

# War bride shares with Wallacetown WI

June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008

BY KATHY MINNEMA  
FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL  
WALLACETOWN —

The Wallacetown Women's Institute met May 1 at the South Dunwich Community Hall with 10 members and six guests present.

President Helen Van Brenk opened the meeting with the Institute Ode, Mary Stewart Collect and the Lord's Prayer. Reports were all given.

Helen Van Brenk attended the Iona Flowers In Bloom coffee break on April 26 in the morning, then along with Dorothea Montieth went to the Elgin County Museum family fun day in the afternoon, for the showing of *Sitting Pretty — History of the Toilet*.

The meeting was then turned over to convener Louie Lackey who read a medley of poems.

Louie Lackey introduced her speaker, Joyce Bezeau from Dutton, a war bride who made the trip in 2006 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the war brides.

Mrs. Bezeau told of her journey to Canada at the age of 19 from England to meet her husband who spoke French and lived in Rimouski, Que.

He left her the next day to go and work in the bush. The first two years

were very lonely with no one to talk to, plus having difficulty with the language.

It was years before she could return home.

Four children later and married for 49 years, she now lives in Dutton alone.

Many memories were brought back to her on her return trip to Halifax in 2006 to Pier 21 where they landed. 300 war brides made the trip and only 18 couples are still together.

Louie Lackey thanked Mrs. Bezeau.

Louie Lackey had a "name that tune" contest of songs popular 60 years ago with Teresa Bobier winning. There was only

one song she didn't know.

Roll call was "name a culture or trend change that the war brides might have brought to our country." Answers were knitting, food, hair styles, scarves around curlers, home baking, dresses and chutney.

Lunch committee was Doris Barber and Joan McLandress.

Sally McIntyre thanked the ladies.

The next meeting is June 5 at 1:30 p.m. We will travel to Lakeview Gardens. Conveners are Kay Lilley and Joan Johnston, with roll call being "something that has changed on the farm since your grandfather's time."



Louie Lackey.  
convenor for our  
May 1<sup>st</sup> 2008.

Joyce Bezeau -  
speaker on  
War Brides



# BEARING UP:



Ruth Davis hugs some of her 557 teddy bears she has collected since 1995. Davis is opening her home for a Teddy Bear Picnic on Saturday May 24 from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. where visitors can have a coffee and cookies and see her collection. A collection is being taken for the on-going work of the Yarmouth Glen Women's Institute. Her home is situated at 45572 Ron McNeil Line. (T-J photo by Robert Chaulk)



BRINLEY  
LACKEY,

Ruth  
Davis

Louie  
LacKEY.

Louie LacKEY

BRINLEY LACKEY

Helow VAN BREWK



Marion  
McKenzie

Teddy Bear Coffee Break  
May 24/2008.  
Home of Ruth Davis.



Western Elgin Trail's

# HERITAGE

## Food Car Tour

**Sunday May 25th**

*Bring a carload of friends and let this self-guided trip tell the story.  
Enjoy tasters of "specialties of the house" at local eateries & farm markets.  
Let your hunger lead the way through the Talbot Settlement.*

### Food Samples

nominal \$1 or \$2 charge may apply

### Free Draws

**Elgin County Museum**

**Heritage Cookbook**

included for each car while supplies last



Pick up your Food Tour Menu between  
9:30am and 1pm at these locations:

**Backus-Page House**

29424 Lakeview Line, Wallacetown

**Rodney Recreation Centre**

135 Queen Street, Rodney



**Only \$10 per Carload**

Tour locations open until 4pm

**1-866-401-2965**

519-762-3072

[tyrconnell@execulink.com](mailto:tyrconnell@execulink.com)





## Participating Businesses

Some locations are open extra hours for this tour only.

### Port Talbot Orchards & Farm Market

519.762.3441

Open 9am-6pm Monday to Sunday

### Tall Tales Cafe

519.762.2605

Open 5am-8pm Monday to Friday  
6am-8pm Saturday & Sunday

### The Green Onion

519.762.6905

Open 10am-3pm Monday to Friday

### Empire Valley Farm Market

519.762.3504

Open 9am-6pm Monday to Friday;  
9am-5pm Saturday; 12pm-5pm Sunday

### Lakeview Gardens & Greenhouses

519.768.1116

Open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday;  
9am-7pm Saturday & Sunday

### Erie Gardens

519.785.0487

Open 9am-5pm Monday to Saturday;  
10am-4pm Sunday

### Route 3 Mickey's Diner & Shake Shop

519.785.1881

Open 7am-3pm Monday to Thursday  
7am-7pm Friday to Sunday

### The Sweet Spot

519.785.1333

Open 9am-9pm Monday to Saturday  
11am-8pm Sunday

### A.J.'s Country Diner

519.764.9880

Open 8am-8pm Daily

## The Heritage Cookbook

The Heritage Cookbook, compliments of the Elgin County Pioneer Museum, contains many recipes passed from generation to generation. Note the story on page 20 of Neil McAlpine, of Fingal, and how he saved the Talbot Settlement from the menace of famine. The story of generosity and sharing has become a legend in Elgin County.

You are invited today to share the tastes of some of our traditions (old and new) on your food tour in Western Elgin.

Stop a while and enjoy some of our other nearby attractions:

- John E Pearce Provincial Park. Enjoy a few minutes of quiet and a great view from the bluffs high above Lake Erie near Backus-Page House Museum.
- Port Glasgow Marina. Adjacent to the marina are extensive nature trails and miles of beach.
- Buttermilk Bog. Walking trails and naturalization were completed by the Dutton/Dunwich Horticultural Society at this pretty Dutton sight.
- Joe's Bush. A beautiful 50-acre Carolinian forest donated to West Elgin by Joe Schmid, located just west of Furnival Road on Silver Clay Line.
- Rodney Jail. Ye Olde Jail is the oldest, smallest jail in North America. It's located in Rodney at 135 Queens Line next to the fairgrounds.

This tour is brought to you by MPoWER.  
Project partially funded by the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage.



Canadian  
Heritage

Patrimoine  
canadien

# Western Elgin Trail's HERITAGE Food Car Tour

## Sunday May 25, 2008

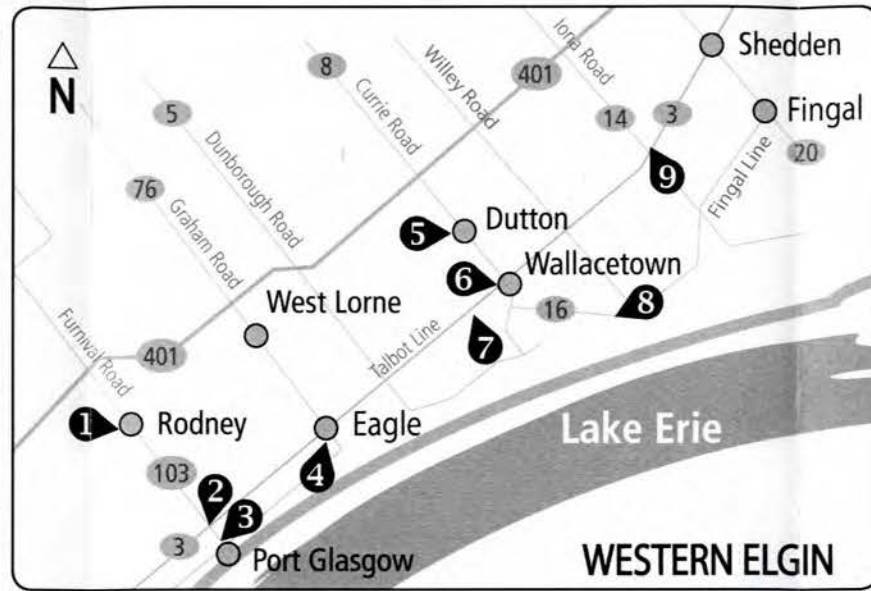


## Taste Menu



**1** **The Sweet Spot**  
 224 Furnival Road, Rodney  
 Specialty: Ice cream & homemade baked goods.  
 Mouthwatering desserts and a large variety of ice cream  
 flavours.

**Today's Treat:**  
 Diabetic pineapple  
 on a cloud; Ice  
 cream cones



**7** **Empire Valley Farm Market**  
 27983 Talbot Line, RR#1 Wallacetown  
 Specialty: Homegrown vegetables in season & greenhouse  
 full of designer hanging baskets, perennials and annuals.  
 Offers nothing but the freshest produce at your table.



**Today's Treat:**  
 Village Gourmet  
 Dip sampling with  
 fresh vegetables

**2** **Route 3 Mickey's Diner & Shake Shop**  
 22354 Talbot Line, Rodney  
 Specialty: Foot-long hot dogs.  
 Offers many delicious homemade items.



**Today's Treat:**  
 Talbot Trail To-  
 mato and Macaroni  
 Soup; Root Beer  
 float with Vanilla  
 ice cream

**4** **Lakeview Gardens & Greenhouses**  
 9353 Graham Road, Eagle  
 Specialty: Canadian comfort food.  
 Offers scrumptious entrees and delectable desserts.

**Today's Treat:**  
 Cajun chicken  
 tortellini;  
 Cheesecake



**8** **Port Talbot Orchards & Farm Market**  
 30502 Fingal Line, Wallacetown  
 Specialty: Baked goods, including assorted pies,  
 fresh fruit & vegetables, fresh & frozen meat cuts,  
 beef & chicken kabobs (BBQ season).  
 Everything tasty for the summer season.

**Today's Treat:**  
 Pioneer Butter  
 Tarts



**3** **Erie Gardens**  
 8966 Furnival Road, Rodney  
 Specialty: Greenhouse tomatoes, cucumbers, seasonal fruit  
 & vegetables, annuals and perennials.

**Today's Treat:**  
 Chrusty & Kifli-  
 traditional  
 Lithuanian and  
 Polish treats



**5** **The Green Onion**  
 174 Currie Road, Dutton  
 Specialty: Homemade and healthy meals.  
 The Green Onion is known for its perfect pie crust.  
 Catering available.  
**Today's Treat:**  
 Tortiere; Cranberry bread pudding  
 with butterscotch rum sauce



**6** **Tall Tales Cafe**  
 29634 Talbot Line, Wallacetown  
 Specialty: Diner foods including pizza, hand-dipped  
 cod and homemade pies. Breakfast daily until 4pm.  
 Offers a variety of mouthwatering menu choices.

**Today's Treat:**  
 Dutch apple fritter

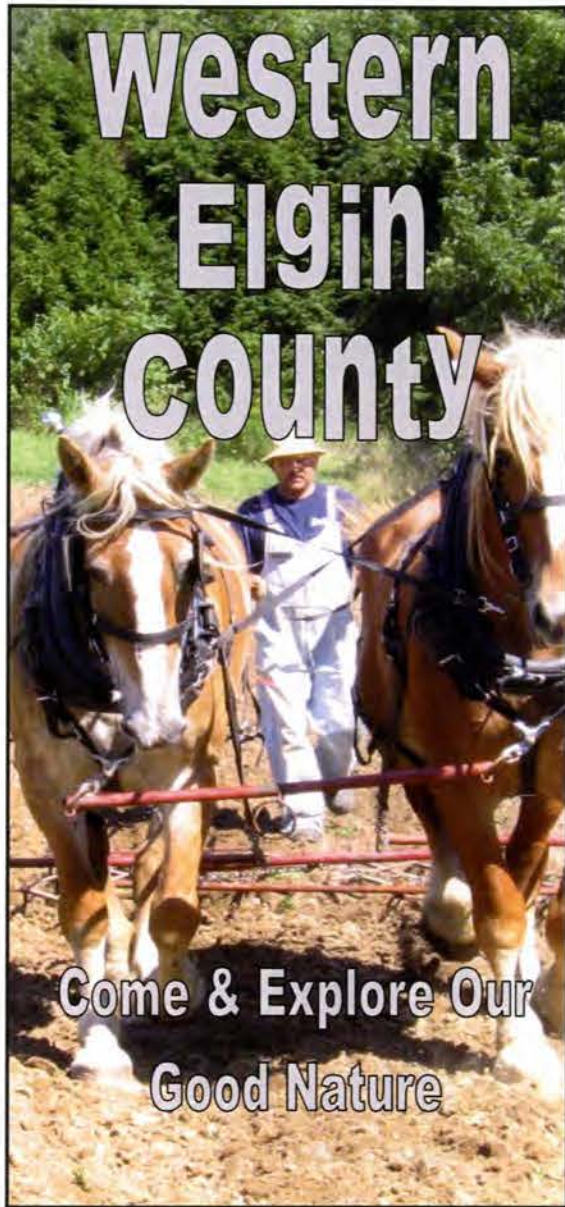


**9** **A.J.'s Country Diner**  
 33220 Talbot Line, Iona  
 Specialty: Back ribs, fish & chips, rice pudding  
 and home-made hamburgers.

**Today's Treat:**  
 English fresh-cut  
 chips &  
 home-made gravy.







## Dutton Exit # 149



### RELIVE THE TALBOT SETTLEMENT

Join the Tyrconnell Heritage Society to relive the Talbot Settlement, on the last Saturday in May at the Backus-Page House. Journey back to the early 1800's and speak with Colonel Talbot, re-enactors, natives and period craftsmen. Food is available on site. Educational and fun for all.

**HERITAGE FARM SHOW** Farm-themed displays and demonstrations featuring working horses, steam engines, threshing, black-smithing, horse drawn wagon rides,



heritage story telling, music, games for children, outdoor cooking and a food

concession on Labour Day Weekend. Sat. from 10am to 4 pm and Sun. 9am to 4 pm beginning with Pancake Breakfast and Church service.

29424 Lakeview Line, Wallacetown, ON  
519 762-3072 [tyrconnell@execulink.com](mailto:tyrconnell@execulink.com)

Exits from Hwy 401 Dutton #149

West Lorne #137 Rodney #129

### TRAVEL WESTERN ELGIN'S TRAILS



Join the annual car tours through the beautiful hiking, nature, historical & art trails of Western Elgin. Tour starts at Backus-Page House the last Sunday of May.

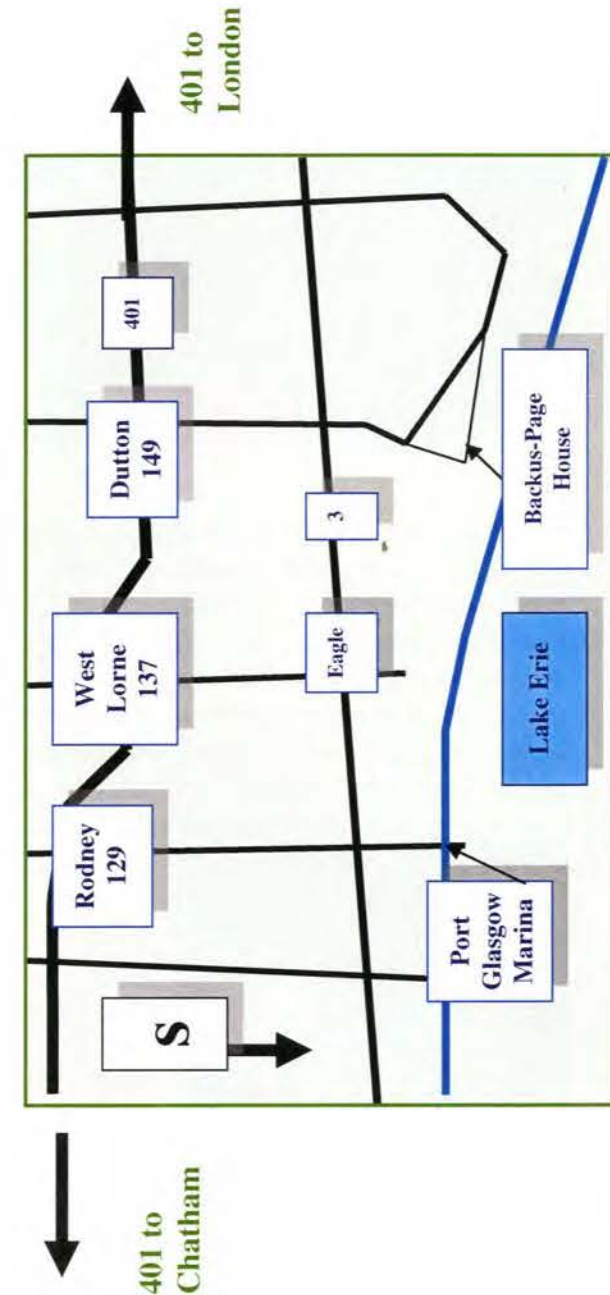
### DUTTON/DUNWICH & WEST ELGIN TRANS-CANADA TRAIL SYSTEM

The Municipalities of Dutton/Dunwich and West Elgin, with the co-operation of private property owners, are proud of an exceptional route with historical sites through the Talbot



Settlement. This trail portion spans approximately 46 kms. with shared use (where possible) for walking, cycling, horseback riding, cross country skiing and snowmobiling. From road allowances and private properties, serene countryside, prime

agricultural land and nature, amiable facilities await the trail users. **Contact:** [www.elginconnects.ca](http://www.elginconnects.ca)



Exits from Hwy 401 Dutton #149

West Lorne #137 Rodney #129



# LOCAL FRESH PRODUCE in ELGIN COUNTY

## Fruits and Vegetables and Herbs

- 1 **Beary Blue Acres**  
23301 Queen's Line, Rodney • 519-785-0450  
Blueberries - ready picked or pick your own  
Mon-Sat: 8-6; Sun: 10-1
- 2 **Berry Hill Farm**  
48937 Glencolin Line, Aylmer • 519-765-1752  
Fruits & vegetables including sweet corn, strawberries, raspberries  
Mid Jun - late Oct: Mon-Sat: 8-6
- 3 **Bittersweet Farm**  
8732 Toll Gate Road, Straffordville • 519-866-3048  
Blueberries  
Mid Jul-Sep: Mon-Fri: 9-8, Sat: 9-6
- 4 **Blueberry Hill Farm**  
22039 Hoskins Line, Rodney • 519-785-2217  
Chemical free blueberries  
Mid Jul-early Sep: 8-8 daily, weather permitting
- 5 **DeLeebeeck Farm**  
50241 Vienna Line, Aylmer • 519-773-2594  
Belgium endives, pickling cucumbers, vegetable marrow  
Available any time.
- 6 **Empire Valley Farm Market**  
27983 Talbot Line, Wallacetown • 519-762-3504  
Annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, tomatoes, strawberries  
May-Sep: Mon-Fri: 9-6, Sat: 9-5, Sun: 12-5
- 7 **En Fleur Lavender in Bloom**  
46095 Barnums Gully Line, Sparta • 519-775-2240  
Bouquets, wreaths, jelly, syrup, sachets, wands, pillow liners  
Harvest Jun-Aug. Open year round for certain products.
- 8 **Erie Gardens**  
8966 Furnival Road South, New Glasgow • 519-785-0487  
Annuals, perennials, greenhouse tomatoes, cucumbers  
Apr-Oct: Daily 9-5, Sun: 10-4
- 9 **Ferguson Bros. of St. Thomas Ltd.**  
43850 Ferguson Line, St. Thomas • 519-631-3463  
Beans: cranberry, red kidney, white kidney, white & pinto  
Mon-Fri: 8:30-5
- 10 **Ferguson's Produce**  
11026 Wellington Road, St. Thomas • 519-631-6589  
Strawberries, sweet corn, pumpkin, cookies, pies & homemade jam  
Mon-Fri: 8-8, Sat-Sun: 8-6, Oct: Thurs-Sun: 10-6  
Scarecrow Festival: all weekends in Oct. including Thanksgiving
- 11 **Great Lakes Farms**  
5111 Union Road, Port Stanley • 519-782-3433  
Strawberries, apples  
Jun/Jul: Mon-Fri., Sep/Oct: Weekends & holidays only

## Fruits and Vegetables and Herbs continued...

- 12 **Gredig's Orchard**  
45976 Ron McNeil Line, St. Thomas • 519-633-8885  
Apples (*u-pick or already picked*), blue plums, UV treated apple cider  
Aug-Mar: Mon-Sat: 8-dusk, Sun: 11-5
- 13 **Heritage Line Herbs**  
53443 Heritage Line, Aylmer • 519-866-5577  
Herbs, fresh & dried, heirloom plants, mustards, jellies  
Jan-Apr: Mon-Fri: 10-5, Sat: 10-4; May: Mon-Sat: 10-5, Sun: 12-4; Jun-Dec: Mon-Fri: 10-5, Sat: 10-4
- 14 **Jahnke's Farm Fresh Produce**  
5680 Sunset Road, St. Thomas • 519-633-6735  
Potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, corn, onions & fruit  
Jul-Oct: Daily 9-8
- 15 **Koscik Greenhouses**  
6602 Sawmill Road, Aylmer • 519-773-2648  
Greenhouse ground-grown, pesticide free tomatoes  
Mid-May-Sep: dawn-dusk, 7 days a week
- 16 **Mark Wales Farm Fresh Produce**  
5484 Imperial Road, Aylmer • 519-773-7352  
Garlic, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, spanish onions, specialty beans  
Jul-Oct: dawn-dusk, 7 days a week
- 17 **Murray Farm**  
56829 Jackson Line, Straffordville • 519-866-5859  
Asparagus & raspberries  
May 1-end of Jul: 9-5, Please call first.
- 18 **New Glasgow Orchards**  
22254 Talbot Line, New Glasgow • 519-785-0217  
Strawberries, raspberries, Saskatoon berries, peaches  
Late May - late Sep: 7 days a week
- 19 **Orchard Hill Farm**  
45415 Fruit Ridge Line, St. Thomas • 519-775-2670  
CSA Membership garden. Certified organic vegetables & small fruit.  
Please call first.
- 20 **Rokeby Orchards**  
11766 Imperial Road, Aylmer • 519-773-2318  
Apples, pears, plums, pumpkins, cider  
Jul - Mar: Daily 10-6
- 21 **Spruce Ridge Farm**  
22450 Thomson Line, Rodney • 519-785-0016  
Strawberries, peppers, tomatoes, garlic, sweet corn, eggplant, raspberries  
In season: Mon-Sun: 8-6
- 22 **Sutton Orchard**  
24249 Silver Clay Line, West Lorne • 519-768-3557  
Sweet & sour cherries, apples  
Jul-Dec: 7 days/wk., dawn-dusk. (subject to product availability)

## Fruits and Vegetables and Herbs continued...

- 23 **VanBrenk Fruit Farm**  
31760 Erin Line, Fingal • 519-762-2768  
Sweet cherries, plums, pears, apples  
Jun-Oct: Daily 8-8
- 24 **Weninger Farms**  
48776 Jamestown Line, Aylmer • 519-773-8976, 519-773-5057  
Sweet potatoes & sweet potato flour  
Late Sep: Please call first.

## Meats

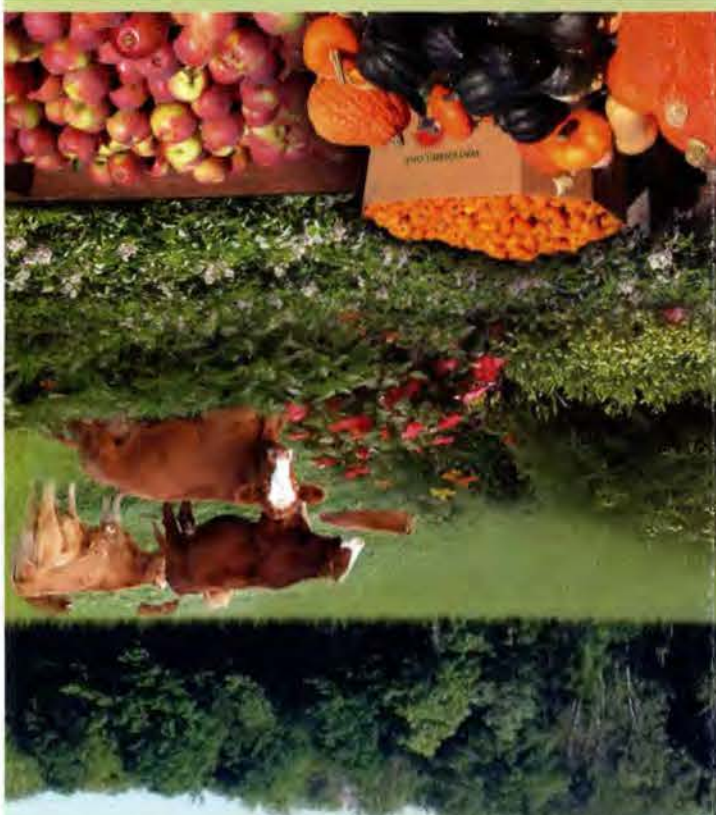
- 25 **Ian and Connie Foster**  
48649 College Line, Aylmer • 519-773-8718  
Freezer beef - Selection of individual cuts. Quarters may be ordered.  
By phone or by chance. Open year round.
- 26 **McSmith's Organic Farm**  
42828 Shorelea Line, St. Thomas • 519-631-0279  
Organic chicken, eggs, vegetables, beef, pork  
Phone to order - also see us at St. Thomas Horton Market
- 27 **Oegema Turkey Farms Ltd.**  
10882 Sunset Road, Talbotville • 519-633-0527  
Fresh and frozen turkeys & turkey products  
Mon-Fri: 9-5:30, Sat: 9-4
- 28 **Pfeffer Rhea Farm**  
45180 Fruit Ridge Line, St. Thomas • 519-775-2226  
Rhea meat, oil & products, eggshells, soap, lotions  
Jul-Aug: Daily, Sat & Sun: 11-5, Other times call first.
- 29 **Uplands Pheasantry**  
5731 Imperial Road, Aylmer • 519-773-8151  
Frozen oven-ready pheasant, smoked pheasant, pheasant portions  
Mon-Sat: 9-4

## Wineries

- 30 **Meadow Lane Winery**  
44892 Talbot Line, St. Thomas • 519-633-1933  
Wines, jams, maple syrup. Pick your own gooseberries & black currants.  
Sun-Fri: 12-5, Sat: 10-5
- 31 **Quai Du Vin**  
45811 Fruit Ridge Line, St. Thomas • 519-775-2216  
Wine & accessories, sparkling juices, fresh grape juice (*late fall*), special events  
Mon-Sat: 10-5, Sun: 12-5
- 32 **Rush Creek Orchards & Winery**  
48995 Jamestown Line, Aylmer • 519-773-5432  
Wine, fresh and frozen raspberries & elderberries  
Mon-Sat: 10-5, Sun: 12-5. Open year round.

**FRESH**  
from the FARMS in  
ELGIN COUNTY

For more information, please contact:  
Elgin Community Futures  
Development Corporation  
300 South Edgeware Road, St. Thomas  
519-633-7597



~ 2008 Edition ~

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www.elginfarmers.ca

www.wechc.on.ca

West Elgin Community Health Centre

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Community Futures Development Corporation

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St. Thomas

Ontario's South Coast

**OF AGRICULTURE**

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HOW FRESH DO YOU FEEL?  
AFTER A LONG TRIP?  
EAT FRESH! BUY LOCAL!

- 33 **Clovermead Bees & Honey**  
1302 Imperial Road North, Aylmer • 519-773-5503  
Honey, maple syrup, jams & apple butter. Tours available.  
Jan-Feb: Tue, Fri & Sat: 9-5, Mar-Dec: Mon-Sat: 9-5:30
- 34 **Gibson's Honey Farm**  
25629 McMurchy Line, West Lorne • 519-768-0035  
Pure honey & related products  
Open year round. Please call first.
- 35 **Palmer's Maple Syrup**  
34308 Lake Line, Port Stanley • 519-769-2245, 519-769-0007  
Maple syrup, maple tea & coffee  
Every weekend in Mar: 9-3. Syrup available all year.
- 36 **Rodgers Family Maple Syrup**  
36435 Lake Line, Port Stanley • 519-782-3904  
Maple syrup  
Open year round.
- 37 **Aylmer Sales Arena**  
51 Murray Street, Aylmer  
Fruits, vegetables, bread, cheese, meat & fish  
Open Tues. year round, 8-4
- 38 **Bitwood Farm Market**  
1030 Talbot Street, St. Thomas • 519-633-9691  
Fruit, vegetables, plants/flowers, fresh meat, baked goods made daily  
Mon-Fri: 8-8, Sat-Sun: 8-6
- 39 **Farmgate Markets**  
310 Wellington St., Unit 2, St. Thomas • 519-637-0055  
Ontario raised fresh & smoked meats  
Mon-Sat: 9-6
- 40 **Horton Farmers Market**  
Manitoba Street, St. Thomas • 519-785-0797  
Fruits, vegetables, bread, cheese, fish & meats. Local farmers featured.  
May 10-Nov: 1: Sat: 8-12
- 41 **Jackson Fish Market**  
172 Main Street, Port Stanley • 519-782-3562  
Fresh & smoked fish  
Summer: Daily 9:30-5:30, Spring/Fall: Call for hours.
- 42 **Lakeview Gardens & Greenhouses**  
9353 Graham Road, RR#2, Eagle • 519-768-1116  
Annuals, perennials, fruits, roses, shrubs & trees  
Open year round.
- 43 **Port Talbot Orchards Farm Market**  
30502 Fingal Line, Wallacetown • 519-762-3441  
Fruits & vegetables, baked goods, fresh & smoked meats  
May-Nov: Daily 9-6 (hours may vary to season)
- 44 **Salt Creek Market**  
11143 Highway Avenue, St. Thomas • 519-631-9338  
Baking, produce, apples, pickles, sauces, syrup, cheese, gifts & crafts  
May 1-Dec: 24: Daily 8-7

## Honey and Syrup



**GROWING SEASON OF LOCAL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

VEGETABLES	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
Asparagus					
Beans					
Broccoli					
Cabbage					
Cauliflower					
Corn					
Cucumbers					
Eggplant					
Garlic					
Onions					
Peppers (Green)					
Peppers (Red)					
Pumpkins					
Tomatoes					

FRUITS	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
Apples					
Blueberries					
Strawberries					
Peaches					
Pears					
Raspberries					

**EAT FRESH!**  
*Elgin County*  
**BUY LOCAL!**

**LEGEND**

- Fruits and Vegetables and Herbs
- Meats
- Wineries
- Honey and Syrup
- Markets





June 25<sup>th</sup> 2008

# Wallacetown ladies take road trip west

BY KATHY MINNEMA  
FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

WALLACETOWN — On Thursday, June 5, the Wallacetown Women's Institute met at the South Dunwich Community Hall and car-pooled to Lakeview Gardens.

Nine members and one guest attended the meeting and the conveners were Kay Lilley and Joan Johnston.

Our tour guide was employee Amanda Aikens. There were many areas throughout the showrooms decorated by themes to enhance any outdoor garden area you could possibly want.

Eighty per cent of all the plants are propagated there.

The ladies found a 50-year-old banana tree and a 40- to 60-year-old barrel cactus plant very interesting.

Drop cloths are used to protect hanging ferns from the intense sun.

July is mum month and the ladies were given helpful info on how to care for them.

It is very useful to know we live in the growing area of zone six and for some plants from zone seven.

Joan Johnston thanked Amanda Aikens for a very interesting and informative tour.

The ladies then gath-

ered in the restaurant for tea and the meeting.

The roll call: Something that has changed on the farm since your grandparents' time.

Answers were running of the farm, hydro, chemicals for weeds, bookkeeping, push buttons on equipment, toilets, manure spreading and threshing machines.

Vice-president Kathy Minnema opened the business part of the meeting with the Institute Ode, Mary Stewart Collect and the Lord's Prayer.

The District Annual was attended by Helen Van Brenk and Louie Lackey with 57 ladies in attendance on May 14.

It was reported that the WI members in Elgin had

a total of 8,123 volunteer hours for 2007-2008. Our twin for 2008-2009 is River Road WI.

Also on May 24, Helen Van Brenk, Louie Lackey and Brinley Lackey attended the Yarmouth Glen WI, Teddy Bear Picnic, at the home of member Ruth Davis who owns 560 teddy bears.

Tweedsmuir workshop will be held on Aug. 5 at the Kirkton Community Centre.

Kathy Minnema thanked the ladies for a lovely lunch and the meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting will be in September.



## Community News

# The mail must go through

Submitted

The Wallacetown Women's Institute met at the South Dunwich Community Hall and carpooled to Springfield to the home of Wilfred and Rhonda McNaughton for the March meeting. There were four members present. Rhonda greeted us and gave the ladies a tour through their home, which was the first post office held for the village and area of Springfield. Rhonda showed us a number of pictures and newspaper articles acquired from the family albums, which were very interesting. The ladies could identify and refresh their memories of childhood days.

A cold, refreshing lunch was provided by convener Kathy Minnema and the donation towards it went to the Aylmer District Museum.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Pat Zimmer from the Aylmer District Museum. Pat gave us a history of the post office in Springfield, which came from the Tweedsmuir History of Institute member Evelyn Hoshal. Dating back to 1854 when mail was carried by horseback. Captain Clunas was the first Post Master. Pat had a number of interesting stories relating to the history of Springfield's past and the operation of businesses in the community. The Kilpatrick family of Springfield ran the post office around 1877. A known fact is that the postmaster or the telephone operator knew everything in the community. Some of the individual boxes in the post office had key locks, glass fronts or a combination for security purposes. Pat had a collection of postcards and letters received by Evelyn's family. Some had no stamps, but in 1910, postage was one cent, and by 1920 it was two cents. There were different types of sports cards, kids advertising businesses, cars, events, and symbols of importance to advertise the next season and for special holidays.

Kathy thanked Pat for coming and gave a donation on behalf of our institute for the museum.

The motto for this meeting was "The mail must go through," read by Kathy. Roll call: tell us about a special letter you have received in the mail was very interesting. A letter received 40 years ago from family members in Australia. In 1947 a letter from a pen pal. From Boliva with a stamp of Princess Diana. Leather post cards made into a pillow. A letter in 1974 from my cousin and the postage was eight cents.

Helen Van Brenk opened the meeting with the reading of the minutes from previous villa was approved.

Upcoming events: Kay Waite will make a loaf for the Daffodil Tea April 4 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Bobier Villa and members are asked to bring in items for sale on that date also.

BY KATHY MINNEMA



# Elgin County Museum

*Elgin County's oldest museum is also its newest*

The former Elgin County Pioneer Museum renamed itself in 2006 and moved from the historic Duncombe House on Talbot Street to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Elgin County Administration Building where expanded and greatly improved facilities have allowed for the development of a vibrant exhibition schedule combining traveling shows with exhibitions based on the museum's nearly 10,000 artifacts.

While in the neighbourhood visit the shops, tea rooms and museums in the nearby rural villages and lakeside ports.



**A. Elgin Military Museum**

30 Talbot Street, St. Thomas  
519.633.7641  
[www.execulink.com/~emm](http://www.execulink.com/~emm)

**B. Elgin County Railway Museum**

225 Wellington St., St. Thomas  
519.637.6284 • [www.ecrm5700.org](http://www.ecrm5700.org)

**C. Ye Olde Forge and Anvil Museum**

46316 Sparta Line

**D. Backus-Page House**

29424 Lakeview Line • 519.762.3072  
[www.backuspagehouse.com](http://www.backuspagehouse.com)

**E. The Dairy and Heritage Museum**

48075 Jamestown Line • 519.773.8625

**F. Aylmer and District Museum**

14 East St., Aylmer • 519.773.9723  
[www.amtelecom.net/~aylmermuseum](http://www.amtelecom.net/~aylmermuseum)

**G. Edison Museum of Vienna**

14 Snow Street, Vienna  
[www.bayham.on.ca](http://www.bayham.on.ca)

**H. Port Burwell Historic Lighthouse  
and Marine Museum**

20 Pitt Street, Port Burwell  
[www.bayham.on.ca](http://www.bayham.on.ca)



## Take the Train to the Museum

During July and August the Port Stanley Terminal Rail will make a brief stop at the Elgin County Administration Building

during its regular run on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Hop aboard and visit the museum and archives. Call the PSTR for times and ticket prices 519.782.3730.





## The Emigrant's Kist

February 16 to May 31

A nineteenth century Scottish settlers trunk, known as a Kist, on loan from the national museum of Scotland is presented along with tools, clothing and keepsakes typical of those the Scots brought to their new homes. The exhibit also includes portraits, letters, books and kettles from descendants of Elgin County's Scottish settlers.

## Sitting Pretty: The History of the Toilet

April 19 to July 19

A light hearted and interactive look at the history of the water closet and what we did before we had toilets. From chamber pots to outhouses to the finest porcelain fixtures, the exhibit traces the evolution of this most basic device. On loan from Guelph Museums.



## Pinecroft Pottery

1948 - 2008

Celebrating 60 Years of  
Canadian Achievement  
August 2 to December 20

An in-depth retrospective of the Pinecroft Pottery in Aylmer, Ontario, founded in 1948 by Jimmie Clennell and Selma Caverly and now the oldest family run pottery studio in Canada. Over 200 pieces will be on exhibit including many one-of-a-kind pieces from the earliest days of Pinecroft, ranging from small brooches to gargantuan vases.

## Doors Open Port Stanley - Sparta

October 18, 2008, 10 am to 5 pm

A self-guided tour of the interiors  
of 16 historic sites.  
Pick up a guide at the Museum.



Ye Olde Forge and Anvil Museum 46316 Sparta Line



## Elgin County Museum

Elgin County Administration Building, 4th Floor  
450 Sunset Drive (Hwy 4), St. Thomas, Ontario  
Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm  
Gift Shop • Admission by donation  
519.631.1460 ext. 160 • [www.elgin-county.on.ca](http://www.elgin-county.on.ca)



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF CANADIAN ACHIEVEMENT

# Pinecroft Pottery

1948-2008



Elgin County Museum

August 2 - December 20, 2008