WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

FOR HOME AND COUNTRY

TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY

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Compiled by Leola Lawrence

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 2006



Marine biologist talks to WESS JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Gerry Cross a marine biologist from London, has taken under water photographs around the world and showed his pictures at an assembly at West Elgin Secondary School recently. Here, Jordan Gallant and Chris Wemp help Cross with a game.

Erie Flooring recognized

Erie Flooring and Wood Products has been recognized for its commitment to apprenticeships.

The West Lorne company had been nominated for an Apprenticeship Employer Recognition Award by Janet Maguire, employment counselor at West Elgin Support Services.

The hardwood manufacturer, distributor and exporter of truck and residential flooring was nominated for providing co-op opportunities for students, giving exposure to apprenticeship trades and providing summer jobs for youth.

Al Jones, plant manager received the certificate from the Apprenticeship Network for Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford at a dinner at Fanshawe College in London Nov. 9.

Clothing shop opens in West Lorne

Bonnie Robertson has had a dream come true.

She's the new owner of Corner Consignments, a used and new clothing and accessories store at Graham Road and Main Street West Lorne.

"If you had told me February 13 I was going to open a store I would have said no way but the opportunity came February 14 and I said 'okay!'" said Robertson.

With clothing to suit all budgets, Robertson has consignment deals with 66 people already bringing new and used items every day.

From wedding gowns to retro clothing and latest fashions to name brands, Robertson has something for seniors, adults and teens.

"Everyone who comes in says they're amazed how much is in here and the large amount of space," said Robertson.

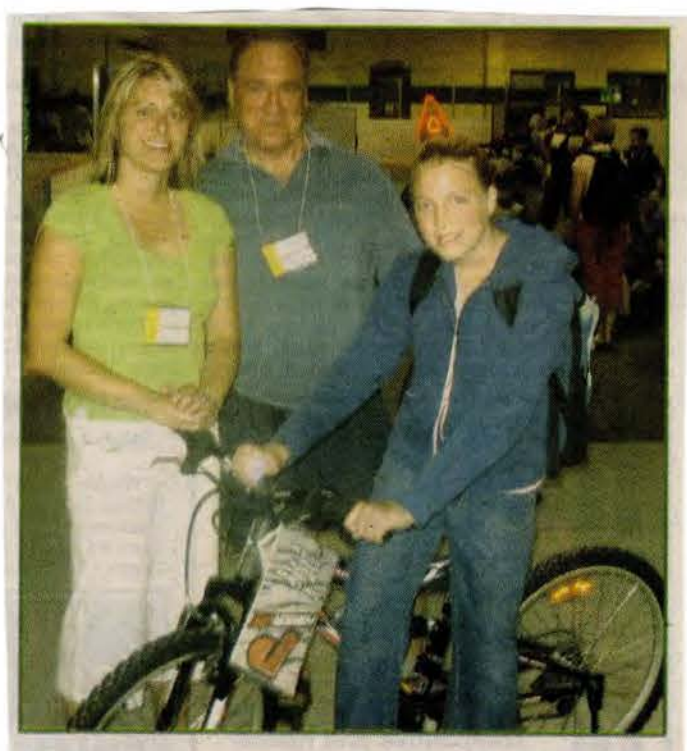
With tons of family and friends helping her out, Robertson has also received a lot of community support to help her open.

Her first weekend rocked, with Hogwild members performing on the street in front of her shop.

"It's going to be a good venture," she said. Robertson was a grocery store demonstrator for 12 years as well as working at book sales at local schools.

Open every day but Sunday and Monday, Corner Consignment has longer hours in the summer to accommodate farm workers and campers.

Her long-term goal: "Make it a success."



Winner of the bike draw at the Youth Safety Day held in June (left to right) Diane Van Dyk (organizer), Gerry Leeson (bike donor), Jasmin Brewer (bike winner)

Elgin – St. Thomas
our community connection
connects.ca

United Way

Foodland raises $610 for Easter Seals Society

Collecting $2 from customers for two weeks resulted in $610 raised for the Easter Seals Society at the West Lorne Foodland. Here Jennie Christian, district manager for Easter Seals accepts a cheque from staff, Melissa Slaats and Fernanda DeMatos. Christian said the Foodland staff stepped up this year after raising less than $100 in 2005.



Life road leads back home for Stephen Huver

Stephen Huver has returned to West Lorne to open his own business across the street from where he had his first job as a teenager.

Huver, 36, of Rodney opened a Freedom 55 office on Graham Road across the street from Home Hardware, which his father Rudy owned for many years.

"I assembled many bikes over there," he said.

Building bikes and priming tobacco, Huver saved money to go to school and earn his business degree at the University of Western Ontario.

From there he worked 10 years as a business analyst with Microsoft Canada in Mississauga, preparing the Canadian operation reports.

"I even met Bill (Gates) a few times," he said.

After meeting his wife Krista and starting a family, which now includes three children, Luke, four, Matthew, two, and John-Paul, one, Huver decided he wanted to be close to his roots.

He earned his mutual funds licence and life insurance licence in March through London Life, at the Chatham office.



Freedom 55 opens

Stephen Huver has opened a Freedom 55 office in West Lorne.

City-like experience in small town



Bonita's opens

Cindy Sutton has opened a new spa in downtown West Lorne.

A new mini spa has opened in West Lorne.

Bonita's, owned by Cindy Sutton, offers many esthetic services.

Bonita's, Portuguese for "beautiful," opened April 11 at 236 Graham Road.

Sutton has turned her dream into reality, at the age of 26.

With the help of her husband Kory Sutton and family, the new spa has been decorated with chic pottery in the front window, a fire place and suede covered couch.

"Some people have said it belongs on Richmond Row," said Sutton of the high-end section of stores in London.

She studied esthetics at the Rebec School in London and manicuring/pedicures at Bluewater College before learning the ropes at Reflections Getaway in Dutton.

Now, she's opened her own spa in West Lorne, which she calls central to neighbouring villages, with city-like services in a small town.

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 2006

Leaving the Chronicle for the rodeo road

COLUMN



Thinking Out Loud
Scott Hilgendorff

Among the Christian community, there's a concept understood as 'God's timing'; that despite our best planning and personal goals, what's meant to be, happens in God's timing, not ours.

Sometimes, we're in complete synch with that timing and sometimes not.

For years, I have wanted to be able to work full time in the rodeo ministry I've been involved with for about seven years now.

Nov. 1, I start. While it was a long time coming, all the pieces came together quite suddenly.

That means leaving the Chronicle and a 14-year career in journalism to pursue something a lot of people think is crazy. It means literally living in my van in the summer on rodeo grounds. It means not always knowing if there's going to be gas in the van. It means living on faith.

Those who know me well know I should be absolutely freaking out to give up stability.

I'm not. It's something I truly feel called to do and I'm at peace with that.

But I'm not losing ties to these communities and will continue to keep in contact with friends and coworkers who have been a big part of life at the Chronicle. Because of that, it's not a sad goodbye, just a change in direction.

When I was asked to fill in during a pinch almost four years ago as the editor, the opportunity existed to stay. I chose to leave a daily newspaper to come back into a weekly because of the extremely positive experience I had in these communities.

I'd never met as many people who were willing to work with you and help you to provide coverage for the community including individuals, organizations, coworkers and business owners who believed in the quality of life out here. I found myself believing in it too.

Since coming here, I've tried to be an advocate for these communities, often behind the scenes, sometimes more publically.

I will still be able to spend time in the area and will remain an active member of the Marketing Partners of Western Elgin Region.

I'll also still be producing the Horse Farm Tour.

The ministry will be taking me into Tennessee for six months of the year and Ontario for six months where I'll work with about three different rodeo associations.

On the rodeo grounds, I'll be providing "cowboy church." For many, it's the only access rodeo cowboys have to church as their lifestyle takes them on the road, away from churches and family. Because of the dangerous lifestyle they've chosen, it's also a great way to reach a growing, largely unchurched population (there were almost 40 rodeos in Ontario alone this summer).

Cowboy church is an informal church service with a short message applying Biblical teachings to cowboy culture.

Because rodeo cowboys are so open to prayer, we studied it throughout the summer in Ontario to help these guys develop their own relationships with God. Before the summer was over, about 25 cowboys realized they didn't have to wait for me to pray for or with them, after focussing entirely on that topic.

In Tennessee, larger groups of guys gather for cowboy church where it's been a much more common event and with that comfort, they bring more needs directly to you.

The ministry was started there in a church in Chattanooga and through friends I had made travelling there where I started helping by distributing cowboy Bibles: New Testaments with rodeo-related covers that cowboys are more comfortable taking.

I've since become the sole operator of the ministry, now being managed through the Blyth Community Church of God in Huron County, where I had relationships before coming to western Elgin County.

To date, I've only been able to provide these services as spare time allows but demands on that time have continued to grow. Cowboy church is the most visible aspect of the ministry, but it's only where the work starts. Relationships are built through connections made during cowboy church that lead to mentoring and discipling situations. From there, more personal needs are revealed and more involved work begins.

As long as it's packaged in a rodeo or cowboy context, these guys will also accept written teaching material on a regular basis while maintaining a website is another way to keep in contact with many of them and receive prayer requests. Despite its unusual nature, it's a very fruitful mission field with interest in these kinds of services growing as the rodeo industry continues to expand in North America.

To date, enough funds have been raised to provide a shoestring operating budget for the next eight months. Ongoing supporters and independent contributions are always going to be needed now as I try to operate with an $8,000 to $10,000 a year budget. Because of little infrastructure and housing (I will be staying on the rodeo grounds in the summers) less than the cost of sending someone on a two-week African mission trip can keep this ministry in operation for an entire year, reaching out with Christian support to literally hundreds of cowboys.

Tax deductible donations can be left at Dutton Flowers, The Chronicle in West Lorne or Real Pac on Pioneer Line in Rodney. Please be sure to include your name and address with your donation for a tax receipt.

To keep up with ministry happenings, or to reach me by email, I can be found at www.ridingforchristministries.com.



Tobacco planting begins

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

After the frost melted, tobacco planting season began at the Schnekenburger's farm Monday. Terri Schekenburger, Tracy Larson, Irene Doan and Heather Johnston plant tobacco on Silver Clay Line. Only two tobacco family farms remain in western Elgin County.

The Chronicle
Serving the communities of West Elgin • Dutton-Dunwich • Southwold
Newbury • Wardsville • Muirkirk • Duart • Clachan and surrounding areas
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BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 2006

Jewellery stolen in West Lorne

Several items were stolen from Krebsz Jewellery in West Lorne March 3 after the glass door was smashed between the bars.

Witnesses told Elgin County OPP two males were seen committing the crime then leaving in a dark coloured Jeep Cherokee.

OPP are requesting anyone with information to contact the OPP at 310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-888-222-TIPS.

Dutton van found torched

For the second time in a month a vehicle was stolen in Dutton then found destroyed by fire.

This time, sometime over night, March 5, a 1993 Black Ford Aerostar Van was stolen from Mary Street.

It was later recovered destroyed by fire on Water Tower Line in Central Elgin.

Driver dashes paying for gas

After an attendant filled up a blue car at the Petro Canada on Highway 401 the driver said they would be right in to pay but didn't Feb. 22.

The black man, looked approximately 50, was 5'7" and left in a blue car, without paying for $42.46 in gas. A partial plate was seen; #AXDY.



New biz JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Alex Perovich and Dave Campbell have partnered to open AP Electronics in West Lorne offering televisions; home theatre, satellite and computer repair.

Electronics business opens

AP Electronics opened its doors officially during the West Lorne Santa Claus parade.

Alex Perovich and Dave Campbell, two tech savvy business partners opened their first shop and are already getting more customers.

Both worked out of their homes in the homes of many of their customers.

Perovich is a licenced Starchoice satellite seller and installer and Campbell is known as the Dutton Computer Guy.

Both needed a place to keep inventory and by joining forces are able to keep the store open and display the latest in consumer technologies.

"I thought it was the right move," said Perovich. "Consumer products and computers are converging. Everything works together now."

The Graham Road store includes a show room with televisions and surround sound stereo equipment.

Up front is the latest in satellite equipment, electronic accessories and computer hardware.

Perovich said his reputation has been built by being in business in the area for many years.

The former tobacco farmer left the family farm that he operated with his father, former Aldborough Reeve Dan Perovich.

"Lot's of people ask what they should buy," he said.

Now, they can come and see the latest products and test them out in the showroom.

High definition television, satellite radios and stereo equipment are on display.

Perovich said people don't want to drive to the big box stores in the city and are intimidated by the huge selection and pushy salespersons.

"It's not all about the money. It's about building a reputation," he said. "You have to go the extra mile."

For Campbell, patience is the key while fixing computers.

"I have two kids. I know patience," he said.

While his house calls are still under a separate business his in-store computer cleaning is part of the new business.

He offers a wide range of services for troubleshooting and computer repair.

Perovich calls it value-added service, it's more than setting up or selling equipment and leaving.

"We'll take the time to show you how to use it," he said.

Lock pried off West Lorne business door

A lock was pried off the front door of a store on Main Street West Lorne to gain entry Jan. 9.

An alarm sounded, scaring away the culprits at around 10:30 p.m. The name of the business is not being released to protect against further attempted break ins.

Man found sleeping in snow New Year's day

An intoxicated man was found lying in a snow bank in front of the West Lorne Fire Department New Year's day.

Thames EMS was called and took the man to Four Counties Health Services.

West Elgin man dinged with many traffic charges

A 43-year-old West Elgin man was charged with several offences including possession of marijuana and driving with a disqualified licence after being stopped on Queens Line and Blacks Road Jan. 15.

Elgin County OPP pulled over the man in a 1990 white Cadillac without a validated permit or licence plate authorized for the vehicle.

Along with the marijuana charge, the man was also charged with driving without insurance, failing to notify the Ministry of Transportation of a change of address and failing to apply for a permit on becoming owner of the vehicle.

Also the man was without the interlock device required on his licence after a past impaired driving charge.

Shed fire extinguished on Gray Line

A small shed and its contents were destroyed in a blaze Jan. 16.

At 5 p.m. Rodney Fire Department responded at 20615 Gray Line, where a six-square-metre (64-square-foot) shed was on fire.

Elgin OPP report a candle light was being used for lighting and heating the shed.

"A (64-year-old) lady was storing some articles in (the shed). We're not exactly sure how it started," said Rodney Fire Chief Andy Kieraszewicz.

He estimated damage to the shed at more than $2,000.

"It's still standing, but all the contents (Christmas decorations and clothes) were destroyed. It will be a write-off since the interior had enough damage that it will have to be rebuilt."

Kolars move dojo to old health centre in West Lorne

Jim and Kate Kolar have moved their martial arts dojo to the old health centre building on Main Street West Lorne.

With additional pace for additional equipment, the Security Training Solutions has become a Martial Arts and Fitness Centre, the only one of its kind in the area.

The business occupies up to the old reception area in the health centre building which was abandoned when the new West Elgin Community Health Centre was built in 2004.

It includes a weight room with free weights and a three person universal machine.

Next door is the cardio room with, among other equipment, an elliptical machine.

In the near future, personal trainers will also use the facility and circuit training will be provided.

Across the hall, in the old lunchroom, is the dojang, a room for martial arts classes.

The centre is starting Little Dragons, a martial arts program taught by youth for kids.

The centre is open 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., then 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

Women At Work

"Sew Exciting" quilted seminar coming

Exciting things are happening in the Home Sewing Industry according to Heather Bell from Heather Bell's Sewing & Dye Studio.

All over Canada, two of the hottest trends in sewing today, Quilting and Home Dec are being combined in an exciting informative presentation.



Heather Bell

Soon, area residents will be able to experience that excitement at a Sulky "Sew Exciting" Seminar at Heather's studio at 24846 Pioneer Line, West Lorne, on September 26, 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. or 7 – 9:30 p.m.

The Sulky "Sew Exciting" Quilted Home Seminar is a 2 1/2 hour program that will be presented by Sheila O'Hagan, a Canadian Sulky Educator. Sulky is a well-known decorative thread and stabilizer manufacturer.

Contemporary, traditional, beginner and advanced quilters will discover that Sulky Decorative Threads are truly the sewing artisans paint and Sulky Stabilizers are the foundation.

Each person will receive a free giveaway valued at $20.00 and is eligible for a door prize.

Sheila will be bringing beautiful quilts and projects using a variety of fun and easy techniques highlighting quilting and embellishing with decorative threads.

For more information about attending this Sulky "Sew Exciting" Quilted Home Seminar call Heather at (519)768-1284.

Everyone is welcome but pre-registration is required. The cost is $25 plus GST=$26.60.

Heather feels that it is vital to keep sewing skills alive in our community and that by offering seminars helps keep the excitement alive and introduces new sewers to a high level of the industry.

Email: mydyestudio@netscape.net



Stone wall built at Eagle shoreline JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Armour stone was placed along the Lake Erie shoreline last week by Van Bree Construction to protect against further erosion. Last spring erosion damaged an access road to the lower lift of the West Lorne Water Treatment Plant which services 20,000 residents in Dutton/Dunwich, Newbury, Southwest Middlesex, West Elgin and Chatham-Kent.

Focus on Farming

Young people getting into farming

Growing up, children want to become policemen, firemen but farmers?

In our area, while many find work in agri-business few are going back to the farm after college, say local farmers.

Statistics Canada's 2006 census shows 30 farm operators under the age of 35 in West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich.

This, while the average age of farmers remains around 55.

At the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus, half of graduating students go back to the family farm, while the other half work in agri-business, says Peter Sikkema, teacher and researcher at Ridgetown.

More would like to go back to the farm.

"You've got that right," he said. "My guess is that there's some more that would like to work in primary ag, they may work on the home farm and they will also work in an agribusiness of some sort so they can build up equity in the farm so they can take it over at some point in the future."

Jamie McCaffery said almost all the farmers he knows under the age of 35 have a full time job.

"Anyone my age that is farming has another job. I sell seed. That's my full time job," said the 28-year-old who owns a farm on Silver Clay Line in Dutton/Dunwich. "Once you're established you can do it. Guys 35 or under have a second job."

As soon as he finished a two year program at the University of Guelph he bought his first farm.

He and his father Leo have four farms.

Full time, Jamie is a Pioneer Seeds dealer but has 300 acres of cash crops.

Calling farming the best job in the world, Jamie said, "You've got to love it to do it."

Married to Tina, a a horticulture teacher at West Elgin Secondary School, Jamie said the family farm isn't disappearing.

"I don't like it when people say the family farm is gone. The farmers have just got really big," he said.

Working in an industry where the average age of a farmer is 55, Jamie said he learned all the negatives about farming quickly.

"You can see the negative side pretty quick. You've got to remind yourself of the positives. Without that it's easy to get discouraged," he said.

Low crop prices being one of the negatives and particularly for a young farmer, with a high debt load.

Some of Jamie's friend, living in cities and working outside of agriculture are trying to find investments, whether it be in oil and stocks.

"For me I see this as investing in myself," he said.

John Watterworth, 24, has taken responsibility for farming 1,500 acres around West Lorne.

His father, Don, passed away in 2005 and while the farm is a company John is working the ground.

He made the choice to become a farmer several years ago but with the passing of his father, it's full time now.

With help from the "farm supervisor" family friend, John has even expanded the farm, tripling its size since his father's death.

John has rented fields himself since he was 16.

"Some people think I'm crazy," he said.

"I've been around it since before I can first remember," he said. "Even if I was doing something else I would still farm a little bit."

Calling farming a silly racket, John compares his career as a farmer to other careers.

"Someone who works in a factory, you know, can take a week off and someone will fill in for them," he said. "Here, if I don't do something it doesn't get done."

He said he had the choice several years ago to be a farmer or do something else.

"Lots of kids grow up on the farm, are given a choice and backed away or went away to school and weren't around when the decision had to be made," he said. "It's not like I woke up one day and said 'I want to be a farmer' I just kind of rolled into it"

But if it wasn't going well or he didn't like it, he said he wouldn't still be doing it.

Rob Tait is a next generation farmer, continuing a tradition stretched back to his great grandfather.

The 25-year-old has been taking over the family farm from his parents Duncan and Annie Isobel, in North Dunwich.

Tait also teaches at West Elgin Secondary School and is working towards having the farm pay for itself, so he doesn't have to subsidize it with his teaching wages.

Tait's been learning the challenges of owning land, animals and a farm.

The farm is 300 acres, with 20 cow/calves and sheep.

One big challenge this year has been water, or lack of, as the pastures grow dry and shallow wells constantly need to be filled up. He's also been disappointed, learning about insurances that don't cover for livestock that just don't make it.

While he grew up on the farm and learned how to run it, he said it was still a choice to take it over.

"I could have said I want nothing to do with it. All of us have a choice. You look and see so much work to do," he said. "It's been a lifestyle I've always known."

Life style or maintaining a lifestyle desired, Tait wants to travel.

He's okay with the idea of following in his father's foot steps and working on the farm, even into his 80s.

"Some people would sell it all and ride off into the sunset," he said. "My father always wants to contribute to feel he has a purpose."

Having an off-farm full-time job, though, is a reality, part of the balance of what he calls the "best of both worlds," where he can teach and farm.

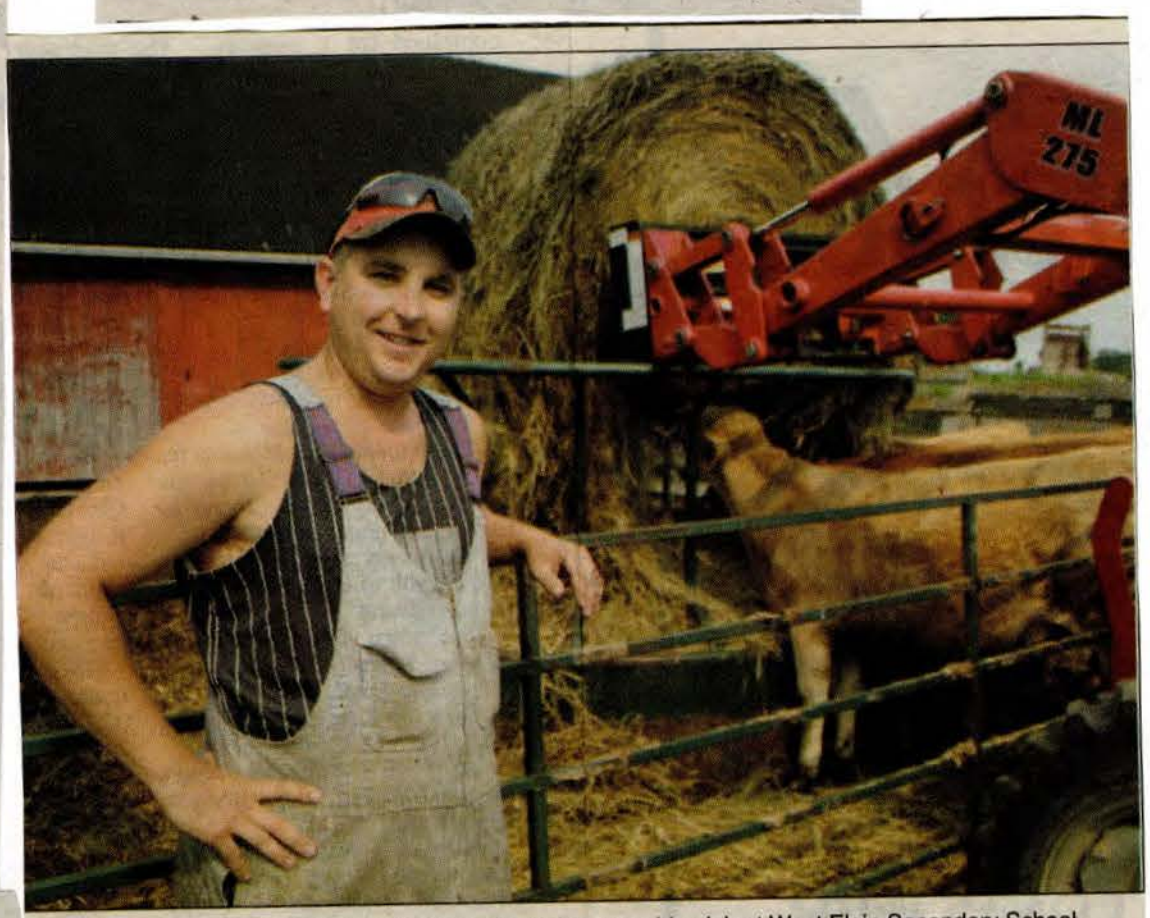
"No way would I dream of farming if I didn't have work as a teacher," he said.

"There's a lots of positives too, that we're moving forward," he said. "This has always been a rural-based community. It's always going to be. All of us young guys have to stay positive."



Jamie McCaffery, 28, is a seed dealer and farms in Dutton/Dunwich.


John Watterworth, 24, farms near West Lorne.



Rob Tait, 26, farms in North Dunwich while maintaining a teaching job at West Elgin Secondary School.

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 2007

Young entrepreneur opens salon in West Lorne

Nikki Ross has opened up a salon and tanning business in West Lorne.

Ross & Co. is located at the B&J's Variety Plaza on Graham Road in the village.

Having grown up in the area, Ross apprenticed at Hair Razorz Tanning Salon and Esthetics in Rodney before making the jump to entrepreneurship.

"It was a huge decision," she said, but it's paying off. "It's been overwhelming," adding she's booked for the next four weeks.

With the support of family and friends she designed her own salon.

Receiving compliments, Ross said people have called the space "Zen-like". She wanted it to be a relaxing atmosphere.

With modern mirrors, laminate flooring and a stone wall separating the hair washing station, soft music is heard over the salon which opened earlier in May.

At only 21-years-old, Nikki is the daughter of Harold and Cindy of Eagle.

Along with her apprentice Taryn Clements, Ross hopes to grow the business and establish a good clientele.

Ross says the salon has a big city feel, leaving people amazed when they first walk in the door.

"My biggest goal is to make people feel good about themselves when they walk out the door," she says.

She admits she has something to prove, being so young.

"You have to really want it. You have to have drive," she said. "That's why I've been putting in 12-hour days to get it going."

Ross and Co. is located at 2089 Graham Road and can be reached at 519-768-3266. Hours are Tues. to Thur. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Fri. and Sat. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



New salon JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Nikki Ross owner of Ross & Co., a new salon in West Lorne.

THE CHRONICLE DEC. 27/07



Women's business

Yvonne Brooks and Gucheri Matruski of Mt. Kenya Coffee in St. Thomas chat at the Elgin Business Women's Network dinner at Lakeview Gardens Sept. 19.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE



Smart meters JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

Bob Wright installs one of the new Hydro One Smart Meters in West Lorne Dec. 21. Current Hydro One electric meter are being replaced with Smart Meters until the end of next year.The meters download automatically to Hydro One for billing purposes.

Denning brothers purchase Padfield Funeral Homes

Bill and Brett Denning have purchased Padfield Funeral Homes.

The brothers are the fourth owners of the business which has two locations, Rodney and West Lorne.

Bill, a fourth generation funeral director was hired in 2000.

Brett is 24, Bill 28 and already the two now own three funeral homes, including Forest and Watford.

Jim Price who had owned Padfield's since 1986 when he purchased it from Emerson Padfield will remain a director.

Denning said all along there was honesty between him and Price as Price opened the books and showed Denning everything about owning and operating the two homes.

Bill and Kelly Oliveira live adjacent to Padfields in Rodney.

Living close to work, Denning has learned to love the small town lifestyle.

He appreciates the uniqueness of owning a funeral home here.

In the city, someone may only be responsible for helping with the ceremony while someone else is responsible for the burial.

At Padfields, Denning greets the family at the door, helps with the ceremony, is at grave side and then has to go through the business of doing the book work.

All the while, he will see the family at the grocery store and town events.

A new service Denning is looking at including with funerals is digital slide shows.

With a flat screen T.V. the moments of a life can be shared in a moving piece compiled by Denning and the client.

Both Brett and Bill learned the ropes at their parent's funeral home in Strathroy.

Their parents, Becky and Randy remain supporters and investors in the boy's venture today.



Padfield Funeral Homes CONTRIBUTED

New owner of Padfield Funeral Homes, Bill Denning and now former owner, Jim Price. JUNE 21/07

New Angus House opens

West 76 Angus House and Tavern has opened on Main Street in West Lorne.

Tim and Jody Liddiard, brothers from London, bought the restaurant and see it as a good investment.

West of the County Road 76 the new owners are priding the restaurant on good food and entertainment.

Already the new business had a good night with an acoustic open house.

"It was awesome," said bar manager Bonnie McMullen.

An open electric night is planned for March 24.

More entertainment is planned and the operators request that performers drop off a business card.

An easy-going smalltown attitude has the owners feeling good about the new restaurant.

"The people are great. They always want to hear your story and want to tell you their story," said Tim.



West 76 JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

New owner of West 76, right, Tim Liddiard and bar manager Bonnie McMullen.

"It's a good atmosphere. It's a big place with a great dance floor," said McMullen.

Seating for 100, the restaurant is offering dinner specials with plans to grow and offer lunch.

West 76 is open Wednesday to Monday 6 p.m. to midnight.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Chronicle helping with senior's projects

Karen Goncalves, advertising and design, and Steve Down, publisher for the Chronicle (middle) present certificates for $1,000 each to Harry Mezenberg, chair of West Lorne Heritage Homes, left, and Bob Purcell, chair, Caledonia Two project. The certificates represent in-kind donations of advertising to support both group's fundraising efforts.

AUG 23/07

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BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 2007



Farrier JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Justin McCallum, farrier, works a horseshoe for Travis at Pat Wilson's farm.

Young and in the biz

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Justin McCallum is only 18-years-old but he's already started his own business and landed some of the area's largest customers.

McCallum, from north of West Lorne is a farrier and trained blacksmith.

A graduate of Oklahoma State Farrier School, McCallum has been working with horses since he was very young.

At 10 he owned his first horse, a quarterhorse that he still owns today at his parent's, Dave and Florence, farm,

While he is still completing his high school diploma through correspondence, he has already found his calling.

Asked if he would rather work with horses than people, he said, "yeah" with a smile as he trimmed Travis, a quarterhorse at Pat Wilson's farm.

Wilson gave McCallum his first horse and now eight years later, McCallum shoes and trims for her.

Another client of McCallum's is Mac Lilley Farms, one of the areas largest standard bred operations.

"They gave me a chance," said McCallum. "It's a great place to work."

Young, McCallum has to prove his abilities with every new customer.

"A younger person going into an older person's barn, they might not think I know what I'm doing," he said. "Some people might think I do a good job, some might think I don't."

New into the business McCallum admits he still has lots to learn.

He apprenticed with George Westfall from Blenheim last year after he graduated from the school in Oklahoma.

Travelling across the continent for a six week program was a lot of fun and an important step as it is one of the most well known schools he said.

"It was a lot of hands on. We didn't sit around talking about it, we did it," he said.

There he also learned the blacksmith trade, giving him the ability to make his own horse shoes.

"Justin is a teenager but he knows what a good days work is," said Pat Wilson, who has watched McCallum grow up around horses.

Working with horses is suited for younger people, said McCallum.

As he trimmed Travis, the 1,000 lbs. horse leaned on his back.

Working with young colts can be a challenge, said Wilson, when it moves around and you're trying to nail shoes on it.

"You can't be shaking in your boots," she said. "Justin has no fear of the horses and the horses can tell."

"Anything to do with horses, you have to be a horse lover. You have to enjoy it," said Wilson, adding McCallum has the potential to be a trainer one day too. There are many different careers that can open up in the horse industry.

"Like most teenage boys Justin didn't like school. He loves horses. He wheels and deals," said Wilson, commenting on McCallum who has bought and sold horses for years.

As for the future, McCallum said he'll stay with the farrier business while he's young and strong. MAR 1/07

Shane Wood starts business

Shane Wood of West Lorne has moved on from his job in the unpredictable auto sector and started his own lawncutting and trimming business.

While he's worked in other industry's Wood is taking 12 years experience in landscaping and has started Saw Landscape and Tree Service.

He's already been busy with rain gutter cleaning: "A lot of people forget or can't clean out their gutters," he says.

No cleaning out gutters can big problems such as water backing up under shingles, says Wood.

"Keeping the leaves, sticks, shingle pieces out of the gutter keeps the water moving down the spout to the ground," he reminds people.

From trimming overhanging trees, to landscaping, planting, cutting and even taking care of yards while a customer is on holidays, Wood says no job is too small.

"This company, to me, is everything I have ever wanted," he says.

He's following the lead of his grandfather who started a successful trucking company in London.

me," he says.

Wood has applied for municipal contracts.

He hopes to continue to grow the business, moving on from the auto industry.

Shane Wood can be reached at 519-768-3079.



New landscaper JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Shane Wood has started his own landscaping business.

New environmentally friendly West Elgin Water Treatment Plant in the planning stages

by Scott Hilgendorff



With permission from the Municipality of West Elgin

A new, $19 million water treatment plant in West Elgin will be using some of the latest technology that has local environmentalists and the rest of the community's attention. *The community is excited about it,* said Mayor Graham Warwick. Although the physical work will likely not start until October, the plans have been drawn up and the detailed engineering has started on the project by the North American consulting firm, Stantec, with a team of engineers operating out of its London office. The overall project will see a 1,200 cubic metre water treatment plant built on the east side of Graham Road south of Eagle.

The reason for the excitement, especially among local environmental groups, is that the project's innovations include some relatively new and environmentally significant technology. *This new technology uses a membrane filtration system,* said Mike Manning, one of Stantec's engineers on the project. It acts like a filter cloth to clean out the silt and particulate matter from the water drawn out of Lake Erie.

Warwick said *a pulse back system* is then used to push water back through the membrane every 90 seconds. About 95% of the solids are removed from the water before it is treated with the solids going to a settling tank. The 5% that is left will be directed to two settling ponds in the form of backwash that Warwick said would become a natural area.

The ponds were established as a less costly and environmentally friendly alternative to pumping the left over water back to the lake.

It's envisioned it's going to be a natural place you could enjoy, said Warwick, adding it will be open to foot traffic only. Stantec is working closely with a group of local wildlife and plant experts in the form of an Environmental Steering Committee with involvement that includes the West Elgin Nature Club, the Elgin Stewardship Council and members of the West Elgin Secondary School Environmental Club.

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY 2007

Muddy Paws turning out stylish pets

Muddy Paws Grooming Salon has been turning out plenty of stylish pets since it opened its doors this past September.

Owned by pet groomer Cathy Couper the new salon in West Lorne is located at 220 Graham Road (behind the old land office).

Offering all kinds of grooming and styling services for pets, Couper calls herself a pet stylist, taking in the matted and dirty and turning out the washed, groomed and styled.

With a full tub and sink, grooming table and dryer Couper can tackle the largest of dogs to the daintiest of cats and all pets in between.

Having worked in pet salons before and seeing a need in the community, Couper got her certification and opened the shop.

Along with getting customers from Bothwell to London, she's been greeted with open arms by the business community, dropping off flowers to welcome the business.

She says every breed of dog has a specific cut.

She trims around the ears, toe nails, bathes and fluff dries the animal.

"People love their pets and want to make them to be pampered," she said.

Having worked at a local flooring plant for more than a decade, owning her own business is a dream come true.

"I love working with animals. I've always loved animals," she said.

Customers have been amazed at the transformation of the old garage to its current modern salon, work done by Charlie Lilly, John Pyka, Shaun Dowling and Carl Robinson.

Her motto is to provide personal service, where each pet is given time and not to have three or four dogs running all over the salon.

She already struck a deal with the Glencoe Animal Shelter to help with grooming newly taken pets for free.

Muddy Paws is open Mon. to Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sat. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Muddy Paws JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Cathy Couper, owner of Muddy Paws, opened the modern pet salon on Graham Road in West Lorne recently.

Painting donated

George Okolisan of Pine creek Gallery donated this Robert Bateman print "Grizzly and Cubs" for the West Lorne Heritage Homes fundraiser. Linda Dunn won the print.

SUBMITTED



Italian imports in West Lorne

The Levesley family has moved its multi-million dollar paint importing business out of their home and onto Main Street West Lorne.

Italian Coatings and Accessories moved into the Main Street office after renovating the building.

ICA imports fine Italian industrial paints which it sells to distributors and manufacturers throughout North America.

Owned by Mark and Felicity Levesley, the couple grew out of their West Lorne-area home office and needed to hire staff.

With four daughters, their oldest Teresa is helping out with the business.

From Zimbabwe, the Levesley's were in the hotel business.



New digs JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Teresa, Mark and Felicity Levesley and Marie Humphrey of ICA in their new office in West Lorne.

He and Felicity were also very much sailing enthusiast and bought a sail boat in Europe and sailed around the Mediterranean Sea.

In Italy, the couple operated a sailing company and taught English.

The owner of Industria Chimica Adritica met the Levesleys and asked Mark to teach the Italian employees some English.

Then, Mark was invited to a convention in Kuwait which led to him being hired by the company.

He, in turn, started exporting department taking ICA products worldwide, into Asia, India and eventually North America.

In 1997 he opened a subsidiary in North America, in Michigan, later opening a warehouse in London.

He settled in the West Lorne area after the couple had more children.

"Hopefully this is our last stop," said Mark, who still travels throughout the U.S. where most of the company's customers are and to Italy.

He bought out the North American subsidiary.

ICA sells many types of paint including polyurethane and acrylics, stains, wood flooring, solvents and a growing and advanced water-based paint.

"It's much less environmentally unfriendly," he said, but it freezes in North America, while being distributed.

Out of the West Lorne office, ICA provides technical advice and deals with customers from shore-to-shore.

While the renovations continue, Mark says the building gives the company the capability to provide training and presentations to distributors.

In the future, it's hoped the upstairs apartment, which has an office, will also be a show room.

The coatings are used on furniture, flooring, buildings and musical instruments.

More information can be found at www.icamaerica.com.

So long!

COLUMN



Jefftified
Jeff Kempenaar

Well news spread before I even said it but as many of you know I'm leaving the paper at the end of 2007.

Following love, that's what I'm doing, it's an opportunity for new opportunities.

That's my spin, anyway.

Making a change in your life can be tough, but not really.

Weigh the pros and cons, take a little risk and hope things will work out.

Meagan, my longtime partner is going back to school in her home town Peterborough.

Being from Dorchester, she made the initial compromise of coming down here to be with me. Now it's my turn.

I said it right from the beginning, when I started here summer 2004, that people living in the area are very helpful, giving of information and willing to cover for you if you can't make it to an event.

It maybe one of the strengths of the paper, the community gets involved and helps fill it.

Keep it up!

Call if you have news or think something should be news.

Quantity not quality.

I steal CityTV's saying - Chronicle Jeff - Everywhere.

Quality: I made mistakes. I'm sorry. You all had to suffer with my learning curve. If I was as careful with other people's words as I am with my own words, there wouldn't have been a problem.

It's a complicated thing, this reporting jazz.

Some issues are very deep and technical. Yet a reporter is supposed to summarize and put into laymen's terms.

Reaching the "truth" or "fact" takes indepthness and technical language.

Sometimes it's a disservice to the "truth" and "fact" to paraphrase for the sake of saving space.

I've learned a lot about life from the people in this community.

I've seen the beauty of farmland and forests.

Having been warned that the newspaper industry breeds cynicism, people in this area have instilled belief that humans do everything for the greater good, whether they know it or not.

I've been in search of Johnny Canuck, Joe Blow and regular Tom, Dick and Harry.

Are they out there?

In this area, western Elgin, C-K, SWM, everyone is a leader or pillar, giving their time to "community".

There is no burnout to volunteers because they seem to just keep going and going.

More volunteers are needed but stuff still gets done. In the end people are still happy here.

There has been some tough times, tough news stories. But I've discovered for every bad story there is a good news story.

Another thing I've learned in life now, having spent most of it in a small town and rural area, the philosophy of rural people is ideal.

I lived in Toronto for a year before moving home.

In a big city, you can be a "cidiot" and treat people wrongly because you'll never see them again.

Here, be nice to people because you'll see them next week. You'll meet their relatives and children.

So, keep up the good work, you've got one heck of community here.

If you want to find me, you will.

7

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY 2007

Plant expansion planned

Old boilers at Erie Flooring and Wood Products could be replaced by next summer.

In partnership with Dynamotive Energy Systems, work on a new system is planned for the second quarter of 2007 as part of an upgrade to the bio oil plant in West Lorne.

Dynamotive announced plans to invest $4.5 million to expand the biooil plant by 30 per cent.

The West Lorne Cogenerational Facility processes wood waste from Erie Flooring into oil to power a generator at the site and create electricity for the flooring plant.

Currently the plant processes 100 tonnes of biooil but the expansion will see 130 tonnes of wood waste processed per day.

Pyrolysis equipment will be upgraded allowing the plant to process more bio mass, said Nathan Nuemer, spokesperson with Dynamotive.

The new boilers will allow the expansion of the biooil plant.

Sources with Dynamotive had left for vacation last week and could not be reached for comment.

Until the expansion is done, the plant will operate as normal but the plant will be shut down during the upgrade.

Not all of the biooil is used to generate electricity at the plant. Some is shipped to commercial customers.

The announcement came in a financial press release Nov. 30.

It also announced. the plant will break even financially in 2007 with more beneficial electricity pricing from the province for renewable energy.

A proposed energy price could increase the cost of renewable energy by 50 per cent.

The biooil plant began production in 2004. JAN 07

Spill distresses new manager



Creek cleaned JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

An employee with the emergency response unit, who wished not to be named, adjusted a bloom that soaked up diesel fuel in a creek next to Marsh Line, Thursday.

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

A diesel fuel leak at Erie Flooring seeped through storm sewers in West Lorne March 9 causing fumes to fill at least two homes.

One woman reported suffering headaches and losing time from work with illness from fumes that filled her Maple and Wellington Street home.

"I woke up at 3 a.m. to the smell," said Lynda Brand, who spent much of Thursday calling around to find help.

"I went to the basement and boom! Oh my God," said Paul Bruder, who lives with Brand, about encountering a wall of diesel smell that drove the couple from the home.

A Ministry of Environment officer said the diesel was spilled at the beginning of the daily operation at Erie Flooring.

An automatic kick off didn't stop the diesel fuel from over-filling a field forklift, new plant manager Alan Jones said Monday.

"We're deeply distressed this happened," he said. "We're doing all we can to make sure this never happens again.

"We're working diligently with the (municipality) and MOE to clean up the site."

Dave Thompson, provincial officer for London District was called to the scene by the municipal drains superintendent in the early afternoon.

Thompson said it wasn't a lot of diesel but added, "A little can go a long way."

The spill reached a storm sewer that stretched down Wellington to Elm Street where it entered a small creek.

The spill reached beyond Marsh Line where Marcus Emergency Response, hired by Erie Flooring, set up a series of blooms along the creek to absorb the oil.

Blooms, socked material that soaks up fuel, were set up as far down the creek as Thompson Line and were in place until Monday.

Please see Emergency, *page 2*



MAY 10/07

Gangle Insurance, Cotrac help Heritage Home

Jamey Welch, left and Cindy Ross present a cheque for $1,000 on behalf of P.J. Gangle Insurance Brokers to Harry Mezenberg, Heritage Homes chair. While site preparation has begun at the West Lorne site, the fundraising committee continues to work toward the $70,000 community portion of the cost. Also recently received, was a cheque for $1,000 from Co-Trac Ford Lincoln, Dutton. SUBMITTED

PM's chef cooks at Lakeview Gardens

The Prime Minister Stephen Harper's sous chef Jonathan Collins shared cooking tips at Lakeview Gardens Sunday.

About 45 people took notes and ate, as he cooked a pot roast, stuffing and dessert.

It's part of a new series of educational demonstrations owners Jim and Jacinta, Jonathan's parents, hope to hold at the greenhouse, restaurant and gift shop at Eagle.

Collins, 32, is planning to travel from Ottawa for the first Sunday of each month for demonstrations.

His pot roast served as an alternative to turkey and many in the audience were impressed.

Diligently, the crowd took notes and asked questions while Collins cooked, in the banquet room.



Cooking up public interest JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Jonathan Collins cooks at Lakeview Gardens Sunday.

Collins graduated from Le Cordon Bleau in Ottawa and soon after was hired to help the head chef at 24 Sussex Drive, Oliver Bartsch.

Impressing Bartsch, he was hired as sous chef.

As sous chef he helps with events and when there are visitors.

He also cooks at Rideau Hall and for the General Governor.

He cooked for the President of Mexico and Pakistan, along with leaders in industry.

"It's a privilege," he said, adding he has aspirations to become the head chef.

Collins said the Harpers, Stephen, wife Laureen and kids Ben and Rachel have tastes that range from sophisticated to everyday Canadiana.

When the Prime Minister is in the country, he and his family sit for a meal.

Otherwise, when the family is rushed, it's not out of the ordinary for the family to heat up a premade casserole.

"For some people they could be taking advantage of their position," he said. Instead the family trys to keep a balanced, healthy and Canadian diet, knowing they won't always be in this position.

Collins' own children attend school with the Harpers. He's not treated as "hired help."

As for the Prime Minister's taste: hot, hot, hot.

"He likes it crazy hot," said Collins.

Whether its Mexican, Indian or just ribs, "the spicier the better," for Harper.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Preferred helps Heritage House

Preferred Insurance Brokers has donated $1,000 to the West Lorne Heritage House seniors apartment. Peter Carr of Preferred is thanked by Harry Mezenberg, chair of the project. Foundation work was being completed last week. Servicing and framing are expected to be finished by the end of the month.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Pioneer helps Heritage House

Ken Roodzant represents Pioneer Hybrid Ltd. which has given $2,500 toward the West Lorne Heritage House seniors apartment. Harry Mezenberg, project chair thanks Roodzant at the site of the 16-unit geared to income apartment adjacent to the West Elgin Community Health Centre.

CURRENT EVENTS 2006

Redinger lends song for cancer

Musician Jeff Redinger, formerly of West Lorne has provided a track on a compilation album raising money for cancer.

Rosie's Gift a song written by Redinger is a tribute to his aunt Rosalie Krebsz.

"For this album I wrote Rosie's Gift which is dedicated to my aunt who passed away from cancer this past August. The song has never been released till now," he said in a release.

The original song was inspired by Krebsz life and seeing her in her final days fighting cancer.

"She set a good example for me and really helped me get to where I am," said Redinger. "The song is about her battle with cancer - though the disease took her life, she never gave up the fight."

Rosalie took chances in life which has inspired Redinger to follow music as a career.

"Her gift to me was motivation," he said. "For me, her passing really put perspective on how short our time is here on earth. In that sense, I feel more than ever the importance of taking risks, chasing dreams and not giving up."

The album is called Notes and Hope and also features other local artists Hogwild and Aaron Walpole with a song featuring Sara Westbrook.

"It's quite an honour to be on this album with such a great cast of talented artists and do it for a good cause," he said.

Jeff is the son of sculptor Walter Redinger and his wife Marion, that live in the area.

Redinger has played several shows in the area over the past year andis currently recording his seventh album of new material.

The song features Ryan and Steve Browne also of West Lorne.

Ryan regularly plays with Redinger along with Mike Stillitano.

The album aids in the fight against cancer by using music as a way to generate funding for the cure against cancer. It's part of Project Benefit.

It is available at http://cdbaby.com/cd/noteshopes.

Fire destroys Thomson Line home

Fire destroyed a Thomson Line home Thursday morning in West Elgin.

The Peixoto family's home was completely destroyed in a blaze.

The family of four, including two young children, was not home at the time but in London with appointments.

Deputy Fire Chief Stuart Jamieson said the cause of the fire is undetermined. It appeared the fire started in the centre e of the house.

He said the family arrived home at 3 p.m. that afternoon, devastated at the sight.

West Lorne Fire Department responded at about 10 a.m., finding the home completely engulfed by flames

A neighbour had spotted the smoke and called 911.

About eight volunteer fire fighters battled the blaze in high winds and bitter cold for most of the day.

Family were reportedly staying with neighbours after the fire.

Jamieson said the family has insurance. He would not put a value on the home.



Destroyed JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

This two car garage, attached to the two floor home was destroyed by a morning fire Dec. 7 on Thomson Line.

OPP give turkeys to safe drivers

OPP officers will be carrying out operation Christmas Turkey this holiday season.

Officers have been given 25 vouchers for a free turkey to give to safe drivers that they see on Elgin County roads.

For the last 10 years Optimist Clubs from Port Stanley, Fingal-Shedden, Union-South Yarmouth and the OPP have sponsored the Safe Drivers campaign in Elgin County.

The program is an incentive for driving safely at this time of year.

RIDE continues

OPP officers have continued the Festive RIDE program for the second week, setting up checks across the county. Last week, 2,500 vehicles were checked resulting in one 12-hour suspension and a few other offences.

Melody Church OMB appeal withdrawn

Melody Fellowship Church withdrew its appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board before a hearing March 16.

Members of the public, West Elgin council and the municipality's planner were not informed of the withdrawal and arrived for the meeting to learn it had been cancelled.

The OMB hearing had been scheduled to hear an appeal by the church to a zoning change that was rejected by council.

"It's done with," said Clerk Norma Bryant, adding the appeal had been withdrawn two days earlier.

Melody Fellowship recently purchased and began operating services out of the former Disciples Church on Graham Road in West Lorne, ending a more than three-year search for a permanent church home.

St. Marys annual auction another annual success

St. Mary's Catholic School's parent council held its annual auction in November at the Dutton-Dunwich Community Centre.

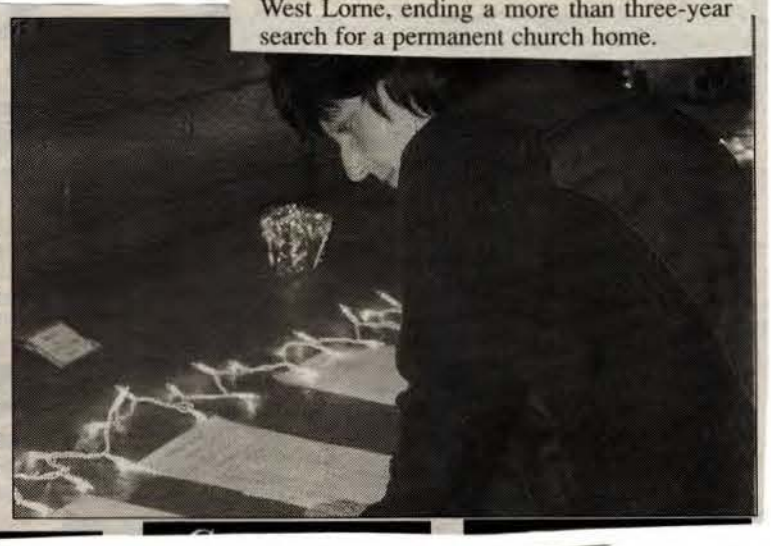
Humbly not advertising how much it raised, the silent auction and dance raised funds for the school.

Monies will go to the school's computer lab, supplements to pay for busing for field trips and guest speakers.

As with every year a skid of beans sold for the highest amount, $2,700.

"Only out in the country would a skid of beans be the big draw," said one of the organizers Lise Van Dyk, with the parent council. "Lots of farmers come out for that."

No one was sitting after the auction when a classic rock band played the night away.



Auction SUBMITTED

Mary Jane Buck writes her name in the silent auction at the St. Marys fundraiser in Dutton.

Test your knowledge of local history at libraries

RODNEY/WEST LORNE LIBRARY NEWS

By Janet Given

The West Lorne and Rodney Libraries are in your community to serve you. They have a great deal of information to utilize and access. We have Fiction and Non-fiction books, audio books, CDs, videos, DVDs, great children's programs, adult activities, special events, public computer access, computer training and a whole lot more. If we don't have what you want, we'll get it for you! We have access to thousands of books and other material!

Did you know?

The West Lorne Library has a temporary location at 168 Main Street, West Lorne. You can use the front or side entrance. Our shelves are stocked with great reading!

All the local history publications damaged in the fire are now restored and are available at the West Lorne Library.

There are 11 branches that we can source throughout Elgin County and the books are shipped twice weekly.

If we are unable to locate a book from our branches we can draw from libraries throughout Ontario.

Historical question

Drop in at the West Lorne or Rodney library and research the answer to the following question.

The West Lorne and Rodney Libraries were opened in 1950-1951. Who was the Reeve at that time?

Submit your ballot and you could win a gift basket, compliments of your local library.

First three names with the correct answer in each library will win a gift.

Contest closes Dec.16.

Contact the West Lorne library at 768-1150 Mondays 2to 5p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays 2 to 8 pm, Fridays 2 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays .10 a.m. to 1pm.

Contact the Rodney Library at 785-2100 Mondays 3 to 5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays 3 to 8 p.m., Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon.

Good Luck and we look forward to you visiting our libraries.

West Lorne Church of Christ (Disciples)



1887 - 2006

in March 1918 in West Lorne, daughter of John B. Ferguson and rom Eagle. My father and his brother-in-law, Malcolm McKillop, owned the hardware store in West Lorne and they and their families were members of the Church of Christ (Disciples). The Fergusons had come as settlers from Scotland in 1818 and were neighbours of the McKillops on Talbot Road, Aldborough. John Ferguson, my great great grandfather left the Covenanters Baptist Church, when the movement toward a new Testament Church practising baptism by immersion and weekly communion, came to the area around 1830 from the southern States. By the time I was born, the Disciples Church in West Lorne was flourishing.

I remember the church so well in the twenties. Some ministers, particularly Rev. Swaby-Smith and his family, lived in the house next door to the church and he served both Rodney and West Lorne congregations. I remember falling off the platform where we were practising for the Christmas concert, silver stars on long streamers hanging from the arch above us. Particularly I remember Sunday School. The Disciples SS was in the afternoon, church service at night.. My father was the SS superintendent and teacher of the Bible Class. It was so popular that there was an attendance of about 200 men, women and children. It was a community attraction. The additional wing to the church was built to accommodate class rooms and offices.

My father died in 1919. We had to go to St Thomas to live with my grandmother. The Ferguson farm was our only inheritance and could not even be given away because of the economic chaos that year. Gradually over the next decade my mother made our home there at Eagle, first in the summer, then permanently. My brother, Jack, lived there with her when he retired from New York and I always came with my children to spend the summer. We never lost touch with the church, and took part whenever we were there. Later I continued to come every year for the Anniversary service, staying with Earl and Grace Lemon until they too were gone.

We look back at this time at all the changes in our society, our small towns, our cities and our own lives. We realize that those memories are precious and still remain when changes force us to move on. We can only celebrate and give thanks for the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of this Church during the last 117 years.

Jean Ferguson Hambleton

(Mrs Ronald Hambleton)

WEST LORNE CHURCH of CHRIST (DISCIPLES)
Celebrating Over 118 Years of Faithful Witness
1887 – 2006

January 8, 2006
CLOSING WORSHIP

Opening Rev. Tom Rutherford
Area & Regional Minster

Announcements and Greetings

Call to Worship

*** Opening Hymn** "O God of Vision" **288**

Invocation Prayer

Responsive Reading:
"A Litany of Remembrance and Celebration"
Rev. Janet Anstead
Former Minister

L: We remember, with affection, the heroic efforts of our fathers and mothers in the faith, who labored to bring this congregation into being;

P: And the steady stream of men and women and young people, who, across the years have found inspiration here and who have given leadership to this congregation;

L: We rejoice in so rich a heritage. And thank you, O God, for those who laid the foundation for our community of faith.

P: We honour and express our gratitude for those who have given Pastoral leadership to this congregation. And who have served in other positions of responsibility. We thank you, O God, for the dedication and service of those who have answered your call.

L: We celebrate the victorious witness of this congregation.

P: We celebrate the outreaching concern of our members as we have reached beyond ourselves in the work and witness of the church of Jesus Christ. We rejoice that our labours have been effective and that the Gospel has been proclaimed.

L: Since 1887 this congregation within these facilities in which we meet today have served this community of faith as a center for worship, study and service. It holds the echoes of our precious memories and stories, and we consider it an old friend. However, the erosion of the years on both people and facilities have brought us to this point. In full awareness of our commitment to Jesus Christ, we have expressed our willingness to close our visible Ministry in this place and make available our accumulated assets so that the witness of this congregation may continue in perpetuity. To that end, we join the following covenant;

P: Affirming our membership in the church of Jesus Christ around the world, we renew our vows of fidelity to God and prayerfully covenant:

- that in terminating our visible Ministry, we commit all resources of people and property to the larger witness of the church,
- that with affection we lovingly release this facility that has served us well over the years; that it may be a welcoming home to a new community of faith;
- and that we individually covenant to continue to honor and serve Jesus Christ and the church, offering ourselves willing to whatever service God calls us to accept.

Prayer Hymn: "My Hope is Built" **537**

Joys & Concerns

Intercessory Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

Communion Hymn
"Ours the Journey" **458**

Communion – Invitation & Institution

Rev. Ron Dakin
Former Minister

Here at the West Lorne Church of Christ (Disciples) we invite all Believers to the Table regardless of denominational affiliation. We hold each element as served and partake together.

Scripture: Mark 1: 4-13

Sermon: "The Challenge of Faith"

Musical Solo
"Precious Memories" Earla Walker

Hymn
"God Be With You Till We Meet Again" **343**

*** Responsive Benediction:**

All: Comfort, O comfort your people,

Men: The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
Lift up your voice with strength,

Women: "Here is your God!"
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Men: Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
The Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

Women: He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

ALL: In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.
Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Believe in God, believe also in me.

*** Sung Benediction:** "Go Now In Peace"

* Please stand as you are able



I was born
Mary Lang, both

CURRENT EVENTS 2006

Advocates for West Elgin seniors carry on

WEST LORNE

SCOTT HILGENDORFF



ACROSS COUNTY LINES

We're taught to respect and revere our elders. We develop a host of stereotypes as we watch our parents and grandparents get older, finding ourselves beginning to care for the ones who used to care for us.

We start to make decisions for them, whether we mean to or not, thinking them less capable. Meanwhile, they struggle with the feelings that go along with feeling less and less productive. If we're not careful or sensitive to it, we fail to realize they start to feel less needed or redundant.

Without meaning to, that's what's happened to one of the most active bunch of seniors around these parts, as members of the West Elgin Seniors' Projects Action Committee have found themselves feeling redundant and less necessary.

All of them retired from the working world years ago and this week announced they have chosen to retire yet again from active service as members of WESPAC. .

"There are people who are disappointed," said Jill Soos a retired teacher living in Rodney who announced the committee's dissolution, as one of a handful of executive members feeling they had less and less purpose.

Their purpose was being absorbed by the West Elgin Community Health Centre, a model facility providing pro-active health care to the region. One facet of its operation deals strictly with seniors' health and needs, and Soos said it was time for WESPAC to step back and let the health centre assume full responsibility for seniors' needs in western Elgin County.

"We thought we had our run and with the health centre, it was their time to take the handles and run," Soos said.

The decision didn't come easily and it wasn't without reflection on just how much WESPAC had accomplished. "Action" was the key word in the name of their organization and exemplifies just what they were — an active group of seniors that engaged the community, helped each other and eagerly worked to support the communities around them.

Seniors' groups often focus on socializing, card parties and keeping one another connected, but this group broke through stereotypes and about the only thing its members didn't do was organize a card party.

Instead, more than 10 years ago, the group came together to organize the first of what became an event hundreds of seniors attended. Called Funshop, the event brought seniors from across the region together for a day focused on fun, games and entertainment, but also on learning and supporting one another. Each year featured speakers and displays covering a range of topics from seniors' fitness and driving issues, to estate planning.

A total of 10 Funshops were organized, helping fulfil the group's mandate of helping ensure seniors received the support and information they needed to maintain their independence and remain active in their communities.

Started through the Ministry of Health, the group continued to raise money through the Trillium Foundation, as well as through other local organizations and service clubs.

Instead of organizing card parties, this seniors' committee organized walking groups.

Instead of gathering to share slide shows from one another's vacations, they organized a transportation network that helped seniors get to appointments in a rural area where transportation is a significant issue.

Soos said they called themselves "bush shakers and letter writers" for their abilities to get things done.

And the group was about more than serving seniors' needs, actively giving its support to others that were fighting in the last few years to keep West Elgin secondary school open.

It was through their relationship with the high school that WESPAC was able to end its operation on a high note this week.

The committee worked with students to produce a book called The Scars that Never Fade, featuring the stories and photographs of area veterans, written by students and published by WESPAC.

The book sold out.

"We decided as a group it was better to go out with a bang," said Soos, adding WESPAC may be gone but its members are still active in various parts of the community. Soos now sits on the health centre's board, providing a voice for the senior community and encouraging seniors to ensure they don't hesitate to bring their needs to the health centre's attention, where WESPAC's legacy has been passed.

Scott Hilgendorff is a freelance writer based in Elgin County. Across County Lines appears Thursdays and Saturdays.

West Lorne Community Complex raised by fire

by Al Kirk

A priceless archive has been damaged and several of West Elgin's community and social groups are homeless after a devastating fire destroyed West Lorne's Community Complex situated in the heart of the village. The cause of the February 8th blaze is still under investigation. The damage has been estimated at $1,000,000. It was originally feared that back issues of the West Lorne Sun were destroyed along with other historical documents, but most of the collection now appears will be salvageable, albeit with extensive water and smoke damage.



Clean up is already under way in West Lorne after a devastating fire at the down town West Lorne Community Complex . Photo by Al Kirk

In addition to the West Lorne Public Library which was the main tenant in the building, the Kiwanis Club, West Elgin Support Services, the Eco-Elgin Environmental

Continued On Page 2



Boys book club reads on JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

The boys book club resumed at the new temporary location of the West Lorne Library March 30.

West Lorne Library opens temporarily

Support Services getting files back

West Elgin Support Services has taken over the former youth centre at the front of the West Elgin Community Health Centre.

For the past month-and-a-half the support services has been trying to get back to business after fire drove it from the West Lorne Complex Feb. 3.

Employment counsellors continue to meet with clients in the back office space of the health centre.

However Nancy Mott has moved to the front of the centre.

A job board and resource computers are now more accessible for the public.

"We'll be here until we move back into the old place," said Mott.

Reconstruction of the Complex continues and support services are meeting with engineers to plan how the new space will look.

Support services was able to take over the Centre Ice youth group spot earlier than thought, as the youth bumped up the move date to the West Lorne Scout Hall which is becoming Centre Ice's permanent home.

"We're just pushing on as before, meeting all of our clients needs. We didn't miss a jump," said Mott.

Many files have been saved by the restoration company.

"It's amazing. We didn't lose all that much," said Mott.

"Make sure you put everything in filing cabinets," she warns.

Slowly, freeze dried files have been coming in and support services has been able to catch up with client work.

Also, Van Pelt's in St. Thomas has temporarily donated furniture to support services.

Included in West Elgin Support Services and operating out of the building were the YWCA of St.Thomas/Elgin and the Elgin Association for Community Living, Elgin Oxford Legal Clinic, Employment Services Elgin, Quad County Support Services, Violence Against Women Services, Elgin County, West Elgin Transportation Network.

These agencies have found a new temporary home in the West Elgin Community Health Centre and can still be reached at 768-0020.

Current Events 2006



File photo

RESPECTFUL RITES: Jeff Hill of Hinckley, England, was struck by Canadian ways and respect for the military when he came to West Lorne for the funeral of Master Cpl. Chris Fretter. Above, Fretter's casket is carried into St. Mary's Church as his widow, Alison, watches along with her daughter Cassandra, 9, and stepdaughter Bailey, 11. Capt. Troy Grant holds Alison's and Cassandra's hands. Fretter was killed in Pretoria, South Africa, working in the security detail at the Canadian Embassy.

Briton deeply impressed with humanity and respect of Canadians at officer's West Lorne funeral

Through the medium of your newspaper, I wish to express our thanks and admiration to all the people we met during our recent visit.

My wife Josie, daughter Sarah and I travelled to Ontario to attend the funeral of our nephew Chris Fretter, the military police officer who died tragically in South Africa.

The sympathy, empathy and genuine friendliness shown to us at this sad time was exceptional. When I compare this to England, I regret to say that we are becoming a divided and insular country.

I last visited Canada in July 1996 and admired Canadians and your country very much. Our recent visit has confirmed my initial impressions. It was so good to see the strong care and support being given to all of Chris's relatives, not just by each other but also by friends and colleagues. The organization of the funeral was exceptional from the Padfield Funeral Home, the civilian services and the military arrangements and we say thank you to all involved. You gave Chris a great sendoff.

After the funeral, I spoke briefly with Capt. Carol Moule expressing my admiration and thanks to all involved. I told Carol that it compared to a VIP funeral back in the U.K. Her reply was simple but true. She said, "Chris is a VIP." You appreciate your military in Canada.

Once again, I say thank you and Canadians, please do not ever change.

Jeff Hill
Hinckley, England

Influx of war brides important to Canada

Amongst the death and devastation of war, love was still alive.

Peg Wheeler found love.

Former Reverend for St. Peters Anglican Church in Tyrconnell, Wheeler is a war bride.

A country girl, she was living near Worschester in England when she met a Canadian soldier.

It was November 1940 when Les Wheeler met the 18-year-old girl.

They met on the street:

"Can you tell me what time this joint opens?" Les asked, wondering what time the theatre opened for a show.

They both went into the theatre separately.

Les sat next to Peg.

They shared a laugh.

Then followed her onto her bus.

He followed her all the way home and met her family.

"I didn't invite him," said the sweet 84-year-old woman, in the kitchen of her Grandview home, looking over the cliff at Lake Erie.

After that day, "I don't think he ever looked at another woman," said Wheeler.

Les passed away in 1980.

The two married in 1942, while Les was driving a truck in A Company in France.

Two of the couple's 10 children were born in England before the war ended.

Peg couldn't come back to Canada with Les after the war, as she had just had their second child.

Following year of the veteran last year, 2006 is year of the war bride.

Last year marked the 60th year since the Second World War ended.

It was 60 years ago this year, when Peg moved to Canada.

There were more than 64,000 war brides that came to Canada.

"There were so many of us," said Wheeler of the influx of young women that came across by boat.

"They did a lot for this country," she said.

That meant, populating Canada.

The Wheeler's 10 children created 28 grandchildren who have created 22 great grandchildren.

It doesn't feel like 60 years have passed.

"All that life lived. Incredible," she said.

Wheeler served five years with St. Peters Anglican Church in Tyrconnell after a lifetime serving churches.

She remembers all the women on the boat to Saint John New Brunswick.

She said the wives were treated so well.

Of the war, she remembers seeing the fires in Coventry from a hill near Yorkshire after the blitzkrieg.

She remembers moving to the south coast of England to be with Les during the war.

Les lost his brother, Ted, there.

Peg said the country-side was full of soldiers and pretty girls were free play.

Soldiers were lonely; away from their homes for four years.

"Men are men and womwn are womwn. It doesn't take a lot to find love in war," said Wheeler.

She's found it interesting the war bride is being celebrated.

The year of the War Bride is not officially being proclaimed by the federal government, however it has acknowledged the vital role they have played in the building of



War bride JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Peg Wheeler shows the picture of her and her late husband Les, which she keeps above her bed. Wheeler met Les while he was serving Canada in England.

A wonderful friend & lady.

KREBSZ

"The community has lost part of its sunshine."



Peacefully, after a courageous battle with cancer, on Saturday, August 12th, 2006, Rosalie Elizabeth Krebsz, of West Lorne in her 62nd year. Rosalie was a well respected businesswoman, operating Krebsz Jewellery for many years. The community mourns the loss of this wonderful spirit and generous volunteer. Predeceased by her parents Fred and Frony Redinger (1998). She is dearly loved and sadly missed by her husband Konrad, special daughter in law to Elizabeth McMillan and her husband Munro (1994); loving sister of Dr. Richard Redinger of Kentucky, his wife Arlene and their children Matthew, Mark, David and Heather; Walter Redinger of West Lorne, his wife Marion and their children Jennifer (Jamie) and Jeffrey; Helen Mulcaster of West Lorne and her daughters Melanie (Dan) and Leana; Linda Royal of West Lorne, her husband Max and her children Jacqueline (Jim), Monica and Kristopher; Shirley Vandenberg of West Lorne, her husband Martin and their children Zabrina, Tyler and Jacob. Also surviving are one great niece and three great nephews. Friends called at the West Lorne Chapel, 202 Main Street, West Lorne on Monday, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. where service was held on Tuesday at 2 p.m. Pastor E. Betsch officiated. Interment Evergreen Cemetery, West Lorne. Memorial donations to the Canadian Cancer Society, the Daffodil Society or Grace Lutheran Church would be appreciated as your expression of sympathy. Arrangements entrusted to the Padfield Funeral Home, Rodney, (519) 785-0810. Online condolences may be left at www.padfield-



MIKE HENSEN The London Free Press

CLOSE-KNIT: Harry Mezenberg and his siblings immigrated to Canada from Holland. Two years after arriving in this country, the children's father, Antonius, was killed in a motor vehicle collision, leaving their mother, Katherine, widowed with 12 children and far from home.

Canada home despite tragic start

HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

JANE ANTONIAK



The first time Katherine Mezenberg brought her family of 10 children here from the Netherlands, it was a huge yet exciting undertaking.

Three years later, with two more children, she'd arrive here a second time, only much more sadly and reluctantly.

It started in 1956 when Mezenberg and her husband Antonius sold their farm and followed their siblings to Southwestern Ontario.

"It was quite an undertaking," recalls the eldest surviving child, Ann Donkers. "Everything was packaged up in a wooden crate. They bought some new furniture (and) dishes and it took six weeks to get here."

The family flew to Montreal on May 17, 1956 — 50 years ago this week. By train, they travelled to London, where an uncle drove them to a farm he owned in West Lorne.

"Dad was quite discouraged that it was such a wet spring. The corn (from the previous season) hadn't been picked, so we all went out and picked corn," says Donkers.

The children went to school and their father worked on a relative's tobacco farm. They also grew and picked an acre of cucumbers for pickle sales.

A year later they bought their own tobacco farm in Rodney.

But in September 1958, on a foggy night while driving his car, Antonius crashed into an unlit tractor. He was killed instantly.

Newspapers here and in Toronto carried stories about the Dutch widow with 12 children, the youngest five weeks old, and crops still in the field.

Harry Mezenberg recalls that volunteers came from as far as Toronto to harvest the crop. "It was a big community effort." His sister Dina Koolen says she remembers "cars lined up the road for his funeral."

The next spring Katherine Mezenberg, then 40 and unable to speak English, decided to rent her farm and take her 12 children back to The Netherlands.

"She didn't know what to do," says Harry. "We returned to live in the same house as it had been sold to relatives. We stayed for four months. In the end she said the kids all wanted to return to Canada."

Donkers says her mother was faced with a tough decision: stay in Holland and see her children leave or leave her country and come back here to be with her children.

So, in July 1959 they all returned. Two nephews from Holland were sent along to help with the farming. The eldest boys and Donkers quit school after Grade 8 to help.

"We hired the help. I did the financial part at age 14 and ran the equipment," says Harry.

Their mother never remarried but went on to buy another farm. Her mother came to live with Donkers in her later years. The eldest brother died at age 27 of a brain tumour, but the rest of the children have stayed in the area.

They all became Canadian citizens and married. They produced 33 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. Katherine Mezenberg died in 2001 at age 83.

"In the end I think she was happy here," says Donkers. "I think in her later years she accepted her choice."

The remaining children gather every April near their mother's birthday for an annual reunion.

"We've been treated well here," says Harry. "The biggest thing was the community support."

Jane Antoniak is a London freelance writer. She can be contacted at je.antoniak@sympatico.ca. Her column appears Mondays.

WESS grad Terry Carroll launches new book

Talented ballroom dancer Patricia Verkley donned a beautiful red dress for a ballroom dance demonstration at the launch of new mystery novel Body Contact by Terry Carroll Nov. 17.

It happened at the St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre, St. Thomas.

"One tie-in is the cover of the book," says Carroll. "And another is where I'm donating some of the proceeds."

Patricia and her husband Dave are experienced dancers with the Elgin Ballroom Dance Club.

Carroll has committed to donating $1 for every book sold at the launch to that dance club and also $1 to the St. Thomas Elgin Public Art Centre where he volunteers for its marketing committee.

The cover of Body Contact features a woman in a two-piece red outfit, a stylized representation of a femme fatale from the novel.

This is Carroll's second mystery novel. His first was shortlisted for an Arthur Ellis Award for Best First Novel by the Crime Writers of Canada.

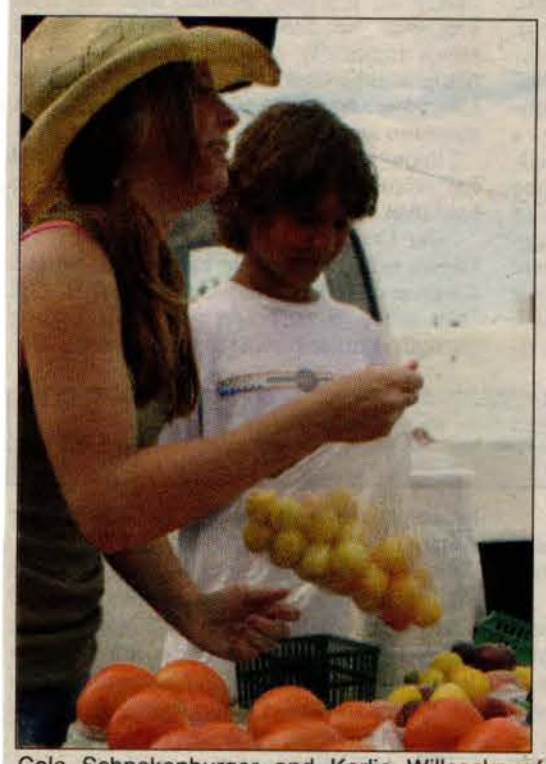
Carroll was born and raised on what is now the Carroll Line in West Elgin.

He is a graduate of West Elgin Secondary School.

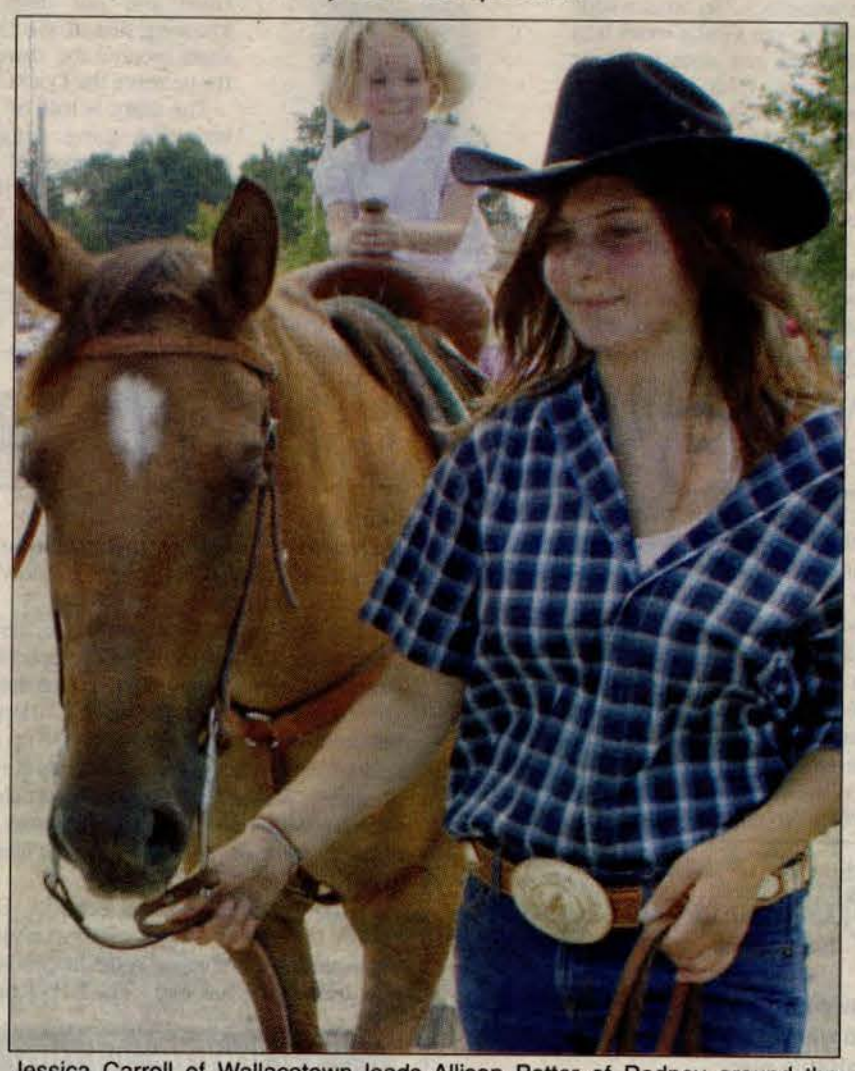
Wild West weekend rounds up fun

The first-ever Cactus, Cattle and Cowboys weekend drew dozens of horses and hundreds of people to western Elgin County to take in the wild west experience.

Photos by Jeff Kempenaar



Cole Schnekenburger and Karlie Willcocks of West Lorne help out Empire Velley Farms at the farmers market.



Jessica Carroll of Wallacetown leads Allison Potter of Rodney around the grounds of the Cactus, Cattle, Cowboys festivities.



A spooked Long Horn steer scared organizers when it got away from owner Darryl Swain.



The Backporch Gospel Band started the weekend.



Evan VanDyk of Rodney tries roping at the Riding for Christ Ministry booth.



Iona Overland Stage Coach follows the horse parade out of West Lorne.



Port Glasgow Square Dancers entertained.

Boonies hoping to lure city folk

WEST LORNE

SCOTT HILGENDORFF



A conversation starts between two people standing in line at a St.Thomas store. Both know each other and are out of town shopping, a regular occurrence that troubles merchants and businesses in the communities of western Elgin County.

They talk about their reasons for not being in their home community, maybe feeling a little guilty, and the clerk overhears. She is incredulous — not that they're shopping out of town, but at the distance they travel.

"You came here all the way from West Lorne?"

Yes, they did. And at least a few hundred other people from western Elgin County did the same thing that day, whether to London or St. Thomas.

It's about 50 kilometres for the trip, or less than a half-hour drive. It's really not that far at all.

However, there is a backwards thinking at work here. Residents from the west don't think twice to travel to St. Thomas or London for shopping or to take part in events. But the reverse is not true. Ask someone in the city where Dutton is, and more often than not, they don't know.

It's something Marketing Partners of Western Elgin Region (MPOWER) is trying to change by raising awareness of the tourism opportunities that exist right in the backyards of Chatham, London and St. Thomas. MPOWER chairperson Robert White moved to West Lorne about 15 years ago, loved what he found and made his home here.

"We're working as a multitude of communities to try to get people to see what we saw when we first came here," White says.

A group of businesses, organizations and event operators in the communities of western Elgin County, has made great strides in building bridges and tearing down boundaries.

Post-amalgamation, there still exists a desire to protect traditional community boundaries. Some in Dutton work to protect Dutton's identity at the exclusion of working with surrounding communities on issues that could help economic development. The same can be found in West Lorne or Rodney, even though the two villages are now part of the Municipality of West Elgin.

Many, however, don't share that view and some of them have found their way into the marketing partnership, including me.

"The uniqueness of this group is that we actually dropped the borders," White says.

The partnership has seen businesses working together from across the region, many knowing their efforts have no immediate benefit to their own operations, as they help draw tourists to visit western Elgin County.

Collectively, the two major municipalities, West Elgin and Dutton-Dunwich, offer a more complete tourism package than separately. West Elgin is home to several campgrounds and a port with beach access to Lake Erie. Dutton-Dunwich offers the historic Backus-Page House and the beautiful Pearce Park. The area has many parks and recreation opportunities.

With the cities so close and gasoline prices rising, the group is trying to promote the area to its city neighbours in hopes they'll bring their families to explore a lakeshore area closer to home.

To get started, two major summer events have been planned. The first is the Living History Weekend, May 28 and May 29, near Wallacetown, linking with the Tyrconnell Heritage Society to bring together an interactive weekend that explores pioneer life. Coupled with a mystery car tour on Sunday, local history will be brought to life during the weekend with many hands-on, family-oriented events.

July 29 and July 30 will feature a western weekend, taking advantage of the area's growing horse industy with opportunity for overnight camping, planned trail rides and a horses-only parade July 29 in West Lorne, surrounding a family day of cowboy-style activities.

Recognizing it's a daunting task, MPOWER is trying to reverse the trends and bring out-of-towners here.

Scott Hilgendorff is a freelance writer in Elgin County. Across County Lines appears Thursdays and Saturdays.

Canadian Cancer Society / Société canadienne du cancer

GREAT RIDE 'n' STRIDE

WEST ELGIN ARENA

Sunday, April 30th • 1pm

(Registration starts at 12:30pm)

HOT DOGS & DRINKS SERVED FROM 12:30 to 1pm

Pledge forms available at Krebsz Jewellery Store

or call Mary Lippold 768-1244; Mary Leipman 768-1224;

Leola Lawrence 768-1526 or online at www.cancer.ca



Command centre Rodney JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Lieutenant Dennis Grant, right, provides a briefing on operations to Brigade Commander Col. Judd at the command centre of the forward operating base set up at the Rodney Fair Grounds. Canadian Armed Forces conducted training exercises over the weekend.

Area used as model for army

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Some of the 140 members of the armed forces in the Rodney area over the weekend have been to Afghanistan and were preparing to return.

Exercise Maple Gale saw units from the Windsor Regiment, Elgin 31 Combat Engineers and other soldiers from London and Hamilton stationed at the Rodney Fairgrounds from Friday night to Sunday afternoon.

The area was renamed West Isle, a make believe scenario, meant to replicate places where Canadian Forces are in action, much like Afghanistan.

The Canadian Forces created a supply terminal at Port Glasgow Marina.

From there, supplies were to be transported to the operations centre in the village.

Opposing forces like the West Isle Armed Force and the Black Dawn Brigade disrupted the transportation of goods with ambushes along the route.

The two factions are meant to replicate the Taliban and Al Qaeda.

Real fire and fury were faced by troops escorting the convoy toward Rodney.

This area was chosen because it is unknown to many of the soldiers, said Lieutenant Dennis Grant.

New technologies and methods tried in Afghanistan were being practised here.

"If something doesn't work over there we stop practising it here," he said.

Grant said much like work over seas, the military try to win the hearts and minds of locals and the forces tried to respect neighbours while practising in Rodney.

Soldiers were put on both sides of the conflict, also acting as militants.

The exercises never match the intensity of a real mission said Grant.

"We put a rifle in the hands of an 18-year-old and he has to know whether to shoot or not," he said. "Here it's not life or death. You'll hear the pop and the bang but the bullets are blank."

After each exercise, many hours of review were done around the operation.

"It takes hours of administration and paperwork for five minutes of fire and fury," he said.

If the operations practiced in Rodney over the weekend were real, 2,000 troops would have be needed, said Grant.



Volunteer of the year
Melanie Knapp is presented with the volunteer of the year award at the Canada Day ceremonies in West Lorne by Irene Puddester from the Chamber of Commerce, Anne Smith from the municipality, Mary Lou Kominek rural development officer and Trudy Balint, councillor. Melanie volunteers with the Rodney Fair and works with youth.

SUBMITTED

Kids take over WEDS winter play

Show starts this weekend

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, will hopefully ring true as a young cast performs in the winter show for the West Elgin Dramatics Society.

Directed by Al Kirk and Greg Simpson, the play features a cast of 24, with 22 under the age of 17.

While the play is about a family of the worst kids in the history of the world, the kids in the cast have been anything but, said Simpson.

"I'm not just saying this because it will go in the newspaper. These kids have been great," said Simpson.



Best pageant ever JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Kid actors have been putting their heads together to make the Best Christmas Pageant Ever a success for WEDS' winter production.

Atmosphere at rehearsals is very different this year than the last 13 years of winter productions by WEDS.

"There's so much energy. When it's harnessed right it's amazing what can happen," said Kirk.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, written by Barbara Robinson, 1979, is about a small town's annual church pageant.

This year, the Mrs. Armstrong, a straight laced woman who has put on the pageant each year, broke her leg.

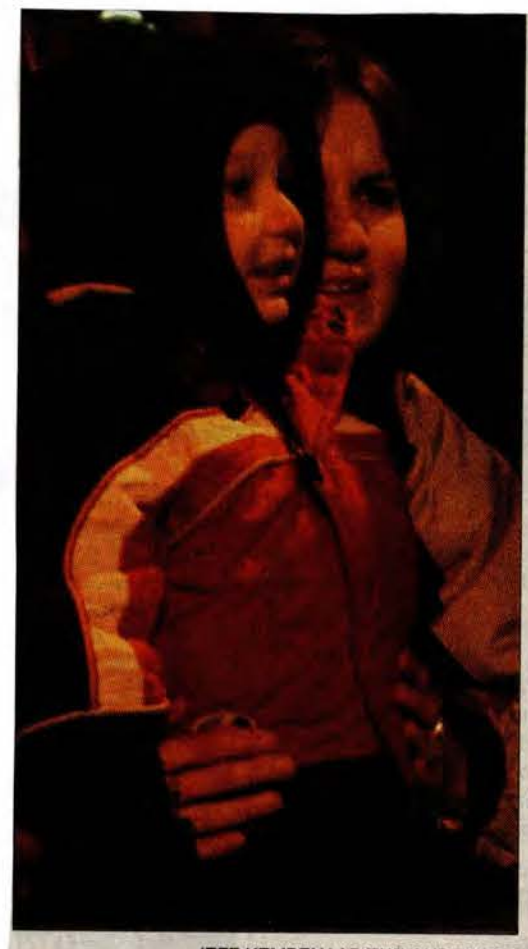
Therefore, organizing the play falls in the lap of a sweet couple, Grace and Bob Bradley, played by Adel and Carmon Lasson.

"We're the only two adults in the play," said Adel. "We're like their puppets. The kids are the orchestra, we rely on them to take the play along."

She said the child actors have been so sweet.

"Kids are so literal," said Adel who's son Zack is also in the cast. "They didn't get it at first that the play is about a play."

Please see WEDS, *page 2*









JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

West Lorne Santa Claus Parade
West Lorne Optimist Club held its Santa Claus Parade Nov. 24. Above: Angela Brown and Austin Kauzen-McMurphy enjoy watching the floats going by. Right top: Youth on Track with the Melody Fellowship Church provided a musical float. Right middle Tiny Tots Co-operative Nursery School with Ella Towers, sitting on the lap of Khloe Beer; Allison Rose, Nikki Damphouse and Katelyn Rose. Right bottom: Nelson Bergsma dressed as a penguin with a float provided by Albert's Generators.

CURRENT EVENTS 2006

Car tour explores Elgin

Get your motor running and explore Western Elgin County along the shores of Lake Erie.

JIM FOX



ONE-TANK TRIPS

In a bid to attract more visitors to this picturesque part of Ontario, southwest of London, a community group has organized a car tour May 28.

Called Travel Western Elgin Trails, the tour covers part of the Talbot Settlement.

"Western Elgin doesn't have any big, household-name attractions like Port Stanley or Stratford," said Leta West of Marketing Partners Of Western Elgin Region, a group of businesses and community volunteers behind the initiative.

The area includes the municipalities of Dutton-Dunwich and West Elgin (formerly Rodney, West Lorne and Aldborough Township).

Participants in the driving tour will learn all about the history of the area.

West provides an overview: The region "was developed by Col. Thomas Talbot, who for 50 years starting in 1803, supervised and settled 29 townships and developed an excellent road system."

The tour starts at 10 a.m. at the Backus-Page House, a cultural centre in a house built in 1850 by Andrew and Mary Jane Backus. It is on land granted by Talbot in 1809 to Mary Storey, the grandmother of Andrew Backus.

Participants pay $10 and receive a tour guidebook and card. Following the directions in the guide will take them around the area to view some of the older houses while finding answers to the questions on the card.

The tour ends at Old Boys' Park in Port Glasgow, where completed tour cards will be entered in a draw for a basket of Western Elgin mementos valued at more than $200.

Along the way, here are some of the sights:

► St. Peter's Anglican Church, in continuous use since 1827 and a pivotal part of the action in the 1997 movie That Old Feeling starring Bette Midler.

► Southwold Native Earth Works, the location of one of the Neutral Indian tribes and a National Historic Site of Canada.

► Old Highway 3 Antiques located in a rounded-roof building that was constructed in 1955 by soaking the rafters in a pond for more than a week and then bending them into shape.

► The John Kenneth Galbraith Library in Dutton, named after the famous economist who died last month at the age of 97.

► The Buttermilk Bog created when the now-defunct Dutton Creamery dumped its whey in the area of large trees at the back of the property, giving the area a high salt content and thus its name.

► Empire Valley Farm Market, with its historic brick house built in 1888 and selling farm fresh produce and plants.

► Erie Flooring and Wood Products, home to pilot project for a wood-residue co-generation power plant.

► Ye Olde Jail, the oldest small jail in North America.

► Port Glasgow Marina where settlers would disembark and camp before moving to the land granted to them by Talbot.

West hopes people on the tour will get interested in what else the region has to offer.

There's a "great wealth of attraction and activities for families" from nature, history, sports, crafts or shopping, West said.

Naturalists will be interested in the John E. Pearce Provincial Park, Carolinian forests, and bluffs high above Lake Erie to watch lake freighters, fishing tugs and bald eagles.

There's swimming and boating at the Port Glasgow marina, and several classic car shows during the summer, West said.

"The shopping is second to none," she added, noting: "There are virtually no chain stores here, beside the grocery and hardware stores.

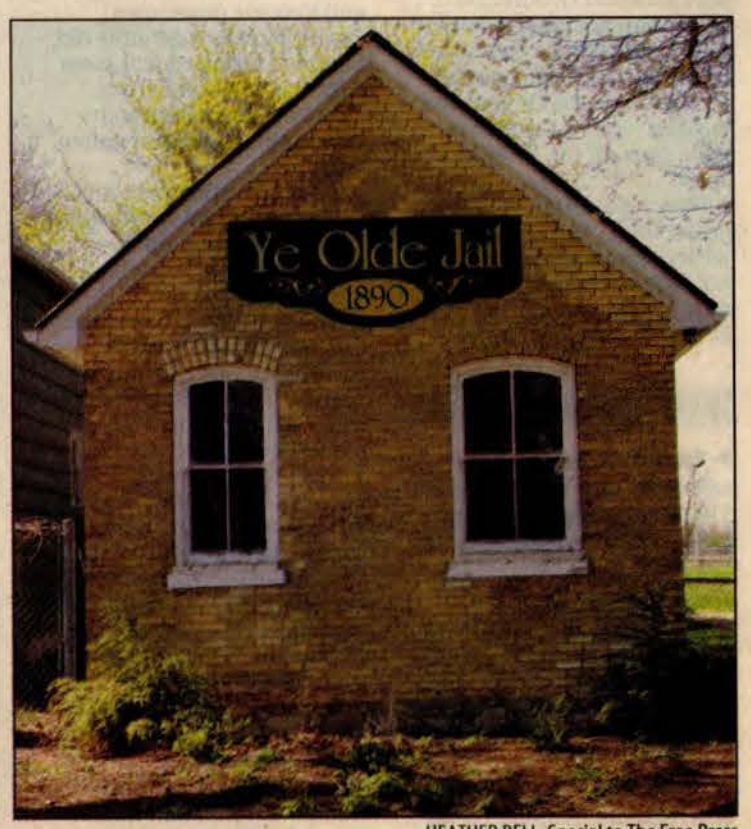
"Every other business, whether it's a gift shop, jewelry store, garden accessory shop, flower shop, restaurant, farm produce vendor or antique store, is family owned, unique and with small-town prices."

There are also many artists and artisans in the region.

Other events or tours to "focus on the uniqueness of the area" are in the planning stages, West added.

"When people get familiar with what we have to offer, they'll think of Western Elgin as part of their backyard."

Jim Fox is a freelance writer based in Kitchener. He can be reached at onetanktrips@hotmail.com



HEATHER BELL Special to The Free Press

SMALL-TOWN HOSPITALITY: Ye Olde Jail, the oldest small jail in North America, located in Rodney west of London, is one of the stops on a car tour of Western Elgin County. On tour day, May 28, volunteers will be serving free coffee.

IF YOU GO

► The Travel Western Elgin Trails car tour runs on May 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. from the Backus-Page House. The price is $10 for a tour book, tour card and souvenirs.

► From London, take Highway 401 to the Dutton exit (No. 149) and travel south on Currie Road through Dutton to Lake View Line. Turn left on Lake View Line and the Backus-Page House is on the left.

► For more information, call (519) 762-3072; tyrconnell@execulink.com

Former resident takes local training far away

Jason Lilley, son of Elaine and the late Clifford Lilley of Dutton, was all smiles as his new funeral home was dedicated on Oct. 15.

Jason was licenced in 1992 and credits his success to the early training he received locally working with both the Padfield and Arn Funeral Homes.

The new facility, Northridge Funeral Home, is located in Emo, Ontario, near the Minnesota border, in the Rainy River District.

. Provincial Director Jim Price represented the Ontario Funeral Service Association at the festivities and also brought the congratulations and best wishes of Jason's many friends from our the local area.



A new frontier SUBMITTED

Susan Peacock, Jason Lilley, Elaine Lilley and Jim Price at the grand opening of Jason's funeral home in Emo, ON.

West Elgin ponders taking ropes of economic development

West Elgin is looking at taking the helm for economic development.

This came after a joint application with Bayham for funding to hire an economic development officer was denied by the Community Transition Program.

"We seriously have got to do something because right now we're doing nothing," said Deputy Mayor Bernie Wiehle.

Mayor Graham Warwick delivered the news that the funding application was denied at the council meeting Nov. 9.

CTP is funding community based projects in Elgin, Oxford Brant and Norfolk, counties that have been hit by the decline of the tobacco industry.

West Elgin and Bayham filed an application to the Community Futures Development Corporation, which is administering the fund.

Warwick said he was told the joint venture did not get funding because it was too expensive and it at its core, an economic officer could be duplicating efforts being made by the CFDC and the newly hired Elgin County Economic Development Officer.

Warwick went on to say Elgin County's Economic Development officer needs numbers and information from the west end of the county that only a local economic development officer could derive.

Council agreed to start looking into the costs of hiring its own economic development officer and developing a plan.

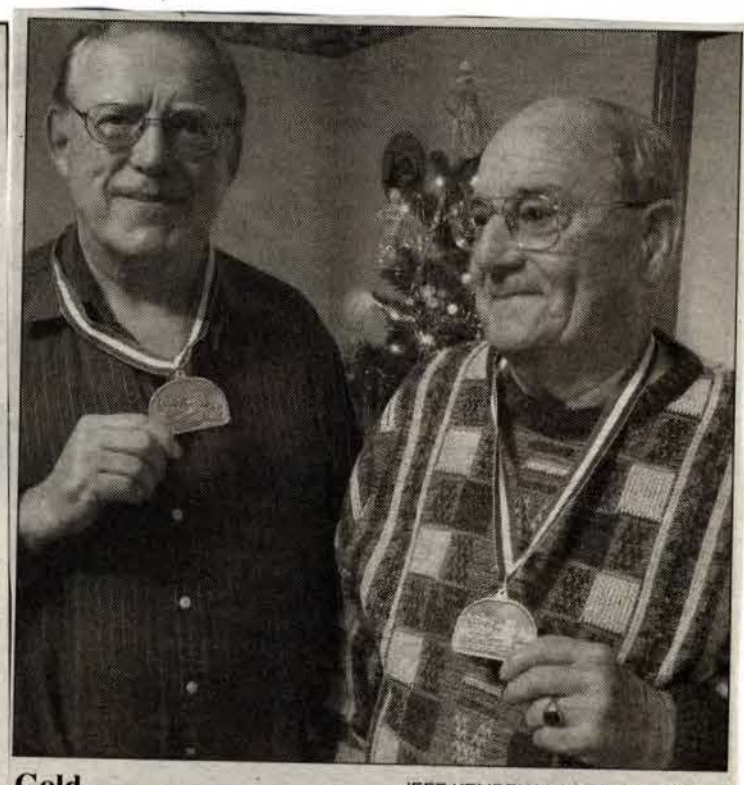
Currently, the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce is working on a plan for economic development.

CURRENT EVENTS 2006



WEDS Kids JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Katie Dawson and Anasthia Machado practise their lines during a dress rehearsal for the WEDS Kids production of Who Murdered Who which the dramatic camp kids performed last Friday night.



Gold JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Bob Hales and George Bell won gold in cribbage at the Ontario Senior Games.

Andres Kaups leaves Baptist church

After seven years, Pastor Andres Kaups and his wife Evi are leaving the Rodney and West Lorne Baptist churches.

Sunday is their last service before retiring to Kitchener to spend time with grandchildren.

Kaups has been ministering 18 years and made his fourth and final stop in this area.

"We have had great times ministering together with the people of West Lorne United Church, Grace Anglican Church and the Church of Christ's Disciples," he wrote in a letter to the Chronicle.

He remembers the West Elgin Christian Ensemble concerts, the choir established for the 2001 anniversary.

"The folks at West Lorne Baptist and at Rodney Baptist until its closure in 2003, have shown us much love and support that it is impossible to describe," he said.

While the church continues its search for a new pastor, Kaups said there is still a lot of life.

A new youth drop-in group began recently and runs every other week.

"These are the most hospitable and friendly people we've been involved with," he said. "They are really committed to the Lord and Christianity."

This Sunday at 3 p.m. Kaups will lead a special celebration for his last service at the West Lorne Baptist Church on Graham Road.

Ontario champs

Two local men became cribbage champions at the Ontario Senior Games.

George "Scotty" Bell and Bob Hales won gold at Actifest 2006 in Hamilton this past summer.

The two have now qualified for the Canada Senior Games hosted by Dieppe, New Brunswick in 2008.

Bell and Hales were top of the heap, beating 64 other teams in the two day cribbage event.

The first day, Bell, from West Lorne and Hales, from Dutton went 9-1.

"We were really hot," said Hales.

The next day the strong play continued.

"We pulled up our socks and ended up champions," said Hales.

It was Hales' first medal at the Ontario games and Bell's first appearance.

It took several months before the gold medals arrived in the mail after an error.

Hales had a choice to either compete in the cribbage event or golf after winning in the Elgin/Oxford, District 31 games.

Other Actifest 2006 winners from Elgin/Oxford were Alice Kirk and Dorothy MacPherson, with a bronze in bid euchre and Dennis Tyrrell and Gene Glover, bronze in darts.

Code issues delay rebuild of Complex

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Reconstruction of the West Lorne Community Complex has been delayed three months as crews upgrade the building to meet current code.

Phil Scott, of Hickman-Mount Reconstruction reported to West Elgin Council Nov. 9.

He said when the building was erected in 1993 it wasn't up to the codes then.

The floor, ceiling and insulation of the attic has been completed at the complex.

Fire gutted the downtown building in an early morning blaze in February.

Scott said many of the upgrades being made to bring the building to code are being covered by the insurance company.

Some problems with the building found during reconstruction were: there was no fresh air exchange, the building only had a 200 amp electrical system and improper flooring.

An engineer with Spriet Association said it was good the fire crew stopped the fire when they did, because it will be cheaper to reconstruct the building than to build a new complex.

That and preserving a historic library building were a silver lining of keeping the complex.

The first step now, is to prepare the foundation for the library expansion with excavation, and structural steel which could be complete before the holidays, said Scott.

Completion date is expectation to be next summer.



Roof trusses in place JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Roof trusses were placed across the West Lorne Community Complex Monday. Reconstruction of the building continues after fire gutted the building Feb. 8.



Band rocks WEDS JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

David Laidlaw and Jen Pinder joined the West Elgin Community Band to rock WEDS Theatre in Dutton June 5. The two had a drum-off during the band's Movie Night in Canada show.

CURRENT EVENTS 2006

Public buildings to get fire alarms

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

West Elgin is putting new fire alarms in its buildings in the wake of the West Lorne Community Complex fire in February.

The Complex had three smoke detectors upstairs and two downstairs.

However, there was no alarm system to trigger an emergency response to the fire.

A witness placed a call to 911.

"The smoke detectors worked perfectly. The firemen heard them while going in," said Jeff Slater, recreation superintendent.

Smoke alarms would add valuable time to emergency response.

Council approved tenders for smoke alarm systems for the Rodney Recreation Centre and the West Elgin Pool.

Neither of these buildings have any kind of smoke or heat detectors.

"It sounds crazy," said Slater. "But when they were built it wasn't needed in the code. There wasn't the occupancy levels. You don't need detectors if no one is around to hear them."

Estimated costs for the fire alarms are $3,130 for the pool and $11,979 for the recreation centre.

Costs are high as detectors are needed throughout each building.

The alarm is received by ECM Security who then contact emergency services and start contacting municipal leaders.

"The day of the fire we said we would do this," said Mayor Graham Warwick at the May 25 meeting. "We could have saved the building."

Plans for the Complex include a fire alarm system.

Dutton/Dunwich Community Centre has no smoke detectors either with no immediate plans to purchase a system.



SUSAN BRADNAM The London Free Press

GIDDY-UP: West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick, left, and Jessica McKillen, community development worker with the West Elgin Community Health Centre, catch a ride on the Iona Overland stagecoach at an event to promote the Cowboy Festival in West Lorne July 29.

COWBOYS: In the end, writer decides that he's no cowboy

From Page C1

And if it's cowboys — or cowgirls — you want, you'll see them at the Cactus, Cattle and Cowboys event in downtown West Lorne beginning July 29.

Festivities kick off with a farmers market in the morning, followed by a horse parade at noon and live entertainment from 4 to 8 p.m.

Horse owners can mount their steeds for an afternoon trail ride Saturday, or join another one Sunday.

After failing my lasso lesson, I'm nervous about heading for a horseback ride — until I see the stagecoach behind the towering animals.

I wonder if bandits have ever tried to rob the 19th-century-style wagon.

"I don't see any bullet holes or arrows in it, so I don't think so," says its owner, Ray Spooner.

I climb inside and feel the comfortable leather interior.

It's like other luxury rides I've cruised in before — only slower, with just four horses for power.

And you do feel the road when the horses get going.

I consider making a heroic dive from the moving coach in a fleeting attempt to leave a dashing impression of myself.

Better not, I decide. I'm no cowboy.

rcureatz@lfpress.com

Grace Lutheran Church celebrating 50 years

Sunday June 11 will be a memorable occasion in the church life of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, West Lorne.

It was 50 years ago, June 10, 1956, that the congregation gathered in a brand new building for the official opening and dedication, with three special worship services throughout the day.

We invite former members and friends to our joyous event at 4 p.m. to give thanks to God and celebrate with us: "Fifty years of dwelling in God's house and praising him" (Psalm 84).

Our guest preacher is Rev. Paul Pollex of St. Thomas.

A choir for this day, composed of voices from several choirs is also preparing special music.

Grace Anglican gets Wilkinson works

FRANCES GILLARD HARVEY
Grace Anglican Church West Lorne

It is not unusual for a church to have colourful windows, but thanks to a local artist Grace Anglican Church in West Lorne has colourful walls as well.

The church in question is fortunate enough to have had installed five large paintings by Harry Wilkinson, four of which belong to a series called "Perception". The first is entitled "Am I finished or is this just the beginning?" It hangs at the front of the south wall and depicts the emergence of the human spirit from the confines of the body.

The second, named "Elijah", has been placed on the north wall cater-corner from the first in order to achieve a balance. It portrays a figure being swept upward by a great power, just as Elijah was carried away after he had been separated from Elisha.

"Pentecost Two", the third of the series, hangs at the rear of the south wall and shows a number of individuals seated around a table. The colours are those of light and fire. This powerful painting embodies inspiration of varying levels, depending on the viewer's susceptibility to the spiritual nature of inspiration. It is open-ended, thus inviting the viewer to

placed at the back of the church, where it confronts people as they go out. "The Last Judgement" portrays a dark figure pleading his case before Christ on the cross.

The final painting is done in a completely different style. It is part of the "Purging" series and hangs opposite the first canvas. It is called "The Devil at Five o'clock" and represents the ultimate struggle of positive over negative. It depicts the conflict between the devil and St. Michael, whose foot is firmly planted upon the devil's head.

This series of Wilkinson's work is subjective and metaphoric, and as such, lends itself to interpretation by the viewer. Harry paints and teaches at his studio in New Glasgow, where he lives with his

n.

Former resident to play at White House

His Season, with lead singer, former West Lorne resident Laura Dugas (Wood) are playing the final night of the Lighting of the National Christmas Tree at the White House in Washington D.C.

The award winning gospel recording artists, based out of Guelph announced it will be performing at the White House Dec. 23 during the Christmas Pageant of Peace.

"Christmas is such a magical time of year," said Dugas in a release. "The wonderful season, along with the extensive history of this pageant, we are very honoured to be taking part and representing Canada at this event."

Known for their smooth harmonies, tight vocal blend, intricate arrangements, and dynamic solos have been travelling for over three years singing at churches, hockey games, charity events and festivals.

The Lighting of the National Christmas Tree Ceremony begins the three-week Pageant of Peace held each Christmas season at the Presidents Park in Washington, DC. In addition to this ceremony, visitors enjoy nightly musical performances by individuals and groups that have included the likes of Ricky Skaggs, CeCe Winans, Kimberly Locke, Billy Gilman, Lonestar and others.

His Season are currently one of the most actively booked gospel-recording artists in Canada and their first album was nationally nominated for best traditional gospel album by the Shai Awards.

They currently have over 150 concert venues on their books for 2006 and are looking to increase that number for 2007.

Yet, for now they'll put their tour on hold and take a short Christmas trip to Washington to take part in the Historical 83rd Christmas Pageant of Peace.

They will be performing the last night of the event on Dec. 23, starting at 5 p.m.

CURRENT EVENTS 2006

Researching local soldiers

Historian supports Soldiers Wall of Fame

Historian Harley Lashbrook is gathering information about local people that served in the First and Second World Wars.

"No one is doing it and it's something I want done," he said.

The former reeve of West Lorne hopes to see biographies of local servicemen hanging in the Soldiers Wall of Fame in Bothwell.

The Wall of Fame has been growing year by year with information about area people that served in the great wars but little information has been found about people from Rodney and West Lorne.

With a list of 150 names supplied by the two local Legions, Lashbrook is compiling information about the soldiers service in the war.

"If I get that before many time is done I'll be satisfied," he said.

Anyone with information about those that served in the world wars from the West Lorne and Rodney area is asked to contact Harley Lashbrook at 519-768-1253.

New face on West Elgin council

New blood is joining West Elgin's municipal government as Jonathan Wolf was elected in Ward 2.

Wolf beat out three challengers to take the Ward 2 seat for his first-term, representing West Lorne and the northeastern half of the municipality.

Voting went: Wolf, 242, Mike Mooser, 167, Theo Van Dyk, 160 and Robert White, 85.

Wolf, 32 years-old was excited after being declared at the municipal office Monday night in Rodney.

"I'm eager to begin," he said, adding he's confident he knocked on 90 per cent of the doors.

Wolf beat out long-time incumbent Mike Mooser who called to congratulate him.

"The people wanted a change. That's what politics is all about," said Mooser, who after 20 years serving West Elgin and the former village of West Lorne says he leaving politics.

"Life goes on. I'll pack my golf clubs, grab my fishing pole and go fishing," he said.

Rodney area

In Ward 2, Mary Bodnar fended off businessman Keith Fretter for the second time and new comer Ed Roodzant.

Roodzant took votes from rural polls, as a co-owner of a Pioneer seed outlet.

"It was a good experience," said Roodzant. "I'll stick with farming."

Bodnar, 63, returns for her second term as councillor for Ward 1 which is comprised of Rodney, and the north western half of West Elgin.

"I feel relieved," said Bodnar. "I enjoy being involved in the community."

She hopes to restart area Citizens on Patrol, which has declined.

"It feels good to have the challenge for the next four years."

In Ward 2, votes went: Bodnar, 306, Fretter, 208, Roodzant, 119.

Fretter said people voted for change, more people voted against Bodnar.

Turnout was 28 per cent, 1,527.

Acclaimed was Mayor Graham Warwick, Deputy Mayor Bernie Wiehle and Ward 3 councillor Trudy Balint.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Great Ride and Stride helped by A-xcavating

Right: Leola Lawrence and Mary Liepman of the West Elgin Daffodil Society accepts a cheque for $1,200 from Frank VandenBoomen and Jerry VanDyk of A-xcavating to support the Great Ride and Stride for Cancer held in West Lorne and Dutton Sunday. Friends, family and community members walked around the community after raising more than $8,000 for the event.



JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

Artist

Artist Jean Hunter from West Lorne, displays her paintings at the West Elgin Recreation Centre in Rodney. She was part of a Sept. 23 Road Rally that began at the Heritage Line Herbs in Richmond and ended at the Rodney Jail.





JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Oktoberfest Golf Tournament dedicated to Rosalie

Left: Lindsay Sleightholm of St. Thomas putts on the fifth green. Right: Mike Allegretti and Arlene Powellof Dutton warm up with coffee on the course. The second annual Oktoberfest Golf Tournament for the Daffodil Auxiliary was held Saturday at Dutton Meadows Golf Club. This year's tournament was dedicated to Rosalie Krebsz who helped organize the tournament last year and passed away after a courageous battle with cancer Aug. 12. Ninety-six golfers took part in the day and it was hoped $10,000 was raised for the Daffodil Auxiliary.

Woman's death shocks family

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

A 46-year-old West Lorne area woman was found dead last Friday morning after her car was discovered submerged in a deep backyard pond.

Cheryl Dinkel returned home around 2 a.m. from Donut Delite, where she had spent the evening with friends.

She was believed to be dropping minnows into her stocked pond before going into the house.

"Her feet must have been wet and she must have slipped and hit the gas," said her husband Manfred who waited beside the pond all day for a sight of the car.

She was found in her blue 1996 Taurus pulled from the pond late in the afternoon that day.

He called Elgin County OPP around 8 a.m. to report Cheryl missing.

Manfred went around town with an OPP officer looking for her and later, tire trails through the grass to the pond were discovered.

Gerald, the couple's only son together, waded into the pond in an attempt to find Cheryl.

"What could I do?" he said later at the scene after police began attaching caution tape to trees.

Please see Investigation, *page 2*



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Woman's body pulled from pond

Manfred Dinkel waits for West Lorne firefighters to drain the pond where the body of his wife was later found by the OPP Underwater Rescue Unit.

CURRENT EVENTS 2006

Wetlands studied amid development pressure

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Potentially significant wetlands are being studied by the Ministry of Natural Resources around West Lorne amid pressure for development with expanding town boundries.

The area around the village is considered a priority for the provincial agency where pressure for development is highest.

Erin Sanders, wetland evaluation technician with the Aylmer MNR office has been walking through woodlots between Queens Line and Thomson Line from Graham Road to Dunborough Line.

She's filling out a 30-page score card for each woodlot, with data about species of plants, wildlife and how often the woodlot is logged.

"There is a lot of pressure to develop in the area," she said.

With wetlands already protected by the province, Sanders is looking at nearby woodlots like the West Lorne Forest to study the potential of more land being protected against development.

She said woodlots will be ranked giving the municipality information on where to direct development.

"There's not many woodlots left. You can drive down entire concessions without wooded areas," she said. "Whatever is left might be worth looking at."

She said the MNR figures 80 per cent of the forests that were found by early settlers in southwestern Ontario are gone.

Her work has met roadblocks with landowners refusing her entry onto the property.

She's had to explain that her study does not impact development or how the land is currently being used.

The data is used by the municipality which would make decisions on development and land use.

Sander is working on a list of 139 areas with wetlands.

West Lorne falls in Priority A, a grouping of lands with high pressure for development which also includes Westminister Ponds in London.

Further down the list are portions of old Aldborough Township in the Priority C group.

Dutton is also on the list and Sanders is working out a work schedule to possibly look at woodlots in the Dutton area in the near future.

Sanders was to look at more woodlots near West Lorne last Friday and more this week.

New pastor at West Lorne Baptist



SUBMITTED

New pastor
Adam Hall has come from Leamington to become pastor at the West Lorne Baptist Church with his wife Rosalee.

West Lorne Baptist Church has welcomed its new pastor Adam Hall and his wife Rosalee.

They moved here from Leamington and are now settled into the manse.

We are very excited about their new ideas and we welcome you to come and meet this young couple.

We have several chances coming up to do so, including a pancake supper Feb. 19 at 5 p.m. and we are also planning a Welcome to West Lorne service and potluck supper for them March 4 at 3 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to come and join with us in a wonderful celebration.

If you have not been to this church in awhile, it's a good chance to come and see what's happening.

There is a Cornerstone Youth Drop-In-Centre every other Thursday evening at 6 p.m.

You'll know it's on if the light at the front is on.

Sunday School is held during the worship hour. Coffee and fellowship time is after the morning service.

If you missed seeing hip-hoppers Jamie "The Mere Mortal" and Natasha Kinsmen bring the house down at our Christmas party (with about 75 people in attendance), don't worry they will be back.

We have a church with a history that is envisioning the future!

The West Lorne Baptist Church is located at 197 Graham Street.

Our service is at 9:45a.m. Sundays. Starting March 11 we'll be starting at 10 a.m. to give everyone a few more minutes to get there.

FEB. 15/07 THE EHRONICLE



Making ghosts
Jessica Stacey, Carlie Millman and Morgan Lopes make ceramic ghosts at the West Lorne Library Oct. 21 as part of library week.





Vote Nov. 13

Your candidates for councils in West Elgin:
Acclaimed: Mayor Graham Warwick, Deputy Mayor Bernie Wiehle, Ward 3 (Thomson Road South) Trudy Balint.

Your West Elgin Ward 1 Candidates

Mary Bodnar

Rodney
Age: 63
Retired



Community Involvement: Secretary of Rodney and District Horticultural Society, area leader of West Elgin Neighbourhood Watch, community representative on Aldborough School Council, board member on West Elgin Community Health Centre, Friends of Four Counties Hospital. Committees: arena board, recreation centre, chamber of commerce, policing committee, Marketing Partners of Western Elgin Region.

Important issues: As a rural community, we strive to have the same services as urban areas. Support to keep our schools and hospitals open. Bring tourism, we need to promote our business' at every possible out-of-town opportunities. Neighbourhood Watch and Community Policing Committee's strive for a safe community.

Edward Roodzant

West Elgin
40
Farmer



Community Involvement: Coach Hockey, Neighbourhood watch road captain, Canvas for cancer society.

Important issues: Getting Furnival Rd. resurfaced with a pedestrian path along the road to the lake. The road is getting very rough. A side walk to the Aldborough school from the edge of town. Finding things to keep the kids busy. Working with the businesses to better our community. We live in an excellent area, central to Windsor and Kitchener. Many people are making a living on the road. Why not promote living in Rodney?

Third candidate Keith Fretter did not respond to the questionnaire.

Your West Elgin Ward 2 Candidates

Michael Mooser

West Lorne • Age: 66 • Retired from London Hydro



Community Involvement: Councillor for nine years, member of Tri- County Water Committee since 1991 (chairman since 2002), a member of West Lorne Legion since 1991. Member of West Lorne United Church, volunteer for West Elgin Legion and Kidney Foundation. Served as chairman for West Lorne Public Utilities Commission 1987 to 1997.

Important issues: The Heritage Home Apartments for seniors is an important project. I also support local accessibility to a high school education; we should never have to consider the loss of West Elgin Secondary School. A safe and regulated water system, a solid infrastructure and a clean environment. Maintaining acceptable tax rates.

Theo Van Dyk

West Lorne • Age: 62 • Retired farm industry



Community Involvement: I have lived in the area since 1956, having moved recently with my wife Margaret from Rodney. Now retired, I am interested in devoting my time to improving our community. Having spent many hours volunteering at local schools with my six grandchildren and have enjoyed my time to help others.

Important issues: Community beautification. Attract and retain citizens to our community. We need to highlight all the beauty our community has. Looking after seniors and our youth populations. Seniors housing initiatives require attention as the population ages. Support the partners involved. Find ways to keep youth interested and active in our community.

Robert White

West Elgin • Age: 57
• Long term disability, industrial safety trainer and fire fighter



Community Involvement: I am founding member West Elgin Chamber of Commerce and the tourism chair, board member of St. Thomas Elgin Tourist Association, chair of Marketing Partners of Western Elgin Region, member of Canada Day committee and Christmas Parade committee, member in good standing of Branch 221 West Elgin Royal Canadian Legion.

Important issues: We need a realistic and workable property standard act for our downtown cores. Our long term plan needs to support both growth of industry and maintenance of rural/family ways of life. We need to keep our schools open and funded. Seniors housing is also one of my priorities.

Jonathan Wolf

West Lorne • Age: 32 • Inspector/consultant (Building Sciences Industry)



Community Involvement: As a lifelong resident, I attended local schools and am involved in a family farm. I coach teams and am a member of both the Board of Directors for the West Lorne Minor Soccer Association and the West Elgin Parks and Recreation Committee. I also volunteer with the elderly.

Important issues: Local issues for a sustainable municipality include maintaining health and social services provided at the West Elgin Community Health Centre and Four Counties Hospital, the expansion and improvement of our Water Treatment Facility, ensuring viability for rural schools, securing affordable housing for seniors and continued accessible garbage disposal.

Current Events 2006

Brower a top three ambassador

Szanadue Brower competed in the 2006 Canadian National Exhibition's Ambassador of the Fairs Competion Aug. 20 representing Rodney Aldborough Fair.

She finished 2nd runner-up (3rd place).

1st runner-up was Colleen O'Shea from Western Fair.

The 2006 Ambassador of the Fairs was Jocelyn Badder of Dresden Fair

Brower's accomplishment continues a streak of local ambassadors finishing in the top three at the CNE competition.

Last year, RAAS Ambassador Richa Sharma finished third.

The year before that, Chris Enns, the Wallacetown Fair Ambassador won the competition.



CONTRIBUTED

Third in Ontario

Szanadue Brower finished third in the CNE Ambassador of the Fairs competition.

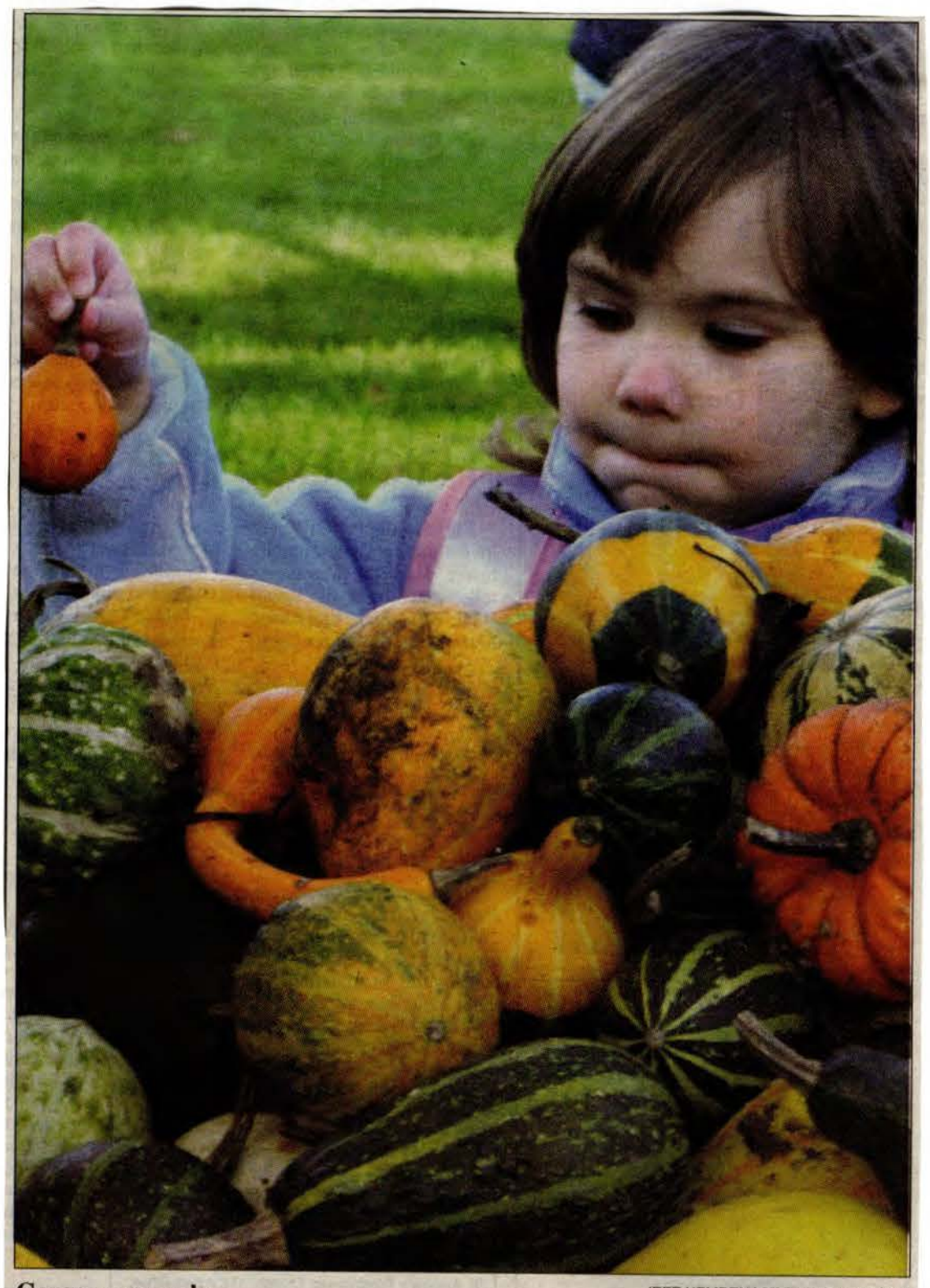


SUBMITTED

Watterworth returns for show

Kristyn Watterworth, shown here with one of her oil paintings at her studio in Bayfield, is coming home this weekend for a showing.

Her collection will be on display at the Watterworth Farm on Graham Road Nov. 4 and 5 starting a 11 a.m.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Gorgeous gourds

Kristen Lupsor, three, from Rodney finds a 'mini-pumpkin' amongst a pile of gourds at Jamieson's Pumpkin Patch October 5 on a visit with the Tiny Tots Nursery School.

West Lorne Complex plan moves forward

West Elgin Council moved forward with plans to build an addition onto the library at the West Lorne Community Complex.

Council approved the Spriet and Associates engineer drawings at the meeting June 15.

West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick wouldn't say how much reconstruction of the project would cost but said $200,000 is budgeted.

The plan will now be opened for tendering.

Warwick held an open house in West Lorne at the West Elgin Community Health Centre June 13.

Warwick said it's easier to build the addition while the entire complex is being rebuilt and in disarray.

Representatives from the library gave their support to the plan at the open house then again at the council meeting.

"More space will give us a chance to provide more services," said Janet Given from the Rodney, West Lorne library.

Warwick said the addition would be paid for through the rental agreement with Elgin County Library which pays $12 a square foot.

While how the library would use the extra space is still being discussed, representatives with the library said it could be used for a children's area for programming.

Given boasted the boys reading club has 17 members and the extra space would help organize bigger activities.

The addition would be built on to the back of the old McKillop portion of the library.

Engineers will continue to look at the building to see how much of the old back wall can come down for the addition.

The plan for the complex also includes a lift next to the stairway to make the basement accessible for the disabled.

Council approved the plans to finish the basement which will include a 16' by 22' boardroom for community groups, an open area possibly for the YWCA and storage rooms.



BRIAN WILSDON PHOTOGRAPHY

Romancing the Stone

Sara Peternel of West Lorne tries on a strapless, chiffon, dress with a cathedral veil, a very romantic, destination style dress. She will model at Romancing the Stone Wedding Show, Sunday, Feb 25. Admission by donation to Teen Challenge Farm.

Ash borer quarantine continues

from page 1

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency displayed logs from Essex county infested with the Asian-born beetle and educated people on how to spot an infested tree.

This open house came five months after infested trees happened to be found by a Ministry of Natural Resources official who stopped at the Highway 401 service centre.

"First off we're here to stress that people can't move firewood," said project manager Jerry Dowding, with CFIA.

That includes all firewood from individual properties within the quarantine zone.

Cut logs lose bark which defines the tree. Only a tree expert could tell if firewood is really ash, so no firewood can move from individual properties within the quarantine zone.

Ash brush and waste should be burned on the property it was cut and shouldn't be allowed to sit for too long. Dowding prefers one day.

Ash wood can be moved into the quarantine zone so property owners with property outside the quarantine can move firewood on to their property and highways are exempt from the quarantine so ash wood can be moved through the zone.

As well, ash cut on road easements by road crews can be given to adjacent land owners, but it can't leave that property.

However burning bylaws require permission from the municipality to burn wood waste.

This includes the villages of Dutton and half the villages of West Lorne and Wallacetown.

The municipality is negotiating a centralized location for ash wood waste to be burned if it is not safe to burn on the individual property.



Understanding the quarantine JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Emerald ash borer project supervisor Jerry Dowding explains to Theresa Marentette restrictions for moving firewood and ash products within a quarantine set up by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to stop the spread of the Asian-born emerald ash borer.

About 750 land owners were supposed to receive notices of quarantine from CFIA instructing them not to move ash wood from individual properties or face fines.

About 12 notices have been issued restricting any movement of ash wood from properties where infested trees have been found.

Fines are given under the Plant Protection Act.

"It's one of the most powerful acts in Canada," said Dowding. "Police are envious of it. It gives access to any property at a reasonable time of day that is, that could be or maybe infected."

Land owners wondered if they could move ash wood from one property to another, for firewood.

CFIA wants to know where the wood is moving from and to and exceptions can be made.

People wishing to log their property have been given permission by CFIA but wood must go to a certified mill.

Theresa Marentette, who lives on Celtic Line, the northern boundary of the quarantine in Dutton-Dunwich said her son, who lives across the road, outside of the quarantine, received a notice of quarantine.

Dowding told her it was a mistake with the satellite images used to define which properties should be included in the quarantine.

Marentette told Dowding she wants to use wood from her son's wood lot to heat her house.

Dowding looked at the map and gave permission for wood to be moved.

Many people at the open house received magnets with the CFIA's phone number to call if they plan to move ash wood from individual properties in the quarantine.

The quarantine stretches from Graham Road to Willey Road, Stalker Line and Celtic Line to Talbot Line.

Dowding said roads were used as boundaries because a complete circle would cut through properties and make it difficult to enforce the quarantine.

The quarantine was established after infested tree locations were captured with GPS technology.

From there, four five-kilometre circles were drawn around the most easterly, westerly, northerly and southerly found infested trees.

The most westerly, northerly and southerly infested trees are on property owned by the Ministry of Transportation Ontario.

The most easterly site is on private property close to Coyne Road and Gaelic Line.

The quarantine lasts until March 31.

By then, scientific data will have been collected by Canadian Forest Service and used to determine the CFIA's next steps.

CFIA estimates the emerald ash borer has destroyed 10 million ash trees in Southwestern Ontario and Michigan.

As well, ash trees are an important factor in the $880 million hardwood production industry in Canada.

Forestry specialists begin studying infested trees

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Canadian Forest Service has begun phase one of the emerald ash borer project, collecting measurements and data about the infested trees and surrounding ecology at the highway 401 service centres and adjacent land.

One tree was cut down by Canadian Forest Service and sent to a laboratory in Sault Saint Marie.

While phase one is mostly preliminary work, phase two includes more tree samples being taken and phase three includes, cutting whole infested trees down for analysis but stage two and three haven't been approved to begin yet.

Dowding said if any trees are cut, whether infested or close to infested trees, it would have to be done by mid-May.

Emerald Ash Borer begins its movements after mid-May and activity peaks by June 23.

Meanwhile, CFIA is trying to determine if the Dutton site is the new front line of the beetles' natural spread or whether the beetle arrived on a truck.

"It's impossible to definitively say how it got there," said Barry Lyons, Research Scientist with Canadian Forest Services.

Currently, Dowding said the front line of natural spread is just east of the City of Chatham.

Surveying continues from the Dutton site back to Chatham to find a link and determine if the Dutton site was created by humans.

Lyons is looking forward to studying the Dutton site because it is one of the only outlying sites found so far and will give great insight to the natural behavior of the insect.

He wouldn't say how much the project could cost tax payers as most plans are only proposed so far.

Dowding has two proposals currently with the president of CFIA's plant division for approval.

The first proposal would see 30,000 ash trees cut including known infested trees.

The second proposal is to only remove the infested trees and trees of interest, which is around 300 trees in total.

At $100 per tree, to cut, remove and clean up the surrounding property Canadian Forest Service wouldn't do this until before mid-May.

Scientists in Canada and the U.S. have hypothesized the ash borer arrived at the Detroit International Airport in Romulus, MI more than 10 years ago.

Unprocessed wood crates used to ship car parts harboured the beetle, according to CFIA speculation.

It was discovered around the same time in Michigan and Windsor in 2002.

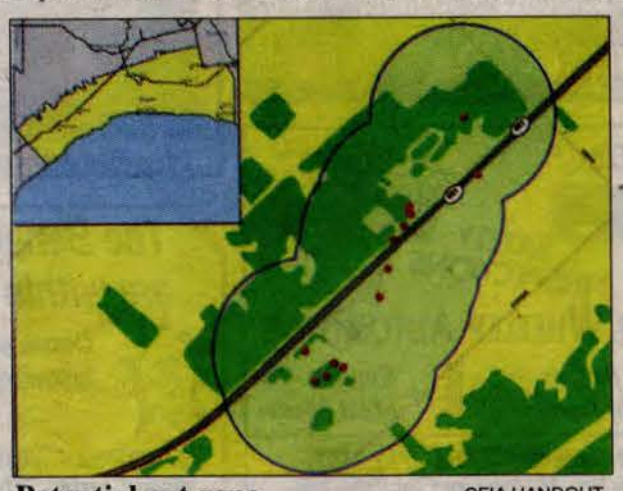
Since then, it has spread to as far east as Dutton in Canada, to Ashtabula County in Ohio and in Indiana in the U.S.

"This is a serious tree killer," said Lyons.

The borer has been found in several Asian countries but is prominent in China, said Lyons.

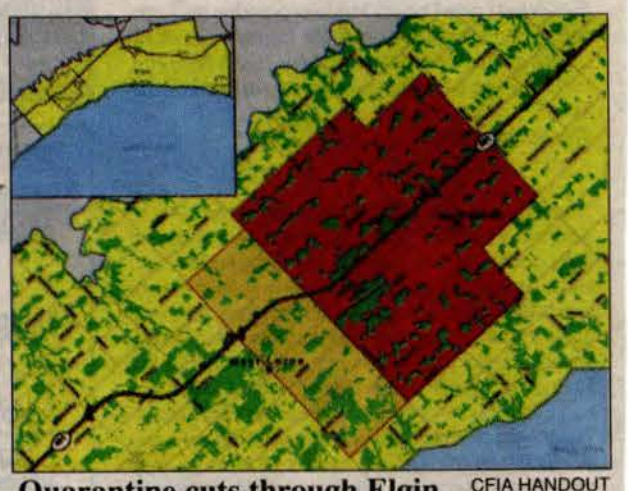
It was paid little interest in China as a native species. Ash trees in China have evolved with the insect and have developed a natural resistance.

For information call CFIA at 1-866-463-6017.



Potential cut zone CFIA HANDOUT

From 300 to 30,000 ash trees could be cut around the Highway 401 service centres.



Quarantine cuts through Elgin CFIA HANDOUT

A quarantine in western Elgin County prohibits the movement of ash wood from individual properties.

Smoke alarms on every floor law

Fire departments dealing with enforcing new provincial law

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Smoke alarms must be installed on every storey of a home, with a new law beginning March 1.

Dutton-Dunwich Fire Department most recently started a door-to-door inspection of homes. Other departments have said they won't be doing more in the immediate future to enforce the new law, knowing people who followed past laws will continue to do so and those that do not have a working smoke alarm already won't follow the new law.

However, with the new law in place, those who have failed to allow fire departments into their home, could see the department returning with warrants.

The Ontario Fire Marshall's Office and Province of Ontario enacted the law Dec. 1, with penalties of a $235 fine for home owners and $25,000 or one year jail time for apartment building owners.

Rodney Fire Chief, Andy Kieraszewicz said about 20 per cent of homes in the area do not have properly working smoke alarms, based on past door-to-door inspections.

He said the new law will make it easier for the fire department to lay fines on property owners that do not have properly working smoke alarms.

"No one will be inviting members of the fire department into their homes anymore," he said.

He said the fines put the fire department in a tough place.

Please see Fining, *page 2*

CURRENT EVENTS 2006

Assessing damages and losses

OFM could find cause in a few months

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Cause of Wednesday morning's fire at the West Lorne Community Complex may not be known for a few months.

Fire investigators completed their two-day scene examination of the site Friday where fire gutted the downtown building.

Mariano Perini, fire investigator with the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office in London turned the building over to West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick Friday afternoon.

He said evidence taken from the scene is being sent to a forensic lab in Toronto.

Perini said the cause of the fire is not related to the furnace as reported in other media.

"It's not the furnace," he said. "That's misinformation."

The information came from a spokesperson with the OFM before Perini reported back to the office.

He would not say where in the building the evidence came from or what the evidence was.

The building housed the West Lorne Branch Library along with West Elgin Support Services which provides many different social programs from employment counselling to special needs transportation coordination.

Included in West Elgin Support Services and operating out of the building were the YWCA of St.Thomas/Elgin and the Elgin Association for Community Living, Elgin Oxford Legal Clinic, Employment Services Elgin, Quad County Support Services, Violence Against Women Services, Elgin County, West Elgin Transportation Network.

These agencies have found a new temporary home in the West Elgin Community Health Centre and can still be reached at 768-0020.

Organizations using the meeting rooms included: the Kiwanis Club of West Lorne, the Eco-Elgin Environmental Society, the West Lorne Horticultural Society and the West Lorne Women's Institute.

Usually the women's institute uses the building Tuesday nights.

The group did not meet the night before the fire.

Built in 1996, the building was also used by the former municipality of West Lorne.

The insurance policy value for the building is $700,000.



Fire crawled up to the attic through walls CHRIS KNIGHT/CONTRIBUTED
Fire investigators have ruled out the furnace as the cause of the fire that gutted much of the West Lorne Complex Feb. 8. The community watched throughout the morning as fire damaged and destroyed historical possessions of local service groups and forced social agencies to find new locations.

"We're going to rebuild," said Mayor Graham Warwick.

Some changes, including a second exit to the basement, which prevented the finished basement's meeting room from ever being used, would be added said Deputy Mayor Bernie Wiehle.

While the reconstruction crew was beginning to remove West Lorne documents, West Elgin Administrator Joanne Groch thinks the building may not need to be demolished.

No signs of any break in were found so Deputy Fire Chief Jamieson said there is no reason for suspicion.

"I was surprised. More looks salvageable than I thought at first," said Jamieson.

The Rodney volunteer fire department also responded to the fire to help with the initial dump of water.

"It took a lot of water at first," said Fire Chief Al Beer.

More salvageable than originally thought, library more likely to replace than restore

While lots of historical records and artifacts are feared lost from local organizations and the former Town of West Lorne, who used the West Lorne Community Complex, one significant record of local history survived.

Firefighters retrieved 50-years of bound books containing the West Lorne Sun, collected by former West Lorne Reeve and Sun part owner Harley Lashbrook.

"I think 99 per cent will be alright. There's a lot of info in there," he said.

Firefighters retrieved the books Thursday, the day after the fire and they were in surprisingly good shape. Lashbrook is drying the books at his home.

The books had water damage and reconstructionists were removing other materials from the building Tuesday.

About eight inches of water remained in the basement of the building where the old municipal documents were kept. Municipal documents have to be kept for seven years.

Leola Lawrence, with the Women's Institute said three closets in an upstairs hallway contained meeting minutes since 1923.

"I'm really concerned about these minute books," she said.

The roof collapsed over the closets, where the group's hard covered Tweedsmuir books, which contain local history were stored.

Lawrence said there are other copies of the Tweedsmuir books around.



Sun saved JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Former West Lorne Sun owner Harley Lashbrook and Ray Jobson watch Captain Craig Elliot carry out bound copies of the old paper which suffered water damage.

If the minutes are lost, "We'll be starting from scratch."

A clock, donated by the group for First World War veterans and an antique piano and dishes were also feared lost.

As well, adjacent closets held materials for other groups.

The Kiwanis group lost flags which had decades of irreplaceable service patches.

Staff with the library were allowed into the building Tuesday.

While people are encouraged to use the Rodney library in the meantime, they can also go to the Dutton branch.

It's hoped the drop box could be set up again, but books should be returned to either Dutton or Rodney libraries for now.

Library supervisor, Shelley Fleming said anyone with questions can call the Rodney library at 785-2100.

Diane Palmer, Manager of Library Services with Elgin County, said the library's insurance adjusters had also gone through the building but no estimates on damage were available.

She said the collections and materials budget for the branch is around $300,000.

"With smoke and water damages I can't see it being economically feasible to to restore. We'll probably replace," she said of the library collection.

"Some materials (like original prints), we may want to restore," she said. "Considering the amount of water and smoke I don't know how much is salvageable."

Currently, staff with the library are creating a list of significant materials that may need to be restored.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Smoke and fire
Mike Vanderloo fights flames behind the West Lorne Community Complex . The south side of the building had the most damage.

St. Mary's Church reduces mass by one in West Lorne

The 8 a.m. mass at St. Mary's Parish has been eliminated by the Roman Catholic Diocese of London.

While churches in Chatham-Kent are being closed, the West Lorne church is cutting one service that was not at capacity.

The church will continue to hold mass Saturday night and Sunday morning at 11:30 a.m.

St. Helen's in Wallacetown will be unaffected by the changes.

The Diocese has been looking at reorganizing since last May as some churches were unable to pay for maintenance and bills, were driven deeper into debt and weren't contributing to the Diocese.

"We can't oppose the bishop's decision," said Reverend John Konieczny, adding it may be an inconvenience for some people who like to go to church early in the morning or can't get to the Saturday night service.

"Maybe next month we will see if we will change the times," said Konieczny.

He said he could be doing five or six services on a weekend if the 2,400 Catholics in the territory, practiced.

The 400 seat church in West Lorne is almost full for Sunday's second mass but the congregation is small Saturday night and 20 people come for the daily mass.

Melody Fellowship OMB appeal lingers

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

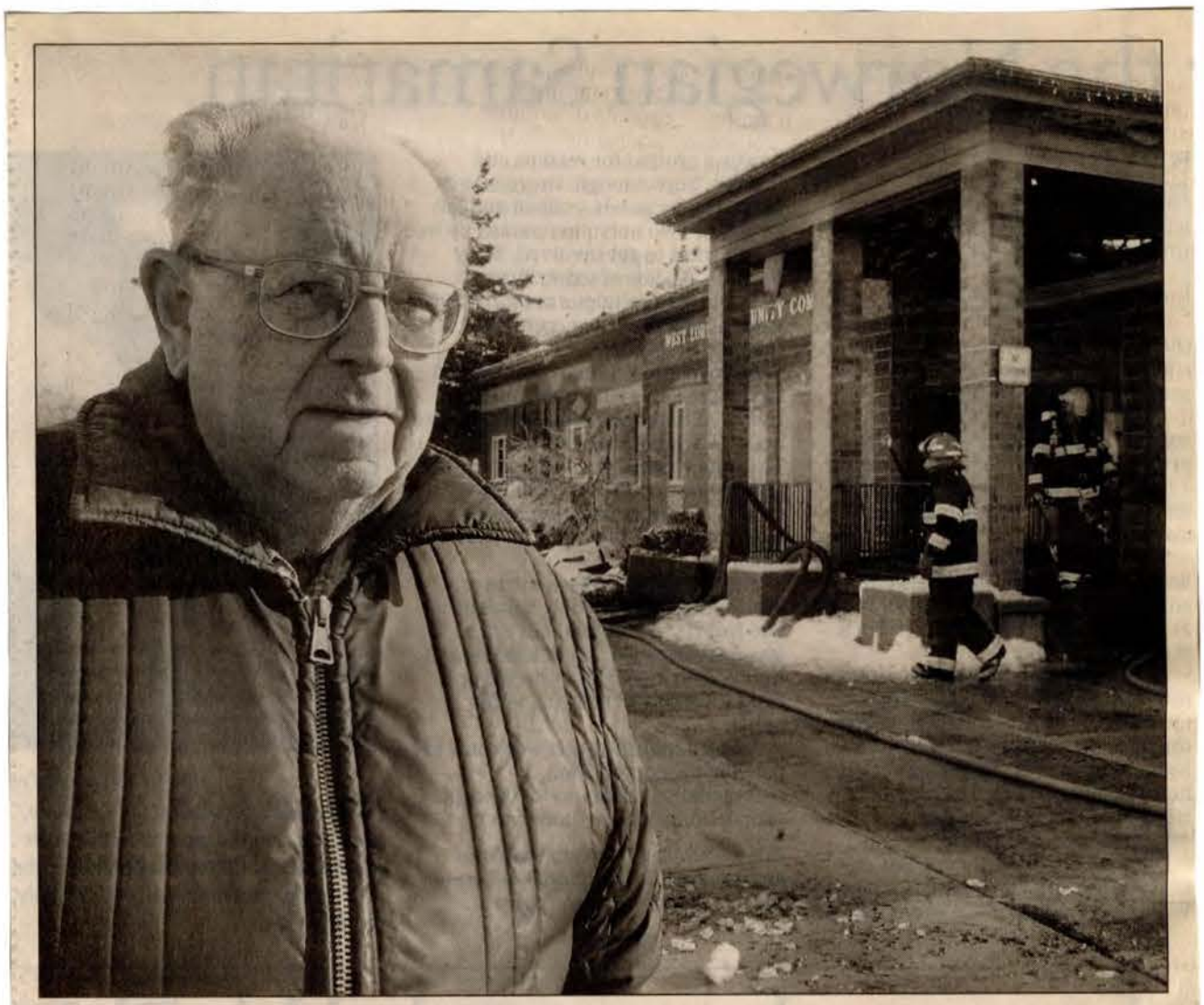
While the Christ Disciples reprt Melody Fellowship Church has bought its building, a second Ontario Municipal Board hearing remains scheduled for March 13 regarding the church's Eagle-area property.

The hearing is for an appeal to a West Elgin Council decision rejecting an application to rezone property along Graham Road toward Eagle for a church made Fall 2003.

Reverend Ric Gordan has not returned calls placed in the last two weeks from the Chronicle regarding the appeal or the recent purchase of the Church of Christ (Disciples) in West Lorne.

Please see Melody, *page 2*

Current Events 2006



Susan Bradnam The London Free Press

ARCHIVE SAVED: Harley Lashbrook, former Reeve and councillor for West Lorne and retired owner of the weekly formerly known as the West Lorne Sun (now the West Lorne Chronicle) stands in front of the West Lorne Community Complex, which houses the town's library and newspaper archive.

Helpers rescue West Lorne newspaper archive after calamitous blaze

Following the disastrous fire at the West Lorne Community Complex and the library last week, I received help from a number of people in rescuing some of the history books. These books contained 50 years of the West Lorne Sun Newspapers bound in hardcover for each year. They contain a wealth of information and have been used as reference by many people.

I would like to thank our local firefighters and fire chief, Allen Beer, as well as the fire marshal who brought the books out of the building.

Special assistance was also received from Brian Masschaele, our Elgin County archivist, as well as Iona McCraith, preservation consultant of the Archives Association of Ontario. Both have been in contact with me guiding me as to the method of restoring the books as much as possible.

Without the assistance of these caring people, much of the town's history would have been lost. I truly appreciate their efforts. Thank you.

Harley Lashbrook
West Lorne

Fire wrecks West Lorne complex



Rebuild in question JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Damage to the West Lorne Library's collection is still being assessed a week after fire gutted the West Lorne Community Complex Feb. 8. Fire investigators haven't found a cause to the fire yet but evidence has been taken to a forensic lab in Toronto. A number of social agencies and community groups, along with the library used the complex and continue to get back up and running again. See page 6 for more.

CURRENT EVENTS 2006

West Lorne history burns



Photos by SUSAN BRADNAM The London Free Press

CLEANING UP: West Lorne volunteer firefighter Shawn McMurphy carries debris from the West Lorne Community Complex, which houses the community's library, after fire ripped through the building yesterday, gutting the centre and caving in the roof.

FIRE: Newspapers saved on microfilm

Fifty years of newspaper accounts are feared lost in a fire that badly damaged the civic centre.



BY JOHN HERBERT
Free Press Crime Reporter

WEST LORNE — Fifty years of newspapers recording the community's history and up to 15,000 books were feared lost yesterday in an early morning fire that badly damaged West Lorne Community Complex.

The municipally owned building on Graham Road was home to the town's library. The building was also used for meetings by community groups and a program providing child care before and after school.

The roof collapsed during the fire that broke out at about 6:15 a.m. in the community about 50 kilometres southwest of London.

West Lorne fire Chief Al Beer said last night the blaze remains under investigation and the cause hadn't been determined. Beer said the building had been secured and the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office is involved in the probe.

Ontario Provincial Police said they are not investigating.

Beer estimated the fire damage to be in excess of $1 million, not counting books lost.

Harley Lashbrook, a local historian, former reeve, council member and retired publisher of the weekly West Lorne Sun (now known as The Chronicle), was among saddened citizens and community officials at the fire scene.

"We've got 50 years of newspapers in there," Lashbrook said.

See FIRE Page A4

From Page A1

"There's history in there you wouldn't believe. I'm going to try and get in there as soon as possible and save what I can — if there's anything to save," Lashbrook said.

"We can't replace them. The history can't be replaced."



PALMER: 10,000 to 15,000 books.

Lashbrook said losing the hard copies of the newspaper wouldn't be a complete disaster because he has them saved on microfilm.

Deputy Mayor Bernie Wiehle said he expects the municipality would rebuild and estimated it would cost $1 million or more to replace the structure, built in the mid 1990s at a cost of $700,000.

Wiehle said community groups, including the Kiwanis Club, often use a meeting room in the building.

Shelley Fleming, supervisor of the West Lorne and Rodney libraries, was able to enter the building to recover a cash drawer, but not to check on damage.

"We had a very good collection," she lamented.

Dianne Palmer, manager of library services for Elgin County, said most of the West Lorne patrons would probably go to the nearby Rodney library or another in Dutton.

She said 10,000 to 15,000 books and five computers could have been lost in the fire, but she did not know the extent of damage or cause.

Palmer said until she could enter the building, she would not know what could be saved.

"We have no idea right now, but I would think by the size, damage will be extensive," she said. "There will also be a lot of water damage.

"I know people will miss library services here," she said.



NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE: Harley Lashbrook, retired owner of the weekly formerly known as the West Lorne Sun and now the West Lorne Chronicle, stands in front of the West Lorne Community Complex, which housed the library and newspaper archive.

Library reopening soon

Within the next two weeks, the new temporary site of the West Lorne Library should be open.

The new site is 168 Main Street, in the former health centre, between the Donut Delite and Foodland.

West Lorne Library will have the back portion of the building and entrance will be from the front and side doors.

Staff of the library is excited with the new location and feel it will meet the needs of their patrons perfectly, said a press release.

Hours of operation will remain the same as staff look forward to serving patrons in West Lorne again.

Library services, Dianne Palmer said this location is temporary and hopes the library will be in the Complex again when it is restored.

Current Events 2006

Parade winners announced

West Lorne Santa Claus Parade
West Lorne Optimist Club

Most outstanding: Dutton Travel Centre, Tim Hortons
Service Club: Wallacetown Fair Board
Family float: Veraart family
Antique car: Bas Veraart
Youth: Tiny Tots Nursery School
Best Illunimated: Melody Fellowship Church.
Best Decorated: Albert's Generator
Special entry: Happy the Home Hardware Hound; Frank Swing and his Honda Goldwing.

Rodney Santa Claus Parade

Floats: 1st Rodney Fair Board, 2nd Baldwin Family Float, 3rd Veraart Family Float
Walking Group: West Elgin Support Services
Single: Jimmy Avery
Commercial Float: All Way Electric
Service Club: West Lorne Kiwanis Club
Antique Car: Mike Hack
Kids Walking Group: West ELgin Gym Club
Decorated Pole Contest: 1st Tiny Tots Nursery School, 2nd Rodney Library, 3rd,Rodney Horticulture Society.

Community band a family affair

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

The West Elgin Community Band has become a family band of sorts with generations playing together.

There's three mother/daughter members, a grandpa and grandson, a mother/son and the Van't Voort family, with five members.

Sitting a row apart are Bob Davis and his grandson Ben McArthur.

Bob has been with the band about 10 years and is also a member of Bob-bob-a-lou, which plays at many events in the area year-round.

Ben is attending Grade 8 in London but comes out to play the alto sax with his grandfather.

"He's a good musician. He's going to be better than me. He is probably better than me now," said Davis.

Still in the brass section, Martha Foster and her daughter Dora each play the trombone.

When Dora picked up the instrument 10 years ago, her mother followed.

Dora just joined the band this year and it's evident the two have a unique relationship in the band.

At one point during a practice last week, conductor Sharon Little was giving instructions.

Looking lost for a second, Dora whispered across the room, "Mom that's you!"

Martha joined in, then once the piece was done stuck her tongue out at her daughter.

Of course, the biggest family in the band is the Van't Voorts.

Six of them joined the band last year, saving the band from collapse.

Mom, Joanne plays the flute, Michael the euphonium, Christine the french horn, Stephen the trombone, Daniel and Laurie play the trumpet.

Joanne taught the children music at home but being part of the band gives everyone "reason to get better."

"It's a noisy house for an hour a day," said Joanne. "It's a lot of fun."

Recently the band launched its own web site: www.westelgincommunityband.ca.



All in the family JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Bob Davis and his grandson Ben McArthur both play the alto sax in the West Elgin Community Band.

Secret musician at show Monday

A well-known member of the West Elgin community makes his performing debut with the West Elgin Community Band in their annual It's a Wonderful Time of the Year concert Monday.

While his identity will remain a mystery until concert time, it can be revealed that he will be playing an important part in the St. Nicholas Suite, one of the band's perennial favourites.

This year's concert will celebrate Mozart's 250th birthday and salute the now 64-year old Beatle with a medley of some of the group's greatest hits. The concert will also feature several members of the band in solo performances, including Londoners Marlene Needham (trumpet), Paul Morgan (alto sax) and David Laidlaw (snare drum), and Michael Van't Voort, from Iona Station, on euphonium.

A recorder ensemble, a family choir and a chance to sing some Christmas carols round out the programme.

The concert will be held on Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish Hall, West Lorne.

Tickets are available from band members and at the door. Reception after the concert.

Council expenses released

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

In 2005 West Elgin councillors were paid a total of $64,428.91 for attending meetings and conventions.

As per the Municipal Act, the 2005 council remuneration and expenses report was released last month.

For the second year in a row, expenses were under budget, however councillors received a total of $5,525.58 more than 2004.

For monthly council meetings, tax payers paid $10,912.

For special meetings, $42,185 was paid to councillors, $4,275 more than 2004.

They also received $7,032.80 for mileage and $4,299.11 to attend conventions, including registration and accommodations.

Council had budgeted $73,500, including $55,000 for regular and special (committee) meetings, $6,500 for mileage and $12,000 for conventions.

The budgeted amount was $4,900 more than 2004.

Council's remuneration and expenses:

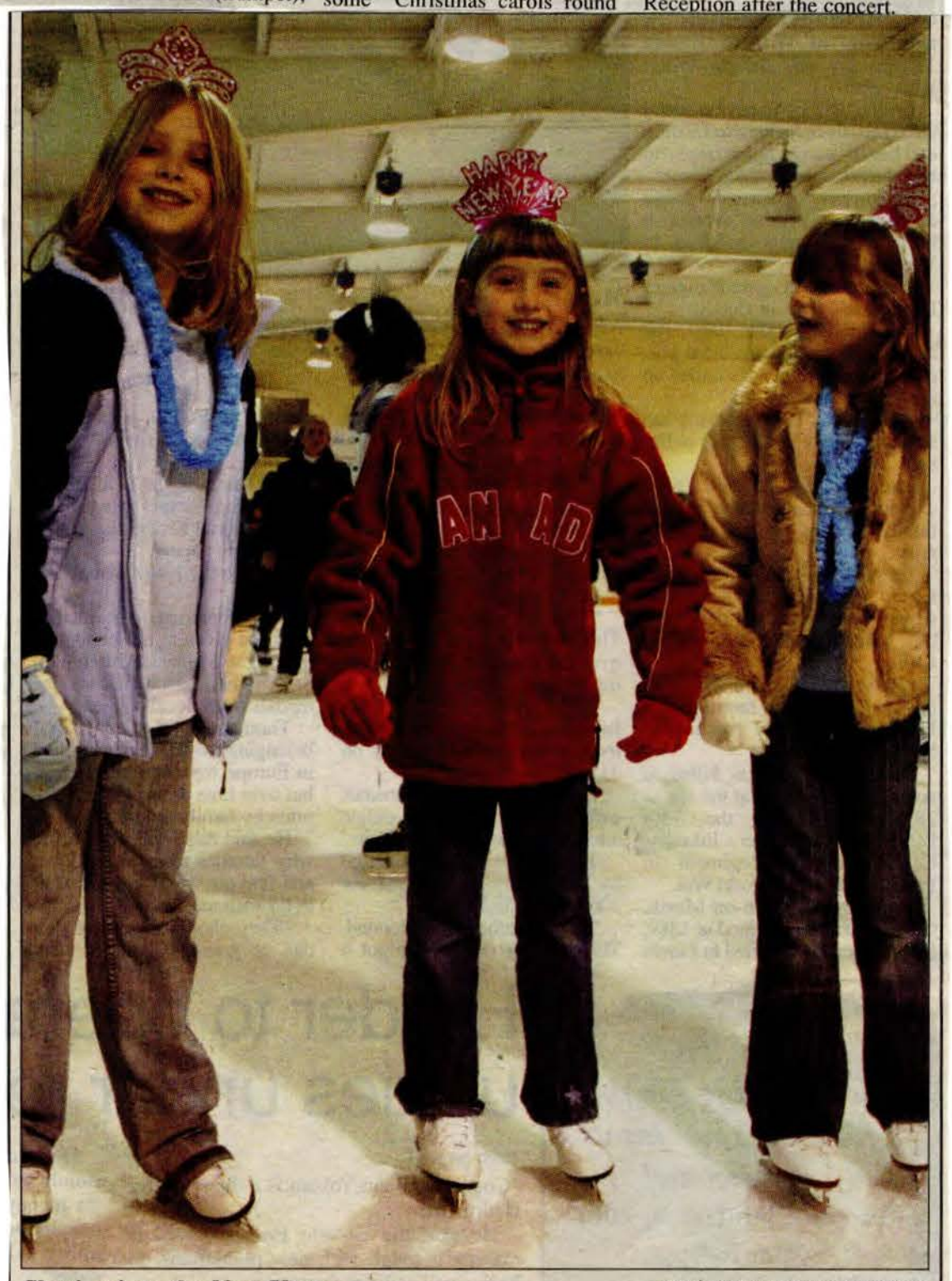
Graham Warwick: $3,696 regular meetings, $10,615 special meetings, $2,376 mileage, $500 conventions for $17,187 total.

Trudy Balint: $1,815 regular meetings, $9,680 special meetings, $937.60 mileage, $1,031.21 conventions for $13,463.81 total.

Mary Bodnar: $1,815 regular meetings, $8,250 special meetings, $1,103.20 mileage, $629.33 conventions for $11,797.53 total.

Mike Mooser: $1,650 regular meetings, $7,205 special meetings, $1,377.20 mileage, $1,500 conventions for $11,732.20 total.

Bernie Wiehle: $1,936 regular meetings, $6,435 special meetings, $1,238.80 mileage, $638.57 conventions for $10,248.37 total.



Skating into the New Year JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Katie and Kendra Schweitzer along with Lexi Degraw skated New Years Eve at West Elgin Arena. More than 260 people filled the rink for a special two-hour free skate to ring in 2007 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

CURRENT EVENTS 2006



CONTRIBUTED

WEDS ready to go

Kyle Carew (Frank), Kevin Hull (Baron), Jasmine Dick (Daisy) and Jackie Geisler (Babsy), were busy this week fine tuning the West Elgin Dramatics Society production of the Creature Creeps which begins at WEDS Theatre Friday night.

West Lorne youth approached by stranger on Main Street

OPP are encouraging parents to talk to their children about talking to strangers after a 10-year-old boy was approached on Main Street in West Lorne March 24.

The boy was riding his bike at around 2 p.m. when a man exited his vehicle and started a conversation.

He said "hi" to the youth and asked if the bicycle worked.

The boy said yes and kept riding. The conversation ended.

The man is described as 30-45 driving a 2004-2006 silver/grey BMW.

Anyone with information is asked to call the OPP at 310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-888-222-TIPS.

Drivers charged with speeding on 401

A 49-year-old Plattsville man was given a 12-hour suspension after being charged for driving 134km/hr on Highway 401 in a 1996 Lexus LS4 March 17.

Two 21-year-old high speeders were also charged in Highway 401 March 18.

The first, a Mississauga man was charged with driving while suspended and travelling 150km/hr.

The second, a Toronto man driving a 2005 Toyota UXS was charged for travelling 180km/hr and driving without a currently validated permit.

HEAT finds three radar detectors on 401

Ontario's new Highway Enforcement Action Team seized three radar detectors and charged three drivers on Highway 401 in Elgin County March 8.

Two drivers from the U.S. and another from Ontario were charged with driving with a speed measuring warning device.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Lutheran youth put on a comedy show

Jessalyn and Rebecca Betsch,Rob Roos and Dalton Searle perform a comedic skit about married couples on a marriage counselling retreat and the funny quirks couples have to work out for a healthy relationship at the West Lorne Lutheran Church March 24.

Water management reforms still on Tri-County plate

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Southwest Middlesex submitted a request to reform the Tri County Water Management Committee amidst concerns West Elgin holds too much control.

Mayor Doug Reycraft said the area's water treatment plant and distribution system should be incorporated.

Currently, Tri-County Management Committee makes recommendations to West Elgin Council about the management of the treatment plant.

The plant, south at Eagle, treats water for around 20,000 customers in Dutton/Dunwich, West Elgin, Southwest Middlesex, Newbury and Chatham-Kent (Bothwell).

In past articles, incorrect information was given about the voting system.

West Elgin has five votes for two members.

Southwest Middlesex has three votes, Dutton/Dunwich has two votes and Newbury and Chatham-Kent have one vote each.

Dutton/Dunwich Counc. Cam McWilliam claims West Elgin holds the power over the committee.

Joanne Groch, secretary for the committee said rarely are decisions voted on and West Elgin would always have to have one more member's vote to win a decision.

Six votes are needed but normally a simple majority is used to make decisions, meaning a consensus around the table.

Currently, the committee is awaiting an announcement about a hoped two-thirds grant to cover an estimated $15 million new treatment plant.

Reycraft, with the support of Dutton/Dunwich, hopes the new management model will be in place for the new plant.

He said there have been disagreements with West Elgin in the past.

"I'm concerned it's subject to abuse by the owner," he said, adding all five municipalities will be paying for the plant and should be engaged in its management.

The committee met Monday night but wasn't expected to address the issue.

Committee members await reports on management models used by the Elgin System and Lake Huron System.

Former resident returns with first book, lots of stories

Students in Johnathon Douglas's writer's craft class were treated to stories by author and former resident Wayne Russell last week.

Russell started at West Elgin Secondary School the year it opened and March 22 was the first time he has seen it in 38 years.

"So much has changed around here," he said.

But some things stayed the same, as Russell pointed out familiar faces in old class photos he passed around the room.

He read from his new book The Good Weeds.

Publishing the book himself in 2002 Russell has been making his way across the country, stopping for signings.

Russell left his Middle Street West Lorne home after high school in search of higher wages for millwright work.

He, his four children and pregnant wife settled in Tatlayoko Lake B.C., an isolated logging village of 4,000 in the coastal mountains.

From there, Russell met a family with 14 kids and hundreds of crazy stories.

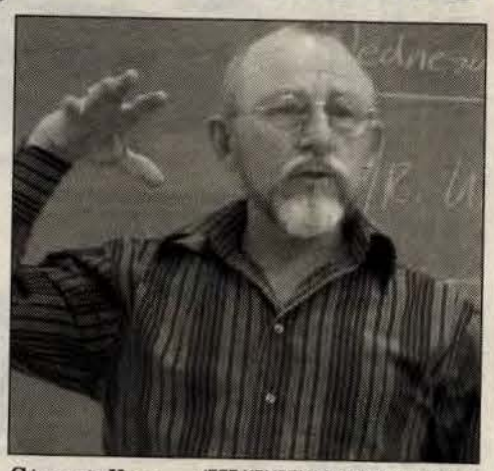
"I would hear these stories and always thought somebody had to write them down," he told the class. "I never thought it would be me."

Russell encouraged the students to jot down sayings, stories and anything striking.

After telling the family's stories over and over to many people, a local computer hack brought Russell his own computer.

It came as a saviour for him.

"I couldn't spell. I couldn't read my hand writing," he said, adding his commercial, typewriting course at WESS in the early 1950s came back to him and he could recall all the keys.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Storyteller

Wayne Russell, who grew up in West Lorne returned to WESS for the first time in three decades to talk to students about writing.

"Don't let anything deter you from what you want to be. I'm an author and I can't spell," he said.

Asked how he decides what stories make for good reading, Russell said the stories that left people in stitches could be recreated with visual writing.

It took him one year to write the book and one year to edit it.

He implanted himself in the family's stories and added some of his own.

Not PG reading, his stories describe the fun and trouble he and his friends got into driving around and growing up West Lorne.

He kept stopping in mid sentence to say, "And this really happened!"

Learn more by visiting www.wizeoldphart.com.

Choral society performing Schubert

West Elgin Choral Society will present their Easter Concert at 3 p.m. March 26, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Lorne.

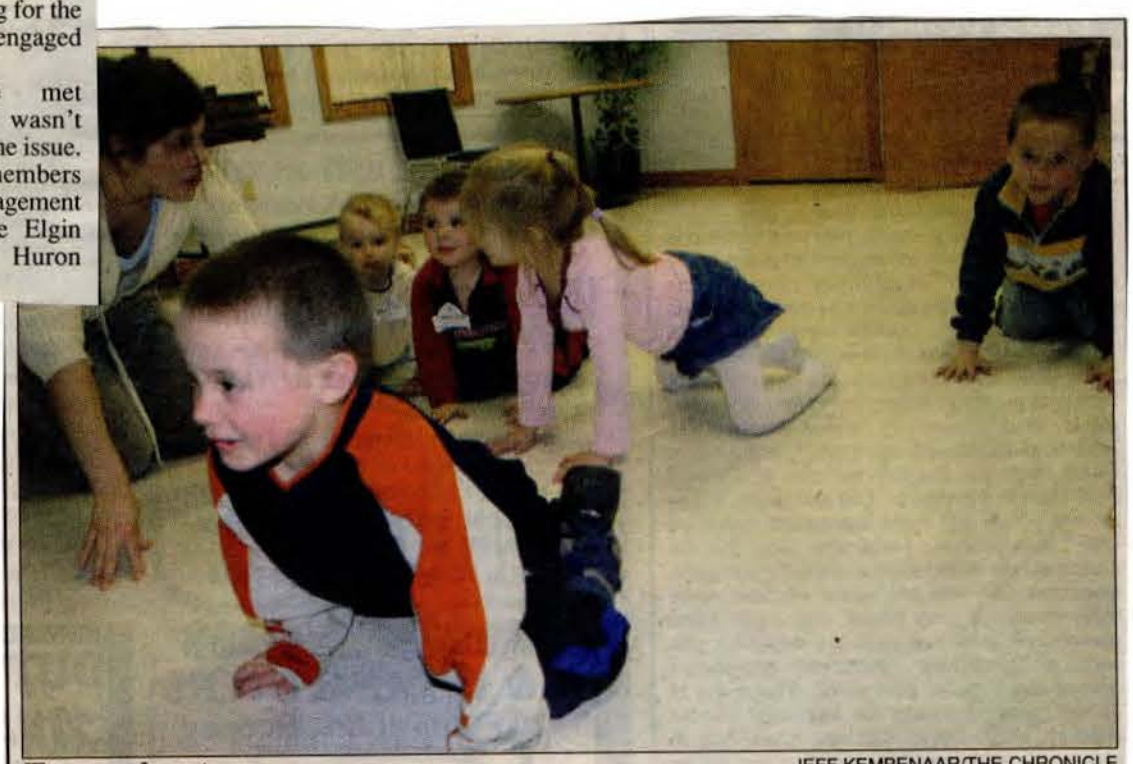
The first half of the concert will tell the Easter story in word and song, with narration. The choir will provide musical illustrations in a variety of moods and styles. Part 2 of the concert is all about celebration, featuring composers from all over the world and many different genres, from Franz Schubert to Gordon Lightfoot.

Featured guests for the occasion will be the Medway Triple Trio, a student led female ensemble from Medway High School. They will present five solos and four additional numbers with the choir.

Five local high school musicians will add trumpet licks, percussion and rhythm where these are called for in the accompaniments.

This concert will be directed by guest conductor Janice Telfer.

For more information and tickets call 762-3865 or 762-2882.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Tots work out

Cindy da Costa leads a group of tots through push ups in a playroom set up during the annual Recreation and Leisure Fair held March 7 at St. Mary's Parish Hall in West Lorne. Working out are: Jack, Craig and Luke Verdel with Jesse Rogers and Matthew Doherty. About 50 recreation and leisure providers displayed at the event and listened to guest speaker Fred Cahill, a Texas Long-horn cattle farmer from Kerwood who discussed leadership and coaching ethics.

Rosalie was a friend to everyone.

A Tribute To Rosalie



"Remembering"

Aug 11/07



Prize steer SUBMITTI
Andrew McKillop shows his prize steer at th Royal Winter Fair in November.

Young farmer gives to Daffodils

An Iona Station youth has donated earnings from a prize steer to the local cancer society.

Andrew McKillop, a 15-year-old West Elgin 4-H Beef Club member gave $500 to the West Elgin Daffodil Society last week.

The money came from auctioning off Tubs, his class reserve champion steer, at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto early November.

"We would have lost money anyway - might as well donate it," said McKillop.

Sons of Robert and Nancy, Andrew and his brother David talked up Tubs and ended up getting $1.40 per pound or around $2,000 for the steer.

"It's really something for a young guy to do this," said Leola Lawrence with the West Elgin Daffodil Society.

He has lost two of his grandfathers to cancer and recently an aunt to breast cancer

The West Elgin Secondary School student was competing for his fifth year at the Fair, in the Queen's Guineas.

West Elgin Daffodil Society supports local people dealing with cancer and donates money to other cancer initiatives in the region.



Parade in West Lorne JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
West Lorne Kiwanis Club's Bill Graham, Peg Wheeler, Joan Johnston, Mary Leipold and Sylvia Logan are 10th in line, in the West Lorne Optimist Club Santa Claus parade which featured about 40 entries Nov. 30. See more pictures on page 7.

Chairperson: Kathy Johnston



Julie Begin-Newman

Bill Denning

Darlene Ford

Bonnie Janoska

Kate Lougheed

Joan Miller

Pam Page

Denise Van Dyk

Marg Varga

Bonnie Vowel

Heather Walls

Social Hour:	5:00 - 6:30 pm
Music by:	Bill Graham
Video Show:	Bill Denning
Dinner	6:30 pm
Grace:	Rev. Michael Beacom

Menu:

Roast Beef

Fried Chicken

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Vegetables, Salad, & Buns

Dessert, Coffee, & Tea



Program

- OPENING REMARKS:. . . . . Kathy Johnston
- MASTER OF CEREMONIES: . . . . . .Bill Denning
- TRIBUTES:

  Dr. Richard Redinger. . . . . .Family Memories

  Rhonda Knight. . . . . .Fair Queen Contestant 2006

  Kate Lougheed. . . . . Theatre & Travelling Group

  Dave Page & Ebba Schmid. . . . . .School Friends

  Lee Hanley-Kerrigan. . . . . .Golfers

  Julie Newman. . . . . .Employees

  Bonnie Vowel. . . . . Cancer Survivors

  Jim Price. . . . . Friends
- POEM:

  Written by Bonnie McGill & read by Bill Denning
- CANDLE LIGHTING

Organizations & Clubs Who Donated in Memory of Rosalie Krebsz

Optimist Club of West Lorne

Lions Club of Dutton

Wallacetown Optimist Club

Wallacetown Agricultural Society & Ladies Divisio

West Elgin Chamber of Commerce

Township of West Elgin

Rodney Aldborough Agricultural Board

West Elgin Dramatic Society

Wardsville Golf Club

Port Glasgow Yacht Club

Promise Yourself:

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your piece of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press onto greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.



"Love you more."

CURRENT EVENTS 2007



Grease fire JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Captain Craig Elliott inspects a grease fire at a Graham Road home Jan. 11. Cooking french fries, a pot was left unattended. Water was used by a resident of the home to try and stop the fire which burned cupboards. Water is not to be used in grease fires as it spreads the grease. Ontario's fire prevention officers say use: baking soda, a lid or wet towel, but call 911 first.

COP to start in West Elgin

An OPP presentation is hoped to kick start Citizens on Patrol in West Elgin in this New Year.

Another response to petty vandalism in the villages, it's hoped people will come forward and contribute to keeping the community safer.

Mary Bodnar, Ward 1 councillor and the Community Policing Committee is spearheading the COP program across West Elgin.

Last spring, Bodnar began looking for people interested in patrolling the village of Rodney.

She has found 15 people committed since then, including people willing to watch over West Lorne and Eagle.

She is still seeking people to head up patrols in the New Glasgow and Port Glasgow area.

OPP Community Relations Officer Michelle Scott is making a presentation on Citizens on Patrol at the Rodney Legion Jan. 25.

Bodnar said there's no number of people needed to make the program work.

She said COP will work as well as people make it work.

"Many people are already out walking around," she said. "Why not lend your eyes and ears to support a safer community?"

All that is required is lending one to three hours of time to patrol.

Two people must patrol together.

They call into the OPP communications centre to let the police know they are patrolling the village either by foot or in a vehicle.

Two big challenges face the effort to restart COP, said Bodnar.

Keeping people committed to patrolling is one reason the program disappeared in recent years.

The second challenge will be getting people on patrol to call in anything suspicious or crime in progress.

Anyone wishing to join Citizens on Patrol can bring two pieces of I.D. and a criminal record check to the meeting Jan. 25.



Laying bricks JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Hoss, bricklayer receives a block as he builds the foundation for the elevator shaft in the West Lorne Community Complex Monday. The elevator and expansion to the library are added features as the building is reconstructed after fire gutted the community centre last February.



Heritage House helped by Legion SUBMITTED

Harry Mezenberg, Chair of the West Lorne Heritage Homes Board thanks Perry Penney, President of Branch 221, West Elgin Legion for their $1,000 contribution. The Legion was the first group to submit a donation to support the project in the fall of 2006.

Fundraising event Saturday

The West Lorne Heritage Homes Board of Directors officially launches their capital campaign March 17 with a St. Patrick's Day dance and silent auction at the Elgin International Club.

The dance, silent auction and raffle for two nights stay and dinner in Niagara Falls, will help to raise the $70,000 local contribution required for the affordable apartments for seniors project in West Lorne.

The remainder of the funding will be received from the Canada - Ontario New Affordable Housing program.

The silent auction will start at 8 p.m. and the dance will start at 9 p.m.

The tickets can be purchased at the door or you can call Dorothy Staddon at 768-2972.

CURRENT EVENTS 2007



Choir sing SUBMITTED

The new women's choir in West Elgin performed at Kintyre Presbyterian Church Saturday night. Front row: Jane Anton, Lynn Sculland, JoAnne Brady, Lori Ivanski, Pauleen Donaldson. Back row: Karen Kendrick-Diamon, Idith Fleuren, Tanya VanRaes, Jill Soos and Amy Kozma. Sharon Little, conducts.

DEC 13/07



Car Show - fish fry JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Dave Sommerville of St. Thomas and Ralph Needham of Lucan talk cars at Dave's 1948 Buick during the Optimist Club of West Lorne's Car Show in the Park, Canada Day. Right: Tony Mezenberg and Bill Vanderzanden man the fryers during the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry July 1.



Christmas tour of homes JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Rose and her husband Frank McMurchy opened their home as one of the stops on the Christmas Tour of Homes to benefit Beattie Haven Seniors Home. Rose had 17 trees on display, including this black tree which featured crystal ornaments bought by her late son Douglas. About 200 people took the tour of six homes, many decorated by local businesses.

Canada *Day*



Water games JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Aaliyah Cunha soaks Chanel Timson during water games held by the Centre Ice Youth Group and YWCA July 1 in Miller Park.



Baseball JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Adam Heidt hits during a game between a Special Olympics team from St. Thomas and local ball players in Dutton July 1.



Frog races JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Always a big draw, the frog races, at Canada Day celebrations in Dutton July 1. Along with Stramish and kids activities throughout the day, volunteer awards were given. Rebecca Stone was awarded the youth volunteer award. Marie and Sean Verdel were given the recreation award. Helen Vanbrenk was given the Dan Moore Award.

Green Lane Community Trust supports new homes



Green Lane

Left to right: Stan Lidster (Green Lane Community Trust -Board Member), Lion Bob Purcell for Caledonia TWO project, Jim McIntyre (Board Member), Harry Mezenberg & Doug Staddon for Heritage House project, John Andrews (Board Member). SUBMITTED

Board Members of the Green Lane Community Trust where pleased to confirm, in-person, their pledge to both the Dutton and District Lions Non-Profit Housing project Caledonia TWO, in Dutton/Dunwich and the Heritage House project in West Elgin (West Lorne).

Caledonia TWO will receive a total of $75,000, over the next three years, with $25,000 flowing each year, starting in 2008.

Heritage House will receive a total of $30,000, with $10,000 flowing each year.

These pledge totals have been included in the total funds raised announced previously.

Green Lane Community Trust is funded by a percentage of all tipping fees charged at the Green Lane Landfill site.

The mandate of the Trust is to assist worthwhile, local projects, after approval of the Board members, who conduct a careful review of each application.

The Trust has an emphasis on environmental related initiatives and each of the seniors housing projects will be incorporating as many energy saving features into their construction as makes financial and environmental good sense.

Without the support of Green Lane Community Trust it would have been very difficult for either of the seniors housing projects to attain their stated financial goals.



Volunteer JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Counc. Trudy Balint and Irene Puddester present the Rosalie Krebz Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award to Mary Bodnar.



Father Wes JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Father Wes Gutowski, new priest at St. Mary's Parish stands before Our Lady of Fatima.

Hanging on the wall of St. Mary's Rectory office is a tapestry of Saint Maximilian Kolbe.

He and his story is admired by the Parish's new Priest Father Wes Gutowski, who started the first of July, ministering to the congregations of St. Mary's and St. Helen's in Wallacetown.

Like Kolbe, Father Gutowski is from Poland.

Kolbe died as a prisoner in Auschwitz in 1941.

Father Gutowski tells the story of Kolbe who stepped out and gave himself to the Nazis as they selected prisoners to die.

Kolbe provided shelter to refugees in the war, including 2,000 Jews.

Kolbe was canonized by John Paul 11, also from Poland.

Father Gutowski met John Paul 11 who passed April 2005, in Rome in 1985, exchanging words and a hand shake.

Father Gutowski was born 75 kilometres outside Warsaw. He's was ordained as a priest in 1964 and moved to Canada in 1970.

He said the diocese likes to move priests around after several years.

In Canada, he started as a assistant pastor in the Parish of St. Phillip's in Petrolia.

From there, he worked in Mitchell, Sarnia, Brussels and Windsor.

Already, he's been impressed by St. Mary's Parish, adding he's been treated "royally."

"I was very pleased to see this small community that is really neatly put together. There's a lot of friendship. People talk to each other. They socialize. In the city you don't see that. HEre people come to meet. It's more relaxed," he said of the congregation which is about 250 people.

Also, he is impressed with the ties to St. Mary's Catholic School, with students attending mass the first Friday of each month.

Simply, his job, along with visiting with families at home and at the hospital or church, is to share "the good news of the gospel."

With each priest having their own form, Father Gutowski says he likes to take time on each sermon.

"Ask me to speak for 5 minutes, give me a week. Ask me to speak for 15 minutes, give me a few days. Ask me to speak for an hour, I'm ready," he said.

CURRENT EVENTS 2007



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Villages celebrate 100 years

A weekend-long celebration was held to mark the 100th anniversary of the villages of Rodney and West Lorne becoming independent from Aldborough Township. Here the Royal Scots O'Mocha pipe and drum band from London parade down Graham Road in West Lorne Monday. See more pictures on page 7.





JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Fireworks

Caleb McCullough and his family enjoyed fireworks at Miller Park to celebrate Canada Day Sunday. See more Page 6.

Steve Peters voted in for another four years

For the Chronicle

Liberal Steve Peters cruised to his third provincial election victory in Elgin-Middlesex-London with a healthy majority over his closest competitor.

Peters finished with 20,069 votes, or 49.1 per cent, according to the Elections Ontario website. Progressive Conservative Party candidate Bill Fehr was a distant second at 12,459 votes. Coming third was Brad James with 4,653 votes. Devin Kelly, Green Party candidate had 3,363 votes while Ray Monteith, Freedom Party candidate, had 353 votes.

"It's hard to describe," a jubilant Peters told the crowd gathered at St. Anne's Centre in St. Thomas to celebrate his victory.

Earlier, he told friends how nervous he was even after 19 years in politics.

"This is my seventh election," he said. "I was as nervous until the polls closed as I was when I ran for city council in 1988."

"I've loved the past 19 years," he said as supporters around him chanted, "Four more years!"

Peters reflected on what others told him about the need for him to leave a legacy in the riding.

"I didn't get into this to leave a legacy," he said. "It's about putting people first."

Peters said one of his first priorities when he returns to Queen's Park will be to settle the compensation issue for tobacco farmers. During the campaign he said the province had done its part and that it was now up to the federal government to confirm its commitment. Peters said that with boundary changes this year, he found himself breaking ground in Thorndale while meeting new constituents.

"I started the election campaign on the first day in Thorndale and ended up there on the last.

Peters said his plurality was satisfying.

"That, in itself, makes me feel good," he said.

He said it was not an election in this riding characterized by personality issues.

"We (candidates) may have started the campaign as strangers because we didn't know each other," he said, admitting there were, obviously, philosophical issues based on party platforms.

Peters is clearly pleased to see the Liberals returned with a majority.

"I believed in the electorate that they could see through the campaign ads and base their decision on facts.

The party, he said, now remains focused on funding public health care, public education and maintaining a public service.

Election results

Elgin-Middlesex-London

Voter turnout: 40,897 of 76,544 - 53.4%

Steve Peters, Liberal: 20,069 - 49.1%

Bill Fehr, PC: 12,459 - 30.5%

Brad James, NDP: 4,653 - 11.4%

Devin Kelly, Green: 3,363 - 8.2%

Ray Monteith, Freedom: 353 - .9%

Lambton-Kent-Middlesex

Voter turnout: 42,075 of 75,997 - 55.4%

Maria Van Bommel, Liberal: 18,191 - 43%

Monte McNaughton, PC: 15,281 - 36.3%

Joyce Jolliffe, NDP: 4,522 - 10.8%

Bill McMaster, Family Coalition: 547 - 1.3%

Brad Harness, Reform: 208 - .5%

Referendum - Ontario

Keep current system: 2,704,652 - 63%

MMP, new system: 1,579,684 - 36.9%



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

First on the list

Paul Gangle was the first one to sign up to connect to a new municipal water line being installed north of Highway 401 on Graham Road. Lloyd Jarvis, water superintendent for West Elgin provided details on the project Oct. 3 at WESS. 3

CURRENT EVENTS 2007

Cornerstone Kids learn good news about Jesus

These are boys and girls from your "Cornerstone Kids", held on Friday evenings at the West Lorne Baptist Church.

This group is eager to learn new songs and hear stories of Jesus. They are very creative which is evident in the work that they are bringing home for their Parents and Grandparents to see.

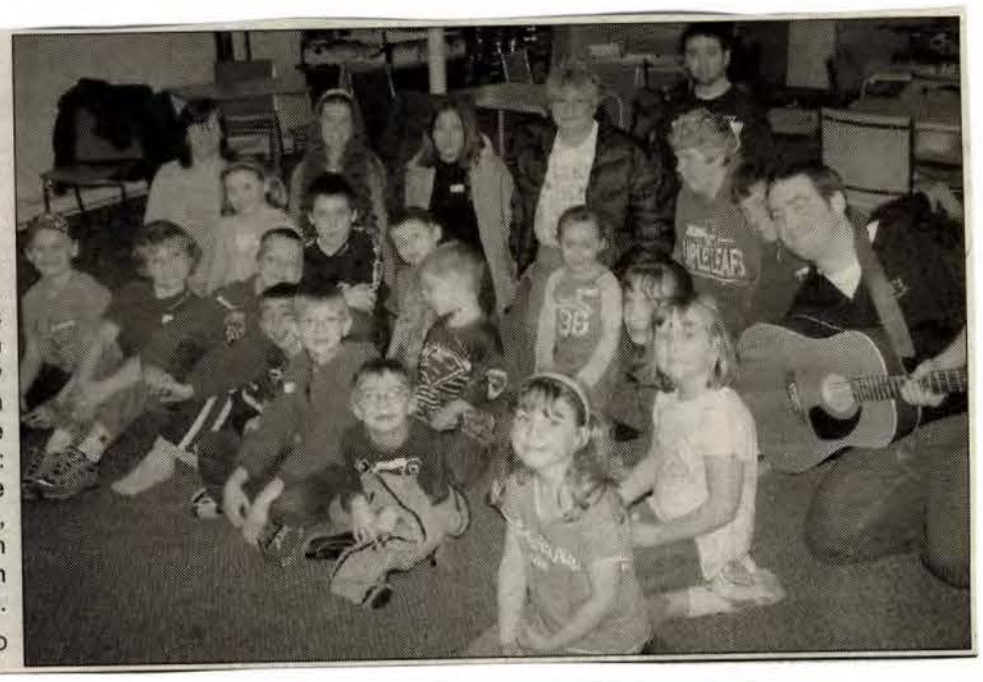
Pastor Adam Hall was there last week, working side by side with his wife Rosalee, who along with other volunteers from the church, have started this group.

They are excited about the opportunity to provide a place where kids can have fun and learn about the Bible. Rosalee worked with a group like this when she was living close to Barrie.

Cornerstone Kids are children from Grade 1 to Grade 5 that would enjoy being with their friends and learning of Jesus. They meet at West Lorne Baptist Church 6:30 p.m. on Fridays.

For more information call (519)768-0181.

MAR 22/07



Cornerstone
Front row: Anthony St.Onge, Billy Smith, Dillon Saunders, Andrew Brown, Jesse and Chris Batton, Madison Murray. 2nd row: Allison Brown, Kathryn Philmore, Joseph and Nicolas Sowden, Gavin Deshutter, Emily Sowden, Megan Dennshower,Phoebe Moore. Back row: Rosalee Hall, Katie and Sharon Welch, Matt St.Onge, Karen Uitvlugt, Ben Welch and Pastor Adam Hall.
SUBMITTED



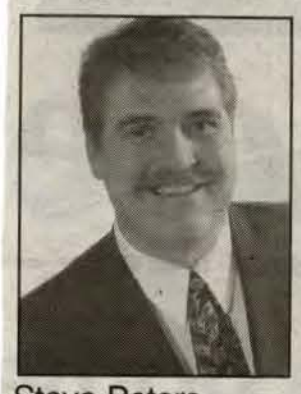
Housing money announced CONTRIBUTED
Federal and provincial money for affordable housing was officially announced last week in London. Joining the event were local delegates involved with seniors housing projects in West Lorne and Dutton. Here: Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Cate Melito, Executive Director with the West Elgin Community Health Centre, Bob Purcell, treasurer, Dutton and District Lion's Club and the Caledonia Gardens 2 project, MP Joe Preston, George Smith, Dutton and District Lions, Harry Mezenberg, chair West Lorne Heritage House committee and John Gerretsen, Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The official announcement includes $173 million for 2,700 new affordable housing units in Ontario under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement. This includes $2.1 million for the 30-unit Caledonia Gardens 2 project and $1.17 for the 16 unit Heritage House.



Romancing the Stone BRIAN WILSDON PHOTOGRAPHY
Sara Peternel of West Lorne tries on a strapless, chiffon, dress with a cathedral veil, a very romantic, destination style dress. She will model at Romancing the Stone Wedding Show, Sunday, Feb 25. Admission by donation to Teen Challenge Farm. FEB 22/07

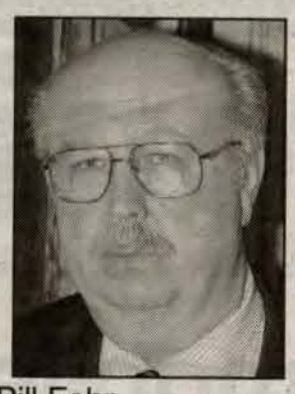
THE CHRONICLE OCT 4/07

Elgin-Middlesex-London Candidates — vote Oct. 10



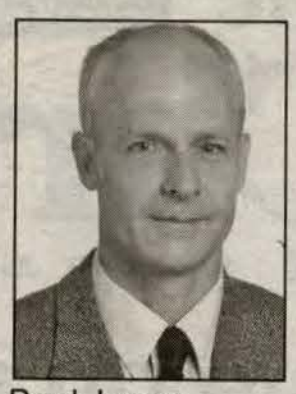
Steve Peters
The Liberal Party

Age: 44
Home: St. Thomas
Education: Graduate of Arthur Voaden Secondary School, and later, the University of Western Ontario.
Politics: Former St. Thomas mayor for two terms. He was elected a Liberal MPP in 1999 and served as the opposition critic for disabilities. Served as Minister of Agriculture and for the past two years, as Minister of Labour for a total of almost 20 years in politics.



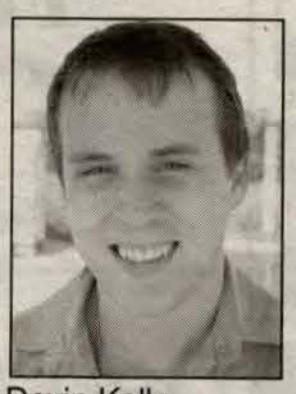
Bill Fehr
Progressive Conservative

Age: 58
Home: St. Thomas
Status: Married with four children.
Education: Graduate of East Elgin Secondary School and is a certified general accountant.
Politics: For 10 years, he served as president of the Progressive Conservative riding association and as treasurer. He was also the first president of the newly merged Conservative Party of Canada in 2003, which he occupied for two years.



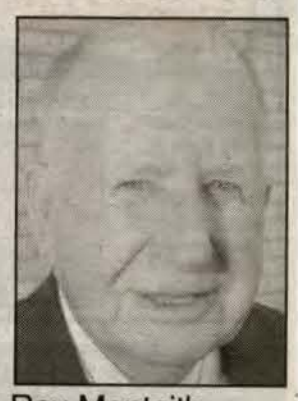
Brad James
NDP

Age: 46
Home: Toronto
Education: Grew up in Lambton County later attending, Queen's University, graduating Bachelor of Commerce degree, and then attended the University of Toronto, graduating with a Masters in Industrial Relations
Politics: Worked for the United Steelworkers (USW) union since 1989 and recently received endorsement from the St. Thomas and District Labour Council



Devin Kelly
The Green Party

Age: 21
Home: Port Stanley
Education: Attended Central Elgin Collegiate Institute but left early. He is obtaining his GED at Fanshawe College
Politics: Grew up with a family that's very worldly and politically engaged.
He took out party membership at age 18.
His uncle, Gerry Zuchlinski, is his campaign manager is a St. Thomas native and a professor of ecology at Sault College.



Ray Monteith
The Freedom Party

Age: 87
Home: Central Elgin
Status: His wife Doris passed away almost 20 years ago.
Education: Completed high school in St. Thomas.
Politics: Former rail conductor for Conrail this is his sixth provincial election in EML.
Monteith says he will run federally for the first time in the coming federal election if Prime Minister Stephen Harper doesn't legalize pot.

CURRENT EVENTS 2007

Family first for RCAF coach

BY AMANDA ROBINSON
Sun Media

REMEMBERED

Harold Leslie Lancaster returned home in 1945 from Britain to Canada disappointed.

As a Royal Canadian Air Force instructor, he trained hundreds of men who went off to fight in the Second World War but never used his own flying skills in battle.

His loving young wife saw to that by making his family top priority.

For 2½ years at the war's onset, Lancaster trained young flyers at the air base in Goderich, where he flew everything from the small, pesky Spitfire to the mammoth bomber with which he shared a name — the Lancaster.

Then it was on to Britain in August 1944, where he trained more Commonwealth pilots, all the time hoping he'd see action in the war in the Pacific.

But that campaign of the war would end, too, before Lancaster, who died April 1 at age 85, could fulfil his adventurous spirit.



HAROLD LANCASTER: As a soldier and in his later years.

Disappointed as Lancaster was at again missing out on battle firsthand, it suited his young wife, the former Evelyn Tunks, just fine.

The two had been married on Sept. 13, 1941, about six years after meeting at age 14.

She had more than a little influence on Lancaster never fighting overseas — she wanted her husband to be around for her and their children.

"Thank God he didn't have to go," she said. "When he came home he had a chance to go on but I said, 'No, I want a father for my children.' "

And that was that — Lancaster would devote the rest of his life to family and nature.

When he died last month, he left behind his wife of 65 years; and two daughters, Sharon Stewart, 64, and Janis Lancaster, 57.

He also is survived by two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

"He was such a nice, kind man and he was a lot of fun," Stewart said of her dad. "He just loved young fellas or gals who loved nature."

Lancaster grew up on a farm in Elgin County with six brothers. There, he developed a love and appreciation for nature, specifically birds. He was fascinated by them and became an avid bird watcher, documenting and writing about many species.

Lancaster also became active with many environmental groups, among them the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the West Elgin Nature Club and the eco-Elgin Environmental Society.

Stewart credits her father for her appreciation of nature. She admits she's never had the passion for birds her father had but she does enjoy the peace and quiet of natural settings.

"I love to sit and listen to the birds and I love to have my place natural-looking," she said.

"I also got from my father just (a) love of life and (the belief) that I can do anything that I want."

Amanda Robinson is a Free Press reporter. Arobinson@lfpress.com

MAY 27/07 LONDON FREE PRESS

New deck officially opened at Port Glasgow

by Linda Easton

Port Glasgow: The Port Glasgow Yacht Club celebrated the recent completion of its new deck, picnic shelter and docking facilities at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday afternoon, January 29th, 2007. The members were beaming as MPP Steve Peters cut the ribbon on the Club's new, safer and more accessible facilities. Peters said, *it is through proactive community groups like the Port Glasgow Yacht Club and the Provincial Government and its agencies that we are able to make our local communities better places to live and work and for tourists to visit.*

The mammoth deck, measuring 6 m (20 feet) wide and 60 m (200 feet) long, sits almost in the middle of the marina basin overlooking the water just to the west of the Yacht Club building. It covers up an unsightly rock rubble seawall and provides access to an unused stretch of the marina. A gleaming white railing

Continued On Page 3

BELOW Left to Right: Bernie Wiehle Deputy Mayor of West Elgin, Richard Leatham member, Wayne Roodzant member, Bob Miller member, Steve Peters MPP, Joe Trump representative for the Trillium Foundation, Graham Warwick Mayor West Elgin, Andy Cipu member, Jonathan Wolf Ward 2 councillor West Elgin, Norm Miller VP of yacht club ***(Photo Linda Easton)***



OBITUARIES

LANCASTER



LANCASTER, Harold Leslie, Glencoe, formerly of the Niagara Peninsula, West Lorne and Forest, passed away on April 1st, 2007 in his 86th year. Born in Aldborough Twp., Elgin Co, son of the late Wilbert and Christena (Paterson) Lancaster. Survived, by Evelyn (Tunks), his wife of 65 years, daughters Sharon Stewart of Forest, Janis Lancaster and her husband Stephen Cheetham of Scarborough, grandchildren Melissa Corfield and her husband Brian of Scottsdale, AZ, Christopher Walters and his wife Lisa of London, ON, and four great grandchildren Samantha, Dylan, Jackson and Hannah, as well as several nieces and nephews. Also survived by brothers-in-law Morley Tunks and his wife Meryl of Chatham, Gerald Tunks of Wardsville, and sister-in-law Beryl Tunks of Sarnia. Predeceased by infant son, Stephen Douglas (1957), brothers Archibald (1977), Maxwell (1991), Donald (1970), Wilbert (1988), Hector (1943, WWII), Lloyd (1941, WWII), son-in-law Richard Stewart (1994). Following 4-1/2 years as a pilot in the R.C.A.F. during WWII, rising to Flight Lt., he spent most of his working years in the Niagara Peninsula with Canada Packers and Genstar Ltd. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion and the West Elgin Masonic Lodge # 386. Served as a director of the Niagara Credit Union (currently Meridian) for 18 years, six a chairman, three years on the Niagara Planning Board, eight years as a director of the Federation of Ont. Naturalists, four years as a director of the Fertilizer Institute of Ontario, founder and currently a member of the West Elgin Nature Club and the eco-Elgin Environmental Society. He was active for many years in the Peninsula Field-Naturalists and the Niagara Falls Nature Club. He also served on several horticultural societies and United Church Boards as well as assisting in historical organizations. Following retirement and returning to West Lorne, he was a charter member of, and spent one term, as a director of the West Elgin Community Health Centre. Cremation. Relatives and friends were received at the Van Heck Funeral Home, 172 Symes St.,Glencoe on Wednesday, April 4th from 2 to 4 pm & 7 to 9 pm. A Masonic service was held at 6:45 pm prior to visitation. A Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, April 5th at 11:00 am. at the funeral home. Private family interment at the McLean Cemetery, West Elgin. If desired, donations of remembrance may be made to the Ontario Nature (Federation of Ontario Naturalists), West Elgin Nature Trust or a charity of your choice.

Vacation Bible School planned for West Lorne

Plans are now being made to arrange the program for the Vacation Bible School for young people ages five to 12 to be held the week of July 9 to 13.

This year it is to take place in West Lorne United Church and it is for all who are interested in attending from the whole community.

As always it will be a fun time with lots of activities such as music, crafts, Bible stories, and games.

Many will remember crafts from past summers which brought out some real skills.

There will be fun songs with lively guitar accompaniment.

Then throughout the whole program some important Biblical teachings will take place and will be appreciated by all.

In past years this has been a popular summer activity for our young people and the leaders are hoping for a good attendance again this year. They have memories of joyous times other years and all have appreciated our churches working together.

It is a good idea to pre-register by calling 519-768-1603 or 519-768-1456.

Once again, the Vacation Bible School runs mornings from 9 a.m. to noon, July 9 to 13.

Those who wish to register the first morning may do so 8:30 a.m.

JUNE 28/07

CURRENT EVENTS

Local runs in Boston

Magda Badura of West Lorne competed in the Boston Marathon.

Badura can often be seen running the country roads in the area but says Boston was a whole other experience.

"There were a lot more hills. It seemed like it was up and down, up and down, not like the roads around here," says the 31-year-old.

It was her first time running in the Boston marathon.

She qualified by running in the Mississauga marathon.

She also ran in mini-marathons in London and the Detroit Marathon.

She says she finished the 40 kilometre run in 3 hours 28 minutes.

"I'm very happy," she says, adding her time has improved with each marathon.

Locally, she trains by running to Longwoods Road and back often taking Dunborough Line.

Before the marathon she had strained her hip over training. She only started running three years ago.



Magda Badura

She finished 706 out of all woman and 5058 overall.

She says it was really exciting, with tens of thousands of people lining the streets cheering the runners on.

"I've never seen that many people in my life," she says.

Cold, wearing a garbage bag with soaking wet shoes from rain that wouldn't stop up to the start of the race, conditions weren't great.

But the rain seemed to stop for the race which remained dry.

Badura says the organization of the race is amazing with a field size of 22,500 people.

Her husband Jeremy cheered her on from the sidelines and made the drive with her to Boston.

She admits she is still sore after the marathon which was April 16 but has come a long way after not being able to move for two days after the run.

But to prove to herself she can do it and push herself, she says she hopes to run in another mini-marathon in London soon.

Handyman to help in hurricane ravaged New Orleans

Steve Schleihauf, a regular go-to fix-it guy in the area is taking his handy skills to New Orleans next month.

The Talbot Line, Dutton-Dunwich resident is going on his first missionary excursion to a city still reeling from the devastating hurricane of August 2005.

"I'm going to New Orleans with Aylmer Baptist Church through the Dutton Baptist Church," he said.

About 30 people are going by bus to help rebuild homes and churches in the city from Nov. 2 to 10.

Today, more than 200,000 people have not returned to the city which once had the population of 1.4 million.

"My heart is for those people that don't have money to rebuild," he said.

Schleihauf has been fixing houses and doing handy work since he was 13 years-old.

Along with putting in eight hours a day while on the mission, he'll be teaching young people how to build homes too.

His church's new message: Dutton Baptist Church, Doing Better Church, has encouraged its congregation to reach out.

"I'm taking up the challenge," he said.

A silent auction and cabaret night in Aylmer helped raise money for the trip.

A group made the trip earlier this year and at that time raised money for supplies.

Each person going has to raise $1,000 on their own. Steve has raised $500 so far.

He's heard stories of the conditions learned trailers are lined up for blocks to give to homeless residents temporarily before homes are rebuilt.

"I'm excited. I've never been on a mission before. I've never been to New Orleans before. I thought it would be a great opportunity," he said.

If you would like to help Steve Schleihauf or the mission call 762-6755.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

New Orleans

Steve Schleihauf is heading to New Orleans to help rebuild homes and churches.

Computer takes seat at council

MAY

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Technology made its presence in the West Elgin Council chambers at the last meeting, May 10.

Councillors Trudy Balint and Jonathan Wolf each used their own laptop computers throughout the meeting.

Jumping on a wave of technological advancements seen throughout the county, the presence of computers at the council table was discussed during an early break in the meeting.

Counc. Balint noted using a computer is a lot more efficient for her.

Clerk Norma Bryant emailed the meeting's package of information to Balint and Wolf.

The meeting's package was more than 150 pages.

It had to be emailed in two portable document files (PDFs) to fit it all, one 64 pages, the second, 96 pages.

Normally, councillors have to pick-up the paper version of the package at the municipal office, usually a day or two before the meeting.

"Sometimes it would be hard to get here to pick it up because of work," said Wolf.

Balint notes it will save the municipality from having to print out another package and it saves the environment, "It saves on emissions because I won't have to drive to pick it up."

It also gives councillors more time to read through the package.

However, the presence of computers did cause a distraction during the meeting.

Councillor Mary Bodnar asked Wolf to turn his laptop because it was distracting her.

Council started talking about whether internet connections would be allowed on the laptops, via wireless connection, a capability in the municipal building.

Bryant said one downside to internet connection would be everyone involved in the meeting, wouldn't be looking at the same information.

"We should all be looking at the same thing," she said.

She decided not to email some confidential information, including property standards complaints, handled at the meeting.

Please see Technology, *page 5*

Used books wanted for Jamaican school

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Julie and Wentworth Newman of West Lorne have saved piles of books from the dumpsters.

Boxes of books filled their garage last week after local schools dropped off surplus books.

The Newmans have been filling barrels, preparing to ship the books to a school in Jamaica.

Wentworth grew up in Christiana, Jamaica and finished his schooling there in the early 1950s, after 15 years, before his family immigrated to Canada.

The couple visited Jamaica earlier this year and found distant relatives who took them to the school.

For years, the school has been waiting for government priorities to shift from infrastructure to schooling and to fund a new library and computer lab at the school.

Currently the school has no library and not one computer or fax machine at the school.

"We couldn't believe it. The library consists of one book shelf, not unlike what people have in their homes. There is no reference books or story books," said Julie.

The primary school, crammed with 1,300 students shoulder to shoulder in tiny class rooms, was thrilled when the Newmans sent about 1,000 used books already.

One snag with the first batch sent, the teachers in Jamaica had to pay port fees out of their own pockets. That process is eliminated by getting letters from the ministry of finance, which should eliminate taxes.

Now, with the help from local schools, encyclopedias, children's story books, stationary and board books for smaller children are being compiled.

Julie was amazed that the local schools were discarding teacher's manuals along with text books, perfect for the school in Christiania.

"The children can use the books to learn but also, with the numerous story books we have, they can have fun reading too," she said.

Wentworth's decedents moved to Jamaica from Ireland.

He was the only white child in his class but said there was never any prejudices.

"There are a lot of memories with me from the school," he said.

Particularly, he remembers one of his teachers, whom he still carries a picture.

A storm thundered into Christiania and lightening struck dead his teacher before the entire class.

"I'll never forget that moment," said Wentworth.

The first three barrels were sent with funds raised and books collected by Erie Flooring and Wood Products, Judy's Family Hair Care and Barbershop, Roland Bitterman and Corner Consignment. Also the West Lorne United Church donated its coffee fund to the project.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Collecting books

Wentworth and Julie Newman of West Lorne are collecting used books for a school in Jamaica.

But the Newmans have a bigger goal.

"We would like to fill 10 barrels," said Julie.

That's about 3,000 books more and $500 needed for shipping fees.

"It's about 2.5 books per student," she said.

The Newman's are looking for community support.

"I know we can do this. The community response has been great so far," she said.

Anyone wishing to pledge funds or donate books, can call the Newmans at 519-768-1801.

[redacted] 2007

CURRENT EVENTS

Quilt made in 1930 with 272 local names to be displayed

A quilt made in 1930, stowed away until this year, will be unveiled once again.

The quilt was the result of a Missionary Fundraising Project by the Sunday School at the former Church of Christ in West Lorne.

Each person who donated 10 cents to the project got their name on the quilt.

In total, there are 272 names on the quilt.

The Sunday School class, made up of young teenage girls, called the Triangle Club, was headed by their teacher Mrs. J.A. McKillop.

In 1930, the quilt was purchased by Irene Thomson (Wilson).

She passed away in 1994, and bequeathed the quilt to her niece Grace Wilson, who stored it in a box in a safe place.

She rediscovered the box this year and brought it forward for the community to enjoy.

Organizers are inviting people to come and try and recognize as many names, and relatives as possible.

The Heritage Quilt Tea will be May 16 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the West Lorne United Church.

MAY 24/07



Quilt Show JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

A quilt created in 1930, containing 272 stitched names was displayed at a quilt show May 16 at the West Lorne United Church. Seen here are: Joyce McFadden, Gwen Szabo, Jean Besley and Grace Wilson, the nieces of Irene Thomson who purchased the quilt in a fundraising auction in 1930.



Strong winds knock down trees JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

West Elgin Recreation staff Jen Pinder and Rob Wilkins clean up Jessie Street in West Lorne.The top of a large tree fell on Graham Road Friday night during a heavy rain and wind storm. West Lorne Fire Department and roads crew were called out as the tree blocked the entire road. Four trees were also knocked down in Miller Park along with trees on Queen's Line.

Local pastors remember Anna

The reverand of the Tyrconnell Parish of the Anglican Church of Canada Rev Anna Berwick, known simply to we who knew her as Anna, passed away suddenly in mid-February leaving her family, her parish and her friends shocked and grieving. We who knew her, worked alongside her and loved her in the Lord felt compelled to share our thoughts regarding this servant of God. Our collective prayer is that in some way, the sharing of these memories will aid us all in coming to terms with the reality of this loss.

In following editions reflections and thoughts of "Anna" will be shared by Pastor Diane Macpherson of the Dunwich United Pastoral Charge, Pastor Rob Shaw of Knox-St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Pastor Deane Proctor of Dutton & Iona Station Baptist Churches and Rev. Andy Kaups formerly of West Lorne Baptist Church.

From Pastors Deane Proctor and Diane Macpherson: As a new minister to the Dutton Baptist Church, I (Deane) first met Anna 7 years ago on Good Friday. As had been done for several years before and every year since, the churches of Dutton (Anglican, Presbyterian, United and Baptist) join efforts to present an Ecumenical community-wide observance of Good Friday.

As the congregation physically moves from church building to church building following a wooden cross, we unfold, re-tell and embrace again, the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the first event of this kind for me as a minister having only arrived at the Baptist Church about one month before. Thankfully despite my "rookie status", Anna was a welcoming soul to me.

The next year (2001) efforts were expanded to present the first community VBS. Pastor Diane Macpherson was serving the Dunwich Pastoral Charge by this time and remembers fondly the joint efforts of the four churches in Dutton, planned in part by the 4 pastors and with Anna being integral in this process.

More recently the breakfast in mid-January marking the Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity and involving many local churches and denominations would simply not have taken place at all were it not for the leadership and planning that Anna offered.

MAR 15/07

Cost estimates for landfill closure reported

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

West Elgin Council received cost estimates to close its landfill by 2022.

A report was done earlier this year about possible decisions for the landfill on Hoskins Line at Blacks Road.

Council may look at buying adjacent land or begin looking at other locations for the municipality's waste.

The report on costs to close the landfill were given at council Oct. 25, as prepared by Water, Earth Sciences Association, hired to research the landfill.

Starting with the 2008 budget, $52,600 will have to be put in reserves annually.

With that, a one-time cost of $42,817 will be made and each year after $14,650 will go into reserves.

That means to close the current landfill, will cost an estimated $568,200, in 2022 dollars, calculating for inflation or $296,180 in today's dollars.

This includes final covering of the site, general maintenance and long-term monitoring.

"We're not saying it has to close. If there is still room..." said Deputy Mayor Bernie Wiehle.

"If we were smart, and I'm not saying we're dumb, we've just had a lot of things on the go, we should be aggressively trying to expand the landfill," said Mayor Graham Warwick.

The official plan shows seven closed landfills in the municipality.

The 3.2 hectare landfill accepts 748 tonnes annually

Landfill capacity is 134,823 cubic metres with a life expectancy until 2022.

A specific closure plan will need to be prepared when the landfill has reached 90 per cent capacity.

Nov 1/07



Heritage House gets donation JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Cate Melito receiving a cheque from Joanna and Brian Simpson in the amount of $7,000 to support the $70,000 capital fundraising campaign launched by the West Lorne Heritage Homes Not for Profit Inc.'s Board of Directors. These funds will be used to build 16 affordable apartments for seniors in West Lorne. Absent: Rob and Mirah Simpson.



St. Mary's Ladies help Heritage House SUBMITTED

The St. Mary's Ladies Group invited Harry Mezenberg and Brian Simpson to their May 7th meeting to speak on the West Lorne Heritage Homes. After the meeting the Ladies Group presented them with a cheque for $1000 to go towards the seniors housing project. Pictured are, left to right: Harry Mezenberg, (Chair of Heritage Homes), Betty Mezenberg (Chair of the Ladies Group), Thea Long (Ladies Group President), Brian Simpson (Chair of Heritage Homes Fundraising committee) and Rose Ingratta.

CURRENT EVENTS 2007

ABM users ripped

Cards skimmed

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Users of the Bank of Montreal automatic banking machine in West Lorne were shocked to find their accounts had been drained.

A scam, called skimming resulted in a "small number" of accounts robbed.

The bank manager couldn't comment but called the Bank of Montreal public relations department to provide comment.

Michael Edmonds, spokesperson for BMO wouldn't say how many people were scammed or for how much, for security reasons. He said it was a small number of people.

Edmonds said he believes everyone effected has been contacted, cards have been replaced and any money taken has been reimbursed.

Robert Rogan, a local business owner and an employee discovered their bank accounts were emptied sometime last week.

Rogan said $1,000 was taken out in three transactions, two at banks in London. Others scammed reported the same circumstances.

Rogan said he wasn't sure how his pin number was found out.

"As long as I got my money back, I didn't ask questions," he said.

He said the bank was quick to respond, reimbursing the taken money quickly.

Edmonds said the bank has rigorous security measures to detect skimming.

The BMO spokesperson wouldn't specify whether only BMO card holders were affected by the skimming.

He wouldn't say how the skimming was done, for "obvious security reasons".

"It's important for everyone to be cautious with their debit cards, not just in West Lorne but anywhere they use a bank machine." he said.

Fraudsters are more interested in robbing the bank through ABM users than robbing



Disciples donate to STEGH SUBMITTED

Jerry Galbraith, St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital Foundation Board member, accepts a $10,000 gift from June Smart and Betty McKillop from the West Lorne Church of Christ (Disciples). The donation will help finance the purchase of two new ventilators. Also pictured is Terry Hiddink manager of Cardio-Respiratory Services.

Sunday, July 8, 2007 • The London Free Press

Owens bound for Owen Sound

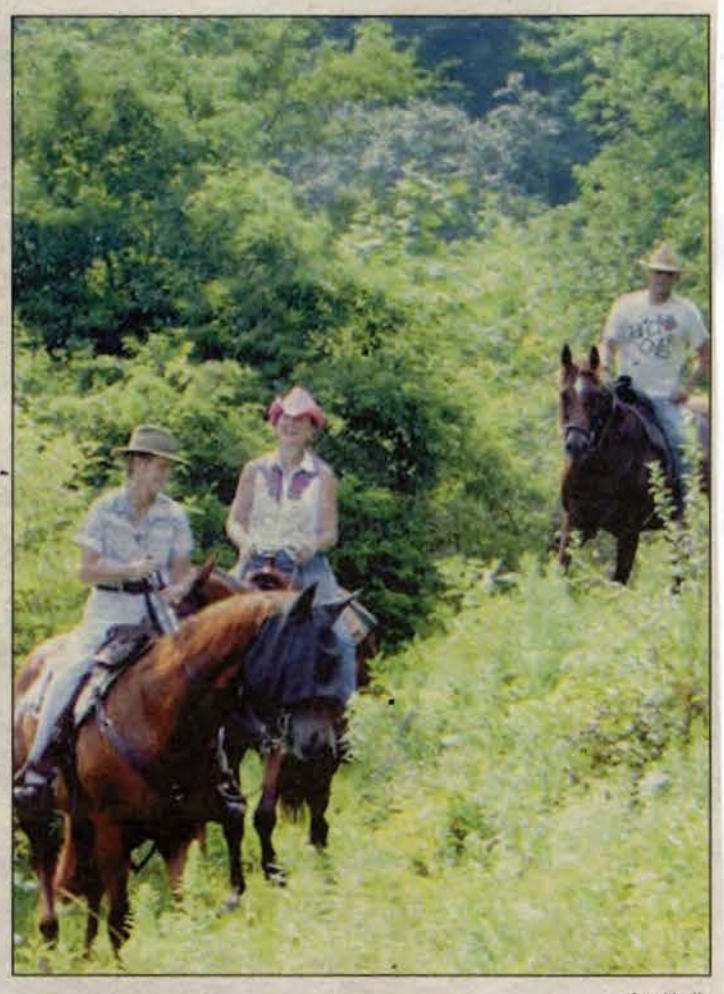
If your last name is Owen or Owens, you are invited to a party in your honour in Owen Sound.

The Calling all Owens campaign is part of the community's 150th anniversary Homecoming celebrations from July 27 to Aug. 5.

JIM FOX



ONE-TANK TRIPS



Sun Media

HAPPY TRAILS: A leisurely trail ride is part of this year's Cactus Cattle and Cowboys event in West Lorne.

In fact, anyone visiting Owen Sound this summer can become an "honourable Owen" and join the fun, says Mayor Ruth Lovell.

Hundreds of events are planned including a tugfest featuring whistle blows, tugboat races, a Christmas lights boat parade, water rescue demonstrations and tours of the Canadian Coast Guard vessel Cove Isle.

There's also a Harbour Nights Concert Series including a performance by the DeSotos, a new musical about Canadian landscape artist Tom Thomson, a homecoming parade and a performance by escape artist Steve Santini.

Along with talent shows and heritage events are children's activities including The Amazing Race: Get a Clue!

Visitors can also check out the Cobble Beach Golf Links, a new 18-hole, links-style course in Georgian Bluffs, adjacent to Owen Sound.

Saddle Up

It's time again to saddle up and head out for Cactus Cattle and Cowboys weekend.

The July 28 and 29 event in western Elgin County includes a "horses only" parade through downtown West Lorne, western-themed activities and trail rides. Western Elgin is home to many special breeds of horses, such as Canadians and Paso Finos as well as Percherons and Halflingers.

As well, there are "numerous quarter-horse and standard-bred operations that have sprung up in the area where affordable farm land is still found," said Scott Hilgendorff, one of the organizers.

Thousands of horses can be found in this belt of farms along Lake Erie's shore and the Highway 401 corridor in the western half of Elgin County, between London and Chatham-Kent's border.

The weekend includes the popular horse parade through West Lorne, starting at high noon on July 28. That follows activities starting at 8:30 a.m. such as a farmers market outside the West Elgin Community Health Centre.

In its second year, events are "built around cowboys and horses, and admission is free," said Robert White of the sponsoring Marketing Partners of Western Elgin County.

After the parade, Ballistik Paintball Park is the location for a quick-draw competition, line and square dancing, rib cooking demonstrations, gospel singing, cowboy poetry and a steak barbecue.

As well, there will be roping demonstrations, a blacksmith and western-styled children's games. Wagon rides are available to shuttle visitors between downtown and the park.

Dave Simmons will host riding demonstrations and breed exhibits at his farm north of West Lorne on Crinan Line.

The day's activities wrap up with a BX93 video dance at the West Elgin Arena from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Trail rides are available both days with "free primitive camping provided" and some box stalls available. There will be a Saturday evening jamboree and cowboys are invited to bring their instruments. Cost for the rides is a donation to the Trans-Canada Trail Association.

Birds and Butterflies

Birds and Butterflies at Pelee Island is among the innovative Family Adventures trips offered by "boutique" travel firm Horizon and Co. of Toronto.

Participants will identify many of the exotic bird calls filling the air and can observe the vast Monarch butterfly population as it prepares for its epic journey south.

There will be tours led by conservationists to discover Ontario's southernmost point and the intricate ecosystems of the lush Carolinian forest. Also planned is a meal on the estate of a Point Pelee vineyard.

Jim Fox can be reached at onetanktrips@hotmail.com

Sod turned at Heritage House site

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Shovels will go into the ground to begin construction of the West Lorne Heritage House this month.

A ceremonial sod turning was held at the site, with dignitaries, Aug. 29.

The 16-unit supportive affordable housing apartments for seniors are hoped to open Spring next year, adjacent to the West Elgin Community Health Centre.

The $2.2 million project is being sponsored by the West Lorne Heritage Homes Not For Profit Corporations, made up of local service clubs.

It received $1.1 million from the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program, administered locally by Ontario Works, St. Thomas.

It's being complimented by almost $888,000 in site clean up, waived fees, servicing and donated land from the municipality.

West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick said the project is a great opportunity in the face of adversity, as the abandoned rail lands are now being turned to something good.

He said in rural communities its essential the government makes large capital investment where there is not enough private investment.

Please see No, *page 2*



Sod turning JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Taking part in the official sod turning for the West Lorne Heritage House is Harry Mezenberg, project chair, Lori Baldwin-Sands, St. Thomas Ald., Steve Peters MPP, Joe Preston, MP, Lynn Acre, Warden and Graham Warwick, Mayor.

CURRENT EVENTS 2007

OPP bust "Chop shop" in West Lorne

A warrant was executed after a six month investigation into a suspected "chop shop" in West Lorne May 17.

Police recovered six complete vehicles and two partial vehicles at 24611 Pioneer Line.

The vehicles had been reported stolen from the London, Glencoe and Chatham areas.

Elgin County OPP officers responded along with the Provincial Auto Theft, Rural Agricultural Crime Team, Drug Enforcement, Emergency Response and a canine unit to execute the warrant.

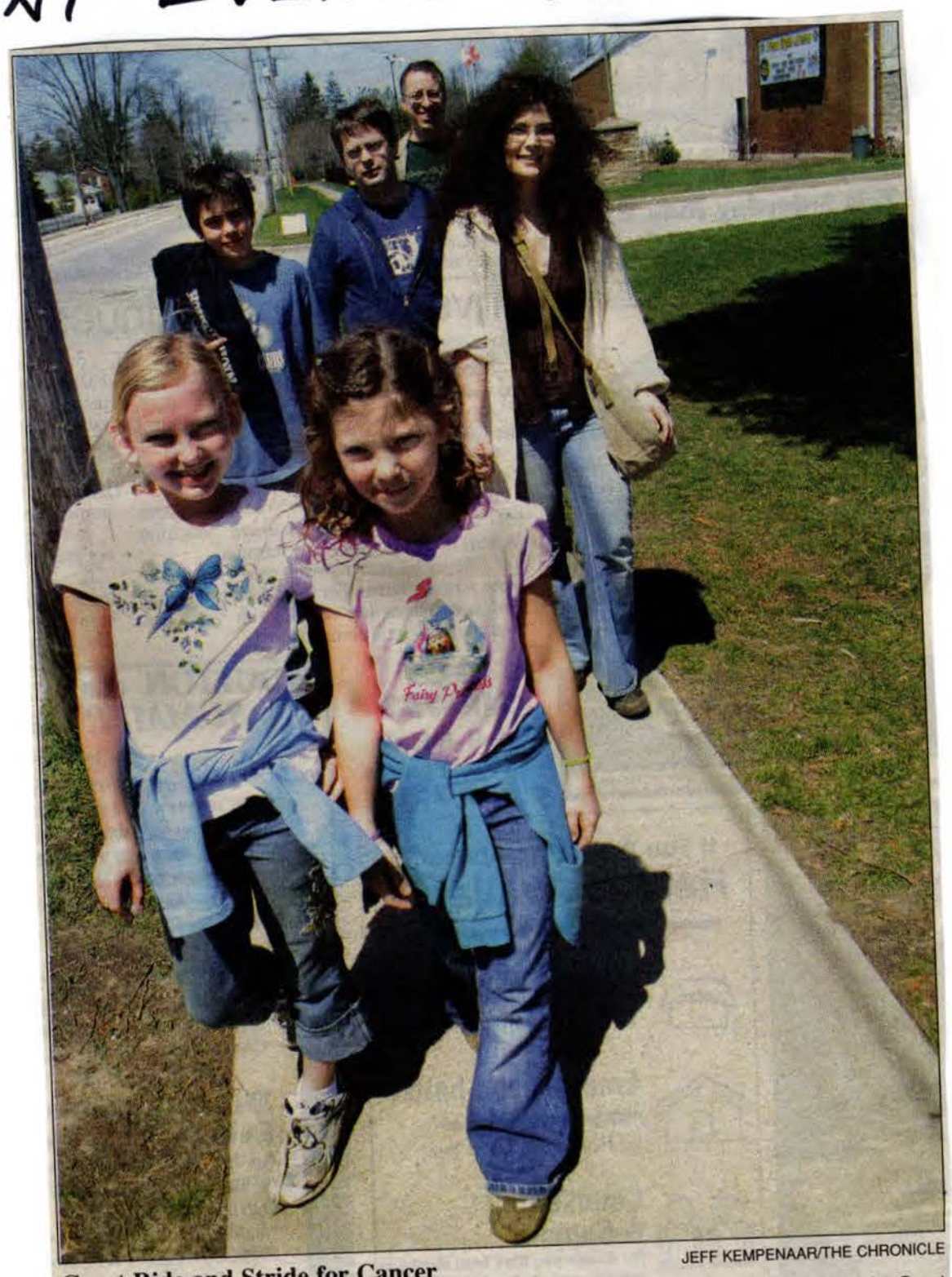
The warrant was the conclusion to a six month investigation into the business and residence.

Police also seized a small amount of marijuana.

A 68-year-old West Lorne man was arrested without incident and remains in custody.

The man is charged with possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000 and possession of a controlled substance.

He's scheduled to appear in a St. Thomas court May 22. MAY 24/07



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Great Ride and Stride for Cancer

Allysa Austin, Emily, Josh, Jenny and Derek Buchanan and Don Bowser begin their walks for the Great Ride and Stride for Cancer in West Lorne Sunday. A smaller crowd this year still raised $1,311 for the Canadian Cancer Society. The event in Dutton raised around $4,000.

She took his name, nationality

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Julie Sura was born in Canada and has never lived outside of Canada.

Yet she was not considered a Canadian citizen when she recently applied for a passport.

She has a birth certificate clearly showing she was born in Windsor in 1928.

But a strange stipulation on a passport application brought to light changes to immigration laws made 60 years ago that had passed her by.

With talk of passports being required to enter the U.S. (2008), Sura began preparing for her trip to the Caribbean from Detroit and applied for a passport.

She hit a snag.

Her late husband, Alec, was from Hungary and immigrated to Canada in 1923, before marrying then Julia Badin, in March 1946.

"If you are a woman who, before 1947, married a man who was not a British subject, contact Passport Canada," states the Proof of Canadian Citizenship section on an Adult Passport Citizenship.

"In other words, my birth certificate doesn't mean anything," she said.

Her birth certificate may not have meant much because when she was born Canadian citizenship didn't exist.



JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

Wave goodbye to another Rodney fair

Jacob Vojin from West Lorne rides the mini-jets on the Carter Show's midway Sunday at the Rodney Aldborough Agricultural Fair. Cold weather did stave many off as attendance numbers could be up from last year. See more photos from the Fair on Page 10.

World Day of Prayer services written by Paraguayan women

The small land-locked country of Paraguay, the heart of South America, is the focus of this year's World Day of Prayer services offered at three area locations.

Women from Paraguay have written the 2007 World Day of Prayer service on the theme United Under God's Tent.

Wars and a long dictatorship have taken their toll on Paraguay. It lost its sea access and 80 per cent of its male population following the Triple Alliance War in the 1800s. The 35-year dictatorship, which ended in 1989, left scars of poverty, environmental destruction and repression.

Despite their poverty and struggle to survive, Paraguayans are caring and musical people known around the world for folk music and handmade spider web lace known as Nanduti - and, of course, their Olympic medal-winning soccer team.

Christians in more than 170 countries and 2,000 communities across Canada will gather on the World Day of Prayer to pray and act in solidarity with the people of Paraguay.

Following the theme, organizers ask those planning to attend to bring a shawl or scarf to use as a symbol of God's sheltering and protective tent.

Join the celebration and invite friends and family to attend the World Day of Prayer service March 2 and learn more about Paraguay and its unique culture and heritage:

- 7 p.m. at Bobier Villa.
- 7:30 p.m. at West Lorne Baptist Church, guest speaker, Joanne Bobier.
- 10 a.m. Calvary United Church, Fellowship Hall.

CURRENT EVENTS 2007

Crowd tours reopened Complex

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

It's been 20 months since an almost $1 million fire gutted the West Elgin Community Complex.

Doors officially reopened Saturday at the downtown West Lorne building.

Harley Melkert, who already had books on hold for him got to cut the ribbon with West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick.

An open house was held afterwards where some of the public, got their first look at the reconstructed building.

While insurance will cover the reconstruction of the building, along with bringing it up to today's building code standards, the municipality has invested more than $200,000 to improve the building.

An extension was made onto the library, adding an area for children.

It will be paid for by the Elgin County Library which rents the space.

The basement was also finished, including a lift that can take people in wheelchairs downstairs, where it was not accessible before.

YWCA has said it will use the main room in the basement for its homework club.

A second public meeting room was also built in the basement.

On hand for the reopening was MPP Steve Peters, MP Joe Preston, Elgin County Warden Lynn Acre, Kathy Nesbitt, with the county library, Phillip Scott with Hickman-Mount Reconstruction and Andy Spriet, of Spriet Associates, along with municipal staff, councillors and former Reeve Harley Lashbrook.

Lashbrook accepted a mock-up of a future sign that will be placed on the cairn in front of the complex marking the centennial of the villages of West Lorne and Rodney.

West Elgin Support Services also held an open house to show its new office space.

The building once was the municipal office for West Lorne, built in 1997, until amalgamation in 1998.



Complex reopens JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Harley Melkert, avid library user got to join West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick to cut the ribbon at the official reopening of the West Elgin Community Complex Saturday. Many dignitaries joined more than 50 people for the open house that was included in the events surrounding the 100th anniversary of Rodney and West Lorne.

Accident closes Highway 401, snarls villages

A transport truck collided with a line painter crew truck on Highway 401 at the Dunborough Line crossing, Monday at around 12:50 p.m.

The truck had a caution sign alerting traffic of line painting ahead on the westbound lanes when it was struck by the transport truck.

The driver of the line painter crew truck was extricated with the jaws of life by West Lorne Fire Department.

The 54-year-old Guelph driver was taken to St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The transport truck crossed the median and ended up half in the south ditch of the eastbound lanes, causing an SUV to veer into the ditch.

The transport driver, a 52-year-old man from Brampton, and two occupants in the SUV were treated at the scene with no injuries.

The eastbound lanes were closed at Graham Road, causing a back up on the Emergency Detour Route through West Lorne and neighbouring villages.

Police controlled the intersection at Main and Graham most of the afternoon.

The eastbound lanes remained closed until OPP technical collision investigators completed the investigation at about 6 p.m.



Crash JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

A 52-year-old Brampton man walks out of an ambulance uninjured as West Lorne Fire Department extricates a 54-year-old Guelph man after a collision on Highway 401 Monday.

Anti-idling signs erected in West Lorne

ECOELGIN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP NEWS

The ecoElgin Environmental Group has had anti-idling signs erected in various locations around West Lorne. These signs request vehicle operators to turn off their engine when parked. Please obey these signs for our health.

Carbon dioxide is only one by-product of fuel combustion - the vehicles Canadians drive every day also generate other toxic substances that are fouling our air, contributing to urban smog and threatening our health.

Studies by Health Canada and community health departments and agencies have shown a direct link between contaminants in vehicle emissions and significant respiratory health effects. These studies have concluded that poor air quality and smog - caused in part by vehicle exhaust - are resulting in increased hospital admissions, respiratory illnesses and premature deaths, particularly in urban areas.

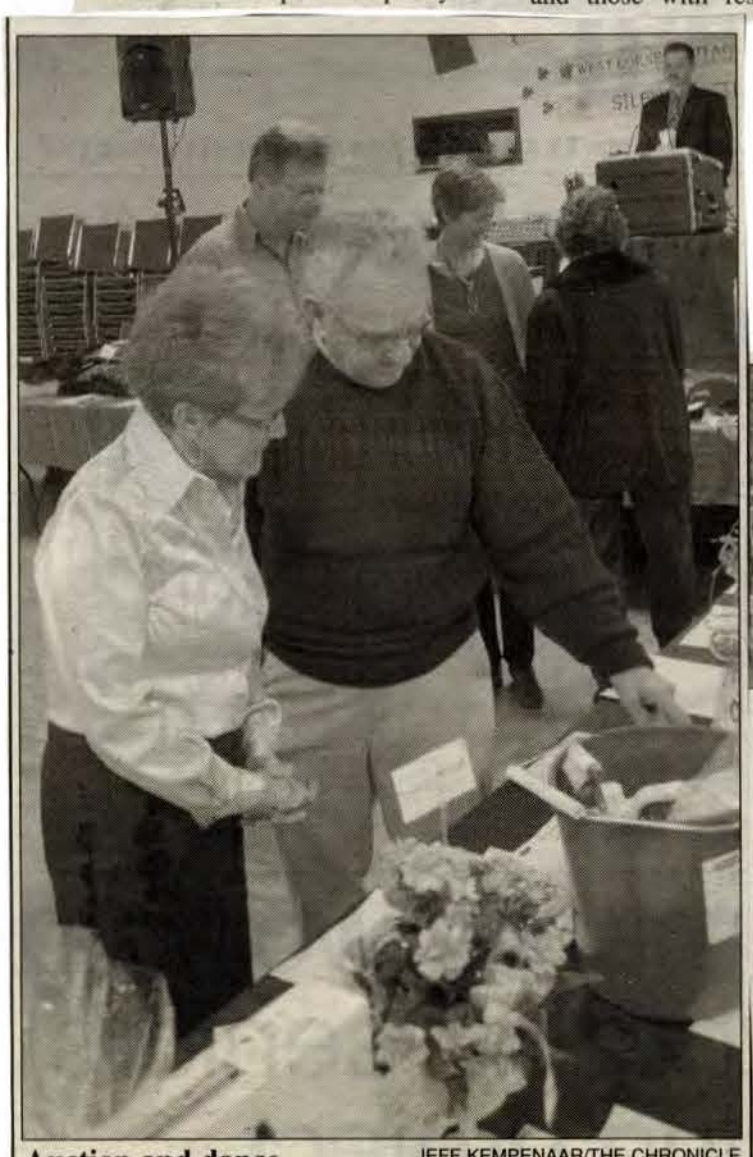
In fact, Health Canada estimates that more than 5,000 Canadians die prematurely each year because of air pollution, and thousands more become unnecessarily ill. Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution because they breathe faster than adults and inhale more air per kilogram of body weight.

Air pollution also causes unnecessary difficulty for elderly people and those with respiratory problems, such as asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

These health problems could become even more common and pronounced as climate change progresses. That's because climate change results in more frequent and severe heat waves, which tend to make smog and air pollution worse.

One way to head off the problem is to stop unnecessary idling. Our air would be cleaner, and respiratory health would improve in our communities.

For more information on health and climate change, visit the Web site of Health Canada's Climate Change and Health Office. Information about respiratory issues is available from the Canadian Lung Association .



Auction and dance JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Julie and Wentworth Newman of West Lorne peruse silent auction items at a fundraising auction and dance for the West Lorne Heritage House, senior apartments March 17. The fundraising committee raised more than $6,000 toward the $70,000 goal for the local portion of the project.



Environmental projects get boost CONTRIBUTED

MP Joe Preston delivers a cheque for $64,000 for the West Elgin Habitat Restoration Project to local landowners participating in wetland and natural habitat restoration.

Habitat restoration gets funding

MP Joe Preston recently delivered a cheque for $64,000 to support the West Elgin Habitat Restoration project as part of the EcoAction Community Funding Program.

The project will assist locally-based, non-profit organizations to initiate actions that result in cleaner air, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, cleaner water, and the conservation of nature at the local community level.

The local groups involved in this project include; Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, Canada – Ontario Environment Farm Plan, Aldborough Public School, St. Leonard's Society, Dan Higgs Excavating, West Elgin Nature Club, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Elgin Stewardship Council, Wetland Habitat Fund, Community Fisheries Involvement Program, Canada-Ontario Agreement to Improve Lake Erie, Ontario Trillium Foundation.

EcoAction will continue to provide financial support to Canadian not-for-profit organizations to undertake community-level projects that have positive, measurable results for the environment.

The next submission deadline for proposals to the EcoAction program is October 1, 2007.

CURRENT EVENTS 2007

Villages celebrate 100th anniversary

Photos by Jeff Kempenaar



Parade
Jerry Prince, with Mikel, Lukas and Kevin Prince-Duarte decorated their bikes for the parade Monday.



Music at WESS
Darryl VanOirschot amazed a crowd of about 100 with songs from Les Miserable, accompanied by Shirley Walker Sunday during a music program held in the cafetorium at West Elgin Secondary School. Other events held over the weekend include fireworks by the volunteer fire departments, sidewalk art by the YWCA, a jamboree at the Rodney Legion and special church services at the West Lorne United Church.





Shunpiker
Above: A group from Freelton stops at the Old Jail in Rodney to pick up their first poker card from Mary Bodnar. About 24 cars took part in the Historical Shunpiker tour around West Elgin Saturday. Below: Helen Jones and Rose McGill share a laugh at the farmer's market.



Heading toward their own 100th
Frances McCallum and Steve Frederick both turned 92 years old this year and are heading toward their own 100th birthday by taking part in the parade in West Lorne Monday.



100 year old pictures shown
A crowd forms around Harley Lashbrook and his slide show of pictures depicting 100 years of West Lorne and Rodney history at the West Elgin Community Complex Saturday his collection even included pictures of the villages from 100 years ago.

401 ticket money deal done

$150,000 a year could come to western Elgin

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Money from OPP enforcement on Highway 401 in Elgin County will be split by the three western municipalities.

That's the good news.

The bad news? Depending on what side of the county line you live:

Money from tickets in Elgin that were collected at the Chatham-Kent court house for years will not be coming back.

"We're not going after that anymore," said Mark McDonald, chief administrative officer with Elgin County.

After meeting with the Ontario Attorney General, McDonald was told Chatham-Kent was promised the money when it built its court house.

The court house was built bigger to process tickets from the Highway 401 enforcement units, commanded out of Chatham.

It was estimated more than half a million went to the Chatham-Kent court house, brining revenue with it, for the past five years, until Jan. 1, 2006.

McDonald also met with the detachment commander of the Chatham-Kent OPP and was assured officers would carry ticket books for Elgin, to be process at the Elgin County Court House.

The deal for western municipalities follows a long standing agreement with the county.

It's estimated $150,000 could be split between West Elgin, Dutton/Dunwich and Southwold.

Although, it could be more, McDonald said last year $350,000 was processed from fines issued on Highway 401 in Elgin County.

Money will be split using the same formula as all other provincial roads: 10 per cent of the fine and the administrative costs will be recovered by the county.

"It's good news. The money is going where it belongs, to the three municipalities that have the 401," said McDonald.

"We figure (Chatham-Kent) got more than they should, but that's my opinion," said McDonald. "It took five years but the money is going where it belongs."

The decision came down to Central Elgin Mayor Sylvia Hofhuis voting to follow the agreement ruling other provincial roads in the county.



Fun in the park JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Fun Day in the Park, formerly Senior's Day in the Park, brought seniors, family, friends and colleagues out to the Backus-Page House for music, education and fellowship Aug. 15. Above: Angie Cornwell, dietician at the West Elgin Community Health Centre tests the knowledge of food groups with Ruth Andrews and Susanna Reintsma Right: Judy Tunks and Shirley Bolton with the Four Counties Adult Day Program play a memory game with Margaret Ford.





Book near done JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Nancy and Harley Lashbrook comb through scrap books loaned by families for a book on local soldiers.

Searching for soldier stories

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

A last call, in a sense, has been issued for information on local soldiers that served in the First and Second World Wars.

Harley Lashbrook could have a definitive book published by months end with information of those who served in the war that at one time lived in Rodney, West Lorne or the former Aldborough Township.

Starting with just a list of dozens of names, Lashbrook, former newspaper owner and Reeve of West Lorne has spent the past three months collecting information.

With 300 pages printed in draft form, Lashbrook is now looking for pictures of the soldiers.

He has many already, but to go along with the service information he has now, he has made space to add images.

Please see Book, *page 2*



Holocaust survivor JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Eva Olsson, Holocaust survivor, spoke to students from West Elgin Secondary School and Senior Elementary School last week, linking the struggle against the Nazism to the struggle against bullies.

Tolerance not enough

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Holocaust survivor Dr. Eva Olsson returned to West Elgin Secondary School May 8.

She last spoke to students at WESS in 2004 but this time her message has changed.

Olsson, 82, has spoken at 1,500 schools to more than one million students over the last 10 years.

She held the WESS gymnasium in silence, recalling the horrors of concentration camps for high school and senior elementary students.

Today, she says tolerance is not enough.

She calls the Nazis of Germany bullies.

"In 1928 there were 300 Nazi bullies. The attitude was, it would go away, nothing will happen," she told students.

"By 1933 there were 300,000 Nazi bullies. Bystanders joined in," she said.

Olsson, from Bracebridge, speaking throughout the Thames Valley District School Board as part of the safe schools initiative, has always linked her story to the issue of bullying.

However, she says tolerance only and being a bystander are not acceptable.

"Wouldn't it have been easier to have stood up to the Nazis at 300? By the time they did it was too late. Eleven million people died," she said.

A 15-year-old, Hasidic Jew when Germany invaded her hometown in Hungary in the 1940s, she recalls the day when soldiers came to her town.

Fenced into a six block ghetto were 20,000 Jews. She lived in two rooms with 19 people.

Of her extended family of 89 people, only she and her younger sister survived.

Unlocking Doors, A Woman's Struggle Against Intolerance is the name of her memoir.

This summer, Olsson is embarking on a trip she said she never would do.

She is returning to her home town, Szatmar Hungary for the first time, with plans to visit Auschwitz.

Her journey home and visits to schools, including WESS are being filmed as a documentary.

She left three words as her final message: "Loving, knowing and being."



First World War book JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Harley Lashbrook presents West Elgin at War a book with information, stories and letters about Aldborough soldiers that served in the First World War to Shelly Flemming with the Rodney and West Lorne library.



God's Princesses JULY 19/07 SUBMITTED

Princess Day 2007 was held at the West Elgin Living Water Pentecostal Church June 23. Each young girl was crowned God's Chosen Princess during the royal evening celebrating King Jesus.



Season of lights JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Joe Seman, Joe Jr., Heather and Jason Bowles have thousands of lights at their Talbot Line home near New Glasgow. People have been stopping throughout the season and even dropping off food donations for the Caring Cupboard. Right: This tree has 325 yellow lights as a sign of support for Canada's troop and peacekeepers overseas this holiday season. The property also has a gingerbread house with a candy cane lane, Rudolph and Santa's reindeer and a flag pole with red and white lights for naitonal pride.



Bells on ...

Sharon DeDecker is decked out on her horse Blueboy an Arabian.



Ambassador

Wallacetown Fair Ambassador Kate Campigotto and Lin McCann travel with the Wallacetown Agricultural Society float.



Tiny Tots

Suzanne Brears and Shelly Smith ride on the Tiny Tots Float..



Bagpipes

Royal Scots O'Mocha pipe and drum band from London wore their Santa hats for the parade.The band followed the Legion Colour Guard. After the parade, revelers went to the West Elgin Community Health Centre to have pictures taken with Santa Claus.



Bringing in the cheer JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Snoopy and the Red Baron, a float created by Albert's Generators was one of the 37 floats in the Optimist Club of West Lorne's Santa Clause Parade Nov. 30.

Santa comes to West Lorne

CURRENT EVENTS 2007





Kelly JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Keith Kelly shows a plaque and poster which he received for his weather observing services to Environment Canada for 50 years from his home in New Glasgow.

Weather observers rare

from page 1

Now 82-years-old, he doesn't have as many chores and he lives out his retirement quietly with his wife Marie.

His family and friends collect the data if he goes away.

He still gets many calls from media, the grain elevators and agriculture industry for his seasonal forecasts and information about corn heat units.

"Weather is really important to farmers," he said.

His own data helps paint a picture of the area, by combining data from weather stations in St. Thomas, Ridgetown, London and Port Stanley.

His field manager Arnold McDonald crafted him a walnut-wood box with various metres and a large poster with scrapbook images and his historical weather data. MP Joe Preston gave him a certificate of appreciation and he received a plaque for his 50 years of service.

Watching the weather is in Kelly's blood.

He looks in the journals of his great grandfather William V. Havens. Every entrey begins with an observation of the weather that day.

Nov. 28, 1872, the entrey says the wind was from the north and it was cold.

While meteorologists get paid to analyze the weather data and make forecasts, Kelly continues to be asked local forecasts based on tried and true observations of wind direction at solstice.

At the autumn equinox he said it would be a good fall with warms spells, "and it was."

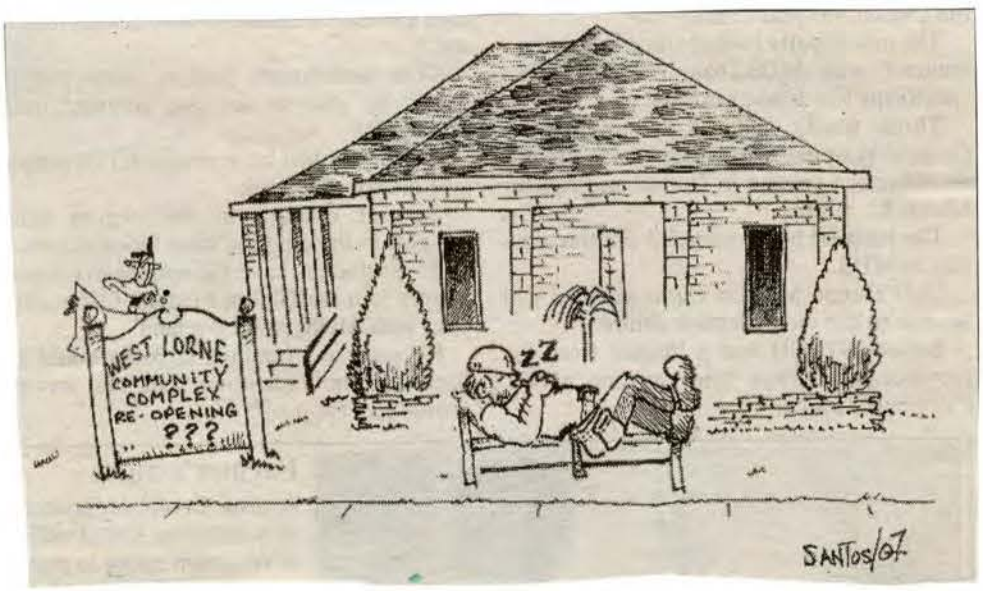
Although people like to point out when he's wrong.

"They always tell you when you were wrong but never point out that you were right," he said.

"Not many of Environment Canada's volunteer weather observers serve for 50 years. Over the decades, it is probably not more than a few handful across the entire country. Having recorded climate data now for over 50 years, Keith is in a very select, dedicated group. His observations have been of the highest quality and his enthusiasm for the job rarely matched. His contributions toward the understanding of the area's climate are very much appreciated," said Jim Cook, Environment Canada.

New Glasgow Climate Stats:

Highest temp: 39°C (Jan. 25, 1988)
Coldest temp: -29°C (January, 1994).
Wettest day: 125.2 mm (June 28, 1967)
Snowiest day: 20.3 cm (Dec. 6, 1962 / Jan. 14, 1968 / Nov. 21, 1971 / Mar. 17, 1973)
Warmest year: 10.6°C (1998)
Coldest year: 7.1°C (1978)
Average year: 8.3°C
Wettest year: 1,228.5 mm (1990)
Driest year: 575.1 mm (1958)
Average year: 886.9 mm
Snowiest year: 165 cm (2004/05)
Least snow: 25 cm (1982/83)
Average winter 79.6 cm.





A Night of Celebration JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

A Night of Celebration was held at the West Lorne Baptist Church on Saturday evening to celebrate the completion of the Daughter of the King course, followed by a Princess Ball at the church.The Princesses are: (back row) Jordynn Belbeck, Sade Duncan, Tabatha Wemp, Stephanie Sypher. (Front row) Emily Ross and Ashley Blais.



Bubbles JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Siera Poels blows a bubble at the YWCA Day Camp in West Lorne Monday.



Amazing race JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Kelsey Mantie, Lannie Wood, Montana Stuart and Rebecca Fish take part in the Amazing Race organized through the West Lorne Library which saw about 20 youth seeking clues at town businesses June 30.

Current Events 2007

Former resident gets police award

Cathy McArthur, former West Elgin Secondary School graduate was honoured for her work with the Chatham-Kent Police Service.

McArthur was the recipient of the Excellence in Performance award for her extensive work in the Father Charles Sylvestre case.

She received the award at the Ontario Women in Law Enforcement banquet in Mississauga May 4.

McArthur, a detective, interviewed women involved in the sexual abuse case, which led to the conviction of Sylvestre for 47 counts of indecent assault.

The daughter of Jacqueline and the late Cameron Leitch has been with the Chatham-Kent police for 15 years.



Cathy McArthur
Former resident Cathy McArthur was recently honoured for her work with Chatham-Kent Police.





Band plays Not just a Christmas Concert JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Above: Richard Hale on clarinet, Ben McArthur on baritone sax, Matt Sterner, and Betty Simpson, clarinet, adorning Santa hats for the West Elgin Community Band's It's a Wonderful Time of the Year, concert at St. Mary's Parish Hall Dec. 6. Right: Michele Barnes, performed Adagio from Voilin Sonata #3 on alto saxophone. The band also played seasonal favourites.



Choral Society JEAN GUY ST. JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE
The West Elgin Choral Society presented their 2007 Christmas Concert at the St Mary's Roman Catholic Church Dec. 1 in West Lorne under the direction of the Music Director John Holland titled "Christmas Around The World". The Christmas Oratorio was written in 1858 by french composer Camille Saint-Saens. The concert included the Christmas Oratorio, some international songs by the choir and a sing-a-long. DEC/07



Women's choir
Music leader Sharon Little sings along with the newly formed Women's Choir, which meets Wednesdays at West Elgin Senior Elementary School.
JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Oktoberfest another success

Once again it's expected more than $10,000 will be raised for the local Daffodil Society at the annual Oktoberfest Classic at Dutton Meadows Golf Club.

About 104 golfers hit the nine hole course and stayed for a silent auction and dinner.

This year, the tournament was held in memory of Wally Tokarz, a long-time area resident who passed away from cancer April 1999.

Wally was the 'man on the mic' at the downhill derby and Santa Claus parades. He also volunteered at the Wallacetown Fair and worked behind the scenes at WEDS.

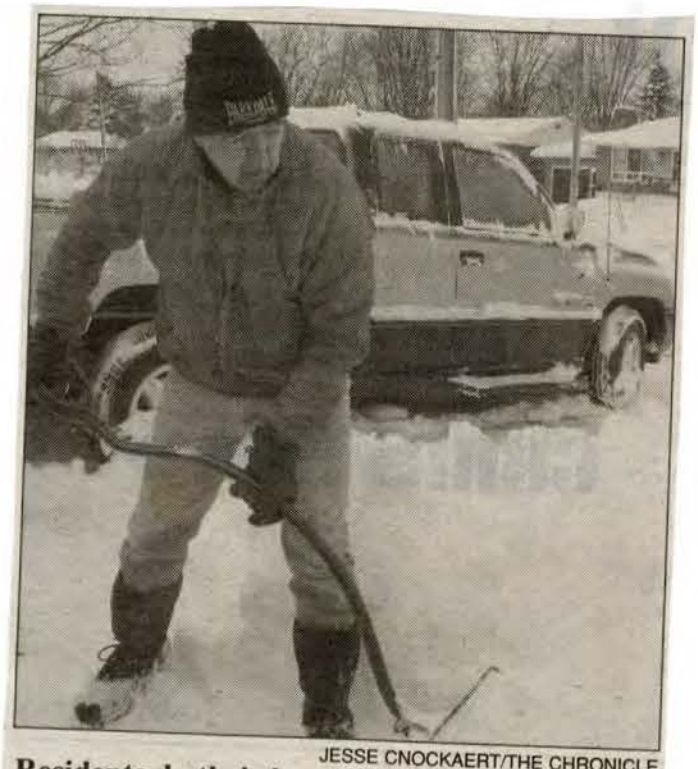
Each year someone who died of cancer and contributed to the community is honoured.

This year, Marg Gruenbauer headed up organizing the tournament.

"The Daffodil Society is a unique organization that assists cancer patients and the families (locally). This assistance includes providing equipment such as beds or wheelchairs for home use, financial assistance for needed medicines not covered by drug plans and transportation for patient visits to the Cancer Centre in London," she wrote.



Daffodil Society golf tournament JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Some of the 104 golfers who took part in the Oktoberfest Classic, Daffodil Society Cancer Golf Tournament held at Dutton Meadows Saturday. Here is Richard Cowall, Paul MacDonald, Joanne Emmett, Ian Fleck, Christine Zimmerman, Marilyn Fleck and Bonnie and Mike Rowe on the 8th hole.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE
Residents do their best to cope with snow
Doug Weaver shovels the snow from his driveway on Elm St. in West Lorne. He's lending a hand and shovelling several of his neighbours driveways along the street. DEC. 20/07



West Lorne's sink hole JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Dave Tuffin, with West Elgin's water crew, fills a hole on Graham Road where an 8" water line burst early morning Nov. 11 in West Lorne. Water bubbled up and flooded the street. The water crew were on scene for about 12 hours to patch the break. Several customers were without water from Elm Street to Main Street. It's the third break in the line in as many years as the municipality waits for the county to redo the road and curbs in the area. Because water flowed out, not in, a boil water advisory was not needed. Donut Delight had to close early as a result of the break and traffic was slowed during the fix. NOV 16/07

Dynamic energy flows at WESS

Students at West Elgin Secondary School showed their talents March 31, whether it be art, dance, music or comedy.

Photos by Jeff Kempenaar



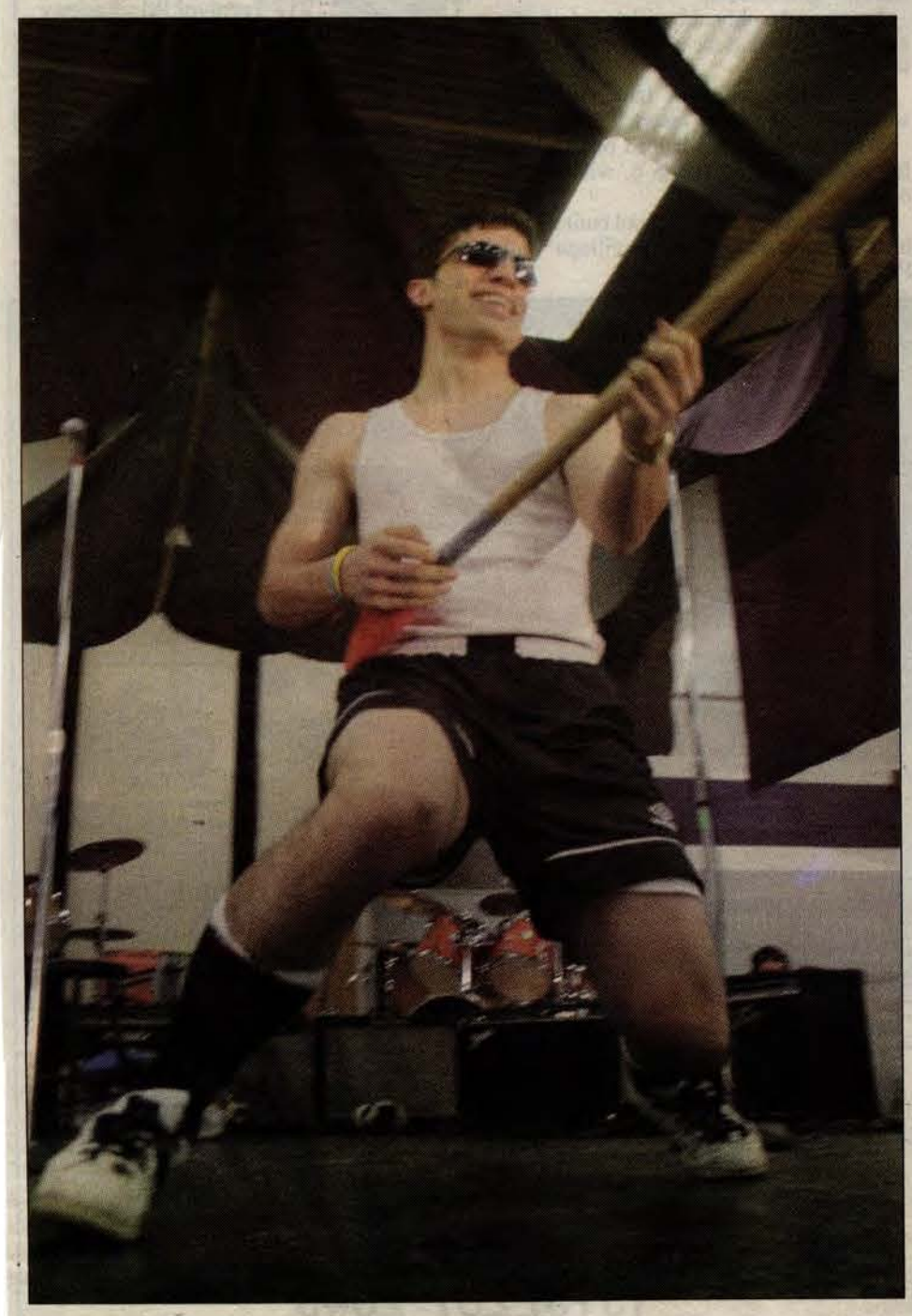
Power
Kory Timmermans, centre, Geoff Wayne, left and Ryan Grant of Septic Tank closed the show with powerful metal.



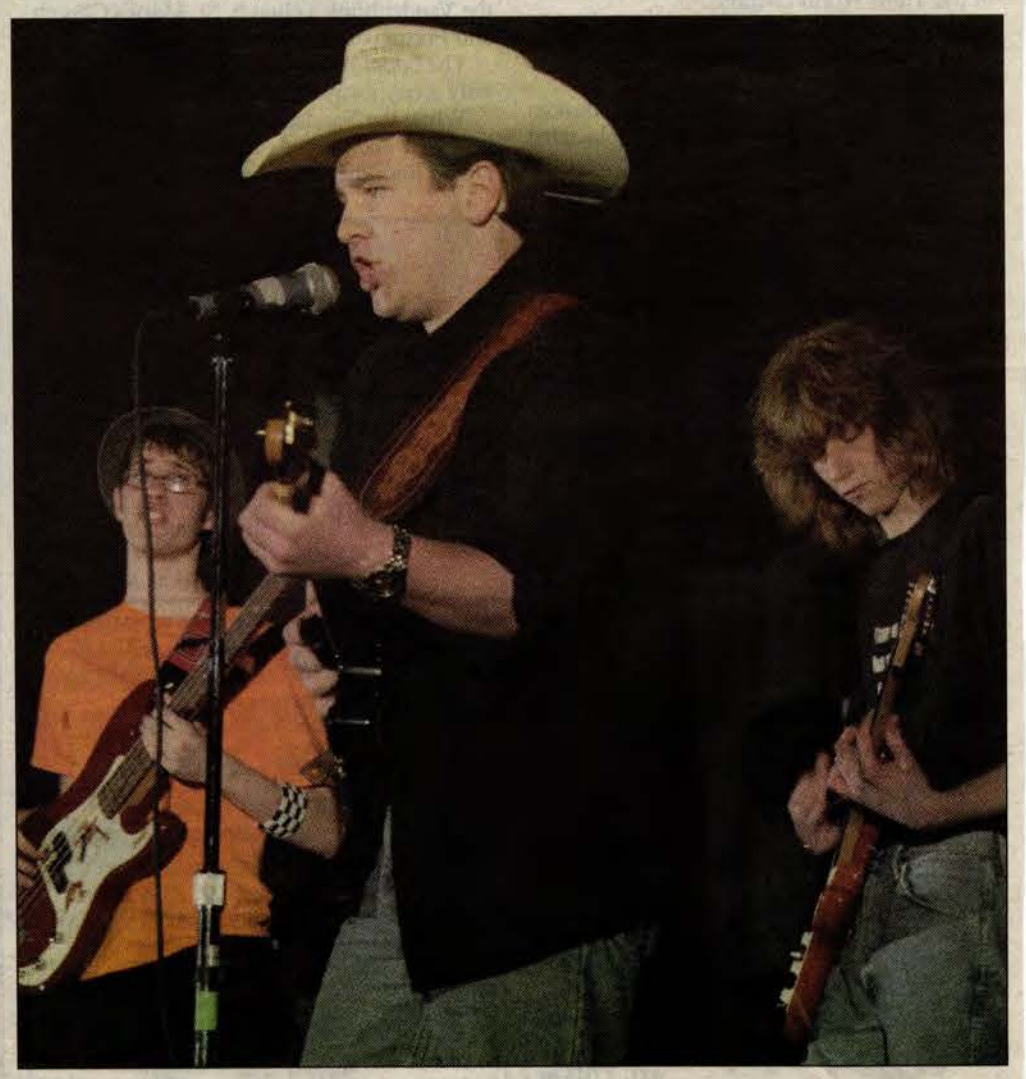
Dance
Caren Campbell plays Cotten Eyed Joe on her fiddle.



Energy
Jeff Reno, Chris Wemp and Kaylie Wood of Prenuptu played some high energy rock.



Talent not a requirement
Teacher Bill Lolas shows off his best broom guitar playing to a roar of laughter.



Kickin' old school
Jake Zoller sings Folsom Prison Blues with Mark Godfrey and James Stone, who each jammed with different peers amongst the dozens of acts of all kinds.



Knights of Columbus create alcohol and substance abuse awareness
Students at St. Mary's Catholic School participated in the Knights of Columbus' annual poster contest on alcohol and substance abuse. Pictured here are the winners: Left back Matthew Westalaken, Kelsey Conway, Megan Campigotto, Paige Reno, Kasey Kosikar, Amy Olivera, Kelly McFadden, Garnet Stacey. Front: Shelby Pyka, Michelle Simoes, Rene Forgues. Kneeling: Jason Alves. SUBMITTED

EDUCATION 2006

Classmates return 60 years later

BY KATE DUBINSKI
Free Press Education Reporter

WEST LORNE — Sixty years ago, they were memorizing their multiplication tables and falling in love.

Yesterday, some of those old jitters came back for more than 30 former Dutton high school students when they went back to Grade 9 at West Elgin secondary school as part of a class reunion.

Back then, the girls were addressed by their first name or as Miss, while the boys were Mister.

There were no "teenager" clothes, just skirts and penny loafers. The girls weren't allowed to wear slacks.

And the only calculator allowed in math class was between the ears.

Math bingo was the first order of the day yesterday when the Dutton grads sat in on a Grade 9 math class, much to the disappointment of some grads.

"We're all retired. We're not used to working," joked one man.

"Will you be checking if we cheat?" another asked.

"I could never do math," whined a third woman.

Back in 1946, they were fresh-faced farm kids from around Dutton, starting their first year of high school. Yesterday they came together again, with their careers behind them, joking about the years they spent together.

"We've had reunions. We've gotten together listening to music we knew 60 years ago, eating food we ate back then and then it hit me — the only thing we haven't done in 60 years is go back to Grade 9," said Bill Patterson, one of the organizers of the day that saw 38 of 52 students spend the day back at school.

His grandson, Drew Lebedz, who attends West Elgin, said: "I never thought I'd go to class with my grandparents. They're always telling me about stuff that's changed."

The former students wore lapel pins with their pictures from a Grade 9 school photograph — just in case they'd changed in six decades.

The seniors attended Dutton high school, which no longer exists: it now houses Dutton elementary school. West Elgin high is the closest high school.

After the brief math lesson with the Grade 9 class — some of the grads swore exponents weren't on the curriculum in 1956 — the 38 returning students and their spouses made their way to Dutton public school to get a look at their old school building.

See REUNION Page B2



SUSAN BRADNAM The London Free Press

PAST MEETS PRESENT: Marion Patterson Page shares a laugh with Katie King, 19. Page was attending the 60th anniversary of her Grade 9 class and spent the morning in a Grade 9 math class at West Elgin secondary school. She met King in the cafeteria.

WESES Christmas concert a success

WHAT'S UP AT WESES?

By Caitlin Simpson

The holiday season is around the corner, and our students at West Elgin Senior Elementary School have been working hard to collect non-perishable food items for our food drive.

Together, the school was able to send just more than 1,000 food items to the Daffodil Auxiliary, thanks to everyone who contributed by sending your food in with one of our students.

The school's December assembly about respect proved to be entertaining, as Mrs. Ewing's 7B class treated the staff and students to a performance about conflict and resolution.

On Nov. 24, the school celebrated a spirit day, as everyone wore their pyjamas, slippers, bathrobes, shower caps, put their hair in curlers and pigtails, and brought their teddy bears to school.

Although every class was showing outstanding spirit, 7A and 7B tied for the most, and brought the spirit banner back to their home rooms.

The Christmas concert Nov. 17 was a success. About 150 people gathered for phenomenal performances from the concert band, jazz band, choir, and a brand new percussion ensemble.

The different songs performed by the bands featured solos from many of the band members.

In addition, Stephanie Sutton played We Wish You A Merry Christmas as a solo, and Emily Penney and Amy Gordon performed Deck The Halls.

The Grade 8 girls volleyball team had a terrific season this year.

They practised hard, and Mrs. Krista McLenaghan could see the continual improvement and increasing determination to win. They played a total of four tournaments, two in London and two at home.

The highlight of the season was surely the Nov. 18 home tournament, when they won the silver medal.

Mrs. McLenaghan congratulated Rae Hale, Jasmin Prince, Emily Varga, Jamie Stallon, Jamee Ellis, Kailyn Cedar, Kelsey Shaw, Tasha Stacey, Kelsey McTavish, Jonielle Wilson, Kylie Wilson, and Shawna MacDonald.

The Grade 8 boys also played a fantastic season. This year, they are the South West Regional Champions, after capturing the gold medal at the tournament on Dec. 6.

Miss. Carrie Ostrom congratulated, Robert Johnston, Rob Roos, Cole Schnekenburger, Sheldon Downie, Cody MacKinnon, Ryan Leys, Doug White, Mitch Kuska, Zach Dymock, Jason Ambrose, and Ben Welch.



Christmas Concert SUBMITTED

Emily Penny and Amy Gordon perform a duet of Deck the Halls on clarinet at the West Elgin Senior Elementary School Christmas Concert Nov. 17.

WESES principal treats children as his own

David Westaway is making a home coming of sorts as the new principal at West Elgin Seniors Elementary School.

A student, then teacher at Southwold Public School, Westaway is making his professional return to Elgin County after teaching and administering schools in London.

Westaway comes from a family of educators, his mother Sandra taught at Aldborough and his father Bud taught in St. Thomas.

"It's come home, I'm comfortable in an agricultural community," said the husband and father of three young children currently enrolled at Southwold.



David Westaway

Westaway was intrigued by the unique set up WESES has, twinning with the high school.

"This is an amazing facility," said Westaway, in his fourth year as principal and 14th year in education.

He has been impressed with the talented staff, a staff he will rely on.

"I'm not the brightest guy around. I need the support of the staff and local community to work together to find creative ways to support the children," he said.

Grade 7 and 8 can be tough years for students, Westaway recalls from his own education.

Students are still finding their peers and themselves.

One way to help students through the tough and quick two years at WESES is to give them a broad perspective.

With literacy and numeracy as a backbone to education, school is a chance to educate the students as a whole, exposing them to every opportunity available in life.

"I treat students as if they were my own children because during the day they are my children," he said.

SCOTT VANRAES IS THE SON OF W.I. MEMBER ANITA VANRAES AND GRANDSON OF MARY LIEPMANN



Jr Wildcats win WOSSA SUBMITTED

Back row: Melanie Granhadeiro, Emma Wilkins, Courtney Besley, Lauren Sheedy, Elysia Peskar, Hilary Hodder, coaches Meegan Campbell and Christina Gosnell. Middle row: Kaylie Wood, Jessica Varga, Meghan Schneidar, Andrea Goos, Alanah Sutton. Front row: Caroline Levesley and Brittany Correia.

Wildcats win WOSSA 2006

The West Elgin Junior Girls Volleyball team brought home the Western Ontario Secondary School Association (WOSSA) championship recently.

The girls won the title by beating out CDL at the final WOSSA tournament in Goderich Feb. 27 bringing WOSSA to the Wildcats where it belongs.

The win continues a tradition of strong volleyball teams at West Elgin Secondary School which has also benefitted from a strong program at the senior elementary school, where many of these girls played before coming to WESS.

My favourite Christmas memory

DEC

ALDBOROUGH
Grade 6

My best Christmas

My best Christmas memory is when me and my family go to my grandma and grandpa Liepman to celebrate Christmas. Usually me and Caleb, my cousin play our game boy but the fun part is when me and Caleb dress up as anyone or make up our own people. Sometimes me, Caleb and uncle Wayne go outside and have a snow ball fight, make snow forts and play hide & go seek. Sometime after 6:00 we have supper and after supper we open up the presents. The coolest Christmas present from uncle Wayne is a model of a van. Usually my present from grandma and grandpa is money for college.

But Christmas isn't about getting presents, it's about giving presents to other people and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Scott VanRaes

My Best Present Ever

A couple of Christmases ago I was at a party down 10 or 12 houses from my house. I was at the party for about 2 or 3 hours and then went home. On the way home my mo- kept saying there was a surprise waiting for my dad & I at our house. She said the thing stared with the letter H. I guessed hat, hacky -sack, hatchet and every thing else other than what it was! After about 3 minutes I gave up guessing but my mom still would not tell me. When we finally got home their was a big... um... something on our patio and from where I was standing it look like an old box but when I got closer to it I realized it was a... Hot Tub and on Christmas morning I also got a GameBoy Advance SP and one game called Super Mario Cart! That was my best Christmas ever!!

Ryan Alderton

My Favourite Memory!

My favourite Christmas Memory would have to be getting my new Pug-Dog. Well, it all started out in the year 2004...my Mom's best friend Sherry breeds Pug-Dogs.

So, one night we went to go see them. Mom, Cody and I all wanted a Pug-Dog but Dad said "NO!" That's typical Dad, just kidding.

Anyways, let's get on with our story... Later on that night, this one girl Pug-Dog wouldn't stop following my Mom and me. So.... then Dad finally gave in when we were about to leave and we got a puppy!!! We named it Maggie and she's still alive in 2006!!

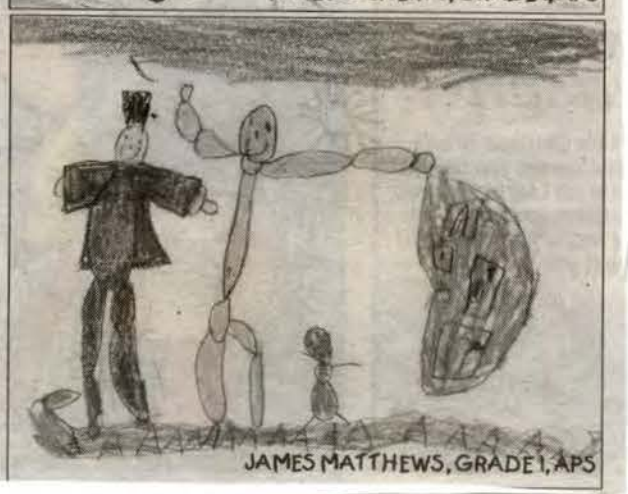
Stacy VanAcker



AMBER DEGRAW, GRADE 1, APS



KATE DOCHERTY, GRADE 1, APS



JAMES MATTHEWS, GRADE 1, APS



Students take on alumni JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Cody Dinga of the alumni breaks away from Adam Clarke of the West Elgin Wildcats men's hockey team during the annual alumni game held March 24.

Alumni beat Wildcats

A young West Elgin Wildcats men's hockey team got a real test against the alumni team in the annual special game March 24.

The alumni team won 8-2 in front of a capacity crowd.

Leading the way for the alumni was Cody Degaust with a hat-trick.

For the first half of the game, the alumni dominated physically, out racing the young Wildcats team to the puck.

However, next season looks bright for the Wildcats, says Captain Pete Thomson, who has played his fifth and final year with the squad.

"This was a good test for the young guys, they haven't a had a real test like this all year," he said.

The team faired well despite the young roster, exiting the playoffs in the first round.

Coached by Ken Shine and teachers Rob Tait and Mark Bennett, direction for the game was simple.

"Have fun," said Shine.

Next year, the Wildcats are looking forward to having all but three players eligible to return.

Last year, the Wildcats tied the alumni but this year, couldn't compete against a fortified alumni team with more players available because of last week's college strike.

Brenden Carey scored for the Wildcats.

Andrew Coates, Mark Vergeer, Degaust and Joey Vandusen scored for the Alumni.

Students bought their way out of class and filled West Elgin Arena.

Money from the game is going to the school hockey team.

Next year, the school hopes to ice a girls hockey team, which would split athletics funding for hockey.



Football awards given at annual banquet

Members of the West Elgin Secondary School Wildcats varsity football team received awards at the team's banquet held recently. Back: Kory Timmermans, Jesse Greenfield, Tyler Wood, Geoff Wayne. Front: Kevin Greenfield, Josh Kalita and Kyle Kuska received individual awards.

CONTRIBUTED

Wildcat football team awards given

The West Elgin Secondary School football team held its annual dinner and awards banquet the night of Nov. 30 in the school cafeteria.

Wildcat players, coaches and parents celebrated another successful season and recognized the many volunteers and players who made an impact over the last three months.

It has been evident on the field and on the ice sheet that the Wildcat football team has been tremendous growth over the last three years.

Although the Wildcats completed the season with a 2-4 record, their inspired play on the field bodes well for future seasons.

The team's last two losses were by eight points or less and the other teams in the league are beginning to show them the respect that they deserve.

Four graduating players have been the cornerstones of this team for the last two seasons.

Tyler Wood was awarded team MVP honours for his stellar play this season. Wood played Tight end, Running back, Defensive end and took care of all kicking duties for the team. Wood led the team with two touchdown receptions and one rushing touchdown this season.

Kory Timmermans has been the vocal leader of this team for three years and for the third straight season was named the teams defensive MVP. His experience with the London Falcons allowed him to take charge of the defense and teach younger players how to succeed. This season he played both ways as a linebacker and offensive guard.

Jesse Greenfield, this years top lineman, leads with his heart and determination. Having played both ways for over two years Jesse will be very difficult to replace. His combination of power and speed made him extremely effective as an offensive tackle and defensive end.

The coaches award for Leadership went to the fourth graduating player, Geoff Wayne. Geoff played defensive back and wide receiver and was an instrumental part of both the offense and defense. Geoff's reliable hands and great anticipation allowed him to make several big plays this season.

These four athletes will be very difficult to replace next season. The coaching staff is looking to a few key players to step up their play and leadership next year in order to fill the void.

Other award winners included: Kevin Greenfield (Offensive MVP), Josh Kalita (Rookie of the year) and Kyle Kuska (Coaches Award for Dedication)

The banquet ended with two slide shows prepared for by assistant coach Greg Bums.

The slide show included video highlight reels and incredible still photos taken by team photographers Evelyn Dietrich, Helena Wood and Joleen Crawford



Hollywood unimpressed with local talent JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

The lead in All Show, a WESS Drama production, right, is a Hollywood actress played by Devi Dermo. She's unimpressed with the local theatre group: Left to right, Ariel Whalen, Chantelle Ovecka, Rebecca Stone, Nickie Day and Amanda Hood.

Energetic WESS students show well at drama festival

A dynamic energy fueled West Elgin Secondary Students to enter two productions at the SEARS festival in Aylmer last week.

Star Devi Dermo received an acting award of merit and Amanda Hood received an award for directing at the festival.

WESS represented two of a total of five plays performed at the festival.

The first play, called All Show was produced by the students.

It's about an arrogant Hollywood actress with her career on the verge of collapse.

Trying to shine her once glimmering starlight, the actress (played by Devi Dermo), returns to her home town (supplant Rodney) to perform in a community talent show.

The students plan to perform the play later this month for the local community.

"It's funny," said Chantelle Oveka Wubs.

New dramatics teacher, Mike Lynds, said the contrast between Hollywood glitz and small town living is exaggerated.

"It's awesome," said Ariel Whalen, Grade 9 student.

The play's cast and crew crosses class and grade strata at the school.

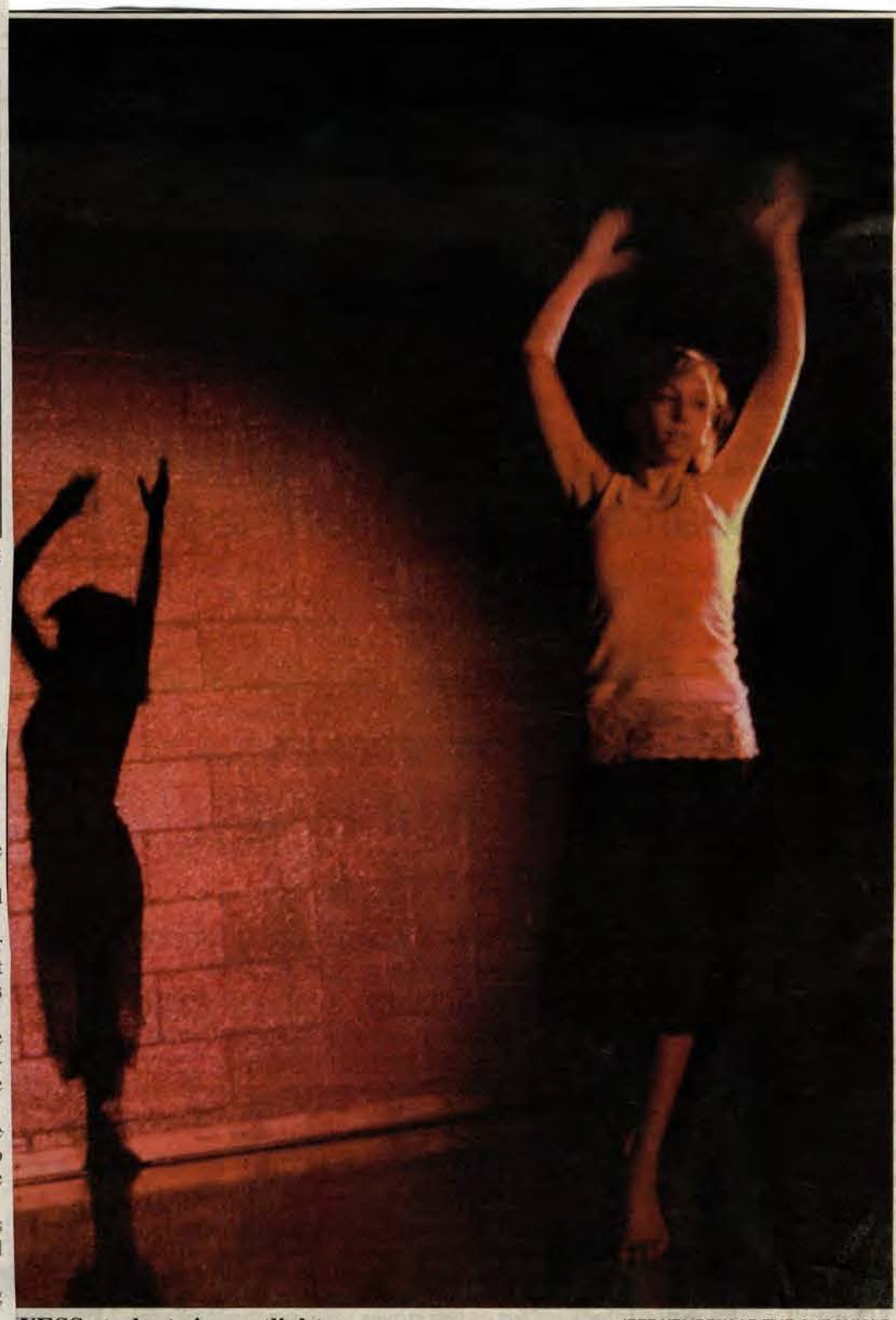
He said since he was hired in September as the first, qualified drama teacher at WESS, a dynamic energy to perform is exploding at the school.

"These kids want to do everything," he said. "This is all extra-curricular so it's difficult to help them find a balance between the structured learning and extracurricular."

Already, 22 students are helping with the two productions performed at Sears and two more productions are being added for the community this year.

Lynds was hopeful both productions would be chosen to compete at the regional finals.

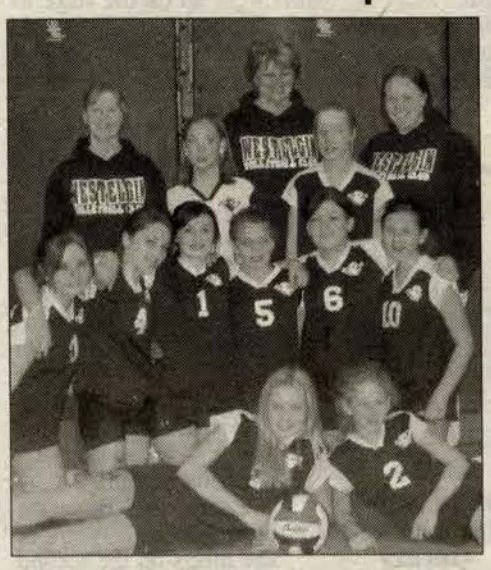
"It is a competition, but everyone is doing this because its fun," he said.



WESS students in spotlight JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Katie Miller dances during a talent show March 31 at West Elgin Secondary School. Staff and students performed in front of a raucous crowd in the gymnasium.

Warriors compete in provincial championships



Warriors compete in provincials

The West Elgin Warriors competed in the provincial championships this past weekend. The team is, laying down are: Patrycja Ford 7 and Debbie Levesly 2. Second row Stephanie Campbell 11, Sarah King 4, Maddi Gosnell 1, Emily Varga 5, Jonielle Wilson 6 and Randi Woolley 10. Third row, Carlee O'Connor 8, Laura Pinder 13. Back Row: Assistant Coach Sarah Leitch, Head Coach Donna Mylrea and Trainer/Manager Rachel Kalita. Absent are: Kristin Mylrea 15 and Karlie Snobelen 12. SUBMITTED

The West Elgin Warriors U14 Volleyball Team finished out their season this past weekend travelling to Port Colborne for the Provincial Championships.

The Team competed in five tournaments during the season, earning a place in Tier 4.

The Warriors battled hard on Saturday, just missing the medal round by two points against the first place rivals Riverside taking them to three games (24-26, 25-23 and 13-15)

Every year at the Provincial Championships the Award of Excellence is presented to one Team member for each team.

The Ontario Volleyball Association of Excellence was awarded to our setter #5 Emily Varga.

The girls had a lot of fun playing volleyball this year with Head Coach Donna Mylrea, Assistant Coach Sarah Leitch and Trainer/Manager Rachel Kalita for all the hard work and dedication to our girls! Without you three we could not have done it !

Junior girls volleyball team win WOSSA

The West Elgin Junior Girls Volleyball team won the Western Ontario Secondary School Association Championship Feb. 27.

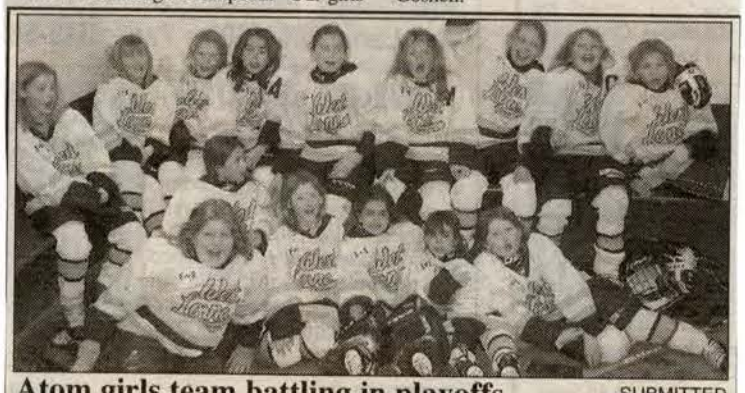
The girls beat CDL in four sets to take the tournament held in Goderich.

The team went undefeated during the regular season however lost to CDL to lose the Thames Valley championships.

"Both teams were evenly matched," said coach Meegan Campbell. "Our girls were determined. There was no way they were going to lose WOSSA."

The team was made up of Courtney Besley, Brittany Correia, Melanie Ganhadeiro, Andrea Goos, Hilary Hodder, Brodi Jewell, Caroline Levelsey, Elysia Peskar, Meghan Schneider, Lauren Sheedy, Alanah Sutton, Jessica Varga, Emma Wilkins and Kaylie Wood.

Coaches were Campbell and Christina Gosnell.



Atom girls team battling in playoffs SUBMITTED

The newly formed Atom girl's hockey team is enjoying a year of laughs and development. Comprised of 15 kids including eight under-aged Novice players and four first-time hockey players, they started the year with several losses, but kept learning and working hard and now compete well against all teams. They are currently battling it out in the playoffs against Mt. Brydges, South Huron and St. Mary's in a round–robin format. Pictured above are: Back l-r Jenna Verboom, Rachel Gray, Jodie Aldred, Courtney Van Dyk, Steele Van Dyk, Rachel Frizzell, Carley Oliveira, Mikayla Myers, Brooklyn Jones, Front l-r Brittany Mylrea, Abi Hansen, Courtney Simpson, Cassidy Van Dyk, Samantha Riemens and Katie Andrews.



Wildcats win WOSSA

Off to OFSSA

West Elgin Secondary School senior boys volleyball team beat Goderich in an exciting finale to the Western Ontario Secondary School Athletics championship hosted by WESS Nov. 16. The boys now move onto the Ontario finals this weekend. *Please see* WESS, *page 8*

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

APS principal excited



Christine Blagden

Aldborough Public School's new principal's door is always open.

Students are encouraged to come in and read their favourite story to her, but should know she may come and read her favourite story to classes.

Christine Blagden, from Middlemarch, has been with the Thames Valley District School Board for 25 years, since she started as a teacher in a four class school, Mary Buck in St. Thomas.

Already overwhelmed by the staff's enthusiasm to learn, Blagden hopes to build on the strong connection Aldborough has with the community.

Being a good role model is a key philosophy for Blagden, approaching any new position.

She is a life long learner and says that's what all students should be encouraged to become.

"All of us need to work together. The school, the community and parents all have to work together to find what's best for students," she said.

"I like when I accomplish something personally but it is more rewarding when my accomplishment has made a positive difference in people's lives," she said.

The mother of two, a son and daughter in university, Blagden is married to an IT group leader, Michael, who works at the TVDSB South office in St. Thomas.

She has taught in London, St. Thomas and for many years at Southwold Public School.

She replaces Gord Park who retired last year.







Talent show JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

West Elgin Secondary School held a talent show Nov. 22. Above: Chris Wemp and Will Browne perform. Below: James Stone and Dave Oliveira performed solos. Students danced, sang and played music in the competition. Caren Campbell with Jake Zoller and Michael and Jonathan Godfrey won. Katelyn and Jessica Duplessis finished second.

WESS band buys barbeque

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Music students cooked up a gift for the cafeteria at West Elgin Secondary School when they donated a new barbeque worth more than $500.

Gathering money from the annual school band's jazz cabaret show over the last four years, the students surprised the cafeteria staff with the gift last week.

"It's beautiful. I've never seen one so big," said Anne Wrobel, cafeteria supervisor.

West Elgin Student Association Inc. is the only non-profit cafeteria in the school board and Wrobel has been working there for 17 years.

"These ladies do a great job," said music teacher Spiro Grima. "They help students with economic needs and work really hard. We needed to help them."

At each jazz cabaret the cafeteria had collected money to support the school band.

It was part of a community-wide effort that raised $27,000 for new instruments.

The school band has capitalized on the new instruments to win five gold medals in the last six years at the regional band competition.

"We've really been cooking the last few years," said Grima.

Wrobel plans on cooking on the new barbeque as soon as she can.

The new barbeque replaces an old, home-sized, range and allows more food to be made quicker.

It was used primarily outside during the late spring because the cafeteria does not have air conditioning.

"All the staff is lining up to cook on the grill," said Grima.

On April 8 the band's jazz cabaret will be held at WESS.



Cafeteria staff to benefit with big grill JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Music teacher Spiro Grima, left and West Elgin Secondary School band members, Jen Ford, Mandy Mistele, Mark Godfrey, Trena Lebedz, along with George Cipu show off the new barbeque donated to JJ's Cafeteria in return for all the fundraising support the cafeteria did for the band.

EDUCATION 2006





JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

St. Mary's Catholic School celebrate Bonhomme Carnaval

Top: Nick Johnston helps Bonhomme Carnaval play broom ball at an event as part St. Mary's Catholic School Winter Carnaval Feb. 10. Lower left: Caitlin Oliveira hops through hoops with a ball between her legs at another event during the event organized by the school's French teacher, Sharon Stockman. Lower right: Taylor Parish and Shayne DeGaust hold tight on the parachute, trying to score a ball through the opposing team.



Student trustee from WESS



Koscik busy FOR THE CHRONICLE

Jeffrey Koscik is the WESS council president and student trustee.

Jeffrey Koscik likes to get involved and that involvement is taking him to Toronto for a province-wide leadership meeting he's helped organize.

Elected student trustee, representing students at the Thames Valley District School Board, the Grade 12 student is also President of the West Elgin Secondary School Student Council.

"I'm going through (school). I figured I might as well learn about it and get a say in what's going on," said the West Lorne resident.

Koscik is busy with the board and council but has also taken on the role as secretary of the English public board council of Ontario.

With that council, he's been busy organizing a provincial-wide student council general meeting to be held in Toronto this fall.

"It's big," said the 17-year-old.

As if that wasn't enough, Koscik went to Washington D.C. for a world leadership conference.

Meeting students from around the world Koscik has become an ambassador for world leadership.

Koscik became the first student trustee to be allowed to sit at the TVDSB during in camera sessions, closed to the public.

It means shredding documents afterward and not saying anything about what was discussed.

While he admits a lot of the budget business at the school board goes over his head, trustees have been good about answering his questions.

"They can be long meetings, kind of boring," he said.

His twin brother Jeremy is active with sports at the high school. He also has two older brothers and a sister. His parents are Rich Koscik and Jean Guy and Heather St. Jacques.

FOR THE CHRONICLE

Cooling off

Madison Gosnell, 13, from West Elgin Senior Elementary School cools off at the TVDSB south west track and field championship held at Glencoe District High School May 29. With a full schedule, including high jump, ball throw and the 4x100m relay, water and whatever shade she could find were the order of the day.







WESES Winterlude of Music JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

West Elgin Senior Elementary School held its Winterlude of Music Dec. 14. The choir, jazz band, concert band and new percussion ensemble performed. Above; the new percussion ensemble performs a tune called Sassafras under direction of music director Mrs. Gracey. Below the choir sang popular Christmas songs.

EDUCATION 2006

Job coach fundraising needed to raise $17,000

COLUMN



Principal's Corner

Larry Schneider

The 2006 2007 school year is beginning here at WESS, and once again we are very excited about the students, our programs, improvements which are being made to the school, and our energetic and dedicated teaching staff. We are literally bursting at the seams with an opening day enrolment of 600 students, and a teaching staff of 37.5.

In addition to welcoming our 117 Grade 9 students, we as well welcome the many students who have joined us from other schools. Welcome to the Wildcat family.

We have several new and very exciting programs beginning and continuing at our school this year.

To give a brief overview, we have an exciting new agricultural program which will provide our students with learnings about the world of agriculture, agri-business and woodlot management, with three different courses being offered to our students in Grades 11 and 12. We will be requesting very involved partnerships and cooperation with our community, and have already been overwhelmed by the offerings of assistance pouring in from the community for this program. We will have an evening to which the many possible partners in our area will be invited to learn about the program, and where they will be able to provide assistance, to come in to be guest lecturers, to provide resources, or to volunteer to be the sites for field trips for our students. Even more exciting, there is a chance to become the cooperative education placements for our students in the agricultural sector.

New initiatives supported by the Ministry of Education will allow us to focus even more on student success. Opportunity exists to support, and get back on track throughout the school year, those students who begin to lose their focus or work ethic and require additional support and structure in order to earn all of their credits to graduate in a reasonable amount of time.

We have a number of new teachers on staff this year, owing to transfers and retirement. Kim Alexander is our new horticulture and science teacher; Teresa da-Costa will be teaching physical and health education for a teacher on maternity leave; Ed Eglinton and John Fithern are joining our technological education department, and Jennifer Emke is our new music teacher.

She has lots of exciting activities already planned for our music students this year, and the band will have their first performance this year at our commencement exercises on Oct. 5.

Lisa Browne joins us as an educational assistant and Job Coach for our WEST program, and Natalie Gillis-Ford will be joining us in the semester two to teach business, for another teacher who is on maternity leave.

Improvements to the WESS building continue through the fall. This summer a portion of the roof was replaced, new floors were installed in the office area and one classroom, many new computers were installed at the school, and data projectors were installed in many classrooms, which will allow students and teachers to do multimedia presentations, to view live feeds from the Internet and to view and hear audio-visual films, slide shows and other elements of the curriculum in a state-of-the-art manner.

Starting this month, every window in the building will be replaced with new energy efficient windows, with new screens to keep out the bugs, and blinds which will allow us to black out the rooms for more effective viewing of dramatic productions, movies, and other multimedia projections. The final electrical and other hookups of our improvements funded through our Lighthouse Agricultural projects have been done so that all is in readiness for the beginning of school.

I have a huge request of the community, its citizens and businesses. While we have been the beneficiary of a huge investment from the Thames Valley District School Board and the Ministry into our school, the one item for which there is no funding provided by either of these is the position of job coach in the school. This is a very crucial position which we created when we began the Wildcat Employability Skills Training (WEST) program here several years ago.We have funded the position through donations from a variety of businesses and individuals.

Recent changes have greatly increased the cost of the position to us, and we have lost some of our previous funding sources. Five years ago I appealed to the community to raise $25,000 for our music program, and the community responded with donations totaling more than $27,000.

While we would still welcome donations for musical instruments, as that drive got us up to date four years ago, but instruments have continued to age, and some more must be replaced, I would like to make the job coach fundraising our main focus for this year.

The job coach works with our students in the WEST program to support their learning, help to resolve issues in their work placements, help in attaining new placements, and transporting them physically in our vans to and from their work placements, which our supporting businesses in the community so generously provide.

We need to raise $17,000 to maintain the position this year at the school. We will be writing letters to businesses and service clubs in our community, but require financial commitments and dollars now in order to make the program run as we would like it to for the benefit of our students in the WEST program, which ultimately is for the benefit of us all.

Please consider, as a businessperson, community member, service club, or any other group or organization, donating funds to WESS for this important program.

This position does not fall under the funding criteria for any government assistance. Believe me, we have asked, repeatedly. So, I earnestly and humbly ask the WESS community to once again to step up to support our community school, by writing cheques made out to West Elgin Secondary School, with a note indicating that the funds are to be used for the job coach position. Tax receipts will be issued by the board for all donations.

Students and staff involved in the program will be available to speak to service and church groups, businesses and other organizations.

Students raise jaw dropping amount for WESES

WHAT'S UP AT WESES?

By Caitlin Simpson

As the students start a great third month at West Elgin Senior Elementary, Mr. Westaway reminds us to "Respect ourselves, respect others and respect the property at West Elgin." The staff has treated the students to an entertaining performance about respect, and Mrs. Nielson's 7A class shared a presentation about manners and what they mean.

In the month of October, the students sold magazine subscriptions as a fundraiser. With the help of our customers, we raised a jaw dropping total of $7,480. A portion of the money will go towards the school, and the students get a percentage of what they sold as an individual, towards their eighth grade trip to Celtic.

On Nov. 10, West Elgin paid a tribute to all the veterans who fought in and still are fighting in wars for our freedom and that of others. The choir reached some beautiful notes, a few students shared some of their poems and Mr. Westaway added his own thoughts to our special ceremony.

On Nov. 14, our school had the privilege of hosting a few special guests. In the morning, ten girls from Litherland High School in England paid us a visit along with their principal, Mr. Donnelly, and Amy Lang who teaches them dance and physical education. They showed off their dancing and vocal skills. In the afternoon, Leroy Hibbert, a motivational speaker, delivered a powerful message about respecting yourself, who you are and others around you.

Coming up on Dec. 14, Mrs. Gracey is holding a winter concert at the school. There will be performances from the Concert Band, Jazz Band, Choir and even some surprise performances! Everyone is welcome. As well, these musical groups will be selling calendars as a fundraiser. You can see choir and band members for further details.



CAITLIN SIMPSON

Hosting English dancers

Four WESES students are in the front. From Left to right is Kylie Willson, Emily Penney, Taylor Cundy, and Emily Varga who acted as student hosts to the Litherland Dancers.

Caitlin Simpson

Our cross country runners moved on to the final run on Oct. 18, at Fanshawe Conservation Area. The four Grade 7 boys who captured the gold medal as a team in the regionals, went on to win the silver medal at the finals. Cody Parker finished 16th, Kyle Barber in 43rd, Michael Verboom in 54th and John Williams in 94th. All our runners made us proud, competing against Thames Valley's very best.

All four school volleyball teams have now been selected, and are competing in games and tournaments. Congratulations to the grade eight boys volleyball team for their successful start. At their first tournament on Oct. 14, they finished first place in their pool, but then lost a close game against Southwold in the quarter finals. On Nov. 4, they competed in the Forest City Tournament at Fanshawe College, against some of the best teams in Thames Valley. The boys played great in their pool matches, defeating Arthur Ford, Sherwood and Knollwood, but losing to Clara Breton by one point, placing second in their pool.

Mrs. Ewing has recruited 13 strong players for the Grade 7 girls volleyball team. They traveled to Glencoe to take on the Ekcoe Eagles and won 2 of 4 matches. They have two tournaments to look forward to in the next month. The four school teams competed in the W.E.S.E.S. Invitational scheduled for Nov.18.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Aldborough Public School Winter Concert

Grade 6 Aldborough Public School Students sing Seasons of Love at the daytime Winter Concert Dec. 13.

EDUCATION 2006

Code X: intruder

WESS prepared for shooting

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

In the wake of school shootings in the U.S. and Dawson College in Montreal West Elgin Secondary School is prepared for the worst case scenario.

Within its emergencyplan are provisions for a 'Code X'.

If an intruder is in the high school, 'Code X' is simply called over the intercom.

Students are pulled into classrooms and told to stay under their desk while the intruder is dealt with.

Principal Larry Schneider is top of the command structure at the school in an emergency.

Above his computer in his office is the emergency plan.

Taped to the wall above pictures of his family is a list of teachers that know CPR.

If there were a bomb threat at the school, 'Code A' would be called. No one would be allowed to leave classrooms and students would be put up against walls.

In the emergency plan, Schneider placed check marks next to catastrophes, grading the chances of one actually happening.

Unlikely is a flood. More likely is a tornado, ice storm, earth quake and human caused emergency, like a shooting or violent act.

"We've taken every reasonable precaution for any possible incident," said Schneider, in his sixth year at WESS. "You can't be prepared for everything."

While the school has never rehearsed a Code X, it did have a real bomb threat.

An anonymous call to the superintendent, several years ago, said there was a bomb in one of the board's schools.

During a tense day, class went on as normal as officials narrowed down what school was targeted, elsewhere in the board, and the fake bomb was found.

A new set of plans came out in response to the threat because it happened as all 600 students were arriving at school, a circumstance unaccounted for at the time.

Please see Students, *page 2*

Employer acknowledged for working with WESS

Alan Vandenbrink has been named one of four award of merit winners in Ontario for his role in the high school co-op program.

The retired general manager of Erie Flooring gave employment opportunities and mentorship to students at West Elgin Secondary School.

Vandenbrink was the first co-op employer 16 years ago, and was nominated for the award by Berta Prelaz, head of the co-op program at West Elgin Secondary School.

"I know that without Al's help, financial support and reassurance I could not have helped as many students as I have during my co-op years," said Prelaz, who is retiring from the school this year.

"Whenever we needed a placement for a student I could call Al. He never said, 'no,'" she said.

Many special needs students have been given work experience and careers at Erie Flooring.

"(Vandenbrink) had the patience, skill and determination to help these people when no one else would,," said Prelaz.

"I didn't want recognition," said Vandenbrink, who met with Prelaz and students who are or have worked at Erie Flooring. "It's something I had a passion for, to help WESS."

Unpaid co-op positions at Erie Flooring often turned into full time jobs or spring boarded students into the working world.

Erie Flooring was also the first business to work with WESS and an apprenticeship program giving students training to go into the electrical industry.

Having from 10 to 50 students at one time at the plant, students with summer jobs or evening shifts could earn money for post-secondary education.

Sometimes, working at the plant was just the push students needed to realize they didn't want to join the working world yet and wanted more education, said Vandenbrink.

"To find employees in the community, you have to support the community," said Vandenbrink.

"It's a challenge to get businesses to open their doors," said Prelaz, adding taking in students not only benefits the business and the school, but it benefits the students with experience.

Provincial Partnership Council is part of the Ontario Business Education Partnership and recognizes four employers across the province each year for supporting work experience through the Passport to Prosperity program.



Students present award JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Retired general manager from Erie Flooring, Alan Vandenbrink, right, received a provincial merit award for his contributions to co-op programs at WESS. Berta Prelaz, left, co-op director and students that have worked at Erie Flooring, Jesse Greenfield, Alex McIntyre and Julie Oliveira present the award.

WESS supports Wheels in Motion

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

More high school students than ever will represent the area at the Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion fundraising ride in London June 11.

Colin Kittmer is a math tutor at West Elgin Secondary School and has been in a wheel chair since 2000 after a fall paralyzed him from the chest down.

Each year he takes part in the Wheels in Motion ride in London and each year about a dozen students join him for the five kilometre ride.

This year, he asked teacher Bill Lolas to help round up some students to gather pledges and take part in the event.

Lolas went on to make a deal with students that if more than 20 signed up to help he would shave his head.

Twenty-nine students are now gathering pledges,. the most ever in support of the event from WESS.

"It's just amazing," said Kittmer. "Mr. Lolas doesn't look the same but it's great."

Kittmer will be joined by the 29 students at the event along with a contingent of 20 with him.

"West Lorne will be well represented," he said.

The annual event honours Rick Hansen, a Canadian athlete who circled the world in his wheel chair in 1985 and raised more than $26 million toward improving the lives of people with spinal cord injury.

This year's event takes place June 11 at the Wolsely Barracks in London.



Teacher gets buzzed SUBMITTED

West Elgin Secondary School teacher Bill Lolas gets buzzed by Matt Dietrich as part of a deal made with students to support the Rick Hansen Man in Motion fundraising effort in the area.

WESES badminton team play tough in London

This past May long weekend the WESES Badminton Team travelled into London to compete in the 9th Annual London Youths Badminton Tournament. The tournament allows for three boys doubles teams, three girls doubles teams and three mixed doubles teams from each school over the two days.

On Saturday morning the boys from WESES had high hopes as their level of play against each other throughout the year had progressed to an extremely high caliber of play.

Against the opposition from throughout the Thames Valley School Board and local club entries, our boys demonstrated outstanding poise throughout the morning as they reeled off win after win on their way toward the medals.

The team of Robert Johnston and Steven Milne had their lone setback at the hands of one of our own in the second round of play but rebounded to win the rest of their games on the day to capture the gold medal in the "C" division. The team of Rishi Sharma and Zach Welch played some outstanding badminton as they cruised through their bracket before suffering a third round defeat and were relegated to the "B" division where they won their final two matches to take home the "B" gold. The final WESES entry, Jonathan Godfrey and Lucas Kalita went undefeated on the day but in the final suffered a heartbreaking defeat in the best 2 of 3 match, losing the third by the tightest of margins 15-13.

The stage was set for the girls, and they had equally high expectations for themselves as they took centre stage on Saturday afternoon.

Randi Woolley and Teresa Nesic had close matches throughout the day and were undefeated through their first two matches but lost their next two and finished with the bronze medal in the "B" division. The team of Chloe Steele and Morgan McCulloch suffered only one loss on the day and took home the gold in the "B" division. The third WESES entry for the girls was that of Debbie Levesley and Madison Gosnell and they too suffered only one loss on the day which was in the "A" semi-final which relegated them to a fourth place medal position.

The WESES mixed team was a formidable one as several last minute openings allowed for five extra team entries and made for an exciting day. Jessie Bergey and April Stallon were "D" quarter-finalists, Kyle Lewinsky and Ashley Willie were "C" quarter-finalists, Brad Bint and Samantha Hamelin took home "C, fourth, Bryce Doiron and Karlie Snobelen won "C" silver.

The team of Debbie Levesley and Jason Ambrose had only one loss on the day and took home the "C" gold medal. Jason Carroll and Nicole Campbell brought home the "B" fourth place medals while Brandon Caughell and Shelby Woolley had a fantastic day as they won "B" bronze. WESES had played second fiddle to the Annandale squad in the girls and boys doubles championships but they were not to be denied in the mixed. The team of Jonathan Godfrey and Maddison Gosnell were outstanding as they played with grit and determination, as they demonstrated their skill in winning the "A" division gold medals in a hard fought final that went the distance by scores of 15-13, 12-15, and 15-9.

Another bonus was added to the weekend when Frank Kontos (tournament organizer) unexpectedly recognized McLenaghan with two awards:

Mentor of the Year and Coach of the Year for his contribution to the sport and his development of badminton in the West Lorne area.

According to the coaches at WESES, the interest in badminton has been overwhelming at the school. Dean McLenaghan indicated that 120 students and teachers participated in the intramural tournament while over 70 tried out for the badminton team. While many schools brought the same students both days to the tournament this past weekend, WESES had a depth that allowed them to send 26 players over the course of the two-day tournament. All of the badminton players from WESES that competed in London individually and collectively represented the school and community in a commendable way.





badminton teams win SUBMITTED

The WESES badminton teams recently competed at the school board finals in London. The boys team is from left to right - Coach Dean McLenaghan, Zach Welch, Jonathan Godfrey, Lucas Kalita, Steven Milne, Robert Johston. (Rishi Sharma is absent from the photo.) The girls team from left to right is back row - Chloe Steele, Randi Woolley, Debbie Levesley, Teresa Nesic; front row - Morgan McCullough and Madison Gosnell.

EDUCATION 2006

WESES off to great start in sports

WESES SPORTS NEWS

By Caitlin Simpson

West Elgin Senior Elementary School has had a great start this year as our school sports teams are already claiming victories.

Our boys soccer team brought home the gold medal at the 2006-2007 Regional Championships in Glencoe on Sept. 29.

They made an outstanding start as they defeated Caradoc South 14-1, scoring one goal on their own net! They went on to win their second game against Mosa with an amazing score of 16-0, and their third game against Ekcoe 6-0.

Our girls soccer team also took the gold at the same tournament. Starting out with a 2-0 win over Caradoc South, they went on to win 6-0 against Mosa, and 2-1 in their third game against Ekcoe.

Fighting through the cold and snow, on Oct. 12, the boys claimed the silver medal while the girls lost in the bronze medal game.

With an early start this year, our cross country team practised hard, and on Oct. 5, 29 runners competed in the regionals at Longwoods against nine other schools.

Leading the way for the grade seven girls was Madison Redman in fifth place, followed by Natasha Cameron in sixth, Vivian Nolan in 12th, and Nicole Pelcz in 19th. These girls will be moving on to the Thames Valley Finals at Fanshawe Conservation on Oct.17.

Moving on for the Grade 8 boys are: Dustin Welch who won the bronze medal, Ryan Leys with 13th, Zach Dymock with 14th, and Jason Ambrose with 16th. Congratulations to Nicole Durbridge who finished 9th, and Kelsey Shaw, who finished 17th, both will be advancing to the finals.

Grade 7 boys advancing to the finals are: Michael Verboom, who received the bronze medal, Cody Parker in 5th, Kyle Barber in 7th, John Williams in 13th, and Tyler Hull in 15th. Michael, Cody, Kyle, and John won the top team prize, and brought home the 1st place team plaque for the school.

Mrs. McLenaghan, this year's coach for the Grade 8 girls volleyball team has selected 12 strong players, and is holding practices two to three times a week. They are excited to be playing an exhibition game against Southwold Public School at the UWO on Oct. 27.

The girls will also be competing at two other tournaments in London, and a home tournament in November.



SUBMITTED

Cross country

The senior boys cross country team captured the gold medal at the Southwest Regional Cross Country Meet at Longwoods on Oct. 5th. From left to right the boys are: John Williams, Michael Verboom, Kyle Barber and Cody Parker. Each of the boys qualified for the All Thames Valley Cross Country Meet at Fanshawe Conservation Area on Oct. 17.

Barn Dance comes to WESS cafetorium

Prairie Oyster fiddler John P. Allen will be playing in the end-of-year concert for the choral society that could well break the mold.

While the West Elgin Choral Society always offers a lighter program for its May concert, this one is modeled after the tradition of a barn dance and features Allen on the fiddle, plus dancing, story telling and some specially written music.

"The choir is always looking for something different," said choir president Pat Campbell. "And this fit the bill."

Based on a yet-to-be-produced musical written by choir member Mike Mulhern, the concert includes two songs from the musical - the opening Barn Dance and West Elgin Waltz - plus some familiar favourites such as Achy-Breaky Heart, Lollipop, Sentimental Journey and Irene Goodnight.

The story includes some local characters as well as fictional ones.

And there will be dancing. The aisles in the high school cafetorium will be kept wide so there is room for the audience to get up and dance. Campbell advises everyone to wear their dancing shoes.

"If you're sitting on the aisle, you can expect to get pulled out of your seat," she said. "There will be no wallflowers."

The idea for the show came from Aldborough farmer Frank McMurchy.

"Soon after we moved here (to West Elgin), Frank came by canvassing for the Cancer Society," said Mulhern. "He got to telling us about a barn dance he had at his place. After he built a new barn and before they moved any animals or equipment into it, they ran an ad in the paper saying they were having a barn dance and it was a big hit," Mulhern remembers.

"Frank's experience captured my imagination and I wrote a musical based on the idea," Mulhern said. "Then, when the choir was looking for ideas for a spring concert, I suggested we adapt the Barn Dance script for a stage show."

In addition to Juno-award winning Allen on fiddle, choir director Wayne Carroll – no stranger to playing dances – will be playing his Hammond B3 organ. Campbell will play electric piano and drummer, Jen Pinder - whose jazz ensemble played at the choir's spring concert two years ago - will be back.

Unlike the traditional barn dance, at this event "Ladies don't need to bring lunch," Mulhern said. "The choir's going to take care of that."

Barn Dance will be performed at 7:30 p.m. May 27 in the West Elgin Secondary School cafetorium, 138 Graham St., West Lorne.

For more information and tickets call 762-3865 or 762-2882.

Picketing in western Elgin

Educational assistants strike at area schools

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Picketing education assistants continued their soggy strike in front of public school's in western Elgin County.

Asking for one hour more a day, about a dozen local EAs stood in front of the Dunwich-Dutton, for the second week of a strike.

Many of the all women group are EAs at local and Glencoe-area schools or live locally but work in London or St. Thomas.

Strike leader Joanne Johnston of the Rodney area said enough EAs gathered across the Thames Valley District School Board, that a protest could be organized to get the message out locally.

"People need to know what their tax dollars are not paying for," she said.

Paid for six hours a day, EAs, and their union, Canadian Union of Public Employees 4222, are asking for a seventh hour.

Johnston said many EAs already work full days, arriving to meet special needs students at the bus and making sure they get on the bus at the end of the day.

EAs provide physical care for students with special needs, helping them go to the bathroom, eat and provide medicine along with class work.

Please see First, *page 2*



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Students join in

Supporting her educational assistant, Rebecca Betsch and Jessica Wilson-Evetts, whose mom is an EA, joined a CUPE strike May 10 in front of West Elgin Senior Elementary.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Jazz band hold hot latin night

The West Elgin Secondary School Jazz Band held a steamy night of latin jazz April 28. Here: Joe Peternel, Kim Kriter and Jim Raithby perform to a large crowd at the dinner show.



WESS athletics awards handed out

ATHLETIC FACULTY
for The Chronicle

West Elgin Secondary Schools student athletes were honoured on May 26 at the annual athletic banquet. The evening started with tasty desserts provided by Ann Wrobel and her cafeteria staff. As the athletes and their families finished their treats, point awards were distributed to athletes who had participated in various sports throughout their years at West Elgin.

Various team awards, Most Valuable Player, Most Dedicated Player, Most Sportsmanlike Player, were then awarded to deserving athletes from each of the school teams.

Afterwards, major awards were bestowed upon West Elgin?s finest athletes.

Melanie Ganhadeiro, a grade nine athlete added the Jr. Female Athlete of the Year award to her Jr. Girls Volleyball MVP and Varsity Girls Soccer MVP awards.

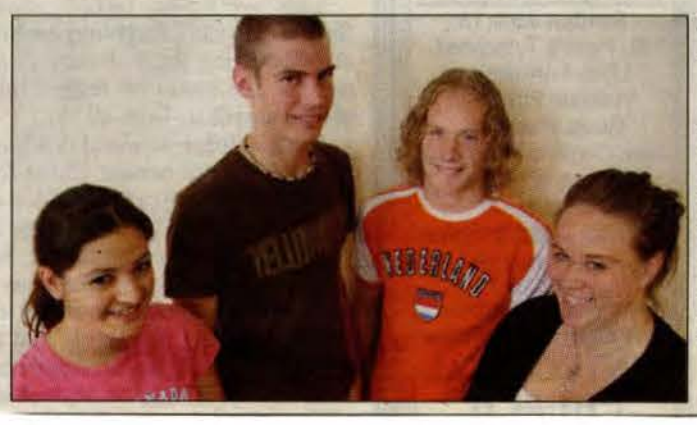
Michael Godfrey, another grade nine athlete took home the Jr. Male Athlete of the Year award based on his outstanding play for the Jr. Boys Volleyball team and Sr. Boys Basketball team.

The Sr. Female Athlete of the Year award was awarded to Rachael Kalita, a key member of the soccer and volleyball teams throughout her high school years. As well as being this years SAA president, Rachael took home the Heart and Hustle award and the Most Dedicated Player award for her play on the Sr. Girls Volleyball team.

The Sr. Male Athlete of the Year award went to grade 11 student, Adam Timmermans. Adam was a dominant player on the Football, Hockey and Soccer teams as well as being a member of the track team.

Mark Godfrey was the winner of the other Heart and Hustle award while Rochelle Ambrose was the recipient of the Optimist Club award.

This years banquet ended with an entertaining slideshow prepared by student, Jon Dietrich, and featuring action photos of Wildcat athletes from throughout the school year.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

WESS athletes

Athlete of the year awards were handed out at WESS recently. Junior award winners were Melanie Ganhadeiro and Michael Godfrey. Adam Timmermans and Rachael Kalita won senior athlete of the year wards.



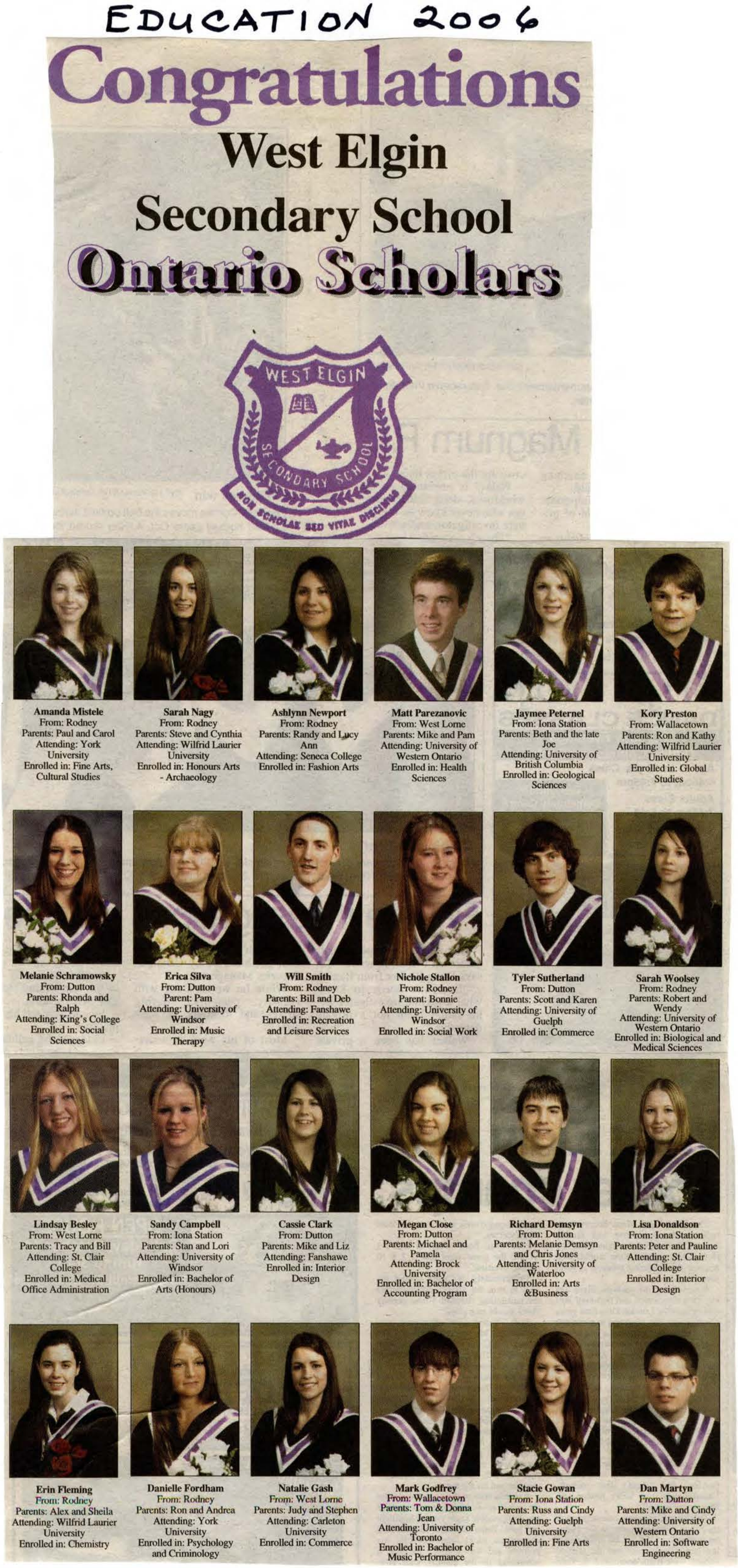
WESS students clean along Graham road

Students in West Elgin Secondary School's leadership program partnered with the EcoElgin Environmental group to clean along Graham Road Saturday. Here: Rachel Cardol, Lisi and Christy Hentz, Jen Nagy, Diane VanDyk, of EcoElgin, and Kyle Kuska.

Congratulations

West Elgin Secondary School

Ontario Scholars



Amanda Mistele
From: Rodney
Parents: Paul and Carol
Attending: York University
Enrolled in: Fine Arts, Cultural Studies

Sarah Nagy
From: Rodney
Parents: Steve and Cynthia
Attending: Wilfrid Laurier University
Enrolled in: Honours Arts - Archaeology

Ashlynn Newport
From: Rodney
Parents: Randy and Lucy Ann
Attending: Seneca College
Enrolled in: Fashion Arts

Matt Parezanovic
From: West Lorne
Parents: Mike and Pam
Attending: University of Western Ontario
Enrolled in: Health Sciences

Jaymee Peternel
From: Iona Station
Parents: Beth and the late Joe
Attending: University of British Columbia
Enrolled in: Geological Sciences

Kory Preston
From: Wallacetown
Parents: Ron and Kathy
Attending: Wilfrid Laurier University
Enrolled in: Global Studies

Melanie Schramowsky
From: Dutton
Parents: Rhonda and Ralph
Attending: King's College
Enrolled in: Social Sciences

Erica Silva
From: Dutton
Parent: Pam
Attending: University of Windsor
Enrolled in: Music Therapy

Will Smith
From: Rodney
Parents: Bill and Deb
Attending: Fanshawe
Enrolled in: Recreation and Leisure Services

Nichole Stallon
From: Rodney
Parent: Bonnie
Attending: University of Windsor
Enrolled in: Social Work

Tyler Sutherland
From: Dutton
Parents: Scott and Karen
Attending: University of Guelph
Enrolled in: Commerce

Sarah Woolsey
From: Rodney
Parents: Robert and Wendy
Attending: University of Western Ontario
Enrolled in: Biological and Medical Sciences

Lindsay Besley
From: West Lorne
Parents: Tracy and Bill
Attending: St. Clair College
Enrolled in: Medical Office Administration

Sandy Campbell
From: Iona Station
Parents: Stan and Lori
Attending: University of Windsor
Enrolled in: Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

Cassie Clark
From: Dutton
Parents: Mike and Liz
Attending: Fanshawe
Enrolled in: Interior Design

Megan Close
From: Dutton
Parents: Michael and Pamela
Attending: Brock University
Enrolled in: Bachelor of Accounting Program

Richard Demsyn
From: Dutton
Parents: Melanie Demsyn and Chris Jones
Attending: University of Waterloo
Enrolled in: Arts &Business

Lisa Donaldson
From: Iona Station
Parents: Peter and Pauline
Attending: St. Clair College
Enrolled in: Interior Design

Erin Fleming
From: Rodney
Parents: Alex and Sheila
Attending: Wilfrid Laurier University
Enrolled in: Chemistry

Danielle Fordham
From: Rodney
Parents: Ron and Andrea
Attending: York University
Enrolled in: Psychology and Criminology

Natalie Gash
From: West Lorne
Parents: Judy and Stephen
Attending: Carleton University
Enrolled in: Commerce

Mark Godfrey
From: Wallacetown
Parents: Tom & Donna Jean
Attending: University of Toronto
Enrolled in: Bachelor of Music Performance

Stacie Gowan
From: Iona Station
Parents: Russ and Cindy
Attending: Guelph University
Enrolled in: Fine Arts

Dan Martyn
From: Dutton
Parents: Mike and Cindy
Attending: University of Western Ontario
Enrolled in: Software Engineering

Graduating Class of 2006

Rochelle Ambrose
Brian Azevedo
Aaron Barry
Jason Belanger
Dawn-Marie Bennett
Brittany Bint
Mike Bogart
Craig Bowery
Nichol Briand
Cassandra Clark
Megan Close
Dave Dawson
Richard Demsyn
William De Pater
Jamie Derraugh
Angela Dick
Charles Dietrich
Ashley Dinga
Branden Dobson
Lisa Donaldson
Pat Dupuis
Erika Eckersley
Stephanie Everett
Erin Fleming
Amanda Ford
Laura Ford
Danielle Fordham
Sarah Fugard
Natalie Gash
Mark Godfrey
Caitlin Gowan
Stacie Gowan
Ryan Grant
Jesse Greenfield
Jake Hansen
Amanda Hood
Corey Hughes
Amy Hyatt
John Jeffery
Brittany Jewell
Owen Johnston
Peter Jones
Katie King
Holly Knight
Bruce LeBlanc
David Lettner
Brian Lilley
Matthew Loos
Justin Lyons
Mike Lyons
Kaleigh MacDonald
Stephanie McCulloch
Eric McGill
Victoria McIntyre
Mark McLellan
Kenny McMurchy
Kayley McTavish
David McWilliam
Katelyn Melkert
Pat Milne
Amanda Mistele
Kyle Mylrea
Robert Nash
Julie Oliveira
Kris Oliveira
Matthew Parezanovic
Jaymee Peternel
Jonathan Peternel
Ashley Phillips
Jessica Reed
Justin Regnier
Ben Schnekenburger
Lisa Silva
Chris Smith
Kaitlan Smith
Michelle Smith
William Smith
Paul Speller
James Stone
Tyler Sutherland
Kory Timmermans
Pete Thomson
Christopher Van Loon
Caitlin VanRaes
Matthew Warren
Craig Watterworth
Geoff Wayne
Mathew Weed
Danielle Welch
Ashley Woolley
Josh Wright
Donny Yorke
Justin Zander

Embrace change, focus on the path ahead

Excerpt from Mark Godfrey's Valedictorian speech

Commencement. The last real high school event that we will ever attend. Today marks two very important points in our lives.

The first, being the completion of a principal journey that now defines all the memoirs of our youth.

Approximately 12 years of our lives were spent trying to reach this point and now take a look around....we're all here.

Secondly, we have survived a month of university, college, working, and life. Those graduating today are successful individuals, having reached these personal milestones. However, we did not reach these objectives on our own. The parents, siblings, friends and teachers whom we will be forever thankful towards have guided our growth.

Hold onto everything they taught you; morals, how to make a grilled cheese sandwich and how to make one pair of underwear last a week. It will all come in handy some day down the road.

I would specially like to thank the teachers for putting up with our attitudes, temper tantrums and mental breakdowns for the last few years. Some of you have a few more grey hairs and in some cases less hair than when we first met many Septembers ago.

For the last five years we saw as much if not more of you than we saw our parents. You have shaped and influenced each and every one of us; the men and women that have crossed the stage before you today are images and reflections of yourselves and things that you've taught us.

Printed around the crest of the West Elgin emblem is a Latin phrase. Loosely translated it says "we learn not for school but for life". Your teaching not only aided us in achieving our diplomas, but life lessons as well. Whether it was through sports, clubs, music, tutoring, class or just pure friendship we have learned from all of you.

We are all growing up now, but West Elgin will remain. However, it was not the building that made our time here; it was the people and the friends. It was you. The school and the teachers will change, but the memories will not. The band trip stories, the France trips, the fun days, the dances, the sports events, the carnivals, the beach; all of which are permanent memories engraved into our minds.

Embrace this change, much like we did many years ago walking through the doors into a new high school.

Do not dwell on the past; on what happened or didn't happen, it is all the same. Unless we focus on the path that now lies ahead of us we will not enjoy and experience life to the fullest.

This is the last time that many of us will see each other for a long time, so take the time to ask what exactly everyone is doing with their life. Ask them exactly what their degree is, exactly where they are, exactly what they are doing. It will come to serve as a bond between you.

West Elgin has given birth to a new age of students; doctors, teachers, athletes, musicians, actors, tradesmen, politicians, farmers and most importantly, young adults.

I would like to conclude with two quotes given to me in my last few days as a West Elgin Secondary School Student.

The first is this: Forsan et Haec Olin Meminisse Iuvabit". I apologize for my slander of the Latin language but I'm not taking that course yet. This means "Perchance in days to come it will please you to recall this". I hope that each and every one of you leaving here today will be pleased to recall this chapter of your life and the memories we've shared. Cherish and enjoy them.

The second quote is one by which I now govern *my* life: "Some men see things the way they are and ask, "Why?", I dream things that never were, and ask, "Why not?".

Having said this quote, I would like to do something that I asked why not to. I wrote a little song to commemorate our time at WESS. Hope you enjoy.



WESS holds plant sale JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Martin Rimes prepares some geraniums for sale at the West Elgin Secondary School horticulture class plant sale on all this week.

Boys soccer team at WOSSA

Hoping to cover at least one of the many volleyball pennants in the WESS gym, the boy's soccer teams are optimistic going into WOSSA this week.

"We've always had good volleyball teams," said assistant coach of the boy's soccer team. Dave Burke. "But there are a lot of good soccer players around here."

The boys blew out CDI 7-1 last Thursday to qualify for the Thames Valley Region Athletics Association finals at Athletes Park in St. Thomas this Tuesday.

The boys play in the WOSSA 'A' South final tonight (May 25).

"It's the furthest WESS has made it," said Coach Chris Leys. "We expected to make WOSSA anything from here on is great."

It takes three years to build a strong soccer team, said Leys, and to make it to WOSSA in the second year of the building process, is an excellent sign.

Few players will be graduating from the team next promising more success to come.

"The team's solid through and through," said Burke.

Led with strong defence, anchored by Mike Lyons and potent offence with Aaron Cowal, the Wildcats finished the regular season 3-2-1.

Chris Oliveira and David Dryfout have been sharing goaltender duties for the team.

In the 7-1 blow out, goals were scored by Stephan Agar, Jake Carter, Aaron Cowel (3), Mike Lyons and Adam Timmermans.

The girls' soccer team suffered an upsetting loss in penalty kicks against Holy Cross May 18.

After a triumphant come back with 10 minutes remaining, the girls couldn't score in the overtime or shootout.

Brittany Correira and Emma Wilkins scored for the girls with under 10 minutes to play in the second half to tie the game.

An exciting finish, after skies held out, the girls kept pressure the entire second half.

Despite three saves by Shelby Willcocks in the shootout, the Wildcats lost the semi-final, ending the season.



Saved JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Shelby Willcocks made this shootout save for the WESS Girls Soccer team in the semi-final game last Thursday.



Bike rodeo JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Doug Staddon does a safety check on Stephanie Jocius' bike during the Optimist Club Bike Rodeo at Aldborough Public School May 18. Club members checked 125 bikes and tested students on road safety knowledge at several test stations.



APS track JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Madison Redmond, Natasha Cameron and Sheltina Beke run at Aldborough Public School's track and field day May 18.

EDUCATION 2006



WESS Trivia Night

JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

West Elgin Secondary School held its annual Trivia Night Dec 19. to raise money for the Reach for the Top school club. Six teams and 29 people participated in the event. Above: Faculty, Danny Kajan, Melanie Thibert, Principal Larry Schneider think through one of many tough questions in the cafetorium.



Packing support for food bank

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Jacob Dymock, Jordynn Belbeck, Kenzie McGaffey and Sabrina Ford pack cans collected by West Elgin Senior Elementary School students for the Daffodil Auxiliary. Students collected more than





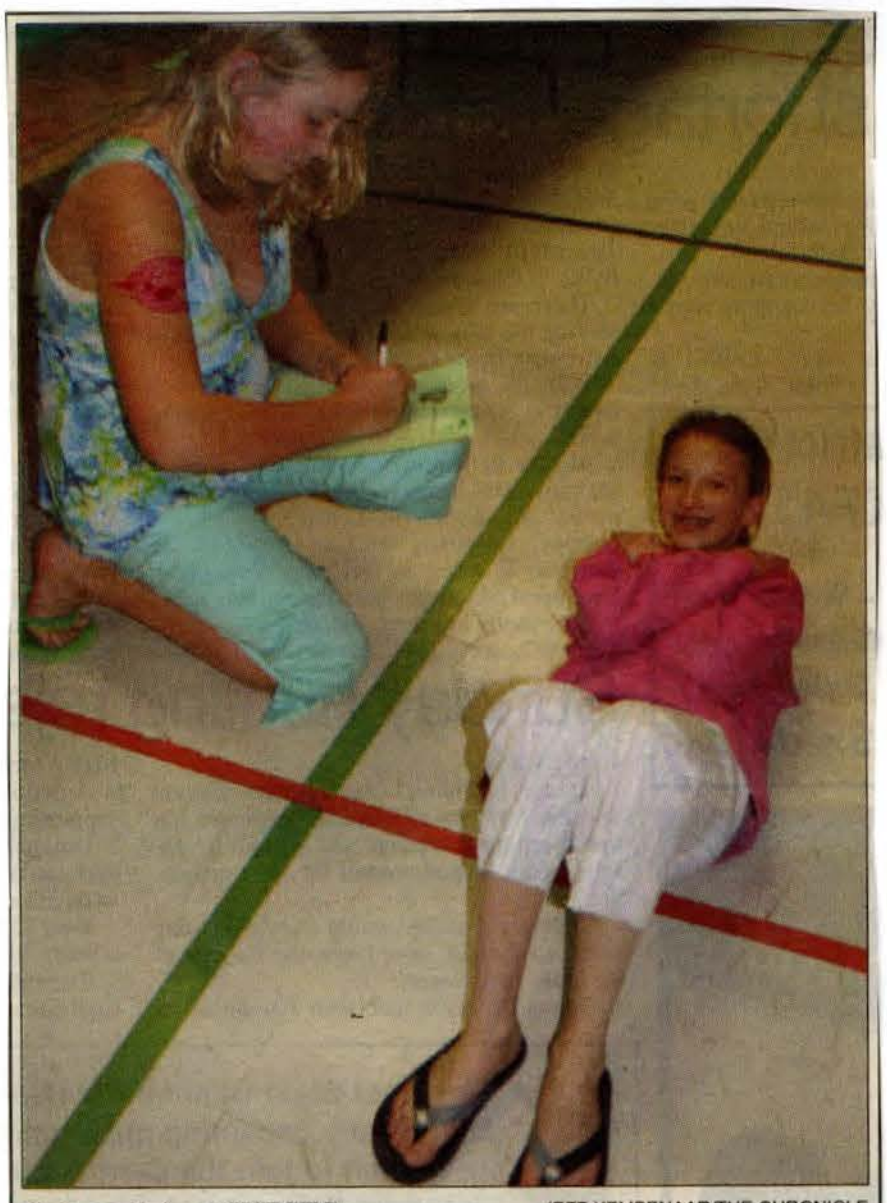
WESES hosts regional volleyball tournament

The West Elgin Senior Elementary School Grade 8 boys volleyball team won the gold medal at the regional tournament on Dec 5 to become Southwest Regional Champions at WESES. Back row left to right: Ben Welch, Doug White, Robert Johnston, Sheldon Downie, Rob Roos, coach Carrie Ostrom. Front row left to right: Cole Schneckenburger, Jason Ambrose, Mitch Kuska, Cody MacKinnon. Lying down: Ryan Leys. Absent: Zach Welch. Grade 8 girls, Kelsey McTavish, Kelsey Shaw, Jamie Stallon and Jasmine Prince compete in round robbin play at the Southwest Regional Championship Dec. 6. The girls were beat out in the semi-finals.



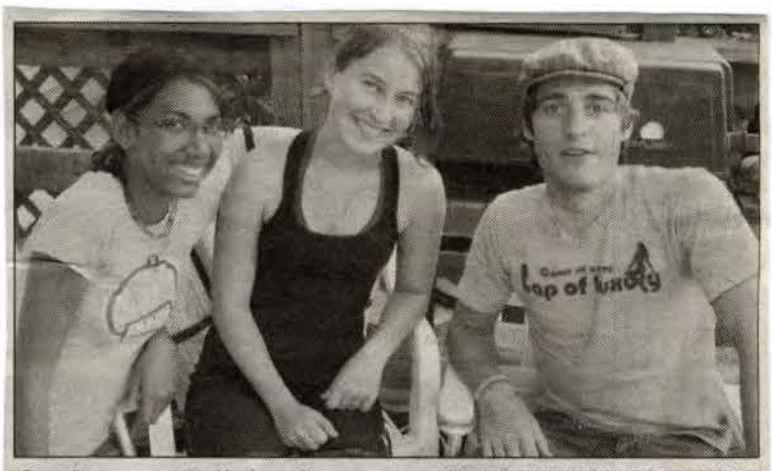
Learning about river safety

Alicia McReady places a puzzle piece during a river and creek safety program given to Grade 2 students at St. Mary's Catholic School recently. Denise Biega, conservation education technician, back, from the Lower Thames Conservation Authority led the program to promote safety around water. The RCSP is designed to meet the Grade 2 curriculum needs in Physical Education and Life Science. It offers a variety of interactive activities focusing on river systems and the dangers around waterways. The RCSP is offered during the time of greatest danger. Rivers, lakes, ponds and streams can put children at risk anytime of year, but in winter the water is cold, the banks are slippery and the ice is beginning to melt.



Science fair at WESES JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Nicole Collard and Sabrina Griffin demonstrated some of the cardiovascular exercises they studied as part of their Grade 8 science fair project called Pump It, looking into which exercises accelerate heart rates the most.



Quebec youth living in area JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Fadwa Bouziane, Audrey-ann Vachon and Marc-Olivier Jannelle from the Montreal area switched lives with three local students for the summer.

Exchange promotes unity

Three Quebec youth on exchange are working at area day camps.

Living with families, the three teenagers are looking forward to seeing their own parents again after a six week student exchange.

Their local counterparts switched families and have been working and living in and around Montreal.

Audrey-ann Vachon, 16, comes from an urban area near Montreal and while her first impression of West Lorne was, "very small" she has enjoyed hanging out with local youth.

She's made herself at home with the Ouellette family, even teaching the family dog to shake 'gauche', with his left hand.

Marc-Olivier Jannelle, 17, is staying with Marie and Jim Humphrey while their daughter Rachel is in a small town south of Montreal.

Marc said the program, organized through Canada Unity Council has been a good opportunity to learn English.

On weekends the students have been taking trips to Niagara Falls and Point Pelee, etc.

Janelle is working at the West Lorne Day Camp.

Nervous at first about his command of the English language, Jannelle has picked it up and was surprised how fluent he is now.

Fadwa Bouziane is staying with Sara Peternel's family and has been enjoying the quiet countryside.

She's gotten the chance to ride a horse on her hours off from working with the Dutton Day Camp.

"I would love to have a horse," she said, if there was only a way not to have to drive so far into the country to get the chance.

Vachon believes once she is back home she will realize how much she has learned about Ontario culture.

Coming home soon

Three local high school students that spent the summer in the Montreal area in exchange with the French youth will be coming home next week.

Sara Peternel, Phil Ouellette and Rachel Humphrey boarded a train in London for an 11-hour trip to Montreal five weeks ago to spend the summer working and living in Quebec as part of a unity exchange.

"I'm scared," said Humphrey days before she left. "I'm nervous about my French."

Ouellette has been working at a tourist attraction, leading tours, while Peternel and Humphrey are working with children.

Canada Unity Council, through the Department of Heritage coordinated exchanges between Quebec and other provinces in every political riding to promote unity.

One perk is the students will be taken on excursions on weekends and given a chance to see museums and go camping.



A long way from home JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Sara Peternel, Phil Ouellette and Rachel Humphrey, three local students are coming home next week after a summer exchange in Quebec.



Safety day JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Grade 4, 5 and 6 students from local schools were at the West Elgin Arena for Safety Day, put on by the Health and Safety Committee June 2. Students learned about safety around the house and farm. Above, Robbie Bennett and Daniel Whittek help Stephanie Hayes with a presentation by the Ontario Pesticide Education Program from Ridgetown College. Right, Junior Firefighters Dave Clements and Rob Wilkins put a suit on Frankie Fehervari. BELOW





Carnaval celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic School JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Shelby Brown hurdles a bench in a relay race during Carnaval at St. Mary's Catholic School Feb. 16. Middle: Sylvie Ozinga watches Brittany Reaume and Jesse Woldenberg-Behn compete in snow soccer. Right: Chantel DaSilva, Bonhomme de Neige and Kayla Poels present the Queen and King of Carnaval, Taylor Parish and Lucas Bettencourt.



Junior Badminton tourney held at WESS
Anna Debruyn and John Drummelsmith played in a mixed doubles match during a junior badminton south division TVRAA tournament at West Elgin Secondary School April 20. The top three players moved on to WOSSA.

WESES student council elected

My name is Caitlin Simpson, Grade 8, and I will be writing about what's going on around the West Elgin Senior Elementary School.

We want to keep the local community up to date, so watch for the monthly version of, "What's up at WESES".

Mrs. Gracey has the concert and jazz bands up and running, with practices every week.

She is also running the school choir, and they will be performing at the Remembrance Day Ceremony here at the school.

WHAT'S UP AT WESES
By Caitlin Simpson

As many other schools did, our school ran the Terry Fox Run on Sept. 29 and collected a whopping total of $5,265.27 for cancer research.

We're so lucky to live in such a generous, giving community. Our success would not have been possible without those who participated in the Marathon of Hope, and gave one dollar or more to our Terry Fox participants.

Mr. Weiland's 7D class raised $934.50, Miss Ostrom's 7C class raised $1,101.50, and the class winning the spirit banner, and a pizza party was Mrs. McLenaghan's 8D class with an incredible $1,115.65.

The school also recently voted our students' council. Emily Varga and Jamee Ellis are the school's co-presidents, Kylie Wilson is the new treasurer, and Emily Penney was voted secretary.

Class representatives are now being elected.

Elementary students to be surveyed on bullying

Public elementary school students will be surveyed about bullying in coming weeks.

Students will be given surveys about their perceptions of bullying to help schools identify concerns.

Last year, secondary students were surveyed across the Thames Valley District School Board.

At West Elgin Secondary School, programs were developed after administration, teachers, students and parents analyzed the study results.

A mentoring course was developed at the school for Grade 11 students this semester.

Students from that course will be helping elementary students understand bullying.

Key issues discovered through the high school student survey involved reporting of bullying.

Principal Larry Schneider said students are reluctant to report bullying because of the stigma of being called a rat.

"We're trying to change the attitudes of the students," said Schneider. "It's just like drinking and driving. Twenty-five years ago there were more people drinking and driving but the mind set changed."

The school initiated complaint cards for students dealing with bullying.

A student concerned about a friend or themselves can fill out a card and the guidance staff and administration can deal with the situation.

However, shunning, especially among girls, was identified as a key issue at WESS.

One day a girl is your best friend, the next day the whole group won't even talk to the girl, said Schneider.

Teachers have been working to understand the issues students are dealing with.

Schneider said most cases he's had this year aren't bullying, but are a conflict between two students, insulting one another back and forth.

He's only had to suspend two students this year for a fight.

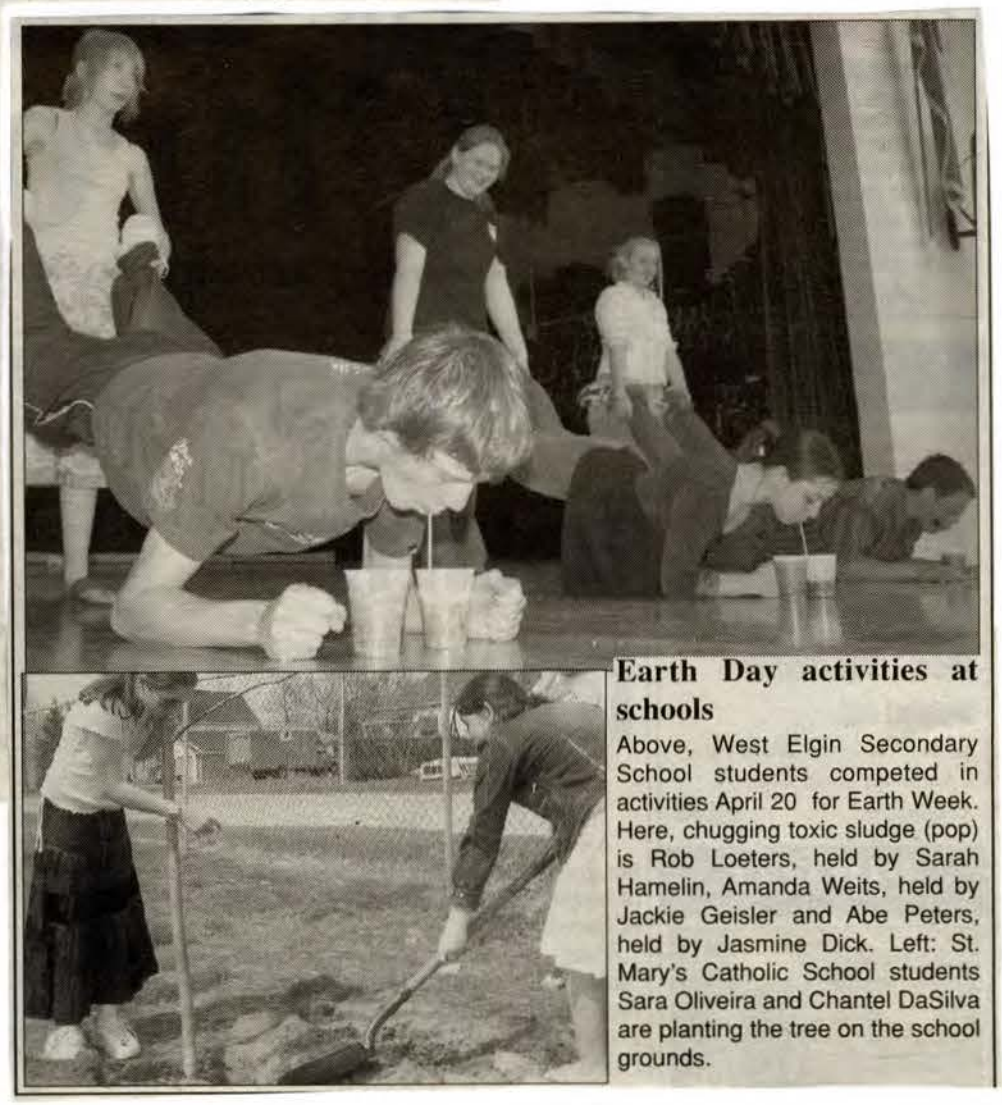
Punishments were also a big concern identified in the survey.

Parents and students want to know what has been done about a bullying incident.

Schneider said it's one of the most frustrating problems. Confidentiality prevents him from discussing punishments with the victims.



30 hour famine held in Dutton JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Dylan Simpson, Jordynn Belbeck and Tyson Ford answer a trivia question about the Third World during a 30-hour famine held by Knox Presbyterian Church in Dutton over the weekend. About 14 youth stopped eating Friday afternoon and raised about $1,500 for World



Earth Day activities at schools
Above, West Elgin Secondary School students competed in activities April 20 for Earth Week. Here, chugging toxic sludge (pop) is Rob Loeters, held by Sarah Hamelin, Amanda Weits, held by Jackie Geisler and Abe Peters, held by Jasmine Dick. Left: St. Mary's Catholic School students Sara Oliveira and Chantel DaSilva are planting the tree on the school grounds.

The London Free Press

West Lorne teen charity's champ

Last year, it was breast cancer. This year Zoe Van Dyk is raising money for autism.

BY JOE MATYAS
Free Press Reporter

She's only 13, but Zoe Van Dyk is already developing a reputation as a fundraiser.

For the second year in a row, the Grade 8 pupil from West Lorne has been involved in raising money for a good cause.

Last year, she organized a car wash with two friends. At the end of the day, they donated $1,300 to the Breast Cancer Society.

"The mother of one of my friends had breast cancer and we wanted to do something to show that we cared," said Zoe.

Tomorrow, Zoe and her friend from early childhood, Nicole Vergeer, will find out how well their fundraising walk for Autism Ontario does.

"We both have friends with autism, so that made us want to help in some way," said Zoe.

In addition to organizing the one-hour walk for people with sponsors, the teen girls will sell hotdogs, hamburgers and soft drinks at the event.

"That should bring in some extra money," said Zoe.

The walk is scheduled to begin at noon at the St. Mary's parish parking lot in West Lorne. The barbecue will also be there.

"I'm extremely proud of Zoe," said her mother, Lise Van Dyk. "She and Nicole have had to contact autism and municipal officials and the police. They've made all the arrangements, produced a flyer and distributed it."

Zoe said the flyer was circulated in schools and food donations were obtained from local grocery stores.

"I've learned a lot about organizing an event. It's been a little harder than last year."

Jodi Hillman, the mother of a three-year-old autistic son, Nathan, said she's impressed with the teen organizers.

"They're special girls. They deserve applause. They're doing something good for the community and they've got the word out."

Hillman said her husband and daughter have lined up "quite a list of sponsors" and will be walking tomorrow.

The money will go to research, not direct services, she said.

"We certainly need the research dollars," she said.

More provincial dollars are needed for services for autistic children and their families, she said.

"Most of the money goes to children with severe autism, but kids like Nathan, who are mildly or moderately autistic, are often not funded."

Hillman said her family spends $18,000 a year for a behaviour therapist who spends 15 hours a week with Nathan.

jmatyas@lfpress.com

EDUCATION 2006



Wonderful winterland JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

West Elgin Secondary School's senior band perform the Nathan Hale Trilogy at its Winter Wonderland Concert Dec. 12 at St. Mary's Parish Hall. A full house of family, staff and friends also heard the junior and jazz band.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Terry Fox runs held

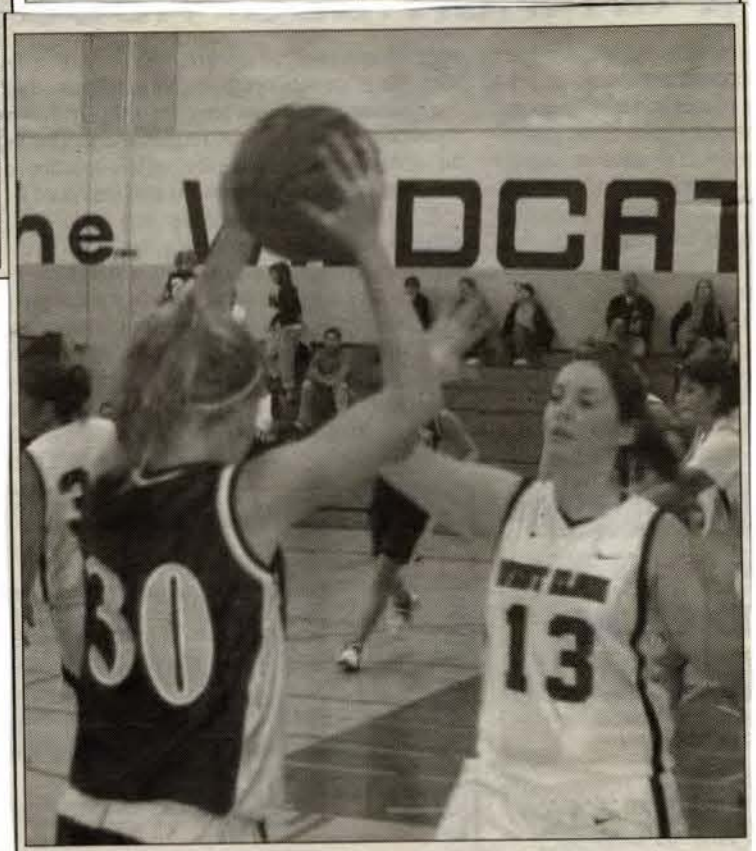
Area schools held Terry Fox runs for the Journey of Hope. Above: Zack Dymock, Doug White, Josh Ambrose, Jaimee Ellis, Emily Varga and Cody MacKinnon from West Elgin Senior Elementary School run with the entire school through Miller Park Sept. 29 Right: Nicole Vergeer and Alicia Krebs from St. Mary's Catholic School run with classmates through the West Lorne.





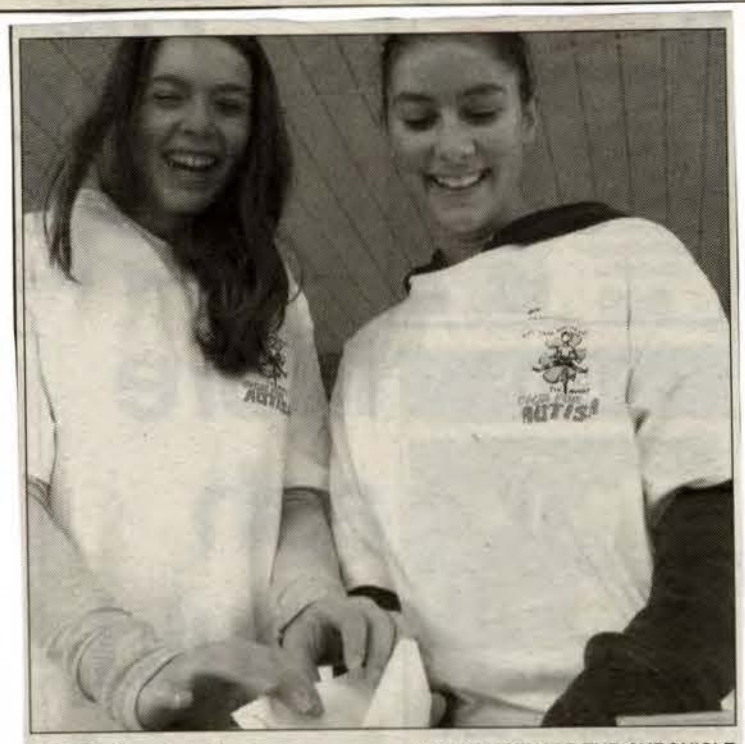
Concert a hit JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

The concert started with Vicki Close, vocalist and student at the West Elgin Secondary school. She sang numerous songs including one she wrote called " Coming Home".



Wildcats hard against St. Joe's JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Karen Godfrey tries to block a pass from the St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School player during a senior girls basketball game at West Elgin Secondary School Sept. 28. WESS lost 34-5. The junior girls lost 32-11 to St. Josephs. The next home game is Oct. 19.



Walk for Autism JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Nicole Vergeer and Zoey Van Dyk, Grade 8 students from St. Mary's Catholic School raised $2,700 for autism with a walk and barbecue held Sunday at St. Mary's Parish Hall. Van Dyk said they were overwhelmed by the pledges and support by the community.

West Elgin Secondary School Ontario Scholars



Caren Campbell
Iona Station
Parents: Stan & Lori
Attending: Wilfrid Laurier University
Enrolled in: Bachelor of Music



Ryan Carey
Wardsville
Parents: Patti & Rowland
Attending: Queens University
Enrolled in: Arts and Science (Psychology)



Angela Dick
West Lorne
Parents: Wendy & Darrell
Attending: Western
Enrolled in: Science



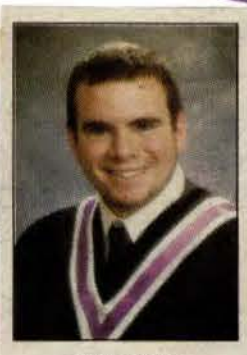
Tracy Donaldson
Iona Station
Parents: Peter & Pauline
Attending: Kings College
Enrolled in: Management & Organizational studies



Brittany Eichenberger
Dutton
Parents: Ron & Lee Ann
Attending: University of Guelph
Enrolled in: Biomedical science



Luke Emmett
West Lorne
Parents: Tim& Joanne
Attending: Western
Enrolled in: Kinesiology



Mike Miller
Rodney
Parents: Lynda & John
Attending: University of Guelph
Enrolled in: Agricultural Science



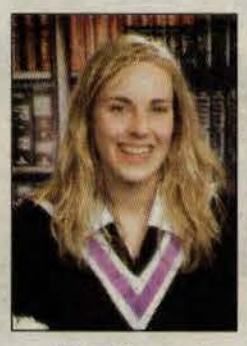
Kyle Mylrea
Dutton
Parents: Joseph & Donna
Attending: Wilfrid Laurier
Enrolled in: Honours History



Lara Ford
Rodney
Parents: Tom & Lynda
Attending: University of Guelph
Enrolled: Bachelor of Science in Agriculture



Kristen Griffiths
Dutton
Parents: Ron & Bev
Attending: Algonquin College
Enrolled in: Vet Tech.



Allison Gumpert
West Lorne
Parents: Patrice & Jim
Attending: Iowa state university
Enrolled in: English & Visual Arts



Marcia Hay
West Lorne
Parents: Curtis and Christine Attending: Western
Enrolled in: Social Science



Heather Heyboer
Dutton
Parents: Ron & Luanne
Attending:Huron University/College
Program in: Social Science



Shane Hogan
Dutton
Parents: Kathleen & Patrick
Attending: Fanshawe
Enrolled in: Manufacturing



Shobha Sharma
Rodney
Parents: Anji & Shelly
Attending: Western
Enrolled in:Health Science



James Stone
Dutton
Parents:Valerie & Bob
Attending: McMaster University
Enrolled: Engineering



Amanda Jamieson
West Lorne
Parents: Stuart & Patty
Attending: Guelph
Enrolled in: BA Psychology



Brittany Jewell
Dutton
Parents Names: Kim & Mark
Attending: Laurentian
Enrolled in: Mid-wifery



Breanna Keith
Wallacetown
Parents: Robert and Karen Keith
Attending: Queen's
Enrolled in: BMUS program



Jessica Kennedy
Dutton
Parents: John & Joan
Attending: Nipissing Program Enrolled in: Psychology/art.

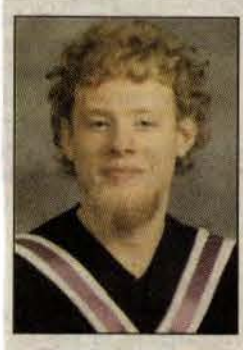


Rachel Kovach
West Lorne
Parents: James and Lydia
Attending: Windsor University
Enrolled in: English and Creative Writing



Trena Lebedz
Rodney
Parents:Serge & Sheila
Attending: Laurier
Enrolled in: Honours Business

Photo not available for Emily King of Dutton.
Parents: Andrea & Dave
Attending: Fanshawe College Enrolled in: Architechtual Technology.



Kory Timmermans
West Lorne
Parents: Joe & Elizabeth
Attending: Working



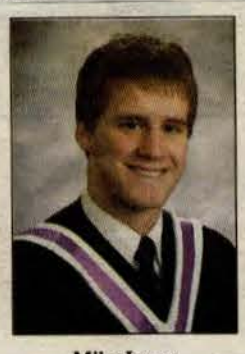
Liona Vander Zon
Wallacetown
Parents: Leo & Linda
Attending: Fanshawe College
Enrolled in: Nursing



David Lettner
West Lorne
Parents: Johann & Hermine
Attending: Laurier
Enrolled in: Business



Brian Lilley
Glencoe
Parents Names: Tim &Ann
Attending: University of Guelph
Enrolled in: History



Mike Lyons
Dutton
Parents: Lucy
Attending: University of Guelph
Enrolled in: Kinesiology



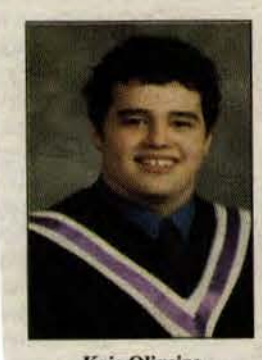
Katie McIntyre
Rodney
Parents: Sandy and Larry
Attending: University of Waterloo
Enrolled in: Biotechnology/ Charted Accounting.



Tim Vander Zon
Wallacetown
Parents: Leo & Linda
School attending: Working



Tyler Wood
Dutton
Parents: Helena & Steve
Attending: University of Guelph
Enrolled in: Bachelor of Commerce



Kris Oliveira
West Lorne
Parents: Maria and Domingos
Attending: Western
Enrolled in: B.A Kinesiolgy



Amanda Pelcz
West Lorne
Parents: Monica & Charles
Attending: Niagara College
Enrolled in: Pharmacy Technician



Sara Peternel
West Lorne
Parents: Michael & Susan
Attending: McMaster University
Program: Science



Tanya Schleihauf
Rodney
Parents: Rick & Monica
Attending: Fanshawe College
Enrolled in: Nursing

Congratulations

EDUCATION 2007

Graduating Class of 2007

Christine Alves
Justin Azvedo
Daniel Balint
Coryan Baran
Amanda Baratta
Alexander Barry
Amanda Bedford
Bradley Blanchard
Ryan Brown
Bev Campbell
Caren Campbell
Donnie Campbell
Kyle Carew
Ryan Carey
Brian Carlos
Adam Clark
Steph Collins
Jeremy Conway
Dustin Cook
Thomas Cotie
Aaron Cowell
Chad Cross
Kari Delouw
Tyler Deyle
Jasmine Dick
Tracy Donaldson
Alyssa Doub
Dustin Drouillard
William Allen Drummelsmith
Katelyn Duplessis
Jessica Dupuis
Brittany Eichenberger
Jeffrey R. Else
Luke Emmett
Mike Ford
Greg Freisinger
Nik Ganhadeiro
Cassandra Gionet
Cecile Gionet
Tyler Gowanlock
Ashley Graham
Kristin Griffiths
Allison Gumpert
Marcia Hay
Mike Henry
Heather Heyboer
Shane Hogan
Bradley Ireland
Amanda Jamieson
Sarah Johnston
Breanna Keith
James Douglas Kelly
Jessica Kennedy
Emily King
Ashley Knapp
Rhonda Knight
Rachel Kovach
Lindsay Nichol Lamb
Trena Lebedz
Kelly LeBlanc
Jessie James Lowes
Nick Lunn
Mac MacKinnon
Caitlin McCallum
Sarah McCallum
Erica McDowell
Kraig McGraffey
Scott McIntosh
Kathleen McIntrye
Wes McLandress
Jason McWillaim
Michael Miller
Scott Mohan
Ryan Munn
Justin Nagy
Steve Nagy
Mat Nash
Blair Noddin
Kanda Ocolisan
Andrew Okolisan
Nicole Oliveira
Phil Ouellette
Amanda Pelcz
Sara Peternel
Gilbert Poole
Jim Raithby
Tyler Reid
Derek Reno
Emily Rose
Shawn Sabo
Alicia Sanderson
Benjamin Philip Schleihauf
Tanya Schleihauf
Shoba Sharma
Brandon Shaw
Erin Sheedy
John Smith
Sam Smith
Matt Soos
Reece Stacey
Brent Swallowell
Caitlin Tomczyk
Casandra Tomczyk
Bradley Trybel
Liona Van Der Zon
Timothy Van Der Zon
Derek Vanhee
Adam Vanoverbeke
Lauren Vergeer
Justin Walker
Dave Ward
Michelle Webber
Catie Welch
Pat Whelen
Devon Wilson
Cory Winger
Kristie Wood
Tyler Wood

Power of accomplishment abides within you

By Kris Oliveira
Valedictorian 2007

Honoured guests, parents, teachers, administration, and my fellow class of 2007, it is a great honour to have been selected as this year's valedictorian, and also a privilege to have been a student at West Elgin Secondary school for the past 5 years.

This is an outstanding school, where we have all grown academically, and more importantly, we have all matured as young adults. Over the past four or five years we have developed many important qualities that we will carry on with us on our journey of life.

Empathy, passion, courage, and dedication are all traits which we have obtained while here at West Elgin.

The countless hours of volunteering, participating in clubs and being a part of the Wildcat Athletics and WESS Bands have engraved determination, dedication and drive into all of our hearts.

The competitive nature of our athletes will continue to inspire future students at West Elgin.

The creativity and talent of our art students who paint breath taking paintings all around the walls of our school; the dedication of our school councils, who not only put forth the students' word but take their time to try and make our school a better place for everyone; and most importantly, the devotion of the graduating students to their studies in successfully completing Grade 12, shows their dedication to their future.

High school has been a growth experience, and throughout the years great memories have made the high school experience truly the best years of our lives.

Another stage full of challenges that will test our determination, and as cliché as it may sound, the future is indeed in our hands as this class is full of unlimited potential so do whatever you long to do and as Robert Collier a successful authour once said, "The POWER to be what you want to be, to get what you desire, to accomplish whatever you are striving for, ABIDES within you. It rests with you only to bring it forth and put it to work. You must learn how to do that, of course, but the first essential thing is to realize that you possess this POWER, and your FIRST objective is to GET acquainted with it". So use the power within you to thrust yourself into the future, trusting always that you, a West Elgin Secondary School graduate, can do it!



WESES Track and Field THE CHRONICLE

Left: Rebecca Panther competes in the junior girls ball throw event during the track and field day at West Elgin Senior Elementary School. Centre: Cody Parker, Grade 7 makes his attempt in the high jump event. Right: Doug White competes in triple jump.

EDUCATION 2007

Grade 10 student on crusade for cancer

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

A West Elgin Secondary School student is bringing joy to the Children's hospital in London this Christmas.

You've seen the jars around the region for Chloe's Christmas Crusade for Children's Hospital.

Grade 10 student Chloe Steele is enrolled in an enhancement program at the high school which led her to the Children's Health Foundation.

She's collecting toys, games and money for children with cancer.

For the project, she can earn a full credit if she completes the program and organizes an event (in this case the fundraising campaign), researches cancer, does a report and makes a presentation.

The 15-year-old is daughter of Joe and Lisa of Wallacetown.

She has 15 locations set up in Dutton and West Lorne for donations.

Also she has made connections with local public schools. Boxes are being filled with donations at West Elgin Senior Elementary School and at the upcoming Dunwich-Dutton Dynamo's concert Dec. 17 and 18.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Chloe's Crusade
Chloe Steele is raising funds and collecting toys for the Children's Hospital in London.

"I just want to collect as much as I can," said Steele.

"The words 'oncology,' 'cancer,' 'chemotherapy' and 'radiation' are not words that come up in my daily routine. ... But what if they did?" she asks on her poster.

While doing research, she has found that because of advanced therapy, 78 per cent of cancer patients will survive for five years or more, an increase of almost 46 per cent since the early 1960s.

Toys/gifts will go directly to the Children's Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre. All money donations will go to the Children's Health Research Institute.

Steele visited the hospital when she set up the campaign.

Donations will be collected until Dec. 19.

Locations:

- Dutton Building Products
- Dutton Royal Bank
- Daisy Mart
- Cotrac Ford
- Dutton Flowers and Gifts
- Highland Pharmacy
- Sears Canada
- LCBO
- Dutton Post Office
- Mancari's
- Tall Tales Café
- Lakeview Gardens
- West Elgin Pharmacy
- Knight's Home Hardware
- West Lorne Foodland

WESS racing to read its way across the globe

Students at West Elgin Secondary School are in a race from Europe to Japan.

The Amazing Reading Race has pitted WESS students in a challenge to read more books than Sir George Ross Secondary in London and College Ave in Woodstock.

Aiming to read 1,000 books this school year, students and faculty have read 650, putting them in second place, with each book gaining 10 kilometres.

Hoping students won't get lost somewhere in Mongolia, organizors are confident the school can reach its goal by the end of the school year.

"We'll get there," said librarian Melanie Thibert.


JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Literacy
Students in the front row were caught reading around school and ended up on literacy posters by the school board. They are: Scott McIntosh, Nick DeBoer, Tara Deyte, Mike Lyons, Ariel Whalen and Devon Willson. In the back row is the school's book club: teacher Tammy Vacante, librarian Melanie Thibert, Erin Sheedy, Rachel Kovach, Jasmine Dyck, Jessica Lawley, Chelsea Drent, Ali Close, Jared Cooper and teacher Mike Lynds.

Last year WESS beat Ross across Canada.

"The students have been doing great. They like the idea," said teacher Tammy Vacante.

The race is for staff and students as a way to encourage reading and literacy.

Some students only read course books but others have been reading up to 20 books a month.

"A lot of the students have gone above and beyond," said Vacante.

Both teachers also work with the school's book club which started three years ago.

The 10 week club ended before March break.

About 15 students get together after school Wednesdays to talk books.

While basic literacy lessons are ingrained, students also explore new genres of reading.

Members can read whatever they want then form groups to discuss the books.

Discussions range from what is good or bad about the books to talking about character development, plot lines and writing styles.

"We encourage students to step outside their comfort zone and read many different genres," said Thibert.

Anyone from the community is encouraged to join the club at the school.

As well, the club is always looking for more books.

WESES raises $6,700 for Heart and Stroke

WHAT'S UP AT WESES?
By Caitlin Simpson

February was heart month, and like every year, the West Elgin Senior Elementary School students participated in Hoops for Heart.

After raising money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the entire school gathered to watch three games, in which the girls and boys basketball teams squared off, and then each took on a team of teachers.

Last year, our campaigning was rewarded, as our school raised more money than any other school in South-Western Ontario.

This year, we'd like to recognize Jessica Degraw, who raised a whopping $503, bringing in almost eight per cent of the entire school's total of more than $6,700! Way to go Jessica!

This truly proves the generosity of the communities we live in. On behalf of the staff and students at W.E.S.E.S., everyone at the Heart and Stroke Foundation, and those affected by the disease, I'd like to thank everyone who contributed.

The boys' basketball season has come to an end, but they have reason to celebrate. They won 7 of 8 league games, and after placing first in the regionals, they went on to play in the Thames Valley Championships, where they lost in the bronze medal game.

Their coach, Mr. Weiland, said they had a great season overall, and is excited to send some skilled players into Grade 9 next year. Here's what he had to say about each player on the team.

The captains, Robert Johnston and Cole Schnekenburger, led the team all season long with strong and consistent guard play. Rob Roos, Doug White and Zach Dymock played amazing defensive basketball, getting every rebound possible.

Sheldon Downie and Cody Parker were the team's most improved players, and Kyle Barber, Michael Brennan and Michael Verboom worked hard to develop their skills.

Ryan Leys won the sportsmanship award, for having the best attitude towards the game.

MAR 15/07


JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE

WESS plant sale MAY 24/07

Jacob Rowe, Rob Loeters, Michelle Keith, Derek Blaney and Lee Balint help out with the West Elgin Secondary School plant and craft sale, which was held the last two weekends. Products sold were produced by the students in the horticulture and shop classes.


NICHOLAS FORD/CO-OP STUDENT THE CHRONICLE

Beach clean up

Scott McLaughlin, Teresa Nesic, Lauren McWilliam, Samantha Kindornay and Abi Smith, and their peers in the West Elgin Secondary School Fishing Club and Environmental Club joined the TD Great Canadian Shoreline Clean Up, at Port Glasgow Sept. 20.

EDUCATION 2007

Public school work starts

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

West Elgin Secondary School is getting a major facelift.

Every window, depending on how you count them, 70, in the building is being replaced.

Work started with library windows and second floor windows being replaced already.

Part of the provincial Ontario Renewal Project, work is hoped to be completed by the end of July, although complications have already been encountered.

Last year, most of the roof was replaced and new boilers were installed.

Principal Larry Schneider says the school will be much more energy efficient.

"It's a sign we are here to stay. We should be at 470 (students) but we're at 600, with more new families moving in," he says.

Laughing, Schneider says every year, for the 23 years he's been at WESS, someone has come up and said, "Too bad the school is closing."

"Hopefully all this work will put that to rest. It's a great sign for the school and the community," he says.

Some windows in the school are the originals, installed when the school was built in 1952.

Drafty windows, leaky roofs, moisture making the school cold in the winter, and steaming hot classrooms in the summer, should be gone.

The new windows will prevent drafts in the winter and will be tinted, making classrooms cooler in the summer.

All this improves the learning environment, says Schneider, which has teachers happy and student will be more open to learn, without distraction.

The price tag may remain unknown for a while for the windows.

About four-years ago, sciences labs were upgraded for half a million dollars.

Parts of the project are interfering with the window project, and will have to be dismantled, then put back together.

"They're already over budget," says Schneider.

The most noticeable change will be to the front of the school. All the white metal siding will be replaced with a yellowish spandrel, or glass with insulation on the other side.

From the inside, the spandrels will be lined with bulletin boards for teachers.

The glassy front will modernize the look of the school making it look similar to Central Elgin Collegiate Institute, says Schneider.

The front door will also be replaced, making it stronger and more efficient.

As well, blinds will be replaced throughout the school, to close tighter, to improve conditions in classroom to watch video or slides on projectors.

Other local schools will also see work over the summer:

- Dunwich-Dutton Public School - steam boilers will be replaced with water boilers over the summer in a project budgetted to cost more than $1 million.

Next year, it's expected all the windows in the school will be replaced.

- Aldborough Public School - asphalt in the school yard will be replaced.

Drains and tiling repair will all commence in the yard.



Before and after JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

West Elgin Secondary School is getting a facelift as the old white siding is replaced with glass and new tinted windows are installed to help keep the school cool as seen here at the school's library.



Wildcats basketball

Rhonda Knight charges out of end in senior basketball action versus St. Joe's Oct. 18. St. Joe's won the game but the Wildcats have two wins so far this season.

JEFF KEMPENAAR THE CHRONICLE

Lots going on at high school

COLUMN



Principal's Corner

Larry Schneider

Take 560 students, 36.17 teachers, 1.5 education assistants, three secretaries, four custodians, three cafeteria staff, one Vice-Principal and one Principal, plus various support staff in our Wellness Centre, mix them all together, and what have you got? This year's West Elgin Secondary School community.

With the first month of the school year almost past, things are off to a hectic,wonderful start.

We've had our Grade 9 welcoming day, our first MuchMusic video dance, and our new Students' Council, Student Athletic Association and Music Council executives and members are all hard at work.

There is so much new and exciting going on at the school that I would like to share with the community, that I'm going to have to write more frequent columns.

I have much to tell you about, and yes, some support to ask for as well.

WESS has been approved to offer students a specialized program, with partnerships with local farmers, associations, Ridgetown College, and many local agriculturally based businesses and consultants, called the Specialist High Skills Major in Agriculture.

Students who take a specific package of courses will be able to graduate with a special Ontario Secondary School Diploma which indicates a specialization in Agriculture.

Only 12 schools in Ontario will be able to do this at present!

Our commencement exercises will be held at the school at 7 p.m. Oct. 4 – the same night that virtually all secondary schools in our region are now using for their fall graduation ceremonies, owing to the many mid-term exams now being held on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays during our usual late October or early November time slot.

Many students come home specially for Thanksgiving, but then travel over the weekend, as do many of the staff.

With the tragedy of suicide now having touched so many so tragically in our community, WESS is taking a leadership role in suicide awareness, prevention, and education.

All staff at the school will participate in workshops on the Sept. 28th P.D. day, led by experts in social work, tragic events response, and suicide awareness and prevention, as well as people whose lives have been affected by the suicide of a loved one.

We will hold assemblies for all students in order to reinforce the need for them to seek help, counselling, and above all, to communicate to others any feelings of depression, sadness, anger, feeling overwhelmed, or having dark thoughts.

A night for parents and all in our community is being organized for the second or third week in October, and once details are finalized, the dates and time will be announced very publicly.

As a community we must do all that we can to support our young people, to help them, to support them, and to listen to them.

Our most recent literacy and numeracy scores, a snapshot of students' achievement on a given day, have fallen, and we are making a renewed effort to improve our student's performance on these, and in their overall credit accumulation.

We have the highest graduation rate of any school in the Thames Valley District School Board (tied with Medway 95 per cent!) and have welcomed back several students this fall who had left school, but who have now returned to try to complete their education.

We offer credit recovery classes, alternative education classes, and the Board offers a Re-Connect program once a week at the WECHC for students who have dropped out, trying to assist them to get some credits, as a means of making the transition back into the regular school so that they can succeed.

Our student success program, in its second year, will encourage students who are not experiencing success , to renew their efforts to compete homework and assignments, and to pass their courses.

Our Work Internship program, our WEST program, for those students who will be going directly to work from school, has its highest enrollment ever, and we are so grateful to the employers in our community who have taken on the important role of giving these young people real world experiences in the workplace.

Funding is still a huge issue with this program, as we have built it beyond the scope of any funding provided by the Ministry or the Board, to ensure our students' success in an area where the geography and distances covered getting these students to and from their workplaces is vast.

I will once again appeal for the community and service clubs to support the WEST program by donating funds to WESS.

Please seriously consider supporting this program, as our youth are our future, and we want these young people to become hard-working citizens who contribute to their community in meaningful ways, having

EDUCATION 2007



Eco Friendly JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Jasmine Dick, WESS Environmental Club leader and Jeffrey Koscik student council president gave news to West Elgin council that through an application process, the school received a Shell Canada Environmental Fund grant for $2,000 to plant trees and flowers.



Set design JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Painting the walls of the Clam Cove Inn are Ben Hyatt, Sarah McCallum, Dan Salgado and Kyle Kuska. The Inn is the setting for Touchtone M for Murder the West Elgin Drama Class production June 8 and 9.

Year-end show a murder mystery

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Touchtone M for Murder, the final theatre production of the year at West Elgin Secondary School goes Friday and Saturday.

The audience participation mystery takes place at Clam Cove Inn Island Resort where Sam Slade a rather inept detective played by Brendan Carey comes to find his girlfriend Lila Dean (Coryan Baron).

She's comes to the Inn to introduce her recipe for fried clams to Colonel Horace Clamskey (Phil Oulette) owner of the Crazy for Clams chain of restaurants.

He's accompanied by his adoring secretary Holly Holgrave (Lauren Vergeer), his spoiled niece Caroline Clamskey (Caroline Levesley) and her doting cowboy suitor Tex Dayton (Jarret Carder).

Adding to the fun is Clamskey's spinster sister Verna (Nadia Kelman) and his irritating cousin Calvin Cobb (Ben Hyatt).

Slade finds his girlfriend but also stumbles upon the murder of the Colonel.

Motives are discovered among the many guests. Who could it be?

The Wiltons, with their obnoxious children? Mr. and Mrs. Wilton (Shawn Sabo and Caitlin VanRaes), Rodney and Randy Wilton (Shawn Zimmerman, Josh MacDonald).

Is it the bird-watching widow (Erin Sheedy), an eccentric New York cartoonist (Dan Salgado)?

Or could it be the Beaupree sisters, Faith, Hope and Charity, (Rachel Kovach, Steph Gash and Leah Hervoly) who manage the Inn left to them by their late father?

Sam Slade untangles this twisted plot of intrigue, with help from the audience.

Directing the play is Jasmine Dick and Sarah McCallum. Producer is Kanda Ocolisan. Stage managing is Brandon DeGraw and Tasha Turnbull.

It's a heavy time for students with final projects and end-of-year exams but that hasn't stopped students from devoting time to the show.

"Students have taken on a heavy burden but when the tough gets going the tough get lifting," says drama professor Mike Lynds. "There's so much else going on at school these days."

But the students are pulling it all together.

"They're a really good group," says Lynds. "To put together two productions in five months; most amateur companies can't do that."

Both shows start at 7 p.m. June 8 and 9. Public is welcome.



Battle of the Bands GREG FREISINGER FOR THE CHRONICLE

8 O'clock Curfew, Derek Reno, drums, Norbert Kallai, singer, Chris Wemp, guitar, perform at West Elgin Secondary School Oct. 17 during a battle of the bands. The school and Kent Regional Alternative Ministries put on the event to introduce "Someone Cares". The program encourages youth to wear a sticker and promote helping each other and being there for each other.

Lots of drama at high school

By Bailey Lamon
WESS

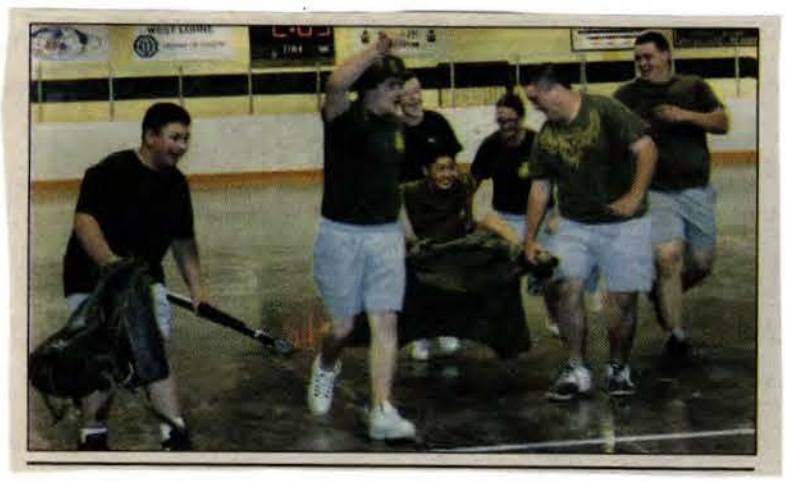
WESS Drama is at it again! The senior drama class of West Elgin Secondary School are making preparations for their upcoming night of theatre performances...which will of course, be held for the community's enjoyment.

This night of fun will be held on Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. in the WESS cafetorium.

Tickets are only $5 each including refreshments that will be provided for the audience. However, anyone wishing to make a donation to the drama department will be welcome to do so and will be greatly appreciated.

There will be a number of 15-20 minute plays directed by students in the class, including "Wanted:One Groom" directed by Lisi Hentz, and "Death of a Dead Guy" directed by Nadia Kelman. On top of that, a group of highly-gifted and funny students known as the "improv team" will also make an appearance.

This will be the first of many opportunities for the community to enjoy the dramatic presentations of WESS.



WESS show a success

By Bailey Lamon

As the school year comes to an end, the West Elgin Secondary School Drama department put on one last production for the community.

The senior Drama Class held two showings of Touch tone 'M' for Murder June 8 and 9.

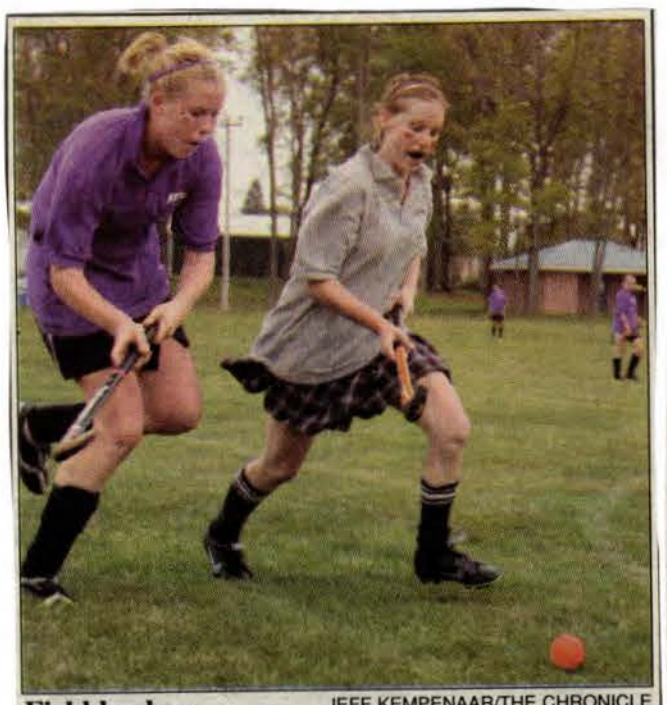
Those who came to the performances had the opportunity to help Detective Sam Slade, (Brendan Carey) solve a mystery, a murder mystery in this case.

Audience members said who they thought committed the crime, which characters looked suspicious, and anything "fishy" that was going on. The ending was a surprising one, and left everyone in shock after all of the suspense.

The production was a huge success and received great reactions from the audience. The plotline was funny, but because it was a murder mystery it evened out with a hint of seriousness. In other words, it was an excellent mix between comedy and tragedy.

The drama department looks forward to doing much more in the future. Audiences continue to support the student in what they love doing.

JUNE 07



Field hockey JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

The Wildcats' field hockey team is battling for second place this week. Here Jordan Emmett charges toward the North Middlesex net in action Oct. 10. The Wildcats won 2-0 with both goals scored by Emmett and assisted by Brittany Hein.







CONTRIBUTED

Champs

Left: Jason Ambrose and Robert Johnston Centre: Emily Varga and Stephanie Campbell. Right: Varga and Cole Schnekenburger. All A Champs.

WESES dominates badminton tournament

The West Elgin Senior Elementary School badminton team competed in the 10th Annual London Youth's Badminton Tournament at Carling Heights Optimist Centre May 5 and 6.

The previous three years, WESES had good success, but this year the Eagles dominated.

The tournament got started early Saturday with boys' doubles action. In the 32-team draw, WESES had three entries (Robert Johnston and Jason Ambrose, Doug White and Cole Schnekenburger, Zach Dymock and Tyler Russell). The boys got off to a great start with all three teams winning their first games. Matches became tougher but the boys rose to the occasion. The unstoppable duo of Johnston and Ambrose won the 'A' Championship.

The team of Schnekenburger and White also played great all day, losing only once, which allowed them to capture the 'C' Championship.

Not to be outdone, the girls also had three entries: (Emily Varga and Stephanie Campbell, Rae Hale and Caitlin Simpson, Kelsey McTavish and Kailyn Cedar).

Domination was the word, for two of the teams rolled through the tournament.

In the end, the 'A' Championship trophies, school plaque, and racquets went to the Varga/Campbell team for their superior play.

WESES, in fact, had two undefeated teams. Hale and Simpson captured the 'B'Championship.

The confusing part was that they should have been in the 'A' division because they had not lost (organizers made a mistake advancing the wrong team), so, in effect, they were champions as well.

On Sunday, WESES was represented by six very strong mixed doubles teams (Emily Varga and Cole Schnekenburger, Carlee O'Connor and Chris Ward, Jasmine Prince and Ryan Leys, Rob Roos and Nicole Durbridge, Alicia Lozon and Justin Lapadat, Jamee Ellis and Cody Winn).

It was a sea of purple on the eight courts, as at one point, all six of our teams were playing.

As the day progressed, it became clear that the WESES crew were the teams to beat.

Winning the 'D' Championship, with only one loss, were O'Connor and Ward. Taking fourth in the 'C' were Prince and Leys. 'B' division fourth place went to Durbridge and Roos. Finally, in the 'A' division, the WESES team of Varga and Schnekenburger won 15-4 and 17-16 in a thrilling climax to the tournament.

Coaches Mr. and Mrs. McLenaghan and Miss Ostrom were extremely proud of each and every player.



WEDS play starts this weekend JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

The cast of the new West Elgin Dramatics Society play, Rememberin' Stuff, rehearse a scene where a group of youth remember a classmate who died from an eating disorder. The new play, entirely casted by local youth, hits the stage for the first of six performances Friday.

All student WEDS production starts Friday

By Bailey Lamon

The West Elgin Dramatics Society is returning with another performance for the community, but this time with a whole new twist.

Rememberin Stuff, an all student production is being perfected for it's upcoming performances this weekend and the next.

The Director is 18 year-old Dan Ranney, an aspiring drama teacher who is in his last year at West Elgin Secondary School.

The cast and crew are made up of students in Grades 8 to 12, as well as the WEDS team who were committed and helpful throughout the process.

This play is simple, yet unique, It is about teenagers remembering past events in their lives and sharing their memories for a class assignment. It varies in seriousness, as some parts are happy and humourouss while others are sad and bitter.

Either way, it is a presentation that all can learn from and relate to.

Performances take place Nov. 23 and 24 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 25 at 2 p.m.

Also, Nov. 29, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at 8 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased by calling Shenanigans at 762-5662 or at the door.

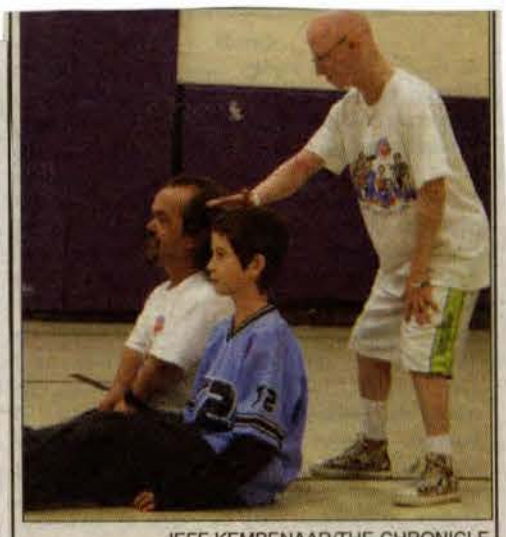
Warninig: mature content, may not be suitable for young children. Nov 22/07





Matherena JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Jeffrey Koscik, second left and Ms. Sony Sethi, math teacher lead Jacob Willson, Ryan Leys and Cody Schaffer in the quadratic formula macerena at a Grade 8 open house at West Elgin Secondary School Jan. 18.

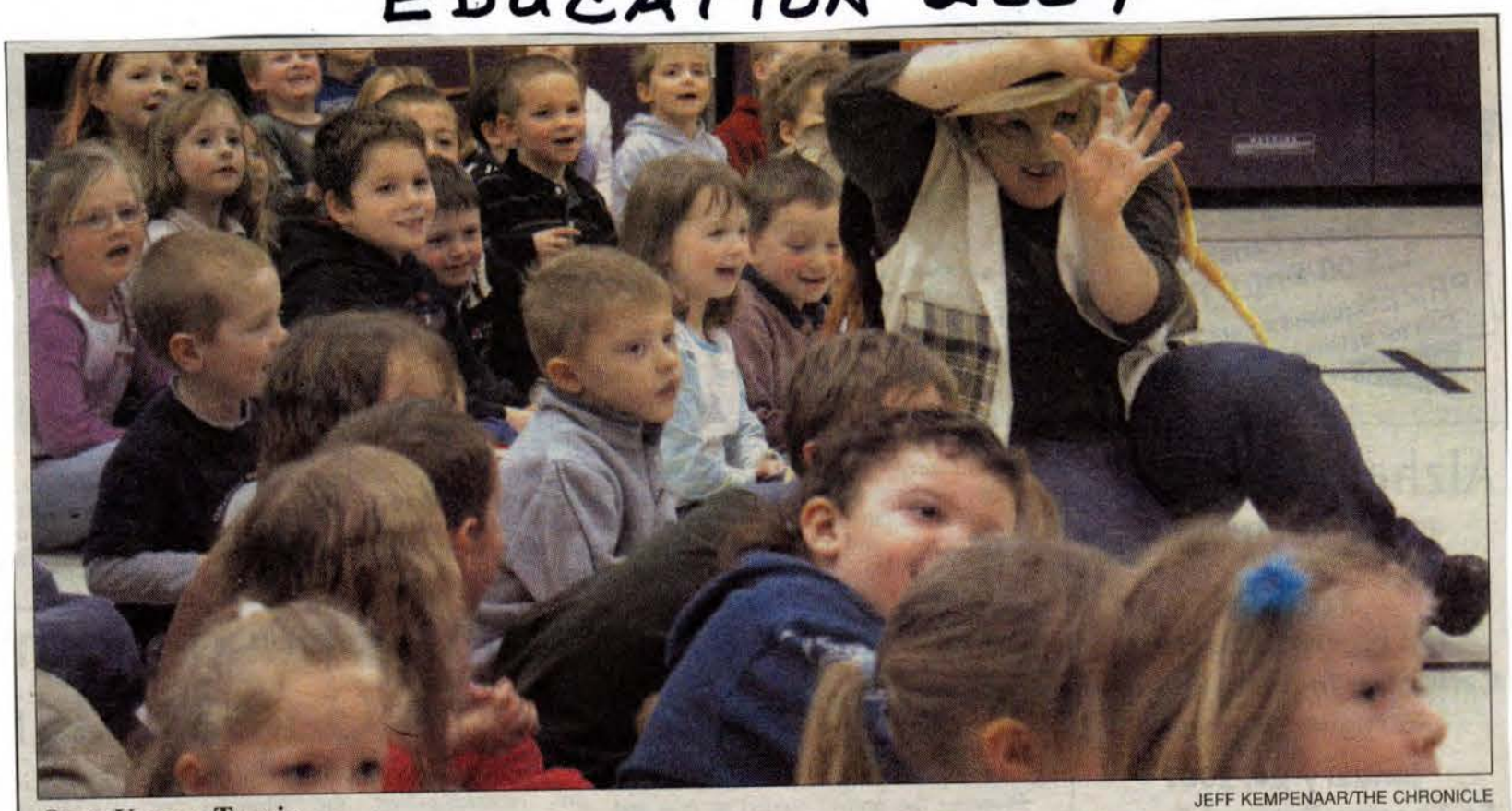


JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Optical illusion?

Farmer Pete and Johnny 5 of the Canadian Half Pints and Aldborough student Calvin Dowling demonstrate an optical illusion. Pete is a little person born with hereditary dwarfism which causes his arms and legs to be smaller than his torso. Sitting is the great equalizer said Pete. The Half Pints visited Dunwich-Dutton P.S., Aldborough P.S. and West Elgin Senior Elementary School delivering the message: "Bullying's not kool - keep it out of our schools." They also played basketball against students and teachers Oct. 25.

EDUCATION 2007



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Once Upon a Turnip

Ann McDougall, dressed as a hedgehog, hides, amongst Aldborough Public School students during Once Upon a Turnip a Tinderbox Theatre production. The theatre group with former resident Charlene Carroll, played at APS and Dunwich-Dutton Public School Monday.

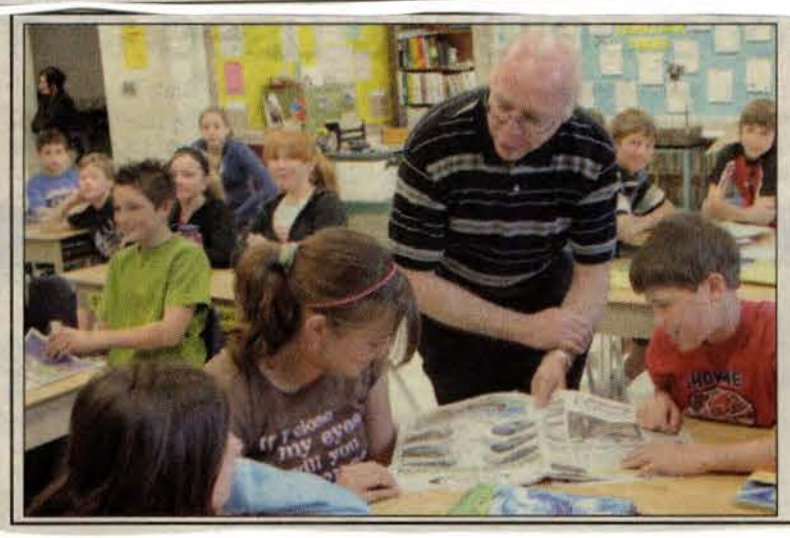




JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Science Fair at St. Mary's

St. Mary's Catholic School held its annual Science Fair Monday afternoon in the gymnasium. Left: Alex Sura demonstrates his and William Weeks' hover craft, which the two students made from a box and leaf blower. Above: Kristen Kovacs shows three house plants, exposed to cigarette smoke. The plants were put into a closed environment. One was exposed to cigarette smoke three times a day for three weeks, another two times a day and another was not exposed to smoke. The plant exposed more was obviously suffering the worst. The plant that was not exposed showed signs of being impacted by second-hand smoke, just by being placed next to the other plants, says Kovacs. This year, younger students were involved in the fair.



Learning about the news

Steve Down, Publisher of the Chronicle talks to Grade 6 students at St. Mary's Catholic School about newspapers during Education Week May 3.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/ THE CHRONICLE



SUBMITTED

Left: Jenna Ferencz (tara's aunt), middle, Sandy Ferencz (tara's grandma) with Tara Smith.

Local helps raise money for Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation

Tara Smith who attends Grade 7 at West Elgin Senior Elementary School took part in the CIBC 5 km Run For The Cure on Sept. 30 in London.

Tara found out in August that her grandmother has breast cancer and decided to register for the run just two days before it took place.

Through emails, a web page and by going door to door, her sponsors generously donated over $600 to give to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Tara is still gathering donations until the end of October.

Donations can be made by going to www.cibcrunforthecure.com and clicking on "donate to a participant" then enter "Tara Smith London" to view her web page and make a donation.





JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Theatre

The West Elgin Secondary School drama department has assembled several plays to be performed May 10 and 11. Left: Murdered Mystery - three ladies, Caroline Levesley (Jennifer), Leah Hervoly (Betty) and Lauren Vergeer (Lydia) fight for the affection of Josh MacDonald (Steve), striking jealousy in Dan Salgado (the Butler). Above: Phil Ouellet (Dr. Phil) and his wacky patients, Sarah McCallum (Rose, sleeping), Tasha Turnbull (Noah's wife) and Erin Sheedy (Lenore) in And you think you have problems.

Jazz band to accompany West Elgin Choir May 19

The West Elgin Choral Society, under the direction of Sharon Little, will present their annual Spring Concert at 7:30 p.m. May 19, at West Elgin Secondary School.

This Choral & Jazz event will have Sharon's trademark styling all over it, beginning with her featured guests, the George Laidlaw Quartet. The boys of Jazz will accompany the choir in their up-tempo numbers and also do a few danceable sets on their own.

Familiar tunes on the program include classics such as Four Strong Winds and Yellow Bird.

There will be a big centre aisle where you can swing your partner if you are unable to sit still.

The big ending will feature Oscar Peterson's Hymn To Freedom, when the audience will be invited to join in. This will be a fun evening - guaranteed!

Tickets are available by calling 519-762-2882 or 519-762-2722. Tickets will be at the door, if available.

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EDUCATION 2007

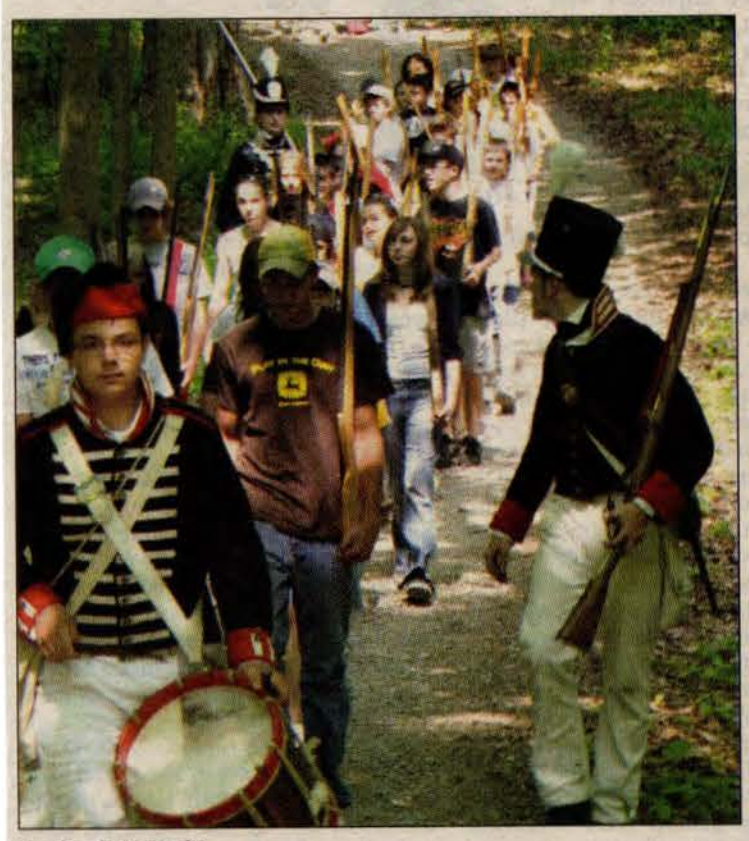


Hizzah!!

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Jonathan Herb from St. Thomas plays an American soldier from the U.S. 17th regiment as he leads West Elgin Senior Elementary School students through a mini-militia demonstration. About 500 Grade 3 and Grade 7 and 8 students from schools across the region were at Education Day at the Backus-Page House and John E. Pearce Park at Tyrconnell May 25. See more photos on page 9 from Education Day and the rest of the Living History and Nature Weekend.

History and nature



Left right left

Grade 7 and 8 students from West Elgin Senior Elementary School march to the drum on way to a cannon at Lake Erie during Education Day at the Backus Page House May 25. Grade 7s and 8s learned about the life of a 1812 soldier while Grade 3s learned about pioneer lilfe.







Period clothing

Adding to the pioneer atmosphere, students dressed in period clothing as did St. Mary's students Cal Horvat, Josh Goos, Dan Barfett, Mitchell Noury, Emma McDonagh, Jessica Stacy and Jade and Raine Hindley.

PHOTOS BY JEFF KEMPENAAR



Terry Fox Run

St. Mary's Catholic School students ran laps around West Lorne Sept. 27 as part of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope. While the total amount raised by students through pledges has yet to be organized, it's expected that last year's total of around $3,500 has been exceeded by the approximately 176 students.

NICHOLAS FORD
CO-OP STUDENT
THE CHRONICLE

EDUCATION 2007

Student exchange taking girl to Peru

Nicole Hilliard will be jetsetting for Peru this week.

The 16-year-old West Lorner is leaving a for a year-long exchange through Rotary International.

"I'm excited! It's going to be amazing," she said.

She starts her 8 hour flight from Toronto to Lima Aug. 24, 5 p.m.

From there, she'll have to wait another six hours for a connecting flight to Arequipa, a large city in southern Peru, 633 miles from Lima.

Hundreds of people were killed after a magnitude-8.0 earthquake rocked a town halfway between Lima and Arequipa.

However, Nicole was told by her host father, the devastation had no impact on the area she will stay in.

Two years ago, Nicole's sister Kylie spent a year on exchange in Poland, also coordinated through Rotary in St. Thomas.

After her sister's experience and a desire to travel, Nicole did all she could to get the exchange.

She's making a huge sacrifice though, she'll miss a year of school and have to repeat Grade 11 at West Elgin Secondary School when she returns.

"I'm disappointed that I don't get to graduate with all my friends," she said.

She has to pay for the flight, insurance and souvenirs on her own.

Her host family will cover the rest, including a uniform for school.

Nicole will attend Colegio Internacional, along with three other exchange students from the U.S.

Her host brother will come back with another family.



Off to Peru JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Nicole Hilliard leaves for a student exchange to Peru Friday.

AUG 07

In the same time zone, though, the school starts its two month summer break in December.

During that time, Nicole will be travelling around Peru, including trips to the jungle and the Inca Trail.

Peru was second on her list after Australia, wanting to learn Spanish.

"It's a cool language," she said.

She hopes to spiral the experience into skills to be used for a future career.

In preparation, Nicole's been reading lots about Peru and taking Spanish courses at night.

"I'm going to miss my family and friends and I'm going to miss my cat," she said, adding she'll be home next July.

WESS athletics awards handed out at banquet

By Meegan Campbell
West Elgin S.S. Athletics

West Elgin Secondary School held their annual athletic banquet and awards night May 30.

More than 130 athletes, coaches, parents, and fans packed the gym for a night of recognition and celebration.

As with last year, the banquet was a dessert affair, with a special cake created by Ann Wrobel.

Things were really heating inside the gym, but the night was shortened a bit by printing each team's results in the program and by the amazing slide show created by Katie McIntyre and teacher Dave Burke. The slides showed pictures of each team and many of the athletes during competitions.

After the team awards were wrapped up, seven special awards were presented.

Debbie Levesley won Junior Female Athlete of the Year for her outstanding showings in basketball, volleyball, track, and soccer.

Will Feere won Junior Male Athlete of the Year for his achievement in football, basketball, and track and field. He added other awards to his collection including Junior Boys Basketball MVP and Junior Badminton MVP.

Will also had an exceptional showing at the OFSAA Regionals last weekend, placing 9th.

Katie McIntyre (outgoing Student Athletics Association co-president) won Senior Female Athlete of the Year for her dedication and skill in volleyball, soccer, and tennis.

Katie also won Most Sportsmanlike Player for Sr. Girls Volleyball and MVP for Varsity Girls Soccer.

Mike Lyons won Sr. Male Athlete of the Year for the second year in a row. He also won MVP for Sr. Boys Volleyball and the St. Thomas Soccer Club Soccer Award.

The Heart and Hustle Awards for outstanding athletic achievement and school involvement went to Katie McIntyre and Kris Oliveira.

Kris also won the Team Award for Varsity Boys Soccer. We thank them for all they've done for WESS over the past five years.

Laura Ford won the Optimist Club of West Lorne Award for a deserving female student-athlete. She was also named Most Sportsmanlike Player on the Sr. Girls Basketball team.

This year we had a girls hockey team for the first time in WESS history!

Laura McKnight and Ken Shine made that dream a reality.

Our SAA. We will miss Katie McIntyre, Kris Oliveira, and Brittany Jewell a great deal next year. Their dedication and enthusiasm was really appreciated.

The Varsity Boys Soccer team was away in Barrie at OFSAA over the weekend and up until Tuesday, so we wished them a Gold time!

Emma Wilkins performed very well at the OFSAA Regionals track and field meet on the weekend.

All of our dedicated coaches and fans made this year another great year for Wildcat athletics!

Good luck to all graduating athletes.

Jesse Owens said, "Friendships born on the field of athletic strife are the real gold of competition. Awards become corroded, friends gather no dust" and with that thought, we'll see you on the court, field, or ice next season!



Carnaval JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Alyssa Paiva tries to pop a balloon during a relay race at St. Mary's Catholic School where winter Carnaval was celebrated Feb. 16. Grade 6 students designed the events, Grade 7s led the teams and Grade 8s organized the event which was delayed a week due too cold of weather.

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WOSSAA Gold JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

The West Elgin Secondary School senior boys volleyball won gold at the Western Ontario Secondary School Athletics Association finals in Goderich. The juniors won bronze. Here the team celebrates its board championship. The senior boys: Last row: Coach Kelly Welch, Jeremy Delow, Dave Dryfhout, Andrew McWilliam, Mike Godfrey, Jon Greg Drummelsmith, Dan Sutton. Middle row: Matt Soos, Dylan Weselowski, Adam Sutton, Shawn Zimmerman. Front row: Aaron Cowell, Jeremy Koscik. The boys head to Ottawa for OFSSA.



Mom and daughter game JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Brodi Jewell is about to try and zip around her mother Kim during a moms and daughters basketball game at WESS last week.



Motocross award winners SUBMITTED

Many local youth compete in the Thames Valley Riders motocross circuit which held its banquet in Lucan Nov.5. PIctured here are members that attended. Front: Josh Conway, 2nd place tyke intermediate, Jordan Bouw, 1st 65 intermediate. Back: Justin Walker, Travis Roodzant, 3rd small wheel Jr., Cody Winn, 3rd in GP and 1st in 125 Jr., Brian Kelly, 1st 250 F, Julian Kovacs, 3rd 125 Jr., Chris Emery. Absent was Jeremy Conway, 1st open intermediate, Josh and Will Manneke, Jeff Walker, Ally McKillop, Mac McKillop, Kailyn Cedar and Dustin Drouillard.



Mud tug-o-war JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Chris Ward and Zack Dymock try to help their team stay out of the mud pit in a tug-o-war match during the Grade 9 initiation at West Elgin Secondary School Sept. 7. Rain added to the mud, paint, banana and egg used to make a mess, and fun, to end the first week of school.



Badminton players off to WOSSA

Jason Carroll reaches for the birdie with partner Bryce Doiron during the junior badminton TVRAA finals at West Elgin Secondary School April 19.

Moving on to the Western Ontario Secondary School Athletics finals from WESS are: Junior: Mary Jane Peternel, Will Feere, Adam Sutton and Ali Borton, Ashlee Aldred and Kristyn Fishleigh, and Brodie Jewell and Jordan Emmett. Seniors: Shawn Zimmerman, Dan Sutton and Aaron Cowell, Katelyn Duplessis and Sara Peternel.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Take your kids to work day Nov. 7

COLUMN



Principal's Corner

Larry Schneider

Nov. 7 is this year's Take Our Kids to Work Day program for all Grade 9 students.

Students, parents and employers are urged to start planning now to ensure a productive and informative day for our Grade 9 students, who in the not-too-distant future will start making decisions about post-secondary and employment options. Students can go to work with one of their parents, any other relative, or failing that, a neighbour or a friend.

Any student who is unable to find a placement for the day should let our Guidance Department know, so that we can assist.

Any employer who would like to have a Grade 9 student there for the day can do the same, by calling 768-1350.

Each week a wonderful group meets for one hour to support and pray for our school, called "Mothers Who Care".

The numbers of the group have fallen, as families who were involved have had all of their children graduate from WESS. If you are interested in joining this special group, please contact Lynda Miller at 785-2033

We have a full slate of teams and clubs up and running again in the school, as well as our school bands.

Several new opportunities are being developed for the students, such as a girls' golf team, a cross country team, and hopefully, a choir. Football, field hockey, boys volleyball, girls basketball, cross country and golf have all started their seasons.

With the tragedy of suicide now having touched so many so tragically in our community, WESS is taking a leadership role in suicide awareness, prevention, and education.

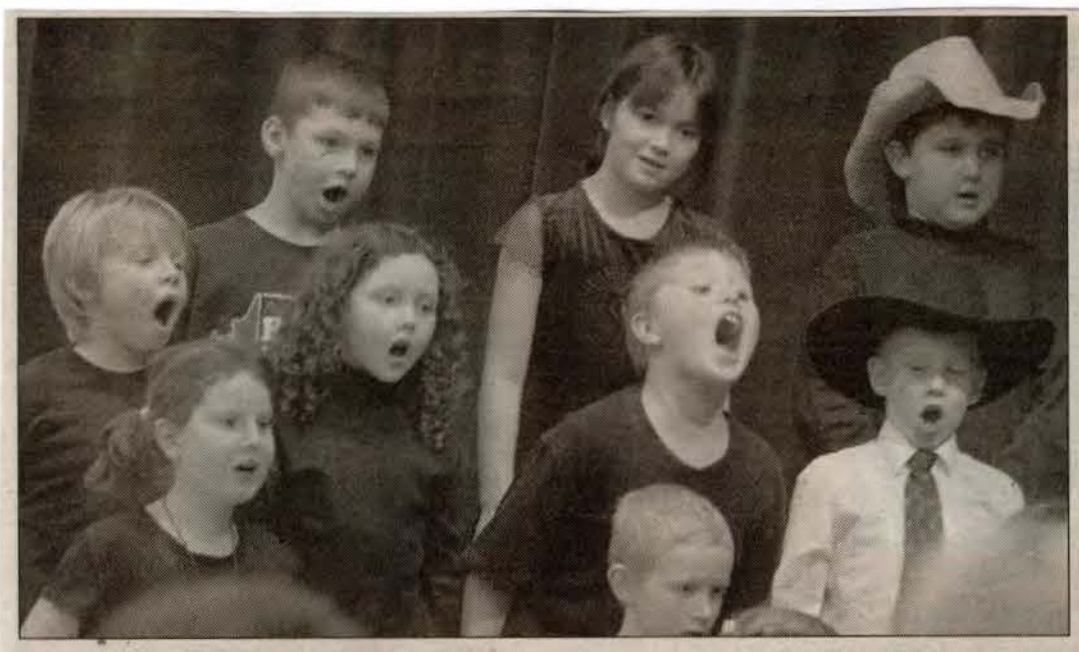
All staff at the school will participate in workshops on the Sept. 28th P.D. day, led by experts in social work, tragic events response, and suicide awareness and prevention, as well as people whose lives have been affected by the suicide of a loved one.

We will hold assemblies for all students in order to reinforce the need for them to seek help, counselling, and above all, to communicate to others any feelings of depression, sadness, anger, feeling overwhelmed, or having dark thoughts.

A night for parents and all in our community is being organized for the second or third week in October, and once details are finalized, the dates and time will be announced very publicly.

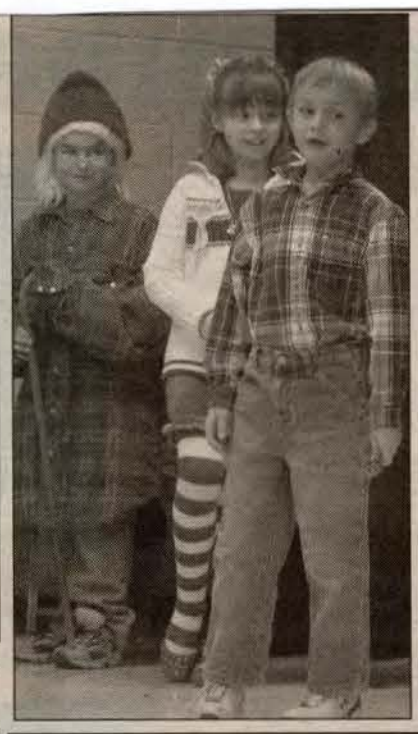
As a community we must do all that we can to support our young people, to help them, to support them, and to listen to them.

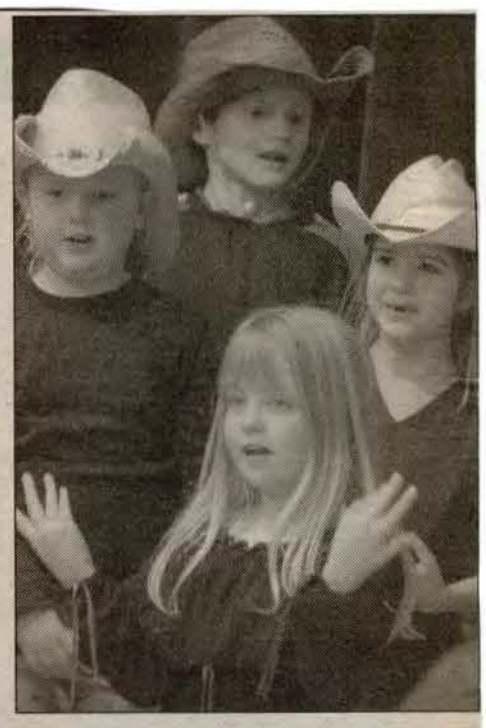
EDUCATION 2007



Concert at Aldborough Public School JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

The sights of Aldborough Public School's winter concert Dec. 12.











Winterland WESES

The choir, concert band and a rockin' roll take on Mary had a Little Lamb, filled the gym at West Elgin Senior Elementary School with music Dec. 13.



WESS Concert JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

West Elgin Secondary School's band performed holiday favourites

Agriculture program growing at high school teacher looks for more community support

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

A new course in agriculture started at West Elgin Secondary School this semester.

Agriculture and Farm Sciences, taught by north Dunwich son, teacher and farmer, Rob Tait is a university level class.

The course follows an advanced horticulture course and agriculture technology course which started at WESS last semester.

With 22 students, the course delivers the fundamentals on crops, animal husbandry, organic farming, marketing, planting, new technologies, farm practice, farm business and some history on farming.

Laura Ford is one of eight in the class that lives on a farm.

The senior students says she's taking the course to learn more about farm marketing.

"I want to know why the prices go up and down," she says, adding the course is adding depth to her knowledge of farming.

"It's relative to everyday life," says Ford, who has applied to the University of Guelph's animal sciences program.

While the course is new, Tait, the teacher, says the feedback has been positive.

"A lot of people my age say they wish this course was available when they went to high school," says WESS graduate of 1999.

The course curriculum was developed in house, pulling from the vast farming experience of faculty, along with Tait's own experience farming for a year in Australia, and his broad knowledge of agriculture around the world.

"It may take a few years to get (the course) where it should be," he says, adding he hopes the programs is picked up at more schools across the board and becomes a prerequisite for the University of Guelph and Ridgetown College.

His vision of the program, also includes having animals at the school and money to buy a text book for the program.

WESS was given $137,500 to develop agriculture and horticulture programs through the provincial Light House program.

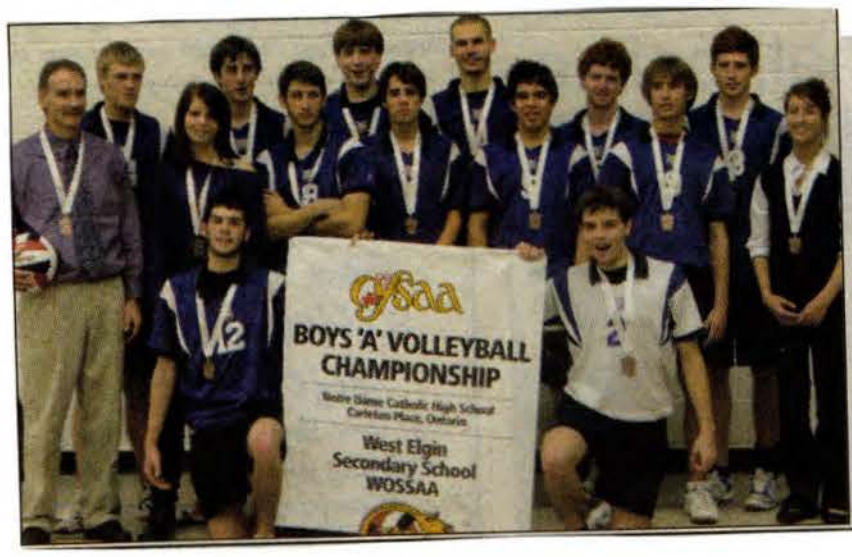
Tait has pulled material from agriculture magazines, the Internet and Statistics Canada.

Please see Agriculture, *page 2*



Agriculture class JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Nicole Oliveira, Emily Rose and Jessica Kennedy work together in the new Agriculture and Farm Science class taught by Rob Tait at West Elgin Secondary School to identify images of soil, machinery and crops.



Bronze at OFSAA

West Elgin's senior boys volleyball team won bronze at the all-Ontario OFSAA playoffs, A Division in Carlton Place last weekend. Here's the team: (Front) Aaron Cowell, Jeremy Koscik.(Middle)Coach, Kelly. Welch, Manager, Jessica Varga, Matt Soos, Adam Sutton, Dylan Weselowski, Shawn Zimmerman, Asst Coach, Miss D. Stys. (Back) Dave Dryfhout, Andrew McWilliam, John Drummelsmith, Michael Godfrey, Jeremy Delouw, Dan Sutton. SUBMITTED

Nov 29/07

HEALTH + WELFARE 2006

The SENIORS' REVIEW
Dedicated to the Seniors of our Communities

Living a healthy and active life at 91 years old



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Tai chi good for seniors

Frances McCallum does Tai Chi twice a week at 91-years-old at the Grace Anglican Church in West Lorne. The 108 moves in the Tai Chi routine help McCallum strengthen her bones and improve her balance.

At 91-years-old, Frances McCallum lives with vitality.

The career school teacher continues a daily life of healthy and active living.

Every day she walks down a flight of stairs from her apartment to downtown West Lorne to have coffee with friends.

While she admits she has slowed down over the years, being social is important to McCallum.

"Otherwise I would just be a vegetable," she said.

Born Feb. 18, 1915, McCallum and her late husband Duncan have four daughters.

She and her husband raised Dorothy, Kathy, Mary and Helen on a dairy farm on the West Elgin Dutton/Dunwich border.

She started teaching in 1931 at country school houses until ending her career at the now gone West Lorne Public School in 1977.

Since she retired she has consumed herself with family.

She knows where almost every cousin, niece and blood relative is living and loves talking about and to her family.

A life of good health, McCallum said she's lived so long thanks to good genes but it's more than that.

"There's always health information around", she said. Access to that information has helped her live an active healthy life.

Twice a week McCallum joins a class of 10 for Tai Chi at the Grace Anglican Church in West Lorne.

Tai Chi helps McCallum keep her bones strong and helps her balance.

"It's not easy to stand on one leg," she said.

She still drives, but only on familiar roads, around town, to Rodney, Dutton or Glencoe, taking friends to the Crinan Presbyterian Church Sundays.

Challenging her mind, McCallum completed her university degree after 61 years in 1992.

Now she keeps her mind active reading the newspaper every day and tackling word searches.

"You gain strength to do what you want to do. Independence, staying interested in the world around you," she said.

Forever a teacher, McCallum said she keeps going because, "there is always more to learn about life."

Health Unit wants fluoride back in area water system

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Fluoride should be put back in the area water system, said the Elgin-St.Thomas Health Unit's dental consultant.

With $19 million coming for a new water treatment plant, a formal request came from the health unit to consider reintroducing fluoride.

The letter came to West Elgin Council who passed it on to the Tri-County Water Management who may direct engineers to look at the costs and impact of adding fluoride to the future new plant.

However, the committee chair said fluoride isn't necessary or needed in the water system.

"There's fluoride in some things we eat. We just don't need it in our water," said Mike Mooser.

The area garnered national attention when it stopped putting fluoride in municipal water in June 2003.

Dr. Wayne McKay, dental consultant for Elgin-St.Thomas Health Unit requested the committee review the fluoride issue after a grant for $19 million to build a new plant was announced earlier this year.

"With this funding opportunity available, it would be an excellent time to re-introduce fluoridation of the water supply as part of the overall upgrade," said McKay in a letter to council, dated June 5.

Please see Dentist, *page 2*

New doctors energize WECHC

Med students to learn at WECHC

With the arrival of Dr. George Kim in August, the West Elgin Community Health Centre became a teaching facility for medical students to learn about rural health care.

An adjunct professor, Kim will have medical students of all levels visiting and learning at the health centre.

"Teaching bedside care is big for me," he said.

The first success of a new partnership with the University of Western Ontario, Melito introduced Dr. Kim and Dr. Ghassan Abushawish. Abushawish will start full-time in November.

Dr. Kim's parents immigrated from South Korea, raising him in Peterborough.

His wife is a public health nurse in Stratford and the two are raising a 22-month-old daughter in London.

Dr. Kim hopes to build a long legacy at the health centre and



Dr. George Kim

ensure its use as a teaching facility for the future.

"I want to continue the strong connection the health centre has with the community," he said.

Dr. Kim, completed his pre-medicine degree at Queen's University before finishing his master's at UWO and practicing in Mt. Brydges.

With the two new doctors the health centre will be able to sign almost 6,000 more patients.

Dr. Kim's goal is to show new doctors the benefits of working in a rural community.

"I want to make sure this position is always full," he said.

From Gaza to West Lorne for new doc

Dr. Ghassan Abushawish's long road to the West Elgin Community Health Centre started in Palestine.

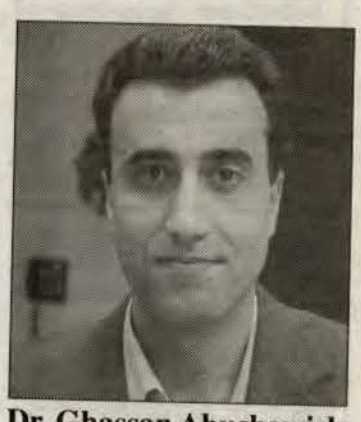
Born in a refugee camp Abushawish practiced medicine in Gaza Strip hospitals, gaining surgical experience he can use for minor procedures done at the health centre.

He went straight into medicine, at a Syrian medical school receiving a French academic education.

His work in the Gaza Strip came after the 1996 peace process, after Israeli occupation.

Abushawish is currently on a locum placement (acting doctor) and will become the third full-time family physician in November.

Graduating from the University of Western Ontario



Dr. Ghassan Abushawish

post graduate program in August was, "A big relief," said the London resident.

He's working two to three days a week at the centre and is beginning to take on his own patient list.

"Team work is obvious here, more so than at a hospital. It's more productive," said the 36-year-old.

Abushawish moved to Canada in 2000, has been married seven years and has a 10-month-old child and another in Grade 1.

WECHC a model for primary care

West Elgin Community Health Centre held its 13th annual general meeting Sept .20.

Successes were highlighted by Cate Melito, who recently rounded out her first year as executive director at the health centre.

She introduced the two new family physicians, Dr. George Kim and Dr. Ghassan Abushawish.

As well she highlighted the new chiropodist, Rick VanDerHeide, and an early psychosis enhancement program delivered in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association.

Melito also commented on the beneficial ties the health centre has made with West Elgin Support Services since its operation was moved to the health centre after the community complex burned down February.

"It's really turned out to be an opportunity to combine efforts," she told the audience.

Jerry Prince, board of directors chair talked about the growth of the health centre.

"Fifteen years ago it was just a hole in the wall. Now we have this great centre and it's beginning to get crowded," he said. "Change always comes so you accept it and always hope it's for the better."

Guest speaker for the night was Dr. Kevin Mardell who has been the family physician at WECHC since 1995.

His speech, "The Past, Present and Future of Primary Health Care" a key component of the health centre, talked further about change.

He quoted George Smitherman, Ontario Minister of Health and Long-term Care who said health care's transformation and "change as the new normal."

He talked about the baby boom generation reaching their middle ages, diabetes, heart disease, strokes and cancer rapidly rising.

Along with the increased illnesses came increased costs of health care and the governments were reaching the limits to pay for services.

"In chronic disease management we know that early detection, education around lifestyle measures, appropriate medications and regular monitoring results in better quality of life, reduced complications and lower costs to the health care system," he said.

Interdisciplinary teamwork, with primary care workers like physicians, nurse practitioners and nurses with expanded roles working with dieticians, social workers and therapists can bring meaningful long term changes in health.

"Have we finally got it right? Of course not!," he said. "We need to continue to push the envelope, to explore new territory, to critically examine the way we do things and ask is there a better way?"

Mardell said WECHC is the only primary care model within the South West Local Health Integration Network, the province's new health care management body.

He also talked about changes coming that could see his schedule accessible online, where patients could book their own appointments.

Prince pushed those in attendance to get more people to join the membership and become directors.

With 44 members, the board of directors will need more people to run next year as directors can only stand for six years.

Health care info session being held in West Lorne

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

A community forum on the new Local Health Integration Networks is being held in West Lorne Sept. 6.

One of 50 public forums taking place throughout southwestern Ontario, the South West LHIN is seeking public input into its Health Service Plan.

The South West LHIN is one of 14 provincially appointed organizations established in March to link health care services in the region to one another and the province.

A LHIN is a non-profit organization responsible for planning, integrating and funding local health services.

LHINS will lead to a more efficient and accountable health system, said a fact sheet included in a media kit mailed by the South West LHIN.

The Sept. 6 community forum in West Lorne will make sure local citizens and health providers can help shape the priorities and directions for change, said the media kit.

The input will be used in the three-year strategic plan called the Integrated Health Service Plan which is being submitted to the Ministry of Heath and Long-term Care by Oct. 31.

The public forum in West Lorne will be held at the St. Mary's Hall Sept. 6 from 7 to 9 p.m.

- South West LHIN includes 925,000 people, 7.5 per cent of Ontario's Population.
- It stretches from Tobermory in the Bruce Peninsula, to the Elgin/Chatham-Kent border and Long Point.
- It includes 20 hospitals, six community care access centres, 65 community support services, 28 mental health agencies, 14 addiction agencies, two community health centres and 74 long-term care homes.
- Other partners include six public health units, 15 family health teams, one children's treatment centre and all health professionals and municipalities.
- The province funds 227 health services organizations and more than 100 community service organizations in the South West.

HEALTH & WELFARE 2006



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Women's health night



WECHC supper

Don Page and Melanie Knapp, community youth worker, sing Christmas carols at the annual West Elgin Community Health Centre supper held at the West Lorne Legion Dec. 22. The supper was organized to provide a supper for those unable to cook or afford a Christmas meal. Food was donated by area merchants.

2006

JEAN GUY ST JACQUES /THE CHRONICLE

Health centre gets award

West Elgin Community Health Centre's Let's Connect Office in Dutton recently received a bronze award for workplace wellness from the Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit.

The Centre has been including wellness messages in their pay stub stuffers. Employees are welcomed at any of the health promotion events offered to the community. There is a walking program daily at 12:30 pm and health messages are sent to staff by e-mail. The team is planning a Christmas Cook together and then to be enjoyed as their Christmas party. A chef from London will be facilitating this event.

This year the West Elgin Community Health Centre instituted an employee assistance program for employees, and have advertised this program to staff.

The wellness committee has developed a terms of reference and would be pleased to share this with other committees.

At the centre there are open lines of communication and staff participate in team building exercises.

The staff have potluck lunches and munchies before staff meetings, all healthy food choices, of course.

The Health and Safety Committee at the West Elgin Community Health Centre has worked very hard starting their wellness program, and we are pleased to present them with a"Bronze Healthy Workplace Award.

The Dutton office is home of the Dutton Early Years program.



Workplace wellness SUBMITTED

Angela Dougherty and Cindy DaCosta receive a workplace wellness award from the Elgin St. Thomas



Cate Melito, Executive Director

From the Directors Desk

It is my pleasure to introduce our second new family physician, Dr. Ghassan Abushawish. Dr. Abushawish started at the Centre on August 14th. He finished his undergraduate medical school in Syria and worked for a few years after graduation as a general practitioner in Damascus and Gaza. Recently, he completed his family medicine residency at the University of Western Ontario (UWO).

As a family doctor, he has a special interest in women's health and family planning. He looks forward to meeting West Elgin Community Residents.

Please plan to attend our Annual General meeting on September 20th at 5:30 pm to meet both Dr. Abushawish and Dr. Kim in person. Dr. Kevin Mardell will be our guest speaker and Sarah Westbrook will be singing at the meeting as well. I hope that you will plan to attend.

Two other events that you will want to plan to attend include: the West Lorne Heritage Homes Board of Directors invites you to preview the proposed new seniors apartments and seniors town home development on September 18th at 7pm at the Community Health Centre. The South West Local Health Integration Network also invites you to contribute your thoughts to the development of an integrated health services plan for this area. This plan will guide how health services are delivered in the future. The meeting will take place on September 6th at 7 pm at St. Mary's Parish in West Lorne.



Dr. Ghassan Abushawish

Twins donate hair

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Four-year-old twins Amanda and Alyssa Dupuis will always have a story to tell about their first ever hair cut at a salon.

Ponytails - 10 inches from Amanda and near 11 inches from Alyssa were cut off to be sent to Angel Hair for Kids.

Angel Hair for Kids provides human hair wigs for children from financially disadvantaged families who have lost their hair as a result of the A,B,C's of hair loss: Alopecia, Burns and scalp injuries or cancer chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

"The girls decided to do this on their own," said mom, Shauna. Dad's name is Cameron.

After seeing something on TV about children without hair the girls asked what would happen to their own hair if they cut it off?

The West Lorne twins got their ponytails cut at Judy's Hair Loft.

It takes 12 hair donations to make a wig, at the cost of $800.

The Dupuis liked Angel Hair for Kids because it gave the wigs free of charge to children from financially tight homes.

The girls hope whoever gets the hair is happy.

"I'm so proud of my hair," said Alyssa, while Beth Goos trimmed her new hairdo.

Amanda said she wanted a new, "style."

"They have such beautiful, clean hair," said Judy Gangle.

Seeing the new look in the mirror, "It's pretty," said Alyssa.

It was the twins first hair cut at a salon.

"It will grow back," Shauna said, trying to reassure her squiggly daughter.

Amanda is five minutes older but "I'm taller," said Alyssa.

After it's cut, the hair is wrapped in tissue paper, put in a Ziplock bag and mailed off to Mississauga, and A Child's Voice Foundation, which runs the program.

Amanda and Alyssa won't have their hair falling in their face during junior kindergarten at Aldborough Public School for a while.

"It's just a little different," said Alyssa.



A new hairdo JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Amanda and Alyssa Dupuis hold their newly departed ponytails which they are donating for financially disadvantaged children with hair loss.

Community Health Centre receives award



Wellness award given to WECHC SUBMITTED

Bonnie Rowe, Melanie McLeod and Diane VanDyk accept a Healthy Workplace Award from Cynthia St. John, executive director of Elgin St. Thomas Public Health.

The West Elgin Community Health Centre is composed of the medical centre located in West Lorne and a satellite office in Dutton. The medical centre provides clinical and community services including primary health care, health promotion and illness prevention, counselling and foot care. The Centre employs 35-40 employees both full and part-time and three Doctors.

At the Centre we have a workplace wellness suggestion box in the lunch room and a wellness bulletin board. We have an informal walking program and some scheduling flexibility regarding lunch and breaks in order to allow for the walks. We have a snack tray available within our lunch room at all times, with proceeds going to the United Way.

At the West Elgin Community Health Centre we have host pot-luck lunches/snacks before every staff meeting. A number of United Way fundraising BBQ's also are hosted by our staff for us to enjoy and support the United Way simultaneously.

To promote physical activity at work we had the "Spring into Action" initiative. Staff was placed in teams and the team members motivated and encouraged each other. Prizes included fun family activities, for example badminton sets, gardening tools, frisbees and bubbles. We also participated in a team softball game and were given time for team building for this game.

We have a Staff "WECHC Wall of Fame" whereby each staff member is highlighted once per year. The staff share their role at the Centre and specifically some of their personal interests. This helps everyone, staff and partner agencies to better understand the diversity within the centre and our daily activities as the centre grows larger.



Cate Melito, Executive Director

From the Directors Desk

We are pleased to introduce three new professionals: Jenna MacIsacc and Jeanette Fenner our two new diabetes dietitians and Pam Wilton, asthma educator. If you are interested in diabetes or asthma, these professionals are available to provide you with information and to work with you and your physician to support your health.

There are many services and programs available at the West Elgin Community Health Centre for anyone who lives within western elgin. The Calendar of Events outlines the programming that is available free of charge to you. In January, the West Elgin Community Health Centre will feature information in the Chronicle each week about the programs and services available to you. We hope this new approach will ensure you have information about upcoming services and programs more frequently.

From the Board and staff of the West Elgin Community Health Centre, we wish you a safe and joyous holiday and a healthy and happy new year!
Cate Melito

Asthma Education Sessions help keep West Elgin Clients Breathing Easer!

The Asthma Program at the West Elgin Community Health Centre provides:
- asthma education sessions on a one to one basis
- sessions are provided by a Certified Asthma Educator
- sessions include breathing tests (spirometry)
- education on the basics of asthma is offered
- clients are taught about asthma triggers
- you are shown how to best to use your medication inhalers.

There will be two clinics per month, with some hours in the early evening once per month. This initiative, one of only twelve across Ontario, is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, is a partnership with the WECHC and St. Joseph's Health Centre in London.





Active Elgin Launched. SUBMITTED

On Jan 12, Elgin St. Thomas Public Health and their partners launched a new City of St. Thomas and County wide initiative - Active Elgin – goal to increase the number of people participating in leisure, sport and recreation programs (Check out their website: www.activeelgin.ca). (L-R) Kent McVittie, City of St. Thomas Parks and Recreation Theresa Klachan, East Elgin Community Complex, Ann Lapchinski, The Ontario Trillium Foundation, Gemma Urbani, Elgin St. Thomas Public Health, Lindsay Grondin-Rice, YWCA St. Thomas Elgin, Cynthia Roodzant, West Elgin Community Health Centre.

Let's Connect Team

Please give us a call at 762-6236 for more information on our programs and up coming programs.
Angela Dougherty-Community Health Worker/Family Support, Cindy Da Costa-Early Childhood Educator, Debi Feasey-Registered Nurse, Lynda Avram-Registered Dietitian

Let's Connect Programs (for families with children 0 to 6 years) Growing With Baby

- Well baby checks
- Socialize and meet other parents
- Individual questions will be answered by a registered nurse or dietitian
- Offered in Rodney, Dutton and West Lorne

Breastfeeding Support and Breast Pump Rentals

- One to one support by registered nurse • Home visits • Telephone reassurance

Krazy Kitchens (must register) Parents of children 0-6yrs come together to make food to take home and chat with other parents monthly - (2 sessions)
Next session - January 9th
Topic - Pies & Pastries
Where - 10 to noon @ Dutton Community Centre or 6:30 to 8:30 pm @ West Elgin Community Health Centre. Children's programming available



Let's Connect Krazy Kitchen cooking program
A great opportunity for moms to meet with other moms while learning new skills and a chance to discuss health, nutrition and family matters.

Let's Celebrate Pregnancy Classes •Prenatal classes
Next classes beginning: Jan 8th - Labour & Delivery Part 1
Jan 10th - Labour & Delivery Part 2
Jan 15th - Breastfeeding Basics
Jan 17th - Life After Labour & Delivery
Where: West Elgin Community Health Centre
Time: 6:30 to 8:30pm

Parents & Tots (Weekly - Tuesdays)
Time: 10:00am to 2:00pm
Where: West Elgin Community Health Centre
• For young parents to come together to discuss parenting while their children play with other children

Sewing Stories (must register) Monthly opportunities for parents to come to learn sewing and craft skills while chatting with other parents. Children's programming also available.
When: 3rd Wednesday of every month
Time: 6 to 8 pm
Where: West Elgin Community Health Centre (Children's programming available)

Recreation Fair

- Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds - "Helping our children grow as strong as they can be"
- Guest Speaker - Leroy Hibbert
- Opportunity to meet local recreation sport and leisure service providers

When: Feb 27, 2008
Where: Dutton Community Centre
Time: 5:00 to 8:30pm (free light supper)

Diabetes Team up and running at West Elgin Community Health Centre

We are pleased to announce that our 2 new diabetes team at are now up and running and seeing clients. Each "team" consists of a nurse and a dietitian who will see clients on an individual or group basis and will work with family members and other health professionals. The teams specialize in providing diabetes care, education, and management with clients. The educators will work with clients to make recommendations on how to stay healthy in the following areas:

- Nutrition
- Monitoring sugars
- Medication
- Exercise



We are pleased to introduce Jeannette Fenner and Jenna MacIsaac, dietitians who started with us as part of the Diabetes Team on October 9. Jenna MacIsaac and nurse, Tina Ramsey will be located at the West Elgin Community Health Centre in West Lorne and will work with clients in the western end of Elgin County. Jeannette Fenner and nurse Gwen Hammons will be managing clients in the eastern end of Elgin County. They have started seeing clients in Straffordville and hope to soon have office space in Aylmer.

You can access their services on your own or through your doctor. To find out more about either of these teams, please call 519-768-1715. Also watch for further advertising about their new programs and services.

Look for upcoming Diabetes Groups and Classes in the new year to be held at West Elgin Community Health Centre.

HEALTH + WELFARE 2007

Mary Vergeer new site director at FCHS

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Mary Vergeer has been hired new site director at Four Counties Health Services.

She's brimming with optimism to turn the small Newbury-health centre into a model for rural hospitals.

The long-time West Lorne-area resident sees the new job as a coming home after years travelling up to an hour to health care facilities in London, Chatham and Aylmer.

"It's been fantastic," she says of her first few weeks.

She brings 32-years experience, starting as a bed-side registered nurse, to long-term care facility administrator, nursing education and senior staffer in a hospital.

The challenges and opportunities that come with the new position in an ever changing sector will stretch her skills and knowledge, she says.

"I wanted a job where I could make an impact as a leader," she says.

Having started April 16, she's been busy learning about all the services at the hospital and the people responsible for the services.

"I was blown away by all the services provided here," she says.

She's responsible for all the goings on at FCHS from working with front line nurses, the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, and Middlesex Health Alliance.

Some tough challenges ahead include recruiting doctors to work in the hospital's emergency department and ensuring people who live within the hospital's catchment area are using its services.

"Patient care has to be the number one priority in what we do," says Vergeer.

The summer is always the toughest for staffing, but Vergeer says this year, staffing issues have already been addressed.

Being local is a benefit to the position she says.

She has a connection to the hospital, understands the culture of the people, history and challenges.

She was amazed by the number of changes in recent years at the hospital.

"The only thing constant is change," she says, adding the changes have been positive.

"The public sees the hospital as it used to be. The yard stick was always how many beds do you have? Beds are no longer the measurement."

Mary and her husband Henry have four children with a third grandchild on the way.

She says she will work to enhance and expand on services at the hospital.

Also she says she'll fight to ensure people have equal access to health care and find ways to bring services to the community.

She's looking forward to hanging her hat at FCHS where she can get totally involved, using her skills to meet the challenges ahead and and bring forth all the opportunities head.



Mary Vergeer
Mary Vergeer has been hired as new site director at Four Counties Health Services.

Rural Transportation in West Elgin!

The Four Counties Transit Van has always provided transportation to seniors and disabled adults for a small fee. Recently Four Counties Transit has expanded services and is now available to provide transportation for all adult residents of Rodney and West Lorne, for health-related appointments in the Newbury, Glencoe, Rodney and West Lorne areas every Monday.

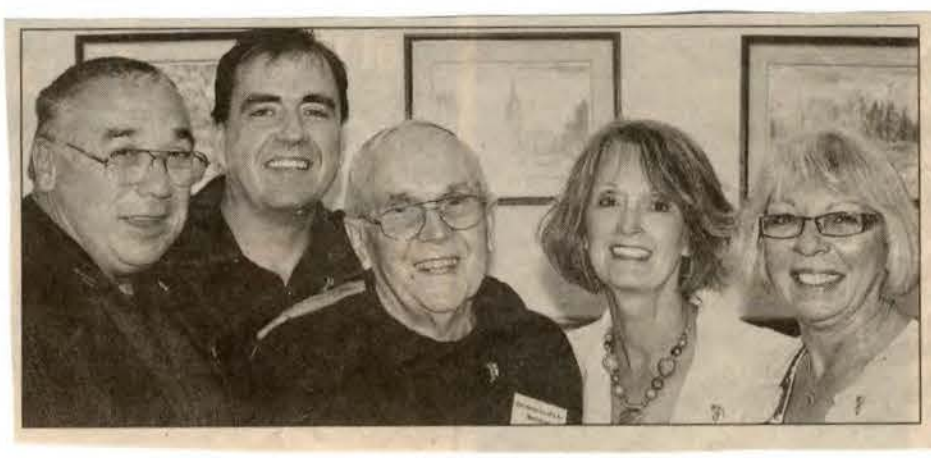
The van is available on an appointment basis a couple of days per week. As well, there is a scheduled route for pick up and drop off in the communities listed above each Monday. To book a ride or if you have any questions, please call the Four Counties Dispatch @ 519-693-8604.

The West Elgin Transportation Network offers rides to seniors and disabled adults living in West Elgin and Dutton-Dunwich. Trips are often to medical appointments, for grocery shopping, and social outings. Even appointments in London, St. Thomas or Chatham can be provided. Clients must be able to transfer themselves in and out of a vehicle, and not require assistance with personal care while on an outing. Call 768-0020



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

A friendly game of bingo.
Bill Beaudoin called out the numbers Jan. 8 during the monthly Seniors Bingo game at the West Elgin Community Health Centre.



Wesley Sloan, centre, with Thames EMS paramedic Glenn Szusz, left, and St. Thomas emergency room nurses Dave Barney, Pam Gathercole and Charlotte Crevits, right.

LONDON FREE PRESS
MAY

Decorate old garland or wreaths with lights or out-dated fruit clumps sprinkled with dust

WEST LORNE AND COMMUNITY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society held its Christmas meeting Dec. 12 at West Lorne Legion.

Pres. Kim Penney welcomed everyone and introduced guest speaker, Helen Rose, proprietor of The Village Green Flower Shop.

Helen started her program by stressing it is not necessary to buy new arrangements or accessories to have something different and unique to decorate the home for the holidays. Just look through old boxes in the attic or other storage areas and you will be surprised by all the things you will find that haven't been used for a few years. What is out of style one year, most certainly will be in again in another.

She said that finding time was a major issue with many people, but explained that by simply getting organized it wasn't as difficult as it might seem. She stressed that outdoor lights should be put up while weather is mild instead of when snow is on the ground and temperatures are freezing.

Set a theme and carry it all though the house, that being, colour, rustic, modern or traditional. It is also much better to have one focal point in a room than to have several things scattered all over. Groupings are a great way to achieve this, such as snowmen, santas, angels, or whatever.

To get in a festive decorating mood, try starting outside. A simple urn of greenery, along with a poinsettia or anything you have around is a good idea for an entry or steps leading to a house. On a porch an old forgotten Christmas tree, simple decorated with bows and a few lights is another way to spruce up the yard, or a big, red bow on a lamp post. All these ideas add a happy note to an otherwise plain and deserted place.

Garlands are another item people usually have left over from other years and can be made into a very showy decoration. Lights can be added, out-dated fruit clumps can be sprayed with glue and then sprinkled with diamond dust, rustic items such as pine cones, country stars, and old ornaments are just a few things that can be applied to garlands or wreaths. When decorated put garlands on the back of a buffet, with candles in the foreground for a very attractive decoration, or place them on top of kitchen cabinets, countertops or anywhere there is an empty space.

Helen had many varieties of greens with her and showed how to arrange them in urns, small containers, or just by tying them in a bouquet to put in a vase. Putting them in water is one way to make them last much longer. She also gave many other tips to help enjoy decorating the home.

Helen was thanked by Kim, who also made several announcements, including that memberhips for 2007 can now be obtained from any member. In order to be able to continue in the beautification of the village the society needs new members. Lunch was served by June Smart.

Kiwanis talent show called off after 55 years

After 55 years the annual West Lorne Kiwanis Club Talent Show for this weekend has been cancelled.

There was not enough entries to support the time and effort required to make it work, said a disappointed organizer, Bill Graham.

"It's sad and disappointing for the whole community. A lot of kids participated and their parents were in the show years ago," said organizer Bill Graham

At its peak, the talent show had hundreds of youth performing for packed houses of friends and family at the high school and WEDS Theatre.

Students of music, who spent countless hours practicing solos were given the chance to perform on a stage and use the opportunity as a stepping stone to other Kiwanis competitions.

The Kiwanians have appreciated the support from local music teachers who over the years helped get student applications filled out and routines prepared.

Graham hopes youth still believe in the arts.

"I think the arts are an important part of the education system," he said. "We might give it a shot next year."

With only 26 entries this year, it was felt a Friday evening show and Saturday afternoon show couldn't have been pulled off this weekend.

Graham hopes next year there is more interest or that another opportunity to work with youth arises.

West Elgin Chamber of Commerce letting the world know we are here

WEST ELGIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber Chat

By Irene Puddester

First of all, please let me say that everyone is welcome to attend West Elgin Chamber of Commerce meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at the Old Town Hall in Rodney at 7:30 p.m.

Our members have been involved in many events throughout 2006.

Marketing Partners of Western Elgin Region (MPoWER), consisting of several of our volunteers, successfully produced events such as the Car Tour on Heritage Weekend, Cactus, Cattle and Cowboys weekend, Horse Farm Tours, etc.

This group is creating a base of information to assist all local groups planning events to find the best advertising, what's effective and what's free as well as a volunteer base to staff their fundraising events.

All this in an effort to let the world know where we are and promote investment within western Elgin.

WECofC completed a Business Retention and Expansion study and are presently working to make the results pay off. A huge effort has been put into fine tuning our website which will contain up to date information on what businesses are already in place.

We are working with local schools and businesses in an attempt to co-ordinate the needs of both. Elgin maps now go all the way to our western border!

More information to come in the months ahead.

We wish everyone peace and joy, not only in the Christmas season, but throughout 2007.

Note: Our January meeting will be postponed to the second Tuesday, Jan. 9th.

SERVICE CLUBS 2006



Plant Sale JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Sara Oliveira helped her mom Rosa at the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society Plant Sale Saturday morning.

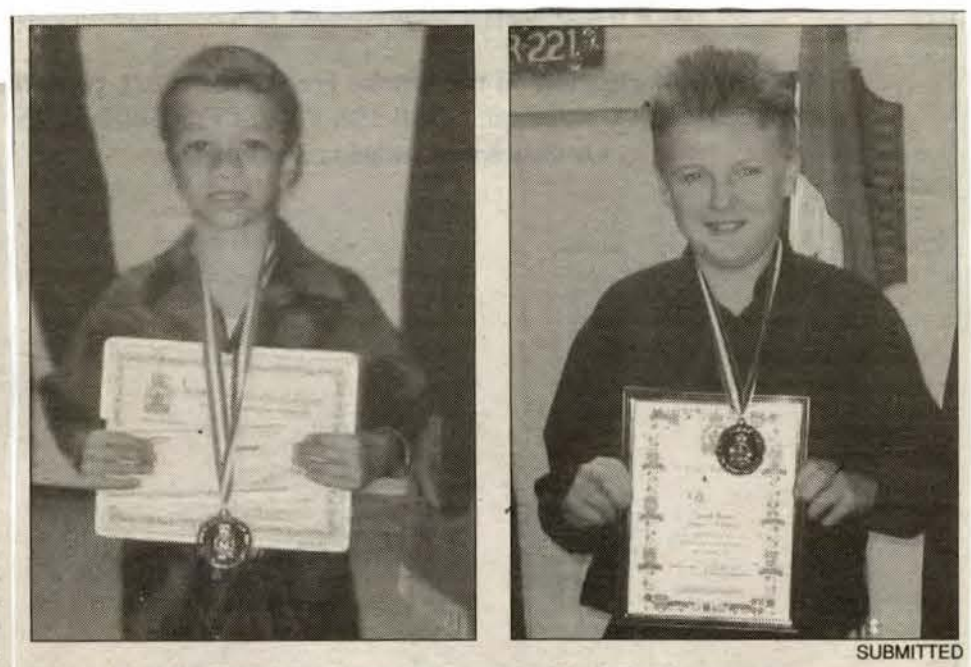
Historical society learns about fugitive slaves

WEST ELGIN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWS

The West Elgin Genealogical and Historical Society was enthralled with the account of the life of Sarah, a fugitive slave born 1790, who eventually made her way to Simcoe, Ontario.

David Beasley, author of Sarah's Journey, related the story of Sarah's life to the Society. Beasley now lives in Simcoe and is the author of many other works.

Following a break for refreshments, plans were made for a tour in July through the wind farm near Port Burwell.



SUBMITTED

West Elgin Legion honours provincial winners

West Elgin Legion Br. President Perry Penney was pleased to present two local students with provincial level awards. Stephen Szabo (left) was presented with the provincial award for the Remembrance Day poster contest and Jacob Rowe won at the provincial level for the speaking contest. Congratulations to both students.



Whoa bowl! JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Jean Besley coaxes a bowl to stop near the jack during the M&Ms Lashbrook Memorial Lawnbowling tournament held at the West Lorne Lawnbowling Club Sept. 6. More than 50 bowlers played at the club's largest tournament of the year.

West Elgin Nature Club to hold guided walking tour

WEST ELGIN NATURE CLUB
NEWS

Members of the West Elgin Nature Club, walking sticks in hand, will be conducting guided tours of the West Elgin Nature Reserve May 7 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

This family event is an excellent opportunity to enjoy a springtime walk through a Carolinian forest and enjoy the spectacular springtime display of wildflowers.

If you've ever wondered what is unique about a Carolinian forest, the plants and birds and animals that make it up, you will have the opportunity on Sunday to talk with the experts.

This site at one time was the Aldborough dump, and it is gratifying to see how a dump can be turned into a beautiful public place.

The WE Nature Club maintains this 32 acre area, and has cut wide trails into the forest, which make for easy walking under the forest canopy.

A memorial forest at the front of this acreage is maintained, with name plaques marking these trees.

The walking trails in West Elgin are open every day for your pleasure all season long and the trails, because they are protected by the tree canopy, are beautiful places all year round for outdoor outings, free for your enjoyment.

The West Elgin Nature Reserve is located at 24514 Downie Line.

The Nature Club also holds walks every Monday morning at different locations throughout the area.



SUBMITTED

BMO gives to Daffodil Society

(back row) Kelly Oliveira, Luisa Lavandeira, Marlene Goos, Carena Long, (front row) Rebecca Byers presenting the cheque of $500 to Colin Kittmer (representative of the West Elgin Daffodil Society) .

As a group we raised $500 ($300 from our annual yard sale and $200 from chocolate bar sales). We donated these funds to the West Elgin Daffodil Society in order to help fund their efforts.

We are honored to help out in the community and could not do it without your continuous support.

BMO Fountain of Hope is the charitable foundation of Canadian employees and pensioned employees of BMO Financial Group who support registered charities in their local communities.



DND PHOTO CAPT. E.B. LANDALE

Inspection

Lieutenant Colonel L. Sainsbury, inspects cadet Cheyenne Robinson of #2884 West Elgin Cadet Corp at a three-week basic army cadet marksman course at a training centre in Ottawa.



Ceremonial inspection JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Reviewing Officer Ray Jobson inspects Cadet Robert Bennett during #2884 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps. annual ceremonial review.

Service Clubs 2006

Kiwanians fundraising in area

WEST LORNE KIWANIS CLUB NEWS

The West Lorne Kiwanis Club created a float for the Santa Claus Parade in West Lorne on Nov. 24 and in the Rodney Parade Dec. 2.

Members of the club manned the float and sang carols during the parade.

The club is also conducting fundraising efforts at the West Lorne Foodland.

Members of the club will be carolling at Beattie Haven Retirement Home and at Babcock Community Care Centre Dec. 15.

The club is always looking for members and anyone interested in becoming involved in your community can contact your friendly Kiwanian.



OPTIMIST CLUB MEMBERS GIVE APPRECIATION TO AREA YOUTH

In honour of Optimist International Youth Appreciation Week, the Optimist Club of West Lorne hosted its annual dinner given to area students and their families on November 21. These area young people are carrefully chosen by the teachers of their schools as outstanding individuals for many different reasons. The evening is hosted by Optimist members with a dinner followed by an introduction of each student by one of their teachers or principal then presented with a certificate from The Optimist Club. Pictured L to R back row: Catie Welch, WESS; Ryan Carey, WESS; Jacob Rowe, WESS; Stephanie Leys, WESS; Zoey Van Dyk,St. Mary's Catholic Schcol; Optimist Pres. Ken Neil. Front row: Alex Goos, Aldborough Public School; Michael Lewinsky, Aldborough Public School; Mitch Kuska, WESES; Caitlin SImpson, WESES; Tyler Duarte, St. Mary's Catholic School. A free public skating program was also offered to the youth of the community by the Optimist Club.



Kiwanians help West Lorne Library

Shelley Fleming supervisor of the Reodney and West Lorne library accepts a cheque from Allen Ure, district representative of the Kiwanis for $7,300. Warden Paul Baldwin and West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick were on hand for the donation announcement April 20 at the new temporary location of the West Lorne library at 168 Main Street.

A Feb. 8 fire displaced the library.

Diane Palmer, manager of library operations said the money may not be used until the Community Complex is restored. Kiwanis Canada leveraged a donation from Honda to match money raised locally. Also, four boxes of books were donated by Random House to the library.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE



We will remember them JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

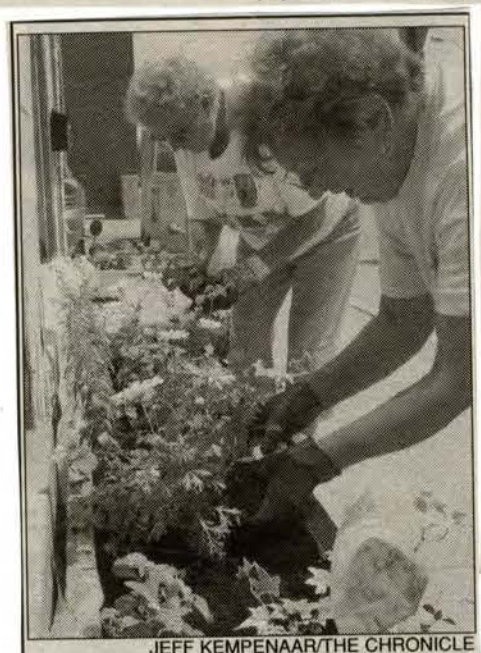
William Stinson, Commanding Officer for the West Elgin Cadet Corp. 2884 lays a wreath for the cadets at the cenotaph in Dutton Nov. 10 during an evening Remembrance Day ceremony.





Last post JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Above: Trina Lebedz plays Last Post at Aldborough Public School Nov. 10. Below: Master Corporal Lee Balint plays Last Post in Rodney Nov. 11.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

West Lorne beautified

Betty McKillop and June Smart planted West Lorne yellow last week, as the West Lorne Horticultural Society filled planter boxes downtown.

Mary Lippold is a WI Member



We will remember them MARY SUZANNE MCGREGOR/THE CHRONICLE

Second World Ward veteran Charlie Chronkite escorts the Lippold family who laid a wreath in memory of George Lippold at the cenotaph iin West Lorne at the Remembrance Day ceremony Nov. 11.



Remember JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Keith Fretter laid a wreath in Rodney for his son Christopher, a military policeman, who died while serving in South Africa this summer.



Meeting a veteran JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICL

John Humphrey, merchant marine veteran, spoke to students at St. Mary's Catholic School Nov. 10.



Plant show improves JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Jim Mabee, left, judged the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society plant show held at the West Elgin Community Health Centre June 23. Horticultural Society members Betty McKillop, June Smart, and Kim Penney were happy with more participation in this year's show.

SERVICE CLUBS 2006

Scouts close to starting new group in West Lorne

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

After a pitch to the community Scouts Canada is ready to roar back into West Lorne.

About 40 children and as many parents filled the Scouts Hall in West Lorne Jan. 19 to find out what scouts have to offer.

The group folded two years ago when longtime leader Helena Van Vugt hung up her sash.

Children continued to express interest in joining but leaders couldn't be found.

However, several parents came forward at the meeting, signed application forms to lead groups and gave Dave Stokes, Scouts Canada Field Executive, optimism.

"We'll be up and going in four weeks," he pronounced with a smile after answering parents questions about clothes, commitments and fees for two hours.

Parents came forward, reminiscing about their own time in Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, now enrolling their own children.

"That shows what great work (Van Vugt) did over the years. She kept the group going for so long," said Stokes.

"I'm thrilled with the turnout," he said.

"Wow!" said Scout Leader Anna Podebry. "I was really surprised so many people came out."

Podebry has kept the idea of the group reforming going for the past two years but has struggled to get leaders.

Recently she sent out flyers to local schools, presented the program to students and parents at Aldborough Public School and contacted Stokes at the South Western Ontario Scouts Council office for help.

Counting heads, she saw 20 Cubs, 18 Beavers and seven Scout aged youth at the open house.

Whether or not enough kids join each group, linking between the age groups will help keep kids in Scouts and learning life skills.

After the volunteer leaders are trained and get references and criminal history checks, Podebry hopes the group will meet for its first time in two years, before March.

"It just ended," she said of the groups demise. "We held our registration and six Beavers came out. We had no leaders and I couldn't do it all myself."

Scouts is for boys and girls aged five to 15 and meet once a week with additional activities.

For more information, call Podebry at 768-2858.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Casting her first vote

Natalie Gash of West Lorne, just turned 18-years-old and cast her first vote for the federal election at the West Elgin Legion Monday.



Turnout optimistic for Scouts JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Scout leader Anna Podebry blindfolds Amanda Haggitt for a game of blind and seek held at an open house at the Scout Hall in West Lorne Jan. 19. About 40 youth, along with parents came to the open house to find out about Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. After folding two years ago, the group hopes to start up again in the coming weeks. Please see Scouts, page 7.



SUBMITTED

New Board of Directors for Optimist Club of West Lorne

Staff Sergeant Ryan Cox (right) was in West Lorne recently to speak to members of the West Lorne Optimist Club and members of the Rodney Lions Club about police issues in Elgin County.

(Left) The West Lorne Optimists installed their new Board of Directors for the 06/07 year (l to r) front row: Past President Doug Staddon; SWO Governor Dwight Phillips and 06/07 President Ken Neil. Back row (l to r) V.P. Karen Goncalves; Dir. Jim Carmichael; Dir. Elsie Beaudoin; Sec. Dorothy Staddon and Treas. Bill Trask. Missing from photo are directors Ric Whyte; Brad Reive and John Eagleson. Past President Doug Staddon will be awarded this coming February for Distinguished Pres. and Distinguished Club for 05/06.



Boys book club begins JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

A new boys' reading club started at local libraries last week. At the first meeting at the West Lorne Library the boys chose which books to read. Here: John Williams, Calvin Dowling, David Martin, Carson Brayton, David Vergeer, Maikel Dieker, Andrew Gumpert, Daniel Witteck, Jamie Williams and David Given discussed the first book Sounder, about a young slave boy growing up. Clubs have started in Dutton and Rodney too.

Libraries starting winter programs

The staff at the West Lorne and Rodney Public Libraries hope everyone has a Happy New Year and invite one and all to participate in some exciting, free, library programs to help beat those winter blues.

Beginning in January we have several programs available including Story Hour.

For children ages three to five, children can hear and read a long to some exciting stories.

The program runs at the Rodney Library Mondays for an hour, starting at 2 p.m. and at the West Lorne Library starting at 1 p.m. Fridays.

New this year is our Boys Book Club at the West Lorne Library.

Boys from nine to 12 years old can come in and pre-register for the program which starts Jan. 26. for an hour starting at 6:45 p.m.

To encourage family reading in a fun way, we're kicking off Family Book Bingo all day Jan. 26 at both libraries.

Please join us to win prizes on the final night, Mar. 9.

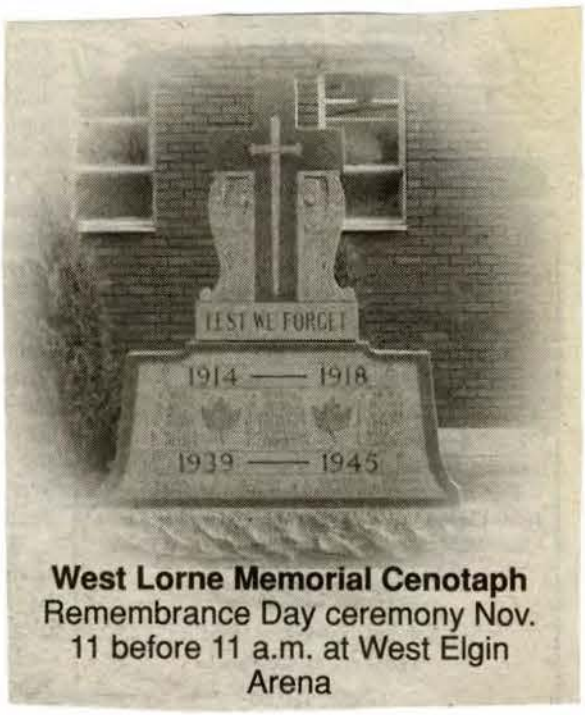
For more information about these programs, please contact the West Lorne Library at 768-1150 or the Rodney Library at 785-2100.

We look forward to seeing you!

79

SERVICE CLUBS 2007

WEST ELGIN Br. 221
John St., West Lorne 768-1890
LEGION
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



West Lorne Memorial Cenotaph
Remembrance Day ceremony Nov. 11 before 11 a.m. at West Elgin Arena



West Elgin First World War Veterans

The following are First World War veterans who at one time lived in West Lorne, Rodney or Adlborough.

The book West Elgin at War - Letters, Stories and Pictures of Local Men and Women in our Armed Forces in the First World War was compiled by Harley Lashbrook:

Russell Gage Andrews, John Edmund Archer, John Samuel Atkinson, Ernest Auckland, Walter Leon Auckland, Charles Edward Bake, Albert M. Baker, Milton Michael Baker, Alice I. Bandeen, John Robert Bandeen, Wilfred A. Becker, John Harold Becker, Lawrence Francis Bole, Irvin W. Bolsby, Fred Bolton, Jacobus "Jack" Boonman, William Thomas Britton, William John Brock, John James Buchanan, Harry Buckler, Henry Buller, Henry Buller, James H. Burnett, Albert Henry Burr, Albert Burwick, Reuben Bayfield, Alexander Gibb Campbell, Alexander Campbell, James Campbell, Victor Campbell, Bertrum Carnegie, James Allen Carmichael, Roy Ernest Carpenter, Kelso Roy Carson, Chetwynds S. Carter, Lyle Collard, Ross William Colley, Alex Coke Colthart, Walter Colhart, Frank Connell, William Edgar Constant, W. Cuthertson, Chester Danby, Edward, Thomas Day, George A. Doan, George Doolittle, William Doolittle, Nelson Doyle, Ross Ernest Doyle, Roy Downing, Thomas Duffy, Fred Edwards, Robert John Edwards, Boyd Gilbert Erskine, Roy Gordon Erskine, Alfred James Everett, Thomas Albert Fairles, John Roland Farrah, Edward Fenn, Neil Edward Ferguson, J.C. Frank, Melrose Frederick, Walter Howard Frederick, James Henry Gander, Attwood Roy Gardiner, Erthbert Earle Gardiner, Arthur Garlick, George E. Gillett, David Gill, John Edmund Goddard, John Goodman, Walter Goodman, Malcolm R. Graham, Archie William Gray, Frank Gray, George Gray, John Henry Gray, M.M. Robert Shepherd Gray, Robert Thomas Gray, William Gray, John Gyde, Michael John Hanley, Allister Park Haig, John Russell Harris, Norman Lloyd Haviland, George C. Haynes, William George Heard, W. Heatherington, Roy St. Clair Henderson, Orval WM Henry, Gordon Henry, Lorne Delbert Hill, Daniel Hillman, George Alfred Hobbs, Ernest Holland Meek Homewood, Arthur C. Humphreys, Frank Winfield Janaway, William Harold Jacques, John Alfred Jones, John Judd, Ellen Elizabeth (Banks) Katzenmeier, William Henry Katzenmeier, Robert Frank Kay, Joseph Sylvester Kearns, Charles Kelly, Frank Kelly, John Henry Kelly, Joseph Melbourne Kelly, Robert Kew, Hector Percy Knight, Henry Lee Knight, James Gordon Knight, John Roy Knight, Thomas Henry Lamb, Malcolm Lang, Ernest Lashbrook, Earl Lemon, Herbert John Leith, Amos Lewis, Frank Logan, Thomas Logan, E. Long, Walter Lougheed, Clifford Alexander Love, Frank Loveday, Gerald Stanley Lusty, Gordon Milo MacDonald, Charles Archibald MacKay, Hilton Day MacNally, B. Mann, Carson Mann, Frederick Mann, Albert Gordon Marr, Charles Mateer, David Nelson Mateer, Charles Emerson McCallum, Archibald McColl, Duncan B. McColl, Earl Hugene McColl, Harvey Dougald McColl, Hugh John McColl, Norman McColl, Russell McColl, Thomas James McColl, Jack Stewart McDonald, Urban Troy McDonald, David McGill, Edward Dougal McKillop, John McIntosh, William McIntosh, Vernon A. McKillop, Dr. William McLean, Frederick McLennan, John Alexander McLennan, William McLennan M.M., James Wellington McNeil, Norman King McNicol, Clair McPhee, Clarence Charles McPhee, George Duncan McPhee, Lloyd Archibald McPhee, Stanley McPhee, Lorne C. McRae, Herbert Ernest McRitchie, Albert Baxter McVicar, Archibald William McVicar, Fred Mears, John Henry Mears, Rudolph Edwin Mehring, John Henry Messerschmid, Harry M. Miller, Thomas Mortimer Montague, George A. Monteith, John Edward Morlock, Russell Robert Morrison, Edward Myers, Fred Myres, Harvey Oliver, Arthur John Patterson, David Russell Patteron, Delbert Patterson, E.G. Patterson, William Albert Patterson, Charles V. Partridge, Earl Russell Peace, Ross Farnham Peace, James Ledren Penrose, Thomas William Penrose, Charles Harold Petherick, George Francis Pfeifer, Joseph Henry Pfeifer, John William Platt, Charles Porter, Lyle Morrison Purcell, Melvin Errett Purcell, Albert E. Raby, Thomas King Raby, Thomas Randall, Archibald George Robinson, George Sayer Robinson, William N.D. Ross, George Henry Sayer, Frederick Schell Jr., Arthur Hildebrand Schmidt, Robert John Schnekenburger, Jacob Daniel Schweitzer, George Searle, Alfred Sewell, Harold Sharratt, Robert Irving Sharratt, Richard Skillings, Robert Burdette Skinner, Thomas Skinner, Arthur A. Smith, G. W. Smith, William Smith, Leslie Spiers, Arthur Clevland Steele, WM. John Stormont, Bruce Delos Streib, Allan Stuart, Archibald James Templeton, Walter Albert Terry, Owen Thomson, Reuben Elliott Tobias, William James Tolmie, Hugh James Turner, Archie Wagner, William James Wakeling, Taylor MacDonald Wanless, George Arthur Ward, John Ward, John Arthur Watson, Stephen West, Charles Wilson, Thomas Roy Wilson, Henry Leroy Wilton, James Perry Windsor, Harvey Wollner, Alexander Wright, Ezra Daniel Zoller, John Laverne Zoller.

The book can be found in the West Lorne and Rodney branches of the Elgin county Library.

Harley Lashbrook is currently assembling a book on Second World War Veterans.

He would like anyone with letters, stories, pictures or any information on Second World War veterans to help him with the book.

Information on First World War veterans is public and can be found on the Internet while the Second World War is yet to be made public.







Remembering
Above left: Catie Welch performs Last Post before Jim Carmichael performed the Lament on his bagpipes at the West Lorne Cenotaph Nov. 11. Left: Veterans and Legion members stand guard in West Lorne during the ceremony. Above right: Colin Parker of Rodney, with HMCS Prevost Naval Reserves in London performs Last Post at the Remembrance Day ceremony in Rodney Nov. 11. At the ceremonies, local veterans lost recently were also remembered.

KAREN GONCALVES
THE CHRONICLE

Nov 15/07

SERVICE CLUBS 2007



Optmist club induction
The new executive of the Optimist Club of West Lorne was recently inducted. Front row: Ken Neil, past president, Kathy Johnston, secretary, Dorothy Staddon, president, Nancy Murray, vice president. Back row: Jim Howie, zone 4 governor, Ted Johnston, director, Ken Murray, director, John Eagleson, director, Karen Goncalves, director and Bill Trask, treasurer.

SUBMITTED

OCT 18/07



West Lorne Optimist Club supports minor hockey league
Optimist Pres. Ken Neil presenting a cheque to Liz Clarke of the West Lorne Minor Hockey Assoc. The money will be used towards the Associations new subsidiary program.

OCT 4/07 KAREN GONCALVES THE CHRONICLE



KAREN GONCALVES/THE CHRONICLE

Jamieson lifetime member
Jean Jamieson was presented with a lifetime membership from Membership Chair Joe Santos, Sgt. at Arms Charlie Chronkite and President Perry Penny from West Elgin Legion Branch 221 Jan. 8.
Jean served as secretary for the branch for 17 years which saw 10 different Presidents during that time.



Apple Day
Some of the First West Lorne Scouting family members who sold apples on Apple Day in West Lorne Oct. 19. Here is Emily McDonald, Ben Buchanan, Christopher Miller, Akela Brenda Miller, Julia Morgan and Nicki Miller.

JEFF KEMPENAAR THE CHRONICLE



Making your own music
JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Performing Elvis' Let Me Be Your Teddy Bear is members of the Taking Off Pounds Sensibly chapter ON 5237 Ilderton Saturday during a TOPS rally at the West Elgin Legion before about 120 people.

TOPS celebrate biggest losers

A Challenge to Change rally was held at the West Elgin Legion Saturday.

About 120 people from as far away as Stratford came together to recognize the 'biggest losers' or those who lost 10 to 100 lbs. from chapters of Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Keeping Off Pounds Sensibly (KOPS).

The support group, with chapters in West Lorne and Wardsville, brings together dieters with weight loss goals and desire to improve their lives.

While it's not a diet program, members share dieting tips, encouragement, inspiration and generally make each other feel comfortable with camaraderie.

Terry Williams, area coordinator, is 94-years-old and was recognized for keeping 25 pounds off for the last 40-plus years.

Making your own Music was the theme for the day with chapters performing Elvis songs and various skits in the 50s decked out Legion.

One of the biggest losers present was Tammy Paul from Stratford who has shed 146 pounds in the last two years.

"It took five years to put it on," said the mother of three who was ordered by her doctor to lose weight.

She's now 199 lbs. with a goal to lose another 40 lbs.

She's been connecting with TOPS since she was nine-years-old when she was 109 lbs.

"I was a big girl," she said, adding she started going to TOPS meetings with her mother.

"I've tried different diets but in the end it's watching what you eat and having the support behind you," she said.

Her TOPS friends are there for her for when she slides or gains; she can make late night calls for support.

"If I didn't lose the weight I wouldn't be standing here," she said.

Recognized by the West Lorne chapter as one of the biggest losers is Wayne Ross of Dutton who has lost more than 40 lbs.

He's been a member of TOPS since November 2006 after he was ordered by his doctor to lose 75 lbs.

He needed knee surgery after a career as a custodian at a London hospital.

The doctor wouldn't perform the surgery until he lost the weight and his knees could support him.

"I never looked at what I was eating," he said, adding it would be nothing to eat three quarters of a pie in three days, topping out at 289 lbs.

By next June he hopes to shed the remaining 35 lbs. and have his knee surgically repaired.

"I feel good," he said, adding TOPS was the only dieting support group option in this area.

Three teens were recognized for losing weight and deciding to change their eating habits early.

The non-profit organization has two chapters locally.

For information, contact Alice Menard at 762-3723 or Gina Hewitt at 695-3327.



Lawnbowling tourney
JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Jean Gray and Verna Gibson of the Ridgetown Lawnbowling Club compete against Edna Braithwaite and Lorna Huggett from Sarnia at the annual Merchants and Manufacturers Tournament held at the West Lorne Lawnbowling Club Sept. 5. Joe Wardell, Mary Eberle and Marjory McBride of the Ridgetown Club won the Lashbrook Trophy.



Kiwanis support Heritage House
SUBMITTED
West Lorne Heritage Homes continues to receive support from the community. Here Fundraising Committee Chair, Brian Simpson (right) receives $1,000 from Angus McLain, on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of West Lorne.

OCT 18/07



Paws for Autism boosted by Aldborough Public School
Young autistic student Jacob Dunn and his service dog Kolby accept $400 from Aldborough Principal Christine Blagden recently.
The money was raised by students participating in the Paws for Austism event. Money helps National Service Dogs place more dogs with children who have autism.

NOV 29/07 SUBMITTED

SERVICE CLUBS 2007



Gymfest

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Hannah, left and Sarah Holder, right, are helped on the balance beam by coach Amber Crawford at the West Elgin Gym Club Gymfest March 10. Throughout the morning members of the club showed parents and judges the skills they learned in this session.

Daffodil Auxiliary gives to STEGH

Jerry Galbraith, board member with the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital Foundation met with Leola Lawrence and Colin Kittmer of the West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary last week. The Auxiliary donated $7,400 toward a digital mammography machine for the hospital. The money was raised at the Octoberfest Mixed Classic Golf Tournament held at Dutton Meadows Golf Club. Over the years, the Auxiliary has donated more than $40,000 to STEGH.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE







Nature

On Sunday, the West Elgin Nature Club led tours across the area as part of the weekend. Above, George Prieksaitis explains digiscoping to Evelyn Freisinger at Old Boys Memorial Park. Below Caroline Guest shows plants found in the area at Mistele Road.

Chamber holding dinner

FEB 23/07

"What's in it for me?"

West Elgin Chamber of Commerce hopes to answer that question for members and anyone interested in the business community at a social evening March 6.

The chamber is hoping to rejuvenate the local business community with a dinner being held at Lake View Gardens.

Business owners, the self-employed, farmers, health professionals and anyone interested in community development is invited to network and have a frank and open discussion about the local economy.

Top of the list, the chamber wants to address the state of businesses and buildings in Rodney and West Lorne.

While discussion on vacant or older buildings has gone on for years, new chamber president Heather Bell hopes some solutions will come out at the meeting.

Guest speaker for the evening is Helen LeFrank, general manager for the Elgin Community Futures Development Corporation.

"Helen has seen development work and been part of it. She knows what we're trying to accomplish out here," said Bell. "We want people to come share stories of what has worked."

While efforts to bring new business won't end, Bell said the chamber's focus now is on improving and servicing the businesses that are already here.

That's where the web site will hopefully help.

"People don't even use phone books anymore. They use the Internet," said Bell.

The web site is a directory for local people to find services and information about local business.

A semi-official launch of the web site, where its content will be presented, is also on the agenda.

The dinner meeting is March 6 starting at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour. Tickets will be available at Marg's Variety and the LCBO store in Rodney, Heather Bell's Sewing Studio and the Chronicle.

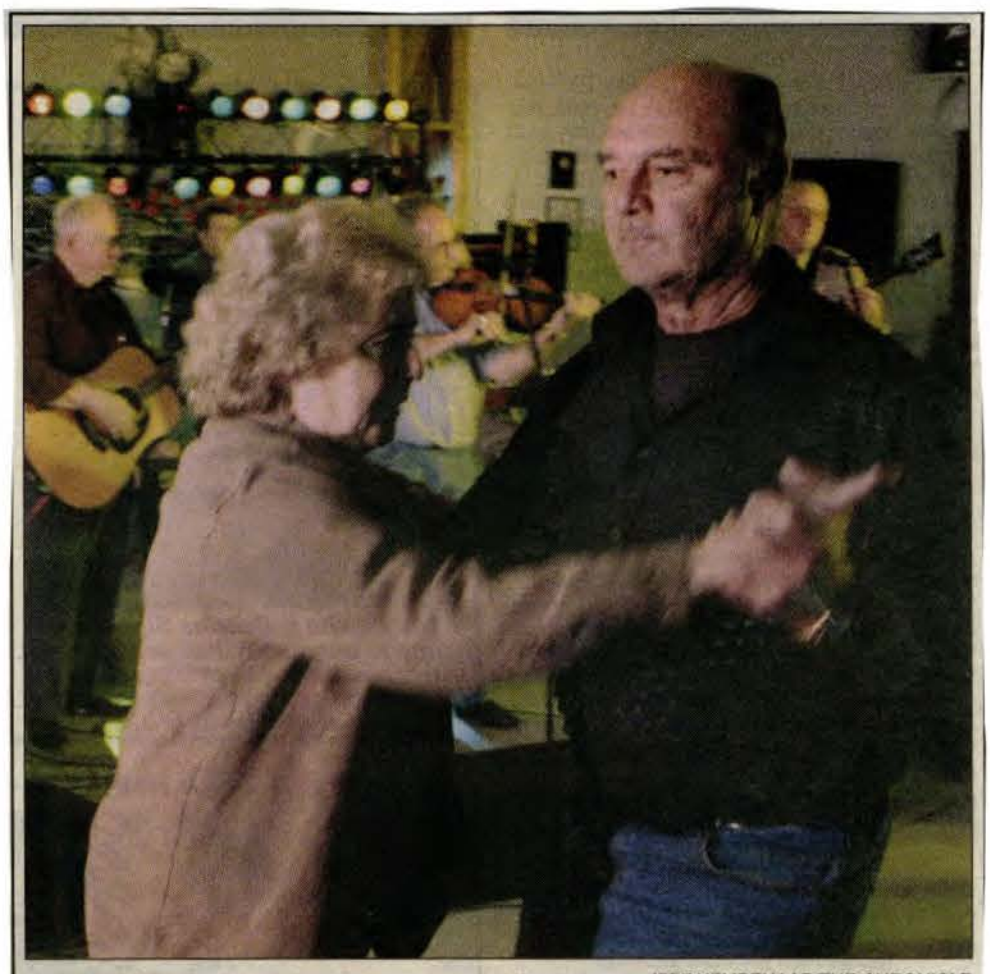


Kiwanians help library

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Allen Ure, Lt. Governor for District 4 of the Kiwanis Club joined the dedication of children's books with Shelley Fleming, librarian, at the West Lorne Library Saturday. The Kiwanians and Honda Books for Kids purchased more than $3,000 worth of new books including seasonal books.

SEPT. 6/07



Legion jamboree a hoot

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

West Elgin Legion Branch #221 was rockin' all day and night with a fundraising jamboree April 1. Here, Judy and Dave Page of Wallacetown dance along to a waltz.

SERVICE CLUBS 2007

Hort. Society may fold

Dear Editor,

The village of West Lorne and its surrounding community are indeed fortunate to have so many dedicated service groups. These organizations, founded and run by volunteers, are a vital part of life within our community. Sadly, for many of these groups volunteers are not stepping forward and such is the case for the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society.

This society provides to our community the chance to purchase plants and trees and the information to care for those purchases, knowledgeable guest speakers at monthly meetings, a bursary to a graduating horticultural/agricultural high school student and volunteers who select, plant and maintain the flower beds and planters around town.

We applied for and received a Trillium grant to provide the town of West Lorne with benches, attractive garbage receptacles, banners and, at one time, hanging baskets.

We worked with our local council to select new light posts for the downtown core and we continue to decorate the core for the holiday seasons.

All of this will soon come to an end, though, if we cannot get more people from the community to step up and help out.

Our horticultural society is in serious danger of folding.

Imagine that, an organization, that was founded 80 years ago, gone, all due to a lack of interest. Yes, you all have busy lives, but so do we. Ask any volunteer in any organization and you'll likely find that they belong to more than one service group, have busy families and full-time jobs and careers. These people really can't do more than they are doing now but there are plenty of people out there who could.

So, the next time you pass judgment about the choice or lack of flowers that our society did or did not plant, those darn weeds that never seem to get pulled quickly enough, or wonder why we don't get decorations up or down as quickly as we could, please know that we would appreciate your help. We really would like to do more for our community but we need more help.

Just a few hours each month goes a long way to beautifying and bettering our community for everyone's benefit.

The West Elgin council, some of the local business owners and the Chamber of Commerce assist us financially and we are truly thankful for that, but it is volunteers that are needed to make it all work.

Come out to our meetings and see what we're all about. You'll find that we're just like you once you get to know us. We hope to see you before it's too late.

Susan Lilley,
Past-president
West Lorne and
Community Horticultural
Society

Organic gardening examined by group

WEST LORNE HORTICULTURE NEWS

Horticulturalist Shirley Bellows was in town, on April 13, as the guest speaker for the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society.

Bellows, a retired Master Gardener and a member of Seeds of Diversity Canada and the Canadian Organic Growers, spoke to the society's members and guests about "Gardening with Nature: Organic Gardening".

Bellows has been gardening, organically, since she was a small child. As she explained, herbicides and pesticides were developed as weapons of war, in particular, the second world war.

Chemicals, such as malathion, diazinon, and 2-4D, were invented to kill humans, not plants and insects. Over time, their use was expanded, as witnessed by Viet Nam participants, where Agent Orange, another chemical, was used to defoliate the countryside, so enemy troops could not take advantage of the heavy ground cover, during battles. For these reasons, chemicals, in the home and garden should be handled cautiously and carefully, by those who choose to use them.

For the home gardener, Bellows encourages them to work with nature. "Good bug or bad bug?", was the most frequently asked question, during Bellows' slide show. She told the group that the habit around her property is to" look before you slap" because you could be exterminating a friendly insect. Spiders are another favourite of Bellows. They capture far more bad insects than they do good ones. Birds are another ally, eating many insects and supplying the home gardener with a symphony of sound.

Unfortunately, for the region, Bellows and her husband are relocating to Vancouver Island, this summer, to be closer to family. We wish her all the best in her new endeavours.

President Liz Clark thanked everyone for attending and made a few announcements.

The next directors' meeting is April 28, at the West Lorne Complex at 7:30 p.m.

The society's May 11 meeting will consist of a craft night, where folks can attend and make a "Living Wreath". You must pre-register for this event by calling Liz, at 768-1282. There is another bus trip, coming up on June 15, to Grey County, where guests will be able to purchase unique items and some hard to find plants. Again, contact Liz Clark, if you're interested in going on this trip.

The society held its annual garden sale on May 8 at the West Lorne Complex with a wide range of indoor and outdoor plants for the community to choose from.

Society identify spring bloomers

WEST LORNE & COMMUNITY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

"Bring spring into your garden early" was the message brought by guest speaker, Susanne Spence-Wilkins, to the West Lorne & Community Horticultural Society on March 13. There are many early blooming shrubs and perennials for the garden, many of which are native to southwestern Ontario.

Witch Hazel "Diane" blooms in late February/ early March. Serviceberry, with white blooms, also has edible black berries and attracts birds. Flowering Dogwood (Cornus Florida has lovely white bracts in the spring and is our society's floral emblem. The Easter Redbud (cersis) is another beautiful small tree. Some local examples of these can be seen on the northern-most side of the railroad park, along Jane Street. Long-time favourite, forsythia, along with Moutain Fire Pieris and Star Mangolia are also spring bloomers.

Perennials include Grecian Windflower, anemone, and bloodroot. One of the prettiest spring blooming perennials is the Pasque flower (pulsatilla vulgaris). It has purple, red, or white blooms and is named after Ester. Epimedium, a ground cover, and Coral Bells (Heuchera) are other spring blooming plants.

All of the above, planted either in combination or on their own will provide you with some much needed spring therapy, once winter loosens its grip.

Susanne answered questions and shared her knowledge, which she has gained as a West Elgin Master Gardener and also as the owner of Town & Country Landscaping.

Susanne was thanked for her expertise and then everyone enjoyed a light luncheon.

On April 10 our guest speaker was set to be Diane Vaughan talking about David Austin: The Man and His Roses.

Horticulture society hear of hybrid roses, from master gardener

WEST LORNE HORTICULTURE SOCIETY NEWS

Well-known Master Gardener Diane Vaughan visited the West Lorne Hort. Soc. April 10 to share her knowledge of David Austin: "A Man and his Roses".

With her added humor and wit she made the presentation very enjoyable and informative.

With the use of slides she showed some of the gorgeous species of roses David has propagated over the years and talked of his accomplishments since starting his own business.

David was born in Shropshire, England, in 1926, and was raised on the family farm. He showed an interest in horticulture at a very young age.

Following the Second World War he inherited his parents' farm and decided to sell his own plants. His dream was to develop a rose which was a cross between an "old world" rose and a hybrid of today - " a perfect rose".

Beautiful roses were the result of his labours and after starting his own greenhouses he sold his products all over the world.

He employs 100 and produces a catalogue featuring over 500 species of roses.

Every rose he produced he named, ranging from family members, musicians, Shakespeare's characters and many more.

The audience showed its appreciation to her and she answered many questions.

Past-pres. Susan Lillie thanked Diane with a gift from the society.

Lunch was served by Wendy and Dora.



Plant show JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

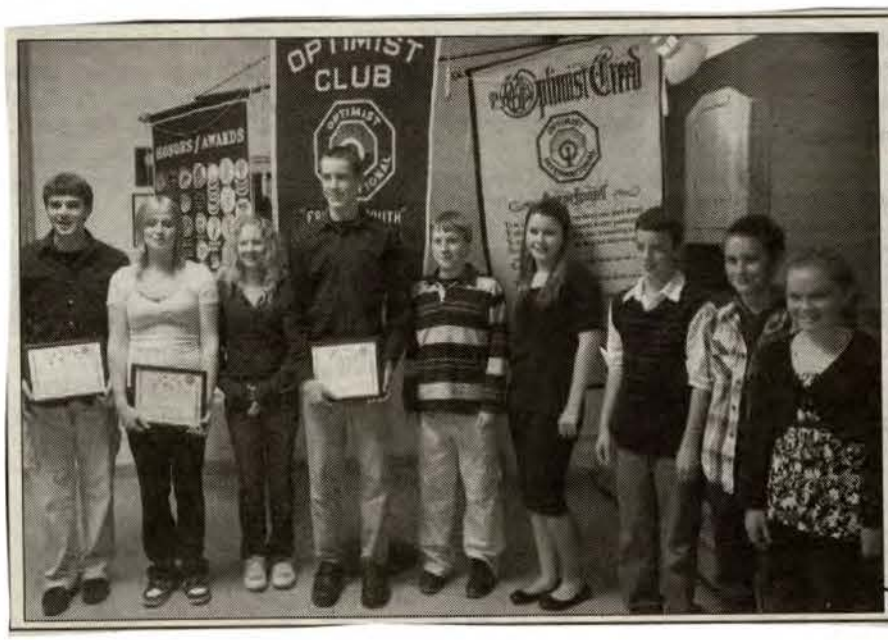
Kim Penny and Betty McKillop listen to Jim Mabee who judged the annual plant show hosted by the West Lorne Horticultural Society at the West Elgin Community Health Centre June 22.

SERVICE CLUBS 2007



Little ninjas JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Zackery Greenham, Brody Bodkin and Nathan Hoar have been learning stances and fighting techniques from Ryan Ireland as part of the little ninjas program with West Elgin Martial Arts. MAR 1/07



Outstanding youths

The Optimist Club of West Lorne "Outstanding Youth Awards" were presented Nov. 20. The award recognizes young people for generous contribution to society and the welfare of others. From Left to Right: Jeremy Koscik, Kaylie Wood, Debbie Levesley and Jonathan Godfrey from WESS, Maikel Dieker and Amy Oliveira from St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School, Evan Ross from WESES, Jordan Mc Coll and Kim Bandeen from Aldborough Elementary School.

JEAN GUY ST JACQUES THE CHRONICLE

DEC 1/07



JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

Walter Ostanek

Walter Ostanek, Polka King, entertained 147 people at the Elgin International Club May 20.

Ostanek plays at International Club

Multi Grammy Award winning polka star Walter Ostanek and his band played at the Elgin International Club's monthly dance Sunday.

The St. Catherine's residence returned to the club and entertained 147 people with his polka classics.

The 72-year-old has made 50 recordings over his 40 year career and won three Grammy's so far.

At the dance, organizers recognized Sophie House, Claude W. Drouin and his wife Marion who prepared the dinner. House has been preparing meals there for 36 years.

History of West Elgin Catholic churches researched

WEST ELGIN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

MAY 10/07

At the April meeting of West Elgin Genealogical & Historical Society, Dan Brock talked on the history of the Catholic Church in West Elgin.

Established in 1826, the diocese of Kingston included all of present-day southern Ontario. In 1827 Colonel Thomas Talbot invited the bishop of Kingston to his Dunwich home.

There, the first baptisms took place on July 27, 1827, the two children of James & Ellen Taff. The next day the first Catholic marriage occurred, Bridget Taff & Edward Brady. It was also through the efforts of Talbot that a priest was secured & in 1825 or 1827 Mass was celebrated in Southwold.

In 1854 St. Thomas was established as a parish and priests from there served parishioners throughout Elgin County. Mass was said and sacraments given in private homes. In 1869 a church, St. Columbkille, was built in Dunwich and another, St Henry's, was completed in Aldborough in 1872. As more Catholic families arrived in the vicinity of today's West Lorne, there was a need for a larger and a centrally located building.

Thus, in 1885 a new church was opened in West Lorne. St Henry's was closed in the early 1980's and at present, its future is under review. In 1902 a more centrally located church, St. Helen's, was opened in Wallacetown. St. Columbkille was sold and moved for use as an implement shed. The present St. Mary's Church was opened in 1973 and the parish hall and rectory were constructed in 1993.

In concluding, Brock noted his research revealed a spirit of co-operation between Catholics and Protestants has existed here since the early days.



Country Jamboree JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

John McIntyre from Dutton on violin, Ralph Fleet on guitar from Nova Scotia, Tom Morris from Rodney on guitar and Jimmy Kovacs on banjo from West Lorne perform at West Elgin Legion Branch 221 at a Country Music Jamboree on Saturday.



Optimist help Heritage House

West Lorne Heritage Homes continues to receive excellent community support in its fund-raising efforts. A goal of $70,000 to be raised by the community will go towards the $2.2 million seniors housing project. Here Board Chair Harry Mezenberg (left) receives a cheque for $1000 from Optimist Club of West Lorne past-president, Doug Staddon.

SUBMITTED



Nature tour Sunday SUBMITTED

Marjorie Prieksaitis of the West Elgin Nature Club and Diane Van Dyk member of the Marketing Partners of Western Elgin Region (MPoWER) pose with the Travel Western Elgin's Open Trails tour guide.

The guide outlines the stops on the car tour and guided nature walk and will be given to all participants who register for the tour between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.on Sunday, May 27 at the Backus-Page House Museum. Everyone is encouraged to come out and experience our Carolinian forest and spring flora.

MAY 24/07



Building birdhouses JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Three generations, Janice and Jada Krebs, left and right, Joan Neil build a birdhouse in Ken Wilton's wood shop Feb. 17 as the West Elgin Nature Club spent the afternoon assembling 62 birdhouses to be available for residents put up across the area.

Sharon Little new choir director West Elgin Choral Society

Pat Campbell, President of the West Elgin Choral Society, announced that Sharon Little will become the choir's Music Director, on a trial basis, beginning March 13.

The vacancy opened up when Wayne Carroll resigned for health reasons following the choir's Christmas concert in December. Wayne had held the position for nine years, ever since the Choral Society first began in 1998.

The Choir's Board of Directors cancelled their planned March concert in order to search for a new leader. "We are extremely pleased with the successful and happy outcome," said Campbell. "Sharon is very talented and full of innovative ideas. She will bring fresh excitement to our choir".

Sharon Little is a well-known local personality, having led the West Elgin Community Band for 10 years. She brings her Royal Conservatory of Music accreditation to her new appointment along with high school teaching experience (choral, strings, band) and performance capabilities on a number of instruments. In earlier years she also sang with the London Fanshaw Chorus and directed stage musicals at Teacher's College and at UWO.

In addition to her private music students, Sharon is currently Staff Coordinator at the National Music Camp of Canada where she has taught since 1978. She is also a regular presenter and clinician at the Ontario Music Educators' Conference each year.

"It seems like a perfect fit", said Campbell. "Sharon has sung and taught music from around the world. She has an amazing grasp of languages, cultures and musical traditions – from Bach to Boogie! Our patrons are in for some wonderful surprises."

Program planning is already under way for the Choral Society's Spring Concert on May 19th. It will feature the George Laidlaw Jazz Quartet, who will perform new arrangements such as 'Yellow Bird' and 'Do You Know What It Means To Miss New Orleans" with the choir.



Sharon Little CONTRIBUTED

Sharon Little has taken the helm of the West Elgin Choral Society.



SUBMITTED

Local Optimists recognized

West Lorne Optimist members Dorothy & Doug Staddon were recently presented at the district level with a trophy for New Club Building after helping Centre Ice Youth Club in West Lorne become its own Optimist Club.

Talent show tradition renewed by schools and Kiwanians

By Lynn Gracey
West Elgin Senior Elementary School

Music teachers from local schools and the Kiwanis Club of West Lorne will join together for the first time to organize a showcase concert of our community's musical talent March 29 at 7 p.m. at West Elgin Secondary School.

Traditionally, each of the schools have organized separate performances to show off the talented youth in our community, but with the unfortunate discontinuation of the long - lived West Lorne Talent Show last year, the Kiwanis Club of West Lorne and the area schools - Aldborough Public School, Dutton-Dunwich Public School, West Elgin Senior Elementary School and West Elgin Secondary School - have banded together to give a forum for local youth to showcase their music.

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, the concert will be held in the gym at WESS and will feature the ensembles from each school. Mrs. Neil will be conducting the Primary and Junior Choirs from Aldborough, Mr. Robertson will direct the Dutton Dynamo Singers, Mrs. Gracey will conduct the WESES Choir, Jazz Band and Concert Band, and Ms. Emke will conduct the WESS Junior Band, the Senior Band and the Jazz Band.

More than 200 students will be performing in the concert and it is sure to be a fantastic spectacle never before heard in the area.

Tickets can be purchased through any school music teacher, West Lorne Kiwanis Club member, or at the door.

It is hoped that through your support we can begin a tradition in West Elgin of an annual showcase concert allowing the community to see the musical talent our youth possess.



Talent Show JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Dunwich-Dutton Public School held its talent show with students for various grades before March break at the school.



Bird rehabilitation JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Brian Salt, founder and director of Salthaven Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre in Mount Brydges shows Chicar, a raptor from East India at the West Lorne Optimist Club meeting March 7.

Salthaven helping animals

Brian Salt, founder of Salthaven Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre in Mount Brydges talked to members of the West Lorne Optimist Club March 7.

Salt said many people find stranded animals and too quickly pick them up.

He also said many people make the mistake of feeding animals milk, which often causes problems for the animal's digestive system.



Youth speak on their Biggest Challenge SUBMITTED

Local students took the opportunity to speak about their biggest challenge at the Optimist Club of West Lorne's Oratorical contest. Pictured left to right (front row) Justin Wheeler and Kyle Brown; (middle row) Brandon DeCook, Alex Kirschner, Breyanne Serle, Alex Goos and Megan Dennahower; (back row) Optimist President Ken Neil, Andrew Gumpert and Jacob Rowe. Alex Kirschner and Alex Goos will go on to the regional boys and girls competition held in Ridgetown on March 31st.

SERVICE CLUBS 2007



Jazz band joins West Elgin Choral Society

George Laidlaw's Quartet jazz band joined the West Elgin Choral Society Saturday night for a concert held at West Elgin Secondary School.

JEFF KEMPENAAR /THE CHRONICLE

Guests take glory

WEST LORNE LAWNBOWLERS

Results

Our Tournament event began at 4 p.m. on a pleasant afternoon with a gentle breeze encouraging all competing.

Three games of 12 ends were enjoyed by 16 aggressive players at the Willson Towing Tournament July 2.

After the first game, Jean Vanseader and Alberta Jones served a delicious meal to all in attendance.

Playing resumed after lunch and those victorious were:

1st Place: Les and Shirley Hogg from Ridgetown with 3 wins and 32 points.

2nd Place: Joseph and Diane Isley from Leamington, with 2 wins and 37 points.

3rd Place: Ken Willson and Hugh McCahon, with 2 wins and 34 points.

4th Place: Jim West and Jackie Leitch, with 2 wins and 27 points.

Best Effort: Jean Besley and Hubert Vergeer, with 22 points.

Interested in something to do on Monday or Thursday evening at 7 p.m.? Come and try your hand at lawnbowling.



PHOTO BY RICHARD HADASH

West Elgin Community Band

Bob Davis, right and his grandson, Ben McArthur, of London, make music together at WECB concert, Heroes and Villains June 11 at St. Mary's Parish Hall.

Chronicle *Scrapbook*



John and Sally McIntyre and Evelyn Gaskell and Jim Carmichael. SUBMITTED

Locals attend Edinburgh Military Tattoo

John McIntyre and Jim Carmichael, members of the West Elgin Legion, Branch 221 attended the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Scotland Aug. 20.

Many Royal Canadian Legion members from across Canada played in the Canadian Massed Pipes & Drums band. What an honour and emotional experience it was to march through the arched entrance gate of Edinburgh Castle playing Barren Rocks of Eden. The band was led by Drum Major Norm MacKenzie and Senior Pipe Major Ross BAxter.

Band members and supporters were billeted at Edinburgh University at Pollock Halls.

The band and supporters were bussed, played and marched in parades at Pitlochry, Dumfriees, DunFermline, Crieff Highland Games, Perth, Dundee, the Irvine and Marrymass Festival (which dates back 1,000 years).

John and Sally McIntyre and Jim Carmichael and Evelyn Gaskell rented a car and toured Edinburgh Castle, Glasgow, Stirling Castle (Robert the Bruce) defeated the English in the battle of Stirling Bridge on Sept. 11, 1297, liberating the country. They also visited the village of Carmichael in Lanarkshire, Glencoe and Loch Leven and Glamis Castle. They also took a boat ride on Loch Lomond, lunched at Rob Roy's Inn and visited friends near Kendal. In the Lake District, they took a boat ride from Windermere to Ambleside.



Cadets hold annual ceremonial review

West Elgin Cadet Corp. 2884 held its annual ceremonial inspection and review Saturday at the West Elgin Arena. Left: World War 2 veteran from St. Thomas, Arthur Bridgman and the reviewing party are led by Sergeant Robert Nute and Chief Warrant Officer Jessica Kalita as they review the cadets deportment and dress. Below: Cadets take part in demonstrations, a race. The cadets conducted drills, including marches before being presented with awards. West Elgin 2884 currently has 38 cadets in two troops and a colour guard.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE



Skate don't smoke MELANIE KNAPP/WECHC

Scott Snake, Chris Ward, Steven Milne, Brent Dunn and Jesse Camenzuli produced an anti-tobacco video with the Centre Ice Youth Club in West Lorne last week for a youth conference in Cornwall hosted by Town Youth Participation Strategies, which gave $1,000 for the video.

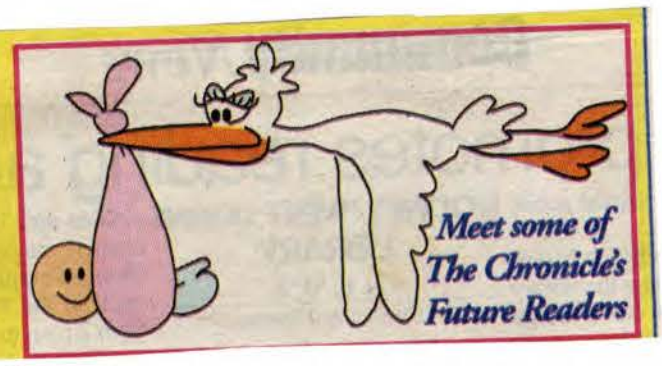


Tribute to Sifton FOR THE CHRONICLE

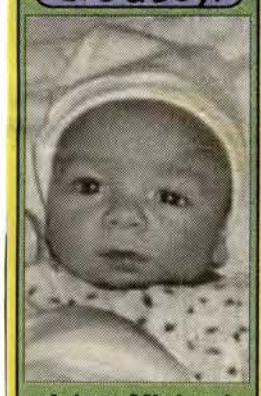
Capt. Mike Bridgman, left, Corps 2884 West Elgin Royal Army Cadets supports Master Cpl. Allan Percival of West Lorne as he provides honor guard duties at the Ellis Sifton tribute including his medals at the Elgin Military Museum during the memorial service for the battle of Vimy Ridge Monday. Sifton was awarded the Victoria Cross for his heroic actions during that battle.

SOCIAL 2006

Newest Arrivals



It's a Boy!



Adam Michael Ivan Edwards
Aug. 4, 2006
Son of Ivan & Lisa Edwards

It's Twins!



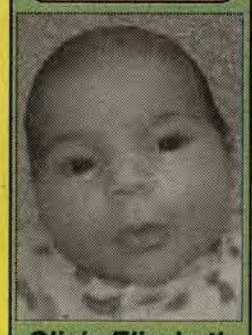
Donald Kenneth & Jessica Anne Fenn
Aug. 20, 2006
Son & Daughter of Art Fenn Jr. & Cynthia Robertson

It's a Boy!



Carson Matthews
Sept. 15, 2006
Son of Darrel Matthews & Angela Kellestine

It's a Girl!



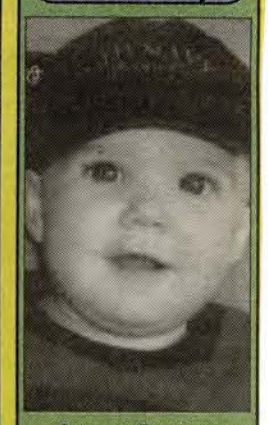
Olivia Elizabeth Corneil
December 21, 2006
Daughter of Jim &Trish Corneil

It's a Girl!



Hannah Elizabeth Vanderydt
April 14, 2006
Daughter of Greg & Shannon Vanderydt

It's a Boy!



Jeryn Sutton
May 4, 2006
Son of Jeremy & Tara Sutton

It's a Girl!



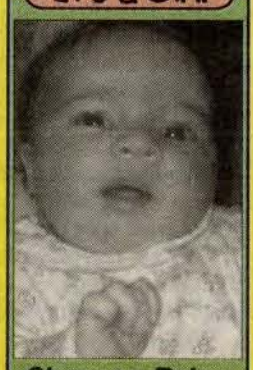
Jessica Annalynne Goodman
May 29, 2006
Daughter of Paul & Tracy (Tunks) Goodman

It's a Boy!



Landon W.T. Matthews
Sept. 28, 2006
Son of Tyler Matthews & Tracy Deyle

It's a Girl!



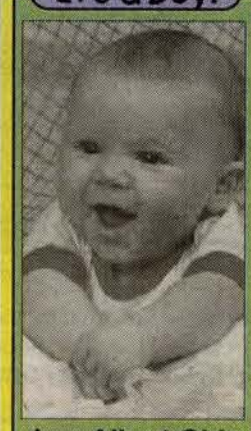
Shannon Raina Faith Lupsor
Nov. 17, 2006
Daughter of Roger & Janna Lupsor

It's a Boy!



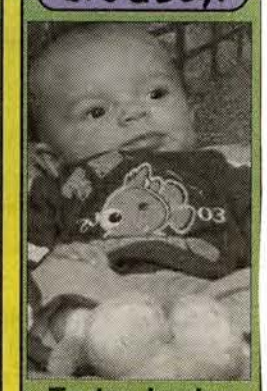
Hayden Milliken
Nov. 8, 2006
Son of Wade & Patti (Jones) Milliken

It's a Boy!



Leo Albert Olds
August 16, 2006
Son of Patrick & Lori Olds

It's a Boy!



Taylor Jayden Sweeney
July 27, 2006
Son of Tim & Mindy Sweeney

It's a Boy!



Caleb Jason Vanstone
Oct. 13, 2006
Son of Charles Vanstone & Amy Hyatt

It's a Boy!



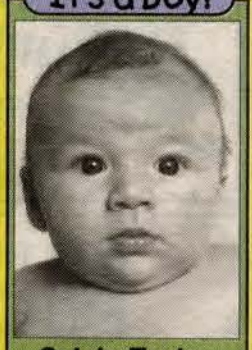
Drew Lawrence Vergeer
Sept. 19, 2006
Son of Andy & Katie Vergeer

It's a Girl!



Fionna Elizabeth Alexandra Campbell
Oct. 16 2006
Daughter of Glenn & Liz Campbell

It's a Boy!



Calvin Taylor Kersten
June 28; 2006
Son of Jeffery & Elizabeth Kersten

It's a Girl!



Jocelyn McLay
Sept 2, 2006
Daughter of James & Jenna (McGill) McLay

It's a Boy!



Jayden Turner
October 3, 2006
Son of Jeffrey Turner & Karen Bowery

It's a Girl!



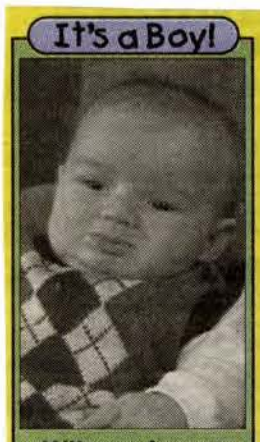
Kaylee Zinkan
May 19, 2006
Daughter of Chris & Lisa Zinkan

It's a Girl!



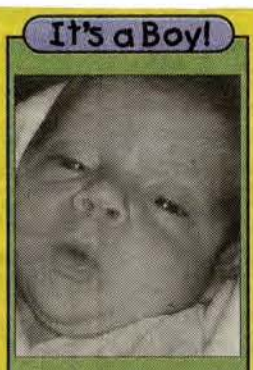
Carley Diane Burley
Oct. 4, 2006
Daughter of Cathy Mark & Josh Burley

It's a Boy!



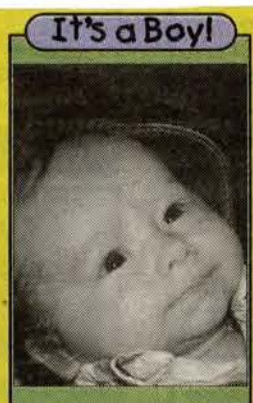
Wilson James Towers
Aug. 13, 2006
Son of Jason & Melissa Towers

It's a Boy!



Joshua Wilton
September 3, 2006
Son of Adam & Amanda Wilton

It's a Boy!



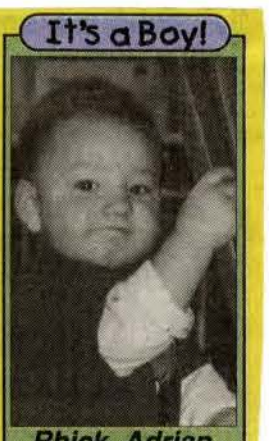
Tanner Rowsom
June 11, 2006
Son of Todd & Kim Rowsom

It's a Boy!



William Patterson
June 1, 2006
Son of Tim & Sabrina Patterson

It's a Boy!



Rhick Adrian Hales
Feb. 12, 2006
Son of Rodney & Suzanne Hales

Social 2006

Birth Announcement

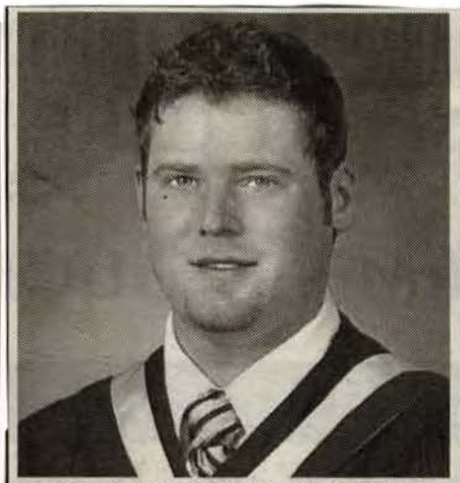


Welcome Drew Lawrence Vergeer born Sept. 19th 2006 in St. Thomas, weighing in at 8 lbs 3 oz. Son of Katie and Andy Vergeer, grandson of Deb & Joe Dees and Harry and Joann Vergeer. Great grandson of Earl and Hilda Morden, Henrica Vergeer, Jack Blaxall, Cleo & Martha Gubbels.

Engagement



Ilda & Carlos Oliveira together with Susan & Dale Peacock are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Elsa & Ryan



Eamon Johnston graduated from the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus, May 18, 2006 with a diploma in Agriculture. Eamon was the valedictorian and is currently employed by London Ag Commodities.

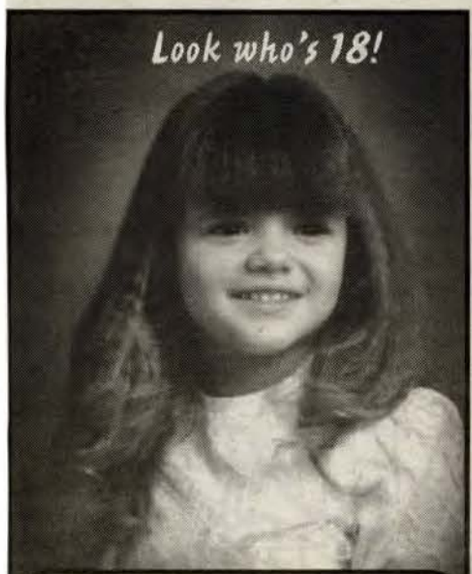
Congratulations from your family!



Devon Johnston graduated from St. Clair College, Windsor, June 16/06 with her Diploma in Business-Human Resources. Devon resides in Edmonton, Alberta and is pursuing her degree in Business Administration & Management

Congratulations from your family!

Look who's 18!



Happy Birthday Amanda

Love always, Mom & Ryan

It's A Boy!!

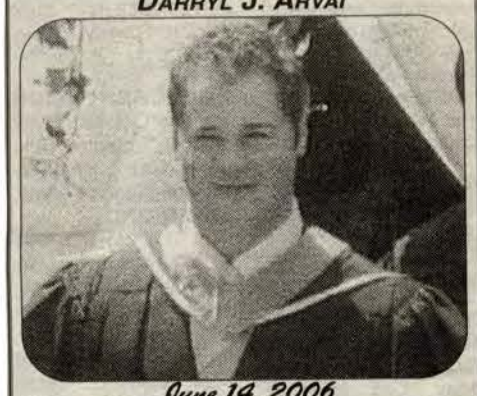


Mancari

Gavin Tyler Steven born August 1st, weighing 5lbs, 13ozs.
Spoiled mostly by big sister Logan, and big brothers Nathan & Evan.
Thanks to Dr. Maruncie, Victoria Hospital and a special thank you to Diana Reeno-Hindley for all her support and love.

Social 2006

Darryl J. Arvai



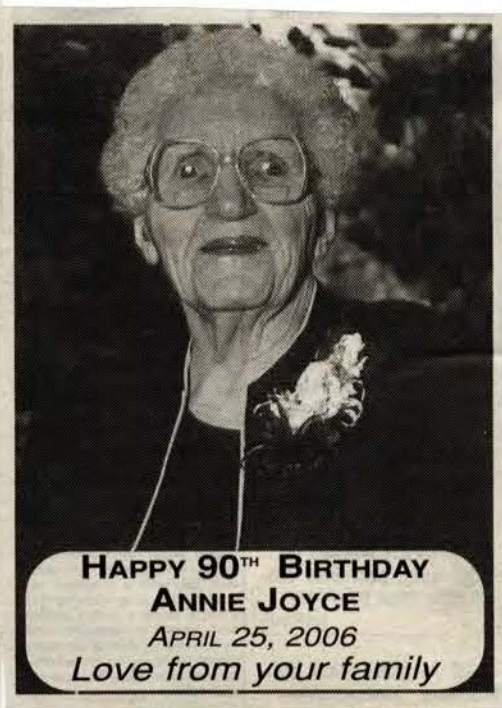
June 14, 2006

Graduated from Carleton University Ottawa, receiving his Bachelor of Commerce degree with Honours. Darryl has accepted an accounting position with Deloitte Inc. in Ottawa, commencing Sept. 2006.
Congratulations Darryl,
we are all very proud of you.
With much love from your Mom, Dad, sister & brothers, as well as all of your grandparents

Open House



You are invited to a special 90th Birthday Open House for Elizabeth Bildy
Sunday April 30th ~ 2 to 5 p.m.
at West Lorne Grace Lutheran Church
Best wishes only.



Happy 90th Birthday
Annie Joyce
April 25, 2006
Love from your family

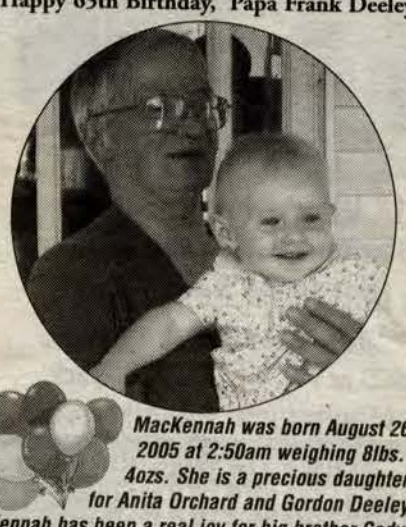
101 Years Between Them ...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
"Pa and his Princesses"
Love all your family





Happy 1st Birthday, MacKennah Anita Deeley
Happy 65th Birthday, Papa Frank Deeley



MacKennah was born August 26, 2005 at 2:50am weighing 8lbs. 4ozs. She is a precious daughter for Anita Orchard and Gordon Deeley. Kennah has been a real joy for big brother Cody, big sisters Kelsey and Alexandria, grandparents Frank & Carol Deeley and Keith & Sandy Orchard & Aunts, Uncles and Cousins.

It's A Girl!



Kaysee Audrey Helen Kalita

Katrina & Mike are proud to anounce the arrival of Kaysee Audrey Helen, born July 15th, 2006, weighing 7lbs 9 oz. Proud grandparents are Audrey & Gary Jamieson, Rien & Helen Van Brenk, Gary & Linda Kalita. Great Grandparents are Ed & Thelma Kalita, Madeline Cross



HAPPY 40th BIRTHDAY JANNA

August 26th
Best Wishes from the Gang



It's A Girl!



Proud parents Pat & Tammy Timmermans are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their baby girl Kaitlind Chelsey Rose born July 26 at St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital weighing 6lbs, 8oz. Spoiling privileges go to big sisters Chastity and Cassy. We would also like to send special thanks to our OB Dr. Roe for making her birth possible and the doctors and staff at the hospital.

Okolisan



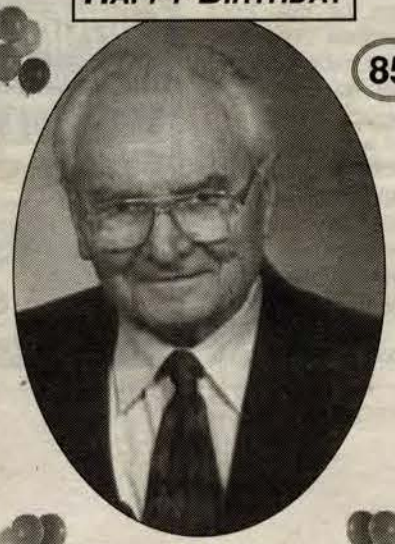
Jason and Joanna Okolisan are pleased to announce the arrival of Lily Anastasia Sylvia Okolisan on September 20, 2006, 6:31pm at Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga. Weighing 8lb 13oz, Lily is welcomed by first time grandparents Pat and Marion Meister of Burlington and Steve Okolisan of Rodney, as well as great grandparents John and Liz Okolisan. Grandma Sylvia Okolisan, who passed away just a few months before Lily was born, will be proudly watching over her from heaven.

Congratulations!



Congratulations on your 1st Anniversary August 20th
Mathew & Cindy da Costa
Love from your family

Happy Birthday

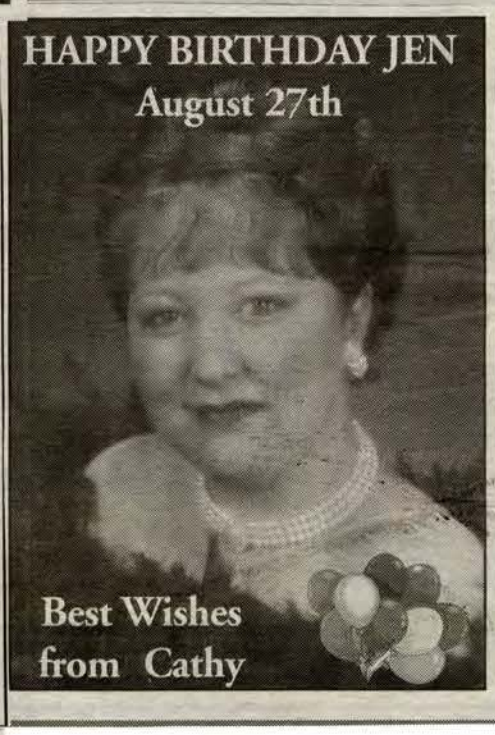


85

Frank Nemeth
85th Birthday!
Love & best wishes from your wife & children

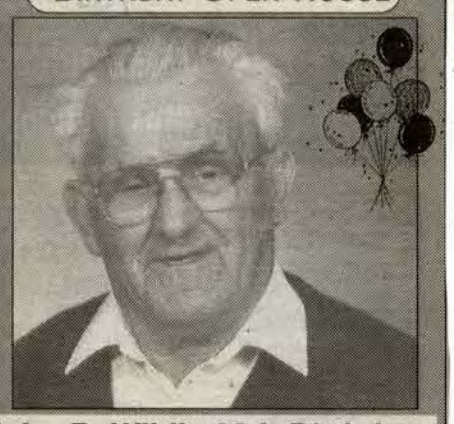
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JEN

August 27th



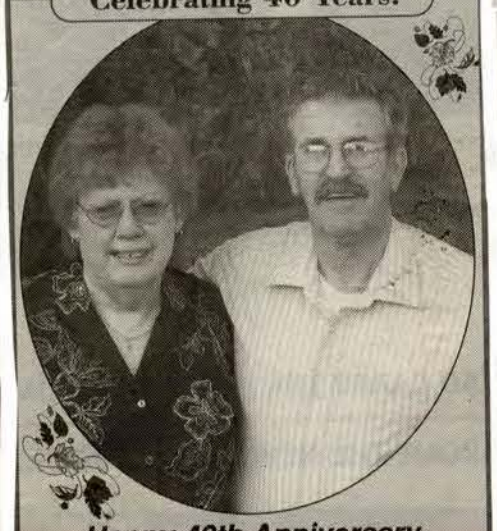
Best Wishes from Cathy

Birthday Open House



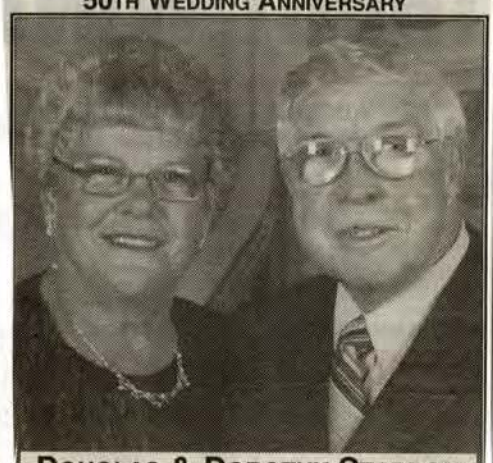
John DeWild's 80th Birthday
Sunday, August 13th
Open House 2 to 4:30 p.m.
St. Mary's Catholic Hall
132 Main St., West Lorne
Best wishes only, please.

Celebrating 40 Years!



Happy 40th Anniversary
Mom & Dad
(Esther & Fred Titus)
October 15, 2006
Love from your family

50th Wedding Anniversary



Douglas & Dorothy Staddon
OPEN HOUSE
Please join us in celebrating our parent's 50th Wedding Anniversary
Saturday, October 21, ~ 2 to 5 p.m.
at the West Lorne Legion
Best Wishes Only
Love, Doug, Diane & Ted, Darryl & Kathy, Darlene & Murv & families

CONGRATULATIONS

Happy 80th Birthday
October 6, 2006



Alma Perger
Love from your family

Social News 2006

CONGRATULATIONS



Dutton:
Local youth comes up big in the 2006 Thames Valley Riders Fall Series races

Pictured left:
Jordan Boux (Dutton) shows off his awesome 2nd place trophy. Great job Jordan!

Mom and Dad are very proud!

First Baby



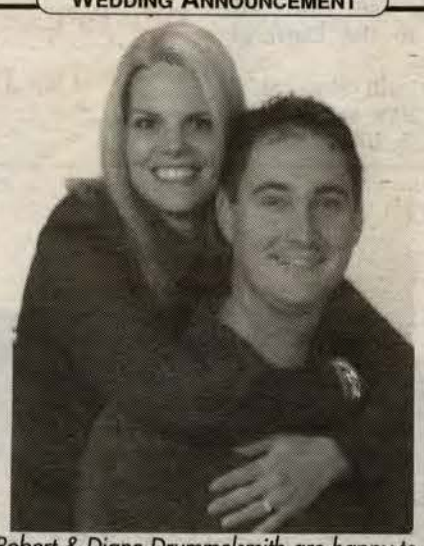
Danielle & Brad Simpson are happy to announce the birth of their first born. A son Brady William was born at home in Ayr on September 21st. Weighing 9lbs, 2 oz. Proud first time grandparents Dave & Lisa Downie of Bothwell. Proud first time great grandparents are Neville & Doddie Lather. Second great grandson for William Downie of Rodney.

Engagement



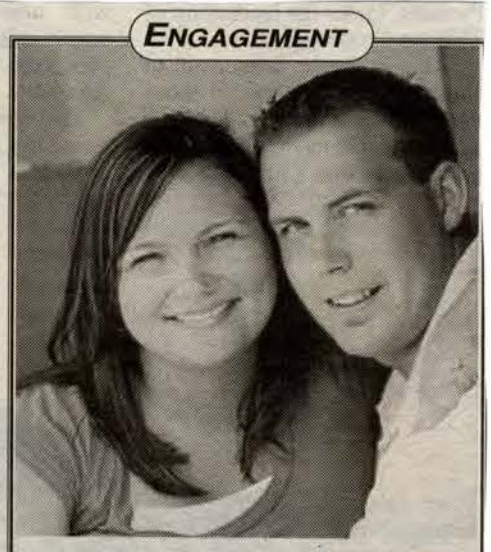
Ruth & Gerry Davis of Rodney are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Tira Davis to Toby Wootton son of Angela & James DesJardine of Grand Bend and Paul Wootton of Hamilton.
Their wedding will take place next October in Puerto Plata with a reception in London, ON the following week.

Wedding Announcement

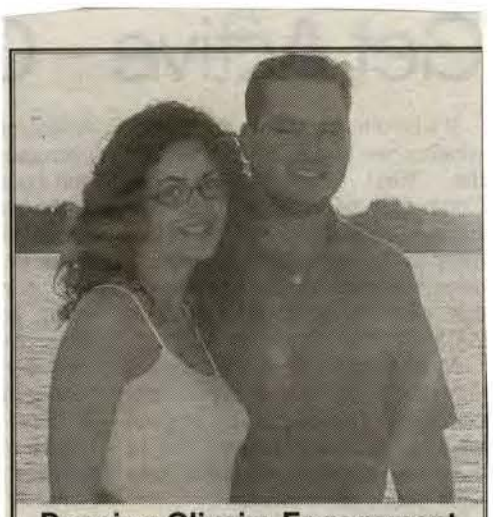


Robert & Diane Drummelsmith are happy to announce the forthcoming wedding of their son George to Shari DeHoey, daughter of Rick & Diana DeHoey, Blenheim, On. The wedding will take place on February 24, 2007.

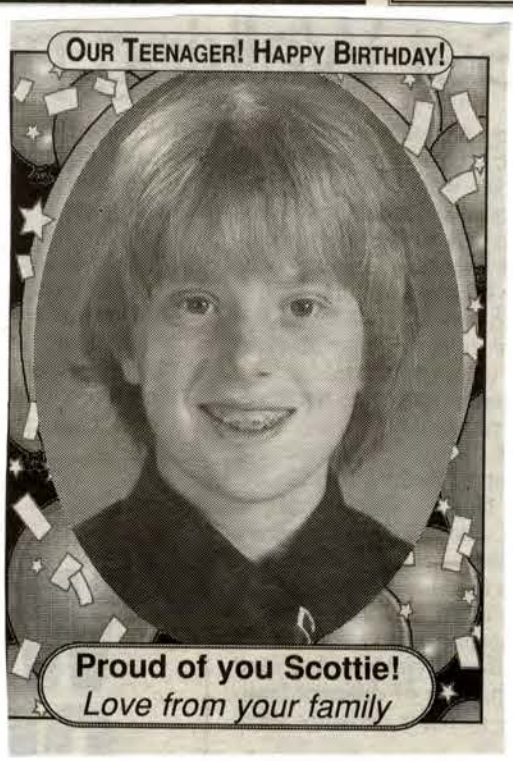
Engagement

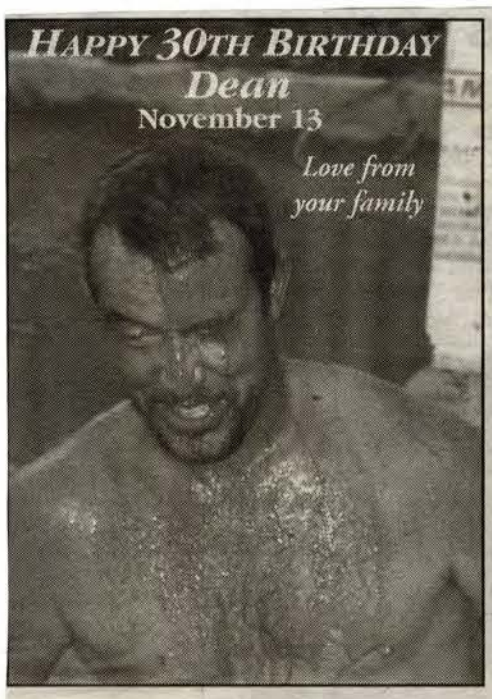


Tex & Deb Tobias are pleased to announce the engagement of Colette to Terry Weed, son of Jim & Dorothea Weed. The couple will exchange vows July 14, 2007.

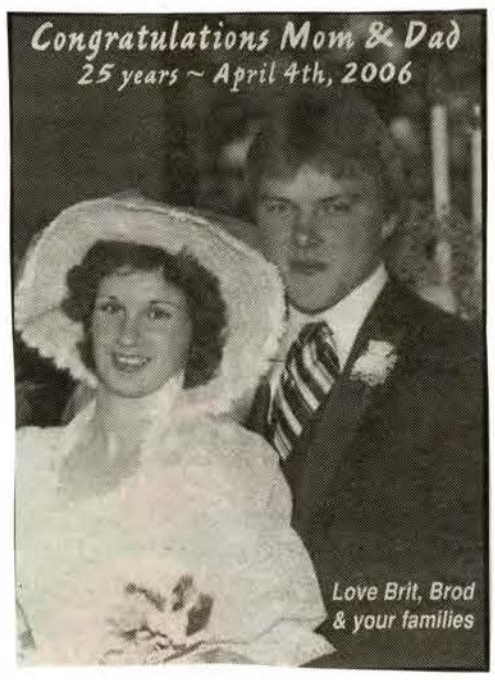


Denning-Oliveira Engagement
Mr. and Mrs. Manuel J. Oliveira of West Lorne and Mr. and Mrs. Randy Denning of Strathroy join together in celebrating the engagement of their daughter and son, Kelly Oliveira and Bill Denning.
The wedding will take place in the summer of 2007.

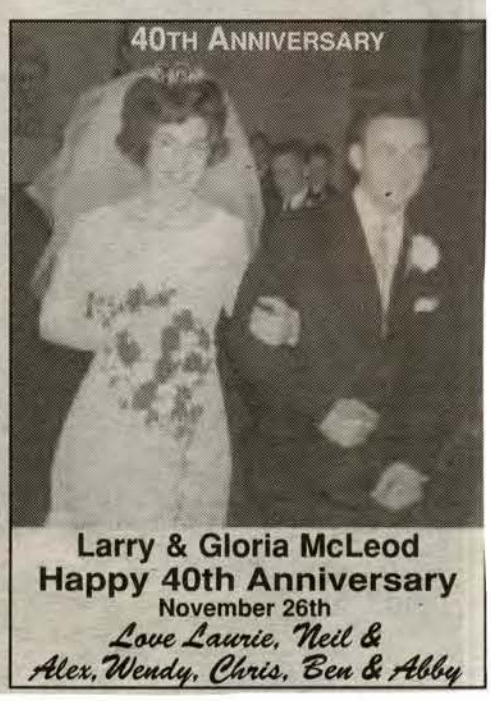












SOCIAL 2007

Western Elgin's 2007 Arrivals

It's a Boy!



Keirsyn Melina Wood
December 25, 2007
Daughter of Shane & Shelby Wood

It's a Boy!



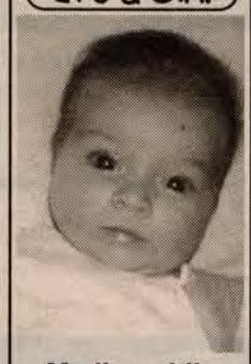
Carter Jeffrey Joseph Robison
April 4, 2007
Son of T.J. Robison and Peggy McGill

It's a Girl!



Taytem Elivia Lamb
September 13, 2007
Daughter of Jerry and Debbie

It's a Girl!



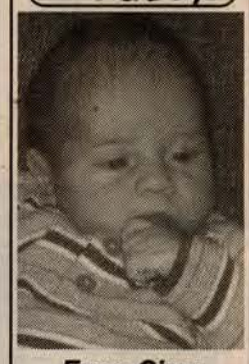
Madison Lily Lumley
September 1, 2007
Daughter of Jolene and Matt Lumley

It's a Girl!



Lydia Dianne Drummelsmith
December 8, 2007
Daughter of George and Shari Drummelsmith

It's a Boy!



Evan Cipu
November 20, 2007
Son of Dave and Stacy (Machado) Cipu

It's a Girl!



Karly Alyssa McCallum
May 5, 2007
Daughter of Jen and Steve McCallum

It's a Boy!



Jaityn Sydney Sutton
December 8, 2007
Son of Tara and Jeremy Sutton

It's a Girl!



Layton Lee Chamberlain
February 9, 2007
Daughter of Roy and Cheron Chamberlain

It's a Girl!



Hannah Dawn McIntyre
July 29, 2007
Daughter of Donald and Julie McIntyre

It's a Boy!



Jackson Playford
June 10, 2007
Son of Bill and Chantyle Playford

It's a Boy!



William Richard Cook
June 8, 2007
Son of Richard and Tanya Cook

It's a Boy!



Matthew Brown
April 20, 2007
Son of Aaron and Jennifer Brown

It's a Boy!



Carson Joseph Szabo
May 20, 2007
Son of Shaun and Krista Szabo

It's a Girl!



Rhainne Autumn Hales
October 11, 2007
Daughter of Rodney and Suzanne Hales

It's a Girl!



Lily Ava Carr
July 9, 2007
Daughter of Dave and Karrie Carr

It's a Boy!



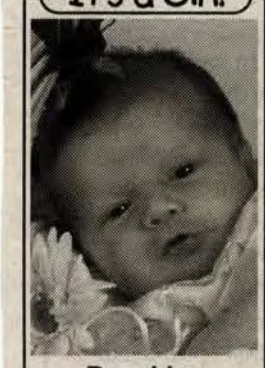
Ethan John Minogue
July 5, 2007
Son of Casey and Melissa Minogue

It's a Girl!



Kaitlyn Mackenzie Paton
February 8, 2007
Daughter of Shawn and Kristy Paton

It's a Girl!



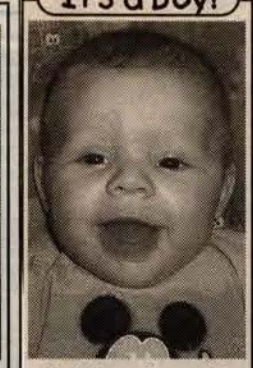
Brooklyn Elizabeth Hewitt
December 21, 2007
Daughter of John Hewitt and Crystal Blair

It's a Girl!



Olivia Isabel Sutton
September 21, 2007
Daughter of Kory and Cindy Sutton

It's a Boy!



Adrian Joseph Baran
August 23, 2007
Son of Dimitrius and Vanessa (Paine) Baran

It's a Boy!



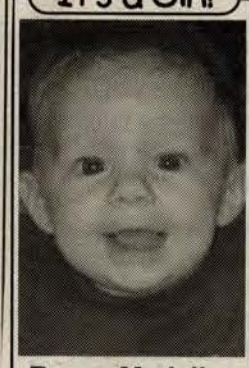
Liam Andrew Price
May 10, 2007
Son of Jenny and John Price

It's a Girl!



Natalie Florence Moore
February 3, 2007
Daughter of Chad and Melisa (Patterson) Moore

It's a Girl!



Reese Madeline Weekes
August 21, 2007
Daughter of Rob and Monique Weekes

It's Girls



Cameran Taylor Rae and Addisan Lynda Leone Mancari - **Sept. 28, 2007**
Daughters of David and Laura Mancari

Social 2007

Celebrating 60th Anniversary



Frank & Katie Nemeth
May 4, 2007
Love & best wishes from your family

OPEN HOUSE



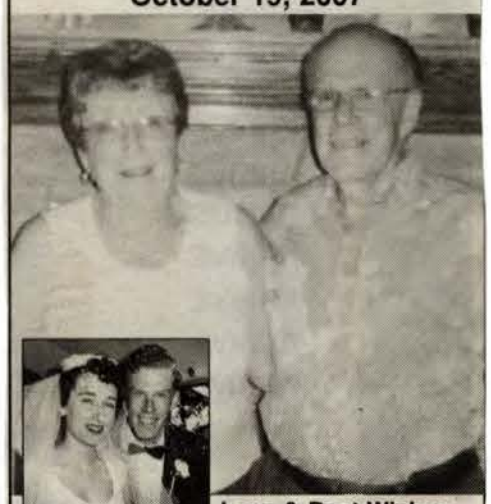
"50 Years"
To celebrate such a special milestone as 50 years of life together, the family of Allen and Betty Ross invite you to join them at an Open House being held in their honour Sunday, July 1, 2007 at the West Elgin Legion from 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. As friendship is one of the most valuable gifts in life, best wishes only please.

Fischer - Griffiths



On July 7, 2007 high school sweethearts Sarah, daughter of Dennis & Sandra Fischer or Rodney and Bryan, son of Ron & Bev Griffiths of Dutton were united in marriage. Family & friends joined the couple for a beautiful outdoor ceremony at The Oakes Golf & Country Club in Delaware where dinner and reception followed. Sarah and Bryan are now residing in St. Catharines.

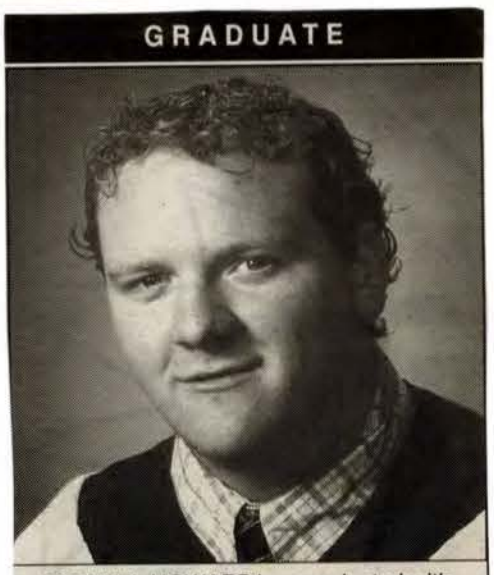
Happy 50th Anniversary
John & Elaine Conway
October 19, 2007





Love & Best Wishes
Family & Friends

GRADUATE



MICHAEL HOWARD has graduated with distinction from the University of Western Ontario Faculty of Education. He received a Diploma in Education (Technological Studies) at convocation on June 15th, 2007.
Congratulations from family & friends

Celebrating 100 Years



Family & friends are invited to help celebrate Adrianna Van Dooren's 100th Birthday at Bobier Villa. May 6th, 2007 ~ 2 to 4 p.m. Best Wishes only please.

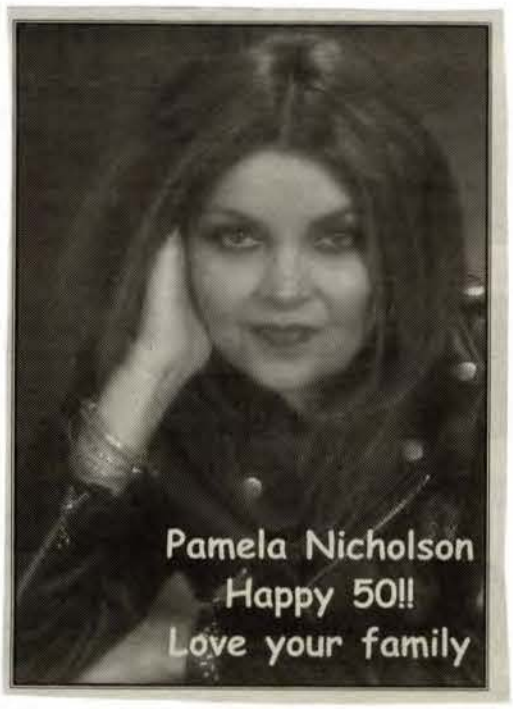
First Anniversary



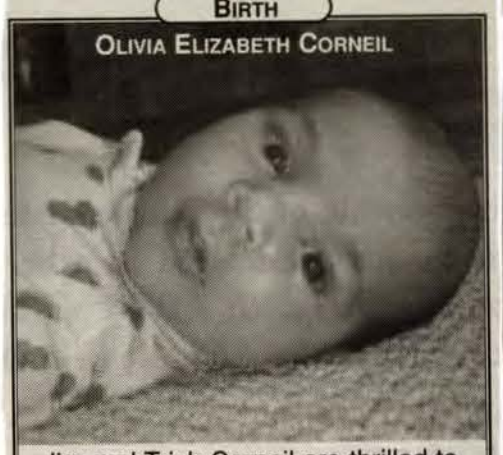
Angela (Foreman) & John Bobier of West Lorne were married May 27, 2006 at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Tyrconnell. Daughter of Sam Foreman of Wallacetown and Robert & Janice Elllis of St. Thomas. Son of Don & Betty Ann Bobier of West Lorne.



Carlos & Ilda Oliveira and Larry & Gerda Brokenshire wish to announce the marriage of their children Marisa & Russell on Sept. 30, 2006. The happy couple now reside in Dutton.



Birth
Olivia Elizabeth Corneil



Jim and Trish Corneil are thrilled to announce the arrival of their baby girl, Olivia Elizabeth Corneil. Olivia was born on December 21, 2006 at 6:15 p.m., weighing in at 9 pounds, 3 ounces. Bragging rights go to grandparents Phil and Kathy Corneil and Peter and Tina Hentz.

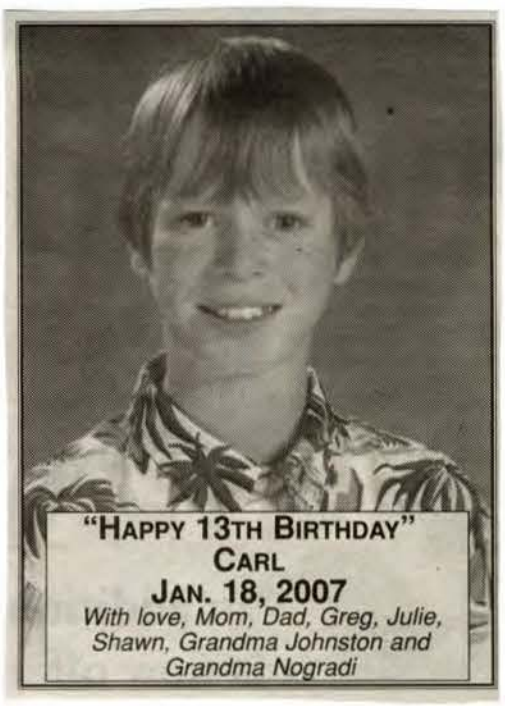


Please join us on Sunday, July 22nd from 2 to 4pm at St. Mary's Parish Hall, West Lorne to wish Brenda Odanski a Happy Retirement after 39 years of teaching.
Best wishes only please!

80th Birthday Open House



Congratulations to Eleanor Wallace, formerly of St. Thomas, now at the Bobier Villa, 1 Bobier Line, Dutton, on the occasion of her 80th Birthday. Please join Eleanor for an Open House on Saturday, January 13th, 2007 from 2 to 4 p.m.
Best Wishes Only, please.



"Happy 13th Birthday"
Carl
Jan. 18, 2007
With love, Mom, Dad, Greg, Julie, Shawn, Grandma Johnston and Grandma Nogradi

Happy 50th Anniversary ~ April 27, 2007 ~



Joe & Sylvia Fischer
Love from your family,
Dennis & Sandra, Pam & Terry, Linda, and your 5 grandchildren

OPEN HOUSE



Happy 60th Birthday
Chris Kirschner
Love your family

Open House
Come celebrate with us!
West Elgin Living Water Pentecostal Church
July 28th 2-4pm 2007
Coffee • Tea • Cake • Ice Cream

Social 2007

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



The Family of Anna McCallum invite you to join them at an open house and celebration of her 80th birthday at the West Elgin Legion Branch 221, John St., West Lorne. November 17th, 2-4pm

CONGRATULATIONS!



Lisa Madeira Silva graduated from Medix College as a Pharmacy Technician and is employed at West Elgin Pharmacy. Congratulations from your family.

BIRTHS

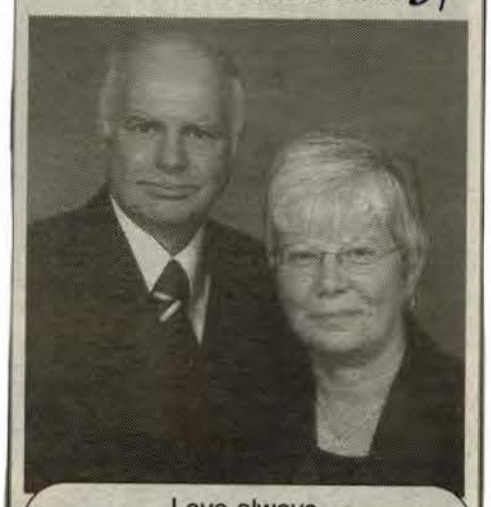


Announcing Lily Ava Carr

David and Karrie Carr along with Hannah, Gracie, Emma, and Ben are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of Lily Ava, born July 9th, 2007 weighing 7lbs 15oz and measuring 18.5" long. Special thanks to proud grandparents Grandma and Al Palazzo, and Nana and Papa Carr for taking such good care of Lily's brother and sisters while Mommy and Daddy were in the hospital.

ANNIVERSARY

Happy 40th Anniversary Nov 02
Bruce & Linda McCann '07



Love always,
your family and friends.

GRADUATION



CASSEL

Michelle Cassel received her masters of business administration, MBA from the University of Windsor at convocatoin ceremonies October 20, 2007. Congratulations and best wishes for the future. We are proud of your accomplishments.
Love from you family.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ETHEL FRANK



92 years old on March 28th
Love from your family

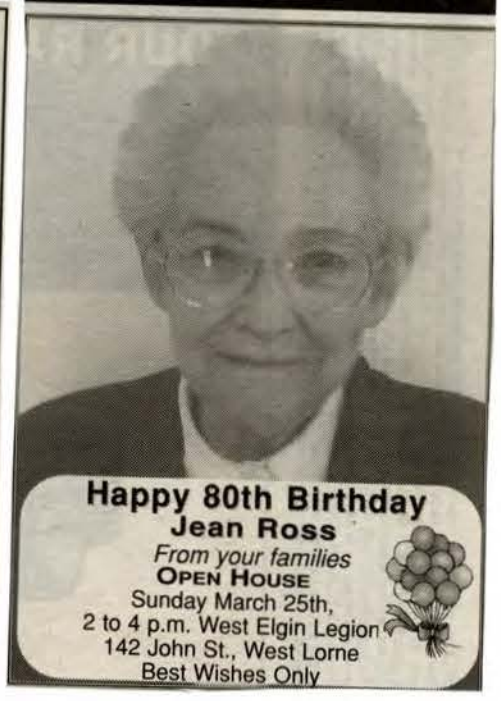
Happy 15th Wedding Anniversary

October 17, 1992



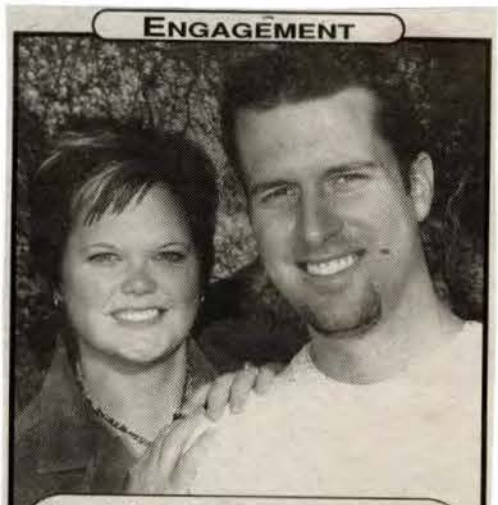
CONGRATULATIONS
FRANK & LAURIE SURA
Love & Best Wishes
Alex, Michael, Dad, Moms & all the family!

BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE



Happy 80th Birthday
Jean Ross
From your families
OPEN HOUSE
Sunday March 25th,
2 to 4 p.m. West Elgin Legion
142 John St., West Lorne
Best Wishes Only

ENGAGEMENT



Ross & June Lunn of Wallacetown and Al & Carole Giles of West Lorne are thrilled to announce the engagement of their children Marlene & Jeremy. The happy couple will exchange their vows on October 6, 2007 at the Lunn Farm.
Congratulations from both families.

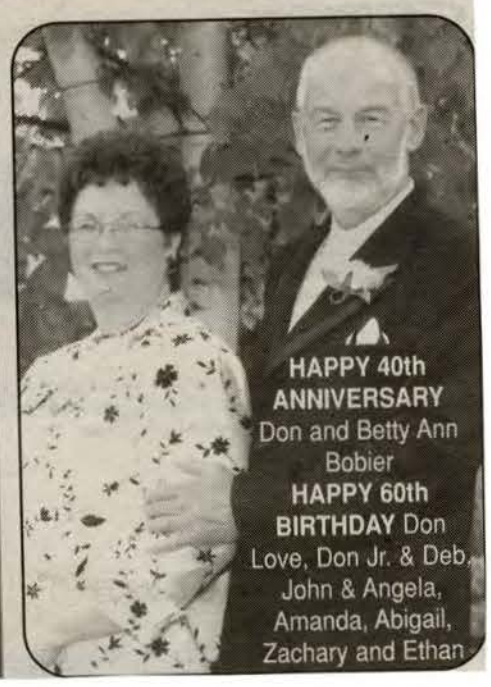
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY



LOIS CARROLL
December 13, 2007
Love:Anne, Audrey, June, Janice & Families
OPEN HOUSE
Sat. Dec. 8th • 1:00 - 4:00pm
Pearce Hall at
Pearce Williams Retreat Center
8009 Iona Rd., R.R.#1 Fingal
BEST WISHES ONLY

ANNIVERSARY



HAPPY 40th ANNIVERSARY Don and Betty Ann Bobier
HAPPY 60th BIRTHDAY Don
Love, Don Jr. & Deb, John & Angela, Amanda, Abigail, Zachary and Ethan

STAG & DOE

SATURDAY JULY 7, RODNEY COMMUNITY CENTRE 8 PM TO 1 AM

STAG and DOE 2007

Kelly Oliveira *Bill Denning*



PIG ROAST
MUSIC DJ $6 advance $8 at door DOOR PRIZES



Marlene and Jeremy Giles
were united in marriage on October 6, 2007 at the Lunn-Haven Farm in Wallacetown. Marlene is the daughter of Ross & June Lunn, Wallacetown and Jeremy is the son of Al & Carole Giles, West Lorne The happy couple now reside in London, Ontario

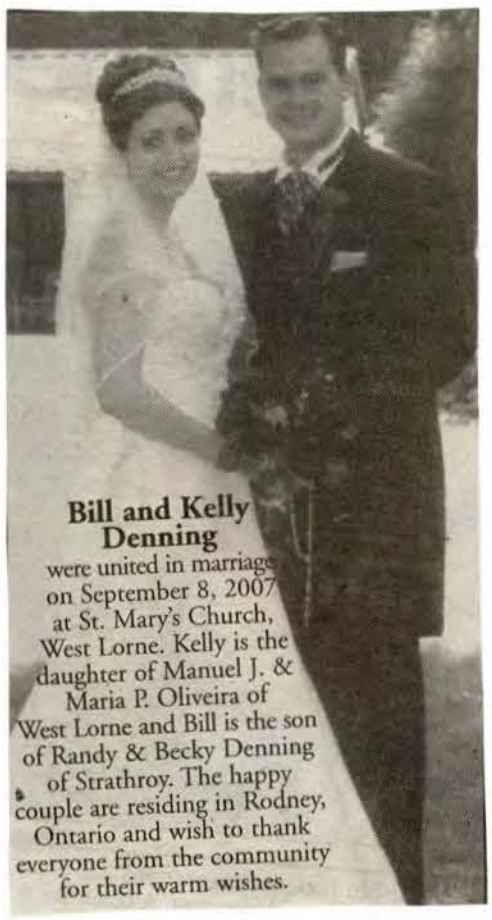


HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY
Carlos
Love from all your friends and family

Happy 25th Anniversary
Carlos and Adelia Oliveira



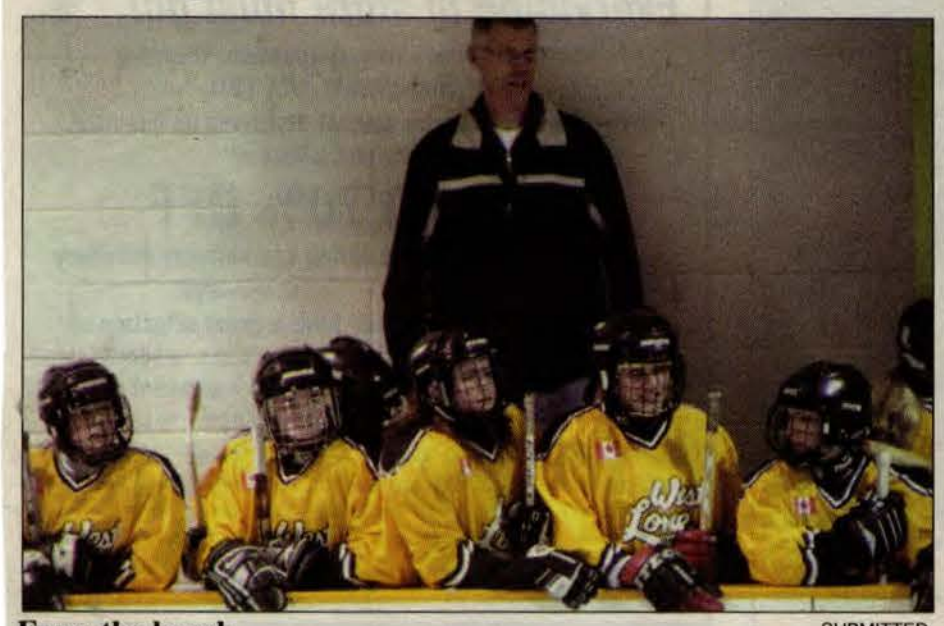
Love from all your friends and family



Bill and Kelly Denning
were united in marriage on September 8, 2007 at St. Mary's Church, West Lorne. Kelly is the daughter of Manuel J. & Maria P. Oliveira of West Lorne and Bill is the son of Randy & Becky Denning of Strathroy. The happy couple are residing in Rodney, Ontario and wish to thank everyone from the community for their warm wishes.

2006 ◂Sports▸ 2006

Midget C Girls finish second at provincial finals



From the bench SUBMITTED

Coach Henry Dryfhout, stands behind the bench during the Midget C Girls hockey provincial finals. Left to right: Angela Dick, April Haynes, Kylie Dionne, Brittany Degraw, Kayla Shine and Erika Eckersley. The girls finished second overall.

West Lorne Midget C girls competed in the Provincial Tournament held in Mississauga April 7-9. The girls went undefeated in their round robin playing three solid games and earning first position in their pool.

First game saw West Lorne face off against Alexandria. After 30 minutes of play the game was tied 0-0.

The second game was a tough battle against Clarington. West Lorne won the game 3-1 but not without losing defensive player Ashley Knapp who was hit from behind and had to leave the game. She was unable to play for the remainder of the tournament. Goals were scored by Emily Dryfhout, Brittany Degraw and Chelsea Dionne.

Game three of round robin was a 2-0 win for West Lorne as they played Wingham. Amanda Ford was impossible to beat in net and played a great game.

West Lorne then faced Blenheim in sudden death quarter final playoffs. As trainer Janice Dionne said "Who would have thought we would go all the way to Toronto to play a team from right down the road".

West Lorne and Blenheim had played each other twice in exhibition games during regular season and everyone knew it would be a tough match. With three minutes left in the first period Blenheim scored and another unanswered goal came in the second.

Final score was Blenheim 2 – 0. West Lorne girls were knocked out of the Provincial Tournament.

"It was a heck of an experience for the girls. Many girls do not ever get this opportunity and our girls played a very good tournament. On this night, they were beat by a faster team," said coach Henry Dryfhout. "For those girls who have a chance to play at this level of hockey again, in the provincials, they will know what to expect. This is not an easy tournament and every game you play the level of hockey just keeps getting better".

Blenheim went on to win the Provincials beating Alexandria 1-0 to take gold. West Lorne Midget C girls would like to thank WLMHA for their support throughout the year and a special thanks to all the fans who cheered us on.



Up and over JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Drake Campbell competes in the Grade 7 triple jump during the West Elgin Senior Elementary School track and field day May 18. Right: Caitlin Simpson jumps 1.30 metres in high jump.

WESES track and field results

High Jump
Seniors Boys
1. Doug White
2. Rob Roos
Senior Girls
1.Caitlyn Simpson
2.Kylie William
Open Boys
1. Ryan Ireland
2. Brian Taylor
Open Girls
1. Laura Szusz
2.Madison Gosnell

Long Jump
Senior Boys
1. Doug White
2. Zack Dymock
Senior Girls
1. Andrea Felder
2. Jolisa Turnball
Open Boys
1. Jason Carroll
2. Jonah Nagy
Open Girls
1. Teresa Nesic
2. Laura Szusz

Triple Jump
Senior Boys
1. Doug White
2. Dustin Welch
Senior Girls
1. Emily Varga
2. Stephanie Campbell
Open Boys
1. Jason Carroll
2. Andrew Ford
Open Girls
1. Laura Szusz
2. Michelle Parezanovic

Ball Throw
Senior Boys
1. David Hatton
2. Robert Johnson
Senior Girls
1. Stephanie Campbell
2. Kelsie Zoller
Open Boys
1. Brad Bint
2. Jason Carroll
Open Girls
1.Madison Gosnell
2. Morgan McCulloch

100M Dash
Senior Boys
1. Dustin Welch
2. Jason Ambrose
Senior Girls
1. Adreanna Felder
2. Stephanie Campbell
Open Boys
1. Jason Carrol
2. Andrew Ford
Open Girls
1. Debbie Levesly
2. Laura Pinder

400M
Senior Boys
1. Dustin Welch
2. Zack Dymock
Senior Girls
1. Kelsey McTavish
2. Nicole Durbridge
Open Boys
1.Jason Carroll
2.Ben Welch
2. Andre Ford
Open Girls
1. Debbie Levesly
2. Teresa Nesic

800M
Senior Boys
1. Dustin Welch
2. Jason Ambrose
Senior Girls
1. Nicole Durbridge
2. Kelsey McTavish
Open Boys
1. Brandon Caughell
2. Ben Welch
Open Girls
1. Debbie Levesly

1500M
Senior Boys
1. Dustin Welch
2. Jason Ambrose
Seniors Girls
1. Kaitlin Cedar
2. Haley Hewitt
Open Boys
1. Andrew Ford
2. Bryce Dorian
Open Girls
1. Debbie Levesly
2. Teresa Nesic

Azevedo Canada's top three

West Lorne's Justin Azevedo was named one of Team Canada's top three players at the U18 World Championships in Sweden last week.

Azevedo returned home April 23 after his team finished fourth at the tournament, beaten by the Czech Republic in Saturday's bronze medal match.

Making an impact, Azevedo had a hat-trick in a round robin game against Norway, playing on the top line with John Tavares and James McGinn.

"It was a great experience. We had a lot of fun over there," he said, from his home in West Lorne.

The Kitchener Ranger is eligible for the NHL draft this summer.

"Hopefully I turned some heads at this tournament," he said, adding he'll be with Kitchener again next season.

The 5'6" 18 year said he'd hoped the Rangers would have gone further in the OHL playoffs but it all worked out, getting to compete against the best in the world in Sweden.

Canada's Under-18 team is made up of the best available players born in 1988 or later.

Son of Liz and Carlos, Azevedo played for team Ontario at last year's World U17 Championship in Alberta.



Skaters win gold SUBMITTED

West Elgin Skating Club's dance partners of Kelsey Fratscher and Matt Westelaken (front), and Kaitlyn Lambert and Chris Van Raay are on their way to the all-Ontarios competition as part of the Western Ontario Provincial Team. Both teams won gold at the Boston Pizza Competition, on Saturday in Aylmer, in their dance categories. Kelsey and Matt - coached by Patsy McGill and Kaitlyn and Chris - coached by Patsy McGill, Kelly Lambert and Greg Knight, will be in the all-Ontarios in Waterloo, March 10-11.

Local players continue abroad

J.J. Wrobel's Quad City Mallards have entered UHL playoffs this week.

At 30-years-old, Wrobel joined the Mallards from the Riverdogs earlier this year and has 26 points in 38 games.

Colonial Cup quarterfinals began last Friday.

Ryan Rivard's Florida Seals lost in the Southern Professional Hockey League finals last week.

Jordan Shine of Wallacetown was traded to the Belleville Bulls this season, who were beaten out of the OHL playoffs.

Shine had six points in his second year after starting with the Barrie Colts.

West Lorne's Azevedo scores three

HALMSTAD, Sweden — Canada's power play ran full throttle at the world under-18 hockey championship yesterday. The Canadians scored five goals with a man advantage en route to a 9-2 thumping of Norway. Canada (2-0) takes on host Sweden tomorrow before winding up pool B play against Finland on Monday. The line of Justin Azevedo of the Kitchener Rangers, Francois Bouchard of the Baie-Comeau Drakkar and Jamie McGinn of the Ottawa 67's continued to demonstrate the chemistry and cohesion it had in Canada's opening 3-1 win over Slovakia on Wednesday. Azevedo, from West Lorne, scored three power-play goals, Bouchard had a goal and three assists and McGinn had an assist. Kingston's Cory Emmerton, Kamloops defenceman Victor Bartley and 15-year-old John Tavares of the Oshawa Generals also scored.

LONDON FREE PRESS APP/06

Synchronized swim like dancing

The West Elgin Synchronized Swim Team has been practicing its group routine for the upcoming show at the West Elgin Community Pool.

The group of Rodney girls ranging from eight to 16 years old is performing a routine themed What I Want to Be When I Grow Up Aug. 26.

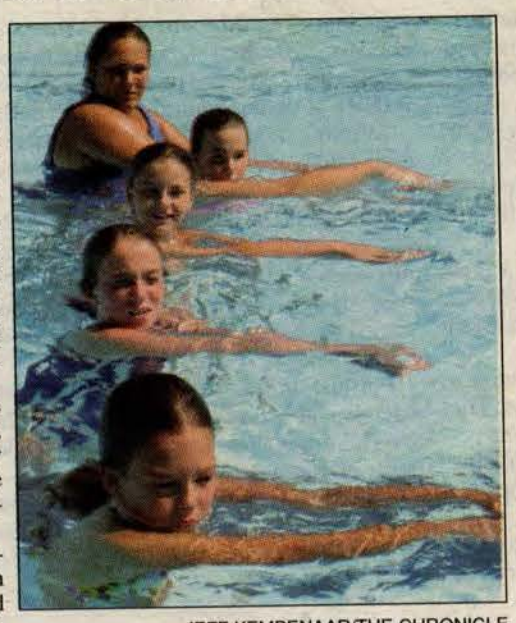
Of course, the girls want to be lifeguards, said coach Hillary Kriter. "Everyone wants to be a lifeguard."

Synchronize swimming is, "dancing in the water," said Brandee Blanchard, team member.

Its one of the most difficult types of swimming, consisting of lots of treading in the water.

"The girls really have to work together," said Kriter.

Twice a week, the girls have been working on their routine and practicing different moves.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Synchronized practice
Members of the West Elgin Synchronized Swim Team prepare for August show.

"We make them do it a billion times, so they get it," said Kriter, who was also on the synchro team for five years before becoming a lifeguard at the pool.

The team is a lot of fun, the girls said.

"It's better than sitting in front of the T.V.," said Rebie West, of Rodney, in her second year on the team.

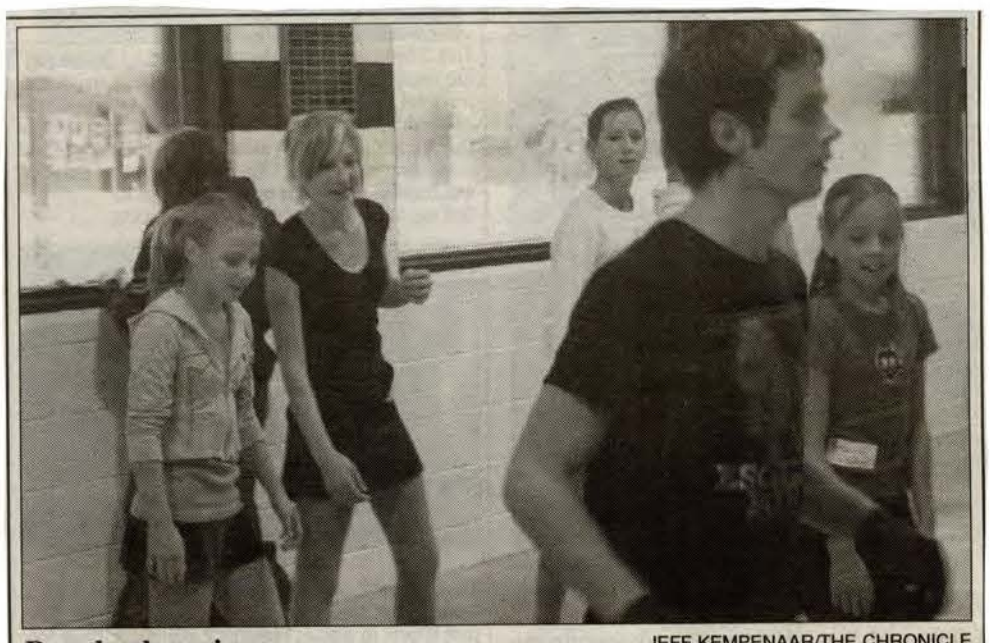
The girls have been perfecting their moves like sailboats, where they skulk (swim on their back with just their arms and raise one knee out of the water).

With 12-13 girls on the team, over the last few weeks moves were lined up for the entire routine which will be performed to the theme from Baywatch.

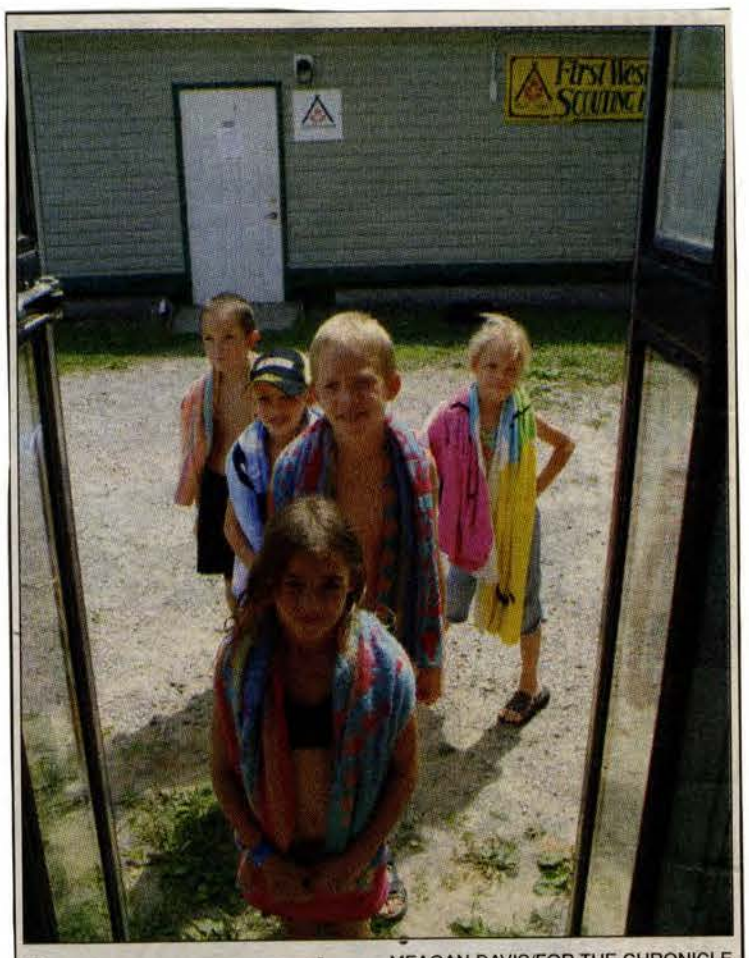
The girls have also begun working on duet routines for the upcoming show.



West Lorne U-8/9 undefeated SUBMITTED
The West Lorne girls U-8/9 soccer team went undefeated in the regular season. The team is Coached by Paul Oliveira and Jeff Gray the team is, back row: Sam Wilson, Emma McDonagh, Sierra Poels, Khloe Beer, Sophie Taskar, Sarah Dewit and Alyssia Paiva. Front row: Sabrina Oliveira, Chatel Gray, Allison Rose, Emma Dewitt, Carley Oliveira and Anastasia Machado. Absent is Scarlett Redman, Jami Jensen and Kailey McMillan.



Pros lead seminar JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Chris Mabee from Tillsonburg leads off ice training at a Fall Skater Development Seminar all day Oct. 4 at the West Elgin Arena. Hosted by the West Elgin Skating Club, skating coaches from Mariposa School of Skating in Barrie led programs for local skaters and skaters from as far away as Blenheim.



Day campers use pool MEAGAN DAVIS/FOR THE CHRONICLE
West Lorne YWCA Day Campers take the community bus to the West Elgin Community Pool. Sabrina Oliveira, Brendan and Lucas and Amy McGahan and Skylar Hodgins have had a fun summer with day camp counsellors Katie Slater and Christine Bray. The pool bus runs from West Lorne to Rodney Thursdays at 1 p.m.



Men's ball team finishes third at nationals SUBMITTED
Waltron, an intermediate over 40-years-old baseball team with many local players finished third at the national slowpitch championships in Newfoundland recently. The team is managed by Cheri Lamb, front. Back row: Rob Fysh, Joe Mylrea, Bob McLachan, Todd Hull, Joel Sutton and Tom Vink. Middle: Guy Lamb (coach), Andy McRitchie, Mike Lilley, Tim Kinsmen and John Lamb. Front: Bob Carder, Gerry Lamb, Dale Mitchell and Mark Kelly. The team also qualified for the world championships in B.C. next year.

Mike Oliveira tops UHL goal scorers

West Lorne native Mike Oliveira finished as the top goal scorer in the United Hockey League (UHL).

The 27-year-old centre on the Richmond RiverDogs, finished with 61 goals, for his best season in the UHL.

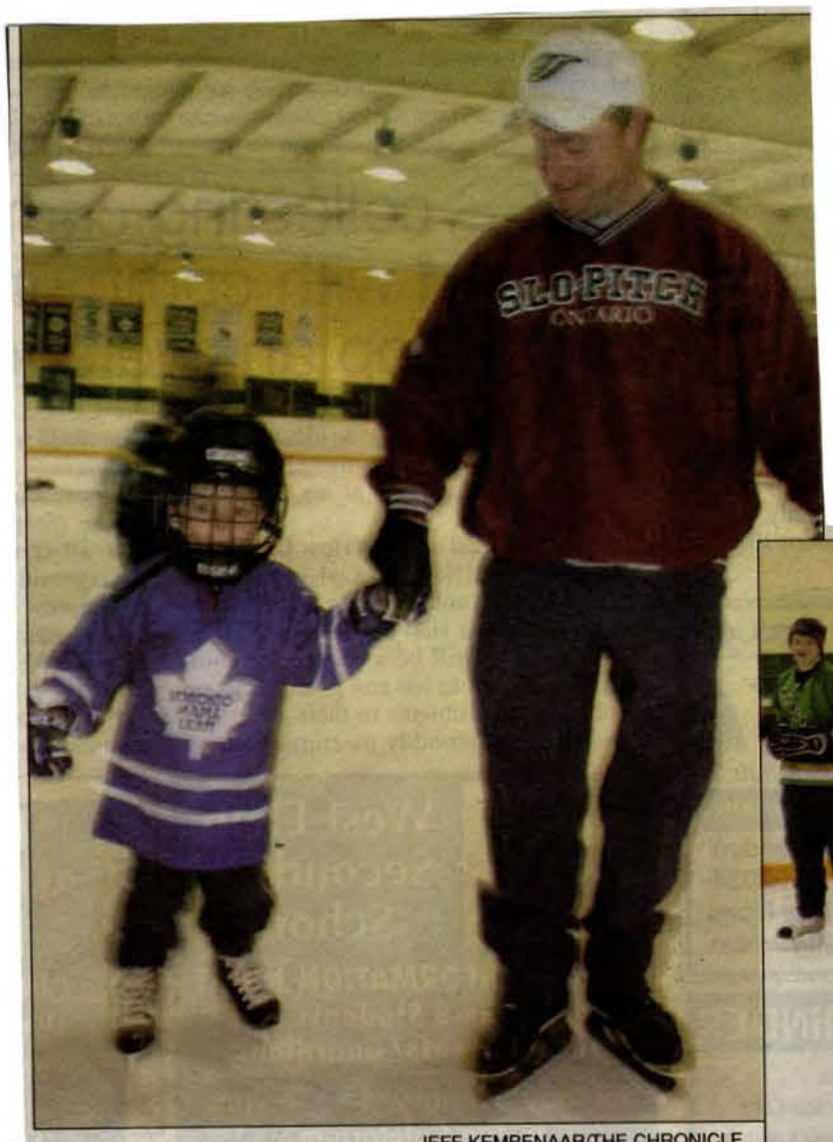
Oliveira finished third in points, with 105 and led the league with 10 short-handed goals.

His RiverDogs missed the UHL playoffs this year.

Oliveira was named UHL offensive player of the month twice this year, April and January.

The UHL is a feeder league for the American Hockey League (AHL), the farm league to the NHL.

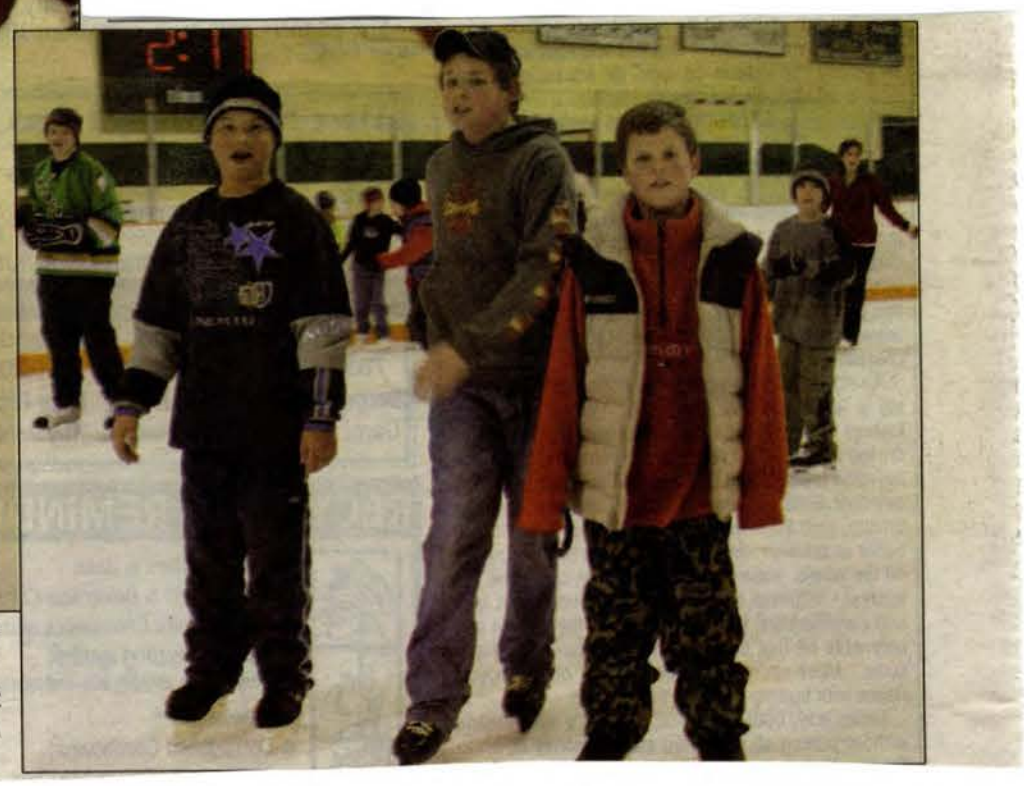
Sports 2006



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Skating into the New Year

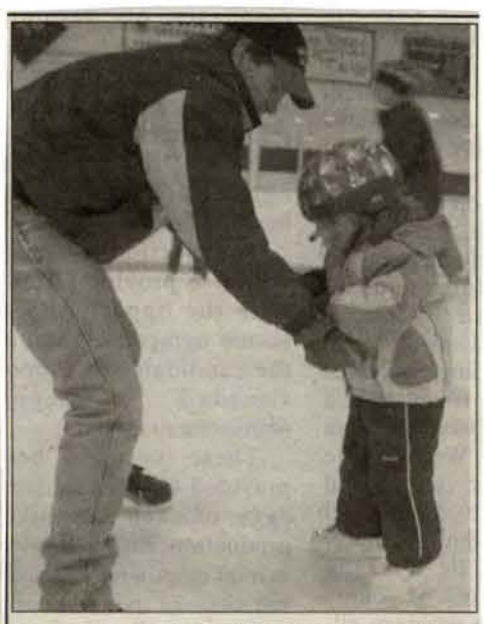
Three-year-old Tyler Mosher and his father Jeremy, above, were at a free Public Skate Monday afternoon along with Scott Snake, Brent Dunn, Michael Beynon and many others.





Local skaters win medals SUBMITTED

West Elgin Skating Club dance pairs of Matt Westelaken and Kassie Bergey (Dance Level 2), left, and Chris Van Raay and Kaitlyn Lambert (Dance Level 3), right, were selected to be on the Skate Canada Western Ontario Section Development Team. Matt and Kassie won bronze medals and Chris and Kaitlyn won gold medals at competitions in Grimsby and Tillsonburg last fall. Both pairs won gold at the Great Lakes Invitational this month. They will compete in February at the all-Ontario qualifiers.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

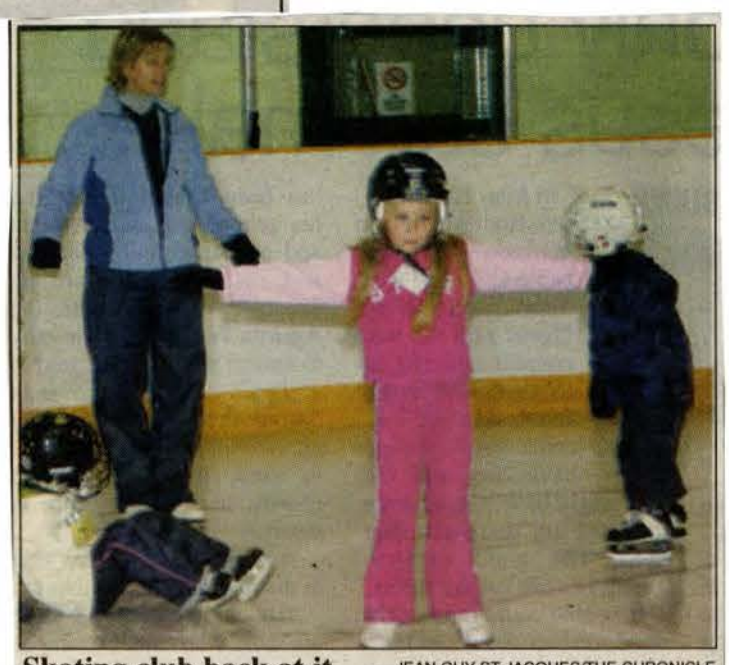
Testing new skates

Only on the ice for her second time ever, three and a half year old Sarah Richardson is helped around West Elgin Arena by her dad Chuck at Monday's public skate.



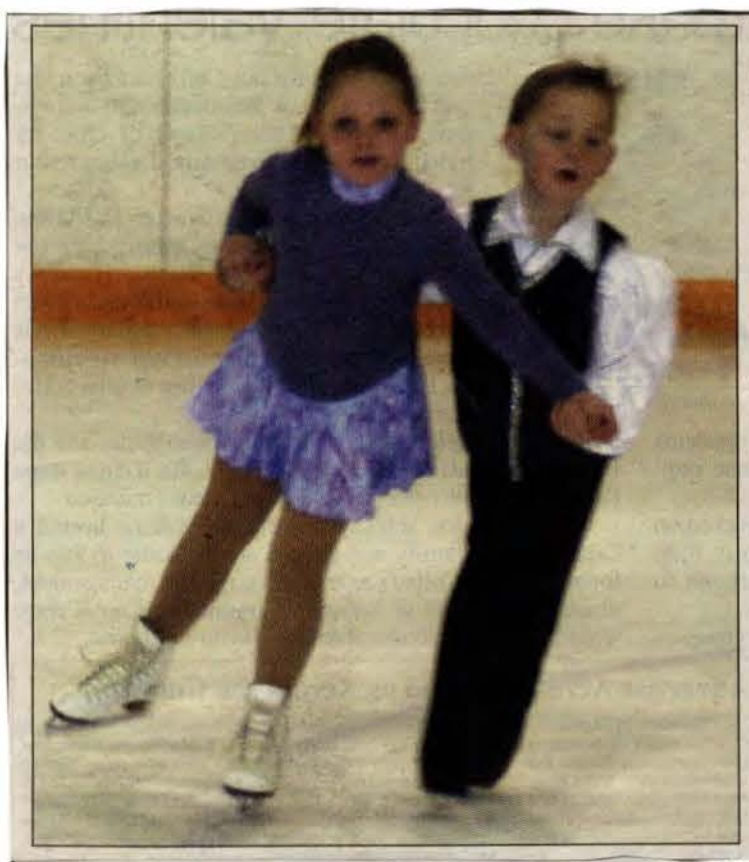
Playdowns begin JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Brandon DeCook celebrates the game winning goal, his fourth of the night for the West Lorne Atom Local team against Dresden Jan. 6. It was the team's first playdown game of the season as the division was split into pools for a round robin finish, before the playoffs.



Skating club back at it JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

Coach Renee Bergey teaches Terri-Lynne Brooks, age 7 from West Lorne, Mathew McCallum age 4 from Iona Station, Cody DaSilva age 6 from West Lorne. The West Elgin Skating Club met at the West Elgin arena on Sept. 23 to teach kids age two to 15 how to skate as part of the " Canskate" program.

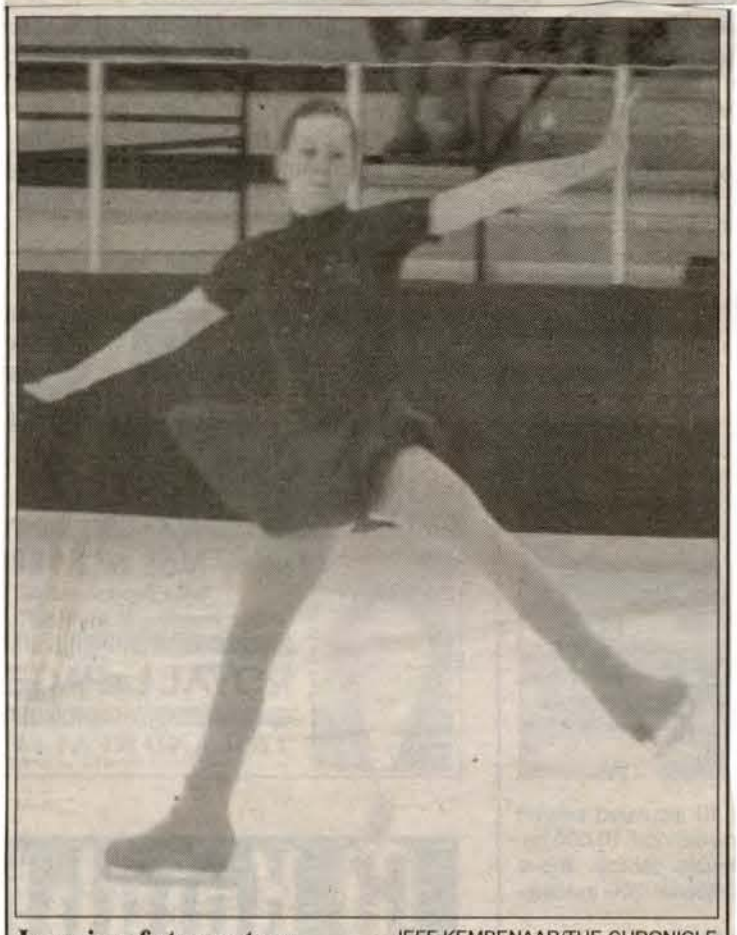






Skating Club preps for annual competition JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Preparing for the annual skating competition March 4-5, the West Elgin Skating Club showcased their talents at the West Elgin Arena Feb. 13. Left: Paxton Knott and Samantha Morris performed their pairs routine. Centre: Mikayla Pelcz, right: Lindsay Wright also showcased the routines they have been working on throughout the season.



Leaping future stars JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Kristin Mylrea skated Sunday at the Futures-West Skating Competition presented by the West Elgin and Kent Region Skating Clubs at the West Elgin Arena March 4 and 5.

Skating competition brings 1,500 to area

A very successful Futures Competition was held as a two day event at the West Elgin Arena this past weekend.

The event drew skaters from as far away as Windsor in the west and Thedford in the north.

Exactly 375 skaters competed over the two days from Kent Region, Sun Parlour Region (Windsor) and Blue Water Region (Sarnia).

This is an annual event that has never been hosted at the West Elgin Arena before. It has been about 10 years since this club has hosted any competition.

It offered an opportunity for the children to compete in flights of about five -seven skaters in front of a judging panel to rank placement for gold, silver, bronze and so on. The results table was busy banding out medals to successful competitors as well as trophies for all participants. The children at this event ranged from age four through about 14. Of the 375 skaters, approximately 30 skaters from the West Elgin Club competed. Many of our local skaters placed well in the standings.

Chairperson, Trisha Fink of the West Elgin Skating Club, admitted this event was a huge undertaking and could not have achieved the success it did without the support of over 100 volunteers and the support of the local community in sponsoring advertising, offering food. accommodations as well as many other generous contributions.

Other clubs within the Kent Region played a big part in the preparation and devotion to the delivery of the event. All efforts were greatly appreciated from the competition committee. Revenue gained from this event will benefit all clubs within the region based on volunteer support.

Midget Girls hockey team bound for provincial tourney

West Lorne Midget Girls will be representing Southwest Ontario at the Provincial Tournament in Mississauga April 7-9. The girls earned the right to represent in their division beating out St. Thomas by one point in a 10 game round robin. West Lorne lost only one game in their provincial bid.

In the final week run at the provincial playdowns West Lorne girls had four games with only one night rest between each game.

"The girls really played as a team, and every line scored. They really had to battle it out the last couple of games and it all came down to the last game. They came out to win and they got the job done. I am really proud of them," said Coach Henry Dryfhout after the final game against Embro. Score of that game was 5-0 for West Lorne.

West Lorne girls goalie, Amanda Ford, played terrific throughout the series-only letting in a total of seven goals. Top goal scorer in the series was Emily Dryfhout, team captain.

Other teams in the round robin were Mt. Brydges, Strathroy, Alymer, St. Thomas and Embro.

West Lorne girls will finish off the league playoffs in the month of March and play at home on Monday nights at 8 p.m.



Midget girls win southwestern Ontario WMHLA SUBMITTED

Back Row: April Haynes, Chelsea Dionne, Brittany Degraw, Angela Dick, Erika Eckersley, Kayla Shine, and Britanny Hein. Second Row: Krysta Walker, Julie Oliveira, Ashley Knapp, Emily Dryfhout and Taylor Carnegie. On either side of the sign: Caitlin McCallum, Kylie Dionne and Allison Borton. In Front: Amanda Ford and Jillian Colins. Coaches not in picture Henry Dryfhout, Josh Dryfhout, Terry Eckersley (manager), Janic Dionne (trainer).



Dufton JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Lakers captain Jordan Dufton was named Junior D offensive player of the month for December.

Lakers gearing up for playoff run

With four games left in the regular season, the West Lorne Lakers are tightening up.

Team owner Wayne Bedford is looking for disciplined hockey and for his players to focus on better positioning.

"We have a lot of experienced guys. I think we'll do well (in the playoffs)" said Bedford before the Lakers' 3-2 loss to North Middlesex Jan. 25 at West Elgin Arena. "We've got to tighten up."

likely first round draw against Lambeth.

The Lakers upset Lambeth last year in game seven before going on to force Mt. Brydges to game seven in the conference finals.

Bedford said he'll go with experienced Brandon Palmer for the playoffs.

Palmer followed the puck well, facing 39 shots, many in the final minutes against North Middlesex.

Palmer played outstanding during the Lakers playoff run last year.

Bedford has been pleased with the fan turnout this year, with 50 to 100 people coming to the home games.

He hopes the crowd will be as noisy and supportive in the playoffs this year as they were last.

The Lakers play their final regular season home game against Exeter Feb. 8 at 8:15 p.m

Forward Mike Cameron will be back before the playoffs, giving Bedford a healthy lineup at the right time.

Local call up players have filled out the lineup for several games this year as top players have been downed with injuries.

Since coming back from general soreness, Drew Irvine has centred a hot top line with Matt Bartoch and Jordan Dufton.

Bartoch scored the Lakers' two goals in the last game, after taking passes from the corners from Dufton.

Bedford has no expectations for how far the team will get this year after the Lakers' amazing semi-final run last year.

"It doesn't matter who we play," he said, adding the schedule is still being negotiated with West Lorne Minor Hockey but games will probably still be here Wednesday nights.

"We'll take it one game at a time, one series at a time," said Bedford.

The Lakers hoped to beat North Middlesex to keep seventh place in the Yeck Conference and a

2006 Sports 2006

Skating club ready for year-end carnival

The West Elgin Skating Club is holding its annual skating Carnival Saturday.

The 52nd annual skating carnival will see skaters perform routines to Broadway Musicals.

This year's special guests are Kylie Knight and Nick Toth.

They have been skating together for three years. Kylie is 11 years old and is from Glencoe and Nick is 12 years old and is from Rondeau. They train together 3 days a week in Blenheim and Ridgetown and are coached by their parents, Leslie and Greg Knight and Connie Toth. The team has had much success in the past three years being chosen for the Western Ontario Development Team and the Western Ontario Provincial Team. This year through their placement at the BMO Sectional Championships they were chosen to represent Western Ontario at the Ontario Winter Games in Barrie.

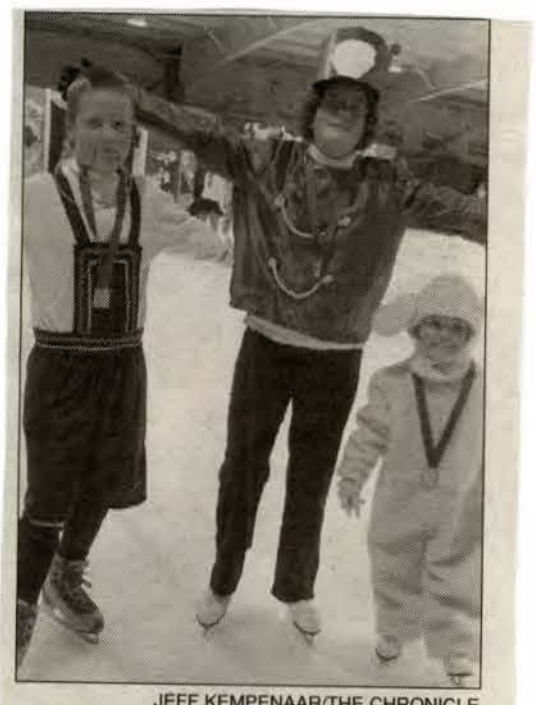
Two shows will be held Saturday at 1 and 7 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED

Skating club goes with show tunes

Nick Toth and Kylie Knight are the special performers at the annual skating carnival Saturday at West Elgin Arena.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

CanSkaters of the year

Twan Dieker, Breanne Durdle and Faith Lamb were awarded CanSkate Champions for 2005/06 by the West Elgin Skating Club at the annual carnival April 1.

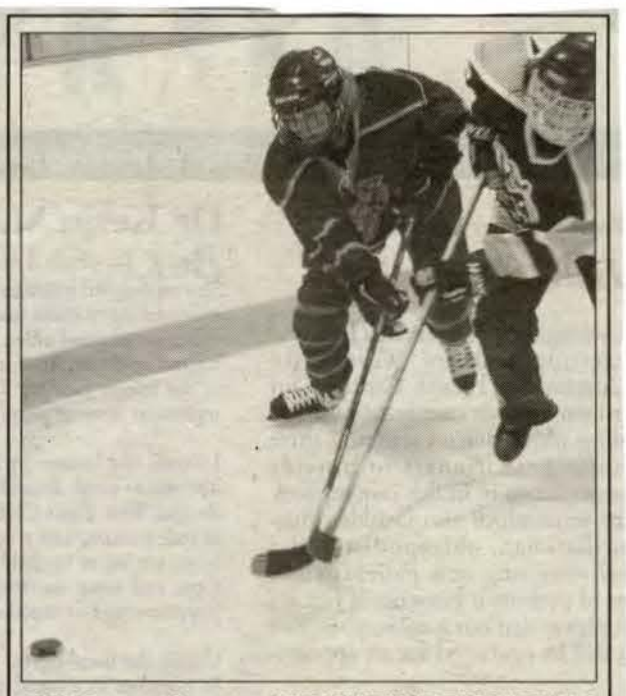
Lakers hosting Shine

The West Lorne Lakers are having minor hockey night on Dec. 27 at 8:15 pm at the West Elgin Arena when the Central Elgin Express come to town.

West Lorne minor hockey product Jordan Shine from Wallacetown will be the Lakers special guest at the game.

Shine plays for the London Knights of the Ontario Hockey League.

All minor hockey players will be admitted free and have a chance to win many prizes including a Jordan Shine London Knights replica hockey sweater, one piece hockey sticks, and a pair of hockey gloves.



Wildcats win JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Bailey McKillop battles for the puck against a Central Elgin player. The Wildcats beat CESS Nov. 30 two goals by Jordan Emmett and goaltending by Amanda Russell.

Strong defence lifts Atoms

ATOM TRAVEL NEWS

Our Atom Travel Team was in Parkhill last Friday night and was involved in another tight end-to-end action packed game, with our guys holding on for a close 2-1 victory.

Our defence team of Tristan Rohde (A) , Scott Barfett, Kent Vandenberg and Matt Brennan(C) was a force to be reckoned with.

"Tristan Rohde is so strong on the puck that his shots from the point rarely miss the net," says Assistant Coach Tim Hansen.

"Scott Barfett and Kent Vandenberg read the play very well and by doing so , can cause a lot of havoc for the opposing teams," says Hansen.

When our Defence play as well as they did on Friday it gives our offensive force a chance to pull off the victory.

Great Teamwork! Keep it up!



Locals on Glencoe team

Without a Bantam team in West Elgin, several players are playing for the Glencoe Icecats which won the Bantam A tournament in Meaford Nov. 18-19. On the team is Evan Timmermans, Zach Welch and Brandon Baptista.

SUBMITTED

McGill gold in skating

Danielle McGill became the first West Elgin skater to achieve gold level in figure skating in 52 years of club history.

The 15-year-old passed gold level testing in skills, free skate and dance to attain the distinction of a Skate Canada gold level skater.

To honour Danielle's achievements Skate Canada awarded her a certificate and gold pin along with a plaque given at the annual skating carnival April 1.

Daughter of skating coach Patsy McGill and Mark, Danielle's dedication and commitment to the sport of figure skating is shown in her countless hours of practice and helping younger skaters achieve their goals.

Some of these skaters watched and cheered her on as she skated her gold free skate test recently.

Currently, Danielle is working on achieving her second Diamond Dancing at gold level, which would put her at ranks with world championship competitors.

At the skating carnival, Danielle was also awarded the second annual Beth Evans Memorial Award for skater of the year with the West Elgin Skating Club.

Evans, a long-time skating coach passed away in 2004 and since then, her parents, Allister and Carolyn Cameron have presented the award to a skater who best exemplifies the same consistent qualities like enthusiasm, dedication and passion for the sport, as Evans had.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

McGill wins Beth Evans award

Rodney-area's Danielle McGill was presented with the Beth Evans Memorial Award by the late skating coach's parents Allister and Carolyn Cameron at the annual skating carnival April .

Skating Carnival sells out two shows

Dianne Fratscher

WESC

The West Elgin Skating Club's 52nd Annual Carnival was another smash success with two sold out shows.

This years theme of Broadway Musicals saw skaters performing to music from selections including Phantom Of The Opera, Crazy For You, Gypsy, Guys & Dolls, Saturday Night Fever and many more.

CanSkaters to senior skaters all had a terrific time showing off their abilities for the audiences at both Saturday shows.

Some of the highlights included 'Shirley', a mannequin that dropped down on a trapeze from the roof of the arena during a performance of Moulin Rouge, and a series of hand painted backdrops that were changed throughout the show.

SPORTS 2006

Skaters win Ontarios

Kaitlyn Lambert and Chris Van Raay of West Elgin Skating Club came in third at the Trillium Competitions (all-Ontarios) March 19 in Waterloo.

They competed against eight other couples representing regions from Windsor to Barrie to Ottawa.

Winning a gold medal in Sarnia at the Starskate championships in February qualified them for the Trillium and a position on the Western Ontario Provincial Team.

Due to the coaching skills of Patsy McGill and Kelly Lambert, Kaitlyn and Chris have won four golds in regional competitions and a bronze in Waterloo throughout this skating season.



Pair win in Waterloo SUBMITTED

Kelly Lambert, left, coach, Chris Van Raay, Kaitlyn Lambert and Patsy McGill, right, coach were at the all-Ontarios in Waterloo.

Schramowsky team's top rookie

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

West Lorne Lakers handed out their year-end awards at the team's banquet March 12.

Dutton's Karl Schramowsky took rookie of the year.

The 19-year-old played in every game in his Junior D first season.

The Wildcats alumni amassed seven goals and seven assists.

The team chose Jordan Dufton as its Most Valuable Player.

The 21-year-old from London led the league with 72 points including 21 goals.

The 6'3" winger also played in every game for the Lakers.

He and linemate Drew Irvine shared honours for Miller Ford Player of the Year.

Irvine missed almost half the season while playing for the Western Mustangs football team.

His return to centre the top line sparked Dufton and Matt Bartoch.

In just 22 games he had 39 points including 15 goals.

Bartoch was named Most Sportsmanlike.

The 21-year-old from London had 56 points in 30 games and only received 19 minutes in penalties.

Mike Dufton was awarded Most Improved.

The 5'8" sophomore from London received more ice time for his hard work, adding 19 points in 36 games for the Lakers.

Ryan Roke and Ryan Campbell shared Most Dedicated Player awards.

The two St. Thomas-area forwards added grit at the beginning of the year and kept the team going to the end.

Roke led the team with 30 goals while Campbell played alongside in all 40 games.

Speedy John Sonier picked up top defenceman honours.

The Lakers were beat out of the first round of playoffs against Thamesford.

The team finished seventh in the Yeck Conference.

Bantam girls showing determination

Going into the season as an underdog team, the Bantam Girls have shown great determination and love for the game.

All the girls have put in a great effort including first time players Ashley Willie, Brittany Jones and goaltender Stephanie Campbell. These girls show excellent skills for the upcoming season.

Campbell had a shutout in her first season in goal in a Nov. 26 game against North East Lambton that saw the team celebrate its first win, 2-0.

The girls competed in a tournament Jan. 6-8 in Strathroy, working hard in the team's three close games.

The girls are now in their second round of playoffs with two final games scheduled.

The first is this Saturday against South Huron being played at the West Lorne arena at 5 p.m.

The team's final scheduled game of the season is March 26 at 4 p.m., in South Huron.

While that will be the end of the season for the team, Lindsay Gowan and Bailey McKillop will represent the Bantam Girls in the 2006 Girls Allstar game in Strathroy April 1.



Bantam girls continue playoff run SUBMITTED

Back row: Trainer Dave Gowan (coach) Jon Collard, Nicole Vergeer, Brittany Jones, Nicole Collard, Breanne Carter, Ashley Willie, Lindsay Gowan, Michelle Small (trainer), Denis Hamelin (head coach). Front row: Bailey McKillop, Nicolette Gowan, Madison Redman, Stephanie Sutton, Shawna McDonald, Jessica Small, Samantha Hamelin, Mardina Verboom, Zoey VanDyk and Stephanie Campbell (goal). Missing, Scott McKillop (manager).

Vergeer in University hockey finals

West Lorne's Nick Vergeer has helped his Wilfrid Laurier University hockey team reach the national championships.

The 5'6", second-year geography student was named "Athlete of the Week" picking up two points in a win over the University of Quebec Trois-Rivier.

The win sends the Hawks to the round-robin CIS National Championship in Edmonton March 23 though 26.

Vergeer led the Hawks in points this season with 10 goals and 20 assists in 24 games, placing him ninth in Ontario.

The 2004-2005 team rookie of the year has also received a financial bursary from the school and is no stranger to winning.

The St. Joseph's Catholic High School alumni won two Junior B Championships with the Stratford Cullitons in '03 and '04.

The 22-year-old's Hawks are ranked sixth out of six teams and the final two games will be televised on TSN.



Keeping hydrated JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Trainer Desmond McQuade gives water to Shayne Deguast on the bench during a mini-tyke game against Wallaceburg March 25.

Mini-tykes round out season

West Lorne Mini-tykes finished the season Saturday with a strong effort against Wallaceburg.

"It's been amazing to watch these kids. They improved every time they took to the ice," said assistant coach Paulo Oliveira.

The team started Hockey is Fun day off at West Elgin Arena, where every team was in action for the final weekend of hockey.

Players received awards and plaques to mark the end of another season.

Coached by Nick Deguast and Gerry Lamb, the Tim Horton's Mini-tykes are:

Josh McQuade, Travis Wickerson, Gavin Lunn, Shayne Deguast, Mathew Oliveira, Journey Bois-Groissiant, Jocelyn Delgado, Tanner Parker, Justin DeCook, Laura Barfett and Jacob McQuade.

Atom locals win B championship

The West Lorne Atom Local team took home the "B" Championship March 25 defeating Wallaceburg 5-3.

The first goal was scored by Hassan Jabara then a hat trick followed from Brandon De Cook. The game clinching goal was scored by Carter Blake.

Assists came from Derrick Somerville, Michael Oliver, David Hale,Tyler Hawke, Steven Riemens, Dylan Clark,Logan Poels, Hassan Jabara and Dustin VanHee.

Goalie Mitchell Bradshaw played an outstanding game in net for his team. These boys had great team work and dedication. They came a long way to win the championship. After losing all their games up until Christmas they finished the second half of the season undefeated. They also took home a bronze medal in March at the Glencoe Tartan tournament with Derrick Somerville in net for the team. Way to go!

The team was successfully coached by Kal Jabara ,Tony Poels, Steve De Cook (trainer) and Sherry Somerville (manager).



Atom locals champions SUBMITTED

The atom local team won the B championships recently. Here: goalie, Mitchell Bradshaw Front row left to right:Dustin VanHee,Michael Oliver, Tyler Hawke,Steven Riemens and Derrick Somerville. Back row left to right: Logan Poels,Dylan Clark, Brandon De Cook, Hassan Jabara,Carter Blake and David Hale; absent Riley Craft.

2006 Sports 2006

Girls win silver at Silver Stick in Owen Sound



SUBMITTED

Finalists
The Intermediate C Girls were finalists at a tournament in Owen Sound.

West Lorne Intermediate C Girls won silver at the Silver Stick tournament held in Owen Sound last weekend.

The first game of the round robin was against Elma Logan, Friday ended a 1-1 tie with Kayla Shine scoring.

Saturday morning's game was a 5-1 win for West Lorne over Strathroy. Kayla Shine earned a hat trick with Kylie Dionne and Emily Dryfhout scoring the balance. Laura Degraw worked between the pipes.

The afternoon game was a 2-0 final for West Lorne over Goderich. Emily Dryfhout beat the Goderich goalie for the first and Brittany Degraw sealed the game with the second goal. Amanda Ford saw the net duty.

Sunday morning 7 a.m. start saw West Lorne face off against Embro in the quarter finals. Stacey Kochnowich from West Lorne scored in the second period and Kayla Shine in the third. The final was 2-1 for West Lorne with Amanda Ford keeping Embro at bay.

West Lorne played Sarnia Ladies Sting in the final game. Score was even after the first and Sarnia put one on the board in the second with Emily Dryfhout answering back with a single. Sarnia beat West Lorne 3-1.

Amanda Ford earned tournament MVP. Our girls played some great hockey.



Atom girls win gold

The West Lorne Atom Girls hockey team played their best hockey of the year and captured the Gold Medal at the St Thomas tournament Dec 1.

After a 2-1 victory over a tough Mt. Brydges team, the girls managed a 0-0 tie with an even tougher team from St. Mary's.

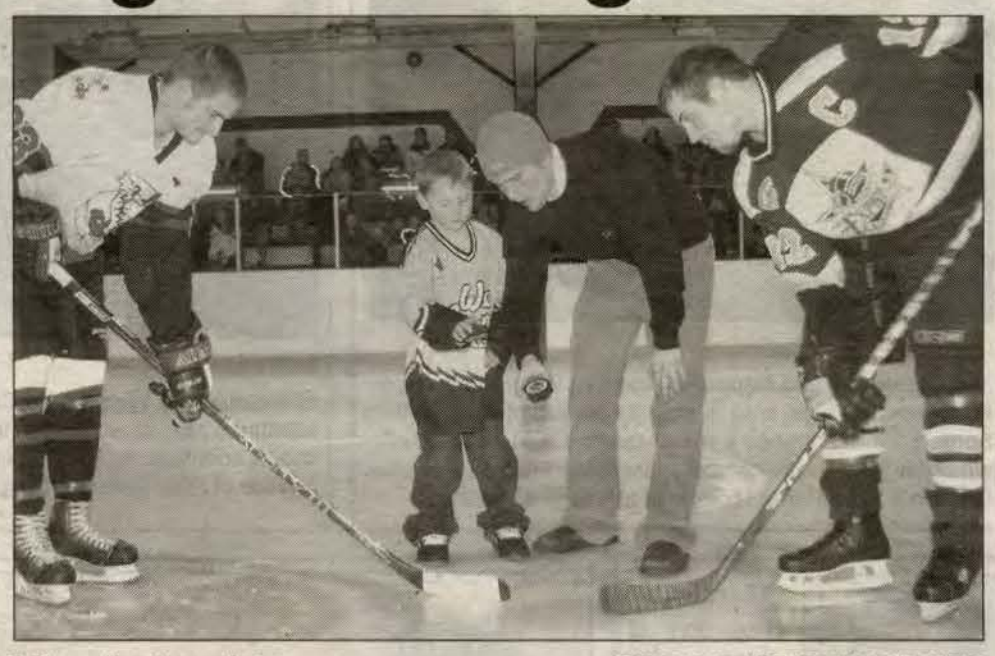
The girls turned things up with an amazing 12-0 win over St Thomas before capturing Gold with an exciting 2-1 win over London in the final. Spectacular goaltending from Cassidy Van Dyk and a solid effort from all of the players enabled our team to emerge as Champs.

Gold SUBMITTED

Front Row: Carley Oliveira, "Comet", Cassidy Van Dyk, Rachel Gray Second Row: Courtney Van Dyk, Rachel Frizzell, Jenna Verboom, Sami Riemens, Rachel Van Loon, Aleah Jabara. Third Row: Courtney Simpson, Taylor Faircloth, Jodie Aldred, Keylana Hansen, Abi Hansen Back Row: Diane Van Dyk (Trainer), Ed Van Dyk (Coach), John Frizzell (Asst Coach), Sharon Verboom (Manager). Absent: Alex Shaw, Tim Hansen (Asst Coach).

Lakers win big before large crowd

Jordan Shine drops puck



JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

Minor hockey night
Dalton Ion-Dayes of Dutton and Jordan Shine, London Knight and Wallacetown native drop the ceremonial puck at minor hockey night before a West Lorne Lakers game Dec. 27. Captain Matt Willis from the Lakers and Dan Walters from Central Elgin face off. Shine was the special guest at the game and signed autographs. The Lakers won the wild game before a large crowd, 10-6

West Lorne Lakers didn't disappoint a large crowd at West Elgin Arena for minor hockey night Dec. 27, beating Central Elgin 10-6.

Matt Bartoch scored an amazing double hat trick, six goals and added two assists to lead the Lakers.

Captain Matt Willis followed his line mates thrust by scoring once and adding five assists.

Recently returning to the Lakers lineup, Ryan Roke also had a six point night, all assists.

The points barrage vaulted Bartoch and Willis into the Top 5 in scoring in the Southern Ontario Junior Hockey League.

Bartoch, who turns 22 in 2007 sits third with 59 including 31 goals in just 26 games.

Willis is fifth in league points with 56 pints including 39 assists.

Kyle Maister, Justin Rowles and Alex Wolfe added the other goals for the Lakers.

Brandon Palmer got the win in net facing 53 shots.

London Knight and Wallacetown native Jordan Shine dropped the puck before the game as part of the minor hockey night celebration, where minor hockey players got into the game for free.

It was the Lakers second win in a row snapping a seven game losing streak.

The Lakers beat Exeter 8-7 Dec. 20 in a shootout.

Trailing 4-1 after the first period then 6-2 after the second period the Lakers powered back.

Scoring three goals in the final four minutes of the second period two more too late goals tied the game.

Trevor Vandenberg banged in a rebound with 2:24 remaining in the third period to send the game into overtime.

In the shootout Brandon Palmer stopped both shooters he faced while Bartoch and Roke each scored for the Lakers.

Bartoch scored a hat trick and added two assists while Roke had two goals with three assists.

Ryan Campbell had the other Lakers goal.

The Lakers are 9-19-2 with 20 points.

The next home game is Jan. 10 at 8:15 p.m. against North Middlesex .

Sports 2007



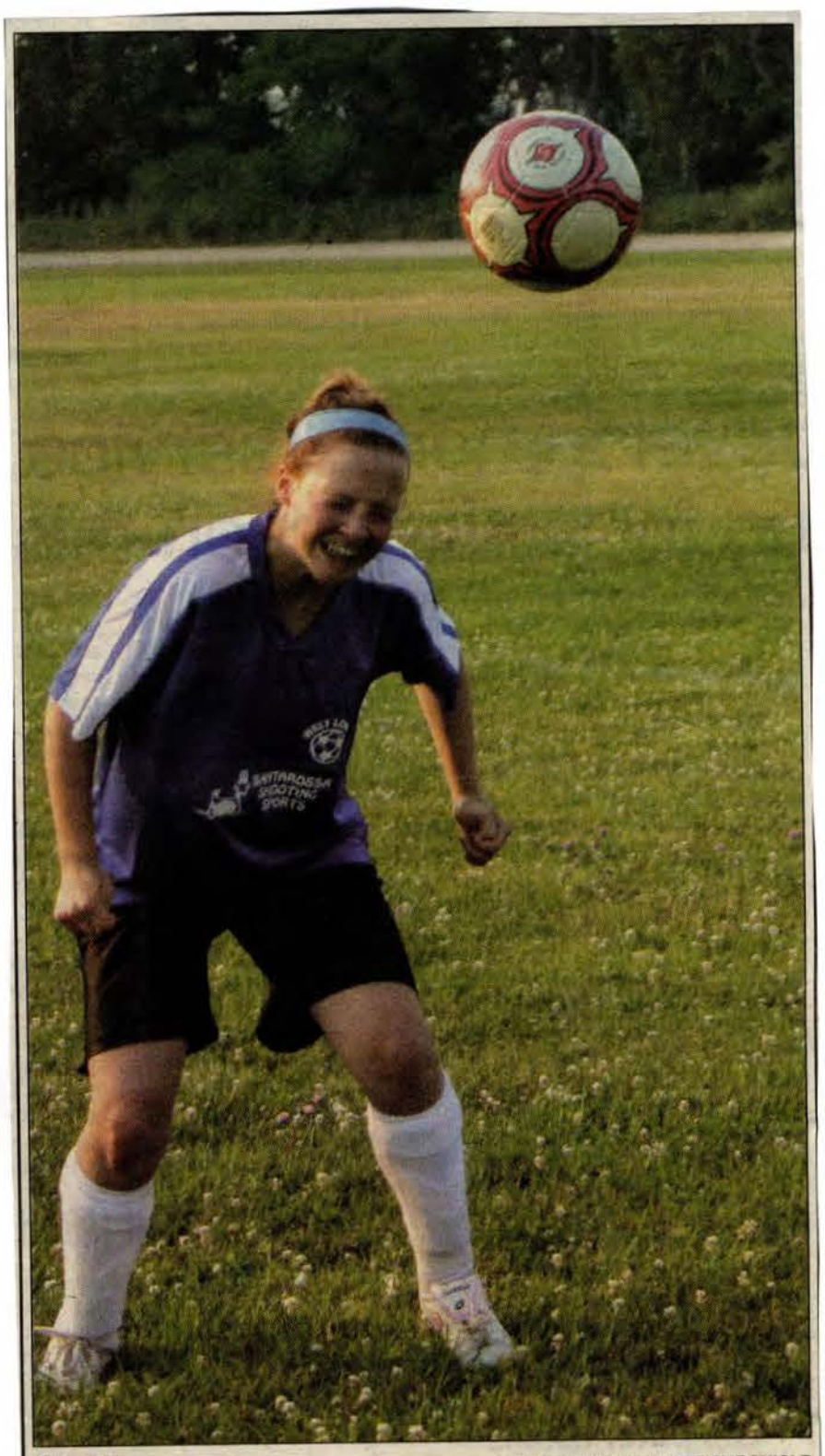
Ladies Soccer JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Marilyn Goodhue of West Lorne Strike Force and Ashley Clemments of the new ladies team West Elgin in action May 30. Strike Force won the game 5-1.



U-14 action JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Natasha Cameron for Rodney sets to foot the ball past Kelsey Conway for West Lorne in U-14 action Monday night in Rodney. West Lorne took the game 9-0.



Header JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

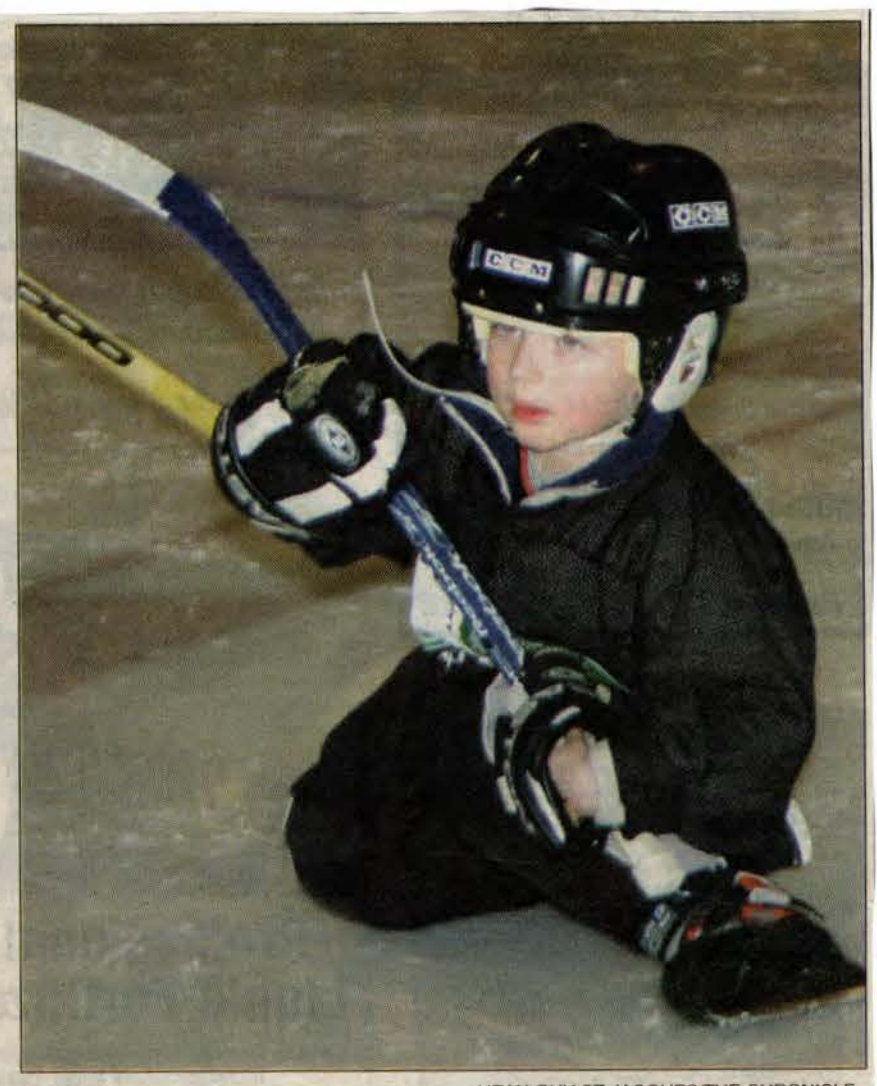
Karlie Willcocks of the U-14 West Lorne Soccer team prepares to head the ball during a game against Rodney Monday night.



West Lorne U 11 win gold SUBMITTED

The West Lorne U 11 Girls win the Gold at the Glen Clayworth Memorial Tournament in West Lorne, July 7. After a 1-1 tie with Wallacetown, two, five minute games were played with no goals scored. A shootout led to West Lorne getting the most goals to win Gold. Front row: Alyssa Paiva, Sierra Poels, Emma McDonough, Tina Lettner, Taylor Faircloth, Shannon Pyka. Back row: Carley Oliveira, Assist Coach Vanessa Paiva, Meagan Grant, Emma Dewit, Allison Rose, Khloe Beer, Coach Paulo Oliveira, Sophie Tasker, Meagan Azevedo and Sarah DeWit. Absent was: Anastasia Machado.





Learning to play hockey JJEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

Morgan Dunn of Wallacetown and Jackson Wood of Dutton learn the basics of hockey at a free skate March 24 at West Elgin Arena. West Lorne Minor Hockey Association hosted the chance for anyone wanting to learn how to play hockey as part of Hockey Fun Day.

Local skaters compete in Windsor

The West Elgin Skating Club had eight figure skater soloists representing our club well at the Great Lakes competition in Windsor on the weekend of Jan. 13-15.

We came home with three 3rd place medals. Everyone did a great job.

Our next away competitions are at WO Boston Pizza StarSkate Championships in Sarnia on Feb. 17-19 where seven skaters from our club will represent us.

The Pat Abela Memorial Invitational is in Waterloo on Feb. 24-26 where four skaters are going to compete.

Also, West Elgin Skating Club is hosting the Kent Regional Futures Competition this year at the West Elgin Arena on the weekend of March 4-5.

We have approx. 35 figure skaters representing our own club and over 300 skaters are participating from the other clubs.

To help our young skaters, we also host a Skaters Showcase on Feb.13 from 6 pm - 8 pm.

This is an opportunity for our young skaters to perform their routines in front of a live audience. They all have been working diligently on their solos all season. Everyone is welcome to come out and support these dedicated athletes. WESC is proud of all of you.

Our annual carnival is fast approaching. The theme this year is "Broadway Musicals". Two shows are scheduled for Saturday April 1st. As you can see, the West Elgin Skating Club is extremely busy this season with many exciting events planned.



Skaters representing local club well SUBMITTED

Melanie Laing, Karlie Willcocks, Paxton Knott, coach Patsy McGill, Candace Conway, Kayla Poels, Kelsey Conway have been training for up coming competitions across the province. Absent was Lindsay Laing and Danielle McGill

Vergeer to play in CIS national hockey finals

West Lorne's Mark Vergeer and his Wilfrid Laurier University hockey team will be competing in the CIS National Championship next weekend.

The Golden Hawks are ranked third nationally heading into the six-team tournament in Moncton New Brunswick March 22 -25.

Vergeer is second in team points with 35, including 28 assists.

At only 5'6", 130 lbs, Vergeer is one of the smallest players on Ontario University hockey.

Vergeer, in his third year scored in the Queen's Cup provincial finals but the Golden Hawks lost the cup.

It the second consecutive season the Golden Hawks had made it to the nationals.

TSN will broadcast the semi-finals live March 24 at 11:30 a.m.

The final game is set for March 25 at 8 p.m.



Atoms win first West Lorne tournament JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

The West Lorne Comets Atom Girls team won the first ever girls hockey tournament here. The Bantams fought hard but couldn't claw their way into the finals. Above is the Atom team: left to right front to back: Goalie, Cassidy Van Dyk, 2nd row Carley Oliveira, Sami Riemens, Aleah Jabara, Taylor Faircloth, Rachel Gray, Rachel Van Loon, 3rd row Jenna Verboom, Abi Hansen, Jodie Aldred, Rachel Frizzell, Courtney Simpson, Keylana Hansen, Alex Shaw, Courtney Van Dyk, 4th row Diane Van Dyk Trainer, Ed Van Dyk Head Coach, John Frizzell Coach, Sharon Verboom Manager, Tim Hansen Coach.

Arvai top student-athlete

West Lorne's Shaun Arvai was voted College Hockey Association Student-Athlete of the Year by the athletic directors of the member schools.

A unanimous First-Team All-CHA selection this season, Arvai was also named to the CHA All-Academic squad for the third consecutive year.

A business administration major, he finished third in league scoring among blueliners.

Arvai attends school and plays for Alabama-Huntsville University.

SPORTS 2007

Lambert and Van Raay win gold at all-Ontarios

Dance pair of Kaitlyn Lambert and Chris Van Raay of the West Elgin Skating Club received gold medals at the all-Ontarios March 11 in Waterloo.

Thanks to their coaches: Patsy McGill, Kelly Lambert and Greg Knight they have won gold in all their competitions this skating season.

SUBMITTED



Atoms win

Cal Horvat celebrates a goal with Justin Delgado. The West Lorne Atom Travel Team won the "B" championship beating Lucan 5-4 in an exciting game. For every Lucan goal, the Comets responded quickly.

JEFF KEMPENAAR
THE CHRONICLE



Black and Gold draws hundreds

The 16th annual Black and Gold hockey tournament had West Elgin Arena a buzz this past weekend.

With 24 teams, 352 players and 458 - in total with bench staff, along with family and friends, filled the arena for the four-day tournament.

The Atom Travel team won the 'B' Championship Sunday afternoon in an exciting one-goal win over Lucan.

The Novice Travel team reached the semi-finals of the 'A' Championship and the Novice Local team reached the semis of the 'B' championship.

The tournament started Thursday night.

Boys playing ranged in age eight to 11 years old.

"It's been a lot of fun, a lot of fun for the kids," said Tammy Marshall, director on the Black and Gold committee.

Parents with noise makers filled the seats while those not playing or watching strolled through the warm-room looking over the auction table or photos taken of the players in action by Bonnie's Photography.

"It's a big deal," said Marshall.

For the kids, each player gets an engraved dogtag and the winning teams get a plaque.

Teams were guaranteed two games with a possibility of four if it reached the finals.

What goes into putting on the tournament?

"Ohh, a lot.. It's a lot of work. From getting the teams, to scheduling, getting sponsors," she said.

Many prizes were donated by local businesses and the parents association "did everything that needed to be done," said Marshall.



Lakers shutout Lancers

James Langford got his second shutout in a row last week as his West Lorne Lakers beat Lambeth 1-0 on home ice.

Oliver Shanks had the lone goal for the Lakers in the first game with less than three goals of the season.

Langford faced 32 shots as the Lakers won its fourth game of the season.

However, Oct. 26 in Exeter the Lakers were denied the third win in a row by losing in a shootout to the Hawks 5-4.

Matt Willis scored twice to take the points lead in the Southern Ontario Junior Hockey League.

He has 11 goals and 14 assists.

Shanks and Karl Schramowsky also scored for the Lakers who went 0-3 in the shootout.

The Lakers return to West Lorne Nov. 14 for a tilt with Central Elgin at 8:15 p.m.



Bantams champions

BONNIE'S PHOTOGRAPHY

The Bantam house league girls hockey team won their league championship. Back row: trainer Wendy Jones, head coach Denis Hamelin, Zoey VanDyk, Ashley Willie, Breeann Carter, Nicole Collard, Nicole Vergeer, Brittany Jones, Nicolette Gowan, Samantha Hamelin, coach Jon Collard, manager Shelly Vergeer. Front row: Mardina Verboom, Madison Redman, Hayle Szabo, Stephanie Sutton, Brooklyne Jones, Steel VanDyk and Mikayla Myers. Goalie: Stephanie Campbell. Absent: trainer Dave Gowan.

Stars coming for skating carnival

WEST ELGIN SKATING CLUB NEWS

By Teri Knott

It's that time of year again, Carnival Time!

Our 53rd annual carnival theme this season is The Academy Awards.

We will be rolling out the red carpet for all our superstar skaters to strut their skills.

The skaters and coaches have been working hard on all the choreography.

The carnival crew has been pulling out all the stops to make the costumes and props for this spectacular event.

Our guest skater this year is Diane Szmiett from the Watford Skating Club.

We are thrilled to have her performing for us. She is a member of the Watford Skating Club. She represented Canada four times internationally, once as a member of the junior team.

She was 2006 junior ladies champion of Canada is only 16-years-old.

The West Elgin Skating board wish all the skaters good luck and have fun.

This will be a show to remember. You won't want to miss this star studded event.

There will be two shows at 1 and 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 31.

It will be a Hollywood evening and a chance to hang out with the stars.

Atom local win bronze

The West Lorne Atom Local League team had a great season. After regular season play they made it to the 'A' side of the Tri County Hockey League playoffs where they held their own and a good show considering the tough competitors.

The team competed in the Kanagio tournament in Port Stanley where they faced teams they'd never seen before.

In their fourth game of the day, they beat Dorchester to bring home the bronze medal.

Teamwork and hard work throughout the year really paid off at the tournament.

Michael O'Neil recorded his first shut out of the year, playing fantastic in net for his team.

The coaching staff are full of pride for the team and how far they came this year.



Atoms win bronze

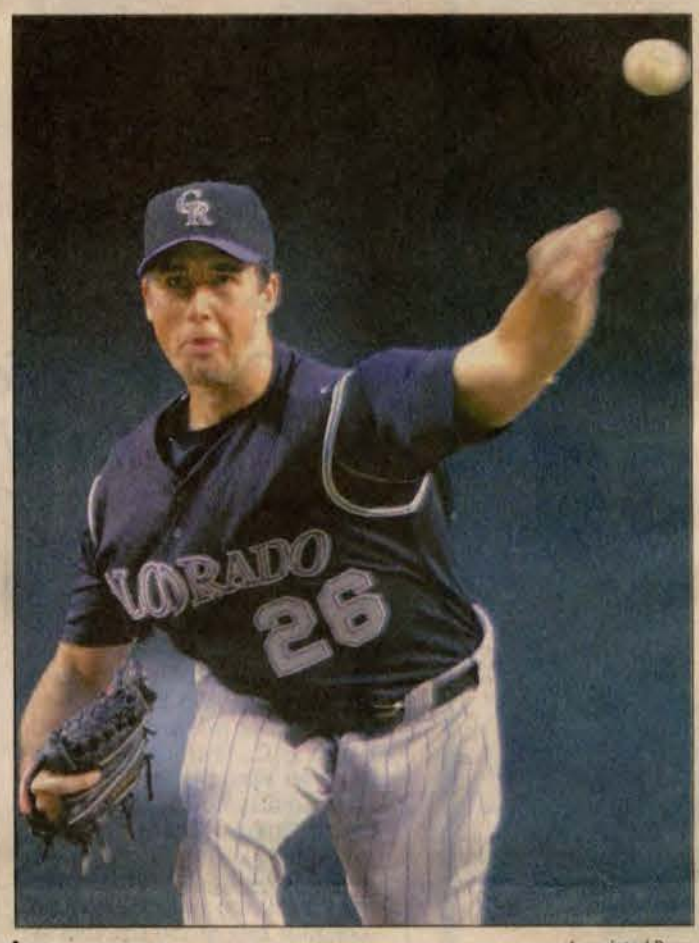
SUBMITTED

First row: Tyler Hawke, Michael O'Neil, Steven Szabo, Michael Oliver, Derrick Somerville, Kyle Jones, Austin Arn and Dustin Van Hee. Second row: Quinn Cooper, Fraser Morton, Lawrence Ambrose and Coty Holman. Back row: Sherry Somerville, Richard Street, coach coach, Angelo Babuin, head coach, Shuan Szabo, coach, Steve Van Hee, trainer.

SPORTS 2007

Family ties: Jeff Francis had a good excuse for missing his in-laws' Thanksgiving.



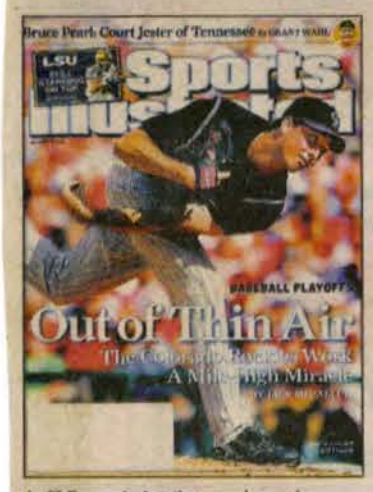


Allison Padfield and Jeff Francis, who married in London almost two years ago, attend a Denver Broncos football game. The pair live in that city, where she teaches at a university and he gives major league baseball sluggers lessons in humility as a star pitcher for the Colorado Rockies. At right, Francis, of North Delta, B.C., throws a pitch during the first inning of Game 1 of the National League championship series against the Arizona Diamondbacks in Phoenix on Thursday. Francis was the winning pitcher in the Rockies 5-1 victory.

Associated Press

LONDON FREE PRESS OCT 15/07

Drive to Series nixes trip to London



Jeff Francis is pictured on the cover of the latest Sports Illustrated magazine.

BY PATRICK MALONEY
Sun Media

There is one strike against the near-unbelievable winning streak of baseball's Colorado Rockies. It ruined a family's Thanksgiving plans in London.

But the Padfield clan is surely over the disappointment after the sterling performance of their most famous in-law, Rockies pitcher Jeff Francis, in Game 1 of the National League championship Thursday.

"They were supposed to come to London for Thanksgiving," Mary Padfield said of her Rodney-raised granddaughter Allison and her husband.

Allison and Francis were married on New Year's Eve in London two years ago.

"He didn't realize (his team) would make the playoffs," Padfield said.

In fact, no one thought Colorado would be in the postseason. But the red-hot Rockies have won 19 of their last 20 games, riding stars like Francis into the NL championship series.

The Rockies and Arizona Diamondbacks met again last night in Denver in Game 3. Colorado led the series 2-0.

Francis, a Vancouver native, frustrated the Diamondbacks hitters and their 48,000 fans in Game 1 by allowing just one run on seven hits over six strong innings in the opener.

With his two victories in the playoffs, Francis became the first Canadian starting pitcher to win a postseason game, according to information obtained from the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in St. Marys. He was also the fifth Canadian pitcher to win a postseason game. The other four Canadian pitchers all won in relief roles.

Francis, reached in Denver last night, said he has been to Rodney for a couple of Thanksgivings.

"Allison's grandma is a good cook," Francis told Sun Media's Bob Elliott. "If I'm going to miss Thanksgiving, I can't think of a better reason to miss it."

Did he phone and tell them he was not coming?

"They were watching on TV. They pretty much figured it out on their own.

"It's too bad we had to miss it. It's one of those few times where you get to see everyone in the family. Allie's brother Jared just had a baby girl (10 months old) and we don't get a chance to see them very often as they live in Huntsville.

"Maybe we'll see everyone at Christmas."

See PITCHER Page A2

Blue Devils repeat as champs

The South Western Ontario Soccer League finals began Sept. 11 in London.

A torrential rain would be whipping through the smog filled air and never seemed to let up all game long. The ground was slippery and the uniforms and equipment were water logged and muddy as the players maintained composure.

London Hot Tubs were grateful for the storm because it saved them from the slaughter the Blue Devils could have inflicted.

West Elgin dominated throughout and worked as a collective unit.

The London keeper would make some glorious saves to keep his team in the game.

The Blue Devils defence was an impregnable Spartan wall of unflinching human sacrifice.

With about 15 minutes to spare, Shawn "I Am a Man of My Word" McCallum gathered the ball in a goal mouth scramble and bulged the twine behind the keeper.

Finally the whistle would blow to end the game and the West Elgin Blue Devils would lead the series and look toward their home field to put the nail in the coffin.

On lucky Sept. 13, the two top teams gathered on the West Lorne field to finish what they started.

This time weather would be cooperative and the Blue Devils could show their diehard fans (many painted their faces blue & white in support) how deserving they are as the undisputed SWOSL Champions.

It wouldn't take long for the Blue Devils to get on the scorecard as Lee "Velcro Shoes' Wilson chased down a sideline ball, cuts towards the keeper who challenged him, and unselfishly dished it off across the goal mouth for an easy tap in by Brian "One Touch" Azevedo.

The Hot Tubs began to panic as the Blue Devils seized control.

Bradley "Still Waiting for My Defining Goal" Oliveira cut to the middle of the field, pulling two defenders towards him, and left the ball for Wilson who directed a shot in.

The second half would be like the first with the Blue Devils displaying their soccer dominance.

Wilson took the ball up the field, lost it, got it back, lost it again, recovered it, and glanced up seeing the keeper 7 yards off his goal line.

He chipped the ball and it sailed over top of the goalie.

The fourth and final goal began with Nate "Boogie Nights" Girardin working his tail off as he lost the ball, then got it back again with his patented slide/dance move. Girardin would then get knocked down.

As Nate gave an icy stare toward the referee, Aaron "Hulk" Cowell gobbled up the ball and bent it better than Beckham into the far top corner.

The 4-0 victory would be enough for the West Elgin Blue Devils to repeat as SWOSL Champions as the crowd erupted in euphoria.



Champs SUBMITTED

Front row (from left to right) Brent Fletcher, Bradley Oliveira, Adam Ecker, Nate Girardin, Aaron Cowell. Back Row (from left to right) Joe Circelli, Lee Wilson, Shawn McCallum, Josh Duplessis, Brian Azevedo, Garret Littlejohn (Coach/GM/Scout/Waterboy), Shawn Loveland. (Absent): Mike Lyons, Joe Lyons, Brett McGill, Simon Ecker.

SPORTS 2007



Skaters win gold SUBMITTED

West Elgin Skating Club's dance partners of Kelsey Fratscher and Matt Westelaken (front), and Kaitlyn Lambert and Chris Van Raay are on their way to the all-Ontarios competition as part of the Western Ontario Provincial Team. Both teams won gold at the Boston Pizza Competition, on Saturday in Aylmer, in their dance categories. Kelsey and Matt - coached by Patsy McGill and Kaitlyn and Chris - coached by Patsy McGill, Kelly Lambert and Greg Knight, will be in the all-Ontarios in Waterloo, March 10-11.

Shooting Stars win cup

The West Lorne Shooting Stars completed a successful playoff run in capturing the under 17 Girls Challenge Cup.

The girl's first game was against the Oakridge Vortex, one of only two teams to actually beat the Stars in league play. Emma Wilkins opened the scoring by putting her corner kick directly in the net. Oakridge responded almost immediately and tied the game.

Allison Borton responded for West Lorne with a great goal to give the Stars a 2-1 lead at half.

The Stars never looked back and dominated the second half with a great all around team effort. Allison Borton added her second of the game and Debbie Levesley and Caroline Levesley each scored to bring the final score to 5-1.

The Stars next opponent was the Southwest Bobcats the second team that had beaten the Stars earlier in the season.

This was a very entertaining and intense end to end game.

Allison Borton scored the opener for the Stars and the girls held onto a 1-0 at halftime. Southwest quickly responded with an equalizer in the second half before Nicole Hilliard scored a beautiful goal from the left wing to give the girls the lead once again.

The Stars generated numerous good scoring opportunities but were unable to add a third goal.

In the final few minutes of regulation Southwest benefited from a fortunate bounce to tie the game.

Although the girls were disappointed they quickly refocused for the two periods of sudden death overtime.

The girls controlled the first overtime period and generated several scoring chances but were unable to capitalize.

Early in the second overtime period the girls completed several great passes and finally threaded a lead pass through the Bobcats defense to Allison Borton who slid the ball past the Southwest goalie for the victory.

In the final West Lorne faced the Dorchester Storm. Dorchester opened the scoring early in the first half but Nicole Hilliard quickly responded for the Stars to tie the game.

The first half was a relatively even affair with both teams generating a number of good scoring chances, but neither team was able to pull ahead.

The second half was entirely different and West Lorne began to control the play. Stephanie Leys scored in the first few minutes of the second half to give the Stars the lead.

The Stars dominated possession for most of the half and began to wear down the Dorchester team. Nicole Hilliard added a second and Lindsay Laing and Melanie Ganhadeiro each added goals to secure a comfortable 5-1 victory.

The girls are now focused on also winning the under 17 league title as well.

To date the girls have 12 wins and only two losses which places them in second place just behind the Southwest Bobcats.

The Stars have three games remaining and need victories against the Greater London Bandits, Southwest Bobcats and the Goderich Tempest to win their second consecutive league title and their third league title in six seasons.

Returning players this season are Emma Wilkins, Debbie Levesley, Chloe Steele, Allison Borton, Stephanie Leys, Melanie Ganhadeiro, Nicole Hilliard, Shelby Kemp, Kristin Mylrea, Vanessa Paiva, Meghan Schneider, Morgan McCulloch, April Kueneman and Jessica Varga.

New additions to the team this year are Caroline Levesley, Alanah Sutton and Lindsay Laing. Amanda Knapp a former Stars player has also helped by filling in when the team was short of players.



Shooting Stars look for third title SUBMITTED

The West Lorne Shooting Stars recently won the under 17 girls challenge cup and look forward to challenging for the league title.

Conway places at Walton

Jeremy Conway, 18, of West Lorne can now say he's done something that he's wanted to do for years.

He qualified to race in the Grand National Motocross Championships a the Walton Trans-Can held Aug. 14 - 19.

Out of 42 riders, Conway finished ninth overall in the 125 Junior B Division.

"It was truly amazing competing against all those great riders," he said.

Riders came from across the country and the U.S. to compete in various divisions throughout the week.

Conway has been racing with the Thames Valley Riders since 2001.

This season he finished first in the open intermediate class.

The season starts in early April and runs to the end of October with most races being held Sundays. Races are held in Grand Bend, Wheatley, Tillsonburg and Auburn Hills.

Conway started riding at the age of four on a Honda 50 cc and has advanced to riding his Yamaha YZ 250 four-stroke.

"This summer, all I've been doing is riding. It's been awesome," he said.

Conway works full-time at the West Elgin Arena and last year started driving the Zamboni.

He raced this past weekend in a Canadian Motocross Racing Association event in Auburn Hills.

He said the community, friends and family have been supportive, travelling to Walton to cheer him on.

"Ever since we can remember, Jeremy has talked about motocross. He lives for the sport," said mother Karen.

"I just love watching him ride," said his father Brad, who helps prepare the bike.

Conway will spend his winter racing at an indoor track in Tillsonburg.

While his solid finnish at Walton this year came better than he expected, he hopes to finish even higher next year.



Motocross JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Jeremy Conway shows off his 9th place plaque that he won at national motocross event in Walton recently.



Skating season ends SUBMITTED

West Elgin Skating Club had a competitive season this year with participants competing in the Dennis Silverthorne Memorial Invitational, Boston Pizza StarSkate Championships, Pat Abela Memorial Invitational, Future's West and the Trillium StarSkate Championships. Skaters have been practicing with their coaches, Patsy McGill, Renee Bergey and Pam Parezonavic since the skating season began last September. Although the West Elgin Skating Club's primary focus isn't on the competitions, we are extremely proud of every one who chose to show off their stuff against other clubs at competitions this year.



Award JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Melanie Laing received the Beth Evans Memorial Award for skater of the year from Beth's parents Carolyn and Allister Cameron.



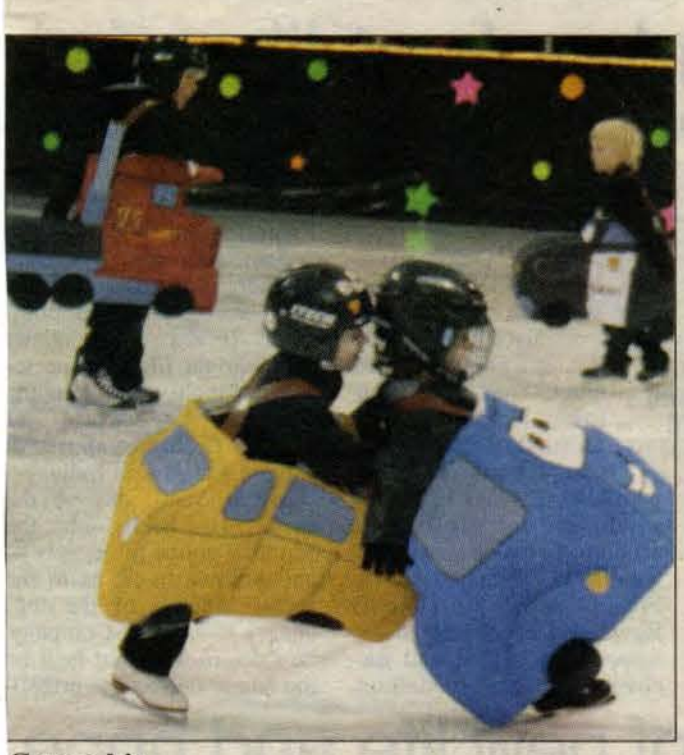
U6 have a fun summer SUBMITTED

U6 soccer had a fun summer and placed 2nd on Cup Day in West Lorne. Pictured (back left to right): Tim Grexton (coach), Noah Heard, Connor Grexton, Jacob McQuade, Linda McQuade (coach). Front row: Natasha Beiswegger-Mooney, Sophie Neyens. Absent from photo Benn Dunn, Emily Sowden, Caleb McCullough, Kailin Pyka.

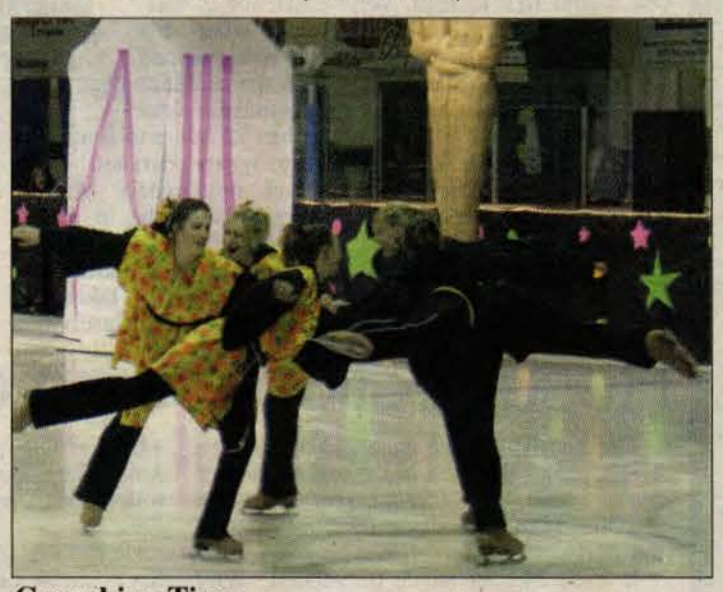
SPORTS 2007

Stars come out for annual Skating Carnival

Photos by Jeff Kempenaar



Cars a hit
Coleton DaSilva, Kenneth Gowan, Benjamin Buchanan, Robbie Fratscher in Cars.



Crouching Tiger
Melanie Laing, Candice Conway, Kristen Mylrea, Karlie Willcocks, Lindsay Laing perform Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon



Dream girls
Murranda McCallum skates in Dream Girls



Finale
Anita Rastapkevicius and Tara Wilson skate together in the finale.



Solo
Shelby Pyka performs her solo.



West Side Story
Lucille Gowan, Mackenzie Fink, Jennifer Long, Samantha Fletcher, Sean Ricker, Chantel DaSilva, Paige Gowan, Agnes Gowan perform West Side Story.



Havana Nights
Right to left: Kelsey Vandenberg, Nicole Pelcz, Amy Oliveira, Candice Conway, Kelsey Conway, Alicia Oliveira, Jenica Slaats.



Madagascar
Khloe Beer, Ryan Fink, Marcia Pelcz perform in Madagascar.

WEST LORNE W.I. 2006

January – We held a pot luck lunch, then watched a video of the Mounties musical ride.

February 5 – We hosted the Winter Picnic, with Clathan at the Anglican hall.

Mar – Olive Chambers and Shirley Walker are to represent the W. I. on Heritage Board

May – We met at the West Elgin Health Centre
– donated to second stage housing and
– Rick Hansen Man in Motion.
Peggy Wheeler was our guest speaker.

June – We toured the Aylmer Police College then
– lunched at the Green Frog.

September – Held a pot luck lunch, guest speaker Sue Gregory, a nurse with Care Partners
– donated bird house, made by Angus McLain to Rodney Fair and Daffodil Aux for golf tour.

Oct 5 – London Area Convention in Thorndale.
– Shirley Walker & Leola Lawrence attended Tweedsmuir
– The Rev. Andy Kaupa spoke of his life growing up in Estonia and Sweden. He is retiring from the West Lorne Baptist Church

November – Met at the Health Centre.
– Guest Speaker Glenda Fleming. She is employed by the Abused Women's Shelter
– we donated items for the shelter

December – We met at the home of Helen Mooser for our Christmas Party. A delicious pot luck was enjoyed by all.

WEST LORNE W. I. 2007

WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

2007-2008

Meetings 1st Tuesday of the Month

1:30 PM

West Lorne Town Complex

MEMBERS

Olive Chambers :519- 762-6022

Donna Driver : 519-768-2614

Fran Graham : 519-768-1798

Dorothy Japec: 519-768-1506

Myrtle Joyce: 519-768-2757

Leola Lawrence:519- 768-1526

Mary Liepmann : 519-768-1224

Mary Lippold : 519-768-1244

Gwen Mclain : 519-768-0787

Twila McWilliam :519- 785-078

Anita VanRaes : 519-768-1819

Shirley Walker :519- 768-1095

2007-2008 Executives

Honorary President : Mary Liepmann

President : Shirely Walker

Vice President : Gwen McLain

Secretary : Anita VanRaes

Treasurer: Mary Liepmann

Tweedsmuir History : Fran Graham,Leola Lawrence

District Convenor: Leola Lawrence

Rose Program : Mary Liepmann

P.R.O.: Mary Lippold

Pianst : Shirley Walker

Sunshine Commitee: Mary Liepmann, Gwen McLain

Auditor : Leola Lawrence , Bob Walker

Program Co-Ordinators : Mary Liepmann, Mary Lippold, Shirely Walker, Anita VanRaes, Gwen McLain, Leola Lawrence

MEETINGS FOR 2007-2008

SEPTEMBER 4: Organization meeting — VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Motto: The life you live is the motto you teach.

Roll Call: Where did you go in the suumer.

Program: All members

OCTOBER 2 - Local History — VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Roll Call : Bring an item from the past.

Motto : He who forgetrs the past loses the key to the future..

Program: Shirley Walker, Twilla McWilliams, Dorothy Japec

NOVEMBER 6- Rose Program — VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Motto: Never too old to learn.

Roll Call: 1st hard cover book you read as a child.

Program: Mary Liepmann & Anita VanRaes

Article - ~~women~~ shelter.

DECEMBER 4 - Christmas Party.

JANUARY 8: 95th WI Anniversary — VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Roll Call: Memories of your 1st WI Meeting.

Motto: Value the past appreciate the present, anticipate the future.

Newmans share stories of Jamaica

WEST LORNE WOMAN'S INSTITUTE NEWS

The November meeting of the West Lorne Woman's Institute was held at the West Elgin Community Complex recently.

Mary Leipmann introduced the guest speakers Julie and Wentworth Newman who gave an interesting program on schools in Jamaica.

They have collected a great amount of books and supplies and shipped them to a school they have visited.

Julie thanked all the people who have contributed.

They showed a film of the town that Wentworth grew up in before coming to Canada.

The meeting followed with minutes read and approved and a treasurer's report.

A wreath was to be laid at the West Lorne Cenotaph Nov. 11. A lunch was served by Mary Leipmann and Anita Van Raeys.

A pot luck lunch is planned for our Christmas party Dec. 4.

NOV 15/07

April - donated to Heritage Home
14 - Cancer Tea at Bobier
May 26 - 100 W.I. Anniversary in St Thomas.
- District Annual held in Wallacetown - pot luck
- Toured the DeKort Goat farm - very interesting
- Wallacetown W.I. celebrating 95 years - We gave them a plaque.

June - We went to the Mandarin in London for our yearly outing.

Sept - Centennial Celebration - Our Institute served the cake in the complex. The cakes were made by Mary Liepmann & decorated by Leola Lawrence.

Oct - Alice Patterson spoke on the Backus Page Home

Nov - Julie & Wentworth Newman spoke on Jamaica

Dec - We held a pot luck lunch, exchanged secret pal gifts and had a sing song.

WEST LORNE W.I. 2007

Parade / Labour Day
West Lorne 100 Anniver.





BANNER MADE BY
LEOLA LAWRENCE &
JANICE LAWRENCE



ANGUS MCIAIN, PRESIDENT OF
KIWANIANS





L-R – MARY LIEPMANN
DAUGHTER ANITA VAN RAES
LEOLA LAWRENCE, DAUGHTER
JANICE LAWRENCE. WE WALKED
THE PARADE ROUTE PASSING OUT
CANDY.

ELGIN DISTRICT W.I. 2006

West Lorne

LONDON AREA
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

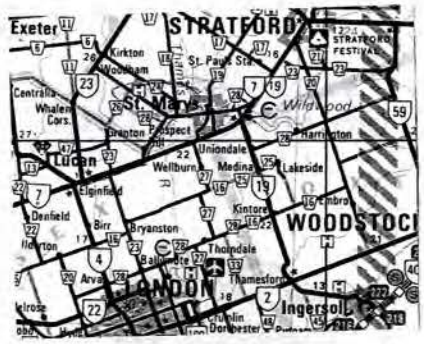
92nd ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME:
"Planting Seeds For Tomorrow"

LOCATION:
Thorndale Community Centre
Upper Queens Street
Thorndale
519-461-1109
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2006

MIDDLESEX EAST, MIDDLESEX NORTHWEST,
ELGIN COUNTY

PERTH SOUTH, HURON SOUTH, HURON WEST,
OXFORD DISTRICT



NOTE

PLEASE BRING THIS PROGRAM WITH YOU

Year-end reports available to all members

IMPORTANT

Each Branch and District Secretary is asked to order and **pay for in advance** the number of lunch tickets **($9.00)** and banquet tickets **($16.00)** required by your group.

Do not include anyone on the Area Executive or Convenors.

Cost of Meal Tickets includes Area expenses for the Convention

Please send a **STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED** envelope with your order and cheque made payable to London Area to:

Mrs. Margaret Ogar, Treasurer

235646 23rd Line

RR 2, Thamesford N0M 2M0

(519) 283-6053

by September 24, 2006

If a Billet is needed – Flora Rath (519-269-3686)

Please remember to bring your current membership card, as you will need this in order to vote.

Each Branch is asked to bring pre-priced articles for "Our Country Store" valued up to $10.00

Lug your own mug.

Wear your name tag and Women's Institute Badge

LONDON AREA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE 2005-2006

Past President	Eleanor Williams	RR6 St. Marys N4X 1C8	519- 229-8200
President	Glenna Ladell	RR2 Ilderton N0M 2A0	519- 666-1418
1st V.President	Anne Innes	RR1 Embro, N0J 1J0	519- 475-4502
2nd V.President	Debbie Bauer	37229 Dungannon Rd. RR2 Auburn, N0M 1E0	519- 529-7820
Secretary	Sheila Greason	6893 Cobble Hills Rd. RR4 St. Marys, N4X 1C7	519-349-2768
Ass't Secretary	Ilene Chesterman	RR3 Tillsonburg N4G 4G8	519-842-8145
Treasurer	Margaret Ogar	235646 23rd Line RR2 Thamesford N0M 2M0	519-283-6053
Public Relations	Betty Archambault	38845 Hullet-McKillop Line RR1 Auburn N0M 1E0	519-526-7234
Ass't Public Relatios	Mabel Jacklin	Box 1643, 200 Frances St. Wingham N0G 2W0	519-357-1455
Rose Coordinator	Mary Veenstra	7244 Middle River Rd, RR5 St. Thomas N5P 3S	519-631-5389
Advocacy Convenor	Eleanor Williams	RR6 St. Marys N4X 1C8	519-229-8200
Tweedsmuir Curator	Janet Gibson	RR7 St. Marys N4X 1C9	519-393-5529
Ass't Curator	Laurine McIntosh	Box 2282 St. Marys N4X 1A2	519-284-4781
Financial Examiner	Laura Green	356508 35th Line RR1 Embro N0J 1J0	519-475-4690
Financial Examiner	Vivian McDonald	23560 23rd Line RR2 Thamesford N0M 2M0	519-283-6369
Scholarship Chair	Debbie Bauer	37229 Dungannon Rd. RR2 Auburn N0M 1E0	519-529-7820

PROVINCIAL BOARD DIRECTORS – SOUTHERN REGION

Marian Austin	RR1 Waterford N0E 1Y0	519- 443-4270
Ilene Chesterman	204171 Keswick Rd RR3 Tillsonburg N4G 4G8	519-842-8145

AREA VOTING DELEGATE & ALTERNATE

Marlene Archer	219 Douglas St Stratford N5A 5P8	519-273-1454
Joan Mansell	44150 Ferguson Line RR8 St Thomas N5P 3T3	519-631-1623

APPOINTMENTS

Western Fair	Marlyn Brady	5846 Cobble Hills Rd. RR4 St,Marys N4X 1C7	519-461-0303
Western Fair	Katherine McNaughton	14284 Ten Mile Rd RR3 Ilderton N0M 2AO	519-666-0887
Children's Hospital	Donna Willows	3214 Road 145 RR2 St. Pauls N0K 1V0	519-393-6455

CONVENTION CHAIRS

2005 Middlesex N W	Marg Harris	Box 601, 8 Pondview Rd Ilderton N0M 2AO	519-666-3728
2006 Middlesex E	Flora Rath	1632 Harrietsville Dr. RR1 Mossley N0L 1V0	519-269-3686
2007 Perth South	Doris Spence	5006 Line 6 RR6 St.Marys N4X 1C8	519-229-6276

PROGRAM FOR 2006
LONDON AREA CONVENTION
THURSDAY A.M. OCTOBER 5

CHAIR: Glenna Ladell

District delegate please pick up District information package
Associated Country Women of the World memberships are available in the morning and at noon.
Bring your name, address and membership number.
Federated News subscriptions are also available.
Pay by cheque only (separate cheques)
ACWW memberships ($40.00)
Federated News ($5.00)

8:45 a.m. Registration: Presidents of the 7 Districts.
Reception: Marlyn Brady, Marilyn Howey, Ruth Axford
Coffee Hour: Harrietsville

9:25 a.m. Time to Sing: Harrietsville - Pianist: Norma Shackelton
Presentation of Flags: Past Presidents: F. Hyatt, P. Lindsay
Sing: O Canada
Institute Ode
Mary Stewart Collect
Welcome: President Middlesex East– Flora Rath
How to vote-
In Memoriam: Birr
Acceptance of Minutes of 2005 Convention
Financial Report: Margaret Ogar
Financial Examiners' Report: Vivian McDonald, Laura Green
Correspondence
Roll Call: Responsibility of 7 District Presidents
Each president to give a 2-minute summary of happenings in her district in 2005-2006
President's Address: Glenna Ladell

CHAIR: Anne Innes
Lite and Lively: Harrietsville – Norma Shackelton, Marilyn Howey
F.W.I.O. President: Rosemary Moran
Adelaide Hoodless Presentation
Nomination of Area Voting Delegate and Alternate
Introduce Nominees
Collection: Wellburn
Comments on Displays: V.President – Middlesex East – Berniece Harris
Announcements: Anne Innes

12:00 p.m. Sing Institute Grace
Adjourn for lunch catered by Thorndale Women's Institute
Country Store: Salem - Nilestown, Reynolds Creek

AFTERNOON SESSION
CHAIR: Debbie Bauer

1:30 p.m. Hymn of All Nations
Greetings from visiting Area Presidents:
Southwestern, Guelph. Grey-Bruce
F.Y.I. Kids on the Block – Thames Valley Children's Centre – Linda Baldwin
Crimestoppers Inc. - Program Development Manager - Karen Dobbs
Lite and Lively: Thorndale
Presentation to Competition Entrants
Reports: ALL PRINTED PLEASE READ
Convenors: 2-Minute Reports
Advocacy Convenor: Eleanor Williams
Rose Coordinator: Mary Veenstra
Public Relations: Betty Archambault
Tweedsmuir Curator: Janet Gibson
Children's Hospital: Donna Willows
Western Fair Association: Katherine McNaughton
Provincial Conference – Glenna Ladell, Donna Williams
Break:
Time to Sing: Harrietsville

CHAIR: Glenna Ladell

Area Voting Delegates: Marlene Archer
Joan Mansell
Provincial Board Directors: Marian Austin
Ilene Chesterman
Treasurer's Report of Convention: Margaret Ogar
Election of Officers: Rosemary Moran
New Business:
Invitation for Convention 2007 and Courtesies: Doris Spence
Announcements:
Head Table Guests: Ilene Chesterman

BANQUET

CATERED BY BELMONT TOWN RESTAURANT & CATERING

October 5, 2006

5:30 p.m.

PIPER: JIM DUNCAN

CHAIR: GLENNA LADELL

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE GRACE

TOAST TO THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

TOAST TO THE QUEEN

INTRODUCTION OF HEAD TABLE GUESTS: Ilene Chesterman

GREETINGS: Mayor of Thames Centre – Crispin Colvin

PRESENTATION OF THE DOROTHY FUTCHER SCHOLARSHIP:
Marlene Archer

PRESENTATION OF THE MARYN PARDY SCHOLARSHIP:
Joan Mansell

ENTERTAINMENT – London Scottish Society Dancers

PRESENTATIONS – Anne Innes

CLOSING CEREMONY: RETIRE FLAGS

SING: ROYAL ANTHEM

2006 LONDON AREA CONVENTION DECLARED CLOSED

NOTES

ELGIN DISTRICT W. I. 2006

ELGIN COUNTY DISTRICT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

THEME: Worthy Women – W. I.

Wednesday, May 17, 2006
Potluck Supper @ 5:30 PM
Registration @ 6:45-7:00 PM
St. James Presbyterian Church, North Yarmouth
Yarmouth Centre Road North / 44936 Ferguson Line

OFFICERS FOR ELGIN COUNTY DISTRICT W.I. 2005/2006

Past President.....	Mary Veenstra	631-5389
President.....	Pauline Lindsay	631-5247
1st Vice-Pres.....	Joan Mansell	631-1623
2nd Vice P.....	Mary Ann Caughell	769-2239
Secretary.....	Madeleine Jenkins	644-1946
Treasurer.....	Sandra Payne	693-4367
ROSE Coordinator.....	Joan Mansell	631-1623
Asst. ROSE Ed. Co...	Marion McKenzie	631-3647
PRO.....	Marion McKenzie	631-3647
Advocacy Conv.....	Betty Rodgers	769-2417
Tweedsmuir History....	Helen Van Brenk	762-2768
Asst. Tweedmuir.....	Sally McIntyre	762-3631
Scholarship.....	Joanne Erickson	631-0433
Scholarship.....	Jean Gooding	631-1731
Museum Rep.....	Luella Monteith	631-7073
Museum Rep.....	Joan Mansell	631-1623
Farm Safety.....	Mary Ann Caughell	769-2239
LAMP.....	Faye Thorn	782-4149
Area Conv. Del.....	Mary Veenstra	631-5389
Alt. Conv. Del	Leola Lawrence	768-1526
Financial Ex.....	Joanne Erickson	631-0433
Financial Ex.....	Eleanor McMillan	762-2089
Nominating Committee.....	Shirley Walker	768-1095
Nominating Committee.....	Audrey James	773-3537
Pianist.....	Shirley Walker	

AREA VOTING DELEGATE .....Marlene Archer 273-1454
219 Douglas Street, Stratford, ON N5A 5P8
ALT. AREA VOTING DELEGATE...Joan Mansell 631-1623
44150 Ferguson Line, St. Thomas, ON N5P 3T3

Women's group seeks new recruits

06

Area members of the Women's Institute meet in Thorndale today.

BY MARY-JANE EGAN
Free Press Reporter

From leading the charge to have milk pasteurized to London's own contribution that saw fog lights installed on school buses, the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada have put their unique stamp on life in rural communities.

Today, London Area Women's Institute members will hold their 92nd annual convention at the Thorndale Community Centre.

And if member Debbie Bauer has her way, one theme will be the need to start touting those achievements.

As the group — founded in 1897 — sees its membership plummet, Bauer says the need for the Women's Institute has never been greater.

"We've got to recruit young, new members, or we're done," says Bauer, incoming first vice-president for London area. "But we're our own worst enemy because we just quietly go about our work and few people know the impact we've made on (government) decision-making over the years."

Among those achievements from a group founded to give rural women a voice:

- War work, under the umbrella of the Red Cross, offering socks, scarves, chocolates and other items to soldiers.
- Centre white lines on all provincial highways.
- Music programs for schools.
- Grading of poultry for sale.
- Stop signs at railway crossings.
- Wrapping of bread.
- Mandatory stopping for school buses.

"What people don't realize is Women's Institute once had a seat at the table of government for all rural decisions," says Bauer.

The decline of the family farm, a drop in volunteerism and the need for many women to work off the farm have contributed to the membership's decline.

At 53, Bauer is one of the group's younger members. But she hopes to recruit more women, noting "the isolation of women, particularly in rural areas, continues to this day."

About 170 are expected at the Thorndale convention, taking in the counties of Middlesex, Elgin, Perth, Huron and Oxford.

Bauer says the institute's newest project involves the "Go-go grannies" — grandmothers of Africa featured at this year's International Aids Conference in Toronto, who are raising their grandchildren because their children have died of AIDS.

"Many can't even afford the coffins to bury their kids and they're raising their grandkids."

More information on the Ontario-based organization with affiliates around the world is at www.fwio.on.ca

megan@lfpress.com

Hostess Branches – Yarmouth Glen & Cowal

***NOTE: Potluck Supper at 5:30 PM.**
Please bring your own dishes and cutlery.

Registration: 6:45-7:00 PM

****Each Branch is to bring* $10.00 *for the Museum***
Strawberry Social - TO BE ANNOUNCED
Hostess Branches – Middlemarch & Calton
****If you are paying by cheque make it payable to CASH***
GIVE money/cash to hostess branches at registration

****Each Branch is to bring Items for the London Convention***
Area Craft Store to Pauline Lindsay

Museum Coffee Break and Bazaar – TO BE ANNOUNCED
Hostess Branches – Paynes Mills & Kingsmill-Mapleton

DISTRICT DIRECTORS - Please sit where designated.

7:00 PM: Welcome - Opening Ode and Mary Stewart Collect

Ratification of Branch District Directors – Marlene Archer

Minutes of 2005 District Annual as circulated
Treasurer's Report
Financial Examiners Report
Correspondence
Business
President's Address
In Memoriam.....Clachan
Reports:
- **ROSE Coordinator**
- **Public Relations Officer**
- **Advocacy Convener**
- **Farm Safety Representative**
- **Elgin Pioneer Museum Representative**
- **Tweedsmuir History Curator**
- **Children's Hospital of Western Ontario**
- **LAMP**

ROLL CALL: 2 Members of Branch
***One to present Pennies and get Receipt.**
***One to tell number of members and how many present today.**
***One Special Event their Branch had in the past year.**

2005-2006 Twinning of Branches:

Boxall & River Road	***West Lorne***
Cowal & Yarmouth Glen	***Middlemarch & Calton***
Paynes Mills & Kingsmill-Mapleton	
Shedden & Crinan	***Wallacetown & Clachan***

Light & Lively – Middlemarch

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 hearts 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.

Introduction of Guests:

FWIO Voting Delegate report – Marlene Archer
Election of Officers.....Glenna Ladell
Collection.....Hostess Branches
New Business.....
District Annual 2007 Invitation – Wallacetown & Clachan
Courtesies.....Mary Ann Caughell
Closing.....
O Canada

ELGIN DISTRICT W.I. 2007

LONDON AREA
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

93rd ANNUAL CONVENTION

THEME;

"SHOUT, SING AND CELEBRATE TOGETHER"

LOCATION
KIRKTON-WOODHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE
70497 HIGHWAY 23
KIRKTON, NOK 1K0
519-229-8854

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2007

MIDDLESEX EAST, MIDDLESEX NORTHWEST
ELGIN COUNTY

PERTH SOUTH, HURON SOUTH, HURON WEST
OXFORD DISTRICT

NOTE

PLEASE BRING THIS PROGRAM WITH YOU

Year-end reports will be available to all members

IMPORTANT

Each Branch and District Secretary is asked to order and
Pay for in advance the number of lunch tickets (9.00) and Banquet tickets (16.00) required by your group.
Do not include anyone on the Area Executive or Convenors
Cost of Meal Tickets includes Area expenses for the Convention.
Please send a **STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**
With your order and a cheque made payable to London Area
To: **Mrs. Margaret Ogar, Treasurer**
235646 23rd Line
R.R. #2 Thamesford NOM 2MO
(519-283-6053)
by September 24, 2007

If a Billet is needed – Doris Spence (519-229-6276)

Please remember to bring your current membership card, as you will need this in order to vote.
Each Branch is asked to bring pre-priced articles for "Our Country Store" valued up to $10.00
Lug your own Mug
District President is responsible for bringing the District Banner and placing it ahead of time
Wear your name tag and Women's Institute Badge

Map is at the back.

LONDON AREA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE 2007 – 8

Past President	Glenna Ladell	R.R. #2 Ilderton NOM 2AO	519-666-1418
President	Anne Innes	R.R. #1 Embro NOJ 1JO	519-475-4502
1st V. President	Debbie Bauer	37229 Dungannon Rd. R.R. #2 Auburn NOM 1EO	519-529-7820
Secretary	Sheila Greason	6893 Cobble Hills Road R.R. #4 St. Marys N4X 1C7	519-349-2768
Ass't Secretary	Ilene Chesterman	R.R. #3 Tillsonburg N4G 4G8	519-842-8145
Treasurer	Margaret Ogar	~~235646 23rd Line~~ Unit 15 205 N Centre Rd Lond. N5X 4E2 ~~R.R. #2 Thamesford NOM 2MO~~	~~519-283-6053~~ 645-1245
Public Relations	Betty Archambault	38845 Hullet-McKillop Line R.R. #1 Auburn NOM 1EO	519-526-7234
Ass't Public Relations Mabel Jacklin		Box 1643, 200 Frances St. Wingham NOG 2WO	519-357-1455
R.O.S.E./Education Mary Veenstra		7244 Middle River Road St. Thomas N5P 3S9	519-631-5389
Advocacy Convenor	Glenna Ladell	R.R.#2 Ilderton NOM 2AO	519-666-1418
Tweedsmuir Curator	Janet Gibson	R.R.#7 St. Marys N4X 1C9	519-393-5529
Financial Examiner	Laura Green	356508 35th Line R.R. #1 Embro NOJ 1JO	519-475-4690
Financial Examiner	Vivian McDonald	23560 23rd Line R.R. #2 Thamesford NOM 2MO	519-283-6369
Scholarship Chair	Debbie Bauer	37229 Dungannon Rd. R.R. #2 Auburn NOM 1EO	519-529-7820
Nominating Chair	Marlene Archer	219-90 Greenwood Crt Stratford, N5A 7W5	519-273-1454

PROVINCIAL BOARD DIRECTORS – SOUTHERN REGION

Barbara Ann Temple 54 Lakeview Ave. Grimsby L3M 3M2 905-945-1-31
Ilene Chesterman 204171 Keswick Rd. R.R. #3 Tillsonburg N4G 4G8 519-842-8145

AREA VOTING DELEGATE

Marlene Archer
219-90 Greenwood Crt. Stratford N5A 7W5 519-273-1454

APPOINTMENTS

Western Fair Marlyn Brady 5846 Cobble Hills Rd. R.R. #4 St. Marys N4X 1C7 519-461-0303
Western Fair Katherine McNaughton 14284 10 Mile Rd. R. R. #3 Ilderton NOM 2AO 519-666-0887
Children's Hospital Donna Willows R.R. #2 St. Pauls NOK 1VO 519-393-6455

CONVENTION CHAIRS

2006 Middlesex East Flora Rath R.R. #1 Mossley NOL 1VO 519-269-3686
2007 Perth South Doris Spence 5006 Line 6 R.R. #6 St. Marys 519-229-6276
2008 Elgin - Joan Mansell - 44150 Ferguson Line RR # 8 St Thomas N5P 3T3 519-631-1623

PROGRAM FOR 2007
LONDON AREA CONVENTION
WEDNESDAY, A.M. OCTOBER 3
CHAIR: ANNE INNES

District delegate please pick up District Information Package

Associated Country Women of the World memberships are available in the morning and at noon.
Bring your name, address and membership number.
Federated News subscriptions are also available
Pay by cheque only (separate cheques)
ACWW memberships ($40.00)
Federated News ($.5.00)

8:45 a.m. Registration: Presidents of the 7 Districts,
Reception: Marlene Coulthard, Susan Christie, Doris Spence
Coffee Hour: Avonton

9:25 a.m. Time to Sing: Goulds-Pianist: Marion McKay,
Leader-Jean Morris
Presentation of Flags – Eleanor Williams, Glenna Ladell
Sing: O Canada
Institute Ode
Mary Stewart Collect
Welcome: Perth South President- Susan Christie
How to vote
In Memoriam: St. Pauls
Acceptance of Minutes of 2006 Convention
Financial Report: Margaret Ogar
Financial Examiner's Report:Vivian McDonald, Laura Green
Correspondence
Roll Call: Responsibility of 7 District Presidents
Each President is to give a 2-minute summary of happenings in her district in 2006-2007
President's Address: Anne Innes

CHAIR: DEBBIE BAUER

Lite and Lively: Motherwell
F.W.I.O. President: Rosemary Moran
Nomination of Area Voting Delegate and Alternate
Introduce Nominees
Collection: Glen Gowrie
Erland Lee Presentation
ACWW – Pauline Lindsay
Comments on Displays: Eleanor Williams
Announcements: Debbie Bauer

12: p.m. Sing Institute Grace

Adjourn for Lunch catered by Kirkton Katerers
Country Store: Kirkton, Carlingford

AFTERNOON SESSION
CHAIR: Glenna Ladell

1:30 p.m. Hymn of All Nations
Greetings from visiting Area Presidents: Southwestern, Guelph, Grey- Bruce
F. Y.I. The Wig Room – Nancy Rothwell
War Amps – Alicia Jarvis
Lite & Lively – Motherwell
Reports: ALL PRINTED – PLEASE READ
Convenors: 2-Minute Reports
Advocacy Convenor: Glenna Ladell
R.O.S.E. Coordinator: Mary Veenstra
Public Relations: Betty Archambault
Tweedsmuir Curator: Janet Gibson
Children's Hospital: Donna Willows
Western Fair Association: Katherine McNaughton, Marlyn Brady

BREAK

Time to Sing: Motherwell

CHAIR: ANNE INNES

Area Voting Delegate:	Marlene Archer
Provincial Board Directors:	Barbara Ann Temple
	Ilene Chesterman
Treasurer's Report of Convention:	Margaret Ogar
Election of Officers:	Rosemary Moran
New Business	
Invitation for Convention 2008 and Courtesies:	Joan Mansell
Announcements	
Head Table Guests:	Ilene Chesterman

BANQUET

CATERED BY KIRKTON KATERERS

October 3, 2007
5:30 p.m.

PIPER: HEATHER SCHLOTZHAUER

CHAIR: ANNE INNES

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE GRACE

TOAST TO THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

TOAST TO THE QUEEN

INTRODUCTION OF HEAD TABLE GUESTS: Ilene Chesterman

GREETINGS: Warden of Perth County – Ron McKay

Presentation of Scholarships – Debbie Bauer

ENTERTAINMENT – OLD TYME MUSIC AND DANCING

PRESENTATIONS – Anne Innes

CLOSING CEREMONY: RETIRE FLAGS

SING: ROYAL ANTHEM

2007 LONDON AREA CONVENTION DECLARED CLOSED



NOTES