

# No resignation forthcoming from reeve

BY: KAREN ROBINET JAN. 23/95

Despite the controversy surrounding recent comments, and a petition calling for her resignation, West Lorne Reeve Dianne Buchanan said last week that she has, "no intention of resigning," and added that, "I don't want to make any more comments."

At the January 9 council meeting, Buchanan was quoted as saying that four-way stops in the village had been dismissed by a previous council because Portuguese residents in the village would not grasp the concept of them.

Among those in attendance at the meeting were Elgin MPP Peter North, North and his executive assistant had been at the meeting to help liaise between council and the Ministry of Transportation regarding stop signs in the village. In a telephone interview last week, North said he had also hoped to meet with the new council members and, "see if in the future we could meet with them." He deemed Buchanan's comment as, "really unfortunate," and pointed to the positive contributions made by members of the Portuguese community throughout West Elgin.

Reaction to Buchanan's comments within the village was swift, and Armenio Almeida, president of the West Lorne Portuguese Community confirmed last Wednesday that a petition is being circulated requesting the reeve's resignation. Asked if the petition was being circulated under the auspices of the Portuguese community, Almeida said that



Dianne Buchanan.

there is also backing from other members of the community.

However, Buchanan admitted that, "I have medical problems I have to take care of and until further notice am under medical care." Buchanan said that perhaps she has been, "trying to do too much maybe," and cited chronic pain as part of the problem. She reiterated that, "at this point I have no intention of resigning, but once I get medical treatment, at that time there will be something forthcoming."

West Lorne clerk-treasurer Brenda Fleming confirmed that Buchanan has taken a leave of absence from her council duties and has left the remaining members of council to deal with upcoming issues, with Deputy-Reeve Tammy Swain at the helm.

While there has been some discussion of a special meeting to deal with the matter and Buchanan's political future in the village, as of press time, no meeting had been set up through town hall.

North, who says Buchanan's comment was, "completely inappropriate," says it will be up to Buchanan to decide whether or not she should tender her resignation, but he added that, "if I were to make a statement like that, I would be in a very difficult situation." Whether he would resign or not in, North wouldn't say. Even if Buchanan was only repeating something that had been stated previously, as the reeve maintains, North said, "it didn't bear repeating." He said it will be up to Buchanan to make a decision based on the wishes of her constituents and the rest of her council.

## West Lorne council has no legal recourse, yet

BY: KAREN ROBINET

JAN. 1995

Even though West Lorne council, as well as a majority of voters in the village have clearly expressed their wish for Reeve Dianne Buchanan to resign her position, there is no legal manner in which she can be forced to vacate her seat.

Roger Moyer, a municipal adviser with the Southwest Region of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs said last week that, "there is no provision in the Municipal Act in that you can force a member of council to vacate his or her seat."

He said that, "the balance of the members can request the resignation, but it has no legal effect." Moyer added that, "the decision is completely that of the reeve's." He added that there are more measures in place to prevent someone from running for the position in the first place than there are to force them to vacate their seat.

According to Moyer there are only three instances cited in the Municipal Act in which a member of council can be forced to resign. These include being an undischarged bankrupt, being in prison for a crime, or missing more than three months of meetings.

Moyer said there are no provisions within the Act that would allow for Buchanan's impeachment or a vote of no confidence. He said current legislation makes it very clear that, "it's her sole decision whether she chooses to resign."

While Buchanan had submitted a written request to council to allow her, "to be absent from three or more successive meetings," that request was turned down by council. However, the Act also states that Buchanan is within her legal rights to take up to three months off without council approval.

At Monday night's council meeting, some concerns were raised as to what the reeve's situation is, but Buchanan did indicate she would be on hand for the next council meeting. However, Councillor John Shields says he feels Buchanan is "almost missed two meetings already." Deputy-reeve Tammy Swain told council that, "we'll just have to wait our three months."

## Watch for PROWL

# New West Lorne complex: group agrees to a plan

MAY 1995

On Wednesday, May 10, 1995 an open meeting was held at West Lorne Town Hall to outline the various options that were available for the layout and design of the proposed community complex.

All organizations within the community were invited to send representation. It was a very informative meeting with over 30 people attending including a representative of the architects who have done the preliminary planning.

There were representatives from eight community organizations present. There was considerable discussion concerning layout, design and related costs and many questions were answered about the project.

The main result of this meeting was that a tentative plan was selected and a volunteer steering and fundraising committee was formed.

On Wednesday, May 17, the newly formed committee met for the first time, again including a representative of the architectural firm.

The committee consists of Jerry Prince, Rosalie Krebsz, Hazel Stalker, Leola Lawrence, Carlos Oliveria, Robert Stewart, George Nute, Ray Jobson, Ric Whyte, Perry Willis, and John Shields.

The layout of the complex was discussed and with advice from the architect, a tentative design was chosen. The financial details were provided and the fund raising goal to achieve the desired plan was set at \$175,000.00.

Considerable discussion ensued and a number of fund raising ideas including 50/50 draws, car raffles, community canvasses, dances, community yard sale, car washes, etc. were discussed.

The architect promised to

produce a conceptual drawing of the layout as well as a brochure that could be provided to the public prior to any fund raising being initiated.

A slogan for the fundraising was suggested and met with general approval and enthusiasm as follows-

"PROWL" which stand for "Proud Residents of West Lorne." It is worth noting that any donations that are given to "The Village of West Lorne-Building Fund" will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

This worthwhile project will succeed without doubt but will require the support and help of our community.

The next meeting of the PROWL committee will be on Wednesday, May 31 in the village council chambers at 7:30 pm. Any citizens interested in this project are invited to attend and become part of it.

InfrastructureWorks  
Travaux d'infrastructure

West Lorne  
Fire Hall  
West Lorne  
Service des  
incendies



IT'S OFFICIAL: The sign marking the site of the new West Lorne fire hall and municipal complex was erected March 13. Mar-Con Construction donated the use of their backhoe to help dig the hole for the sign, and backhoe operator Dennis Chevalier also donated his time.

MAR 95

July 17, 1995



Ripley & Giles Petrocan station has donated \$500 to the West Lorne community complex. Pictured here are: Bob Ripley (left) and Al Giles (right) making the presentation to fireman Jim Johnston. The business has also donated a cooler to be used in a raffle.

APR. 7/95

(K. Robinet)



The Bank of Montreal in West Lorne will be donating \$4,000 to the construction of the West Lorne Municipal Complex. The bank is donating \$2,000 this year and the same amount in 1996. Pictured here left to right in front of the building site are left to right: Perry Willits and Ray Jobson both of the PROWL committee, Peter Wiles, manager of the Bank of Montreal and Jim Johnston, a West Lorne firefighter.



Construction on the new West Lorne fire hall is well underway and it should be completed some time next year. Recently announced cutbacks to projects by the provincial government have not impacted on the project with the Canada-Ontario infrastructure funding left intact. Estimates for the combined fire hall/municipal complex have increased though, currently sitting at approximately \$450,000. About \$240,000 must be raised locally for the facility.

AUG. 14, 1995

(K. Robinet)

June 28, 1995



**CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED:** The Canadian Cancer Society sold their daffodils at the West Lorne IGA to kick off the start of April as Cancer Month. The Great Ride Against Cancer in West Lorne is set to take place on April 30, leaving from the West Elgin Arena. Bob Walker took his shift at selling the beautiful buds.

(photo by Ruth Ferguson)



West Lorne senior's captured their share of medals at the recently held Senior's Games in Rodney on June 22nd. Pictured from (Left to Right Back Row) Hugh Mills, 1st in Lawn bowling, Ross Lashbrook, 1st, in Lawn bowling, Mary Fluker, 3rd in walking, and Charlie Cronkite, 3rd in golf. (LtoR Front Row) Jean Vanscader 1st in Lawn Bowling, Helen Faucette 2nd in cribbage, Ed McCallum, 3rd in Cribbage, Nellie Butler 2nd in cribbage, and Gwen Szabo 3rd in golf. Photo by

October 11, 1995



West Lorne Reeve ,Diane Buchanan (left) receives an aerial view of West Lorne's new Sewage Treatment Plant from Mr. Hisham Slim of M.M. Dillon . Photo by Brian Outhouse

# CURRENT EVENTS 1995



## VERONICA SEWELL

BANK OF MONTREAL is pleased to announce the appointment of Veronica Sewell, Full Service Manager, West Lorne. Veronica has spent 29 years with the Bank in various positions throughout South Western Ontario, (with her most recent appointment in Bothwell).

As Manager, she will be responsible for working with personal, commercial, and farm customers in assessing their financial needs.

NOV. 1995



Winners in the grade 7-8 spelling bee at the West Lorne Kiwanis Talent Show were, l-r: Natalie Ford, 1st, Dennis Ocolisan, 2nd, Tina Boyd and Krista Mooser, tied for third.



Winners in the grade 3-4 spelling bee at the West Lorne Kiwanis Talent Show were, l-r: Matt Mistele, 1st, Scott Bray, 2nd, and Josh Lilley, 3rd.

(photo by Ruth Ferguson)  
APR. 1995

## Bank employee retires

by Brian Outhouse

It was a sad but joyous day at the Bank of Montreal for both customers and employees at the Bank of Montreal in West Lorne last Thursday as long time employee Jackie Leitch retired. She spent the day saying goodbye to customers and her fellow employees and reflecting on the last 36 years.

Jackie started with the bank back in 1959 in Bothwell as a draft clerk. In those days she stated "her job was a collection clerk where she would go from business to business with a draft form with which businesses would fill out to pay their bills.

She was later promoted to the position of teller which she held for many years.

She came to West Lorne in 1964 where she assumed the position as a teller.

Jackie eventually worked her way up to become a customer service clerk which she enjoyed immensely. Upon leaving the

bank Jackie held the position of Assistant Manager.

During her years at the bank she stated "that the most notable change in the banking industry over the years was the introduction of the computer." "It saved us

time she added but it also created work as it took more employees to do what we used to do manually". When computers first came on line in the early 70's she never thought they would ever learn how to use them, but today we can't live without them she added. She also stated " that today's banks offer customers more services such as paying their utility bills at the bank and also the banks offer customers a wider variety of accounts to chose

from." "The ATM has also cut down on the number of people requiring personal service and that it is sometimes more convenient and quicker for a customer to use an ATM than come into the bank".

During the day on Thursday customers could have a piece of the specially made retirement cake for Jackie and a cup of coffee and chat with Jackie wishing her the best and remembering days gone by.

On Thursday evening the banks current and some of the past employees that Jackie worked with held a surprise retirement party at the Town and Country Restaurant in West Lorne for a farewell banquet in her honor.



Marg Varga (right) ex-Bank of Montreal employee wishes Jackie Leitch whose last day at the bank was last Friday, her well in her retirement. Photo by Brian Outhouse



It only took about two hours for volunteers to collect about 50 bags of garbage by picking up litter off of West Lorne streets. About 50 people took part in the IGA community clean up day. Participants were treated to juice, coffee and muffins. A discarded bike, car tire and wheel rims were some of the larger items found. Pictured are the volunteers with the trash they collected. In front are Steve Mosher, left, and Steve Browne, owner of West Lorne IGA. Steve Mosher was the lucky winner of the AM/FM cassette CD player given away by IGA. (photo by Ruth Ferguson) October 18, 1995



It was Apple Day for area cubs, scouts and beavers in West Lorne and area recently and seen here preparing the baskets of apples at 1st West Lorne Scout Hall is (from left to right) Cub, Frank Hatch, Cub, Breanne Podedbry, Cub Leader Anna Podedbry Beaver, Derek Podedbry and Cub, Michael Hatch. Apple Day is one of the main fundraisers for the scouting movement. Photo

## Area residents gathered around the "Angel Tree"

by Brian Outhouse

Despite the sub - zero temperatures and bone chilling winds over 50 area residents gathered outside the front of the new fire hall in West Lorne to participate in the village's first ever Angel Tree ceremony.

Due to the cold weather the bulk of the ceremonies were held inside the fire hall with Darrell VanOrschot starting the proceedings with a rousing rendition of the song "Friends".

As Darrell sang, a stillness came over the crowd who gathered to remember loved ones that have passed on and for one brief moment in time the minds and hearts of many people were molded together as one.

After Darrell's heart wrenching rendition, Master of Ceremonies, Helen Jones introduced Doug McGill who read a poem.

The crowd then listened to a song sung by Jennifer Kelly from Goderich. After Kelly's song the crowd lit their candles and moved outside surrounding the little tree that meant so much to so many people. As the crowd stood in the freezing temperatures and sang "Silent Night", organizer Helen Jones threw the switch and the

little tree became aglow with tiny white twinkle lights.

The little lights glowed in the nighttime sky overhead bright and yet they projected a warmth in the hearts of the crowd that is seldom seen. After the tree lighting ceremony the crowd moved back into the fire hall where a few more songs were sung and tributes made to those loved ones that we miss so much.

At the end of the ceremony the crowd mingled amongst each other and enjoyed Hot Apple Cider, Hot Chocolate and Donuts.

Helen Jones organizer of the event wished to thank the following organizations for their contributions for making this years event a success: The West Lorne IGA, Donut Dolite, Home Hardware, Rene VanBrink, and West Lorne Town Council.

Proceeds from this year's tree lighting ceremony went to the Sunshine Foundation. The tree was donated by Don & Betty Bobier in memory of Ashley Murray.

The tree will remain lit until the new year in remembrance of our loved ones. It is hoped that the tree lighting ceremony will become an annual event in West Lorne.

## OCT. 1995 New Air Cadet Squadron coming to West Lorne

by Brian Outhouse

Have you ever stood still and looked up and watched a plane fly overhead and wonder where it was going, or wished you could be the pilot of that plane?

Well thanks to two local men, Bill Scott and Walter Podedbry local teenagers can have a chance to get their wings by joining the new Air Cadet Squadron which will be starting up soon in West Lorne.

The two men picked West Lorne as the base for the new squadron as it is in a central location to the surrounding communities of Dutton, Rodney, Eagle, and Wardville. In order for the Department of Defence to authorize the new squadron the new unit must initially have a

membership of 50 cadets. Air Cadets is open to both boys and girls.

On October 13, 1995 at 12:00 Noon the two men will hold an assembly at W.E.S.S. in the hopes of getting a number of interested youths signed up to be part of the West Lorne Squadron.

Air Cadets is more than just drilling it's learning about different weather patterns, Morse code, how to file a flight plan and other important courses relating to getting your pilots licence. The following is a list of questions pertaining to becoming an Air Cadet.

### 1. How old must I be to join Air Cadets?

You are eligible to join a squadron if you have reached your 13th but not your 19th birthday.

### 2. What are the requirements of Membership?

All potential cadets must be of good character, interested in the program and prepared to attend parades regularly. Parent's permission is also required.

### 3. What about medical exams?

You must produce evidence of physical fitness before being accepted as an Air Cadet.

Air Cadets must also be examined by a doctor before going to camp, undertaking flying training or other special assignments.

### 4. Will I have to pay dues?

No - but you may be asked to join in on fundraising activities such as tag days, special parades etc.

By Ruth Ferguson

West Lorne's newest doctor arrived in the village May 1. Dr. Shelley Subhash Sharma has joined Dr. Anna Rogers as a partner in her medical clinic.

Born in Kenya and raised in England, Dr. Sharma did all of his medical training in England. Since coming to Canada, he has been awarded certification as a family physician.

Moving from England to Eriksdale, Manitoba about three-and-a-half years ago, Dr. Sharma has about 15 years experience and has a special interest in geriatrics.

In Manitoba, he was a practicing family physician, as well as training medical students at the Univ. of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine. He was also a medical examiner.

Here, Dr. Sharma will continue as a teaching physician, training students in family practice.

Because the Highgate/Oxford/Duart area has been officially designated as underserved, Dr. Sharma was able to relocate to West Lorne under a government program. He hopes to draw patients from that area.

Dr. Sharma will divide his time between Dr. Roger's clinic in West Lorne, and Four Counties General Hospital in Newbury. He will be in West Lorne on Mondays and Fridays. His office at the hospital is currently being set up and, once ready, he will be there Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, with office hours from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dr. Sharma will be doing some evening and Saturday clinics with Dr. Rogers.

"The people have been extremely kind. I want to thank

Dr. Rogers and the staff who have made it so nice for me. They have treated me like family," stated Dr. Sharma.

"The people from the community have been very good to me," he said. "I hope to reciprocate by looking after them."

Dr. Sharma is married with three young children.

Appointments can be booked with Dr. Sharma by calling Dr. Roger's medical clinic at 768-2545. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 5, with extended hours on Tuesdays.



West Lorne's newest physician, Dr. Shelley Subhash Sharma

## Mezenberg appointed Warden of Elgin County for 1996

BY: KAREN ROBINET

The coming year could be one of the most challenging in Elgin County's history, and Aldborough Reeve Harry Mezenberg will be at the helm.

Mezenberg was appointed to the warden's position, replacing outgoing Warden Vane Chute at a special meeting held last Tuesday at the county building in St. Thomas to elect the new warden. Mezenberg had been the only county councillor to throw his hat into the ring prior to that date, and nobody else came forward at the meeting, meaning an election was not needed and Mezenberg was appointed to the position for a one-year term.

During a brief ceremony, Mezenberg signed a declaration of office, swore an oath of allegiance, and then slipped into a gown to be presented with his ceremonial chain of office, the Lord Elgin watch and the gavel of office, by Chute.

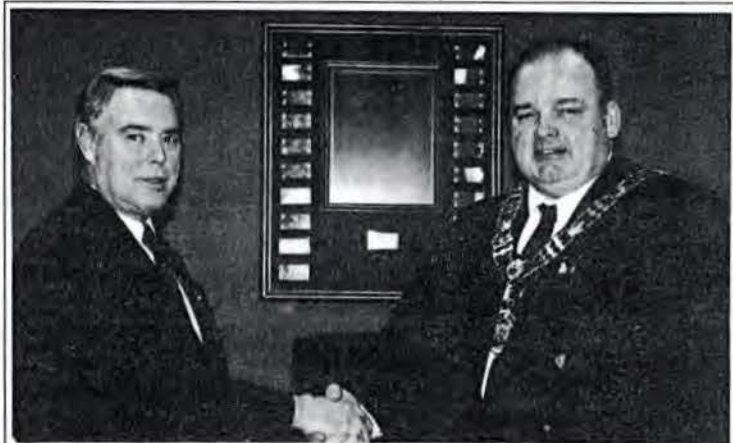
Mezenberg then made his first address as warden, thanking his fellow councillors for, "the honour you have bestowed upon me." He then commented on the progressive changes that have been made in the county over the past decade, and said those changes

will enable the county to better tackle, "unprecedented (funding) cutbacks and restructuring." Mezenberg said that tough decisions will have to be made which will affect not only the county, but each of the 15 municipalities within it.

"We will have to search our hearts and souls and look at services, re-evalu-

ate and see what we can afford," said the new warden.

He said the county will begin the year with two days of "shirt sleeve sessions," to begin dealing with the challenges ahead. Mezenberg said he anticipates a closer relationship with the city of St. Thomas and more shared services.



Past Warden Vane Chute congratulates the new Elgin County Warden, Aldborough Reeve Harry Mezenberg.

# Harold Lancaster: The Birdman of West Lorne

BY: KAREN ROBINET

Ever since he was a young boy, Harold Lancaster of West Lorne remembers being interested in birdwatching. He credits his public school teachers with encouraging this interest by keeping a rudimentary log of the first bird spotted each day and the name of the student who saw it.

"I gradually became more interested in it," says Lancaster, who retired nine years ago and moved to West Lorne with his wife Evelyn. Unlike Lancaster, Evelyn is interested in birds, but is not, "an ardent birdwatcher."

Lancaster, on the other hand, has recently completed an extensive project which brought together a lifetime of notes and journals on birdwatching. He put the book together on the computer, and it is a large and extensive overview of his hobby.

The book records a staggering 746 species spotted by Lancaster, who says he's seen two more since completing the book. He compiled the book in the same order established by the American Ornithologists' Union.

He is quick to point out though, that all those sightings were not just in Canada. The Lancasters have travelled extensively, not only throughout North and South America, but in Europe, Britain and the Caribbean as well. And while the trips were not specifically birdwatching expeditions, but holidays, Lancaster says that whenever the time allowed, he would grab his binoculars and telescope and head off

to see if he could add another bird to the list.

Lancaster did the same thing during a year spent overseas in World War II. After spending three-and-a-half years in Canada as a flight instructor, Lancaster was eventually posted to Northern Europe and the British Isles where he spent his free time birding.

Nowadays, birdwatching is gaining in popularity, says Lancaster, adding it's quite a contrast to the 1930s and '40s when birders all knew each other.

But, Lancaster says he's pleased to see families and young people out to look at the birds. Apart from a good pair of binoculars and a field guide, Lancaster says birding is an expensive, but exciting hobby. And, as an added bonus, you can do it anywhere. Patience is a virtue when it comes to birdwatching, but Lancaster says the challenge is worth it. "No matter where you go, there are birds of some description," says Lancaster, pointing out that birds can be found year-round. Many people just watch the birds at their own homes, and occasionally they'll spot something unusual, he says.

He says West Elgin is a good spot for birders. Birds don't like to fly too far from land, and our proximity to Lake Erie means there are many species of birds crossing locally. Birds travel by night, when they navigate using the stars, but during the day, they seek out land.

Lancaster says the 14th Concession of

Aldborough has always been a good spot for birdwatching, but recent years have brought a decline in the numbers, which he blames on the loss of their environment; the forests.

"Birds aren't as plentiful as they used to be," he says, although blackbirds continue to thrive. But, Lancaster says that small songbirds have suffered tremendously from the loss of their habitat.

Field loving sparrows have also diminished in number, and grasshopper sparrows which abounded in Lancaster's youth, have all but disappeared. "I haven't seen one for a couple of years," he says. But, West Elgin remains one of the best areas for the hawk migration, especially the Broad Winged Hawk, which enters at the end of Lake Ontario and travels this way. "Hawks don't like crossing large bodies of water," says Lancaster, adding, "they follow the lake until they get to the land on the other side."

Today, when the Lancasters travel, they use a fully-equipped van, which allows them to get into places a trailer wouldn't. Getting off the beaten track is something Lancaster enjoys doing because it means a better chance of seeing something different or unusual. For a birder, spotting a bird which is quite off of its course is always an exciting experience, and always gets the birder 'hotline' going.

"There are a number of rarities in Ontario from the west or south, and even the odd one of a Eurasian species," says Lancaster. He says some birds travel to Alaska from Siberia and then get stranded.

During migration, waterfowl move in flocks while smaller birds move en masse, sometimes with different species intermingling and migrating together.

To understand what birders are looking at, Lancaster says a good bird guide is essential, and he recommends two: A Field Guide To The Birds East Of The Rockies by Roger Tory Peterson and the National Geographic Society's Field Guide To The Birds Of North America.

Because there are so many subtle dif-

ferences between species of birds, as well as the same bird at different times of the year, Lancaster says it's crucial to refer to the guides, which also give information about where a particular bird is native to.

The West Elgin Nature Club has a number of birdwatching enthusiasts in the group, and as a charter member of the club, which marks its 50th anniversary next year, Lancaster says he's pleased to be associated with the group.

The club meets the third Thursday of each month, except during the summer and in December, when the annual bird census is held December 27. When it first started, Lancaster says the club had between 12 and 15 members, and today the number has grown to about 50. Members are interested in a number of things, including those who are keen on birding, as well as others interested in flowers, reptiles and amphibians. The environment figures prominently in the concerns of all involved, and Lancaster says the club boasts, "a good cross-section of people."

The club occasionally organizes outings and has a number of guest speakers at their meetings at W.E.S.S.

MAY 17, 1995



## Lorne tractor made right here

This picture was brought to Mercury-Sun by Brad

five. This is a Lorne tractor, built West Lorne by the Lorne tractor Company. Hugh Carmichael, who owned the business, probably built this chine around 1916-17. The Lorne Tractor Company

also built the first fire pumper for West Lorne in 1917.

Mr. Carmichael moved out of the area, eventually settling in Ingersoll where the company manufactured Lorne fire-trucks.

The original business was located in approximately the same spot as Ripley and Giles

garage is now.

Mr. Reive was given the picture and would like to find out more about the Lorne Tractor Company, and the products it manufactured, and any other relevant information. If you have any information that might be of use to Mr. Reive, he can be reached at 768-1365.

# St. Mary's Pastor Retires

By Brian Outhouse

It was a joyous and yet a sad day at St. Mary's Church on Sunday June 11, as Father Ronald G. Paquette retired from the Ministry after 40 years of service.

Over 300 people, friends, congregation members and former classmates of Father Paquette's graduating class gathered at St. Mary's Hall on Sunday to celebrate the Father's retirement.

It was a day filled with memories, laughter and tears as the end of an era at St. Mary's was coming to a close.

Father Paquette served not only the congregation of St. Mary's but his warm nature and captivating smile was loved by everyone in Elgin County. Father Paquette will surely be missed as he moves on but not forgotten in the hearts and minds of those he has touched over the years.



Although Father Paquette is leaving St. Mary's he couldn't resist the chance to promote the church's building fund as Father Paquette poses for this shot with fellow clergymen and former classmates of the 1955 graduating class. (From L-R) Father Armindo Vaz, Father Paquette, Father George Vaz, Rev. Edward P. Gotfield, and Rev. Frank White. Photo by Brian Outhouse

# Rev Stover to pastor local United churches

By Ruth Ferguson

After going without a minister for a year-and-a-half, the Rodney and West Lorne United Churches finally have a full-time pastor again.

Rev. Colin Stover stepped into the pulpit on Jan. 1. His covenanting service was held on Jan. 22.

Rev. Stover and his family, wife Annette; son Joel, 9; and daughter Cara, 7, moved to Rodney from Grand Bend. Rev. Stover had been the minister at Grand Bend United Church for the last five-and-a-half years.

Rev. Stover earned his B. Arts in Social Sciences from the Univ. of Windsor, going on to obtain a M. Div. from St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in 1987.

Born in St. Thomas, Rev. Stover grew up in New Jersey, returning to St. Thomas around the time he entered high school.

Moving to Rodney is unlike his first two churches in that there are a lot of connections here. There are many people in the area who have mutual friends or relatives that the Stovers know. From living in Elgin County previously, Rev. Stover is familiar with the area so the transition to Rodney has been quite easy to make.

Rev. Stover was first approached by Rev. Evelyn MacLachlan from the Dutton United Church, a member of the search committee, and a friend from college. At the time, he was not interested and turned her down. Some time later, Bob Karn from Rodney United Church contacted Rev. Stover



Rev. Colin Stover who recently returned to Elgin County with his family.

(photo by Ruth Ferguson) asking for his resume which turned out to be the first step to the Stover accepting the call to Rodney.

"I know I'm definitely called here. I was very comfortable where I was but both my wife and I felt called to come here," Rev. Stover said.

Rev. Stover says that he is glad that there is so much leadership in the congregation. The West Lorne United Church has approximately 80 members, with the Rodney church having about 90 members.

The West Lorne United Church services begin at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings with Sunday School taking place during the service.

In Rodney, Calvary United's Sunday morning services begin at 11:10 a.m. with Sunday School for older children before the service and for younger children during the service.

tours.

SEPT. '95

# St. Mary's addition

BY: LISA SWAIN

According to Principal Bob Thibert construction on the new wing of the St. Mary's/St. Thomas More School in West Lorne is proceeding slightly ahead of schedule and currently under budget.

The project, which began construction near the end of June, is slated for completion December 15th. Ideally, the new classrooms will be ready to greet St. Thomas More students after the Christmas break.

The new wing is set to include seven classrooms, an extension onto the library, a new principal's office, a meeting room, a teacher's workroom, and an expanded staff room. In addition, the school board has acquired extended leases on five adjoining lots and plans are underway to level and seed the lots next spring for use in the fall of 1996.

This year, however the size of the school yard will be significantly reduced. The school plans to increase its intramural program in an effort to accommodate this loss.

Although most of the work involving heavy equipment has been completed, the school has several safety concerns to address during construction. An assembly outlining possible hazards and safety

precautions is planned for the first day of classes. As well the school has scheduled increased supervision in the school yard with three teachers on duty rather than two which has been the case in previous years.

Principal Thibert credits excellent communication for the success of the project thus far. Meetings are held every two weeks to discuss progress and changes.



Construction continues on the addition to the St. Mary's/St. Thomas More School.



# Jesse's Journey makes stop in West Lorne <sup>1995</sup>

AUG. 1995



Reeve Dianne Buchanan welcomes Jesse to the Village of West Lorne. Dianne gave Jesse a cheque for a \$100 to Jesse's cause on behalf of the Village of West Lorne. Photo by Brian Outhouse

by Brian Outhouse

As most of us rose on Friday morning August 18th to another hot sweltering day and go off to another hum drum day of work, the efforts of a 15 year old Jesse who suffers from "Duchene" Muscular Dystrophy and his partner and father, John began another day in their trek to journey across Ontario raising funds for gene therapy so that some day this disease can be wiped away from the face of the earth.

The West Lorne Fire Department went out to meet Jesse and lead him into West Lorne. Joining Jesse's caravan were several residents from the area as well as members of the West Lorne Firefighters who carried firemen's boots for a boot drive into town. As the procession made its way into West Lorne area residents who dotted the highway responded

to the boot drive and urged Jesse on to his goal.

Upon arriving in West Lorne Jesse's Journey was greeted to hundreds of area residents that lined the main street of West Lorne to support and urge this brave young man on to victory in his quest to help defeat this debilitating disease.

As the caravan stopped in front of the Town Hall in West Lorne residents swarmed over Jesse, outpouring their love and their wallets to help his cause.

Locally Reeve Dianne Buchanan welcomed Jesse to West Lorne and donated a cheque for \$100 to his cause on behalf of the Village of West Lorne.

Other service clubs and businesses in the area also donated to Jesse's plight.

September 18, 1995



The Kintyre-Rodney-New Glasgow (KRN) committee in front of the 55 acre project sign on #3 Hwy. Pictured are: (left to right) John Miller, Bill Downie, David Clements, Earl Morden, Bob King and Kevin Schleihauf.

(photo supplied)

September 20, 1995



Pictured above is this year's Rodney-Aldborough Fair Queen, Kristine Bitterman

## Foodgrains bank project now underway

Have you seen the sign on #3 Hwy. west of New Glasgow for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank growing project? The 55-acre community project is on the farm of Bob and Betty King. This project is spearheaded by Kintyre-Rodney and New Glasgow Presbyterian churches with support from the local community.

John Miller and Kevin Schleihauf of the Rodney United Church are the production and harvest chairmen. Bob King is co-ordinator; Earl Morden, chairman of the committee for the 18-acre plots and Bill Downie, Brian Cornwall and David Clements committee members.

Seed for the 18 one-acre plots was supplied by Mycogen through Joe Fischer; Great Lakes by John R. Johnston; Funks by Ron McIntyre and Hyland by W.G. Thompson & Sons Ltd.

Seed for the 55-acre project was supplied by Pioneer Hi-bred through Allan Woolner. Fertilizer and herbicides are supplied by W.G. Thompson, Cargill, Shur-Gain Highgate and suppliers of Dual, Pardner, Ultim, Marksman, and Round-up. Orford Farmers Co-op Ltd. will dry and store the corn.

Harvest Festival Day for all supporters and interested people is planned for Saturday, October 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Knox New Glasgow Church. A tour of the community project, a visit to W.G. Thompson & Son elevator and Downie Farms to observe harvesting and corn drying operations will be part of the day. Lunch will be available.

The 1995 projects will be donated to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and when matched by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) 4-1 will help feed the hungry in our world.



Remember when everyone owned or wanted to own these old Ford's which were affectionately called "Tin Lizzies" or "Flivers". This vintage vehicle was spotted on the main street of West Lorne last week. The old "fliver" is a 1921 Model "T" Ford and is owned by Art and Jean Ross of West Lorne. When Ross was a kid a neighbor had one of these old baby's and he always wanted one, but he had to wait for years until he found one of Henry's earlier production models. Photo by Brian Outhouse

July 5, 1995

## Grand opening of Marina attracts huge crowds

By Brian Outhouse

Hundreds of area residents flocked to the grand opening of the new Port Glasgow Marina. The celebrations were held in conjunction with Canada Day festivities.

Opening ceremonies were conducted by Al McGregor of CFPL TV in London with local dignitaries Harry Mezenburg Reeve of Aldborough Township and Peter North MP, heralding the completion of the marina complex which at times seemed in doubt, but persistence and co-operation by all parties concerned have given area residents a first rate marina complex.

The boats in the harbour were ablaze with color as they were decorated with balloons and flags celebrating not only the opening of the marina but also Canada's 128th birthday. Prizes were awarded to the best decorated boat



Pictured are the bevy of decorated boats that adorned the harbour of the grand opening festivities of the new Port Glasgow Marina which were held in conjunction with Canada Day Festivities on July 1st. Photo by Brian Outhouse

and Ross Lashbrook from Rodney won first prize for the decorations on his boat "Eggecence".

To officially open the marina a string of coloured balloons were strung across the harbour opening and then the Charter Boat Lee-Jay cruised through the string, releasing the balloons and becoming the first ceremonial boat to leave the harbour.

The day long event featured a variety of entertainment including rock bands, line dancers, vocalists and local comedienne. The day's events were capped off with a huge display of fireworks which lit up the night sky in a blaze of colours which dazzled young and old alike.

The West Lorne Knights of Columbus served up over 500 mouth watering dishes of perch to the hungry crowd.

## Meals on Wheels volunteers are served

by Brian Outhouse

The tables were turned on the local volunteers for the Meals on Wheels chapter recently as they were treated to a lavish banquet at the Town & Country Restaurant.

Kay Diles, owner of the restaurant has sponsored the lavish affair for the last three years. She states "it's her way of thanking the volunteers for the work they do in the MOW program.

These dedicated volunteers quite often become attached to their clients and a long lasting friendship is made. For some clients the volunteer is the only contact they have with the outside world, therefore the Meals On Wheels people not only provide the client with a good meal they

become a part of the family.

Meals on Wheels is available to people on a temporary or long term basis according to the clients needs. Some meals are tailored to fit a person's dietary needs and clients have a choice of what they want to eat. Clients receive their meals three days a week.

If you have a few extra hours a week and you'd like to get involved with the program contact the local chapter for further details.

The local MOW chapter is funded partly by the government and local donations. The group currently has over 18 volunteers which serve all of Aldborough Township.



Pictured are the volunteer members of the local Meals on Wheels Chapter about to enjoy a sumptuous meal provided by the Town & Country Restaurant for their efforts. In the background Kay is waiting on a volunteer while employee Jodie Steinbacher (Front) takes an order. Photo by Brian Outhouse.

DEC. 6/95

# Local musician aims for singer/songwriter career

BY: KAREN ROBINET

After starting to put together the material for his first album three years ago, West Lorne area native Dan Rivard, 25, had to put the project on hold until he could afford to produce it.

But now, only about a month after it came out, 150 copies of the album - titled *Demolition* - have been sold. That, says Rivard is pretty good, "considering I'm not playing anywhere."

Ironically though, Rivard says that *Demolition* is nothing compared to what he is capable of doing now, and says there will be a follow-up album coming out sometime this spring. *Demolition* is currently available at TLC Gas Bar in West Lorne, where Rivard works, as well as the Disc Shop in St. Thomas and Sam The Record Man at White Oaks Mall.

While Rivard's main interest is in rock, he says he enjoys many different types of music and is influenced by all of them. He is quick to point out that his music isn't heavy metal, and he finds it difficult to understand why so many bands who cater to younger audiences put out such, "weird and unsettled stuff." He says it seems like a reflection of the times.

By contrast, *Demolition* offers the listener a good selection of music, reflecting Rivard's own, "life experiences."

Rivard says he began playing guitar at the age of 16, "and gradually began writing songs and working on my playing until it's at the level where it's ready to be heard." He has played with two local rock bands: *Addiction* and *Release*, and is working on putting together a new band now. Rivard sings and plays the guitar, and most recently began playing some of his own original songs, interspersed with covers. "I'm writing a mix of everything," Rivard says, and although it's, "pretty much rock, there are all different styles and it all fits together."

One of the highlights of his musical career so far was opening for *Harem Scarium* a year ago in St. Thomas. At that time he played some of his own material and says, "the feeling you get when you play your own stuff and the crowd is into it is unbelievable." He admits that, "you don't want to get off the stage."

Rivard says he is "really looking forward," to working on his next album, and says he has about 50 original tunes to choose from." Since *Demolition* came

out, Rivard says his songwriting ability, "has really jumped," and he promises that, "if you like the first one, this next one you'll melt for; that's a promise."



Dan Rivard.

As well as working with a new band, and continuing with his songwriting, Rivard says he plans to try and sell some

of his material to music producers and hopes to have other artists record some of his songs - at least the ones he isn't too attached to. He says the music industry in Canada isn't overly kind to new artists and says, "there isn't any money getting started." Nevertheless, Rivard is persevering and says, "the music I do for free."

He and a partner are planning to put together a state of the art recording studio in Rodney, but says he anticipates moving the studio to London within a year.

Rivard says his dream come true would be, "to write songs for a living and playing as a living... you might as well do something you'd do for free."

The most important aspect of his music, says Rivard, is being able to move people. "You feel good when people say it's touched them."

As he contemplates his second album, Rivard says, "it's way better (than *Demolition*), but I'm trying not to get my hopes up."

All in all though, Rivard enjoys being in the music industry, and says, "there are so many opportunities and different roads to take on it. Every day is an experience."

# Bears from around the world find a home



Lost in a sea of bears are Christl Kirschner aged 4 and her grandmother Christl Kirschner in the family's bear room. Photo by Brian Outhouse

by Brian Outhouse JULY 1995

Christl Kirschner has an unusual hobby, she collects bears. Christl has over 500 different bears. The bears are all sizes different shapes and colours.

formed into "Bear Heaven".

Christl has bears from as far away as Germany, Hawaii, Ireland, England, India, Scotland and the U.S.A.

Kirschner started her collection some 25 years ago when her husband Fred brought home her first bear. That first bear was a 3 foot bear which Fred bought at the A&P store for \$7. Since then the collection has mushroomed so much so that the couples second floor of their house has been trans-

Her collection also consists of various collectible bears such as Paddington bears from England, Gund bears, limited edition German bears, Darby Bhears which are one of a kind bears which are hand made by a lady in Port Stanley.



A bit of England visits West Lorne area as Les Sewell from West Lorne has his brother from England visiting him. Pictured from left to right are: David Sewell and his wife Yvonne from England and hosts Les and Shirley Sewell. Photo by Brian Outhouse JULY 1995

# West Lorne ~ the land of milk and honey

Les and Shirley Sewell residents of West Lorne experienced a reunion of sorts last week as Les's brother David and his wife Yvonne came from England for a visit. It was David's first trip to Canada in 17 years.

Les and Shirley Sewell emigrated to Canada in 1957 and lived in the London area for a time before settling here in West Lorne.

The visiting Britons found many differences in the way we Canadians live compared to the way life is in Britain.

David Sewell was amazed at the wide open spaces and the lack of traffic jams in the area. The couple found that groceries, clothes and even gasoline were at bargain basement prices and they felt as if merchants were giving the items away.

Yvonne was thrilled with our shopping malls and the huge variety of clothes a person has to choose from especially the price of blue jeans.

David stated that back in England a gallon of gas sells for \$5.50, a pack of twenty cigarettes

sell for \$6, a case of 24 cans of pop would sell for \$12.99 in England whereas that same case of pop is \$5.99 over here. David also found the price of our beer cheaper and he liked the taste of our brew better than the beer back in Britain.

Another difference the couple found was that we pay less taxes than they do, as in Britain everything is taxed to the tune of 17 1/2 percent.