

GREEN is the New Black



I'm Koryn Petrushevsky, the co-op student working with the Chronicle this year. It's taken a while but in great anticipation I bring you; "Green is the New Black." This feature will be looking in depth on what our communities, whether it be the schools or local businesses, are doing to help save our decaying environment. Within these few pages you'll find that the local schools have been kicking butt in the recycling programs, how the new water treatment plant is really making a difference in and out of your home, and how some local businesses are putting in their two cents to fight back the damage done over the years. I'm hoping this piece will inspire everyone in the community to really go that extra mile and do something good for environment. It's not hard guys, it's as easy as putting out your blue bin each week, perhaps even separating the cans, paper and glass if you want to go that much further. This article contains advice that will make your life and our environment a little cleaner, a little healthier, a little happier.

Koryn Petrushevsky; aspiring journalist

8 Ways to GO GREEN

Use a refillable stainless steel water bottle instead of plastic; Not only does water taste better when it's sitting in stainless steel (nobody likes that plastic taste on a hot day) but germs can't survive on steel. You can find these steel water bottles in stores such as Organic Grocer, Choices Market, and Nutrition House.

If you do use plastic water bottles always return them to a recycling center.

For drinking water at home fill glass containers (like old milk bottles) with tap water. Let this sit in the fridge so the chlorine can evaporate. If you don't want to take the time to let it evaporate and would rather drink right from the tap use

a charcoal filter like Brita®

Although health advocates want you to think distilled water is the best to drink, they couldn't be more wrong. Distilled water has no minerals whatsoever and your body needs those minerals, also water distillers use so much energy. To distill just one gallon of water it takes several hours!

Avoid using plastic bags, when grocery shopping use the new and popular cloth bags. If you're looking for stylish cloth bags you can visit www.westcoast-bagcompany.com or www.bringy-ourownbag.com

For excess plastic bags use them in your suitcases for shoes and dirty laundry or anything that's sloppy and can spill. Try to use these plastic bags as much as possible. Some stores like Superstore and Save-On Foods accept returned bags, which are then recycled to make new ones.

Another option is using degradable plastic bags. These bags decompose in our landfills. To get your own degradable plastic kitchen and doggie bags you can visit the Delta company at www.ecosafeplastics.com or phone 604-597-7063

Use storage containers instead of plastic wrap to store left over food. For eco-friendly storage options you can visit www.naturopack.org/suppliers.html

At bulk food stores and grocery store sections reuse your zip-lock, paper, or plastic bags. Buy in bulk whenever you can for it creates less waste than buying pre-packaged goods

Support organic farmers! Even though this food may be more expensive the organic food industry is not only environmentally-friendly but the food is also really good for you!



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Customer appreciation event.

The Bank of Montreal in West Lorne held a Customer Appreciation BBQ May 5. Susan Morgan (L), Senior Commercial Service Rep., and Johanna Franz, Branch Manager, were on hand with other staff members to prepare and serve the food.

Agricultural balloon flies the skies of West Elgin

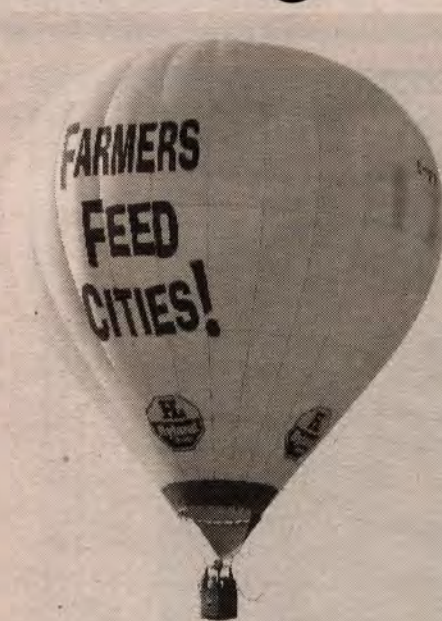


Early in the evening of Aug 24, W.G. Thompson's & Sundance Balloons launched the Farmer's Feed Cities hot air balloon from Kevin and Marguerite Alderton's hay field on Fleming Line.

Lucky area residents Mike Gartner and Gerhard Wiehle went up in the balloon for a bird's eye view of the country-side. Manfred Wiehle was originally chosen for the ride but gave his place up to his father to have a ride he would not soon forget.

Many neighbours as well as Thompson's representative Steve Speller, watched the balloon float north over the river.

Sponsored by Hyland Seeds in conjunction with Farmers Feed Cities! and 4-H Ontario, the 65 foot tall hot air balloon soared through the sky to draw attention to the vital role of agriculture to all Ontarians.

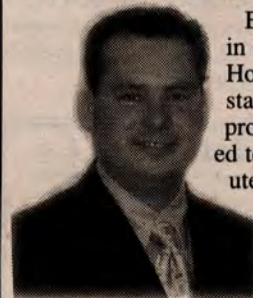


PHOTOS SUBMITTED

The only way to travel

If you looked to the skies Aug. 24 around the area of Fleming Line, West Elgin, you might have seen the Farmers Feed Cities balloon as it moved over the area. Area residents Mike Gartner and Gerhard Wiehle went up in the balloon, which was sponsored by Hyland Seeds in conjunction with Farmers Feed Cities! and 4-H Ontario. SEPT/09

WHO'S WHO? Business of the Month



Bill Denning

Bill Denning has a simple philosophy in his operation of the Padfield Funeral Homes in Rodney and West Lorne. He states, "to be successful you must be professional, open to ideas and dedicated to every family." Mr. Denning attributes this thought to his mentor Jim Price, former owner of the funeral homes. One must realize when a family comes to the funeral home it is a very difficult time for them.

The Padfield funeral business dates back 109 years. It was established by Dougald Walker in 1905, sold to Emerson Padfield in 1950 (the West Lorne Home was previously owned by Ronald Prevett and combined with Rodney in 1969) then to Jim Price in 1987. In 2007, Bill and his brother Brett pur-

chased the funeral business.

As well as arranging funeral services, Bill points out, they provide pre-arrangement counseling and monument sales. Cremation options are available and they provide assistance with Canada Pension Plan applications for death benefits.

Bill relates he was motivated to get into the funeral business by his grandfather. "He taught me at an early age how rewarding it can be to help people." He gets satisfaction from meeting different people, hearing their stories and developing friendships through his work.

Bill began his career by working with his family in Strathroy. He apprenticed in London and then spent a few years on the Bruce Peninsula working for a century firm before relocating to West Elgin.

Bill points out the longevity of the Padfield business is certainly noteworthy, but more importantly than that, no other funeral or memorial provider offers families more options or

Would you like to feature your business in the Business of the Month Feature? Call Karen to find out how at 519-768-2220

ways to celebrate one's life. They have made a commitment to offering green alternatives to environmentally sensitive families.

As well, he adds, the business relies on reputation to be their best advertisement. "We enjoy talking about pre-planning with families, but only when they are ready, so we don't use direct mail or coupons. Now is a good time to have that conversation before harmonized sales tax increases the cost.

Bill concludes, "there is a peace of mind in knowing that you will be cared for by people who know you and people who knew your loved one."

"Whether your choices are classic or contemporary, traditional or trendy, we can help. Just ask."

Padfield Funeral Homes

519-785-0810 www.padfieldfuneralhome.com

Christmas celebrations in West Lorne



Oh, look! It's Santa! JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE
The West Lorne Santa Claus Parade was held Nov. 28. Of course, it wouldn't have been complete without an appearance by Santa.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE
Candy for everyone!
Five-year-old Aryanna Harper got some candy at the parade. How often are you given candy by a scarecrow? DEC 4/08



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE
Happy Holidays from Brownies and Sparks!
Members of the 1st West Lorne Sparks and Brownies waved to onlookers as their float made its way through West Lorne.



Practice makes perfect.
Ten-year-old Colin Crober got some guitar instruction from Brad Parcels during the West Lorne Library's Music Lesson night March 17. The next Music Lesson night is planned for April 21.

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Shoplifter arrested in West Lorne

A 17-year-old West Elgin man was arrested May 23 and charged with shoplifting.

Alcohol was stolen from a business on Main Street in West Lorne after 1:30 p.m.

OPP responded and a 17 year old was arrested.

OPP are also looking for suspects after the theft of two paddle boats from a residence on McLean Line.

The two paddle boats are yellow and designed for two people. They were stolen sometime between May 10 and May 24.

Motorcyclist charged following crash

A 29-year-old London man has been charged after a motorcycle collision May 24 on Graham Road between Frederick St and

John St. in West Lorne.

A motorcycle struck a roadside curb just before 8:00 p.m., causing the driver to be ejected and to strike a hydro pole. The driver was transported to hospital with minor injuries and later released. The driver has been charged with driving a motor vehicle with an improper license.

Elgin County OPP responded to seven motor vehicle collisions between May 23 and 26, two involved injuries. Two of the collisions involved property damage and the other three involved deer.

During the Elgin County RIDE program May 25, 25 vehicles were checked and three roadside tests were conducted. MAY 29/08

Cactus
and
Cattle
Cowboys



Horse-only parade
Claire Trickey, Duncan Dedecker and Sharon Dedecker waved to onlookers as the horse parade made its way down Graham Road.



Riding through downtown
Alicia Yates rode with the horse parade through the streets of West Lorne Aug. 2. Yates became a parapalegic six years ago. She has 13 years of horse riding experience.



Lasso a cow
Eight-year-old Evan Van Dyk tried his hand at throwing a lasso, which was one of several activities available at the Ballistik Paintball grounds.



The Lonsome Wind
The Lonsome Wind, Ken Robichaud, Guy Tellier and Pam Brooks, along with Bernie Caron, performed bluegrass music at the Ballistik Paintball grounds August 2. JIM KOVACS



Face painting
Jen Brooks painted the face of Allison Buck in the parking lot of the West Elgin Community Health Centre.



Art on the pavement
Jeremy Brand wrote a reminder in chalk of what event was going on in the West Elgin Community Health Centre parking lot August 2. A Farmer's market was set up there to show off top produce from the area.



Beattie Haven Ladies Auxiliary quilt draw
Donna Miller (L) and Norma Mann (R) spoke to Barbara Popham at the ballet box to win a double Irish Chain quilt.

Federal grant for Arts and Cookery Bank

Human Resources and Social Development Canada has awarded The Arts & Cookery Bank of West Lorne a \$40,600 grant through their Enabling Accessibility Fund Program. This grant provides the funds to retrofit the existing 1914 heritage Bank of Montréal building with an accessible lift which will enable all "visitors" regardless of physical ability, to participate in the Bank's programs

Joe Preston, MP for Elgin-Middlesex-London, visited the bank Dec. 16 to say a few words about the grant.

"The grant we're talking about is about accessibility," said Preston. "I love old historic buildings, but one of the things they have in common is we never thought about accessibility back in the days when we used to build buildings like this. As much as I like to save old historic buildings, sometimes you can't get inside to see them, and this is something that's going to make a difference"

The Arts and Cookery Bank is a not-for-profit community heritage center. Once completed, the building will showcase the heritage of Dutton-Dunwich, Newbury, Southwest Middlesex and West Elgin through photography and food.

"This is great news that our community got this grant. I think it's wonderful. These types of projects are so important for our lit-

tle towns. We've been talking about downtown revitalization in Rodney and West Lorne, and one of the best things to do with an old building is to put some-

thing in it. This is a fantastic idea," said West Elgin Deputy Mayor Bernie Wiehle on Dec. 16.

The Bank is expected to be completed in Fall 2009.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Arts and Cookery weekend open house

People got an early peak June 5-8 at the Heritage Centre set to open in West Lorne. From left: Bill Denning, Norma Schneidenberger, Susan Gardner, Mary Simpson, Anne Kenney, Grace McGartland and Duncan Morrison gathered at the Bank June 6.

Arts and Cookery Bank opens doors

Over 150 people got their first glimpse at the Arts and Cookery Bank in West Lorne during the Open house events June 5-8.

The Arts and Cookery Bank is being developed in the old Bank of Montreal building on Graham Road in West Lorne. The Bank will seek to be a cultural hub for the four surrounding municipalities, Newbury, SouthWest Middlesex, West Elgin and Dutton-Dunwich. The Bank will showcase local heritage and culture through photographs and cuisine to promote and sustain a rural lifestyle. The Bank will include a photography collection to show off the community's cultural heritage, as well as have cookery experiences to show off the local food economy.

On June 6, the Arts and Cookery Bank opened its doors for strategic partners and community leaders. Mayor Bonnie Vowel of Dutton-Dunwich, Deputy Mayor Bernie Wiehle of West Elgin, several municipal councilors and funding partners attended to get a look at the Bank. Locally grown rhubarb was provided by Anneke Schaecken, Lorraine Borowski, Pat Watterworth and Kay Cowan. The Bank tour included an overview of the proposed building structures and potential programs including pictures on loan from the Elgin County Museum, community families and local photographers. Sylvia Hofhuis, the Warden for Elgin County said a few words about the benefits the Bank will have for the community.

"The word has to get out there that we're

here. Elgin has a lot to offer. It's things like this, agricultural-tourism, that is what we're going to be appealing for because Elgin is a beautiful rural area," said Hofhuis. "It's an interesting concept, food and photography, and I think it's something unique and different."

When the Arts and Cookery Bank opens, it will include classes for developing digital photography skills, amateur and professional photography exhibits, and hands-on cooking experiences. There are plans for an outdoor photo gallery, a teaching garden that will show off Carolinian plants, and a herb/kitchen garden to grow fresh, local herbs. The grand opening of the Arts and Cookery Bank is set for fall 2009, depending on when the ground breaking will be for the new additions.

An Economic Development Officer with Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC), Anne Kenny, also attended on June 6, and was thanked for her help to the project by the Arts and Cookery Bank's project chair, Grace McGartland.

"With Anne Kenny's guidance and direction, we approached CFDC and, with an early commitment to money, they granted us a \$5,000 grant to help us put together a website," said McGartland.

The Arts and Cookery bank is a not-for-profit project worth about \$750,000. The Bank also aims at being a provider of cultural and heritage workshops for school programs.

JUNE 12/08



SUBMITTED

Federal grant improves access to heritage building.

A grant of over \$40,000 will pay for a retrofit of the Arts and Cookery Bank in West Lorne, to make it more accessible to people with physical disabilities. Top row - Jerry Galbraith, Duncan Morrison, Dutton-Dunwich Councilor Don Page, MP Joe Preston. Bottom Row - Norma Schneidenberger, ACB Chair Grace McGartland, and ACB Director Mary Simpson.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Arts and Cookery Bank supported

A gathering was held Oct. 23 at The Bank in West Lorne to announce a resolution of annual in-kind support from the County of Elgin. Top row (L-R) Duncan Morrison, Bill Denning, West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick, Mike Baker Elgin County Museum Curator, Brian Masschaele Director of Cultural services for Elgin County, Jerry Galbraith. Front Row (L-R) Karen Cummings Elgin County Tourism Development and Marketing Co-ordinator, Sylvia Hofhuis Elgin County Warden, Grace McGartland, and Norma Shneidenberger.



FEATURE BY



**JACKIE
GILL**

Jackie Gill is a former summer reporter at the Times-Journal now working as a freelancer.

T-J SMILE

NAME: Linda Brown
AGE: 50
COMMUNITY: Florence, Ont. (in Chatham-Kent)
OCCUPATION: Small business account manager with CIBC. A volunteer with the Daffodil Society in Dutton
HOBBIES: Gardening, sewing and her family
FAVOURITE MOVIE: What Happens in Vegas
FAVOURITE MUSICIAN: Bryan Adams



PRIZE TABLE:

Volunteer Marlene Payne helps organize the prize table at the Dutton Meadows Golf Club Oktoberfest golf tournament, a fundraiser for the Daffodil Society. (T-J photo by Jackie Gill)



Boot camp starts in West Lorne

JULY 24/08

People can get a more intensive workout in West Lorne with an outdoor boot camp for all ages.

Gina Ackermann is a certified personal trainer. She runs personal training and fitness classes out of her home, but decided to expand to outdoor fitness so she and her clients could have more room. This isn't military style boot camp; it's meant for anyone from children to seniors, but she calls it boot camp to reflect the challenge.

"I find it's more than an average fitness class. I think it's a little bit more intensive," said Ackermann. "I'd like to push people, but not overdo it. We work as a group. I'm all for fun because if it's not fun people do not enjoy the work out."

The boot camp runs people through hurdles, push-ups, lunges, chest presses, and other exercises for improving cardiovascular health. People in the program should also expect some weight loss. It's a six-week program that meets Mondays,

Wednesdays and Fridays in West Lorne's Miller Park.

Ackermann works with all levels of experience; she trains people who have had very little exercise, but she has also worked with professional athletes. Ackermann said she has overseen the personal training of a member of the London Knights.

"You can reduce heart disease. That's the number one killer in Canada. It [exercise] improves quality of life," she said.

Ackermann said anyone interested in the boot camp should call her first at (519) 768-2377 to set up a consultation. Ackermann can assess each person's needs and decide if they should get involved in the classes in her home or the boot camp. The boot camp is useful for people who want to stay in shape, or seniors who would like to improve their sense of balance.



Author speaks at Appreciation night

SUBMITTED

Author Terry Carroll spoke to 40 people who attended the West Lorne Library Patron Appreciation Night April 22. He read an excerpt from his new book, 'Snow Candy'.

MAY 1/08



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Chess games and lessons at the West Lorne Library

Four-year-old Matthew Huver puts some thought into his next move during a chess game at the West Lorne Library March 1. Local chess champion Kevin Gibson gives lessons at the library the first Saturday of every month. Players of all ages and skill levels can come and learn opening strategy and basic tactics.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Spring clean-up at Evergreen Cemetery in West Lorne

Dylan Vanceeder (left) and Cheyenne Robinson were two of over a dozen volunteers helping to clean up Evergreen Cemetery in West Lorne April 12. Participants were mostly Cadets. This was the first time this clean-up program has been done at the cemetery.

2008



Agent 009

Librarian Janet Given (Above photo on right) stopped by Aldborough Public School June 22 to tell the kids all about the Summer Reading Club. Aldborough Principal Christine Blagden (left) lent a hand. Given visited St. Mary's Catholic School June 24. Each year, the students of the different schools set a goal of how many books they will read over the summer. If they're successful this year, the principals of St. Mary's and Aldborough have agreed to get covered in slime. This year's Summer Reading program theme is Agent 009. Students may pick up their 'spy kit' and register by visiting the Rodney or West Lorne Libraries. Aldborough P.S.'s goal this year is to read 1,100 books.

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE



On June 24, the slime bucket was empty. But if the Students of St. Mary's Catholic School read a total of 500 books this year, Principal Kelly Holbrough (seated) will get slimed for real.



MAY 08

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

McDonald's funds splash pad

The West Lorne Splash Pad received \$25,000 April 22 from Ronald McDonald House Charities. (From left): Councillor Jonathan Wolf, McDonald's Supervisor Dawn Boshart, Store manager Nolan Tweddle, Optimist president Dorothy Staddon, Kathy Johnston, and Councillor Trudy Balint



Book signing at West Lorne Library

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Author John Schlarbaum appeared at the West Lorne Library Oct. 23 and signed his latest book for Joy Betsch. The mystery novel has characters and locales based on West Lorne.

CURRENT EVENTS 2008



Take a ride on the Melody Fellowship Church Express

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Melody Fellowship Church in West Lorne had a BBQ June 29 which included kids games and a train ride through town. Corey Perry acted as the conductor while some cyclists, 7-year-old Jake McQuade and 13-year-old Jonni Burgess followed along side. Money raised from the BBQ went to support the Melody Fellowship Youth Camp.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Walls torn down outside West Elgin Arena

Gary Stead with the West Elgin Recreation Department began renovations of the West Elgin Arena parking lot April 3 by tearing down the lot's stone gates. There are also plans to repave the lot and widen the driveway.



JEAN GUY ST. JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

St. Mary's Hall Fish Fry

The Labour Day fish fry was held at the St Mary's Hall Aug. 31. The event was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. (from L) Mary Ross, Ruben Tobias and Roy Ross all got in line to get their fish dinner.



JEAN GUY ST. JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

Miller Park Splash Pad opens

The Brown and Dodge families cut the ribbon to officially open the West Lorne splash pad as part of the Canada Day celebrations in July 1. The pad was a project of the Optimist Club of West Lorne.



PHOTO BY JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Launch of CAR map

The Cultural Advisory Roundtable (CAR) map was officially launched July 18 at the Arts and Cookery Bank in West Lorne. The map highlights cultural, heritage and tourism attractions found across the municipalities of West Elgin, Dutton-Dunwich, Southwest Middlesex, and Newbury. The Website's designer Jonathan Kochis was on hand to show people the website and answer questions. From L-R: Jonathan Kochis, Mary Simpson, Deb Bradshaw, Bill Denning, Jerry Galbraith, Norma Schneckenger, Brenda Myers, Dorothy Staddon, and Grace McGartland.

JULY 30/08