

# Reunion of a pioneer family

On July 12 2009, descendants of J. C. Schleihauf gathered for the Sunday service at Grace Anglican Church in West Lorne. They came from Regina, Saskatchewan, from Germany and from London, St. Thomas, Milverton, Stratford, Bothwell and West Lorne in Ontario.

In lieu of a sermon that day, Dr. Michael Zimmermann, a direct descendant, gave a brief history of the family, noting that his ancestor was considered one of the founding fathers of both West Lorne as well as Grace Anglican Church. A stained glass window commemorates the family, as does the font. The pews and interior woodwork are believed to have been made in his mill and donated to the church.

J. C. Schleihauf Sr. was a dragoon in Maximillian's regiment in Germany. In 1842 he decided to bring his family to Canada, and they settled briefly in Niagara.

Around 1847 they sailed up Lake Erie to Airey, present-day New Glasgow, where they made their home. By 1853 they were able to buy 100 acres from Donald Currie. They moved out of Airey and the family split, with J.C. senior and his second son moving to Silver Street in Aldborough and J. C. Schleihauf Jr. Moving to Hog Street (then called Mill Street). It is J. C. junior who is considered to be one of the founding fathers of West Lorne.

In early Aldborough assessment rolls J.C.'s occupation is listed as "farmer" or "lumberman." It was as a lumberman that he made his fortune, becoming co-owner of the Schleihauf-Morden Mill. It burned and he later built the Bismark Mills which consisted of a saw mill and a shingle, lathe and planing mill. By 1877 he employed between 20 and 30 men. He was also appointed magistrate, and was known locally as "the Squire."

The Squire's most famous property transaction was when he gave the Canada Southern Railway the right-of-way through West Lorne. Since the Squire admired Chancellor Bismark, of his homeland, Germany, he imposed a condition that the station be named "Bismark" and from then the tiny hamlet began to grow.

The name Bismark caused controversy from the beginning, in part because there was a Post Office in the Niagara Peninsular called Bismark, which resulted in mail frequently being misdirected. Archibald McKillop of the rival Lorne Mills was one citizen who argued strongly that the name Bismark be dropped, and finally in 1907, just one year before the Squire's death, the name Bismark was dropped in favour of West Lorne which was incorporated into a village. The Squire vowed to protest the name change through a law suit, but died before he could. At the time most of the property in the village was owned by the squire's wife Sarah, and his two sons Otto and Phillip.

J.C. married a Scottish lassie, Annie McCallum with whom he had five children, but at age 25, Annie and three of her children died of scarlet fever. In 1870 the squire married Sarah Ann Gilbert from Tyrconnel.

They had ten children. Sarah Ann was a staunch Anglican. Initially they worshipped at the Presbyterian Church in West Lorne, and later at the Lutheran Church on Middle Street. In 1881, Rev'd. John Schulte was appointed by Huron College as the Anglican Missionary to Aldborough. He lived with the Schleihaufs for his three years in the area. On May 23, 1883, J.C. provided one fifth of an acre for the site of Grace Anglican Church. His daughter Lilly "Vic" was the first child to be baptized and the first to be confirmed in the new church.

Before ministers were available to perform marriages the Squire, as a Justice of the Peace, had the authority to do so, and did so until the end of his life.

The family reunion was organized by Mrs. Helen Mooser of West Lorne. Dr. Michael Zimmermann, of the Department of International Languages at the University of Regina, was instrumental in bringing Dr. Bärbel Horn-Schleihauf and her daughter Ms. Imke Horn from Freiburg i. Breisgau in Germany for their first trip to Canada. They are direct descendants of J.C. Snr.'s brother, who stayed in Germany.

After the service the family enjoyed refreshments with the regular congregation and then a lunch at Lakeview Gardens.

—Written by David James, of Grace Anglican Church from information supplied by Dr. Zimmermann and from an article in the West Lorne Sun published on July 24th 1975.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

## Reunion of founding family of West Lorne

On July 12, descendants of J. C. Schleihauf gathered for the Sunday service at Grace Anglican Church in West Lorne. J.C. Schleihauf is considered to be one of the founding members of West Lorne in the 1800's.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

## Baptist Church Christmas Dinner

A Christmas dinner was held at the Baptist Church in West Lorne Dec. 5, with proceeds going to the Dutton Daffodil Auxiliary. While everyone enjoyed a pleasant meal, entertainment was provided by (from L-R) Al St. Onge, Gary McNeill, Sandra Batton, Susan Kampers, Ben Kampers, Chris Kirschner, and Beth McLandress (not shown).



PHOTO BY JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

## A real Rockin' Rodeo Christmas

Dozens of floats participated in the West Lorne Santa Claus Parade Nov. 27, sponsored by the Optimist Club of West Lorne. The local Sparks and Brownies gave enthusiastic waves to onlookers. This year's parade theme was 'A Rockin' Rodeo.' As always, Santa brought up the rear of the parade. Free hot chocolate was provided by the Out to Lunch Café, and entertainment was provided in the downtown by Chico Sanchez.





JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

**Carrying the torch**

The Olympic Flame passed through Rodney Dec. 22 during the Olympic Torch Relay across Canada. Three torchbearers, Joe Richards, Helen Robertson and A.J. Fordham, carried the flame through Rodney and made themselves a part of Olympic history.

**Olympic Flame visits Rodney**

For a glorious moment, the Olympic Flame that will burn brightly during the 2010 Winter Olympic Games was carried through the streets of Rodney.

Twelve thousand Canadians have been selected to carry the Olympic Flame over the course of 106 days as the torch passes through

over 1,000 communities across Canada. On Dec. 22, three torch bearers had the honour of carrying the flame through Rodney.

A.J. Fordham, 19, of Rodney was the first to carry the flame through Rodney. Three years ago, Fordham was in a car crash that gave him a brain injury and left him in a coma. Fordham

spent over 100 days in hospital relearning how to walk, talk, eat and perform other basic tasks. Carrying the Olympic Flame through his community is the most recent example of how that hard work towards recovery has paid off.

See OLYMPIC, Page 2



PHOTO BY JESSE CNOCKAERT

**MP Preston prepares rural culinary experience**

Grace McGartland gave a hand to MP Joe Preston, who on July 21 prepared the meal for the second in a series of six "Outrageously Rural Tuesdays" dinners. The dinners, held at the home of Grace McGartland, are a fundraiser for the Arts and Cookery Bank in West Lorne. That evening, guests were treated to gazpacho, as well as shrimp stuffed with Jack cheese and jalapenos and wrapped in bacon, as well as tequila lime lamb served with chorizo and mushroom risotto. The next dinner will be Aug. 18 and be prepared by Chef John Mairleitner of Wallacetown's Tall Tales Café. *JULY 109*

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

**Away in a manger**

A Christmas social was held at St. Mary's Hall in West Lorne Dec. 12 which included a silent auction and a live Nativity scene. Lucia Bettencourt (left) played an angel, Joseph and Mary were played by Patrick Olds and Lori Olds, the three wise men were played by Stephen Huver, Duarte Bettencourt and Peter Fleuren, and baby Jesus was played by Samuel Olds. Other roles included Matt Huver and Luke Huver as shepherds, and Jean Paul Huver as a lamb. Narration was provided by Marijn Fleuren.



PHOTO BY NANCY POWERS

**The Chronicle Editor carries Torch in Strathroy**

Steve Down (Right), the publisher/editor of The Chronicle in West Lorne and the Age Dispatch in Strathroy, got to carry the Olympic Flame through Strathroy Dec. 24. Of the nine Olympic torchbearers who carried the torch in Strathroy on Christmas Eve, Steve Down was the only local resident. Steve's torch was lit by fellow torchbearer Ken Nguyen, of Kitchener. Steve carried the torch through the downtown and ended at the municipal office to the delight and cheers of hundreds on people.

**Christmas Bird Count**

-Submitted by the West Elgin Nature Club  
Dec. 27 was a foggy, rainy day for birders and birds in 2008.

Members of the West Elgin Nature Club assisted by a few guests completed the Christmas Bird census with the total number of species and actual birds counted both a lesser number than recent years due to the inclement weather conditions.

Fifty-seven observers spotted 68 species

and recorded 10,701 birds. New high counts were recorded with an Eastern Phoebe, 1283 American Goldfinches, 71 White-winged Crossbills, 3 Northern Pintails and 3 Red-winged Crossbills.

Included in the Count Week record of 71 species were an Eastern Meadowlark, a ring-necked pheasant and a flock of nine tundra swans that flew over West Lorne the following day. *JAN 8/09*





JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

**Charity Boot Drive in West Lorne**

West Lorne firefighters were out in the streets of West Lorne Dec. 19 collecting money for Muscular Dystrophy. On left, George Cipu stopped and gave some money to firefighters Luke Rastapkevicius and Andrew Cruickshank. The boot drive raised \$2,750. The West Lorne Fire Dept. would like to send thanks to all the local people who donated coffee to the volunteers, including the Out to Lunch Café.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

**Meeting the Easter Bunny!**

Laura Reive and 8 month old Sierra got to meet the Easter Bunny at the Easter egg hunt in the West Elgin Recreation Centre April 11.



FEB 09

SUBMITTED

**Food fit for a President.**

U.S. President Barack Obama paid a visit to Ottawa Feb. 19. Shown here is the President shaking hands with Jonathan Collins, the head chef of Lakeview Gardens in Eagle, who helped prepare a special luncheon for the visiting president.



JEAN GUY ST. JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

**Great Ride and Stride in West Lorne.**

On April 26, Karen Davey from West Lorne ( left ) supported the Great Ride 'n' Stride for cancer with her mother Joanne Patterson from West Lorne (centre) and sister Darlene Mann, by walking around the West Elgin Secondary School track.

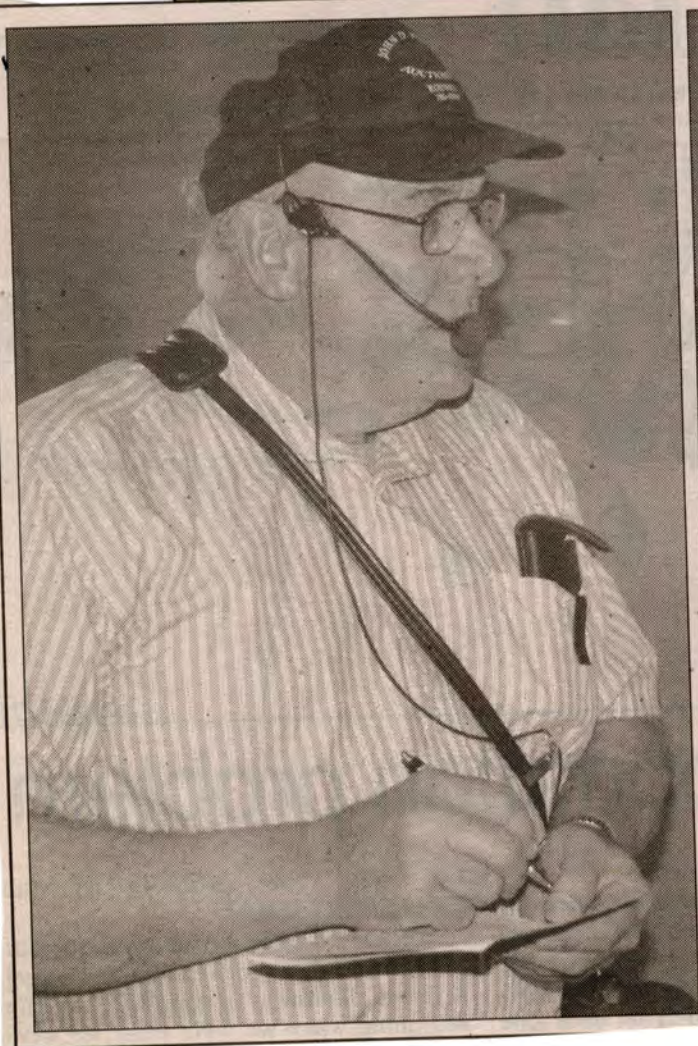




JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

**It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!**

A float put together by three families, the Cheffs, Nutes, and Elliotts, was one of many floats that came through the streets of West Lorne during the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Santa Claus Parade Nov. 27. (L-R) Teri Cheff and 22 month-old Andrea Cheff, and Evelyn Nute and 1 and 1/2 year old Chloe Nute. Many community groups and businesses entered their own floats, the Cadets and local Legion marched, and it all lead up to the appearance of Santa and Mrs. Claus. Santa made his way to the West Elgin Community Health Centre after the parade to visit with the kids.



HARLEY LASHBROOK  
SHARON GILCHRIST  
MARY LIEPMANN  
OUR W.I. MEMBER  
WE DONATED  
\$200.00 TO THE  
AUCTION

**Adoption Auction at Arts and Cookery Bank**

John Johnston, left, a man who has been an auctioneer since the 70's, auctioned off items April 24 to help raise funds to complete the Arts and Cookery Bank in West Lorne. The auction raised \$9,815, and another auction is planned in the next 6-9 months. The "idea team" of volunteers who put the event together included Bill Denning, Dorothy and Doug Staddon, Brenda Meyers, Paula Verbrugghe, and Monique Lunn, who dressed up that day as construction workers. The auction items were "lent" to the Bank by McNaughton's.

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

**Vehicle crash claims life of West Lorne Teen**

A 16-year-old West Lorne girl is dead and another teen has been charged after a serious motor vehicle collision Dec. 12.

At approximately 9:40 p.m., a 1997 GMC Sierra Pick-up truck was traveling north on Dunborough Rd., south of Pioneer Line. The vehicle traveled off the roadway, rolling into the east ditch.

The driver, a 17-year-old male from Rodney, was transported to Four Counties Hospital and is listed in serious but stable

condition.

The 16-year-old female passenger, Katelynn Lillian Porter, was pronounced deceased at the scene.

A second female passenger, age 17 from St. Thomas, was transported to Four Counties Hospital and later airlifted to London Health Sciences Centre and is listed in serious but stable condition.

Investigation revealed that a fourth occupant, a 21-year-old West Elgin man had also been in the vehicle but departed

the scene before police arrived. He was later found at a relative's residence suffering from minor injuries.

OPP have charged the 17-year-old driver with impaired driving causing death, and impaired driving causing bodily harm.

OPP Technical Traffic Collision Investigators were brought in to assist with the investigation. Dunborough Rd. was closed to traffic from Pioneer Line to Marsh Line until it re-opened around 4:00 a.m. Dec. 13.



# Happy 142nd Canada!

Here's a look at Canada Day celebrations from around the area! Photos by: Jesse Cnockaert/The Chronicle



## In honour of D-Day.

Reuben Tobias accepted a municipal pin from West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick and Councillor Trudy Balint during the Canada Day event at the West Elgin Arena, which included a special service to honour Veterans since the 65th anniversary of D-Day. Others to get pins were Jean Jamieson, Duncan Tait and his wife Annie Isobel, Al Khant and Wendy Doran, Les Welch and his wife Louise, Ray Jobson, Mary Lippold (spouse of George Lippold), George Cook, George "Scotty" Bell, Mary Ross, Dan Perovich and Charlie Cronkite.

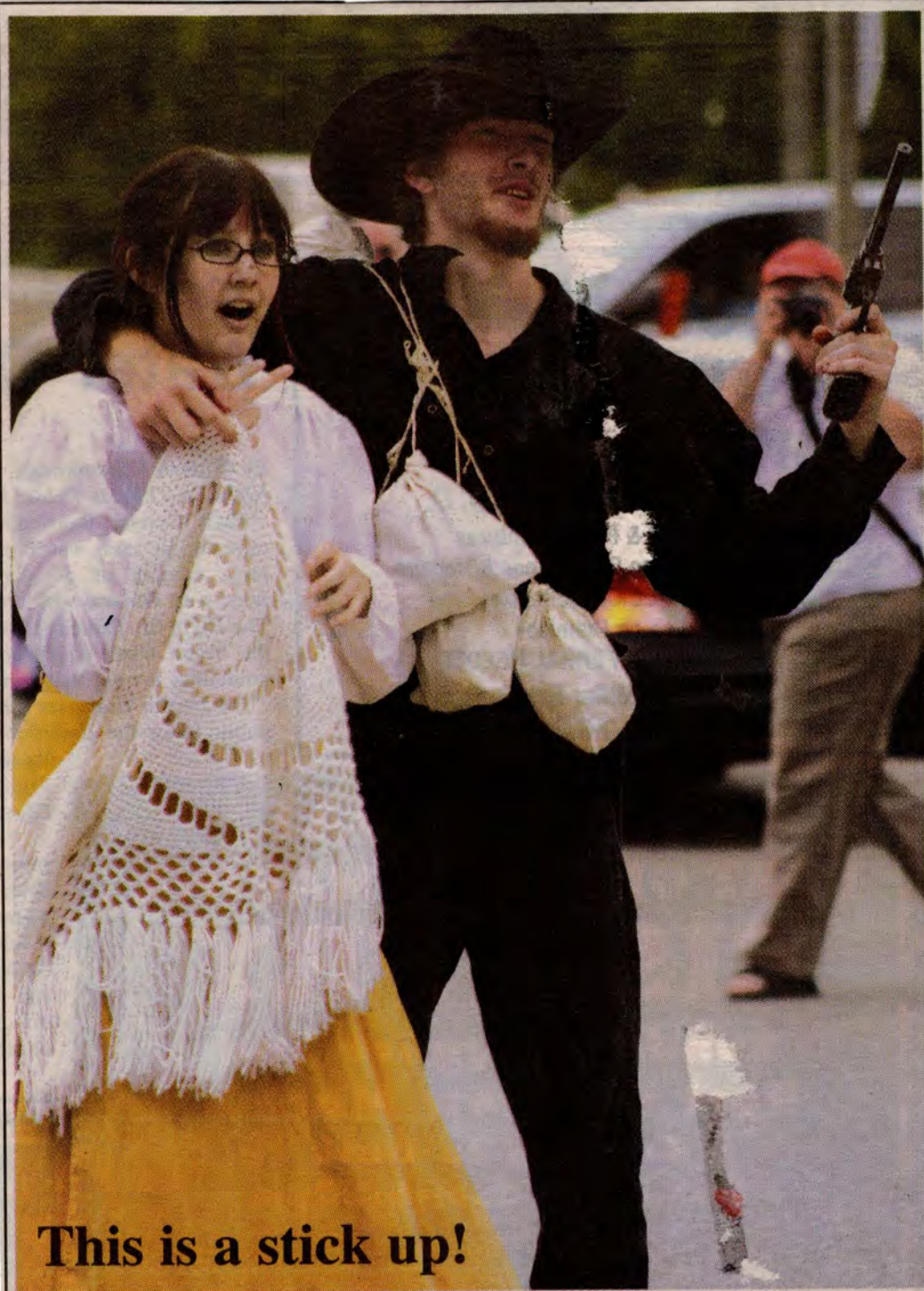


## Making friends

Four-year-old Rhory Hales fed a handful of grass to Betty Boop, one of the mini horses on display at Ballistik Paintball park. Other events that day included live music, equine games, a BBQ, and retail vendors.

## Cactus Cattle and Cowboys!

On July 18, Cactus Cattle and Cowboys was held in West Lorne! The day got started with a Farmers market at the West Elgin Community Health Centre and an all-you-can-eat breakfast at the West Lorne Fire Hall. Check out a few images of activities that day!



## This is a stick up!

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

In the spirit of the Cactus Cattle and Cowboys event in West Lorne, Branden DeGraw held Baily Lamon hostage during the 'High Noon' Bank Robbery put on by the West Elgin Dramatics Society (WEDS) July 18. DeGraw played an outlaw who robbed the Arts and Cookery Bank and, after taking a hostage, he had a stand-off on Graham Road against the Sheriff played by Tom Beharrell. The rest of the cast included Dan Ranney, Nick Sawyer, Chelsey Carruthers, Sarah De Wit, Carol Swick and Jared Cooper.

JULY 23/09

## Horse Parade through West Lorne

Mayor Caswell and Don J. Graham drove a wagon in the Horse Parade that made its way through West Lorne. The Wagon carried such VIPs as West Elgin mayor Graham Warwick, Dutton-unwich mayor Bonnie Rowel, and MP Joe Preston.



## Check it out!

Denise Webb, a level two student with Parelli Pro, and her horse Cheyene gave a horse demonstration during the afternoon events held at Ballistik Paintball Park.



Dec 10/09

PHOTO SUBMITTED

## Visitors at The Arts & Cookery Bank

Bill Robb of Rodney (L), shown shaking hands with Bill Denning, was the 1000th visitor to The Arts & Cookery Bank, during their Rockin' Rodeo Open House Nov. 27. He won a gift certificate to D&L's in Rodney. Visitors enjoyed decorating "Cow Patty" cookies and shot water at a candle for a chance to win \$5,000. The Bank's next goal is 2,010 visitors by April 2, 2010.





# Last Lawn Bowling tournament of the year

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

## M&M tournament winners

The M&M and the Bev Lashbrook Memorial Lawn Bowling tournament was held Sept. 15 in West Lorne. This year's winners of the \$150 grand prize were Ken Rankin and Lorrie and Joe Wardell of the Ridgetown lawn bowling club. Left, Thea Long played on the West Lorne team during the M&M Lawn Bowling tournament Sept. 15. About 54 people competed in the tournament.

By Rose Daniel

The M&M and the Bev Lashbrook Memorial Lawn Bowling tournament was held Sept. 15 in West Lorne. Oh, what a busy hive as eighteen teams of avid competitors from Aylmer, Chatham, Dresden, Forest, Lambeth, London, Ridgetown, and Tilbury vied for the top prize of \$150 (sponsored by the Bev Lashbrook memorial).

Three games of 12 ends began promptly at 10:00 a.m. under bright sunshine. After the first game, all the players enjoyed Jean Vanseader's early Thanksgiving dinner of turkey with all the trimmings and pie for dessert. The Campbell ladies helped with the serving and chores of the day.

All returned to play the second and third games. Top winners for the day were the team of Joe and Lorrie Wardell and Ken Rankin of the Ridgetown club.

All other players, in order of winnings, chose a prize donated by one of the Merchants or Manufacturers from the surrounding area.

The West Lorne Lawn Bowling Club is very grateful and thankful for this support.

SEPT 14/09

# The Chronicle Scrapbook



## Municipality donates \$5,000 to Centre Ice Youth Centre.

SUBMITTED

Thank You to The Municipality of West Elgin for donating \$5,000 towards the operating costs of Centre Ice Youth Centre of Western Elgin. Centre Ice is open to the youth of Rodney, West Lorne, Dutton and surrounding areas, every Wednesday and Friday from 3:30 to 7:30 at the West Lorne Scout Hall on Chestnut St. Left to right : Monica Pelcz (President of CIYC), Graham Warwick (Mayor of West Elgin Twsp.) Lauren Vergeer (Supervisor at CIYC), Trudy Balint (Director of CIYC & Councillor for West Elgin).



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

## Optimists donate pictures

Optimists International Foundation presented two paintings to the West Lorne Optimist Club, as a reward for their \$500 donation, which goes towards educational programs. The Optimists then decided to donate the paintings to the West Lorne Heritage House, and the West Elgin Community Health Centre on Sept. 21. Optimist Club President Nancy Murray is shown with Doug Staddon, President of the Heritage House, and Cate Melito, Executive Director of the WEHC.



## Nicholas Knapp fund donates to CIYC.

SUBMITTED

Thank you to the Nicholas Knapp Kindness fund for donating \$500 towards the youth fund of Centre Ice Youth Centre of Western Elgin. Left to right Monica Pelcz (President of CIYC), Melanie McLeod, Lauren Vergeer (Supervisor at CIYC), Penny Knapp, Larry Knapp, & Brenda Myers (West Lorne Baptist Church).



JEAN GUY ST. JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

## Come for the breakfast, stay for the car show.

The West Lorne Optimists held a breakfast outside the West Lorne Scout Hall June 28, and afterwards, a car show. Top Photo - Bas Veraart from Dutton was in his horse drawn buggy, retrofitted to include a motor along with his passenger Jodi Kish from Bothwell. Bottom Photo - Art Giroux of Ridgetown showed his 1938 Plymouth to Richard Staddon from Rodney who took a look under the hood.