

CWL holds annual picnic



Members of Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church, Catholic Women's League were presented service pins at a picnic at the Earla Carroll-Harkes residence. Front row, Annie Van Ryswyk, left and Helen Sawyer received 40-year pins.

Standing, Agnes Van Rooijen and Margaret Van Roestel received 25-year pins. Absent were Annie Baertsoen, Shirley Viscontas, Jeannette Lee and Norine Parker.

Aylmer Express, June 23/99

J.H.

BELMONT RICH IN HISTORY

The village of Belmont once partitioned by four townships, finally became an incorporated village in 1961, only to be swallowed up by the large municipality of Central Elgin in 1998.

Water for the village comes from artesian wells, fed by natural spring water. The sewage lagoons went in when Ron Lake was reeve, between 1970 and 1977. A building boom followed and Belmont became a thriving bedroom community, well situated on Highway 74 amidst St.Thomas, London and Aylmer, in close proximity to the 401 Highway.

Two neighbouring churches offer an example of the important architectural heritage of Belmont. In the late 1800's the Presbyterian elders made plans to build a new church at 231 College St. The Gothic Revival style included a front gable featuring a beautiful trefoil leaded glass window set above the memorial stone which spells out "Knox Church". The brick church was built to seat 500.

Next door, at 247 College St., stands the impressive, brick United Church also opened at about the same time. The final touch on this building was a Catherine Wheel window on the front gable. The land for both churches was donated by early Belmont settler Thomas Nugent.

One of the most fascinating buildings in Belmont, was once a funeral parlour. It started out as John Odell's general store in 1874, and later became a hardware store owned by the Campbells. Relics of Gordon McIntyre's funeral parlour remain to this day. In the attic there's a big wheel they used to pull the coffins up to the back bedroom.

The businesses in Belmont today are mainly retail, responding to the needs of a growing population, as more new homes are built. But the rural element is still a major part of the landscape, as farm tractors roll along village streets, headed for Belmont Farm Supply, to pick up fertilizer and feed. Over the years Belmont has developed into a thriving community where the old and new form a friendly blend.

Springfield The Village

This friendly village with a population of approximately 800, is situated in the centre of a prosperous farming community. Farming enterprises are dairy, beef, hog, tobacco, cash crops of corn, soybeans and wheat, processing vegetables, fruit crops and market gardening.

Early names for the village were Byrns (Burns) Creek, and Clunas Post Office. In 1855 it was given the name Springfield, because the early buildings were in a field through which ran a number of flowing springs. The little waterway that trickles through present day Springfield was at that time a full flowing stream fed by springs on the Moses Yoder farm (Joel Byrns). In its upper reaches deer came to drink in the small ponds called "deer lakes".

South Dorchester was the first land to be surveyed in the county of Elgin in 1793, using the Thames river as the connecting water between Lake Ontario and Lake St. Clair, but was not settled until 1826. The earliest settlers in south Malahide came about 1810, and were the United Empire Loyalists, who emigrated from Livingstone county, New York State, Americans, of British parentage.

Large tracts of land in Elgin County, once inhabited by the Neutral Indians, were granted to field officers who had served in the American War of 1812-1814, and to "any field officer" who would become a settler here.

Canada Company, a wealthy company of English gentlemen purchased thousands of acres at about a shilling (25¢) an acre for purposes of speculation. By 1876 land was selling for \$43 an acre.

The sounds of chopping trees and falling logs invaded this tranquil wilderness, interspersed with maple, beech, oak, and white pine as clearing of the land commenced. Logs and branches were rolled into huge windrows and burnt for days and days. The best logs were used for their homesteads.

Joel Byrns (Burns) in 1837 granted the use of a portion of land just north of the present Post Office, for a small log schoolhouse known as "Byrn's" school. It was also used as a place of worship. That same year Isaac Willis and his wife Florence McLachlan lost their 10 month old daughter Betsy. As there was no cemetery she was buried in the school-church yard.

Joel Burns desirous of securing an undisturbed resting place for his family and neighbours deeded the cemetery ground to Queen Victoria. A number of the pioneers rest in this little cemetery. To-day it is called The Springfield Pioneer Cemetery. It was officially closed in 1877.

In the current Springfield cemetery, east of Springfield, the first people buried there were buried in the woods. Later an acre of ground was cleared and the bodies removed from the woods to the new clearing. Much of the credit for the excellent and beautiful condition of the grounds at both cemeteries has been due to the untiring efforts of the Springfield Women's Institute, an organization founded in 1904 as the 2nd branch in Elgin East. The group accepted as one of their chief projects, the cleaning and improving of the east cemetery grounds. Fallen tombstones were set upright and cleaned, and the buildings painted by the members. The organization instituted the annual Decoration Day Service and cared for all those graves which had been neglected. In 1997 Springfield Women's Institute and donors restored and erected a new stone in the Springfield Pioneer Cemetery

In 1931 the Springfield Women's Institute erected a Memorial Cairn in the little park on the south side of Main Street west of St. John's United Church in memory of the Springfield and South Dorchester men who died in World War 1, 1914-1918. The Cairn was unveiled before a crowd of 1200 people. A second plaque has since been added to honour our heroes of World War II, 1939-1945. A Remembrance Day service is held annually on November 11th. This is well attended by the Springfield Public school children and community.

Canada's Centennial in 1977 was celebrated June 30 - July 3, 1977. The week-end featured a Variety Night of local talent and the crowning of the Centennial Queen Cheryl Putnam, a dance, parade, bed race, W.I. pancake breakfast, Masonic beef and pork barbeque, displays at the school, W.I. hall, Post Office and store windows, a beard growing contest and period costumes were worn. The Ontario Heritage Foundation Plaque on the front of the municipal building was unveiled.

The village of Springfield was amalgamated with the townships of South Dorchester and Malahide on January 1, 1998.

Springfield Glimpses of the Past and Present

compiled by Springfield Women's Institute members
prior to disbanding in 1998

Agnes Carrel, Muriel Carrel, Beth Charlton, Evelyn Hoshal, Gracey Purdy
and Leone Shackleton. *J. J.*



Michael Stover of RR 7, Aylmer received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree at the fall convocation at the Wilfrid Laurier University on October 27, 1991. Michael is continuing his studies towards his Chartered Accountancy designation and recently joined the accounting firm of Barker, Stanley & Partners in St. Thomas. Michael is the son of David and Eleanor Stover. Congratulations, Michael, from all your family.

20n

1991 Graduates



Lawrence Jenkins graduated from Conestoga College, Kitchener in Electronic Engineering Technology. Lawrence is the son of Ernest and Madeleine Jenkins of RR 1, Belmont. Lawrence is a graduate of East Elgin Secondary School.

19p

June 1991



Stephanie Jenkins graduates June 4 with honours from the University of Guelph with Bachelor of Applied Science in Nutrition. Stephanie is the daughter of Ernest & Madeleine Jenkins. Stephanie is a graduate of East Elgin Secondary School. 1991

9p

*J.H.
H.H.*

June 12 1991



John P. White, son of Mrs. Bea White, 20 Anne Street, Aylmer and Mr. John E. White, RR 8, St. Thomas graduated with a Master of Science in Engineering on June 6 from the University of Guelph. He was awarded the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Ph.D. research scholarship. John is a Dean's List graduate of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and of Arthur Voaden Secondary School, where he was an Ontario Scholar. John is a networking and communications analyst with J.P. Haynes and Associates, Orangeville, Ont. 19p

Julie E. White, daughter of Mrs. Bea White, 20 Anne Street, Aylmer and Mr. John E. White, RR 8, St. Thomas graduated with a diploma in print journalism on June 7 from Loyalist College of Applied Arts and Technology, Belleville, Ontario. In her first year she received the J. Earl Morrison Memorial Scholarship for demonstrated high level of achievement, ability and an aspiration for excellence in community journalism. Julie received her certificate of Six Ontario Academic Credits from East Elgin Secondary School. Julie has accepted a full time position as a reporter/photographer at the Napanee Reaver

Graduation



JAY WHITE

Jay Steven White, of 20 Anne Street, Aylmer, received his bachelor of science degree at the University of Western Ontario on Thursday, Oct. 24. He is a graduate of Arthur Voaden Secondary School. Jay has returned to Western to further his education. Congratulations Jay. Love Mom. Sat. Nov. 16 /91

1991 Graduates

*Julie
A.H.*



Bob & Ann DeKraker are pleased to announce the recent graduation of their daughter Betty, on October 24 from U.W.O. with a masters degree in Audiology. She had accepted a position at St. Joseph Hospital in London. Best wishes Betty from Mom, Dad and all the family.



Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Gantt, RR 1, Belmont, are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter Jo Ann, from the Conestoga College Graphic Arts program. Jo Ann has accepted a position with Vicko Publishing Company in London.

3.



NANCY ROBINSON

Congratulations to Nancy Robinson on her graduation from Trent University, Peterborough. She has graduated with an honors bachelor of arts degree in administrative and policy studies. Here parents, Gary and Kathy, and siblings, Steve and Heather, offer their love and best wishes.

Belmont resident wins scholarship

A Belmont area resident has distinguished herself by winning a prestigious national scholarship at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont.

Debra Bartley, 1991 graduate of East Elgin Secondary School, will be presented with a Canada Scholarship at the faculty of arts and science's annual awards luncheon on campus on Friday, March 27.

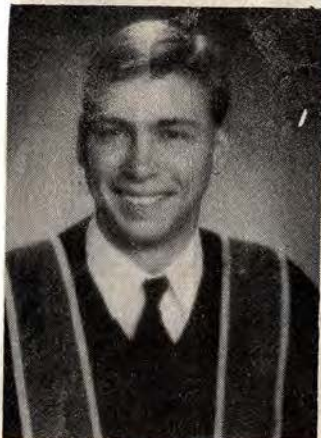
The \$2,000. scholarship is awarded by the federal government to reward academic excellence and encourage more of Canada's most promising students to choose careers in science and engineering. It is renewable up to three times for a total value of up to \$8,000.

The daughter of Harry and Diane Bartley is in the first year of the honors biology program at Laurier.

Wed., June 3, 1992—A



The parents of Jennifer Charlton are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter from Gladwin Michigan High School. Jenn is planning on attending Ferris State University, Big Rapids, Michigan this fall to study Medical Technology. An Open House at her parent's house, in Gladwin, Michigan, is being held June 27. Friends and family are welcome.



KEVIN STOVER

Kevin G. Stover graduated June 6, 1992, from Durham College of Applied Arts, Oshawa, Ont., from the Sports Administration program. He is a graduate of Locke's Public School and Arthur Voaden Secondary School. Kevin is the eldest son of Joan Stover and Craig Smith, 177 Woodworth Avenue, and Harvey and Debbie Stover, 48 Luton Crescent. He is the grandson of Viola and Ken McCloy, of Southwold, Edith Stover, Aylmer, Dan and Donna Neill, of St. Thomas. Kevin has accepted a position at the Pleasant Valley Golf Club for the summer and plans to return to Durham College in September to further his studies.

BRIEFLY

Belmont student UWO winner *Oct. 27/92*

Tina M. Broeders of Belmont is listed among the Faculty Entrance Scholarship winners at the University of Western Ontario to be the guests of UWO president George Pederson at a reception on Wednesday.

Miss Broeders is one of 18 students chosen from 540 applicants world-wide. Her scholarship is \$3,500 per year for four years as well as residence for her first year at UWO.

J.A. 24.7.

Leigh Phoenix receives award

Leigh Phoenix, originally of the Aylmer area, has received a special award from American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).

Mr. Phoenix, son of Stuart and Jean Phoenix of RR 1 Aylmer, is professor and associate dean of Engineering College, Theoretical and Applied Mechanics Department at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Cornell is one of the top universities in the United States.

Mr. Phoenix received the Harold DeWitt Smith Award from ASTM, a prize first given out in 1949. It recognizes outstanding achievement in textile fibre utilization.

After being graduated from East Elgin Secondary



School, he received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees at the University of Guelph, and his doctorate from Cornell.

Mr. Phoenix joined the Cornell faculty in 1974 as an assistant professor, and became an associate professor five years later.

He has also served as a visiting scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories in the United States, and at University of Surrey in England.

An expert in the field of textiles, Mr. Phoenix specializes in models of failures in fibrous and composite materials, mechanics and failure of textile structures and cables, and reliability models for ceramics.

Mr. Phoenix is a member of the American Physical Society, the Fiber Society, the American Society for Composites, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering.

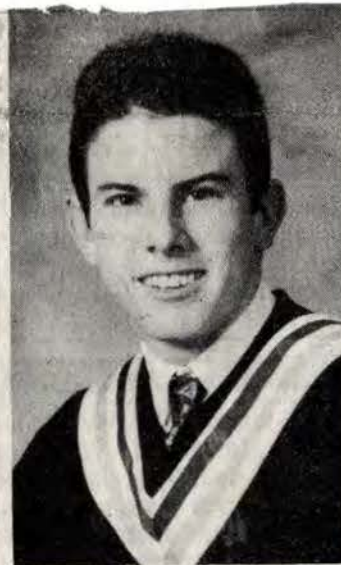
L. M. J. 1992



Andrew Hodgson, son of Robert and Carol Hodgson of Belmont, will study physical science and biochemistry at University of Guelph.



Christopher Orsi, son of Ottaviano and Kathleen Orsi of Aylmer, will study engineering at Queen's University.



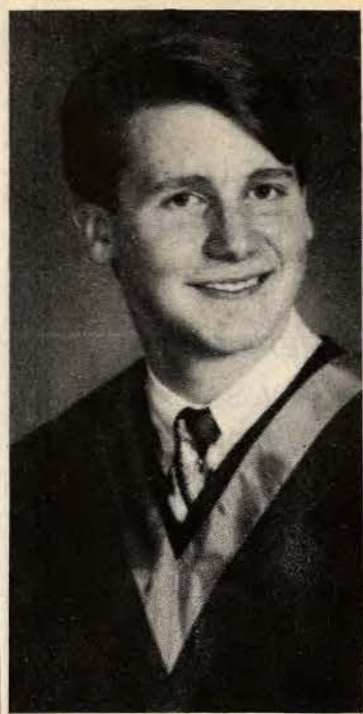
Matthew Wilson, son of John and Doreen Wilson of Springfield, will seek a Bachelor of Science in biological science, molecular biology, and genetics engineering at University of Guelph.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE 1993

Paul and Shirley Faulds are pleased to announce the graduation of their daughter, Sarah on May 25, 1993 from Dalhousie University, Halifax with a Bachelor of Science degree - advance major in Marine Biology. Congratulations on your achievements and best wishes in your future endeavours.

9p

J. J. J.



Bryan Stover, son of Carl and MaryJane Stover of Belmont, will study agronomy at University of Guelph.

Carrie Thomson, daughter of James and Patricia Thomson of Belmont, will study applied human nutrition at University of Guelph.

Jim Van Roestel, son of Casey and Lony Van Roestel of Aylmer, will study geography at University of Western Ontario.

E.E.S.S. Ont. Scholarships 1994



Ammie Lunn, daughter of Brian and Donna Lunn of Belmont, will study applied science--consumer studies at University of Guelph.

Michael Millard, son of Randy and Beth Millard of Aylmer, will study human kinetics at University of Guelph.

*J.H.
H.H.*

1994 Graduates

Wed., June 15, 1994



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Evert are proud to announce the graduation of their son, Paul Evert, from Lakehead University on May 28 with his Bachelor of Education, with First Class Honours. Paul previously graduated with his Bachelor of Arts from Brock University and with his Diploma in Honours Standing from U.W.O. We're proud of you Paul! Love from Mom & Dad, Sue, John & Sharlene.

15p



Gerry and Liz Vanderwyst are pleased to announce the graduation of their son Peter from Carlton University. Peter has graduated with Bachelors in Computer Math. He has accepted a position with the federal government in Ottawa. Way to go Peter! Mom & Dad, Paul & Julie, Ann-Marie & Daren & Brenda.

20c

J.H.
A.R.R.



Mr. and Mrs. William Shackelton are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter Bonnie Shackelton-Verbuyst from the University of Western Ontario with an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree. The Graduation Baccalaureate Service of Brescia College will be held at St. Peter's Basilica, London, Sunday, May 1. Bonnie has been accepted at Althouse College to pursue a Bachelor of Education degree. Daughter Brandie Lee and fiancé Dan Hunter offer their congratulations. 1994

27c

CONGRATULATIONS



TRISHA DANCE

David & Karen Dance are pleased to announce that their daughter, Trisha Marie Dance, RR#2 Springfield, has successfully graduated as a Licenced Registered Massage Therapist. (R.M.T.) Nov. 1995

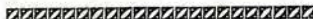
15p



ROBERT BRUCE FOSTER

Ian and Connie Foster are proud to announce the graduation of their son Rob, from Wilfrid Laurier University. Rob received his Bachelor of Business Administration, Honours, Minor: Economics at the Fall Convocation on October 30. Rob is furthering his studies at Wilfrid Laurier to fulfill the requirements needed for his Chartered Accountant Designation, and will join the firm of Barker Stanley & Partners in St. Thomas in January '95.

16p



Ian and Connie Foster, R.R. #4, Aylmer are proud to congratulate their son Robert on receiving his Designation as a Chartered Accountant. Robert is employed with Barker Stanley & Partners in St. Thomas. Love Mom, Dad, Michele & Dan. 1995

49L - 13c



KRISTEN BOGART

Kristen Bogart graduated at the 1993 Spring Convocation ceremonies from Brock University receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Child Studies. Proud parents are Reg and Joan Bogart, Belmont, grandparents Leo and Pam Bogart, Springfield, and Florence Leslie, St. Thomas. We wish her the best of luck in the future as she plans to further her studies.

9p



Graduations



HEATHER ROBINSON RNA

Congratulations and love from your family on your successful completion of the RNA program. Heather, a grad from St. Clair College, Windsor, is the daughter of Gary and Kathy Robinson, R.R. #8, St. Thomas. We are very proud of you, Heather!

J.H. 27.



Congratulations Graduate!

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hodgson are pleased to announce the recent graduation of their son, Geoffrey Robert from the University of Western Ontario. Geoffrey received a Bachelor of Engineering Science, Mechanical Engineering. He graduated with distinction, winning the John E.K. Foreman Gold Medal for Mechanical Engineering and the Professional Engineers of Ontario Gold Medal. Geoffrey has accepted a position with 3M Canada, London. Congratulations from your family! ^{26p}

JUNE 1996



Ian and Connie Foster, R.R. #4, Aylmer are proud to congratulate their son Daniel on receiving his Diploma in Agricultural Business from the University of Guelph. Presently Daniel is employed with Pride Seeds, Chatham. Love Dad, Mom, Rob & Michele.

10p

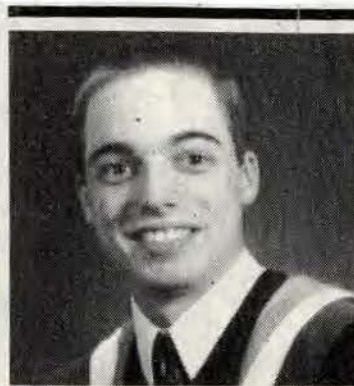
June Graduates



Lorraine Rollins

Daughter of Raymond and Marjorie Light, of RR #4, Aylmer, graduated from the nursing program at Fanshawe College, London in June 1998. She has a position in the emergency department at Tillsonburg Memorial Hospital. Congratulations. Love Mom & Dad.

19p



Don & Donna McNeil are pleased to announce the graduation of their son Darrell from Wilfrid Laurier University on June 5, 1999. Darrell graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. Congratulations Darrell. Love Dad, Mom & Brenda.

7p

*J.H.
D.V. 19*

Top Soccer and Hockey Players

1994



Top soccer and hockey players were recognized at East Elgin Secondary School's annual athletics banquet Tuesday, June 7. Award winners include front, from left: G. J. Goddeeris, Art Wortelboer Memorial Award for a senior soccer player displaying dedication, leadership and sports-

manship; Bryan Stover, Michael Moerman Award for most dedicated hockey and soccer player; back: St. Thomas City Soccer Association Award winners Marty McConnell, junior boys team, Amber Buchanan, girls team, and Chris Phillips, senior boys team. 1994