

NASA scientist visits WESS

Jesse Cnockaert
The Chronicle

The distant planets of our solar system aren't beyond the reach of West Elgin Secondary School (WESS) graduates, not if they put the work in.

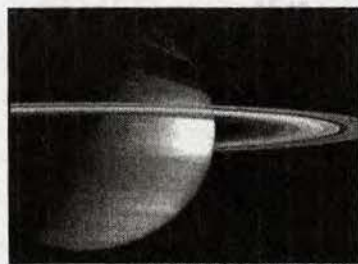
Dr. Brigette Hesman graduated from WESS in 1995, but these days she's a research scientist at NASA. Dr. Hesman is involved with the Cassini spacecraft project, which follows a probe currently near Saturn. Dr. Hesman visited WESS Nov. 26 to tell students all about her work, and to remind them to reach for the stars.

"Whenever somebody says to you 'You can't do that,' turn to them and say 'Watch me,'" said Dr. Hesman.

The Cassini project was first conceived in 1976, coincidentally, the same year that Dr. Hesman was born. The spacecraft was built in the early 90's.

In 1997, Cassini was launched. That was the same year Hesman started at York University, where she also joined their astronomy club.

The spacecraft made a flyby at Jupiter in 2000 for a gravity-assisted slingshot to help it on its way to Saturn. Cassini arrived at Saturn in 2004. Dr. Hesman herself began working on the



NASA/JPL/Space Science Institute

“Whenever somebody says to you ‘You can’t do that,’ turn to them and say ‘Watch me!’”

— Dr. Brigette Hesman

project in 2005.

Dr. Hesman used pictures to introduce the Cassini spacecraft to the assembled students, from the top of its high-gain antenna to the bottom of its radio thermoelectric generators.

Cassini has been using its Optical Remote-Sensing Instruments to determine temperatures, chemical

composition, structure, and chemistry of Saturn, its rings, moons, and their atmospheres. It will measure the mass and internal structure of Saturn and its moons and will photograph Saturn, its rings, and moons in visible, near infrared and ultraviolet wavelengths.

"The amount of questions this spacecraft has posed would keep all of you busy for your entire careers," said Dr. Hesman to the students.

Dr. Hesman shared photographs including an image of Saturn eclipsing the sun and the first ever images of lightning storms on Saturn, which were taken just last year.

Dr. Hesman also talked about Titan, Saturn's largest moon. Titan is unusual; not only is it the only satellite in this system to have a dense atmosphere, but its atmosphere is nitrogen-based, like the atmosphere of the earth.

"If anywhere in our solar system there was going to be life, it would be Titan," said Dr. Hesman. "We haven't found any yet."

After the presentation, Dr. Hesman was applauded by the student body, and she was given a gift bag from Chemistry teacher Dave Machado. Machado was a classmate of Hesman at WESS and they graduated together.



Jesse Cnockaert The Chronicle

Reach for the stars

Brigette Hesman was a guest speaker at West Elgin Secondary School Nov. 26. Hesman graduated from WESS in 1995, and today she lives in Washington as a research scientist for NASA. She spoke to the assembled students about her work with a spacecraft near Saturn. Once Hesman's presentation was over, WESS instructor Dave Machado gave her a gift bag as a thank-you.

The Long Road Back – to Dutton

Growing up in Dutton, Kevin Beattie was raised with small town values and, after travelling and working across this beautiful country, he came to appreciate the true meaning of family, friends and those small town values. Upon graduation in 1994, he left Dutton for the "bright lights" of Barrie, Ontario and Georgian College to pursue an education in the food and beverage industry. After completion, he jumped at the chance to complete his co-op work at the world famous Banff Springs Hotel in Alberta. There, his passion for food and wines became fully developed receiving certificates in pre-sommelier, food and wine pairing, as well as beverage training and service. Leaving Banff in 2004 after eight years, Kevin moved on to Ottawa and restaurant management. Shortly afterwards, he married his sweetheart Stacie and they welcomed their first child Jackson in 2006. The pull of Elgin County and the desire to be near grandparents brought the new family back to London where they added a daughter Aislyn in 2009. Determined to remain close to family, Kevin worked and researched opportunities in London where by chance, he came into Somerset Fine Wines and Gifts in southwest London to assist his dad in bottling his wines. The experience proved to be fateful as he immediately recognized the unique environment, the great value and tasty wines that could be made at about one third of retail prices. His resume soon fell



into the hands of the owners, Sandi and Dwight Scudder who were most impressed with this young man's work experience, wine knowledge and understanding of good service. "I like the way you do business" jumped off Kevin's resume. That was the line that caught the owner's eye. Given the chance to manage the location with an opportunity to buy into the company, Kevin seized the opportunity and over these past two years, has become the trusted advisor and wine maker to the growing number of customers who have discovered this unique consumer made winery. Somerset Fine Wines and Gifts are proud to offer you the largest selection of winemaking kits in Southwestern Ontario.

The best quality products at every price and guarantee. You can expect to make drink wines in just four weeks or upgrade kits all of which are produced in Canada, world's most famous winemaking regions, check out this incredible consumer winery, somersetfinewines.com then drop in for a chat with Kevin, who with 15 years of wine industry experience will take the time to discuss your choices. You can count on him to match your taste for the perfect wines. With the holiday season wouldn't it be nice to have wines you're giving to friends and family at a fraction of retail prices? There's not a better place in London to enhance your wine experience. Check out our hostess and home décor items as well. We guarantee you will not be disappointed by your Somerset Fine Wines experience. Moving back to London and more recently Elgin county in 2009 has proven to be a great experience for Kevin, Stacie and their young family. You can drop in to Somerset Fine Wines and Gifts in London and make your own "rewarding

We invite you to drop in and experience London's finest winemaking operation

SOMERSET
Fine Wines & Gifts

"Count on us for good taste!"

HISTORY BITES



Eliza Leslie [frequently referred to as Miss Leslie] (November 15, 1787 – January 1, 1858) was an American author of popular cookbooks during the nineteenth century. She gained popularity for her books on etiquette as well. These are small excerpts from “The Lady’s Receipt-Book”, written by Miss Leslie. It was published in 1847 and was a very common book of the time and may have even been used by Mary-Jane Backus. It was assumed that the cook in the home would have vast experience and would be able to alter a recipe such as changing the Raspberry Pudding to Rhubarb Pudding by lightly cooking the rhubarb and simply adding more sugar.

April 13th 2011

ECONOMICAL DINNERS FOR SMALL FAMILIES.—The receipts for these plain dishes are generally to be found in Miss Leslie’s “Directions for Cookery,” a work to which the present book is supplemental.

SPRING.—Boiled ham ; spinach ; asparagus ; poke ; potatoes*—Rhubarb pie.

Veal cutlets ; cold ham ; spinach ; turnips ; poke ; asparagus—Baked batter pudding.

Broiled halibut cutlets ; cold ham ; spinach ; turnips ; asparagus—Boiled indian pudding.

Calf’s liver fried with ham ; asparagus ; turnips ; poke ; spinach—Rhubarb pudding.

Boiled leg of mutton ; stewed onions ; turnips ; carrots—Baked rice pudding.

Family soup ; fried ham and eggs ; asparagus ; beets ; spinach—Baked indian pudding.

Corned beef ; cabbage ; carrots ; stewed onions ; beets—Fritters.

Broiled shad ; cold corned beef ; carrots ; spinach ; asparagus—Eastern pudding.

Veal pie ; fried ham and eggs ; asparagus ; spinach ; turnips—Gooseberry fool.

* There is no necessity for repeating the mention of potatoes. It will of course be understood that potatoes should constitute a portion of every dinner. Also that pickles should always be on the table with beef and mutton.



RASPBERRY PUDDING.—Fill a deep dish with a quart of ripe raspberries, well mixed with four or five large table-spoonfuls of powdered sugar. As you put in the raspberries mash them slightly with the back of a spoon. Beat six eggs as light as possible, and mix them with a pint of cream or rich unskimmed milk, and four more spoonfuls of sugar, adding some grated nutmeg. Pour this over the raspberries. Set the dish immediately into a moderate oven, and bake the pudding about half an hour. When done, set the dish on ice, or where it will become quite cold before it goes to table.

A similar pudding may be made with ripe currants, picked from the stalks ; or with ripe cherries stoned.

A pine-apple pudding made in this way is excellent. There must be as much pine-apple as will measure a quart, after it is pared, sliced, and grated fine. Sweeten it well with loaf-sugar.



put in by Dora Foster.



Hooked Rug, Magdalena Briner and Ellen Eby, c. 1885

Elgin County Museum presents:

Patterns from the Past: Hooked and Woven Textiles

April 16 - September 3

2011

Highlights include early hooked rugs from prominent local collections, a number of period overshoot and Jacquard coverlets and a series of demonstrations of a variety of textile skills.

The highlight of the exhibition is a large number of rare pieces on loan from the Gerald R. Fagan Collection of Pennsylvania-German textiles.

The Museum is open 10-4 Tues.-Sat. located at 450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas.

Call 519-631-1460 ext. 160 for information or visit www.elgincounty.ca and click on Community and Cultural Services.



Hooked Rug, Anna Weber, c. 1880

LOCAL HERITAGE: Enormously significant small piece of the past

Col. Thomas Talbot painting 'of national importance'

ERIC BUNNELL
Times-Journal

Measuring just 17.5 cm high by 28 wide, it's a relatively small part of our past.

And as an artwork, it is a rather prosaic painting of an old man at his desk by a roaring fire in his den.

"It's more like documenting the room," Mike Baker, Elgin County Museum curator, observes.

"It's not a work of art." But significance of the circa 1850 water colour by Richard Airey of his uncle, Col. Thos. Talbot at home in his now-demolished log cabin at Port Talbot, is enormous.



Indeed, the painting has been certified by the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board as being of "outstanding significance

and national importance" to the country — it being the only picture of the founder of the Talbot Settlement known to have been painted during his lifetime.

"It's the only verified contemporary portrait of Col. Talbot," says Stephen Francom, Elgin County Archives manager.

"I consider it — as we all do — an important part of the cultural heritage of this area."

The picture was donated this past spring to the county and is now part of the archives collection, and Francom recently announced the gift to county council.

Details, including name of the donor, are being kept secret until the International Plowing Match is out of the way and the gift can be fittingly celebrated with an event, probably in mid-October.

There are no plans, however, for ongoing exhibition.

As a military man of his day, Airey — remembered farther afield not as Talbot's heir but as the leader of the ill-fated Charge of the Light Brigade — would have been trained in landscape painting as a way of reconnaissance.

Baker says the literal nature of his water colour is what makes it so valuable as a record of Talbot's setting.

"I prefer it that way," Baker says.

"The researcher, the muse-

ologist in me, says 'Great — it's a record.'"

Indeed, in the middle of the room there's the very chair favourite armchair of the colonel that the museum now holds in its collection,

it's provenance further verified.

But the painting is not without evidence of humanity.

Talbot looks old and frail just a few years before his

death. But by his side, there's what appears to be a basket of eggs — evidence of a gentleman farmer's continuing interest in the country he adopted half a world away from his home.

The Southwold Prehistoric Earthworks

The Southwold Prehistoric Earthworks, on the west edge of Southwold, commemorates the site of a village occupied by 800 to 900 Attiwandaronk Indians for approximately 20 years in the early 16th century, before contact with European settlers. The site consists of an oval ring of earthworks enclosing archaeological remains of a double palisade and village that may have included up to 24 longhouses.

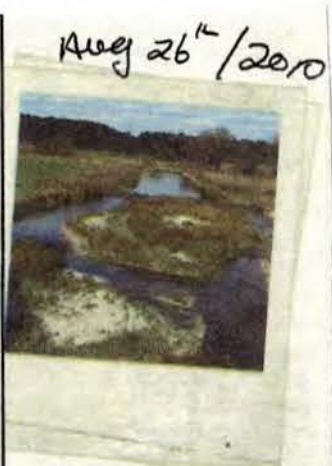
The 2.2 hectare (5.5 acre) site is situated in an area of fertile farmland, once the western portion of the Attiwandaronk settlement which stretched from Kent County to the Niagara Peninsula.

The double wall of earthworks constitutes one of the



most remarkable features of the village. Scientific evidence indicates that the outer palisade was constructed first. Posts, or tree trunks, pointed on the bottom, 4 to 5 metres in height, were driven into the ground. Earth was then scraped from both sides to support the structure leaving the present trench. The inner palisade consisted of a double row of posts, soil was again taken from around the base and put against the posts, braces were also used at intervals for additional support.

Located on Iona Side Road.



The Kettle Creek, on the east edge of Southwold, looking north at John Wise Line, west of Sunset Drive.

Photo by Al Bod.

Delivered to over 30,000 addresses - WEEKLY

St. Thomas founder remembered

Young descendants unveil new plaque

by Brian Wilsdon

Two centuries ago Daniel Rapelje, the first citizen of St. Thomas settled his family in a shanty on what is now the Stanley Street hill.

To mark the Bicentennial year, the Elgin Historical Society erected a brass plaque beside his fading tombstone at the old English Church graveyard on Saturday.

It was officially unveiled by Lara, 12, and Robert, 9, of Walkerton, eighth generation descendants of Rapelje. They

were among 13 descendants present for the commemorative ceremony.

"Hopefully this will help keep this historic piece of history alive for another several centuries," said Don Cosens who researched much of the information on the Rapelje family.

Born in 1775 in Long Island, New York, Rapelje moved to Norfolk county before he resettled in this area in 1810. In 1812 he and one son George served in the Battle of Lundy's Lane. While they were away a band of 600 American soldiers from Kentucky pillaged his land, killed his sheep, and burned his fences for firewood.

www.theweeklynews.ca

It was later in 1815, with the help of other settlers that he built a mill on Spohn's Flats. Later a brewery was built where Mill Creek entered Kettle Creek. In 1820 he donated a parcel of land to the Church of England, where the Old English Church was erected, and where he and many of his family are buried.

He died on October 1, 1828, and his wife Elizabeth lived another 35 years.

Lara and her brother Robert Rapelje of Walkerton area unveiled the Elgin Historical brass plaque commemorating Daniel Rapelje, St. Thomas's first citizen. The children are eighth generation descendants of Rapelje. (Photo by Brian Wilsdon)



June 24th 2010 www.theweel

The Greatest Show on Earth

Now on at the Elgin County Museum

by Dorothy Gebert

Since St. Thomas' statue of Jumbo is covered in scaffolding and won't emerge until sometime in July, you can get your circus fix at Elgin County Museum's new exhibit.

"It may be 125 years after his death," says curator Mike Baker, "but Jumbo is still a big story in this town."

The centerpiece of the show is a miniature model circus first created in the 1970s by Dr. Ryckman, a local surgeon. It was on display at the Talbot Trail Tea Room for many years and owner Wayne McKinnon added to the collection. It includes dozens of circus wagons, railway cars, performing animals, tiered seating with spectators, a sideshow, and, of course, hordes of elephants.

"We even have our own sideshow of weird curiosities," says Baker. On display is material recovered from Jumbo hours after he died, such as a portion of his ear, and objects from his stomach, including a metal pig and a human tooth.

Visitors will also see period photographs,



Mike Baker, curator of the Elgin County Museum, shows off some of the artifacts on display at the new Jumbo exhibit. (Photo by Dorothy Gebert)

newspaper clippings, and tin signage, plus vintage fence boards, recently salvaged from a local property, which are covered with original Barnum & Bailey posters from 1883 promoting Jumbo's appearance in the city.

Jumbo: The Greatest Show on Earth is now on at the Elgin County Museum in St. Thomas until August 28. Admission is free. For more information, call 519-631-1460 ext 160.



Oct 14th 2010

QMI Agency Photo

Car-A-Van Tour

Roberta Gillard, secretary of the Elgin Federation of Agriculture, shows a display visitors saw at Great Lakes New Holland, one of the stops on the Car-A-Van Tour October 3. Several farms and locations in West Elgin opened for the annual tour.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2010 ■ ST. THOMAS TIMES-JOURNAL

vote2010

PIECE OF ELGIN HISTORY



PATRICK BRENNAN Times-Journal

Nancy Geddes Poole, left, shows the painting of the interior of Col. Thomas Talbot's home she donated to the Elgin County Archives. With her is Mike Baker, Elgin County Museum curator.

Volume 6 No. 51

April 6th 2011

OBITUARY



Mike Baker, Elgin County Museum curator, holds Ellis Sifton's Victoria Cross that will be an exclusive display April 9.

Out of the vault...for just one day

WWI medal on display at Elgin County Museum

Elgin County Museum is closing its John McCrae exhibit with a special event April 9 to honour Ellis Sifton, an Elgin County farmer. He died on the first day of the Battle of Vimy Ridge on April 9, 1917 and won a Victoria Cross posthumously for bravery.

In an exclusive showing, the medal, usually kept in the vault, will be on display as well as a copy of a letter from King George V expressing regret for not being able to confer the honour in person.

Also at the event at 2pm will be Andrew Nelson of the University of Western Ontario who will speak about identifying the remains of a previously unknown soldier buried at Vimy Ridge through forensic tests.

IF YOU GO...

Ellis Sifton WWI medal
When? Sun., Apr. 9, 1-4pm
Where? Elgin County Museum, 450 Sunset Dr., St. Thomas
Cost? Free admission
More info?
519-631-1460, ext.160

■ ST. THOMAS CEMETERY: William Welter and John A. Hendershott were hanged for the murder of Hendershott's nephew in 1895

Remains of infamous murderers reburied

Sept 29 2010

ERIC BUNNELL
Times-Journal

They plotted a notorious crime together. They were hanged together. Now, two convicted killers will spend the rest of eternity together.

Remains of William Welter and John A. Hendershott, who were hanged in 1895 in St. Thomas for the murder of Hendershott's nephew, were reburied Monday afternoon in St. Thomas in a brief service at historic St. Thomas Cemetery on West Avenue.

About 20 people witnessed the interment, including local historian Don Cosens who gave a eulogy. With two local ministers officiating, the two men were returned to the ground in plain coffins, side by side in a double grave away from family plots each had in the cemetery. No media was present.

"It's definitely the end of an era," Cosens said Tuesday in an interview.

The burial near St. Thomas Mausoleum is a final chap-

ter in the story of the 1894 murder of William Hendershott at Middlemarch, which attracted international attention for what was then a new crime, insurance murder.

Claiming it was a logging accident, Welter killed William after John A. Hendershott took out an \$11,000 policy on his nephew's life.

The conspirators were found out when John Hendershott attempted to claim his money and a suspicious insurance company called in Ontario's most famous detective of the day to investigate.

Welter was convicted of the murder and Hendershott, as an accessory.

Cosens says the crime caused a furore in days before radio and television.

Cosens in 1958 interviewed the *St. Thomas Times* reporter who covered the murder, and says he remembered having to cycle to Middlemarch because the roads were jammed with curious onlookers who wanted to see the crime scene.

"There were thousands of people!"

The two men were hanged at Elgin County Gaol behind the landmark Wellington Street courthouse where they were tried, and their bodies were buried in a common grave in the jail yard.

"My grandfather knew them. Not well, but he knew them. He attended the trials, the preliminary and the main trial. He went to town the day of the hanging. He didn't see it, but he was there — along with hundreds of others."

They gathered outside the jail's walls. Some boys climbed a tree for a look over. Cosens expects they saw the proceedings.

When the jail was closed and eventually pulled down, the grave was lost. But the two men's remains were unearthed this summer during an archeological investigation of the site of a proposed \$100 million consolidated courthouse project, reviving memories of the 115-year-old crime.

After no family came forward to claim them, the Ontario Registrar of Cemeteries says it contacted retired Baptist minister Clarence Roberts and First United Church minister Roger Landell to represent the two men's interests.

Based on historical information, Hendershott is believed to have been a Baptist and Welter, a Methodist, one of the founding churches of the United Church of Canada.

Roberts presided over Hendershott's reburial and Landell, over Welter's. It was a simple ceremony with no specific reference to long-ago crimes for which the murderers on the scaffold prayed for forgiveness.

"It was very nicely done," says Cosens, whose eulogy included a childhood recollection by Dr. James Curtis of schoolmate Welter.

After both men failed their high school entrance exams, Curtis retook his and passed but Welter left school.

Cosens quotes Curtis, who eventually became St. Thomas medical officer of health: "I often wonder what would have been the out-



Historian Don Cosens, second from right, delivers a eulogy prior to reburial of John A. Hendershott and William Welter on Monday at St. Thomas Cemetery. Rev. Roger Landell is at right.

come of Welter's life had he gone and taken the entrance exam again."

Cosens, who admits a lifelong fascination with the crime, believes Welter also was a victim of Hendershott, a distant relation.

"I feel very sorry for Welter. He was used very badly."

Cosens doesn't believe any family members — including direct descendants of

Hendershott through his two daughters — attended the service, which was paid for by Ontario Realty Corp, which owns the courthouse site. A spokesman said the cost of the exhumation, investigation of the remains, and their reburial is about \$8,000.

Welter's and Hendershott's final resting place would be forgotten. It is to be marked by two flat markers.

Historic St. Thomas Cen

William Welter and John A. Hendershott are but two people buried in St. Thomas Cemetery who also occupy prominent places in local, national, and even international history.

Premier Mitch Hepburn is to be honoured 1 p.m. Friday with the unveiling of an Ontario Heritage Trust plaque marking his grave. The ceremony is the end result of a campaign by Elgin-Middlesex-London

Liberal MPP Steve Peters for Ontario to recognize its premiers.

With its beginnings in 1838, when Benjamin Drake buried his wife on a corner of his farm, St. Thomas Cemetery today is final resting place for approximately 21,000 people.

Among them, William Burnip drove the train that ran down Jumbo. He later met an accidental death, himself — he was killed in a building collapse in the San Francisco earthquake.

Located at 67 West Avenue, the cemetery is welcoming visitors 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday during Doors Open Ontario. It's one of 17 St. Thomas hosts of the heritage event.

■ CAR-A-VAN: Annual event takes place Sunday

Sept 30th 2010

Tour area agribusinesses

PATRICK BRENNAN
Times-Journal

It's going to be a Sunday drive with a twist.

Residents of St. Thomas-Elgin who point their vehicles west, will have the chance Sunday to visit any of six agribusinesses located in either Southwold, Dutton/Dunwich or West Elgin, as part of the annual Car-a-Van tour.

The event is organized by the Elgin Federation of Agriculture and Women's Institutes in Elgin county.

Roberta Gillard, a spokesperson for the Elgin Federation of Agriculture, said the tour rotates every year, showcasing agribusiness in either the west, central or eastern sectors of the county.

The tour is self-guided and those interested are encour-

aged to obtain a map of the participating farms and businesses. Maps are available from the St. Thomas Public Library, any branch of the Elgin County Library, the Elgin-St. Thomas Tourism office or call the Elgin Federation of Agriculture's office at 519-633-0114.

Signs will be posted along the routes and the tour will operate 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The tour includes:

■ Great Lakes New Holland Farm Equipment on Talbot Line, just west of Talbotville adjacent to the Cargill grain elevators, where the public can see agricultural implements up close.

■ McCallum Farms at 9893 Iona Road, operated by the McCallum brothers, which grows corn, beans and wheat.

■ Aberlin Dairy Goat Farm on Aberdeen Line, north of Dutton where dairy goats will be on display with demonstrations on how the milk is sent to the dairy for cheese and other products.

■ Erie Gardens, on Furnival Road in West Elgin, where visitors can see a selection of annual and perennial plants as well as rare trees and shrubs.

■ Lavender Sense on Ash Line, where visitors can see lavender fields and a beautiful century-old farmstead adjacent to 10 hectares (25 acres) of Carolinian forest.

■ A good selection of fresh fruit including apples, pears, plums and sweet cherries on display at Van Brenk's Fruit Farms on Erin Line, south of Talbot Line.

Medal presentation celebrates a local hero

Jesse Cnockaert *April 7th 2011*
The Chronicle

A special presentation to Dunwich-Dutton Public School reminded the students that greatness is within us all.

On April 4, Blair Ferguson, a Dutton man who deals in military antiques, made a donation of replica medals to the school. The medals are replicas of the ones awarded to Ellis Sifton, a Wallacetown man who fought and died at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in World War I.

Ellis Sifton was born in Wallacetown Oct. 12, 1891.

On April 9, 1917, the Canadian contingent's objective was to take Vimy Ridge, a German-held high ground along an escarpment in France.

Sifton's platoon was held down by heavy German machine gun fire during the battle. As Ferguson described it, Sifton "Could take no more", and he jumped the trench and charged the hill. Sifton dove into the German machine gun nest and single-handedly killed the machine gun crew.

"He was changing history," said Ferguson.

Sifton then held the high ground, awaiting his platoon to advance to his position. When a group of Germans approached from down a supply trench to try to re-take the nest, Sifton, out of ammo, fought them back using his empty gun as a base-

ball bat.

Just as the fighting neared its end, a single German soldier fired a shot, killing Sifton.

"Ellis Sifton died not knowing he was a hero," said Ferguson.

Ferguson said that the victory of Vimy Ridge led to Canada being called Canada. Before Vimy Ridge, Canada was called the Dominion of Canada, as a dominion of the British Empire. After the Battle of Vimy Ridge, newspaper headlines and stories around the world spoke of Canada and brave Canadian soldiers.

Sifton was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously. He was one of four soldiers to earn that award at the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

The replica medals, along with a bio and photo of Sifton, were mounted in a display case near Dunwich-Dutton Public School's main office.

"This is a great tribute to a local hero, where history will live on through the lives of our students," said Principal Scott Askey.

Also making appearances at the presentation were West Elgin Secondary School history teacher Ron Tait, WWI veteran Lorne Spicer and Tom Lanning of the 31 Combat Engineer Regiment.

The presentation was made this week since it coincided with the anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.



Courtesy Elgin County Military Museum

Ellis Wellwood Sifton

Ellis Sifton was born in Wallacetown Oct. 12, 1891. Sifton fought at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917 during WWI. Sifton single-handedly killed the Germans in a machine gun nest, allowing his platoon to advance up the hill. Sifton died in the battle, but played a pivotal role in the Canadian victory.

Jesse Cnockaert The Chronicle

Medal presentation

On April 4, Blair Ferguson, a military antiques dealer, presented Dunwich-Dutton Public School with some replicas of the medals awarded to Ellis Sifton, a Wallacetown man who died at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The medals will be on display at the school near the main office. Ferguson and his son, eight-year-old Seamus, are relatives of Sifton. The mother of Ferguson's mother-in-law was Sifton's cousin. L-R: Scott Askey, Dunwich-Dutton principal, Seamus Ferguson, Blair Ferguson, Tom Lanning and Lorne Spicer.



*Married.
April 29th 2011.*



St. Thomas Times-Journal

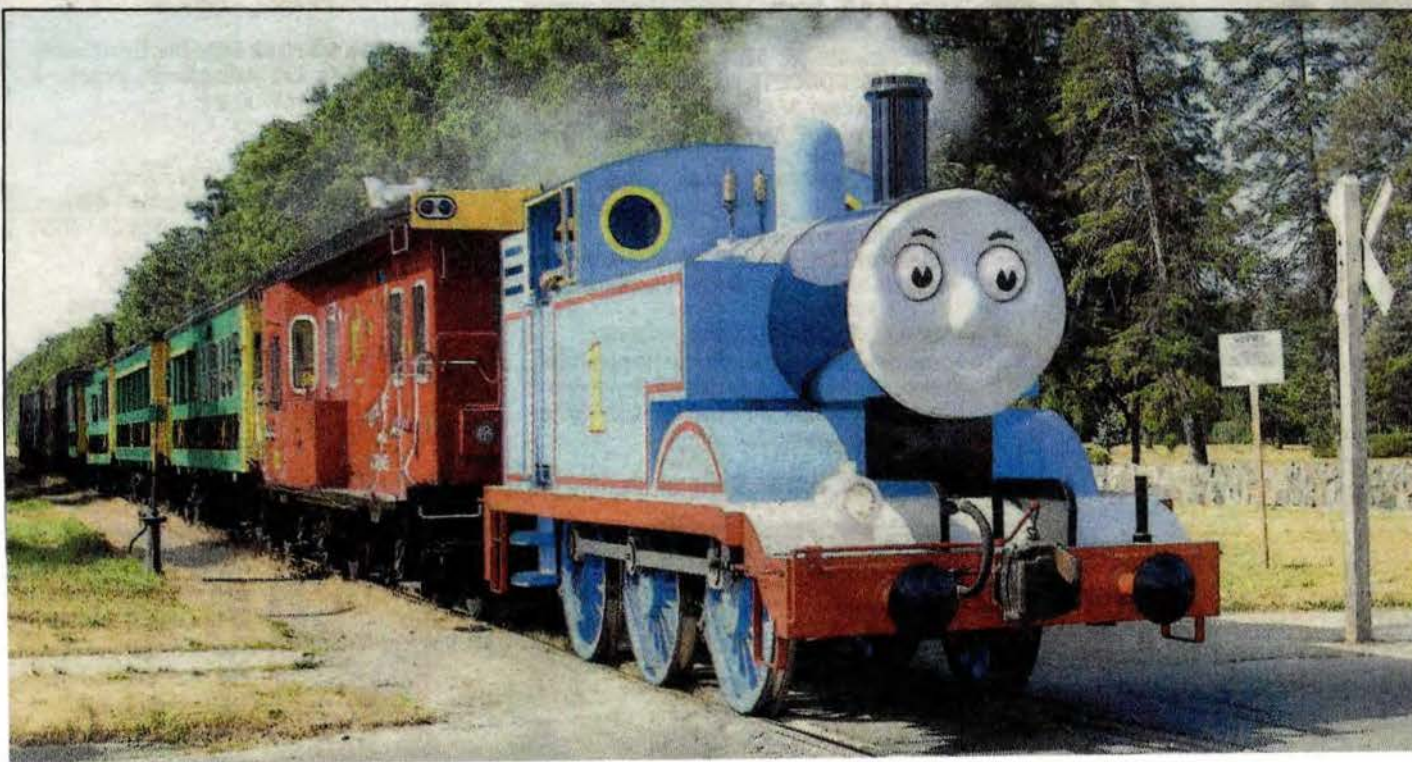


Risk t'storms, 32

Saturday, July 23, 2011

\$1.00 (incl. HST)

■ ALL ABOARD!



Thomas the Tank Engine steams across Elm Street on his way back to Memorial arena Friday. *Day Out with Thomas* continues today until 6 p.m. and wraps up Sunday at 6 p.m.

ROBERT CHALK