

WEST LORNE

WOMEN'S

INSTITUTE



TWEEDSMUIR



HISTORY



VOLUME - 10

2008 - MARCH 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BUSINESS + INDUSTRY	1-8
CURRENT EVENTS	- 9-57
EDUCATION	58-81
HEALTH + WELFARE	- 82
SERVICE CLUBS	- 83-93
SOCIAL	- 94 - 98
SPORTS	- 99-111
WEST LORNE W. I.	- 112 - 116
ELGIN DISTRICT W. I.	- 117-119
LOOKING BACK-	- 120 - 139

Compiled by Leola Lawrence



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Sewing Studio moves up

Sheila O'Hagan does some sewing during the grand opening weekend of Heather Bell's Sewing and Dye Studio in West Lorne April 13. The studio has expanded in size. 2008

Massage business opens up in West Lorne

A massage business has opened in West Lorne to help relieve your aches and pains.

Karen Hamilton has been running her massage business inside Ross & Co. Salon and Tanning on Graham Street for the last month. Hamilton and her family moved to West Lorne in 2003 from Dresden and she wanted to offer this kind of service locally.

"I love helping people. It's just great getting to know people, especially here in West Lorne. I haven't worked here yet and I'd like to be able to see people out and about that I know," she said.

Ross & Co. Salon and Tanning is a handicap accessible building. Hamilton offers massage for people of all ages with 30, 45 and 60 minute appointments. Hamilton also gives massage at a Chiropractic clinic in Ridgetown, but this is her first time starting out on her own. Her business is open Mondays and Fridays, in the mornings, afternoons and evenings.

Hamilton offers Swedish massage and Trigger Point Therapy. Swedish Massage is great for relaxation, relief from headaches and stress, while Trigger Point Therapy is a bodywork technique that involves the applying of pressure to tender muscle tissue in order to relieve pain and dysfunction in other parts of the body.

Hamilton said massage is useful for relieving back pain, muscle cramping, decreasing blood pressure, increasing circulation, and many other positive effects. Hamilton also applies massage therapy to clients recovering from motor vehicle accidents.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Registered massage therapist

Karen Hamilton is now offering massage therapy in West Lorne. SEPT 18/08

Hi, I'm Koryn Petrushevsky

I'm a grade "13" Co-op student from West Elgin Secondary School working with the Chronicle in hopes of pursuing a journalism career. I have been assigned to publish a feature in where I am responsible for the full production from advertising sales and design to writing the articles. In this feature I will be going in depth on how the local towns and schools are making an effort to 'go green'. This section will be published in mid January.



If anyone has any ideas or input they'd like to share in relation to this topic you can reach me at:

The Chronicle

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Going Green

A look into how our communities are making an environmental effort in cleaning up our act



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Bank of Montreal donates to Optimists.

The Bank of Montreal in West Lorne made a donation of \$2,000 to the West Lorne Optimist Club, which will be put towards the splash pad in Miller Park. From L - Optimist Past President Dorothy Staddon, BMO Pensioner and Optimist member Bill Trask, BMO branch manager Johanna Franz, and Asst. branch manager Carena Long.

Computers stolen from West Lorne business

Milner-Rigsby Co. Ltd. Rockland Flooring in West Lorne is offering a cash reward for information about a break and enter Nov. 11 when thousands of dollars of property was stolen.

It was around 11:00 p.m. when someone broke into the Elm Street building. Most notable amongst the stolen items were four Dell Laptop computers. Milner Rigsby Co. will pay a cash reward of \$1,000 for any information

that leads to someone being arrested and charged, and a reward of \$2,000 if information given leads to an arrest, charges, and the return of the stolen items.

Information can be provided to the Elgin County OPP at 519- 631-2920 or after hours at 1-888-310-1122. Rockland Flooring can also be contacted at 519-768-1250 Ext 12. Anyone who would like to stay anonymous can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-tips.

West Lorne gets equine assisted learning center

A new business is starting up outside West Lorne that will use horses to help youths and adults develop self-esteem and positive growth. Sue Swain and her husband Darryl are busy preparing their business for take-off. Participants in the Equine Assisted Learning Center (EAL) will work with horses in a BuildingBlock program to learn leadership skills and communication skills. The program is based on the idea of horses being sensitive creatures that respond to the people around them. As people in the program learn how to handle the horse, they also learn how to overcome negative influences in their own lives.

Sue Swain is a certified Equine Assisted Specialist and the program coordinator/facilitator at EAL. Darryl is the coordinator and marketing director. Sue said she heard about EAL while visiting a friend in Saskatchewan over the summer. The Cartier Equine Learning Centre in Saskatchewan has been in operation for the last five years and is the only accredited school of its kind in North America. Sue and her friend Deb Rankin took an interest in the program. Both spent a couple months in training and are now ready to start the program in Ontario. The West Lorne EAL will be located at 24988 Gray Line and should be ready by the end of June. Deb Rankin is starting an EAL on Oil Springs Line near Brigden.

"As soon as we heard about it we knew it would be a perfect program, and there's nothing like it in Ontario," said Swain. "We're the only two facilitators in Ontario so we would need to help each other whenever we have a group coming."

Participants in the EAL program don't ride the horses; they only guide them. Swain said the program is helpful for teaching life-skills relating to peer pressure, positive communication, problem solving and conflict resolution. She said the program has been useful for troubled people dealing with addictions, attention deficit disorder, depression, emotional or physical abuses, and other problems. EAL has a youth program series, and businesses can make use of EAL by

having employees come to learn about team building.

"I'm a facilitator. The horse is actually the teacher because horses are very, very sensitive and astute to your body language," said Swain. "The kids are inspired to change by learning by doing."



Home Hardware donates to Sick Kids

SUBMITTED

Home Hardware's mascot, Handy the Helpful Hound, helped out at Knight Home Hardware's 10th anniversary celebration. A donation will be made to Sick Kids Hospital in honour of the event.

Home Hardware makes charity donation

Knight's Home Hardware in West Lorne will make a \$700 donation to Sick Kids Hospital.

The money for the donation comes from the Home Hardware's Bag Program.

Every time a customer says no to a plastic bag, Home Hardware puts 2 cents towards Sick Kids Hospital. After 18 months, this program has compiled \$700. The timing of the donation is meant to coincide with Knight's Home Hardware's recent 10th anniversary celebration.

"We were just waiting for a good opportunity to make the donation and I figured timing it in with the 10th Anniversary sale was a good way to do it," said owner Jeff Knight.

Sick Kids Hospital is one of Home Hardware's standard charities. Saving a plastic bag helps Sick Kid's Hospital, and it's

also environmentally friendly, so Knight said it's a win-win situation.

Knight's Home Hardware celebrated 10 years at its current location on Graham Road with a three day sale and a barbecue, with funds also going toward Sick Kids Hospital.

Jeff Knight is looking towards serving the community for a long time to come.

"We've had our ups and downs of course. We've had a couple years when we've had to really struggle, but we managed to pull through. I'd like to see more businesses open instead of closing in West Lorne to help the traffic flow," he said.

The Hospital for Sick Children is affiliated with the University of Toronto, and is the largest centre dedicated to improving children's health in the country.

JULY 3/08



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Healing through horses

Sue Swain of Equine Assisted Learning stands with her horse JT. The new service will start taking applicants in June.

MAY 29/08

West Lorne gets veterinarian

West Lorne has a new veterinarian

Dr. Laura Palumbo is now offering her veterinary services on 168 Main Street in West Lorne, in the former building of the West Elgin Community Health Centre. She offers day-time services by appointment only. A veterinary office could be a real benefit to pet owners in the area who previously didn't have anywhere local to turn for animal care.

"I know this area has got quite a large animal population and veterinary clinics aren't very close," said Palumbo.

Palumbo has been a vet for three years and has a mobile veterinary service from her vehicle. Her part-time work in West Lorne will be her first time having a stationary office. Appointments can be made to her office through Muddy Paws at (519) 768-3000.

Palumbo's mobile services can be reached at (519) 637-2419. Her mobile services mostly cover the London area, but she will travel to West Elgin. She enjoys the

flexibility of being mobile, but decided to set-up a part-time office after being encouraged by a friend who lives in West Lorne.

"I was raised on a farm, always had exposure to animals. I always loved working with animals, and I love the medical aspect as well," said Palumbo. "I think the problem-solving part of veterinary medicine is certainly something that's appealing. The nice thing too about veterinary medicine is you get to do surgery, you get to do dentistry, you're a bit of everything."

Palumbo is still getting a feel for the level of need for her services in the community. She'll know more about what kind of regular work-days she'll be needing after she's spent more time in West Lorne.

This past weekend Lakeview Gardens in Eagle buzzed with activity as Beattie Haven Retirement Home held its First Annual Wine Tasting event.

Nestled among the flowers and exotic plants were stations for tasting wine and food. Six wineries offered generous samples. Harbour Estates Winery, Inniskillin, Pelee Island, Rush Creek, Smith & Wilson, and Sprucewood Shores Estates travelled in from the Niagara and Pelee to share their best reds and whites from recent seasons. Not allowed to actually sell their product at a wine-tasting event, they hope that people will visit their vineyards or demand their vintage at the local LCBO.

The greenhouse made a glorious setting, and it was wonderful to step from the brisk March breeze into the tropical climate surrounded by the interesting plants and wares. As evening fell Saturday, the lights came on, and the greenhouse transformed into an enchanting jungle atmosphere.

Wine Tasting



Cheers for the first annual wine tasting

Fraser Mullet and Darlene Mullet (left), owners of Harbour Estates Winery, raise a glass with Lyn Champigny, Administrator of Beattie Haven.

SUBMITTED

Excavation business starts in West Elgin

Madaco Excavating is a new business started in West Lorne to provide water services and excavation work.

Mat da Costa is a West Lorne resident of over 30 years. He's done excavation work for the city of London for seven years, but for the last two months, he's been offering his services to West Elgin and area.

"They've been putting water mains in through the whole area, so I figured somebody needed to put in the services," said da Costa.

Madaco Excavating provides water line installation, renewal and repair. He also does light excavating, trenching and provides ground mole service.

"It's nice to have services right in town; you don't have to go elsewhere to get them," said da Costa.

Mathew da Costa uses a John Deere 27D excavator; a compact size that minimizes yard damage. Madaco Excavating will serve London, West Elgin, and anywhere in between.

JULY 17/08

■ **OBITUARY:** Paul Mistele was a former OFS vice-president

Rodney-area farmer a strong voice for all Ontario farmers

BY NATASHA MARAR
Special to Sun Media

A Rodney-area farmer is being remembered by the community as a passionate advocate for Ontario farmers.

Paul Mistele, former vice-president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), died on Oct. 4 after an 18-month battle with brain cancer. He was 55.



Paul Mistele

advocated for the retention of farmland in Ontario and the introduction of science-based environmental programs for farms.

“He felt very strongly about the relationships between all (the farm) organizations,” said Donna Lunn, OFS’s Elgin East director. “Ontario is such a large province, but he would be communicative with everyone. He put a lot of miles on his vehicle.”

Mistele’s illness, however, forced him to step down in July 2007.

Carol Mistele remembers her husband’s passion. “He always had an interest in young farmers and made sure they had an opportunity to enter the industry and be successful.”

Mistele also began the Ontario Pork Producers’ Donate a Hog program in 1999 as demand at area food banks grew. Farmers that year donated 895 kilograms of pork. The program has since spread through the province.

“No matter whose life he touched, he inspired you to accelerate yourself,” said Agar. “His work wasn’t near done. His goal was to eventually become president of the OFA. He would have taken it on this year.”

Carol is proud of her husband. “It is our wish that others out there continue to pursue the goals that he had. That is what he would have wanted.”

REMEMBERED

“He had a really passionate dedication to agriculture and he wanted to be sure the agriculture voice would be heard,” said Mistele’s widow, Carol Mistele.

OFA’s Elgin West director, Pete Agar, knew Mistele since 2004. “(His illness) came as a shock when we first heard about it.”

Mistele was a farmer for more than 30 years. He took over the family business, Misty Lea Farms, and expanded it over the years.

Mistele served as vice-chairperson of the Ontario Farm Animal Council and as a board member of the Agricultural Adaptation Council.

He was also a director for the Elgin Federation of Agriculture and rose to an executive position with the OFA, where he was an eloquent spokesperson on various emerging rural issues.

Through the OFA, Mistele

LONDON FREE PRESS

OCT 12/08



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Getting Spring flowers ready at Lakeview Gardens

Amanda Aikens, an employee at Lakeview Gardens tends to some red cyclamens. Since last week Lakeview Gardens has started stocking flowers for spring including hydrangeas, Easter lilies and chrysanthemums.

West Lorne says good-bye to the Donut Delite Cafe

The Donut Delite Café in West Lorne has closed after 15 years, leaving people questioning if this is an isolated incident, or a symptom of a larger economic problem in the community.

Glen Reaume has owned the Donut Delite on the corner of Main Street and Graham Road for the last 13 years. Although there used to be 38 Donut Delites across Ontario, the closure of the Donut Delite on June 25 was the last one left.

“Basically, the reason we’re closing is because this community, since 2000, has been hit by bad economy. It’s been on a down spiral,” said Reaume.

Reaume became owner of his first donut shop when he was 18 years old. By 24, he owned two. He said the closure of the Donut Delite was gradual. At one time the Café had 10 to 12 employees and stayed open 24 hours. Later, financial difficulties forced them to start closing at 9:00 p.m. and have about nine to 10 employees.

Helen Mooser, a West Lorne resident of 44 years, was at the Donut Delite on closing day along with some friends of hers. She said she’s seen many changes in the community over the years, and this closure isn’t one of the good ones.

“It looks like the town is drying up. It’s unfortunate when a donut shop like this closes,” she said.

The Donut Delite closing down raises concerns for her since the service center on the 401 highway between West Lorne and Dutton is scheduled to close soon as well.

“Who’s going to want to come out here? Who’s going to move out here when everything is closed?” she said.

Brad St. Croix from St. Thomas has been coming to West Lorne for the past several weeks to complete a painting job at the high school. He’s been making stops into the Donut Delite since then, but that’s over now.

“We thought it was a good place, good food. It’s too bad it’s closing,” he said. “I was just starting to make it one of my regular stops.”

Other businesses in West Lorne may wonder how things bode for them when a business located on the main intersection is forced to close. Yousif Yousif, or Joe, is the owner of Joe’s Family Restaurant, which recently opened on Main Street West Lorne. He said he feels bad for the Donut Delite closing. It’s not only bad for the owner, but it may also decrease foot traffic in the down-



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Donut Delite closes down

The West Lorne Donut Delite Cafe closed down June 25. It was the one left from a chain of 38 that were spread across Ontario.

town, which would be bad for every business.

“You feel bad for any business loss in this town,” said Joe. “The donut shop brings customers to everywhere; to the variety store, to Home Hardware... it makes business for everyone.”

It isn’t known yet if any business is going to set up where the Donut Delite closed.

“Maybe one day someone will come along and open it up. Who knows? Hopefully they do and it brings another business to town,” said Nancy Moore, one of the Donut Delite’s employees. “We’re going to miss all our customers and I’m sure they’re going to miss us. It’s been a pleasure.”



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Bee keepers deal with falling bee population

Deputy Mayor of West Elgin Bernie Wiehle inspected some of his hives on Silver Clay Line July 18. There has been more than a 30 percent drop in the Ontario bee population for the last two years. If this trend continues, some Ontario bee keepers may be put out of business.

Bee industry faces hard times

A declining bee population in Ontario has local bee keepers worried about their businesses.

The past two years have been hard on Ontario bee keepers. There was an estimated loss of 37 percent of the Ontario bee population last spring, and 32 percent loss this year. A loss of some bee population over the winter is normal, but usually only around 10 to 15 percent. Falling bee population is a worldwide trend, with reports of high losses in the U.S and Europe.

"I know there's quite a few bee keepers who lost a very high percentage of their bees over the winter. It's very frustrating because we don't really have an idea of why," said Bernie Wiehle, the Deputy Mayor of West Elgin and a local bee keeper.

Wiehle has been keeping bees as a hobby for over 10 years and has been getting into commercial honey sale for the last three. He sells Wiehle's Wildflower Honey mostly out of his home, but he may also take advantage of the WE market planned to start in Rodney. The WE market is a project of Jim Muraki of West Lorne and some other individuals that will sell local food products.

The cause of declining bee populations is unclear. The U.S calls it Colonial Collapse Disorder under the theory of disease being the main culprit. Researchers with the Ontario Bee Keepers Association (OBA) don't use that term because they think the problem has multiple causes. A new strain of nosema disease was discovered in Canada which had likely been around for the last two years. Nosema is a parasite that mainly affects honeybees. Another factor may be pesticide use.

Allison Skinner, a Technology Transfer specialist for the OBA said they are testing the effectiveness of treatments for old nosema strains on the new strain.

"One year was hard. Two years in a row was very hard on bee keepers. I think if we are to go through that again next year, then we're going to have bee keepers that are out of business," said Skinner.

Problems with the bee population aren't just a problem for the industry, but also the environment. Bee's play an important role in the pollination of crops.

"The whole ecosystem requires pollination," said Bernie Wiehle. "Bees are our number one pollinator in this country. The disease problems are not just in the honey bees, they're in the native bees as well, they seem to have lost a lot of their population as well. So you don't have pollination of your fruit and vegetable crops." *Please see Bee industry, page 3*



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Corner Consignment

Rose McGill and Bonnie Robertson of Corner Consignment in West Lorne. The store has expanded its line of products



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Random Inc.

Karen Bowery works on a shirt at Random Inc., a new business on Graham Road in downtown West Lorne



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Community Fitness Centre

Nancy Kittmer works out on the thigh machine and talks with Sherry Gordon at the new Community Fitness Centre



SUBMITTED

Music at the Lakeview Gardens Wine and Food Demonstration

Lakeview Gardens had a wine tasting March 29 and 30. Music on March 29 was provided by 'The Vintage Advantage' James Kovach (left) and Alan Schneckeburger. Music March 30 was provided by vocal group 'The Five Guys'.

Variety Store robbed in West Lorne

► **Suspect uses a knife to demand money from a store clerk and makes a getaway on foot. Police searched the area for four hours along with EMS and dogs**

Jesse Cnockaert
Staff

Police are searching for a suspect after a female store clerk was robbed at knife-point in a West Lorne variety store Saturday night.

On Feb. 2 Elgin County OPP searched the area around West Elgin Variety and Gas on Graham Road along with the Emergency Response team and police dogs for about four hours.

It was around 9:55 pm that night a man entered the variety store armed with a knife. The man took an undisclosed amount of money and fled on foot heading south on Graham Road. The female clerk wasn't hurt.

The man is described as being approximately 6 feet (183 cm)

tall and weighing 125 lbs. He was wearing jeans and his face was covered by what appeared to be two hooded sweaters covering above and below his eyes.

He had one-quarter inch long/shaved dark hair, and a chubby face.

Police investigation found that someone with this description was driving a dark green Mercury Sable just before the robbery, so police are also looking for that kind of vehicle.

Tony Brasil lives just across the street from West Elgin Variety and Gas. He says this kind of incident raises concerns, but he still feels West Lorne is overall a good place to live.

"It's not like we're Toronto or London or something like that. It's still relatively safe," he said.

However, he has some worry about vandalism in the area. Brasil says he's seen people getting into mischief near the variety store before.

"A couple times I have seen them trying to do stuff over there. Like I said, they were messing with the pumps, they knock down the signs over there. From what I see, it's all teenagers," he said. "I just find there's more property damage going on than there used to be in past years."

Brasil says his own home has been vandalized before. Just before Christmas, the decorations outside his house were wrecked.

Brasil says youth in this area may get into trouble because there aren't enough ways to keep them occupied

He suggests more youth

recreation facilities could help with the problem.

"When there's nothing to occupy their time, they're going to get into trouble," he said. "Even when I was younger, that was the problem with this area. There was never anything for us to do."

Carolyn Paul is another resident who lives across from West Elgin Variety and Gas. She says this kind of crime happening so close is scary, but she hopes whoever did it isn't local.

"I don't know what we could have done to prevent that. I'm right across the street and I didn't even notice anything going on," she said.

Police are asking anyone with information to contact them at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS

FEB 7/08

Erie Flooring lays-off 42 employees

Erie Flooring and Wood Products in West Lorne has let go of 42 employees because of a downward trend in the economy.

The employees, 40 of them unionized were laid-off mid-October, but the plants general manager, Chris Austin, said these lay-offs are only temporary. It's hoped that when the economy picks back up again, they will have the chance to return.

"It's not something that we take lightly. We try to keep as many people employed as possible. If laying off these folks now keeps the remaining jobs viable for the next six to eight months while the business recovers, that's exactly what we have to do," said Austin. "We have been on workshare in the past, but we exhausted that availability. There was really no alternative at this point but to lay the people off."

Erie Flooring is a manufacturer of residential and trailer flooring and currently employs just over 100

people. Austin said this industry usually goes through cycles of highs and lows in prosperity. Much of their product line is exported to the U.S, and they aren't buying much right now.

"We tend to do a lot of business in the U.S with some of our product lines. Most trailer manufacturers that I talk to, if you are not building any new trailers, are in the neighbourhood of 30 to 40 per cent of their capacity," he said. "Everybody in the industry is suffering."

Henry Bens, the site-manager at Milner-Rigsby Co Ltd in West Lorne for the last six years, has also described things now as being "very slow". Milner-Rigsby manufactures trailer flooring.

"This would be at least the third major cycle like this. This one is long and deep, I will say that. But we've gone through these cycles before," said Bens. "We've been on a decline for a while and that's linked strictly to the economy in the U.S.

Most of our product is exported. Our only product is truck flooring and the sale of van-units in the U.S is very slow so that obviously affects the demand for our product."

Bens said Milner-Rigsby has gradually gone from employing 120 workers to 45 employees over the last year and a half.

John Bechard was an employee at Erie Flooring until the recent mass lay-offs. He worked there for over six years doing various jobs, but most recently was a forklift driver. He was aware the industry is hurting right now, so he saw the lay-offs coming.

"I'm not really surprised about it. It's been really slow for the past little while. I didn't see it being as many people as it was though," he said.

Bechard is considering going back to school and taking a skilled trade course. He isn't sure if he'll head back to Erie Flooring once they start hiring again.

OCT 30/08



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Ready for the season

Jamieson Farms, owned by Audrey and Gary Jamieson, was one of the locations in a scavenger hunt held by the Eagle Community Centre. People could visit the farm Oct. 17 and try to guess how many pumpkins were in the field, the right answer being between 9,000 and 10,000 pumpkins.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

BMO donates to Arts and Cookery

On Sept. 24, representatives of the Bank of Montreal visited the Arts and Cookery Bank in West Lorne to offer a \$6,000 donation. When completed, the Arts and Cookery Bank aims to improve tourism and become a place showcasing the local rural area through photographs and food. (L-R) Mandi Roach, Personal Banking Area Manager for the BMO, Johanna Franz, BMO branch manager, Grace McGartland, Arts and Cookery Bank Chair, Duncan Morrison and Jerry Galbraith.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Eat Fresh, Buy Local Maps

The 2009 Eat Fresh, Buy Local maps for local produce are now being distributed! Above, Donna Lunn, of the Elgin Business Resource Centre, stands with Irene Puddester, owner of Blueberry Hill on Hoskins Line. Blueberry Hill is just one of many local food distributors on the map. Pick up a copy at the West Elgin Municipal Office on Hoskins Line and learn about local food suppliers!

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West Lorne store owner makes catalogue cover



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

On the front.

Teresa Knight, who owns the Home Hardware in West Lorne along with husband Jeff, has her picture on the cover of the 2009 HomeHardware Shopping Guide. She is pictured along with Anna Olson, a TV host from the Food Network.

West Lorne residents might recognize who's on the cover of the 2009 Home Hardware Shopping Guide; it's Teresa Knight, co-owner of the local Home Hardware.

Home Hardware's theme for this year's Shopping Guide is 'home owners'; helping them with everything from decorating to renovating. So when they were looking for someone to pose for the front cover, they chose Teresa Knight of West Lorne as a homeowner and Home Hardware owner.

"I feel proud," said Knight. "We've already sent copies out to my family."

The cover shows a picture of Knight posing in a kitchen along with Anna Olson, the host of Fresh with Anna Olson on the Food Network.

The picture was taken in Olson's home in Welland, Ontario in January. Olson is a TV personality, so she's no stranger to photo shoots. However, this was Knight's first time doing a major photo shoot, and she described it as "nerve-wracking".

"I'm not a person to be out there in public; I just sort of blend into the crowd. My daughter is quite surprised I actually went," she said.

For Knight to get her hair and make-up done for the pic-

ture took about four hours, but it all came out good in the end.

"She [Olson] walked me through everything. She asked me how I got picked and I told her, and she said, 'Oh, so you're new at this?' and I said 'Yah'," said Knight. "She told me to relax and she was trying to make me feel comfortable, and she did. She did a wonderful job."

Now anyone can pick up the Shopping Guide and find Knight's smiling face. Beside her, it reads that she's from West Lorne.

"Now people are going to ask, 'Where's West Lorne?'" joked Knight.

Knight's Home Hardware in West Lorne has a special offer going along with the 2009 Shopping

Guide. Teresa's husband Jeff said that customers will get 10 percent off any item they can find in the Guide, but not in the store (as long as it's not already on sale). **MAR 12/09**



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Getting things ready.

Gary Fick, an employee at Lakeview Gardens in Eagle, kept the plants watered in the greenhouses. Winter is still going strong, but most of us are ready for Spring.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Shop opens for DVDs and games

West Lorne DVD and Games opened Jan. 10. Top row (L-R): Jonni Burgess, Tammi Burgess, Owner Chris Rowley. Bottom Row (L-R): Helen Harris, Tom Harris

DVD/game rental and pawn shop opens in West Lorne

West Lorne has a new place to rent DVDs and games.

On Jan. 10, Chris Rowley opened West Lorne DVD and Games on Graham Rd. in West Lorne. Rowley started his business using the extensive number of DVDs from his own collection.

"I figured I have all these movies; I might as well put them to good use," said Rowley. "We're basically starting as a seed and growing. Customers come in and ask for different movies to watch, then we make a list and buy them as we can."

Rowley also plans to expand his business soon to include a pawn shop. Rowley will be prepared to take items small or big including cars and boats. The pawn shop component should be ready in March.

Rowley wants people to know he's ready to serve the community. He says West Lorne DVD and Games may start having movie nights for kids, where parents can leave their kids for a while so they can watch movies played from a projector. Gift certificates should also be made available as the business gets established.