

COMMUNITY

RESIDENTS

IN THE

AREA.



### Stitched With Love

The Gift of a Quilt from the Dunwich Pastoral Charge to Diane Macpherson  
On Diane's Last Sunday as a 'Student' Minister – May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008

We had lots of fun planning how and when to give it to you. Don's input was obtained to find out your favourite colours.

The quilt idea came from Darlene Ford I think about 2 years ago right now. Once the go ahead from the UCW was obtained then Darlene purchased the back panel (All Creatures bright and beautiful) and a few matching fabrics (the one with the doves on it, the olive branch which is also the large border, the print with the arks). We then asked Stacie Littlejohn if she would be willing to guide us along the way - pattern selection, fabric colours. She of course said "yes". I don't think too many people are aware but she is very well recognized for her quilting ability - especially colour selection and has 2 of her quilts in a "colour" textbook by Joan Wolform.

We than asked the other UCW's if they would like to take part.

A few of us then went on a shopping spree to London and also Port Huron to purchase the co-ordinating fabrics. Once that was done, and fabric all washed (that way it won't shrink when it is washed after it is made), many people met at my house (summer of 2006) and we had a cutting party. The pieces and a copy of the pattern were put in small bags (I think close to 100) and distributed to anyone who wanted to make a few blocks. Once the blocks were completed, they were all returned to me, squared and then I took them all to Stacie's house where she has a design wall so we could lay out all

Stacie Littlejohn.

Diane  
Macpherson.



Heather  
M<sup>e</sup>Adam.

Stacie Littlejohn.

Rosemary Leitch.

Diane  
Macpherson



Heather  
M<sup>e</sup>Adam.

the blocks in the order they should be. They were all numbered and the blocks for each row were put in separate, larger Ziploc bags and again distributed to anyone who wanted to sew a row. They were then returned and Stacie and I sewed the strips together, added the borders, she helped me sew the psalms on the back and it was ready to be quilted. We then had quilting bees at my Mom's (Bessie Lyons) about every 2 weeks on Tuesdays starting January, 2007- I think your classes were on Tuesday's so that was why we picked that day - so you wouldn't see all the cars.

The quilting was completed I think around the end of March as we were working on a schedule to have it completed by May of 2007. That was about the time that we heard you had another year to go so we slowed down a bit with the final binding. We wanted Dessie Cook to do it and she was having some health problems so we waited for her. She had the quilt at her apartment when the building had a minor smoke problem but thankfully Dessie and the quilt were fine! The quilt was then taken to each church and held up for all to see on Sundays when it worked out that you were not present or before you arrived at the service.

I put the label on the back about 2 weeks ago as was trying to put some thought into the label. There was so much I wanted to say but it had to be condensed!

So that is how it all came to be. We loved making it for you and I think the fact that so many people were involved shows how much we all love and adore you!

Rosemary Leitch



Diawe Macpherson wearing the Quilt.



LOCAL

### 20 hours' service for interference

BY TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF

For interfering with a police officer who was trying to help her, an Aylmer woman has been ordered to perform 20 hours of community service.

Natasha Pyatt, 21, pleaded guilty to obstructing a police officer before Justice Michael O'Dea Tuesday. He handed down a six-month suspended sentence followed by probation.

The court heard that Aylmer police were called to Pyatt's home on Sept. 15 to reports that she had been assaulted by her boyfriend. When they arrived, she repeatedly tried to stop officers from arresting him and she in turn was charged, assistant Crown attorney Kim Johnson explained.

"You permit yourself to be in a relationship that will get hot and violent," O'Dea said in his judgment. "You interfered with people who were trying to help you."

# Galbraith award presented

By SUN MEDIA

DUTTON — The second annual John Kenneth Galbraith Literary Award was won by Joel Herscovitch of London.

The award was created in memory of John Kenneth Galbraith, who died in 2006 at the age of 97. The Dutton native was a world-renowned economist, policymaker and writer with 30 books on economics, fiction and

nonfiction to his name.

The award honours outstanding short stories of Canadian fiction. Herscovitch's winning story, L-Mail, was selected from 11 submissions.

The award medallion was presented by Alan Galbraith, one of Galbraith's sons. Herscovitch also received a cheque for \$1,500 from Friends of Dutton-Dunwich.

"When I looked on the

website to see who the other writers were, I thought 'Oh, there's some real writers there.' So I'm doubly thrilled to have won amongst such company," said Herscovitch.

He also thanked his wife, Janice, who "suffered through many early drafts of my writing."

Herscovitch's winning story is about a farm wife who finds her life becoming empty.

Guests included Galbraith sons James, from Texas, Peter, Cambridge, Mass., and Allan Galbraith, California, and James' daughter, Eliza, teaching in Japan. The brothers were together to travel to Boston for a memorial service for their mother, Kitty, who died earlier this month.

Read more about the award at [www.johnkenethgalbraithliteraryaward.ca](http://www.johnkenethgalbraithliteraryaward.ca).



Members of the Galbraith family cut a cake at award night. From left, Alan and James Galbraith, Eliza Galbraith, and Peter Galbraith. (Sun Media photo)



Alan Galbraith, left, presents John Kenneth Galbraith Literary Award to winner Joel Herscovitch of London, Ont. (Sun Media photo)



**Terry Heeney, the only charter member still active with the Dutton/Dunwich District Lions, cuts the cake to officially open Dutton Caledonia Two. (T-J photo)**

## Housing complex opens in Dutton

*By TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF*

Cutting a cake, dignitaries celebrated the opening of a \$4 million affordable housing project Saturday in Dutton-Dunwich.

Dutton Caledonia Two is a 30-unit complex for seniors sponsored by Dutton and District Lions Non-profit Housing Inc. It complements Caledonia Gardens, already opened by the community group.

Construction was supported by more than \$2 million from the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program. Dutton-Dunwich also offered more than \$600,000 in municipal financial incentives.

"I'm very excited to share the vision of the Dutton/Dunwich Lions Club and local residents, to see additional housing for seniors in our area," Mayor Bonnie Vowel said.

"I am thankful to all who have put their time and effort into this worthy project."

She was joined by Elgin-Middlesex-London Conservative MP Joe Preston, EML Liberal MPP Steve Peters, and Elgin Warden Graham Warwick.

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 2009

# A hero's welcome

By PATRICK BRENNAN  
TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF

WEST LORNE — In the finest military tradition, Joe Hentz received a hero's welcome here Saturday.

Hentz was greeted with cheers, handshakes and hugs when he visited Royal Canadian Legion Branch 221 in West Lorne on Support Our Troops day.

Hentz, the grandson of Tina and Peter Hentz of Wallacetown, and a captain with the 1st Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, was visiting his home town on leave from a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Originally a member of the 31 Combat Engineer Regiment (The Elgins) based in St. Thomas, he has been assigned to the 1st Battalion, RCR while serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

He's currently on his second tour of duty in the combat zone.

Hentz said he fulfills a specialized role for the Canadian Forces in that country.

He advises Afghan army commanders on operations issues, collating any information such as intelligence or field reports that Canadians collect.

"We get embedded with them and live with them," he explained. "Everything we can bring to the table, we pass it on to them."

Hentz admitted he's seen his share of front line combat, in the form of fire-fights.

Saturday, the West Lorne Legion, organized auctions, sales of merchandise and other activities for guests with friends and relatives in the Canadian Armed Forces serving overseas.

Dan and Janet McKillop are the parents of Cpl. Mark McKillop, a soldier assigned to military police responsibilities, specifically protecting senior officers.

Now 24, McKillop graduated from West Elgin Secondary School and later studied at Fanshawe College. He trained in Edmonton for his assignment.

"When he left the first time, he was apprehensive," noted Dan. "We were apprehensive. When he came home on leave, he couldn't wait to get back."

"They believe in what they're doing," stressed Janet, speaking about the role of her son and every other soldier.

Nancy Murray, president of the branch, said plans were made for the day after the Legion's Ontario Command declared Saturday Support Our Troops Day.

Other Legion branches in St. Thomas and Elgin are expected to announce their own plans shortly to

support the initiative.

"People have been coming in gradually," Murray said. "We find for this type of event, people come and go."

"These young men and women aren't veterans yet. But they're over there. It's something close to my heart. It's a chance to show them we support them in a happier time."



Joe Hentz of Wallacetown and his girlfriend, Ashlee Fleming, walk into the West Lorne legion to a hero's welcome Saturday on Support Our Troops Day. Hentz is a captain currently serving in Afghanistan who was home on leave Saturday. (T-J photo by Patrick Brennan)





**Better late than never.**

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Norma McMillan of Dutton was given the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal Feb. 28 by MPP Steve Peters. McMillan was supposed to get the medal in 2003, but she and Peters missed each other that year. The two finally got together at the grand opening of Caledonia TWO in Dutton last week and McMillan was given her long-overdue award. The medal is given to people who demonstrate exemplary service to their municipalities. When Peters was looking for a candidate for Dutton/Dunwich, McMillan was strongly recommended.

*March 5<sup>th</sup> 2009*

# A lifetime of promises fulfilled

BY KYLE REA  
TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF

Almost 65 years ago, Don Monteith stood at the gravesite of a dear friend in an isolated location in the hills around Monte Cassino, Italy.

He swore that one day, he'd come back to visit his friend and do more than plant a simple wooden cross to mark his final resting place.

Earlier this month, the St. Thomas man did just that.

On Oct. 1, Don, 85, and his wife, Dorothea, 82, made the trip to Cassino, Italy, about 139 kilometres southeast of Rome, to the Cassino War Cemetery to visit the grave of Laverne Bell Wismer.

Once there, they placed a Canadian flag and poppy on his tombstone.

From Waterloo, Ont., Laverne was killed on April 28, 1944. He was only 27.

For Monteith, the visit is the culmina-

tion of a life-long dream.

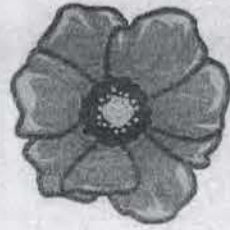
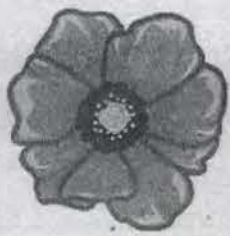
"I've always wanted to go back to visit his grave. It's been my number one priority in life. I said to myself, I've got to get over there before I get planted myself. This is more of closure for me, seeing that his grave is all right and it's his final resting place."

## WARTIME SERVICE

Don and Laverne were best buddies, serving as signalmen with the Royal Canadian Signals Corps, which had a unit within the 5th Canadian armoured division. As signalmen, they were attached to the New Westminster regiment from British Columbia.

Don, just 21 at the time, was charged with keeping lines of communication open between the brigade and regimental headquarters.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



# Remembrance Day

## November 11th

St. Thomas Times-Journal, Wednesday, October 24, 2008 — 14



**'Wis went down  
and got the water  
and started back  
and the third round  
came in'**



▲ SIGNALMAN LAVERNE WISMER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Laverne was an instrument mechanic, responsible for keeping wireless sets working.

"If they had trouble, they'd bring it to him and he'd fix it up," recalled Don.

The two spent a lot of time together.

"He was such a great guy. Just a really great guy," Don said. "He was always with us until he got killed."

Don recalled that Laverne's girlfriend would send large boxes of chocolate bars which he happily split with his comrades.

While signalmen were often separated and attached to different units, they stuck together when not on-duty.

"Communications was very vital back in those days. It was very difficult and we had to be a group that stood together."

All that changed on April 28, 1944.

Earlier that spring, the unit moved up to the front in a "stagnant" section of the line in the Po River Valley near the abbey of Monte Cassino.

"That was our first engagement with the Germans," Don explained.

Every day Laverne and a few other

soldiers would go down to a stream near where they were staying to get some water for washing, shaving and drinking.

The Germans had a habit of firing three mortar rounds into the Canadian lines around the same time every day, Don explained.

That wasn't the case on April 28 — the Germans fired twice but not a third time. The group waited for a long time but, since they needed the water, ventured down to the stream.

"Wis went down and got the water and started back and the third round came in," Don explained. Laverne was hit in the back with shrapnel, damaging his lung. He died shortly thereafter.

"We got the message the next morning that he died. I went up that night with the Sikhs, who were looking after mule trains, taking in reinforcements ... Our headquarters had made up a cross with his name on it and put it where he was buried," he said, adding the area was very remote and desolate.

Don wanted to do more for his friend beyond a simple grave marker, but wasn't able to at that time.



Don Monteith, 85, left, and his wife Dorothea, 82, recently went to Italy to visit the grave of Don's friend, Laverne Wismer, who died in April, 1944. Don always vowed to return to visit Laverne's grave but this year he actually did it. (T-J photo by Kyle Rea)



### Grandma's Pride and Joy

Maxine Campbell is perhaps one of Wallacetown United Church's oldest members, and she was a member of St. John's United until she was married. While she rarely gets out to church anymore, finding it easier to attend worship services at the Bobier Villa, Maxine says she misses Diane's services. Late last year, Maxine proudly highlighted some of her grandchildren's accomplishments for the church newsletter.

Thank you Maxine and congratulations to Sarah, Jeff and Michelle.



Sarah Campbell graduated with presidential honours in October 2008 from Memorial University in Newfoundland as a Pharmacist Technician.



Jeff Atkinson graduated from the Political Science program at Carleton University and now works as a PR Strategist for the NDP.



Michelle Campbell graduated in June 2008 from Waterloo University and is now working as a Chiropractor in the Greater Toronto Area.

### Covenanting Service

One of the requirements of the United Church for newly ordained ministers is that the presbytery holds a covenanting service, where the newly ordained minister, the presbytery, and the people the minister has been called to serve covenant (make promises) together. These pictures were taken at the covenanting service held on January 4, 2009.



Reverend Diane Macpherson, ordained in 2008 and called to serve the Dutton—Dunwich Pastoral Charge, shown here in a covenanting service held in January of this year.



# Community Profile

A look at the people in your community!

It would be hard to imagine the Dutton Library without Mary Lou McMillan, who's worked there for the last 31 years.

"It's a great place to work. You get to help people. That's what it's all about; helping the public," said Mary Lou. "I enjoy working with the people of Dutton/Dunwich and area because of their friendliness and ongoing support of the library."

Mary Lou grew up in Chatham-Kent and moved to Elgin County when she was 12. After finishing London Teachers College, she taught with the Elgin County Separate School board for three years, covering everything from Kindergarten to Grade 8. She took time off from teaching once her son was born. When her son, Joe, was ready to enter Grade

1, Mary Lou tried to get back into teaching, but found it wasn't easy.

"I stayed home with my children when they were younger. When you quit a teaching position, sometimes when you want to go back, there're no jobs. That's what happened to me," she said.

Mary Lou's teaching background ended up helping her get a new job at the Dutton branch Library, which at the time was just one room located in the town hall. The Library wanted someone to come up with children's programs, and Mary Lou was up to the job. The Library started to attract more members from the public and needed room to grow. By the late 1980's, it was decided that the library needed a building of its own. Mary Lou sat on



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

## Mary Lou McMillan

About her: Branch supervisor at Dutton Library since 1984. She used to be a goat breeder. Her favourite book is Years by Lavyrle Spencer.

the fundraising and building committees as the Library tried to find a new home. In 1993, the John Kenneth Galbraith Reference Library on Shackleton St. came to be.

"We have a really good team of co-workers here. We've all worked long term together. To me, that's a very satisfying part of my job," said Mary Lou.

Three years ago, the library got a facelift with new paint, a wall mural and some furniture.

Mary Lou has been the branch supervisor since 1984. She said she loves animals and was a goat breeder for 20 years. She stopped breeding goats nine years ago when she moved to a new home in Dutton.

Mary Lou also likes to read, not surprisingly for a library worker. Her favourite book is Years by Lavyrle Spencer, a story about a young woman starting a new teaching position in North Dakota. Mary Lou comes from

a big family; growing up with six brothers and two sisters. She said she could relate to the family relationships in the book since they reminded her of her own family. Mary Lou has two children, Michell, 37, and Joe, 35. Mary Lou has two granddaughters; 11-year-old Kailey and nine-year-old Ashlee.

Since 2003, Mary Lou has been the project manager of the Growing with Books project at the library. The program provides a library kit including library info and reading material for every newborn child in Elgin County. She's also pleased that the library offers the Community Access program, which is funded by Industry Canada, which has youths teaching the public about computer use. She said it's a particularly good program for seniors.

"I'm just really thankful that the libraries are in the small communities. They truly are a community resource that's free for everyone," she said.



Submitted

Cameron Lodge in Dutton had its installation in Dutton for its officers for the ensuing year in June. Front Row: Rt Wor Bro Jim Barber, Bro Andrew McAlpine, Wor Bro Terry Walker, Wor Bro Brian VanBrenk, Bro Greg King, Bro Eric Wilton. Back Row: Very Wor Bro Bud Welch Bro Jim Corniel, Wor Bro Jerry Galbraith, Bro Don Page, Wor Bro Craig Armstrong, Bro Barry Spruyt.

June 1st 2010

**YOUTH ACTIVITY:** Campfires, archery and challenges draw Scouts from near and far



PATRICK BRENNAN Times-Journal

John Mifkovic, leader of the 74th Scout Troop, London, Ont., rides on a zip line Saturday at Camp Timken as part of activities at the 2010 spring event.

# Scouts learn and play

PATRICK BRENNAN  
Times-Journal

IONA — Fun for Cubs, Scouts goes hand-in-hand with Camp Timken.

That was proven Saturday when 300 Cubs, Scouts and their leaders, some of whom drove to Camp Timken from Pennsylvania, settled in for a day of fun, games and Scouting socialization during the annual invitational spring camp.

Those who were there were treated to events such as an

archery contest, boot camp and a ride along a suspended zip line.

There were also traditional Scouting events such as evening campfires and services in a longhouse chapel.

"It's informal and the kids go from one event to another," said Adrienne Saunders, a leader of the 31st London Scouts who organized the event.

"We try to offer stuff the kids haven't seen before," she said.

Scouts and Cubs were

challenged by a type of army boot camp, getting involved in activities such as crossing creeks, lighting a fire to make soup, navigating an outdoor course using orientation skills and carry a casualty up and down a hill on a home-made stretcher.

"They are always trying to challenge the kids with these events," Saunders said.

Some Scouts from nearby locations such as St. Thomas, came only for the day, while others camped overnight and left Sunday morning.

ST. THOMAS TIMES-JOURNAL ■ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2010

## localnews

**ELGIN COUNTY MUSEUM:** It may be the only painting of Col. Thomas Talbot from life

# Talbot exhibit features rare painting

PATRICK BRENNAN  
Times-Journal

The donation of a historic painting to Elgin County Archives has opened a window for the public to peek into the private life of Col. Thomas Talbot.

The painting, which depicts the founder of the Talbot Settlement at work in the study of his log cabin at Port Talbot, was displayed at an invitation-only reception Saturday to celebrate the gift of Nancy Geddes Poole of London. She donated the small watercolour-on-cardboard painting earlier in the year.

It measures just 17.5 cm high by 28 wide, but its value is much greater: the watercolour has been certified by the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board as being of "outstanding significance and national importance" to the country.

Completed in 1847, it's the work of Col. Richard Airey, a nephew of Col. Talbot, and may be the only painting of Talbot



Courtesy Elgin County Archives

Col. Thomas Talbot is shown in his den in a contemporary watercolour painted by Talbot's nephew and heir, Col. Richard Airey, and donated to Elgin County Archives by Nancy Geddes Poole of London.

from life. Poole, doyenne of the London art scene and a member the Order of Canada, gave details on the history of the watercolour.

She acquired it in the 1980s from the Beecher family, who received it from Airey, Talbot's

heir. The painting, with a companion watercolour of Talbot's home and another house at Port Talbot, are the marquee pieces for a new exhibit, Col. Talbot Comes Home, Dec. 3-23 at the Elgin County Museum.



## Amazing Grace

When Grace Campbell was married, she joined the Cowal Women's Institute as a matter of course. For 51 years now she has been a member and in that time, she has always held an office in the Branch.

"In my day, that was the thing you did," says Grace. "When you got married you went to the Women's Institute in the country. They gave me a job before I ever was a member."

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) promote themselves as "an organization for personal growth and community action". The women advocate for social and economic change. Their accomplishments over the years include such things as bringing about the pasteurization of milk and having poison containers clearly marked.

Grace started in the Women's Institute as treasurer and was even Conference Secretary for the province for six years. In that role she helped organize a three day conference each year at the University of Waterloo. Seminars were organized and Grace was responsible for bringing in about 600 women from all over Ontario to attend. In addition to the conference, the various Branches of the FWIO offer high quality education and support programs and services throughout the province.

"You name it and they taught us," said Grace, explaining that there are learning centers all over the province. "We could

go and find out about block printing, quilting, embroidery... you name it...Then we could bring it back and teach our people. It's classed as a rural women's university and I'm a graduate."

Grace shared much of the knowledge that she gained through the FWIO with youth in 4-H. As well as being a member herself, Grace



Grace Campbell received the 2009 FWIO Woman of Excellence Fair Award at this year's Wallacetown Fair. In this picture, her daughter Beth is presenting a gift to go along with the award.

led 81 projects before retiring from 4-H in 2004. In fact, many of her hobbies stem from the 4-H projects she led, including quilting, knitting, and crocheting.

Among her other hobbies, Grace is into miniatures, has painted on china, and has made porcelain dolls. She spent a number of years as a spinner, and she also sews a lot.

"For my granddaughter Mallory's wedding this last summer I did her dress and all the bridesmaids," said Grace. "And I did my own daughter's and my daughter-in-law's too. You have to be a very close friend or a relative before I even consider it."

Grace has spent 45 years with the Wallacetown Agriculture Society fair board.

She has served as president of the Homecraft Division and was committee head of the Culinary Arts for 30 years. She spent many years judging at fairs throughout southwestern Ontario, which required qualifying courses every couple of years.

This past fall, Grace was recognized by the Women's Institute for her involvement in the fair all these years. At the Wallacetown Fair, she was presented with the 2009 FWIO Woman of Excellence Fair Award. Other awards that she has received over the years include the Confederation medal in 1992, the Queen's Jubilee medal in 2002 and the Helen Keller Fellowship Award in 2003.

At church, Grace helped teach Sunday School when her kids were younger. More recently you will recall Grace taking family pictures for the member's board that has been on display this past year.

Grace has also spent about 30 years canvassing for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Cancer Society. In fact, she has been the captain in the Cowal area for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

"I visit my neighbours twice a year," says Grace. "Once for the heart fund and once for the cancer. They say 'oh, what are you collecting for now?' and I say 'well, it's the heart fund, and if you'd like to do this job I'd be glad to give it to you.' They always give."



**HEART & STROKE FOUNDATION**

Finding answers. For life.



Canadian Cancer Society / Société canadienne du cancer

*Given by Lyrae Campbell Dec 2009  
3rd*

## Women's Institute's Accomplishments

By lobbying Government Agencies, the following concerns have been addressed.

- ❖ Mandatory stopping for school buses with flashing lights.
- ❖ Signs at railway crossings.
- ❖ Painting of white lines on Provincial Highways.
- ❖ Use of easily understood labels on food products.
- ❖ Enforcement of the proper use of slow-moving (SMV) signs.
- ❖ Inclusion of Music and Family Studies in the school curriculum.
- ❖ Pasteurization of milk.
- ❖ Removal of metal staples from frozen foods.
- ❖ Establishing the International Peace Gardens on the border between Manitoba and North Dakota.
- ❖ Banning the sale of mineral based detergents.
- ❖ Having bread wrapped.
- ❖ Having red stripes removed from bacon wrap.
- ❖ Having florescent paint used on the sides of railway cars.
- ❖ Labeling of garments as to fiber content and care.
- ❖ Requiring car owners to purchase liability insurance before getting a vehicle license.
- ❖ Hospital benefits for all nursing homes.
- ❖ Mandatory TB testing for food handlers.
- ❖ Establishing MacDonald Hall of the University of Guelph.
- ❖ Establishing Brock University in St. Catherine's.
- ❖ Having poison containers clearly marked.
- ❖ Legislation requiring the lowering of headlights when meeting another vehicle.
- ❖ Sex education courses in schools.
- ❖ Legislation requiring breathalyzer and blood testing for suspected drunk drivers.
- ❖ Having fowl graded for sale.
- ❖ Marking the legal marriage age at sixteen years with parental consent.
- ❖ Encouraging War Memorials and Remembrance Day Services.
- ❖ Living Wills established

# ELGIN COUNTY MUSEUM 2009 EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMES



## Canada at Play: 100 Years of Games, Toys and Sports

**March 10 - May 2**

On loan from the Royal Ontario Museum, this exhibition presents a wide range of period toys and sports equipment. Relive your childhood with toys from every decade from the 19th Century to yesterday.

## Lake Erie: Life and Leisure

**May 31 - September 1**

Features boat models, marine art and items salvaged from famous ship wrecks. Presented in partnership with the Port Burwell Marine Museum



Detail, Port Stanley, c. 1900 Elgin County Museum



## Duncombe Days in Sparta

**June 6**

Come to historic Sparta for a day of re-enactments, tours of historic buildings and entertainment.

7 PM United Church—A living history play about the other rebel leader, Dr. Charles Duncombe, and Joshua Doan, rebel and Quaker, buried in his native Sparta following his hanging in London in 1839.

## The Signature Quilts: Community Patterns

**September - December**

The culmination of a year-long residency by London multi-media artist Kirtley Jarvis during which she explored the museum's collection of signature quilts. Each quilt contains hundreds of embroidered and hand-lettered names from Elgin County's small towns and rural areas. During the summer the museum's quilt tent will tour festivals and fall fairs throughout the county.



## Elgin County Museum

450 Sunset Dr, St. Thomas

Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

519-631-1460 ext 160





# THE SIGNATURE QUILT PROJECT

## ELGIN COUNTY MUSEUM

### FALL 2009

The signature quilt was a traditional fundraising tool for community organizations. For a dime or a quarter you could have your name embroidered onto a quilt that was then raffled off to support a building project, a church mission overseas, or the efforts of the local Red Cross Branch during the two world wars. Today they commemorate events, causes, people, and even buildings which were once of great importance to the people of Elgin County. The hundreds of names preserved on them have created snapshots of the communities in which they were made.

The Elgin County Museum collection includes:

The Women's Historical Society of St. Thomas, 1919  
New Sarum Baptist Church, 1889-91  
West Lorne Methodist Church, 1890  
Fingal Red Cross, 1915  
Wellington Street School, 1934-35  
St. Thomas First United Church, c. 1930  
Rodney Evangelical Church, c. 1950  
Central Methodist Church, St. Thomas, 1919  
Alma Street Presbyterian Church, 1913  
Triangle Club, West Lorne Church of Christ, 1930  
Frome United Church, 1969

The museum will exhibit its collection along with others loaned from communities across Elgin County in the fall of 2009.

If you know of a signature quilt in your community we would like to hear about it. You can call the museum at 519-631-1460 ext. 160

# Elgin County Museum

## 2010 Exhibitions

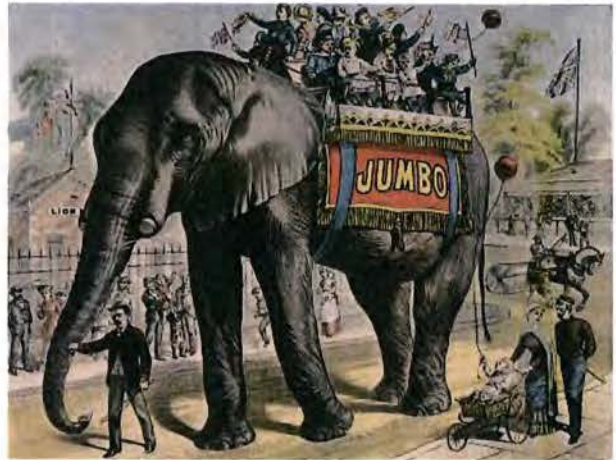


### Rural Retail: Elgin County's General Stores March 13 to August 21

The general store, once of great importance to the rural community, has evolved over a long period of time, often adding a post office or gas bar. Early packaging, a gas pump and tin signs are part of this show which highlights surviving examples in the County and draws a parallel between the early general store and the big-box stores of today.

### Jumbo: The Greatest Show on Earth June 8 to August 21

Jumbo lives on in St. Thomas despite his tragic loss 125 years ago. See period posters, a model circus, photographs and experience some of the pageantry of the travelling circus that entertained communities in the era before television and the movies. The show also includes artifacts from past anniversaries of Jumbo's last visit to St. Thomas.



### Clark McDougall: Barns September 12 to November 27

Experience the rural landscape of Elgin County through the distinctive style of local artist Clark McDougall. The show includes a large number of original works on loan from private collectors and the St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre, plus photographs and barn-related artifacts from the Museum's collection.

**Elgin County Museum**  
450 Sunset Dr, St. Thomas  
Tuesday to Saturday 10 am to 4 pm  
519-631-1460 ext. 160  
[www.elgincounty.ca](http://www.elgincounty.ca)

