



**CONSTRUCTION ADVANCING** – The exterior brickwork is well underway on the new Southwold Keystone Complex in Shedden. With the project in the final stages of construction, over \$170,000 has been raised with many pledges still outstanding.



**FINAL PAYMENT OF PLEDGE** – Doug Taylor, left, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, No. 310, Shedden, presents a cheque for \$4,000 to Murray Silcox, Keystone Complex Fundraising Chairman. The donation was the final payment of the I.O.O.F.'s \$10,000 pledge.

Dora McArthur - Curator  
Shedden WI  
Tweedsm HistoRy  
1998





fairgrounds on Francis Street in the village. The building was split and widened and the hip roof installed. When it was first used at the present site, it was just a shell, meant for summertime use only, housing displays at fair-time.

In the 1960's Murray "Barnie" Walch approached the fair board with an idea to improve the building to use it for dances. Mr. Walch, who had a band, installed the terrazzo floor and corrals along the sides and soon dances were held on a

regular basis there. Nicknamed "The Corral" it did not become the Shedden Country Club until several years later. At the time it was considered one of the best dance floors in the area.

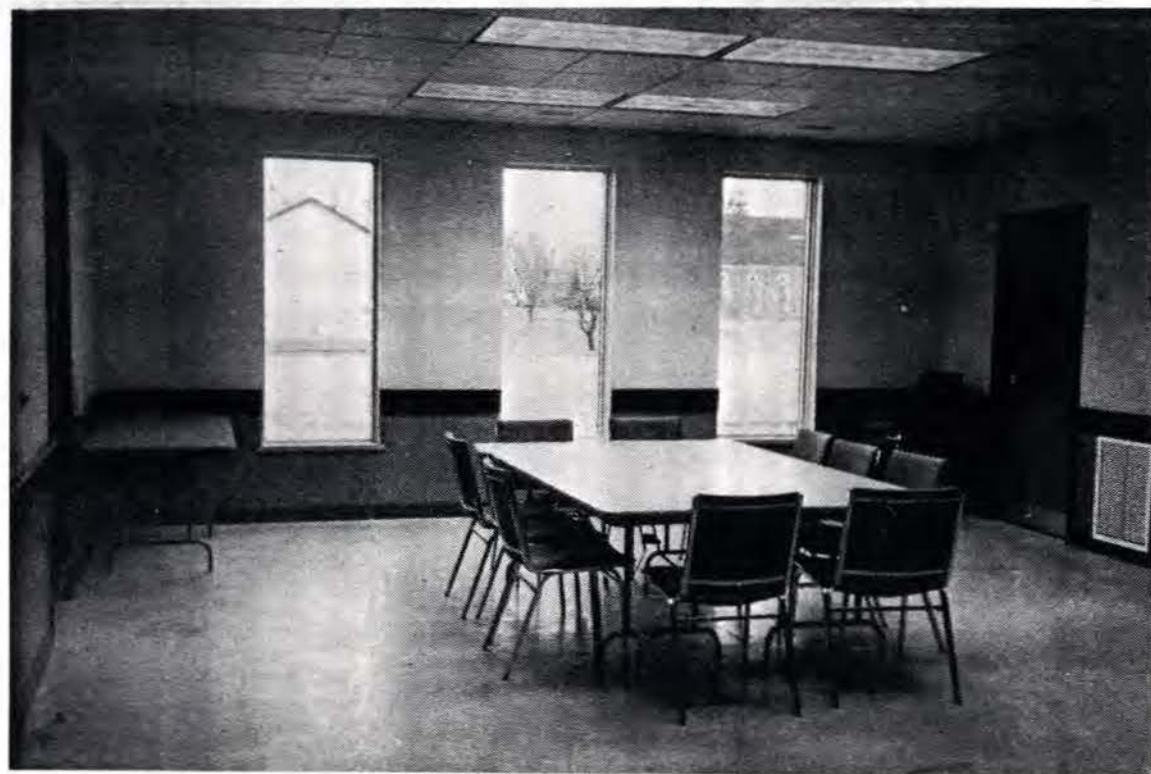
Over the years there have been many improvements to the building such as adding insulation, finishing the walls, and an addition to the building for washrooms, a kitchen and furnace room. Owned by the Shedden Fair Board, it has been in continual use.

The exact origin of the Shedden Country Club building is somewhat hazy. Apparently there are several different opinions on where the building came from and when it might have actually been built.

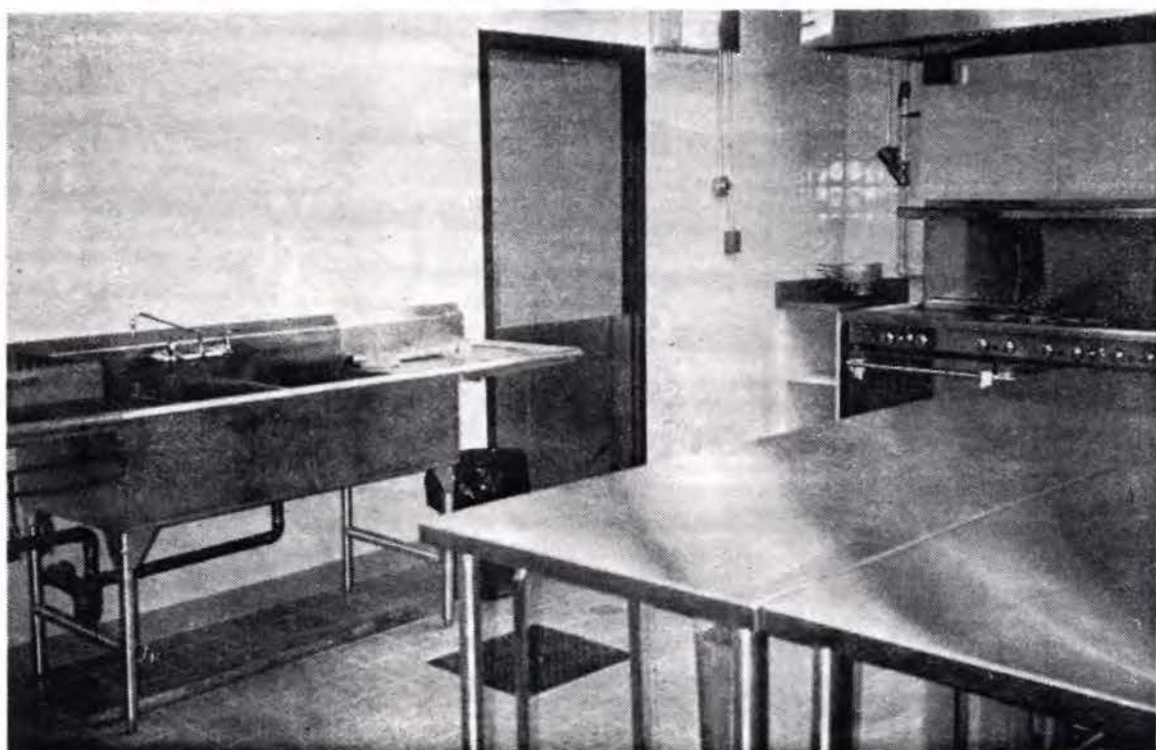
According to the Ontario Association of Agricultural Society's history book, the first Southwold and Dunwich exhibition was held in 1854 in Iona. Exhibits were housed in the drill shed of B Company 25th Battalion Ontario Militia. The exhibition was then moved to

the Village of Shedden where it was held on rented land, moving to its current location in 1951 when the board purchased a parcel of land. Shedden Agricultural Society was formed in 1966. The present land for the Shedden fair was purchased from Albert Bautenheimer who offered to sell the front 20 acres of a 50-acre lot.

While one person believes that the building was constructed at the present site, many think that the building was moved from the former







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**RIBBON CUTTING** – Doing the honours to officially open the new Southwold Keystone Complex on March 21st were, left to right: Connie Silcox, Allan Bogart, Elgin M.P.P. Peter North,

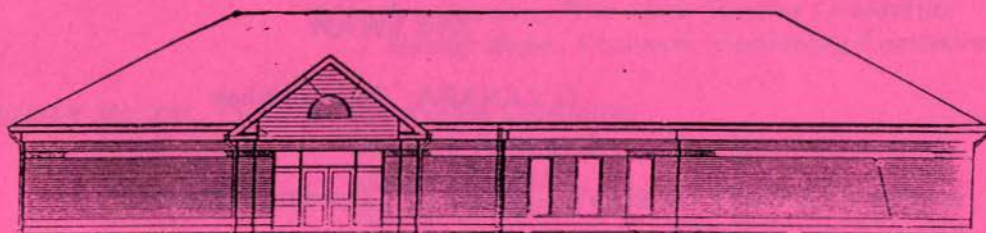
Ann McLean, Southwold Mayor Perry Clutterbuck, Eileen C. Pat Quin, Glenn Doan, Ralph Palmer and Christine Roberts.



**TOWNSHIP SAYS THANKS** – The Township of Southwold presented a plaque commemorating those who helped make the complex a reality. Pictured, left to right, are: Councillor John Beharrell, Fundraising Chairman Murray Silcox and Steering Committee Vice-Chair Bob Stunden, who also presented a \$5,000 cheque on behalf of Shedden I.O.O.F. Lodge, No. 310.

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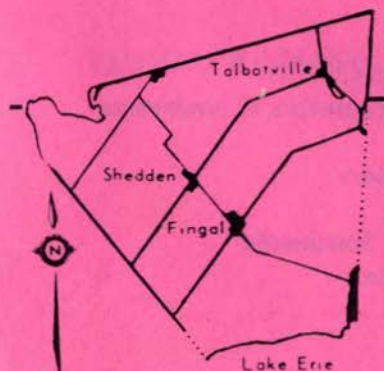


**GRAND OPENING**

## **SOUTHWOLD KEYSTONE COMPLEX**

**Saturday MARCH 21, 1998 – 2:00 p.m.**

**Shedden, Ontario**





## OPENING CEREMONIES

### SOUTHWOLD KEYSTONE COMPLEX

Saturday March 21, 1998 – 2:00 P.M.

#### PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Introduction of Master of Ceremonies by Keith Orchard

**JIM SWAN**

O CANADA: Betty Gribbon

WARDEN COUNTY OF ELGIN – Welcome & Opening Remarks  
**PERRY CLUTTERBUCK**

**GAR KNUTSON M.P. ELGIN** - Remarks  
- Present a Flag To Gord Longhurst,  
Vice Chairman Keystone Complex Board

**PETER NORTH M.P.P. ELGIN** - Remarks

**RIBBON CUTTING:** Warden Clutterbuck  
Gar Knutson, M.P.  
Peter North, M.P.P.

Members of the Southwold Community Steering Committee  
Connie Silcox                      Glenn Doan  
Allan Bogart                      Ralph Palmer  
Eileen Carr                      Christine Roberts  
Pat Quin

**PRESENTATION OF KEYS:** Andy Spriet / SPRIET ASSOCIATES  
Consulting Engineers & Architects  
Jeff Bill / H.I.R.A. Ltd.  
General Contractors

**RECEIVED BY:** Perry Clutterbuck, Mayor Township of Southwold  
John Carder, Manager Keystone Complex

**PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE:** Mayor Perry Clutterbuck  
Councillor John Beharrell

TO: Bob Stunden, Vice-Chair Steering Committee  
Murray Silcox, Chairman Fundraising Committee

**MURRAY SILCOX, Chairman Fundraising Committee**

- DONOR PLAQUES
- LOGO CONTEST
- NAME CONTEST

**MAYOR CLUTTERBUCK**

Introduction:

:

:

:

:

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Presentation:

Township of Southwold Council  
Southwold Community Steering Committee  
Fundraising Committee  
Keystone Complex Board  
Don Latta, The QMS Group  
John Silcox, Township Job Superintendent  
**TO THE SHEDDEN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**COUNCILLOR STAN LIDSTER:** Meeting Room

**DEDICATION SOUTHWOLD  
KEYSTONE COMPLEX**      Rev. Arlyce Schiebout  
Minister of the Southwold  
Pastoral Charge

**CLOSING REMARKS:** Mayor Clutterbuck

**RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**



## **TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHWOLD COUNCIL**

**Mayor W. Perry Clutterbuck**  
**Deputy-Mayor James A. McIntyre**  
**Councillor Christine Roberts**  
**Councillor John B. Beharrell**  
**Councillor Stan Lidster**

## **SOUTHWOLD COMMUNITY STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Connie Silcox**  
**Allan Bogart**  
**John Carder**  
**Eileen Carr**  
**Pat Quin**

**Glenn Doan**  
**Bob Stunden**  
**Ralph Palmer**  
**James A. McIntyre**  
**Christine Roberts**

## **THE SOUTHWOLD KEYSTONE COMPLEX FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

**Murray Silcox, Chairman and all Persons and Organizations  
that assisted with raising funds for the Complex.**

## **KEYSTONE COMPLEX BOARD**

**Frank Ardy**  
**John Carder**  
**Stan Lidster**  
**Gordon Longhurst**  
**Shirley Longhurst**  
**James A. McIntyre**  
**Keith Orchard**

# Wraps come off Keystone Complex

BY MARG BERRY  
TIMES JOURNAL STAFF

**SHEDDEN** — Sod was broken during a thunderstorm and the grand opening was held during an ice storm.

But weather aside, the new Southwold Keystone Complex officially opened Saturday.

Adverse weather

events do not deter the determined, hardworking community-minded people of Southwold who, very appropriately, have an industrious beaver as their township logo.

Standing before the large crowd who braved the ice storm to attend the opening of the new community centre building, Perry Clutterbuck, mayor

of Southwold and warden of Elgin, said, "This shows what a people working together can do."

Following the singing of O Canada, led by Betty Gribbon, master of ceremonies Jim Swan talked about the endurance of Southwold residents.

"Mother Nature had one more little test to see if you would come out for

the opening of this building, and you made it, and made it in legion numbers," he said. "Today we're going to have a good time and make history."

The land where the new building sits was originally purchased from Albert Bautenheimer who sold a 20-acre tract in 1966 to the agricultural society as a site for the Shedden fair. The site is just east of the main intersection.

The building that eventually appeared on the land was a mere shell of a structure for fair displays until Murray "Barnie" Walch, who had his own band, approached the fair board with the idea to improve the building to use for dances. He installed a terrazzo floor and built corrals along the sides. Soon he was drawing capacity crowds to Saturday night country dances in "The Corral" as it came to be known. Later called the Shedden Country Club, this building remains standing near the new facility. Future plans for the old centre may include a picnic shelter and basketball court.

The new complex cost about \$500,000 and was built by HIRA Ltd. The township now owns the new building and the whole section of land formerly owned by the Shedden Agricultural Society. The society sold the land to the township for

\$1 when the complex was in the planning stages. The community has raised about half the total amount, and fundraising continues. Clutterbuck said the building was not meant to be paid for by tax dollars, and all future donations will come off the reserve loan.

The Rosy Rhubarb festival was created mainly as a fundraiser for the new building.

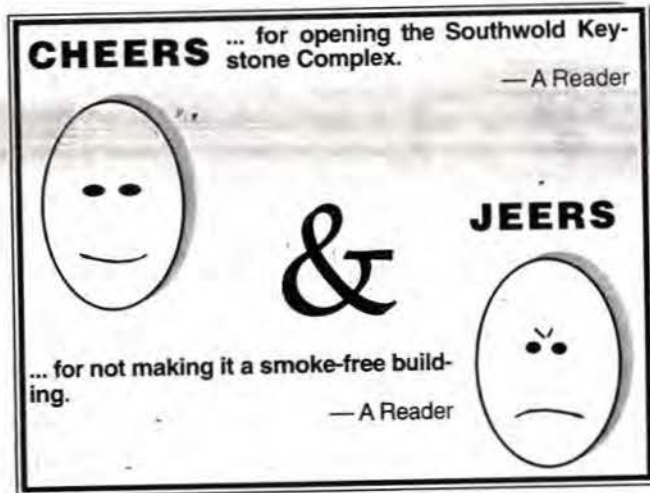
"It was Rosy Rhubarb that really got it going," Clutterbuck said.

The grand opening was a time to remember a man who Southwold community steering committee member Pat Quin described as "the spirit of Rosy Rhubarb", the late Gary Carr. Each year he donned the red-and-green rhubarb costume to help raise money for his community during the rhubarb festival.

His widow, Eileen, and his son, Dan, were called to the stage by Southwold Coun. Stan Lidster to help

carry a photograph of Carr in the rhubarb costume to the wall of the meeting room in the new building, which will be named the Rosy Rhubarb Room.

"We will remember Gary with warmth," Swan said. "He epitomized how far people in Southwold will go to get things done."







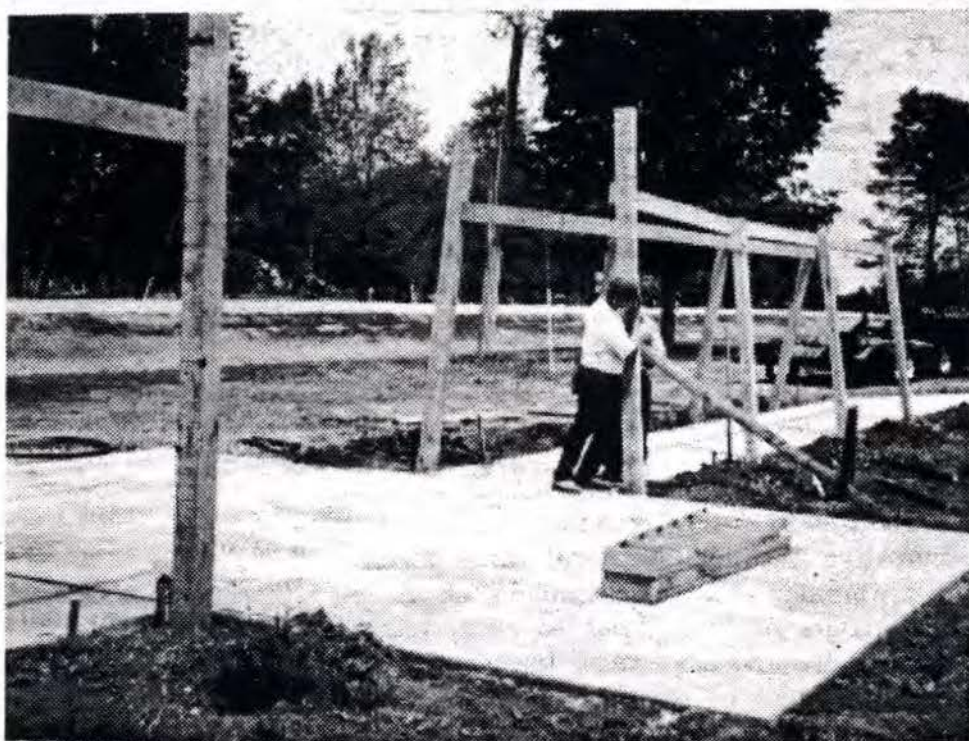
A large crowd counted down the seconds to the snipping of the burgundy ribbon which officially opened the new \$500,000 Southwold Keystone Complex at Shedden. Ready to use the scissors are Elgin MPP Peter North, left, Ann McLean, representing Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Gar Knutson, and Perry Clutterbuck, mayor of Southwold and warden of Elgin County. (T-J photo)



Working Together Works Wonders is the official slogan of the Southwold Keystone Complex, and it is engraved in stone at the complex, which officially opened on March 21. John Carder, manager of the complex, stands beside the Wall of Plaques in the complex lobby. The plaques give permanent recognition to those who donated toward the building. Sale of the plaques raised \$109,000 toward the cost of the community centre. (T-J photo)

Donna McArthur - Curator  
Shedden WI  
Tweedsmuir History  
1998





**LANDSCAPING UNDERWAY** – Greg and Allen Fish, of Sparta Classics, work on installing the white oak beams to form the pergola, the first phase of the landscaping plans for the Southwold Keystone Complex in Shedden.

Shedden W. I.  
Tweedsmuir History  
Dora McArthur, Curator  
April, 2000



## Planning tribute to Southwold war veterans

As a tribute to the men and women of Southwold Township who served in the World Wars, a War Veterans' Memorial is being constructed at the Southwold Keystone Complex.

This project is the second phase of the landscaping of the recently-constructed facility to create a public memorial to those residents who fought for their country.

Two huge rocks, each weighing between 4-5 tons, have been placed in the centre of a circular walkway. According to Project Co-ordinator Len Lynch, drawn from the roots of the township, these are meant to be symbolic of the two great wars.

One rock was donated by former Southwold Reeve Albert Auckland. The stone was discovered in the 1930's with several attempts to move it

earthed the massive rock in 1973 and it has remained on the family farm near Talbotville since then. The second rock was donated by the Jenner family near Boxall.

Centred between these stones will be a 4-foot old world sundial, representative of "time remembered for all ages." The area will also include three flag-staffs, with the Canadian flag in the centre, and the provincial and municipal flags on either side, slightly lower than the Maple Leaf.

Trees will be planted to frame the area along with other landscaping.

The names of those who served from the township in World War I and II are needed to be included in this memorial. The committee in charge of this phase - Melba Marr, Karen Collard, Brenda and Jamie McArthur, Pat and Fred Temple and Stan Jones - are asking for the public's help in obtaining the names of these people.

Criteria to be followed is that the per-



**SOLID TRIBUTE** - The Jenner family donated the estimated 5-ton rock on the left, and Albert Auckland the 4-ton stone on the right, for the War Veterans' Memorial being created at the Southwold Keystone Complex in Shedden.

son must have been a resident of Southwold Township when they enlisted in the armed services, and that they must have signed up for "active" service. When forwarding a name, please include the person's service branch, rank, regiment/corps/etc., and distinguish whether they were a POW or DIA.

It is hoped to be as accurate as possible in collecting these names. Those who

served in the two world wars will have their names inscribed in a memorial which will be placed in this area as well.

Depending on the research for the names of veterans, organizers would like to hold an official dedication ceremony of the area during Rosy Rhubarb weekend in June, 2000. A township Remembrance Day service is planned for the site on November 11th, 2000.

Along with collecting names, the committee would like to obtain photographs of enlisted men and women and any personal family and military records to produce a "Book of Remembrance" as a secondary project.

If you know of someone who enlisted in one of the world wars as a resident of Southwold Township, please forward their name and pertinent information to Melba Marr, R.R. 3, Shedden, N0L2E0.

Shedden W. I.  
Tweedsmuir Hist.  
Dora McArthur,  
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## THE SHEDDEN AND DISTRICT

### GOLDEN AGE CLUB

The Shedden and District Golden Age Club was formed in the fall of 1975. The club had about thirty members initially and they decided to meet every Wednesday afternoon in the Odd Fellows Hall in Shedden. It was decided to apply for a New Horizons Grant from the Federal Government and \$8,986.00 was received. The money was used to remodel the first floor of the Odd Fellows Hall and to purchase new chairs, games and a movie projector.

In July, 1977 the club name was changed to the Southwold Golden Age Club as so many of the members came from the out-lying district. Frank Martin of Shedden was the first president Mrs. Arthur Carder (Margaret) also of Shedden was the first secretary and Charles Jackson of Fingal was the first treasurer.

#### Presidents to date:

1975 and 1976 - Frank Martin, Shedden  
1977 - 1978 - Mrs. Margaret Carder, Shedden  
1979 - 1980 - John Jackson, RR 2, Port Stanley  
1981 - 1982 - Lester Longhurst, RR 7, St. Thomas  
1983 - 1984 - Hilton Saxby, Iona  
1985 - 1986 - Lester Longhurst, RR 7, St. Thomas

The membership in 1986 is eighty and meetings are still held every Wednesday afternoon in the Odd Fellows Hall. We have a birthday smorgasbord dinner every third month with a program; a business meeting the last Wednesday of each month followed by card playing. Our membership fee is \$3.00 a year. During the year we have numerous bus trips, entertain other senior groups and have a tea and bazaar every fall. We also have a Christmas dinner and party. We give money to charitable organizations.

One drawback has been that we are not members of a registered Senior Organization.