



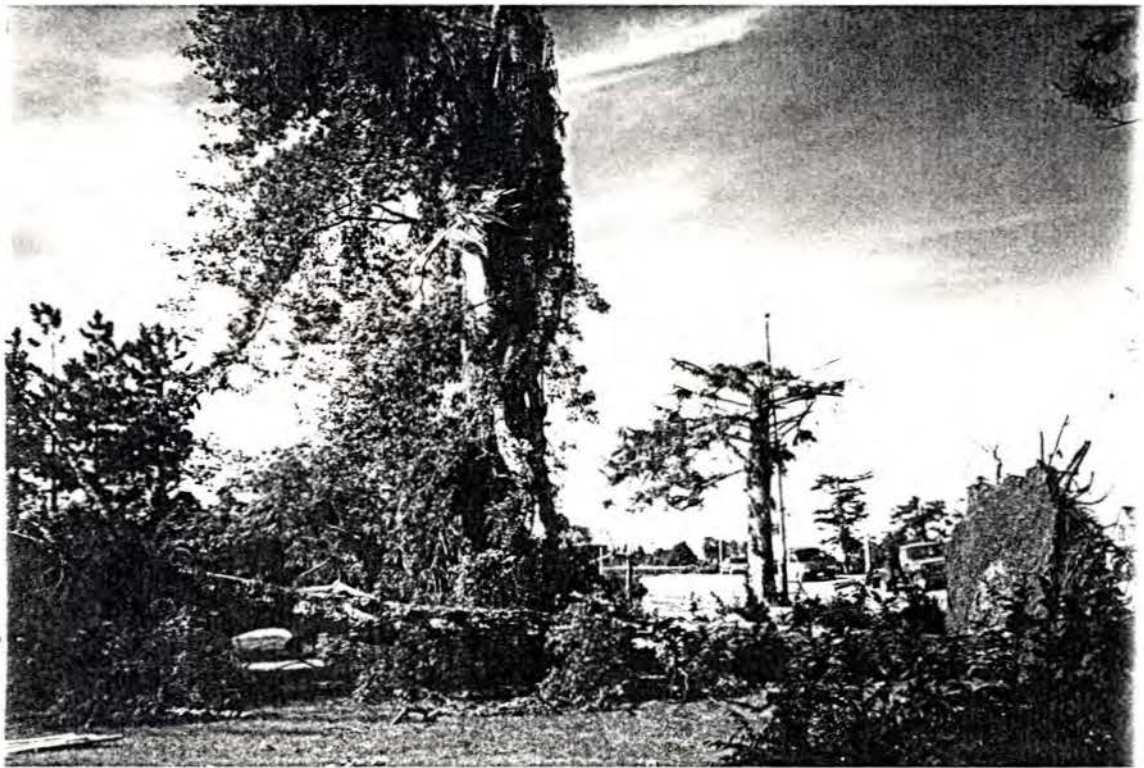
Built to Last

Residence of:
August W. and Ilse Spangenberg
Southwold Township

This magnificent, two-storey, red brick house, constructed in 1877, is located on Lot 26, County Rd. 16, Southwold Township. August W. and Ilse Spangenberg purchased the 200-acre property seven years ago. Mrs. Spangenberg said the house was constructed by Mr. Case -- the first Elgin member of parliament. The exterior of the house uses large cement blocks at the corners in its construction. Cement transoms were also used along the tops of all the windows. Keystones, with varying designs, were used to set off the windows. To add additional detail, yellow bricks were interwoven at the top of the building. The interior of the house is breath-taking, with 14-foot ceilings in most of the downstairs rooms. The billiards and family rooms feature identically-sculptured medallions and additional corner moldings. The pale blue colour of the ceilings highlight the stark white of the

moldings and medallions. Two matching, working fireplaces are a mixture of oak and walnut. The front hallway also features sculptured medallions and the archway, half-way down the room, boasts smaller, but identical sculptures. The front door enters onto a foyer, which separates it from the rest of the house. The partition uses frosted glass and oak wood trim. The newel post of the stairway is unique and, as a winter project, the couple refinished the entire staircase. The ballroom and morning room also feature sculptured medallions which are even more elaborate. The ceilings are finished in a light lilac, which sets off the two carved busts of women found on the end of each medallion in the ballroom. The corner moldings in these two rooms are also fancier. The two rooms have identical marble fireplaces.

1988



*Taken Aug 29 at August + Lise SPANDBURG
after the Tornado*

Crews assess damage around Frome area

Crews were busy in Frome on Thursday assessing damage caused by Tuesday's vicious storm that destroyed at least half of the small hamlet's 20 homes.

The disaster assessment crews were organized at a township meeting in Fingal yesterday morning.

The crews consist of two assistant county engineers, the Southwold building inspector, and Southwold Deputy Reeve Dave Carroll.

Southwold Reeve Hugh Lyle says they won't have damage reports until today's meeting is held.

"It's too early to tell yet," he said late Thursday afternoon.

Damage assessment involves inspecting houses, determining types of damage, and deciding which houses are habitable.

Reeve Lyle says most people have accepted what has happened and now the focus is on making repairs.

"It's going to be a big job and we're new at this sort of thing," he said.

Although an official disaster committee has not yet been established, Southwold Township has appealed to the provincial government for aid through the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program.

At an emergency meeting Wednesday evening in Fingal, Premier David Peterson said he would recommend three-to-one funding for Frome. This means for every dollar raised the government will kick in three. Mr.

**HUGH
LYLE**

... 'too early
to tell
yet'



Peterson visited Frome while campaigning in the area.

Reeve Lyle says he has no idea how much money will be raised, but the township is counting on the three-to-one funding arrangement.

However, efforts are already being made toward raising the township's contribution.

On Friday, there will be a benefit dance at the Shedden Country Club. It will start at 6:30 p.m. All proceeds will go into a tornado relief fund bank account which has been set up by municipal officials.



DEVASTATING — One single word describes Tuesday's tornado that touched down in various parts of Elgin, including this fruit farm just north of Port Stanley. Brent Turville, centre, talks to friends about damage.

(T-J Photos)



Roar of tornado's destruction something not easily forgotten

By MIKE WALSH
T-J Staff Reporter

PORT STANLEY — Although Brent Turville couldn't see if it was a tornado that ripped through his family's fruit farm just north of here, he'll never forget the sound of it.

"It was a real loud roar," said the 26-year-old as he stood near what was left of their "old big barn." It and two adjacent garages were levelled by Tuesday's fierce winds.

His father, Frank, 53, was taken to St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital. The son said his father had either a piece of metal or wood embedded in his left arm.

"I don't think he felt anything. He was in shock," Mr. Turville said of his father.

Mr. Turville was treated and released from hospital.

He said he and his father tried to open the main doors to the barn which had been closed up. They couldn't see their way back to their two-storey frame house, which was no more than 100 feet away.

"We just hit the ground and prayed. I couldn't even stand up."

Mr. Turville said. "It was like a big wall of grit and dirt hitting me."

Mr. Turville's mother, Lynn, was in the house. She was not home. The couple's other two children were not home.

EXTENSIVE DAMAGE

Damage to the Turville's fruit farm is extensive. The crops were destroyed. Many of the apple and pear trees had snapped and apples were scattered across the property.

The corn field was flattened.

"That's our livelihood," Mr. Turville said.

The Turville's two cars were hidden somewhere under the remains of their garages. Their home was a mess, too.

Although the house is standing, many windows were blown in. Glass and rubbish were strewn throughout the house. Many personal items were

damaged by the storm.

Neighbors and friends were quick to offer assistance to the Turvilles.

The roof of a neighbor's barn was lifted by the high winds. Some pieces of the roof were even hanging on a nearby hydro line.

Nearby about half a kilometre east, two house trailers were lifted by the high winds causing injuries to the five occupants. Injured were William Dufty, 78, with cuts, his wife Edith, 77, received a fractured collar bone, their great grandchildren Chris Haight, 11, Tamara, 9, and their mother Sherry Schmolzl, 30, suffered leg injuries. All were treated and released from the St. Thomas hospital.

Mr. Turville said the storm happened so fast that it was hard to believe the extensive damage that occurred in just a brief time.

"I'm just glad I'm alive," he said.

Helping hand for Southwold

Southwold area residents can breathe a little easier now, knowing that the provincial government likely will help them get back on their feet after this week's storms.

Premier David Peterson toured the area Wednesday, taking note of the damage to Frome and the surrounding area and assured residents he would ask his cabinet to match every dollar raised locally with \$3 from the provincial government.

At this point no one knows how much money is involved; estimates of the damage haven't been completed. But as The Times-Journal has chronicled in several stories this week, the damage has been severe in many areas.

The premier had some good words for officials who helped secure Frome after the storm.

"Members of the community, the Ontario Provincial Police and other police forces have done an excellent job in the area," Mr. Peterson said. We second that opinion. As noted in this space Thursday, residents have pitched in to help each other and officials have ensured residents affected by the storm have been looked after and their property kept safe.

By making his commitment before preliminary damage estimates were completed, Mr.

Peterson went a long way toward alleviating the anguish being experienced by farmers and others still reeling from the storm, the worst to hit the area in years.

But he was quite correct in issuing a word of caution. The premier stressed that the Township of Southwold, which includes Frome, should appoint a relief committee to oversee distribution of the funds raised and settlement of claims and disputes. The people on this committee, he suggested, should be of "absolute and unimpeachable standing".

As area residents continue the cleanup process, which they began immediately after the storm abated, damage assessments will become much more specific. But when crop as well as structural damage is factored in, it's clear that hundreds of thousands of dollars will be needed to get this and other storm-ravaged areas back on their feet.

Meanwhile, Southwold Township Council — which has already asked the government to declare theirs a disaster area — must await what we hope is the formality of cabinet approval for the premier's three-for-one relief funding proposal.

But already, knowing that others care will help Southwold residents recover from the devastation. We wish them well.

Friends, neighbors rush to help Frome

Hundreds of volunteers have been working to put the tiny farming community back together after the tornado.

By Peter Christie
The London Free Press

FROME — Almost as suddenly as last Tuesday's savage tornado battered its way through this small Elgin County farming community, a whirlwind of help from friends, neighbors and other concerned people has blown in after it to repair the damage.

"It's quite amazing to see what's been done in four days," Bud Marr said Saturday, standing with his wife, Melba, outside his farmhouse on the edge of the wind-ravaged hamlet, southwest of London.

The storm lifted the roof and ripped a wall off Marr's home before it destroyed his barn, smashed his shed, caused \$3,000 damage to his car and went on its way.

Marr said that on the morning after the disaster there were 20 people at his house — some he didn't know — clearing away pieces of trees, houses and barns and doing what they could.

In fact, hundreds of volunteers have scattered all over the community since the storm. And they've been putting Frome, where all of the 20 houses were damaged, and the area around it back together at a remarkable rate.

ROOF BACK: "They had a new roof on that barn there by Thursday," Marr said, pointing to a neighbor's barn. He turned to indicate other repairs being done. "Over there, that roof was gone, and they'll have that covered in by tonight."

Earlier in the day, there were about 200 people on Glen Milligan's lawn near the centre of Frome. It was lunch-time and volunteers from the Dutton Lions Club (one of several organizations offering make-shift cafeterias through the week), were serving free hotdogs and pop to the teams of workers.

Hugh Lyle, reeve of Southwold Township, was there checking on progress.

He said the newly formed Southwold Tornado Relief Committee of six area residents met Saturday morning.

The committee has established a tornado relief fund that will accept donations at any Bank of Commerce branch. So far almost \$7,000 has been raised, most of it from a community dance held in nearby Shed-



Ken Wightman/The London Free Press

George Kimble helped his parents plant hundreds of trees on the family farm south of Frome in the early 1940s. Most of them were destroyed by the tornado last Tuesday.

HOW TO MAKE DAMAGE CLAIMS

- ☐ The Southwold Tornado Relief Committee will set up an office in the Shedd Medical Centre on Tuesday.
- ☐ The office will make claim forms available to tornado victims, which must be filled out and returned to the committee by Sept. 14.
- ☐ The committee will select an appraiser who will be available to discuss damage with claimants.
- ☐ Office hours: Tuesday: 12 p.m.-8 p.m.; Wednesday-Friday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and Monday-Friday next week: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

den on Friday night.

Lyle said Southwold has asked the province to declare the township a disaster area, which would make it eligible for \$3 of provincial money for every \$1 raised by residents, he said.

DISASTER AID: Last Wednesday, Ontario Premier David Peterson said he would recommend the disaster declaration to his cabinet, Lyle said. The province's decision is expected by Wednesday.

Meanwhile, while Ron Cox raked the branches from in front of his house on a knoll overlooking Frome, more than a dozen volunteers were clearing more than 50 fallen trees from his property — a job that a St. Thomas contractor estimated would have cost \$25,000.

"It's just a great community," Cox said. "They're not always bothering you but if you need them, boy, they're there . . . Hell, they're just good people."



PITCHING IN - People of all ages are pulling together to help in the tornado cleanup. Ken Fayter, 7, of RR 1, Southwold, seems bur-

ied in the debris as he helps pile branches at the farm of George Kimble, on Elgin County Road 16 near Fingal. - (T-J Photo)

Elgin rallies to help the victims of disaster

By TOM FROESE
T-J Staff Reporter

The power of nature was revealed Tuesday in Elgin County's worst summer storm in recent memory.

Now, in the aftermath, many residents are showing the better side of man's own nature.

Surveying the wreckage, some may find little comfort at first. But everyone sighs with relief when they recognize the fact that no one was killed in the raging storm.

Now they're picking up the pieces — and with help from their neighbors.

Hundreds of people across the county have rallied at the touchdown points of the twister that caused untold damage in Central Elgin.

On Elgin County Road 16 between Middlemarch and Fingal there was heavy damage.

Hundreds of people including both neighbors and those from other parts of Elgin came with chainsaws, tractors and whatever else to help clear debris.

Among the farms that were hit the hardest were those of George Kimble and the family farm of August Spangenberg.

Tall spruce trees that once graced a large section of Mr. Kimble's 100-acre farm are snapped like matchsticks. Dozens of people, including women and youngsters were on his farm helping to clean debris Wednesday.

HELP FROM ONEIDA

Eight men came from the Oneida Indian Reserve. Reserve member Leon Antone, best expressed the sentiment of all the volunteer help that will continue.

"We came to see what we can do. It doesn't matter if you're white, black or red if you're in distress. These people need the help."

Mr. Kimble recalled the storm. "I had trouble getting the basement door open to get down there (because of the air pressure)," he said, while in front of his house. It was still standing, unlike a barn just 50 yards away that was a heap of boards.

He has lived at the farm for 60 years.

He plans to stay there while the

cleanup operation continues, he said.

JUST RETURNED

Just down the road Harm Spangenberg, 24, came back to a rude homecoming from visiting in Germany. He arrived home 30 minutes before the storm. The garage housing his new Volkswagen GTI collapsed on the car.

"We don't have tornadoes in Europe," said his mother Ilse, while watching dozens of men work on the farm. The family of four came from Hanover, West Germany, to the farm of several hundred acres in 1981.

'These people need the help'

Their farm received extensive crop damage to soybeans and wheat.

Also damaged at the farm was a second barn. There is nothing left where it once stood.

About one-third of the roof on the family's large estate home was ripped off.

FOOD SUPPLY

In Frome, women from the United Church in Shedden organized a massive food supply for victims and volunteer helpers.

Vern and Marie Hutchings, who live only one kilometre west of the hamlet, opened their home for about 100 guests between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. to enjoy roast beef, ham, corn, baked potatoes and lemon pie.

In addition to church donations another 15 people donated food.

"We got our hydro back at six o'clock," explained Mr. Hutchings.

The Hutchings home was untouched. Mr. and Mrs. Hutchings didn't find out about the tornado until about 7 p.m. Tuesday, about two hours after it touched down.

"We had no power for the radio to tell us anything. Our daughter called from Thunder Bay when she saw it on the news there," explained Mr. Hutchings.

Fires burned debris in back yards

as victims gathered whatever articles could be salvaged from what was left of their homes and garages. In some cases piles of rubble were all that remained.

NO GLOOM

But the spirit was not of gloom.

Residents joined forces with relatives, and little outside help was needed in starting the massive cleanup job there. There already has been a significant improvement since Tuesday.

"They haven't needed too much in terms of (short-term) donations because they're all relatives or friends of each other," said St. Thomas OPP Const. Art Manninger, who was at the scene several times during the day. Other police controlled traffic.

Media people from major newspapers and radio and television stations flocked to the hamlet, as did numerous insurance adjusters.

There is no total damage estimate at this time.

Meanwhile, other victims throughout Elgin had large messes to clean.

EXTENSIVE DAMAGE

Anderson Thoroughbred Horse Farms at RR 5, St. Thomas, had extensive damage to its 640 acres, the hardest hit area being at the south

end. Four barns and a drive shed were destroyed and the house of farm employee Wes Stafford received heavy damage.

Mr. Stafford and his family weren't in the house when the twister came through, and luckily so.

"They'd all be dead," said Mr. Anderson. A crib and Teddy bear of a six-month old child of the Staffords was found hundreds of yards from the house.

About 15 horses, of a total of 230, were injured.

"We spent 14 man-hours treating the horses," said Mr. Anderson.

There's also extensive tree damage to the Anderson property.

"There was no loss of life, but it was very close."

Cleanup was also under way in other touchdown points in the Port Stanley, Talbotville and Lambeth areas.

The Salvation Army has offered short-term assistance to all victims if needed.



STRAW BARN - Dave Anderson, 21, of Anderson's Farms, RR 5, St. Thomas, stands in

front of what's left of the farm's straw barn.

- (T-J Photo)

After the storm, the healing begins

The storm is over; now the healing begins.

Elgin County will spend the next while trying to recover from this week's devastating storms. For some it won't be hard: drain a little water from the basement, clear some branches from the yard and go on living.

But for others the task will be far greater. As this is being written, many parts of the country are without electricity. Crops have been damaged, in some cases irreparably, homes and other buildings mutilated or destroyed, lives ripped asunder.

Storms can cause such damage but they also can bring people together. Neighbors band together, families unite, whole villages begin pulling together. Police and fire departments, hydro crews and others have done an admirable job, as they always do, but it's interesting to see how ordinary people react in times of stress.

There have been examples already, as neighbors rushed to lend a hand when floodwaters

threatened basements, when winds demolished buildings, when trees felled power lines. It's heartening to see people who may have had their differences over the years suddenly set those differences aside in the face of greater peril. It means we haven't lost the human spirit which separates us from animals, although surely we have misplaced it occasionally.

It's almost appropriate that this storm occurred a week before the provincial election. In the midst of all the name-calling and platform-bashing that traditionally goes with election campaigns, we have the people of Southwestern Ontario pulling together when they must, to combat the ravages of a storm. Within days, of course, things will return to "normal" and political divisions will resurface; petty squabbles will resume; soon the storm largely will be forgotten.

But for now let's enjoy the thought of whole communities working together. It's a wonderful sight and it shouldn't take a storm to bring it about.

Peterson offers aid for tornado victims

By MIKE MATTHEWS
T-J Staff Reporter

David Peterson toured Frome Wednesday evening to survey damage done by the severe storm that hit the Highway 3 hamlet.

The premier of Ontario came to see the extent of damage for himself, and pledged the support of his government in getting the community back on its feet.

For every dollar raised locally in the recovery effort, the premier offered to match it with three provincial dollars in assistance.

"I will recommend to the provincial cabinet that they support this thing three-to-one to assist you in recovering your losses," he told members of Southwold Township council in a brief meeting last night.

Mr. Peterson recommended council set up a bank account, to be controlled by trusted people in the community.

"You must establish tough and restricted controls in choosing the members of the local committee, and make sure it's comprised of the most respected citizens in this part of the county," he continued.

The premier, his election entourage and Elgin MPP Marietta Roberts stopped in on a Southwold Township council meeting after having examined some of the heavy damage Frome suffered in Tuesday's storm.

Miss Roberts was out early Wednesday, examining the severity of the storm.

"Members of the community, the Ontario Provincial Police and other police forces have done an excellent job in the area, making sure the community of Frome is secure," she said.

PASSED RESOLUTION

Prior to the premier's arrival, Southwold Township Council had passed a resolution concerning the state of the community following the storm. Before passing the resolution, council discussed the situation with representatives from the Ministry of the Solicitor-General and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, who were at the meeting.

The resolution, which was carried unanimously, read, "That this council request the Minister of Municipal Affairs to recommend to Cabinet that a disaster area be declared in the Township of Southwold as a re-

DAVID
PETERSON
...visits
disaster
area



of the Solicitor-General, as well as any other government ministries, could all be of service to the community.

"They are all on call to help you in any way they can. They have experience in these kinds of things, as they have helped people in other parts of the province through similar circumstances," he said.

"You've done the legal formality in passing the resolution, and I will make my three-to-one relief recommendation to cabinet," Mr. Peterson said.

HIGH SPIRITS

The premier also commented on the high spirits in the community.

"The people I talked to weren't downhearted and they all seemed to have chainsaws, every one of them," he said with a chuckle.

"It's important to look on the positive side, and we're here to help in any way we can," he told council.

"It's important to remember you don't have to make quick judgements with this, and feel free to call Marietta and the ministry people for help," Premier Peterson said.

Outside the township office, the premier answered further questions about the relief process.

"First, the township or municipality has to ask the provincial cabinet to declare the region a disaster area, and that acts as a springboard to the rest of the process," he said.

"These people (on the committee) will have some tough judgements to make in settling claims and disputes, and the province will supply a lot of support services."

"The three-to-one contribution is not a decision I can make on my own, but I will strongly recommend it to cabinet," the premier said before boarding his campaign bus.

SHATTERED TREE - Brian Baldwin, Andy Sleightholm and Mary Baldwin survey the damage at the Baldwin's on Southwold River Road.-(T-J Photo)

AROUND TOWN

1998



POSTHUMOUS AWARD:

Dorothy Futcher of Middlemarch was inducted posthumously into the Elgin Federation of Agriculture Hall of Fame at the EFA annual banquet, for her service to agriculture in Elgin, which included her help in founding the Elgin County Pioneer Museum. Two of her adult children who attended the ceremony were Al Futcher of Middlemarch and Isabel (Futcher) Martin, of RR 8, St. Thomas. (T-J photo)

ANNUAL BANQUET:

Mary Anne and Roger McMullen of Port Stanley were two of the people who attended the Elgin Federation of Agriculture annual banquet at St. Anne's Centre. The two look over an Elgin federation display at the event. (T-J photo)

AGRICULTURE

EVENTS...
BATTERY BLITZ
ARM FORUM
CAR CARAVAN
LOBBYING
AGRICULTURAL IN
THE CLASSROOM
PLOWING MATCH



February. A thank you note was read from Mrs. Ian Carmichael.

Five members attended the district annual meeting at Fingal United Church. Luncheon was hosted by the ladies of the same church.

Elgin West District Women's Institute held their 90th Annual Meeting hosted by Boxall branch of the Women's Institute, "A new beginning that starts with you." District directors were ratified by Board Director Willa Johnston. Correspondence from OMAFRA advised of the upcoming structural change which will be better able to serve rural districts.

Reports of the secretary, treasurer, financial examiner, program coordinator, public relation officer Tweedsmuir history curator, farm safety representative and Elgin County Pioneer Museum were presented as well as cancer tea report, Boxall WI scholarship was presented to Mary Margaret Van Houke by Grace Campbell, chairman of this committee.

A candle lighting service united the two districts as one — to be known as the Elgin County District Women's Institute.

The Cancer Society in Elgin County has a need for volunteers in Southwold Township (not drivers) please contact Angela Kelly, Victorian Order of Nurses at 631-3270.

Entertainment was provided by Kingsmill-Mapleton WI branch, Edelweiss and Adieu, Adieu songs were sung in farewell to Elgin East WI.

Tribute was given to Marguerite Young, one who was instrumental in the founding of the Pioneer Museum.

Nine members toured the Military Museum. Many of the members related an incident or event that they had heard about or experienced. Many familiar faces were noted in the photos that were on display.

The meeting was adjourned by the president. Catherine Lindsay and Velma Campbell served a delectable lunch during the social time.

Peter North.

The report of the final rally meeting was read, before amalgamation of the east and west branches. However, plans are being made for institute members to be present at the fall plowing match, Sept. 12.

Correspondence: June 24, Strawberry Social at Pioneer Museum from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Oct. 24, Daffodil Tea, Fingal United Church hosted by Boxall Institute from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon; July 1, 3 and 6 Pre and Post Conference '98 workshop; Aug. 6, Tweedsmuir workshop, Dashwood Community Centre (London area); Oct. 22, London area convention held at Kirkton Community Centre; Dec. 4, Coffee Break Pioneer Museum (Elgin County), 9 a.m. to 12 noon; Nov. 12, River Road coffee break at the home of Mary Veenstra, Middle River Road, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon; July 11, Farm Safety, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., ages 7-11, Stratfordville; June 28, Middlemarch branch is hosting Garden Tour, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., contact 633-0355 or 631-1784; Sept. 22 or 23, proposed bus trip to Erland Lee for lunch then on to Niagara area to view butterflies, contact Betty Van Patter 631-2989.

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario Elgin area, received \$17,585.95 in