

# SERVICE CLUBS 2009



PHOTO SUBMITTED

West Elgin Legion Br. 221 hosted a bus tour from Br. 116 of Strathroy this past Saturday. Approx. 40 legion members from that branch were treated to a barbeque lunch and enjoyed the friendly atmosphere and hospitality. Above is Br. 116 member and District A Commander Bill Misener with West Elgin Legion President Henry Mooser.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

## In full bloom

The West Lorne Community Complex was filled July 3 with entries in this year's West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society Flower show. Above are Marilyn Young and Sally Cantelon, who were winners of Best in Show.

July 9/09



PHOTO: SUBMITTED  
West Elgin Legion Br. 221 held their monthly breakfast on Sunday, August 2. Over 200 hungry patrons were served and a great time was had by all.

Aug 13/09

## West Lorne Legion commemorates Remembrance Day

-Submitted

The executive and members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 221 West Elgin would like to thank the Merchants, Service Clubs, and Communities for their support shown at the Branch. Since the new executive took over in June, your support has been greatly appreciated. If any merchants, service clubs, or members of the communities want to make a donation to the poppy fund we thank you in advance. Make the cheques payable to the West Elgin Branch 221 Poppy Fund.

The Poppy Fund is used to support our veterans and their families. It is also used to support our communities. These funds are held in trust for these purposes and are not used to maintain the daily business of the Branch.

We will be having our Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph on Nov. 11 starting at 10:45. Please join us to honour those from our communities who made the ultimate sacrifice, our veterans and those who are in harm's way now.

Oct 29/09  
Lest We Forget. CHRONICLE



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## West Lorne Optimists board of directors

The Optimist Club of West Lorne induct 2009/2010 board of directors- Front row: (L to R) Kathy Johnston, Secretary, Isabel Lewis, Vice President, Ted Johnston, President, Nancy Murray, Past President. Back row: (L to R) Ken Neil, Dianne Downie, Grace Audet, 2 yr. directors, Alice Stocking Lt. Governor, Bill Lewis, Karen Goncalves and Doug Staddon, 1 yr. directors. Absent: Dorothy Staddon, Treasurer.

Oct 18/09



PHOTO SUBMITTED

## Children helping children

The Sunday School of West Elgin Living Water Pentecostal Church went to work selling water, following a brief presentation by Sunday School Superintendent Dolly Driver about a desperate need for children in Africa of clean drinking water. Some raised money by asking their parents, others sold water on Talbot Line during the annual Talbot Trail Yard Sale. A fundraising walk is planned for Sept. 20 starting at 9 a.m. Anyone who would like more information or would like to become a sponsor may contact Dolly Driver at 519-768-2560. Front row L-R: Hunter and Katie Mezenberg. Back row L-R: Christina Gowdy, Amber Lumley, Kayla Mezenberg.

SEPT/09

PHOTO SUBMITTED

## Legion Veteran Dinner

On Dec. 5, the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 221 in West Lorne held a Christmas turkey dinner for its WWII vets. Front row (L-R): Jean Jamieson, Marie Bell, Duncan Tait, Eileen Humphrey, Shirley Sewell and Anna McCallum. Back row: John Humphrey, George Bell, Annie Isabel Tait, Charlie Cronkite, Mary Fluker, Les Sewell, Richard Wagenaar, Albin Kahnt, Floyd Wagenaar.



DEC 24/09 CHRONICLE

## Kiwanis Club open to new members

By Peg Wheeler

For almost sixty years there has been a Kiwanis Club in West Lorne. The Kiwanis Motto is "Young Children Priority One." So what do we do?

We are well known for our Music Festival and Talent Show, which has now been held for 53 years; often with as many as 500 students taking part. Our investment this year in rewards was \$1550.

When there were fires in the Arena and in the Town Hall, Library building, Kiwanis helped lead and spearhead the rebuilding.

But what do we do? We meet on Thursday afternoon at 6 o'clock, usually for about two hours. We enjoy a meal together, prepared for us most of the time now by the Women's Institute, or other groups and sometimes it is Pot Luck. We hear news of projects and look at the requests for help or money.

Twice a year you will see members with big garbage bags cleaning up the trash along the road from Highway 3 to town. We continue to be astonished at what people throw from cars.

We take part in Santa Claus Parades, some times sing or visit in local Nursing Homes and we encourage speakers who keep us in touch with local and other needs.

We are presently spending time selling draw tickets for a prize in the local grocery store. We do this fund raising twice a year, to help fund our projects.

We helped high school students who went on a trip to Kenya. This year we are helping to send barrels of clothing, books and refurbished computers to Jamaica where we have learned there is a desperate need.

West Lorne Kiwanis are proud to serve the Community and the World but we cannot continue to do these things if we do not continue to grow the Club. Age is taking its usual toll and people move away.

If you read this and would like to enjoy the friendship meal together and help in the twice a year ticket selling to raise the money, if you agree that young people are "Priority One," you would be welcomed. For information call Bill Graham 519-768-1798 or Ray Jobson 519-768-1883.



### Knights of Columbus Poster contest

SUBMITTED

Each year the Knights of Columbus hold a poster contest regarding Alcohol and Drug Abuse Awareness. Pictured here are this year's winners along with their posters. From left to right: Alicia McReady, Jami Jensen, Sabrina Oliveria, Paul Dieckers, Deanna DeRooy. Ms. Lopes Grade 5 class from St. Mary's Catholic School were also treated to a pizza lunch sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

THE CHRONICLE MAR 12/09



Photo Submitted

### New members

The West Lorne Optimist held a meeting Sept. 16 and welcomed two new members, Elton and Kelley Brazier. The group picture includes the new members who have joined the club in the past year. (L-R) Nancy Murray, President, Rick Duckworth, Joan Neil, Elton Brazier, Kelley Brazier, Grace Audet, Doug Staddon, Charter member. Absent: Starr and Steve Cundy.

OCT 1/09



KAREN GONCALVES/THE CHRONICLE

## Optimist Club of West Lorne Oratorical Speaker places 2nd

Taylor Cundy, a student from West Elgin Secondary School, placed 2nd at the Optimist District level in Wallaceburg on April 18. Taylor placed first at the West Lorne Optimist club level in February, qualifying her to participate at the South Western Ont. District competition.



JEAN GUY ST. JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

## Annual Plant Sale.

The Annual West Lorne Horticulture Society Plant Sale was held at the West Elgin Arena on a rainy Saturday May 9. Jessica Wilson-Evetts from Rodney admired the many plants for sale in preparation of Mother's Day.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

## Celebrating Legion Week

On Sept. 19, Helen Jones and the Bushwackers played at the Rodney Legion to celebrate Legion Week.



SUBMITTED

## Elections at Legion.

On May 20, elections were held at the Rodney Legion Branch 525. A new president and executive were elected.

Front row: Betty Wilson, Marlene Goos, President Mary Beech.

2nd Row: Jean Adamson, Gennynne Austin, Blanch Vanhee, Past President Marg Sharp, Janna Steinbacher.

Back Row: Ray Wilson, Mick Austin, Bob Adamson. Absent - Mary Jane Lemon.



## Kiwanis special guest

On April 28, The Kiwanis Club of West Lorne was pleased to receive Sheron Cameron-Dunn, the 08/09 Governor of Kiwanis Eastern Canada and the Caribbean. Cameron-Dunn was visiting from Kingston, Jamaica.

From L to R - Olive Chambers, President of West Lorne Kiwanis, Julie Newman, Wentworth Newman, Colin Kittmer and Sheron Cameron-Dunn.

Wentworth grew up in Christiana, Jamaica, and since 2007 the Newmans and Kittmer have shipped books to Jamaican schools.

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE



PHOTO BY KAREN GONCALVES/THE CHRONICLE

## Optimist Youth Appreciation

The Optimist Club of West Lorne held their annual Youth Appreciation evening on Nov. 19. Students from local schools, who are very exceptional in some way, were chosen by their teachers to be honoured with certificates and a dinner in their honour from the club members.

Front row (L to R) Cassandra Johnston, WESS; Shaye Abel, WESS; Patrick Acres, Aldborough PS; Stephanie Jocius, Aldborough PS; Shelby Neilson, WESES. Back row (L to R) Optimist President Ted Johnston; Jamie Lorefice, WESS; Cody Saunders, WESS; Jordan McColl, WESES; Kristen Kovacs, St. Mary's Catholic School; Stanley Wilkins, St. Mary's Catholic School and Optimist Dorothy Staddon who chaired the event.

# Veteran appreciation



## Appreciation dinner for local veterans

An appreciation night for veterans was held March 31 at the West Lorne Legion. (Above) About 75 people, including veterans, their family members and cadets attended. (Right) Veterans like Les Sewell, who served overseas in WWII in the British 6th Airborne Division, got a gift from the Legion and its president Nancy Murray.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Jesse Cnockaert  
Staff

The first ever Veterans appreciation night held at the West Lorne Legion March 31 has given many local veterans something to feel proud about.

Local men and women who served their country were invited to the Legion for the dinner. Overseas veterans were given a watch as a gift, while other veterans were given key chains. The Legion's Poppy Chair and Service Officer Ray Young called this appreciation night the highlight of his year.

"This doesn't happen enough in my opinion. We've lost too much in my opinion. We've forgotten too much in my opinion... It's very important that the Legion does this sort of thing. I thank you all for coming. It's a great thing."

About 75 people attended that night, including members of the 2884 Cadet Corps. The spouses of deceased veterans were also invited

to join the appreciation night.

"The Royal Canadian Legion mandate is to continue to remember those who gave their lives for freedom, and looking after the needs of veterans, their dependents, and those still serving in the Canadian Forces. We are here tonight to recognize your contribution, so that we as Canadians, can live in the freedom that we maintain today," said West Lorne Legion President Nancy Murray.

The evening opened with a Colour Party. Local history expert Harley Lashbrook also spoke. Lashbrook is putting together a book on Second World War veterans from Rodney, West Lorne and Aldborough Township, there are still almost 100 service men and women on whom he has no information. He encouraged anyone who had information or photos to send it to him.

John "Bing" Humphrey is a West Lorne veteran who currently lives in London. He called West Lorne

the friendliest town he's ever been in. A veterans appreciation event was particularly important for Humphrey; he spent five years as a member of the Canadian Merchant Navy, who weren't recognized as veterans until the 90's.

"I think it's absolutely wonderful," he said.

Humphrey said that the Merchant Navy had a mortality rate of about 13.3 percent, compared with about 3-4 percent mortality rate in the army and 5 percent in the air force. After Merchant Navymen were finally given veterans status, Humphrey applied for a veterans pension in 1997.

"If they'd started it in 1946 when I should have got it I'd have a million dollars in compound interest. How about that?" he said.

Humphrey's nickname, "Bing", means "soldier" in Chinese. Humphrey got his nickname after he once helped some Chinese people escape a burning hospital.

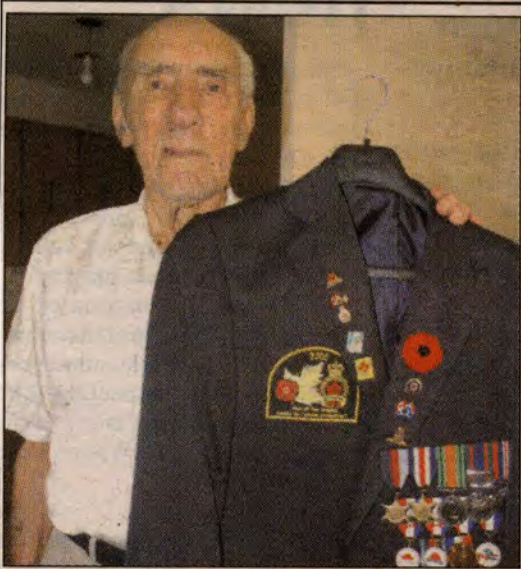


JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

## West Lorne Legion donates to Meals on Wheels..

On May 26, a \$1,200 donation was made from the West Lorne Legion to the West Elgin Community Health Centre's Meals on Wheels program. The money for the donation came from the poppy fund. From L - Charlie Cronkite, Legion member, Cate Melito, WECHC executive director, Shelly Vergeer, Co-ordinator of community support services for seniors, and George 'Scotty' Bell, Legion member.

## Remembrance Day November 11th Lest We Forget



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

### Profile: Alexander Boulet

Alexander Boulet of West Lorne is a WWII and D-Day veteran who signed up for the military almost by accident.

Boulet has lived in West Lorne since 2006, but moved to Sarnia at the end of October to be closer to two of his children. In WWII, Boulet was a part of the 15th Field Regiment in the Canadian Fourth Division, which took part in the Invasion of Normandy, June 6, 1944.

Boulet was 18 years old when his 21-year-old brother got a draft letter telling him to report to the barracks in Winnipeg. Boulet said his brother didn't want to go alone, so he went with him, but it wasn't Boulet's intention to sign up himself.

"The Sergeant started taking down names. So he started at the far end and got the names of everyone who was sitting down, and he got to my brother. After he wrote down his name he said 'What's your name?' I said, 'I'm just here with my brother.'

"So then he hollered at me. 'I asked you your name!' So I had to give him my name. I said 'Alexander.'

"Then he went off. When he finished around the

room, he announced 'You just wait here until they call your name and go to the office.'" Boulet's name was eventually called, and he talked to a series of officers who outfitted him for a uniform.

"Take off all your clothes,' they said. 'What?' I said. 'I'm not here to join!'

"Take off your clothes!' The medical officer said.

So I took off all my clothes. They checked me over. They asked 'How old are you?' I said, '18.' Then they said 'Go on through that door, follow the line.'"

Boulet was then asked for his shoe size and measurements and was given a uniform, which he described as "too big."

Boulet was given a seven-day enlistment leave and after that, went to basic training, followed by advance training in Brandon, Manitoba, where he learned about artillery.

The military had to wait a few weeks for Boulet to turn 19 so he was old enough to be sent overseas. Boulet went to Nova Scotia, and awaited the arrival of the next ship to take him out.

"We went to Halifax, and then our ship came in. It was the type of boat that they used to carry cattle across, because there was still cow shit on the walls, so it didn't smell all that great in those halls.

"It took us seven days to go from Halifax to Liverpool, England. That ship could travel a little faster than the German U-boats, and German U-boats were all over the place, chasing us. But we went way up near Greenland and Iceland, where the water was too cold for the German submarines. That's why it took seven days. Otherwise, it should have taken three and a half days."

The Invasion of Normandy was the invasion and establishment of Allied forces in Normandy,

France, and it was the largest amphibious operation in history.

Only a few days in each month were suitable for launching the operation, because the Allies wanted both a full moon to illuminate navigational landmarks, and a spring tide to provide the deepest possible water to safely navigate over defensive obstacles placed by the Germans in the surf on the seaward approaches to the beaches.

At first, rough waters made it seem possible the invasion would have to be cancelled.

"We started off the day before, but then they told us to hold back because it was too rough. So they had to postpone for one day. Then the next morning, we started to cross. But it was still pretty rough," said Boulet. "I was afraid. I was scared of what's going to happen when we got to France. Until you are actually on the front lines, you're so busy doing what you're supposed to do, that you're not scared then. You don't have time to be scared. Let's put it that way."

Boulet has been decorated with the 1939-45 Canadian War Medal, Canadian Voluntary Service Medal, the 1939-45 British War Medal the France to Germany Star (for fighting all the way through France, Belgium, Holland and Germany), the

1939-45 Star, and several medals he was awarded by the Dutch people for liberating their cities.

Karen Goncalves/The Chronicle

### Honouring veterans past and present

WESS student Sabrina Griffin played trumpet at the service in West Lorne beside the Cenotaph outside the West Elgin Arena. Robert White was the officiator over the service which drew a huge crowd at the Remembrance Day Ceremony held last week.



### Beside the Cenotaph

Jesse Cnockaert/The Chronicle

Veterans David Lamont and Ray Jobson are shown standing beside the Cenotaph outside the West Elgin Arena. Lamont served 33 years in the military and the RCAF, with two tours of Europe. Jobson was a Peacekeeper who joined regiment in 1952 and has served in NATO, Cyprus and Germany.



### Annual Cadet Review.

On June 6 the 7th annual Ceremonial Review was held for the #2884 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps at the West Elgin Arena. Many awards were given, recognizing the achievements of the Cadets. On right, MWO Rebekah Brayton received the Medal of Excellence, an award in recognition of "individual endeavors in citizenship that meet or enhance the aims and objectives of the cadet movement." Other award recipients included: MWO Allan Percival, Esprit de Corps award, Spr. Natalie Porter, Most Improved Cadet award, Bryce Kilbourne, Best Green Star Cadet, Cpl Christina Huisman, Best Red Star Cadet, Spr. Joshua Baddams, Best Silver Star Cadet, Sgt., Cheyenne Robinson, Best Gold Star Cadet, and others.

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE



# SERVICE CLUBS 2009

## Chamber president confident

Continued from Page 1

After the election of new board members, Fretter made his Presidential address and commented on the failing economic situation.

"I know I can count upon the dedication of the new board to help reverse that trend," said Fretter.

Fretter said that even though West Elgin businesses are all com-



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

### West Elgin Chamber of Commerce

The West Elgin Chamber of Commerce held its annual general meeting Oct. 6 and elected a new board of directors. From L - Irene Puddester, Director, Ed Markham, Past President, Libby Barrett-Futcher, Director, Robert White, Vice President, Keith Fretter, President, Iris Fretter, Director, Ted Uffen, Secretary, Ed Keibel, Treasurer.

OCT 15/09



SUBMITTED

### Support Our Troops day

Captain Joe Hentz, accompanied by girlfriend Ashley Fleming was welcomed by supporters at the West Lorne Legion's Support Our Troops fundraiser Feb. 14.

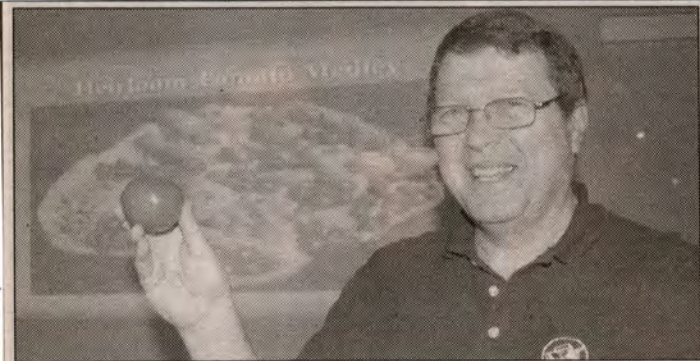


PHOTO SUBMITTED

### TOPS Donation

In early December, West Lorne TOPS [Take Off Pounds Sensibly] made a donation to Dutton's Daffodil Auxiliary - Rachel Hales, Leader ON792 TOPS and Olive Chambers presented George Smith, representing the Daffodil Auxiliary, a cheque to support the Dutton food bank.

THE CHRONICLE DEC/09



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

### Tomato Man

Ron Rossini, known in Ontario as the Tomato Man, shared tips on growing tomatoes at an open house for the West Elgin Master Gardeners March 23 in the West Lorne Community Complex.

APR. 2/09



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

### Business after Five meeting

The West Elgin Chamber of Commerce held their second Business After Five meeting at D&L's Restaurant in Rodney Dec. 7. The meeting was a social event that allowed local businesses and community groups the chance to network and raise public awareness. The Chamber's regular meeting followed. A draw was also held, with prizes to be won that were donated by Chamber members. From Left - Iris Fretter, Libby Barrett-Futcher and Irene Puddester.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

### Meatloaf Lunch at West Lorne Legion.

Dave and Sandra Fletcher of Rodney enjoyed a meatloaf lunch that was served at the West Lorne Legion Jan. 30.

FEB 5/09



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

### West Lorne Legion donates to Cadets.

Jan. 1 was the New Year's Day Levee at the West Elgin Legion. David Balint, Chairman of the Parents Support Committee accepted a cheque for \$280 from West Elgin Legion President Nancy Murray. The money will support Br. 2884 of the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corp.

JAN 8/09

## West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society News

WEST ELGIN CHRONICLE MAR 18/10

The West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society met March 9, at the West Lorne Complex, and Past-president Susan Lilley introduced two speakers to the members and guests.

Pat Watterworth, representing the 2010 International Plowing Match, which will be held this September in St. Thomas, informed those present about the two different beautification challenges. One challenge is for an individual, rural or urban, to beautify their property for the IPM. The second challenge is for a community group to select a roadside location and beautify that space for the IPM. Both of these challenges require an entry form, a before picture, and a twenty dollar entry fee. The judging will take place in August of this year, and the judges will take an after picture. There will be three prizes from each category. Pat has entry forms for anyone interested in taking on this challenge and the West Lorne society will be participating. We would also like to encourage other groups and members of the community to also join in and help to beautify West Elgin for this exciting event.

Our second speaker for the evening was Art Oslach of Aylmer. Art is a founding member and was the first

president of the Niagara Region Orchid Society, a current member of the London Orchid Society and is the President of the Aylmer and District Horticultural Society. Art told us that he has about two hundred orchids, located in an orchid house, at his Aylmer home. The best advice he can give about orchids is to do a little research on them and then don't fuss over them; orchids don't like to be bothered too much. Orchids are angiosperms and they belong to the monocot division, having 850 genera of orchids, over twenty-five thousand species, and hundreds of thousands of hybrids. Orchids are found in the wild all over the world, with forty species found in Ontario.

Art spoke about phalaenopsis or moth orchids, cattleyas and cymbidiums. Phalaenopsis orchids are readily available, like lower light levels and average house temperatures. They like to be kept moist and should be watered at least once a week. Phalaenopsis should be repotted every two years, either during active growth or after flowering, and they like to be snug in a pot. Cattleya orchids now come in almost all colours and bloom once a year. They like lots of light and should be allowed to dry out for one extra day between waterings. They don't have deep roots, so when repotting the pot should be wider rather than deeper. Cymbidiums like cool temperatures are not the easiest of orchids to grow, but are worth the challenge. All of the orchids mentioned should be potted in a coarse, gritty, bark mixture and should receive a weekly dose of water-soluble fertilizer with a 3:1:3 ratio.

Susan thanked Art for his presentation and

told everyone about the London Orchid Show on March 20 and 21. After the speakers everyone enjoyed refreshments prepared by Janet Given and John Bakker. Elmer Dean won the 50/50 and Marg Murray and Pat Lange won the door prizes which were phalaenopsis orchids. Join us next month for Mary Jocius who will lead us in a herb container workshop.



Karen Goncalves/The Chronicle

### Adult fun night held by Optimist Club

Paul Dupuis of West Lorne volunteered his time as a black jack dealer during the Optimist Club of West Lorne's Adult Fun Night held Saturday, Feb. 27 at the Rodney Legion. The annual event included an evening of black jack, mock horse races and a silent and live auction followed by a late lunch. Many locals as well as out of town people enjoyed the evening. All funds raised are contributed to youth activities in our communities.



Submitted

### Recognized for improving natural resources

On Dec. 17, landowners from West Elgin received certificates at the Elgin Stewardship Council Christmas dinner, recognizing their commitment to improving the natural resources on their property. Back Row: Warren Reinke-Vice Chair Elgin Stewardship Council, Kevin Schleihauf, Stan Caveney, John R. Johnston, Joe Preston-MPP, Eric Guest Front Row: Rosanne Schleihauf, Anita Caveney, Brenda Johnston, Carolyn Guest, Margaret Carroll (Chair-Elgin Stewardship Council) Norm and Christine Miller also received a certificate but were not in attendance.

### West Elgin Landowners recognized

By Mark Emery - Stewardship Coordinator and Andi McKillop - ESC Director

JAN 28/10

Five Elgin County landowners were recognized for their commitment to improving the natural resources on their property at the Elgin County Stewardship Council annual Christmas dinner Dec. 17.

Five Rodney area landowners including John R. and Brenda Johnston, Eric and Carolyn Guest, Stan and Anita Caveney, Kevin and Rosanne Schleihauf, and Norm and Christine Miller received recognition from MP Joe Preston. Over the past five years, these landowners have combined to restore more than 150 acres of marginal farmland to natural habitat. Moreover, they have given their time and knowledge to other landowners in the area wanting to undertake a similar project.

"It is encouraging to see the commitment from both levels of government in providing funding that assists landowners in improving natural resources and wildlife habitat in Elgin County," said Margie Carroll, Chair of the Council.

"The Federal government is very pleased to be able to assist landowners through Environment Canada's EcoAction program,"

said Preston, prior to presenting the awards. "I have seen first hand the time and effort these landowners have put into planting trees, and other stewardship initiatives that have a positive impact on the environment and wildlife habitat of Elgin County."

"It was an honour to be recognized," said John R. and Brenda Johnston. "Funding allowed us to plant native trees and tallgrass prairie, restore wetland areas, control erosion and protect fragile lands. Not only do we benefit as landowners by doing these projects, but there are also benefits to the wildlife and the environment."

Since completing the Elgin Landscape Strategy in 2005, the Elgin Stewardship has helped a number of landowners across the county plan and implement habitat restoration projects on their property. This includes planting native trees and wildlife shrubs, establishing Tallgrass prairie, fencing projects and wetland restoration. For more information about the stewardship council's landowner extension program, contact Graham Decow at 519-631-4491.