



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

## Cactus Cattle and Cowboys

Four-year-old Gracie Herd and her mother Wanda Jordan said hello to Cherry August 2 during the 3rd annual Cactus, Cattle and Cowboys festival in West Lorne. For more fair photos, check out pages 8 and 9.

## Book being written about local people during WWII

A West Lorne man is putting together a book with information on people from the local area who served in WWII and needs the public's help to finish.

Harley Lashbrook is compiling information on people from West Lorne, Rodney and the former Aldborough Township who served in WWII. Lashbrook already finished a similar book on WWI last year, but he's found that getting information for this WWII book is more of a challenge. The Privacy Act has made it difficult for him to gather information from official sources, so the best way is for family members of people with military service to contact him and volunteer information. Once his book is completed, it will be made available at local libraries.

"There's only one way to get the information. That's make the people loan me the pictures and give me the information. That's the only way we can do it," he said.

Lashbrook was born and raised

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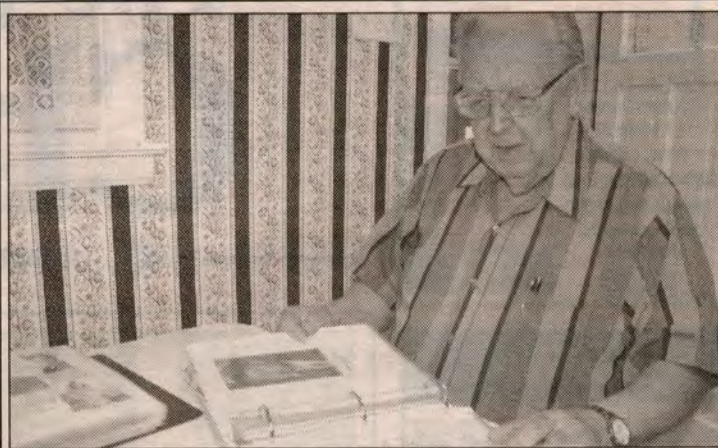
lives in West Lorne. He's looking for any information he can get; where these people lived, the names of their parents, medals they received, and so on. He also has copies of newspaper clippings that mention specific soldiers and significant events during the war. Lashbrook started with a long list of names of people from the local area who served, and he's been going to libraries and military museums to get all the information he can. Lashbrook still has over 150 names of people he still knows very little about. Anyone who would like to contribute information can contact Harley Lashbrook at 519-768-1253.

"If someone doesn't do this job, then in another 10 years or 20 years, there's nobody you'll be able to ask," he said.

Lashbrook and his wife also wrote a book on the history of West Lorne.

"We feel we've got to preserve history as much as possible," he said.

In Lashbrook's book, people will be able to read about John Reginald Milner, who was an instructor at the Fingal Bombing



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## Writing a book about local history

Harley Lashbrook of West Lorne is putting together a book about people from West Lorne, Rodney, and the former Aldborough Township who served during WWII. He's already done a book on WWI which can be found in local libraries.

and Gunnery school, or about Sgt. Dorland 'Firp' Plyley. Plyley was a tail gunner whose plane was shot down 50 miles from Nuremberg. He managed to escape his plane by opening his parachute and letting it pull him from his plane, injuring his leg in the process. He landed in the snow, and having lost his boots while escaping the plane, he used his parachute as boots and leg coverings. He surrendered to German forces after walking 20 miles. Plyley was promoted to

the rank of Pilot Officer while he was still a POW, but he didn't learn of his promotion until after he was released.

"There's so much stuff. So many stories just like this," said Lashbrook. "It's really interesting, and the more you delve into it the more interesting it becomes."

Lashbrook said that if enough people contact him, he could probably finish his book in about a year. But realistically, it may take a while longer than that.



## Former West Lorne resident writes novel

Former West Lorne resident John Schlarbaum has just finished a new mystery novel, one loosely based on his former home town.

The novel, Barry Jones' Cold Dinner, tells the story of P.I. Steve Cassidy, who's on a quest to locate Barry Jones, a family man who disappeared without a trace seven years earlier. In the story, Cassidy returns to his home town after many years of being away. Schlarbaum said the story is set in a town very much like the West Lorne he remembers from his youth. The cover of the novel even has a picture with a reverse angle of Graham Street in West Lorne.

"Part of the novel is just about going back home again, trying to reconnect with your old friends or family, and people you didn't get along with. When I was writing the book, I just imagined myself, what if I had to go back to my home town after 15 or 20 years like the main character does, what would I expect?" said Schlarbaum. "Many of the characters that inhabit this book are loosely based on people I grew up with, but may not have stayed in contact with over the years. Long time residents I'm sure will also recognize a few of the landmarks and locales in the story, helping them better visualize where the action takes place. Even some of the flash-

back scenes Steve experiences are incidents that occurred to me in my youth, and for which I try to make amends for or come to terms with today."

Barry Jones' Cold Dinner is Schlarbaum's third novel to date. His first book, The Doctor's Bag was published October 2005 and Aging Gracefully Together was published in 2006. In this new book, the wife of the missing Barry Jones is petitioning the courts to declare her spouse dead so she can collect \$750,000 from the insurance company. P.I. Cassidy is hired by her insurance company to determine the truth behind Jones' disappearance. The main character is a man trying to deal with years of substance abuse, a failed career as a cop, and a broken marriage. Schlarbaum's first two novels were stories of sentiment and romance. His latest book is the first of what may become a series of mystery novels.

Schlarbaum lived in West Lorne until he was about 19 and went away to college in Hamilton. It was during his time in a Television Broadcasting course that he decided he enjoyed writing work more than production work. He said he's been writing for most of his adult life. Schlarbaum currently lives in Amherstberg, near Windsor. He started his own publishing company,

Scanner Publishing three years ago.

Barry Jones' Cold Dinner can be purchased locally at The West Elgin Pharmacy in West Lorne, Marg's Variety in Rodney, and Crafts Plus in Dutton. Schlarbaum's website www.scannerpublishing.com has more information on his novels and even includes a trailer for his new book.

Schlarbaum will visit the West Lorne Library in October this year for a book signing.



### Mystery novel by West Lorne man

John Schlarbaum has written his third book to date; Barry Jones' Cold Dinner. The novel is a mystery with a number of characters and locales based on people and places in West Lorne. The cover of the book has a picture of Graham street in West Lorne with a reversed angle. Schlarbaum's book can be purchased locally.

SUBMITTED

## Dutton woman retires after 30 years with Cancer Society

Norma McMillan, a long-term resident of Dutton retired Nov. 20 after 30 years consecutive service with the Canadian Cancer Society, Elgin Middlesex-Unit. Norma, a transportation convener and volunteer driver, has tirelessly arranged rides to help local residents get to their cancer related appointments.

For many, family and friends can help them get to their medical appointments but for some this is not possible. Volunteer Drivers from the Canadian Cancer Society are caring, committed people that offer their time and use of their vehicles to get members of their community to their appointments, be it diagnostic, radiation, chemo, supportive care or follow-up.

Along with matching drivers and patients, Norma has also helped to raise thousands of dollars to support the work of the Canadian Cancer Society through such activities as daffodil sales and Great Ride 'n' Stride.

Norma has witnessed the caring of the Dutton and area Community and while she looks forward to a well deserved respite from her duties she hopes that the communi-



Norma McMillan

SUBMITTED

ty will continue to step forward and assist the Canadian Cancer Society in their mission to make sure that no one faces cancer alone. To be part of the cancer fighting team in our community contact the Elgin-Middlesex Unit at 519-432-1137 or elgin-middlesex@ontario.cancer.ca. For more detailed information on the work of the Canadian Cancer Society go to www.cancer.ca

Nov 27/08



### West Lorne now has Heritage Park

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Elizabeth McMillan, Trudy Balint and Konrad Krebsz pulled the blanket off the stone monument in the Rosalie Krebsz Heritage Park during the dedication on Aug. 17.

## Rosalie Krebsz Park dedicated

The Rosalie Krebsz Heritage Park is ready for the community to enjoy following its dedication Aug. 17.

The park is two adjoining lots of land beside Munroe Street in West Lorne, and was donated to the municipality by Marie Steltenpool. Rosalie Krebsz was a community-minded volunteer who earned such a place in the hearts of those who knew her that it was decided this park should bear her name. Rosalie died of breast cancer in 2006. On Aug. 17, many of Rosalie's friends, family, and other members of the community came to the park to witness the unveiling of the Park's memorial stone and hear kind words about Rosalie.

"In her last week, she heard the sounds of birds singing and she said 'listen to the birds, listen to the birds,' and I told her 'Well see, those birds are singing for you', and they will be singing in the park now. Her spirit is here," said Rosalie's sister Shirley Vanderberg.

Right now, the park is empty except for trees and the memorial stone. The municipality has ordered tables and benches. The Recreation department will be in charge of park maintenance.

"Hopefully in the future this can become a memorial garden," said Kathy Johnston, a member of the West Lorne Optimist Club. "This was the last thing that was donated in her memory that has become a reality."

Johnston organized a tribute to Rosalie Krebsz which was held at the Elgin International club last year. Other tributes to Rosalie include the West Lorne Optimist Club's annual bursary; the Rosalie Krebsz Award, given to students, and the Fetal Doppler Monitor donated to the Dutton Medical Centre in Rosalie's memory by the Wallacetown Optimist Club.

Councilor Trudy Balint attended the dedication and praised Rosalie and the contribution of the park to the local area.

"With the recently built Heritage Homes, what a beautiful area for the residents. They don't have to go all the way down to Miller Park, but can come just down the road," she said.

Nancy Lashbrook shared some of the history of the park land. The land was originally the site of the Methodist Church built in 1874 and its manse. The church's bell was rung for every Sunday service, during important events, and as a town warning system for fires. That bell now sits at the United Church of West Lorne.

## Service centres closing along 401

The two service centres along the 401 Highway between London and Tilbury are scheduled to close next month, meaning potential trouble for weary motorists and student employment.

Last year the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) announced a five-year plan to close all 23 service centres in southern Ontario along Highways 400 and 401 so they could be modernized and rebuilt. Many of these service centres were built in the 1960's and have leases which are about to expire. Once the project is complete, the improved service centres will be a benefit to motorists, but the closures in the meantime will leave commercial truck drivers with fewer places to rest.

The service centres for Bainsville (near the Quebec/Ontario boarder), Morrisburg (between Prescott and Cornwall) and Tilbury North (between Chatham-Kent and Windsor) are already closed. Up next are the service centres westbound from West Lorne, scheduled to close Sept. 2, and Eastbound from Dutton, scheduled to close Sept. 30. More information can be found on the MTO website www.mto.gov.on.ca.

Dutton Dunwich municipal council would prefer that, if the service centres have to close, that their closing dates be spaced further apart. Administrator/Treasurer Ken Loveland has written letters to MTO Contract Administrator Zoran Jokanovic and MPP Steve Peters expressing their concerns.

"We realize, if they have to be closed down temporarily, that's fine. We understand that, but we want to make sure that it's very, very short," said Loveland. "We don't want to lose them. There's employment there, there's tax dollars there, and our big concern is: where are these trucks going to go?"

The MTO has reopened the service centre at Tilbury South with interim amenities including parking for cars and trucks, as well as portable buildings with washrooms, water, and vending machines.

"It's going to create some problems, I think, on the 401. They don't want the trucks parking along the road. In Tilbury, they've had occasions where they're coming off highway 401 and parking on municipal roads. We don't want to see that happen-

ing either," said Loveland.

Loveland said he has discussed the situation with Zoran Jokanovic over the phone. Loveland said he was told by Jokanovic that the MTO has signed a contract with another company to rebuild all the service centres along the 400 series Highways, and that the two service centres between London and Tilbury would be first on the list to be rebuilt.

Hilary Hodder is an employee at the Tim Hortons in the eastbound service centre between London and Tilbury and a West Elgin Secondary School student. The closure Sept. 30 will mean she's out of a job. She said there aren't many jobs in this area as it is, and it'll be even harder to get one if every student laid-off from the service centres starts looking for work at the same time.

"There're so many people who work here from my school," said Hodder. "There's not really much around here. I don't know. I'm considering working in London on weekends."

Hodder will be going in Grade 12 this year and, like many students, she's trying to finance a car and save for college education.

Aug 28/08



## Woman plays organ at churches for 62 years

Local community churches have listened to the organ music of Margaret Knapp for over 62 years.

Margaret first committed herself to playing the organ at St. Helen's church in Wallacetown in 1946 when she was 11 years old. She played there for the first time on Mother's Day as a promise to her mother. Margaret played there regularly for eight years, then she started playing regularly in St. Mary's church in West Lorne, although she still went to play at St. Helen's every once in a while. Margaret doesn't plan to play regularly at either church anymore, but she admits she may still play whenever the churches need a stand-in. She does however plan to begin playing at Bobier Villa in Dutton for their masses twice a month. All these years of volunteer organ playing has made Margaret an important part of community churches.

"I find to go to church, if there's nobody playing the organ, it just seems so empty," said Margaret. "Music is joyful tones. It's precise time. Knowing your notes, being able to play them in such a manner it's almost like sight reading because you have to be ambidextrous; you're left hand is playing something different than your right hand."

Margaret first became interested in the organ when she was six. She remembered visiting her father's cousin, whose wife owned a beautiful organ.

"I would say to her 'would it be okay if I could play the organ'. She would say 'oh, certainly'. Each time we'd go, she knew that's what I wanted to do," said Margaret.

Margaret began music lessons at age 8, under Lenore Stevens Keillor. Organs at the time were pump-organs; very different from the electric organs used today.

"For one thing, when I began, I was very small. It was difficult because you didn't have a bench per-se, you just had a stool. I would wind that stool down as low as I possibly could, but I also had to reach the keys, so it was quite a feat," said Margaret.

Besides volunteering at churches, Margaret also played the organ at weddings, funerals and other social functions.

"I remember the first wedding that I played for, it was at St. Helen's, for Theresa and Ray Schnekenburger. I know when they came to ask if I would play, I said 'oh, I don't know, I haven't played for a wedding yet.' Teresa said 'Well, I'm sure you'll do just fine.' And I was so very happy," she said.

Up until 10 years ago, Margaret also played along with her six children. Her four boys and two girls played instruments including guitar, accordion, banjo and drums. They used to play at community halls, clubs, and outdoor functions.

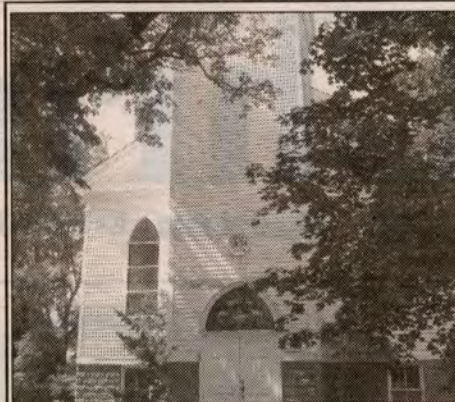
AUG 7/08



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### St. John's Church

Minister John Van Vliet stood outside St. John's Presbyterian Church in Rodney. It's one of three church buildings that will close next month.



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### Knox Presbyterian Church

Knox Presbyterian in New Glasgow is the oldest of the three buildings; built in 1854.



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### Knox Kintyre Church

Knox Kintyre Presbyterian church was built in 1861.

## Historic churches closing in Rodney and New Glasgow

Local history expert Harley Lashbrook of West Lorne shared some of the history of the three buildings with The Chronicle. Knox Presbyterian Church in New Glasgow is the oldest of the three churches. Settlers from Scotland, many of them Presbyterians, were arriving in the Aldborough Township area as early as 1816. It was in 1827 that a minister, Reverend Alex Ross, was sent from Scotland. He was the first Presbyterian Minister in Western Ontario and he organized the congregation that would one day worship in the Knox Presbyterian Church. Land was secured for the church in 1853 and in 1854, the Knox Presbyterian Church was built. A bottle of whisky was broken on the church tower to christen it. The building was given major renovations in 1915; given a basement, new seats and memorial windows.

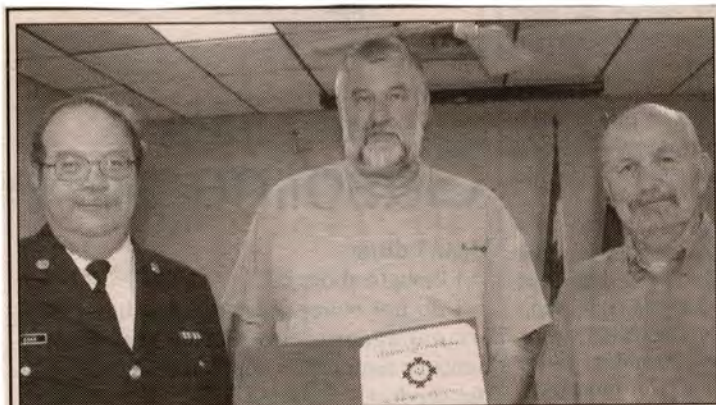
The Knox Kintyre Church was built in 1861 and St. John's Presbyterian Church was built in 1877. There's roughly seven kilometers between each church. That was a more significant distance to travel in horse and buggy times, but in the modern day, churches don't need to be that close together. There is some concern that once the buildings are sold, this could be a loss to local history.

"We own churches for the purpose of having a place to worship. When our needs change, we need to reconsider the church situation. I do sympathize with the fact that there will be some kind of loss to the community, however, the church needs to focus on what's important to the church which is spiritual growth and renewal," said Van Vliet.

Van Vliet said low attendance in churches is a trend in many communities.

"We have a situation, which is certainly not unique to this area, where fewer people are maintaining a building and much of their best effort, both financial and personal, is going into maintaining a building as opposed to any kind of Christian outreach or anything that the church is supposed to stand for," he said.

AUG. 21/08



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### Fire Certificate received

Don Egan of the Fire Marshall Office appeared at the West Elgin Council office Sept. 25. He presented council with a certificate declaring that the municipality of West Elgin was in compliance with the public education and fire prevention requirements of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act of 1997.

(From L) Don Egan, West Lorne - Rodney Fire Chief Andy Kieraszwicz, and West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick.



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### Walking on Living Water

Together, Corey Mullen and A.J. Bondy are Living Water, a band who encourage youth to choose positive lifestyles. They've played their music across Ontario and beyond at locations including Sault St. Marie and Montreal. They performed at Melody Fellowship Church in West Lorne Sept. 5 and plan to return Sept. 26. Both Mullen and Bondy were once on a downward spiral in life because of drugs and alcohol, but faith helped them turn their lives around. They gave away free t-shirts that night, which were made by Random Ink in West Lorne.





## Junior Fire Program in West Lorne

The West Lorne Fire Department now has a Junior Program for people age 14-18 to learn some fire fighting skills. The program includes learning about the chain of command, using fire-fighting equipment and how to deal with different types of fires. After a practice fire was lit, 17-year-old Lauren Sheedy (Right) tried proper fire extinguishing techniques Sept. 24. Read more about the program on page 2.

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## Official Plan meeting for West Elgin Municipal

The Municipal Council of West Elgin hopes to finally finish its Official plan at a public meeting to be held later tonight.

The Official plan outlines the Municipality's long-term goals for upcoming decades, and it is reviewed every five years. A public meeting will be held Feb. 7 at 7:00 pm in the West Elgin Municipal building, where Council hopes they and members of the public can finalize a plan everyone likes. Council had previously hoped they could finish the plan last December, but they decided it needed some further revisions.

"Near the end of the year, we thought we could get the Official plan put to bed by the New Year. But when we went back out to the community, there were a couple of tweaks that the community wanted to see to our plan," said Mayor Graham Warwick.

Now that those tweaks have been made, Council is holding another meeting to gather public input and make sure the plan is

ready to be made official.

Once the Official plan is finished, the Council's planning department will be able to put its attention towards developing the Community Improvement plan; a plan that will be useful for encouraging growth in the community. The last two census released by Statistics Canada showed that West Elgin's population was in decline. It decreased 2.1 per cent since 2001 and also decreased two per cent from 1996 to 2001.

"We'd like to see more economic activity, more job opportunities, more tourism, more services that would keep a consumer base of a good demographic mix," said Mayor Warwick.

Heather Bell, the President of the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce, says that the community has a lot of things going for it, such as schools, public health buildings and access to the 401 Highway.

"I'm not going to start panicking because they tell us our num-



## New Defibrillator

Terry Wardell (left) Jeff Slater and Ken Degraw (right) show off the new defibrillator at the West Elgin Arena. It was purchased after a charity Golf tournament in August organized by McNaughton Dodge RV and Napa Auto Parts.

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bers are down. Instead of panicking I think what we need to do is find a way to entice people to stay here, or retire here," she said.

West Elgin has an aging population, so having more support for senior citizens will be an important part in encouraging people to stay within the com-

munity.

Bell also says there are vacant buildings in the downtown area that should be put to good use.

Mayor Warwick hopes that the Community Improvement plan will be finished by mid-summer, or at least, well-underway.



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## Tree planted in Miller Park

A Green Mountain Sugar Maple was planted in West Lorne July 23. It was a pro-environment gesture made as a tribute to the community's support of youth services. From Left- Nancy Mott with Employment Services Elgin, Jackie Allen with the St. Thomas Service Canada Centre for Youth, West Elgin Recreation Superintendent Jeff Slater, Amanda Wise with the Elgin St. Thomas Youth Employment Counselling Centre and Sonya Aristone with the St. Thomas Service Canada Centre for Youth.

## Study finds leachate contamination in groundwater outside of West Elgin Landfill

West Elgin Council has to decide on a course of action now that a study has found leachate is draining from the landfill near Rodney into the groundwater.

Leachate is any liquid that forms from the composition of waste in a landfill. The Municipality of West Elgin employed the Water and Earth Science Associates Ltd. (WESA) in 2006 to complete a subsurface investigation into leachate delineation for the West Elgin landfill site. The study found leachate was impacting off-site groundwater to the east, southeast and south of the landfill boundaries. Since leachate is reaching groundwater beyond the property boundaries, it doesn't meet the Reasonable Use Guidelines of the Ministry of the Environment (MOE).

The Municipality must go with one of two options to solve the problem. They can buy the surrounding property, or they can purchase the water rights for the surrounding properties and obtain land-access agreements. The Municipality would have to do this for an area approximately 30 meters to the east and 50 meters to the south of the landfill. A third option, installation of leachate collection systems, was dismissed because it would be too costly.

The results of the leachate delineation study were presented to council on Jan. 17. Karen Greer, a Project Hydro-geolo-

gist and S'rana Spencer, a Project Engineer presented WESA's findings and made their recommendations.

"I would like to, and with [council's] help, have a plan in place by April first, 2008, so we can report to the MOE in the 2007 annual report. That's due April 30, 2008," said Greer. "What I really want to stress is that, in terms of design and operations, if you follow the Ministry's requirements we've outlined, you're going to minimize the amount of leachate coming off the land fill. And ultimately, not make the problem any worse than it already is," said Greer.

Jim Crane owns property south of the landfill and attended the Jan. 17 meeting with concerns that groundwater contaminated with leachate might make it to his pond.

"I am concerned about my three and a half, or four acre pond that I have behind the dump; that this contaminated water isn't flowing into that," said Crane. "It really deters the value of that property if that pond is contaminated."

Greer said it's unlikely Crane's pond is in any danger considering there are no registered leachate impacts that far from the landfill boundary.

Leachate on site consists of high concentrations of ammonia, alkalinity, arsenic, chloride, dissolved organic carbon, iron and sodium.

To test for leachate, WESA installed seven new groundwater monitoring wells, six offsite, and one onsite. The groundwater monitoring program was conducted between Oct. 16 and Nov. 8, 2007.

JAN 31/08

FEB 7/08



# Class EA presented at council

The first draft of a report on sewage system options for a proposed commercial and residential development in Port Glasgow has been completed.

Seaside Waterfronts Inc. has given a proposal to West Elgin Municipal council for a major commercial and residential complex to be built in Port Glasgow. The plan proposes development of about 86 acres of land for different types of residents and 7.5 acres for a variety of retail outlets, boutiques, pubs and other businesses. If the project is approved, development would begin next year.

A Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) was commissioned by council to assess the options for a sewage system for the development. Members of Spriet Associates and Stantec Consulting presented the Class EA draft to council Sept. 25.

The report outlined six possible alternatives. The first option, to 'do nothing', is a mandatory option always required in a Class EA.

The second option is for the public to practice water conservation; less water use would increase the capacity of the existing Rodney sewage treatment plant.

Option three is to try to maximize the use of the existing Rodney treatment plant without expanding the plant.

Option four is to re-rate the Rodney sewage treatment plant, meaning to increase the plant's rated capacity without undertaking capital upgrades.

Option five is to expand the Rodney sewage treatment plant and the sixth option is to construct a new sewage treatment plant near Port Glasgow. The complete Class EA draft can be found online at the West Elgin Municipal Council's website [www.westelgin.net](http://www.westelgin.net).

The report describes pros and cons as well as some cost estimates for each option. Spriet Associates considers options five and six to be most deserving of serious consideration.

"Water conservation (option two) is a good thing to do. It doesn't give a solution, but it's a good alternative that we suggest carrying in complement with the preferred solution, whatever it may be," said Elvio Zaghi, a Project Manager with Stantec Consulting. "Both expanding the Rodney sewage treatment plant and a building a new sewage treatment plant will provide a solution. They can provide enough sanitation solution for what is needed for the Port Glasgow area."

One disadvantage to the option of expanding the Rodney plant is high capital cost,

because it would need a 10km forcemain from Port Glasgow to Rodney. If sewage is pumped over such a long distance, some sewage could linger in the pipes and create odor and corrosion problems.

If the selected option is to construct a totally new treatment plant in Port Glasgow, then a new site would be required, which could include lands municipally or privately owned that would need to be purchased. Its expected some businesses near the construction site would be inconvenienced by such a construction project.

This draft represents Phase 1 of the Class EA. A further evaluation of these alternatives will be completed in Phase 2, which will also identify the preferred alternative. The Phase two report should be submitted to council by the end of October and then another public meeting will be held, possibly in November



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## Rowbust wins breast cancer survivor dragon boat festival July 26-27

Back Row - Judy Leyshon, Therese Newman, Margaret VanVeen, Patti Squires, Lorraine Lithgow, Catherine Ebbs, Sonja Kramberger, Lynne Aylsworth, June Alexander, Maureen Huggins. Middle -Christine Tsao, Tracy Kuipers, Pattie McClain, Bruna Furrow, Sue Waite, Suzanne Devlin, Grace Wilson, Daphne Sanders. Front - Dianne Jensen, Linda Kuska, Deb Lucy, Cheryl McLachlan (Coach), Sarah Shellard(Coach) and Red. Absent - Kathy Orsi.

## West Lorne natives win gold at dragon boating event in Halifax

Linda Kuska and Grace Wilson from West Lorne are two women on a team of breast cancer survivors who won a dragon boat competition in Halifax July 26-27.

Their team, Rowbust, competed against teams from nearly every province in an all breast cancer survivor dragon boat festival. They won the Breast Cancer Survivor Cup on July 26 and the Memorial Cup July 27. The team also includes Carolyn Jensen from the Shedden area, as well as members from across Elgin County.

"It was such a close race," said team president Linda Kuska. "It was a photo finish, we actually had to do one of the championship races over again."

Dragon boating for breast cancer survivors celebrated its 10th anniversary in

2005. The exercise has been deemed a great way to help breast cancer patients during rehabilitation.

Kuska said one thing the team has going for it is they have two new coaches this year. The coaches, Cheryl McLachlan and Sarah Shellard from the Belmont area, were team members on the Canadian National Dragon Boat Team. McLachlan was also on the Canadian Olympic Bobsled Team.

Kuska was diagnosed with Breast Cancer in 1999 at the age of 36, while her sons Kyle and Mitch were only 9 and 6 years old

Rowbust is also involved in community events including the Relay for Life, CIBC Run for the Cure, Braz for the Cause and others.

## Yacht Club objects to public land use in development proposal

Jesse Cnockaert  
Staff

The Port Glasgow Yacht Club wants public lands left out of the residential and commercial resort complex proposed to be built in Port Glasgow, and they went to West Elgin municipal council Sept. 25 to let them know how strongly they felt.

Seaside Waterfront Inc. has proposed the development of 86 acres of land in Port Glasgow for residences and about 7.5 acres for commercial structures. The plan shows a variety of dwelling types ranging from single unit detached dwellings to four unit dwellings including live-work establishments and apartments over ground floor commercial uses. In the village core would include a limited service inn and spa, boutiques and shops, restaurants and pubs and a village square. Public

facilities would include an outdoor amphitheatre and a community centre with a performing arts centre, plus community pools and a new light-house.

An early concept of the development showed a hotel and some estate-sized residences built at least partially on publicly owned lands. The corner of the proposed amphitheater also encroaches on a wetland.

Norm Miller, President of the Port Glasgow Yacht Club went to council and raised objection to development on public land.

"The Yacht Club is not against development, the right kind of development. We're pro development. We're not in favour of using public lands for commercial or residential purposes. Municipal lands should stay owned by the municipality for the enjoyment of all," he said.

Miller said the Yacht Club is supposed to be involved in decisions that involve the marina lands owned by the municipality and the club. The Yacht Club felt out of the loop when they heard that council had "agreed in principal" to partner with Seaside Waterfront Inc. for use of public lands.

"The only thing we've ever agreed to in that resolution is to talk," responded Mayor Graham Warwick. "I just want to reassure you that you're very much involved in our process, but sometimes we make a decision in this (council) room with planning things and we don't call the Yacht Club up or we don't call the Nature Club up, but we have it in a public process, a transparent process, so you will find out about it, and you will have your input back to us and then we give it due consideration."

Please see Club, page 2

## Explore tasty cooking and recipe books at library

West Lorne Library presents its second adult program Book with Cooks on March 22 from 7 - 8 p.m.

Join us for some taste testing and discover a wonderful array of fiction and non fiction books that have great recipes, cooking ideas and healthy eating tips.

We will also discuss fiction books that contain delicious recipes and have a mysterious plot all in one.

Call 768-1150 to pre register for this

event.

Children's Easter Ceramic Program with Dianne Myslik will be held March 24 at the West Lorne Library.

Children ages six to eight years pre-register for 10 a.m. and Children nine years and up pre-register for 11a.m. There is a \$3.00 fee.

The Between Girls program in Rodney is March 29 at the regular time.

The Boys Book Club in West Lorne meets March 29 at the regular time.

### RODNEY/WEST LORNE LIBRARY NEWS

By Shelley Fleming

Another book from the Evergreen Reading List is 'Can You Hear the Nightbird Call' by Anita Rau Badami.

This is the story of three women, two of Sikh descent and one of Hindu descent, and how their lives become intertwined in Canada and in India.

The story spans the turbulent years between the Partition of Punjab and the Air India Crash. It is a fascinating mix of culture and history that will keep the reader's interest to the last word.





JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

**Music demonstration at public meeting for Harmony**

Chris Wemp, a local youth, plays guitar during a public meeting at West Elgin Senior Elementary School Feb. 11 while Harmony founder Joanne Klauke-LaBelle watches. Harmony is partnering with the Centre Ice Youth Optimists Club to open a branch in West Lorne. Their group offers music and theater programs for youths in exchange for community service.

# Harmony coming to West Lorne

Jesse Cnockaert  
Staff

A partnership between The Centre Ice Youth Optimists club and the Harmony youth group could mean a major change for youth opportunities locally.

Harmony founder and CEO Joanne Klauke-LaBelle spoke at a public forum Feb. 11 in the gym at West Elgin Senior Elementary School where she introduced her organization and answered questions. Harmony offers a number of youth programs from music to theater, but rather than charging money, Harmony has participants provide community service as payment.

Until now, Centre Ice has been sharing the Scout Hall in West Lorne to use as their meeting place. Now that the two organizations are partnering, Harmony has an opportunity to enter the community, and Centre Ice hopes together they can find a building to use.

"Having an opportunity to come to West Lorne means that I get to reach out and help more kids," said Klauke-LaBelle. "These kids are the future of this community. We want a sustainable community. We're always talking about sustainability. Invest in your kids. Have your kids invest in the community and guess what? You've got a

sustainable community."

Dutton-Dunwich Mayor Bonnie Vowel and West Elgin Councilors Jonathan Wolf and Trudy Balint were also there at the Feb. 11 public forum. Joanne Klauke-LaBelle told success stories of how Harmony has been able to boost the self-esteem of children and even help some very troubled youths by getting them active in their communities. For every hour youths spend at Harmony learning about music, how to cook, acting in plays and so on, they are required to spend an hour in some form of community service.

*Please see Harmony partnership, page 2*



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

**Senior's Picnic at the Heritage House in West Lorne**

Sept. 10 was the day of the Senior's Picnic at the Heritage House in West Lorne. Above, Jim Kovach, Bill Graham and John McIntyre entertained the crowd with some music. The Heritage House is a 16-unit housing complex for seniors that was officially opened late August.





JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

### The Nicholas Knapp Memorial and Charity Golf Tournament

The Nicholas Knapp Memorial Tournament was held Oct. 4 in Wardsville. Proceeds from the event will go toward the Nick Knapp Kindness Fund. This year's overall winners were (From L) Jay Farquhar, David Farquhar, Gordon Lace and Kent Skinner. They each won a State Farm pack of golf balls and Vegetable Specialty Pack.

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SUBMITTED

### Cornerstone Kids movie night

Everyone gathered at the West Lorne Baptist Church Aug. 22 for a showing of 'A Great Big Mystery', a video production by Rosalee Hall and starring the Cornerstone Kids; Madison Murray, Kylie Bramley, Erin Langstaff, Katherine Philmore, Jada Krebs, Ben Langstaff, William Smith, Jeremy Brand, Anthony St. Onge, and Liam Brayton.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

### Nick Knapp tournament cheques presented

The 2nd annual Nicholas Knapp Memorial Golf Tournament was held Oct. 3 and raised \$8,000. On Oct. 18, cheques dividing up some of the funds were presented in Miller Park in West Lorne to various organizations. Five hundred dollars was donated to the Melody Fellowship Church Youth on Track program, \$1,000 was presented to the Kids Help Phone, the Centre Ice Youth Center received \$500 and West Lorne Baptist Church Cornerstone Youth was given \$500. From L - Penny Knapp, Brenda Gordon, Linda Perry of Melody Fellowship Church, Rick Gordon, Larry Knapp, Phil Winch, regional representative for Kids Help phone, Melanie McLeod, Monica Pelcz, President of the Centre Ice Youth Center, Lauren Vergeer, Youth worker, Brenda Myers, Brian Dyck, and April Dyck of the West Lorne Baptist Church.

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JULY 17/08 JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

### Donation made to Arts and Cookery Bank

Dave Wheeler Automotive, Dutton Farm & Auto Supply, and the Western Ontario Mopar Owners donated \$700 to the Arts and Cookery Bank July 10. (L-R) Rob Willson and Sarah Smith of Dutton Farm & Auto Supply, and Dave Wheeler of Dave Wheeler Automotive gave a check to Grace McGartland and Bill Denning, members of the Arts and Cookery Bank.



J.SANTOS/08



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

### Art show

Kristyn Watterworth stands beside one of over 70 paintings she had on display at the Watterworth farm in West Lorne between Feb. 15 and Feb. 17. The show was open from 11:00 am until 10:00 pm.



J.SANTOS/08



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

### Valentine Smorgasbord

People gathered at St. Mary's Hall Feb. 10 for the 14th annual Valentines Dinner. The dinner was sponsored by Knights of Columbus, St. Helen's CWL and the St. Mary's Ladies Group

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