordinator School Events for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. JUNE 2001

SCHOOL SPORTS - EDUCATION 2001

The West Elgin Chronicle APRIL 2001



Seeing Double

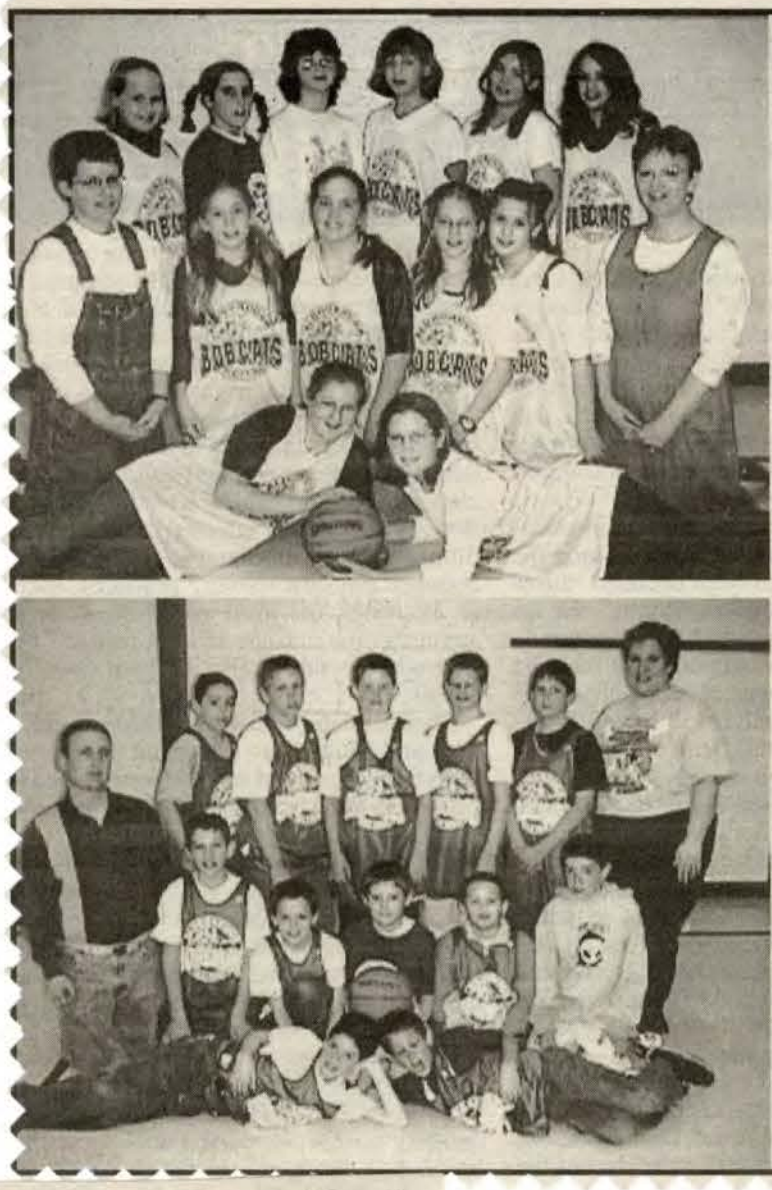
People were doing a double check at Aldborough Public School recently thanks to Twin Day. Among those taking part were, in front, real life twins Matt and Dylan Vanseader, and back row, Amanda Jamieson and Jessica Gregory, and Kourtney Arvai and Caitlin Tomczyk. MAR. 26/01



Hockey champs!

The St. Mary's Hockey team won their first-ever London District Catholic School Board hockey title recently. They worked together and showed sportsmanship that was seen by all other participants. They put incredible effort into this as a team and each player contributed in his or her own unique way and everyone was an asset to the team. Congratulations to all who participated, both as players and coaches. Team members include, from left to right: front row - Jeremy Conway, Adam Almeida, Clint Hilliard, Cameron Hewitt and Bradley Oliveira; middle row - Justin Hwang, Paul Culetta, Matt Emery, Jacob Welch, Danny Casimiro, Kraig McGaffey and teacher/coach Krista Fox; back row - assistant coach Stuart McCallum, assistant coach Mike McCallum, coach Jeff Slater, Andrew Okolisan, Connor Wilson, Kylie Slater, assistant coach Heather McCallum, Caitlin McCallum and Gillian Collins.

The West Elgin Chronicle MARCH 2001



Hoops Season Ends

The Aldborough Public School Basketball teams enjoyed a good year, learning to work together and showing good sportsmanship and lots of Bobcat spirit. Both the girls and boys teams took part in the Thames Valley regional tournament. Members of the girls team, top photo, are, left to right: front row - Kanda Ocolisan and Kourtney Arvai; second row - coach Mrs. Fleming, Brittany Hein, Rhonda Knight, Katie Vande Vooren, Danielle Wilson, coach Mrs. Pease; back row - Krysta Walker, Sara Peternel, Kim Kriter, Courtney Besley, Meghan Nagy and Rachel Humphrey. Members of the boys team include, left to right: front - Aaron Cowell and Peter Mohan; second row - coach Mr. Dunn, Wyatt Ocolisan, Jeremy Koscik, Jared Smith, Jeff Koscik, Will Ullayat; back row - Billy Nunes, Philip Ouellette, Harrison Oake, John Connolly, Matt Szusz and coach Mrs. Pearson.

The West Elgin Chronicle

Local teen recognized for recycling efforts

Katie Slater received top marks for her three Rs of waste management - reduce, re-use and recycle - from the Recycling Council of Ontario.

The Grade 8 student at St. Mary's School was presented with a Willy Harris Youth Award at a special ceremony in Guelph on April 18th, one of only three teens chosen for the 2000 Waste Minimization Awards.

She was recognized for leadership in her school's participation in a new recycling program introduced this year by the London District Catholic School Board.

Katie set up the school's recycling program and organized a team of studetns to collect each classroom's recyclables and have them stored properly until the monthly pick-up date. She also organized a school assembly to kick-off the recycling program as well as special activities such as a garbage-less lunch day, and an environmental scavenger hunt.



Katie Slater

Katie also wrote a recycling handbook along with making presentations on environmental subjects.

"Katie's efforts have been outstanding and have reached all students," her citation says.

"She is a role model and her teachers say there is no limit to what she can do."

Katie also had some special events planned for Earth Day.

She was nominated for the award by Ms. Giampa, the teacher supervisor of the recycling program.

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES 2001

Ann Wrobel receives new school board award

Ann Wrobel was very surprised to learn that she would be one of 23 people receiving the Thames Valley District School Board's Award of Distinction.

The new awards were handed out at a special ceremony on May 1st. The 23 individuals included staff, volunteers, parents and a student.

Presenting these awards is to become an Education Week tradition with the TVDSB.

"These recipients come from all corners of the district and are contributing to our system in diverse ways," said Director of Eudcation John Laughlin. "Yet, in their own way, each of these individuals exemplify our Board's mission and beliefs; they have all distinguished themselves through their commitment, dedication and achievements in support of a caring learning community."

"Overwhelmed would be putting it mildly," said Ann Wrobel, when asked about her reaction to learning about the award. "I had no idea I was even nominated."

Mrs. Wrobel, who has been the cafeteria manager at West Elgin Secondary School for 13 years, was nomiated by Berta Prelaz, a member of the teaching staff at WESS.

Her husband, John Wrobel, and members of the WESS staff surprised her with a limousine ride to the ceremony at the board office in London.

Mrs. Wrobel is very involved in the school and was one of the coaching staff that helped guide the senior girls' volleyball team to a provincial silver medal this year.

"The kids make my job...they make it a pleasure to come to work each day," she said.



Receive inaugural award

Ann Wrobel, pictured, was surprised to learn she was chosen to receive one of the first Thames Valley District School Board's Awards of Distinction in recognition of her "service and dedication in helping to build a caring learning community."

FEB. 19, 2001



Mark Milestone

Members of Sharon Nielson's Junior Kindergarten classes at West Elgin Senior Elementary School celebrated a very special day recently. The new students have now attended 100 days of school! Among the 100 things they did was make these festive masks.

(photo supplied)

The West Elgin Chronicle

APR. 23, 2001

Creating links to literacy for children

Giving parents ideas for ways to prepare their children to enter school is the mission behind the upcoming "Links to Literacy" event.

This information night will be held on Wednesday, May 2nd at West Elgin Senior Elementary School from 6:30-8 p.m.

The evening will feature guest speakers on how to make literacy fun for kids.

Noreen Lanning, a JK/SK teacher from Sparta Public School, will talk about "celebrating your children" and helping them get ready for school, and Suzanna Suchak will present "Tyke Talk," connecting with your children through storytelling at dinnertime, etc.

The event is also designed to be an information fair with a number of community groups such as the West Elgin Community Health Centre, Parent Child Resource Centre, recreation and libraries, having displays. There will be time at the beginning and end of the session for people to look at the displays.

"Links to Literacy" is meant for families of children ages newborn to 6-years-old who will attend Dunwich-Dutton, Aldborough and West Elgin Senior Elementary schools.

Children are welcome to accompany their parents as child care will be provided.

Refreshments will be available and door prizes will be awarded.

For more information please call 785-2164.





Encouraging Involvement

The students at West Elgin Secondary School were treated to a behind-the-scenes slide presentation of the Sydney Olympics thanks to coach Barrie Shepley, second from left. He was thanked for his visit by SAA co-presidents Catherine Schneider, left, and Janneke Fleuren, second from right. Robert Taylor, right, chiropodist at the West Elgin Community Health Centre and an avid athlete himself, helped arrange for Mr. Shepley to speak at the school for the Healthy Heart Challenge. MAR. 12, 2001

2001

WEST ELGIN SECONDARY SCHOOL ONTARIO SCHOLARS

The Principal has recommended to the Minister of Education that the following students be recognized as Ontario Scholars



Tiffany Barber
Wallacetown
Parents: Jim & Denise Barber
School: Carleton Univesity
Program: Criminology and Criminal Justice



Tina Boyd
Dutton
Parents: Cindy & Tab Boyd
School: McMaster University
Program: Nursing



Leanne Carroll
West Lorne
Parents: Alan & Karen Carroll
School: University of W.O.
Program: B.A. in Art History



Tara Lee Chambers
Dutton
Parents: Debra & Brian Chambers
School: University of Ottawa
Program: Criminology & Criminal Justice



Amy Champigny
Rodney
Parents: Marcel & Lyn Champigny
School: University of W.O.
Program: Music



Amy Coates
Rodney
Parents: Jane & Nick Coates
School: University of Toronto
Program: Forensic Science



Natalie Ford
Rodney
Parents: Thomas & Lynda Ford
School: University of Guelph
Program: Agricultural Business



Jeremy Karn
Rodney
Parents: Robert W. & Ruth Karn
School: University of Waterloo
Program: Software Engineering



Erin Deyle
Rodney
Parents: Jacob & Cate Deyle
School: Brescia College at UWO
Program: Honours in French



Tim Koscik
West Lorne
Parents: Richard & Heather Koscik
School: University of Toronto
Program: Arts and Science



Sarah Langelaan
Wallacetown
Parents: Emiel Langelaan
School: Wilfred Laurier
Program: Honours Bachelor of Music



Sara McCallum
Dutton
Parents: Tim & Freda McCallum
School: Queens University
Program: History



Sarah Molnar
Iona Station
Parents: Rob & Lou Anne Molnar
School: University of Guelph
Program: Animal Biology



Krista Mooser
West Lorne
Parents: Henry & Ruth Mooser
School: University of W.O.
Program: Social Sciences



Stuart Murray
Iona Station
Parents: Brenda & David Murray
School: University of W.O.
Program: Health Sciences & Business



Emmanuel Rodriques
West Lorne
Parents: Antonio Rodriques and Maria Santos
School: Carleton University
Program: Computer Science; Software Engineering



Sofia Salgado
West Lorne
Parents: Manuel & Maria Salgado
School: University in Portugal
Program: E.C.E.



Chris Sedge
Iona Station
Parents: Debby & Jack Sedge
School: Queens University
Program: Life Sciences / X Ray Technology



Darryl Matthew Swain
West Lorne
Parents: Darryl & Sue Swain
School: Carleton University
Program: Software Engineering



Nathan Wright
Rodney
Parents: David & Raina Wright
School: University of Waterloo
Program: Biochemistry

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EDUCATION 2001

W.E.S.S SPORTS SHORTS

NOV 2001

by Alan Youngash, Athletic Director

Our Junior Boys' Volleyball Squad proved their metal in Thames Valley last week as they took on all corners and ended up #1... Congratulations to the Team and to Coach Mike VanDyke. During the current week they have a shot at the "AA" and the "AAA" Champions in Thames Valley and on Saturday November 17 defended their position in Mitchell. More on this next issue. Our Senior Boys' vied for top honours on Nov.16 in Mitchell and our Lady Hoopsters were back on the court during this week. Football has wrapped up after our Senior Team got a lesson in acceleration from EESS and our Juniors lost a heartbreaking 12-7 decision to Westminster. Hockey Tryouts continue with the season opener scheduled for November 27 on our home ice. Boys' Basketball, Girls Volleyball and Curling Volunteer would still be appreciated by yours truly and I can be reached at the High School at 768-1350.

It is interesting that the Hockey Season sees a return to County Play... I guess the big City is sick of having to travel out to the Wild West. It will be nice to have an opportunity to relive those days to travel out to the Wild West. Oh well, it will be nice to have an opportunity to relive those days of yesteryear when simplicity and open communications were a given. We needed a schedule change in Hockey to accommodate our exam schedule and this was done within 24 hours. With the Big Machine of TVRAA it would take 24 hours just to fill out the paperwork.

Lori Clinton is our Head of Physical Eduction and the upcoming Coach of Senior Girls Volleyball... a very promising team, watch this one!!! She is a graduate of my old Alma Mater of 24 years, AVSS in St. Thomas. Her family are long-time Elgin County Dairy Farmers and her eldest brother, David, is currently active in the operation with her Dad and Mom, Gary and Dawn. Sister, Teresa is a Physiotherapist and brother Brad, of St. Thomas Stars fame, is working and currently on the soon-to-be-married list.



Lori Clinton

Lori is an Honours Physical Education Graduate from UWO and a talented athlete in our own right with strong ties to Volleyball and Baseball (genetic endowment from Mom). She currently lives in Lambeth and is playing Rec. Volleyball. We scooped Lori from Parkside where she was running the SLD program and we have no intention of giving her back. Lori is a great Teacher and an eminently qualified Coach... Thanks Lori!!



Athletes at St. Mary's School in West Lorne cleaned up at the London District Catholic School Board's 'C' Division Track Meet, held at UWO on June 5. First row: l-r, Daniel Johnston, Vanessa Dacosta, Emma Wilkins, Melanie Ganhadeiro, Kristin Mylrea, Lexi Wilson, Amy Azevedo, Stephanie Oliveira and Kristie Winn. Second row: Dawn Welch, Ty Schnekenburger, Kraig McGaffey, Christine Alves, Nicole Hilliard, Stephanie Leys, Adam Almeida and Tyler Small. Back row: Kyler McGaffey, Justin Hwang, Jacob Welch, Dakota Poels, Justin Regnier, Justin Azevedo, Connor Wilson and Keyah Burke. JUNE 2001

WESES volleyball team end season with championship win



WESES Grade 8 Girls Volleyball team- 2001 Thames Valley District School Board Southwest Regional Girls AA Champs!! First row l-r, Katie McIntyre, Caitlyn VanRaes, Emily Dryfhout, Ashley Wooley, Lindsey Lamb, Rochelle Ambrose. Back row: coach Krista Price, Amanda Ford, Amanda Pelcz, Brittany Bint, Brittany Jewell, Michelle Webber and Jaime Hale.

The West Elgin Senior Elementary School Grade 8 girls volleyball team are the proud new AA Thames Valley District School Board champions.

It was another fantastic month for the Eagles after coming off a superb month of November and numerous victories.

On Wednesday December 5, the team competed and won the Regional tournament.

On Saturday, December 8 the Eagles went to Parkside Collegiate in St. Thomas against the other top 7 schools in the whole Thames Valley School Board.

Eagles coach Krista Price said their pool was heavily weighted with three very strong teams including the Eagles. Price said the girls had to fight tough in three gruelling matches to finish first in their pool.

In the first matchup, they took two points against Stoneybrook. Then they met up against Chippewa for the third time this season in a tough match, which saw both teams splitting points with one point each.

In their third match they faced a strong Annandale team from Tillsonburg who beat WESES out of the tournament last year.

Price said this year was different and the Eagles played "brilliantly, with tough serving, perfect passing and some extremely smart offence."

To clinch first in their pool before the semi-finals, they had to win at least one of the games against Annandale. That they did when they took the first game 25-16. However in the second game, fell behind against the strong team.

Coach Price it was an "incredible match - some may argue it could have been the match up for the final. But the girls for the first time all season, found something deep inside, and turned the game around and came from behind to win 26-24.

The win secured their first place finish, but when Chippewa beat Stoneybrook, Annandale as eliminated from the tournament.

In the semi-finals, we met Algonquin Public School.

After a slow start, the Eagles got into the groove and won both games with scores of 25-21.

In the championship final against Westmount Public School, coach Price said the team performed on "pure adrenaline with aggressive offensive plays, and diehard defence, including outstanding blocking in the middle, backcourt digs and wicked serving."

The Eagles won the tournament and finished their season by beating Westmount 25-17 and 25-16.

By clinching the championship, the team ended their phenomenal season with a season record of 50 wins out of 55 games.

In the morning announcements last week Price noted the season was a complete team effort and congratulated them on their determination.

"I knew from the first practice in September that you had the potential to go all the way. With your dedication, your hard work, your enthusiasm, your spirit and your talent, you have met that potential. I am so thrilled for your achievement because you earned it," said Price. DEC. 17, 2001

Two West Lorne graduates from St. Clair College win academic awards

St. Clair College of Applied Arts & Technology in Chatham has announced two academic award-winners hail from West Lorne.

On June 13, college Convocation Awards were held in Chatham were both Linda Dove and Connie Baptista of West Lorne were presented with respective awards.

Linda Dove, a gradatue of St. Clair in the Office Adminstration- Executive Program was awarded the Faculty Academic Award for attaining a minimum program Grade Point Average of 3.00 and be recomended by the faculty.

Linda resides in West Lorne, with her children; Jackson, Yvette, Scott and Lisa.

Connie Baptista, a graduate of St. Clair College in the Developmental Services Program was awarded the Student Leadership Award for attaining a minimum program Grade Point Average of 3.00 and must have made a significant contribution to the program and the class.

Connie is the fiancée of Glen Reaume and daughter of Maria Baptista of West Lorne. JUNE 2001

EDUCATION
2001

WESES News 2001

By Will Smith and Ross Giannakopoulos

Education week was a great success at WESES. Many parents and other members of the community took advantage of all the special activities that were taking place at our school April 30th-May 4th. We had a great turnout during the Links to Literacy evening and for our grade 8 Science Fair. The grade 7's also took part in an invention fair of their own.

The winners of the grade 8 Science Fair were: in biology - 1st, Katie King, Emily Moreau and Maryjo McWilliam, different leagues of plant growth; 2nd, Jesse Hawley, Steve Howse and Stacy Johnston, rate of plant growth; 3rd, Kathryn Drummelsmith, hydroponics. In physics - 1st, Jonathon Peternel; 2nd, Jason Enns, Keith McCallum and Greg Hull; 3rd, Jennifer Watson. In chemistry and other categories - 1st, Rueben Vander Zon; 2nd, Mike Hatch; 3rd, Rachel Van de Vooren, Michelle Smith and Chanel Timson.

For the grade 7 invention fair, in the category "best overall" winners were: 1st, Amber Menzies; 2nd, Amanda Ford and Laura Ford, and 3rd, Danielle Fordham. For the "best advertisement" category, winners were: 1st, Wes McLandress, Luke Emmett and Mat Nash; 2nd, Kayley McTavish and Amanda Howard, and 3rd, David McWilliam, Geoff Wayne and Tyler Wood. In the "most likely to be patented" category, winners were: 1st, James Stone and Shawn Sabo; 2nd, Jaymee Peternel and Amanda Pelcz, and 3rd, Ryan Grant.

We would like to thank Mrs. Lindsay for organizing the event and all of the judges who helped out. A special thank you to Mr. Joe Fischer who provided us with the 54 tables we needed to accommodate all of the projects in the gym.

On May 4th, Rodney Paramedic Bob Padfield gave the grade 8's a demonstration on how to perform C.P.R. On May 8th, Rodney and Dutton paramedics visited our school to give each student a chance to try C.P.R. on a dummy. We would like to thank all of the paramedics for giving us such great knowledge.

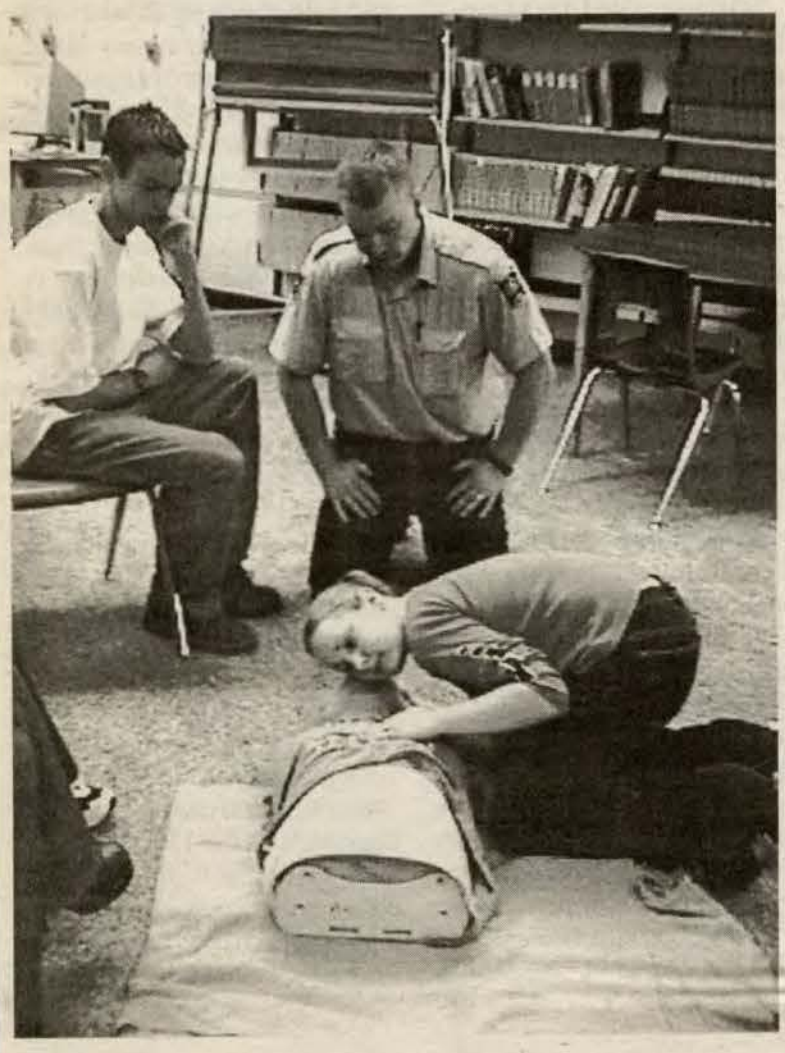
A dance-a-thon will be held from 1-3 p.m. on June 2nd in the Dunwich-Dutton Public School gym. The funds raised will be used by the school to purchase books for the library in memory of Jeffrica Gray. Dance-a-thon sponsor sheets are available at WESES. Anyone wishing to participate may pick one up in the office.

Dates to remember:

May 18: lip-sync assembly.

May 22 to 25: Jazz band to Hull, Quebec.

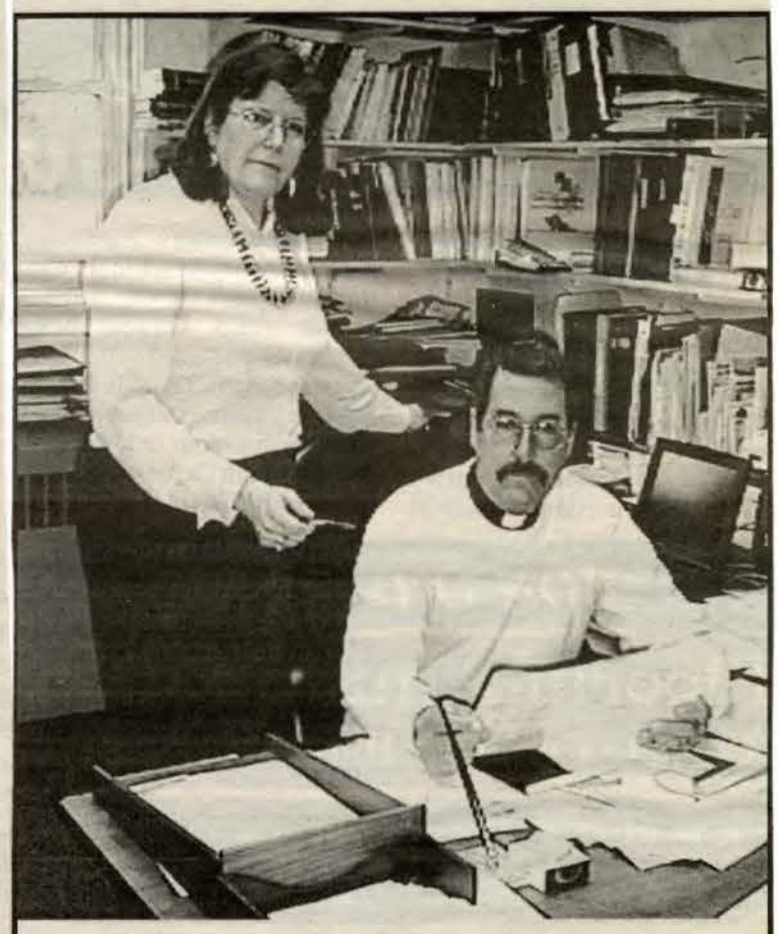
May 29: School Council meeting, 7 p.m.



Life-saving techniques

Thanks to members of the Rodney Ambulance Service, all grade 8 students at St. Mary's School and West Elgin Senior Elementary School have been taught CPR. About 150 students took part in the annual campaign. Pictured, Michelle Smith checks her "victim" for breathing while classmate Jason Enns and paramedic Dwayne Cottel look on during a session at WESES.

APR 2001



What's it really like?

West Elgin Secondary School Principal Martha Foster, left, goes over a schedule with Rev. Kirby Breithaupt as he prepares to be "Prinicipal for a Day." Among the activities for the day were visitng various classes such as computers, science and music, spending time with the office staff and meeting with other faculty members. "I wanted an unvarnished picture of being principal," stated Rev. Breithaupt, who commented that staff were very receptive to his presence.

Area teachers on the move!

Many teachers across West Elgin, Dutton/Dunwich and Southwold said goodbye to their schools just like many of the graduating students did.

A record number of retiring teachers in the Thames Valley District School Board need to be replaced required the board to scramble to find replacements. This year 200 teachers and principals are retiring within the school system.

The Catholic School board is also looking at changing faces within its school system.

Aldborough Public School

Two teachers and the school principal are on the move for the 2001-2002 school year. Principal Larry Sales will be working at Drumbo Central Public School.

"I've enjoyed my time here," says Sales who spent two years at Aldborough. "It's been very good here. I've enjoyed the community, the kids and the staff."

The two teachers that are leaving are Mrs. Jennifer Russell, who is going to New Sarum in St. Thomas and Mrs Kim Lawrence who is heading to Southwold Central Public School.

St. Mary's Catholic School

Two teachers will be leaving after last week. Krista Fox is leaving after one year at the school. The school board has not announced which school she will be going to. Fellow teacher Tanya Maric is also leaving after one year at St. Mary's. It has also not been announced which school she will be at this fall.



St. Mary's teachers- Tanya Maric and Krista Fox on their last day at the school.

West Elgin Secondary School

Three teachers and the principal will be moving on after the school year ends. Principal Martha Foster will moving on to become a trustee.

Vice-principal Jim Ryan is also moving on, as are teachers Trevor Gray, and Aaron Steinhold who had their last day at the school on June 27.

Students now able to access health services at school

A collaboration between the West Elgin Secondary School, West Elgin Community Health Centre and the Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit has resulted in the new Wellness Centre located at WESS.

Students will now be able to access services they might need from the agencies during school hours.

Confidentiality for anyone using the centre will be a priority. This centre is a very innovative undertaking by the partners involved.

"This is a place where our students and staff can come to learn about healthy living and lifestyle programs, illness prevention and wellness. They can also receive personal and group counselling and have access to health professionals, in a convenient location and during school hours," said Principal Martha Foster. "These services are of particular importance in rural areas, where access to them may be difficult."

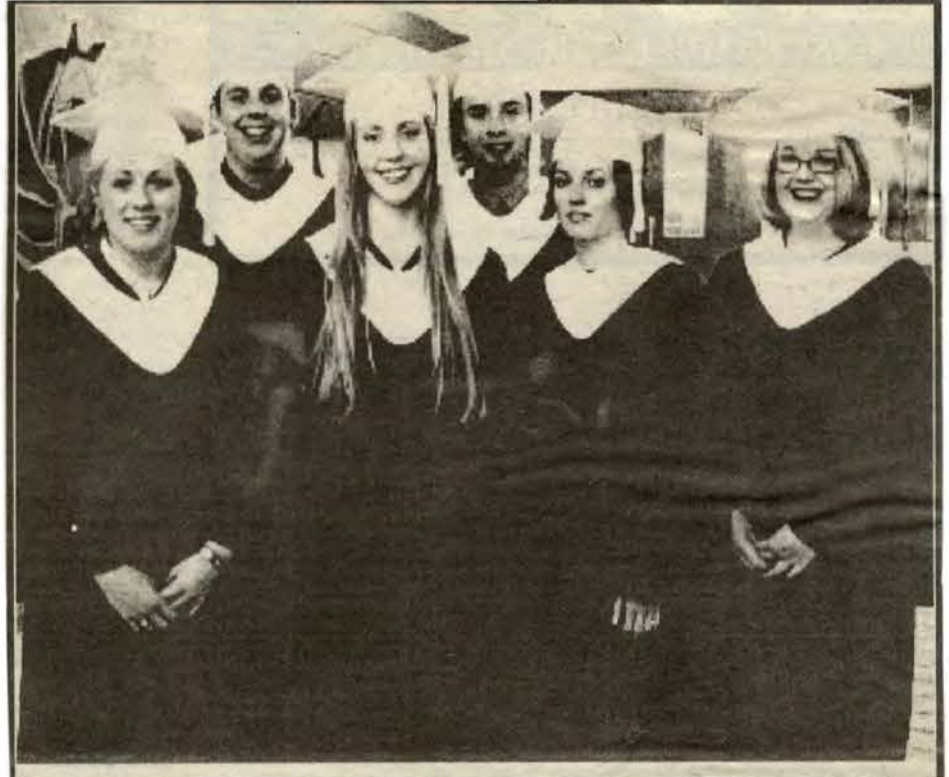
The Centre is one of only a few health unit supported wellness centres located in schools in the province.



How are you?

A new Wellness Centre for students has been opened at WESS. Cutting the ribbon to officially open the Wellness Centre are, left to right: WESS Principal Martha Foster, WECHC Executive Director Douglas Graham and Health Unit Manager of Health Promotions Janet McKillop. MAY 28/01

EDUCATION 2001



Major awards winners of West Elgin Secondary School. Pictured left to right, Tina Boyd (1st Honour Award), Jeremy Karn (Honour Award and Salutorian),Leanne Carroll (Valedictorian and OAC Profiency Award), Tim Koscik (4th Honour), Erin Deyle (1st Honour Award), and Sarah Langelaan (4th Honour Award). The commencement ceremony was held on October 27. See pages 2 and 3 for results and the Valedictorian speech.

2001

WILDCAT SPORTS SHORTS

by Alan Youngash
Athletic Director, WESS

The Fall Sports Schedules are fast coming to completion and teams are working hard to close out their seasons with dignity. Congratulations to the young athletes who bravely took on the task of playing Junior Football at the entry level.

The benefits of involvement in team sport at this level are intrinsic and the rewards will be in future teams where we could become the team to beat as players garner more game toughness. Our Junior Boys wrapped up their season on Monday, October 29 against Laurier on their field after a botched effort to play the game on October 24 at home. Josh Duplessis scored six points on a 25 yard pass from Quarterback, Karl Schramowsky and then added two more with a gutsy end run on the extra point effort. We lost the game but a great second half effort set the tone for next season when many of the boys will return to Junior Football as veterans. Thanks to Coaches Spiro Grima, Jonathon Douglas, and Alex Foster for their commitment and dedication.

The week of November 5 to 9 will see playoff action in Girls Basketball and Boys's Volleyball. Actual dates, times and locations are not available at this time as the teams are currently vying for position and league is separating to allow for playoffs in WOSSA. A, AA, AAA and AAAA. Our teams compete in "A" level competition as our current school population is less than 900 (about 525). The Junior Volleyball Finals are at Lucas in London at 4 pm on November 8 and the Senior Final is at Beal in London on Friday November 9 at 4 pm... just have to get there.



Ann Wrobel

Ann Wrobel is our "go-to gal" for a number of different things. She is always willing to go the extra mile for our students and student-athletes whether it be catering a meal or coaching a team. She is currently involved with our Senior Girls' Basketball Team and is a dedicated, devoted, and highly respected Coach among the players and with her fellow Coaches... Thanks Ann!!

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WESS Students are saying "Yes we can!"

West Elgin Secondary School students are going on a charity blitz next week in a effort to raise food during this needy, Christmas season.

On Tuesday December 4, from 6 pm to 8 pm the students will be going door-to-door with their 'Yes We Can!' campaign. The food-raiser will include the communities of West Lorne, Dutton, Rodney and Wallacetown.

WESS teacher Berta Prelaz tells *The Chronicle* everyone involved is really excited about the campaign that asks people to donate canned foods and non-perishable food that will be given to the Daffodil Society.

Their goal is 10 pick-up truck loads of cans.

Prelaz said the local businesses have been very supportive and for example, the three grocery stores in the area will have bins available for customers to donate to, if they live outside the area, or will not be home on December 4.

Within the school there will also be home room challenges that incorporate the can theme.

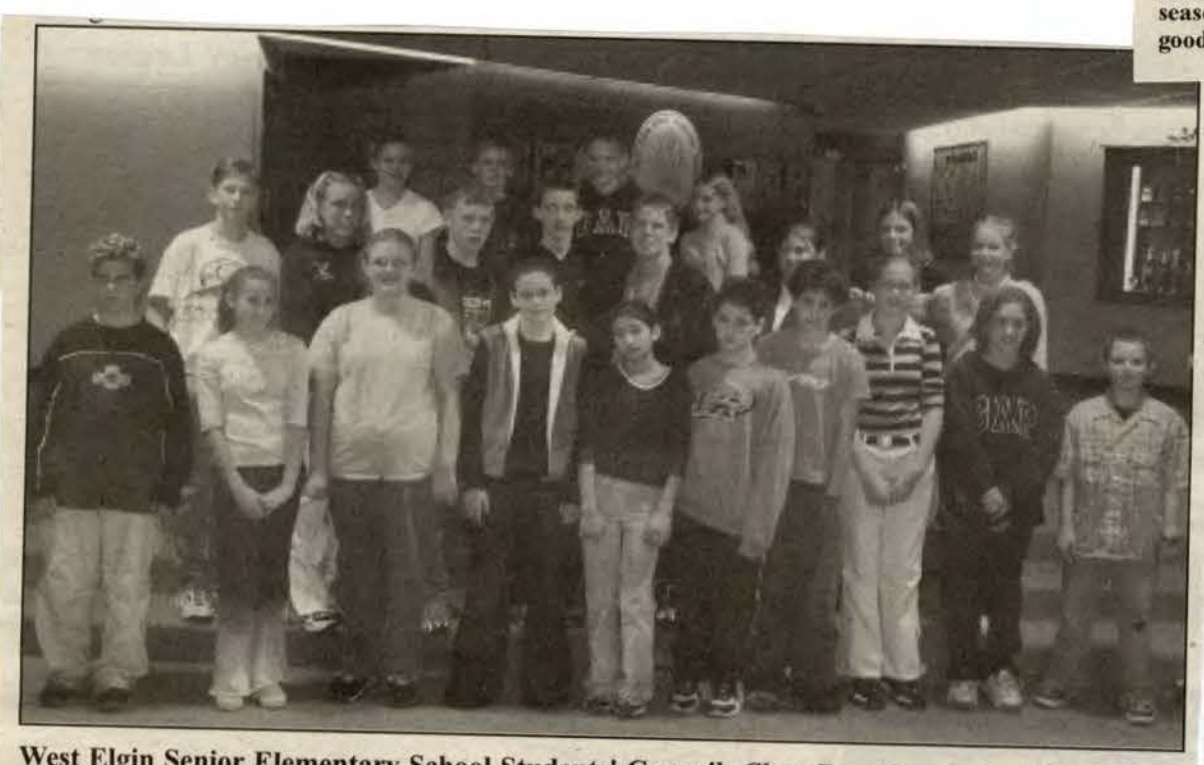
Prelaz says the idea for the can drive generated within some of the staff at WESS. She says in the past the students have done a phenomenal job of raising charitable money during the Christmas, but the recent economy was a concern for this year. Instead the can drive was raised.

Helen Mooser of the Daffodil Society says they think it is "a marvellous thing" the students are doing. Mooser says it is a great idea during these tough economic times.

On December 4 the 240 students and volunteers will be carrying identification tags to prove they are part of "Yes We Can!" Letters will be going out to parents and guardians on Tuesday, that outline the food raising campaign.

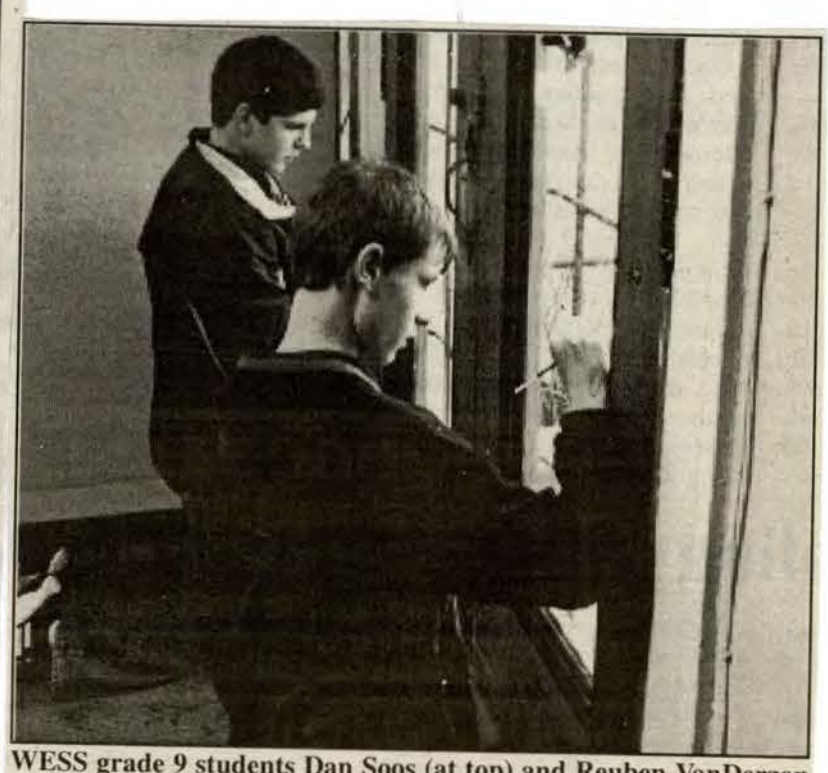


The West Elgin Secondary School Wildcats had their final game of the season last week, when they played St. Joe's. The Wildcats played a good game, but unfortunately lost the match. NOV. 5, 2001



West Elgin Senior Elementary School Students' Council. *Class Reps* Front row (7A)- Patrick Waylon, Rachel Humphrey; (7B)- Sarah Sharpe, Sarah Johnston; (7C)- Shobha Sharma, Steven Penney; (7D)- Erin Sheedy, Courtney Arvai; (7E) Caren Campbell, Jeff Koscik.
Middle Row (8A)- James Stone, Brittany Bint; (7B)- Kory Timmermans, Ryan Grant; (7C)- Justin Walker, Cassie Clark; (8D)- Amanda Pelcz, Jaime Hale.
Back row, *Executive:* Katie McIntyre, Treasurer; Mike Lyons, President; Brittany Jewell, Vice Presdient; and Danella Fordham, Secretary.
Absent are Staff advisors- Krista Price and Beth Peternel.

NOV. 2001



WESS grade 9 students Dan Soos (at top) and Reuben VanDerzon were busy last week painting windows of local West Lorne businesses. They were part of 24 art students of Mrs McLagan who spent last Thursday decorating windows. DEC. 2001

LAST EDITION

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The Dutton Advance

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West Elgin Secondary School

Ontario Scholars

The principal has recommended to the Minister of Education that the following students be recognized as Ontario Scholars



TIFFANY BARBER
Daughter of Jim and Denise, Wallacetown, is attending Carleton University, Criminology and Criminal Justice.



TINA BOYD
Daughter of Tab and Cindy, Dutton, is attending McMaster University, Nursing.



LEANNE CARROLL
Daughter of Alan and Karen, R.R. 1, West Lorne, is attending University of Western Ontario, B.A. in Art History.



AMY CHAMPIGNY
Daughter of Marcel and Lyn, R.R. 1, Rodney, is attending University of Western Ontario, Music.



AMY COATES
Daughter of Nick and Jane , Rodney, is attending University of Toronto, Forensic Science.



ERIN DEYLE
Daughter of Jacob and Cate, Rodney, is attending Brescia College at University of Western Ontario, Honours French.



NATALIE FORD
Daughter of Thomas and Lynda, R.R. 1, Rodney, is attending University of Guelph, Agricultural Business.



JEREMY KARN
Son of Robert W. and Ruth, Rodney, is attending Waterloo University, Software Engineering.



TIM KOSCIK
Son of Richard and Heather, West Lorne, is attending University of Toronto, Arts & Science.



SARAH LANGELAAN
Daughter of Emiel Langelaan, Wallacetown, is attending Wilfrid Laurier, Honours Bachelor of Music.



SARA McCALLUM
Daughter of Tim and Freda, Dutton, is attending Queens University, History.



SARAH MOLNAR
Daughter of Rob and Lou Anne, R.R. 3, Iona Station, is attending University of Guelph, Animal Biology.



KRISTA MOOSER
Daughter of Ruth and Henry, West Lorne, is attending University of Western Ontario, Social Sciences.



STUART MURRAY
Son of Brenda and David, R.R. 1, Iona Station, Iona Station, is attending University of Western Ontario, Health Sciences & Business.



EMMANUEL RODRIGUES
Son of Antonio Rodrigues and Maria Santos, is attending Carleton University, Computer Science, Software Engineering.



SOFIA SALGADO
Daughter of Manuel and Maria, is attending University in Portugal, E.C.E.



CHRIS SEDGE
Son of Debby and Jack, Iona Station, is attending Queen's University, Life Sciences/Xray Technology.



DARRYL MATTHEW SWAIN
Son of Darryl and Sue, West Lorne, is attending Carleton University, Software Engineering.



NATHAN WRIGHT
Son of David and Raina, Rodney, is attending University of Waterloo, Biochemistry.

EDUCATION 2001

W.E.S.S SPORTS SHORTS

by Alan Youngash, Athletic Director

WOW!!!! This expression has always been an acronym for anything I have wanted it to say. In this case it is an expression of kudos for our Junior Boys' Volleyball Team and their efforts in the Fall Season that just ended in Mitchell on Saturday the 17th.

Under the more-than-qualified direction of Mr. Mike VanDyk this team won a tournament and went on to win all the honours in Thames Valley and then capped off their season by winning the WOSSA "A" title in fine fashion. Our school is filled with WOSSA Volleyball plaques, the hall outside the gymnasium is lined with these mementos from the days of John McIntyre and Dave Inglis and continues with Mike Vandyk and Kelly Welch. .....WOW????....W.E.S.S. Owns WOSSA ..... Congratulations to Mike and his Team! I would be remiss if I didn't mention that many of the plaques contention (looking great on paper) are Coach Lori Clinton, and Coach Meegan Campbell...Senior and Junior respectively.

Fall Sports have wound down and the winter teams are now gearing up for their season openers. Hockey opens at home on the 27th, Curling opens at Glencoe on the 28th, and Boys' Basketball and Girls' Volley will open in early December. Hockey has 5 games before Christmas, and the other have 4 games before Christmas.....so we'll be busy at the West.

My featured Coach this week is the outgoing Mentor of our Senior Girls' Basketball Team and the incoming Slavedriver of our Senior Boy's squad. Mr. Jamie Fraser has taught and coached at W.E.S.S. for 14 years as a Teacher of Physical Education, initially, and now is the Head of our Guidance Department.

He was our Golf Coach this past season and it gives me pleasure to know that I have influenced his personal game to the point that he now putts everything.....there are now more "4 foot gimmes"....I am also the proud owner of a vintage Ping putter that never worked for him, when he owned it, but has taken strokes off my game.... he wants it back .....ahh???.....No!!



Jamie Fraser

Jamie lives with his wife Johanna and his two girls, Sarah and Katie, in Strathroy and I am told it takes him 52 minutes to get to work..... he rarely misses and is a wonderful, enthusiastic Teacher, Friend, and Mentor for our young people.

I look forward to some fine Basketball in the Wild West this year and invite our faithful readers to come and meet Jamie and his Team.....Thanks Jamie, we appreciate your efforts and wish you well in the up-coming season.



WESS students Richa Sharma at left and Anthony Birklemans recently won a 'tolerance,' writing contest sponsored by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Here they are pictured with their teacher Brenda Cowan.



West Elgin Secondary School Junior Boys Volleyball -WOSSA Champs! Front row with Thames Valley Plaque and WOSSA plaque is: Pete Thompson and Wade Munn. Mid-row: Lance Peskar, Anthony Berkelmans, Craig Hoglund, Andrew Coates, and Jason Enns. Back row: Justin Oliveira, Adam McKillop, Jon Dryfhout, Drew Roberts, Dan Barry and Coach Mike VanDyk.



Director of Education, Bill Bryce (centre) visited WESS recently to talk about current events and check out the school. Here he is flanked by WESS student heads, at left Sarah Fischer (Music), Paul Tunks (Pres. Student Council), Janneke Fleuren, at right (Co-President SAA) and Catherine Schneider (Co-President SAA). Bryce said he was very impressed with the school's spirit during these troubling times that is exhibited by the students, staff and parents.

A sure sign of winter!-- high school hockey



The Wildcats are back on ice, after they played their first season opener against E.E.S.S. (Aylmer) on Wednesday afternoon at home. The WESS Wildcats fought the Eagles to a 2-2 tied after coming from behind. Seen here, a Wildcat forward gets pushed from behind for being too close and dangerous in the net area. DEC 2001

EDUCATION
2002

Principal's Corner- great support seen at WESS



WESS Music Department has received more money to buy new instruments. Here IOOF 337 Dutton hands over a $500 cheque. Left to right are Music Department head Spiro Grima, WESS President of Music Council Marcie Sharron, Paul McWilliams and Tom Andrews of IOOF 337 Dutton and WESS principal Larry Schneider.

by Larry Schneider, Principal, WESS

Welcome to the Principal's Corner once again. I hope that all students and parents have enjoyed the March Break, and that as we all return to school today, that we are all refreshed and re-energized as we continue our Second Semester.

In this week's column I want to focus on one area of the many fine programs offered at West Elgin Secondary, namely the Arts. At West Elgin we offer Visual Arts, Drama and Music, and all three of these programs are quite active right now. Our Visual Arts department, led by Mrs. McLagan, recently created the backdrops for the skating carnival at the arena, and have submitted a number of works to a show to be held at the St. Thomas-Elgin Art Gallery later this month. Further details will be published in the near future. Support our wonderful student artists in the local area by visiting the gallery. On Wednesday, March 20, at 7 p.m. our drama department, under the direction of Ms Quinn, will be presenting "Thin Schemes" as part of the Sears Ontario Drama Festival. "Thin Schemes" was written by WESS student Jen Van Dyk and is presented by the West Elgin Drama Club. General admission will be $5, available from Drama Club members, or at the door. Please support this event if you are able to do so.

At 7 p.m. on Friday, March 22, at the high school, our music department will be hosting a Jazz Dinner and Cabaret for your enjoyment and entertainment. The cost for the evening is $10 per person. This event will showcase our fabulous Jazz band, and will be used as a fundraiser for the purchase of new instruments for the band. Once again, please attend this event and support our excellent music program.

Thank you to *The Chronicle* and the service clubs who have already reached out to support our campaign to save our music program by raising funds to purchase new instruments. As recent articles in the Chronicle have outlined, most of the musical instruments are twenty-four years old, and many are irreparable, have very poor tone, play only one note, and are often held together by elastic bands, after repeated repairs. Please come out to the Jazz Cabaret if you can to support the band. A table will be set up at the entrance where donations to the Band Fund can be made (tax receipts will be issued within a few weeks of any donation being given) and we hope that individuals who cherish music, service clubs, businesses and others will feel moved to help support this very worthy cause. The band does perform regularly for the public, and has committed to even more often in response to a generous show of support from the community. If you cannot make it to the school this Friday, and still wish to contribute, please contact Spiro Grima, our dedicated and inspiring Musical Director, or myself, Larry Schneider at 768-1350.

There are many other great programs at our school, which I will focus on in future columns. Many of these programs are also in need of financial support, and individuals will be invited to support those mentioned above and many others as part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Our hard-working WESS 50th Anniversary committee is busy organizing an exciting, fun-filled weekend for August 9, 10, and 11th, 2002, and their next meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, at the school. All former staff and students are urged to send us their current address and e-mail information to: www.wess50th.org or to Reunion committee, Box 370, West Lorne, ON N0L 2P0: include your name, maiden name, address and phone number, and e-mail address, and a registration form will sent to you via the mail, or will be made available to you on the internet, as is applicable. Please check out our website at the above address, to see who has already sent in data, to view the calendar of events, and to enter your information. Thank you for doing so promptly, to assist the committee in its planning. Also, please let us know if you would be willing to help out on the weekend, as we will need lots of people to help run the many events, but you do not need to actually be on the committee to do so.

A Health Fair/Carousel will be held for all students on Wednesday, March 20 throughout the school day to provide current and relevant information to our students about a variety of health issues. On Tuesday, March 26 John Davidson, of Jesse's Journey, will be at WESS for two assemblies, at 10:30 and 11:00. Visitors who wish to take in this inspiring presentation may do so by coming to the school office and signing in as visitors. Progress reports will be handed out to students on Tuesday, March 26 as well, and parent-teacher interviews will be held at the school on the late afternoon and evening of Wednesday, March 27. Exact times will be printed on the Report Cards.

We have many students who still need to complete a portion or all of their 40 hours of Community Service for graduation in the new Secondary Curriculum (currently Grades 9 - 11). Please contact the Guidance Department at the school if you have such opportunities available for our students.

Once again, thanks to the community for their ongoing support of our school. Please do support us in any of the ways mentioned above. We Wildcats really do appreciate it!

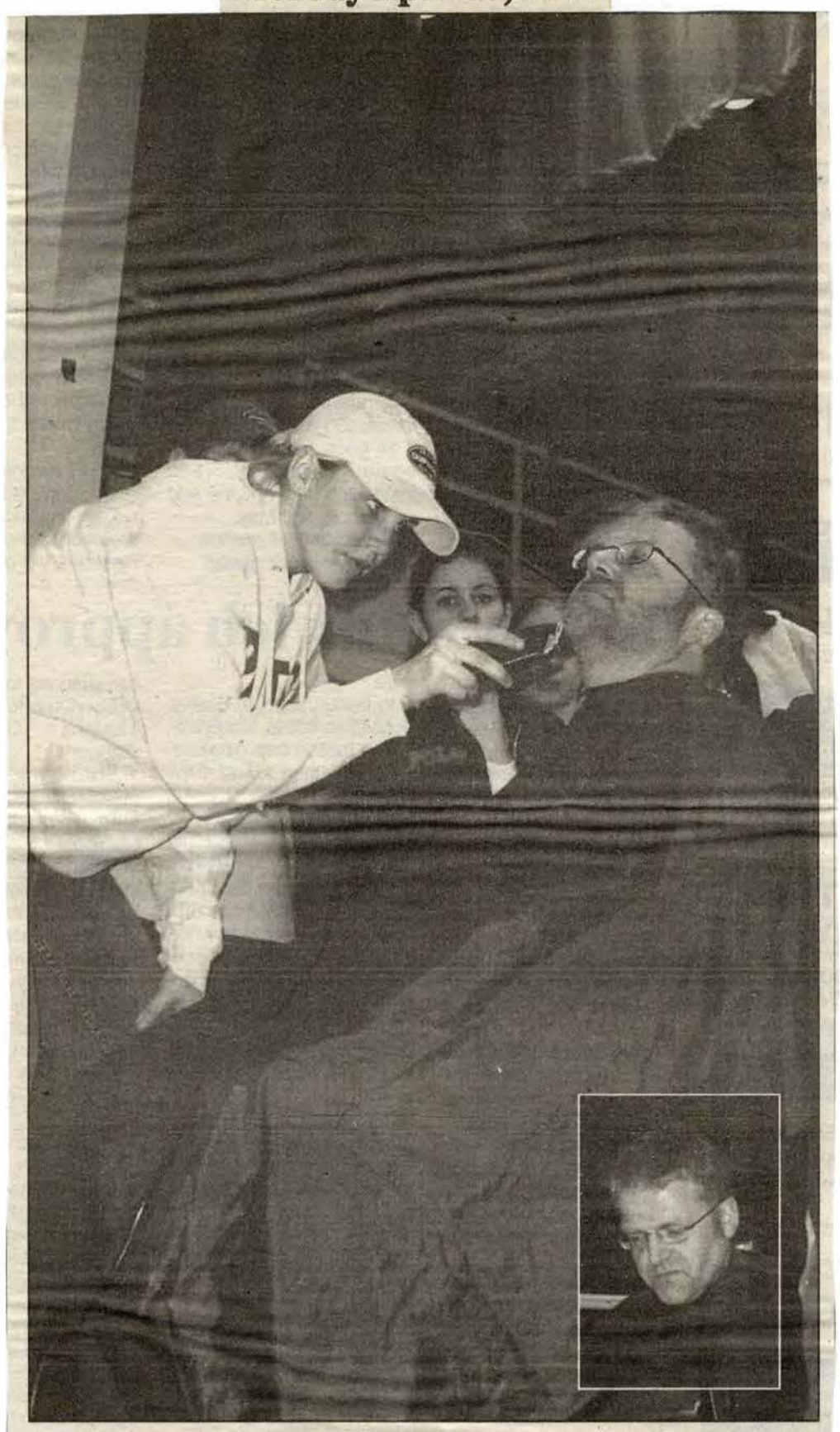


The West Lorne Women's Institute also donated $500 to the WESS Music Department. Left to right to WESS's Spiro Grima, Marcie Sharron, Mary Bell Cook and WESS principal Larry Schneider.



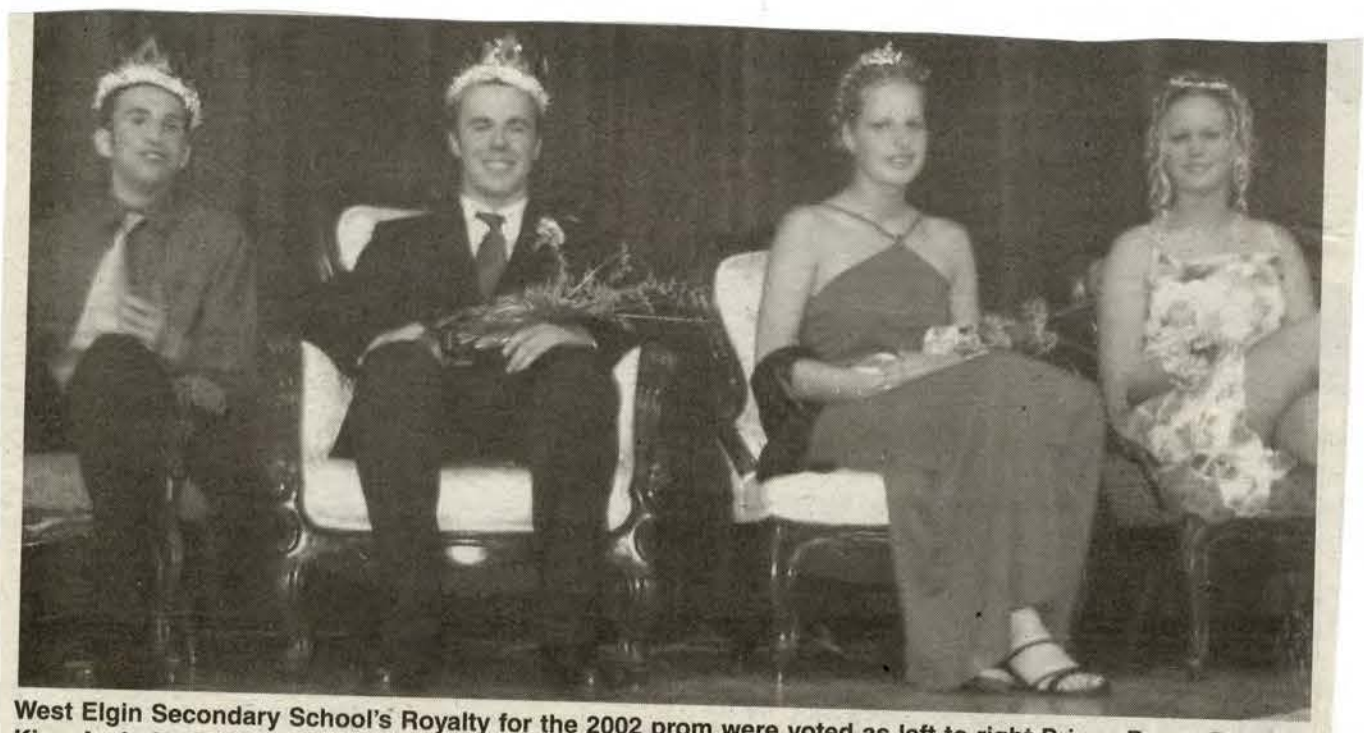
Some really cool cats came out and played March 22 at the WESS Jazz Cabaret and fundraiser. Pictured here the Senior Jazz Ensemble and teacher Spiro Grima, (all dressed appropriately to set the tone) play one of their numerous tunes.

Monday April 15, 2002



Leave the sideburns please!

West Elgin Secondary School Principal Larry Schneider owned up to his side of the bargain when WESS raised $1,067.33 for Jesse's Journey. Here grade 11 student Lindsay Webber has the honours of shaving the principal. Schneider who is synamous with his beard and mustache, made a bet with students that if they raised $800 his beard could go and if they raised $1,000 the mustache could be shaved also. Schneider says he hasn't been without his mustache since he was in Grade 12. The winning home room was Mrs McCulloch Grade 11's. At bottom right is Schneider with the new fuzz-less look.



West Elgin Secondary School's Royalty for the 2002 prom were voted as left to right Prince Bruno Ferreira, King Andy McGuire, Queen Janneke Fleuren and Princess Kristal DeWit.

EDUCATION 2002

Jesse's Journey sets new goal with students help

John Davidson came to West Elgin Secondary with the latest goal for Jesse's Journey - but it can only succeed with the help of WESS students.

In 1989 John pushed his son Jesse, more than 3,300 kilometres across Ontario and raised $1.5 million as a result of their campaign to raise money for their organization - Foundation for Gene and Cell Therapy.

Later that year they went on a 286 day, 8300 kilometre trek across Canada to raise national awareness. This time they raised $2 million for gene research.

Jesse, who is almost 22 years old suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. He continues to be an inspiration by participating and taking on large tasks in life.

"He is still going at it. He is still taking part and making things happen," John Davidson confirmed for WESS students last week.

Jesse will be graduating this year from Fanshawe College with a diploma in Hotel Management.

Davidson came to WESS to set the new goal for the Foundation for Gene and Cell Therapy is setting a challenge for 320 schools and 500,000 across Ontario to spend one day having fun and raising money for a cause.

Funding Friday's are a day when the sky is the limit for setting goals and raising money or Jesse's Journey and the Foundation.

WESS has set this Friday, April 5 as it's Funding Friday.

OAC studentsTiffany White, Heather Duplessi and Julie Marrow have a class project to see how media can be utlilized to help out such an event. White also announced the school will be hosting home room challenges from Tuesday April 2 to Friday April 5. Mason jars will also be placed in businesses throughout West Elgin.

According to Davidson, the sky is truly the limit for the WESS students to come up with a fundraiser on Friday. He expects the students will come up with something very unique.

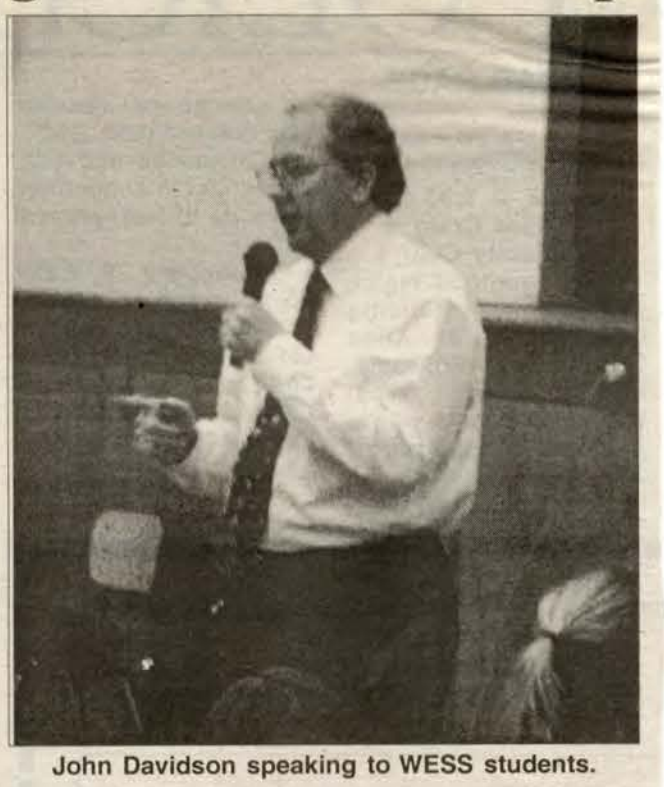
"When you let people run with an idea, they get very innovative," said Davidson.

Davidson told the WESS students they need to set goals in life but also make personal evaluations.

"You need to do an inventory of your life. You need to look at yourself in the mirror and ask yourself: 'What really matters in life,'" said Davidson.

He also pointed out that if you locate what is truly important, other things don't seem to matter or have the same worth.

"Sometimes we get our priorities mixed up," said Davidson when pointing out that sports athletes are making millions while true heroes who work diligently with volunteer time, work and dedication, are not always seen in the same light.



John Davidson speaking to WESS students.

After his talk Davidson told The Chronicle that in Canada focus shifted with one important young man.

"Terry Fox set the standard," Davidson admitted. Since Fox, Davidson said Canada has been capable of seeing heroes as people who make a difference.

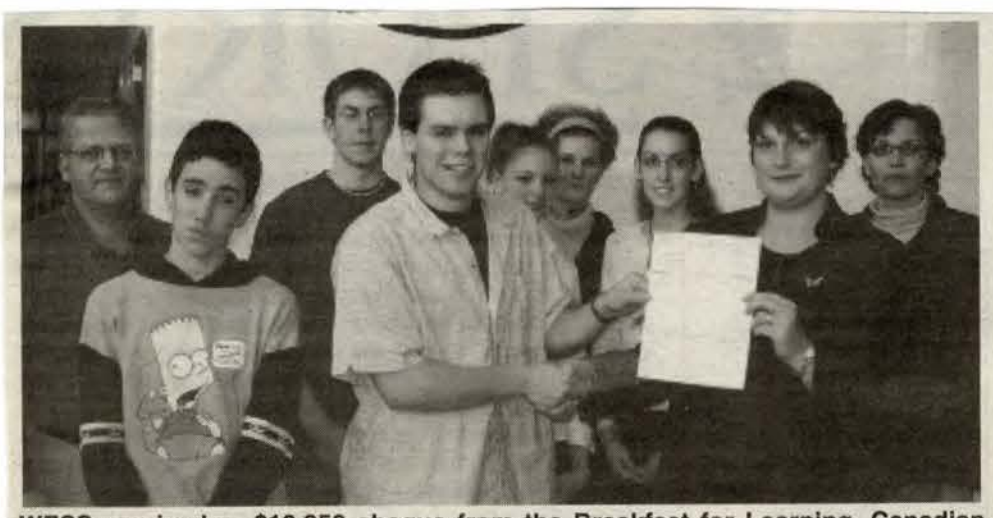
Davidson said south of the border, in the United States, people have tried similar campaigns like Terry Fox's campaign or Jesse's Journey, but have failed because the US fails to focus on the issue at hand.

"In Canada we are good at seperating the wheat from the chaff," remarked Davidson.

He said Canadians have an easier time understanding the issue rather than someone's personal challenge.



West Elgin Senior Elementary School recently held a Drug/Alcohol Poster Contest sponsored by the West Elgin Community Health Centre. The winners are from left to right: Front Row: Brittany Hein, 1st Place; Jeff Koscik and Kourtney Arvai, runners up. Back Row: Cynthia Roodzant of West Elgin Community Health Centre.



WESS received a $10,950 cheque from the Breakfast for Learning, Canadian Living Foundation last week for the school's Breakfast Program. Pictured left to right are WESS principal Larry Schneider, John Lavereau, Adam McKillop, Morgan McWilliam (student leader), Becky Kalita, Nikki Ross, Megan Regnier, Gillian Hanson (Elgin County Nutrition Club who is handing over the cheque) and Cynthia Roodzant of the West Elgin Community Health Centre



Is it growing yet?

West Elgin Senior Elementary School Junior Kindergarten student Melissa Parcels is shown how to plant flowers from seeds by Frances McCallum. McCallum and other members of the West Lorne Horticultural Society taught the children how to plant 'sprouted marigolds' which will eventually grow two to three feet tall. The children will be taking care of the plants while they are in a can and keeping them in window sills with lots of sunlight. Eventually the flowers will be going home with the students.

EDUCATION
2002

Plaque commemerates WESS Music donators



The Elgin International Club is the latest organization to donate to WESS's music instrument renewal program. The Club has donated $500. L-r Elgin International Club President Ron Collins, WESS Music Conductor Spiro Grima hands a cheque to EIC Vice President Sebastian Pelcz with WESS principal Larry Schneider. Schneider holds a brand new plaque that has been made to commemerate donators to the instrument renewal program. All donators will be listed on the plaque. So far, $15,000 of the $25,000 goal has been raised. Keep those donations coming!



Conducting the band!

Some local elementary students of West Lorne were given the chance to conduct Orchestra London last week. Seen here, a student grabs the attention of the band while conductor Dave Cunningham (at right), a former WESS Music Department head, watches the audience's response. Orchestra London has been touring schools with the message that music programs should be cherished and there needs to be more public support for the program which helps to build local musicians careers.

MAY 2002



Dutton Highland Games committee has donated $1,000 towards the West Elgin Secondary School Music Department and pledged an additional $1,000 this September. Graciously accepting the money at left is Music Department head Spiro Grima and music student Jake Fisher from Highland Games Chieftain Norman McWilliam and Cameron McWilliam.

EDUCATION 2002

The Chronicle MAR. 4, 2002

The Challenge is on! To save WESS Musical Department





Picture above are the majority of the musical students at WESS as they accepted their first cheque in the challenge to save the Musical Dept.

Rodney Lions is the first service club to come forth in the challenge to raise money to save the West Elgin Secondary School Musical Department. Here Ray Martin 1st Vice and Corrie Monaghan secretary of Rodney's Lions hand over a $2500 cheque to music students Erin Smith and Sarah Smith, who were responsible for sending letters out to the area service clubs. The Lions are challenging other clubs to raise money or match the Lions donation.

Monday June 3, 2002

Elgin schools threatened by closure formula

PRINCIPAL SCHNEIDER PUTTING OUT FIRES

West Elgin Secondary School principal Larry Schneider was busy last week answering phone calls from irate parents thinking the school is slated for closure.

Schneider said a media report earlier in the week caused unnecessary furore. He pointed out a story in the St. Thomas paper that alluded to both Arthur Voaden and West Elgin facing an uncertain future.

The schools do not qualify for the minimum of 909 full-time-equivalent students the Ministry of Education has set for Thames Valley District School Board secondary schools.

The information came from a May 27 Thames Valley District School Board special information meeting with 300 school administrators and parent representatives. The meeting came about because the school board faced criticism for making budget decisions without proper consultation.

Schneider attended the meeting and was critical about the fact that WESS was not mentioned in the entire meeting and called the furore unnecessary and premature.

Elgin trustee Linda Stevenson, who shares the former Elgin board territory with David Steward, said all Elgin schools will be looked at with an accommodation study in 2003, except for one - East Elgin Secondary School. Stevenson said this fact alone lets the public know they should be concerned about school closures.

Stevenson does not like the fact that the province is looking at a "one size fits all formula," which affects the majority of rural schools. She said if the board were to listen to the province, schools like WESS and all other Elgin schools except EESS would be closed, because they do not have enough students.

Although she understood the feelings of Schneider, Stevenson feels it is no time to be complacent.

"Is it time to panic? I think they should be and should have been panicking for a while before this," said Stevenson.

The Elgin trustee said it is also due time to review the TVDSB itself and questioned its efficiency.

"They were some benefits with

See CLOSURES, page 2.

Athletes of the year

WEST ELGIN WILDCATS

KRISTYN WATTERWORTH

Age: 17

Grade: 12

Year in review: Guard on senior girls' basketball team; badminton, TVRAA Tri-County semifinalist in girls' singles; midfielder on girls' soccer team; tennis, girls' singles.

Her view on sports: "They're a way to compete with other people and have fun that way. You gain in competitiveness but as with anything you've got to be respectful in the way you play on the field or on the court."

Most memorable moment: The junior soccer team in Grade 10. "By the end of the year we all worked really, really well together."

Future plans: Returning for OAC year, then studying fine arts in university and trying out for varsity soccer.

ANDREW BARBER

Age: 18

Grade: OAC

Year in review: Power hitter and MVP on senior boys' volleyball team, TVRAA A semifinalist, TVRAA all-star; forward on senior boys' basketball team, TVRAA A semifinalist; defender on boys' soccer team.

His view on sports: "They've given me something to do after school — last year was pretty boring. And I've grown physically a lot the last few years, so I've gained a lot of confidence. Plus you get to know everybody in the community a little better when you're on a team."

Most memorable moment: This year's basketball team. "Before this year we hadn't won much at all in basketball, but we actually came out and won three straight games at one point. And no matter what, we were still better than the football team."

Future plans: Studying recreation and leisure at Waterloo and trying out for the volleyball Warriors.



photo by MORRIS LAMONT The London Free Press

KRISTYN IS THE GRANDAUGHTER OF W.I. MEMBER MARY BELLE WATTERWORTH

EDUCATION 2002

Monday, August 19, 2002

WESS alumni appreciate blasts from past

"It was a blast!"

That was the sentiment and an appropriate statement last Monday after three days of fun and nostalgia were celebrated August 9 to 11 for West Elgin Secondary School's 50th anniversary.

There were many 'blasts from the past' and even some old flames re-introduced when the weekend was kicked off Friday night with a fantastic opening ceremonies.

The biggest applause on the night came after former high school cheerleaders hit the stage.

"It was a lot of fun. I think everyone had fun," said Pam Page who danced on the stage twice, the first with her husband David for a segment on 50-60's music.

After a day of different sports, almuni gathered Saturday evening at three different locations in Dutton/Dunwich and West Elgin.

The grads of 1952 to 1962 had a dinner and dance at the Rodney Legion, 1962 to 73 were at the Elgin International Club and 74 to the present were found at the Dutton Community Centre.

A lot of memories flushed back for many of the grads, some of whom have not been to any of the previous reunions. 1963 grads Ed Webster and Dave McDougall both said they were grateful to come back, having missed the 40th anniversary in 1992.

Some of the friendships have stayed strong over many years. Welcoming commitee member Rosalie Krebsz was proud to announce that she and Ellen Robson have been great friends since the second grade and it continued into high school and post secondary.

See **WESS**, page 2.



Bringing back the ol' school spirit

These four former members of the West Elgin High School cheerleading squad raised the roof one more time for the school's 50th Anniversary. Left to right Jean (Jeffery) Swain, class of '61; Pam (McGill) Page, class of '64; Ebba (Pedersen) Schmid, class of '63 and Jane (Attridge) Chute, class of '60 all said they had a wonderful time being back on the stage and their antics were very well received by the audience. On Friday August 9, many people packed into the old gym, (today's cafeteria) to see the kick-off to the weekend of nostalgia and fun times which included the cheerleader revival.

NOV 25, 2002



St. Mary's School principal John Lavereau (right) takes instructions from a McDonalds employee during McHappy Day last week. Locally $4,781.88 was raised for Ronald McDonald Children's Charities.



The recent bus trip fundraiser for West Elgin Secondarry School was a hugh success. Pam Page and Ralph Gardiner are seen in the picture celebrating a successful fundraiser bus trip to Shipshewana Indiana. The bus was donated for the trip compliments of Coach Canada with Ralph Gardiner donating his time and expertise as the driver. Pam Page organized the trip. $1200 dollars was presented as a donation to West Elgin High School fund last month.

OCT. 2002

Welcome Back!

You are invited to a fun-filled weekend to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of W.E.S.S. ~ W.E.D.H.S.

Friday, Saturday Sunday
August 9, 10, 11, 2002

1952-2002
50th Anniversary Reunion
WEST ELGIN SECONDARY SCHOOL





1981 initiation victims Blair Payne and Sam Kirschner.



The group of archivists for the 50th Annivesary of West Elgin Secondary School have been busy during recent months bringing information and artifacts together. Around the table are left to right, Ron Payne, Barb Campbell, Marlene Payne and Jean Swain. The committee is in desperate need of team pictures of boys teams. Anyone with old photos is asked to call the Payne's at 768-1288.

The Chronicle

AUG 5 2002

Community worked hard for WESS's 50th

The West Elgin Secondary School 50th Anniversary Reunion committee has been working very hard this year, preparing for this weekend's bash.

Acting chair and current WESS principal Larry Schneider said late registrations were still trickling in everyday.

Schneider said the success of the event will have been made possible by a very large team of volunteers from many different service clubs and individuals who wanted to make the 50th celebration something to remember. He said the community came together and the two municipalites of West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich "bent over backwards for us."

"This wouldn't have been possible if everyone had not come together," said Schneider.

"The whole committee has taken on whatever is needed to be done. They have said 'Okay, lets get it done."

Over 700 people have registered for the weekend, and late registrations will be accepted on Friday night and even Saturday morning.

"We realized there would be people flying in Friday night for the weekend and we wanted to accomodate them," he said.

Three dinners and dances will be held at the three different locations on Saturday night, the Dutton/Dunwich Community Centre; the Elgin International Club and Rodney Legion. By press time, the decades at each location were not finalized yet.



Marlene Payne (Towers) and Caroline Jewell (Tunks) in 1959.

WEST ELGIN SECONDARY SCHOOL ONTARIO SCHOLARS

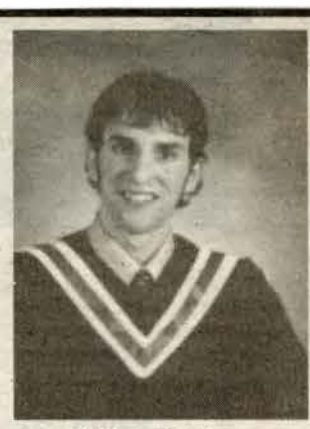
The Principal has recommended to the Minister of Education that the following students be recongnized as Ontario Scholars



Meghan Mackenzie Bell
West Lorne
Parents: Heather Bell
& Hugh Mackenzie
School: University of Guelph
Program: Animal Biology



Kristal deWit
Wardsville
Parents: Marcel
& Attie deWit
School: University of Windsor
Program: Concurrent B.A.
/E.ed/E.C.E.



Bruno Ferreira
West Lorne
Parents: Arlindo &
Maria Ferreira
School: Ottawa University
Program: Computer
Engineering



Sarah Fischer
Rodney
Parents: Dennis
& Sandra Fischer
School: University of Guelph
Program: Honours French



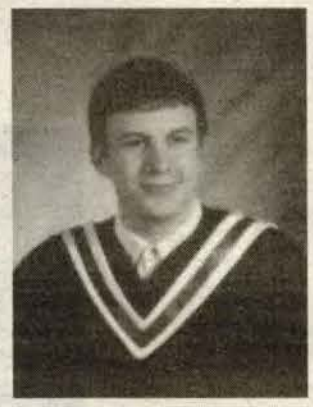
Jackie Fleming
Rodney
Parents: Shelley
& Frank Fleming
School: Univ. of Waterloo
Program: Pre-Optometry
/Pre-Health



Carrie Ford
Wallacetown
Parents: Don & Karen Ford
School: Wilfred Laurier
Program: Honours
Arts - History



Stacey Fowler
Iona Station
Parents: Dale
& Eunice Fowler
School: Fanshawe College
Program: BScN Nursing



Bryan Griffiths
Dutton
Parents: Bev & Ron Griffiths
School: RCC College
of Technology
Program: Computer
Networking Techinician



Joseph Hentz
Wallacetown
Parents: Michael &
Ingrid Hentz
School: Univ. of Western Ont.
Program: History



Kim Kool
West Lorne
Parents: Marty &
Connie Kool
School: St. Thomas Univ.
Program: Bachelor of Arts



Andy McGuire
Rodney
Parents: Mary &
Mike McGuire
School: Queens University
Program: Political Science
/ History



Claudia Neves
West Lorne
Parents: Maria Cidalina
& Jose Neves
School: Univ. of Waterloo
Program: Pre-Optemetry
/ Pre-Health



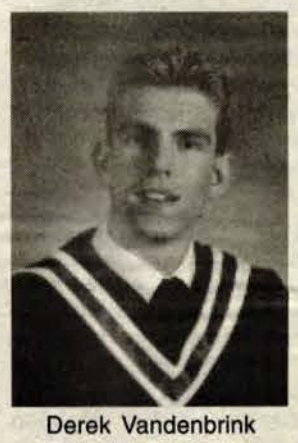
Gabe Pessoa
West Lorne
Parents: Maria Pessoa
School: Univ. of Western Ont.
Program: Electrical
Engineering



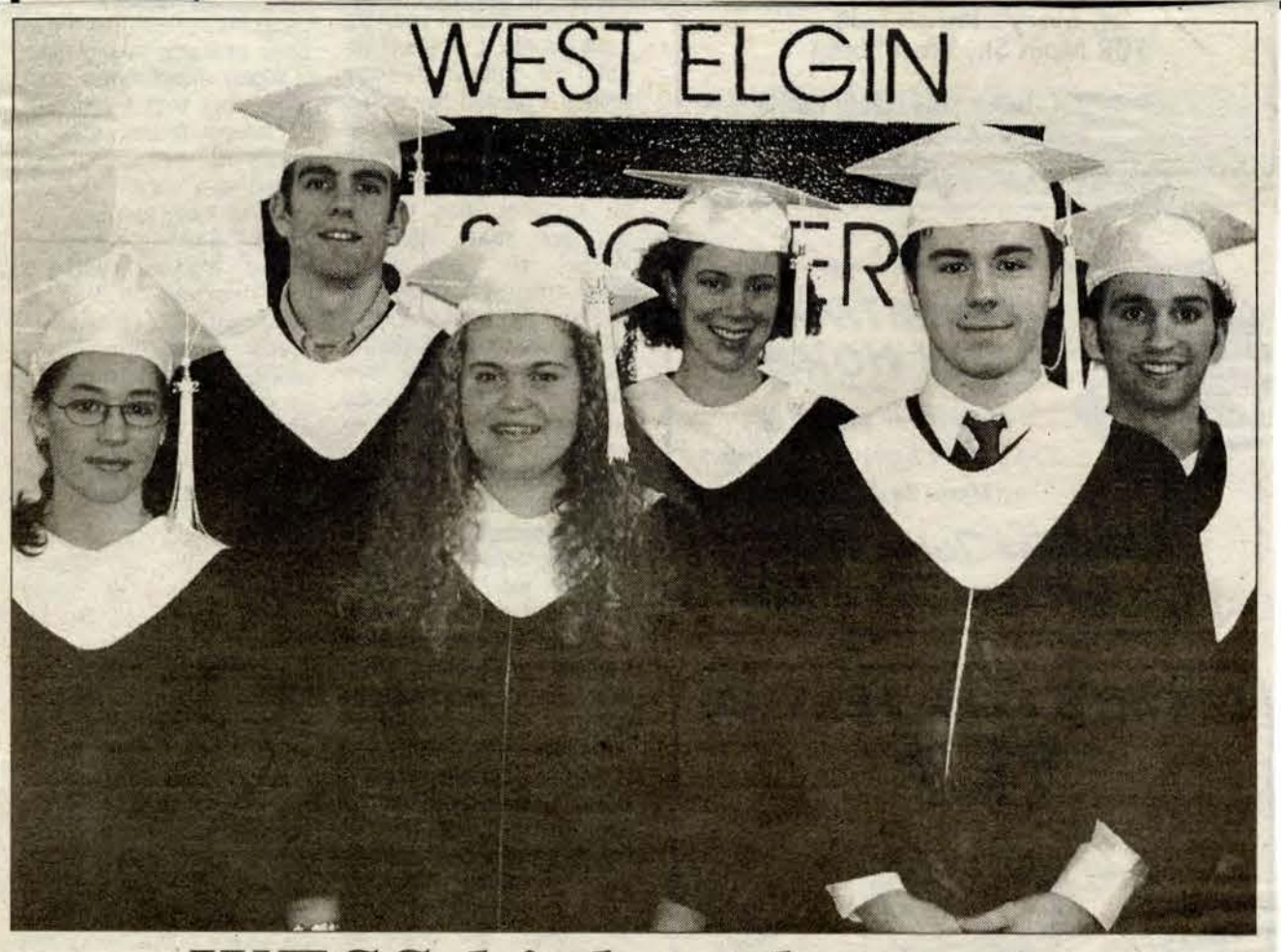
Catherine Schneider
Rodney
Parents: Larry &
Gwen Schneider
School: Univ. of Waterloo
Program: Honours Arts
and Business



Sarah Smith
Rodney
Parents: Bill & Deb Smith
School: Fanshawe College
Program: General Arts
and Science



Derek Vandenbrink
Rodney
Parents: Jerry & Rosemarie
Vandenbrink
School: Univ. of Waterloo
Program: Kinesiology



WESS highest honours

Pictured left to right are Major Award winners from the WESS Commencement on October 26 were Jackie Fleming, Derek Vandenbrink, Catherine Schneider, Sarah Fischer, and Andy McGuire (Valedictorian) and Bruno Fereira (Salutorian). See more commencement coverage in this edition of *The Chronicle* on page 2.

WESS 2002 graduates

Celia Almeida
Andrew Astapkevicius
Andrew Barber
Meghan MacKenzie Bell
Charlotte Bennetto
Dave Boyd
Harry Budden
Eric Clement
Krista Coleman
Katie Cormier
Melissa Couper
Rob Cozzolino
Derek DeBie
Kristal de Wit
Josh Derraugh
Danny Dias
Jacqueline Dos Santos
Ashley Duolinski
Daniel Duplessis
Heather Duplessis
Bruno Ferreira
Sarah Fischer
Jacquelyn Fleming
Janneke Fleuren
Carrie Ford
Russel Foster
Stacey Fowler
Chris Graham
Bryan Giffiths
John Guy
Denise Hentz
Joseph Hentz
Eamon Johnston
Joe Keech
Kyle Kieraszewicz
Joanne Knowles
Kim Kool
Trevor Kuska
Dan Lee
Shannon Lundy
David Mancini
Adam McGallum
Jeffrey McCallum
Christopher McCready
Andrew McGuire
Michael McIlmoyle
David McKillop
Mark McKillop
Paige McKnight
Ryan McLandress
Amy Mezenberg
Sarah Minten
Nick Nagy
Claudia Neves
Ed Newman
Carl Ouellette
Nathan Ouellette
Tanya Park
Nikki Patterson
Gabriel Pessoa
Justin Pinter
Darren Rastin
Derek Reeves
Ian Rowe
Catherine Schneider
Melissa Schneider
Bradley Seed
Carrie Slaats
Sarah Smith
Stephanie Smith
Tristan Staddon
Justin Swan
Zach Thompson
Bradley Toth
Gilliane Trudell
Derek Vandenbrink
Jennifer Van Dyk
Maxwell Voll
Cory Waite
Joe Waite
Emily Wakeford
John Watterworth
Heather Weed
Nicole Webber
Shane White
Tiffany White
Crystal Witroway
Nathan Woolsey

EDUCATION
2002

WESES is tops in soccer



WESES girls soccer team.Back row: Alanah Sutton, Erin Sheedy, Kanda Ocolisan, Sheri Ford, Danielle Wilson,Rhonda Knight, Brittany Hein, Kim Kriter and coach Dean McLenaghan. Front row: Tara Kirschner, Brittany Correia, Tasha O'Connor, Shobha Sharma, Jessica Kalita, Liona Vanderzan, Courtney Tilbury, Brittany Eichenberger and Amanda Jamieson.

WESES went undefeated in their 3 games at Glencoe by winning by scores of 3-0, 2-0 and 4-0 to win the Regional Championship. The girls had a balanced attack with 9 different goal scorers.



WESES boys soccer team. Back row: Kevin Greenfield, Cory Winger, Tim Vanderzan, Phil Ouellette, Stephen Agar, Tyler Gowenlock, Harrison Oake, Wyatt Ocolisan and coach Joe Raffa. Front row: Adam Clark, Josh McDonald, Aaron Cowell, Jeremy Koscik, Shawn Zimmerman, Danny Sutton, Jeff Joscik and Kyle McTavish. WESES won their games by scores of 10-0, 8-0 and 2-1 in the final to capture the Regional Championship. High goal scorers were Shawn Zimmerman with six goals and Jeremy Joscik with 5 goals.

Optimist's Aldborough P.S. Roadeo winners



Optimist Club of West Lorne sponsored the Optimist Bike roadeo at Aldborough Public School on June 11. Optimist Vice President Doug Staddon is shown with roadeo winners A. J. Fordham, Ben Hyatt (both 1st for grades 5-6. Taylor Moorby (1st grades 3-4), and Cole Kalita (1st for grades kindergarten to grade 2.)

New instruments arrive at WESS



Jake Fischer, a senior music student at WESS, hugs one of the newest arrivals, a timpani drum which he will be using.

Brand new instruments arrived last week at West Elgin Secondary School thanks to the generosity of the community.

Over $20,000 has been raised so far for the Instrument Renewal Program. That is getting close to the $25,000 that was needed to save the program.

Music director Spiro Grima said the support from the community has been overwhelming.

On Thursday while the grade 10 students were unpacking the new instruments, some of them were heard to exclaim "it's just like Christmas!"

Now that the $25,000 seems more than achievable, the music department is ready to take things a step further.

Spiro says with $30,000 they can buy more instruments to expand the bands repetoire.

He says enough money has been raised to enable a maintenance and replacement program, which has never been at WESS.

SEPT. 9/02

EDUCATION 2002



WESS principal Larry Schneider and teacher Berta Prelaz had fun being servants at McHappy Day on November 20.

2002

Ed. Minister won't protect her former school

JULY 2002

WHITMER SAYS IT WOULD BE 'INAPPROPRIATE'

Minister of Education Elizabeth Whitmer will not be protecting the school she once taught in - West Elgin Secondary School in West Lorne. Whitmer wrote back to the Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich earlier this month stating it would be inappropriate for herself to intervene in the processes of the Thames Valley District School Board.

Council reviewed the letter on Wednesday at a regular council meeting.

"Under the Education Act, decisions regarding pupil accommodation are the responsibility of the school board," she wrote to the municipality.

Whitmer said school boards retain flexibility in the allocation of resources because they are in the best position to identify local needs when setting budgetary priorities. She then went on to point out she would not interfere with the board's decisions on pupil accomodation.

Her letter did not sway away from the issue and advised the municipality to take the right steps. In her letter, Whitmer hand-wrote a post script stating "Please keep in mind no final decisions have been made. I would encourage you to continue to share your concerns with the local trustees."

Dutton/Dunwich made a resolution earlier this year protesting rural school closures across the province and asked that other cost cutting measures be found.

In other council news, here are some highlights from the July 17 meeting:

2002 budget passed

Council approved its 2002 budget which will be passed onto other muncipalites and the county to enable them to set their own tax rates across Elgin.

See **D/D COUNCIL**, pg. 2

Helping WESS's auto program



Dutton Farm & Auto and Dave Wheeler Automotive handed over a $312 cheque last week to West Elgin Secondary School to help the Automotive Program. Handing over the cheque are at left, Rob Willson (Dutton Farm & Auto) and Dave Wheeler (Wheeler Automotive) to Grade 12 student Ryan Dick and Automotive teacher Paul Galliant. This past summer there was scheduling conflict and both the *Dave WheelerAutomotive and Dutton Farm & Auto Car Show* and *WESS's 1st Annual Car Show* were scheduled on the same day. To show their support, Farm Auto and Dave Wheeler Automotive decided to raise money during their car show. The money will be going towards shop equipment at WESS.

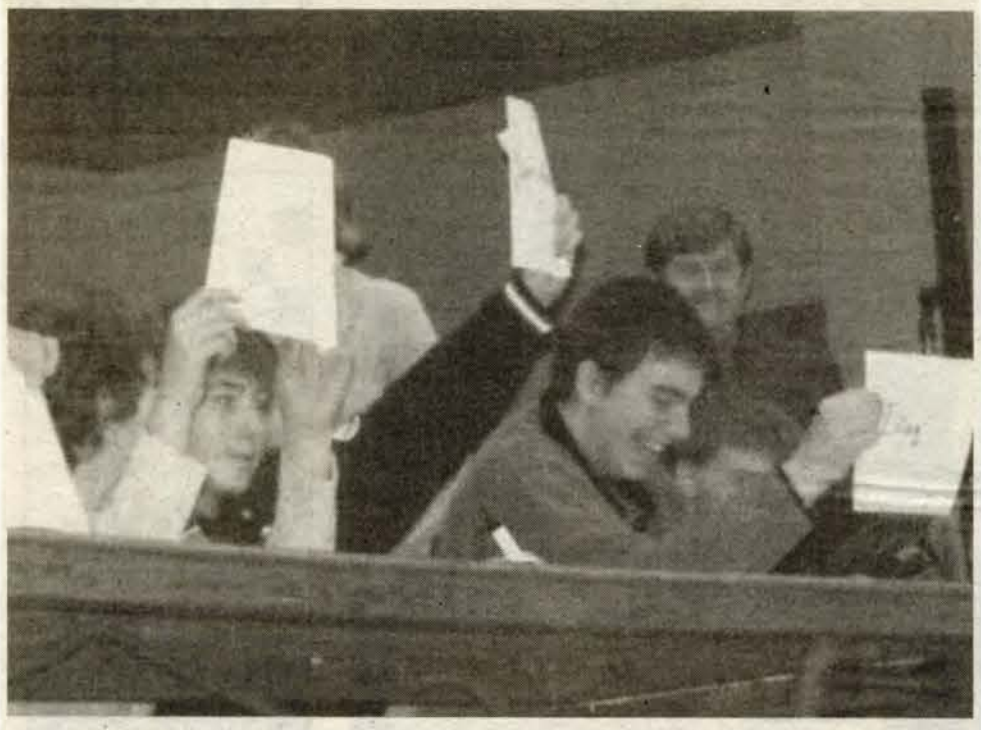


WESS held its 3rd Annual Music Awards Dinner on June 5. Winning the students choice award for leadership and interest in the band were Sarah Smith (centre) and Sarah Fischer (right). Presenting the award was WESS Music Conductor Spiro Grima (left). Smith also won for Director's Choice Award.

JUNE 2002

EDUCATION 2002

Great Geography challenge



WESS's grade 9 and 10 students have been taking the Great Geography Challenge for the past two weeks. Last week the top scorers from each class faced off against each other. The top three winners were Richard Dempsyn-Jones, Mike Miller and Ryan Carey. Dempsyn-Jones will now try to qualify in the provincials.

Placing in the top 10 were Kory Preston, Adam Hill, Elana Oake, David Dawson, Erin Fleming, Donald Yorke (for Derek Vanhee) and Scott Burdett. Organizers would like to thank the following businesses for the supporting the challenge with prizes: P.J's Pizza, Mancari's Restaurant, Machado's Restaurant, Rosa's New Image, Ta-Dye-4, Back Door Pizza, and B&J Variety.

DEC 23, 2002

DEC. 2, 2002

Painting the town!!!



WESS grade 10 students Leslie Johnstone and Dana Woolley are all smiles as they paint a Christmas mural in P.J.'s Pizza in West Lorne. The class of Mrs McLaghan once again painted windows for Christmas, as part of their course.

The Chronicle OCT 2002

WESS Breakfast Program going strong

The Breakfast Program at WESS has been operating for a month now. Healthy breakfast foods are available to all students before school in the morning. The menu consists of fruit, milk, juice, toast, cereal, muffins and cheese. We have received a grant of $10,950 from the Breakfast for Learning, Canadian Living Foundation. On average between 40 and 60 students participate each day. The student leader in charge of this program is Morgan McWilliam. WESS has a number of student volunteers who help out each morning with set up and clean up. Jessie Lowes is also at the school each morning to assist Morgan.

WESS also received some donations from various service groups within the West Elgin area. Thanks is extended to the West Lome Women's Institute, West Lome Legion Branch 221, West Lome Optimist Club, West Lome Kiwanis, and the Rodney Lodge AF & AM No. 411. The cafeteria staff in JJ's have also been very helpful in assisting the students in the morning. Thanks is also extended to Tim Horton's for donating muffins twice a week. This is a very worthwhile service that is available to our students. It is a real treat to see a student walk down the hallway eating an apple in the morning instead of a bag of chips!

In addition to the money received from Breakfast for Learning, WESS is also doing its own fundraising. Members are selling raffle tickets for a draw that will be held May 20, 2003. Prizes to be won include: a 2002 Suzuki Ozark 250 ATV, four ice level Detroit Red Wing tickets, and two cordless phones valued at over $100 each. Tickets are $5 each and may be purchased from any committee member or by calling the school at 768-1350 and asking for Miss Sethi or Mrs. Ross. Any service clubs or individuals wishing to have tickets to sell please call the school also.

If you would like more information about the program or would like to view it in action, please feel free to call or drop by.

Bullying in school being addressed locally

Bullying in school cannot always be prevented in rural settings, but there can be many steps taken to minimize it.

Dr Linda Baker held a presentation in September, which was well attended by parents and people in education. The community information night was hosted by the West Elgin Community Health Centre at St. Mary's Parish in West Lorne.

Baker said she was very impressed with the people's openness to discuss bullying and admit their children or students are affected.



Local principal Dave Ferri discusses bullying issues with Dr Linda Baker. Baker is the Exec. Director of the Centre for Children & Families in the justice system of London Court Clinic.

Baker is the Exec. Director of the Centre for Children & Families in the justice system of London Court Clinic. She said she was very surprised to see what resources are available locally and how keen some parents and teachers are to tackle the subject.

Bullying is now understood to be a form of aggression where there is an obvious imbalance of power. In school, the events often will take place repeatedly, and they can involve the following activities/behaviours: physical aggression, intimidation, stealing lunch, money or teasing and harassment.

Baker said the emphasis has to be realizing that bullying does happen at every school and it is very dangerous for a child's proper development. It also goes beyond the school environment.

"It's just everywhere. It isn't just at the school level. It's in the community as a whole," she said.

Baker applauded some of the local schools for creating initiatives to combat bullying.

Dave Ferri and Sue Bandeen, the principal and vice-principal of Ekcoe Central School in Glencoe said Baker's presentation was very informative and they picked up ideas that can be used in the school.

Ferri and Bandeen have been working hard working with the students to create a better school setting.

Like Baker, they admitted that eradicating bullying is not always possible in rural schools. Sometimes, for example, transferring the student is not an option.

"There's not always a resolution there," said Ferri.

Ekcoe Central has implemented a peer mediator group at the school or "peace keepers" which are students who look out for other students.

Ferri and Bandeen said a lot can be done through peer pressure.

"You try to get the audience away from the bullying," said Ferri.

"The bottom line is it is a team approach. We cannot forget the role parents play," they added.

Community service officer Dennis Harwood of the Elgin OPP agreed parents must get involved and educate their children that bullying must not be tolerated.

"Parents have to take a realistic look at their children," he said.

Harwood hopes that the OPP do not have to get involved in a situation of bullying.

"When we get involved, it is because there has been a criminal act."

He said this unfortunately does happen because "these things can escalate pretty fast."

Harwood said if parents are closely involved in their child's life, they may be able to find out there is a bully-situation and the bully can receive help at local agencies.

Baker said it can be tough to get that information from a victim of bullying, and parents and teachers have to develop that level of trust. She said they also have let to the victim know they have done nothing wrong, and informing a parent or teacher is not a bad thing.

"We have to let the child know this is not 'telling'. This is helping," she said.

OCT. 2002



Students of Aldborough Public School in Rodney made some houses this month that were not just good enough to eat, they were! Gingerbread houses and buildings were made complete with snow covered icing. The buildings didn't last long and were gobbled up pretty fast. We just about didn't get a picture!!

DEC. 2002

EDUCATION 2002

Borowski wows audience



Twelve year old Nicola Borowski wowed the crowd at the 5th annual It's a Wonderful Time of the Year concert at West Elgin Secondary School on November 22. Nicola was a guest musican at the West Elgin Community Band's concert which saw $300 being donated to the Caring Cupboard for the Christmas season. Other guest performers were Amy Champigny and Christine Carter.

Yes they definitely can!

10 TRUCKLOADS OF FOOD FOR CHARITY

Yes they can, they definitely can.

Thanks to a team effort between West Elgin Secondary School Students, staff and volunteers, plus strong support from the community to donate food and goods, the second annual "Yes We Can!" campaign was a success.

Over 80 students and 30 volunteers participated this year in a huge blitz across West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich and the end result was 10 truckloads of food being raised.

The door to door campaign ran for two hours in an effort to supply both the Caring Cupboard and Daffodil Society with food for the needy this Christmas and winter season.

On top of this, the school participated in two challenges in an effort to raise food for the charities.

A homeroom campaign for best Christmas object (built from food) was won by Mrs McDowell class.

Some WESS teachers and one community member had also set a challenge for the students to raise cans for a "hair-razing" experience. Some teachers bet their beards, hair, hair colour and other gambling choices if the students could raise a certain amount of cans from 1,000 up to 10,000.

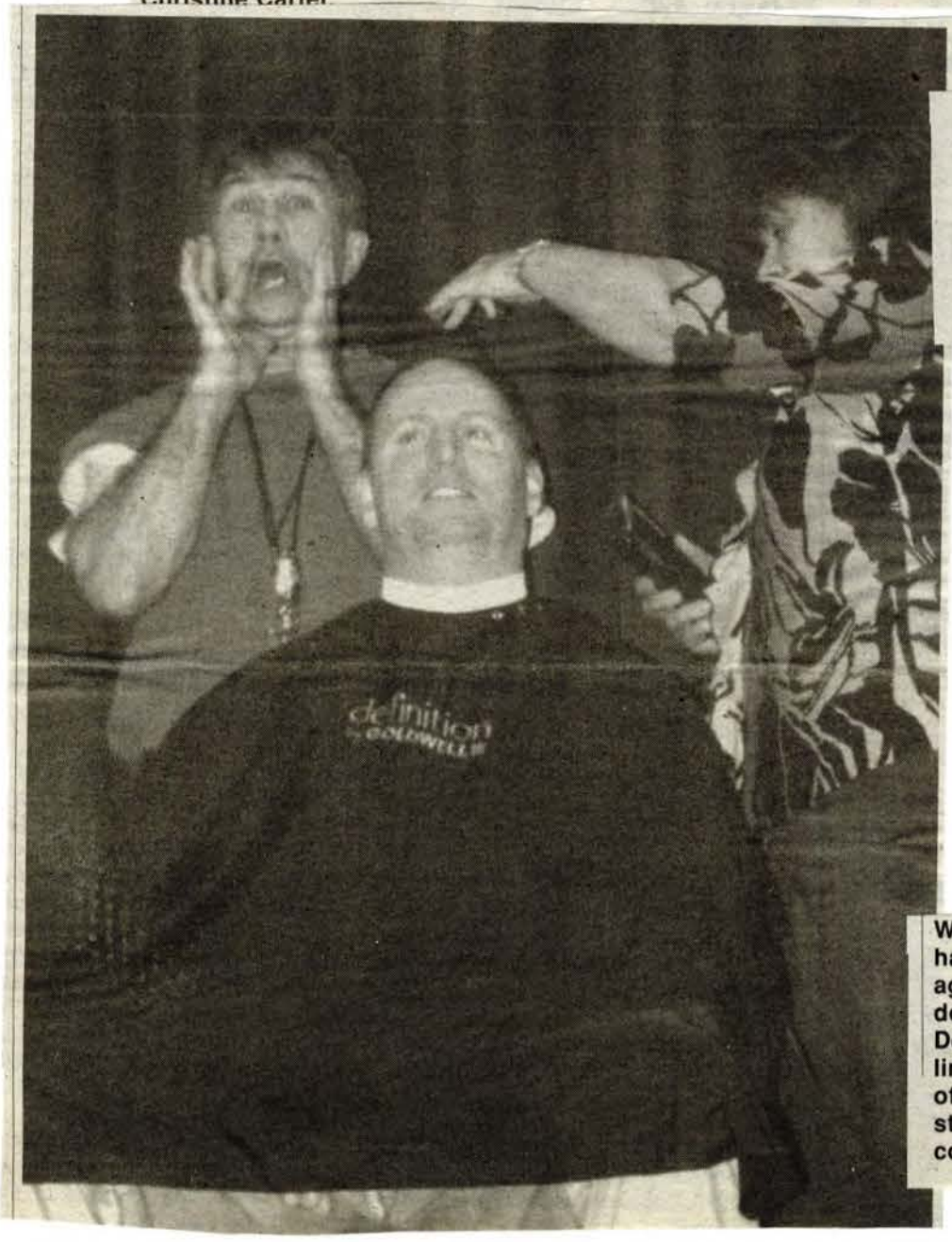
Teacher Jamie Fraser will be getting a 'mohawk' haircut in front of the student body on Monday December 16, at 10:30 am. The public is invited as Rosa Bell of Rosa's New Image Hair Styling will shave the two sides of his head, while leaving the centre.

Both Caring Cupboard and Daffodil Society are still looking for specialty items like paper products - kleenex, paper towels, toilet paper and also personal hygiene products. Cash donations are also needed to help pay for annual expenses and food for both organizations. Tax receipts are available for this time of year and money can be sent to :

Caring Cupboard - 207 Third Street, Rodney, Box 342. N0L 2C0 (785-2026).

Daffodil Society - 183 Main Street, Dutton, N0L 1J0 (762-5757).

Both organizations want to thank WESS students and volunteers on doing a fantastic job.



December 16, 2002

"Shave the sides!!"

West Elgin Secondary School teacher Allan Youngash yells for a true Mohawk haircut for colleague Jamie Fraser seeN here, seated. Fraser lost a bet against WESS students after stating that they could not raise 3,000 cans of donated food for the Yes We Can! campaign held last month. On Wednesday December 11 Fraser kept up his side of the bargain by putting his hair on the line, after losing the bet. At right Rosa Bell completes the deed with the use of a razor. In this week's edition of *The Chronicle*, Youngash calls for a student revolt because Fraser did not have a true Mohawk. See Youngash's column on page 13.

EDUCATION 2003

Stewart calling it quits

For The Chronicle

Veteran Elgin school trustee David Stewart is calling it quits.

After 12 years as a member of both the old Elgin County Board of Education and the mega Thames Valley District School Board which replaced it, Stewart said at the board's May 27 meeting, he will not seek re-election in November.

"I started when my children were in school, said Stewart, 67, now retired.

"I've done my turn."

As a trustee, Stewart served as chairman of both the old Elgin and the new Thames Valley school boards - and he said he believes that smaller boards are better.

Stewart said trustees are closer to their communities, and more accountable as a result.

Nevertheless, he said he believes St. Thomas and Elgin have received a fair shake from the larger Thames Valley board, created by the province in an amalgamation of four predecessor boards.

As chairman two years ago of Thames Valley, Stewart complained about a lack of provincial respect for school boards and the local voice they provide for education.

Last night, in spite of a major funding increase for education from the provincial government apparently in response to local concerns, he said his opinion hasn't changed.

Stewart called the increase "pre-election goodies" for the coming provincial election.

Stewart is one of two representatives from Elgin to Thames Valley.

Rookie trustee Linda Stevenson is seeking re-election.

In other school board business:

A motion by Stevenson for a boundary review for the Lake Margaret area was expected to win easy approval. A 1999 accommodation review called for the children to be bused to Port Stanley. But projected growth hasn't filled St. Thomas schools.

JUNE 12/03



Members of the West Elgin Secondary School senior girls' volleyball team are leading the TVRAA south division. They have not suffered a loss yet this season, won the Wildcat Invitational in January and placed third at the McGregor Invitational tournament. During the exam break, the girls won a mini-tournament in Dorchester, winning four games to one over the provincial Dorchester OFSAA champs. The girls are: (front, left) Laura Jones, Carolyn Tunks, Cheri Hunter, Mallory Peternel, (back, left) Katie Lyons, Lindsay Webber, Roberta Ford, Justina Campbell, Ashley Clements, Taryn Clements and Coach Lori Clinton. Absent is Coach Ann Wrobel.

MAR. 13, 2003 The Chronicle

School bands have award-winning sound with new instruments now in classroom

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

A community-wide fundraising effort has not only helped save the music program at West Elgin Secondary School but it's helped the school's bands make a sudden rise to the top in Southwestern Ontario music competitions.

"The music program has been saved. The community came forth," said Spiro Grima, music teacher at the high school.

He and principal Larry Schneider approached the community for help almost a year ago hoping to raise $25,000 for new instruments, replacing ones that were almost 30 years old, many of which were broken.

Grima said there were students without instruments to play in class and it was at a point where it looked like the music program would have to end.

And for the students who had instruments, Grima said he had to keep reminding them it wasn't their lack of ability as to why they weren't playing as well as they thought they should.

"The kids had the talent and they didn't know it," he said.

But with almost 30 new instruments in hand, the little rural high school in West Lorne surprised themselves and everyone else at two major music events in the past few weeks.

On Feb. 27, the concert and jazz band took part in the *Variety Is* concert hosted by the Thames Valley District School Board.

The concert band amazed the crowd performing a challenging number called *Ghost Fleet*.

"They were all just astonished," said Grima.

Then something even more unexpected happened.

The concert features one band performing under a spotlight. As one finishes, the spotlight moves to the next band and they perform in a continuous format with applause held until the final band finishes.



Erin Smith, Jen Pinder, Kelly Charron and Jen Ford show off some of the new instruments in Spiro Grima's music class at West Elgin Secondary School. Community fund raising efforts have helped by almost 30 new instruments and have seen school bands now winning awards at competitions.

When the jazz band's number finished, people clapped anyway, many on their feet, caught up in the performance.

Grima said the next band had to start before the applause for West Elgin was finished.

March 3 was Music Fest in London featuring bands from across Southwestern Ontario and the jazz band wowed them again.

The school brought home a gold medal, top honours from the festival that featured 65 groups.

Bobby Harriott, a premier jazz performer in Canada, was an adjudicator at the event and Grima said the performer told him the jazz band was one of the best he'd heard in a long time.

Grima knew the kids had the talent but it took getting the new instruments to bring it all together.

"The minute that first batch of horns came in, it was like Christmas," he said.

The kids began playing more challenging pieces and had new enthusiasm for the program.

That enthusiasm continues to build after their recent successes.

"For a lot of these kids, it's the first time they've been number one," said Grima.

He said community support was incredible with donations coming from business, individuals and service clubs and groups in the surrounding communities.

One donation made its way from a former grad that was now teaching music in Texas after getting her PHD in music.

Grima is hoping more money can continue to be raised to enhance the program further.

The community will have a chance to see the changes they helped make on April 11 when the third annual Jazz Cabaret is held at the high school.

"I think they will be very surprised," said Grima.

The dinner cabaret will feature swing music and this year, there will be dancing added to the atmosphere.

"We're hoping to get the people who like to do the swing dancing out there," Grima said.

It is a major fund raising concert for the school.

The Chronicle APR. 10/03



Students in Mary-Jane Milne's Sr Kindergarten class at St. Mary's Catholic School in West Lorne have been raising some baby chicks, just in time for Easter. Students had a chance to hold some of the chicks after they hatched from eggs in an incubator last Thursday. The eggs had been under the watchful eye and care of the students. Pictured with the chicks are (l-r) Gere VanDyk, Alyssa Paiva, Justin Delgado and Sophie Tasker.
Photo by Linda VanRaay

Bare wall an empty canvass for three West Elgin students

For The Chronicle

A bare wall in an empty office provided an inspirational canvas for three West Elgin Secondary School (WESS) students.

Located at the Child and Family Counselling Centre, 300 South Edgeware Rd., the office is now a multi-purpose room where young children and their families can relax and play in the inviting atmosphere produced by an attractive jungle-theme mural designed and painted by the trio of budding artists.

"This particular room was originally ear-marked for an office," said executive director Dr. Mark Skovron. "However we discovered we were short of clinical space and we decided to turn this into a multi-purpose room for assessment, art and play therapy for young children and their families."

With a staff of 11 employees, the centre is an outpatient community health centre for children and youths up to age 18. This project allowed Skovron and his staff to partner with Elgin county high schools in a mutually-beneficial undertaking.

"We struck a committee to talk about how we were going to put the room together and a couple of the staff came up with the idea of getting some of the high schools have their art students contribute to this and it all came together."

Each of the six high schools in the county were contacted and a short list of a half-dozen students was compiled.

A glowing recommendation from WESS art teacher Ruthanne McLagan convinced Skovron and his committee to entrust the project to Jennifer Dupuis, 17, of Port Glasgow, Vanessa Gray, 16, of West Lorne and Sarah Fugard, 16, of Iona.

They were assisted by Jiles Barrett, a student of Parkside Collegiate.

"The mural took about eight weeks," noted Dupuis, "because we could only work five or six hours on Saturdays."

"We had to deal with the confidentiality aspect," admitted Skovron, "so we couldn't have the kids come in here during the day or after school. So we had to meet exclusively on Saturday mornings, which slowed us down a little."

"This is the biggest project we have undertaken and it turned out really nice," said Dupuis, an art student who would like to become an art and English teacher.

The jungle motif was selected by the students and the attention to the smallest of details proved daunting at times.

"I'm very happy with the way it turned out," agreed Gray, who is torn between art and music. "But there was a time when we wondered if we would ever get it done. My favourite part is the door which is painted to look like wooden planks."

As the tallest of the ambitious artists, Fugard concentrated on drawing and painting the upper regions of the mural.

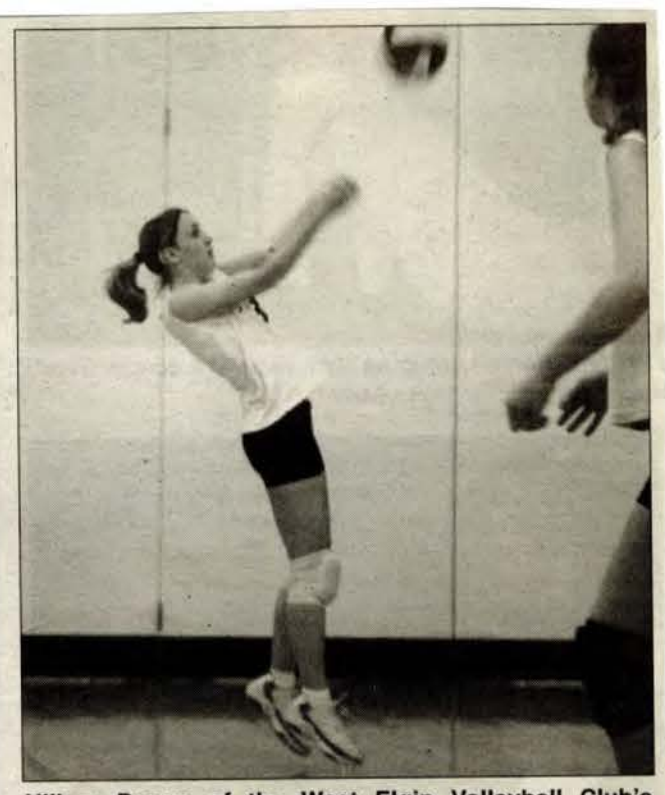
"I enjoyed doing this and I like art, but I'm not going to follow it as a career because I really want to be a nurse. However we would consider painting other walls in the office."

Skovron stressed he and his staff accomplished more than the re-design of a vacant office.

"We're partnering with the community. Obviously an agency like ours gets a lot of referrals from the high schools and that's where we really want to establish our identity. This really allowed us to get out into the community."



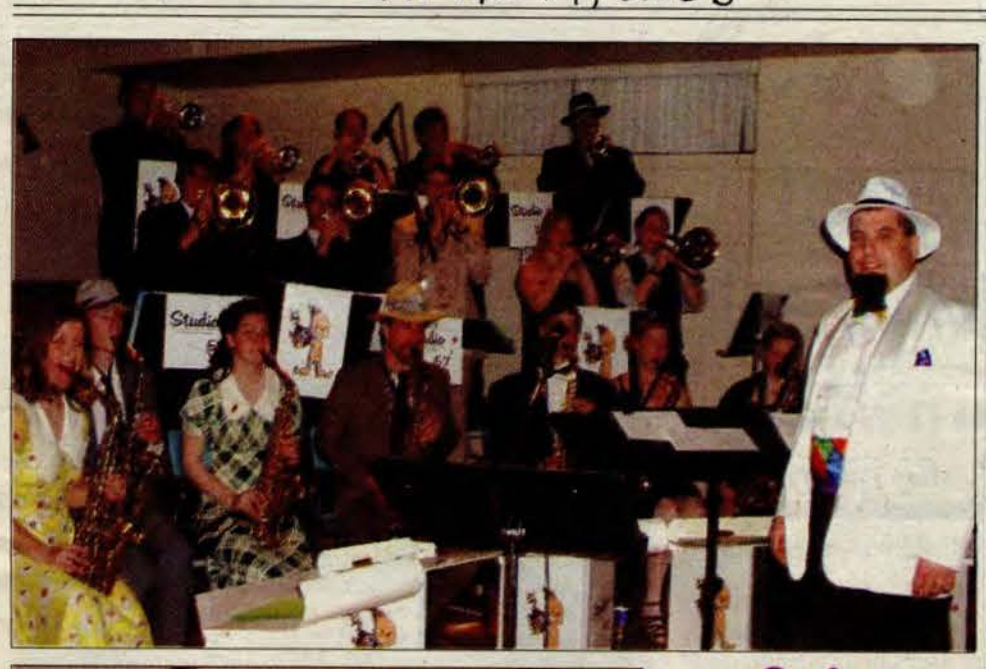
West Elgin Secondary School students Jennifer Dupuis, left, Vanessa Gray and Sarah Fugard put the finishing touches on their jungle-inspired mural which graces the walls of a multi-purpose room at the Child and Family Counselling Centre.



Hillary Brown of the West Elgin Volleyball Club's Bantam girls helps her team against Forest City Grey from London. They lost the game played Saturday at West Elgin Secondary School. The girls went on to win the Ontario Volleyball Association event and advance to tier-two competition. APR. 3/03



Mallory Peternel at the piano with Jen Pinder, Mark Godfrey and Andrew Rastapkevicius were among the members of the West Elgin Secondary School Studio 57 Jazz Ensemble. The award-winning students performed "Swing, Swing, Swing!" April 11 as their fundraising concert featuring big band sounds for a sold-out show. APR. 17/03





Swing, swing, swing

Spiro Grima, music teacher at West Elgin Secondary School, right, directs the Studio 57 Jazz Ensemble, part of the award-winning groups of performers at the high school. The students performed a special big band-era night club-style concert at the school last Friday night.

JK would expand at Aldborough PS

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Pending Thames Valley District School Board approval, Aldborough Public school will be expanded to house the junior kindergarten class from West Elgin Elementary School.

That is the recommendation the Aldborough, Dutton-Dunwich and West Elgin Senior Elementary School Accommodation Study Committee sent forward to the board's March 18 meeting.

"It's a very attractive and successful option the community has come up with," said Dave Stewart, a board trustee and chair of the committee formed late last year to study school accommodation in the area.

"We're trying to reorganize the schools," he said Monday, prior to the Tuesday night board meeting.

The board was expected to receive the report and will look at the specific details before bringing it back to a March 25 meeting where the decision whether or not to accept the proposal will be made.

Board administration is expected to assess the costs and savings of the proposal that would see the resource office at Aldborough Public School and one classroom renovated to accommodate the overall kindergarten program.

A portable would be needed at the school to house the resource office and another needed to replace the classroom that would be converted to the kindergarten program.

More playground equipment would be needed at the school as well.

The committee is also recommending that, if future needs allow it, one school of all West Elgin elementary students would be housed at West Elgin Senior Elementary School.

Stewart said the committee originally tried to find a way to adjust boundaries that would see a JK to Grade 8 program at all the schools.

"We did try hard to move around boundaries," he said, adding that was

MAR. 20/03

continued on page 2

EDUCATION 2003

County asks for a rural school board

Want to split up TVDSB

Elgin County council has sent a loud message that rural education should no longer be neglected nor ignored.

This month County council unaninously passsed a resolution that petitions Elizabeth Whitmer to review the size and composition of the Thames Valley District School Board.

The resolution asks Whitmer to change the TVDSB to "more adequately reflect the urban and rural differences in the delivery of education," and "to recognized that schools particuarly in single school communities have geographic needs that differ from more urban centered schools."

The resolution has been passed additionally by Dutton/Dunwich council.

D/D Mayor and County councillor Rien Van Brenk said the work is now in the Ministry's hands and it will not just be an Elgin issue. Van Brenk said County Warden John Wilson is also to meet with both Oxford and Middlesex County councils for support of the resolution and the idea of breaking the TVDSB into facets- one rural and one urban.

"We'll see where it goes. As community leaders we have to do something," said Van Brenk.

Van Brenk felt the education issue is just one of many that threaten rural Ontario, including gun registration, education and health care and the balance of votes in elections.

He said the shift of the balance of power from rural to urban is now seen as the norm.

The two TVDSB trusteees, Linda Stevenson and David Stewart have both been on spoken in the public that the TVDSB does not have a rural focus.

Recently adding fuel to the fire has been the neglect of an agreed practice of TVDSB and the former boards that the chair of the TVDSB would rotate between a rural trustee and urban after each year. The last years have been spent with a rural chair.

JAN 27/03

The Chronicle MAY 8, 2003





Lucas Given, above, shows the garbage his creek cleaner caught in Jeffrey Drain behind his house in West Elgin. His invention was among the science fair entries judged last Wednesday at West Elgin Senior Elementary School. At left, Tim van der Zon demonstrates his project about how clouds are formed.

Breakfast program is strong

The healthy nutritious breakfast at West Elgin Secondary School, now in its eight month, is still going strong.

Breakfast choices each morning vary from cereal, toast, juice, fruit, waffles, rice krispie squares, and english muffins.

Beginning this week students will be able to have a free hot breakfast every Friday until the end of school.

Morgan McWilliam, student leader, and his daily assistant, Jessie Lowes, report that between 60 and 80 students participate each morning.

WESS was fortunate to receive a grant from Breakfast for Learning to begin this very important program. Also Breakfast Club members, parents, and School Council have been busy fundraising since September so that this program may continue. There are still tickets available on the 2002 Suzuki ATV, and two cordless phones. Winners of the two Detroit Red Wings games have already been drawn. The final draw for the ATV and phones will be made on May 20. If you haven't got your ticket yet or would like another chance to win, they may be purchased from any Breakfast Club member or from the main office at the high school.

Deb Tobias has donated four Toronto Blue Jays tickets for the club to raffle off in support of its fundraising.

The game is in August. This draw will be made on June 26, 2003.



West Elgin Senior Elementary School students Liona van der Zon, left and Devon Willson examine their construction challenge project at the Skills London Oxford Middlesex Elgin showcase held last week in London. The event aimed to give hands-on experience in the skilled trades to students in elementary and high school.

MAY 22, 2003

The Chronicle MAR. 19, 2003



The Aldborough Public School Horse Club held a field trip on Saturday, June 7 at Coyote Ridge Riding Centre on Carroll Line. Teacher Mrs. Kirschner started the club, expecting only 5 or 6 participants and was overwhelmed when 75 initially signed up. After receiving their Certificates of Completion, members posed for a picture, wearing the T-shirts that they made at their final meeting. Many thanks to Mrs. Kirschner and Pat Kell of Coyote Ridge Riding Centre for all their hard work.

April 3, 2003 - Page 13





MADD POSTERS DESIGNED BY STUDENTS

Paula Hejna, 10, and Abbey Fleming, 8, of Aldborough Public School, designed award winning posters in the 6th Annual Paul Carvalho Poster Contest held by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, St. Thomas Chapter. Presenting the award to the girls is Brenda Webber, a volunteer with MADD. The theme of the poster contest was "My life has just begun, don't drink and drive!" Hejna came in third place for ages nine to 11 and Fleming came first for ages six to 8.

Chronicle photo

Kristen Griffiths and Rhonda Knight perform as part of the jazz band at West Elgin Senior Elementary School's 'Beat' the Winter concert. The concert band and choir also performed for the community at the March 21 concert.

JUNE 19, 2003

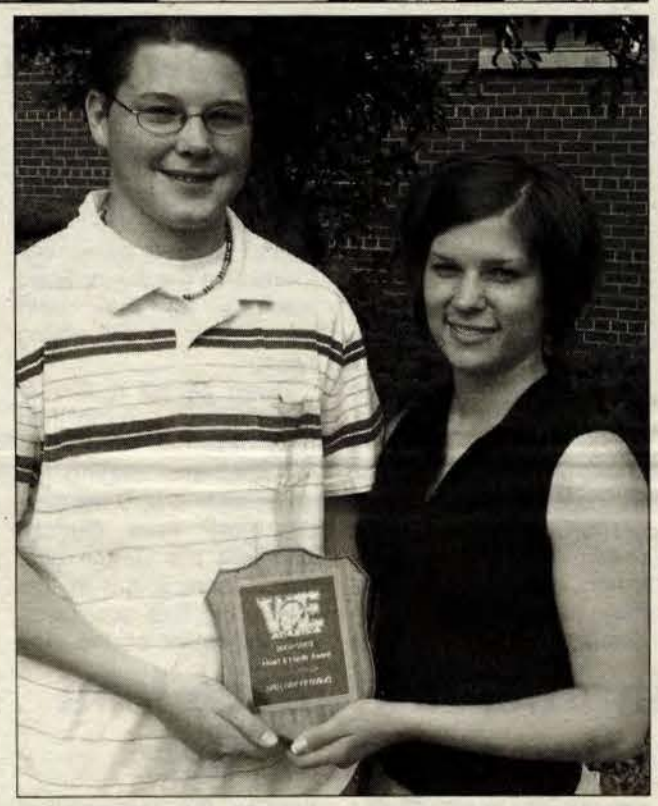
The Chronicle

SPORTS



Athletes honoured

Joe Lyons, left and Ashley Clements were the senior athletes of the year and are joined by Pete Thompson and Racheal Kalita, junior athletes of the year. Awards were given out at West Elgin Secondary School June 10 for students in the high school's athletics programs.



Matt Woolsey and Mallory Peternel were this year's Heart and Hustle Award recipients at West Elgin Secondary School.

WESS athletic award recipients

Football MVP Brad Tunks (coaches Mr. Youngash, Mr. Epp); Jr. Boys Volleyball MVP Kris Oliveira (coach Mr. Vandyk); Sr. Boys Volleyball MVP Joe Lyons (coach Mr. Welch); Field Hockey MVP Marcie Charron (coaches Miss Campbell, Mr. Schneider) Golf MVP Justin Lyons (coach Mr. Fraser); Cross Country MIP Ruben VanderZon (coach Mr. Douglas); Jr. Girls Basketball MVP Jen Drummelsmith (coaches Miss Cunningham, Mr. Hills); Hockey MVP Andrew Hentz (coaches Mrs. McDowell, Mr. Shine, Mr. Rivard); Jr. Girls Volleyball MVP Amanda Leonardes (coaches Miss Campbell, Mrs. Rowsom); Sr. Girls Volleyball MVP Lindsey Webber (coaches Miss Clinton, Mrs. Wrobel); Jr. Boys Basketball MVP Mark Godfrey (coaches Mr. Roos, Chris Enns); Jr. Badminton MIP Ruben Vanderzon (coaches Mr. Miskiman, Mr. Youngash); Sr. Badminton MVP's Johnathon Woolsey & Josh Duplessis (coaches Miss Hughes, Mrs. Charron); Boys Soccer MIP Andrew Coates (coaches Mr. Boylan, Chris Leys); Girls Soccer MVP Nicole McPhail (coaches Miss Cunningham, Mrs. McCullough).

EDUCATION 2003



West Elgin Secondary School librarian, Melanie Thibert, receives a cheque from principal, Larry Schneider for $500 toward the purchase of new books. However, Schneider was making the donation, not as principal, but as a member of the Ridgetown Players Incorporated. The successful amature theatre company donated $500 to 10 school libraries in the region in which there are students or teachers who participate in the theatre. JUNE 19, 2003



Despite the wintry weather, there was a full house at WESS last Wednesday night to hear conductor Jeff Christmas lead Orchestra London in its first public appearance in West Elgin. The orchestra was joined by the West Elgin Choral Society and St. Thomas Knox Presbyterian Church under the direction of Wayne Carroll. Above Janine Norloos takes a bow, after taking a turn at the baton. FEB. 17/03

OCT. 2/03

The Chronicle



West Elgin Secondary School students were covered in oatmeal after taking part in some of the Grade 9 welcome games held Friday at the high school. *Chronicle photo*



Spring visitor

Scott Aldred, second from the right, brought a lamb to his junior kindergarten class with Sharon Nielson at West Elgin Senior Elementary School late last month. Aldred comes from a farm where they have some sheep. He also visited the other junior kindergarten class at the school.

MAY 8, 2003



UNITED WAY CONTRIBUTION...

Staff and students at West Elgin Secondary School raised $1,780.37 through events including a talent show and student buy-outs. From left to right is, Brianne Hein, Jenna Campbell, Jay Beecroft (load representative for Ford/CAW Local 1520), Carolyn Blewett (education division chair, United Way), Scott Houston, Kyle Carew and WESS vice principal Mr. Miskiman. NOV. 20. 2003 *Chronicle photo*

EDUCATION 2003



Abbey Fleming of Aldborough Public School holds her 2nd place, nationally winning Mothers Against Drunk Driving poster contest entry with MADD's Elgin-St. Thomas Chapter representative, Brenda Webber. She received $150 and a MADD gym bag filled with goodies for her efforts which now could be used in national MADD campaigns. *Chronicle photo*

OCT 16/03

Youth learns about leadership

AUG. 7 2003

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Kory Preston has come back from Washington DC ready to take on the world.

The West Elgin Secondary School student just came back from the week-long World Leadership Congress and said interacting with young people from around the world has changed many of his views.

It's also opened his eyes even more to the importance of being a leader, even in a place as small as the hamlet of Wallacetown.

"I've been interested in having an impact on the world and this seemed to be the best way I could learn," he said of the decision to attend the conference. It reaffirmed his belief that even in small places, leaders are needed and change can be made.

Run by an organization called Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership, programs to inspire leadership in youth have been held for more than 40 years now. With the support of many local service clubs, Preston was able to attend the conference, held July 17 to 25.

He was one of 332 participants from 15 countries including Russia, Korea, Ireland, Israel and Mexico.

The conference focussed largely on world events and, with 15 diverse perspectives represented by the youth from different countries, Preston was able to learn to look at those events in different ways.

The youth were then told that they could see and understand how the world is now, but were challenged to go out and change it.

Housed on the George Washington University campus, the students talked about religion, science and technology and current events such as the war in Iraq.



Kory Preston holds a silver plate with a replica f a United States emblem given to him by an American friend at a leadership conference that brought youth together from around the world. *Chronicle photo*

"My perspectives changed a lot," said Preston.

"Before I went down, I was really opposed to the war on Iraq," he said. Now, he's not so sure it was wrong.

He also realized how media focuses on issues in their own countries and that not everyone is aware of the problems other countries are facing.

Some youth said their countries have never reported information about SARS or mad cow, which surprised Preston at first.

But with more open ideas now and a better realization that he can make a difference, Preston is feeling even more inspired to meet the congress's challenge and go out and make changes.

He is already a member of the Leo Club in Dutton but wants to get more involved in the community and at the high school.

That way, he said he could inspire and encourage more leaders.

"A true leader doesn't create followers, he creates more leaders," said Preston.

With more leaders inspired to make a difference, he said that's one way to set the stage for change in the world.

And even in a rural community, he said he could see now how he could affect the world around him.

"If I could change one thing in the world, there'd be no more starving children," said Preston.

Preston has always been a volunteer. Even though required to complete 40 hours of volunteer work to graduate from high school, has felt uncomfortable having groups he has helped sign the school volunteer documents because he didn't want them to think he was only doing it for the credit.

Now, he's thinking of starting up an organization within high schools and through a network of new friends from the conference and their schools, to help provide even more aid to countries with starving children.

"We're thinking of a small school-based organization to raise awareness and raise funds," he said.

That's how he sees a way he can help change the world, even from his home in Wallacetown.

Thinking about a career in education, Preston is now giving consideration to teaching in less fortunate countries but before that, he is thinking about taking a year off of school to do some missionary work.

He knows they are big challenges but the leadership program has left him inspired and hopeful, understanding change really does have to start with just one person.

Parents meet with minister of education

Group asks for school closure moratorium

For *The Chronicle*

A group of West Elgin parents are calling on the province's education minister to impose a moratorium on school closures and re-evaluate the real costs and benefits of investing in rural education.

Tracy Grant, chairman of the West Elgin Secondary School (WESS) council, briefly spoke with Minister of Education Gerard Kennedy as he prepared to address area school board trustees Wednesday afternoon at the Stone Ridge Inn north of Talbotville.

Grant had arranged to present the minister with her school council's recommendations on a rural education strategy designed to provide more equitable opportunities for rural/single school community students in the province.

The report outlines five key points, including the implementation of programming-based funding which would ensure all community schools receive teachers, texts, library resources and equipment to provide all streams of provincially mandated programs without the need for teachers to "double up" grades or teaching levels.

WESS is one of four Thames Valley District School Board community secondary schools currently involved in an accommodation study dealing with the administration's recommendation to close Glencoe District High School.

Grant says getting the recommendations to Kennedy is an important first step.

"I'm very pleased to have done that. We've made previous submissions to previous education ministers and we've had a lack of response. But we're really hoping with a new government that they'll respond to our concerns about rural education."

She is hoping Kennedy will grasp the urgency of the situation and implement a moratorium on school closings.

"I'm hoping he'll understand the immediacy of the problem. That there are schools that are currently being reviewed for closure and it would be upsetting to those communities to have that happen."

Grant says there is a need to re-define the terms "remote schools" and "small schools."

"To better reflect rural-based schooling. Distance and class size should not be the only defining factors. Community and social structure also need to be considered."

She notes WESS serves a catchment area of 618 square kilometres with many students traveling more than an hour on a bus to attend classes. But enrollment numbers are declining.

"We are concerned about critical numbers for programming and we are approaching those numbers with declining enrolment. So it is certainly an on-going concern. The enrolment right now is 540 students and under 500 is one critical number."

Those concerns have been relayed to the school board, but Grant feels trustees have so far have not come to grips with rural issues.

"Our school council tries to make its concerns known to the school board. But we don't feel that rural areas are represented adequately."

And by putting her council's report in Kennedy's hands, she hopes the minister agrees with her that "we have seen no evidence that closing these schools provides any cost saving to the school board. And the effect of school closures has been devastating for many communities."

DEC. 11/03

Safety day



Craig Elliott of the West Lorne Fire Department helps Grade 6 Aldborough Public School student, Alex McIntyre, get out of the gear firefighters wear on calls. Elliott joined members of the health, police, farm and emergency communities to teach Grade 4 to 6 students about safety last Wednesday at the West Lorne Arena.

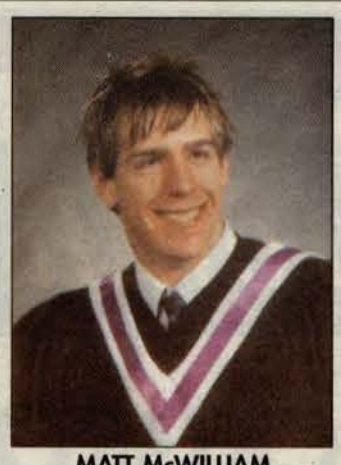
JUNE

2003 Ontario Scholars

W. E. S. S.



MEGAN McLANDRESS
Dutton, Ontario
Parents: Dave & Cathy McLandress
School Attending & Program:
Ryerson University
Hospitality & Tourism Management



MATT McWILLIAM
Dutton, Ontario
Parents: Paul & Donna McWilliam
School Attending & Program :
Carleton University
Arts and Social Sciences



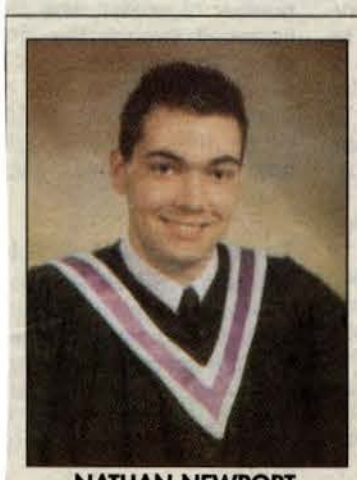
NICOLE McPHAIL
Wardsville, Ontario
Parents: Duncan McPhail
School Attending & Program:
University of Waterloo
Honours, Arts



IAN MOLNAR
Iona Station, Ontario
Parents: Lou Anne & Rob Molnar
School Attending & Program:
University of Western Ontario
Engineering Science



JENNIFER LEWIS-MOSS
Dutton, Ontario
Parents: Nicky & Graham Moss
School Attending & Program:
Queen's University
Honours, Phycology



NATHAN NEWPORT
Rodney, Ontario
Parents: Lucy & Randy Newport
School Attending & Program:
University of Western Ontario
Engineering



CASEY OKOLISAN
Rodney, Ontario
Parents: Bill & Cathy Okolisan
School Attending & Program:
University of Guelph
Hotel and Food Administration



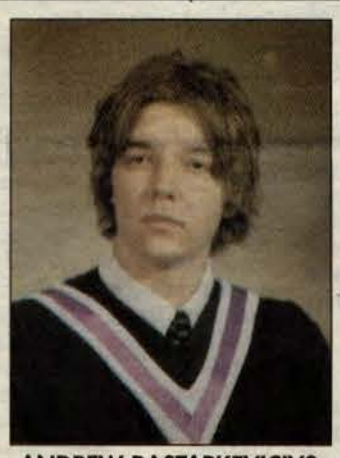
NELLIE OLIVEIRA
West Lorne, Ontario
Parents: Manuel & Maria Oliveira
School Attending & Program:
University of Toronto
Humanities and Social Sciences



MALLORY PETERNEL
Iona Station, Ontario
Parents: Joe & Beth Peternel
School Attending & Program:
University of Waterloo
Science Honours



JULIET PREY
Dutton, Ontario
Parents: Emmy & Helmut Prey
School Attending & Program:
Brock University
Arts-Phycology



ANDREW RASTAPKEVICIVS
Dutton, Ontario
Parents: Al & Irene Rastapkevicivs
School Attending & Program:
Queen's University
Political Studies



BROOKE ROEST
Rodney, Ontario
Parents: Bill & Bonnie Roest
School Attending & Program:
University of Guelph
Honours Science, Major Bio-chem.



ELIZABETH ROSE
Dutton, Ontario
Parents: Dave & Connie Rose
School Attending & Program:
Ryerson University
B of C Hospitality & Tourism Mngmt.



BEATRICE SACHER
Rodney, Ontario
Parents: August & Marianne Sacher
School Attending & Program:
Fanshawe College
Personal Support Worker



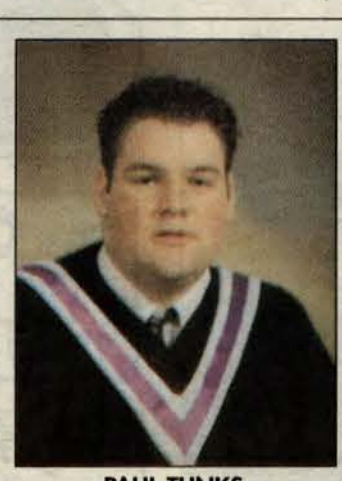
CONNIE SMALL
Wallacetown, Ontario
Parents: Larry & Kathy Small
School Attending & Program:
Wilfred Laurier
Business Administration



TRISTAN STADDON
Rodney, Ontario
Parents: Richard & Carol Staddon
School Attending & Program:
Ryerson University
Journalism



BRAD TUNKS
Rodney, Ontario
Parents: John & Wendy Tunks
School Attending & Program:
University of Waterloo
Mathematics



PAUL TUNKS
Rodney, Ontario
Parents: John & Wendy Tunks
School Attending & Program:
Queen's University
Bachelor of Arts



KRISTYN WATTERWORTH
West Lorne, Ontario
Parents: Don & Pat Watterworth
School Attending & Program:
York University
Fine Arts

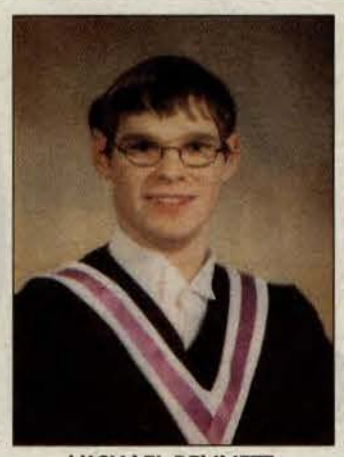


MATTHEW WOOLSEY
Rodney, Ontario
Parents: Bob & Wendy Woolsey
School Attending & Program:
University of Western Ontario
Honours, Science

2003 Ontario Scholars



JESSICA AMBROSE
Dutton, Ontario
Parents: Katie Ambrose
School Attending & Program:
Ryerson Polytechnic University
Hospitality & Tourism Management



MICHAEL BENNETT
Rodney, Ontario
Parents: Janice Whelan, Jim Bennett
School Attending & Program:
University of Western Ontario
Music



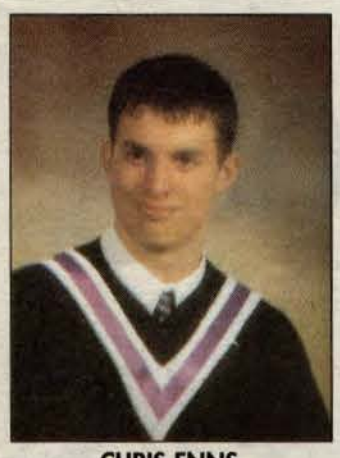
MARGARET BENNETTO
Dutton, Ontario
Parents: Norah & John Bennetto
School Attending & Program:
University of Waterloo, St. Jeromes
Honours Arts, Faculty of Arts Eng.



AMANDA BREEN
Fingal, Ontario
Parents: Hugh & Georgetta Breen
School Attending & Program:
Wilfred Laurier, Hon. of Bach. Bus. Admin.
Univ. of Waterloo, Hon. Bach. of Math.



MARCIE CHARRON
West Lorne
Parents: Barb & Ray Charron
School Attending & Program:
Wilfred Laurier
Music Education



CHRIS ENNS
Iona Station, Ontario
Parents: Isaac & Dorothy Jean Enns
School Attending & Program:
Dalhousie University
Bach. of Science (Biology)

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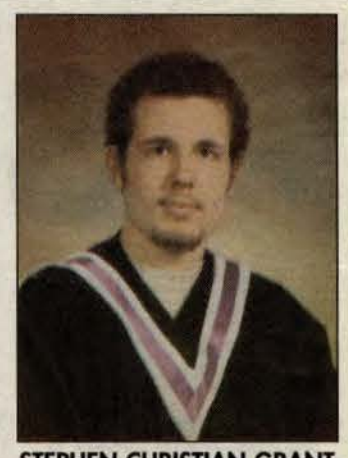
JON FLEMING
Rodney, Ontario
Parents: Frank & Shelley Fleming
Returning to W.E.S.S.



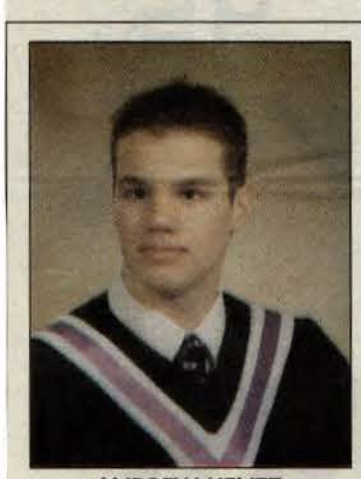
ILSE FLEUREN
Rodney, Ontario
Parents: Peter & Idith Fleuren
School Attending & Program:
University of Guelph
Bach. of Arts, Hon. Major Psychology



ROBERTA FORD
Rodney, Ontario
Parents: Tom & Lynda Ford
School Attending & Program:
University of Guelph
Water Resource Engineering



STEPHEN CHRISTIAN GRANT
Dutton, Ontario
Parents: Stephen & Tracy Grant
School Attending & Program:
Brock University
Honours Physical Education



ANDREW HENTZ
Wallacetown, Ontario
Parents: Mike & Ingrid Hentz
School Attending & Program:
Queen's University
Arts-History-French



SUSAN HOGAN
West Lorne, Ontario
Parents: Deborah & Patrick Hogan
School Attending & Program:
Brescia University College
Foods and Nutrition



LINDSEY HULL
Dutton, Ontario
Parents: Brenda & Kevin Hull
School Attending & Program:
Queen's University
Music (Performance)



SAM HUMPHREY
Rodney, Ontario
Parents: Jim & Marie Humphrey
School Attending & Program:
Queen's University
History



LAURA JONES
Dutton, Ontario
Parents: Marion & Stephen Jones
School Attending & Program:
University of Guelph
Kinetics



KRISTOPHER W. KING
Rodney, Ontario
Parents:Susan & Bill King
Returning to W.E.S.S.



STEPHANIE LACKEY
Wallacetown, Ontario
Parents: Margaret & Ron Lackey
School Attending & Program:
University of Waterloo
Arts and Business



SIMONE LOETERS
Wardsville, Ontario
Parents: John & Annemieke
School Attending & Program:
Brock University
Child and Youth Studies



JOE LYONS
Dutton, Ontario
Parents: Bob & Luci Lyons
School Attending & Program:
Huron University College
International & Comparative Studies

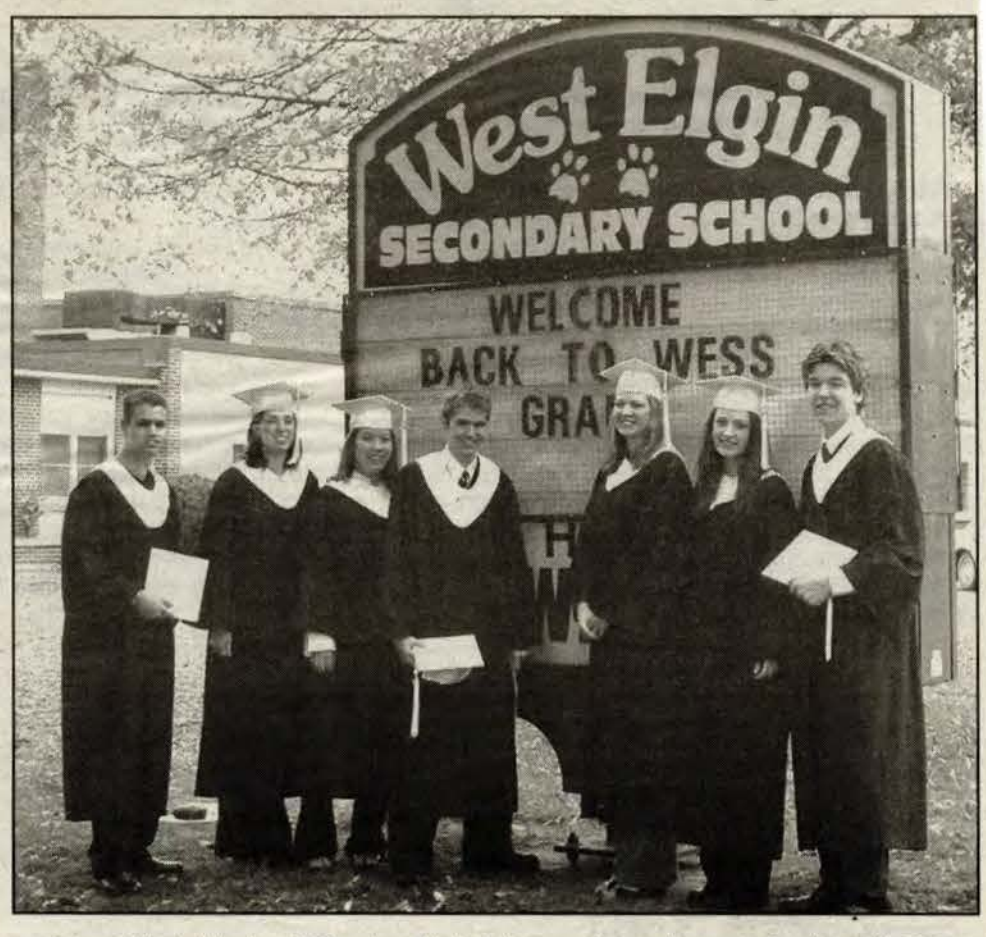


AMY McLANDRESS
Dutton, Ontario
Parents: Dave & Cathy McLandress
School Attending & Program:
Ryerson University
Hospitality & Tourism Management

EDUCATION

WESS welcomes back 2003 grads

By Suzanne McGregor
For The Chronicle



Because of the double cohort, WESS welcomed back the largest graduating class ever on Saturday, at the 2003 commencement exercises. Along with the graduates, Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 students were presented with honour awards. Posing in front of the school on Saturday are left to right, Andrew Hentz, Laura Jones, Stephanie Lackey (OAC valedictorian), Ian Molnar (grade 12 new curriculum valedictorian), Roberta Ford, Amanda Breen, and Andrew Rastapkevicius (salutorian).

Chronicle Photo

The graduates at the WESS commencement on Saturday represented the last graduating class of OAC's and the first graduates of the new curriculum. While it made for the largest graduating class ever out of WESS, the reunion of students, many who hadn't seen each other since summer, was warm and uplifting as hugs and chatter and laughter dominated.

Because of the double cohort, there were two valedictorians.

Stephanie Lackey gave the Valedictory address, speaking on behalf of the OAC (5th year) graduates.

Lackey is currently attending the University of Waterloo, taking arts and business. She began her address by expressing to the audience of students, family and friends what commencement meant to those returning.

"For the graduates we are happy to be reunited with our high school friends, and also a bit of relief that we have made it to this day — which means we have successfully completed four or five years of high school and survived the first couple months of college, university, or work."

For those students that have gone on to higher education, the facilities they are now attending are much larger, but Lackey suggested that their rural school upbringing was important and helped shape lives.

"Because we are fortunate enough to attend a rural school we soon realized that a small, but adequately populated school is not intimidating at all. It was easy to meet new friends, from WESES or St. Mary's, or those new to the area and have a sense who everyone was, or who everyone was related to at least. Almost like one big family."

And Lackey was firm in her support of WESS and rural education.

"West Elgin has been here for over 51 years and I know will continue to be here educating students for years and years to come. West Elgin is, or was once your school, your home – respect it and support it so you will always have a West Elgin to come back to... we are fortunate to have teachers who put in extra time to coach our sports, to lead our clubs and committees, tutor us when we need help, and never let us give up."

Lackey ended her address with some words of wisdom for all.

"As we go out into the world I hope we all remember the basic morals our parents taught us. Be respectful, treat others the way you want to be treated, don't get in a car with a stranger (no matter how cold the walk back to residence), get lots of rest, and don't skip breakfast..(even if it is at noon). The journey has just begun."

Ian Molnar, was the valedictorian representing the Grade 12 (new curriculum) class. Molnar is now attending the University of Western Ontario in Engineering Science.

He began his address reminiscing over the four years at WESS.

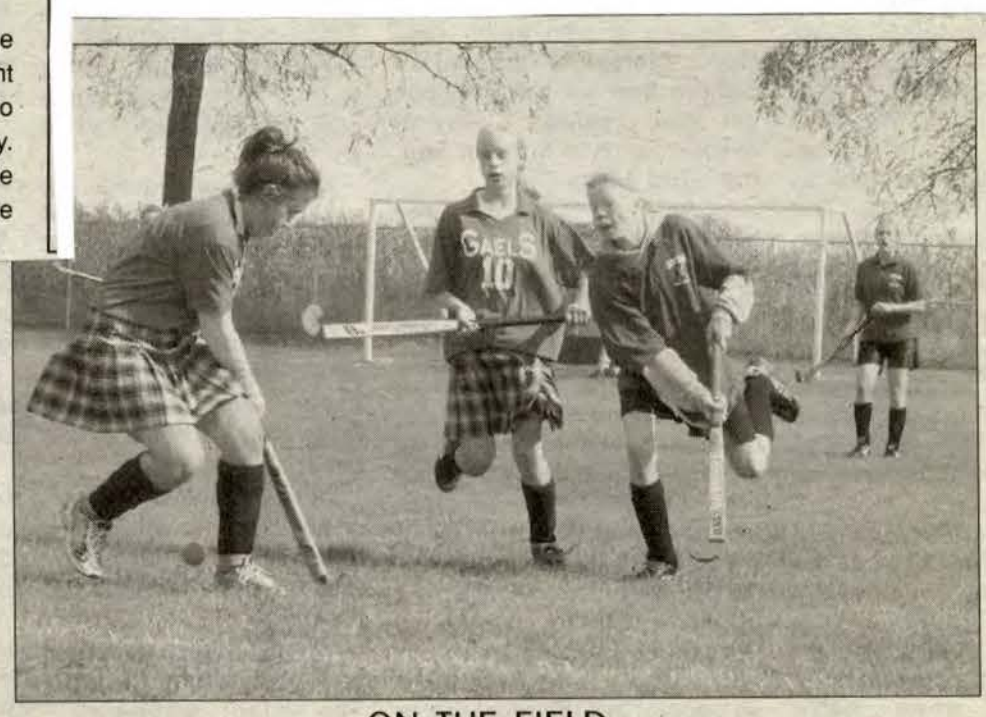
"We've all come a long way in four years. From Grade 9 day to the very final class where we sat in our seats watching Ms. Sehti draw her work-play diagram on the board as we struggled with the enormity of the situation that was quickly approaching. Our life was about to change drastically, for better or worse."

While places and events are important in our lives, Molnar reflected that it is the people in our lives that make the difference.

"It is because of the people that we remember places like West Elgin with such fondness, making us remember high school as some of the best years of our lives. It's not the situation you're in that lets you have fun, it's the people that you do it with that makes all the difference."

Molnar spoke of the feelings of both excitement and dread of moving on to the new life of university. And he spoke to everyone present, especially those still in high school when he advised that "we've moved on to bigger and better things. High school isn't as good as it gets. It just gets better and the sky's the limit. But don't let the past shape who you are now and who you are going to be.You can go out, do anything you set your mind to, as long as you believe in yourself. Like Neil Diamond when he says, 'Not a trace of doubt in my mind, I'm a believer.' Oh the places you'll go."

Congratulations to all the successful graduates of 2003.



ON THE FIELD...

Jessica Kalita, third left, moves in for the ball during girls field hockey hosted by West Elgin Secondary School last Thursday afternoon. The Wildcats took on the Glencoe Gaels but were defeated 2-1.

Chronicle photo

OCT. 2003

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EDUCATION 2003

DEC 2003



Renee Forgues and Ashly Blais join the St. Mary's Choir in singing Winter Wonderland.



Melanie Howard accompanies a St. Mary's Catholic School class in playing Silent Night during the school's Christmas concert last Tuesday night. Below, right, William Weeks, left, and Luke Stacey perform the song in sign language with the rest of their class.

Chronicle photos





Alyssa Paiva and James Schadenberg play Mary and Joseph in a Grade 1 performance.

Accommodation study committees to continues, says TVDSB

For *The Chronicle*

Thames Valley District School Board is telling several community committees studying the future of their local schools to carry on with the job.

Heeding a warning last Tuesday from administration, TVDSB trustees agreed in discussion that they won't interfere with accommodation reviews that are under way in several areas, including both west and east Elgin.

But with the provincial government asking school boards to delay any school closings slated for September, trustees also suggested they could put any such recommendation from their committees on hold although none of the accommodation reviews now under way would be able to recommend a September closing in time for it to happen, anyway.

The Ontario government said Friday it wants school boards to hold off approving closings until the ministry of education can review its funding formula.

School board chairman Jan Hunter said last night the announcement sounds hopeful.

"We don't really know exactly what it means but we will look forward optimistically."

Like many school boards, Thames Valley is grappling with a declining enrolment which threatens the future of schools.

Educators are particularly concerned about being able to offer a full range of programs to small schools, especially in rural areas.

But while rookie Oxford trustee Margaret Reidl said the province's announcement means TVDSB "should proceed with extreme caution" with accommodation reviews, executive superintendent of operations Peter Gryseels warned the board not to tinker with established policy and procedures governing the studies.

"Don't interfere with the process," he said. "Let the communities discuss this."

And, in fact, trustees heard the committee studying high schools in west Middlesex and west Elgin decided the night before it wants to continue with its review.

"They gave a very clear indication they want to continue with their deliberations and bring it to a resolve," Gryseels said.

Study chairman Peggy Sattler, a Middlesex trustee, said the committee is concerned delaying its recommendations could hurt Glencoe District High School by dissuading parents from enrolling their children at the school.

While school board administration has suggested closure of the school; the committee is looking for a way to keep all the high schools under study, including West Elgin, open.

The school board did decide last night to send a letter to the education ministry explaining its response.

• In other business, TVDSB was told last night that it has had a windfall of close to $600,000 for rural elementary schools because of new provincial funding. The school board agreed to prioritize the need for the money among 30 schools, including several in Elgin, for library and information technology upgrades.

Students collecting food door-to-door, Dec. 9/03

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

West Elgin Secondary School students will be blitzing western Elgin County collecting food in its "Yes We Can" program.

More than 50 students and 15 adult volunteers will take two hours Tuesday, Dec. 9 to collect food from homes in Dutton, West Lorne and Rodney and in points in between.

Last year, they collected 14 truck loads of food which is split between the Daffodil Society and Caring Cupboard.

"The kids have done just a phenomenal job," said Berta Prelaz, teacher supervisor for the third annual event.

The Daffodil Society provides food and Christmas hampers to people in need in the Dutton and West Lorne areas while the Caring Cupboard helps families in the Rodney area.

Students will be out in force Dec. 9 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to collect food and donations for the two organizations.

Prelaz said people who can't be at home during the collection period can leave food on their doorsteps and encourages people, even if you are home, to leave their food outside for a quicker pickup.

Items most needed include peanut butter, soap and other hygiene products and facial tissues but an assortment of non-perishable food items is always needed.

The collection will help the organizations fill Christmas hampers but is also a boost to its ongoing service of providing food to people who need some support.

"I always thought it was important for our kids to realize how big the need is out there," said Prelaz, who organized the event.

And she said the students really get behind the project.

"Kids I never would expect have come out to help," she said.

The event follows a homeroom competition that has students currently collecting food in their classrooms until Dec. 8.

That's when volunteers will judge the homerooms based on how much food they have collected and how they are displaying it in the classroom. The winning homeroom receives a pizza party.

Dec. 5-7, there will also be boxes left in local grocery stores where anyone can donate food or food can be left before Dec. 9 at the high school.

During the community collection on Tuesday, Dec. 9, Prelaz said the volunteers will be wearing badges to identify themselves when they come to someone's door.

Anyone looking for more information can call the school at 768-1350.

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SCHOOLS - EDUCATION 2003

Aldborough raising money



Fairles' Food Market recently donated $500 to Aldborough Public School's parent council to help with their quest for new playground equipment at the school. The council is hoping to raise $15,000 for the project. From left to right: Julie Scafe, Brian Scafe, Karen Roodzant, Gord Park and Trisha Pearson.

Chronicle photo

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

While schools may have been out for the summer, Aldborough Public School's parent council members were continuing their lessons in fund raising as they continued to work toward being able to improve the sparse playground at the school.

The group is hoping to raise more than $15,000 toward a large piece of equipment that serves as a climber with slides and other attachments to increase the playground fun for the students at the school.

"It's quite a large piece," said Karen Roodzant.

So far, the parents have raised more than $7,000 toward the project, with $5,000 coming from parent donations and $900 from a fund raising sale of notebooks.

Now, they're out in the community seeking corporate support or donations from anyone willing to help them out.

Roodzant said letters sent to area businesses have already generated a positive response and continue to move them closer to their goal.

Fairles Foodmart in Rodney has donated $500 and Steve Browne of West Lorne's IGA turned a recent promotion for Canadian beef into a fund raiser for the school as well.

Customers who lined up last month for a free Canadian beef hamburger were asked for a donation toward the school's playground equipment, raising more than $200 more.

The fund raising committee has been in action for about two years now, but this is the first time they've reached out to the community at large.

On their own, they've added a swing set to the junior student's yard and have been able to repaint and fix up much of the existing equipment.

This has been their biggest project so far.

After its completion, Roodzant said she hopes they can add new equipment to the kindergarten play area, now that the junior kindergarten students from West Elgin Senior Elementary School have been relocated to Aldborough Public School.

Anyone interested in contributing to the project can call Roodzant at 785-0882.

She said they are hoping enough money can be raised to order and have the equipment in place before winter.

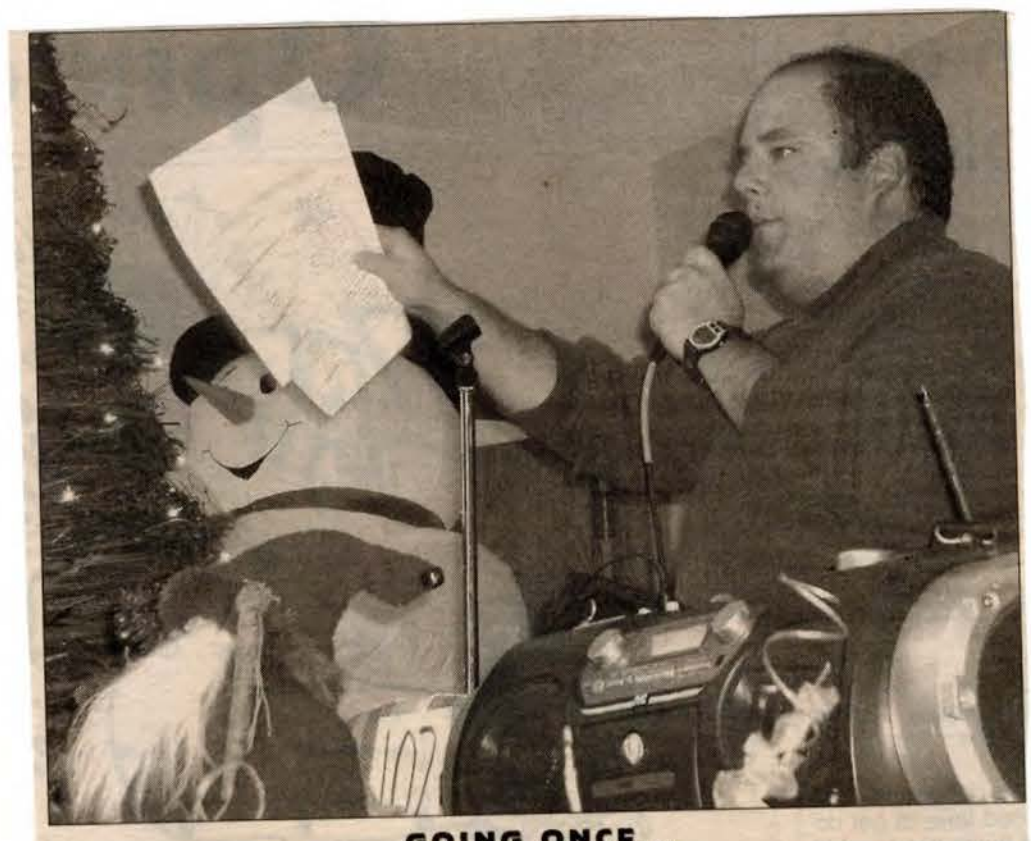
WEST LORNE W.I. DONATED ALSO.



SANTA VISITS...

Students at Aldborough Public School in Rodney enjoyed a visit by Santa Claus. He visited all the classes at the school where students had a chance to present him with their Christmas wishes. Here, Lyle Groniger brought a smile to everyone's face including Santa when he presented his giant list. He's joined by secretary Angie DeVries, who worked that afternoon as Santa's helper.

Chronicle photo



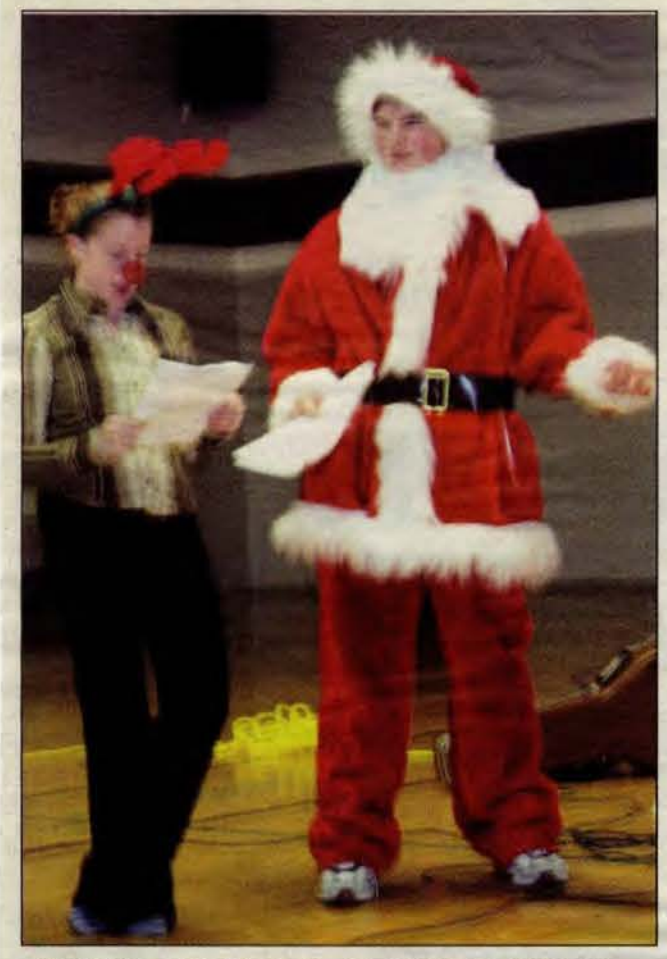
GOING ONCE...

Auctioneer Gary Slaght sells another item at the St. Mary's School silent and live auction. Slaght was one of several auctioneers helping out during the fund raising event last Saturday for the school. A huge crowd was on hand to help out as hundreds of donated items went on the auction block which raised more than $16,000 according to early estimates.

Chronicle photo

NOV. 03

EDUCATION 2003



SANTA VS LORD OF THE RINGS...

Brianne Hein as Rudolph and Craig Watterworth as Santa were part of a West Elgin Secondary School skit featuring a clash between Santa Claus and the characters from Lord of the Rings. Students performed a variety of skits and musical acts to wrap up the day on Friday before the Christmas break officially began.

Chronicle photo

Work internship program already proves rewarding

OCT. 16, 2003

By Larry Schnieder
Principal, West Elgin Secondary School

It is very hard to believe that we are already in the sixth week of the school year, but we indeed are, with students receiving their initial progress reports from their teachers in each of their classes on Oct. 10.

These reports will be in a new format from the program "Markbook", and will indicate each individual assignment to date.

Parent-Teacher interviews will be held on Oct. 15, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. and 6:30- 8:30 p.m., in the gym.

Oct. 5 was the United Nations International Teachers Day, and I would like to commend the excellent teaching and support staff here at West Elgin, who do so much to enrich the lives of our students.

On Oct. 10, we had a spirit assembly to introduce our fall teams and their coaches, and gave out the first "Purple Paw" awards, given to those students who have reached out to their school community in unique ways for the benefit of their fellow students and the school.

In a time when so many lament the sad state of "youth", we are extremely proud of our students, who, whenever we take a field trip anywhere, have the comment made to their supervisors that these are absolutely the best behaved and most polite students which the organizers of the events to which we have travelled have experienced.

I get to sign the volunteer hours completion sheets for all students, and it is most uplifting to read of the many hours which our students have given to the community. In many cases the students have given two or three times the required number of hours, and continue to volunteer even after their form has been completed and submitted to me.

We will have another opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our students at our Commencement exercises, held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25, where graduates will receive their diplomas, bursaries, and prizes, and other scholarships which they have received will be announced, along with the graduate's current pursuits.

Our returning students will also receive a variety of awards, including Honours and citizenship awards.

Our new school council will have had their second meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 7.

This year's Chair is again Tracy Grant; Anne Bray is our Vice-Chair; and our new secretary is Kim Jewell, who replaces Bonnie Roest after several years of dedicated work as our secretary. Student Council President Richa Sharma, who attends our meetings to update us on student activities, will also serve as our representative on the Breakfast Club committee; and Anji Sharma will be our representative on the Wellness Centre Committee.

Tracy Grant is also our School Council representative on the Accommodations Study Committee, and our Community Representative is Dan McKillop.

The Accommodations Study Committee met last week at North Middlesex D.H.S. in Parkhill, where the focus was on current school enrollments, future enrollment projections, and current school boundaries.

All Accommodations Study meetings are open to the public.

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 27 at Glencoe D.H.S., and the Nov. 24 meeting will be held here at WESS, with a school tour at 7 p.m. and the actual meeting starting at 7:30.

Our Work Internship Program is well under way, a new program which we are offering for those students who will likely be going straight into the work force upon leaving WESS.

The organizing committee has put in a large number of hours organizing this program, along with our job coach Aida Oliveira, and in conjunction with our employer partners in the area have created a wonderful, rewarding program for our students.

An upcoming article will describe this program in detail.

Students may now log on to the Board's web site to enter their student portal, where parents and students can view course information, attendance data, and eventually, homework assigned by teachers, their marks (after our mid-term report cards have been issued in November) and other aspects about the school.

The public and parents may also visit our school's web site, clicking on School Profiles at the left of the screen, then selecting our area, school, and the school's Web site.

This site is new and is still under construction, and will be expanded and updated in the near future by our communications classes.

On the mornings of Oct. 22 and 23 all Grade 10 students (those in their second year of high school, whether they passed Grade 9 or not) will be writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test.

Students who were not successful in passing the test in previous attempts will have to write it as well in October.

Donations from the public to our school are always welcome, and tax receipts will be given for any donation over $20.

Please consider donating to your community school in one of the following areas:

Commencement awards for the year of the double cohort, and/or future graduating classes; our breakfast program which provides a much-needed nutritional enhancement for many students; our ongoing fundraising efforts for our school band instruments; for the upgrading of our computer resources; plus our OFSSA championship fund, established to help offset costs for teams which go to the provincial championships each year, most often in Senior Boys and Girls Volleyball.

The community's ongoing support of our school makes a big difference. It really does take a community to raise a child.

Elgin high school students form own county-based organization, saying Thames Valley school district too large to serve them

DEC '03

For *The Chronicle*

Saying Thames Valley school district is just too large to serve their needs, high school student councils in St. Thomas and Elgin are forming their own, county-based organization.

Founder Dave Gouthro, president of the student council at Arthur Voaden Secondary School, says the new Greater Elgin School Union should not be seen as a separatist movement. The union includes representation from West Elgin Secondary School in West Lorne.

"We created the council to bring the students of Elgin County together, not to separate from the board."

But Elgin school trustee Linda Stevenson says the formation last month of the group underscores concerns by Thames Valley's rural trustees in Elgin and Oxford that the London-based school board fails to fully understand their schools' particular needs.

"Yes, it does. It legitimizes my concerns. How much more legitimate can you get? These are the children young people, I should say who are in our schools every day."

All the same, Stevenson said she wants to focus with the student union on the positive.

"I don't want to get them in the middle of the confrontational issue. They have the ability as a small group to do some really wonderful things for their schools and I think that remains their focus."

Gouthro, a politically active Grade 12 student whose credentials include representing local Liberal youth at the Paul Martin leadership convention last month in Toronto, says he felt the need for a local student organization when he saw not all Elgin high school representatives were able to attend meetings in London.

"A lot of them just feel alone as student councils. Until this meeting, some of us had never been together."

He said the Elgin reps hope to share things like successful fundraising ideas, and plan regional activities like sports competitions and drama festivals.

Gouthro says student reps who met for a second time this week, also support creation of a seat on the school board for a second student trustee to represent rural interest.

The Elgin group was welcomed by TVDSB chairman Jan Hunter.

"My first reaction is it's great," she said.

"Any time you can get students together, brainstorming, and bring their ideas forward to us, that's the straight course to some good information," she also said.

Hunter, herself a Middlesex trustee from Parkhill, disagreed formation of a local student group is a marker of the school board's difficulty with rural-urban issues.

"I don't agree with you there."

And she said student representation on the school board can be increased. But it's up to students to agree how to spend the set budget for the position that's mandated by the province.

The student union was to have elected officers last week but voting has been postponed to January.

HEALTH & WELFARE
2001

Nov 2001 The Chronicle

West Elgin Youth Participate in Provincial Meeting

West Elgin Community Health Centre was well represented by two young people from West Lorne recently.

Celia Almeida and Steph Tobias, two OAC students from West Elgin Secondary School participated in a provincial Youth Forum with 39 young people from across Ontario and presented their recommendations on developing advice to the Ontario Rural Council and some 300 participants at this years Annual Meeting held in Alliston.

Straight talk from rural youth on what it takes to attract young people to rural areas... and what you can do to attract youth back home to live, work, and raise a family was the centre piece of the recommendations that these fine young adults formulated many excellent solutions.

The Ontario Rural Council is a forum that brings together those who share a commitment to building strong rural communities and organizations. The Council provides a unique and important opportunity for multi-sector co-operation within the rural sector.

The Council act as a convenor, bringing together rural organizations and communities to discuss issues through open forums and as a network, liking people, information and activities that support rural community development.

Other participants from the area that attended this meeting where Graham Warwick, Michael Mosser and Douglas Graham.



WESS OAC students Celia Almeida and Steph Tobias

Both Almeida and Tobias said they would like to thank the employees at the West Elgin Community Health Centre and espeically thanked Angela Dougherty at the Centre, who drove them to the train station at 3am, when they went to Alliston.

Both students are planning on taking Criminology and Sociology in University when they graduate this coming spring.

Nov. 2001

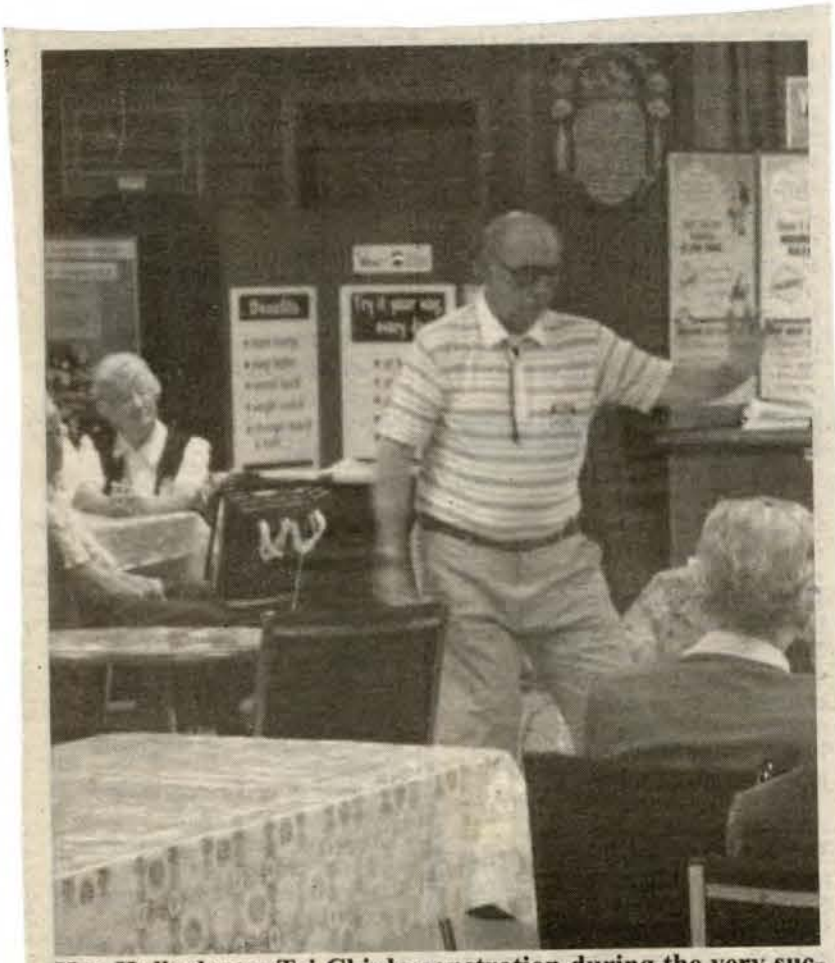
Great turnout for multi-culturalism!



Over 250 people checked out the first ever Multi-Cultural Event held on Sunday November 18 in West Lorne. The people packed into St. Mary's Parish Hall to take in the sights, tastes and sounds of 14 different culturals found in the West Elgin region. Pictured here, two patrons take in some Indian food- 'Samosa.' The event was so well received, the West Elgin Community Health Centre is making plans to have it annually and moved to a even larger location.



Linda Carmichael receives a traditional "meflendi" design on her hand by Sangeeta Saxena of London while Sangeeta's mother Dr. Kashyap looks on.



Ken Hulls does a Tai Chi demonstration during the very successful "Don't Fall in the Fall" health and safety workshop held last Thursday at the West Lorne Legion. Nov. '01

OCT /01 The Chronicle

Doctor Jones has left Health Centre

Doctor Stephen Jones has recently resigned from the West Elgin Community Health Centre in West Lorne.

Health Centre executive director Doug Graham confirmed last week that Jones has resigned from the facility.

He is still practicing at the Four Counties Hospital in Newbury.

West Elgin Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick said the work that Jones did was always appreciated and he was very dedicated. Warwick said Jones will be missed.

"It should be noted how appreciated doctor Jones was in the community. He really stuck it out when thousands wouldn't," said Warwick.

Drivers needed to continue program

WEST ELGIN TRANSPORTATION NETWORK NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

by Keith Peever
The Chronicle

West Elgin Transportation Network is in dire need of some volunteer drivers to help the West Elgin Community Health Centre continue this important program.

Shelly Vergeer, Volunteer Coordinator at the West Elgin Community Health Centre says they are facing a crisis because they do not have enough drivers.

Firstly, they have some drivers who are currently on vacation. They need to be temporarily replaced.

Vergeer says they have seen a decrease in volunteers for varied reasons.

The result is unfortunate, says Vergeer, who announced they currently can not supply all of their clients travel demands and at this rate it will get much worse.

"We are in a crisis," confirmed Vergeer last Tuesday.

These volunteer drivers drive seniors and disabled people to various places for the basic necessities of life including grocery stores, drug stores and medical appointments but also to visit family and friends and sometimes even to social events.

The drivers cover the areas of West Lorne, Rodney and Dutton and surrounding areas.

These seniors are billed by WETN when the driver fills out an invoice. The fare is based on .25 cents per kilometre. The driver is reimbursed for mileage incurred when the invoice is sent in.

In the 2000-2001 fiscal year, there were 18 volunteers for this program. In the past year they have volunteered 840 hours. Currently there are only 12 drivers.

The volunteer driver program was first initiated by the West Elgin Seniors Projects Action Committee (WESPAC). Currently funding for transportation and several other seniors support programs is received from the Ministry of Health-Long Term Care.

The Heath Centre's other Long Term Care Programs include, Meals on Wheels, Friendly Visiting, Congregate Dining, and Hospice Visiting.

Anyone wishing to help the program continue and wants to volunteer can call the Shelly at 768-1715, ext 2210.

NOV. 01

HEALTH + WELFARE 2002

The Chronicle NOV. 4, 2002

Think of your safety this fall



"Don't Fall in the Fall" commitee members Kathy Nesbitt (left) and Janic Gorayeb (right) watch Joy Scafe review medication dates for pills.

There will be more reminders this year to be safe this fall. The 3rd annual "Don't Fall in the Fall" program, sponsored by Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit and West Elgin Community Health Centre promises to further offer safety tips for anyone now that the colder season has begun.

"Don't Fall in the Fall," scheduled for November 12 at the West Elgin Legion in West Lorne from 9 am to 1 pm, is an informative public session, open to all ages which focuses on better health and safety.

This year the major focus will be on exercise tips, nutirition tips and also medication tips. Registered Practical Nurse Joy Scafe has offered her services to help people who have a lot of medication and may not know what needs to be thrown out.

"People can bring their medications in a bag, to help sort out and identify what should be discarded," said Scafe.

Scafe says a rule of thumb for people on medication is to look at a spring and fall clean of the medicine cabinet and get rid of any medication that is overdue. the problem is, you should not through these in the garbage as they are not a waste product and there are programs available for their proper disposal.

There will also be a food demonstration by WECHC Community Dietician Shari Mizzen who will speak on how best to cook for one or two people. This can be a problem, because there are many items at grocery stores that are not meant for single people.

Optometrist Doctor Shirley Kovacs will show the importance of good balance and strength and how it affects every day life.

Physical activity will also be an important topic at "Don't Fall."

Pharmacist Steve Bond is also scheduled to speak.

There will also be displays from local organizations at the event, including exhibits from VON, Red Cross Community Service, Lifeline, Alzheimer's Society Elgin-St. Thomas, Elgin Audiology, St Thomas Elgin Health Unit, Envision Health and Rehabilitation, Jewel International, West Elgin Community Health Centre, WESPAC, and Connect Care.

Stan Taylor will again be the motivational speaker. Taylor spoke at last year's "Don't Fall."

Entertainment this year will be provided by the "Cloggers," a dance troop from the St. Thomas Seniors Centre.

This year's Don't Fall in the Fall committee consists of Anita VanRaes, Mary Howard, Madeleine Cross, Shelly Vergeer and Janic Gorayeb, Joy Scafe and Kathy Nesbitt. These people have been working hard to bring new ideas to the program.

Again there will be free gifts for people who take part in "Don't Fall in the Fall." Special canvas bags will include safety tips, exercise tips and pill organizes which can hold a week's worth of pills.

There are also stretch bands and special stretch bands available for people who are allergic to latex.

This year the admittance price to Don't Fall in the Fall has increased from two dollars to five dollars. Anyone can attend.

To register, call Shelly Vergeer at 768-1715, extension 2210 by this Tuesday, November 5.

NOVEMBER 18, 2002 The Chronicle



Local pharmacist Steve Bond helped educate people on the dangers of over and under-medicating at last weeks well attended Don't Fall in the Fall seminar at the Royal Canadian Legion in West Lorne. Approximately 90 people registered for the annual event.

HEALTH + WELFARE
2002

Local support for WECHC



Harry Mezenberg, Douglas Graham, Hilde Morden (Chairperson) Fundraising Committee, Cliff Johnston (West Elgin Mutual Insurance Board President) with a $10,000 donation to WECHC, and Brian Downie, (West Elgin Mutual Insurance General Manager).

West Elgin Mutual Insurance Company President Cliff Johnston, on behalf of Board of Directors announced last week a $10,000 donation to the West Elgin Community Health Centre's Capital Building Fund to assist with the construction costs of a new health centre in the West Elgin County area in the town of West Lorne. Johnston, called on other business community partners and citizens to join their company in making the future of West Elgin Community Health Centre an integral part of Elgin County for years to come in delivering primary health care services.

Brian Downie, General Business Manager for West Elgin Mutual Insurance cited the successes of West Elgin Community Health Centre over the past few years and specifically noted the recent Government Report, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care looking at the benefits of Community Health Centres in Rural Ontario as proof that the CHC model works especially in rural communities like West Elgin.

Harry Mezenberg, past Chair of the Board of Directors for West Elgin Community Health Centre and member of the Capital Building Fundraising Committee stated, "A Community Health Centre is governed by a community Board, CHC's operate with a team of health and social service professionals. All staff including physicians are paid a fixed salary rather than a fee for service. Health Promotion and education are a priority in the services offered at the Community Health Centre".

Hilde Morden, Chairperson, Capital Fundraising Committee for the West Elgin Community Health Centre applauded the Board of Directors for West Elgin Mutual Insurance Company for their demonsiration of support and commitment to the future health services in Elgin County and thanked the Company for their generous donation to assist in the building of a new Centre in West Lorne.

The building committee is pleased that many businesses have shown that they have embraced the idea of corporate social responsibility that includes among other things, creating a strong healthy environment through such opportunities to give back to the community through such donations.

Support for WECHC building



The Bank of Montreal in West Lorne has donated a corporate amount of $7500 to the West Elgin Community Health Centre Building Campaign. Pictured are building commitee members Diane VanDyk, Liz McNeil, and Hilde Morden. Presenting the cheque at right is Bank of Montreal's Wendy Vergeer and Marlene Goos.



The Rodney Kiwanis Club have donated $2000 this year to the WECHC Building Campaign. Pictured left to right are Harry Mezenburg, WECHC Building Committee member, Jim Hathaway President of Rodney Kiwanis, and WECHC Executive director Doug Graham.

DEC. 2002

The Chronicle SEPT 9/02

HEALTH & WELFARE 2002

2nd annual Multi-cultural Celebration being planned

Coming off the great success of last year's event, the organizers of the 2nd Annual Multi-Cultural Celebration are hoping for a bigger celebration and bigger bash.

Presented by the West Elgin Community Health Centre, this year's Multi-Cultural Celebration is expected to be bigger and needed a larger venue. The event for November 24, 2002 is to be held at the Elgin International Club. Last year it was held at St. Mary's Parish Hall.

People will get the chance to hear the different types of music, art, dance and food of many different cultures of West Elgin. The WECHC puts on the display in hopes of educating the public on the many different ethnic cultures in West Elgin.

Diane Van Dyk, Community Outreach Worker/Community Development for WECHC says they are looking for more people and more displays than last year. Van Dyk was helped this year by Margaret Bennetto of Dutton and grade 12 student at West Elgin Secondary School. Bennetto's position of Multi-Cultural Program Assistant was made possible by a grant.

Bennetto's eight week program ended two weeks ago and she calls it "a great experience."

Bennetto says with the larger hall at Elgin International Club, they are hoping to have more displays and more people to take part in them.

Last year there were displays from the following ethnic groups from these countries and cultures: Oneida, Romania, Yugoslavia, India, Hungary, Slovakia, Portugal, Germany, Holland, Scotland, Mohawk and also contained booth and information from the Genealogical Society.

They would like the same people back this year, but are also pleading to the following groups to take part this November: Islamic, Italian, Irish, Japanese, Amish, African, Ukrainian, French and American.

Any culture or origin not listed that is found in West Elgin, is also invited to take part.

So far entertainment has been booked for Mike Bildy of Thamesville (accordion), Jim Carmichael (pipes) and Bob King (storytelling). They are still looking for more entertainers to sign up.

Bennetto says they would really like to see Highland and Portuguese dancers.

The three hours of programs will consist of tasting exotic foods, experiencing different music, watching traditional dances and admiring different artwork.

People interested in participating or volunteering in the Multi-Cultural Celebration are asked to contact Diane at the WECHC at 768-1715.



Margaret Bennetto, Multi-cultural program assistant

WECHC hosts succesful Fall Family Fun Night

The Fourth Annual Fall Family Fun Night held recently in Rodney Recreation Centre held a very successful opportunity in the Celebration of Family and Fun on October 28th.

Community Health Worker and event leader, Angela Dougherty said this event was an outstanding success and the written evaluations filled out by participants were clear demonstration of the importance of opportunities for families to come together in such a community event. Along with many activities, such as ring toss, face painting, bingo, carving pumpkins, there was lots of healthy food to sample. The event also had display booths on early childhood development programs offered by WECHC and their community partner St. Thomas Elgin Health Unit.

As well, many staff where on hand along with youth and adult volunteers to assist with the many activities and food outlets all free of charge. Executive Director, Douglas Graham highlighted the community partnerships in making this event so successful. We would not have these outcomes without the support of the Municipality of West Elgin, service clubs and businesses that donate so generously without hesitation.



Kids enjoy face painting at Celebration of Family and Fun.

Dougherty stated we hold this event annually around this time as a celebration of the family and in addition strategically timed near International Week of the Child. She also notes that there was a total of 400 hundred registered participants in addition to another 100 individuals who did not sign in and with the many volunteers and staff from WECHC and other partners such as the Health Unit.

Graham acknowledges the leadership provided by Angela Dougherty in planning this year's event along with her planning group and volunteers who assisted on the evening of activities. Participants came from all areas of West Elgin, Dutton and Dunwich. There were children from the ages of 1-14 years of age accompanied by parents, grandparents and caregivers.

NOV 18/02

Seniors Day in the Park



Old Boys Park, New Glasgow was the location for the first annual Seniors Day at the Park on August 28. It was a chance for seniors to meet old friends and make new ones. A whole afternoon was spent enjoying the weather with some fun, interactive displays. Many food vendors and bake sales were present at the park. There was also a car show. The attendance for the event was very good with people coming from different communities in the area. WECHC staff said they were thrilled with the turnout of 110 registered. Plans will be made to make it an annual event.

NOV 9 2002



HEALTH & WELFARE 2002

New face at West Elgin Health Centre

CHIROPODY SERVICE CHANGES HANDS AS TAYLOR MOVES ON

by Keith Peever
The Chronicle

There will be a new face at the West Elgin Community Health Centre when you visit next week.

Jacqueline Jackson is replacing Robert Taylor who leaves the centre this Wednesday January 30.

Last week Jackson took part in orientation sessions at the Health Centre to familiarize herself with the centre and the community.

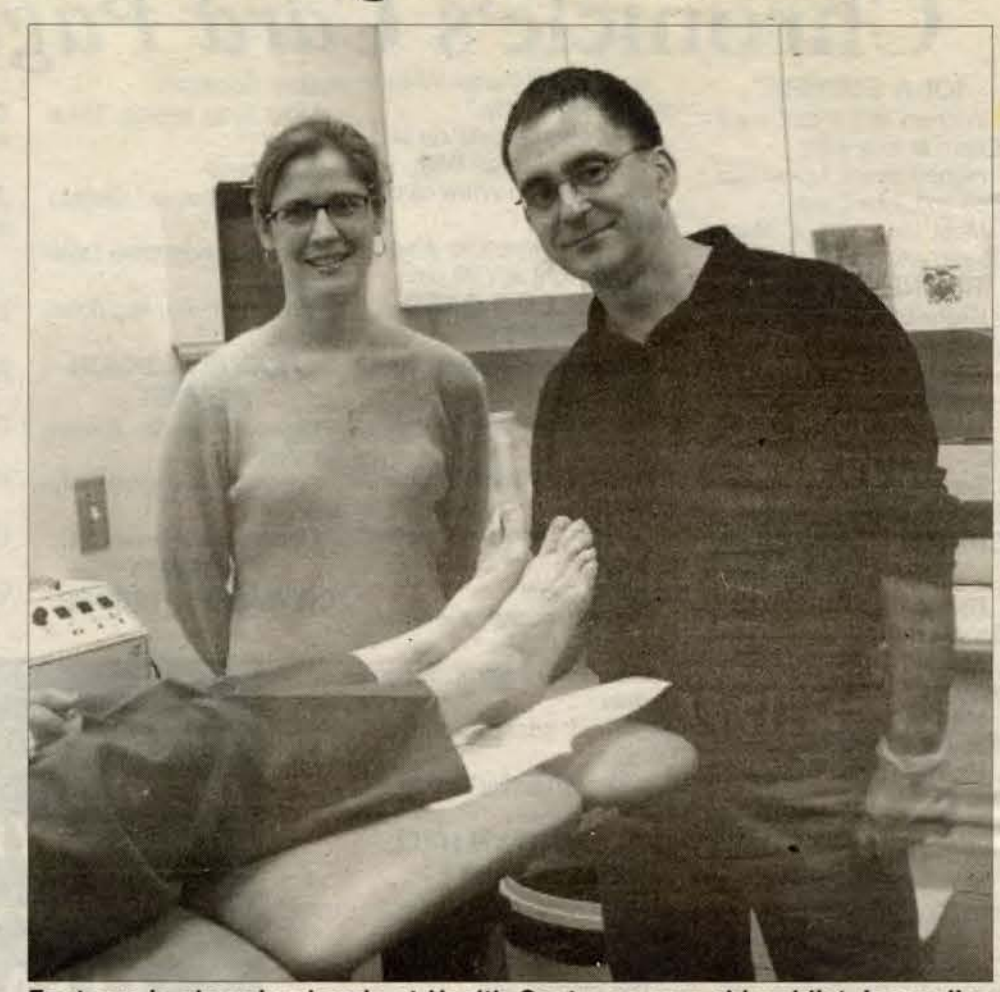
"I'm becoming more familiar with the other service providers and learning their roles," said and eager Jackson who said she looks forward to working in the community.

It has also been a chance for Taylor and Jackson to review Taylor's own client list who have been coming to the Health Centre over the years for chiropody care.

Taylor said he was pleased to see he will be replaced by Jackson who "has lots of experience," and invites his clients to continue their service needs with Mrs. Jackson, when she starts in February.

Jackson has been a chiropodist for the past seven years. Her schooling started at the University of Waterloo and went to Toronto to become a Chiropodist, for the care and treatment of the feet.

Her latest experience before coming to West Elgin was as chiropodist at St. Joseph's Health Services in Brantford.



Footcare is changing hands at Health Centre as new chiropidist Jacqueline Jackson at right is replacing Robert Taylor at right, who is leaving the Health Centre later this week.

She is originally from Chatham, and now lives with her husband and children in Wheatley and said the choice to work closer to home made the choice to work in West Elgin an easier one.

Jackson also said she is looking forward to the major changes that are happening at the Health Centre. By the summer of 2003, the new building is expected to be built, offering more space and services.

While Jackson was meeting and greeting people last week, it was a time for Taylor to mention to clients that he is moving on. Taylor is taking time to work on such things as his thesis and protocol.

Taylor said he is leaving at an exciting time for the Health Centre which continues to grow in leaps and bounds, and the new larger building is just one step away.

"I'm hoping they'll invite me to the opening," chuckled Taylor, who said it was a shame that he had to wait so long for a new building and it comes at a time when he is leaving.

In all seriousness, Taylor said he was very excited for the Health Centre and commented the new building comes at an exciting time where there is incredible growth at the Health Centre.

"It's definitely going to take it to a new level," said Taylor, who added, "within 5 years they'll be looking at expanding again."

With *prevention through education*, Taylor said the Health Centres are a huge success.

"When you look at having a chiropodist for example, it keeps a lot of people out of the hospital," he said.

JAN. '02

JULY 2002



The donations towards the West Elgin Community Health Centre's new building keep coming in. Here Executive Director Doug Graham accepts a $1,000 cheque from Carl Staddon of the Eagle Adult Club. The money was made from proceeds of bus trips the Adult Club has taken part in. So far $100,000 has been raised towards the WECHC building goal of $250,000.

Good news came in twos for WECHC

West Elgin Community Health Centre's Executive Director Doug Graham was all smiles last week as he heard good news on two fronts.

First, he was excited to announce they have been approved by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to go to tender for their new building.

Currently the Capital Building Committee has been working on raising $250,000 through corporate and individual sponsorships. Graham said that as of last week they have raised close to $120,000 and will be rallying harder now that the summer is nearing an end. The target goal for the community is $250,000 by February 2003.



Doug Graham

The building is being funded by the Ministry for $2.31 million with $300,000 still under review.

The second positive news he received was they have been approved of a government grant to begin an early childhood program. The grant is $85,000 annually until 2006.

A position for a Family Supporter Worker has also opened up at the Health Centre and the position is advertised in this paper.

The program has been proposed to work with 11 other local programs that offer childhood programs including the local schools, Children's Aid Society, Dutton Co-Operative Child Care Centre, West Elgin Community Parent Child Resource Centre (Tiny Tots), Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit among the list.

Graham also said he is working very hard to find a second full-time doctor for the health centre. Graham said their current doctor, Kevin Mardell, has been there for six years and he needs support.

He is currently negotiating with three doctor prospects but it is not always easy finding one, because "it is tough to compete with salaries."

Graham said larger markets have made it difficult by offering larger salaries which cannot be achieved locally. He said there is a misconception that salaries at the Health Centre are based on today's Toronto wages.

The Executive Director was also excited to announce that a partnership with the Dutton Medical Clinic is continuing strong. For the last eight months Health Centre workers have been at the Medical Centre to help increase services there.

"It's one step at a time," Graham said of the Health Centre's growth.

AUG 2002



The new directors of West Elgin Community Health Centre 2002-2003. Back row: John Kavelaars (director), Harry Mezenberg (Past Chair), Paul Mistele (new Chair), Liz McNeil (director), and AGM guest speaker Frank Ingratta (Deputy Minister Agriculture and Food). Seated: Jerry Prince (director), Mary Vergeer (new director), June Lunn (new director) and director Agnes Gosnell. Absent are director Martin Joldersma and new director Connie Baptista-Reaume. JUNE 24/02

WECHC hold 9th AGM

The West Elgin Community Health Care Centre held its 9th Annual General Meeting on June 19 to review official business and appoint new faces on the board of directors.

Major topic of discussion for the night was the building of the new Health Centre which is hoped to be erected by next summer.

Resigning from the Board of Directors this year is Tom Ford after many years on the board. Ford confessed when he first came onto the board he was naive about the Health Centre and it's importance. Today he is of a different opinion and speaks highly of the facility and looks forward to the new building, which he said clients will enjoy.

Also resigning was Celia Almeida. Almeida is leaving for post-secondary education. WECHC Executive Director Doug Graham pointed out Almeida as one of the youngest board members in the province.

The Chair, Harry Mezenberg also stepped down and Paul Mistele steps up from vice to chair for the 2002-2003 year.

Three new faces will be on the board this year. Mary Vergeer, June Lunn and Connie Baptista-Reaume were approved by the membership. They were approved prior to the meeting by the WECHC nominating committee and no nominations came from the floor.

Guest speaker for the evening was Frank Ingratta, Deputy Minister Ministry of Agriculture and Food. 82

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HEALTH & WELFARE
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'Unique' book donated to Elgin libraries

Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit has donated a unique book to Elgin County libraries.

Last week Public Health Nurse Rosemarie Vandenbrink donated the book *My Mummy is Sick, A Story About Breast Cancer* to West Elgin's libraries, but it is also available in Dutton/ Dunwich and Southwold.

The book has been donated to help the children of Elgin County and their families and friends cope with cancer. *My Mummy is Sick, A Story About Breast Cancer* will be helpful for mothers of young children that have been diagnosed with breast cancer, and for families with grandmothers, aunts, or family friends who are going through breast cancer treatment.

The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation has sponsored this book for preschool children. It promotes an encourages discussion and understanding about breast cancer.

West Elgin librarian Shelley Fleming said last week they are grateful for the donation of the book. Fleming said the book is "unique, particularly for that age group."

Fani Madill, a breast cancer survivor, wrote *My Mummy is Sick, A Story About Breast Cancer* after she was unable to find a book to help her oldest daughter understand what her family was going through. Told through the eyes of a child, this story follows a mother's experience with her illness and how it affects the family. Fani found a lump in her breast shen was 7 months pregnant with her youngest daughter, and at the age of 34, two months after her daughter's birth, she was diagnosed with breast cancer.



Public Health Nurse Rosemarie Vandenbrink (left) hands a new donated book to Shelley Fleming, librarian for both Rodney and West Lorne libraries.

The book is illustrated by by Nancy Broerse, also a breast cancer surivor.

The Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit, Elgin County's libraries and the Ontario Early Years Centre work together to promote the health of women and their families. One in every 9 women in Ontario can expect to develop breast cancer in her lifetime.

Some facts in Elgin County:

- by 1980-1998, there was an average of 39 new cases of breast cancer per year, an incident of 112 per 100,000 (women of all ages).
- between 1986-1997 there was an average of 15 deaths per year from breast cancer, an incident rate of 40 per 100,000 women.
- breast cancer is the leading cause of death for women between 35 and 54 years of age.

Women aged 50 to 69 are encouraged to call the Ontario Breast Screening Program for a screening mammogram.

For more information call Rosemaire Vandenbrink RN 631-9900 ext 267.

APR. 2002 The Chronicle

Health Centre committee takes up fundraising challenge



Some of the team behind the West Elgin Community Health Centre's fundraising drive. Seated left to right, Joann Vergeer, Chair Hilde Mordan, and Doug Graham. Standing behind is left to right Diane VanDyk, Harry Mezenberg, Lita West and Michelle Quintyn.

The support is growing for the 'building fundraser' of the West Elgin Community Health Centre.

The Health Centre's fundraising committee includes chair Hilde Mordan, Joann Vergeer, Doug Graham, Harry Mezenberg, Bill Nicolsan, Diane VanDyk, Helen Kovacs, Lita West, Michelle Quintyn, Liz McNeil, Paul Mistele, Jerry Prince, Larry Schneider, Anne Wroebel, Martin Joldersma, and Angela Dougherty.

The committee has been busy staying on top of leads and it was formed to discuss the strategies of fundraising that can be done in West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich.

Chair Hilde Mordan says the committee is strong because of its members.

"They're all leaders in their community," says Mordan.

The group needs to raise $250,000 by spring 2003 and already $75,000 has been committed thanks to the hard work of the committee and the generous support of the communities involved.

The committee itself has gone beyond the political boundaries in its fundraising.

Major donations have been made by the Royal Bank Foundation, Pioneer Hi-Bred, West Elgin Pharmacy and also memorial foundations including Liz McPhail Foundation and Katharina Mezenberg.

The new Health Centre, to be built in 2003 is to accomodate the explosion of growth at the current building.

The Health Centre continues to increase its programs available for the public.



Multi-cultural displays

Mary and Joy Scafe (left) dropped by the Slovakian display at the Multi-Cultural Celebration held November 24. At right is Sophie Howse who did the display. The 2nd annual celebration was another great success with over 300 people enjoying the different cultures and displays for the event hosted by WECHC.

2002

The Chronicle NOV. 18/02

HEALTH & WELFARE 2002

Culturalism celebrated this Sunday at celebration

Multi-Cultural Celebration

by Robert King

This second year of this celebration gives the residents of West Elgin and their guests an opportunity to view the efforts of the willing participants who will share their cultural identity in displays of special foods, dress and/or dances and songs. It will give many of us a chance to review our origins, (the very rook from which we have come.) The setting of the Elgin International Club Hall this Sunday from 1 pm to 4 pm is most fitting and we are fortunate for the availability of such a fine faciity.

First memories of our own family's place is the mosaic of this community may be very strong for many but some of us have perhaps had to come to this awareness later in life. My first age of awareness of ancestors came at the beginning of public school when I was coached on the required answers to the teacher's questions of my origin. "My nationality was Canadian and my ancestry was French". That great bit of information made little impact on me and nearly all my school buddies, for our home was indeed a regular farm home of the time but with little emphasis on any specific culture. The renewed immigration just prior and after World War 2 with our resulting new friends would make us more aware of 'the differences' which we young people readily embraced.



Multicultural Committee members back row l-r, Donna Driver, Sharon Rees, Diane Vandyk, and Sophia Howse. Front row: Mary Prudhomme, Marie Timson Oliveira. Absent: Kirby Breithaupt, Margaret Bennetto, Cynthia Roodzant, Kay Attridge and Liz McNeil. The Multi-Cultural Celebration is this Sunday at Elgin International Club from 1 pm to 4 pm.

A later study of my origin discovered the French, Scots, Irish, English, Welch and German forebearers responsible for my very being. My book "I Will Be King- Someday", is available at the Elgin County Library System. It tells the stories of some of these varied ancestors of mine as well as my wife's forebearers in the study of how our three sons came to West Elgin.

I have become convinced that it doesn't matter where you came from but the unfolding of the events is interesting and how one interacts with cultures other than one's own can be such a rewarding experience. Are these events 'the luck of the draw', chance or fate or are they the unfolding of a greater plan that proves the worth of every one of God's creatures.

I invite you to take advantage of this year's Multi-Cultural Celebration and witness my part in it with my story of 'Once Upon A Time'.

Local support for United Way

DEC. 2002



GKN Walterschied and its employees and members of Local IAM 1703 came up big for the United Way last month, donating $5,578. Pictured are Christina Kyle, with United Way Loan Rep Ray Stoddart and Phil Skinner (Plant Chairman 1703).



The employees of West Elgin Community Health Centre, seen here with Ray, were also strong supporters of United Way and donated $2,886. West Elgin (and Dutton/Dunwich) raised $15,170.

Supporting the WECHC campaign



B&J Variety recently donated $1,000 to the West Elgin Community Health Centre Capital Campaign. Scott and Kim Hwang of B&J Variety handed the cheque to Doug Graham, Executive Director of WECHC. DEC. 9. 2002



St. Mary's Ladies Group also donated $1,000 to WECHC's Capital Campaign. Pictured left to right are Doug Graham (WECHC), accepting a cheque from Thea Long and Els Huver, both members of the St. Mary's Ladies Group. At right is Shelly Vergeer (WECHC).

The Chronicle NOV. 25, 2002

Erie Flooring donates big to WECHC

The West Elgin Community Health Centre Building/Fundraising Committee were very pleased with the latest donation to this project.

On Thursday, November 14, 2002, Mr. Al Vandenbrink, Manager for Erie Flooring and Wood Products of West Lorne, ON, donated $15,000 to the Health Centre.

Mr. Vandenbrink made a special emphasis on the importance of the Health Centre's activities both in the factory and in the community with this announcement on behalf of Erie Flooring and Wood Products. He presented the first installment of $5,000 to Fundraising Committee members Harry Mezenberg and Jerome Prince.

Executive Director, Douglas Graham stated that this donation is an extraordinary contribution to this Funding Campaign. Erie Flooring's advocacy on behalf of the community and Health Centre are exemplary.



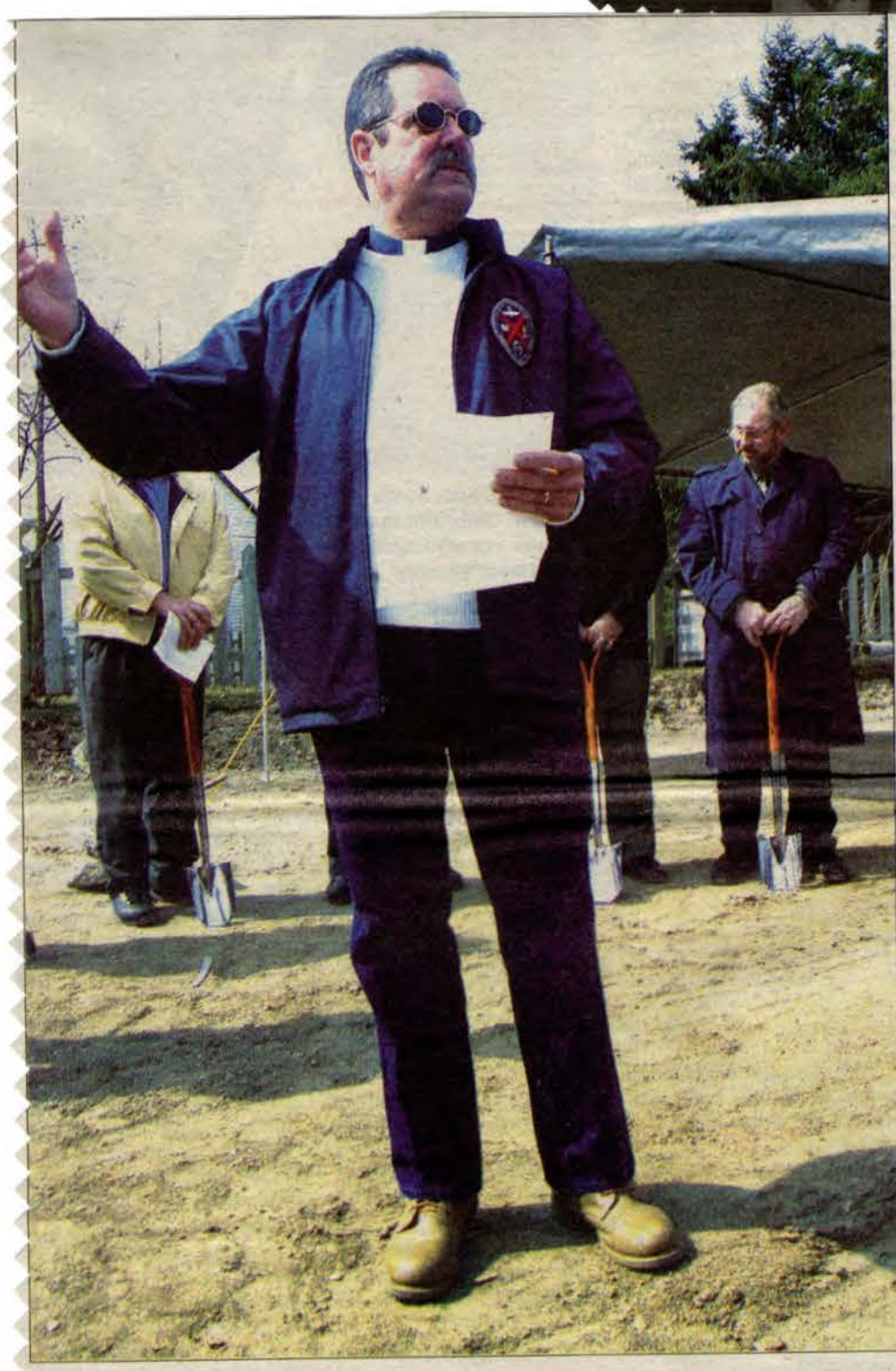
Erie Flooring has donated $15,000 to the West Elgin Community Health Centre. Pictured at the cheque presentation were left to right: Harry Mezenberg, Al Vandenbrink (of Erie Flooring) , and Jerry Prince.

HEALTH 2003



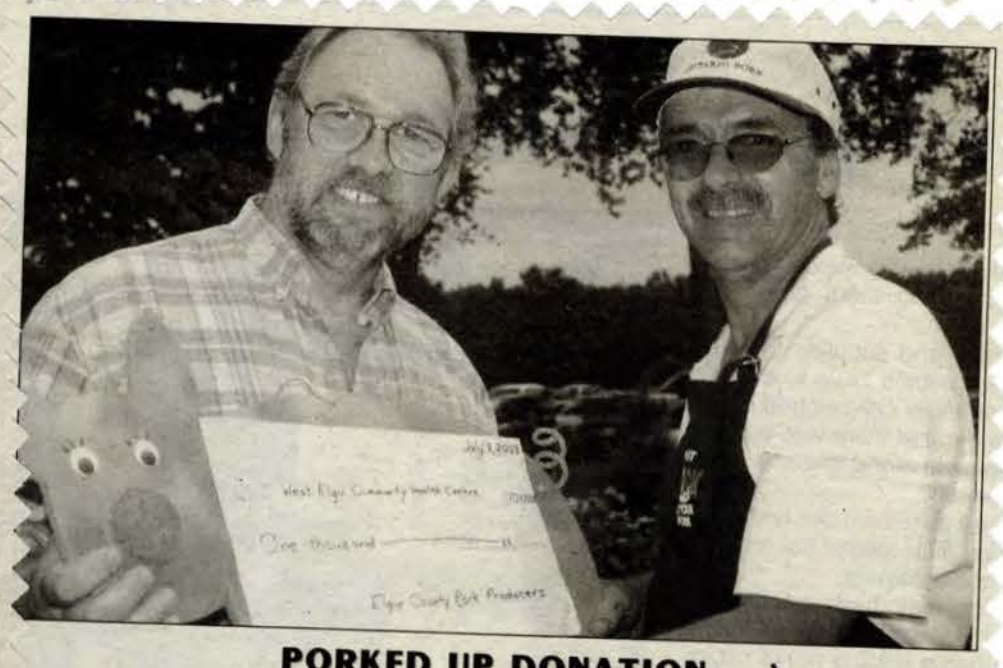
Making it closer to the goal

The West Elgin Community Health Centre received another boost in their building fundraising campaign with a $5,000 cheque from the Lithuanian-Canadian Community of West Elgin. Pictured from left are Jonas Statkevicius, Harry Mezenberg, Hilde Morden, Don Ciparis, Doug Graham and Leo Rastapkevicus. With commitments of more than $180,000, the $250,000 goal is getting closer and closer.



Sermon on the Ground

Kirby Breithaupt, representing the West Elgin ministerial, offers a prayer on Friday at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new West Elgin Community Health Centre. ***See page 3 for the related story.*** APR. 3/03



PORKED UP DONATION AUG 2003

John VanLith, right, president of the Elgin County Pork Producers Association presents a $1,000 cheque to Paul Mistele, chairman of the West Elgin Community Health Centre for their building campaign.

For the Chronicle

APR. 10, 2003



Ratna Sethi, left, leads a cooking lesson in preparing food from India with help from Diane VanDyk, one of the organizers of the monthly cooking series at the West Elgin Community Health Centre and Livia Arsenijevic. Guests from the community are taking part in leading the monthly classes offering lessons in preparing foods from different cultures every month..



MPP Steve Peters, left, architect David Murphy, fundraising chair Hilde Morden, past board chair Harry Mezenberg, Warden John Wilson, West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail and board of directors representative Paul Mistele turn over some dirt during the groundbreaking ceremonies held at the Main Street site for the new West Elgin Community Medical Centre.

OCT. 16/03

New health centre nears completion

$50,000 remains to be raised in final leg of public fundraising

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

The walls are up, the brick and mortar are just about finished and in a few short months, the new West Elgin Community Health Centre should be open for business.

"The construction project is about 65 per cent complete," said Doug Graham, WECHC executive director, hopeful staff will move into the new facility down the street in January.

The centre is about to go into the community one final time in an effort to raise $50,000 more toward the almost $4 million project.

The new facility sees a significantly expanded space that provides room for more partners in the health care industry as well as space available for other non-profit organizations including a community room.

"Space is a real problem in any of these communities (Dutton, West Elgin, Rodney)," said Graham.

Now, he said community services will have access to space for meetings and activities.

The facility will include room for case managers from the Community Care Access Centre, which helps coordinate medical help for residents across the county, but until now, has seen staff working out of their cars when in the western end of Elgin County.

> "WE'RE STILL CONFIDENT BY MID-DECEMBER, IT WILL BE COMPLETE."
>
> **— Doug Graham**
> **West Elgin Community Health Centre executive director**

There will be more space for the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Arthritis Society, allowing residents in this area access to services.

In addition, there is improved space for the treatment of patients which, in turn, will make it easier for the facility to attract more doctors.

The facility will expand from two treatment rooms to having nine available.

With more doctors, the WECHC will be able to take on more clients, an issue that has become controversial in the community with people who don't understand why they can't seek medical help at the centre without a membership.

There are currently 3,000 members at the WECHC but Graham said people mistake the facility for a walk-in clinic and are offended when they cannot receive care.

The WECHC offers multidisciplinary services to its membership, by appointments and he said because the facility is set up that way, people assume it should be the same as a walk-in clinic or hospital emergency room.

Graham said it's actually no different than going to see a doctor at a private practice. The doctor won't see anyone who just walks in off the street. The difference is that the WECHC provides access to other medical services in addition to a doctor.

He said people also don't understand that many of the staff they see at the centre are not employed directly by it. The WECHC brings other agencies together, providing a well-rounded

Continued on Page 2

HEALTH & WELFARE
2003

OCT. 16, 2003

Golf tournament raises $2,522

Money goes toward new WECHC building



Derek Felder, caught in his backswing on Number 7 tee.
Submitted photo

Despite very chilly weather conditions 21 teams came out to the Wardsville Golf Club to play a round of golf and enjoy a all you can eat barbeque at the 2nd annual West Elgin Community Health Centre fundraising golf Tournament on Oct. 4.

An outstanding $2,522 was raised for the Capital Campaign project. Prizes were given out in the following order:

Top Team on the front nine; Derek Felder, Garrett Littlejohn, Ed Van Dyk and Barren McKinlay

Top Team on the back nine; Paula Alves, Carlos Alves, Carlos Pereira, Paul Paiva:

Front Men's closest to the pin; Ed Van Dyk
Front Ladies closest to the pin; Linda Habel
Back Men's closest to the pin; Don Marcou
Back Ladies closest to the pin; Carol Giles
Front Ladies most accurate; Cindy Comeil
Front Men's most accurate; Dave Cipu
Back Ladies most accurate; Edna Gould
Back Men's most accurate; Charlie Cronkite
All around most honest team; Lorraine Thompson and Derek Pape

Plans are in the works for next year's tournament on Aug.21.

Health Unit expects more extensive program to fight West Nile is coming for 2004

Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit chief administrator Cynthia St. John said last Tuesday she expects the provincial program to fight West Nile virus will be more aggressive in 2004 than it was this year.

But St. John noted the province has not released guidelines on its 2004 program and didn't release them early 2003 either.

St. John said there will be probably be another debate between the province and health units about whether to spray larvicide to help prevent the spread of West Nile virus. The Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit opposed larviciding in 2003, she said.

A report prepared for health units showed there were many counties in Ontario which did not larvicide and although West Nile virus was active, there were fewer reported cases in Ontario compared to the previous year. By contrast, there were more reported cases in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

There were reports of dead birds found in Bayham and Central Elgin, said Laura McLachlin, director of health protection programs. Dead birds have been identified as key indicators of the presence of West Nile virus since they eat the infected mosquitoes which carry the disease.

She said health units were being encouraged to update their maps of ponds, where mosquitoes could breed, and other risk assessment tools.

"There is lots more to come in terms of what we have learned," McLachlin said.

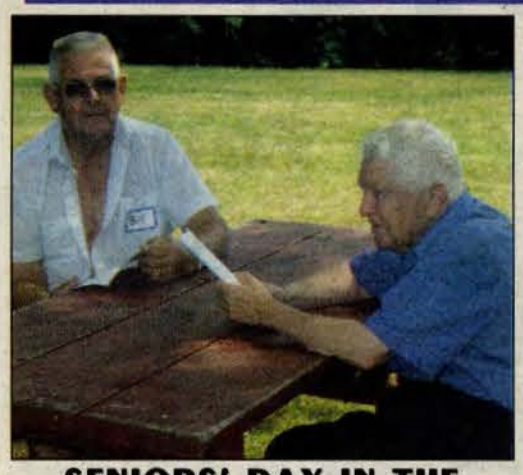
DEC. 03

HEALTH & WELFARE 2003

The SENIOR'S REVIEW

Dedicated to the Seniors of our Communities

Published the first issue of every month



SENIORS' DAY IN THE PARK...

Bill Pangborn, left and Ed Meckevech of Rodney have a visit Wednesday afternoon at the West Elgin Community Health Centre's Seniors' Day in the Park. The health centre hosted the second annual event at the park in Port Glasgow. Seniors were invited to enjoy baked treats and a chance to explore numerous exhibits related to seniors' issues. *Chronicle photos*



Florence Edwards of Rodney meets BAC, a giant walking piece of bacteria that helped spread education about the importance of food safety.



Janine Noorloos on violin is accompanied by her mom, Sue and sister, Kelly. The family of entertainers came from Iona for the event.



A crowd of seniors gathered in the park's shade to enjoy musical entertainment during the afternoon events.







CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY CULTURE

Rosa Oliveira and Manuel Moniz accompany the Portuguese community choir, top photo, at Sunday's West Elgin Community Health Centre multicultural celebration held at the Elgin International Centre. (left photo) Bruce Wood, Shirley Lorch and Sapphire Wood talk to visitors about Ukrainian culture. With them is some Kolasch, a bread served as part of a traditional Christmas meal. (right photo) Sangeeta Sexena designs some Henna Art from India on Meghan Brintnell's hand. The event featured displays, food and music from a range of western Elgin County cultures. *Chronicle photos*

NOV 27/03

HEALTH & WELFARE 2003

West Lorne host to blood donor clinic on March 18

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle\

Some new blood is needed in West Lorne.

Actually, a lot of new blood is needed from everywhere, says the Canadian Blood Services.

Because of increasing demand on the blood supply, Cindy Smith, communications specialist with CBS said, "We need to increase the number of blood donors by almost 30 per cent."

They currently collect 800,000 units of blood a year but will need one million units by 2005.

Since 2001, Smith said they have been encouraging people who have never donated before to not only donate once, but become regular donors at least twice a year.

Last year, 70,000 new donors came forward and 20,000 of those became repeat donors.

In West Lorne and the surrounding area, new donors and regulars will have a chance to come out March 18 to donate at one of two clinics being held this year in West Lorne.

The clinic will be operated from 5-8:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall.

"We're hoping to collect over 80 units," said Suzanne Barron, a local recruitment coordinator.

"I think we can do that," she said.

Clinics are usually alternated between Dutton and West Lorne with donors from both communities supporting each clinic.

The next one happens to be in West Lorne as well, being hosted by West Elgin Secondary School. It will be held May 29.

Barron said the next two clinics after will then be held in Dutton.

For more information or to make appointments to donate, people can call 1-888-236-6283.

Appointments are not necessary to give blood at the clinics.

The Chronicle MAR. 20, 2003

New program helps seniors keep fit, building strength

By the Times-Journal

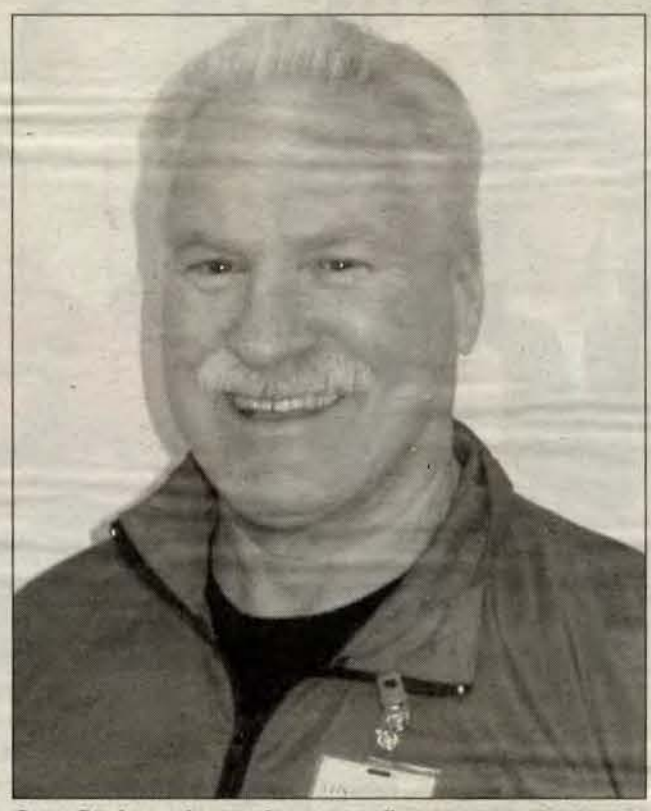
When it comes to preventing accidental falls among older adults in rural Elgin, Stew Burberry knows BEST.

Burberry, a noted St. Thomas fitness expert, has been recruited by the VON to launch the BEST (Balance, Endurance, Strength and Training) program for older adults who might be prone to accidental falls in their homes or on the streets.

Burberry, 58, said the idea for the program started with information gathered by the Elgin Adult Safety Team which pointed to exercise as one of the main programming needs among older adults.

The Elgin Adult Safety Team applied for and was awarded a $41,700 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to bring physical fitness to the area's older adults and disabled people. VON is the lead agency on the project.

Burberry, a former fitness instructor with the Canadian army, personal trainer and recent competitor in a Florida Iron Man competition, is in the early stages of setting up the fitness program to run at locations in Port Burwell, Port Stanley, Belmont, West Lorne, Rodney and Aylmer.



Stew Burberry is starting a new fitness program targetting seniors with sessions to take place in West Lorne and Rodney.

Step one, which is well under way, is to recruit people with an interest in physical fitness to take a course to become fitness instructors. These instructors - there will be two in each of the six communities - will then lead classes comprised of 10 to 12 older adults.

Burberry said topics covered will include the benefits of physical activity, strengthening and stretching, nutrition for older adults, exercise adherence, developing a home exercise program and community exercise program options.

"It's seniors teaching seniors," Burberry said. "therefore, they are more likely to come out and participate."

The program will use music familiar to older adults in the background of exercise routines.

Classes will be held in barrier-free locations.

For those who cannot come out to classes, Burberry has videos and exercise program books to be used in homes.

For more information, contact Burberry at 637-6408.

HEALTH & WELFARE

2003

Tai chi benefitting the mind, taught by local instructors

FEB.

By Nancy Powers
The Age Dispatch

It doesn't involve loud music, working up a sweat, or water therapy, but tai chi is a widely respected form of exercise designed to benefit both the mind and body.

Tai chi is short for Tai Chi Chuan, and is considered by many as a moving meditation.

For Ken Hulls of Dutton, and Bill Hill of West Lorne, teaching this ancient internal martial art is both rewarding and satisfying.

Both men have spent every Tuesday for the last seven years in Strathroy leading three classes — one afternoon and two in the evening.

"We can see the benefits of our instruction," said Ken. "And we are also benefiting from exercising ourselves."

For 35 years, he has practised tai chi after discovering it was an interesting form of exercise.

"I wanted something that was non-competitive and non-combative," explained Ken. "Tai chi is interesting and something that is never really mastered."

While still working for the London Transit Commission, Bill took up daily aerobics after deciding to quit smoking.

"After I retired and moved to West Lorne I had to stop my aerobics class," he said. "Then I heard about Ken's classes and discovered tai chi."

As a mild form of exercise, tai chi promotes fitness and builds stamina. It is ideal for attaining and maintaining a reasonable degree of physical fitness.

"Tai chi focuses on smooth, slow movements that cultivate inward focus and free energy flow," said Ken. "It involves a series of 108 moves that provide long lasting moderate exercise."

With tai chi, participants don't have to go harder, faster, or higher to reap fitness and health benefits. In fact, the tai chi motto is go slow, go slower, and finally go as slowly as you can.

The Chinese believe practicing tai chi twice daily promotes better health, and have recently started to teach it more regularly.

"Escalating health costs in China have prompted the government to rethink the benefits of tai chi," said Ken. "They are putting a real emphasis on it this year."





THE ART OF TAI CHI: Ken Hulls, above, and Bill Hill, below lead a class in the ancient art of tai chi at the Strathroy Seniors Centre.

Classes in Strathroy are held at the Strathroy and Area Seniors Centre, but participants don't have to be seniors or members of the centre to take tai chi lessons.

"Most of our students aren't seniors," observed Ken. "Tai chi is suitable for everyone and often turns into a life-long passion."

One of the attractions of tai chi is that participants do not have to be experts to begin to notice a change. In fact, most agree that one never does master tai chi.

"It may look simple, but tai chi is very complex," he explained. "Tai chi is a continuum and we never stop learning from it."

Tai chi classes are normally taught in four-month cycles with all 108 moves being learned over that span. In Strathroy a new cycle started in early January.

"It is good for students to learn from the beginning, but not a necessity," said Ken. "Anyone interested in tai chi should come out on any Tuesday they can."

He said only two things are required for success in a tai chi practice: starting and continuing.

"Tai chi stimulates both the mind and the body."

Benefits of tai chi include developing self-discipline, better balance and posture, more flexibility, stress reduction and overall better health.

The concentration involved in memorizing the sequence of moves increases the ability to remember, and acts as a form of meditation.

"In tai chi part of the meditation comes when you are concentrating on your breathing," explained Ken.

In West Lorne Ken and Bill teach at the Parish Hall of the Anglican Church. Classes are available on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. and also Tuesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. There is a new class for beginners, commencing March 4 at 9:00 a.m.

For more information contact Ken Hulls, 519-762-2049 or Aileen Cnockaert, 519-245-1704 (evenings).



JULY 19, 2003



A country music showcase formed a June 11 fundraising concert for the West Elgin Community Health Centre. The performers included, from left, Judy Von, Samantha Odell (in front), Steve Fox, Tim Fischer and, at right, Giselle with a special guest. The concert raised more than $500 toward the construction of the new West Elgin Community Health Centre. (Dave Phillips photos) (bottom photo) The Elgin International Club absorbed all the expenses from the WECHC fundraiser dance on June 8, and because of the low attendance, enhanced the amount in order to make a $1200 donation to the West Elgin Community Health Centre. Accepting the cheque from club vice president Sebastian Pelcz is WECHC fundraising chair Hilde Morden. Also pictured, from left, is Joe Fischer, Harry Mezenberg, Claude Drouin, and WECHC director Doug Graham.

FEB 10/03

HEALTH & WELFARE 2003



Public health nurse Traci Linn-Wells, WECHC's Angela Doherty and Cynthia Roodzant are shown putting up posters advertising "Shout!!!" a free Family Fun Night planned for Thursday, February 27 at St. Mary's Parish Hall. All families in the community are welcome. Watch for flyers sent home from the schools with your children.

Family fun night set focussing on children

How can we support our children, encourage a sense of self worth and give them the skills to understand and empathize with others? Raising a family is the hardest job in the world!

What family hasn't heard "Nobody ever listens to me!" as their child stomps out the door? Too many times children think that they have to shout to be noticed. Just because they're small, it doesn't mean they're not important, but, that's how they feel. Where do they go when they really have a problem?

Adults might think that kids are too young to have significant problems but to them, their problems are a big deal.

Kids need to be able to talk to someone other than other kids, someone they can trust, who understands and who cares. We all have greatness inside us begging to be noticed and that is definitely something to shout about.

This is the message of a multi-media presentation "Shout!!!" that the West Elgin Family Outreach Planning Committee is presenting on Feb. 27th at St. Mary's Parish Hall.

Through "Let's Connect" and its programs and partners, efforts are being made to help families develop skills to build relationships and deal with the stresses of everyday life. Often our children experience programs through school, but parents don't have access to the messages and can't reinforce them.

"We are trying to build a relationship between community, schools and families because we are raising our kids together. We want to recognize that triangle relationship. We all need to work together," says Traci Linn-Wells, public health nurse with the Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit, a partner in the Family Fun Night.

Focused on families with children in grades JK to six, the star of the show is a movie - a big, huge, large and loud movie. The three screens on which the digitalized movie is shown take up a space 40 feet wide by 13 feet high. The hall in St. Mary's Parish was perfect for accommodating such a venue.

The movie itself is full of music. It's fun, it's current and it's full of positive messages.

"You can't help but be inspired," says organizer Angela Doherty. "It's a lot of fun."

Don't miss "Shout!!!" a multi-media family fun night at St. Mary's Parish Hall on February 27 from 6 to 8pm. The evening will begin with the principals from our local schools addressing the crowd and the movie will be shown at 7 p.m.. The evening, and the popcorn, are free of charge. There will be interactive activities for children and their families, at displays set up by the agencies involved. Parents will be able to take away concrete examples of how to help their children.

Sponsored by the West Elgin Community Health Centre, supporting partners include the YWCA, Child & Family counselling Centre. West Elgin Early Years Satellite Centre, Aldborough P.S., Dunwich-Dutton P.S. and WESES.

It's a great opportunities for a fun-filled, thought provoking and entertaining evening for families in our community. Free child care will be available for younger children.

FEB. 17, 2003

Cooking class will explore local heritage

First class spices up the night with lessons in Mexican food

By Scott Hilgendorff
For The Chronicle

A new cooking program will be giving participants a multicultural experience at the West Elgin Community Health Centre.

"We were looking for a new way to encourage diversity," said Diane Van Dyk, community development worker at the centre.

Participants will have a chance each month to enjoy a cooking demonstration representing a different culture.

The first evening, Feb. 19, will be spiced up by Elizabeth Wilton of West Lorne teaching how to prepare Mexican food.

On the menu will be guacamole, black bean salsa, Mexican rice, red enchiladas and rice pudding.

The centre has started an annual multicultural event that brings together different community members to teach about their cultures.

"As a health centre, part of our mandate is to welcome other groups to the community, trying to make our community as open as we can," said Van Dyk.

The multicultural event, held last November, gave people a chance to visit with others from different ethnic backgrounds, seeing displays based on their culture.

The Cooking with Culture program is another way the centre is trying to meet its mandate.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," said Van Dyk.

Wilton will share aspects of her culture as she teaches how to prepare the different foods on the menu.

Dietician Shari Mizzen is working with all the guest chefs to help plan healthy menus.

After, participants will have a chance to sample the food and be given recipes to be able to make it themselves.

A cooking night will take place each month, alternating the night of the week it's held to make it convenient for others to attend each night.

Next month, the event will be held March 31, featuring East Indian food.

Each night will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the health centre.

Participants should call the centre at 768-1715 to register.

FEB. 24, 2003



Board member JJ Prince, treasurer Liz McNeill and past chair Harry Mezenberg survey the model that shows how the new West Elgin Community Health Centre will look. After more than $3 million of government funding was received, the fund raising committee is feeling rejuvenated in its fund raising efforts. The community needs to raise $285,000, about $35,000 more than was expected, for its portion of the project. A campaign with support from West Elgin Secondary School students is coming up.

LOOKING BACK 2001

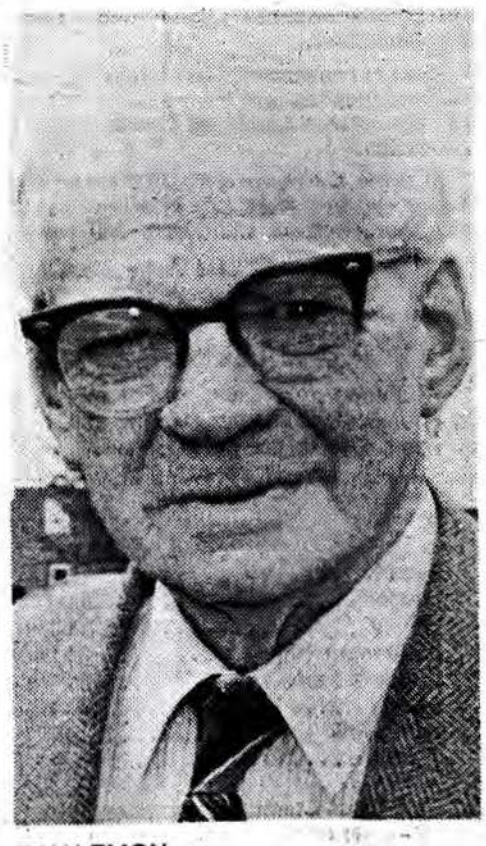


Do you recognize anyone?

Ed Meckevech supplied this photo of the 1933 class at #15 Chestnut Grove School, located on the corner of Blacks Lane and Hog Street in Aldborough Township. Pictured are, front row left to right: Coleman, Coleman, Donna Streib Langley, Bob Knight and Jensen. Middle row: Coleman, Lena Campbell, Katie Rice, Mary Spandenberg, Garnet Schweitzer and Floyd Campbell. Back row: Florence Campbell, Mike Ingratta, Mark Knight, Jean Campbell, teacher Mrs. McCallum and Lela Schweitzer Eastlake. Not all of the students were included in the photo as children at that time did not always regularly attend school.

FEB 19, 2001

LOOKING BACK 2002



RAY LEMON
- - - honored by Ontario teachers

Even in retirement Ray still cares for kids

By Bob Massecar
St. Thomas Bureau

WEST LORNE — He has a shy, almost bashful grin that spreads across a slightly freckled face, ending with a dimple on his left cheek and a noticeable sparkle in his eyes.

Those same eyes suddenly fill with tears and he dabs at his nose with a handkerchief as he talks about the 40 foster children that have slept under his roof in the past 21 years. He still feels, and can't forget, the misery many of them have been forced to endure.

But the twinkle returns as Ray Lemon recalls his 25 years as chief custodian at West Elgin Secondary School and 14 years of driving a school bus, surrounded by young, fun-loving and often-mischievious minds.

For all of that time, he was father confessor, a quiet disciplinarian and just plain friend to countless numbers of students who have passed through the high school's halls on their way to adulthood.

Students — all children, for that matter — make up the most important part of his life, next to that of his wife of 42 years, Doris. Both have hearts as big as their five-bedroom ranch house on the village outskirts, complimenting each other's generous character.

Even in retirement, the 67-year-old Lemon continues his caring for kids as an elected trustee with the Elgin County board of education.

At home, the rooms are still filled with six foster children from two families that the St. Thomas-Elgin Children's Aid Society

● See Page A2, Col. 2

Even in retirement, Ray still cares for kids

● From Page A1

didn't want parted and the Lemons couldn't bear to see yanked apart.

That's the way it has always been for this couple. Everyone in the village of 1,200 and the surrounding district is well aware of their life-long contribution to youth in general and Lemon's on-going dedication to their education.

But the gentle-mannered Lemon today is no longer just a popular contributor to this west Elgin community — his reputation has spread across the province and bounced off the office walls of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation in Toronto.

The 35,000-member association was so impressed with the tidal wave of tributes that poured in for Lemon, they recently honored him with their prestigious Lamp of Learning award, the highest honor the group can bestow upon a non-teacher.

Just as significant, it is the first time in Ontario — possibly the whole continent — federation officials say, that a school janitor has been named for the award.

Lemon's name was secretly submitted for nomination by principal Jerry Prince, but it wasn't long before everyone who heard of the move wanted to get in on the act. The federation office was flooded with testimonies from friends, educators and words of praise from Elgin-Kent Liberal MPP Jim McGuigan and Elgin Tory MPP Ron McNeil.

OSSTF president Malcolm Buchanan said it was impossible to read the nomination without being moved by the impact that one individual can have on the lives of others in a small community. Ray Lemon, he said, had an influence on successive generations of both students and teachers.

For school guidance counsellor Audrey Miller, Lemon's time at the high school was spent more in molding characters than in janitorial sweat.

"His position went far beyond that of a custodian. He was similar to a patriarch, surrounded by his large 'family.' His interest was in the welfare of the students and staff of West Elgin Secondary School. He dealt with the students like a wise parent . . . rejoiced in their successes, but disciplined them when necessary."

Lemon never appeared at the head of a classroom, but retired vice-principal Wilfred Johnston says "he was one of the best teachers we ever had. He taught us to care, to be interested in people. He had words of commendation for students and teachers alike and his stern remarks carried weight. His motto was: 'I like giving what I would like to receive.'"

Fond memories flood back for jeweller Rosalie Krebsz who first met Lemon "when I was a shy and insecure student in Grade 9. He was so friendly, always taking the time to say hello, but I was especially fond of that twinkle in his eye."

"As the years went by and I became involved in school activities, I used to wonder if Mr. Lemon lived at the school — he was always there. It seemed as though anything you asked for was not too much effort and was on time. When we cleaned up the day after the prom, he was there to help us. There were times when I had to stay after school to help with the yearbook. Mr. Lemon would kindly drive me home."

Lemon, she said, "showed me friendship, stability, compassion, community spirit and last but not least, a sense of humor."

Typically, Lemon was embarrassed at the fuss and "flabbergasted" in winning the award.

The only important thing he can recall doing to help the young students was "maybe giving somebody an assist out a side door when I caught them drinking at a school dance. I never told their parents. . . . I handled it myself the next day with a good verbal spanking." Usually it did the trick, he said.

But the pride swells as he recalls many of the 650 annual enrolment of students over the years who graduated and went on in careers and professions in all walks of life. Names trip off his tongue of former students who are doctors, lawyers and skilled tradesmen — many of whom are still in Elgin County and greet him warmly when they meet on the street.

His values, he feels, stem back to lessons learned while growing up during the Depression. His father died when he was only 12 years old, leaving his mother with three children to raise.

It wasn't long before he was out to work, moving through a string of jobs including a canning factory, sawmill, farm helper, grain elevator laborer, milkman, custodian and school bus driver.

"That's where you really get to know the kids, behind the wheel of a school bus," he smiles. "You get to know where they live, how they act, what makes them tick."

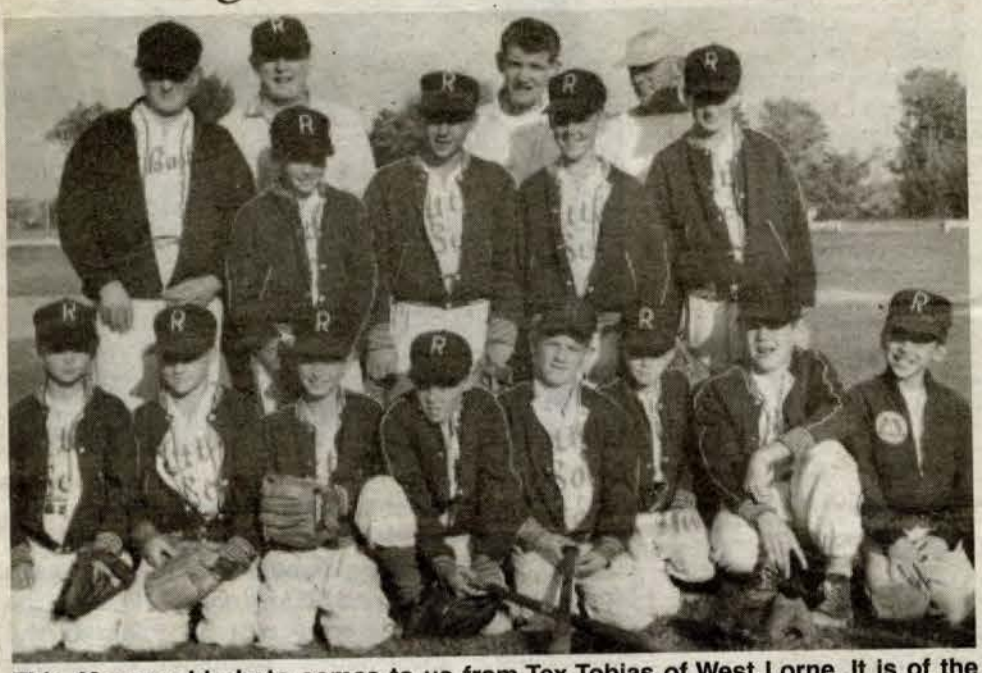
His custodian's job, he notes, started out as a mistake. Lemon says he only intended to work at the school for a year but stayed on for 25 "and the time went too fast."

It's not in any textbook, but ask anyone today in West Lorne or the teachers' federation and they'll say that in Ray Lemon's case, it was one time where a wrong was definitely a right.

SUBMITTED BY NORMA McMILLAN

LOOKING BACK 2002

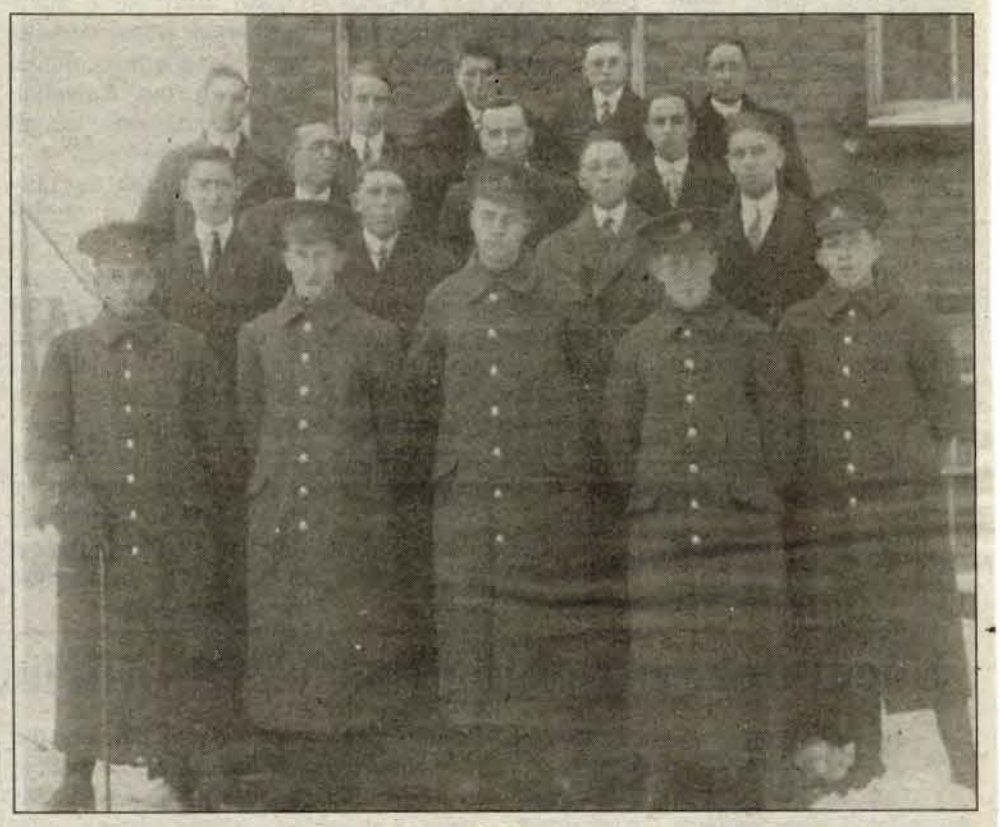
Looking back.. historic submissions



This 40 year old photo comes to us from Tex Tobias of West Lorne. It is of the Rodney Little Sods PeeWee team who were champions that year. Pictured are back row: Coaches George Hanley, Andy Dienesch, and Munroe McMillan. Mid row: Bob Padfield, Ron Hanley, Bob Pascu, Glen DeGraw and Bob Menzies. Front row: Larry McGahan, Bud Miller, Dave Giles, Dave McMillan, Bob DeGraw, Don Kraus, Greg Taylor and Tex Tobias.

OCT 21, 2002

Looking back ...historic submissions



This Remembrance picture comes to us from Ron Payne of Eagle. It is of the Mens Bible Class, of Church of Christ (Disciples) of winter 1915-1916, with the first row of men gathered on the day they left to serve overseas in the Great War. Front row: Harold Becker, Hugh Turner, Earl Lemon, Lloyd McPhee and Taylor Wanless. Second row: Gordon McPhee, Fred Webber, Vern McKillop and Earl Fowler. Third row John B. Ferguson (teacher), Roy Evans and Norm Haviland. Back row: Fred Becker, Charlie Wilson, Herb Hailey, Lorne Hill and Joe Wiley. It is reported all five men returned from the war. Anyone interested in sharing their photos with the public can drop them off with additional information at *The Chronicle*. You will get your photo back.

NOV. 18/02

Looking back - historic submissions



This week's Looking back- historic submission comes to us from Ron Payne of Eagle. This is the 1949 class of the Aldborough/Dunwich Townline Public School. Do you know all the names of the students? Contact Payne at 768-1288.

Looking back... historic submissions



This picture comes to us from the collection of Ron Payne of Eagle. It is of the former Eagle's Nest restaurant-service station and bus stop. Originally it was a blacksmith shop, until the new Highway 3 was built that became known and experienced as the major route from Detroit to Buffalo. The Eagle's Nest, among many other many businesses along Highway 3 could not thrive once the 401 was built which took away a huge chunk of tourist and commuter traffic. The Eagle's Nest was closed and torn down in 1972.

DEC. 16, 2002



Looking Back: This weeks submission comes from Ron Payne of Eagle. It is of the Rodney Ladies (hardball) Baseball Team of 1915-16. Their uniforms consisted of black bloomers, white middies and black stockings. Games were played against neighbours like West Lorne, Ridgetown and Blenheim. Left to right: chaperone Effie Shaw, and players Etta Schrub (field), Myrtle "Avey" Thayer (short-stop), Lill McPherson (field), Edith Messerschmid (catcher), Ada "Johnson" Murray, Mildred Eggert (1st base), Mary "Brad" Woodend (3rd base), Florence Morris (2nd base). Other players listed in S. Dorlands book "Rodney, but not pictured are: Bessie Mitchell, Frances Mahon, Janet Bullick, Beatrice Morlock, Etta Harris, Mrs Alf Branton,Liddy Bake and Mary Johnson.

OCT. 2002

LOOKING BACK 2002

Looking back... historic submissions



This picture comes to us from Ron Payne of West Lorne. It is of historic West Lorne taken sometime between 1900 and the early 1920's. The names of the people (and the horse) are unknown. Anyone with more information of this picture is asked to contact Payne or *call us of The Chronicle* at 768-2220. Keep those history submissions coming!

APR. 2002

The Chronicle

Looking back... historic submissions



This picture comes to from Ron Payne's collection. It is a picture of the 1908 West Lorne Champion Baseball Team, from the cover of the banquet invitation at season end in October '08. Pictured in the back row standing, l-r are F.J. Cullen, 2nd base and center-field; Doctor Webster, official scorer; J.A. Fuller, Treasurer; J.N. Kennedy, President; D.M Leitch, 3rd base; T. Kirkpatrick, 2nd base. Second row: J.C. Lozar Captain and 1st base; J.A. McColl Manager and right-field; Reverand T.P. Hussey Vice President; C. Cunliffe, short-stop. Third row: Alf. Cullen mascot; W. Campbell pitcher and left field; R.E. Clark, catcher and Charles Neal pitcher, l- field.

Looking back... historic submissions



This picture comes to us from the Ron Payne collection. It is of the old White Rose gas station in Eagle. The owner of the White Rose at the time this picture (early 1950's) was Harvey Bechard. In this picture are Ernie Payne, Earl Staddon Richard Staddon, Gimmy Payne, Ken Perger, Herbec Conway, Jimmy Bechard Billy Bechard and Harvey Bechard.

APR. 2002

MAY 2002

Looking back... historic submissions

1910



This week's submission comes to us from Ron Payne. It is of the old Argyle House which was the scene of a shooting on September 9, 1918. Back then David Smith of West Lorne was sent to Kingston Penitentiary for five years in the shooting of Mrs Melissa Taylor, wife of the proprietor of the Argyle House. This picture of the Argyle was taken in 1910. The men in front of the building (where the Bank of Montreal now stands) are unknown.

LOOKING BACK 2002

Looking back... historic submissions



This week's submission comes from Ron Payne of West Lorne. It is a picture of the former Eagle's Nest Restaurant in Eagle. The restaurant was situated in the northeast corner of the hamlet. Also pictured is Helen Morrish in the foreground. In 1975 the store celebrated 101 years of business. It was finally closed two years ago.

Looking back... historic submissions



This week's submission comes from Ann Cruickshank of West Lorne. It is of the students of S.S. 15 taken in 1949. It was also known as Chestnut grove school.

Back row is l-r, Jenny Buttinger, Sara Varga, Mary Izgarrian, Joanne Knight, Mary Lupson and Jim Buttinger.

Third row: Margaret Bea, Helen Varga, Pat Knight, Mary K (last name unknown), Elaine Buttinger, Amy Ingratta and Calvin Brown.

Second row: Tony M (last name unknown), Carol Seperga, Helen M. Varga, Carolyn Schweitzer, Jean Varga, uknown, Vera Izgherion, Suzen K (last name unknown), Joyce A (last name unknown(, Steve Fodor, Peter M (last name unknown), John Ingratta, Gasen G (last name unknown, Jim Varga, Danny Varga, Donald Buttinger and Bob Varga. Behind his students is teacher William G . McKellar.

Looking back... historic submissions



This week's submission comes to us from Ron Payne's collection. It is of 1936's students of Eagle School No 4. First row from left, back to front is Peter Ulche, Edward ?, Percy Ripley, Viola Staddon and Marion or Eva Ulche.

Second row, back to front: Mathew Zick, Alma Pettit, Max Munney and Paul Zick.

Third row, back to front: Lester Coney, Madeline Pettit, Eileen or Ellen Cosens, Dick or Donald Vowal, Marvin Wann and Hazel Staddon.

JULY 2002



Looking back... historic submissions

This week's submission comes to us from Ron Payne. This picture is of West Lorne public school. The year and classmates are unknown, but it is estimated to be in the 1950's or 1960's. Anyone with names or information can contact Ron Payne at 768-1288.

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LOOKING BACK 2003

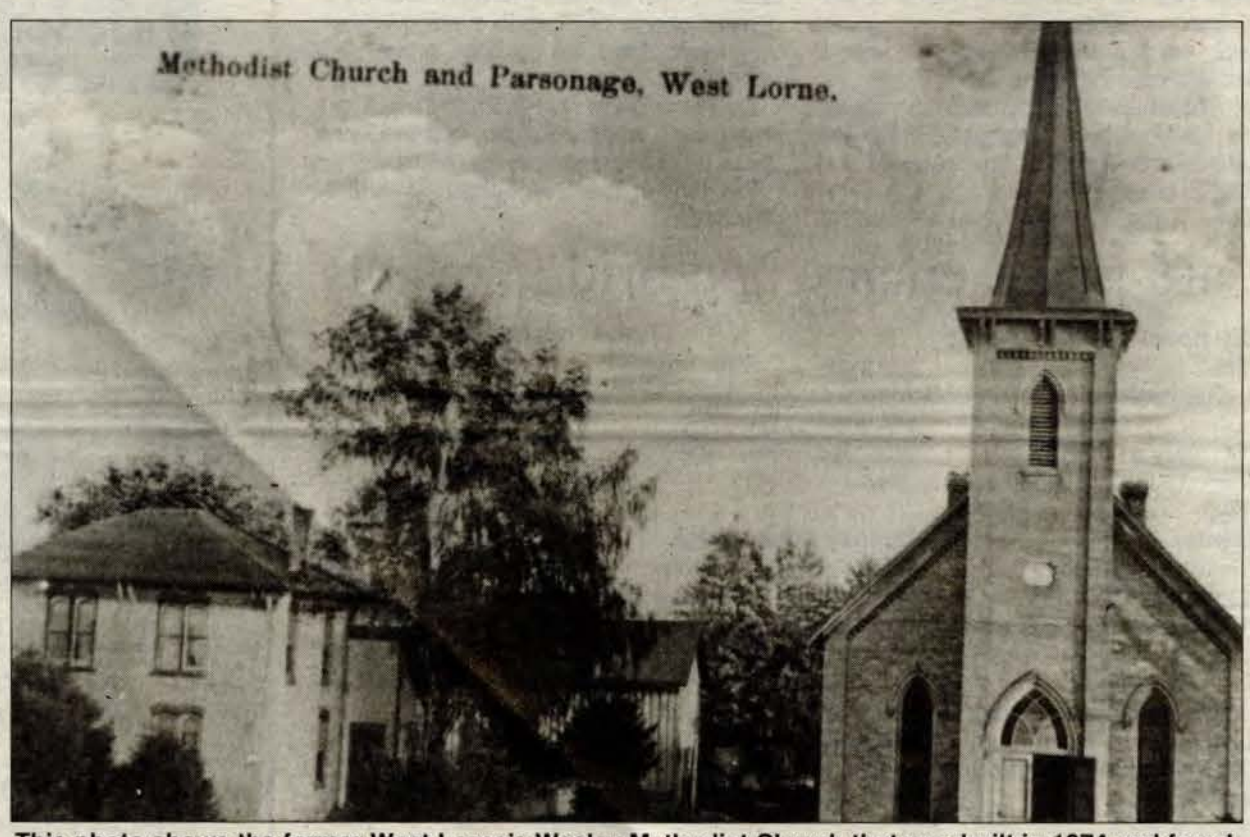
Looking back... photo submissions



This week's submission comes to us from Ron Payne of Eagle. It is a picture of the West Lorne Wagon Company at approximately the turn of the last century. The factory was built in 1904. According to Nancy Lashbrook's book, West Lorne - 90 Years a Village (1907-1997), West Lorne was selected as the location for the factory because the area was considered to have the best timber in the country, plus the location to the Michigan Central and Pere Marquette Railways. The factory was sold in 1919 to Seaman Kent and again in 1940 to Erie Flooring.

Jan 24/03

Looking back...historic submissions



This photo shows the former West Lorne's Wesley Methodist Church that was built in 1874 and faced the railroad on Monroe Street at the Ridge Street corner. The manse was situated next to the church. The belfry, which was installed after the steeple, was removed in 1889. The church closed in 1934 after celebrating a 60th anniversary service. The first immigrants to land in the area at what is now Port Glasgow, belonged to the Presbyterian church and as they moved closer to West Lorne, a need for a Presbyterian church grew.

(This photo was submitted by Ron Payne and information was taken from "West Lorne, 90 Years a Village" by Nancy Lashbrook. Please send your historic photos to our office or they can be dropped off at Marg's Variety in Rodney or the Village Crier in Dutton. Your photos will be returned after they appear.)

FEB. 17, 2003

LOOKING BACK 2003

Anvil Music Quieter Now

West Lorne Blacksmith Recalls Early Days

By MICHAEL VICKERS

The village 'smith, once one of the most active members in local industry, particularly in rural areas, is passing rapidly from the scene.

Teodor Holotiuk, who has labored in the business for 34 years, remembers well the early days before the "horseless carriage" had made its appearance in numbers.

Teodor, or "Fred," as he is better known to residents of the West Lorne district, recalls the children who chattered and scampered out of the way of mighty teams of horses which clattered into the yard to wait their turn at the blacksmith's hand.

Inside the shop the smith worked his magic, now stooping over the fire glowing hot orange at the forge and now with shoulder and fierce art putting his brute strength to bending the red hot iron bars held firm in the grip of his tongs.

There was the musical clang of his hammer on anvil. Always the sound of industry.

Now Fred, at 75, has quit any heavy work which comes his way.

There are still the knives, the axes and the occasional blunted blade from a power mower to be worked on. These light jobs still keep Fred active and with modest income.

* * *

Fred, who came to West Lorne from his native Rumania in 1930 started in the shop which stood on the ruins of a hotel burned out in the early years of the 1900's.

At that time, he explained, there were two other blacksmiths in town. Shortly, though, one died and the other left to ply his trade in Aylmer.

Then it was busy, said Fred, gesticulating with his still thickly muscled arms, "I had work too much."

It was common, he said, to shoe three or four teams of horses a day. In his lifetime he has shoed thousands of horses.

* * *

Nor were horses the only recipients of his art. Many were the hobbled carriages restored to smooth running form by his ministrations.

Massive machinery, including band saws and broad planes, connected to their power sources with a complicated maze of thick leather drive belts, gave Fred the means to fashion almost any wooden piece required in such repairs.

He pointed out two giant spoke wheels about five feet in diameter. "To make those you've got to have guts."

Fred explained that before the steel wheel was set in its wooden frame he had to bend the steel runner, three inches wide by ⅝ inch thick, little by little with only his tongs and great muscle power to work with.

* * *

Fred, with a little effort tried to remember whether it was seven or maybe ten years since he had shoed his last horse.

Things are slow now, he said, but with the odd small jobs that come his way. and the shop, the house and grounds to look to, there was plenty for a man of his years to busy himself with.



Teodor "Fred" Holotiuk, veteran West Lorne blacksmith, makes the sparks fly as he puts an edge on this axe with his grindstone.

THIS WAS SUBMITTED BY FOR THE TWEEDSMUIR BOOK → MRS. NORMA McGILL

LOOKING BACK 2004

Looking back on 2003



JUNE...

Beef farmers began bracing themselves for the impact of mad cow disease after borders with the United States closed in late May. The ramifications of the disease, now found in the United States,is still making headlines in 2004.



MAY...

John Kenneth Galbraith was honoured with the construction of an Inuksuk at his Dutton-Dunwich homestead. The Dutton library was later named after him. May also saw the three western Elgin County municipalities seeking thousands in 401 traffic ticket money that was sent to Chatham-Kent.



APRIL...

The West Lorne Women's Institute celebrated its 90th anniversary. April also saw hospitals brace themselves during the outbreak of SARS.



AUGUST...

Lawrence Holland found a crop circle in his Wallacetown-area fields, attracting crowds of spectators and researchers. August also saw Wallacetown's Chris Enns named the first male ambassador to the CNE amidst a massive blackout across parts of Ontario and several American states.



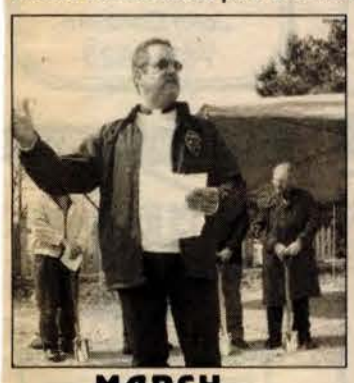
FEBRUARY...

The Rodney Ambulance Service honoured its late owner, Bob Padfield with framed prints hung at the Rodney and Dutton stations.



DECEMBER...

Noah Heard meets Santa Claus at West Lorne's Santa Claus Parade, hosted by the Optimist Club. December saw celebrations when a school closure reprieve was given by the newly elected Liberal government for Ontario.



MARCH...

The West Elgin Community Health Centre held the groundbreaking for its new $3 million expansion. The new building is expected to be ready this month.



NOVEMBER...

The West Elgin Dramatics Society offered "Just Say Yes" as its fall production. Municipal elections saw Jim McIntyre, Graham Warwick, Bonnie Vowel, Diane Brewer and Doug Reycraft acclaimed or elected area mayors.



OCTOBER...

Fall fairs, derbys and family activities dominated the summer and fall months in western Elgin County.



JULY...

Fingal was host to more than 100 bikers attending a Christian biker organization's rally, while municipalities began deciding how to refund or handle a parking ticket nightmare that saw hundreds of tickets given out to unsuspecting homeowners, many without driveways that were now in violation of a new parking bylaw.

SEPTEMBER...

Seniors gathered in Rodney for the Seniors' Day in the Park, hosted by the West Elgin Community Health Centre. September saw a provincial election called which saw Liberal Steve Peters returned as Elgin-Middlesex-London's MP. He was later named Minister of Agriculture. August and September also saw the grandstand in Rodney upgraded and declared safe after a few tense moments leading up to the annual fair.



ANNOUNCEMENT

To all my friends and customers over the past 22 years, I wish to announce my retirement from Ripley & Giles Motors Ltd. It has been enjoyable and I most certainly will miss the people.
Al has purchased my share of the business and it's business as usual.

Thank you
Bob Ripley

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LOOKING BACK 2003

Chronicling the past



The students of SS #7 Aldborough included, front, left, Gladys Forsythe, Marjorie Tunks, Audrey Tenant, Barbara Heard, Blanche McDonald, Catherine Degraw, Marion Downie, Mildred Fleming, Constance Tenant, Charlie Cappe, Albert Cappe, Ross McDonald, Shirley James, Bilton McDonald, middle, left, Sidney Heard, Phyllis McMillan, Mary Tunks, Lillian Heard, Eleanor Clark, Donna Fleming, Frances Campbell, Flora Cook, Lester Comeau, Cameron Scott, Jimmy Tunks, Lloyd Clark, back, left, Howard McCallum, Alex James, Donald McDougall, Clarence Cappe, Armond James and Teacher Miss Newcombe.

Photo submitted by Donna Miller

The Chronicle welcomes your historical images of life in western Elgin County's past. Please send your historic photos to our office or they can be dropped off at Marg's Variety in Rodney or the Village Crier in Dutton. Your photos can be picked up again after they appear. Aug 7 2003

The Chronicle

Chronicling the past



This 1944 photo of Katherine McMillan's class includes the following area students: Anne Bea, Elizabeth Varga, Paul Izgherian, Julia Izgherian, John Bandeen, Anne Lupsor, Paul Cholak, Virginia Lupsor, Irene Varga, Shirley Brown, Clara Vince, Bobby Varga, Ernie Varga, George Vince, Gorden Vince, Gorden Doan, Tommy Cholak, Sara Varga, Helen M. Varga, Billy Varga, Melvin Doan, Margaret Bea, Mary Izgherian, Carol Sepergia, Mary Lupsor, Helen Varga, Amy Ingratta, Steven Fodor, John Ingratta and John Okilishan.

Submitted photo

The Chronicle welcomes your historical images of life in western Elgin County's past. Please send your historic photos to our office or they can be dropped off at Marg's Variety in Rodney or the Village Crier in Dutton. Your photos can be picked up again after they appear. DEC

SERVICE CLUBS 2001

FEB 2001



Hammer Time!

Gerree Hind, left, and Audrey Bellefeuille were among the volunteers from the West Elgin Nature Club who gathered in Ken Wilton's workshop recently to build birdhouses. In total 100 bluebird houses were built along with 11 wood duck houses and 12 wren houses. The club has been building houses for 20 years, having probably made over 1,000 houses in that time. As well as being placed all over the township, some of the houses will go as far away as Aylmer thanks to the Elgin Stewardship Council.



FEB 26, 2001 **Working together**

The West Elgin Chamber of Commerce and the West Lorne Business Association have formally combined in order to benefit members of both organizations and have a unified voice on issues facing local business owners. Chamber President Serge Lebedz and Business Association Chairman Tom Jones shake hands on the deal that brings merchants in all of West Elgin together.

Local business associations join forces

Knowing that there is strength in numbers, the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce and the West Lorne Business Association have joined forces. The reorganized group will be known as the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce.

The West Elgin Chamber evolved from the Rodney Industrial Commission, which was instrumental in bringing Walterscheid and Dresden Industrial to the area.

West Elgin Municipal Council appoints two of its members to the chamber. In return the chamber attends council meetings when necessary to voice any concerns or offer input.

One of the main benefits expected to be realized from combining the two business associations is improved economic development opportunities.

Better organization of special events and a committee to oversee ideas to beautify the main streets of the two communities are other potential benefits. Presenting a stronger voice on the issues that concern local businesses is another reason the two groups decided to work as one.

The amalgamated organization has already worked together to produce a local telephone directory highlighting local business numbers. Signage on the 401 for Rodney and West Lorne is being investigated. A Downhill Derby may be held in Rodney thanks in part to the efforts of the West Lorne Downhill Derby committee and chamber members.

The West Elgin Chamber is pleased that municipal council responded to them by adding a winter night shift to maintain the business sections of the villages.

While the expanded West Elgin Chamber might have committees to plan things for each of Rodney and West Lorne, the organization will operate as one unit, not simply as two organizations sharing one name.

Things that were done in West Lorne and Rodney will be maintained and, hopefully with the larger group support, will be improved for both communities.

Dove Rebekah Card Party

Winners at the Dove Rebekah Lodge Card Party on February 21st were, on the White card - high, Pauline Jensen; lone hands, Marg Gowan.

For the Yellow card - high, Carl Staddon; lone hands, Mike Ingratta.

The 50/50 draw was won by Marg Gowan.



Supporting Young Skaters

The Rodney Kiwanis Club made a donation to the West Elgin Skating Club to help offset the costs of the club's annual skating carnival which was held on March 3rd. Pictured, Kiwanis President Jim Hathaway, left, presents a $300.00 cheque to Skating Club President Dianne DeLouw.



Remembrance Contest Winners FEB 26/01

These local young ladies took top honours at the Zone level of the annual Remembrance Day Contests. The West Elgin Legion Br. 221 presented each of them with a framed certificate to commemmorate their achievement as well as a monetary donation. Pictured with Legion President Ray Jobson, centre, are, from left to right: Melissa Warren, 1st place, black and white poster; Mallory Peternel, 1st place, essay; Katie Campigotto, 2nd place, essay, and Kelsey Budgell, 2nd place, colour poster.



Daffodil day

The annual start to Cancer Month was held across the area on March 30th as volunteers with the Canadian Cancer Society sold the organization's symbol - the daffodil. Carmina DaSilva, left, purchased a bunch of the beautiful blooms from Helen Mooser who was one of the volunteers on duty at the West Lorne IGA. APR. 9, 2001

SERVICE CLUBS 2001

 APR. 9, 2001



Spectacular Speakers

The West Lorne Optimist Club was pleased with the participation in this year's Oratorical Contest. Pictured are, left to right: front row - Amanda Jamieson, Gayle McFadden, 2nd place girl; Richa Sharma, 1st place girl; Kylie Hilliard, 3rd place girl; A.J. Fordham, 2nd place boy; back row - Lisa McCallum, Amanda Bellefeuille, Jackie Geisler, Blair Noddin, 1st place boy, and Optimist Nancy Coburn, chairperson of the event. (photo contributed)



Ready to respond

Wanting to be available as quickly as possible in times of need, the West Elgin Ministerial Association, OPP and West Elgin Community Health Centre have created a crisis response system. Pictured, OPP Constable Dennis Harwood, left, Joy Scafe, from the Health Centre and Rev. Kirby Breithaupt go over some of the details of the new initiative.



Working towards a cure

About 30 people took part in the West Lorne 'Great Ride 'N Stride to Beat Cancer' on April 29th. Pledges gathered by the participants amounted to around $3,200. Organizers were pleased with this year's event which saw more people take part and more money raised for the Canadian Cancer Society than in 2000. MAY. 7 2001



A Very Good Deed

It's quite a transformation! Thanks to a $30,000 grant from the Trillium Foundation, extensive renovatios completed at the 1st West Lorne Scouts Hall. An open house as held to show off the spruced up facility. Taking part in the ribbon cutting ceremony were, left to right - Scout Derek Podebry, Theresa Whalen, West Elgin Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick, Beaver Nicky Martin, Trillium representative Harry Mezenberg and Cub Tiffany Leeson. APR 1/01



Teaching about baby care

The West Lorne Kiwanis Club donated five copies of the video "Never Shake a Baby" to the West Elgin Community Health Centre. Two of the copies will be kept at the Parent Child Resource Centre in Rodney for people to sign out. The videos are part of the Kiwanis Club's "Children Priority 1" project of Kiwanis International. Kiwanian Bill Graham, left, made the presentation to Paula Cousins, WECHC Nurse Practitioner. APR 30/01



Training aids

The West Elgin Army Cadets recently presented laminated pictures of the medals and badges they earn and the training sylibus they follow to the West Elgin Legion Br. 221, where the cadets train. Captain Bill Stinson, left, Adjutant of the West Elgin Army Cadets and Legion President Ray Jobson display the placques which will be hung in the legion to help the cadets with their training. APR 23/01

SERVICE CLUBS 2001

CONGRATULATIONS

51st West Lorne Kiwanis Talent Show

The West Lorne Kiwanis Club hosted their 51st Talent Show on April 20th and 21st in the WEDS Performing Arts Centre in Dutton.

Talent Show chairman Bill Graham commented that "the quality of the performers was at the top of the excellence scale. The adjudication by Karen Ann Schuessler of London was very professional and Karen was personally in touch with every one of the contestants." The highest mark awarded - 90 - went to Caren Campbell for ther violin solo.

There were a few "glitches" in the timing on Friday night, but hopefully this will not discourage anyone from taking part next year.

First, second, and third place standings in the various classes are as follows:

Pop piano 10 and under: Sabrina Griffin, 86; Nicole Hilliard, 83; Breanne Carter, 82.

Piano age 10: Rebecca Stone, 87.

Pop vocal age 13: Jonathan Wright, 88.

Piano age 11: Becky Lee, 87; Danielle Schnekenburger, 85; Katharine Wright, 84.

Other instruments: recorder duet - Stephen and Christine Van't Voort, 85. Brass trio - Daniel, Michael and Brian Van't Voort, 84. Baritone - Michael Van't Voort, 87. Trumpet - Daniel Van't Voort, 84. Clarinet - Peter Westerveld, 86. Flute - David Westerveld, 85. Violin - Caren Campbell, 90.

Piano age 12: Laurie Van't Voort, 87; Jackie Hwang, 86; Erin Fleming, 83.

Piano age 13: Lisa King, 87; Jona than Wright, 84; Stacie Gowan, 83.

Pop piano 14 and under: Jonathan Wright, 88; Amanda Ford, 87; Jamie Stone, 85.

Vocal open class: Jonathan Wright; Michelle Smith; Heidi Berkelmans.

Piano duo: Jackie Hwang; Jonathan Wright.

Piano age 14: Vanessa Gray, 85; Candace Vanden Dries 84.

Piano age 15: Matt Mistele, 87; Becki Koscik, 86.

Piano age 16: Holly LeBlanc, 83.

Piano age 17: David Westerveld, 86.

Piano duet age 13 and over: Laurie Van't Voort and David Westerveld, 85; Hillary Kriter and Kim Kriter, 82.

Piano duet age 15: Matt Mistele and Becky Koscik.

Piano duo: Matt Mistele and Becky Koscik.

Pop piano over 14: Holly LeBlanc, 87; Jennifer LeBlanc, 85.

Piano age 6: Morgan Ross, 85; Stephen Carter, 84; Evan Ross, 83.

Piano age 7: Katie Stone, 88; Allison Kornaker, 85.

Piano age 8: Madison Hayes, 89; Breanne Carter, 87; Christine Van't Voort, 86.

Piano age 9: Sabrina Griffin, 89; Madison Hayes, 88; Hillary Hodder, 87.

Trumpet solo: Daniel Van't Voort, 85.

Choir: Dutton Christian Fellowship Junior Choir, director Karen Sloetjes, 88.

Vocal open class age 8: Naomi Brown, 87.

Vocal open class age 10: Vicki Close, 87; Hillary Hodder, 85.

Vocal solo age 11: Hillary Hodder, 85; Katharine Wright, 84.

Vocal solo age 8: Madison Hayes, 87; Naomi Brown, 86; Cassie Wright, 83.

Piano duet 12 and under: Hillary Hodder and Madison Hayes, 87; Charlotte Schaeken and Katharine Wright, 86; Tracy Donaldson and Amanda Ford, and Rebecca Stone and Jamie Stone, 85 (tied).

Vocal duet age 10: Michelle Smith and Heidi Berkelmans, 85; Hillary Hodder and Heather Heyboer, 84.

Spelling bee: Grade 3 - Cassie Wright, Molly Schleihauf, Ashley Willey, Breanne Carter, Tyler Ross.

Grade 4 - Nicole Hilliard, Jordan Hamm, Andrea Gibbons, Molly McWilliam.

Grade 6 - Becky Lee, Craig Howard.



Piano age 10: Rebecca Stone, 1st



Recorder duet: Christine and Steven Van't Voort, 1st



Pop piano 10 and under: Sabrina Griffin, 1st; Nicole Hilliard, 3rd.



Other instruments: Peter Westerveld, clarinet; David Westerveld, flute; Caren Campbell, violin.



Pop vocal age 13: Jonathan Wright



Piano age 11: Danielle Schnekenburger, 2nd, Becky Lee, 1st, Katharine Wright, 3rd.



Tickling the ivories

Breanna Carter was one of the first participants in the West Lorne Kiwanis Club's 51st Talent Show to have the privilege of playing the shiny, new black grand piano . This year the two-day event was held in the newly renovated WEDS Performing Arts Centre in Dutton. For more coverage see page 15.

APR 30/01

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CLUBS 2001



Ray Jobson, (second from left), has been awarded the West Elgin Volunteer of the Year award, as presented by the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce. Pictured here presenting Jobson with the award are left to right, Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick, Jobson, and Rosalie Krebsz and Tom Jones of the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce. Jobson has volunteered many hours with the local Kiwanis, Masons, Royal Canadian Legion and many other organizations in the area.

JULY 2001



New board of directors for Optimist Club of West Lorne. Pictured front row (l-r): Don Boos (sec/treasurer), Bill Trask (2 year director), Ken Neil (2 year director), Nancy Coburn (past president and Lt. Gov.). Back row (l-r) Julie Lawrence White (V.P.), Ric Whyte (2 year director), Doug Staddon (V.P.), John Eagleson (Pres.) Karen Goncalves (Pres Elect). Missing from photo Shirley Lorch (1 year director), and Brad Reive (1 year director). OCT 2001



Anything grows!

The West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society hosted a Spring Fair recently where people were able to pick a few new plants for their gardens, as well as tempting their sweeth tooths with scrumptious baked goods. Pictured, society member Liz Clark, left, talks about this unique planting in a boot with Rose McMurchy. MAY 2001



West Lorne Rebekah Lodge President Lorraine Tunks presents member Jean McRae with a commemorative charm for 35 years of Humanitarian service. DEC. 2001



West Lorne Rebekah Lodge District 17 and Oddfellows District 15 commemorated their 50 year members last week. Left to right is Jean Ross, Madeline and Art Ross, Jean McRae and Lorrine Tunks.

SERVICE CLUBS 2001



The West Legion honoured and awarded some of its members recently. They are left to right, Judy DeWilde, Ray Jobson, Walter Podebry, George Bell, Robert White, Jim Orchard, Joe Luenissen and Dave Varga. JULY 2001

The Chronicle OCT. 1 2001

Legion-Aires

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 221 West Elgin

Members of the West Elgin Legion have welcomed the fall season with anticipation of great things to come for our community.

Members of branch 221 would like to extend a big thank you to members and friends of the legion for items donated to the very successful yard sale held during Labour Day weekend. It is events such as these that help us to help our communities, and it is planned to make this an annual event.

We have recently celebrated Legion Week (Sept. 16-Sept. 22) with the grand finale being a Pig Roast and Dance held on Saturday, Sept.22. A great time was had by all and we thank all members and friends for making this an exceptionally successful event.

Tuesday evening euchre and Wednesday evening darts are in full swing. Everyone is welcome to join in these weekly games. Don't be shy! Euchre at 7:30pm and Darts at 8:00pm.

The Seniors Committee is planning a bus tour to Colasanti's Tropical Gardens in Leamington on Saturday, October 27. The cost is $30.00 which includes your bus ticket on a luxury bus, tour of Colasanti's and hot buffet lunch in their dining room. Then a visit to the Leamington Legion Br. 84 then heading on to visit Br. 185 in Blenheim for their weekly meat draw. We will be meeting at the West Elgin Legion at approx. 8:00am and expect to be arriving back at approx. 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join us one this trip so if you are interested, tickets are going fast, so please contact Seniors Chair, Jim Carmichael at 768-2697 or call the Legion at 768-1890.

Just a reminder that now is the time to book the Legion Banquet Hall for your Christmas parties or any other function you have coming up.

Building Chair, Joe Leunissen would again like to thank all members who helped with the cleaning and repainting the legion hall. It is very much appreciated. A reminder to all members that the new membership cards are in. Be an Early Bird! Next general meeting will be held on Monday, October 15 at 8:00pm.

Our thoughts and our prayers are with our neighbours in the USA. 'Lest we forget'.



West Elgin Legion Branch 221 recently handed out 75 year anniversary pins to, in front, l-r- Irene McGregor, Adam Becht and Ric Whyte who also received an Appreciation Award for the Convention held in St. Thomas. Presenting the pins were Com. President Robert White (left) and Com. Ray Jobson (Past Pres., Veteran Serv. Off., Honours & Awards Chair) at right. The pins honour the 75th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion.



Ralph Cadotte of Ridgetown was the winner of the West Lorne Optimist BBQ raffled off recently. Pictured is Cadotte at left with his prize BBQ with Doug Staddon of the West Lorne Optimists. All proceeds from the raffle went to the youth of the community. AUG 2001

The West Elgin Chronicle MARCH 5, 2001



Receive Memorial Award

The West Lorne Scouting family held their annual banquet recently where a number of awards were handed out. Lena Dewulf, back left, presented the Andy Dewulf Scouting Spirit Award to scout Breanne Podebry, back left, and beavers Evan Ross and Morgan Ross. Unavailable for photo was cub Nikita Van Beers.

JULY 2001

West Elgin Legion elects officers and commemorates soldier

West Elgin Legion recently held their elections and came up with a strong committee of officers.

They are Robert White, President; Dennis Joyce 1st vice; Jim Orchard 2nd vice; Joe Santos 3rd vice; and three elected executive positions were filled by Mary Jane Lemon, Bill Goncalves and Karen Cormier.

George Bell received a commerative ex-POW Medal International Prisoner of War and received 3rd vice president bar.

Other honours and medals went to:

Judy DeWilde, past officer and executive committee.

Ray Jobson, 2nd vice President, Bar.

Walter Podebry, past officer medal, member, bar, executive. committee.

Robert White, sergeant at arms, bar.

Jim Orchard, 3rd vice pres bar.

Joe Luenissen past officer bar, executive committee bar.

Dave Varga, chairman bar.



George Bell at right, receives a commerative ex-POW Medal International Prisoner of War medal from Legion branch president Robert White.

CLUBS 2001

MAY 2001

Learn about history of West Lorne

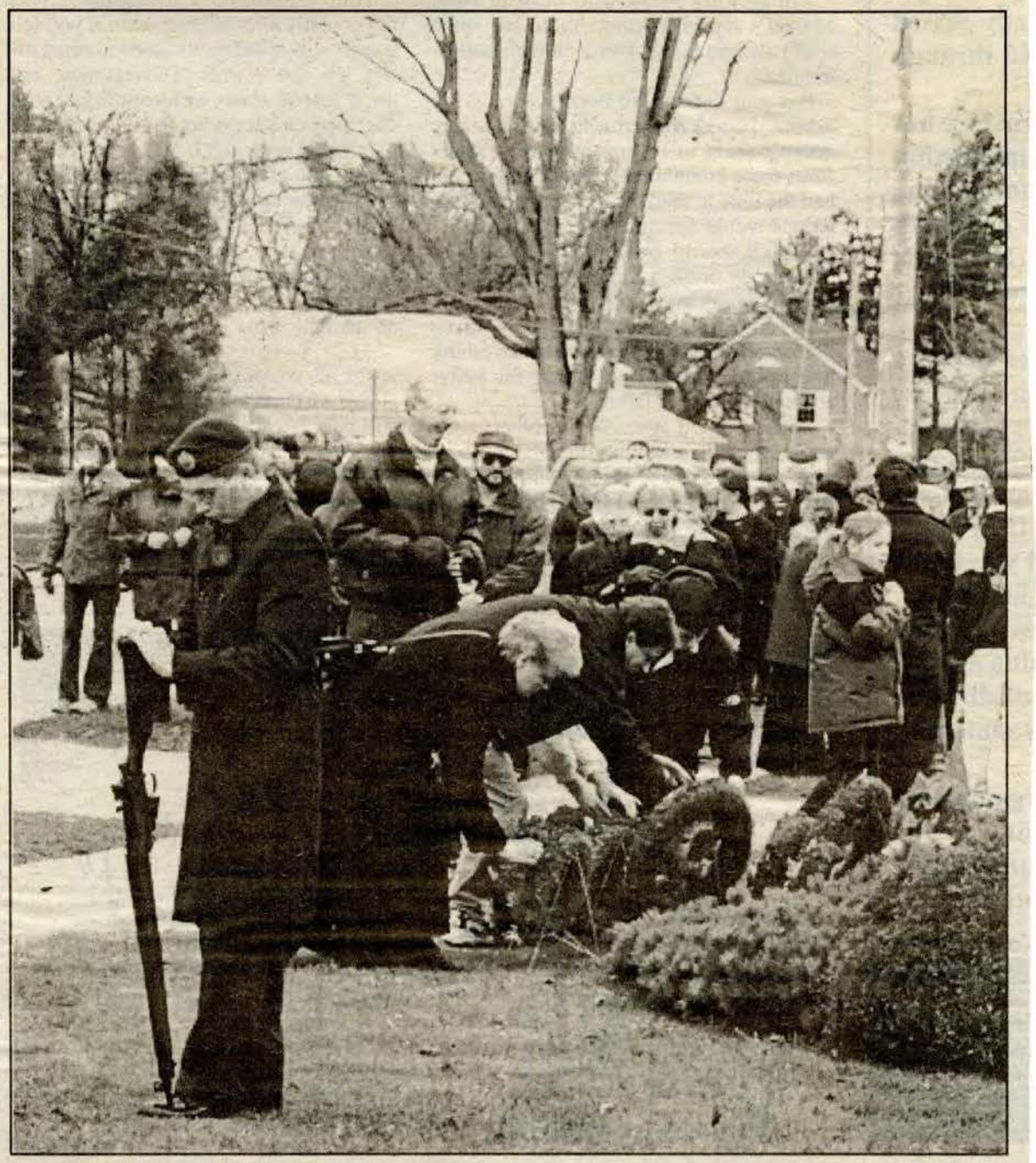
If any of the West Elgin Adult club members who attended the April 23rd meeting at the West Lorne Complex wasn't interested in history or genealogy prior to the gathering he or she would be before they returned home. Nancy and Harley Lashbrook, our local historians, gave a very interesting and educational talk on these subjects to the afternoon gathering of the club.

Nancy's part of the presentation emphasized the importance of keeping a diary and searching out your family tree. The diary becomes not only a reference tool but tells future generations what type of person you were, what your interests were and what your activities were within the community.

Harley told the members of his and Nancy's efforts while completing the book on West Lorne which they had published a few years ago. When amalgamation of the local municipalities was first being discussed they felt that a history of the village had to be preserved and they undertook the task. Considerable time was spent collecting articles that had been written and searching for pictures that had been taken. Then there was the final task of finding a publisher who would do the job they wanted at a reasonable price.

Numerous questions followed their presentation which, in turn, was followed with a luncheon. The next meeting of the Adult Club will be on May 14th when Lyle Mann will be showing pictures of his trip to Alaska.

Everyone is welcome to attend.



A member of the Honour Guard concentrates as the public begins to place their poppies during the West Lorne Remembrance Day Service held last week. NOV. 2001

SERVICE CLUBS 2002

MAR 25, 2002 The Chronicle

West Lorne Optimists hosts Oratorical Contest



These are the contestants who particpated in West Lorne Optimist Club's Oratorical Contest held March 19. Front row left to right are Michelle Ward, Mary Jane Peternell, Andrea Goos, Vanessa DeCosta and Emma Wilkins. Back row left to right is West Lorne Optimist Julie Lawrence, Aaron Ford, Chris Oliveira, Stephanie Gash Shobha Sharma and West Lorne Optimist Doug Staddon. Winners from the contest were Michelle Ward, Shobha Sharma, Aaron Ford, and Chris Oliveira. The contest was open to anyone in West Elgin under the age of 16. The Optimist's are also holding their annual Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday March 30 at 1 pm. The hunt will be held in the yard of St. Mary's School.

The Chronicle MARCH 2002



Branch 221 Speech competition winners. Front row left to right, Malcolm McWilliam, Karlie Willcocks and Rishi Sharma. Back row: Michelle Ward, Brittany Jewel, Richa Sharma and Shoba Sharma. These speakers were to move onto the Zone finals held last Sunday at the Port Burwell Legion.

SERVICE CLUBS 2002



Some members of the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society had one last moment to enjoy their bench that was raffled off at their Garden Fair which was held May 11. The members who took part in the Garden Fair are, seated: Liz Clark, Veronica Lane and Betty McKillop. Back row is DiAnne Dowling, Nancy Baillie, Kay Cowan, Mary Lippold and Susan Lilley. The winner of the bench was Tammy Oliveira of West Lorne.

MAY 2002



Stefan Agbaba was the winner of the bike from the Optimist Club of West Lorne's Bike Roadeo at Aldborough Public School. Congratulating Stefan is West Lorne Optimist Vice President Doug Staddon.

JUNE 2002

Trillium foundation helps Optimists



The Ontario Trillium Foundation has recently donated $20,000 to the Optimist Club of West Lorne to help pay for the two skating parks in West Lorne and Rodney. Also helping out in the funding of the parks was the Municpality of West Elgin. Seen here, Elaine Brown, of the local Grant Review Team for Trillium hands the $20,000 to John Eagleson, President of the Optimist Club of West Lorne.

MAY 2002

Berdan receives Jubilee medal



George Berdan, (front and centre) has received a Queen's Jubilee medal for his years of dedication and contributions to the community. Members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 221 were proud to be on hand to see the presentation. Presenting Berdan with the pins and placque are John Barnes (District A Commander) at front left and George Parry (front right. At back, are Branch 221 Legion members Ric Whyte, Julie Lawrence, Ian Watson (Zone commander), Jackie Watson, Robert White (Deputy Zone Commander and Dennis Joyce (President Br. 221).

DEC. 23, 2002



2nd Annual Valentine Cabaret

Members of the West Elgin Choral Society and West Lorne Kiwanis along with the West Elgin Dramatic Society brought their second annual Valentine Cabaret featuring local talent. Here singers Suzette Wilcox and Martin Joldersma sing All I Ask of You, a song found in The Phantom of the Opera Musical.

FEB. 25 2002

SERVICE CLUBS
2002

The Chronicle APR. 29, 2002

Local talent showcased at Kiwanis Talent Show

The 52nd Annual Kiwanis Club Talent Show was held April 19, and 20. Organizers were very pleased with the turnout of young talent that is from this region.

The adjudicator for the weekend was Mary Lou Pheonix-Sheler.

Participants and finishes for the classes were:

Friday April 19

Choirs: Mrs Sandra Van Gaanen presents Chamber Choir (1); Ms. Lynn Gracey presents WESES (2).

Vocal solo "The Lambs in the Field" Age 10/11: Dawn Marie Welch (1), Rebecca Stone (2); Hilary Hodder (3); Adam Sutton (4).

Vocal Solo open class age 10/11 Popular: Hilary Hodder (1); Dawn Marie Welch (2); Ariel Whalen & Rebecca Stone (3).

Vocal Duet open class "Any Dream Will Do": Hilary Hodder and Adam Sutton (tie).

Vocal quintet or double duet: direction by Karen Sloetjes- Hilary Hodder, Rebecca Stone, Michelle Smith, Dawn Marie Welch and Adam Sutton.

Violin Class: Nicola Borowski (1); Caren Campbell (2).

Piano solo class age 13: Laurie Van 'Voort (1), Nicola Borowski (2), James Stone and Jackie H (3).

Piano solo class age 14: Mary Jo McWilliam (1), Jonathan Wright (2).

Piano class age 15: Candace Vanden Dries (1), Vanessa Gray (2).

Piano class age 17: David Westerveld (1).

Piano class age 11 popular: Rebecca Stone, Hilary Hodder (tie 1).

Piano class age 13 popular: Laurie Van't Voort (1), James Stone (2), Amanda Ford (3).

Piano class age 14 popular: MaryJo McWilliam (1).

Piano class age 15 popular: Candace Vanden (1), Vanessa Gray (2).

Piano class age 16 popular: Ashley Keane (1), Jennifer LeBlanc (2).

Saturday April 20

Piano solo age 6: Natalie Meuller (1), Scott VanRaes (2), Stephen Carter (3).

Piano solo age 7: Morgan Ross (1), Allison Kornaker, Danielle Dailman, (ties 2) Kayla Ross, (ties 3), Evan Ross, (4).

Piano solo age 8: Chelsey Page (1), Thomas Rowe (2), Katherine Stone, Hilary Heyboer (tie 3), Diana Vanderveen (4).

Piano Duets class 1: Breanne and Stephen Carter (1), Stephen and Christine Van't Voort (2), Thomas and Jacob Rowe (3), Lydia and Nathan Westerveld (4).

Piano Duets class 2: James Stone and Amanda Ford (1), Hilary and Heather Heyboer (2).

Piano solo popular age 9: Breanne Carter (1), Chelsey Page (2).

Piano solo popular age 10: Sabrina Griffin (1).

Vocal solo age 8/9 "Stay Little Blackbird": Madison Hayes (1), Naomi S. Brown (2), Allison Kornaker (3).

Piano solo age 9: Janielle Timmermans (1), Breanne Carter, Christine Van't Voort (tie 2), Tyler Ross (3).

Vocal solo age 14 "The Little Birch Tree": Michelle Smith 1), Erica Silva (2).

Vocal solo open class, age 14 own choice: Erica Silva (1), Michelle Smith (2).

Piano solo age 10: Nathan Westerveld, Sabrina Griffin (1), Molly McWilliam, Carrie O'Brien, Stephen Van't Voort, Molly Schleihauf, Ariel Whalen, Tanya VanRaes, Chelsea Dent, (2), Jacob Row (3).

Piano solo age 12: Lydia Westerveld (1), Danielle Schneknburger, Tracy Donaldson (tie 2), Casandra Vandenbrink (3).

Piano solo open class popular: Lydia Westerveld (1), Rhonda Night, Tracy Donaldson (tie 2).

A cameo performance was made by Ryan Phelps of London on Friday evening. A square dance was performed by St. Mary's School Students - instructor was Joanne Anderson.

The Van't Voort Family Brass Quartet also per formed on Friday



Allison Kornaker performed in the 8/9 Vocal Solo.

Got news??
Call *The Chronicle*
at 768-2220.



Tyler Ross performed a Piano Solo in the age 9 class.



Michelle Smith came in first in Vocal Solo age 14 and second in the open class.

CLUBS 2002



Team work sees beautification in West Lorne!!

A lot of teamwork went into the latest beatifications that are the talk of the town in West Lorne. The new garbage receptacles and benches arrived last week to accent and top off the streetlight initiative. Here Trillium Fund members and members of the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society pose with the five new additions - the streetlights, the garbage receptacles, the hanging plants and baskets, the flags and benches. Sitting on the bench are Fran McCallum, WLCHS President Liz Clark, and George Lippold. Back row: Trillium Fund's Elaine Brown, Betty McKillop, Susan Lilley, Nancy Baillie, Mary Lippold and Trillium Fund's Sheila Simpson. Noticeably absent is a representative from West Elgin council, who at the time of this photo, were discussing best options for installation of the eight new benches. In total, the municipality bought the streetlights ($39,000), Trillium Fund gave a $21,600 grant to cover the benches, baskets and garbage containers. WLCHS donated the flowers.



TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) held an All TOPS Walk on October 2 at the Old Rodney Town Hall. Pictured left to right areTOPS members, TOPS Area Captian Pam Baddams, Twila McWilliams, West Lorne TOPS leader Wendy Collins, Shirley Slaats, Olive Chambers and Alice Menard.

OCT. 2002

Daffodil Society helps out needy at Christmas



Volunteers of the Daffodil Society were busy last Wednesday handing out baskets of donated goods and foods for the needy. This year 60 families were registered to receive a special Christmas basket. Pictured are volunteers Lorne Milton, George Smith, Ruth Wight, Terry Heeney and Helen Mooser. Again this year, Erie Flooring donated 12 turkeys. Daffodil wants to give a hardy thanks for all the groups and individuals who also helped donate to the cause this year.

DEC. 2002

Optimists honour youth for their dedication



The Optimist Club of West Lorne recently honoured local youth for their dedicated work in the community and their achievements. Each honouree received a certificate of achievement. Front row (l-r) Mary Jane Peternel, Jeff Koscik, Shobha Sharma, and Christine Alves. Back row: Kory Preston, Morgan McWilliam, Ilse Fleuren, Jennifer Drummelsmith, Connor Wilson and Brett Fleming.



Lyle Simms (right) prepare to lay the wreath commemorating the death of four Canadians in Afghanistan this year at the West Lorne ceremony, along with Sergeant at Arms Wayne Gaudon.



Father and son George and Edd Bell held the flags at the West Lorne ceremony.

MEMORIAM · EORUM · RETINEBIMUS
LEGION



Members of the West Elgin RCAC 2884 posed for pictures.

NOVEMBER 11, 2002

Lest We Forget

SERVICE CLUBS 2002

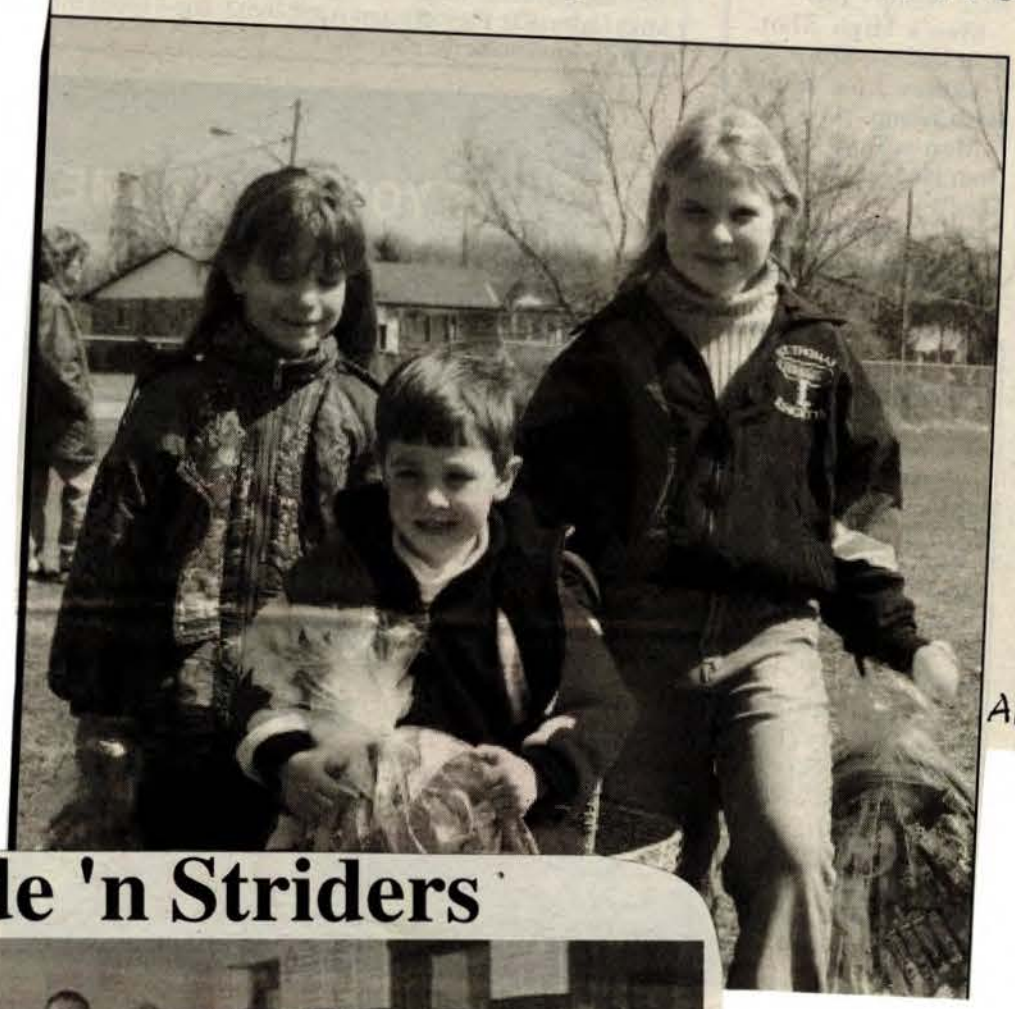
Monday May 20, 2002

Those spring time smiles



Five year old Rosie Butler of West Lorne gets her face painted by Dana Kuska of West Lorne at the West Lorne & Community Horticulture Society's Garden Fair on May 11. Society members were astounded by the turnout and the sales that were made at the second annual event. They doubled their revenue made from last year. This could only mean one thing. The people in West Elgin must be really anxious for spring weather. Weather analysts made things worse by noting that March was a warmer month than May and April combined. Keep smiling though, it supposed to cause the sun to come out

Chasing bunny rabbits in West Elgin



THE WINNERS OF THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF WEST LORNE ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT at St. Mary's School yard. At left is Chelsey VanBreda winner in the ages 5, 6, 7 group. At centre is Sean Ricker of the ages four and younger. At right is Dakota Abram winner of the eight and older group.

APR. 8/02

Great Ride 'n Striders



Participants of West Lorne's Great Ride 'n' Stride gathered for a picture while waiting for the rain to end on Sunday April 28. The Great Ride 'n' Stride has been held for 16 years in West Lorne. The annual event is a fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society.

MAY 2002

CLUBS 2002

WEDS stages world premier of BOXES

The West Elgin Dramatics Society is staging the world premiere of a play by two area playwrights that the group expects will be a hit.

"It's a very funny play," said Tracy Gordon, who is directing Boxes, a comedy by Mike Mulhern of West Lorne and Fred Campbell of Forest. "Everyone who has stopped by during our rehearsals leaves laughing."

Underneath the play's witty banter is an underlying message about life and love, Gordon adds.

"There's a real feel-good message," she said.

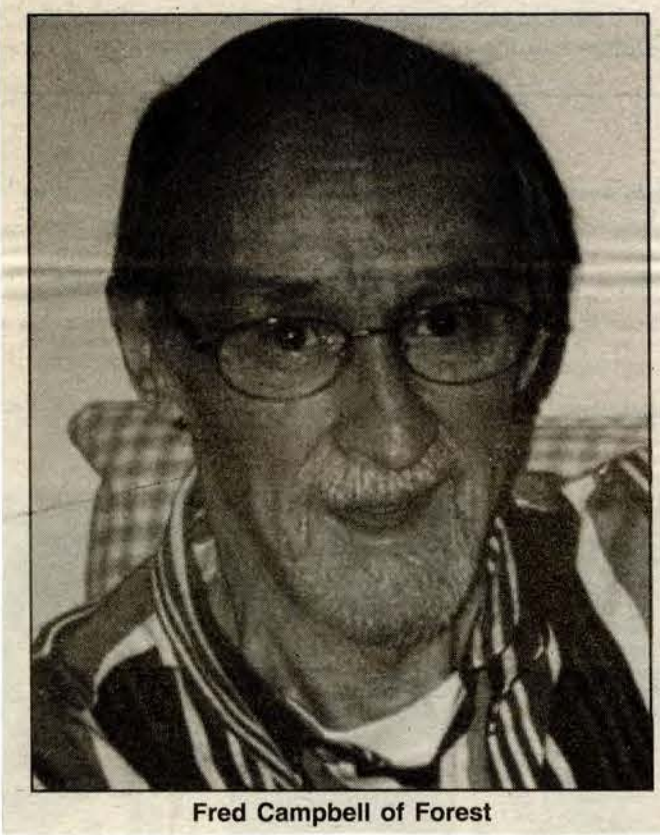
The play opens April 5 at the WEDS Performing Art's Centre in Dutton. April 6, WEDS is hosting a meet-the-authors night. Both playwrights will be on hand for a wine and cheese reception following the performance. There is also a matinee April 7 and two additional evening performances April 12 and 13.

Mulhern and Campbell co-wrote the play in 1995, but the pair were unsuccessful getting the play produced at Byth or the Grand Theatre in London.

"It seemed no one wanted to take a chance on an unknown work," Mulhern said.

After the initial dissappointment, the play sat on the shelf until WEDS artistic director Leslie Moll showed an interest in it.

"We're very pleased to see it produced," said Mulhern. "I've met Tracy and her cast and I think it will be a great production."



Fred Campbell of Forest



Mike Mulhern of West Lorne

Campbell is returning early from a Florida vacation to see the play.

"I wouldn't miss it," he said. "I had pretty much given up on it."

Mulhern and Campbell are former co-workers from *The London Free Press*.

Campbell, once the paper's police reporter evenutally became the paper's Assignment Editor, while Mulhern worked his way up to Entertainment Editor.

Campbell came up with the basic idea for the play and together the pair fleshed out the characters and came up with the basic plot.

The play stars four actors, two goldfish and a lot of boxes. The latter belong to Linda (played by Jennifer Gaudon of Talbotville) and her stock-broker husband Brad (played by Ron Pokraka of Rodney). In between moves from one temporary residence to another, the couple hire Carl (Dennis Pederson of Dutton) to move their boxes and their pet fish in with Linda's dad Frank (Serge Lebedz of Rodney), a widower and retired police officer.

Frank, who gets suspicious of his non-committal son-in-law, does some sleuthing. What he learns clears his kitchen but crowds his social calendar.

Tickets and information are available by calling Shenanigans at 762-5662, and are also available at Highland Pharmacy in Dutton, Krebsz Jewellery in West Lorne and Marg's Variety in Rodney.

MAR. 18, 2002



Jim Mabbe, District 10 Director of the Ontario Horticultural Society and Liz Clark, President of the West Lorne & Community Horticultural Society, cut the cake commemorating WLCHS's 75th anniversary last Tuesday. It was celebrated at the West Lorne Complex, on the grounds of the original meeting place, back in 1927. A moment of silence was spent commemorating those members who have passed away. A plaque was also revealed containing the names of past presidents. Clark said the future is full of expectations and projects to continue beautifying the community. SEPT 2002

The Chronicle MAY 20, 2002

Community Band is ready for anniversary show



Sharon Little conducts the West Elgin Community Band, which is celebrating 10 years with a public concert May 25 at WEDS hall in Dutton at 7:30 pm. Tickets are $5 at the door.



Tracy Gordon, director of Boxes

Over 30 current and past members of the West Elgin Community Band are expected to show up this Saturday night for a 10th Anniversary concert, but possibily many more than that.

Conductor Sharon Little said they will be playing some old favourites their supporters would have heard before, but there will also be new selections. She said past members who want to play again can show up with their instruments and join in.

According to the original members of the band - Carrie Kelly (flute), Joanne Bobier (tenor sax) and Elizabeth Sebesyen (french horn) the band's openess and comradery has not changed much since the fall of 1991 when the band was started by conductor Mike and Patti Letovsky.

"It's been my Monday nights for 10 years," said Kelly.

Bobier said the push to join the band came from her family and she was thankful she eventually joined it. It the beginning the band was designed to help parents understand what music students at WESES were experiencing.

The three members pointed out the remarkable aspect of the band being comprised of diverse people, from diverse backgrounds coming together for the love of music.

"We all come from different backgrounds," they said.

Newcomer to the band, Andrea Fordham said she couldn't read a note when she joined in September. Today she is enjoying the band and learning the bass drum.

"I really enjoy it, even though I sometimes sit back and laugh at myself," she said.

Tickets to the concert are $5 at the door. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

West Lorne Adult Club news

by Barbara Popham, Secretary, The West Lorne Adult Club

"The biweekly April meetings of the **West Lorne Adult Club** have been both entertaining and informative. On April 9, Miss Orchard and Miss McLean presented a humorous skit of filing income taxes as a Senior's Moment of Frenzy.

On April 22, Mrs Sharma and her Daughter Shobha, presented slides and a perspective on their homeland, the Punjab in northern India, highlighting the Taj Mahal and the GoldenTemple. Mrs Sharma described the typical Indian dress and presented fine examples of the various beautifully handcrafted sahris.

Shobha entertained us with a traditional Indian dance. Mrs Sharma surprised the group with a taste of Indian delicacies following the meeting.

The West Lorne Adult Club presented $100.00 to Larry Schneider, principal of WESS to assist in the purchase of new instruments for the Music Department.

The May 13 meeting of the West Lorne Adult Club will be a potluck lunch at 12:00 noon.

See you there!!!

MAY 2002

Chamber Chat

West Elgin Chamber of Commerce

Our community is : "Centre to everything. Second to None!"

Canada Day 2002

Plans are well under way for special celebrations on July 1, 2002. The best place for you and your family and friends to be on this busy weekend is right here. Yard sales in West Lorne and Rodney. Friendly ball games, fun contests, local music, great food, and fireworks in West Lorne - its all happening in West Elgin.

Register your yardsale at *The Chronicle* in West Lorne or Marg's Variety in Rodney and pick up your special identification. The weekend will also include the always-popular car show. Watch your newspaper for updates on more happenings.

If you, or your organization, wish to become involved, or have ideas that you would like to see implemented, please phone the township office at 785-0560.

Internationally renown singer comes to West Lorne

BIRGIT ROHOWSKY TAKES THE STAGE WITH THE WEST ELGIN CHORAL SOCIETY

Fresh from performances with England's Opera Nova and the Abbey Opera Company, singer Birgit Rohowsky will be the guest soloist with West Elgin Choral Society at their Easter concert March 24 in West Lorne.

The internationally known musician will sing the soprano solo in Schubert's Mass in G major, No. 2 with the choral society and the London Community Orchestra, under the direction of Wayne Carroll.

"This is not just a wonderful opportunity for the choir, but a great opportunity for the entire community, the entire region," said Carroll.

"It's very exciting."

Birgit is coming to the region to visit her mother, Rose Rohowsky, in Dutton. A soprano in the choir, Rose tried to buy her daughter and her family tickets to the concert when Carroll pressed the idea of having mother and daughter on the same stage.

Rose Rohowsky, once a professional opera singer herself, will sing a solo in Handel's Largo in the same program.

In a program packed with highlights, the London Community Orchestra will perform Handel's Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 6 under the direction of Len Ingrao.

Ironically, Birgit, who has sung such demanding roles as Queen of the Night in Mozart's Magic Flute and Sophie in Der Rosenkavalier, was told by her first singing teacher she didn't have the voice to be an opera singer.



Birgit Rohowsky will be appearing March 24 in West Lorne

"I gave up in my late teens. I turned to the piano as a second choice," said Birgit from her home in Sussex, England. "I had already been studying piano because I thought it was a good thing for a singer."

Birgit had no trouble finding work as a pianist. From the time she was ten years old she accompanied her parents and brother in family concerts. Her late father, Karl, was a flautist, Rose a soprano and brother Herman is a violinist. The Rohowsky family, living in Toronto at the time, performed often in the Toronto, Barrie and Brantford areas.

Once she gave up on her dream of being a singer, Birgit pursued piano studies, first at the Texas Christian University and then in England at the Royal Academy of Music and the University of London where she earned a Masters in piano performance.

She was well-known as a specialist in 20th century piano music and performed extensively throughout the United Kingdom and Italy.

"I played a lot of chamber music, but I was never really happy with it," said Birgit of the piano. "I was petrified performing in a way I never am singing."

However, starting again as a singer wasn't an easy decision.

"Everybody, including my mother probably, thought I was insane because I was a very good pianist and a lousy singer."

Not so, it turns out.

Birgit has a dramatic coloratura voice, one capable of both a big, powerful sound and great agility and speed.

Other operatic roles include title roles in Donizetti's Lucia de Lammermoor and Delibes's Lakme, plus Norina in Donizetti's Don Pasquale, Giulietta in Donizetti's I Capuletti e i Montecchi, Vitellia in Mozart's La Clemenza di Tito and Miss Jessel in Benjamin Britten's The Turn of The Screw. Oratorio performances include Handel's Messiah, the Mozart Requiem, Beethoven's Choral Fantasy and the Vivaldi Gloria.

In addition, with pianist Julian Barber, she has given song recitals throughout England, Scotland and Ireland.

This spring will be Birgit's second visit to West Elgin since her mother retired here to be closer to Herman, owner of Cherry Turbos in Wallacetown. On her first visit several years ago, she married Dr. Mike Miller in her mother's garden.

Despite her burgeoning singing career, Birgit's West Lorne performance will be one of her last for several months.

The couple is expecting their third child in July.

The concert March 24, at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in West Lorne.

The program begins at 7 p.m. Advance tickets, available at Shenanigan's, 159B Main St., Dutton, 762-5662, are $10. Tickets may be available at the door for $12.



RCL Branch 221 recently accepted a Trillium Fund Grant for $39.600 to pay for energy efficiency projects and wheelchair access. Pictured l-r is Robert White (past President), Dennis Joyce (new President), Richard Swan (bar steward), Sheila Simpson (Trillium Foundation), Joe Leunissen (building chair), MPP Steve Peters and Harry Mezenberg (Grant Review Member).

JUNE 2002



The Optimist Club of West Lorne recently installed its new Board of Directors for the 2002/2003 year. Pictured back row (l-r) Dave Varga (2 yr.director), Bill Trask (1 yr. director), Ken Neil (1 yr. director), Don Boos (Sec./Treas.), Doronty Staddon (1st VP), Ric Whyte (1 yr. director), Doug Staddon (2 yr. director); front row (l-r) John Eagleson (Past Pres.), Karen Goncalves (Pres.) and Larry Babcock of Ridgetown (Lt. Govenor) who conducted the installation. Missing are Brad Reive (2nd VP), Julie Lawrence (Pres. Elect) and Shirley Lorch (2 yr. director).

FEB. 10, 2003 The Chronicle

Eagle offers great training for area cadets

By Times-Journal Staff

Learning skills in a drill hall is one thing for cadets.

It's another to try to master new techniques in a wooded area in the dead of winter.

Sixty-four cadets from the Royal Canadian Army Cadets No. 7 and 741 Air Cadets were at the Warwick Conservation Area last weekend, participating in a winter indoctrination program.

Topics covered included winter survival, mapping and compass work, first aid, bush craft, and a biathlon, the skill of snowshoeing and target shooting.

"We use advanced cadets who are further on in the program as leaders," Lt. Jason Chabot, one of several adult supervisors.

The Warwick Conservation Area near Eagle, covered in light brush and rolling slopes, is the perfect setting for this type of training, Chabot said.

The big tests over the weekend came for cadets doing night mapping and compass work.

"It tests all your skills," Chabot said.

Weather conditions, with the temperature hovering right around freezing, were perfect, he said. There was enough snow for a winter setting and cold enough to challenge cadets, without a serious risk of frostbite or hypothermia.

Cadets had all the camping gear, winter clothing and specialty equipment they needed.

One of the more challenging tests was the biathlon. Cadets were required to snowshoe a certain distance, then stop and shoot targets.



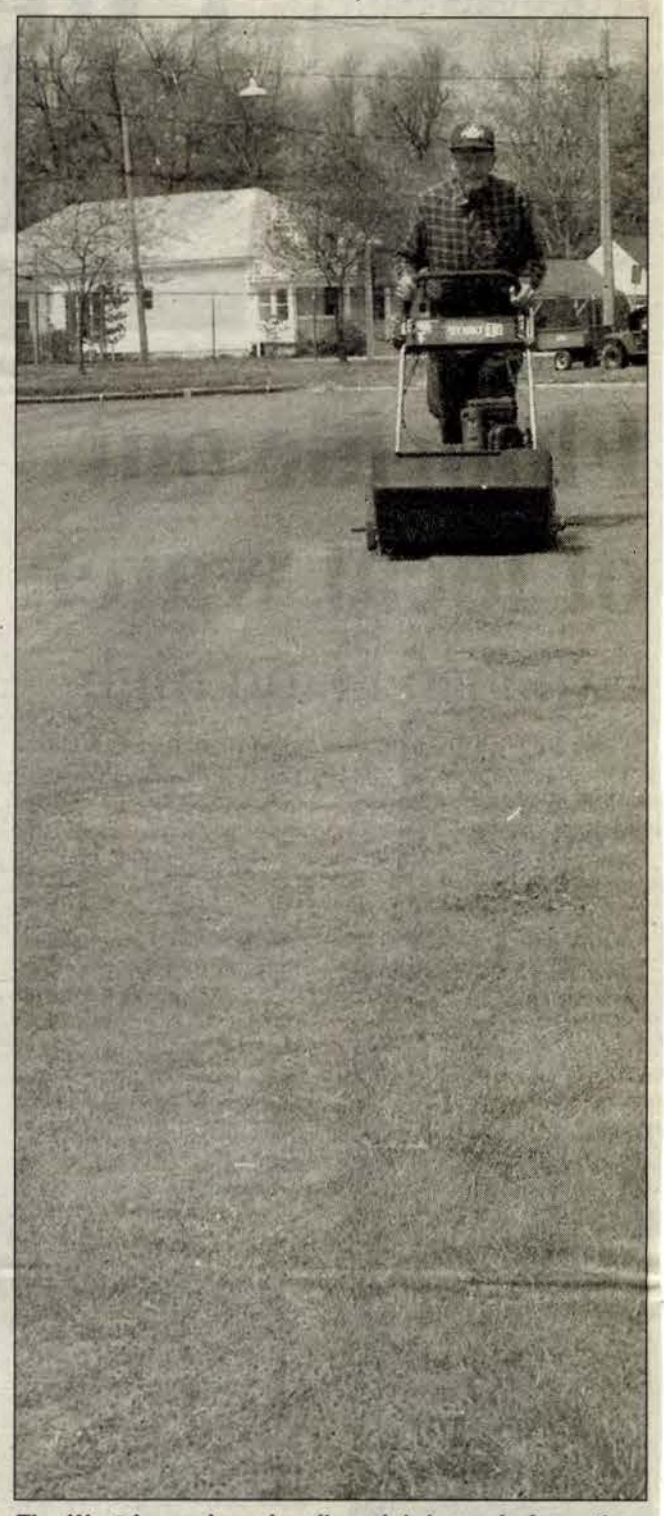
Sixty-four members of the Royal Canadian Army Cadets No. 7 and 741 Air were at the Warwick Conservation Area last weekend for a winter indoctrination program.

"It shows how breathing affects shooting," Chabot said, explaining how challenging it would be for a shooter who has just come through physical exertion to hold a rifle perfectly still.

The weekend wasn't all work for the cadets. Some indoor social events were planned for evenings.

CLUBS 2003

MAY 16/03 The Chronicle



The West Lorne lawn bowling club is ready for action. Play could begin any day now depending on the weather. Club members were there last week getting the greens and clubhouse ready.

The Chronicle JUNE 12/03



Volunteer kitchen staff at Br. 221 of the Royal Canadian Legion in West Lorne surround kitchen manager Mary Jane Lemon during the final Friday lunch held on May 30. This was Mary Jane's last day as manager before her retirement from the volunteer position after some 6 years. Mary Jane and her staff were presented with an appreciation gift from Pres. Dennis Joyce during the final lunch. Pictured are (l-r) Georgina Jensen, Eileen Kozdras, Jean Jamieson, Pres. Dennis Joyce, Ray Jobson and seated is Mary Jane Lemon. *Photo by: Suzanne McGregor*

APR 10/03 The Chronicle



RCL Branch 221 West Elgin welcomes new members

West Elgin Legion Br. 221 recently held initiations of new members pictured are l-r Branch President Dennis Joyce, new members John T. Dalkin, Elsie Beaudoin, Membership chairperson Joe Santos, new members Peggy-Sue McGill, Dave Page, Assoc. member Dave Scafe and Deputy zone commander Robert White.

Page 6 ~ August 21, 2003



HOSPITAL DONATION...

Joe Santos (left) President of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 221, West Elgin makes a presentation of $1,000 from their Poppy Fund to the STEGH Foundation. Accepting the gift (from left) Dave MacIntyre, Foundation President, Linda Millard, STEGH Vice President of Patient Services, Brenda Lambert, STEGH Director of Ambulatory Program and Anita Grant, STEGH Director of Medical Program. The money will be used to purchase GERI chairs for patients.

Submitted photo

MAY 15, 2003



Jim Hathaway, right, and Bill Graham second from right, present cheques for $735 and $300 from the Rodney and West Lorne Kiwanis Clubs to Kiwanis Governor Bill Stewart, joined by Lt. Gov. Ken Monteith, far left. The money will go toward Stuart's charity, Sleeping Children Around the World which provides bed kits to children in underdeveloped countries. The presentation was made at a recent meeting.

SERVICE CLUBS 2003

WL Kiwanis donate to WECHC



The Kiwanis Club of West Lorne has donated $3000 to the West Elgin Community Health Centre towards its new building. Pictured left to right are Kiwanians Les Sewell, Ralph Chambers, and Bill Graham. Accepting the cheque are Angela Doherty of WECHC and Paul Mistele Chair of WECHC board of directors. Handing over the cheque is Ray Jobson of the Kiwanians. JAN. 27/03



The Optimist Club of West Lorne recently made a $300 donation to the Dutton Co-operative Child Care Centre. (l - r) Optimist VP Dorothy Staddon hands over the cheque to Iona Woolley and Barb Jackson, both of the Centre which services families of children ages 3 months to 12 in the West Elgin and Dutton-Dunwich areas. Call 762-2399 for information



It's magic

MAR. 20 2003

The Impossiblist, JK McQuik, performs a magic wand trick with Jamie McKillop assisting while Paton Snobelen helps with a magic colouring book at the West Lorne Library. McQuik performed a show Thursday afternoon at West Lorne and Dutton Library as part of a series of March break activities.

West Lorne Hort news

January 14 was the date for the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society's Annual Meeting. President Liz Clark welcomed everyone, and thanked the members for all their hard work, over the past year.

Elections were held for the coming year, and the results were as follows:

President: Liz Clark; Vice-President: DiAnne Dowling; Treasurer: Betty McKillop; Secretary: Susan Lilley. Directors for 2003: Pat Watterworth, Mary Lippold, Frances McCallum, Betty McKillop, Susan Lilley. Directors for 2003-2004: Colin Kittmer, Nancy Baillie, Elmer Dean, Helen Kovacs, Betty Van Overmeir.

Committees were also set up, for 2003, with the following people chairing them: Planting Committee- Pat Watterworth; Flower Show- Betty McKillop; Tree Planting- Colin Kittmer; Programs/ Trips- Liz Clark; Craft Nights- Betty Van Overmeir; Publicity- Susan Lilley; Yearbook- DiAnne Dowling; Garden Fair- Liz Clark.

Programs, for this year, will include such topics as Native Plants of South-Western Ontario, Edible Plants, Seed Starting, and "How to. Be Judged Successfully" (sure to be a hit with June 13th Flower Show enthusiasts), just to name a few.

The society will also be working on the bed at the Complex, so be sure to keep an eye on the improvements, there. We will also be working on all the other flower beds and hanging baskets, which we maintain, around town.

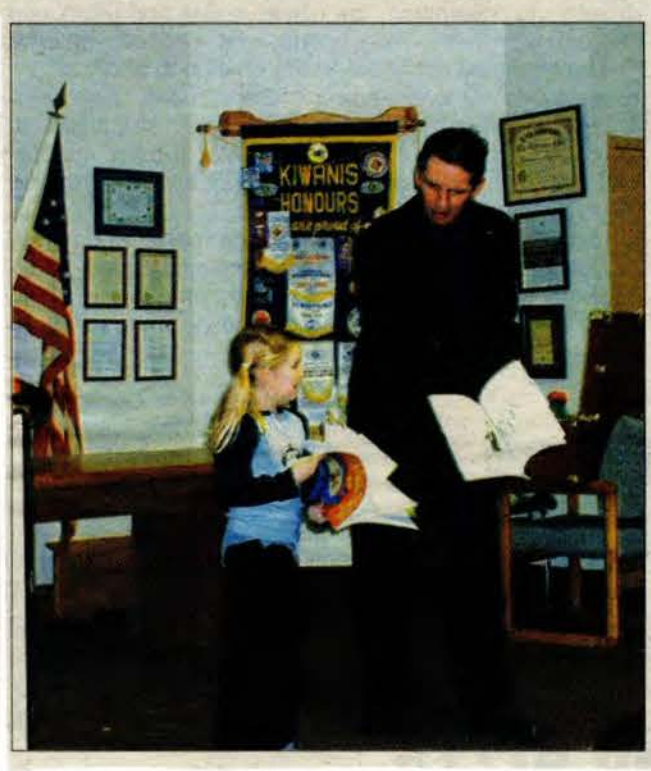
If anyone is interested in joining any of the committees, or just lending a helping hand, please contact any of the Directors or Executive. Our next general meeting will be February 11, 7:00 p.m., at the West Lorne Complex. The guest speaker will be Joan Pierson, and her topic will be Container Gardening. Come on out and learn about this popular trend in gardening. Remember, our meetings are always fun, free, and informative. Everyone is welcome; see you there!

FEB. 3, 2003

MAR. 6, 2003 The Chronicle



The 1st West Lorne Girl Guides visited in Byron as part of Thinking Day. Via ham radio, they connected with Girl Guide groups in England and Nova Scotia. Pictured are in front, Jessica Degraw; with Kelsey Shaw at the microphone, and l to r Katherine Mindinger, Katelyn Doan, Beth Kolar, Evie Thody and Sheila Finkbeiner. *Submitted photo*



APR. 3, 2003



Optimist Club West Lorne member Jim Carmichael points out the winning sequence on the Crown and Anchor game at the clubs recent fundraising Fun Night, Auction and Elimination draw. Draw winners were Robert White ($500); Dave Huver ($25); Irene Loveland ($25); David Fletcher ($25); Tracy VanBreda ($25) and Lynda Pandura ($25). All proceeds are contributed to the youth of our communities.

June 12, 2003

SERVICE CLUBS 2003



Harley Lashbrook, left, Shirley Lashbrook (the wife of former Rodney Mercury and West Lorne Sun editor Lynn) and West Lorne Kiwanis Club members, Sylvia Logan and Ray Jobson, treasurer, read through one of the bound editions of the old newspapers Harley had collected. Here, they opened up a 1954 book after delivering them to the West Lorne Library and were surprised to find the first page had a picture of Harley and Lynn's parents' home.

History preserved

Bound editions of old newspapers made available to local libraries

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

With the help of a $5,000 Trillium Foundation grant through the West Lorne Kiwanis Club, Harley Lashbrook's collection of old newspapers are now in bound editions in the West Lorne and Rodney libraries.

"I kept copies of all the old newspapers," said Lashbrook, whose family became owners of some of the original newspaper operations in the area.

His father, Ernest bought the the West Elgin Sun in 1921. The newspaper eventually became the West Lorne Sun and he also bought the Rodney Mercury.

Lashbrook's brother, Lynn, became the owner and editor of the paper and in 1947, Harley joined the staff.

"I started as just a joe-boy around the place," he said.

He retired 14 years ago as the assistant editor but not before collecting decades worth of the publications.

The Mercury and Sun changed hands a few times in the 80s and early to mid-90s when they were merged into The Mercury Sun before closing down.

"I wanted them to be preserved forever," said Lashbrook, knowing how much local history is contained in those pages.

Both he and his wife have written books about the area with research coming from those publications.

His wife, Nancy, wrote Aldborough: The Township with a Past, and he wrote, West Lorne: 90 Years a Village, which included much information found within the pages of the newspaper.

Working with the Kiwanis Club, he was able to receive a Trillium grant to have the papers bound in a format that will make the history in those pages available to anyone.

There are 110 bound books produced, dating back to 1949. the bulk of the books will go to the West Lorne library which

Continued on page 2

The Chronicle JUNE 12, 2003

June 19, 2003



Ben Welch, a member of 1st West Lorne Cubs, is framed by a mine detector Saturday at Camp Timken, where he was one of about 185 boys and girls at the annual end-of-the-year camp for Elgin Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers.The mine detector was part of a display by 31 CER (The Elgins); Dutton/Dunwich volunteer Fire Department was also on hand.

Scout year wraps up with camp

For The Chronicle

They jumped in puddles.

They tug of warred across mud.

They walked on stilts through ponds.

The theme of the weekend was "wet and wild."

And, like they say, themes do come true.

"In other words, the kids are getting wet and dirty, and they're having fun," said Kevin Morland.

A Scout leader and Venturer advisor for the 20th St. Thomas at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, Morland was convener of the weekend's all-sections Scout camp at Camp Timken near Iona.

Close to 185 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers from Aylmer through St. Thomas to West Lorne, participated in the annual wrapup for the Scout year.

Most stayed overnight Friday and Saturday; the Beavers, Scouting's youngest, visited for the day on Saturday.

And the weekend was fun, said eight-year-old Darcy Brown, of the 1st Shedden Cubs.

"I got to make a woggle, and I got to sleep in my tent by myself," he said.

"It's the food, hot dogs and pancakes," said 13-year-old Rob MacFarlane, of the 20th St. Thomas Scouts.

"Meeting new people, getting to do stuff, getting to play around and run around - it's pretty nice around here," said eight-year-old Sheltina Beke, of the 1st West Lorne Cubs.

"You get to run around," agreed nine-year-old best friend Katie Welch, also of 1st West Lorne Cubs.

In addition to games and other Scout activities, both 31 CER (The Elgins) and Dutton/Dunwich volunteer firefighters set up displays.



Alex Biddell marches past members of the 2884 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps at the conclusion of the corps' first-ever ceremonial review Saturday at the West Elgin Arena.





First inspection

Family and dignitaries were among the guests at the West Elgin Arena Saturday for the first annual review of the Army Cadet Corps. At left, Danial Balint, Shane Brown and Matt Loos particpate in a 'march past' of the guests following the inspection while at right, Chris Knight, in the foreground, helps carry a stretcher with cadets, Alex Biddell, Shane Brown and Kathrine Drummelsmith. In the stretcher is Jessica Kalita. The five were one team demonstrating a game cadets play.

SERVICE CLUBS '03

Four new members join ranks of West Lorne Optimist Club

By Karen Goncalves

The Optimist Club of West Lorne recently welcomed the installation of four new members to its organization.

The new additions are Bill and Elsie Beaudoin, Bill Goncalves and Richard Hale all of West Lorne. These new members came in at a great time. This summer is going to be a busy one for the club where good help is required.

If your planning to visit Dave Simmon's Automotive Barrel 0 Rama horse show on Crinan Line this June 21 and 22 be sure to stop by the Optimist food booth for a hamburg or hot dog or even better, on-site fresh cut fries.

Canada Day is approaching us quickly. This is when the celebrations start with the 8th Annual Optimist Show n Shine car show on Sunday, June 29 at Miller Park and an all you can eat breakfast at the IOOF Hall on Chestnut Street starting at 9am. The cost is $5. Canada Day (Tues. July 1) has many events planned including the official opening of the Optimist skate board park with professional BMX and skateboard demonstrations to follow.

The disc golf league, one of our areas newest sports is sponsored by the Optimist club that began this May. If your interested in joining this league call Greg Pinnegar at 785-1380 or Brian Congdon at 762-5567. It is open to ages 7 and up and played at Miller Park.

Aldborough Public School was the place for the Optimist Annual Bicycle Rodeo on May 28. Many students participated with their own bicycles going thru safety courses and having their bikes safety inspected by Optimist members. A bicycle draw was held and the winner was grade 2 student Codi Vander Gulik of Rodney.

West Lorne Minor Soccer has invited the Optimist club to be one of the food providers at this years Soccer Cup day on August 16 at Miller Park. This event attracts thousands of players and spectators to the games. Come on out and watch the games. West Lorne is well known for its great players of all ages.

The Optimist Club of West Lorne supports the youth of our community and surrounding areas, just like the Optimist organizations internationally. Focusing on the youth, who are the key to our future, members can concentrate on volunteering for better education, sports and the quality of life for less fortunate kids. The Optimist Club of West Lorne was chartered in 1975 and currently has a membership of 29. This club does many great things for our kids. If your interested in joining a club that has lots of fun call 768-1055.

"Optimist - Friend of Youth"

JUNE 2003

MAY 22/03 The Chronicle

Society members learn about how judging is done

The May 13 meeting, of the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society, opened with President Liz Clark welcoming everyone, in attendance. President Clark thanked the members for their efforts, at this year's Garden Fair. We had a profit, this year, of just over $1400.00, some of which will go towards community beautification.

Congratulations go to Larry Walls, of Wardsville, who won the his/hers adirondack chairs, in our raffle draw. President Clark, also, mentioned the June 5 bus trip, to the Royal Botanical Gardens.

This trip is just about sold out, at a cost of $50.00 members/$55.00 non-members, bus fare, gratuities, admission, and a great meal, at the Elmhurst Inn, inclusive.

Liz Clark introduced our evening's guest speaker, District 10 Director, Jim Mabee. Mabee, an accredited horticultural judge, discussed the June 13 Flower Show schedule, with our members and guests.

Publication 34, used by judges at flower shows, will be updated, republished, and available, in August. For now, we will use the current issue, for judging standards. Mabee gave his listeners many good tips and advice, sometimes going into great detail.

After his discussion, Mabee answered questions, from novices to seasoned exhibitors. Flower Show schedules are available from Betty McKillop, 768-1646. President Clark thanked Jim Mabee, for such an inspiring talk. Everyone then enjoyed a social hour.

There will be a car pool, to the Lambeth Horticultural Society's Annual Rose and Flower Show, June 25. Anyone interested in going, should contact Liz Clark, 768-1282, or Susan Lilley, 768-2665, before that date.

Our next meeting will be held June 10 at 7 p.m. at the West Lorne Complex, with guest speaker, Christine Dennis, talking about "Practical Uses of Common Garden Weeds and Herbs".

Everyone is always welcome at our meetings, including non-members. Come on out and learn something new, have a cup of tea, and a lot of fun.

JUNE 19/03 The Chronicle

Society learns from medical herbalist

The West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society's last general meeting, before the summer break was June 10.

President Liz Clark welcomed members and guests and reminded the directors that there will be a Directors' Meeting on June 25, 7:30 p.m., at the West Lorne Complex.

The bus trip, to the Royal Botanical Gardens, was a great success, and everyone enjoyed the wonderful supper at the Elmhurst Inn, to finish off a fun-filled day. The Bus Trip Committee will be convening, soon, so if you have a favourite gardening destination, and you would like to see it included in a bus trip, please call Liz Clark, 768-1282.

The guest speaker for the evening was Christine Dennis of Tillsonburg. Dennis has a Bachelor of Science in Herbal Medicine, and is working on her master's degree.

She is one of only 12 people, in North America, with this type of accreditation. Dennis is a "medical herbalist", working closely with a medical physician, to treat people with a variety of disorders. Dennis believes in the medicinal and edible qualities of common garden weeds, flowers, and herbs. Her motto is; " If you can't beat them, eat them!".

Some common garden weeds,and their abilities are:

Mustard- seed pods are good in salads; good for circulatory system.

Stinging Nettle- very high in nutrients; seeds help you adapt to stress, roots are good for prostate problems(handle this plant very carefully; use heavy gloves).

Dandelion- flowers and leaves are good in salads (high in potassium and calcium); roots can be ground up and used as a coffee substitute.

Chickweed- very nutritious; leaves can be put into bathwater, to relieve eczema.

Motherwort- excellent for menopausal, and other hormonal symptoms.

Echinacea- well known cold fighter.

Lemon Balm- has anti-viral properties; good for cold sores.

Lavender- used as a tea, it has relaxing qualities.

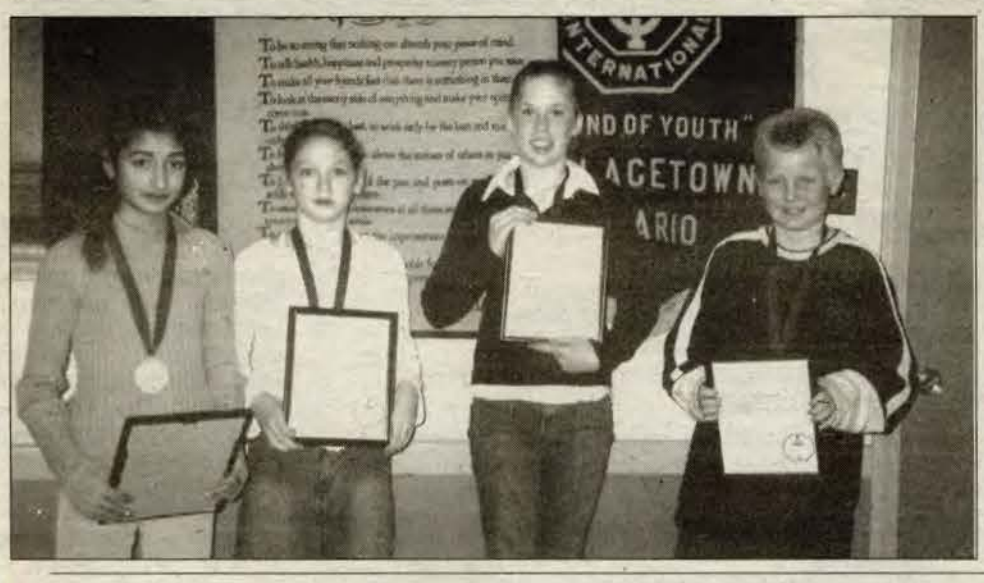
Dennis holds workshops, at her Tillsonburg home, which she and her husband have named "Little Nettle Herb Farm".

If anyone is interested in attending a future workshop, please contact Liz Clark, 768-1282 or Susan Lilley, 768-2665.

President Clark thanked Dennis for her knowledgeable presentation, and presented her with a gift. Clark also reminded members about a farewell get-together for Harold and Evelyn Lancaster, who are moving to Forest. This will be held at the West Lorne Legion, June 22, from 2-4 p.m. If you would like to say good-bye to this wonderful couple (and Bentley), who will be greatly missed in our community, please drop by the Legion and wish them well. Best wishes only.

Our society will be taking our usual summer break, but we will be back on Sept. 9, 7:00 p.m, at the Complex, with guest speaker Jennifer Grant of Lambeth, who will be talking about, and demonstrating " Edible Plants: A New Kind of Salad".

SERVICE CLUBS 2003



Optimistic speakers

Shobah Sharma, left, Andrea Goos and Brittany Hein sponsored by the Optimist Club of West Lorne and Jacob Rowe, sponsored by the Optimist Club of Wallacetown competed and won in the 2 clubs oratorical competitions. All four speakers advanced to the regional competition held in Shedden April 12. Shobah Sharma won first in the girls division and advances to District held in Sarnia on April 26.

Horticultural society learning about life in Southwestern Ontario's Carolinian forests

Mathis Natvik, of Orford Ridges Nursery, was the guest speaker, at the West Lome and Community Horticultural Society's general meeting.

Natvik, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology, spoke to the society's members and visitors about the "Native Plant Community in Southwestern Ontario".

Natvik's slide presentation and discussion educated the audience, and taught us that southwestern Ontario wasn't completely covered with trees- there were also savannahs and prairies: savannahs have 25 per cent tree cover, and prairies are treeless. If you were to draw a line from Grand Bend to Toronto, the area to the south of that line, in Ontario, is known as the Carolinian Life Zone. It is also known as the eastern deciduous forest area.

This area has a more diverse variety of plant species, wildlife, and insects than almost any other area in North America, and is a merging area for many ecosystems.

Southwestern Ontario has 10 per cent of its natural habitat remaining, Elgin County has 10-11 per cent coverage, and Natvik's home county of Chatham-Kent has only three per cent of natural habitat left.

That is the lowest coverage in southwestern Ontario. Natvik feels that people should become more vocal in preserving the environment, and he recommends supporting the Nature Conservancy of Canada, if you feel the same as he. Natvik was also involved in the preservation of the Clear Creek forest, near Duart. His nursery business keeps him busy, as a wholesale supplier to businesses and governments all over North America.

He specializes in native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses. Susan Lilley thanked Natvik, for his presentation, and presented him with a parting gift. Members and visitors then enjoyed refreshments, from a table decorated with a Spring theme.

Members are reminded of the Garden Fair, on May 10, at 196 Graham Road, West Lorne (Nancy Baillie's). If you have any plants, in your garden, that need a new home or dividing, pot them up and bring them to the plant sale. Be sure to pot the plants up ahead of time, to allow sufficient time to adjust, keep them watered, and, if possible, label them with a name, colour, height, etc., to help out its new owner. We also need donations of baked goods, candy, etc., so if you're handy in the kitchen, we'd appreciate the help. Any vendors or artisans, interested in promoting their garden-related wares, should contact Liz Clark 768-1282, for details. Plant questions should be directed to Susan Lilley 768-2665.

Our flower show schedules are now available. The show will be held June 13, at the West Lome Complex, and is open to horticultural members of Elgin County. For a schedule, or information, call Betty McKillop 768-1646.

Our next meeting will be May 13, with District 10 Director Jim Mabee trying his best to educate us about " How to Be Judged Successfully", in preparation for the flower show.



While Saturday's heavy skies eventually cleared into a great day, it was May showers that greeted early shoppers at the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society Garden Fair. All of the horticultural societies in the area are very active and the money raised at these events goes back into beautifying the communities they serve. Last week was Rodney's plant sale and Saturday, Dutton-Dunwich's society is holding its annual plant sale.

2003

OCT 16/03

Executive elected for 2003-04 chamber

A special presentation about the future of Internet service in West Elgin was a highlight at the Annual General Meeting of the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce was held on Oct. 7 at the International Club.

The evening began with a "meet and greet" and was well-attended.

This was followed by three guest speakers.

Donna Lunn provided an update on the progress of Elginconnects, a community initiative interested in developing Elgin/St. Thomas toward a Smart Community concept to close the gap that our county has with Internet services.

Marg Emery gave a presentation regarding the St. Thomas /Elgin County Tourist Association.

Anne Kenny, our final speaker spoke in regard to the small business development services that are available through Elgin Community Futures Organization.

The meeting received reports on all the sub committee activity throughout the year, a treasurers report and elections were held for the 2003 - 2004 Board of Directors. The 2003-2004 Board is: Tom Jones - President; Ted Uffen - Vice President; Irene Puddester - Secretary; Mary Bodnar - Treasurer; Robert White; Keith Fretter; Jeff Knight; John Eagleson - Directors.

The evening ended with thanks to those members of the chamber that generously sponsored the refreshments and the meeting facilities.

Lawnbowling club to get lights with some help from council

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

The West Elgin Lawnbowling Club will be seeing the light real soon – the light of $15,000 in new lighting for the currently dark greens.

West Elgin Council approved a $6,000 donation to the club that will allow it to use a $6,000 Trillium Foundation grant toward the lighting project.

"The lighting is the worst. Some come on. Some don't," said Joan Lashbrook, club president, at council's Aug. 14 meeting.

"I think it's a good investment in the community," said Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick. "If we can provide more lights, that will let them bring more people to town."

Lashbrook said last week, club members have to pack it in by 8:30 p.m. because it's too dark to play but that proper lighting would allow them to extend their season into October and offer evening play and night tournaments to increase the activity at the club.

Tournaments attract players from across Ontario but the club is currently limited to daytime tournaments in a shorter season.

Right now, the club's biggest needs are lighting and new gutters around the greens that keep the balls in place.

While they originally were hoping for a $35,000 Trillium Foundation grant to make some other improvements to the park, the foundation approved $6,000 for new gutters.

The foundation didn't understand the priority of lighting in the club's application.

However, Lashbrook said they approached the foundation and appealed to it to allow them to use the money for lighting. They reached an agreement that, if the club could match the $6,000 and have work started by Oct.1, the money could go toward lighting.

The work will cost about $15,000. Lashbrook said the club has enough to cover the rest but needed $6,000 in a hurry to be able to get the grant-use changed.

She said they would reapply next year for the gutters.

After that, she said the club has no major needs it can't look after through its membership and money raised through hosting tournaments, more of which they will be able to operate with the new lighting.

Warwick said in the past, council has found it's wise to invest in volunteers who, in turn, host events and activities that bring people to the communities.

While council's budget is set, work on grandstand upgrades is expected to come in under budget, leaving extra room to make the donation.

Lashbrook thanked council for its support and said, "Please come and play with us one night."

The club is currently trying to attract new and younger members to the club. While the game was never traditionally a seniors' sport, in the past few generations, it has become one and clubs across Ontario are trying to reintroduce younger generations to the sport.

"I might take you up on that. My soccer days are over," said Warwick.

AUG/03

SERVICE CLUBS 2003

The Living and the Dying

Take a man and put him alone,
put him 12,000 miles from home.
empty his heart of all but blood,
make him live in sweat and mud.
This is the life I have to live.
And my soul to the devil I give.
You peace boys rant from your easy chairs,
but you don't know what it's like over here.
You have a mere ball without trying,
while over here our boys are dying.
You burn your draft cards and march at dawn,
to plant your flags on the White House lawn.
You all want to ban the bomb,
you say there's no war in Vietnam.
Use your drugs and have your fun,
then refuse to lift a gun.
And I'm supposed to DIE for you!
I'LL HATE YOU TILL THE DAY I DIE!!
You made me see my buddy cry.
I saw his arm a bloody shred,
I heard them say, "This one's dead"
It's quite a price he had to pay,
not to live another day.
He had the guts to fight and die,
He paid the price but what did he buy?
He bought your life by losing his,
But who gives a damn what a soldier gives?
His wife does, and of course his son,
But they're about the only ones.

by Robert N. White Nov 23/70. R.V.N.

In Flanders Fields

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD
(1872-1918) Canadian Army

IN FLANDERS FIELDS
the poppies blow
Between the crosses,
row on row,
That mark our place,
and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, 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.



REMEMBERING

A crowd gathered Tuesday morning for West Lorne's Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph at the West Elgin Arena. The event was hosted by the West Elgin Legion Branch 221. Rodney Legion Branch 525 also hosted a service Tuesday. At right, incoming West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick is joined by council and Legion member Mike Mooser in laying a wreath at the cenotaph.

Chronicle photo

NOV 13/03



No. 2 Platoon "A" Coy ~ No. 3 C.W.A.C (B)TC, Kitchener, ON Feb. 1944

The Chronicle — NOV 20, 2003

West Lorne horticulturalists creates wreath that's for the birds

A group of busy crafters gathered to create "A Christmas Wreath for the Birds" at The West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society's monthly meeting, at the West Lorne Complex, on Nov. 11.

President Liz Clark opened the meeting and welcomed everyone for attending. She had a few announcements, starting with the upcoming potluck supper, in December.

District 10 Director Jim Mabee will be attending, to give us an update on the 2004 OHA Convention, which will be held in London. Plans, for the float that we will be entering in the West Lorne Santa Claus Parade, were mentioned. Anyone wishing to help out should contact Pat Watterworth at 768-1657 or Susan Lilley at 768-2665.

And last, but not least, our society and the Rodney & District Horticultural Society, are sponsoring a "Welcome the Season" decorating competition, open to all residents of the Municipality of West Elgin. To enter, you must register in one of two categories: The first is the front entrance or porch competition using natural materials and items created with natural materials, create an inviting welcome to your home. Natural materials may include evergreen boughs, pinecones, lotus blossom pods, driftwood, red osier dogwood, grapevine, etc. The winning entry will receive $100.00; runner-up $75.00. The second contest is to create a welcoming wreath, up to 20 inches in diameter; no restrictions on material used. Originality rewarded. The winning entry will receive $50.00; runner-up $25.00.We welcome everyone to participate, but you must call to register by December 12. Judging will take place Dec. 13 and 14 and the winners will be announced in the December 18 issue of the Chronicle. To enter, please call one of the following: Susan Lilley 768-2665, Nancy Baillie 768-0468, Carolyn Guest 785-0321, or Theresa Niccolls 785-2062. Good luck to all the participants.

The craft night got underway, with instructor Betty Van Overmeire in charge. A fresh wreath, made of grapevine, spruce, and cedar, was adorned with a string of peanuts, cranberries, dried orange slices, the rind of half a grapefruit filled with suet and seeds, and a bow. Liz Clark thanked Betty and George Van Overmeire, for donating all the materials needed to make the holiday wreaths.

Our next meeting will be the annual Potluck Supper, on Dec. 9, at the West Lorne Complex. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m., and everyone is welcome to attend, including non-members. So, please stop in and say "Hello!"; you would be most welcome.

SERVICE CLUBS 2003

West Lorne Horticultural Society learns from biologist about using edible plants

The West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society returned to action, after a summer hiatus, with guest speaker Jennifer Grant, of the Lambeth Horticultural Society, discussing "Edible Plants: A New Kind of Salad".

Grant is also the Assistant Director for Middlesex, in District 10, and a busy Master Gardener.

She is also a biologist, and is keenly interested in edible plants, whether they be flowers, herbs, or weeds.

As Grant explained to our group, when our country was being settled, many of the people new to Canada brought with them medicinal plants, since they were unsure of what they would find in this unknown country.

Plantain was a popular plant, used as a poultice to heal infected wounds. Mint was good for digestion, and lemon balm was used to treat headaches. Many times, a person's life would depend on the availability of medicinal plants, and the skill of the women, who were responsible for learning how to use these plants.

Other examples of edible plants are: chives, garlic, borage, thyme, oregano, and sage, all herbs used to flavour our food; calendulas, carnations, roses, nasturtiums, violets, and day lilies, all flowers used to enhance salads; purslane, chickweed, cattails, red-rooted pigweed, lamb's quarters, and milkweed, all weeds used as a food, first by the settlers, and more recently by people interested in their beneficial qualities.

Grant brought with her several examples of each of these edible plant categories. She also prepared peppermint tea, mint punch, and handed out cattail biscuits. There was also a large platter of edible plants, for the group to taste, of which many members took advantage. For the less brave and adventurous, a light luncheon was available, served from a very "sunflowery" table.

Vice-president DiAnne Dowling opened and closed the meeting, thanking Jennifer Grant for her interesting and beautiful presentation.

The next General Meeting will be on Oct.14, 7 p.m.., at the Complex, and the guest speaker will be Alf Langner, of the London Bonsai Society, with an "Introduction to Bonsai".

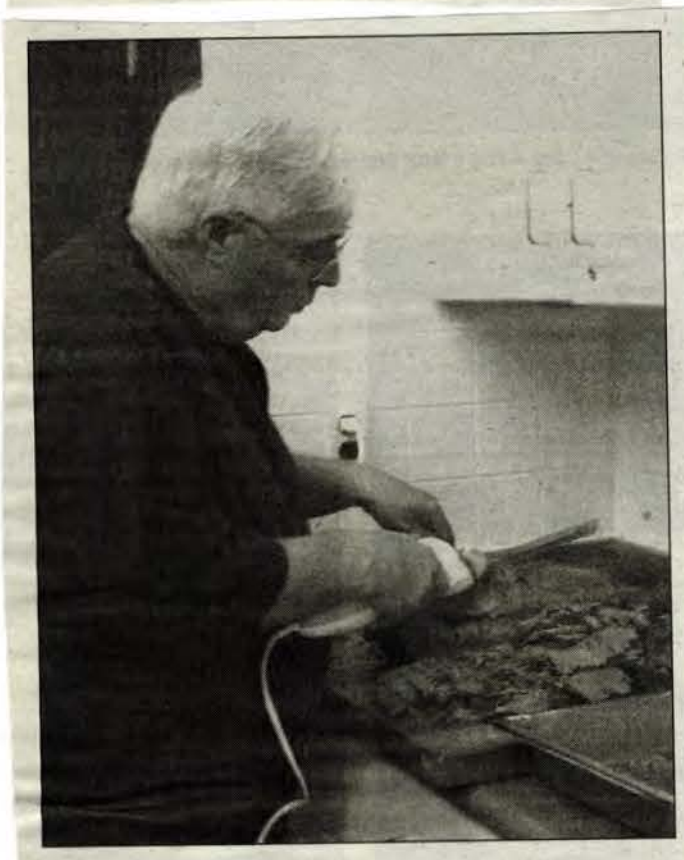
The public is invited to attend; there is never a fee to any of our meetings involving a speaker.

The Chronicle JULY 10/03



Flower show brightens day

The West Lorne Horticultural Society hosted its annual flower show at the West Elgin Complex in West Lorne on Friday. While plenty of spring rain has caused problems for farmers, it helped produce beautiful flower displays. Entries were received in the morning and then judged before the displays were opened up to the public for viewing during the afternoon. Results of the show were not available at press time.



Legion Week came to an end this past Sunday for legions across the province. Many local branches held special events to promote their services to their communities and veterans. Here Br. 221 West Elgin Legion member, Tom Leitch, carves the beef that what part of the special dinner that took place at the West Lorne branch on Sunday, September 21, opening day for legion week. OCT. 2/03

Chronicle photo

Warbrides tell their stories

The October meeting of West Elgin Genealogical and Historical Society consisted of a panel of speakers, Edith Frankland of London, Mary Lippold of West Lorne, and Peg Wheeler of Wallacetown, all war brides.

Each related the story of their travel to Canada and their introduction to a new life here, sometimes humorous and sometimes trying.

One suffered from homesickness, and she and her family returned to England, but remained only one year.

In general, they were impressed by the accepting and generous nature of Canadians at that time. In addition, they were impressed by the concern for and support of veterans by the Ministry of Veteran's Affairs. The audience was impressed by the courage they possessed to leave their families and familiar surroundings and to venture to an unknown land.

The business portion of the meeting followed a break for refreshments.

NOV/03

OPTIMIST CLUB OF WEST LORNE INSTALLS NEW BOARD FOR 03/04

The Optimist Club of West Lorne recently held its installation of new officers for October 2003 to October 2004. Shown making their oath to community service within the organization is (l to r) Optimists John Eagleson (Pres. Elect), Bill Trask (Treas.); Julie Lawrence (Pres.); Dorothy Staddon (Sec.); Ken Neil (VP); Shirley Lorch (Dir.); Doug Staddon (Dir.). Missing in photo are directors Ric Whyte, Dave Varga, Lynn Martin and VP Brad Reive. The club has worked hard the past year fundraising for the youth of our community including completing its $2500 commitment to The Childrens Hospital. Members look forward to the same success for the year ahead.

The Optimist Club of West Lorne is offering free public skating at West Elgin Arena on Nov. 23 in conjunction with Youth Appreciation Week

Chronicle photo



'Welcome to the Season' decorating winners announced

DEC 2003

The West Lorne and Community and Rodney and District Horticultural Societies announce the winners of the "Welcome to the Season" competitions as follows:

Front Porch/Entrance

Winner:

Ed and Rosa Bell $100

Runner up: Jane McColl $75

Honourable mention: Brenda Brown

Wreath:

Winner: Janet Smith $50

Runner up: Helen Mooser $25

Honourable mention: Karen Degraw

The societies congratulate everyone for their participation in helping to brighten dark December days.

120

SOCIAL 2001



Thanks for loving me so much. You're the bestest Grandma in the whole world.

Happy Mother's Day

Love, Michael-Anne and Mommy & Daddy too!

Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary, January 23rd

Conrad & Katie Felder



Love, your family

HAPPY 30TH DEREK!

Happy 80th Birthday



Henrica Vergeer

With love from your family.

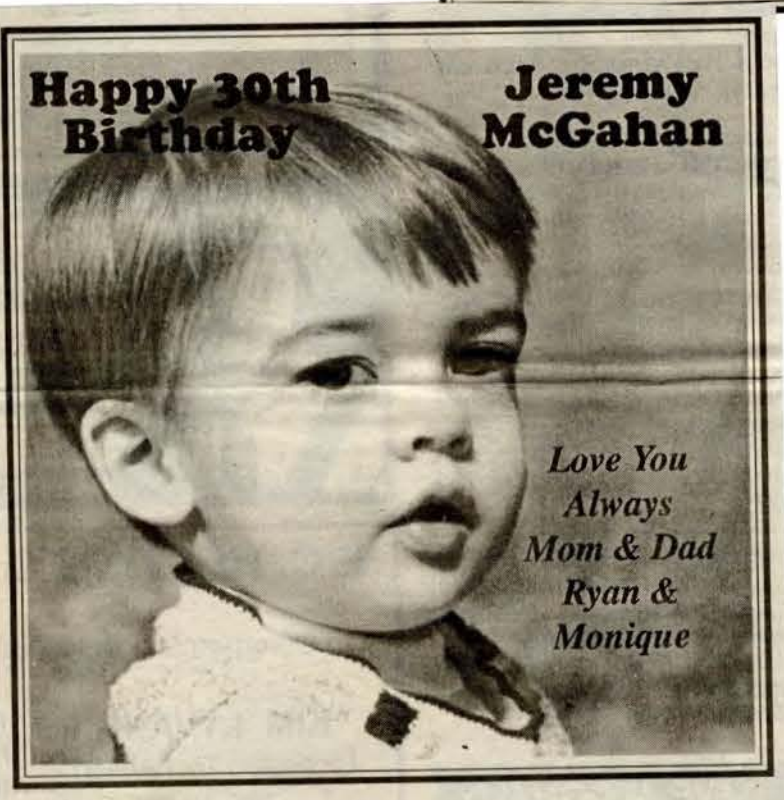
Open House Sunday, January 28th ~ 2-5pm

St. Mary's Parish Centre, West Lorne.

Best wishes only please.

Happy 30th Birthday

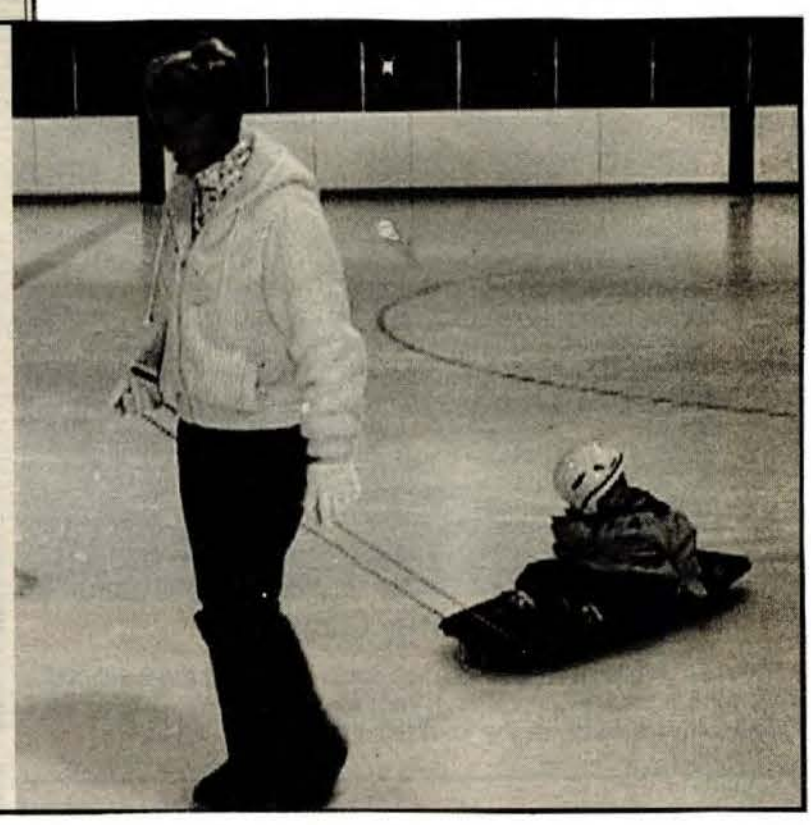
Jeremy McGahan



Love You Always Mom & Dad Ryan & Monique

Why Walk When You Can Ride?

Kristen Kirschner enjoyed the ride she had being pulled around the ice by her grandma, Brenda Doucette. Many area youngsters take the ice in West Lorne for special Tots skating times.



DEC. 20, 2001

7th Annual Angel Tree ceremony held in West Lorne

People of the West Lorne area took the time to pay tribute to the memory of loved ones on Friday, December 14 in the seventh Annual Angel Tree ceremony.

Names that were tributed this year were:

Sid and Josie Authier, Katherine Lynn Alderton, Abigail Kate Bandeen, Matthew Earl Bandeen, Christopher Beer, Michelle Beer, Joey Beer, Christopher Cowan, Pam Cowan, Shane Cowan, Timothy Cowan, Daniel Cowan, Andy Dewulf, Lloyd Cecil Doan, Doris Doan, Wilfrid Doan, Michael Doan, Marnie Fleming, Michael Gammon, Jason Kayelites, Ashley Ann Murray, Margaret McColl, Jeremy Robinet, Wille A.R. Merks, Sonia Oliviera, Alicia Marie Tomcyzk, Elaine Watterworth, Patty Winter, Janet Oakey, Donna Smiljanick, Munroe McMillan, Nickie Lipan, Sam Lipan, Sophie Lipan, Constantine Lipan, Mary Lipan, Grace Haven's.

Kim Okolisan, Jim Shostack, Bill Griffin, Lorne McGill, John Hulaj, Yancy Begin, Justin Ray Bell, Roy Dos Santos, Chris Ayling, Gordon Haven, Chris Kauzen, Murray Keys, Charles Begin, Elizabeth Nettling, Frany Redinger, Fred Redinger, Paul Balin, Wayne Van Breda, Edna Ray, Jean Wyatt, Joe Simpson, Ralph Simpson, Jamie Schnekenburger, Steve Vaterlaus, Cindy Van Kaeverdan, Dennis Dodge, Wilson Peter Dodge, Charles Dodge, Mrs. Susie Staddon, John McCallum, Jean Love, James Hale Senior, James Hale Junior, Alice Hale, Jose Dos Santos, Marie Sadecky, Ivan Buck Edwards, Joanne Bell, Armand Caellu, Nellie Hewings, Helen and Wilfrid Rewbottom, Catherine and George Driver, Sydney Miles Duffins.

Joe Nash, Bill Nash, Terry Lamb, Mary Gammon, George Johnson, Ralph VanHee, Harry Buck, Ed McCallum, Finn McRae, Winnis Van Lierop, David Newman, Jason Szabo, Hazel Stalker and Mrs. Barb Spring.

$120 was collected in donations and will be turned over to The London Children's Hospital.

A similar remembrance service was also held in Rodney on December 19 at Rodney Baptist Church.



West Lorne and area residents lit candles on December 14 in a Christmas service in memory of loved ones who have passed away over the years. A similar, nondenominational ceremony was held last Wednesday in in Rodney at Rodney Baptist Church.

Graduation



MIKE BUTTINGER graduated from Ontario Police College and is a constable with the London Police Force. *Congratulations from your family and friends.*

AUG. 2001

VINTAGE
1935 MODEL



NOT FOR SALE

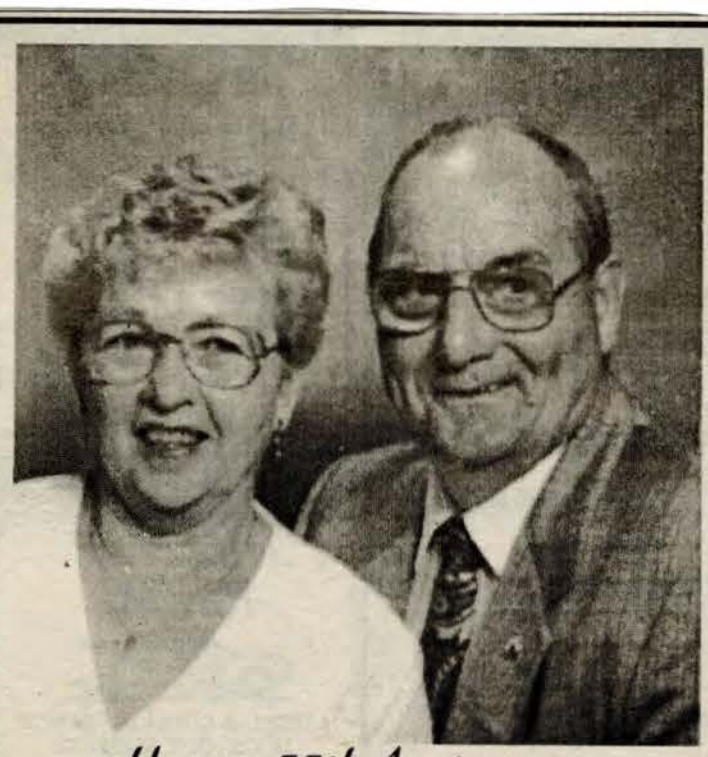
One of a kind classic, no reconditioning necessary! No surface rust - all original parts. Low maintenance - totally reliable. Getting a pension - travelling in future.

NO OFFERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. A FAMILY TREASURE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GRACE

Love from your family

Also,
Happy Mother's Day and Happy Anniversary
Victor & Grace
49 Years
May 10, 2001



Happy 55th Anniversary
George & Marie Bell ~ July 12th, 1946 ~ 2001
Love Edd, Michelle & Shaunna, Tony, Judy & Scotty

Wedding Announcement

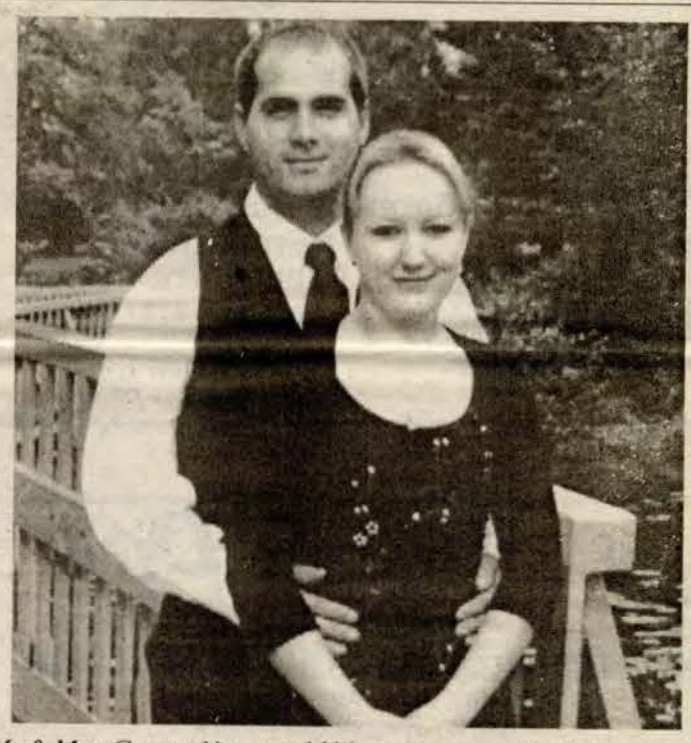


Richard & Wendy Hollingsworth of Toronto are thrilled to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Kathryn Ellen to Jimmy Mac Kirschner, son of Fred & Chris Kirschner of West Lorne. This celebration will take place on Saturday, August 25, 2001 at Knox Presbyterian Church in New Glasgow.

Wedding Announcement



Blair Payne and Rhonda Smith wish to announce their upcoming marriage on June 29, 2001. The couple will reside at RR # 6, St. Thomas.



Mr.& Mrs. George Nute would like to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Jennifer to Craig Elliott son of Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Elliott and Barb Sinclair. The wedding to take place July 14th, 2001 at the West Lorne United Church.

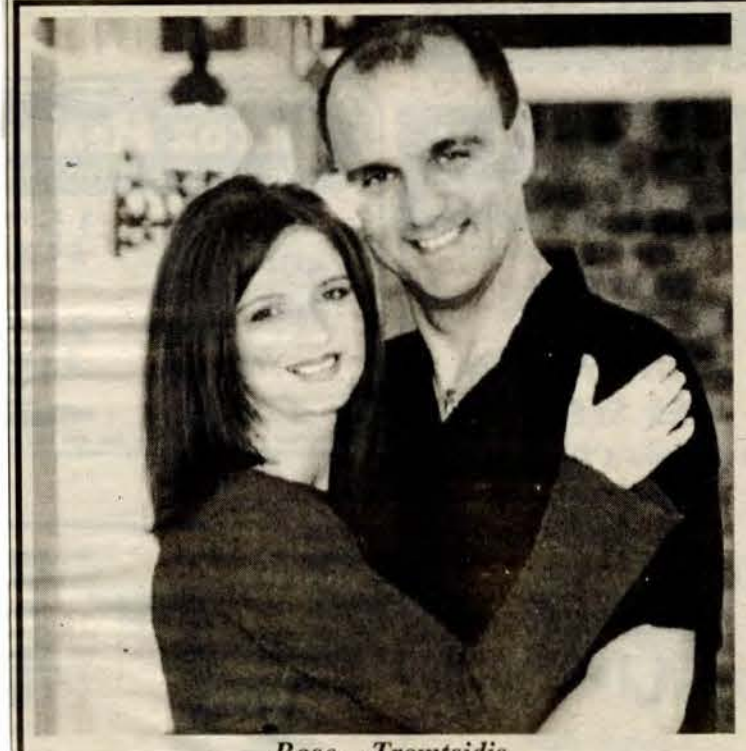
Engagement Announcement



Crandall ~ Towers

Nathan Crandall, son of Rick & Rose Crandall, Rodney and Sarah Towers, daughter of Tom Towers, West Lorne and Beth Towers, London will be married on June 16, 2001 at the Rodney Calvary United Church. Nathan has graduated from Fanshawe College in the Air Conditioning and Refridgeration Program. Sarah has also graduated from Fanshawe College in the Legal Assistant / Law Clerk Program.

Engagement



Rose ~ Tremtsidis

Kenneth & Veronica Rose of West Lorne are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Loretta Ella to Jim Tremtsidis, son of the late Anastasios and Melpomeni Tremtsidis of Toronto.

Happy 90th Birthday
Mary Gammon
April 26th



You're invited to an open house celebration in honour of Mary's Birthday on May 12 from 2-4pm at West Lorne Baptist Church Best Wishes Only.

SOCIAL 2001



Twins

Joe and Renee Kleinjan are proud to announce the birth of *Mallory Anne* and *Jo-lynn*. The girls arrived on Friday, May 11, 2001. Bragging rights go to big sister Courtney and big brother Chad. Proud grandparents are Peter & Donna Kleinjan, Sandra Clarke & Irvin Ford, Don & Edna Clarke and Madeleine Cross. Delighted great-grandmother is Feby Van Praet.



Gel band members, Andrew Schneider, (bass guitar), Bruce Bobier (drums and Nathan Ouellette (guitar and vocals) played to the crowd on Canada Day in West Lorne. 2001

Small ~ Van Brenk



Louise Small and Fred Small are proud to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Lisa to Brian Van Brenk, son of Helen and Rien. The wedding will take place at 2:30pm on Saturday, June 23, 2001 at Holy Angels Church, St. Thomas.



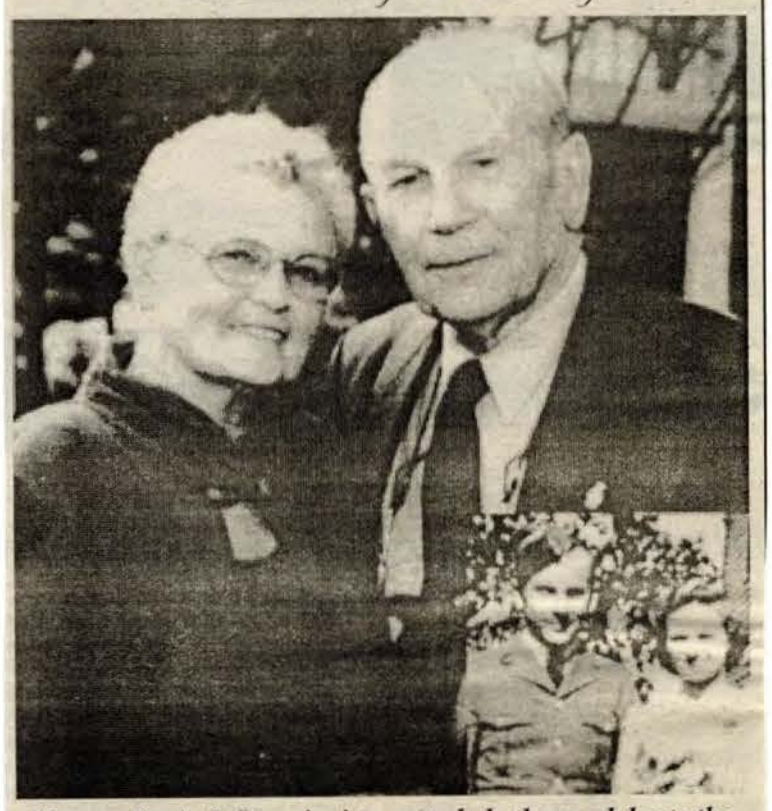
Meghan Bell has been picked by judges as the new ambassador for the 147th annual Rodney Aldborough Agricultural Fair. Bell was announced as the winner last friday night during the opening ceremonies of the fair. Congratulations goes out to Bell, a WESS student. Bell is sponsored by Niki Amlin Quarter Horses. SEPT. 17, 2001

Engagement MAY 2001



Mr. & Mrs. Harry Auckland of West Lorne wish to announce the engagement of their son Robert, to Helen Wolfe, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Wolfe of Leamington, Ontario.

60th Wedding Anniversary



Sharon, Janis & Steve invite you to help them celebrate the 60th Wedding Anniversary of their parents, Harold & Evelyn Lancaster on Saturday, September 16th from 2 to 4:30pm at the West Elgin Legion Hall. No gifts please. 2001

SOCIAL + COMMUNITY 2001

Happy 68th Wedding Anniversary

Mary & Roy Gammon ~ March 18th, 1933



Many more years of happiness ...
Love and best wishes from your family and friends

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversay
Stuart & Betty Patterson



Please join us for an Open House celebration in honour of Stuart & Betty's Anniversary on Saturday, April 28th from 2 to 4pm at the Rodney Community Christian Mission.
Best wishes only.

OCT 2001

The Chronicle



Survivors and friends attended the Breast Cancer Awareness Breakfast at the London Convention Centre, recently. Carol Ann Cole, a survivor and former Vice President of Bell Canada and founder of the Comfort Heart, was the guest speaker and Julie Simpson of the *New PL* was the MC. It was a celebration of support and hope to many.

50th Wedding Anniversary



The family of Wilf & Kay Cowan invite you to come and celebrate their 50 years together at 3:00pm, St Mary's Parish Hall in West Lorne on Saturday, November 3, 2001 Your presence is your gift



Long Service Recognized

Don and Betty McKillop were surprised to receive the Steadfast Stewardship Award 2000 from the Church of Christ (Disciples) in West Lorne. The award, unique to their church, is in "grateful recognition of their many years of faithful and dedicated ministry." Betty served 10 years as treasurer with 20-plus years as clerk-secretary for Don. The couple have decided to retire and thanked all those who helped make their church life so enjoyable.

JAN. 2001



Icy Fun

Three-year-old Allison Rose gets a helping hand from granama Lily Van Acker when she laced up her skates to glide around the West Elgin Arena during the weekly Tots Skating sessions.

JAN. 22, 2001

124



Keith Kelley and his wife Marie arrived to church on November 24 in a 1928-29 Model A Ford. They, among others, participated in the 75th Anniversary of Calvary United Church in Rodney. The Model A is owned by Don Gosnell of Highgate. Nov 18/02

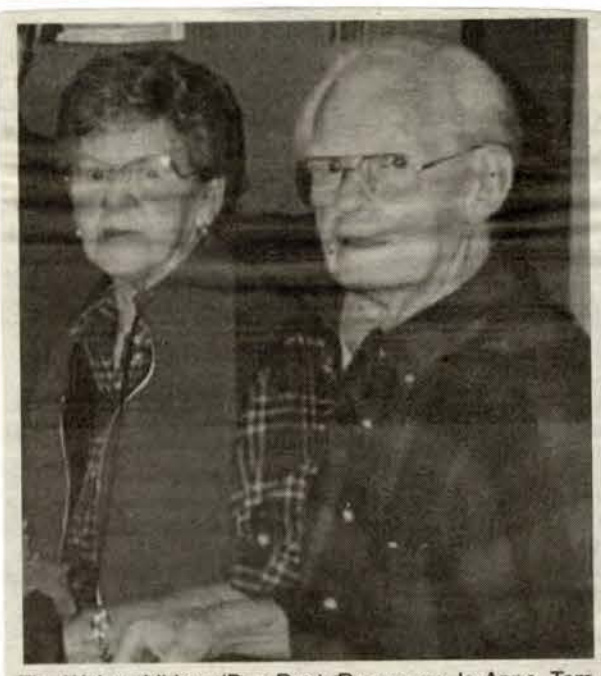
It's a tie! AUG. 2002



Marg Bickell (left) is seen here teaching Karen Sullivan how to do a European Hand-tie with 12 different flowers. The class was one of three during the Mezenberg Flower Festival held August 17. Hundreds of people from all over Southwestern Ontario came to the annual festival.



HAPPY 45th ANNIVERSARY
John & Elaine Conway
October 19th, 2002
Love from your family and friends



The Weiss children (Don Root, Rosemary, Jo-Anne, Tom & Deb Weiss) invite family & friends to join them Saturday, November 2, 2002 to honour our parents Fran on her 80th birthday (Dec. 7) and Joe on his 85th birthday (Dec. 24) and as well, celebrate their 56th Wedding Anniversary (Dec. 3). Guests are invited to gather at the Whitelock Place Room, Bobier Villa, Dutton from 2pm to 4pm on November 2, 2002 to greet Fran and Joe. Best wishes only.



Bev and Bob Padfield of Rodney, Ontario would like to announce the upcoming marriage of their son Jared to Jolene Martin, daughter of Linda and Murray Martin of Huntsville, Ontario on Saturday, August 10, 2002 at 4:30pm at Trinity United Church, Huntsville.



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Mooser are pictured following their June 29, 2002 wedding at Christ Church, Warley, England. The Bride wore an ivory gown with delicate beading on the bodice and carried a white rose hand-tied bouquet. Amy Mooser-Schneider and Lindsay Hayes were attendants. Abbie Roach was flowergirl. They wore ivory gowns with shoestring straps and carried hand-tied bouquets. Bestman was Eric Perron of Ottawa. Ushers were Chris Hayes of London, England and Chris Hayes of London. A formal reception was held at Mary Green Manor Hotel in Brentwood, England. The couple spent their honeymoon in Italy. Andrew is the son Mike & Helen Mooser, West Lorne and Suzanne is the daughter of Jennifer Hayes and the late Allan Hayes of Brentwood, England. The couple reside in London, Ontario.

Harvey Miller turns 100 amongst a lot of friends and family

Well known resident, teacher, insurance agent, organist, and family man Harvey Miller was honoured November 30th for his ongoing contributions at this 100th birthday.

Hundreds came to visit Miller at the Bobier Villa throughout the day and his daughter, Marilyn Rumble, said she was very pleased with the turnout of people who wished Harvey a happy birthday.

Rumble had set up many photos and mementos for viewing to bring back people's memories but also exhibit her father's illustrious life.

Well wishes came from local politicians including Dutton/Dunwich Mayor Rien Van Brenk, MPP Steve Peters, West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail and Elgin Warden John Wilson.

During a ceremony, others expressed their greetings and honours towards Miller, including Keith Kelly (former neighbour at New Glasgow and former student of Miller), Andy Cipu (of IOOF Lodge and good friend), Bernard Toth (former student of Miller and now Small Claims Court Judge).

Master of Ceremonies was Reverend Andrew and Loetta Brndjar from Tillsonburg.

While as a teacher, Miller touched many people's lives in West Elgin. He taught at Kerr Public School from 1923-26, New Glasgow School from 1926-34, and was Principal of Rodney Public School from 1934-1953.

He was also a president of the West Elgin Teacher's Association.

After teaching, he became a General Insurance Agent from 1931 to 1974. In 1974 he became an Excelsior Life Agent from 1927 to 1986. He retired at the age of 86 after almost sixty years in the insurance business!

Miller has spent many years donating time towards numerous service clubs over the years including: Past President of the Rodney Library, Past President of Elgin County Library Association, Past President of Aldborough Old Boys' Association and Past President of Rodney Kiwanis Club.

He was also Past Lieutenant Governor of Kiwanis, Past DDGM of Rodney IOOF Lodge, and musically he was organist of Churchville then Calvary EUB Church for 50 years. He was also accompanist of Churchville Men's Octette for 20 years.

Rumble said people will forever know her father through education, insurance and music locally because of one major thing:

"People always came to him because they trust him," she said.

"He always went on a handshake," she added.

She said her father is also known for his dedication and caring. It is these qualities that have always made him a favourite in the community.



Marilyn Rumble with her much beloved father Harvey Miller who celebrated his 100th birthday on December 3.



Happy 89th Birthday
Nov. 17th
Iola Ross
Love from your family

Social 2002



Trudell ~ Knight

Mr. David and the late Rebecca Trudell wish to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Michelle to Douglas Knight, son of Mr. & Mrs. Ron Knight and Mr. & Mrs. William DeWilde. The wedding will take place in Highgate on June 1, 2002.



Shields ~ Doan

Dr. John Shields of West Lorne and Bonnie Doan of Chatham were married Saturday, April 6, 2002. The ceremony took place at Emmanual Baptist Church in Chatham. They thank everyone for their support and best wishes.



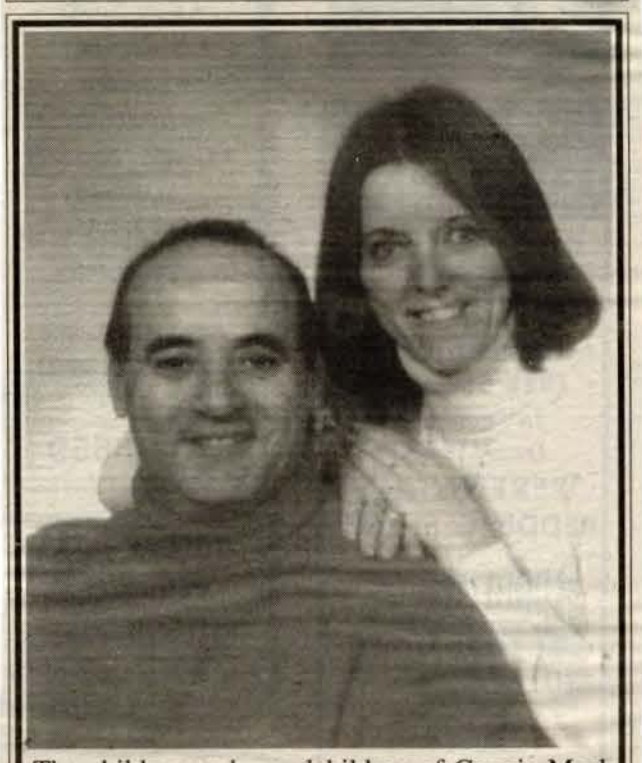
Happy 22nd Anniversary ~ February 9, 1980
to 2 'Sweethearts' (Jack & Donna Ripley)
Love and best wishes from your children ... Donnie & Nicole 2002

Congruatulations



Mr. & Mrs.Tex Tobias and Mr. & Mrs. Mike Cowan wish to announce the marriage of their children, Scott Tobias to Karen Enns. The Wedding took place on June 29, 2002 in Niagara Falls.

Engagement



The children and grandchildren of Connie Mark and David Edwards are thrilled to announce their forthcoming marriage. The ceremony will take place on Saturday, July 6, 2002.



Rose and Karl Riess will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year. Come and wish them well at an Open House in their honour. Sunday, August 4th from 3 to 5pm at the home of Rick and Terry Travers, 9900 Graham Road, West Lorne.

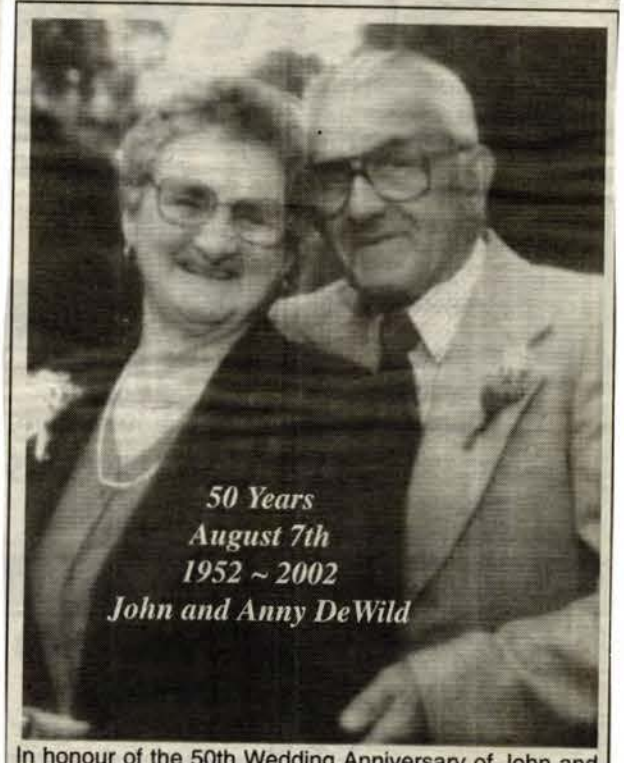


Happy 3rd Birthday, Katelyn Rose ~ Aug. 9th
Happy 5th Birthday, Allison Rose ~ Aug. 18th
Love Mommy & Daddy and all your family - xxoo

July 2002

Medal for saving Holland

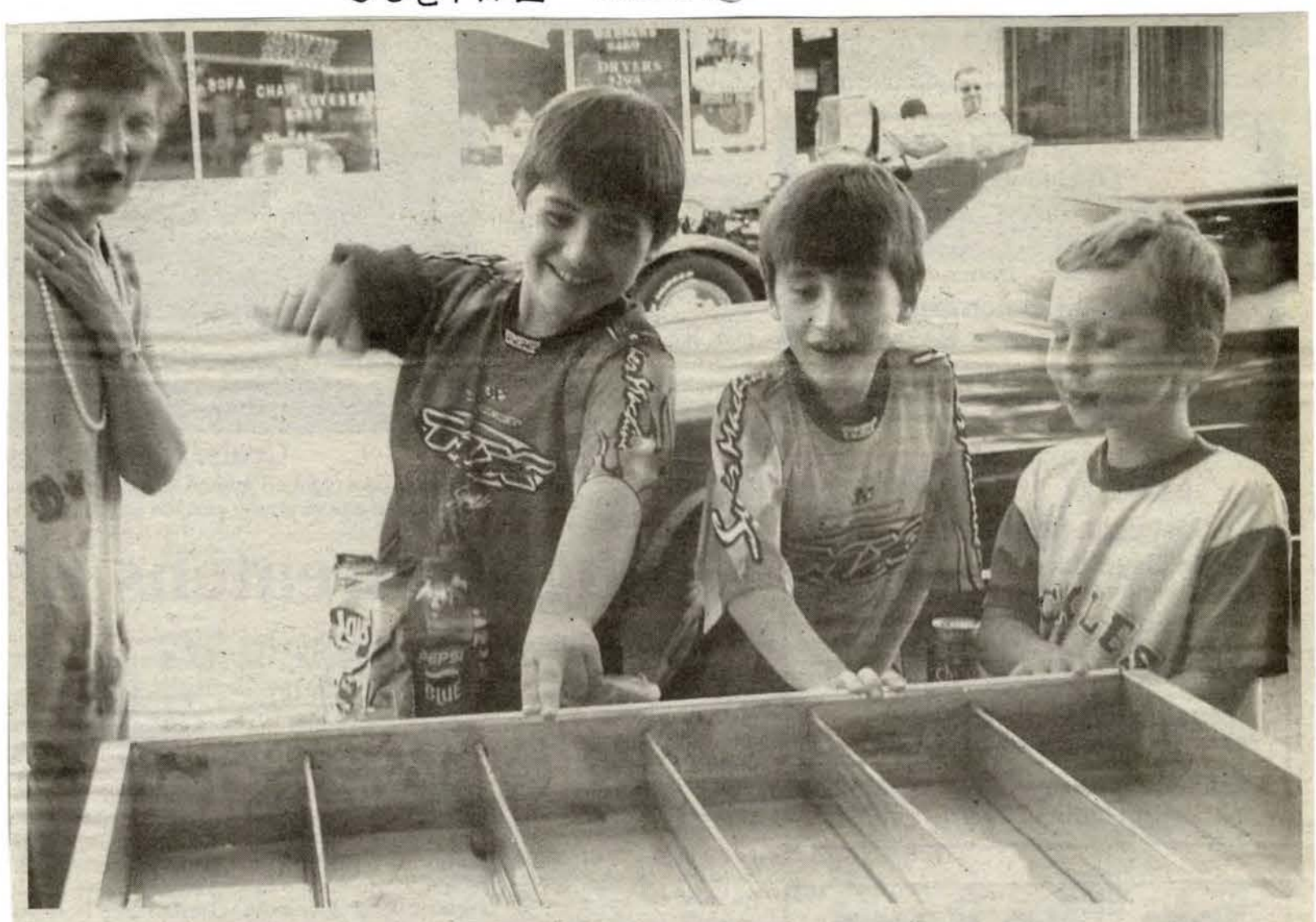
World War II veteran George Bell of West Lorne holds up one of the medals that have been sent from Holland to veterans who fought to liberate the country. Holland wanted to commemorate and thank the veterans still after 57 years since the liberation. Bell served in Holland from 1944 to 1945.



In honour of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of John and Anny DeWild, there children, grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pleasure of your company at an Open House on Sunday, August 11th, 2002 from 2pm to 5pm at Liz and Ted Vandenberg's house, 29692 Edinborough Line, Dutton. *Best Wishes Only!*



SOCIAL 2002



And the winner is ...

Brandon Wittek signals victory during the goldfish races at West Elgin's Downhill Derby held August 30 and 31. His brother Daniel (centre) and friend Daniel Alderton (right) watch on. Friday night was family fun night with the goldfish races, a car rally, and games for the kids which were very successful with a large turnout of people. The much anticipated downhill races were held Saturday morning and a dance was held in the evening at the IGA parking lot. The Downhill Derby was sponsored the Optimist Club of West Lorne.

SEPT 9/02



Happy 40th Birthday
Rick Van Breda
August 17th
Love Tracy & Courtney



HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY
Earl Bobier
From Don, Betty Ann, Donny, John, Deb, Amanda & Abby



Happy 80th Birthday
Marg Hyslop
August 7th
Love your family & friends



Happy 19th Trip
From Everyone!



The Rodney Aldborough Agricultural Society Would Like To

Congratulate Meghan Bell

On Her Great Showing At the CNE Exhibition Ambassador Competition

NOV 2002 The Chronicle

Cast is ready for a night of Nuncracking nunsense

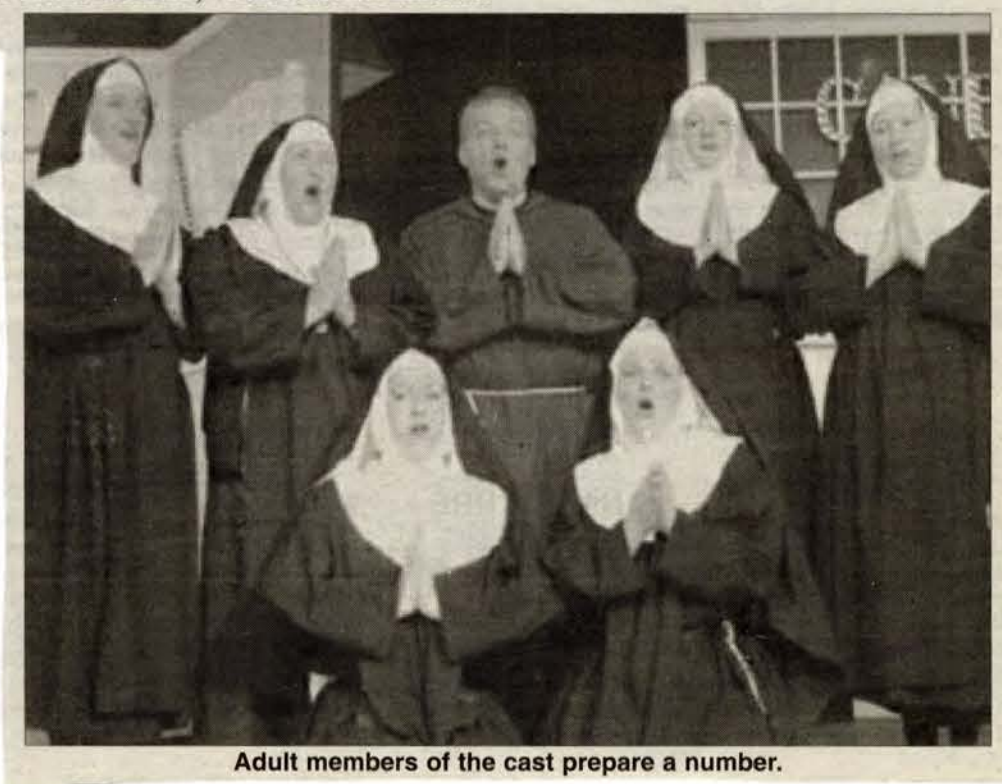


The kids of Nuncrackers, with Sister Amnesia.

West Elgin Dramatics Society is proud to present their winter program *Nuncrackers - the Nunsense Christmas Musical.*

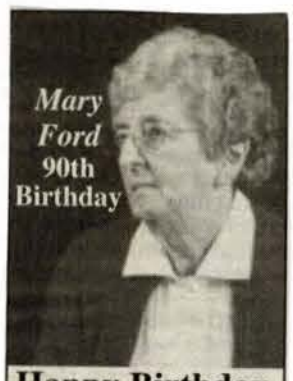
The cast of 7 kids and 7 adults is ready for opening night this Friday, November 29 with additional shows on Saturday, and also December 1 (matinee), December 6 and 7. The November 30 show also involves a wine and cheese get-together.

Tickets are $12 and are available at Marg's Variety, Krebsz Jewellers, Highland Pharmacy and Shenanigans or call 762-5662.



Adult members of the cast prepare a number.

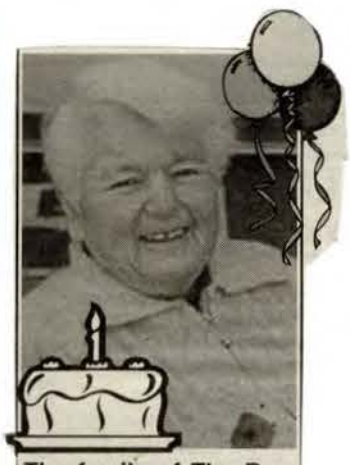
SOCIAL 2002



Happy Birthday Mom

Love from Lewis, Louisa, Alice, Ruth Ann, Cathy and families

The family of Mary Ford are holding an Open House on Saturday, August 3, 2002 at The Bobier Villa, Dutton in honour of their Mother's 90th Birthday.



The family of The Rev. Margaret (Peg) Wheeler invites you to join them in celebrating her 80th birthday at Grace Anglican Church, West Lorne on Saturday, June 22, 2002 from 2:00 - 5:00pm

Best wishes only please.



40th Wedding Anniversary
Bill & Alice Laird
September 22, 1962
The most wonderful Parents & Grandparents

DEAR MOM & DAD,
Words cannot express what we feel in our hearts. You both have always been there for us, through good and bad times. You gave us everything we ever wanted. You always supported us whether you thought we were right or wrong. They were our decisions to make and you stood by us. You are cherished grandparents of our children, they adore both of you very much. On your 40th Wedding Anniversary we want to thank you for everything and hope for many more years together.

With all our love and best wishes
Debbie, Joe, Linsday, Cindy, Lorne, Casaundra, Chelsey, Kim, Jeff & Vanessa SEPT 2002

Happy 80th Birthday



Please come and help Jean Jamieson celebrate 80 years young.
March 16th ~ 2 to 5pm
West Elgin Legion Br. 221
142 John St., West Lorne
~ Best Wishes Only ~

McGill Twins



Rob & Sue are thrilled to announce the arrival of their twin girls. *Meaghan Amber* weighing 5lbs. 4ozs. and *Kayla Victoria* weighing 4lbs. 6ozs. born on February 11, 2002. Proud grandparents are Buck & Bea McGill and Steve & Agnes Simon. Proud great grandparents are Louis & Ester Arvai of Rodney and Susan Simon of Blenheim.

MAY 2002 The Chronicle

West Lorne residents win $50,000 in lottery

Elizabeth and Joe Timmerman of West Lorne are the winners of the early bird draw of the 2002 Dream of a Lifetime Lottery. The Timmermans had the winning ticket for the $50,000 cash Early Bird prize.

"The Lottery has had a really strong, positive response from the community again this year," explained Ellen Frood, Lottery Project Manager. "Over 90 per cent have been sold, and we expect a repeat of our past sell out success by the time of our final ticket sales cut-off on May 14."

2002 marks the eighth anniversary of the Dream of a Lifetime Lottery campaign. To date, the Lottery has raised over $8.5 million to support local and regional health care. This year the fund-raising is expected to be $10 million.

CONGRATULATIONS



Melissa Rachelle Murray

Melissa graduated from the University of Windsor, Faculty of Law on June 7, 2002. Melissa is currently enrolled in the Bar Admission courses and has accepted an articling position at Lerner and Associates, London Ontario that will begin in September.

Wishing you continued success and happiness. ***Love Mom and Dad and all your family and friends***



Sean McGregor

Bachelor of Kinesiology (McMaster), Master of Science Kinesiology (UWO), Bachelor of Education (Althouse). Seeking employment.

Many thanks to all those who have supported, fed and encouraged Sean along the way. We're very proud.



"Dos tequila por favor"
HAPPY BIRTHDAY MR. ANDY!

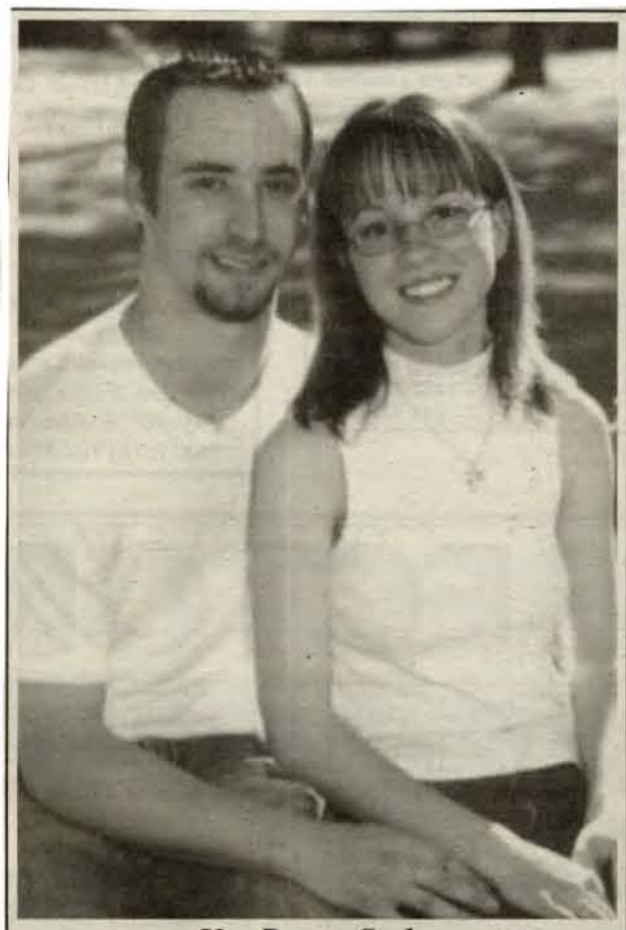


Kellee Jacobs

Kellee, daughter of Susan Jacobs and Bill Spurgeon, has graduated with First Class Honours from St. Joseph's Catholic High School in St. Thomas. She will be attending Queens University's International Studies Program in Sussex, England this fall.



LORDIE! LORDIE! LOOK WHO'S 40!!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY DOUG
Love Pat, Robert & Nicole, Mom & Dad, Murn & Rich, Cindy, Darrin & Cale, Jason, Mindy, Jarret & Carter, Jeremy, Carol & Brit



Van Raes ~ Szabo

Mr. & Mrs. Roger & Eva Van Raes and Mr. & Mrs. Albert & Glenna Szabo would like to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Krista and Shaun. This celebration of love will take place on Saturday, June 29, 2002, 4pm at the Calvary United Church in Rodney.



HAPPY 7th BIRTHDAY Nicole on June 25th

Love Mom, Dad and your brother Efthimios and all your family

TELL EM' YOU SAW IT IN THE CHRONICLE!



HAPPY 60th BIRTHDAY
Ken Schleihauf

Ken worked for Ontario Hydro for 37 years. He and his wife Cheryl are now living and working in Altamonte Springs, Fla.

Love and best wishes from the family!



50th Wedding Anniversary

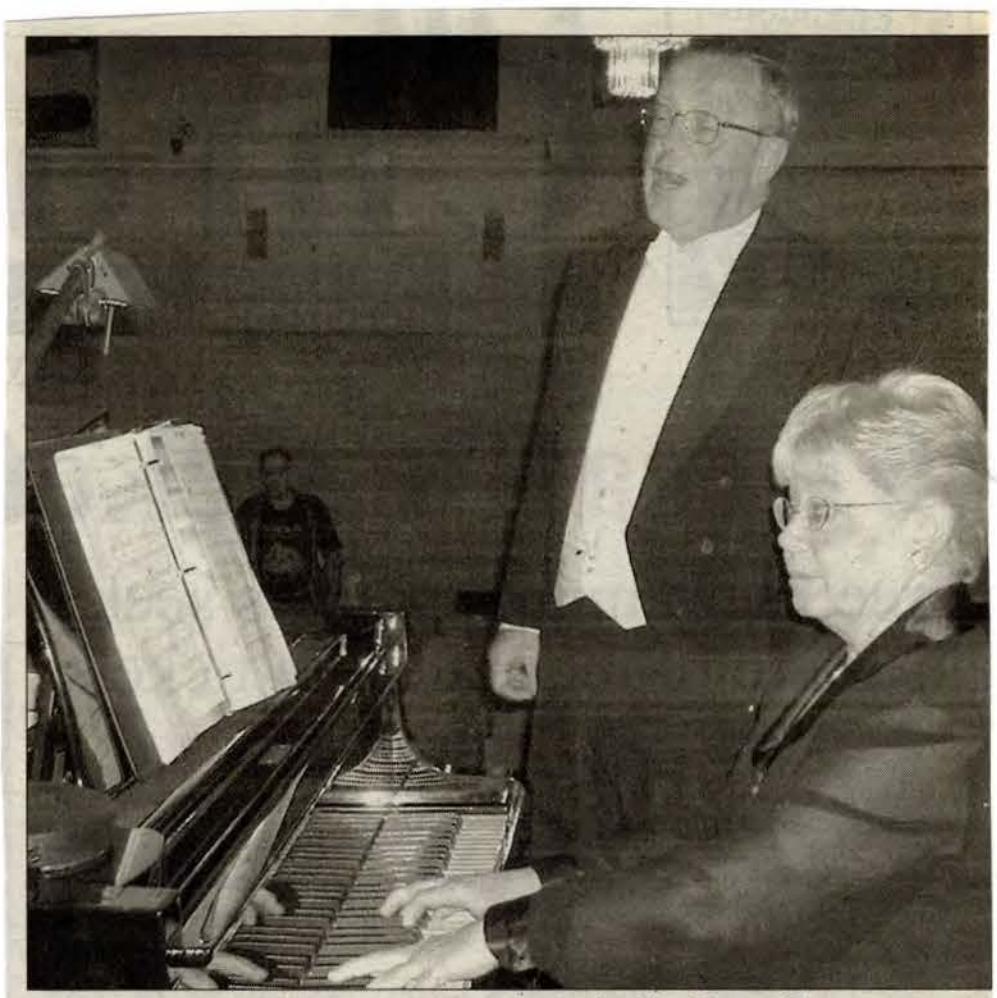
The family of Gerhard and Elisabeth Memering welcome friends and neighbours to an Open House on Sunday, June 30, 2002 from 1:30 to 4pm at St. Mary's Parish Hall, West Lorne.

Best wishes only please 128

SOCIAL 2003



Dave McAdams, left, president of the St. Thomas-Elgin Tourist Association, and Robert White, right, STETA board member from West Elgin, congratulate Patrice Gumpert of West Lorne, winner of the Christmas in the County "Bag O' Bucks" worth more than $1,200. Gumpert's name was drawn from those entered at businesses throughout the county over the Christmas season. The prize package includes $500 in downtown dollars and a number of gift certificates. JAN 20/03 (T-J photo)



MAY 8 2003

Bands from east and west perform

East meets west Monday night at West Elgin Secondary School when the East Elgin Community Band and West Elgin Community Band perform together for the first time.

The concert was mistakenly printed as being held this past Monday night but, in fact, occurs May 12, starting at 7:30 p.m. and is a fund raiser to help purchase some percussion instruments.

The bands will perform some pieces together with Sharon Little and Dave Dykeman conducting.

50th Wedding Anniversary

Norbert & Florence Rivest
July 25, 1953 to July 25, 2003

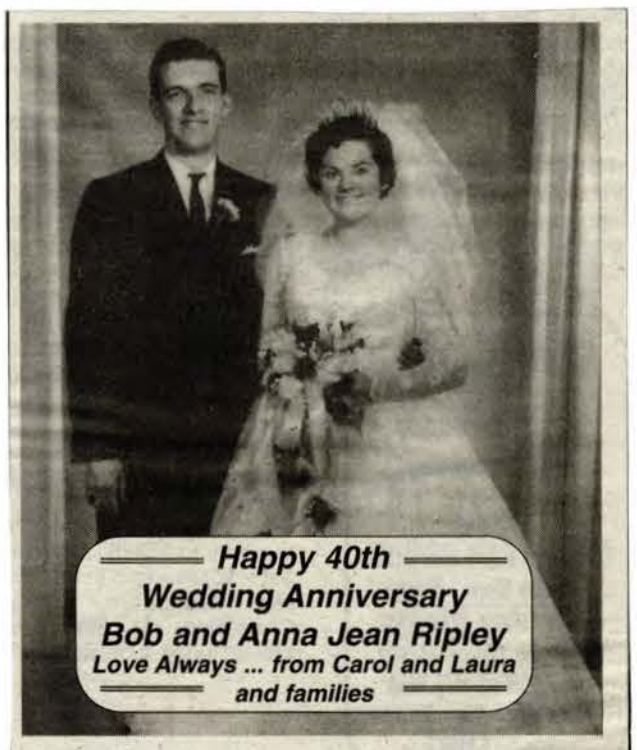


The children of Norbert & Florence invite family and friends to an Open House on Saturday, July 26th, 2003 from 2-4 pm at St. Mary's Parish Hall, West Lorne . *Best wishes only.*

90th BIRTHDAY



Nellie Butler recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Family members visited from Indiana, Michigan, Ottawa, London, St. Thomas, Aylmer, Brantford and Clachan. Special thanks to daughter Joan and her husband Don and family for their contributions and planning. Thanks to Ted for the use of the common room and to the Cosy staff for the excellent meal, service and lovely fruit basket. MAR 17/03



OCT. 30, 03

November 6, 2003 ~ Page



Corporal George G. Lippold RCASC.
Served overseas in England, Iran, France, Holland 1941 - 1946
Life member RCL Br. 221 West Elgin - Past President

Page 2 ~ December 24, 2003

Chronicle Kid!



Evan VanDyk
Age: 4
School: Aldborough Public School
Favourite tv show: George Shrinks
Favourite activity: Playing baseball
What you want to be: A cowboy

If you or someone you know would like to be a Chronicle Kid, just give us a call at 768-2220.



Irene (Boonman) McGregor born in Dunwich then resided in West Lorne served in the CWAC after trying to enlist 3 times but was turned down each time due to her young age. Irene was finally accepted in February 1944 and served until March 1945.

SOCIAL 2003

Enns is first male CNE ambassador

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Chris Enns, Ambassador of the Wallacetown Fair made history this week, being named the first male Ambassador of the Fair at the Canadian National Exhibition.

"I think it's a great adventure for him," said his mom, DJ Enns.

"He really wants to take it to heart and visit as many fairs as he can," she said Monday.

Chris couldn't be reached at deadline at his Toronto hotel Monday, while he was on a photo shoot for the fair.

Before being named Ambassador to the Fair, Chris won the congeniality title.

DJ said they knew he had the capability to win but when he was awarded the congenialty spot, she figured that was it.

Enns is an active member of the Wallacetown and Dutton-Dunwich community where he has been a member the Elgin Presbytery Youth Council and enjoys working with children and coaches basketball.

He is also a 4-H member and was a 2001 Ontario Beef Essay Contest winner, as well as the recipient of numerous awards in high school. He was also a member of the Thames Valley District School Board all-star basketball team and is certified in Basic American Sign Language.

According to a CNE media release, Enns is an excellent public speaker and has impressive writing skills, which went toward his win of the competition.

DJ said while serving as the ambassador is a priority to Enns, he is also dedicated to pursuing a career in biology at Dalousie University in Halifax before pursuing a career in medicine.

Also of note, the first runner-up was Shannon Thornicroft from the Glencoe Fall Fair.



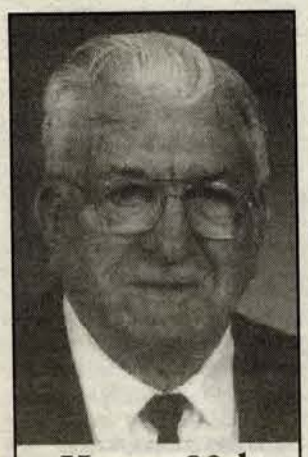
Chris Enns *Chronicle photo*

AUG 21/03



50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
Nancy and Harley Lashbrook

The family invites you to an Open House on Sunday, September 21, 2003 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm at St. Mary's Parish Hall, West Lorne. Best wishes only.



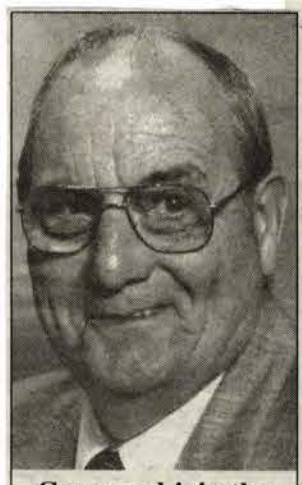
Happy 80th Birthday
John Trupish
September 22nd
Love and best wishes from our family

There is an Open House invitation on Sunday, September 21st from 1pm to 4pm at the Rodney Adult Centre. Your presence is your gift.



60th ANNIVERSARY

Dunc and Grace McPherson wish all our old and new friends to share with us the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of our marriage. It will be held at Crinan Presbyterian Church, Graham Road on September 27, 2003 from 2pm to 5pm. No gifts, just your best wishes only please. If you desire, any donations to our home church of 80 years would be gratefully accepted.

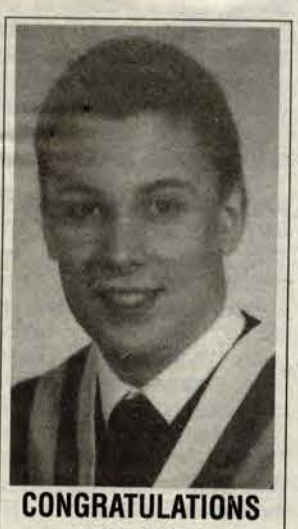


Come and join the Bell Family to celebrate
George "Scotty" Bell's
80th Birthday
Sun., Sept. 14th, 2003
Drop in between 1pm & 4pm at the West Elgin Legion in West Lorne.
No gifts!
Just come and enjoy!!!



BELLAIRE ~ NEWMAN

Carol Marie Bellaire and Michael Alan Newman are pleased to announce their forthcoming marriage on Friday, September 19, 2003 to be held at the Royal Canadian Legion, Exeter, Ontario. Open reception to follow at 9:00pm at the Exeter Legion.



CONGRATULATIONS
MICHAEL PEROVICH

On your election as student representative to the Board of Governors of Lambton College in Sarnia for the 2003/2004 school year.

Love and best wishes from Mom & Dad, Grandma & Grandpa and family. Michael is the son of Trish and Mike (Mickey) Perovich of Aylmer and grandson of Dan & Olga Perovich, RR #3, West Lorne.



RENOVATIONS COMPLETE

Board Members of the Crinan Community Centre pose on the steps of the newly renovated school house at the official opening and ribbon cutting. Left to right are board members Lorne McLeod, Sandra Payne, Nancy McGregor, Sheila Simpson (from the Trillium Foundation who helped with the funding), Judy Aldred and Don Jamieson. Many community members and contractors helped the Crinan Women's Institute complete the needed renovations to update the community centre, while managing to keep the old school house look intact.

Chronicle photo

SEPT '03



PATTERSON ~ DAVEY

Albert and Joanne Patterson along with Marilyn and the late Bruce Davey are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Karen Lynne to Paul Davey. The wedding will take place at the Polynesian Resort, Walt Disney World, Florida on September 15, 2003.

MAY 1, 2003



Matt McLandress took part in the Run for Retina Research held in London April 13 to raise funds for research to find cures and help for people with retinal diseases including McLandress's sister, Amy. At 17, she has the retinas of a 40-year-old and asked her brother, a stronger athlete in the family, to run for her. The two are members of the Dutton Leo Club and, with the club's help, raised $650 toward the event.



Mary Lippold, Rosalie Krebsz and Shaney, Janice Lawrence, Helen Mooser, Leola Lawrence and Nancy Baillie were among the walkers and volunteers for the Great Ride 'n' Stride in West Lorne held recently. Rosalie and her walking partner raised $2,000. A total of more than $3,500 was raised at the event which will go toward the Canadian Cancer Society.

SOCIAL 2003

APR. 10/03 The Chronicle



Marjorie MacLeod, a cancer survivor and volunteer sells some daffodils to Canadian Cancer Society volunteer Kay Attridge, left, at the IGA in West Lorne on April 4. Daffodils are sold to raise money for the society.



Tara Wilson, left and Katelyn Rose, play in the West Lorne United Church basement last Wednesday morning as part of a playgroup. Behind them are Kailyn Pyka and Allison Rose.

JULY 17/03

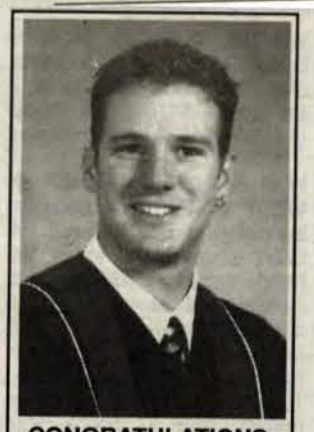


HAPPY 65th BIRTHDAY ELSIE!

Love & Best Wishes

Bill & Whiskey

Renee, Derreck, Miles & Alicia



CONGRATULATIONS BRAD KRITER

Lorne and Helen Kriter are pleased to announce that their son, Brad recently graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is presently employed by Siemens in London.



MONIQUE VERBRUGGHE

Steve and Cheryl Verbrugghe are pleased to announce the graduation of their daughter, Monique from the Interior Design program at Fanshawe College. *Good luck in your future endeavors.*



Happy 130th to Ken and Mary

from Carrie, Mike & Trish, Connor & Katie and the Howard and McCallum families

Aug 2003

Francis Sobieralski featured among the Pizza Wars performers at Dramatics Society event

FEB. 17 2003

The music training Francis Sobieralski had as a child is keeping her busy in retirement.

Born in England, Sobieralski starting dancing lessons at age five and enrolled in a singing and drama school at age 14. While she fit many stage roles - with the London Little Theatre and West Elgin Dramatics Society - in around her working life, its been in retirement that Sobieralski has been able to take advantage of every opportunity.

She played Mother Superior in the highly successful WEDS production of Nuncrackers at Christmas.

Feb. 22, she will be featured in the Pizza Wars Cabaret with other soloists from the West Elgin Choral Society.



Francis Sobierlski

Sobieralski, from West Lorne, will be performing the hilarious monologue The Bicycle, made famous by the late British actress and singer Hermoine Gingold in Gigi.

Since her husband Ted passed away three years ago, Sobieralski sings in the church choirs at both Grace Lutheran and St. Mary's churches.

In April, she's performing at the Baptist Church in West Lorne.

Saturday's performance at the WEDS Performing Arts Centre in Dutton is part of a fund raising effort by the choral society. Tickets are $25 or a table of eight for $150 and include the show and all-you-can-eat pizza from three area pizzerias.

The Kiwanis Club, co-sponsors of the event, will be selling refreshments. Call Shenanigans at 762-5662 for reservations.



Having a bubble blast

Kailyn Pyka of West Lorne, 19 months old, catches some bubbles blown by her sister Shelby at the Tiny Tots Trike-A-Thon held Saturday at the Rodney Community Centre.

131

SOCIAL 2003



Kevin Gibson taught himself how to play chess at eight years old. Now , at 10, the West Lorne area youth is preparing to go to a world tournament in Greece.

Chronicle photo

Youth takes on challenges of chess, heading to world tournament in Greece

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

With pieces of paper, some markers and a single chapter in a book about games, eight-year-old Kevin Gibson taught himself how to play chess.

Two years later, he's qualified for a place on the Canadian Youth World Chess Team that will compete in Greece Oct. 22 to Nov. 3

"His first official chess set was out of paper," said his mom, Ann Gibson, who never expected buying him that book would enter the family into the world of high-pressure chess tournaments.

Now Kevin is hoping to attain a master rating through tournament play.

"I started learning it bit by bit. I was interested in how all the pieces moved," said Kevin, a Mosa Central Public School student from the West Lorne area.

Gibson bought Kevin the book while they were away on vacation two summers ago. Out of all the different games in the book, the complexities of chess are what drew his attention.

"There are so many different strategies, not like checkers where you just capture pieces. There's no real strategy," Kevin said.

While other young children might colour or draw pictures to pass

Continued on Page 2

AUG 21/03

Happy 40th Anniversary



RON AND MARLENE PAYNE
Married July 20th, 1963
Love from Sonya, Vic, Alex & Ethan, Blair, Rhonda & Britney

60th Wedding Anniversary

Victor & Norma McMillan ~ May 1, 1943



Victor & Norma celebrated their Anniversary quietly at their home with surprise visitors and many greetings.
Love and best wishes from your families.

The Chronicle JUNE 19/03

CONGRATULATIONS



Jennifer Fleming
Daughter of Frank and Shelley Fleming has graduated from the University of Guelph with distinction with an honours of Biological Science in Bio-med Toxicology. She has been accepted at the University of Western Ontario for a Masters Degree in Neurology.



Paula Marie Ocolisan
Daughter of Adrian and Theresa Ocolisan graduated from the Graphic Design Program at Fanshawe College on June 11, 2003.



Dennis Peter Ocolisan
Son of Adrian and Theresa Ocolisan graduated from the Motive Power Technician Program at Fanshawe College on June 12, 2003.





John, Ann, Trevor, J.J. and David Wrobel are thrilled to announce the wedding of their son and brother, Kevin to Angela, daughter of Betty Charleton of Coburg, Ontario on Saturday, April 19, 2003

Quilting hands

Stacie Littlejohn helps new quilter Rebekah Brayton of West Lorne at the Backus-Page House on Saturday.

JULY 24/03



Bailey McKillop of Wallacetown learns some quilting techniques from Stacie Littlejohn as the Backus-Page House was site to a quilting demonstration and exhibit as part of events held on the weekend for Canada Parks Day. A pancake breakfast was also held on Sunday.

SOCIAL 2003



Melissa Murray, daughter of Ken & Nancy Murray, was called to the Ontario Bar on Tuesday, July 8, 2003. She completed her Articles at Lerners, LLP in London, on July 4, 2003. Melissa was offered, and has accepted a position as an associate lawyer in the firm's family law department.

Congratulations, Melissa!
Love from all of your family and friends

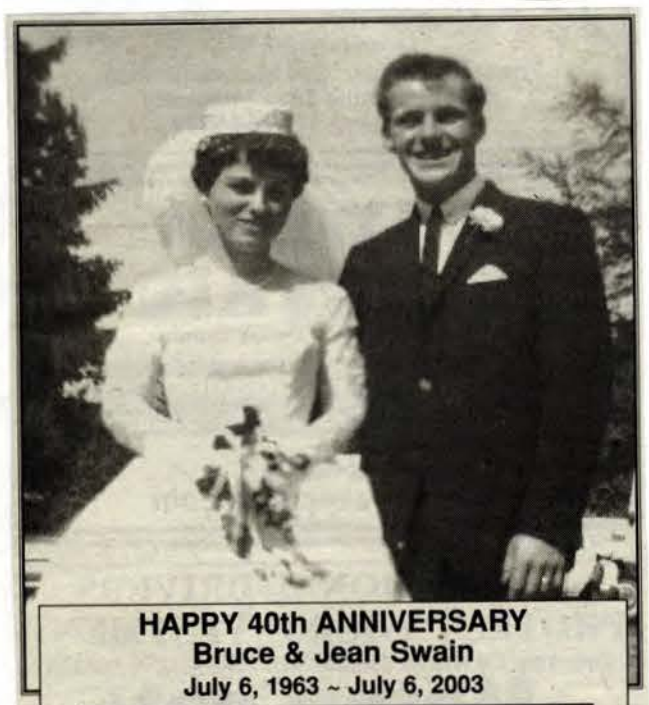
JAN 27/03



Kaylie Beer of West Lorne won the category of Best In Show late last year in the Toronto Hunting and Outdoor Show. She won in the category for kids aged 8 and under. She had to carve a duck-head in less than two hours. She won a subscription to Ontario Out Doors magazine and also a plaque, sponsored by Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.



The families of Michelle Bell and Jeff Visser are pleased to announce their engagement. The wedding will take place Saturday, October 2, 2004



HAPPY 40th ANNIVERSARY
Bruce & Jean Swain
July 6, 1963 ~ July 6, 2003

Love Carrie, Bruce, Jason, Jamie, Brian & Anna, Kathy, Jason, Scott, Josh, Wil & Mia, Lisa, Todd & Madelaine

CONGRATULATIONS



80th Birthday

You are invited to a celebration of Ruth Wright's 80th Birthday. This will take place at St. John's United Church, Dutton on Sunday, May 11th from 2pm to 4pm. Best wishes only please.



Happy 1st Birthday Kathryn Howard
May 8th, 2002
Love Mommy, Daddy and big brother Connor



HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY on May 15th & HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
Myrtle Lewis

Family and friends are invited to an open house celebration for Myrtle on Sunday, May 11th at the Rodney Legion from 2pm to 4pm. Best wishes only.



BONNE FÊTE LOUISE
HAPPY 60th
avec lámour de ta famille

Wedding Announcement



Tim and Mona Blain together with Ken and Mary Howard are thrilled to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Trisha Lynne and Michael John. A private ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2003.

CONGRATULATIONS

'Mario'



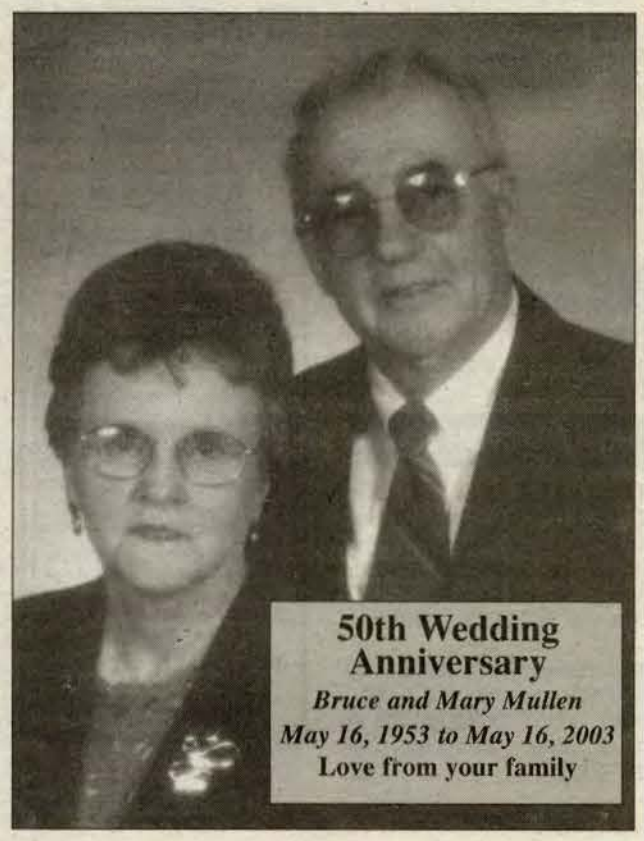
HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY
Love Lyn and Trina

MAKE SOMEONE HAPPY BY PLACING A HAPPY AD!!



50th Wedding Anniversary
Joe & Jean VanNuland

Open House Saturday, May 17th, from 2pm to 4pm at St. Mary's Parish Hall, 132 Pioneer Line, West Lorne, Ontario. Best wishes only, please.
Also celebrating 50 years in Canada!



50th Wedding Anniversary
Bruce and Mary Mullen
May 16, 1953 to May 16, 2003
Love from your family



Riders and volunteers in the Canadian Cancer Society's Great Ride 'n' Stride for cancer took a break on Graham Road. They include, from left, Caitlin and Tanya VanRaes, John Thomson, Win Liepman, Harley Lashbrook, Bill Graham and Lyn Lusse. The event started at the West Elgin Arena on Sunday.

2003

Welcome to the 2003





Logan Christopher Mosher
Born on November 19, 2003 to Chris & Rene. Grandson to Vic & Nancy Schneider and Mary & Gerry Mosher. Great grandson to Ethel Frank, Erna Schneider and Lil Pritchard.



Nolan Edward Schnekenburger
Born on July 13, 2003 to Dan & Stephanie and big sister Taylor. Grandson to Ed & Mary Ellen Schnekenburger and Diana Campbell & Peter Johnson.



Brett Jeffrey Cipu
Born on October 2, 2003 to Jeff & Linda Cipu and big sister Lauren. Grandson for Grandma & Grandpa Azevedo, Grandpa George Cipu and Grandma Margie Cipu.



Owen Robert Lunn
Born on June 29, 2003 to Stephen & Nancy and big brother Gavin. Grandson to Anna Lee Lunn, Walker & Margaret Kydd and great grandson to Anna & Leroy Chapman and Ruth Kydd.



Alyssa Darlene Goos
Born on February 7, 2003 to Jeff Goos & Carrie Holborn. Granddaughter to Peter Goos, Marlene Goos and Carmen & Debbie Holborn.



Chloe Tobias
Born on March 10, 2003 to Scott & Karen Tobias and big sister Mackenzie. Granddaughter for Tex & Deb Tobias, Brenda & Ron O'danski, Mike & Bonnie Cowal and Isaac & D.J. Enns.



Brooke Nicole Trybel
Born on December 8, 2003 to Christine Trybel. Granddaughter to Michael & Stella Trybel.



Jordyn Alyssa Price
Born on December 9, 2003 to John Price and Jenny MacGinnis.

BABY ... OH BABY!

A wee bit of heaven drifted down from above ~ A handful of happiness, a heartful of love.
The mystery of life, so sacred and sweet ~ The giver of joy so deep and complete.
Precious and priceless, so lovable, too ~ The world's sweetest miracle, baby, is you.

- by Helen Steiner Rice



Tanner St.Onge
Born on March 24, 2003 to Stephanie & Eric and big brother Anthony. Grandson to Karen & Jim Robertson and Al & Linda St. Onge.





Kristen Grace Lupsor
Born on April 28, 2003 to Roger & Janna Lupsor. Granddaughter to Irma Lupsor and John & Nancy Hollis.



Matthew William Zinkan
Born on July 16, 2003 to Lisa Holborn & Chris Zinkan. Grandson to Carman & Debbie Holborn and Dianne Zinkan and Bill Zinkan.



Drew McIntyre
Born on February 3, 2003 to Bill & Tricia McIntyre. Grandson to Jim & Sandy Holdaway, Carl & Judy McIntyre- Lovas and Doris McIntyre.



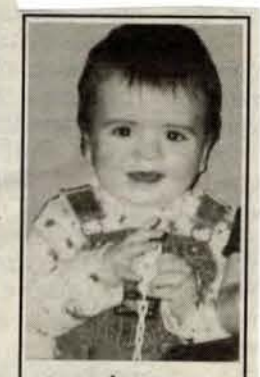
Savannah Rachelle Germaine McGill
Born on December 7, 2003 to Jeremy & Danielle. Granddaughter to Mac & Dale McGill, and Greg & Wendy Bégin and great granddaughter to James & Cathy Gammon and Murray & Jean Holmes.



Jason Dylan Szabo
Born on July 13, 2003 to Shaun & Krista Szabo. Grandson to Roger & Eva VanRaes and Albert & Glenna Szabo.



Tyler Jacob Fenn
Born on June 10, 2003 to Art & Cindy.



Jacob Marvin Howse
Born on January 24, 2003. Happy Birthday from Mom & Dad Joe & Monica and big brother Mike. Grandson to Marvin and the late Jenny Howse and Istvan and Piroska Kili.



Thomas James Cassidy
Born on January 27, 2003 to Isabel & Tim Cassidy and big brothers Matthew & Mark. Grandson to Manuel & Natalia Dos Santos.



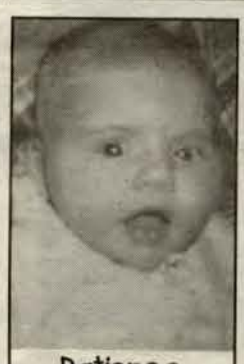
Sonya Simmie
Born on September 2, 2003 to Lynne and Shawn and big brother Nigel. Granddaughter to Michelle Lacombe.



McKenzie Ann & McKayla Lynn
Born on May 1, 2003 to Sarah Simpson & Wayne Vangeel. Granddaughters to Jim & Pat Simpson and Jack & Joanne Vangeel.



Morgan Charles Dunn
Born on June 1, 2003 to Jeremy & Coralee Dunn and big brother James. Grandson to Elaine & Murray Brown, Daryl & Susan Dickieson and great grandson to Edna Dunn and Marion Pearce



Patience Marguerite Boyd
Born on November 9, 2003 to Grant & Lisa Boyd. Grandson to Dave & Jeanette Paton and Gerald & Marguerite Boyd.



Kalinda Haley Richard-Thornton
Born on April 22, 2003 to Kelli & Dan. Granddaughter to Linda Thornton & the late Frank Thornton and the late Audrey & Claude Richard.



Tyson Brody Swan
Born on November 13, 2003 to Samantha & Gerry Swan. Grandson to Wendy & Richard Swan, Tom & Tammy Jones, Aleck & Kelly Swain and Oma & Opa Robin & Mike Steltenpool.



Havana Storm Kini Jackson
Born on September 7, 2003 to Val & Dave Jackson. Grandson to Ann Jackson and Dave & Jeanette Paton.

When A Baby Enters This World ...

When a baby enters this world, into your life
A baby can make you forget your worries and strife.
It really doesn't matter whether it's a girl or boy,
A baby will melt your heart and bring you joy!
So shower a baby with love, every single day.
Show a baby you truly care ~ there's so many ways.
For with a blink of an eye, time will fly out the door ~ and your precious baby, won't be a baby anymore!

Authour Unknown

SKATING CLUB 2001



CARDS – Kelsey Fratscher, Katelyn Doan, Payton Snobelen.





ALADDIN – Melanie Ganhadeiro, Jennifer Oliveira and Kaitlynn Connolly.



LEGENDS – Front, Jessica Ambrose as Michael Jackson. Standing, left to right: Jennie Oliveira (Cher); Joe Armstrong (Wayne Newton); Meghan Slaats (Madonna); Amy Mezenberg (Blues Brothers), Danielle McGill (Dolly Parton) and Janine Vergeer (Blues Brothers).



GOING TO THE CHAPEL – Jonathan Mueller and Jenna Verboom.



SHOWTIME - Jennica Slaats, Nicole Oliveira, Karlie Willcocks.



MEDIEVAL PRINCESSES - Vanesssa Roodzant, Candice Conway and Ashley McFadden.



Space Odyssey - Rhonda Knight and Sarah Nagy.



NEW YORK, NEW YORK - Jason Timmermans and Scott Van Raes.



MISS SAIGON - Kaitlynn Connolly, Melanie Ganhadeiro, Janine Vergeer, Danielle McGill, Brandy May.

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SPORTS 2002

FEB 4/02 The Chronicle

Donation to Minor Hockey



The Optimist Club of West Lorne has donated $783 to West Lorne Minor Hockey to pay for hockey jersey's and sponsored ice time for the recent black and gold tournament. Here Optimist Karen Goncalves hands a cheque to Past President of West Lorne Minor Hockey Al Willie.

West Lorne's 3rd Skills Day big success

by Chris Ley

On Saturday August 10th approximately 100 soccer players tested their skills in dribbling, passing, juggling, heading, throw-ins and shooting. The children completed the six events and were graded against standards set by the Ontario Soccer Association. A large number of the players were able to meet the Gold and Silver standard which indicates what a great job our coaches are doing. The final part of the day involved a game where the West Lorne coaches played against the kids. In the first half the coaches had a number of good scoring chances but were unable to hit the net!

How does that old saying go - those who can do and those who can't coach? The second half was just as exciting and the experience of the coaches finally showed through. The day was a great success and we would like to thank all the volunteers who worked at the various skills stations.

This weekend all of the local minor soccer teams will be competing at the annual final tournament which is being held in Glencoe. Good luck to all the West Lorne teams! A special thank you to all the coaches and referees for making this a very successful season I would also like to personally thank all the members of the executive for all their work behind the scenes. Without your help the West Lorne Minor Soccer program would not be the huge success it is.



The Willie Merks memorial award was handed out this year for the last time. This year's recipient is Sabrina Griffin for 1being Dutton's most dedicated swimmer. Presenting the award to Sabrina are the parents of Willie Merks, Marianne and Bill Merks.

2002

West Lorne Pee-Wee Travel are OMHA Champs



West Lorne Comets

West Lorne PeeWee Travel were undefeated throughout the OMHA playdowns.

They defeated Ripley in 3 games straight in the semifinals advancing them to the finals against Mariposa.

Playing the first two games at home, taking it back to Mariposa, with Mariposa playing a very physical game on their ice, West Lorne held them to a 2-1 victory, winning OMHA.

Over the season the PeeWee's accomplished:

- Silver Stick Champs.
- OMHA Champs.
- Ridgetown Tournament Champs.
- Wallaceburg Tournament Finalists
- Ayr Tournament Finalists.
- A league Finalists.

Congratulations to the PeeWee Travel for accomplishments & hard work throughout the year. Special thanks to the coaches, staff, players and parents for all their efforts.

Pictured front row l-r, Kory Timmermans and Jordan Shine. Second row: Trainer Joe Mylrea, Jacob Welch, Andrew Okolisan, Nick Ganaherio, Khris Oliveira, Mike Lyons, David McWilliam, Aaron Cowell, Scott Manneke. Third row Coach Ken Shine, Manager Rick Cowell, Kyle Mezenberg, Kyle Mylrea, Justin Walker, Tyler Wood, Sam Smith, Matt McLandress, Assistant trainer Larry Okolisan and assistant coach Abel Duarte.

APR 8/02

Support for local soccer



Wendy Johnston of Rodney Soccer accepts a $200 cheque from Brian Scafe of Fairles Foodtown. The money will go towards new nets. Rodney Soccer is also hosting a noon b-b-q on Saturday June 29 at Fairles.



The West Elgin Skating Club was pleased to announce they received $300 from the CanSkate organization. The West Elgin Club committee, coaches, and community members then decided to give the money to three dedicated skaters l-r Amy Mezenberg, Chris VanRaay and Jenny Oliveira. Handing the individual $100 cheques is Dianne DeLouw President of West Elgin Skating Club.

JUNE 2002



Chris Leys (left) of West Lorne Soccer accepts a $1000 cheque from John Eagleson President of the Optimist Club of West Lorne, to pay for nets and soccer balls for the players.

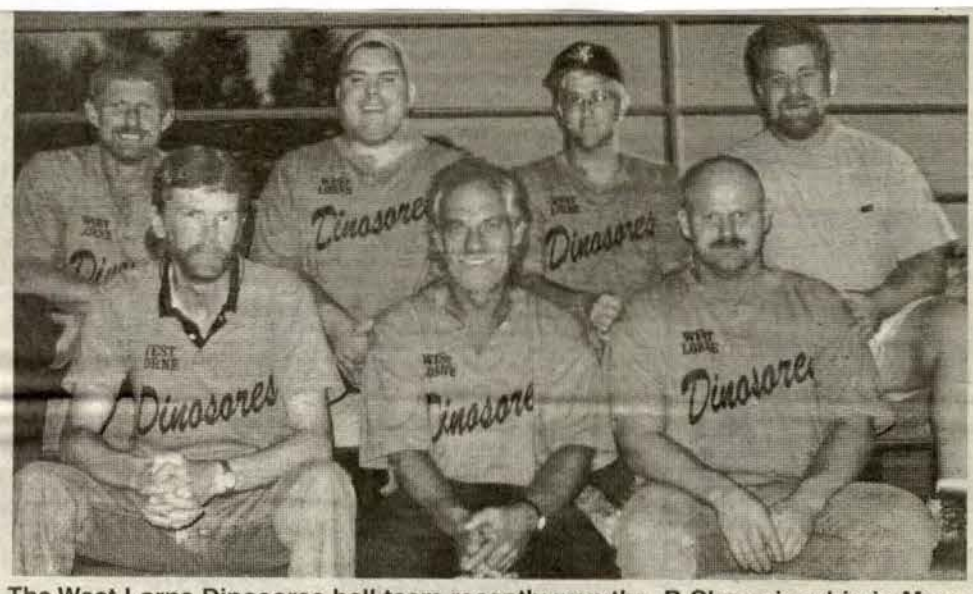
MAY 2002

SPORTS 2002

Trying out the new skate-park



West Lorne teenager Doug Peskar was found on Canada Day trying out the brand new skate park in West Lorne's Miller Park. JULY 2002



The West Lorne Dinosores ball team recently won the B Championship in Mens slo-pitch. Newbury took the A Championship. Pictured back row l-r John Depater, Tim McDonagh, Jeff Knight, and Dave Phillips. Front row Tom Jones, Ted Slaats and Pete Kalita.
Absent from the photo are Bill Besley, Bob Kuska, Darryl Kuska, Larry McGahan, Greg Smith, Gerry Lamb, Steph Regnier, Steve Emery and Bob Reid. 2002

West Lorne Dart News

October 23, 2002

Ladies Most Take-Outs: Sharon McPherson - 4
Men's Most Take-Outs: Charlie Cronkite - 5
Ladies High Average: Barb Wemp - 52.59
Men's High Average: Wentworth Newman - 59.23
Ladies High Shot: Gloria Palmer - 116
Men's High Shot: Justin Swan, Stan Hauser - 125
Ladies Low Shot: Sharon - McPherson - 2
Men's Low Shot: Pat LeClair - 2

Rodney Senior Bowling

October 24,2002

Team	*Points*
Roses	22
Daisies	27
Glads	27
Pansies	22
High single:	
Doris Sudicky	221
Bill Beaudoin	238
High triple	
Doris Sudicky	534
Joe Kovacs	554
Team high single	
Daisies	1077
High Triple	
Daisies	2792

THE GOALPOST Mens Snooker

Standings as of October 25, 2002

Team	W	L	T	Points
1. The Bankers	9	3	0	18
2. The Pocket Weasels	9	3	0	18
3. The Felt Tips	8	3	1	17
4.The Soft Shooters	8	4	0	16
5. The Left Overs	8	4	0	16
6. The Chaulkers	8	4	0	16
7. The Rail Jockeys	7	4	1	15
8. The Smokers	6	2	0	12
9. The Blue Balls	6	6	0	12
10. The Sewer Rats	4	4	0	8
11. The Eight Balls	2	6	0	4
12. The Black Balls	2	6	0	4
13. The Hookers	2	10	0	4
14. Grampa's Gang	0	0	0	0
15. Red Ball Ruckus	0	8	0	0

High run for the week: Tom Hodge (26), High run-for the season: Pat VanOverbeek (33). Division split Feb 2, 2003 Top 8 teams go to A division, bottom seven go to B division.

W.E.S.S. SPORTS SHORTS

2002

by Alan Youngash
WESS Athletic Director

Our Junior and Senior Badminton Teams continue to compete in League Play with our Seniors playing on Tuesdays and our Juniors playing on Thursdays. Many players are getting the opportunity to represent the school on different outings as the Coaches endeavour to prepare as many players as possible for the Conference play. On April 2 our Seniors hosted London South, Arthur Voaden, and Glencoe and we won better than half of our matches. In mixed doubles Ashley Clements and Nathan Woolsey won 2 of their 3 matches and Boy's Doubles Derek DeBie and Adam McCallum were 2 for 2 in their play.

On April 16 and 17 the Senior Team will travel to Arthur Voaden for Conference play with the Men's and Lady's Doubles playing on the 16th while Men's and Lady's Singles and Mixed Doubles will play on the 17th. Each division will allow up to 4 teams from each school so there are lots of spots open.

The fate of the Soccer Season is now set following an email from Wes Connell, the Athletic Coordinator for the Thames Valley Regional Athletic Association. The email arrived on March 28 and it reads as follows... *"It is with regret that I inform TVRAA Athletic Directors and Principals that because convenors have not come forward in either Junior Boys or Junior Girls soccer, TVRAA will not have either of these sports this year..."* It should be noted that across Thames Valley there was only a minimal commitment to these sports and that London has not offered Junior Soccer in the past. Junior players will be invited to try out for Varsity teams and an initial meeting was held at West Elgin.

Monday through Thursday our student body is invited to use the gymnasium as open gym time and there will be as many as 60 students enjoying this opportunity. The SAA has sign-up sheets posted for intramural Badminton and all students are invited to get involved.



The West Elgin PeeWee A Comets won their division in the Silverstick in Watford over the Christmas holidays. Front row l-r, Kory Timmermans and Jordan Shine. Second row: Trainer Joe Mylrea, Jacob Welch, Andrew Okolisan, Nick Ganaherio, Khris Oliveira, Mike Lyons, David McWilliam, Aaron Cowell, Scott Manneke. Third row Coach Ken Shine, Manager Rick Cowell, Kyle Mezenberg, Kyle Mylrea, Justin Walker, Tyler Wood, Sam Smith, Matt McLandress, Assistant trainer Larry Okolisan and assistant coach Abel Duarte.

West Elgin Skating Club holds 48th Carnival



The West Elgin Skating Club held its 48th Annual Skate Carnival last Saturday March 2. The show's theme this year was Fantasy & Folklore. Pictured here in costume are left to right Nicole Pelcz, Kaitlyn Doan, Hailey Slaats, Candice Conway, Karlie Wilcocks, Cassidy Savo and Jennica Slaats. The over 120 members of the Club were to perform many different programs at the show. The artwork at the arena was done by the Art Class of WESS.

2002



Kayla Poels is West Elgin Figure Skating Club's Program Assistant for the month of October. Kayla was selected for her attendance, enthusiasm and hard work during training. She wins a $10 voucher from Kools Kitchen. NOV. 18, 2002

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SPORTS 2002

LOCAL SPORTS

West Lorne Novices win Black & Gold at home

The West Lorne Novice Travel team won the local Black & Gold Tournament Championship in front of a hometown crowd this month. The tournament, held in West Lorne on November 7-10 saw the home team capture victories against Port Stanley in a 3-2 shootout win, and surpassing Forest 6-5 in a double shootout to make it to the final.

West Lorne took the championship tournament final with a 5-2 victory over Wallaceburg.

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM!!



THE CHAMPS: Front Row: (left-right) Troy Winger, Nolan Collard. 2nd Row: Kurtis Gosnell, Ryan Frizzell, Kyle Barber, Kodi Hansen, Gina Toth. 3rd Row: Jason Alves, Tyson Ford, Michael Verboom, MacKenzie Dick, Jacob Dymock, Bo Horvat, Tyler Hull, Julian Kovacs. 4th Row: George Gosnell (coach), John Frizzell (ass't trainer), Susan Hull (manager), John Verboom (assistant coach), Jon Collard (trainer).

SPORTS

W.E.S.S. SPORTS SHORTS
by Alan R. Youngash
Athletic Director

The first item on the agenda is an opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping. The SAA and it's advisors are offering Spirit Wear for sale... T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Vests and assorted other articles.

These may be ordered by calling the school or just coming in for a look-see. It's pretty fine stuff... I'm wearing a hooded sweat-shirt that I purchased on the last drive. Let's go Wildcats!!!

Most fall sports have wrapped up. Jr Girls Basketball will finish at St. Joseph's on November the 5th. Jr Boy's Volleyball goes to the playoffs Tuesday November 6 at Centre des Loges in London against the home team, Dorchester and Holy Cross.

The Senior Vollyeball team defeated CECI 3-0 and advanced to their playoff round. We will host London Christian, WCI and Mother Teresa. The top two in both Jr and Sr will advance to the semi-finals on the Friday November 8th. Best of luck to these two fine teams and their coaches... Jr- Mr VanDyke... Sr- Mr Welch.

Exams continue Monday and regular classes resume for the second term on Tuesday the 5th. Have a great week Wildcats and loyal fans... afn..ay

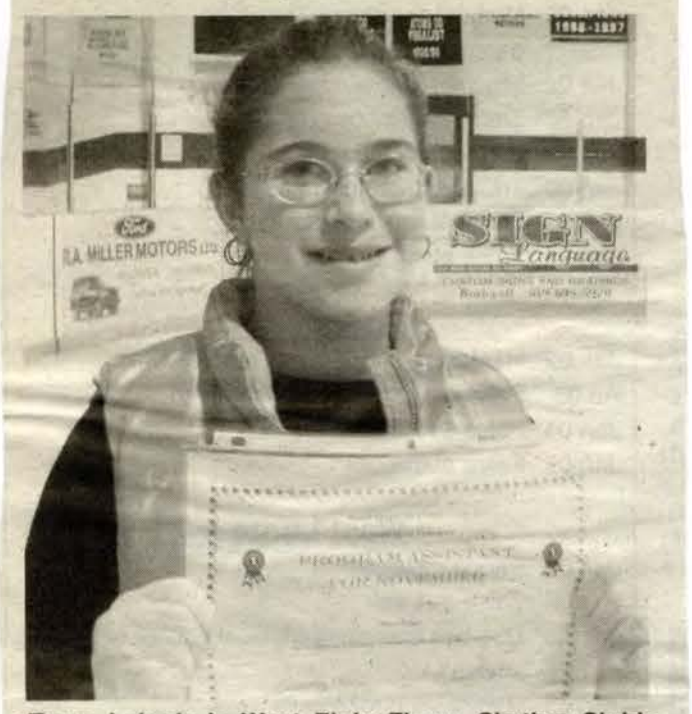


The Optimist Club of West Lorne recently donated $500 to the newly formed girls Bantam and Midget West Elgin Volleybal Club. Accepting the cheque are at left Kim Penney, Treas. and Kari Barber, Chairperson of West Elgin Volleyball from Karen Goncalves, Pres. of the Optimist Club of West Lorne. Missing from photo are coaches Carrie Ostram and Krista Price. NOV 4/02

SPORTS 2003

JAN. 13, 2003

Skater of the month



Trena Lebedz is West Elgin Figure Skating Club's Program Assistant for the month of November. Trena was selected for her attendance, enthusiasm and hard work during training. Lebedz wins a $10 voucher from Kools Kitchen.

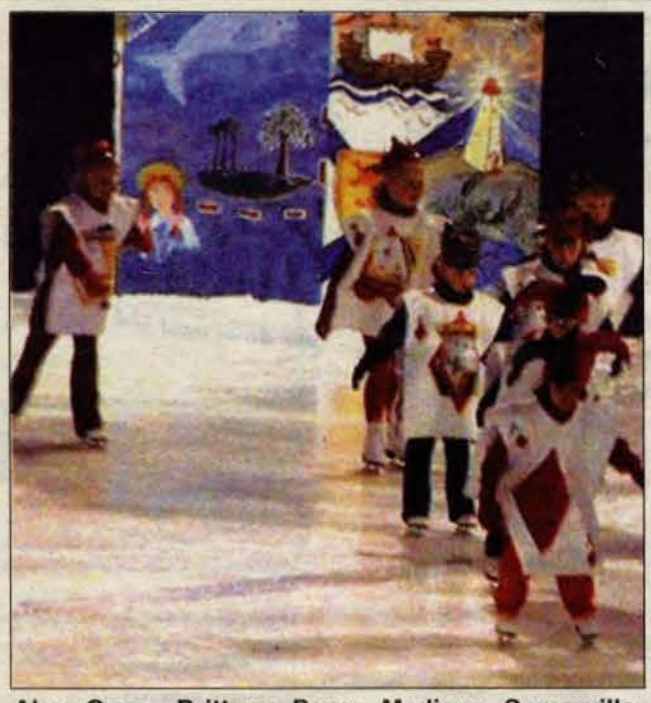
JAN. 27/03

Figure skater of the month



Congratulations to Cassandra Clayworth who was West Elgin Skating Club's Program Assistant of the Month in December. Cassandra received a gift certificate to "Kool's Kitchen" to acknowledge her hard work and volunteer efforts. Congratulations Cassandra!

MAR. 6, 2003 The Chronicle



Alex Goos, Brittany Perry, Madison Somerville, Cassidy Van Dyk, Bernadette Welch, Sierra Poels and Kelsey Slater were among the Deck of Cards that took to the ice.



It was standing room only for both performances of the West Elgin Skating Club's 48th annual Skating Carnival on March 1 at the arena. This year's theme was "Oh Canada", a creative skate across Canada in music and costumes with a spectacular flag finale to a patriotic ovation of "Oh, Canada". Club coaches Patsy McGill, Pam Parezanovic, Beth Evans and Renee Bergey worked on the event with all the skaters. Above, a group of young skaters portray Arctic Life in Canada.

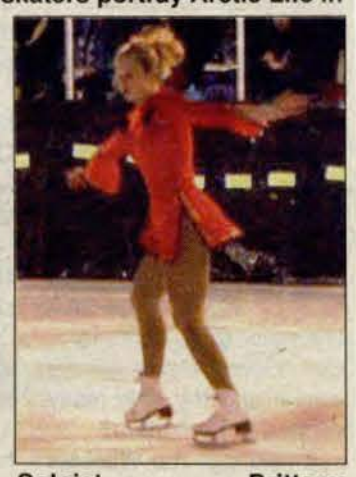
Oh Canada carnival



Brianna Downie, Rachel Frizzel, Madison Long, Sierra Poels, Anita Rastapkevicius, Jenna Verboom, Alicia Doylek, Nicolette Gowan, Nicole Miller, Shannon Pyka and Kelsey Vandenberg took to the ice as Anne of Green Gables.



A group of skaters represents Canada's "Snow-birds".



Soloist Brittany Eichenberger performs.

APR. 24, 2003 The Chronicle

Optimists - 'Friends of youth'- proud donators



The Optimist Club of West Lorne recently made a $300 donation to the West Elgin Gym Club to be used towards new equipment. The West Elgin Gym Club offers an excellent recreational program to the youth in our area including Bothwell and Glencoe. The club will meet every Saturday from 9am to 12pm at the Rodney Recreation Centre, starting Sept 20. If you would like more information about the Gym Club call 785-0730. Pictured are Optimist President Karen Goncalves (left) presenting the clubs donation to West Elgin Gym Club President Jill Downie.



The West Lorne Comets Novice House League team won the Tri-County House League Championship as well as ending the regular season as champions. They won 10 of 12 regular season games with 96 goals. They won all eight playoff games and won both games in the two-game finals with 11 different players getting the total of 14 points. The team includes: Andrew Barfett, Stephen Carter, David Given, Matthew Hooghiem, Hassen Jabara, Bryan Johnston, Malcolm McWilliam, Brett Ozinga, Cody Parker, Scott Payne, Eric Roodzant, Jason Timmermans, Brandin Vaterlaus, David Vergeer, Jason Westelaken and Stephen Wilkins with coach Albert Vergeer, manager Marty Given, assistant coach Ed Roodzant and trainer Scott Carter. APR. 3/03

SPORTS 2003



The West Lorne Midgets are the C Division champions in the Shammrock League, defeating Thedford in a best of three series to claim the series and championship titles. The team won its final game with a decisive 5-1 score. The team includes: back, left, Bill Okolisan, trainer/assistant coach, Bob McDowell, head coach, John Drummelsmith, trainer, middle row, Morgan McWilliams, Rob Thomson, Donald Drummelsmith, Cody Dinga, Andrew Coates, Jake Fischer, Jan Kool, Jon McDowell, Justin Oliveira, front row, Jeff Okolisan, Kyle Chouinard, Ben Schnekenberger, Josh Knight, Craig Hoglund, Trevor Vandenberg and Kyle Schweitzer. Absent is manager Nick Coates.

APR. 3/03

FEB. 24/03



Junior, intermediate and senior skaters from the West Elgin Skating Club competed with superior results at the Kent Regional Skating Competition in Blenheim Feb. 15-16. Skaters included, front, left, Brianna Downie, Nicole Pelcz, Nicole Vergeer, Nicole Carew, Karlie Willcocks, Kelsey Conway, Zoey VanDyk, front, left, Jennica Slaats, Sabrina Griffin, Shelby Nielson, Khloe Beer and Amy Oliveria.



Others competing at the Kent Regional event included, back, left, Brittany Eichenberger, Danielle McGill, Megan Slaats and Trena Lebedz. Front, left, Cassidy Sabo, Cassandra Clayworth, Candice Conway, Kylie Beer, Kayla Poels and Hailey Slaats. Absent is Chris Van Raay, Emily Vandenberg and Emma Wilkins.



Congratulations to the Junior members of the West Elgin Skating Club who shone in their first competition this season. The team represented the club in two Stars Unlimited Competitions this past weekend: Thedford and Dorchester. The team(front row) Khloe Beer (3rd), Kylie Beer (3rd), Shelby Nielson (1st). (back row): Brianna Downie (3rd), Karlie Willcocks (2nd), Zoey Van Dyk, Candice Conway (2nd), Nicole Peicz, Vicky Towers, Jennica Slaats, and Matthew Westelaken (1st). Absent from photo were: Nicole Carew, Kelsey Conway, Sabrina Griffin (3rd), Larissa May (1st), Alicia Oliveria (1st) and Mikayla Myers.

SPORTS 2003



The West Lorne House League Bowling Champions include Anne Neil, Theresa Schnekenburger, Eileen Kozdras and Joe Kovacs (pictured above). Bowlers of the year are Anne Neil and Ted Vandenberg. Most improved bowlers are Bill and Elsie Beaudoin.

MAY 1 2003



The West Lorne Bowling Play-Off Champions include Edna Schleihauf, Hubert Vergeer, Ted Vandenberg and Eva Kirschner (pictured above). Those earning "100 pins over average" include Eva Kirschner, Bill Beaudoin, Lothar Weber, Doris Sudicky and Joe Kovacs. The league high single and high average include Doris Sudicky and Joe Kovacs. The league high triple honours went to Eva Kirschner and Gary Neil.

The Chronicle JULY 10, 2003





Canada Day Committee member Robert White, left and Optimist member Bill Goncalves, right, hold the ribbon as West Elgin Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick and West Lorne Optimist Club President Karen Goncalves cut the ribbon to officially open the skateboard park in West Lorne. The Optimist Club spearheaded efforts to build parks for skateboarding in West Lorne and Rodney through a Trillium Foundation grant and support from the club and municipality. The official opening was held last Tuesday, Canada Day. At right, Andrew Gaigneur of Dutton shows his abilities in a competition held after the official opening.

Skate parks officially opened

Event marked by skateboarding competition at West Lorne's park

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

While unofficially in use for the past year, West Lorne and Rodney's skateboard parks were officially opened on Canada Day with a short ceremony and a skateboarding competition in West Lorne.

"It was very much needed because there were a lot of skaters at the main intersection at the West Lorne Complex," said Optimist Club president Karen Goncalves.

She said the kids were boarding on dangerous corners and were going to get hurt.

Working with West Elgin, West Lorne Optimist past-president John Eagleson did the groundwork for a Trillium Foundation grant and $22,000 was received toward both parks.

The Optimist Club and the municipality raised funds for the rest and two skate parks were put in place last summer.

With proper signage and the rest of the groundwork completed later, the parks were not officially opened until last week.

Skaters from St. Thomas came to compete with local boarders on Canada Day for the first competition at the park.

"It was nice to see a competition. We'd love to see more going on," said Goncalves.

She said since the park was built most of the skateboarders and BMX bikers have moved off the streets and into the park.

"We proved ourselves right. We got them off the street," said Goncalves, glad to see how much the park is being used.

They only thing she wasn't glad about was the graffiti that was painted on the ramps a few days before the opening.

Recreation Director Jeff Slater said obscenities and symbols were painted on the park in an oil-based paint that makes it hard to remove.

By Friday, they had the graffiti removed and are preparing to paint areas where there are concrete blocks to make it easier to remove any future graffiti if an incident happens again.

The park is for the kids and Goncalves is hoping they will continue to take good care of it.

She is also asking the boarders and bikers to use safety equipment.

Not one of the more than 15 competitors on Canada Day had used safety equipment.

JUNE 12/03 The Chronicle



Donation toward new equipment

West Lorne Minor Soccer president Chris Leys was a guest at the Optimist Club of West Lorne's recent meeting where he received a donation of $1000 toward new equipment for our local soccer teams. Presenting the cheque is Optimist president Karen Goncalves. The Optimist Club will also be providing their food booth during this years soccer cup day held at Miller Park this August.

More than 1,000 play in soccer cup tournament

AUG. 14 2003

By Chris Leys

More than 1,000 players and coaches on 64 teams arrived in West Lorne last Saturday to participate in the SWEMSA annual soccer cup tournament.

In addition to the players and coaches there were a large number of siblings, parents and grandparents on hand to cheer on their teams.

The league consists of teams from Rodney, Glencoe, Wallacetown, Shedden and West Lorne and covers age groups from Under 5 to Under 17.

A total of 112 games were played on Saturday and in the week leading up to the tournament. Despite the heat and humidity, the turnout for the event was exceptional and the players gave it their all for their respective teams. The day started at around 7 a.m. as volunteers arrived to ensure that the fields were ready as well as setting up the concession stands.

The first games of the day kicked off at 8 a.m. and the last game ended at around 6:30 p.m.

The success of the day was due to the hard work of the SWEMSA league, the West Lorne Soccer Club, the West Elgin Legion, the West Lorne Optimists, the West Lorne Shootings Stars Under 12 Girls team and parents, all the referees, the players, coaches and a special effort by the Parks and Recreation staff who ensured the fields were in perfect condition.

The day was very exciting for all participants and was played in the spirit of fair play as there were no significant issues or complaints raised.

The league consists of 11 separate age divisions and all but one of these had been settled before the tournament.

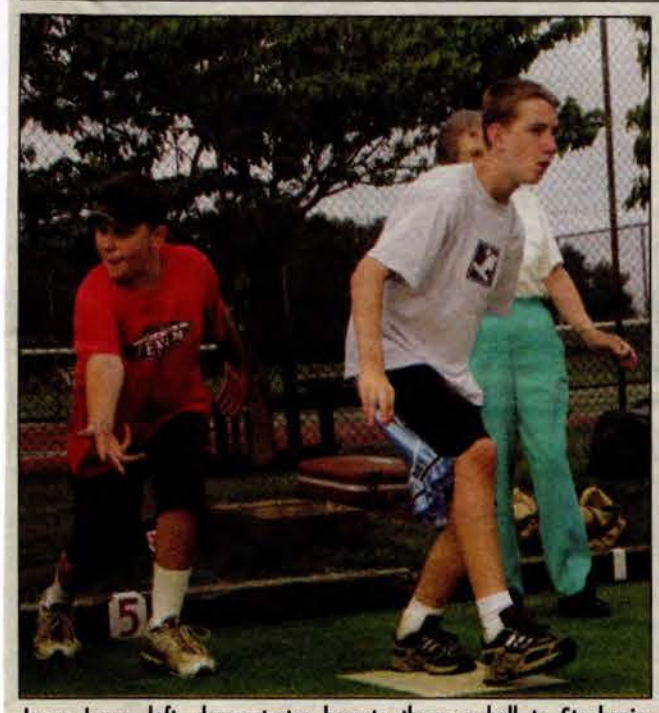
West Lorne and Shedden lead the way with four league titles each, followed by Glencoe and Wallacetown with one each. The Under 16 Girls title requires one final game between Wallacetown and West Lorne to decide the league championship. The league Champions were Under 5 – Wallacetown "A", Under 6 – West Lorne Cougars, Under 7 – Shedden "B", Under 8 – Glencoe "A", Under 9 – Shedden "A", Under 11 Girls – West Lorne, Under 11 Boys – Shedden, Under 13 Girls – West Lorne, Under 14 Boys – West Lorne, and Under 17 Boys – Shedden.

On Saturday the teams were playing for the ten Cup championship titles available. After many hard fought games the winners were eventually determined.

Under 6 – West Lorne Cougars, Under 7 - Shedden, Under 8 - Wallacetown "B", Under 9 - Glencoe "B", Under 11 Girls – West Lorne, Under11 - Boys Shedden, Under 13 Girls – Wallacetown, Under 14 Boys – West Lorne, Under 16 Girls – West Lorne and Under 17 Boys – Shedden.

SPORTS

AUG 2003



Jason Jones, left, demonstrates how to throw a ball to Stephanie Thibodeau, not seen, while Nick Keim makes his shot. They were among a group of young bowlers at a special event held by the West Lorne Lawn Bowling Club last Tuesday night.

Chronicle photo



Vicki Close, kneeling, shows her friend Kaitlyn Claxton, how to use lawn-bowling equipment.

New generation learning about lawnbowling

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

An older generation is trying to pass on to a younger one a love for the sport of lawnbowling and the West Lorne Lawnbowling Club made some inroads toward that with two special lawnbowling events last week.

"It's not just for elderly people. It's for any age group," said Joan Lashbrook this year's lawnbowling club president.

Lawnbowling organizations as a whole are trying to revitalize the game and attract a younger crowd.

Locally, volunteers from the club teach the sport to physical education students at West Elgin Secondary School and last Tuesday night, youth were invited to the club to try the sport.

Several club members brought grandchildren to the evening, showing just how much the sport's dominant generation has aged, with two full generations of potential members to draw from now.

"We're trying to get rid of the stigma that it's an older person's game," said Lashbrook.

She said generations ago it used to be a men's sport, like most activities in the 1940s and 50s, but eventually became a couple's event by the 1960s.

But as the sport evolved in the 1960s, more afternoon tournaments began taking place which left the sport more open to retired people, rather than the younger couples that used to play it.

Lashbrook said it simply evolved into a sport that was more accessible to an older crowd and the younger generations were lost.

Now, with weekend tournaments and clubs switching back to evening play, there is more opportunity for younger people to get involved.

It's one of the reasons Lashbrook said they are focussing on raising money to upgrade the lighting at the club, to allow for more evening play.

While they are encouraging youth and a younger generation of adults to get involved, she said it does require a bit of strength to throw the balls down the greens which might be a problem from younger children.

About 10 youth came out to the Tuesday event including Vicki Close whose grandfather, Lashbrook got her started in the sport.

Wilson had wanted Close to come to meet a German exchange student that was going to be at the club for an event so that he had someone younger to talk to and Close learned to play the game with her grandfather at the club.

She decided to stay and is the club's youngest member.

"It's a lot of fun. You get to meet new people," she said. "The competition is fun."

She said it takes a little practice but added it's no harder than learning how to throw a ball down a bowling alley.

"It's just like regular bowling on grass," she said.

She brought her friend Kaitlyn Claxton from Wallacetown to the club to give the sport a try last week.

Claxton said it sounded like it would be fun and wanted to give it a try, not knowing anything about the sport before.

The club also held an evening last Thursday night for adults to give the sport a try.

Members of the club were there both nights to teach people the skills needed to play, the rules of the game and gave everyone a chance to play a few games.

The club has enough spare equipment to teach people how to play the game but Lashbrook said once someone decides to stay with it, they need to get their own set of bowls because they come in different sizes to fit a person's hands.

A set of balls runs between $300 and $400 but will last forever and Lashbrook said it's an inexpensive game to play.

SPORTS 2003

NOV 6 — The Chronicle



SKATING CHAMPS...

Chris Van Raay (West Elgin Skating Club) and Kaitlyn Lambert (Glencoe Skating Club) tied for first place in the pairs dance competition at the Grimsby Figure Skating Invitational on Nov. 2. This is one of two qualifying events for the Western Development team.

Chronicle photo



West Lorne's Novice A Travel team were the Black and Gold Tournament Champions on the weekend. The team includes, back left, Albert Vergeer (assistant coach), John Frizzell (trainer), Darrell Dick (assistant trainer), Tim Horvat (coach), Christine Johnston (Manager), middle row, Andrew Barfett, Ryan Fizzell, Gina Toth, MacKenzie Dick, Bryan Johnston, front, left, David Vergeer, Scott Paine, Bo Horvat, Matthew Mooghiem, Kurtis Gosnell and laying down, Troy Winger.

NOV. 2003

Bonnie's Photography photos

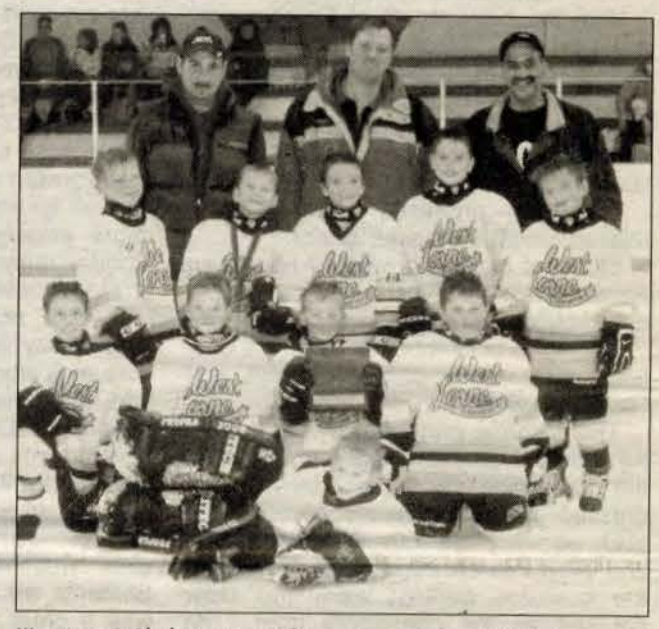
Local teams succeed at Black and Gold

By John Frizzell
West Elgin Minor Hockey

West Lorne hosted its 12th Annual Black and Gold tournament for Novice and Atom players Nov. 6-9 and the event was a big success.

Twenty-two teams competed in three divisions including four West Lorne teams.

Our Atom travel team defeated Strathroy 4-3 Friday night and lost a tough semifinal game to Port Stanley 5-4. Our Novice Gold Local team lost a heartbreaker Friday night in overtime to Port Stanley 2-1 and then went to a shootout against Dresden but lost 2-1.



West Lorne's Black Novice Local team were Black and Gold Tournament Champions. They include, back, left, Tim Hansen (assistant coach), Tony Poels (trainer), Kal Tabara (coach), middle, Tristan Rohde, Brandon DeCook, Brandin Vaterlavs, Steven Wilkins, William Malek, front, Austin Hansen, Eddie Marshall, Logan Poels, Jacob Goos and laying, Derrick Somerville. Absent is Hassan Jabara and Dorota Malek (manager).

The West Lorne Novice Black Local team walked away with the "B" championship. Losing a nail biter Thursday night to Ridgetown 5-4 in overtime didn't get our kids down. They bounced back with 3-1 wins against both Lambeth and Dresden to claim their championship medals.

The West Lorne Novice Travel team continued their winning ways by claiming the "A" championship. They won their pool by defeating Lambeth 6-1 and shutting out Port Stanley 5-0. In an exciting and close final they defeated a strong Mt. Brydges team 5-4 to claim their championship medals.

Local businesses, volunteers and parents helped make the tournament a great success.

WEST LORNE W. I. 2001

ACTVITIES

Women's Institute look at personal highlights of summer

The West Lorne Women's Institute met at the West Lorne Town Complex with seven members present. Roll call was "your highlights from your summer. The guest speaker was Elanie Brown, who spoke on the Sunshine Foundation. She explained that the Sunshine Foundation was started in London by a Police Officer whose son was ill. The Foundation has spread from London to surrounding counties, from British Columbia to Newfoundland. They help a child fulfill a dream. Elaine showed two videos, one of children who have had a dream fulfilled and the other was of an air lift of children and volunteers to Disneyland in California. Mary Belle thanked Elaine very much and presented her with a donation to the Sunshine Foundation on behalf of the West Lorne Women's Institute.

An email was read from Kathy Nesbitt from the Elgin Health Unit about the Elgin Safety Team. The team is planning their "Don't Fall in the Fall," safety session and are asking for assistance to co-host the session. Discussion was done, and there will be more information for the next meeting.

The Cancer Tea is to be held on October 13. All members are encouraged to sell their tickets for the Tea, which has a prize donated by the Women's Institute of a dinner (Roast beef or turkey) for 10 people. All proceeds to go to the West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary/Cancer.

Next meeting to be held on Oct 2 with Mary Liepmann, Mary Lippold and Leola Lawrence in charge of the program.

President Mary Belle Cook adjourned the meeting. 2001

NOV 2001

West Lorne Women's Institute had exchange student as guest

West Lorne Women's Institute was held in the town complex with 10 members in attendance.

Mary Belle Watterworth introduced Nicole McPhail the guest speaker. Nicole told how students are carefully and thoroughly screened to be paired up with compatible students. She and her new friend Katarina spent three months here with the McPhail family and then Nicole spent three months with Katarina's family. Their friendship continues as they converse weekly alternating speaking German and English. Helen Mooser thanked Nicole and presented her with a monetary gift.

Olive Chambers chaired the meeting in the absence of the president Mary Belle Cook. Following the opening exercises the minutes of the previous meeting were read. Treasurer report was given.

Letter of business were also read. Cupboard available over the stove for the Horticulture Society to have no lock.

Donation to be given to the library to help with Growing With Books.

Members were encouraged to attend Don't Fall in the Fall which was held November 15 in the Legion.

Profits on the tickets sold for the dinner, for the cancer society was $1,160. Thanks to who made this such a success.

Mary Belle Cook was to lay the wreath on November 11.

A delicious lunch was served by Mary Belle Watterworth and Nancy Baily.



Members of the Don't Fall in the Fall team. (See front page story). From l-r is Madeleine Cross (Clachan W.I.), Shelly Vergeer (WE Community Health Centre), Anita Van Raes (West Lorne W.I.), Mary Howard (Four Counties Hospital Services). The Don't Fall in the Fall workshop is November 15 at the West Elgin Legion in West Lorne.

West Lorne Women's Institute hold Cancer Tea

The October meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institute was held at the West Lorne Complex with 10 members and five guests in attendance. President Mary Belle Coal opened the meeting with Women's Institute Ode followed by Mary Stewart Collect. Minutes of the last meeting were read.

Mary Liepmann introduced the guest speaker Ann Carmichael from the Madame Vanier Children Services in London. Ann has been with this service for 14 years and is a family preservation worker.

The centre is a treatment centre for emotionally disturbed children.

She works with the troubled families. Lack of communication among families is of great concern.

The Children's Aid Society works closely with the Madame Vanier services. Children are referred to the centre from schools, family doctor, social workers and psychologists.

Leola Lawrence thanked Ann for a most informative presentation and presented her with a monetary gift.

Following refreshments final arrangements were made for the Cancer Tea which was held at the West Lorne Complex October 13, with West Lorne and Shedden WI's as hostesses.

Registery book was donated by Mary Belle Watterworth which can be used for coming consecutive years.

Collections was made to buy supplies for the kitchen donation made to the family fun fest to be held in Rodney.

Ladies agreed to redecorate a room in the YWCA in St. Thomas with Helen Mooser and Nancy Baillie offering to do the painting.

Shirley Walker offered to look after Bobier Villa Tea Room on October 14.

London Area Convention is in Mitchell on October 29.

One hundred dollars is to be donated to the Red Cross for USA Relief.

Next meeting is November 6 at 7:30 pm at the West Lorne Complex. All ladies of the community are welcome.

Shedden and West Lorne Womens' Institutes have success



Mary Belle Cook, at left, President of the West Lorne Women's Institute presents Kelly Noah, a Montreal Bank employee in West Lorne, with the winning dinner certificate. Noah won a dinner for 10 sponsored by the West Lorne Women's Institute. OCT 2001

The Shedden and West Lorne Branches of the Women's Institute hosted a very successful Cancer Tea on Saturday, October 13 at the West Lorne Complex.

Seventy-three ladies from the different Elgin County Branches signed the guest book. A total of $1870.33 was raised for the West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary. This will be used to aid our local cancer patients. Winners of the grocery draw was Grace Blewett. Kay Waite won the garden basket.

These prizes were donated by Shedden Womens Institute. Kelly Noah was the lucky winner of the Dinner for 10 draw. This prize was donated by the West Lorne Womens Institute. Thanks to all the Women's Institute Branches for their generous support and to all other ladies for attending.

The West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary has recently donated $5,000 to the Dutton Medical Clinic and also $5,000 to St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital for a micro-imaging machine.



WEST LORNE W. I.
2001

WE HOSTED THE
CANCER TEA
OCT. 13
AT WEST LORNE
COMPLEX
SHEDDEN ASSISTED

73 ATTENDED
$1870.33 WAS RAISED
FOR THE WEST ELGIN
DAFFODIL AUXILIARY.



LOIS CARROLL - LEOLA LAWRENCE
PRESENTS LOIS WITH A GIFT
IN APPRECIATION OF HER
MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE WEST ELGIN DAFFODIL AUX.



SETTING UP



KAY WAITE FAY THORN

WEST LORNE W.I. 2002

2002 - 2003 Exectutives

Honorary President : MaryBelle Cook
President : Mary Liepmann
Vice President : Shirley Walker
Secretary : Anita VanRaes
Treasurer: Mary Lippold
Tweedsmuir History : Leola Lawrence
District Convenor: Shirley Walker
Olive Chambers (Alternate)
Elgin Museum : Shirley Walker
Twila McWilliam (Alternate)
Pianst : Shirley Walker
Auditor : Leola Lawrence
Bob Walker
Program Co-Ordinators : Mary Liepmann, Mary Lippold, Shirely Walker, Leola Lawrence, Anita VanRaes
P.R.O. : Anita VanRaes

MEMBERS

Nancy Baillie : 768-0468
Olive Chambers : 768-6022
MaryBelle Cook : 768-1222
Fran Graham : 768-1798
Marilyn Jamieson : 785-0822
Georgian Jensen : 768-1972
Leola Lawrence: 768-1526
Mary Liepmann : 768-1224
Mary Lippold : 768-1244
Twila McWilliam : 785-0788
Helen Mooser : 768-1122
Anita VanRaes : 768-1819
Eva VanRaes : 768-2808
Shirley Walker : 768-1095
Marybelle Watterworth : 768-1827

MEETINGS FOR ~~2001~~ 2002

AUGUST 14 - 10AM Coffee at Mary Liepmann's
Bring a new Member.

SEPTEMBER 18 - Plowing Match in Glencoe.
Meet at West Elgin Town Complex 9:30AM

OCTOBER 1 - "Agriculture" MUNROE HONEY 847-5333
Roll Call : Can you remember an old fashion dairy item?
Motto : Canada has it use it before we loose it.
Program: Leola Lawrence & ~~Frances Graham~~ NANCY BAILLIE

OCTOBER 19 : Cancer Tea at West Elgin Town Compl

NOVEMBER 5 - "Industry" 316.00
Roll Call : Name a Canadian article made close to home.
Motto: We learn to do by doing.
Program : Anita VanRaes & Marybelle Watterworth

DECEMBER 1 - "Gun Crackers" Play in Dutton
Pot Luck Christmas Supper at West Elgin Town Complex followed by
Secret Pal Gifts & Sing Song

JANUARY 7 - "Travel"
Roll Call : A place you would like to visit.
Motto: Travel east, travel west, after all home is best.
Program: Helen Mooser & Georgian Jensen

FEBRUARY - Winter Picnic

MARCH 4 - "Education"
Roll Call : If you were a student today what would you choose as a profession.
Motto: Treasure the past but don't dwell on it.
Program: ~~Nanee Baillie~~ & Mary Lippold
FRANCES GRAHAM

APRIL 1 - Annual Meeting & Silent Auction
Lunch : Shirley Walker & Twila McWilliams

MAY 6 - "Family"
Roll Call : One way to stay healthy.
Motto: Life is like a sandwich. The more you add to it the better it is.
Program : Mary Liepmann & Olive Chambers

JUNE 3 - Trip

WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE 2002



QUILT MADE AND DONATED FOR THE CANCER TEA. BY RUBY McGUGAN
LEOLA LAWRENCE, MARY LIPPOLD, HELEN MOOSER, NANCY BAILLIE, MARY LIEPMANN SEATED RUBY McGUGAN, HELEN VAN BRENK

A quilt of compassion



Local Women's Institute members Leola Lawrence (West Lorne), Mary Lippold (West Lorne), Ruby McGugan (Wallacetown), Helen Mooser (West Lorne), Nancy Bailey (West Lorne), Mary Liepmann (West Lorne) and Helen Van Brenk (Pres. Wallacetown).

Ruby McGugan who lives just outside of Wallacetown, has made a full-sized quilt to donate to West Lorne Women's Institute for a draw to be held on October 19 at the upcoming Cancer Tea. The Cancer Tea, an annual event, will be held this year at the West Lorne Community Complex.

This year the the West Lorne members were in a jam, without a quilt to draw with time running out. The members asked for help from the neighbouring WI's.

McGugan, a member of the Wallacetown Women's Institute said she quickly decided to donate her time behind the quilt but the quilt itself is actually a donation from the Wallacetown club. McGugan said last week the quilt was a joy to make and she was able to make it because of donations of material from different people over the years.

Members of the West Lorne WI said they are forever grateful to Mrs McGugan for the gracious donation of the quilt for the draw.

Tickets for the October 19 draw are now available at the Bank of Montreal in West Lorne or call 768-1244 or 768-7224. Money raised from the Cancer Tea provide many different services to cancer patients in Elgin. Please support it. 2002

West Lorne Women's Institute news

The October meeting of the West Lorne Women's Institue was held at Munroe Honey in Alvinston. Twelve members were in attendance.

Before the business meeting, the members had the opportunity to tour Munroe Honey. It was explained to the members about their production of the honey, products produced (i..e. honey, cream honey, cream for skin irritations which is not directly made at Munroe, and wine) and the separation process of the honey. The members saw the process of the making of Munroe "Mead" (honey wine). After the tour, the members were able to purchase some of the honey and other items at the Munroe Gift Shop. It was truly an enjoyable tour.

Members were reminded of the Cancer Tea held on October 19th.

The District Convention is on October 29th, in Shedden. Shirley Walker and Olive Chambers to attend.

A committee was formed to start planning the 90th Anniversary of the West Lorne Women's Institute next year.



2002

West Lorne WI quilt draw



West Lorne Womens Institute held its annual Cancer Tea on October 19 and drew the winners of two quilts. The winner of the large quilt was Donna Hooper of St. Thomas and the smaller quilt was won by Twila McWilliam of Rodney. Pictured are Ruby McGugan who made the large quilt and drew the winners and West Lorne WI President Helen Mooser announcing the names.

WEST LORNE W. I. 2002



WE HELPED
CELEBRATE
WALLACETOWN
90TH ANNIVERSARY



FRANCE SOBIERALASKI
ETERTAINS

WEST LORNE DONATES TO THE GREAT RIDE 'N' STRIDE



MIKE MOOSER, NANCY BAILLIE, MARY LIPPOLD

RIDERS AND STRIDERS



2003 WEST LORNE W.I.

CATERING CREW



ANITA VAN RAES, LEOLA LAWRENCE, SHIRLEY WALKER
MARY LIPPOLD, FRANCES GRAHAM, OLIVE CHAMBERS
PHOTO TAKEN BY MARY LIEPMANN, OUR PRESIDENT



GEORGINA JENSEN, ANITA, LEOLA, SHIRLEY
NANCY BAILLIE, MARY, FRANCES & OLIVE

CANCER TEA
2003

Come to tea in support of Cancer

By Norma McMillan
For The Chronicle

West Elgin Residents, the St. Thomas Elgin General and Four Counties Hospitals benefit from the moneys raised from the West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary-Cancer Tea which will be held this year at Lawrence Station Hall, hosted by the Lawrence Kensington Club on Oct. 25, 2003 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

There will be a bake table and "Country Store" along with refreshments.

Tickets have been on sale and will be the day of the tea for a hand-crafted quilt, crocheted afghan and several gift baskets. The draw for these items will take place at 11:00 a.m.

The history of how the tea and draw started, dates back to 1956. About that time a local doctor's wife started driving cancer patients for treatment, doing home care duties and even helping financially. As time went on others came to her rescue with financial assistance and in particular the Women's Institute. All this was prior to any government medical plans.

In 1967 the Daffodil Auxiliary applied for a charity number so receipts could be issued to individuals contributing to either the Welfare Fund or Cancer Fund.

For more than 27 years a Quilting Group from the hamlet of Fingal has donated a special quilt for a draw to raise money. This year the quilt has been donated by the Lawrence Kensington Club. The quilt was made by the late Marion Campbell.

An increasing number of people, over the past 15 years, have made memorial donations to the Daffodil Society in lieu of flowers.These two sources of funds have allowed caregivers to attend to the needs of local patients and make sizeable donations to local hospitals - St. Thomas Elgin General and Four Counties.

In 1977 a beautiful Bobier Villa was built in Dutton, in 1999 the auxiliary purchased a Patient Mechanical Lift for Bobier Villa, in 2001 a donation was made to the new Dutton Medical Centre and in 2003 the auxiliary purchased a special release mattress for the Bobier Villa.

To our knowledge there is no other Registered Organization in Ontario or Canada that can raise funds for cancer and not be required to forward the funds to the Cancer Society. Come, support a community event that benefits so many.



PRIZE QUILT:
Pat Oldham, left, of the Kensington Club, and Mary Liepmann, president of the West Elgin Daffodil Society, show off a quilt made by the late Marion Campbell. The quilt was a raffle prize at a Daffodil Tea for the West Elgin Daffodil Society hosted last Saturday by the Kensington Club at Lawrence Station Hall. *(T-J photo)*



COFFEE BREAK FOR CANCER...

The Kensington Club of Lawrence Station hosted a West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary Cancer Tea and Coffee Break Oct. 25.

Submitted photo

CHRONICLE



Shirley Longhurst (of the Kensington Club), Norma McMillan (of the Daffodil Society), and Mary Liepmann (president of the Daffodil society), show off the beautiful work of the Fingal Quilters. A draw, bake sale and coffee break held at the Lawrence Station Hall raised about $2000.00 for the Daffodil society on October 25th

The BANNER/Al Kirk

WEST LORNE W. I. 2003

West Lorne WI donates to school

Nine members of the West Lorne Women's Institute met at the West Lorne Town Complex on Sept. 2. 2003

President Mary Liepmann led in the singing of the WI Ode.

Secretary Anita VanRaes read a letter from the Elgin Federation of Agriculture in regards to the Hall of Fame Awards. The awards will be discussed at the October meeting.

It was mentioned by secretary Anita VanRaes that a letter had been received from Karen Roodzant (parent rep of the Aldborough School Playground Committee) in regards to a contribution to updating play equipment at the school. With little discussion it was decided to donate $100 to the school.

Kiwanis suppers are fast approaching and volunteers to cook the suppers were appointed.

The London Area convention is Oct. 7 and President Mary Liepmann and Shirley Walker are going.

The institute is looked after the Bobier Villa Tea Room on Sept. 14.

The guest speaker for the evening was Shelly Coad from "Sisters Pace Fitness" in West Lorne.

She explained the fitness program and equipment available to the members. She told us of the benefits of exercising which a couple of members are, losing inches, increasing metabolism, toning up muscle and lowering cholesterol levels.

A question and answer period followed the talk. Lunch was then enjoyed by all, served by Mary Liepmann.

Cancer survivors speak to WI

The West Lorne Women's Institute met at the West Lorne Town Complex on Oct. 7. Guest speaker Linda Kuska and Grace Wilson spoke on being members of the "Dragon Boat" in London. The team consists of 35 Breast Cancer Survivors. The team was formed in February 2000. Linda has rowed with the team four years and Grace for one years. The ladies practice on the Thames River during the summer months and then in a pool in the winter months. The team is going to Vancouver in June '04 to race for the first time.

Mary Liepmann reported on the Convention held in Embro. A thank you note from the Rodney Fair Board was read. Our nominee for the Federation of Agriculture is to be Don Watterworth. A thank you note was also read from the WECHC for our support during the Seniors in the Park.

February 18, 2004 will be the Winter Picnic, probably in Fingal.

A reminder of the "Don't Fall in the Fall Event" at the West Lorne Legion.

A wreath will be laid at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day.

A reminder to bring paper products for the Daffodil Society next meeting. OCT /03

Mary Liepman

WEST ELGIN SECONDARY SCHOOL

West Elgin Secondary School

Commencement

Saturday Afternoon, October 25, 2003
In the School Gymnasium
at 1:00 p.m.

Laura Jones ..... Ontario Scholar
- 5'th Year Honour Award
- Grace & Earl Lemon Scholarship
- Adah Chapter #276 O.E.S. Serenity Award
- Canada Trust Good Sport Award
- Dutton High School 50'th Reunion Award

Kristopher King ..... Ontario Scholar
- 1'st Honour Award
- Home Hardware Student Council President Award

Stephanie Lackey ..... Ontario Scholar
- 5'th Honour Award
- Krebz Jewellery Valedictorian Award
- West Elgin Lodge #386 Award

Matt LeBlanc ..... Student Council Awards for 4C Mathematics and Manufacturing
- Praxair Gases Welding Award

Amanda Lee ..... Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary

Josh Lilley ..... Erie Flooring Technical Award

Simone Loeters ..... Ontario Scholar
- 1'st Honour Award
- Special Chemistry Award
- Governor General Volunteer Award

Joseph Lyons ..... Ontario Scholar
- 5'th Honour Award
- Canadian Legion Branch 525 (Rodney) Scholarship
- Mark Van Brenk Memorial Award

Robert McCallum ..... West Lorne Horticulture Bursary
- Rodney/Aldborough Agricultural Society Bursary
- Victor C. McMillan Award in Agriculture
- Dutton Dunwich Horticulture Bursary

Jared McColl ..... Technical Certificate
- Student Council Award for 4C Transportation Technology
- Miller Motors Grade 12 Automotive Award

Amy McLandress ..... Ontario Scholar
- 4'th Honour Award
- Student Council Awards for 4U Data Management and Chemistry
- Student Council Awards for 4M Sociology and Accounting
- Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary

Megan McLandress ..... Ontario Scholar
- 4'th Honour Award
- Student Council Awards of 4U English and 4M Sociology
- Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary

Nicole McPhail ..... Ontario Scholar
- 1'st Honour Award
- IODE Bursary

Matthew McWilliam ..... Ontario Scholar
- 3'rd Honour Award
- Victor C. McMillan Memorial Bursary

Laura Milne ..... Sloan McKillop E.C.E. Scholarship

Ian Molnar ..... Ontario Scholar
- 3'rd Honour Award
- Krebsz Jewellery Valedictorian Award
- Wallacetown Optimist Computer Scholarship

Jennifer (Lewis) Moss ..... Ontario Scholar
- Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary

Denis Nash ..... Technical Certificate

Guida Neves ..... Business Education Certificate
- Erie Flooring Business Award
- Women's Institute Bursary

Nathan Newport ..... Ontario Scholar
- 4'th Honour Award
- Student Council Awards for 4U Geometry and 4M Computer & Info. Science
- District 184 Machinist Bursary
- KSR Dresden Industrial Award

Stephanie Oake ..... Business Education Certificate
- Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary

Cassandra Okolisan ..... Ontario Scholar
- 4'th Honour Award
- Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary
- Dutton Chamber of Commerce Award

Nellie Oliveira ..... Ontario Scholar
- 4'th Honour Award
- West Elgin Knights of Columbus Scholarship
- CUPE Local 4222 Award

Mallory Peternel ..... Ontario Scholar
- 4'th Honour Award
- E.F. Sercombe Bursary
- Ruth Marcou (Run for Ruth) Award

Juliet Prey ..... Ontario Scholar
- 4'th Honour Award
- Student Council Award for 4M Dramatic Arts
- Eagle Community Center Involvement Award

WEST LORNE W.I.
90TH ANNIVERSARY
1913 - 2003.



BACK ROW: Georgina JENSEN, Frances Graham, Olive Chambers
Mary Liepmann, Anita Van Raes, Helen Mooser, Leola Lawrence.
FRONT ROW: Mary Lippold, Mary Belle Watterworth, Mary Belle Cook
Twila McWilliams, Shirley Walker, Nancy Baillie.
ABSENT: Marilyn Jamieson.



PHOTOS BY
BONNIE McGILL

90th ANNIVERSARY Address

THE FIRST NINETY YEARS . . . . . .

On January 29, 1913, through the interest of Mrs. Tom Sims, wife of the editor of the ELGIN SUN, 60 ladies gathered at the OLD OPERA HOUSE, to organize a branch of the WOMEN'S institute. Four ladies came from RODNEY on the train to help organize the WEST LORNE BRANCH, Mrs. C.A. WRAY was the district president and Mrs. McLEVY was the district secretary. Officers were elected and many ladies paid their 25ç membership fees. Mrs. SIMS was elected president and Mrs. HUGH MC KILLOP was the sec/trea. The meetings were held the first friday of the month at 3 P.M. in the members homes. The meetings opened with the Maple Leaf forever and closed with GOD SAVE THE KING.

The war broke out shortly after, so the W.I. was very busy with the war efforts. The village was divided into 8 sections and each month it was canvaased for money with up to $100.00 being raised each month. They bought yarn and towelling, 48 pairs of socks were knit each month, besides towels, pillow cases, sheets and pjamas were sent each month. In November 1916 42 gift boxes were packed for local soldiers. Each month $10.00 was sent to the Prisoner's Gift Fund. They served banquets, had booth privelidges at the baseball games and lawn bowling. They also collecte papers. A banquet was held in 1919 for the veterans.

After all their war efforts were over another project was born the erection of the MEMORIAL HALL in the village - a tribute to the men from WEST LORNE and EAST ALDBOROUGH. The W.I. commettee went to the town and township concils to see if they could get a grant towards the building. Councils passed the by law so the members were busy again.
They catered,ran the booths,had St.Patrick's suppers, dutch suppers, put on plays and held an autographed quilt draw. In the Nov. 15,1923 minutes it was moved that they would donate another $1000.00 dollars. They still supported charities by giving to War Memorial Hospital,Institute for the Blind, Salvation Army etc.

In 1924 the W.I. loaned $500.00 to J.A.McKillop, J.B. Ferguson and Alex McCallum for which a signed mortgage on the property known as the baseball field. Interest rate 6% Per annum.

On Tues. June 3, 1930 the MEMORIAL HALL was officially opened. A baseball game between SHEDDEN and WEST LORNE was held. The W.I. held a tea in the afternoon and catered to the banquet. In the evening a concert was held.

The W.I. had pledged $3000.00 towards the hall. $2500.00 cash and the $500.00 mortgage. The W.I. had requested a room in the hall but because the government had given $2000.00 this could not be granted, and they could not accept the $500.00 mortgage but the $500.00 was forgiven and they said that the room in the would be known as the WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ROOM.

Mrs. Dugald McPherson's estate gave money for the Memorial Clock They held Mrs.McPherson in such high esteem that a moment of silence was held in June to honour her.

In Nov. 1930 the W.I. turned the mortgage over to the council thus completeing their $3000.00 obligation. The field was to be known as the baseball field.

After the opening, the W.I. held their meeting in the W.I. ROOM.

In the minutes the following years were mentioned as ordinary.

Then in 1939, the W.I. was busy again with their war work. Each month a box was packed for each of the local men overseas. They were also active with the RED CROSS.

OnJan.29,1947 a banquet was held for the returned veterans of WW11, with the W.I. assisting for the 250 attending.

On Jan.31 1950 WEST LORNE W.I. hosted the winter picnic for 206 members.

In Feb. 1963 the W.I. celebrated it's 50th anniversary with about 100 attending. It was interesting to note Our president's mother Mrs. Walter Cadogan helped decorate the cake..We now have 2nd and 3rd geration with Mary Liepmann and Anita Van Raes

With membership aging and other branches folding the WEST LORNE branch found that changes needed to be made. Mrs. Wolfgang Liepmann who had attended many International conventions did not want to see the branch disband. Mary Liepmann along with about 20 ladies decided to activate the branch. We met in the evening as many members worked. This was not popular with the former members.

We were rather low key but we held bake sales,garage sales and draws to support the local charities. We had interesting speakers and took in plays etc.

When the new complex was in the planning a member was on the board. We canvaased, sold tickets, catered and held draws. We donated $1000.00 to the fund and also the chairs.

WRITTEN BY LEOLA LAWRENCE

INVITATION TO AREA W.I.'S AND GUESTS:

WEST LORNE
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

90TH ANNIVERSARY

1913-2003

PLEASE JOIN US AS
WE CELEBRATE OUR
90th ANNIVERSARY

WED. APR. 2, 2003
2-4 PM

WEST LORNE
COMMUNITY COMPLEX

RSVP BY MAR. 26
LEOLA LAWRENCE
RR#2
WEST LORNE, ON, N0L 2P0

WEST LORNE

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

FOR HOME AND COUNTRY

90th ANNIVERSARY

April 2, 2003

59 ATTENDED

PROGRAM

O Canada

Institute Ode

West Lorne Women's Institute
90 Year History by
Leola Lawrence

Greetings - Duncan McPhail
Mayor

Greetings- Mike Mooser
West Elgin Councillor

Greetings - Steve Peters
M.P.P. Elgin, Middlesex, London

GUESTS

Greetings - Mary Veenstra
President Elgin County Women's Institute

ENTERTAINMENT

Frances Sobieralski

McWilliams Family

Courtesy - Mary Liepmann
President West Lorne Women's Institute

PROGRAMMES MADE BY - ANITA VAN RAES.



MARY VEENSTRA - PRESIDENT ELGIN COUNTY W.I.
MARY LIEPMANN - PRESIDENT WEST LORNE W.I.
GRAHAM WARWICK - DEPUTY MAYOR WEST ELGIN
MIKE MOOSER - WEST ELGIN COUNCILLOR
STEVE PETERS - M.P.P. ELGIN, MIDD., LONDON

WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEMBERS 2003

Mary Liepmann - President
Anita VanRaes - Secretary
Mary Lippold - Treasurer
Nancy Baillie
Olive Chambers
MaryBelle Cook
Frances Graham
Marilyn Jamieson
Georgina Jensen
Leola Lawrence
Twila McWilliam
Helen Mooser
Shirley Walker
MaryBelle Watterworth



GRAHAM WARWICK, LEOLA LAWRENCE
MIKE MOOSER, STEVE PETERS,
MARY LIEPMANN.

90TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

NANCY BAILLIE
LEOLA LAWRENCE
MARY LIPPOLD
HELEN MOOSER
SHIRLEY WALKER.

TABLE CLOTHS AND WALL HANGING MADE BY NANCY BAILLIE



BACK ROW: SHIRLEY WALKER, LEOLA LAWRENCE
OLIVE CHAMBERS, MARY LIEPMANN, ANITA VANRAES
HELEN MOOSER, FRANCES GRAHAM, MARY LIPPOLD.
FRONT ROW: NANCY BAILLIE, GEORGINA JENSEN
TWILA MCWILLIAM, MARY BELLE COOK, MARY BELLE
WATTERWORTH.
ABSENT: MARILYN JAMIESON

90 YEARS

Our W.I. was very honoured when one of members was chosen by the WOMEN'S INSTITUTE when it celebrated its 100 years of service. MARY LIEPMANN was chosen for her contribution of Heart and Soul.

We have many active members that help as we cater every two weeks. We helped organize the Meals on Wheels, we support the WEST LORNE CHRISTMAS Parade, a book for every child, Cancer Tea, Great Ride and numerous other charities. We are setting up a bursary for a high school student.

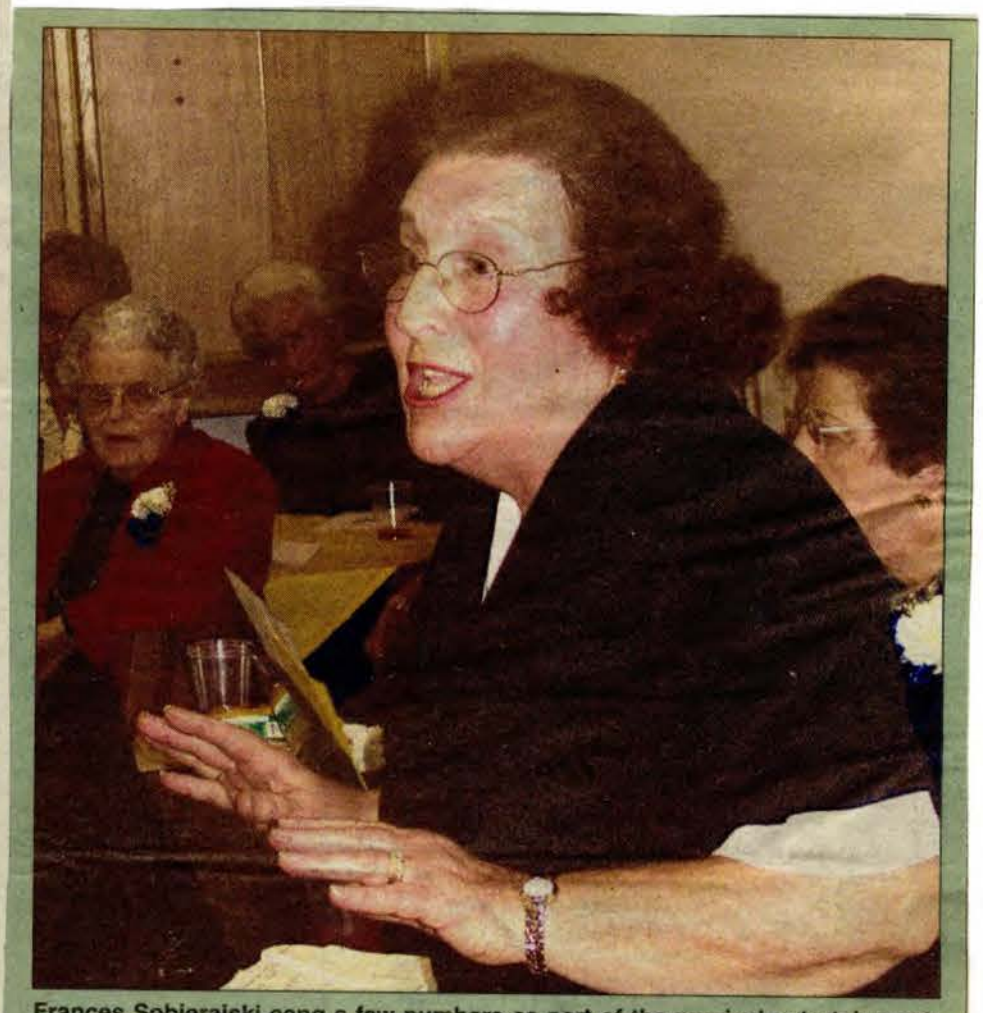
We have ourtalented Nancy Baillie who designed and made our W.I. BANNER and our festive new table cloths.

We look forward to making many more years of history. . . . .

Compiled by Leola Lawrence, Tweedsmuir History Cuator
Read at theAnniversary.



Leola Lawrence gives an overview of some of the history of the West Lorne Women's Institute at the 90th anniversary celebrations held at the West Lorne Complex on April 2.



Frances Sobieraiski sang a few numbers as part of the musical entertainment at the April 2 celebrations of the West Lorne Women's Institute. The event was held at the West Lorne Complex.

Women's Institute leaves a legacy

From page 1

baseball field constructed, the Women's Institute was housed in the W.I. Room and it was time to start preparing more boxes for soldiers as World War II began.

January 29, 1947 saw the institute host a banquet for returning veterans.

Following its 50th anniversary celebrations in February of 1963, the West Lorne Women's Institute began to struggle for membership.

Determined not to let it disband, some changes were made including moving to night meetings that allowed working women to attend.

Lawrence said it was not a popular decision among some of the original members but it helped the group continue.

Today, the meetings open with "O Canada" and they still cater meals with second and third generations of women as members of the group.

In recent years, the institute has helped organize the Meals on Wheels program, supports the West Lorne Christmas parade, the "book for every child" program and several other projects.

They are also currently working on establishing a bursary for high school students.

"We've accomplished quite a bit," said current president Mary Liepmann.

"We're a small group; a close group and family group," she said, adding they work hard to fulfill their motto "for home and country".

"May you continue to make a difference for home and country," said Mary Veenstra, president of the Elgin County Women's Institute in her remarks to the group.

Also bringing well wishes were Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick on behalf of West Elgin, Counc. Mike Moore and MPP Steve Peters.

Peters, as an Elgin County historian, praised the institute for its efforts to collect and record local history.

He said the histories Women's Institutes record are probably their greatest legacies.

Women's Institute celebrates 90th

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Ninety years ago, the wife of Elgin Sun editor Tom Sims organized a group of 60 women at the old Opera House and the West Lorne Women's Institute was born.

About 50 members and friends gathered at the West Lorne Complex on April 2 to celebrate that historic event.

In those first days, meetings were opened with "The Maple Leaf Forever" and community efforts were focussed on the war, said Leola Lawrence who shared a brief overview of the history of the Women's Institute during the celebrations.

They canvassed the community raising up to $100 a month that went toward yarn and toweling with 48 pairs of socks knitted each month.

Socks were sent every month with towels, pillow cases, sheets and pajamas to soldiers fighting oversees.

By 1930, efforts from the institute helped see Memorial Hall opened where a baseball game was held between Shedden and West Lorne.

A tea was held that afternoon and the institute catered a special banquet.

After the hall was opened and the baseball field constructed, the Women's

ARTICLE FROM
APRIL 10, 2003
CHRONICLE

CARDS OF THANKS

On behalf of the West Lorne Women's Institute we would like to thank everyone who was able to attend our celebration of our 90th Anniversary. Steve Peters, Graham Warwick, Mike Mooser, Mary Veenstra, thank you for your kind words and to Frances Sobieralski and the McWilliams Family for adding the beautiful music to our special day. To the members of the community and fellow Women's Institute members who joined us, thank you. Thanks also to the West Lorne Kiwanis, Village Green, Swain Greenhouses, The Chronicle, and Karen Carroll. What a wonderful day it was! Thank you.

Anita VanRaes
Secretary, West Lorne Women's Institute

APR. 24/03



BILL GRAHAM

SHIRLEY WALKER

SAMPLING THE FOOD !!

MARY LIPPOLD
NANCY BAILLIE
ANITA VAN RAES
HELEN MOOSER
MARY LIEPMANN





lt. to rt.
GEORGINA JENSEN
SHIRLEY SEWELL
MARY LIPPOLD
MARY BELLE WATTERWORTH

MARY VEENSTRA
MARY LIEPMANN
GRAHAM WARWICK
MIKE MOOSER
STEVE PETERS



2001

Elgin District Women's Institute

Elgin County District Women's Institute held its annual meeting in the Talbotville United Church on May 16th. Hostess branches were North Yarmouth and Paynes Mills. Theme for the coming year is "The Year of the Volunteer."

President Madeleine Jenkins presided, assisted by Secretary Grace Campbell. In her address, the president thanked the district for sponsoring her trip to Brandon, Manitoba. She also thanked members for their volunteer hours at the Pioneer Museum, Daffodil, Cancer, Heart and Stroke and many other organizations. This shows love in action, diligence and hard work. We have the opportunity of breast screening. In closing she challenged, "Go and do the right thing."

Sparta Sorosis conducted an In Memoriam service. Reports were heard from Elgin County Pioneer Museum, Lobbying, Education, Public Relations, Tweedsmuir History, Farm Safety and LAMP. Sixteen branches answered roll call.

Following refreshments the London and Area President Fran Hyatt was introduced and brought greetings. Clachan branch provided exercise and Boxall branch entertained with a humourous skit "Driving Miss Daisy," encouraging all drivers to follow safety tips while behind the steering wheel.

Provincial Advisory Council member, Glenna Ladell, presented the F.W.I.O. report stating downsizing at board level complete and revised handbooks distributed to W.I. branches. Erland Lee Home now has a full time curator. During the coming year branches will be holding ROSE Health workshops, membership recruitment will commence. Ontario will host the 23rd Triennial Conference of A.C.W.W. in Hamilton in June. These are just a few of the plans for the coming year.

The London Area Tweedsmuir History workshop will be held August 7th at Bryanston Community Centre, with registration at 9:15 a.m.

Elgin County Pioneer Museum Advisory Committee will host an Open House and Strawberry Social at the Pioneer Museum on July 18th.

Officers elected for the coming year include:

President - Madeleine Jenkins; Past President - Ann McLean; 1st Vice President - Mary Veenstra; 2nd Vice President - Pauline Lindsay; Secretary-Treasurer - Eleanor McMillan; Public Relations - Edith Auckland; Education - Ann McLean; Lobbying - Bonnie Graham; Tweedsmuir History - Helen Van Brenk.

Ann McLean and Norma McMillan reported for the Daffodil Society telling of the work done through the district. Mrs. McMillan is unable to continue and a new representative is required to carry on this work.

Gifts were presented to retiring secretary-treasurer Grace Campbell, remembering her dedication to the W.I.

Courtesies were extended by Mary Veenstra. The singing of "O' Canada" brought the meeting to a close.

JUNE 2001



Tweedsmuir History Book

After years of a patience, fund-raising and hard work the Wallacetown Women's Institute now have a published book on the history of the Wallacetown community. Here, 50-year local institute member Gladys Graham, left, institute president Helen Van Brenk and institute member Kay Waite check out the Wallacetown bachelors of 1957 in the publication. The history on the Tweedsmuir books was started by Lady Tweedsmuir when she encouraged the recording of all rural histories served by women's institutes. The first Tweedsmuir for the Wallacetown Women's Institute was kept by Maude Cameron Robb in 1950. In 1952, J.A. Cameron, Flora McKellar and Ermyn Lucas compiled more Tweedsmuir history. In 1964, Morley Page, Hazel Mantelle and Grace McKillop worked on the book. That was followed by Gertrude Sloan and now Van Brenk. The more than $12,000 cost to produce the 300 copies of the book came through fund-raisers and a Trillium Foundation grant. To purchase a copy of the book ($30 hard cover, $20 soft cover) call 762-3529 or 762-5495.

OCT. 2001 The Chronicle

Elgin County District Womens Institute

The fall board meeting for the directors of the Elgin County District Women's Institute was held at the Elgin County building, St. Thomas in September 24. President Madeline Jenkins began the meeting by asking all to sing the Institute Ode and repeat the Mary Stewart Collect. Secretary treasurer Eleanor McMillan called the roll, read the minutes of the March meeting and reported on finances. She noted the new membership cards from the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario (FWIO) are available. Retiring secretary-treasurer Grace Campbell sent a letter of thanks for gifts and good wishes.

The annual Cancer Tea will be at the West Lorne Community Centre on Saturday, October 13 from 9:30 am to 12 noon with Shedden and West Lorne W.I. as co-hostesses.

Plans were made for the February 2002 annual Winter Picnic being held at the Mapleton Church of Christ Disciples with Kingsmill-Mapleton and Tyrconnell WI looking after details. Each branch will receive further details.

Kathy Nesbitt of the St. Thomas Elgin Health Unit spoke of their fall campaign entitled "Steady as You Go." Each WI branch will be asked for someone to attend a workshop in order to make a presentation to their own people.

Marion McKenzie in her Elgin County Pioneer Museum report, noted that after 9 years her term as one of two representatives will expired at the end of the year.

Shirley Bechard reported on the three farm safety programs held for children throughout the county.

An Osteoawareness Tea will be held at the St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital November 17 from 2 pm to 4 pm.

Christmas Coffee Break and Bake Table will be Saturday, December 1 at the Pioneer Museum.

Glenda Ladell, provincial director gave her report.

Several convenors are needed to fill various committees. One of the concerns to be presented at the London Areas meeting being held October 29 in Mitchell will be funding for Breast Cancer Gene Research. Volunteers are needed to staff the WI booth at the Royal Winter Fair. The 2002 Provincial Conference will be in June in Sault Ste. Marie.

Several present are arranging car loads of WI members to attend one-day meeting in Mitchell.

Next year Elgin WI will be the hostess for the area convention with the date as yet undetermined.

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The West Elgin Chronicle

Women's Institute Winter Picnic

Approximately 85 Women's Institute members and friends gathered for their annual Winter Picnic recently. The event was hosted by Yarmouth Glen and Middlemarch branches.

Prior to a bountiful dinner The Opening Ode was sung. Branches were invited to exhibit displays of their own topic choice which included bells, swine, tea cups, rocking chairs, rolling pins, salt and peppers, music boxes, button tree collection, photography, wildlife, and a historical disply of the Middlemarch community.

Prizes were awarded to anyone with a heart at their placemat as well as many draw prizes. Boxall branch presented a humourous and educational skit on fire and falls. Smoke alarm batteries should be checked twice yearly; fire extinguishers near stoves, frayed appliance cords are also a hazard, and avoid clutter where we walk. Guides to home safety were distributed to all.

Farm Safety of Elgin were responsible for place favours. Happy Birthday to a WI member was sung and birthday cake enjoyed bringing a fun day to a successful close. MAR.

A. C WW + FWIO 2000

The West Elgin Chronicle FEB 28, 2000

Health issues topic of Elgin WI Winter Picnic

More than 85 residents enjoyed a bountiful meals as the River Road and Sparta Scorosis Women's Institute hosted the Elgin County District Women's Institute Winter Picnic at Fingal United Church Feb. 16.

Health issues, a concern for everyone, was the chosen topic. A number of branches submitted skits, demonstrations, dialogue and poems related to this theme. Everything from breast examinations, ovarian cancer, heart and stroke facts to medication knowledge and expiry time, exercise and its benefits, and benefits from the Elgin Community Care Access Centre.

Draws were made throughout the evening. John Martin and Cliff Barwick, from the Elgin-St. Thomas Archives Association, spoke on their mission to preserve, collect and conserve artifacts that reflect our culture educational and social history of Elgin.

Many artifacts are stored and in need of a home for public viewing. A one-floor, wheelchair accessible building is preferable, bringing the City of St. Thomas and Elgin County together.

There is a great need to make us aware of these untapped resources for future generations knowledge.

Elgin County WI news

The Elgin County District Women's Institute Branch Directors met recently at the county building, with President Madeline Jenkins in charge. The Opening Ode and the Mary Stewart Collect commenced the meeting.

Glenna Ladell updated provincial board business, including the phone buster program and encouraging members to write the Minister of Education and local MPPs in regards to school closures.

The Tweedsmuir History project for 2000 is "Grandma's and Grandpa's Treasure." All branches were encouraged to continue providing leadership and financial support to 4-H clubs.

Upcoming dates include the District Annual on May 18 at South Dunwich Hall - host branches are Wallacetown and Shedden. Branches are reminded to bring a craft for the London Area Convention and $6 for the Pioneer Museum Strawberry Social when attending the District Annual.

The theme for this meeting is "Health and You." Registration is from 1 until 1:15 p.m. APR 2000

Elgin County WI news

Jlwee 00

The Elgin County Women's Institute held their annual meeting on May 18 at the South Dunwich Hall with Wallacetown and Shedden branches hosting.

President Madeleine Jenkins welcomed the members and conducted the meeting assisted by secretary Grace Campbell.

The Institute Ode and Mary Stewart Collect opened the meeting followed by the ratification of 15 district directors with one branch absent.

In her address, Jenkins spoke of the Rose Health Program "Rural Ontario Sharing Education" for women, which will be held June 26. Reports were also received from the education coordinator, public relations, Tweedsmuir history curator, lobbying convenor, farm safety and the pioneer museum.

An Elgin County WI Scholarship was presented to Marcie Ford of Clachan area by Grace Campbell, convenor of this committee.

The area convention will be October 24 in Thorndale. Elgin WI will host the area convention in 2002 with a coordinator needed for this event.

The 'New Millennium' is the theme for Branch programming in 2000-2001. 'A Grandmother's Legacy' was a great success and it is hoped these will be assembled in book form. A section on grandma and grandpa's treasures is requested for the Tweedsmuir History Book.

New officers were also installed at the meeting and include: Ann McLean (Past President-Education Coordinator), Madeleine Jenkins (President), Mary Veenstra (1st Vice-President), Pauline Lindsay (2nd Vice-President), Grace Campbell (Secretary-Treasurer), Eleanor McMillan (Public Relations), Betty VanPatter (Lobbying Convenor), Helen Van Brenk (Tweedsmuir Curator), Rena Campbell and Marion McKenzie (Museum Representatives).

LONDON AREA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

86TH Annual Convention

Theme

Learning Together In The Future

FOR HOME AND COUNTRY

Women's Institute Theme for 2000

The New Millenium

Location:

Thorndale Community Centre
Thorndale, Ontario

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Subdivision 18:
Middlesex East, Middlesex Northwest
Elgin County
Subdivision 19:
Perth South, Huron South, Huron West,
Oxford District

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London Area Women's Institute Executive

ast President	Mrs. Gladys Egelton	786 Gainsborough, London	N6G 5B5	471-5584
resident	Mrs. Pauline Lindsay	R. R. 6, St. Thomas	N5P 3T1	631-5247
st Vice. Pres	Mrs. Fran Hyatt	R. R. 1, Mt. Brydges	N9L 1W0	264-1967
nd Vice Pres.	Mrs. Eleanor Williams	R. R. 6, St. Mary's	N4X 1C8	229-8200
ecretary	Mrs. Dorothy Sutherland	Box 35, Putnam	N0L 2B0	485-2122
ss. Sec.	Mrs. Mary Nicklas	Box 885, Tavistock	N0B 2R0	665-9915
reasurer	Mrs. Chris Wiffen	R. R. 6, Woodstock	N4S 7W1	462-2898
ublic Relations	Mrs. Margaret Armstrong	R. R. 2, Mt. Elgin	N 0J 1N0	485-3288
ducation Conv.	Mrs. Shirley Towers	R. R. 4, Glencoe	N0L 1M0	287-5249
obbying Conv.	Mrs. Gladys Egelton	786 Gainsborough, London	N6G 5B5	471-5584
weedsmuir Curator	Ms. Jeanne Leitch	Box 298 ,Dutton	N0L 1J0	762-3654
sst. Curator	Mrs. Helen VanBrenk	R. R. 1, Fingal	N0L 1K0	762-2768
inancial Examiners:	Mrs. Kay Bickle	R. R. 6, Woodstock	N4S 7W1	462-2259
	Mrs. Mary Alice Roth	R. R. 2, Tavistock	N0B 2R0	462-2343

Provincial Advisory Council (PAC)

ubdivision 18:	Mrs. Glenna Ladell	R, R, 2. Ilderton	N0M 2A0	666-1418
ubdivision 19:	Mrs. Donna MacPherson	R. R,.1, Embro	N0J 1J0	475-4174

Provincial Advisory Council Alternate

ubdivision18:	Mrs. Ruth Axford	R. R. 1, Mossley	N0L 1V0	269-3912

Provincial Board Directors for Southern Region

Mrs. Donna Willows	R. R. 2. St. Paul's	N0K 1V0	393-6455
Mrs. Ruth Crump	R. R. 1, McGregor	N0R 1G0	726-6726

Convention Committee Chairs

999 Middlesex NW	Bonnie Pilkington	R. R. 4, Mt.Brydges	N0L 1W0	264-1674
000 Middlesex E	Marilyn Howey	R. R. 1, Belmont	N0L 1B0	269-3097
001 Perth S.	Marlene Archer	219 Douglas St. Stratford	N5A 5P8	273-1454

Appointments

Children's Hospital	Marilyn Pym	R. R. 3, Exeter	N0M 1S5	235-1605
Western Fair	Joanne Shelley	R. R. 3, Embro	N0J 1J0	475-6055
	Evelyn Rath	Box 32, Putnam	N0L 2B0	485-3578

Opening Ode

A goodly thing it is to meet
in Friendship's circle bright
Where nothing stains the pleasure sweet
Nor dims the radiant light
No unkind words our lips shall pass
No envy sour the mind;
But each shall seek the common weal,
The good of all mankind.

The Mary Stewart Collect

Keep us, O Lord from pettiness,
let us be large in thought, in word and deed.
Let us be done with fault finding
and leave off self seeking.
May we put away all pretences
and meet each other face to face
without self pity and without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgement
and always generous.
Let us take time for all things;
make us grow calm, serene, gentle.
Teach us to put into action our better impulses
straightforward and unafraid;
Grant that we may realize that it is the little things
that create difference;
that in the big things of life we are one.
And may we strive to touch and know the great
human heart common to us all,
and, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.

Women's Institute Grace

We thank Thee, Father for Thy Care.
Food, friends and kindliness we share;
May we forever, mindful be
Of "Home and Country" and of Thee.

London Area Convention
Tuesday. October 24
Program for 2000

Chair : Pauline Lindsay

Each Branch and District Reporting Secretary is asked to sit in the designated section and to report back to their members. Federate News and ACWW subscriptions are available today and remember you must have an ACWW membership if you plan to attend the Convention in Hami lton in 2001.

8:45 a.m.	Registration	Presidents of Seven Districts
	Reception	Host District
	Coffee Hour	Wellburn, Birr & Harrietsville
9:25 a.m.	Time to Sing	Norma Shackelton & Margaret Churchill
	Presentation of Flags	Delores Shapton, Gladys Egelton
	Sing	O Canada
	March-In	District Banners
	Institite Ode	
	Mary Stewart Collect	
	Welcome	President Middlesex East Marilym Howey
	In Memoriam:	Reynolds Creek
	Acceptance of Minutes from 1999 Convention	
	Financial Report:	Chris Wiffen
	Financial Examiner's Report:	Mary Alice Roth
	Correspondence	
	Roll Call	Responsibility of District Presidents Each President to give a two minute summary of happenings in her district in 1999-2000
	President's Address	Pauline Lindsay

Chair : Fran Hyatt

Light & Lively	
F.W.I.O. Prewsident	Christine Reaburn
Adelaide Hoodless Presentation	
Nomination of Provincial Advisory Council and PAC Alternates	
Collection	Reynolds Creek & Harrietsville
Report of FWIO Convention	Pauline Lindsay
Comments on Displays	
Announcements	

12:00 noon Sing Institute Grace - Adjourn for lunch Catered by Thorndale Women's Institute

12:30 Country Store - Wilton Grove, Salem & Nilestown

Afternoon Session
1:30 P.M.

Chair: Eleanor Williams

Hymn of All Nations
Greetings from Visiting Area Presidents;
Guelph, Grey-Bruce, Southwestern

F.Y.I.

1. Jeweller	John Nash	Estate Jewellery
2. Clinical Nurse Specialist	Nancy Bol	`Alzheimer's

Lite & Lively::

Reports: All printed this year- Please Read:

Lobbying Convenor	Gladys Egelton
Public Relations Officer	Margaret Armstrong
Tweedsmuir Curator	Jeanne Gow-Leitch
Children's Hospital	Marilyn Pym
Western Fair Association	Evelyn Rath
Rose Program	Bonnie Pilkington

Break & Time to Sing

Chair: Pauline Lindsay

100th Anniversay Presentation	
Provincial Advisory Councilors	Glenna Ladell Donna MacPherson
Provincial Board Directors	Donna Willows Ruth Crump
Treasurer's Report of Convention	Chris Wiffen
Election of Officers:	Christine Reaburn
New Business:	
Invitation for Convention 2001 and Courtesies	Marlene Archer
Announcements:	
Head Table Guests	Mary Nicklas

Please Remember to Hand In Evaluation Sheets
At End of Evening

Hymn of All Nations

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar, and mine,
This is my love, the country where my heart is
This is my hope, my dream, my shrine.
But other heart's in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams the same as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine,
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies are sometimes blue as mine.
Oh, hear my song then, God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and mine

W. I. 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 n'er the same
For they formed the W.I.'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
In the work of the W.I.'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 honor and with pride.
This Centennial salute of the Women's Institute,
Women of the world arise.

Banquet

Caterer: Crimlin W. I.
5:30 P.M.

Chair: Pauline Lindsay

W.I. Grace

Toast to the Queen

Toast to the Women's Institute

Introduction of Head Table Guests - Mary Nicklas

Greetings- Reeve of West Nissouri & Warden - Crispin Colvin

Entertainment - Huron South

Presentation of Maryn Pardy Scholarship

Presentation of Dorothy Futcher Scholarship

Entertainment by **'Men of Accord'**

Presentations

Closing Ceremony - Retire Flags

Sing - Centennial Song

2000 London Area Convention Declared Closed

The Women's Institute

1897 • 1997 100TH ANNIVERSARY

For Home and Country

Elgin County Women's Institute

Reaches Into The Community

The 11 branches in Elgin West, the 8 branches in Elgin East and the Junior Women's Institute in St. Thomas are proud of their achievements in the past, what they are doing now and what they will do in the future to help their communities in Elgin County.

★ They helped to establish the Elgin County Pioneer Museum.

★ They initiated the restoration of the Southwold Earthworks.

★ They help out at Elgin Manor, Bobier Home, Terrace Lodge and Valleyview.

★ They help to lead 4-H Clubs.

★ They provide scholarships to Elgin County students.

★ They assist *OMAF* in leading courses for all the women in their communities.

★ Elgin West holds the Daffodil Tea to raise money for the Cancer Society.

★ Shedden Branch established the Neighborhood Watch Program.

★ They donate prizes to local Fairs and sponsor Fair Ambassadors.

★ They canvass their communities for charities.

★ Some branches own community halls, such as Forge and Anvil in Sparta - many other branches provide funds for their halls.

The list is endless.

If there is a need in the community the Women's Institute will be quietly working to achieve its success.

FW10

2003

Women's Institute plugging

The organization, more than 100 years old, has done a lot of good, but, relentlessly, its membership is shrinking and aging.

BY SANDRA COULSON
Free Press Lifestyles Reporter

The pasteurizing of milk is so routine these days that many people have forgotten why it's important.

White lines down the centre of provincial highways are just one of those things that have always been there, right?

Music on the school curriculum is just a regular part of growing up.

But to the Women's Institute, these are markers not only of social progress, but also of its history.

The Women's Institute is a rural organization now in its second century.

Its membership is shrinking and aging along with the shrinking and aging rural population in Canada.

But it claims a proud history of making a difference to the everyday lives of people across Canada and overseas.

"They're leaders in a lot of things, but it doesn't come out that way," says Marjorie Johns, president of the Huron South district of the Women's Institute.

"The government takes over and everyone thinks the government (thought of it)."

She's not upset about the often forgotten role of Women's Institute.

"We've learned to accept it. I guess it was always the women's role. But let me tell you, when you want a job done, it takes women to do it."

Huron South district celebrates its 100th anniversary today with a dinner at the Dashwood Community Centre.

Perhaps significantly, the evening isn't exclusively about the history of the Women's Institute. The guest speaker is Mark Winegarden, who biked across Canada with his 12-year-old son to raise awareness of diabetes. Johns says it's a worthwhile subject because diabetes affects so many people.

The Women's Institute story begins in 1897 in what is now Stoney Creek, southeast of Hamilton.

A broad-minded farmer named Erland Lee invited the social reformer Adelaide Hoodless to come from Hamilton to speak about the need for an educational society for poorly educated rural women.

After the speech, Hoodless and Lee sat in the Lees' dining room, drawing up the constitution and bylaws for this new organization while Lee's wife Janet wrote it out in longhand. Erland Lee was treasurer of the Farmers' Institute and the new group took the parallel name of Women's Institute.

Branches sprang up quickly after the founding.

Their aim was to improve living conditions of families and communities. Women were informed about sanitation, child-raising techniques and other matters of "domestic economy."

Pasteurization was high on the agenda because Hoodless's infant son had died from drinking infected milk.

As lobbying grew for this and other causes, provincial and national bodies were formed. Branches spread to Scotland and England and the Women's Institute joined the Associated Country Women of the World, based in Britain.

But accomplishments are tinged with some sadness.

"We're getting to celebrate something we're never going to get to celebrate again," Johns says of her branch's centenary — not only because few live long enough to see two such anniversaries, but also because branches are closing.

Six are left in the Huron South district after two recent closings. Others are 'iffy.'

But the Grand Bend branch is bucking the trend with some younger members — meaning women in their 50s.

Cassie Lovie, 54, joined three years ago — "I had been thinking of joining some volunteer group," she says — when the Grand Bend branch put a display in a plowing match. Now she's on the committee that plans the monthly meetings.

Grand Bend's major fundraiser is at the community's Thanksgiving farmers' market. Lately, monkey dolls made from men's long grey socks — an old craft revitalized by the group — are big sellers.

The branch has given money to a nursing home for a patient lift, to poor teens for Christmas gifts and to the local library. "It gives you a good feeling that you've done something that you wanted to do and you're not getting paid to do," Lovie says.

Johns joined the branch in Elimville near Exeter in 1949, the year after it was formed, because of the opportunity to learn, enjoy fellowship with other women and pick up homemaking skills.

Recently, she travelled to England and Scotland, where she visited branches. It gave her a sense of the worldwide ties. "You kind of feel part of something bigger."

Jane Dearing joined the Crediton branch 38 years ago to get to know her neighbours.

"My mother belonged when I was a teenager. I changed townships and wanted to get to know the rest of the women in the area and thought that was a good way."

She likes the social aspect of the group and learning old skills updated to new times or hearing speakers on modern issues such as phone scams.

"We try and keep abreast of the times because the times surely are changing and it's hard to keep up with it."

When she joined the Crediton branch, it had 35 members, but only 14 are active today.

"We're having a hard job finding younger members because younger mothers are so busy. I have a daughter busy with dance and hockey

away

and they just don't have the time to come out.

"What the future brings, I'm just not sure. There are so many other things out there you can join. I just know I'm going to keep going as long as it's going, because it's done me a lot of good."

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CAUSES

Since 1897, the Women's Institute has advocated to have:

- ► bread wrapped
- ► white lines painted down the centre of provincial highways
- ► fluorescent paint on the sides of rail cars
- ► garments labelled for quality
- ► music on the school curriculum
- ► a law forcing traffic to stop when a school bus is stopped
- ► breathalyser and blood tests for drivers
- ► poison containers marked
- ► milk pasteurized
- ► dental and medical inspections in schools
- ► war memorials set up

County W.I. holds its winter picnic

2003

Elgin County Women's Institute held its annual winter picnic on Feb. 19 at Talbotville United Church. Paynes Mills W.I. and Sparta W.I. were the joint hostess for this noon pot-luck dinner.

County president Mary Veenstra gave words of welcome and asked all to join in the singing of the Institute Ode and repeating of the collect. The Institute grace was sung with Eleanor McMillan at the piano.

Greetings were brought by Ruth Oxford our provincial advisory council member. She was pleased to tell us that the site of the first Women's Institute meeting over one hundred years ago at Stoney Creek has been designated a National Heritage sight namely the Erland Lee (Museum) Home.

Kathy Nesbitt of the Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit outlined the broad scope of their mandate for programs, ranging from newborns and their moms to senior safety; sun safety concerns re skin cancer; immunization programs, public health including inspection of public eating places. She noted that all vaccines available to doctors must come through the Health Unit; inspection of sewage system as well as testing of well water. The list is a long one.

Grace Campbell of Cowal W.I. brought her collection of hats and accessories. Some new, some not so new can be transformed with a few trimmings.

During the afternoon break members visited the "toonie" table convened by Sparta Sorosis W.I. while Paynes Mills W.I. were the kitchen convenors.

This concluded a pleasant afternoon and all would return with new ideas and new challenges.

Federated Women's Institute of Canada

HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING TO ACCOMPLISH:

★ Having bread wrapped
★ Having white line painted on the centre of Provincial highways
★ Having red stripe removed from bacon wrap
★ Having flourescent paint used on sides of railway cars
★ Having garments labelled as to quality
★ Adding music to school curriculum (1937)
★ Having "STOP" signs placed at railway crossings
★ Having fowl graded for sale
★ Setting legal marriage age at sixteen with parental consent (1937)
★ Requiring car owners to purchase liability insurance before getting a license
★ Making it mandatory for traffic to stop when a school bus is stopped
★ Making hot lunches available in schools
★ Establishing the International Peace Gardens on the Manitoba/North Dakota border
★ Requiring breathalizer tests and blood tests for motorists
★ Providing hospital benefits to nursing homes
★ Making it necessary for persons handling food to have "TB" tests
★ Teaching of sex education in schools
★ Enacting legislation on dimming car lights when meeting another vehicle
★ Having staples abolished on packaged food products
★ Having poison containers clearly labelled
★ Banning the sale of mineral based detergents
★ Establishing a course in Household Science at MacDonald Institute
★ Requiring the pasteurization of milk
★ Providing dental and medical inspections in schools
★ Establishing the MacDonald Institute, University of Guelph (Adelaide Hoodless)
★ Encouraging War Memorials and War Services

FW10 2002

Elgin County District Women's Institute

The Women's Institute is a rural organization that has a vibrant past and continues to have an influence throughout rural areas world wide. Although our revised district of Elgin County has only been in existance for 5 years we have been a part of district meetings for 94 years, tracing our roots to the first meeting held in Stoney Creek, ON in 1897.

Representatives from 16 rural Institutes with a membership of 224 met at Crinan Presbyterian Church on May 15 for their annual meeting.

Reports were a large portion of the evening including a summary of our volunteer hours in excess of 9,700 hours.

President Madeline Jenkins and secretary treasurer Eleanor McMillan kept the proceedings moving smoothly while the Yarmouth Glen Institute provided humour with their skit entitled "Pro-taters"

Our P.A.C. member Glenna Ladell from London Area gave highlights of the year and reminded us Elgin District will host the Area Convention at the Shedden Keystone Complex on Tuesday October 29.

A representative from each W.I. signed a supporting letter on behalf of a funding programme for the V.O.N.

Tickets were distributed for the annual Strawberry Social on June 26 at the Elgin Co. Pioneer Museum.

The meeting concluded with the following offices elected

President - Mary Veenstra

Secretary Treasurer - Eleanor McWilliam.

1st Vice President - Pauline Lindsay.

2nd Vice President - Mary Ann Coughell.

Public Relations - Edith Auckland.

MAY 2002

2002

Women's Institute logs 104 years working for community

Your kids' pyjamas are fire retardant because a heartsick Women's Institute member in Southwestern Ontario didn't want another mother to suffer the tragic loss she did.

The white lines running down the middle of highways: you can thank Women's Institute lobbyists for that safety feature.

Credit them also for making sure your loaf of bread comes to you wrapped, so the germs don't get in.

You drink safe, pasteurized milk because WI founder Adelaide Hunter Hoodless pushed it into law after the death of her infant son.

Today's members are urging the province to offer free livestock vaccines in areas where rabies is rampant. They're promoting rural literacy and farm safety.

The volunteer helping out at your local hospital's night reception desk is apt to be a WI member. So is the group catering that rural funeral.

DEBORA VAN BRENK



COUNTY VOICES

If community commitment is what you're looking for, these folks have been ahead of the pack for most of their lives.

But this mainstay of rural family life has changed since our grandmothers' day.

Back when they began 104 years ago, Women's Institute meetings were pretty much the only place outside of church where rural women could escape the isolation of farm life and educate each other about family health and current events.

These were all-in-one support and political forums, steeped in tea and home-baked cookies.

Their emphasis today on women's health and family information is as strong as ever. But there are fewer to hear — and to pass on — the message.

Cars have made physical isolation less of a problem, public information can be found at the click of a computer mouse and mothers racing home from work to ferry the young ones from hockey practice to music lessons aren't likely to attend a mid-week afternoon meeting with friends.

The London area has 70 Women's Institute groups totalling 1,114 members. The numbers were "probably double that" when Fran Hyatt first joined the group 28 years ago.

Hyatt is head of the Mt. Brydges branch and president of the London and Area WI, which includes Middlesex County and a sizable chunk of the surrounding counties.

Their good works are prodigious — from April 2000 to April 2001, they logged 68,114 hours of volunteer time, up 8,000 from the year before.

> "Women needed to be educated to make their homes and families educated and healthier."
>
> *Member Marg Eberle*

They drive people to appointments, raise money to equip local hospitals and build wells in developing countries, run fitness programs for seniors and deliver meals to shut-ins.

They run day-long health and education sessions for women in their communities.

Women's Institutes thought globally and acted locally before environmental groups appropriated that phrase for themselves.

"They're a wonderfully dedicated group of women," Hyatt says.

But fewer. And older.

Most members are 60-plus, Hyatt says. "I'm probably the second-youngest member in the branch and I'm no young chicken."

Although the district saw 29 new members join the ranks last year, they lost more than they gained.

So are these groups headed the way of the quilting bee and wringer washer?

"I think only time can tell that," she says.

Marg Eberle, of Highgate in Chatham-Kent, is more optimistic. Her branch gained four new members this year.

"The original goal was that women needed to be educated to make their homes and families educated and healthier and all that good stuff. And that's what we're still doing today," says Eberle, a director for the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and a former president of the provincial body.

"We're still basically an educational organization," she says.

"Part of our job (to entice new members) is to show what we have done and show that we are relevant."

She says it's a struggle to get members just to record their volunteer hours because they just don't want to boast.

"They don't advertise themselves. We're the best-kept secret in the world."

Without a lot of fanfare, these women are making a difference to each other and their communities.

When an organization this crucial to rural life is struggling to find members and support, it's no time for misplaced modesty.

Women's Institutes have more than earned the right to blow their own horns.

The West Elgin Chronicle

Passages From The Past

By Jilleanne McClory

I have been trying to teach myself the gentle art of knitting. I am genuinely surprised at the relaxing meditation it brings.

Four years ago I learned how to cook. At first I didn't know how turn the stove on. It was a big moment when I learned the vacuum had a bag, who knew?

Caring for the home and hearth is an art that is not predisposed by virtue of birthright. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless learned that even educated, conscientious parents could be unaware of primary domestic wisdom.

Sharing her knowledge with other women like herself became her focus. Mrs. Hoodless' son, John Harold, was 14 months old when he died of an intestinal ailment caused by drinking impure milk in August of 1889.

She had three older children but was shocked by her ignorance that led to her family tragedy. Disappointed that her education had left her wanting, she started a campaign for domestic education.

She wanted women to be trained in the "practical science of running a household according to scientific principles." A cooking school was started in 1894. She started to lecture to promote the idea of forming rural women's groups.

She raised money from tobacco tycoon William Macdonald to fund a school known as the Macdonald Institute, which opened in 1903.

Hoodless was concerned. More attention was being provided for farming techniques than for the farm household. The provincial government branch of the Department of Agriculture formed the Farmer's Institutes in 1884, which dispensed critical information to farmer's on the care and breeding of their livestock. She believed the farm family was just as important as its livestock and deserved equal attention.

Erland Lee heard Hoodless first speak in 1886 at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, where she addressed a congregation of men. Having no difficulty expressing herself, she informed the group they were more concerned with the health of "their animals than about the health of their children, and that they fed their pigs and cattle more scientifically than they fed their families."

It is important to understand the nature of these times, in the late 19th century, women where not a vocal group. Certainly women did not lecture men.

But when Lee was planning the South Wentworth Farmers' Institute annual meeting, he suggested Hoodless as the guest speaker for an evening session to be attended by both men and women.

The idea was not greeted with enthusiasm. It was too radical having a woman as the speaker, thought local farmers, but decided Lee should choose a lecturer, but to choose cautiously.

Lee invited Hoodless. In Stoney Creek, Feb. 19, 1897, 101 women and one man, Mr. Lee, were waiting when she arrived. Her speech did not concentrate on the establishment of Women's Institutes, but rather suggested a group for women on domestic education parallel the existing Farmers' Institutes for men.

She told them "women's work, homecraft and mothercraft, was much more important than mens since it dealt with the home and the care of the loved ones that dwelt therein."

What happened that night changed the course of history. Rural homemakers agreed to create a Department of Domestic Economy, in association with the Farmers' Institutes called, The Women's Department of the Farmer's Institute of South Wentworth.

Sitting in the Squire's Hall in Stoney Creek, women started what would become the largest international women's movement ever established.

Women's Institutes were multidimensional. Women were taught nutrition, sewing, how to take care of themselves, they raised money for the Red Cross, sent comfort boxes to men at war, maintained local history books, worked on school reform to ensure proper nutrition for the children by providing and serving hot lunches and donating milk, participated in social reform to improve their communities.

Once women secured the power of their vote they assumed more responsibility and determined strategies for their institutes.

The list of achievements these women accomplished in the name of home and country is endless, and its members, past and present, deserve our gratitude and a dedication to preserve their principles.



London Area Women's Institute held their 88th Annual Convention at the Keystone Complex in Shedden on October 29. Pictured are Mary Veenstra (President Elgin County), Dianne Orr (President Federated Womens Institute) and Helen VanBrenk, (President Wallacetown Women's Institute). NOV/02

WEST ELGIN 2001

WEST ELGIN COUNCIL IS ADAMANT SOMETHING WILL BE DONE

by Keith Peever DEC/01
The Chronicle

West Elgin council is promising to get tough on vandalism in its communities.

This issue has come to light after recent vandalism in West Lorne on November 25, which saw half a dozen horticultural Christmas trees be either destroyed or damaged. (Also see Letters to Editor on Page 5).

When contacted by *The Chronicle*, each councillor was in agreement a hard stance would be taken when they meet for their regular council meeting on Thursday, December 13.

West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail said he was just disgusted to hear the vandalism occurred and guaranteed discussion will be held on prevention and punishment.

McPhail would not rule out the possibility of a reward being posted by the municipality to entice residents to come forward with the name of the person.

McPhail said they have discussed a reward to deal with vandalism issues in the past, but if passed, this will be the first time it would be implemented.

Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick has also suggested it might be time to invest in a video camera in the downtown area.

Graham is sympathetic with the downtown merchants who benefited by the colourful trees, only to have them damaged.

Councillor Mike Mooser and Brad Bandeen were both adamant it was time to take a hard stance on the vandalism that seems to reappear from time to time.

Councillor Trudi Balint said the vandalism was a disgusting act and was disheartening to hear.

"Those trees were just beautiful."

Balint also questions where the police were at the time of the incident.

"Where are the police?" she questioned.

Although it is a negative issue, it may have also spurred the community to look into more effective policing within the community.

Balint said it is an issue that will be discussed at the West Elgin Community Policing Meeting in December. Balint also said it might be time to rejuvenate the COPS or Community on Patrol committee and have volunteers regularly patrol and monitor the community for mis-doings.

Each councillor was saddened by the fact

(Continued on page 2)

MUNICIPALITY ALSO TO GET TOUGH ON WATER BILLS THAT ARE NOT BEING PAID

by Keith Peever JUNE 18/01
The Chronicle

The municipality of West Elgin is growing and it just made major steps last week to prove that things can't be run the way it used to be when there were three different communities.

West Elgin mayor Duncan McPhail said after the meeting it is a sign of the times that the municipality is growing and is on the right course.

At the regular council meeting last Thursday, they announced that the municipalities new by-law officer, Bill Douglas, a retired police officer, has been working for a couple weeks and has already taken 'on a few leads' when it comes to infractions on building and property codes.

Douglas was appointed at a special council meeting on May 24. Since then he has been presented with the municipality's property standards documents and has begun to look into complaints the municipality has received from residents.

Parking by-laws

West Elgin Council has been recently discussing ways to initiate proper enforcement when it comes to parking in the municipality. Council heard information back from the Ontario Provincial Police that the Elgin Detachment is working very quickly to get a system up and running.

Currently the parking tickets have to be approved by the judicial system before they can be used by the Ontario Provincial Police.

Council is also holding back on replacing the no parking signs in the downtown areas until the proper by-law can be initiated and enforced.

In the meantime, in the downtown area of Rodney the streets have been spray painted where no parking is allowed. Currently the public has been complaining to council that the signs are so bleached and worn that the words 'no parking' can no longer be read.

McPhail said the municipality is currently reviewing all the by-laws that the previous municipalities had to see what is relevant and what is not.

Getting tough on water rates

For those people who are constantly behind in their water bills, be prepared to get a warning then if that is not adhered, there could be a turning off of the taps.

West Elgin council wants to get tough on people who are not paying their water bills. Now that the municipality has taken on the customers of the former municipalities, it has proven to be quite expensive when they temporarily foot the bill for late payers, in some cases.

Council voted last Thursday to start sending out warnings to customers stating the bills must be paid on time. If the account goes into serious arrears, the water will be turned off.

Letters to each water customer will be sent out with the new standards and changes which show the municipality is taking a much harder stance on water bills that are in arrears. Mayor McPhail said it's just a sign of the times, and that the municipality must get tougher on these accounts that are in arrears, because the municipality doesn't make money on those.

"It's always been an issue of customer service before. It was always done with a limited work force. Now we have an increased volume of customers, and that customer base is continuing to grow," said McPhail.

Dutton-Dunwich sees same issues

Dutton-Dunwich mayor Rien Van Brenk said they are looking at some of the same issues that West Elgin is facing.

When it comes to the parking by-law, Van Brenk said they will be working co-operating with West Elgin to create by-laws that work for both communities.

VanBrenk said they want to help the Ontario Provincial Police as much as possible and try to create by-laws that will be adequate for the police in the courtroom.

"We want to pass the same by-law," said Van Brenk who admitted it will help the police to simplify things with paper work.

Dutton-Dunwich's mayor also said the parking issue is a hot one at times in Dutton.

"We've always had some problems. We have lots of people who continue to park in areas that clearly say no parking and there is nothing you can really do about it," said Van Brenk.

When it comes to the rest of the by-laws, Dutton-Dunwich has approved the official plan. Van Brenk said the plan is pretty much the former by-law plan of Dutton.

McPhail wants a West Lorne Post Office

WILL NOT TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER

West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail is not going to take a no answer from the Canada Post Corportation. Recently Canada Post stated they would not be reopening the office in West Lorne.

"No is not the answer we are looking for," said McPhail.

Earlier this month Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Gar Knutson broke the news that the office would not be reopening. McPhail blasts the company for not asking for local tenders through posting, by mail or through the local newspaper. Instead the postal services were automatically awarded to B&J Variety on Graham Street.

He is also critical of the fact that Canada Post had promised a long term contract with the building where the boxes are located on Main Street. McPhail also criticizes the fact that different Canada Post representatives tell him and residents differing information.

"Clearly the tail doesn't know what the dog is doing. You could say the tail is waging the dog," said McPhail last week.

SEPT 2001

January 14, 2002

WEST ELGIN 2002

West Elgin's community co-ordinator... delayed

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WANTS ONE IMMEDIATELY

The heat is on West Elgin council to make a decision on hiring a community co-ordinator, but last week council inclined to want to review finances first.

The West Elgin Chamber of Commerce have been showing interest in having the person hired very soon to be able to coordinate 2002 events.

On Thursday, council made it apparent a decision may not be made until the 2002 budget has been reviewed to see if there can be money available, if any.

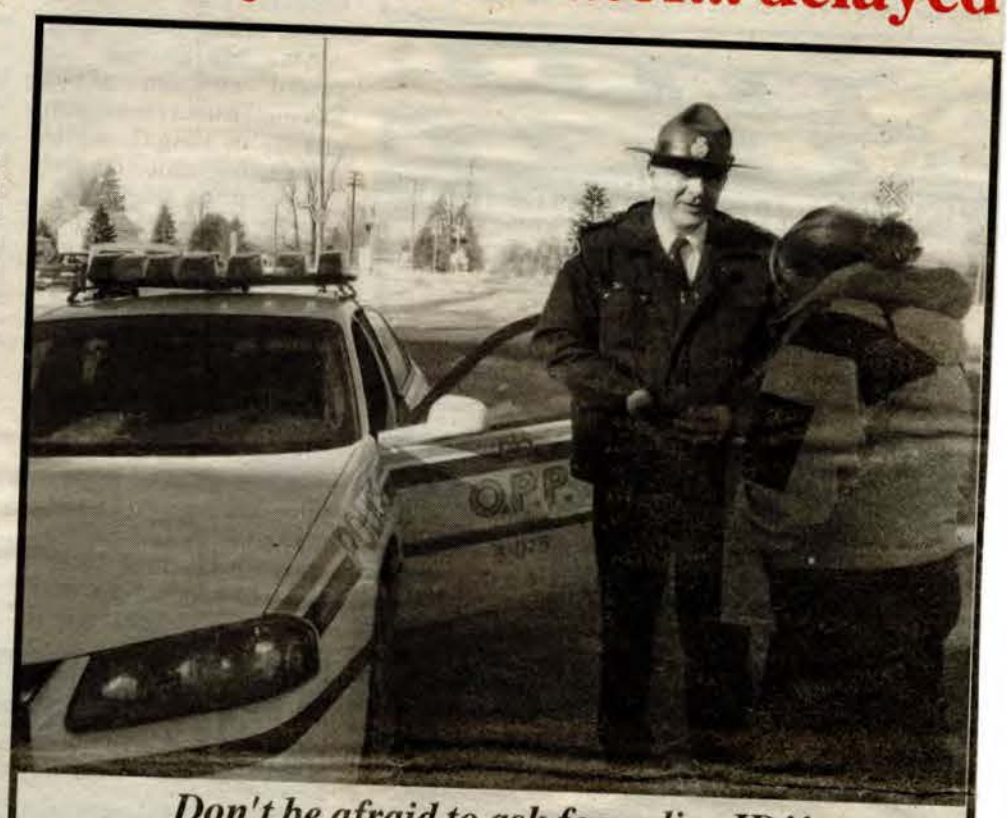
Chamber member Keith Fretter, and a strong supporter of a co-ordinator said on Friday he is clearly disappointed the process is taking so long and hopes a decision would be made before the budget process, so the coordinator could work on issues and events of this year.

West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail said the delay is not an indication that the majority of council thinks the co-ordinator is a bad idea. The delay he said is based on being fiscally responsible.

"There are a lot of other people who are not on the Chamber that we have to be accountable for too," said McPhail.

McPhail said people have to show more patience on the issue and, if in the end, the position is actually approved by council but the co-ordinator does not work until 2003, it is still a major benefit.

"We never had a position up until now. We have to wait and see and hear from the many other people in the municipality," said McPhail.



Don't be afraid to ask for police ID!!

Elgin County OPP Detachment Commander Ryan Cox is seen here showing his police identication to a West Lorne resident. Cox and the rest of the OPP are asking people to not be shy if they are suspicious on whether someone is a real police officer. The concern comes after recent robberies by people dressed as police officers. Thefts were made in Sarnia on December 16, Dutton/Dunwich on December 21 and West Elgin on December 22. For the latest on this story, turn to page 3.

West Elgin council approves new Rec building in West Lorne

West Elgin Council met for a regular meeting on Thursday February 14, with a heavy plate of issues to deal with. Mayor Duncan McPhail was absent due to being on holidays.

Here are some highlights from the meeting.

New Rec building approved

Council approved the construction of a new building to be placed on the east side of the West Elgin Arena in West Lorne. The cost is $87,624.

Councillor Trudi Balint said she knows the price will make some people uncomfortable, but she said they needed more space for recreation equipment. Balint told council it will also be a chance for West Lorne residents to see the municipality build in the community. Balint said many people in West Lorne have told her they feel municipal buildings have been slowly closed and operations and personnel moved to Rodney.

"West Lorne hasn't had their sidewalks rolled up on them this time," said Balint at the meeting.

Afterwards she said it will be a strong indication that "we are still in the community. We're still here."

Balint said they did extensive study of available buildings in West Lorne, including the former West Elgin Hydro building. She said, the new owners, Hydro One are asking too much.

In the end, council felt it was much more convenient for Recreation Superintendent Jeff Slater to have the building added onto the West Elgin Arena.

The new building will house one tractor, picnic tables, arena equipment, rescue fire van, and there will also be an area to do maintenance.

Councillor Mike Mooser was against spending the money for the new building and asked for a recorded vote.

In favour- Balint, Bandeen and Warwick.

Against- Mooser.

Ministry of Transportation coming back to West Elgin

Linda Cranston, Clerk/Deputy Treasurer for West Elgin announced that the Ministry of Transportation agrees with council that there should be a Ministry office West Elgin.

She said the Ministry has agreed to locate in either Rodney or West Lorne. Recently the Ministry has already conducted interviews with interested individuals.

The office will not be a stand-alone office, but be part of an existing business.

Councillor Mooser stated it makes best sense to have an office located in Rodney due to the car dealerships there.

OPP Efficiencies approved

Council has passed the motion to support the Elgin OPP's proposed efficiencies program.

The four requests from Elgin OPP are.

1. Hire three part-time officers for court services and prisoner transportation.

2. Hire a fourth stenographer to relieve time officers spend with data entry and keeping them on the 'beat' longer.

3. A vehicle for the detachment commander so cruisers are not used at public functions and special events that the commander attends.

4. Implement the Elgin OPP Auxiliary Unit. Start a 15 officer group to cover events and special details and to work as temporary replacement of officers when large emergency situations occur.

Council agreed the efficiencies were part of a good program, but did have some reservation on the vehicle for Detachment Commander Ryan Cox. In the end they approved the program on the basis there will be more visible OPP and efficient policing in West Elgin.

Port Glasgow Trailer Park equipment acquisitions

Council has approved the following items for the Port Glasgow Trailer Park (also known as Old Boys Park): $12,500 for a new lawn mower from Fulline, after trade-in and $3,000 to refinish the dance floor at the hall. Kent Floor of Chatham will do the work.

Transit Committee appointment

Mayor McPhail was appointed by council to be the municipality representative on the Transit committee.

Keutch retires from Rodney Fire Department

Bill Keutch of the Rodney Fire Department has announced he will be retiring. Keutch has been with the fire department for 42 years and will be commemorated for his years of service by the municipality in the near future.

Sorry about your luck!

A delegation led by Wes Sloan met council to review the Marsh Line waterline. The delegation was upset because back in 1993 when the water line was put in, they each paid $2000 to just have the water accessible, and they were told the price would go up over time. There was a $1,000 sharing fee and an additional $1,000 hook-up fee.

The Marsh Line residents are upset because at the present time their neighbours only paid a one time $900 fee to get hooked up, in recent years.

Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick apologized for how the residents have apparently lost out of money, but at the time the water line came in, Warwick said the council truly thought the water hook ups would soar through time.

"We can't go back and change our mistakes," Warwick simply told the delegation.

Bring those chairs back!

Recreation superintendent Jeff Slater reported there are 52 chairs missing from the collection at Rodney Recreation Centre. Because of this the chairs will be chained down with a lock and only individuals with a right to use the chairs and tables will be given a key.

Lengthy discussion was also made on possible penalties for losing chairs and equipment. Possibly fines and deposit fees will be examined in the future if the problem persists.

West Elgin - *Get that junker out of the driveway!*

MUNICIPALITY TO CRACK DOWN ON CLUNKERS

West Elgin wants you to get that clunker out of the driveway if you have a vehicle or vehicles that are sitting rusting away.

Using the municipality's revised Property Standards Act West Elgin begun cracking down on 'derelict' vehicles that have been sitting in people's yards and driveways, especially in the villages of West Lorne and Rodney.

Councillor Mike Mooser has made it a personal campaign to insure the property standards in West Lorne.

"We're not running a junk yard in West Lorne. People have to get rid of these cars," said Mooser.

Mooser said they want to get rid of majorly rusted out cars without a licence and are not running. Bylaw enforcement officer Bill Douglas will be conducting investigations on vehicles and yards after complaints have been recieved and filled out at the West Elgin municipal office.

West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail said the implementation of the bylaw will only be used "primarily on a complaint basis."

After the meeting McPhail put the issue into the perspective that North America's love affair with vehicles sometimes goes too far and the romance goes too long.

"Thank God we have made it past the mode of transportation of horses. Today it would mean a bunch of dead horses on people's yards and driveways."

McPhail explained that they will be working with residents and not hounding everyone with a spare car in their driveway.

"We are not on a witch hunt. We're just trying to clean up the towns," said McPhail.

Mooser agreed that there will be some liency for people who have legitimate uses for the vehicle, like restoration and collection of antique vehicles. But he said they have limits.

"You're not going to have it in your driveway for four or five months. If you are going to restore it you're going to do it right away," said Mooser. "If you let it go too long it just becomes a piece of junk."

continued on page 3

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WEST ELGIN 2002

AUG. 2002 The Chronicle

West Elgin council sees personnel changes

West Elgin council held a regular meeting last Thursday. Here are some highlights of the meeting.

Roads foreman retires from staff

Bill Keutch has retired from the municipality after 23 years.

Keutch was given some commemorative gifts during a special ceremony in council.

Keutch began his municipal career in 1979 as Road Superintendent for the Village of Rodney. In 1993 he became Road Foreman with the newly amalgamated Aldborough Township. In 1998 he continued until last week as Road Foreman with the municipality of West Elgin. Prior to 1979 he worked with Johnston Bros Sand & Gravel.

At his retirement announcement, Keutch said he leaves the roads department in good hands and in good shape.

"The road system is coming along very nicely," said Keutch.

He pointed out many of the roads will be a lot better next spring, thanks to better systems and practices in use at West Elgin's Road Department.

"The roads will be a lot better. There won't be the break-ups," said Keutch.

Keutch said he has learned a lot during his years with the municipality and thanked the entire municipal staff for the many memorable times he has picked up in the 23 years.

"It has just been marvellous what he has done over the years for the municipality," said Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick, of Keutch.

The new Road Foreman is Paul Van Vaernbergh. Warwick said three excellent people applied for the position and made the final decision a hard one to make.

Resident receives building code convictions

A West Elgin resident has been convicted of three building violations under the Building Code and fined.

The resident was found guilty of not holding a building permit and using materials and methods not up to the building code.

New clerk works first council meeting

Norma Bryant is the new Clerk/Deputy Treasurer for West Elgin. She replaces Linda Cranston who resigned in July.

Liability insurance needed for leased trailer lots

Council has decided to enforce a rule that all full-time seasonal campers who lease lots, must have $1 million coverage in liability insurance. This does not include transient campers.

This will be effective 2003 and letters will be sent out to the current campers who are leasing lots to explain this situation.

Haasz Trust Fund goes to daffodil auxiliary

The Haasz Trust Fund has been granted to the West Elgin Daffodil Axillary. The trust fund stated the money (approximately $7,800) must be used for medical issues in West Lorne. Council decided the Daffodil Auxiliary was the best organization to use the money.

The fund will be used for transportation for medical purposes and medical aids for residents of West Lorne.

New rec building approved... finally

At the previous council meeting of July 25, council decided to build the municipality's new recreation department storage building on their original site.

The building will be erected on Chestnut at an estimated cost of approximately $83,000. It will hold the equipment of the recreation department.

Discussion had been made over the past few months about cheaper buildings, where to build it (Rodney or West Lorne) and it was finally decided West Lorne is the best site. Council initially met sticker shock with the $83,000 price tag, but after reviewing tenders realized - that is how much new buildings cost.

Queen Street to get paving extension

Queen Street East will be receiving its high float (also known as tar and chip) paving very soon. Currently the contractor is resurfacing the townline (Dunborough Road) and will do Queen when they are finished. Queen Street East will extended and fully connected onto Dunborough.

High Float pavement is a very popular system of paving municipal roads and it is one of the cheaper forms of pavement with durability.

Roads departments have received lifetime estimates of approximately 10 years under normal driving wear and tear.

Dutton/Dunwich is resurfacing Dunborough Road with a base of recycled asphalt from local roads like the 401.

West Elgin is resurfacing Queen Street using a gravel base.

West Elgin still requests election for FCHS directors

The municipality is still asking the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to call an election for the Board of Directors of Four Counties Health Services. (see story page 3).

The Ministry has just appointed a supervisor for the hospital, Geoff Davies, former Chair of London Health Services Centre.



West Elgin's new Clerk/Deputy Treasurer Norma Bryant, who comes from Huntsville, Ontario.



West Elgin Road Foreman Bill Keutch (right) retired last Thursday and was commemorated in a ceremony. Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick presents Keutch with gifts of plaque-bookends and a watch, from the municipality.

NOV. 18, 2002 The Chronicle

McPhail announces retirement next November

Last week West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail was joking he is ready to buy a Harley Davidson and drive off into the sunset. But he was serious too.

McPhail says he is ready to retire from politics and move on with different aspects of life and on Wednesday he shocked many by announcing he will not be putting his name on the ballot next November.

After 14 years of municipal politics, which has included terms of councillor, Reeve, Mayor, Warden and Chair of Western Wardens Association the Mayor says he feels he has accomplished all he can in the political ring. He says he has no desire to look at provincial and federal politics.

"I'm like the good boyscout. I have all the badges," he says.

McPhail says it was only fair to make the announcement early so those who may be interested in feeling his post, will have time to prepare.

"That's only fair to the municipality, to Graham (deputy Mayor Graham Warwick) or anybody who may be interested in running," he says.

McPhail says there is a full year ahead of him and lots of issues presenting council that he will be at the helm for.

The political environment has changed a lot according to McPhail and he notes that most recently there have been battles that were never fought before, including hospitals, post offices, schools and MTO offices.

He says there is also no comparison to when his political career began in 1988 and the early years.

"Sometimes when I really think back, we used to have the big debate on whether we needed a fax machine or not."

Most recently McPhail met a huge personal challenge after losing the person he considered to be his "debriefing team' - his wife Liz, who passed away in 2001.

The Mayor says he thinks he will be leaving the helm at a point where West Elgin has a strong future.

"I think we are in very good shape and have made very many achievements," he says.

Although he is leaving local politics he doesn't want people to get the impression he is leaving West Elgin.

"I'm riding into the sunset, not off the edge of the world," he says confidently.



Duncan McPhail

As for the Harley, McPhail says he is quite serious, and has been looking at some bikes most recently.

In other council news:

• West Elgin council has approved the plans to bring water north of the 401 along Graham Road. Water Manager Lloyd Jarvis is ready to buy the water lines because he says this is the cheapest time of the year and the next step will be reviewing the cost of the endeavour.

• Council has assured West Lorne resident Roxanne Kirschner that there will be safety issues addressed at the corner of Graham and Main Streets in West Lorne. On Thursday council heard Kirschner's concerns and have been looking at alternatives to keep the corner safe, without losing too much downtown parking through regulation and enforcement. Council was hoping to have a decision made on this issue before Christmas.

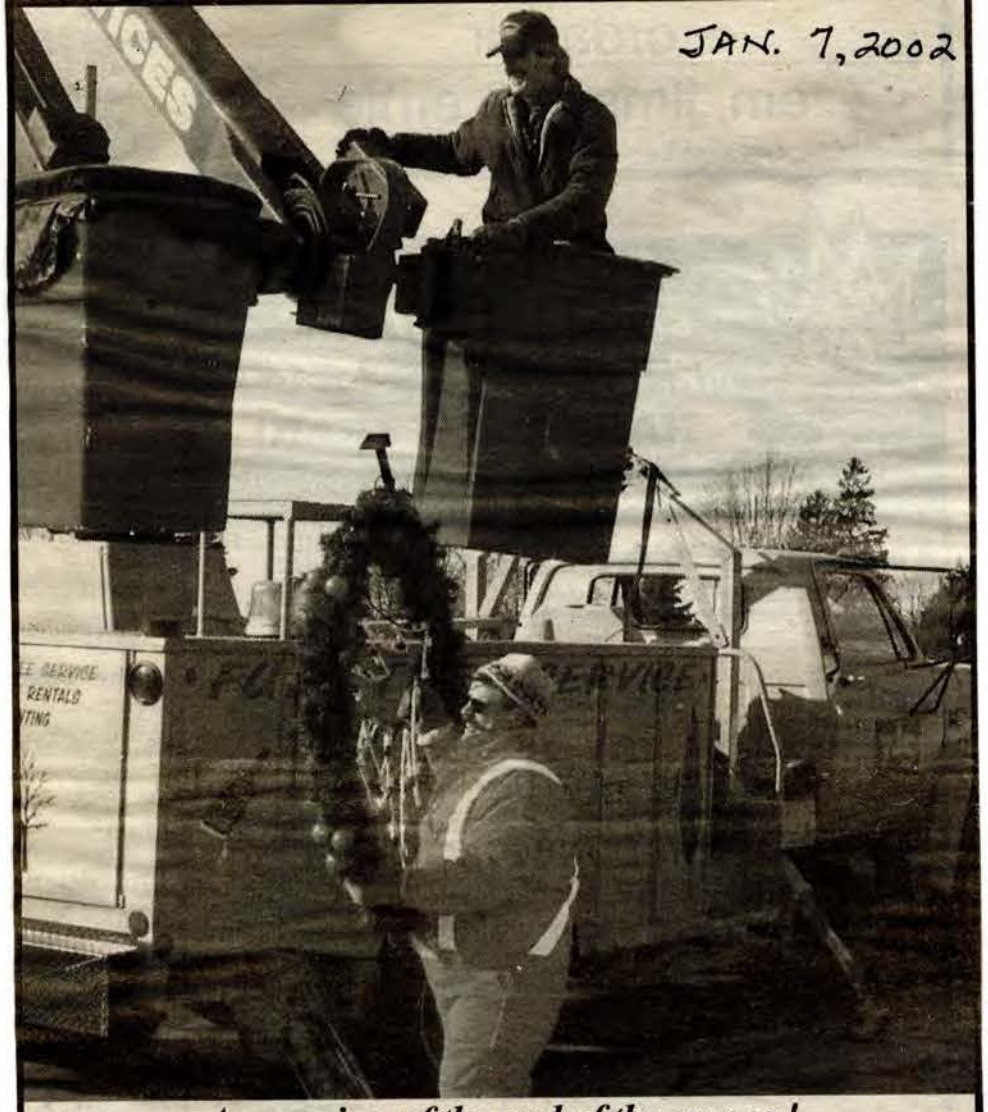
• Plans are in the works to ask organizers of the Port Glasgow Fish Fry to incorporate the Talbot Settlement Bicentennial in next August's event. Nick Wells from the Bicentennial Committee has asked council and the West Elgin community to take part in the celebrations in May, throughout Elgin County.

• Changes are being made to how the municipality does business since the passage of the New Municipal Act. Clerk Norma Bryant outlined most of the changes which include strict guidelines on notifying the public on meetings, procedural changes with closed sessions, changes in disposal of land, user fees and permanent road closures.

• West Lorne fire chief Allan Beer will be invited to the next council meeting to discuss the possibility of a new fire truck for the department.

• Building permits were over $7 million by the end of October, a new WE record.

WEST ELGIN 2002



A sure sign of the end of the season!

Tom Jones of Tom Jones Tree Services (on the truck) and West Elgin Parks and Recreation Superintendent Jeff Slater enjoyed the good weather last week while taking down Christmas decorations in West Lorne. Later this year new streetlights will be installed in West Lorne which can hold banners and flower planters.

The Chronicle JULY 29/02

Carroll remembered by many

Former Aldborough resident and highly accomplished man Lorne Carroll's life was celebrated and honoured during his funeral last week. Carrol, a former Elgin County Warden of 1978, Aldbrough Councillor 1969-71, Deputy Reeve 1972-74, Reeve 1975-78 and director of Aldborough Old Boys for over 20 years (to name a handful of achievements), passed away Friday, June 19.

He is surived by his wife Louis of Strathroy and his numerous family members and extended family including daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

His daughter Anne Jamieson of Kapuskasing read an euology last week that reiterated the amount and caring and volunteering that people will remember Lorne Carroll for.

"Dad was always helpful, in Crinan, Coweal and Strathroy. He was helpful as a Dad, husband, neighbour and friend. His trucks, and there were several over the years from the used pink one that we learned to drive, onto the new one he bought for the camper, to the last red one were frequently used for missions of mercy, picking up and delivering canned goods, Christmas boxes, furniture amd playhouses," she read.

Jamieson said her father was incredibly honest in both speech and action. "He was a man of great integrity. He stood up for what was right even if it meant personal sacrifice," she said.

"Dad really was something else, a loving and caring man whose special touches brought assurance that we were loved and cared for both by Dad and his Lord who must have welcomed him as it says on the bulletin with Well Done Good and Faithful Servant."

His grandchildren also reiterated his unselfishness and his generosity, patience and courage.

Carroll was a life-long member of Argyle Presbyterian Church, Crinan.

Donations can be made in his memory to Argyle Church or the Canadian Cancer Society.

The Chronicle NOV. 11, 2002

West Elgin reviews residential proposal

West Elgin council met for a meeting on October 24. *Here are some highlights from the meeting:*

Badder proposes residential lots

The owner of Elgin Bus lines is proposing that lands not used by the bus barn become residential.

Neil Badder has chosen the west side of Finney Street to be the location of the bus barn. He proposes the east side could be split into eight lots including a cul-de-sac.

John Spriet of Spriet Associates spoke on Badder's behalf and told council that there may also be an opportunity to move a water line up Finney, around the Glencoe water plant and bring water to the north of the 401.

Council had no objections to Badder's proposal of severing the east properties for residential.

Official Plan review

The municipality will be holding a public meeting on the draft of the Official Plan Amendment as it deals with new serverance plans. These serverance ammendments deal primarily with rural severances and restrictions on dwellings.

The municipality is proposing to modify existing policies on lots designated 'Agriculture' and 'Restricted Agriculture'

The meeting will be Thursday, November 28 at 9:30 am at the West Elgin Municipal office in Rodney.

MMAH calls for Santos subdivision

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has no objections to the latest construction of lots by local developer Tony Santos, but future ones will have to be hooked up to municipal sewers. The ministry notified that all future developments by Santos 'must proceed by a plan of subdivision.'

Currently, Santos has 42 lots in the Evandale, Catherine Street areas, and they have all been approved to have individual septic tanks. Further expansion of the areas will have to be hooked up to the municipal sewers.

Tridon Construction changes Eagle lots

Don DeJong of Tridon Construction came to council to announce changes to the real estate lots in Eagle.

Council has approved Tridon's plan to change the area to less lots, but bigger.

Roads to have overnight winter shift

West Elgin Roads Department will once again have a overnight shift for the winter season. If it does not snow prior, the new shift will begin December 15. Roads superintendent Rick Jackson said the overnight shift allows for better snow removal coverage, eliminates overtime pay, and allows more work to be done within the department. Overnight employees will also be responsible for signage, vehicle maintenance and reporting on streetlights and other municipal issues.

Pig barn questions from neighbour

Although he said he has no issue with his neighbour, West Elgin resident Harry Vanderkuyl came to council with concerns of a 300 pig operation running around his property. Vanderkuyl said he was worried about contamination of his water well.

Council was confident there will not be problems from his new neighbour. They were also confident the new rules and regulation of the Nutrient Management Act are strict and intolerable.

"The (Ministry of Environment) is there. You cannot pollute," said Warwick who pointed out complaints are mostly neighbourhood driven, but the MOE is ready and has been enforcing the laws.

Mayor Duncan McPhail sent a message to all rural neighbours about communciation being the best solutoin.

"Talk to the farmers, build a good relationship and be involved in the Nutrient Management process through conversation. Ask them to respect the family wells," he said.

West Elgin sees bus barn and church dispute

West Elgin council held a meeting on August 22. Here are highlights from the meeting. 2002

West Lorne residents cry out on bus location

Some angry West Elgin residents came out with a last minute delegation of people that filled council chambers to dispute the last two proposed locations for a bus barn.

As reported last week some West Lorne residents are adamantly against a Finney or Gilbert Street location because of issues with children, noise and pollution from the buses.

Members from the last delegation from Queen Street also came to this meeting and one resident, David Lawley has written a letter to the Thames Valley District School Board, begging questions why this is all necessary.

Resident Joe Fischer called the decision by the TVDSB to move the Elgin Bus Lines out of the high school area "ludicrous."

Fischer was also quick to defend the former Town of West Lorne's policy to create an industrial zone, when it was questioned.

"They didn't want any industry to locate south of West Lorne," said Fischer and added later that "they had a vision."

Other residents like Mike Mulhern advised council to have an official plan study to find out and approve where industrial, commercial and residential areas are in the municipality, to prevent further rezoning problems.

Melody Fellowship issue now a legal issue

McPhail annonunced to council a lawyer from the legal firm HarrisonPensa Lawyers in London was in touch with him asking about issues dealing with Melody Fellowship and the municipality. McPhail said from after reading into the tone of the conversation that he advised the lawyer to contact the municipality's lawyer. The two lawyers will now be discussing issues pertaining to the church over the past year.

After reiterating council's view on the property that Melody Fellowship owns in Eagle, council decided to stand by their earlier decision to call for the owners to have agriculture, environmental and residential impact studies on the property.

Council has also decided to stand by all its decisions pertaining to Melody Fellowship, including the decision to not let the church meet at the municipal building (West Lorne Community Complex) and these will be reiterated by a lawyer.

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McGuinty appoints Peters to agricultural post

For *The Chronicle*

It's official.

The riding of Elgin-Middlesex-London has a seat at the cabinet table.



Steve Peters

MPP Steve Peters was sworn in as minister of agriculture and food last week in a Queen's Park ceremony alongside Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and his ministerial colleagues.

Peters was elated with his appointment and he is eager to get started on his agricultural portfolio.

The local MPP served as a critic for the portfolio in opposition.

"It's great news and it's great for Elgin-Middlesex-London," said Peters. "I was surprised but just as any of my 71 colleagues, everyone hopes that they will be asked to take some additional responsibilities. I am quite honoured."

Although the official announcement was made at a ceremony last Thursday, Peters was invited into McGuinty's inner circle last Wednesday night and was sworn to secrecy until the ceremony.

Peters says his first item of business was meeting with his deputy minister, Frank Ingratta, to discuss the transition period and to check out his new office.

Ontario's agriculture minister noted that his priorities include a complete review of the Agriculture Policy Framework (APF), a federal program that Ontario has yet to sign on with.

"I don't want to just sign on unless it has the best interests of Ontario farmers in mind. More works needs to be done to improve the APF."

Another priority cited was food safety and inspection at the 209 meat processing facilities across the province.

When asked if he was particularly interested in the situation at Aylmer Meat Packers, Peters responded, "We can not dwell on Aylmer. We need to look at the situation in context with all 209 facilities in the province. We must ... ensure public confidence and ... work in the best interests of Ontario's farmers."

OCT 2003 *Continued on Page 2*



PARTING GIFTS...

Retiring West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail presents Administrator Joanne Groch with a framed print of the Elgin County building as a gift to the municipality as he retired last week at the final meeting of West Elgin Council's current incarnation. The municipality presented McPhail with a plaque. DEC. 4/03

Chronicle photo

Tickets refunded

West Elgin council accepts blame for parking ticket woes in villages

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

West Elgin council accepted responsibility for turning innocent people into criminals at council's July 10 meeting where 10 parking ticket-holders attended looking for answers.

They wanted to know what council was doing about the rash of tickets issued to people since the end of June for parking overnight or on the boulevards.



McPhail

"If there's anyone at fault, it's the people in this room," said Mayor Duncan McPhail to the audience after a segment of the meeting was set aside to examine the parking ticket issue.

And he offered refunds and amnesty to ticket holders.

"This genie got out of the bottle before we were ready for it," said McPhail.

Close to 100 tickets were issued in West Elgin, the majority in Rodney, since 39 new parking bylaws came into effect June 30. The bylaws were the result of a three-year effort to create a set of bylaws that OPP could enforce across Elgin County to be able to respond to parking complaints.

But instead of targeting the trouble areas municipalities had identified, the bulk of tickets issued were for people parking overnight and for parking on boulevards.

The result of a generic bylaw, those specific infractions were not identified as problems in West Elgin but received the most enforcement, taking residents by surprise not once, but twice in a week after being told OPP would relax their enforcement of those issues.

"It's quite obvious we don't have all the problems worked out," said McPhail. He accepted responsibility for the public not being made aware these new bylaws existed and were about to be enforced.

For those receiving tickets in the first wave of enforcement, largely between June 30 and July 1, McPhail said residents have no choice but to pay the tickets, now on record in the courts.

However, if people bring their receipts to the municipal office, the money will be refunded.

On July 8, after council assured residents they could park on boulevards for the time being until the bylaws and enforcement of them could be sorted out, more tickets were issued, many getting hit a second time, particularly on Stinson Street were several residents do not have driveways.

After discussions with the OPP, McPhail said those tickets have been withdrawn and anyone receiving one will also be receiving a hand-delivered letter from the OPP stating the ticket is only to be considered a warning.

"We go to a much greater length to notify people we're going to flush hydrants," said McPhail of the lack of warning residents received before the new laws came into effect.

He said there are several options council will consider in the coming weeks as it

JULY. 17, 2003

WEST ELGIN
2003

West Elgin looks at septage system

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

West Elgin is considering moving into the septic business — at least being a depot.

Council approved spending $30,000 on a study that would set the stage for upgrades to the sewage treatment plant to receive septic waste.

"We have a need locally to dispose of human septic," said Mayor Graham Warwick.

Local companies that empty septic tanks are finding their sources drying up for places to dispose of the waste and some have approached the municipality for help.

Elvio Zaghi of Stantec, presented council with an outline of how to proceed with setting up a system to treat septic waste that could cost upwards of $200,000.

The study will look at issues such as how to utilize the existing sewage treatment plant and underutilized lagoons to assist with treating septage.

Zaghi said the lagoons currently are never full to capacity and much of the sludge from the treatment plant and rainwater that partially fill them evaporate.

He said the study will help determine how much more capacity can be handled at the plant and how much septage it would be able to take.

Rural areas of West Elgin have homes still on septic systems, as well as trailer parks and Zaghi said there would also be some light industrial septage being collected in this area.

He also suggested septage from other municipalities could be taken if there was enough capacity.

One of the unknowns, tied into developing a septage treatment operation is animal waste and Zaghi said legislation affecting how that waste is handled is still not clear.

Much of these issues would still have to be addressed and Warwick said council could always decide not to actually begin treating septage.

Zaghi also said they need to look at other communities that treat septage to see how they are handling it and find a method that would most closely suit West Elgin.

"These types of projects can really drag out," he warned, adding the planning process itself adds the bulk of the time.

If council decided to pursue septage treatment, the earliest it could be available to companies pumping out septic tanks would be the latter half of 2005. DEC. 24, 2003

Warwick takes over leadership of West Elgin, expects some rough waters ahead

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Incoming West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick will be taking the helm of a ship he thinks has weathered well in the past couple incarnations of council.

But it might not be smooth sailing ahead.

"Our ship is a good ship but the seas are rough," said Warwick.

He and the new council were sworn in Dec. 1 and while the former council has left no pressing issues, Warwick cautions there are some struggles ahead.

"The property tax burden is a bigger threat to rural services," said Warwick.

He said it is up to West Elgin to work with other municipalities to help get the message across to ban centres that they benefit from eir rural counterparts and need to work with them.

Rural municipalities face government decisions made with an urban mindset without understanding how it can place a harder pressure on the rural areas.

Warwick sees importance in getting the urban-focussed decision-makers to realize how those decisions impact rural Ontario.

From ambulance services and roads to affordable housing, the past generations of council have had their tax base pressured with extensive downloading of services from the provincial level to the county and municipal levels.

"We're small but have to be smart," he said, if council is going to maintain the ship on a smooth course.

Warwick credits past mayor Duncan McPhail and his predecessor, Harry Mezenberg with building a strong ship.

He said both have helped prepare him to take the helm, teaching him the importance of working as a team, not only as council and municipal staff but as municipalities that have to work together as well.

"They have to work together as a team," said Warwick.

COMMITTEES SET

At the inaugural meeting, councillors were appointed to various committees.

Deputy Mayor Bernie Wiehle will serve on the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce, Rodney Fire Board, Rodney Fair Board, Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority and on the Tri Counties water management board.

New councillor Mary Bodnar will serve on the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce, West Elgin Community Policing Committee and on the recreation and arena boards.

Veteran councillor Trudy Balint will serve on the recreation and arena boards and the policing committee.

Councillor Michael Mooser will serve on the water management board and West Lorne Fire Board.

Dec 2003



"BEST DAMN TRUCK DRIVER"

During a council meeting, Mayor elect Graham Warwick presented "the best damn truck driver in Ontario" with the huge "Driver of the Year" trophy from the 2003 Provincial Safety Truck Rodeo. Blair Schweitzer (right), a West Elgin Roads Dept. employee, was successful through all the levels of the competition which is put on by the Association of Roads Dept Supervisors and came out on top to win the prestigious "Driver of the Year" award. While several competitors from our area have been successful at regional levels, Blair is the only competitor from our area to ever go all the way to the top. OCT. 2003

Chronicle photo

Peters rides red wave to victory

Liberals defeat PC by 12,000 votes in Elgin-Middlesex-London

For *The Chronicle*

The writing was literally on the wall early that the voters of Elgin-Middlesex-London had delivered incumbent Liberal MPP Steve Peters a landslide victory in last Thursday's provincial election.

Inside Peters's election night base at the St. Anne's Centre in St. Thomas, the poll-by-poll results made it clear by 8:15 p.m. that Peters was headed back to Queen's Park.

Peters crushed Progressive Conservative candidate Bruce Smith by nearly 12,000 votes in a riding he had won by just over 1,100 in 1999.

"What's happened here tonight is we've sent a message," Peters told a cheering crowd of more than 400 supporters.

"The province of Ontario has sent a message that they are looking for change. They are looking for positive change."

Peters polled 24,914 votes to Smith's 13,148. New Democrat Bryan Bakker got 4,063, Green Party standard bearer John Fisher 673 and Ray Monteith of the Freedom Party 671.

Voter turnout in EML was 60.2 per cent, down from 64.5 per cent in the 1999 provincial vote.

The re-elected MPP goes to Queen's Park as part of a Liberal red wave that swept the Progressive Conservatives and Premier Ernie Eves from office.

Locally, all four London-area ridings went to the Liberals, who elected 72 MPPs across the province, to 24 Tories and just seven New Democrats.

It was those numbers that most impressed Peters.

"More important is not only for me to win this riding, but to be a part of a government and not be an Opposition member," said Peters.

Smith, meanwhile, indicated his second bid at winning a riding he represented a portion of from 1995-1999 may be his last.

"Will I ever step away from politics? No, I'll always be around it, but that being said, I'll be less in the forefront and more in a supportive role," Smith said.

As to the Liberal's win, Smith wished Peters and McGuinty well. "I give the Liberals credit, they campaigned on a very undefined platform, a platform of simple change," he said.

Thursday night, Smith did not follow tradition by congratulating Peters in person.

His campaign told Peters's campaign co-chairman Suzanne van Bommel at 10 p.m. they were offended at the antics of members of the Peters team, including Peters, earlier in the evening.

"We went through their (campaign office) parking lot and down Talbot Street honking our horns. They thought it was ignorant," said van Bommel.

Unofficial results

Unofficial results for the 2003 provincial election in Elgin-Middlesex-London:

Candidate	Votes	%
Steve Peters (L)	24,914	57.31
Bruce Smith (PC)	13,148	30.25
Bryan Bakker (NDP)	4,063	9.35
John Fisher (G)	673	1.55
Ray Monteith (FP)	671	1.54

Total Votes Cast: 43,469
Percentage Turnout: 60.2

OCT 9/03

Meet the candidates:

KEITH FRETTER



Position seeking: Councillor Ward 1, West Elgin.

Community Involvement:

I have been a member of the Chamber of Commerce since arriving in the community three years ago and have just started a term as a Director. Supporter of local events/activities through sponsorship and donations.

Most Important Local Issues:

Economic Development: The area is in urgent need of economic development to help retain residents and increase the tax base. Municipal council needs to be a leader in the effort to improve job opportunities by encouraging businesses to locate in the area, boost tourism efforts and retain community services such as schools and doctors, which are vital in attracting and maintaining residents. I want to assist in developing a strategy to put West Elgin on the map and in the minds of companies looking for a place to locate in Southwestern Ontario. I want to encourage local artists and artisans to get involved in promotion and development of downtown areas with a view to improving tourism. I want to help develop a plan to make downtown areas more attractive to give visitors the best experience possible. With initiatives like these we can and will attract more commerce which will contribute to the betterment of local business and the community at large.

If the change in provincial government does not result in significant change to the delivery of education and medical services, I want to formalize a strategy in the community as a whole to create strong resistance to cuts and fight to maintain local services.

Council must also lead the way in encouraging improvement to recycling programs and garbage disposal.

What I will bring to the council table:

A fresh face and fresh ideas, a positive attitude, an understanding of municipal affairs, determination, common sense and a caring but business-like attitude.

ROBERT N WHITE



Position seeking: West Elgin councillor, Ward 2.

Community Involvement:

I have been an active part of this community since I moved here in 1992. I have served on the West Lorne Fire Department and the West Lorne Business Association.

Since amalgamation I have been an executive member of the West Elgin Chamber Of Commerce and the West Elgin representative on the St Thomas Elgin Tourist Association.

Issues in this election:

I am a strong believer in the community of West Elgin but understand that the identities of West Lorne, Rodney, Pt Glasgow, Eagle, Crinan and other small communities must be preserved as part of our heritage. Our farms are an important and integral part of our way of life in West Elgin.

I moved to this area in 1992 and have raised a family in this community and am proud to call it my home. We need to continue to grow without losing the charm that makes this community a pleasure to live in. I will fight hard to keep our high school, as it is an integral part of our future. I would also work to expand our industrial base while maintaining our rural heritage. I believe this can be done if we plan and grow responsibly.

What I bring to the council table:

I graduated in 1994 from the University of Western Ontario with a degree in Sociology and Philosophy. I was president of a national charity group. I had the honour of being a delegate to a national convention for policy development for a veteran's organization. I was a safety coordinator and industrial firefighter before becoming disabled due to an illness. I have always been actively involved in my community and have learned to work with all levels of government. I would like to be a part of the team that leads our community into the future.

Thank you for considering me and for your support.

TRUDY BALINT



Position seeking: Councillor Ward 3, West Elgin

Community Involvement:

- Civilian Instructor - #2884 WE Cadet Corps
- Co-chaired Youth Safety Day - partnerships from The West Elgin Community Health Centre and West Elgin Police Committee
- Canada Day Committee Member
- Volunteer with West Lorne Optimists - Christmas Bingo, M.C. for Christmas Parade
- West Elgin Downhill Derby Committee Member

Issues in this election:

- By being a part of an open and approachable Council making sound and informed decisions on how to spend our tax dollars wisely for the good of the community as a whole, is a very important issue for me
- To keep providing our residents with safe, clean water and further expanding water lines in our rural areas.
- Completing our Official Plan
- Working along with our farmers on keeping our farming community active
- To keep improving the quality of life presently enjoyed by our residents in our Municipality
- Continue working at enhancing our Recreational Facilities (ie. Skateboard parks, new pool)
- Having a portion of the Trans Canada Trail through our community
- "NEW" Bike Trails

What I will bring to the Council Table:

- six consecutive years as Councillor
- experienced at making tough decisions
- experienced committee member:
- Recreation - West Elgin Pool, Day Camp
- Arena Board - currently serving as chairperson
- West Elgin Police Committee
- West Elgin Parent Child Resource Centre
- A strong voice for our farming community

HELEN OKOLISAN



Position seeking: Councillor, Ward 3, West Elgin

I have lived in the village of West Lorne for 55 years. I have been an active participant in our community in several capacities: I have served for two terms on West Lorne town council, successfully participated in the West Lorne business sector as a hairdresser for more than 37 years, and have proudly raised a family in the community.

Issues in this election:

Creating and supporting economic opportunities and growth for the West Elgin Municipality, open lines of communication with myself and council, and accountability. I will make myself available, accessible and get results for Ward 3. I will try hard to live up to my motto: Listening and putting the people of Ward 3 and their concerns first.

I understand, believe and care about the needs of Ward 3 and the municipality. I will work hard on your behalf. Understanding the issues and creating the best working solutions are what I strive for and strongly support.

I look forward to meeting with the people in Ward 3 and listening to your concerns. I strongly encourage all of you to voice your support by voting on Nov. 10 to form a strong local government that understands and supports the municipality. Please vote for Helen Okolisan on Nov 10.

Wiehle named deputy mayor, in West Elgin election race

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

The election was a learning experience for newly elected West Elgin Deputy Mayor Bernhard Wiehle.

The newcomer defeated the more experienced Tom Jones with 595 votes to 513, according to unofficial 2003 municipal election results.

"I was quite surprised," said Wiehle who was not certain he would defeat Jones, who has had more community experience.

"It was a close race," said Wiehle, who said he was disappointed by the low voter turnout.

Actual turnout figures were not available at press time.

Wiehle is looking forward to getting started when the new council takes over in December and said it looks like a good team has been elected.

Jones could not be reached for comment.

Rounding out the West Elgin team is acclaimed mayor Graham Warwick, the current deputy mayor, who replaces the retiring Duncan McPhail.

In Ward 1, newcomer Mary Bodnar defeated Keith Fretter, also a newcomer, 314 votes to 219.

Ward 2 results sees incumbent Michael Mooser returning, having defeated Robert N. White, 277 to 128.

Incumbent Trudy Balint returns to the table representing Ward 3 after defeating Helen Okolisan 144 to 50.



Vote For BERNHARD WIEHLE

DEPUTY MAYOR

Municipality of West Elgin

WEST ELGIN ELECTION Nov. 10, 2003

The Chronicle

Meet the candidates: West Elgin

GRAHAM WARWICK

Position Seeking: Mayor, West Elgin, **acclaimed**



My name is Graham Warwick, I look after sows for Misty Lea Farms on Talbot Line and grow soya beans at home.

I am 50 years old. I have two sons Asaph 23 and Simon 21. My wife Elizabeth Sebestyen and I, have been married for 25 years and we live on Fleming Line west of Black's Road.

I was first elected as an Aldborough township councillor in 1988. I have been on council ever since, serving two terms as Deputy Mayor of West Elgin.

I am very happy to have the opportunity to serve again, this time as Mayor.

Our community has been well served by past councils.

They looked ahead, saw opportunities, prepared in advance for them and by working together in a professional manner, made them happen, providing West Elgin with first class infrastructure. This positive attitude has attracted excellent staff who in turn have been crucial to council's success.

I hope, with the new council to be able to meet this challenge and to make our own contribution to the growth and prosperity of West Elgin.

Municipal government is the level that most affects our day to day lives and it is also the level where people can most easily make a difference. Volunteers in West Elgin have shown they can shape this community by helping council identify priorities and find solutions. Participation of this kind is essential to maintain the level of success we have enjoyed. Our best resource is ourselves.

Finally I think we must all work together to continue to contain costs where ever we can because the property tax in recent years has been asked to pickup more and more of what used to be picked up by the gasoline tax, income tax and corporate taxes. The full effect of this is yet to be felt and when it is, the only way to maintain services and our population base will be through cost effectiveness.

TOM JONES



Position seeking: Deputy Mayor, West Elgin

Community Involvement Since moving to West Elgin 15 years ago, I have been active in many community events. These events are definitely one of the things that make West Elgin a great place to live. I am presently (past two years) president of the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce. I organized bringing the Christmas parade back to West Lorne 10-11 years ago and am always involved in the following: Canada Day and Labour Day Festivities, Slow pitch tournaments and parades and am a former West Lorne firefighter.

Important issues in this election:

I believe firstly we need to ensure that "Save our Schools in West Elgin" is a very family oriented community and a great place to raise families. These children will eventually become the future of West Elgin.

Also I would like to bring more industrial manufacturing and warehousing businesses to West Elgin to ensure more jobs to West Elgin residents now and in the future.

With expansion of more businesses it might be possible to lower taxes at sometime as there will be a larger tax base. This may also in turn promote more families moving to West Elgin.

I would also like to see more research into what we can do to assist our local farmers. From day one they have been the driving force of West Elgin and we need to preserve the family farm.

What I will bring to the council table:

My extensive business background would definitely be a plus to any council as new fresh ideas are always needed to serve the residents better.

Also I think we need to do more. Listening to the concerns of the people of West Elgin. I am always available to discuss these kinds of situations with anyone. Also as I have been the president of the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce, I have more input on what is needed in this municipality. I look forward to serving our residents to the best of my ability.

APPEARED IN CHRONICLE NOV. 6, 2003

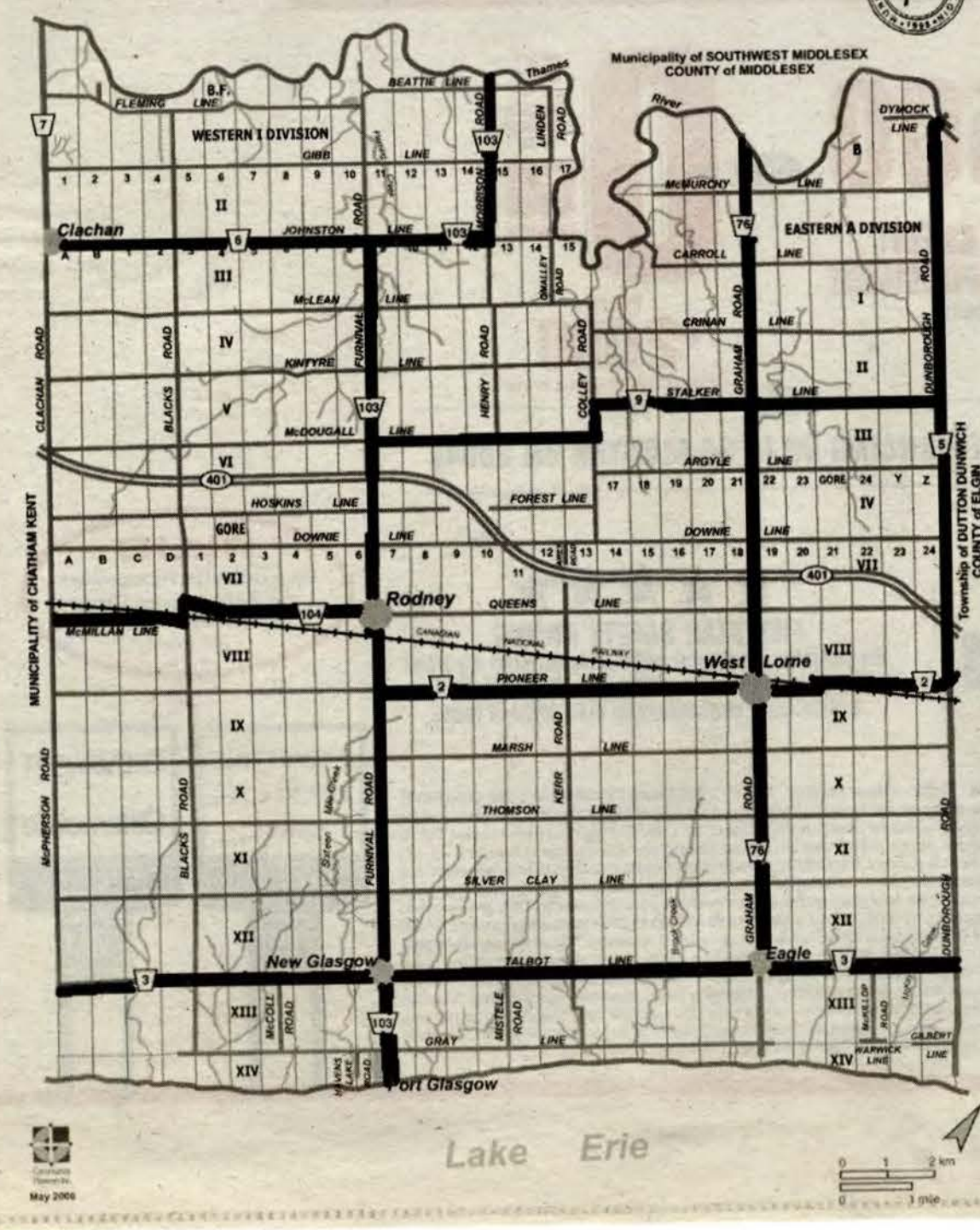
MUNICIPALITY OF WEST ELGIN
NOTICE: PARKING BY-LAW

As of November 15, 2003, on County Roads (see map) the parking by-law will be enforced in its entirety, except in built-up areas where it will be enforced in the same manner as on all West Elgin municipal roads. In built-up areas and on municipal roads, tickets will be issued in the following cases;

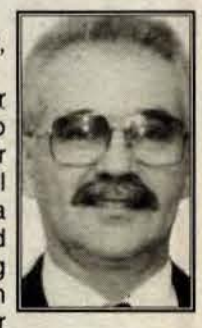
- Areas where "NO PARKING" signs have been erected
- Areas where a safety concern has been identified by the OPP
- Where complaints have been received by the municipal office and directed to OPP by municipal staff.

For a copy of fines and description of violations please contact the municipal office at 785-0560.

Municipality of WEST ELGIN



MICHAEL MOOSER



Position seeking: Councillor, Ward 2, West Elgin.

As your Ward Two Councillor for West Elgin I am committed to continuing with my role as your representative for Ward Two. I will support such essential projects as a walk-in Clinic in West Elgin and contribute to the decision-making process by working as a team member for the benefit of our community.

What I will bring to the council table:

* Ward Two Councillor for West Elgin since 1997
* Chairman of Tri-County (Elgin, Middlesex and Kent) Water Committee since 1999
* Member of Tri-County Water Committee since 1991
* Member of West Lorne Legion, Branch 221 (Past Executive Member) since 1991
* Fund raiser and assistant for the Cancer Ride and Stride campaign
* Chairman of West Lorne Public Utilities Commission
* Commissioner of West Lorne Public Utilities Commission

I am dedicated to our community and would appreciate your support at the polls on Nov. 10. Together we can address the issues that influence our lives in West Elgin.



VOTE BODNAR
Councillor Ward 1

Mary Bodnar X

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