

# Bobier Villa Grand Opening

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would be proud of your accomplishments," said Mr. Van Brenk.

Dutton Reeve Hugh MacGinnis also extended thanks to various parties, commenting that it is always a pleasure to be at the new Bobier Home. "My proudest moment was when the seniors moved from the old Bobier Home to the new Bobier Home," said Reeve MacGinnis.

## Dream Reality

Listing some of the other building projects which have taken place in the community in the past few years such as the library and day care centre, Dunwich Reeve Peter Hentz said, "the dream of a new home has become a reality." He also stated that this new facility is a project that all of Elgin could be proud of.

## Reflects Community

Elgin M.P.P. Peter North also extended congratulations to a number of people, noting it is the character of the people of Elgin to support worthy projects. Noting that the process of getting this facility was frustrating at times, Mr. North admired the finished building saying that "it reflects the people who live in this community."

Middlesex-London M.P.P. Bruce Smith expressed his

pleasure at being part of the opening, extending his personal greetings and also on behalf of Ontario Premier Mike Harris. On behalf of the Premier and the province, he presented a memento of the occasion.

## Local Field of Dreams

Drawing an analogy to the field of dreams, Gail Ure, Regional Director Long Term Care Division, stated there have been many players to bring this dream to life and congratulated the staff, residents and community on the opening of the new building. Since the challenge to construct the new facility has been met, she said, "now the challenge is to ensure that this becomes a home for each resident." While many think the job is completed, "the job has only just begun," Ms. Ure said.

"I'm so excited. Today is a day for thanksgiving," exclaimed Leta West, chairperson of the Bobier Home Caring for Seniors Capital Campaign. She expressed thanks to the individuals, organizations and groups who have contributed money, time, etc., to the project. Members of the fundraising committee were also acknowledged for their time. Mrs. West pointed out that the multi-purpose room, where everyone was gathered, was named after Mary Isabell Whitelock, for her generosity and in her memory.

## Campaign Goal Nears

At the time of the grand opening, a total of \$541,766.00 had been raised and an additional \$50,000.00 pledged, bringing the goal of \$665,000.00 ever closer.

## Benefits

Unable to attend, Elgin-Middlesex-London M.P. Gar Knutson sent his regrets via his assistant Eva Richardson. Ms. Richardson read a statement from Mr. Knutson in which he congratulated the community on this project. He pointed out the benefits of the Bobier Villa, saying "the seniors in this community will also reap the benefits of the increased assistance to be able to remain at home and the modern facility available when they can no longer do so." Ms. Richardson presented a Canadian flag for the new home.

## Deserve Rights

Bringing greetings on behalf of the Minister of Health Jim Wilson, Dan Newman, M.P.P. Scarborough Centre and Parliamentary Assistant to the Health Minister, said, "you have created a very beautiful home here for your senior citizens." Mr. Newman remarked



**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS** - The Grand Opening Ceremony of the Bobier Villa attracted a huge crowd to celebrate the historic occasion. Pictured, left to right, Phil Dynes, Zurich Insurance, and Stu Harper, HIRA Ltd. General Contractors, present a framed print to Homes Director/Administrator Fred Boyes while Elgin Warden Harry Mezenberg accepts the key from Mel Mekinda, Mekinda Snyder Partnership Architects.

"that society owes a debt to seniors for all of the sacrifices they have made on our behalf, especially deserving the right to grow old with dignity, respect and independence."

Mr. Boyes read letters from M.P.P. Marion Boyd and the Ontario Nursing Home Association.

## Ribbon Cutting

The ceremony ended with the ribbon cutting by M.P.P. Dan Newman, Warden Harry Mezenberg, Homes Committee Chairman Rien Van Brenk, Director/Administrator Fred Boyes, and Regional Director Gail Ure.

For those who were unable to attend the grand opening, open houses were held on Saturday and Sunday afternoon with an estimated 300-400 people touring the facility each day.



**HOME SWEET HOME** - While the community is proud of the new Bobier Villa, residents are feeling right at home in their new surroundings. Assistant Director Marilyn Fleck takes a moment to chat with resident Garnett Cowell after the official opening.

# Bobier Auxiliary

The Bobier Home Auxiliary met recently in the conference room at new Bobier Villa. President Rena Campbell welcomed the members and thanked the groups for their support of the picnic.

Joan McLandress read from a column about West Elgin.

Nancy Hunter reported that there are 50 people in residence. They had a busy summer and the craft program has started again. Adult Day Program is on Tuesdays.

Roll call "Your hobby as a collector," was answered by the members.

There was some discussion as to serving coffee at the Sunday tea room. It was left to the choice of the volunteers.

A painting of the Bobier Home, a gift from the auxiliary will be ready by Dec.

Tea Room for October (1st Sunday) and Birthday Party or September (last Thursday) will be hosted by Hillyer Mission Circle.

Friday, December 12th was the date set for the Christmas party. The meeting closed with the auxiliary prayer and tea.

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## Tyrconnell Couple Mark 60th Anniversary

TYRCONNELL, Sept. 13. — The old Stephen Backus home on the Lake Road extension of the pioneer Talbot Road, in the heart of Colonel Thomas Talbot's Little Ireland, will be the scene of a happy occasion tomorrow when Mr. and Mrs. George Lidster will celebrate the 60th anniversary of their marriage with a gathering of their family and friends. The diamond wedding reception will be from three to six o'clock Sunday afternoon in this hospitable old home, that stands on its commanding site on the hillside above the winding Road of Yesterday.

For 38 years Mr. and Mrs. Lidster have lived in this venerable house, built something like a century and a quarter ago. It is to their credit that the house has been kept in a wonderful state of preservation while the grounds, with their lovely old trees and shrubs and beds and borders of old-fashioned perennials are also kept neat and attractive.

Mr. and Mrs. Lidster lived and farmed in the othwell district for 22 years after their marriage; then they decided they would like to try farming on heavier soil, learned from mutual friends that the Stephen Backus farm of 200 acres was for sale and purchased it. There they have lived to raise their family of four children; to see them married and move away and to welcome to that wonderful old house with its 16 big, friendly rooms, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Now they have 23 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren and they hope that every one of them will be at the diamond wedding celebration. The wedding luncheon will be served in the huge double dining-room of the old house, by members of the Women's Association of the Wallaceburg United Church.

### Married in Wallaceburg

Mr. and Mrs. Lidster were married near Wallaceburg, Mrs. Lidster being the daughter of Thomas and Mary Richardson, pioneer farm folk of that area. She was born Margaret Richardson, one of ten children, and before her marriage was a district school teacher. "I had a good father and mother," she told The Times-Journal. "My father's ambition was to give every one of his children a good education—and he achieved that worthwhile ambition."

Five of Mrs. Lidster's brothers and her sister, Mrs. Robert Brown, of Wheatley, Ont., are living. Her brothers are: Rev. J. D. Richardson retired United Church minister, Port Credit, Ont.; T. H. Richardson, prominent realtor of St. Paul, Minnesota; J. N. Richardson, farmer of the Wallaceburg district; Professor L. N. Richardson, on the staff of Carlton College, Ottawa,



Mr. and Mrs. George Lidster, celebrating the 60th anniversary of their marriage at Tyrconnell. 1952

formerly on the staff of the Royal Canadian Naval College at Kingston and in secret service work during the Second World War for the Canadian Government; and Dr. S. A. Richardson, practising physician of Wallaceburg, Ont.

By a coincidence, Mr. Lidster's mother's name was also Mary. He is the son of John and Mary Lidster, who came to Canada early in the last century; landing at Halifax, and settling first in Ridgetown, Ont., and then taking up land in the virgin forest a few miles back of Ridgetown. They were hardy folk in every sense of the word the little sailing vessel that brought them to Canada taking six weeks to make the Atlantic crossing. Mr. Lidster was born on the homestead near Bothwell, in the year that the Fenian Raid threat began.

### Met on a Visit

He and his future wife met at the Lidster home where Mrs. Lidster's brother was boarding while school teaching. She went to the Lidster home to spend a weekend and there she met her future husband. Sixty years of truly happy married life resulted, for Mr. and Mrs. Lidster are a happy couple, possessed of keen senses of humor and a wonderful contentment in each other's companionship.

It would be difficult to find two

people, married for 60 years, with brighter intellects and a more active interest in life. Unquestionably they will get a big thrill and pleasure out of celebrating their diamond wedding with their family and many warm friends. Possibly their saving sense of humor has been an important factor in keeping them young and alert mentally.

They were married at the bride's home by a veteran Methodist minister named Millyard. He has long since gone to his reward, and Mr. Lidster's four brothers and four sisters have also joined their respected parents in death.

The wedding trip was to Toronto for the old Toronto Fair. They had to travel some 28 miles in a horse and carriage over rather rough roads in order to get to the station and catch the old Grand Trunk Railway train to Toronto.

"It was a pretty good fair 60 years ago," Mr. Lidster recalled. "Even then it was a big fair, with several large exhibition buildings."

The Bothwell district was just gaining international attention when Mr. Lidster was a boy from the oil discoveries in those parts, with wells being drilled by the hundreds. None was drilled on his father's farm.

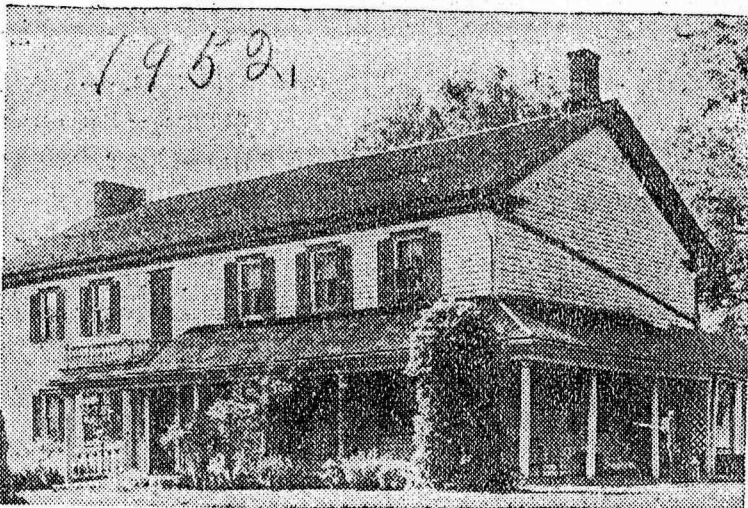
### Leading Agriculturist

Mr. Lidster has always been noted for the character of his farming. He has maintained the old Stephen Backus farm as he maintained the old house. Those rolling acres are just as fertile today as when that was pioneer country. For many years, Mr. Lidster was a leading sheep raiser of the district. His sheep were shown and took top awards at fall fairs in the district over a stretch of time.

Mr. and Mrs. Lidster's children, who will be with them with their children and grandchildren Sunday afternoon, are Roy Lidster, Fingal; Mrs. Harold (Rosa) Green, R.R. 1, Fingal; Lloyd Lidster, carpenter Port Stanley; and Harold Lidster, Lake Road, Tyrconnell associated with his father in the operation of the farm.

The Lidster children have good reason for pride in their parents. They are a grand couple in every sense of the word.

Fortunately, they are in much better health than they were, both suffering very severe attacks of the virus type of influenza last spring.



The home of Mr. and Mrs. George Lidster, Lake Road, Tyrconnell. This is the old Stephen Backus house and was built at least 125 years ago. There are 16 rooms in the house.

## MR. AND MRS. GEORGE LIDSTER CELEBRATE GOLDEN WEDDING

Well-Known Wallaceburg District Couple Married Fifty Years Ago in Wallaceburg; Three Grandsons in Uniform

On Monday afternoon and evening Mr. and Mrs. George H. Lidster, of Wallaceburg, were at home to their friends on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary. They were married on Sept. 14, 1892, at Wallaceburg by Rev. R. Millyard, who now resides in London. They lived at Bothwell until 1914 when they moved to Wallaceburg district. They have resided since on their farm near St. Peter's Church at Tyrconnell. It is often known as the old Stephen Backus property. They are both active and devout members of Wallaceburg United Church and Mrs. Lidster is a valued worker in the Red Cross branch. While in Bothwell, Mr. Lidster served as township clerk for 22 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Lidster have four

children, Roy G., of Fingal; Mrs. H. W. Green of Fingal; Lloyd, Fingal; and Harold, Wallaceburg. There are fourteen grandchildren, three of whom are in the Canadian active forces; they are: Stuart Lidster of Fingal, who is with the R.C.N.V.R. at London; Arnold Lidster, Fingal, with the R.C.A.F. at Guelph; and Pte. Reginald Green, Fingal, at the Basic Training Centre, Simcoe.

Mrs. Lidster's own family is a large one and remarkable by the fact that the ten children of her mother and father, the late Thomas and Mary Richardson, Wallaceburg, are all living. Mrs. Lidster's brothers and sisters are: John Richardson, Wallaceburg; Rev. J. D. Richardson, Port Credit; Mrs. Thomas Hogg, Wallaceburg; Herbert Richardson, Minneapolis; Mrs. Watson Simpson, Wheatley; Milton J. Richardson, Wallaceburg; Mrs. Robert Brown, Wheatley; Prof. Lorne Richardson, Royal Military College, Kingston, and Dr. Stanley Richardson, Wallaceburg.

Mr. Lidster has only one surviving brother, William Lidster, of Bothwell. His parents were the late Mr. and Mrs. John Lidster, of Bothwell, who came from England in a sailing vessel, the voyage, lasting for six weeks.

Over forty friends and relatives attended the celebration on Monday. Mrs. Lidster received in a becoming redingote dress of violet sheer, and wore a corsage of yellow flowers. She was assisted by Mrs. Roy Lidster and Mrs. Harold Green. Refreshments were served in the dining room where gold, white and pink were used in the decorative scheme. Pouring tea were Mrs. William Lidster, Bothwell, and Mrs. Thomas Hogg, Wallaceburg, while the assistants were Mrs. D. M. Littlejohn, Mrs. Morley Page, Mrs. Effie Smith, Mrs. Herbert Green, Miss Berniece Halpin and Mrs. John Pearce.

Mr. and Mrs. Lidster received many telegrams and greetings from friends unable to attend and also were presented with many beautiful anniversary gifts. Guests attended from Wallaceburg, Bothwell, Duffon, St. Thomas, London and Fingal.