



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Art with a figurative presence.

Walter Redinger from West Lorne sat beside one of his unfinished paintings at his home. Redinger is an artist with 40 years experience and some of his work is currently on exhibit at the Museum of London. His sculpture 'Ghost Ship' and drawings, 'Maps of the Cosmos', will can be viewed until May 23.

Local artist shows his work

Walter Redinger from West Lorne is easily one of this area's most prolific artists; having 40 years of experience and work in several different mediums.

Redinger has kept his creativity flowing in whatever form his art has required. He's done sculpting, drawings, poetry, music, and painting. Some of his recent work, 'Ghost Ship and Maps of the Cosmos' went on exhibit at the Museum of London Feb. 14, and will continue to be until May 23.

'Ghost Ship' is a sculpture nine years in the making. Redinger started work on three smaller sculptures in the mid 90's using limbs and roots he picked up at the beach. Ultimately, he said those

sculptures lacked the emphasis he wanted, and decided to start again. He dismantled the three sculptures and used their pieces to assemble a fourth, major sculpture. The finished 'Ghost Ship' is a sight to behold at 12.8 meters long from bow to stern.

"Having nine years was quite helpful. I had a thousand decisions to make. I took my time. I think this was a maturing phase for me," said Redinger.

The branches making up the 'Ghost Ship' give the sculpture an almost skeletal look. Many of Redinger's sculptures have an organic quality to them. But what does the 'Ghost Ship' mean? Redinger says that's hard to stuff into a paragraph. "You get the viewer to lay back and let some of

their own energy and enthusiasm make something, to interpret something within themselves, and then it gradually begins to be something," he said. "But the more reaction you get, chances are the sculpture is working."

Some of Redinger's drawings, 'Maps of the Cosmos', are on display along with 'The Ghost Ship'. The 'Maps of the Cosmos' is a series of work that derived from six large original, 8 feet by 8 feet mixed media drawings, and then each drawing was photographed with a large box camera and developed into a suite of six intensely detailed prints. You can view the drawings, and more of Redinger's work, at his website

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West Lorne artist has London exhibit

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Redinger's art has been on display internationally in New York, Italy and France. He began his professional art training at Beal Technical School in London, followed by education from the Ontario College of Art in Toronto and then the Miensinger School of Art in Detroit, Michigan. He said that his art usually deals with the phases of life and death.

"My stuff deals with things being born, and then the life of the thing, its growth, and then its desolation, allowing for the cycle to begin again," said Redinger. "My stuff has

a figurative presence."

Redinger said that he was interested in monuments and stone work from when he was a child. He used to walk past a graveyard on his way to school and he said he would often go there and look at the monuments and imagine. His love of sculpting grew up from there.

"These were my first sculptures. I didn't know what sculpture was at the time. But I was doing it. I was doing sculpture in my head." He said.

Redinger has only been painting for the last three years. His band, 'The Walter Band', formed in 1999 and includes his son Jeff.

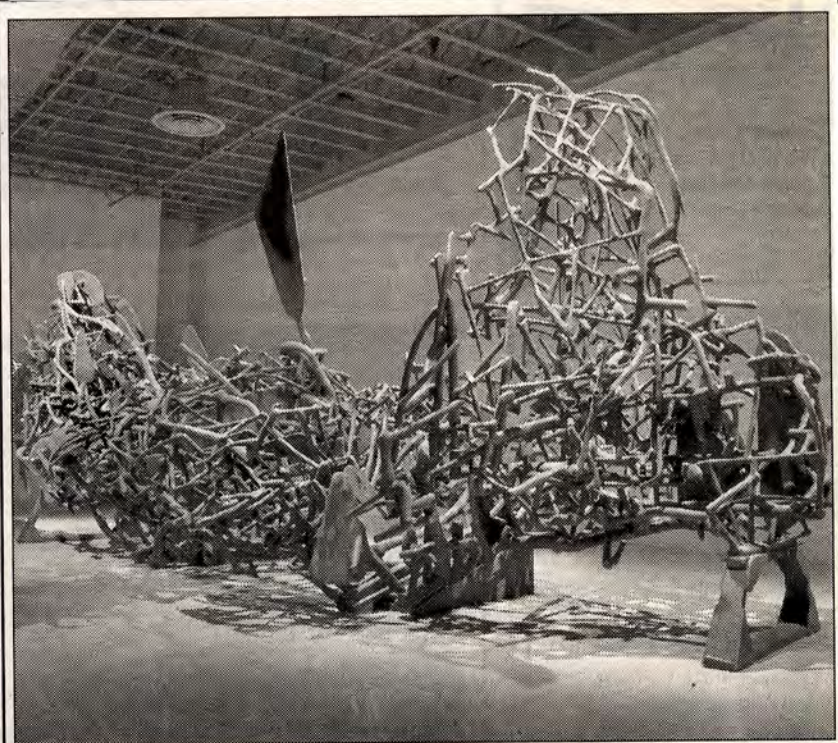


PHOTO TAKEN AT MOCCA IN TORONTO BY WALTER WILLEMS, COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF CANADIAN CONTEMPORARY ART

The Ghost Ship.

The 'Ghost Ship' is a sculpture by West Lorne artist Walter Redinger. It's on display at the Museum of London along with a collection of his drawings. The sculpture is made of pieces of wood Redinger collected from the beach.



PHOTO BY JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Water for everyone!

The new West Elgin Water Treatment Plant had its official opening Aug. 26. From Left – Bernie Wiehle, Deputy Mayor of West Elgin and MC for the opening ceremony, Joanne Groch, West Elgin Administrator/Treasurer, MP Joe Preston, Anita Ratkovic-Baric, Executive Assistant for MPP Steve Peters, and Graham Warwick, West Elgin Mayor and Chair of the Tri County Water Management Committee, cut the ribbon opening the plant located south of Eagle.

Water Treatment plant officially opens

People in five municipalities can look forward to clean drinking water for years to come after the West Elgin Water Treatment Plant was officially opened Aug. 26.

Members of the public as well as representatives from all three levels of government attended the opening ceremony at the new plant which included a ribbon cutting and a toast with fresh water, straight from the plant.

The West Elgin Water Treatment Plant, located on Graham Rd., south of Eagle, will process over 12,000 cubic meters of water a day, about twice the capacity of the old plant, and will service the municipalities of West Elgin, Dutton-Dunwich, Southwest Middlesex, Newbury, and the community of Bothwell in Chatham-Kent.

Graham Warwick, Mayor of West Elgin and Chair of the Tri County Water Management

Committee, attended the opening, as did MP Joe Preston. Anita Ratkovic-Baric, Executive Assistant for MPP Steve Peters, came to the ceremony in the place of Peters, who could not attend.

Preston commented on how unusual the West Elgin Water Treatment Plant was, since 90 percent of its funding came from the Federal and

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Federal Gas Tax transfer

On June 29 in the Municipality of Dutton-Dunwich, Joe Preston, MP for Elgin-Middlesex-London presented Mayor Bonnie Vowel with a presentation cheque for \$120,095 for the 2009-2010. Mayor Graham Warwick received a cheque for \$177,542 for the Municipality of West Elgin.

On April 1, the federal Gas Tax Transfer to the provinces and territories to support better municipal infrastructure doubled to \$2

billion annually. The Gas Tax Fund (GTF) will remain at that level beyond 2014, when the Government makes it a permanent measure. Accelerating the first payment of the Gas Tax Fund by almost three months, the federal government is made up to \$1 billion available to municipalities almost three months early.

“Through Canada’s Economic Action Plan, our government is doubling the annual funding that our municipalities have received as part of the Gas Tax Fund and made up to \$1 billion available to municipalities almost three months early,” said Preston. “This increased investment will total \$2,159,884 in 2009 and will help to create jobs, boost sales for local businesses and improve the quality of life for the families.”

The federal Gas Tax transfers to the provinces and municipalities doubled start-

ing April 1, 2009, and will provide a total of \$2 billion per year for municipalities to invest in projects like new roads, water treatment plants, improved buses and transit systems, as well as better sewers and bridges. Accelerating the first payment of the Gas Tax Fund by almost three months, making up to \$1 billion available to municipalities almost three months early. The first payment was made in April.

Through Canada’s Economic Action Plan, the Conservative government is building on the existing federal investment of \$33 billion in infrastructure with almost \$12 billion in new infrastructure stimulus funding over the next two years. “Our government is proud to be working with provinces and municipalities to deliver stable, predictable funding for infrastructure that Canadians use and depend on every day,” said Preston.



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Gas tax cheques.

MP Joe Preston visited the municipal office buildings of Dutton-Dunwich and West Elgin June 29 and presented cheques for the Gas Tax Fund. Above, Dutton-Dunwich Mayor Bonnie Vowel accepted a cheque for \$120,095. Below, West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick (centre), and Treasurer Joanne Groch, accepted a cheque for \$177,542.





West Lorne poet releases book

Local poet Bonnie McGill has released a book of poems representing three decades of work.

Bonnie McGill of West Lorne has been writing poetry and songs for the last 30 years. On Sept. 1, 2009, she decided to take all of her writings and put them into one book. 'Bonnie's Poems - The Heart Don't Lie and The Dream Lives On' has just been released, and it contains McGill's thoughts and feelings on family, friendship, childhood, hope, faith, love and sorrow. McGill prefers to write poetry that both rhymes and tells a story.

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The heart don't lie

Bonnie McGill of West Lorne has just released a book of poems and songs entitled 'Bonnie's Poems - The Heart Don't Lie and The Dream Lives On.' The book is a collection of poems and songs that McGill has written over the last 30 years.

"It's a gift from God. That's what I believe," said McGill "It's an easy way to tell a story. I always hear the music when I write the poem. The melody fits the words. A lot of these in the book are songs."

McGill dedicated the book to her parents, Esther and Adam Kirschner, and to the rest of her family. It contains stories about McGill and her family and includes some family photographs.

"It [the book] feels very complete. I feel this isn't the end of it though. I want to write an autobiography," said McGill.

McGill plays country music on twelve-string guitar and, in 1984, recorded six songs in London, leading to several tapes sold. In 1990, McGill and her husband Andy went to Nashville and recorded three songs at Gene Breedon Studios. To this day, McGill writes and records music and sends her work to music publishers, hoping to get picked up. McGill likes country music because it, like the poetry she writes, is often about telling a story.

"I like the real life aspect of it. It's about things people go through all the time," she said.

Anyone interested in purchasing a copy of McGill's book may call its publisher, Xlibris, at (888) 795-4274. Copies are also available at the West Lorne Pharmacy.

Rodney Pepper results

Nov. 10 - High: Bob King. 2nd: Bill Downie. Pepper: Jean Wilkinson, Bill Kocsis, Carm Waite.

Nov. 17 - High: Bill Downie. 2nd: Marg Trupish. Peppers: Carm Waite, Audrey Roodzant.

Nov. 21 - High: Jean Wilkinson. 2nd: Bill Downie. Peppers: Audrey Roodzant.

Nov. 24 - High: Bill Downie. 2nd: Audrey Roodzant. Peppers: Jean Wilkinson, Eva Kirshner.

Nov. 28 - High: Eva Kirshner. 2nd: Edna Schleihauf. Peppers: Bill Downie.

Nov. 30 - High: Anne Neil. 2nd: Eva Kirshner. Peppers: Audrey Roodzant.

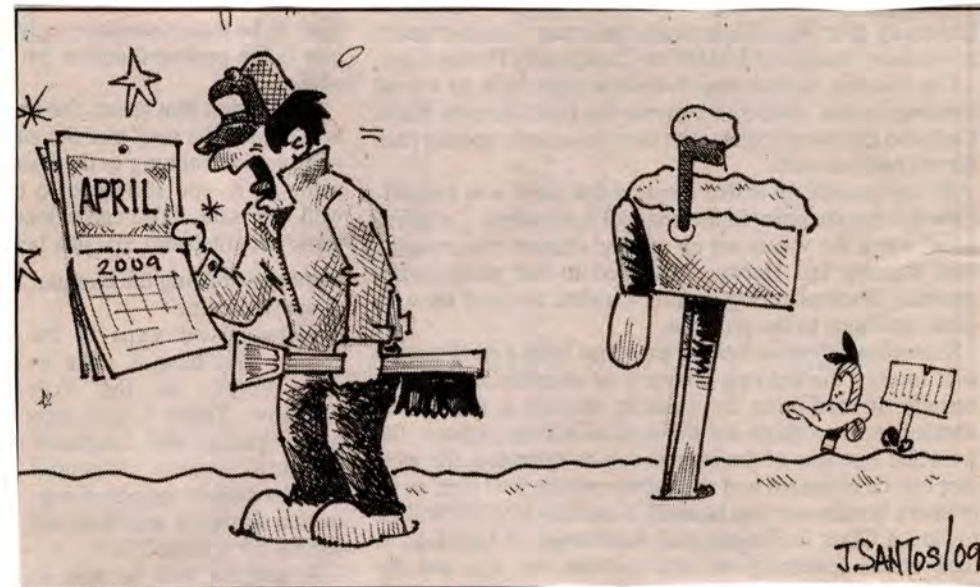


Spaghetti Supper

Fran Pfeifer served Sarah de Wit March 12 at the St. Mary's Hall Spaghetti Supper. Pfeifer and other servers are members of the St. Mary's Ladies group.

MAR 26/09

JESSE CNOCKAERT
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Inspirations of Elgin

A Look Into The Lives Of The Artists Of Our Community And Area

NICOLAS MENDONCA

Nicolas Mendonca realized his zeal for art in grade one, when he first began to draw steadily. That was not so many years ago. Nick is eleven years old. He has moved on since his "early days" to painting, though he still continues to sketch diligently. Nick has always loved to draw, and the talent for art runs in his family genes. His family understands Nick's love of art and they encourage him to develop his natural talent, says the eleven year old boy.

"Last year, my Grandma told me about an art studio up in Bayfield, and I thought that I should go to it." The Bayfield studio, Kryart—which is owned and operated by West Lorne's Kristen Watterworth—was running an art camp, and it was there that Nick made his first attempt at painting. He was exposed to watercolour, oil and acrylic paints, and found that he enjoyed the experience immensely. He discovered, too, the differences between the three types of paints, and

learned to appreciate each one for its unique traits. Acrylic paints are his favourite. He loves to experiment with the thick but rapidly drying paint, using it in layers to build textures across his canvass.

Nick's art is often based on animals, though he is now practicing and developing his skills when it comes to representing people as well. Nick works from pictures for most of his art, and uses these pictures as his source of inspiration. He often draws from several different pictures in order to achieve his desired effect upon canvass.

Despite his working from pictures for many of his realism pieces, Nicolas is also an abstract artist. He has produced several paintings that apply form and texture as the message instead of realistic design. Oftentimes he just begins to draw and then discovers the theme after his art has taken shape instead of deciding on a subject beforehand.

Nicolas does not have a favoured medium when it comes to choosing between painting and drawing. "I kind of like them both," he told me. "I want to paint

more though."

Though Nick's recent experimentation with painting has captured his attention for the moment, he still claims that the best piece of art he has ever done was a sketch of Gordie Howe, the hockey player. The picture was completed by means of a grid, and it taught him to look at a picture piece by piece in order to draw it more accurately. He favours the sketch because of the amount of time it took him to complete, and because of the amount of detail and shading applied to the figure.

Nick is located in Wallacetown. He lives with his parents, his older sister and his twin brother. Nick does not sell his art as of yet, but hopes that one day he will have many people lined up to view the work of Nicolas Mendonca.

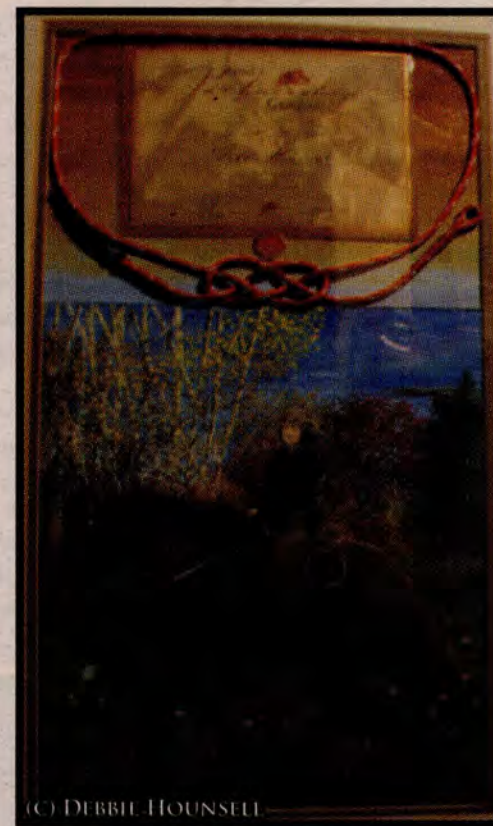
K.B.

DEBBIE HOUNSELL

Debbie Hounsell is a painter. She's always been artistic. "I've always liked crayons and drawing, and I just kind of carried on from there." Ever since she was a small child, she would look out at the world around her and try to capture it on paper. She copied everything she saw.

Debbie has had no formal education concerning art, other than the standard high school classes. Despite this, Debbie has been working professionally in the art business for over 30 years, learning primarily by trial and error. She used to have her own art gallery in Belmont, and she continues to sell her work even now. Her art has been part of various shows in the past, and Debbie has completed many commissions.

Other than art, Debbie's other love is of horses. She lives on a horse farm, surrounded by nature, and many of her pieces feature the inhabitants of her barn. She has painted numer-



(C) DEBBIE HOUNSELL

ous pictures based on the names of her horses. The paintings often depict the horses doing whimsical things in order to illustrate their names. One such example of this is the representation of her husband's horse, Surfer Dude, which shows the young horse rearing up on a surfboard as he rides the waves with flared nostrils.

Though Debbie's paintings are often fanciful and illusory in nature, the realism of the forms of her subjects provides a contrast that serves to enhance her illustrations. She paints her horses in such a way that

Cont'd



(C) NICOLAS MENDONCA

The community's heritage carved in stone

When Bonnie Robertson stepped into The Arts & Cookery Bank for a sneak peek, she was curious to see the inside of what will become the area's regional cultural destination. Last week she got a sneak peek at the stone her family subsequently purchased in memory of her father.

"It's beautiful," she said. "Just beautiful. They did a wonderful job."

Robertson, owner of Corner Consignments in West Lorne, was the first person to purchase a Heritage Pathway stone, in memory of her father, Warren Eden.

"It was a group effort," said Robertson. "The whole family contributed."

They're looking forward to seeing it installed in the Garden Pathway and being able to enjoy the tranquility and quiet moments there.

Robertson likes that she will have a place close by to remember her fisherman father. "My son will take his kids and they'll know that this is what great-grandpa did."

Having this kind of memorial in the community is easier than going to London where her dad is buried.

"We're just glad we did it. It was an opportunity that arose to support The Bank. It's a tremendous idea. It was a nice way to contribute and I've recommended it to others. We'll do it again, for sure."

Brenda and Rick Myers wanted to support The Bank in a way other than the many volunteer hours they have given.

"I think it's (The Bank) going to be the best thing in the area," said Brenda. She views the stone as a way to take a picture of the community as it is now.

"It has our family name on it. We can bring the kids to see we've supported The Bank," she said.

Decades from now, people will know the families who lived in the community because their names will be, literally, carved in stone. Her grandkids and their kids will be able to see our community as it was at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Community organizations are strong supporters of the project. The



Kiwanis Clubs of Rodney and West Lorne have purchased a stone. Bob Logan, President of the Kiwanis Club of West Lorne said the groups purchased a stone because "We support whatever is positive that is going on in the community. Like the West Elgin Community Health Centre, there was a dream of what services could be brought out to the community."



It's a tremendous idea. It was a nice way to contribute and I've recommended it to others

— Bonnie Robertson

He believes The Bank will provide lots of opportunities to do things locally without having to drive great distances. "The Arts & Cookery Bank will be a different venue for the area. It's going to allow the area to promote itself better. The more you can offer

and the more you can promote it, the better it is for the community. There will be a varied menu. If one thing doesn't strike your fancy, something else will."

Whether it be families, groups, businesses, individuals, or a group of friends—the Heritage Pathway stones are available to anyone in the municipalities of Dutton-Dunwich, South-west Middlesex, Newbury and West Elgin. Call Tammy Oliviera at 519-768-9986 to arrange for your stone. The Arts & Cookery Bank is a registered, non-profit charitable organization and donations are tax receiptable.

The Arts & Cookery Bank will be opening early summer. "The Bank" will have photographic displays, photographic exhibits and interactive multi-media screens. "The Cookery," located in the timber barn, will be home to The Stable (a digital photo lab) and a cookery where cooking classes and demos can be held. Creative Food & Foto programming, community events and culinary tour packages are being developed.

If you'd like to stay in the loop and get the inside scoop on The Bank's progress through our e-newsletter, email: info@theartsandcookerybank.com and ask to be put on the list.

Submitted

Bonnie Robertson (R), is the first person to purchase a Heritage Pathway stone to be installed in the garden pathway at the Arts and Cookery Bank in West Lorne. The stone is carved with the name of Robertson's late father, Warren Eden. Along with her are her niece Karen Bowery (L), and daughter Elizabeth Robertson.