

Plans to be completed for Heritage Centre

ED. Note: The article 'Expansion coming for seniors complex' published on Pg. 3 in the Feb. 4 issue of The Chronicle was mistakenly printed with errors. The following is the correct article as it should have appeared. The Chronicle regrets the error.

Diane Van Dyk
Community Health Worker, WECHC

West Lorne Heritage Homes and the West Elgin Community Health Centre are working together along with Community Support Services and Assisted Living and the Municipality of West Elgin to complete the plans for the new West Lorne Heritage Community Centre. Funding for the Centre was announced in December 2009 by MP Joe Preston and MPP Steve Peters from the Federal and Provincial Infrastructure Stimulus Funding program. The Federal and Provincial government will each provide one-

third of the \$770,862 total cost with the balance coming from Municipality of West Elgin and the community partners.

The Centre will be physically linked to Heritage House, a 16 unit apartment building that was constructed by West Lorne Heritage Homes in 2008. The multi-purpose building will offer space for meetings and recreation programs. The offices within the Centre will be used to coordinate programs and social services to support seniors and the physically disabled and other services within the community such as transportation, counselling, and information services.

The specific services and programs located in the Centre will be designed based on an on-going assessment of community needs and in consultation with community residents and stakeholders towards the following goals: strengthen the community's capacity to promote aging in place for all seniors and adults who are

physically disabled and continue promotion of the Aging at Home strategy.

Opportunities will be created for community members to share their knowledge, resources and expertise. This will include peer supported information and referral services that would link people to programs and services inside and outside the Centre.

The Centre will add new public infrastructure to the community that will benefit West Lorne and the West Elgin community and provide a central location where seniors and others can access information and resources.

Consultation with local community groups is now taking place and public information meetings will be held in February and March to get feedback from the community on the design and the proposed programs and services. For more information contact Diane VanDyk at the West Elgin Community Health Centre 519 768 1715 extension 2224. FEB 11/10



West Lorne couple donates to Jamaican school

For the last three years, Julie and Wentworth Newman of West Lorne have been accepting donations of books, computers and other school supplies from the local community to be sent to Christiana Moravian Primary and Infant School in Jamaica. The couple visited the school in January and dropped off some books, clothes, and 22 refurbished computers. (L-R) Wentworth Newman, Gr. 5 teacher Clovis Thompson, Gr. 4 teacher Marlene Parker, and Julie Newman. Submitted

Jamaican school recognizes West Lorne couple

A school in Jamaica gave special thanks to a West Lorne couple for their continued support through donations of computers, books, and other items.

Since 2007, Julie and Wentworth Newman have been collecting used books, clothes, and other items from the community so they could be sent to the Christiana Moravian Primary and Infants school in Jamaica. From Jan. 6 until Jan. 20, the Newmans were in Jamaica on holiday, and found the time to visit the school and drop off another batch of clothes and 22 refurbished computers. The couple was greeted warmly by the school, and treated to a dance performance by some of the students, and later they were presented with a certificate of appreciation.

"We can't say too often how we appreciate what you've been doing," said principal Paul Baker.

The Newmans speak to many community clubs and organizations about their project as they look for support. Bob and Sylvia Logan of the West Lorne Kiwanis Club supplied the refurbished computers, and did all the necessary

work to prepare them for the school. Julie Newman said that she thanks everyone in the community whose support and donations have made this program a success.

Wentworth grew up in Christiana, Jamaica and finished his schooling there in the early 1950s. The couple decided to start collecting donations to help the school after they visited the school in 2007 and found it low on library resources. In the past three years, the Newmans, with the support of the community, have sent thousands of books to the school shipped in steel barrels.

"I saw in the classrooms we went to, there were books and they were all ones that I recognized we had packed in the barrels. I saw sweaters and shoes on children that went in the barrels... It all made me feel pretty proud," said Julie Newman.

The Newman's program is ongoing and they're always looking for more donations of books, clothes and school supplies. Anyone who would like to help with donations and shipping costs may contact Julie Newman at 519-768-1801. FEB 11/10

Expansion coming for seniors complex

The second phase of the West Lorne Heritage Community Centre is in progress to add another 16 units to the seniors apartment complex.

West Lorne Heritage Homes and the West Elgin Community Health Centre are working together along with Community Support Services and Assisted Living and the Municipality of West Elgin to complete the plans for the addition.

Funding for the Centre was announced in December 2009 by MP Joe Preston and MPP Steve Peters from the Federal and Provincial Infrastructure Stimulus Funding program. The Federal and Provincial government will each provide one-third of the \$770,862 total cost with the balance coming from Municipality of West Elgin and the community partners.

The Centre, located at 154 Munro St. in West Lorne, will be physically linked to Heritage House, which was constructed by West Lorne Heritage Homes in 2008. A site plan and floor plan was submitted to West Elgin Municipal council for review on Jan. 18.

The multi-purpose building will offer space for meetings and recreation programs. The offices within the Centre will be used to coordinate programs and social services to support seniors and the physically disabled and other services within the community such as

transportation, counselling, and information services.

The subject lands proposed to be developed for phase II comprise of 3,814 square meters.

The subject lands are zoned as Open Space (OS) in the village of West Lorne, so a re-zoning to Residential Third Density (R3) will be required if development is to go forward. Zoning issues will need to be discussed at a future public meeting.

The specific services and programs located in the Centre will be designed based on an on-going assessment of community needs and in consultation with community residents and stakeholders towards the following goals: strengthen the community's capacity to promote aging in place for all seniors and adults who are physically disabled and continue promotion of the Aging at Home strategy.

The Centre provide a central location where seniors and others can access information and resources.

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Turning cricket hobby into money

Crickets can do more than chirp; if you do things right, they can make you money.

Arsene Cartier of West Lorne has been in the cricket business for about a year; raising and selling crickets, and also some darkling beetles and mealworms.

Cartier's Critters started out as a way of supplementing Arsene's income, but his home business took off after the surprising demand started coming in for the Arizona creepy-crawlies. Today, Arsene has between 60 to 70 thousand Arizona crickets in his home, and he has customers coming from St. Thomas, Iona, Chatham, Glencoe and even London to buy crickets to feed to their pet reptiles.

Before Arsene started his business, he spent about six months on the Internet researching crickets. He said he found the information surprisingly lacking, so he took about one-eighth of what he thought was useful information and improvised the rest.

"Everyone has a different idea,

but just because it's on the Internet doesn't make it true," said Arsene. "You have to find what works for you."

Arsene said that one website he consulted recommended incubating cricket eggs over the heat of a VCR. Arsene decided there had to be a better way, so he created his own incubation system. He keeps cricket eggs in packets of dirt held in airflow containers, and keeps them warm above a light bulb covered by an aluminum tray.

"Eggs will hatch in your home if you keep it at about 72 degrees Fahrenheit," said Arsene. "This way is controlled and will hatch them in a two-week span."

But after crickets hatch, you need to feed them. Arsene experimented with his own cricket feed, eventually settling on a recipe of 10 ingredients including bread, dog and cat food, carrots and potatoes.

Arsene keeps his crickets in large plastic tubs, and each tub is marked so he can keep track of the age of the crickets inside. Younger crickets



Jesse Cnockaert The Chronicle

Thousands of crickets

Arsene Cartier of West Lorne originally started raising crickets to feed his own pet gecko. But what started as a hobby business has become larger than Cartier had originally planned. Today he keeps around 70,000 crickets, which he sells to people across a 50-mile radius.

are smaller, and they're better to feed to smaller reptiles, according to Arsene.

Cartier's Critters is open seven days a week on 215 Main Street, West Lorne, and may be reached at 519-768-3121.

Neighbourhood Watch meeting coming up

Mary Bodnar

The West Elgin Neighbourhood Watch Annual Meeting will be March 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rodney

Legion. Guest speaker, OPP Troy Carlson, will report on crime statistics. Also reporting will be Jim Malik, EMS from St. Thomas/Elgin, who will report on how the

ambulance services work in our area. Both speakers will give information as to how they work together in an accident or call-out related scenes.

Everyone is welcome to join us at the meeting to voice their concerns and receive great information. Thank-you.

Silent auction night for Haiti disaster relief

This March 27, The West Lorne and Rodney Legions will sponsor a fundraiser to provide disaster relief to Haiti, which was devastated by earthquake in January.

A silent auction will be held at the Rodney Legion, including live

music, food and refreshments, starting at 1:00 p.m.

Anyone who would like to donate an item to the silent auction may contact Helen Jones, one of the organizers, at 519-785-1652.



Local photographers make a digital deposit in "The Bank"

Sharon Little

Five local, amateur photographers will have several of their photos included in The Arts & Cookery Bank's photographic collection. Photographs by John St. Pierre, Teresa St. Pierre, John Kendall and Stan & Anita Caveney, were chosen from those submitted during the Banks' first Mystery Photo Car Tour and Photo Contest, held last August.

Carloads of photo fans followed clues to significant architectural and heritage sites around the four municipalities— Dutton-Dunwich, Southwest Middlesex, Newbury and West Elgin—under The Bank's umbrella.

Photographers then submitted photos to be considered for inclusion in The Bank's

photographic collection. Three judges— Michael Baker, Curator of the Elgin County Museum, George Okolisan, a professional photographer from West Lorne, and Sharon Little, an amateur photographer from Rodney—evaluated and selected sixteen photographs taken by four photographers.

The photographs will be unveiled this summer during The Arts & Cookery Bank's Grand Opening Week. For updates of The Bank's activities send an email to info@theartsandcookerybank.com and you will be put on the newsletter list.

Here are two of the winning photos: Port Glasgow Presbyterian Church, by Stan and Anita Caveney, and the Glencoe Train Station by John St. Pierre.



MAR. 4/10

West Elgin Optimism

Scott Hilgendorff

Despite a struggling economy there is an optimistic outlook carrying West Elgin into new projects to help improve the community with a number of positive developments in 2010. The biggest for 2010 will be funds available to help improve the look of the communities.

"Farmers even told us to fix up the main street. That's the face of our community," said Mayor Graham Warwick.

A Community Improvement Plan is in place that will provide incentives through loans and other resources for property owners to restore or fix up sites on the streets to increase the first-impressions given when coming into West Lorne and

Rodney. West Lorne in particular has a number of empty buildings in some stages of disrepair.

"We're looking forward to renewed main streets," said Warwick. "We'll be able to give incentives to make things look nice down there." The optimism comes on the heels of some positive growth in the community in 2009.

KSR International Company, an auto parts maker in Rodney, doubled its production and is expected to double its physical size this year. "Our workers are good workers here," Warwick said.

International Erosion Control, a company that specializes in services such

Continued On Page 5

Lake Erie Beacon Mar 12/10

New Glasgow man drove Olympic bus

➤ Opportunity of a lifetime for life long trucker

Harold Read of New Glasgow was a bus driver for the Olympics in Vancouver, and it's an experience he will never forget.

"I was amazed that I even got hired," said Read. "It's the opportunity of a lifetime. I will never have this opportunity again. I was so proud."

Read has been a driver for Badder Bus Lines for three years and is a life long trucker. In early January, Read found out through West Elgin Support Services in West Lorne

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It was so interesting to sit there and talk to three people from all over the world. They asked me about Canada and Vancouver... they were totally enamored of the country

— Harold Read, New Glasgow

that bus drivers were needed to transport Olympic personnel and members of the media, and he sent in his application.

"One day they said, look at this Harold, you can work at the Olympics and drive a bus... if it wasn't for them I would never have got the job," he said.

On Feb. 5, Read was flown out of London, made a stop in Calgary, and then went on to Vancouver. He worked for Edison Transportation, and mostly drove a media bus.

The experience didn't get off to a smooth start. Read described headaches by the management and personality conflicts among the drivers as they tried to coordinate hundreds of drivers and hundreds of routes.

"It was terribly disorganized when we first got there. Eventually the organization got better. The logistics to it, you've got to think about how many routes there were," he said.

Olympic bus drivers needed to be on their routes by 4:30 in the morning. To make things easier, Read tried to make himself available by being at work as early as 1:30 a.m.

"I would get up early in the morning, earlier than everyone else," he said. "Eventually, they knew I would be in there everyday, and they would give me a regular route. There would be like 350 transit buses, and I would get choice of bus"

Read got to meet people visiting Canada from all over the world. One day, he managed to get in a conversation with a Mongolian journalist and an Italian woman. A VANOC representative had a laptop with a translation program, which helped overcome the language barrier.

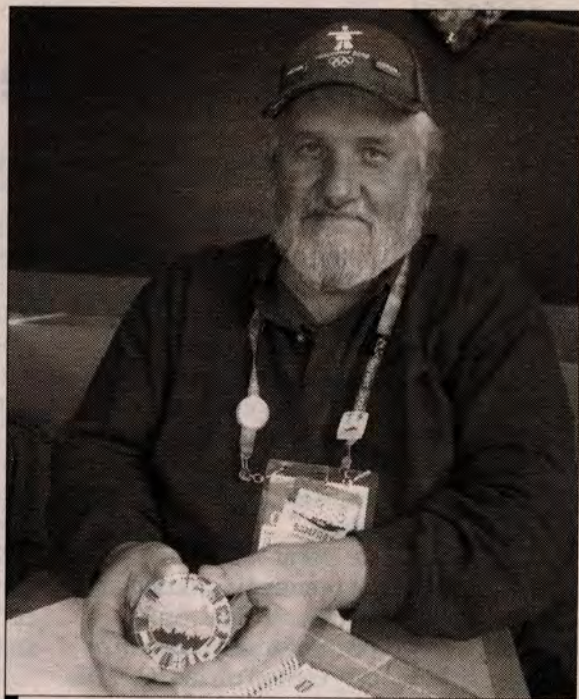
"It was so interesting to sit there and talk to three people from all over the world. They asked me about Canada and Vancouver... they were totally enamored of the country. I tried to be a representative of Canada for them. They were really nice people," Read said. "When I was there, I would tell people where I was from. It made me proud just to represent my country."

Read also had the pleasure of being in Vancouver when the Canadian hockey team beat the USA for Olympic gold.

"After the game, that city turned to a sea of red and white. That just capped it off," he said.

Read returned home March 13.

MAR 25 110



Driving a bus at the Olympics

Harold Read of New Glasgow shows off his 2010 Olympics cap, and a number of Olympic pins he picked up while he worked as a media bus driver at the Olympics in Vancouver from Feb. 5 to March 13.

West Lorne teen nominated for Junior Citizen award

Seventeen-year-old Rebekah Brayton of West Lorne jumped for joy when she found out she was nominated for the Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year award.

The award recognizes outstanding young people between the ages of 6-17 who are performing worthwhile community service, contribute to their community while living with limitations, have performed acts of heroism, or are 'good kids' making life better for others and doing more than is expected of someone their age. The program is coordinated by the Ontario Community Newspaper Association (OCNA), and is sponsored by TD Canada Trust and Direct Energy.

David Phillips of Dutton, known locally as town crier, sponsored Rebekah. Phillips was Rebekah's sound tech supervisor instructor at the West Elgin Dramatics Society, and he recognized Rebekah as an active community member. When Rebekah heard about her nomination, she was thrilled.

"I pretty much started jumping around. I was very happy," said Rebekah. "It feels awesome, and honestly, all the things I was nominated for, are all things that I just love doing and I love helping out with."

OCNA newspapers will recognize 130 young people this year. Up to 12 individuals may be chosen as Ontario Junior Citizen of the year, and the final recipients will be announced Jan. 22 at www.ocna.org.

Ever since Rebekah was young, she and her family would attend the Remembrance Day parade in Sarnia, with a large showing of air, sea and army cadets. Since then, Rebekah was inspired to join the cadets, and she is presently the Regimental Sergeant Major of the #2884 Cadet Corp. During her time with cadets, Rebekah has earned several awards, including the Best Shot award and Legion Medal. In 2008, Rebekah won the top Canadian Female award trophy for all



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

West Lorne resident Rebekah Brayton, 17, shown here with Steve Down, Editor/Publisher of The Chronicle, has been nominated for the Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Award. The final recipients will be announced Jan. 22 at www.ocna.org.

of Canada, and in 2009 she attended the flag raising ceremony on Canada Day in Ottawa and continued on to Great Britain for a six-week cadet course.

Rebekah currently plays on the Senior Girls basketball team at West Elgin Secondary School, and for the past two years has been on the school honour roll. She writes and plays her own music, and in 2009 entered a sound track for Canadian Idol. CHRONICLE JAN 14/10



West Elgin Optimism

Continued From Page 1

as shoreline erosion prevention, expanded by 45 per cent in 2009 and made a move from West Lorne to a location near Highway 401. The move meant rezoning agricultural land to commercial use, which is traditionally difficult to change.

Warwick said the initial concern from the provincial government was setting a precedent that would lead to the loss of more agricultural land along the 401 corridor, but Warwick said the municipality and planners were able to convince the province that this wasn't going to lead to an explosion of industrial growth along the highway.

"We know it's important to preserve farm land," said Warwick, adding that they also need to be able to grow business and industry to survive.

"We're not sure the province understands it," he said. "It's not that we're turning our backs on agriculture. We

Later this year will see the opening of the Arts and Cookery Bank in West Elgin, a facility with the goal of preserving local heritage and promoting tourism.

In 2009, the municipality also saw a new, state of the art, water treatment plant come online and the completion of \$5million worth of water main upgrades as the municipality was able to help insure that strong infrastructure is in place.

Warwick also pointed out that 2009 saw the completion of 16 affordable housing units for seniors in West Lorne and later this year will see the opening of the Arts and Cookery Bank, a facility with the goal of preserving local heritage and promoting tourism.

Should the funding come available, plans are also in place for upgrading the pier and marina at Port Glasgow, a major source of tourism and recreation for the area.

From a municipal perspective and with good planners and staff and people working hard in the community, Warwick said it all goes toward an optimistic outlook toward 2010.

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The Russell family, Kirby, Michelle, and four-year-old Gemma, enjoyed circling the rink at the West Elgin Arena during the annual New Year's skate held Dec. 31. Lots of skaters came out to have some fun skating before the beginning of the new year.

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE



Mike and Sue Steadman of Wallaceburg were two of many people who came out to St. Mary's Hall in West Lorne Feb. 6 to enjoy some ballroom dancing. Some dance instruction was provided by Cyril and Gloria Penny, who teach ballroom dancing at Opal Ballroom Dance Studio in Wallaceburg and Chatham.. The Steadman's have been students of theirs for the last five years.

Jesse Cnockaert The Chronicle

FEB. 11/10

Elgin County archives acquires numerous historical photos

The Elgin County Archives has acquired a collection of over 6,000 photographs originally published in the West Lorne Sun and Rodney Mercury newspapers. The donation was made on behalf of the Lashbrook family by the long-time Sun and Mercury staffer, Harley Lashbrook of West Lorne.

The photographs are the original publication prints used in the Sun and Mercury from 1951 to 1989. They were used to illustrate articles covering every aspect of local life, from notices of birth, death, marriages, and

profiles of local business, institutions and events. In the coming months, archive staff will be working to digitize the images for publication on their website at <http://www.elgin-county.on.ca>.

"These photographs represent a resource of unparalleled significance documenting the recent history of West Elgin and region," said Elgin County Archivist Stephen Framcom.

Harley Lashbrook served as Reeve of West Lorne and as an Elgin County councilor from 1976 to 1985 and is a prominent local historian.

"I am extremely pleased to see this valuable collection find a permanent home at the Elgin County Archives, where it will be carefully preserved and made accessible to researchers and the public," said Lashbrook.

Lashbrook, along with his wife, Nancy, has authored publications such as West Lorne: 90 Years A Village (1997), Aldborough: The Township With A Past (2001), and most recently, West Elgin At War: Letters, Stories and Pictures Of Local Men And Women In Our Armed Forces In The First World War (2007).

Libraries running Special Reading Event in honour of Vancouver Olympics

The Elgin County Libraries are running a Special Reading Event in celebration of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. The Elgin County Library Olympics began Jan. 4 and run until Feb. 27. Read and participate at your local library to complete your game card. Earn gold, silver and bronze prize levels. This program is for children 12 and under.

As you finish a prize level you will get a coupon to use in a special draw for each of the levels. You could earn a wonderful Olympic Book Bag donated to each library by the Royal Bank, as well as Olympic t-shirts, mitts, hats and much more. **Check it out** at your local library.

In February, we will be offering 'crochet classes for beginners.' This program is for 12 years and up. It will be starting Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m. and continue for the next three Thursdays. There will be a limit of 10 spots so sign up as soon as you can.

Our Food for Fines campaign was a success again this year. Thank you to all who participated. All proceeds went to our local Caring Cupboard.

Regular children's programs have started again with the exception of Story Hour for 3 to 5 year olds. This program will begin again starting on Feb. 1 in Rodney at 2:00 p.m. and on Feb. 5 in West Lorne at 1:00 p.m.

'From Passports to Travel Sites' adults learn about the art of traveling. Whether you are planning a vacation, a whirlwind vacation, a trip to Toronto or even want to take a virtual vacation, this tutorial will show you how. Sign up at the library for Jan. 19 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. *CHRONICLE - JAN 21/10*



Submitted

Jamboree!

A musical jamboree was held at the West Elgin Legion Hall Jan. 30, drawing a huge crowd as usual. The event, put together by Bill Graham and Jim Carmichael, always features much musical talent from the local and surrounding area. Craig Pierce, Left, of West Lorne, and Jack Sullivan, of Bothwell, were just two of many performers.

FEB 4/10



Jesse Cnockaert The Chronicle

Water line breaks in West Lorne

Chad Yokom, Water Operator, operated the crane as the West Elgin Water Dept., dug into Graham Rd., West Lorne to get at a broken water line. The broken water line resulted in no water service for buildings between Jessie St. and Marsh Rd., and required the hockey tournament at the arena to be postponed.

Ruptured water line delays hockey tournament

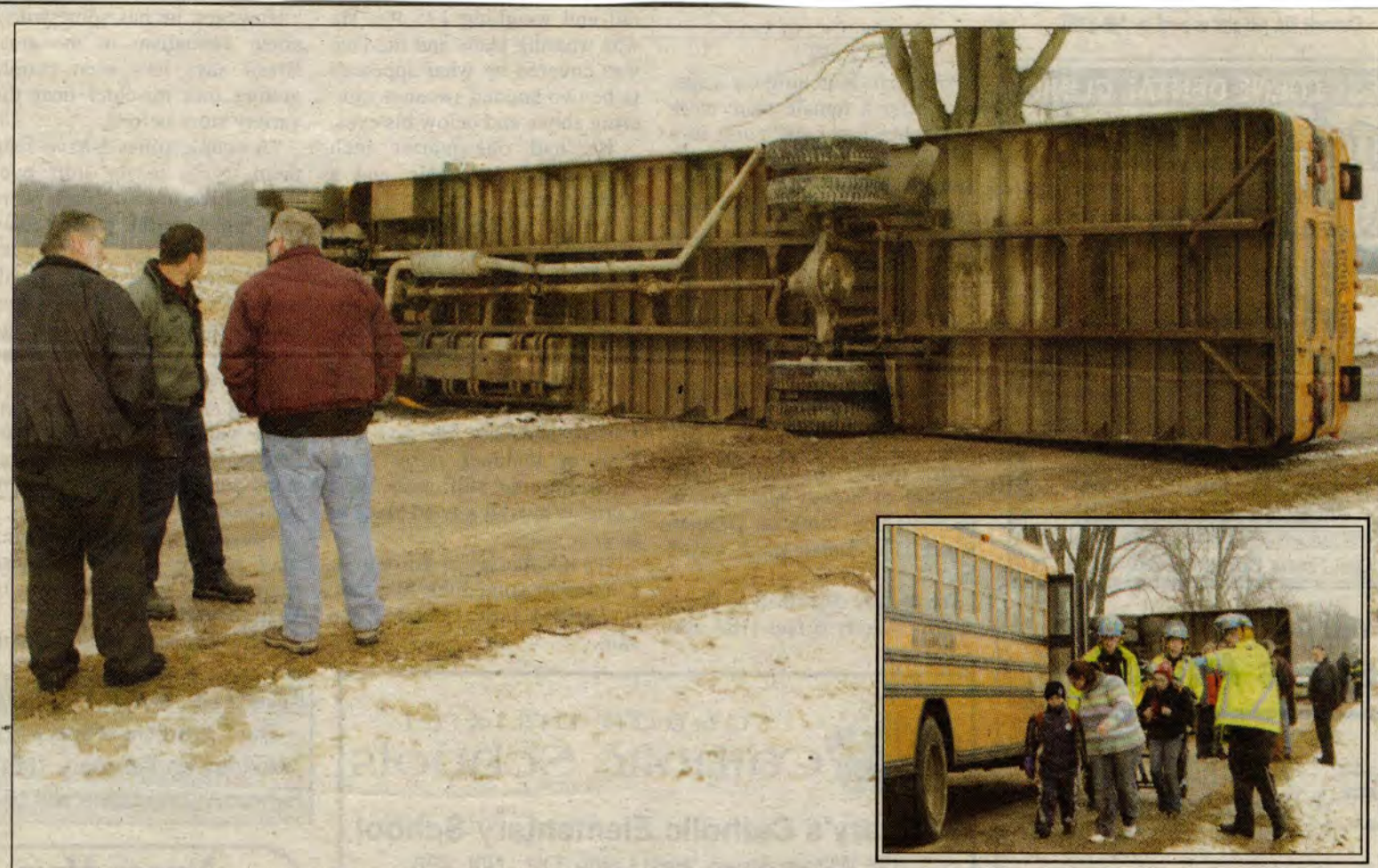
The 4th annual Girls Peewee and Atom hockey tournament in West Lorne on Jan. 16 had to be postponed because of a broken water line, blocks away under Graham Rd.

The water line, located across the street from West Elgin Secondary School, ruptured around 1:00 p.m., resulting in some flooding in the yards of nearby homes and no water service for buildings between Jessie St. and Marsh Line. The West Elgin arena is a public building and is required to have washroom facilities. Without water, the tournament had to be postponed, leaving teams who had come from London, Ridgeway, Lucan and Lakeshore, little choice but to go home and return some other day.

The tournament was nearing completion, with only two games left before the championship games. The West Lorne Peewee Girls had already cemented their place in their championship game against Ridgeway. The Atom Girls still have to play against London to determine who makes it to the Atom championship. It's still being decided when the tournament will resume.

The West Elgin Water department was on Graham Rd. within an hour following the rupture of the water line. The water line's advanced age was the culprit.

"It was one of the original water lines, put in probably in 1939 or 1940,"



Bus flipped over on Argyle Line

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Six children and the bus driver were onboard when the bus flipped on Monday afternoon on Argyle Line. The bus driver swerved to avoid a dog and lost control of the vehicle. The six children were taken to Four Counties Hospital with minor injuries as a precaution.

Minor injuries in school bus crash

Jesse Cnockaert
Staff

Six children were sent to hospital with minor injuries after their school bus crashed on Argyle Line around 4:15 pm Feb. 4.

The bus was traveling west on Argyle when the driver swerved to avoid a dog. The bus went out of control and flipped on its side. The six children on board were heading home from West Elgin Senior Elementary School and Aldborough Public School in Rodney and ranged in age from seven to 13 years old. The dog was hit and killed.

Elgin County OPP say the children were trans-

ported to Four Counties hospital for their minor injuries as a precaution.

Grade 8 student Justin Sadecky was onboard the bus at the time of the crash. He says he's glad nobody was badly hurt.

"It just happened so fast that you couldn't do anything about it," he said. "Everybody was just flying, glass was everywhere."

Breyanne Serle was the last student to get off the bus before it crashed. She saw it flip over and quickly ran into her house to tell her mother.

"It's scary. She's coming into the house telling me 'the bus flipped!', like I didn't know how it

happened. We're shocked that's all," said Shannon Serle, Breyanne's mother.

Shannon and Breyanne walked over to the crash scene to see if anyone needed help. Fortunately, the injuries were all minor, and Elgin County OPP and EMS were quick to respond.

"We just wanted to make sure nobody was hurt. We went down and checked with them and everybody was already put in the other bus by the time we got there, and everybody was fine," said Serle.

Police are investigating the cause of the accident.



King of the Camp clothes come from local store

SUBMITTED

Donnie MacPhee carries out a costar during the last scene of the movie 'King of the Camp.' The London-born actor got his camp-counsellor wardrobe from the Corner Consignment store in West Lorne

West Lorne store provides wardrobe for new movie

Some clothes you can buy in West Lorne are good enough for the movies.

Donnie MacPhee from London plays a camp counsellor in the upcoming movie King of the Camp and needed some clothes to look the part. MacPhee wasn't satisfied with the clothing provided by the wardrobe department, but found exactly what he was looking for at Corner Consignment in West Lorne.

MacPhee picked up a shirt and shorts for his role. King of the Camp will air on YTV May 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Donnie's parents Don and Louise MacPhee moved to Eagle three years ago. His two brothers and family attended the premier of

King of the Camp April 13 in Toronto with the film's director, cast and crew. The DVD release of the movie will come this summer with Donnie providing narration.

Donnie graduated from Sheridan College in Oakville in Music Theatre Performance. Donnie has performed out west, in eastern Canada, and across the world. He did a Burger King commercial in Brazil and has performed at the Stratford Festival.

His more recent projects include acting in Peter Pan with Kurt Browning in Toronto and Aladin with Bret 'Hitman' Hart. Donnie will be spending his summer in PEI doing three plays at the Charlottetown Festival.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVES ON A DRAMA PRODUCTION

WESS Drama

PART 3

This week we continue our feature on a number of different writers involved in the W.E.S.S. Wildcats Drama production of Dracula (at the WEDS Performing Arts Centre, May 2 and May 3 at 8:00 p.m).

Leah Hervoly - Lucy Westenra

Opening night at WEDS is a mixture of somewhat unpleasant emotions that range from stress, anxiety, nervousness, and even fear. Everyone is going over their lines at the last minute and urgently repeating them over and over in their heads to make sure they have their cues solid. The lucky individuals who don't seem to suffer from pre-debut productions syndrome are happily chatting with friends and laughing off any stress that may have accumulated during the day. I, myself, am one of those rather unfortunate people who get the sensation that their stomach is filled with a dazzling array of distinctly agitated butterflies. Anyone who has ever experienced this highly disagreeable feeling knows what I'm talking about.

But, if you manage to brave your way past the twitching nervousness of waiting to go onstage, adrenaline takes its place and you are

filled with a pleasant excitement; one that gets your heart racing and plasters a huge smile on your face...but then you have to get into character!

Jared Cooper - Chorus Member

Masks, costumes, makeup and props; so many things are needed for the opening night. Thinking of all the time dedicated towards one performance gives any hardened veteran actor a sense of bewilderment and nervousness. The first performance ever put on by a group of performers is always the most exciting and insane in the hours leading up to it.

Dan Ranney-Dr.Seward

Another opening night has come and gone and as always nerves were a big issue for the cast. When you walk out onto the stage and see your friends and family sitting in the audience all you can think about is getting off the stage and running as far away as you can. But over the years I have actually overcome these problems and now my job is to calm everyone else down. After a few pep talks we all walked out onto the stage and we performed. Come see us this weekend. You will have an amazing time.



WESS drama puts on Dracula

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Brandon Degraw played the infamous Count Dracula in a WESS play performed at WESS in Dutton. The students put their own spin on the enduring tale of good versus evil by writing their own version of the story. Beside the count is Renfield played by Jeff Kosick. Standing off against Dracula is Dr. John Seward played by Dan Ranney, Professor Van Helsing played by Josh Guindon, and Jonathan Harker played by Erin Sheedy.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

WESS Drama presents Seasick

WESS drama students are at it again, this time with a melodrama directed by Erin Sheedy. Seasick is a play about a dopey hero, a damsel in distress, and your typical mustache twirling villain. (from left) Dan Sutton as Winslow P. Downs the III, Chelsea Drent as Emmy Mae Sue Anne Sketchington, and Brendan 'Danger' Carey as the evi Ividor Simon Persellert. Show time is May 30 and 31 at the high school.

Feeling Seasick?

► WESS Drama presents a new play for all to enjoy

West Elgin Secondary School is having one final production before the end of the school year.

Performed by the Senior Drama class, Seasick is a comedy melodrama, directed by Erin Sheedy and starring Dan Sutton, Chelsea Drent and Brendan Carey.

In Seasick, an evil villain is trying to steal a teenager's girlfriend, coming up with many different ideas in order to win her affection. It promises to be an evening filled with laughter and also a hint of romance.

This will be held in the WESS Cafetorium this Friday and Saturday at 7pm. Tickets are \$5 per person and \$15 per family with free refreshments included. We hope that you will come out and support WESS Drama for the last time in the 2007-2008 year.

Some may recognize Erin Sheedy from WESS's recent Dracula production as Jonathan Harker. Sheedy said she has lots of faith in her performance team now that she's taken up the mantle of directing.

"I wanted to do something fun and maybe a little bit goofy," she said.

Sheedy said it took a little convincing to get her classmates to agree to this melodrama, but it's been a worthwhile process. The performers have been getting ready for the past five weeks.

Seasick will keep the audience interested as it moves along. The story starts in a canoe, and works its way through the beaches of the Caribbean and later, a blizzard.

"I have faith in them [actors]. They're all goofy, so it works," said Sheedy.

Don't miss the last production of the school year. It promises to be a great time.



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MADD driving simulator at WESS

Grade 10 student Debbie Levesley tries out an impaired driving simulator at WESS May 2. The simulator was provided by MADD

WESS drama's Dracula production is now over. It was a good ride while it lasted.

The part of Dracula was played by grade 12 student Brandon Degraw. Now he was menacing. I saw the play May 2. At the end of the play, all the other actors smiled as they came out front and received applause. Not Degraw. That guy stayed in character and was staring down the audience. Pure evil.

I thought this week I would compare how Degraw's Dracula stands up against another vampire whose infamy matches his own. I'm talking about Count Chocula.

Appearance:

Dracula may have pale skin, but his slick black hair and confident way he carries himself gives him a charismatic and charming quality that lures you in despite the instinct in the back of your mind telling you to run. His signature colour is black, and rightly so, no colour looks better on a vampire.

Count Chocula has a goofy smile and big innocent eyes, also he doesn't have any fangs. Look at him, just one big tooth. Perhaps the others rotted away from all the



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Brandon Degraw is Dracula

Brandon Degraw in the West Lorne Foodland



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A night of theatre

Rebekah Brayton performs 'The Tower' with Josh Guindon at WESS April 10. Brayton's play was a comedy about two arguing pirates. The senior drama class presented four short plays that night.