

Story of Dunwich told in new book

Jan 13th 2005

► *Book launches this Saturday*

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

The first hundred years of settlement in Dunwich has been compiled into a 400-page book being launched this Saturday, after two years of research and work.

"There never has been a book like this published before about the Dunwich area," said Yvonne McCallum. "There has always been pride in our heritage but people hadn't taken the time to put it together like this."

Steeped with people living off the land and offering a hand shake to a neighbour, the Dunwich area started from land granted by Colonel Talbot in the early 1800s and became home for honest, hard working people.

Beginning in 1790, the West Elgin Genealogical Society researched original inhabiting aboriginals and the materials archived by the first European settlers to move to the area.

For two years, Yvonne McCallum, Colin McGugan, Don Carroll, Norma

Schnekenburger and Jean Georgevich spent many hours looking through old newspapers, photographs and personal, hand written accounts of the events and people that shaped the area.

As editor of the book, McGugan spent countless hours at Archives of Ontario in Toronto.

He is a professor at Conestoga College in Kitchener but still lives in Dunwich.

Materials were collected from local people and families that have lived in the area for generations.

Newspapers, including the Dutton Advance, Dutton Enterprise, St. Thomas and farming papers included information rarely referenced by people today.

Also, around 275 photographs were contributed by area residents for the book.

"We were amazed with how many photographs we got," said McCallum.

Please see Dunwich, page 2

Community News

Chronicle Jan 13th 2005

Dunwich book starts in late 1700s

from page 1

The book follows the first hundred years of progress along the Talbot Line in South Dunwich.

Road allowances were created as farmers and land owners were required to clear a portion of forest and swampy areas for the building of the trail, now Highway 3.

A sister of the Catholic Church went door to door in the area documenting family names in the early 1800s.

In total 6,000 names are registered in the book.

The hard cover book, funded with a Trillium Foundation grant includes five pages of maps of places and four colour photo pages.

Books will be donated to local schools

and libraries.

So much information was gathered that a second volume is planned for release next December.

It will include topics like local politics and agriculture.

"It is really exciting to put this together so it can be inherited by future generations," said McCallum.

The book will be launched Jan. 15 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Centre above Memorial Hall in Dutton.

Politicians and the book's creators will make speeches and commemorate the book launch.

The book will be sold at the Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich office in Dutton.



SCOTT HILGENDORFF/THE CHRONICLE

Books signed Saturday

Colin McGugan, editor and Don Carroll signed the new Dunwich history books at the John Kenneth Galbraith Reference Library Jan. 8.

Dunwich speaks volumes

Historical work so large it will require two volumes to complete

By **PATRICK BRENNAN**
TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF
DUTTON/DUNWICH
— Writing a local history book isn't easy.

Just ask Colin McGugan, Yvonne McCallum or Don Carroll.

The trio tackled the task of producing *The Early History of Dunwich Township, 1790-1903 Volume I*. The finished product was unveiled Saturday at Dutton's Community Hall before an appreciative audience of about 60.

As McGugan explained, scores of Dutton/Dunwich residents had something to offer when they heard planning for a local history book was in the works.

There were people with stories to tell. Others had photos, journals or other documents they wanted the team from the West Elgin Genealogical and Historical Society to see.

McGugan, a Conestoga College instructor, said the project started as early as 1996 with research.

"We've collected a lot of history," said McGugan.

Dunwich township, which before amalgamation described the rural area surrounding Dutton, has a prominent place in Elgin history.

The landing spot for the arrival of Col. Thomas Talbot was in Dunwich township.

More importantly, it was in Dunwich that Talbot began numbering the first lots created in Elgin.

As McGugan reflected most history books focus on the Talbot Settlement, with only scattered references to Dunwich.

"Quite often, history (in books) starts in Dunwich and takes off to St. Thomas," he observed.

"Dunwich was in the shadow of Col. Talbot,"

he said.

Longtime residents of the area agree that if it weren't for the railway passing through, Dutton would have never flourished as an urban centre.

"The 401 has kept Dutton going," McGugan said.

Dunwich was blessed with a bounty of good quality timber stands.

As researchers found, the north sector of the township was owned by speculators who kept the timber stands intact in the hope of cashing in.

"All kinds of factories were making barrel staves and wood products," McGugan said.

The project ran with a budget of \$35,000 to produce a first printing run of 1,000 copies.

A Trillium Foundation grant of \$14,000 helped keep costs down.

McGugan said the team kept the project local by hiring Impressions Printing in St. Thomas to do the first run.

The finished product is a 395-page hardcover book. Although most of the photos are black and white, there are eight colour pages.

TWO VOLUMES

Carroll said the committee received so much information from local residents they decided midway through the project to divide it into two volumes.

And anticipating the book would be purchased by many seniors, the West Elgin Genealogical and Historical Society insisted



Donald Carroll, left, Colin McGugan and Yvonne McCallum, of the West Elgin Genealogical and Historical Society, show off copies of *The Early History of Dunwich Township, 1790-1903, Volume I* at the book launch on Saturday. (T-J photo*)

the copy be printed in large, well-spaced type.

"We wanted it to be easily readable so we spent time checking the font and type size," he said. "We didn't want it to be a phone book."

McCallum, a lifetime resident of the area, took pride in helping out.

Her relatives were among the first to settle in the area in the 1840s.

Her great-grandfather cleared three farms of timber.

"Can you imagine clearing three farms, cutting all those trees?" she said.

Guests at the launch heard committee members read excerpts from the book.

"I'm sure there's a few things in here people think we got wrong," Carroll said.

Elgin-Middlesex-Lon-

don MPP Steve Peters, who will deliver a copy of the book to the Ontario Archives, described it as "awesome publication."

"Of all the investments the Trillium Foundation makes, I'm sure books are the best," he said.

The society hopes to have the second volume ready by December.



Cody MacKinnon, 11, of Iona Station plays some fiddle tunes at the book launch for *The Early History of Dunwich Township, 1790-1903, Volume I* on Saturday in Dutton. (T-J photo*)

KENYA REFUGEE EXPOSURE PROJECT



Chris Enns

Readers will remember that our church sponsored Chris in his successful bid to become the Wallacetown Fair Ambassador in 2002, and that he went on to win the Ambassador of the Fairs competition at the CNE the following year. Chris is now attending Dalhousie University, where he has just completed his second year, and continuing to work towards a career in medicine.

We are pleased and proud to tell you that Chris has been selected to receive first-hand exposure to the desperate plight of refugees in Africa later this summer.

Chris is one of nine Canadian students who have been accepted for this experience, sponsored by the Justice & Global Ecumenical Relations Unit of the United Church of Canada. His tour of Africa will take place between August 21 and September 6. The experience will involve visiting development and refugee support projects in Nairobi and the Kakuma Refugee Camp in northern Kenya.

Chris' days will be filled with physical and emotional stress. When you read his description of the refugee circumstances below you will realize that it is going to be a gut-wrenching experience for him.

In educational terms he will gain first-hand knowledge about the church's 'mission', as it relates to

the global movement of people, and a close-up view of what it means to actually put faith into action. At a personal level he will see what it means to tolerate cultural diversity and appreciate a different orientation to time and structure. It follows that he will also gain insight regarding the role and difficult circumstances of today's medical missionary.

What is it like, Chris?

The land surrounding the Kakuma Refugee Camp in northeastern Kenya is barren and dry, covered in a red soil that floats up like dust, except in the rainy season when the roads are washed out and floods are common. Visitors to the camp, located near the border with Sudan and Ethiopia, routinely travel with armed escorts as a precaution against thieves.

It is here, in the middle of nowhere, that the world's forgotten people live. Comprised of three separate areas forming one large camp – stretching over 15 kilometres, Kakuma is currently home to approximately 80,000 refugees. The majority are Sudanese. Others come from Somalia, Rwanda, Congo and Ethiopia.

These people are fleeing civil war and persecution, exacerbated by drought and famine. Kakuma is located near the border to Sudan. It was established in 1992 with the arrival of 10,000 "Lost Boys".

The people, like the camp, are hot, dry and desperate. The Lost Boys, the camp kids, have grown into young men – but uninitiated in their tribal rights, not easily able to return to life in Sudan, and not able to have a life in Kakuma. Recently 4,000 Lost Boys were resettled in the US. But what about the other 6,000 Lost Boys? Lost Girls? What

about the other 70,000 camp residents... the Somalis, Rwandese, Congolese, Ethiopian? Some have been here 10 years!

Humanitarian workers are overwhelmed and under-funded. While refugees worry that they have been forgotten new refugees from Sudan arrive daily. Ethiopian leaders claim that no one has visited their community in 10 years.

When we visit we will observe how the United Church of Canada is working in cooperation with global partners to bring support to these people, who long only for a chance at life.

I look forward to sharing my experiences and stories with you after I return. Chris

How can we help?

Chris is required to raise one-third of the cost of travel himself – about \$1,500. Naturally, since he is our Wallacetown boy, we intend to help with that. And you can help too, if you wish.

A few of our big-hearted moms and dads will prepare and serve a sumptuous Spaghetti Supper, with all the trimmings, at Wallacetown United Church on Thursday evening, June 16th—5 until 7 p.m. Proceeds will go to the Kenya Refugee Exposure Project.

You may also donate directly to the project and receive a receipt for Income Tax purposes, (\$10 and up). Please make your cheque payable to Wallacetown United Church, identify it for the Kenya Refugee Exposure Project, and mail it to the Treasurer, Wallacetown United Church, P.O. Box 261, Wallacetown, ON, N0L 2M0.

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 Worcester 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



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.

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

Girls win silver at Silver Stick in Owen Sound



Finalists - Dec 14/2006

SUBMITTED

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.



Dec 14/2006

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).

THE Chronicle

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Aug 19th 2003

Enns first male ambassador of CNE

Wallacetown representative makes history

TORONTO — An 18-year-old farm boy from Iona Station made history Sunday when he was chosen as the 2003-2004 Canadian National Exhibition Ambassador of the Fairs.

Chris Enns, 2002-2003 Wallacetown Fair Ambassador, is the first male to take the top spot in the competition's 32-year history.

The provincial ambassador contest went ahead even though the CNE was unable to open due to the hydro problems that began last week. Amazingly, 78 (74 females and 4 males) of the province's 86 fair ambassadors made it to the competition. There was a good crowd of family, friends and fair board members on hand at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Sunday to witness the semifinal and final rounds of competition.

Originally known as the CNE Sweetheart of the Fair, the contest was revamped over the years and had its first male ambassador competitor in 1995.

Although a male placed in the top three in 1997, none have won the title until now. It seems fitting that as the CNE celebrates a milestone, this being the 125th year for the Ex, that another page is added to its history books.

"I'm overwhelmed by the opportunity," Enns said, shortly after winning the title. "I'm really excited about the year ahead."

He said he hopes his becoming the first male CNE Ambassador of the Fairs proves to be "a stepping stone for the Ambassador competition."

"I'm really honoured at being the first one ... and I hope to be able to encourage other males to run in their local fair ambassador contests."

The Wallacetown Agricultural Society is extremely proud of Enns.

"We are always proud of our fair ambassador but this is truly phenomenal," said Ruth Ferguson, co-ordinator of the Wallacetown Fair Ambassador Pageant. "I really

felt that he had what they were looking for and believed that he could win. It was so fantastic hearing the crowd go wild when the announcement was made."

WESS GRAD

A 2003 graduate of West Elgin Secondary School where he was named an Ontario scholar, Enns already has an impressive resume to his name. He was a finalist at the Canadian Science Fair held in Calgary earlier this year, won the 4-H national essay contest, has been in the top ranks of the Royal Winter Fair 4-H speaking contest, and has been doing genetic research at CPRI in London as his summer job. He is also a junior director of the Wallacetown Agricultural Society, a member of the Elgin Presbytery Youth Council, as well as being a basketball player and coach.

He has been accepted to Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia where he plans to complete a bachelor's degree in biology before entering medical school.

"I've been proud of my son many times in the past and he didn't let me

down this time either," said Enns' father, Ike. His mother, D.J., was also there to support him at the final.

Enns not only won the acclaim of the judges but also that of his fellow contestants, being voted by his peers to receive the Congeniality Award. He went above and beyond in being cheerful, enthusiastic, and lending a helping hand to whoever needed it (especially when it came to carrying luggage up 14 flights of stairs in the dorm with no power on Friday night.)

"The Congeniality Award really took me by surprise. It reinforces my enthusiasm for the ambassador competition by being chosen for this by my peers rather than just a group of judges," he said.

"I came with the attitude to have fun and enjoy the experience," said Enns. "I'm thrilled to win and very proud of my hometown fair."

He thanked the Wallacetown Agricultural Society for the opportunity of being fair ambassador and his parents for their support.

Enns will be kept very

busy over the next two weeks as the Ex is finally allowed to open and all the events get under way.

One small thing — it turns out the Volkswagen Beetle he was given to drive during the CNE is a tight fit for Enns, who stretches to 1.98 metres (6'6") ... good thing it's a convertible.

He has a number of fair appearances already in his calendar following the CNE, including the Wallacetown Fair (Sept. 26-28) to turn over his title on opening night.



Chris Enns, 2002-2003 Wallacetown Fair Ambassador, is all smiles after being chosen the 2003-2004 CNE Ambassador of the Fairs. He is the first male in the history of the competition to earn the title. (Contributed)



Aug 19/2003

Making history at Ex
page 5

Ambassador drops in for surprise

Hard to say who was more surprised: WALLACETOWN FAIR or its 2002 ambassador, CHRIS ENNS, who now is serving his term as 2003 CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION Ambassador of the Fairs — the first man to hold the title.

The fair was planning a surprise evening to fete Chris when he flew home next week from school in Halifax where he is in first-year university to, eventually, hopefully enter med school.

They had three weeks to regroup and rebook the Keystone Complex in Shedden for the gala evening also applauding all fair volunteers, after Chris announced a change of plans and his flight a week earlier.

But he was none the wiser when a quiet dinner out Saturday with folks Ike and D.J. to meet Chris's new girlfriend, Liz Allen of Halifax, turned into a party in his honour. Another 150 Wallacetown Fair volunteers also attended.

At the evening, Chris was recognized by local politicians at all levels and was presented a \$1,000 scholarship from the fair board, and \$500 from Wallacetown Optimists.

(She's in arts at Mount St. Vincent and he's in science and Dalhousie, and Liz and Chris met through their university interests.



ERIC BUNNELL

But her grandparents were WILFRED and AUDREY ALLEN of St. Thomas. Small world)

DOREEN PRATT of St. Thomas isn't telling tales out of school when she describes four-great grandchildren, the son and three daughters of parenting writer LAURA PRATT.

"They're wonderful. I don't know how she does it."

Doreen and late husband Gordon moved in 1964 to St. Thomas to head Emergency Measures Organization here after his mandatory retirement at age 49 as a major in the Canadian Army. He had been officer commanding Meaford Range.

Son Tom was already on his post-secondary way at Western; he read law at Osgoode Hall and now practises in TO; daughter Lynne, who finished high school at Arthur Voaden Secondary School, now

lives in Kitchener.

Laura, Tom's daughter, who grew up with her brother in TO, is the author of a new book about mothering four children age six years to newborn, *The Fleeting Years: A Mother's Journal*, to be released next week.

A busy freelance writer, she already is the co-author of three books on parenting.

St. Thomas-raised actress RACHEL McADAMS stars as the meanest girl in *Mean Girls*, a movie about teen bullying opening next week.

She says in pre-release PR that art in this instance definitely does not imitate her life in high school at Central Elgin Collegiate Institute.

And director MARK WATERS (*Freaky Friday*) explains: "I think it's true you have to cast a nice girl to play a mean girl ..."

"Rachel is this incredibly hardworking, really terrific girl who can be totally evil on camera, but is actually incredibly nice in person.

"Which is luck for all of us. If she was anything like Regina in real life, it would be a nightmare."

Based on the best-selling *Queen Bees and Wannabes: Helping Your Daughter Survive Cliques, Gossip, Boyfriends and Other Realities of Adolescence*, the comedy opens Friday

across North America, including the GALAXY CINEMAS, Elgin Mall.

Rachel is now filming a comedy, *The Wedding Crashers*, in Los Angeles. She plays the girl who comes between two women.

Meanwhile, *The Notebook*, in which Rachel stars with RYAN GOSLING as a young couple who meet again in later life, is slated for release this summer.

More than 175 women were expected to register Sunday at GRACE UNITED CHURCH for the annual meeting of the LONDON CONFERENCE OF UNITED CHURCH

WOMEN, which embraces eight presbyterials throughout southwestern Ontario and Algoma.

Theme of the conference as presented by table favours showing a woman springing out of a small container: Here I Am Lord, Out of the Box.

London Conference president MARGARET MASON, of Chatham-Kent, says the theme portrays a challenge facing the UCW of the 21st century:

"Here I Am,' means I'm ready to serve; 'Out of the Box' means something different — we're not going to be what we've always been forever and ever.

UCW ladies are not just apron wearers."

And it's a tough challenge, says Margaret, who joined a country UCW 35 years ago.

"It's a struggle to get the younger women; they work seven days a week, two at home and five outside the home."

All the same, she said, the UCW offers fellowship and spirituality to modern-day members.

London Conference embraces 291 UCW locals. The two-day conference continues today.

People appears Monday and Friday in this space. The Peopleline is 631-2790 ext. 252.



Chris Enns, right, 2002 Wallacetown Fair ambassador and 2003 Canadian National Exhibition Ambassador of the Fairs, is joined by CNE second vice-president Knox Henry, left, Wallacetown Fair president Kelly Lackey and Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies president Joanne Gregson, Saturday at the Keystone Complex, Shedden, where Enns was guest of honour at an evening honouring Wallacetown Fair volunteers. He was presented with \$1,000 scholarship from the fair, and \$500 from Wallacetown Optimists. (T-J photo)

Fun at fall's final fair

By TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF

WALLACETOWN — A first-time event helped make a long-running fair an even bigger hit over the weekend.

The Wallacetown Fair, the final stop in Elgin's fall fair circuit, marked its 143rd edition with a three-day attendance pegged at 15,000, says Wallacetown Agricultural Society treasurer Stan Champ.

And a big reason for that success was the first tractor pull to be held at the venerable fair.

"The grandstand was so packed you couldn't find a place to sit," said secretary Kate VanElslander.

Although the weekend forecast didn't look promising, Mother Nature did her part by delivering mostly sunshine.

"Saturday was great. As soon as the sun came out it was just packed," VanElslander said of the midway.

Champ said the fair is an important weekend on the calendar for the rural community of western Elgin county.

"Of the communities of West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich, there's probably 60 per cent of the people involved in the fair, either with entries or attending," he said.

The Wallacetown Fair's timing is perfect for the farming community, as well.

"It's just before they start taking off the beans and corn and get really

Chris Enns, right, last year's Wallacetown Fair ambassador and 2003 CNE ambassador, handed over his Wallacetown sash to Adam McKillop, who won the honour at the 143rd annual fair Friday night. (T-J photo)



Enjoying some midway grub is one of the highlights of any fair as Steven Minnema, 5, of Dutton, shows while crunching away on a candy apple at the Wallacetown Fair Saturday afternoon. (T-J photo)

busy. So they have a chance to relax a bit," said Champ.

Adam McKillop, 17, of Dutton was named the fair's ambassador.

He takes over from Chris Enns, the 18-year-old from Iona Station who, this summer, was the first male ever named Canadian National Exhibition ambassador.

VanElslander said the fair drew an excellent number of entries in all competitions, especially the 4-H and Junior Fair events.

"For the children, this is one of the best fairs I've ever been at," she said.

Beth Peternel was another big winner at the fair, taking home the most points in the culinary arts competition.

A Grade 8 teacher at West Elgin Senior Elementary School, the Iona Station resident has been baking up a storm at the fair for more than 20 years.

"I take part to support the local fair, bottom line. I don't compete to win," she smiled, clutching some of her red-ribbon-winning entries.



Louie Lackey

Kay Waite

Group Display - Theme - "Celtic Connection".
 Must include - Celtic dish, Celtic dress, Jewellery, Celtic Flag,
 Centrepiece Plus 5 items of your choice - Wallacetown WI got 1st prize.
 Wallacetown Fair - 2005
 Wallacetown W.I Members - Kay & Louie.

Kay Waite



Louie
Lackey

3rd Prize

Wallacetown Fair - Group Display 2006.
 Theme - "The Orient Express". Must include -
 Oriental = Dress, Dish, Jewellery, Flag, + 5 items of Choice

Pirates fall on Wallacetown

By KYLE REA

TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF

WALLACETOWN — Avast ye landlubbers, the annual Wallacetown Fair will go in the books as the land of Pirates.

That's after 323 scurvy dogs and scallywags — complete with peg legs, eye patches and swords (plastic in this case) — gathered at the fair Friday evening to set a Guinness Book of World Records mark for the most pirates gathered in one place at one time.

It's the first time anyone has attempted to bring so many pirates together.

"It was really awesome. It was more than we thought, that's for sure. As far as I'm concerned, it was a big success," said Kim Carder, organizer of the Guinness Book of World Records push.

She said they expect to be in the 2009 edition — the one for 2008 has already been released.

"As soon as we can get everything submitted, we'll be there."

The idea was the brain-

child of fair organizers after last year's festivities were disappointing due, in part, to rain.

"I said 'We've got to pick something that will be popular with everyone,'" said fellow organizer Tara Lethbridge.

"It's a good year, since obviously pirate costumes are in abundance. That's why we wanted to hold it," said Carder. "I'm just surprised that there are so many people in our community, especially some of the older people in their 70s and 80s — who dressed up ... and came out."

She said they may hold it again next year — and try to beat their record. Or, they might send the theme on to another fair in the area.

"Small-town fairs are really suffering, so they need something to bring them back. This is a good shot to the system," said Carder. "Last night, our gates were up. People from Chatham, Sarnia, Strathroy. Places that we normally wouldn't see people from."

Indeed, the pirate theme was evident as the 147th annual fair, organized by the Wallacetown Agricultural Society, kicked into gear.

Pirate flags, volunteers dressed in pirate costumes, school-age competitions for building the best pirate ship or spy-glass, for instance, and even some pirate-themed vegetables were all visible at the fair.

Besides pirates, the fair offered midway rides, agriculture and commercial exhibits and livestock shows, among many others.

"It's big for a small-town fair," said Mark Workentin of London, Ont., who came out for a day of fun with children Riley, 4, Cailigh, 9, and Aryn, 1. "We come down to Wallacetown every year. It's a real country fair. We go to the Western Fair, but it doesn't have the same sense of country and community as this one does."

"It's been really great. We always come out and it's always a lot of fun," said Kelsie Kiss, 13, from Dutton, who joined her friends Vivian Nolan, 12, and Jenna Caughell, 13, for a day of fun on Saturday. Kiss said she's attended the fair every year since she was seven years old.

"The rides are the best part," said Nolan. Indeed, the Dutton trio rode the

spinning Startrooper, located near the fair's main gates numerous times that

day. They also assembled a Popsicle stick pirate ship for a Grade 7/8 craft sub-

mission. They earned second place ribbon for their work.



Wannabe pirates Tara Lethbridge, left, Dave Welch, Sheri Lackey and Ron Ross were among the 323 people dressed as pirates for the 147th annual Wallacetown Fair on weekend. Fair organizers are looking for a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records for having for the most pirates assembled in one place. (T-J photo by Kyle Rea)

Tracy Trudell



Kate Campigotto, 18, of Dutton was chosen to be this year's Wallacetown Fair Ambassador on Friday evening. She was one of three

Pixies & Pirates



Admission Prices
 Children Under 6 FREE
 Children 6-14 • \$2.00 daily
 Adults • \$6.00 daily
3-day Weekend Passes
 Children • \$5.00
 Adults • \$15.00

MIDWAY by CARTER SHOWS
 Fri. & Sat. regular prices
 Saturday Night 8pm to Close
MOONLIGHT MADNESS
 Sunday ALL DAY
PAY ONE PRICE!

Wallacetown Fair

September 27th to September 30th

Exhibit Building

Friday, September 28th — 2007

- 8:00 am Exhibit buildings open to accept entries
- 12 pm Exhibit buildings closed for judging
- 6:00 pm 4-H Goat Show
- 6:30 pm Pet Show (4-H Building)
- 6:45pm Pirate & Pixie contest (Jr. Fair Building - Registration at 6:00 pm)
- 7 - 10 pm Exhibit buildings & Midway open
- 7:00 pm Dairy Goat Show (4-H Bldg.)
- 7:00 pm Assembly of Pirates for Guinness Record
- 7:30 pm Official Opening, Ambassadors
 Guinness World Record™ Official count
 Deal Arr No Deal
 Announcement of 2007-2008 Ambassador
 Deal Arr No Deal Conclusion

Saturday, September 29th

- 8:30 am Barrel Racing
- 9:00 am 4-H Horse Show
- 9:30 am 4-H Beef Club Achievement Program
- 10:00 am Miniature Horse Show
- 12:00 pm Parade
- 12:30 pm Horseshoe Pitching Tournament
- 1:00 pm Beef Cattle Show
- Team Sorting Finals
- 4-H Inter-County Beef Calf Show
- Baby Show (Jr. Fair Bldg)
- Master Gariners with Susan (Homecraft Bldg)
- Cooking with John (Homecraft Bldg)
- 1:30 pm Harness Races
- 2:00 pm Stamping with Alesha (Homecraft Bldg)
- 2:30 pm Heavy Horse demonstration
- Quilting with Lynn (Homecraft Bldg)
- 3:00 pm Pottery with Brian (Homecraft Bldg)
- 3:30 pm Mystery Demo (Homecraft Bldg)
- 4:00 pm Bike draw (Grandstand)
- 6:45 pm Tractor Pull (Grandstand)
- 7:00 pm Wallacetown Idol Talent Show (Jr. Fair Bldg)
- 8:00 pm to 11pm Ride the Midway for One Price



Sunday, September 30th

- 11:00 am Sheep Show (4-H Bldg)
- 12:00 pm Exhibit bldg & Midway open
- 1:30 pm Demolition Derby

WE WANT YOU
 TO HELP US SET A
Guinness World Record
 To set a record we need to gather as many PIRATES dressed in your finest swashbuckling outfit!
 Guinness World Book of Records and press coverage will ensure our attempt is recorded and verified!
HELP US SET A WORLD RECORD and be a part of HISTORY!!
 Friday, September 28th
 7pm in front of the Grandstand!!!
"DEAL ARR NO DEAL"
CHANCE TO WIN \$1000
 Each participant over 16 qualifies to become a contestant in "Deal Arr No Deal!"



dog show.