

# Feature game' means all to Pests' hopes

SEPT. 14 1989

By ROBERT BRODIE

T-J Sports Editor

It's being billed as the feature game.

Defending champion Caledonia of Forest Farms vs. host Shedden Pests in the opening round of the Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) Intermediate A men's elimination tournament.

As far as the Pests are concerned, it's THE game. Win it, and the remaining road to a provincial title could be easy as 1-2-3.

But the path becomes a long, bumpy grind if the Pests lose it.

Through the luck of the draw, everything's on the line for the host Pests in that 11 a.m. matchup - one of four first-round games Saturday morning. Shedden can win the tournament with four straight wins, but a first-round loss would mean six wins - four of them consecutively on Sunday.

"That's the big game," Pests' catcher and tourney co-chairman Terry McAlpine said. "We have to get on the winners' side."

The two teams have met this season, in the semifinal of a tournament in Norwich. Caledonia won 6-5, so the Pests feel they can be competitive.

Shedden, which won the St. Thomas and District Fastball League pennant this season, offers up a pitching staff which should be the best in the tourney. Virag posted a 5-2 record in the city league with a sparkling 0.96 earned run average. He's capably backed up by Rich Abbot (10-3, 3.00) and Perry Waite (6-2, 2.62).



**AIMING HIGHER** - Shedden Pests, the 1989 St. Thomas and District Fastball League pennant winners, are after the Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) Intermediate A title this weekend. Members of Shedden's pennant winners, in front row, from left: Rich Abbot, Dug Aldred, Steve Bogart, Wes Stafford,

Rob Lidster, Paul Stafford, John Lids Back row: Roger Lunn (executive), Bruce Gart (coach), Steve Virag, Mike Millig Wade Walker, Perry Waite, Paul MacDonald, Terry McAlpine, Rob Fischtnr. In foreground is Donald Lidster. Absent for photo is Mark Hiepleh. - (Cliff Maxwell Photo)

A fourth pitcher, Rob Lidster, isn't eligible because he hurled for Shedden Juniors during Ontario Rural Softball Association (ORSA) competition. Shedden won that body's provincial title, with Lidster playing a key role.

## KEY HURLER

Virag, 41, is the key. The veteran of Memorial Fastball League wars is a Fingal native, now residing in London, who is 'coming home' for what may be his final fastball hurrah. He had 80 strikeouts in 56 innings of city league play.

At the plate, Shedden boasts plenty of potent bats. Outfielder Paul Stafford finished among the top five batsmen in the city league with a .402 average. His brother, catcher Wes Stafford (.353), and shortstop Mike Milligan (.325) also swing good bats.

The Pests lost two top hitters, outfielder Mark Hiepleh and slugger Wade Walker, who aren't eligible because they played senior fastball with St. Thomas Pot of Gold Bingo. But Shedden has picked up infielder Tom Woodiwiss and outfielder Kevin Gilmour of Strathroy Jets, who batted .333 and .317 respectively, to replace them.

Shedden's lineup will include first baseman Rob Fischtnr, second baseman John Lidster, shortstop Milligan, third baseman Paul MacDonald, outfielders Paul Stafford, Gilmour, Abbot (when he's not pitching) and Dug Aldred. Wes

Stafford and McAlpine share catching duties, and Woodiwiss will likely DH.

It's not a lineup laden with power - MacDonald is the only true long-ball threat - but it has a way of manufacturing runs.

"Our team reflects our coach a lot," McAlpine said. "Bruce Bogart has always been a speedster who likes to run, and believes in taking the extra base."

## LIKE CARDINALS

"We're a lot like the St. Louis Cardinals," Paul Stafford added. "We play in a big park (250 feet all the way around), so speed and defence are our keys."

Caledonia's squad includes the nucleus of the old Mount Hope team in the Inter-City Fastball League, which was good enough to reach the senior eliminations final in '83.

## Other favorites?

North Bay had to beat six teams to win the North Softball Association title. Belleville had to get past Verona, who won this tournament in 1987. They'll also be familiar to fans as the team which upset Thomas Pot of Gold at the semi-eliminations in Burlington.

Shedden is making its first to an OASA tournament since 1981 when the old Royals reached Intermediate D final against St. River. The Pests are playing Intermediate A this year because they have team members from Thomas, a centre with population over 25,000.

St. Thomas had a champion this category in 1974 - a team which included area fastball veterans Rick McCaw, Jim Brown pitcher Bill Horne.

## Recent champions

Recent champions in the Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) Intermediate A men's eliminations tournament.

Year	Champion
1988	Caledonia
1987	Verona
1986	Verona
1985	Kirkland Lake
1984	North York
1983	Verona
1982	Verona
1981	Streetsville
1980	Strathroy
1979	Woodstock
1978	Schumacher
1977	Norwich
1976	Barrie
1975	St. Thomas
1974	North Bay
1973	Woodstock
1972	Waterloo
1971	Cardinal
1970	St. Catharines
1969	Jarvis
1968	Jarvis
1967	Jarvis
1966	Stoney Creek
1965	Jarvis
1964	Toronto
1963	Richmond Hill
1962	Elliot Lake
1961	Sudbury
1960	Peterborough

\*Kirkland Lake, Schumacher and Verona co-champions  
\*\*Oshawa and Kapuskasing co-champions

## Tournament schedule

Schedule for the Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) Intermediate A men's elimination tournament, to be held Saturday and Sunday. All games at Shedden except two on Saturday morning at Talbotville, as indicated.

### Saturday Games

8:30 a.m. - Mitchell Mets vs. Belleville Petro-Canada  
9 a.m. - North Bay Northern Honda vs. St. Pauls Generals, at Talbotville  
11 a.m. - Shedden Pests (host) vs. Caledonia Mapleforest Farms  
11 a.m. - Barrie Muskoka Homes vs. Chatham Kent Construction, at Talbotville  
1 p.m. - loser Mitchell-Belleville vs. loser North Bay-St. Pauls

3 p.m. - winner Mitchell-Belleville v. loser North Bay-St. Pauls  
5 p.m. - loser Shedden-Caledonia vs. Barrie-Chatham  
7 p.m. - winner Shedden-Caledonia v. loser Barrie-Chatham  
9 p.m. - winner game 7 vs. loser game 6

### Sunday Games

9 a.m. - winner game 5 vs. loser game 4  
11 a.m. - winner game 6 vs. winner game 5 (winner to final)  
1 p.m. - winner game 9 vs. winner game 8  
3 p.m. - winner game 12 vs. loser game 11  
5 p.m. - winner game 11 vs. winner game 10 (final)  
7 p.m. - second final (if necessary)



# Local fastball team wins Canadian title

By ROBERT BRODIE  
T-J Sports Editor

League play just won't seem the same anymore for Shedden Pests.

"It's not going to be easy to gear back up," said pitcher Steve Virag, one of the heroes for Shedden Pests at the Eastern Canadian Intermediate A fastball championships in Prince Edward Island.

"You build up for these kind of things. It'll take a couple of days to get over this."

Shedden, Ontario's first-ever representative in the tournament, went unbeaten in six games to bring home the gold medal. The Pests beat Nova Scotia provincial champ Sheet Harbour 4-2 in the championship game Sunday afternoon in Charlottetown.

Earlier in the day, Virag fired a perfect game in the semifinals, a 5-0 win for Shedden over P.E.I. provincial champ Kensington Chiefs.

The Pests went 4-0 in round-robin play prior to Sunday's playoff rounds. Included were wins Saturday over Nova Scotia Noel Rd. Alpines 2-1; Newfoundland champ Happy Valley 6-2, and host Charlottetown Carter's 6-0.

## STRONG PITCHING

Pitching carried Shedden to the championship. Pest pitchers Virag, Nelson Walker and Perry Waite allowed only 19 hits in six games and

*September 1990*  
notched 74 strikeouts.

Shortstop Rob Schnekenburger was named the Eastern Canadians' most valuable player, after batting .471 with two homers and eight RBIs. Outfielder Rob Lidster batted .600 in round-robin play to win the batting title.

For Virag and Schnekenburger, top-level championships are nothing new. Virag has pitched in the Canadian senior men's championships on more than one occasion, and Schnekenburger was a member of Canada's gold-medal winning men's fastball team at the 1987 Pan-American Games in Indianapolis.

Both, however, considered the Eastern Canadians a top thrill.

"As far as the feeling for winning, it's rates right up there with anything I've been to," Virag, a Fingal native who now works for the London police force, said. "We all hoped we'd do well coming out here, and it turned out that way."

Schnekenburger agreed, saying "when it's something of this calibre, it's always good to play in it, and fun to win."

"And I was fortunate to play here with a great bunch of guys."

The Pests are due to arrive back in Shedden late this afternoon. They get a week to savor the championship, then St. Thomas and District Fastball League playoff action resumes for them.

SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE  
TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY  
CURATOR — DORA MCARTHUR

May 1991



ROB  
LIDSTER



PAUL  
STAFFORD



MIKE  
MILLIGAN



BOB  
SCHNEKENBURGER



JOHN  
LIDSTER



IAN  
CHINNERY



NELSON  
WALKER



ROB  
FISCHTNER



BRUCE  
BOGART (Coach)



WES  
STAFFORD

PAUL  
MacDONALD  
WADE  
WALKER  
PERRY  
WAITE  
STEVE  
VIRAG

RICH  
ABBOT  
ROB  
POPOVICH  
RANDY  
BAILEY  
TERRY  
McALPINE



**END SUCCESSFUL SEASON** — Shedden softball team wound up a successful season on Monday evening by defeating Talbotville in a challenge series two games to one. From left, kneeling, Jim Harvey, Art Oldham, Steve Virag, Bill Caswell, Jack Barrett, Bob Stafford, Gerry Bogart;

second row, Lynn Stafford and Jack Barrett, members of the club executive; Forbes "Bub" Oldham, Jack Milligan, Lorne Barrett, Don Silcox, Ron Harvey, Wes Stafford and Ted Silcox, manager. (Story on page 7.)

SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE  
TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY  
Curator- Dora McArthur  
May 1991





The Shedden 1966 fastball champs included from left, front, Barry Harvey, bat boy, Ron Harvey, Kit Silcox, Gary Coswell, Jack Barrett Jr., Bill Coswell, Bob Stafford, Coach Ted Silcox, back, Jack Barrett Sr., Don Silcox, Steve Virag, Jim Harvey, Rich Virag, Gerald Bogart, Art Oldham, Wes Stafford and Lynn Stafford. Submitted by Jack Barrett.

Shedden W. I.  
Tweedsmuir History  
Dora McArthur - Curator  
April 1999



# MAKING HIS PITCH

June 17, 1993

## Jason Dawdy couldn't be denied Ontario team berth

By MIKE MATTHEWS  
Sports Reporter

**SHEDDEN** - Bob Abbot heard the word about Jason Dawdy.

But seeing is believing. And Dawdy sure showed 'em.

Dawdy, a pitcher with Fingal Midgets of the Yarmouth Southwold Fastball League, has earned himself a berth on the 15-member team which will represent Ontario at the Canada Summer Games. They run from Aug. 8-21 in Kamloops, B.C.

The Shedden native also pitches occasionally for Fingal Century 21 of the St. Thomas and District Major Fastball League. It was while pitching for the Fingal senior team that Dawdy earned his tryout with the Ontario squad.

Dawdy has some good fastballs in his genes - his father played fastball for the Snedden Royals, and he's a cousin of well-known area pitchers Larry and Nelson Walker of Shedden. He's played softball since the age of four.

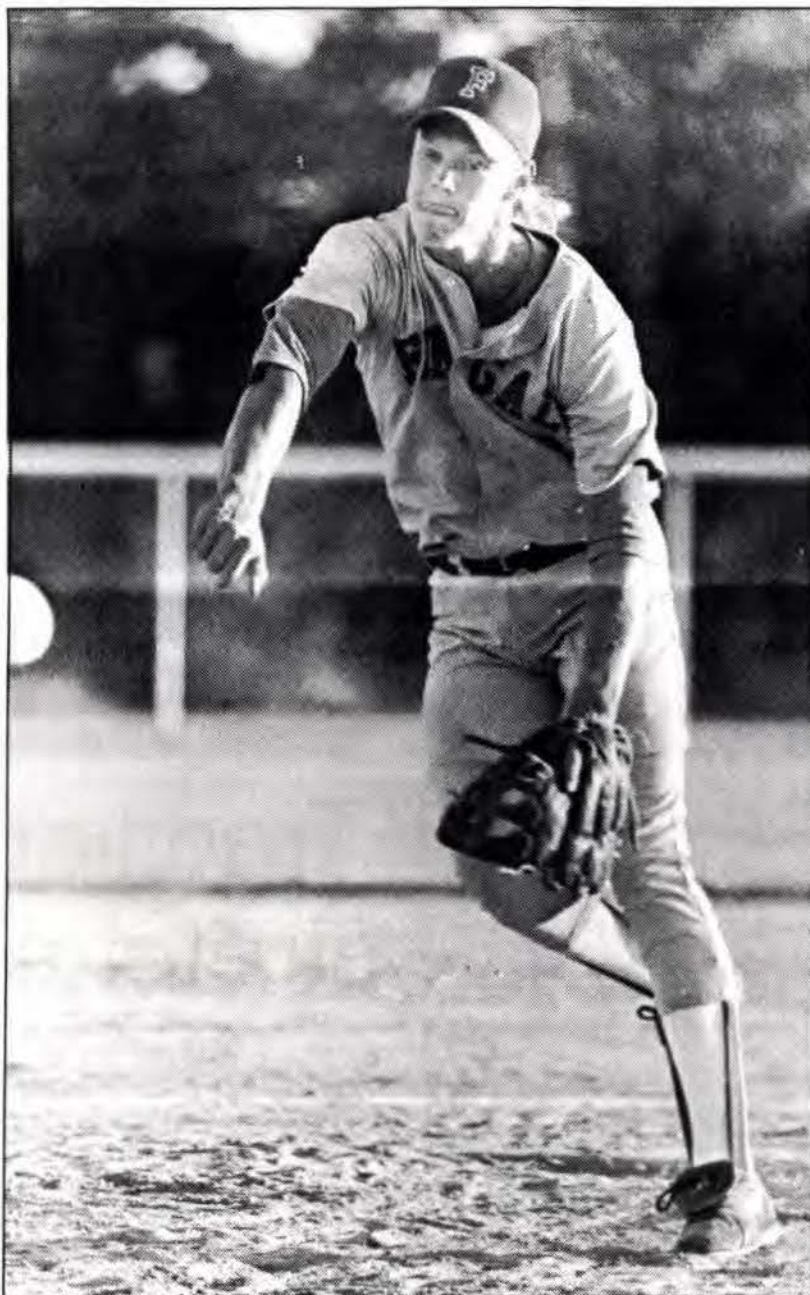
The soft-spoken hurler admits to being excited about having the opportunity to pitch at the Canada Summer Games.

"I was thrilled when they asked me to try out for the (Ontario) team and felt good about my performances with them," Dawdy, a high school student at Parkside, said Wednesday night. "I was excited and trying my best while I was there."

Dawdy's "best" was obviously good enough for Abbot, the provincial team's head coach.

Abbot, also a coach with the city league's Shedden Pests, said many of the Shedden players had been telling him about Dawdy before he had a chance to see the 18-year-old for himself.

"I first saw him throw for Fingal (Century 21) two weeks ago at the Waterloo tournament, and he had a lot of poise on the mound pitching



**HARD THROWER** - Jason Dawdy is pitching for Fingal Midgets of the Yarmouth Southwold Fastball League now. But he'll be representing Ontario at the Canada Summer Games in Kamloops, B.C. in August, after earning a spot on the provincial team.

-(Staff photo by James Barry).

against Waterloo," Abbot said of Dawdy's performance against the Waterloo Twins - recently rated the second best team in Ontario.

### ADDED SPOT

Before he saw Dawdy pitch in Waterloo, Abbot had reduced the Ontario roster for

the Canada Summer Games from 25 to 18 players. Dawdy's impressive pitching performances in Waterloo and during a subsequent weekend exhibition in Jarvis left Abbot with little choice - he expanded the team's roster by one to include Dawdy.

"It's a good thing we did invite him to Jarvis - he really impressed me," Abbot said of Dawdy's performances there.

In Jarvis, Dawdy fired a four-hitter over six innings against a St. Catharines junior team. Later, he struck out eight of the nine batters he faced in pitching the final three innings of a game against Caledonia Black Sox, an intermediate team.

After the six games in Jarvis, the Ontario roster was reduced to the 15 players who will represent Ontario in Kamloops - and again Dawdy was included among the squad's four pitchers.

### SHOWED POISE

Abbot said several things about Dawdy impressed him enough to rate a spot on the team, from his poise on the mound to his versatility.

"In key situations, he rose to the occasion and took the challenge," Abbot said of Dawdy. "He didn't get flustered at all on the mound - he just walked out there and did the job."

"He's also a good hitter and outfielder, and you need players who can fill a variety of roles when you're only allowed to take 15 (players)."

Abbot currently regards Dawdy as his "stopper", but admits each player's role could change during the teams' final exhibition tune-ups. Included are a series of games in Shedden July 23-25 against St. Thomas and District League teams.

At the Canada Summer Games, 12 fastball teams are divided into two divisions of six teams each. Following round-robin games within each division, the format changes to a double-knockout series.

With a strong field of teams from across Canada competing at the Games, Abbot said pressure is paramount and he's confident Dawdy can meet the challenge time and again.

"He's a good one - he's just going to get better."



# Ironheads are tops in Ontario

Sept. 1994

## Shedden allows just 3 runs over 5 games of tourney

Against the best teams in Ontario, the Shedden Carrs Shell Ironheads didn't only win the senior men's AA Ontario fastball crown. Pitchers Don Rae and Derwin Hodgins allowed only three runs in five games. The double-play combo of John Lidster at second and Mike Milligan at shortstop turned seven double plays.

And their ball — through five games against the best in the province — was errorless.

As team spokesman and player/coach Terry McAlpine put it, "This was great. We didn't make an error. That's unheard of. We didn't hack a ball all weekend."

In their fifth and final game Sunday night, the Brantford Telly's took on unbeaten Shedden. The Ironheads beat Brantford in the opening round of the 14-team tourney, and the Telly's fought back through seven games to the final, and had to win two games to beat the Ironheads.

Fat chance.

At the top of the first, Rich Abbot tripled and the ever-dependable Wade Walker (who batted .470 in the preliminary rounds with seven RBIs, a homer and scored five runs) singled him in. Hulking first baseman Doug Levy, six foot six and two hundred and seventy pounds, a pick-up from St. Mary's, hit a two-run

homer "deep, and I mean deep," to right field, McAlpine said. "It went about 340 feet."

The Ironheads scored again in the fourth and fifth innings, and in the sixth, Levy whacked another homer, this one to centrefield. Paul Stafford had three singles, Mike Black singled three times, and pitcher Derwin Hodgins threw a two-hitter shut-out, striking out 12.

### Game 1

#### Shedden 1 Brantford 0 (over 10 innings)

The game was scoreless and was settled by the international tie-breaker system. You place the last batter out on second base. In the bottom of the 10th, Shedden put Mike Black on second. Rich Abbot slapped a bun and Black was run down between second and third. Abbot made it to second. Wade Walker singled him in for the win. Derwin Hodgins pitched the first five and two-thirds, striking out 12. Don Rae came in and struck out eight for the shut-out.

### Game II

#### Shedden 4 Barrie 3

Wade Walker hit a three run homer for the win. Pitcher was Derwin Hodgins and Rae got the save.

Shedden was losing 1-0 in the third inning and head coach Gary Wren gathered his players together, standing upon who you ask, he:

a) Gave a highly inspirational and deeply spiritual speech that made his players feel good about themselves;

b) Chewed his teams' collective butt ragged and kicked them back out to do better.

They scored four runs. Immediately.

### Game III

#### Shedden 7 Oakville 0

Don Rae pitched a shut-out.

### Game IV

#### Shedden 2 Woodstock Merchants 0

Rae pitched the shutout. In the second inning, Paul Stafford singled and John Lidster hit a sacrifice bunt. Mike Milligan singled to bring Stafford home, and later on Black singled Brian Noyes home.

The win was preserved at the bottom of the seventh, with Black making a running catch over his shoulder in right field.

SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INST.  
Dora McArthur -Curator  
April 1995

# Shedden Squirts Ontario rural softball champs

The Shedden Squirts proved they're not to be toyed with Tuesday night, capturing the Ontario Rural Softball Association Squirrel B Championship.

Shedden defeated Selkirk 8-1 to take the best of three final in two straight games. The B Division represents centres with populations smaller than 4,000.

Catcher Lee Nesbitt held the

hot bat as he rapped out two home runs, added a single and scored three runs. Jake Vandenbroek and Dave Cook each had four hits. Ryan Cummings contributed two singles and Thomas Lynch, Kevin Lynch, Trevor Ryder and Mike Palmer also hit. The defensive play of the game came in the bottom of the fourth inning with Shedden holding a 4-0 lead.

Selkirk rapped out two quick hits and had runners at second and third with no one out. Levi Annett then hammered a line drive to right centrefield. Shedden rightfielder Trevor Ryder raced to spear the sinking liner and fired to second baseman Mike Palmer for the double play. Cummings then struck out the next hitter to escape the inning without surrendering a

run. *Sept. 6, 1994*  
Cummings was in top form on the mound for Shedden. He surrendered five hits but was overpowering most of the night striking out 12 Selkirk hitters. He walked a single batter.

To date, this is youngest Shedden team to win a provincial title.  
The team won 10 of 11 games they played since playdowns be-

gan in mid-July. They defeated teams from Foldens, Glencoe, Fisherville, Vittoria and Selkirk.

Team members: Jared Walpole, Justin Morrow, Jamie Logghe, Jake Vandenbroek, Thomas Lynch, Kevin Lynch, Ryan Cummings, Dave Cook, Lee Nesbitt, Trevor Ryder, Mike Palmer. Coaches were Len Lynch, Lee Cummings, Sally Cummings and Maurice Nesbitt.

SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE  
Dora McArthur - Curator  
April 1995





(CONTRIBUTED)

## ONTARIO CHAMPIONS...

The Shedden Peeewe Fastball Team defeated Port Burwell in two straight games to capture the 1995 ORSA Peeewe fastball title. Shedden had previously defeated Mount Elgin, Melbourne and Burgessville to advance to the final against Port Burwell. Team members include, from 1-r, Chris Palmer, Jeff Lumley, Thomas Lynch, Jamie Bogart, Michael Palmer, Ryan Cummings, Kevin Lynch. Middle row, l-r, Joe Vanoverbeke, Craig Stoss, Jamie Logghe, Kerry Squires, Lee Nesbitt, Sally Cummings (statistician). Back row, l-r, Lee Cummings (manager), Roy Bogart (coach), Maurice Nesbitt (coach), and Len Lynch (coach).

*Sept. 1995*

PAGE 14-DUTTON ADVANCE--WEDNESDAY--OCTOBER 25--1995



SHEDDEN W. I.  
Dora McArthur-  
Curator  
Apr. 1996

**SOUTHWOLD KEYSTONE COMPLEX QUILT DRAW** – Lois Brown, Shedden, was the lucky winner of this Maple Leaf quilt. Other prizes shown were won by Mrs. Robert Harris, St. Thomas (afghan); L.W. Pinder, London (crib quilt); Judy Finnigan, Shedden (quilt block cushion), and Jean Miller, Dutton (Dutch cushion). Pictured with the prizes are Maxine Silcox (left) and Freda Beharrell. The proceeds of \$1,000 raised from the draw goes to the building fund.





(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

## THE WINNING TOUCH...

1996

Shedden posted wins over Merlin, Melbourne, Mount Elgin and Oxford Centre to capture this year's Ontario Rural Softball Association Peewee C championship. Pictured in front, left to right: Josh Bale, Thomas Lynch, Mike Palmer and Andrew Quin. Middle row: Nevil Ralph, Andrea Brown, Ryan Cummings, Lee Nesbitt, Kevin Lynch, David Armstrong and Jeremy Farrington. In back: coaches Len Palmer and Mike Brown.

Shedden W. I.  
Tweedsmuir History  
April 1997  
Dora McArthur - Curator



# Southwold Keystone Complex

The Southwold Keystone Complex is one step closer to becoming reality. With tenders to be opened June 9th, it is hoped that the ground breaking for construction will take place by the end of June in order to be completed by the fall of 1997.

The new facility will be located on the north portion of the fairgrounds with the first soccer pitch having to be relocated. The Shedden Country Club will remain on its current site. The grounds will still be the home of the Shedden Fair.

To date, about \$200,000.00 or about half of the cost has been raised for the project. The fundraising committee's latest initiative, Heritage Plaques, are meant to raise money as well as being a way to "identify and preserve the names of those who have helped mold Southwold Township in the past decades, as well as today." This special offer is available to individuals, families, friends, neighbourhoods, businesses, clubs, teams, community groups, etc.

The plaques come in two sizes, depending on the contribution, and will be engraved with up to 50 letters. Contri-

butions are tax deductible. The deadline for this special promotion is September 30th, 1997. For more information

contact Murray Silcox 764-2768, Randy Fisher 633-2522, Pat Palmer 764-2368 or the Southwold Municipal Office.



**UNVEIL SIGN** - The Southwold Keystone Complex steering committee unveiled the sign on the future site of the facility in Shedden. With fundraising at the halfway mark, it is hoped that construction will begin by the end of June. Pictured are, front row, left to right: Southwold Township Councillor Christine Roberts, John Carder and Connie Silcox. Back row: Southwold Deputy Reeve Jim McIntyre, Ralph Palmer and Glenn Doan.

*June 4, 1997*

Dora McArthur - Curator  
Shedden WI  
Tweed History  
1993



# Turn sod for Southwold Keystone Complex



**ONE STEP CLOSER** – The Southwold Keystone Complex took another step toward becoming reality as the ground was broken in a special ceremony July 2nd. Helping turn the sod are, left to right: Murray Silcox, fundraising committee chairman; Bob Stunden, vice-chairman steering committee and president of Shedden Agricultural Society; Perry Clutterbuck, Southwold Township reeve; John Smith, Rosy Rhubarb committee/past chairman, and Eileen Carr, Rosy Rhubarb committee/steering committee.

Congratulations to  
Shedden and the  
surrounding area on the

The Southwold Keystone Complex came one step closer to reality with the official sod turning on July 2nd.

## Ready to Start

In a brief ceremony, Southwold Reeve Perry Clutterbuck explained the history of the need for a new community facility. With excavation of the site set to begin, construction of the almost \$500,000 complex is expected to be completed by November, 1997.

Kevin McIlmurray of Spriet Associates Engineers and Architects who designed the building, stated that "it is the community's building". Jeff Bell, from H.I.R.A. Ltd., the contractor who will construct the building, stated that there are a lot of local people involved in the project and H.I.R.A. is proud to have been chosen as contractor. John Silcox, the general construction superintendent, was also introduced.

## Acknowledgements

Various people were acknowledged for their part in bringing the project to life including the members of Southwold Township Council and the administrative staff, members of the steering and fundraising committees and the Rosy Rhubarb committee. The strong support of the community was also noted.

Rev. Arlyce Schiebout commented that community spirit is very alive and well and is

be a benefit to serving not just Shedden but the surrounding community as well.

## Sod Turned

The rain threatened to dampen the ceremony but not the enthusiasm of the crowd as they witness the sod being turned for the new Keystone Complex. To date, the Rosy Rhubarb Committee has raised about \$50,000 for the project with the fundraising committee raising about \$230,000.

Dora McArthur - Curator  
Shedden WI  
Tweedsmuir Histor  
1998