

## Cadets, Legion receive high praise at inspection

By Scott Hilgendorff  
The Chronicle

It's one of the best little cadet corps, was the compliment from Major Rick Trute, the detachment commander who oversees more than 80 cadet corps in his region of Ontario.

"This is one of the best little corps I've ever seen" said Major

Trute following an inspection of the 2884 West Elgin Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps last Thursday night.

Captain W.A. Stinson, who oversees the successful training of the cadets was also among the recipients of accolades from the major.

He also had high praise for West Elgin Legion Branch 221 and Rodney Legion Branch 525.

"Your efforts are truly, truly appreciated," he said of the Legion which supports the corps.

Major Trute was pleased to see members of both Legions at the inspection to show their support for the corps.

He said a corps' success depends not only on good leadership within but on solid support from its community.

With little warning, he had announced to the corp leadership he was going to come for an inspection of the corps, something considered an honour despite the extra pressure it can place on the cadets facing the inspection.

But Major Trute had nothing but kind words for the cadets, taking time during the inspection to ask personal questions of some of the members.

He also had a few surprises including a presentation of a certificate to Warrant Officer Daniel Balint who was the first cadet from 2884 to receive his national star qualification.

The National Star Certification Exam is the highest qualification an army cadet can receive and are prepared through the Department of National Defense in Ottawa.

Less than 50 per cent of cadets taking the exam pass and Balint scored within the top 10 per cent of those cadets.

Legion President Joe Santos also had presentations to several cadet members who received an honorary certificate of appreciation for work they did helping with Legion clean-up efforts.



Left photo, Master Warrant Officer Josh Knight introduces himself to Major Rick Trute and tells the major members RCACC 2884 are ready for inspection. Right photo, Major Trute speaks with Cadet Christopher Huver.

Chronicle photo



Sergeant Matthew Loos, left, and Cpl. Jessica Kalita of the flag party wait while Major Rick Trute conducts his inspection.

Chronicle photo

June 24, 2004



KEMPENAAR/CHRONICLE

### FLORAL SHOW

Doreen Baxter of Appin looks at a plum delight arrangement at the West Lorne Horticultural Society's flower show held Friday at the West Elgin Community Health Centre. Cherie Bowering won first place in the plum delight category with a Japanese maple cut leaf bouquet. Arrangements were on display throughout the day and evening following the show's judging.

## Lawnbowlers hold season's first tournament

The West Lorne Lawn Bowling Club held its first tournament of the season.

The games started at 10 a.m. consisting of 12 ends per game. Lunch was prepared by Jean Vanseader and enjoyed by 12 members and six guests.

Prizes went to the four top teams.

First prize went to Teake Veenstra and Ray Kennedy's team of Aylmer. Second to Frank Boussen and Ed O'Brien's team, also from Aylmer. Third prize to Ted and Ursul Megyesi from the Elmwood Club of London and fourth prize went to Ken Wilson and Jackie Leitch of the West Lorne Club.

June 18 proved to be an enjoyable day for 14 members and 12 guests at the West Lorne Lawn Bowling Club.

The tournament was sponsored by Erie Flooring and Wood Products of West Lorne. Aylmer prevailed and took all of the four winning prizes.

Teake Veenstra and Helen Kennedy's team took first. Ed O'Brien and Ed Walcarius's team took second, the third place team was Don Ingram and David DeVries and fourth place was the Keith Benner and Kathleen Tribe team.

The public is invited to come and enjoy at 7 p.m. every Monday and Thursday.



### CATCHING SOME RAYS

SUZANNE MCGREGOR/CHRONICLE

Bob Miller of Rodney takes a rest with his '53 Ford for support. He was taking part in Sunday's Optimist Club Show 'n Shine in West Lorne. Miller's display brought back lots of memories. His display included a set of drive-in speakers and a trunk filled with authentic period Coke items and a gas can.

## West Lorne Horticultural Society prepares trip to Canada Blooms floral event

The West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society held its annual potluck supper on Dec. 9.

Along with our own members, District 10 Director Jim Mabey was present as well as several guests from the Rodney and District Horticultural Society.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and an enjoyable evening of friendship and laughter.

On Jan. 13 the West Lorne society held its annual meeting.

President Liz Clark welcomed everyone, and thanked them for attending on such a cold and blustery night. Committee reports for the past year were given, and members were given the chance to sign up for the committees of their choice, for this year.

The election of officers, for the coming year was held. The following people will represent the new Executive: President: Liz

Clark; Vice-President/Secretary: Susan Lilley; Treasurer: Betty McKillop. Directors for 2003-2005 are Colin Kittmer, Elmer Dean, Nancy Baillie, Mary Lippold, and Pat Watterworth; these directors have one year left for their term. Directors for 2004-2006 are Teresa Knight, Kim Penney, Helen Kovacs, Betty McKillop, and Susan Lilley; these directors have two years left for their term. President Clark thanked departing director Frances McCallum, for her contributions to the Board, for a period of many years. Clark also welcomed the new directors to the Board and promised that the year of 2004 would be another year of growth, for our society.

President Clark announced the latest bus trip, undertaken by the Dutton/Dunwich Horticultural Society, the Rodney and District Horticultural Society, and the West Lorne

and Community Horticultural Society. We will be going to Canada Blooms, in Toronto, on Thursday, March 4, and the trip also includes a meal at the Mohawk Inn.

If you've never been to Canada Blooms before, you don't want to miss it. It is Canada's largest indoor gardening event, full of floral displays, seed retailers, all the latest rages in the perennial world, world-class guest speakers, and everything under the sun that has to do with gardening. Just contact any member of any one of these horticultural societies, to book your seat. Liz Clark is taking bookings and her number is 768-1282.

Refreshments were enjoyed by everyone and the meeting was adjourned.

The next general meeting is Feb. 10 at 7 p.m., at the West Lorne Complex. The guest speaker will be Jim Anderson, a London landscaper, who will talk to us about "Lighting for the Garden". Jim will have information on the purchase and installation of lighting to enhance your plants, ponds, and patio areas.

Everyone is welcome to attend and our meetings are always fun, free, and informative. For more info, call Susan Lilley, 768-2665.

## West Lorne Horticulture Society discovers magic of special lighting used in landscaping projects

Jim Anderson, of Serenity Landscape Design, was the guest speaker for the Feb. 10 meeting of the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society.

Serenity Landscape Design is a small landscaping company located in London, and Anderson was present at the meeting to talk about "Lighting in the Garden".

Adding a lighting system, to your garden, pond, or landscape provides certain elements.

Lighting extends the length of time you can enjoy your garden, it provides security, it provides safety by making pathways safe to traverse in the dark, and it provides an aesthetic value, setting the mood and tone of the landscape.

Low voltage lighting, which Anderson recommends, has several advantages over in-line lighting. A low voltage system runs on twelve volts, so it's much safer, and you do not need to hire an electrician, making it less expensive to install. This system is also more

versatile, than in-line lighting.

Anderson advises using a larger transformer than what you will actually need, maybe using more wire, but giving a better quality of light. Anderson uses a heavier wire and better connections, in his installations, than you would get if you were to purchase the kits available at retail stores.

Garden lighting should be used to highlight interesting areas or to create an effect (plants, foliage, trees, garden structures, statuary, ponds, etc.). Downlighting, where a light is placed in the upper branches of a large tree, gives the effect of moonlight, to the area below. Uplighting can single out a specific item.

Anderson says to be creative, but also be selective. You don't want to light up every single item in your garden, just enough to make your landscape interesting. This effect was visible in several slides, which Anderson showed, where lighting made a winter landscape more interesting than a summer

shot of the same area.

Anderson answered several questions from the members and guests present.

Susan Lilley thanked him for his interesting talk, and President Liz Clark reminded everyone about the upcoming bus trip, March 4, to Canada Blooms, in Toronto.

The society also held a seed exchange, this evening, and many people went home with something new to try out in this year's garden. Dutton Flowers owner, Marilyn Howse, generously donated the door prize, a lovely Valentine's arrangement, which was won by Craig Watterworth.

Please join us next month, when our guest speaker will be Steve Donnelly, of Trillium Gardens, London, who will be discussing "New Perennials for 2004".

This meeting will be held March 9, and it begins at 7 p.m., at the West Lorne Complex, with everyone welcome to attend.

The next Directors Meeting is Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m.

February 12, 2004



### SUPPORTING THE CARNIVAL...

Kiwanis Club of Rodney Treasurer Ron Downie presents a cheque for \$300 to Deb Slaats of the West Elgin Skating Club, going toward the club's March 6 carnival. It's the club's 50th anniversary skating carnival.

Chronicle photo

March 18, 2004

## Horticulturalists discover perennials

Steve Donnelly, of Trillium Gardens, London, was the guest speaker for the March general meeting of the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society.

Donnelly's topic was "Hot New Perennials for 2004" and his program was well-received by members and guests eager to put winter behind them.

Donnelly runs Trillium Gardens with his wife, Maritza. They specialize in hard to find varieties of perennials, with over 100 varieties available, for purchase, including 300 varieties of hostas, and more than 50 varieties of "Stepables", ground-covering perennials used as lawn substitutes or

between stepping stones.

The Donnellys also provide a garden design and consultation service, for the public.

Donnelly informed the gathering that he owes his love of gardening to his great-grandmother and grandmother, who encouraged his interest in plants and design.

Vice-president Susan Lilley thanked him for his efforts and everyone enjoyed a social hour.

The next directors' meeting will be held March 24 at the West Lorne Complex.

The next General meeting, on April 13, should be a great one.

Guest speaker Shirley Bellows, a Master

Gardener and a strong advocate for organic gardening, will be talking to our society about "Gardening with Nature".

With increasing interest, coming from home and market gardeners and farmers, organic gardening methods are gaining popularity. This meeting will be a good opportunity to learn more about this growing movement.

The meeting will be held at the West Lorne Complex.

For more information, please contact Susan Lilley at 768-2665.

Guests are always welcome at any of our meetings; you don't need to be a member to attend.



### SKATERS SHOWCASE...

Kelsey Vandenberg takes to the ice at the West Elgin Arena Monday night for the West Elgin Skating Club's 2004 Skaters Showcase. Members of the club performed their solo routines for friends, family and guests during the event

Chronicle photo

# Master Gardeners form western county chapter

JEFF KEMPENAAR

staff

Master Gardeners are growing on their own in western Elgin County.

It became official Oct. 3 when the Master Gardeners of Ontario approved a new organization in West Elgin.

Previously, the members of the West Elgin Master Gardeners were part of a county-wide group but found enough support to start their own.

"It's a good thing to be growing," said coordinator Susan Patterson. "It's exciting to have a group in our own backyard."

The Elgin County group was doing a lot of work in and around St. Thomas and held meetings in Aylmer. While all along there was sun shining in the west for western Elgin County horticulturalist who saw room to grow with activity focussed from Southwold to the west-

ern edge of the county at Chatham/Kent.

The group is a knowledge base for trees, vegetables, fruit, soil, grass to biology.

"There is a lot of enthusiasm for more knowledge and endless possibilities to use it," said Patterson.

"We're about growing the skills of local gardeners and horticulturalists," said secretary-treasurer Kim Penny.

To become a Master Gardener, three correspondence courses should be completed through the University of Guelph.

The group sets a timeline of 18 months to complete the courses and members can access resources and knowledge through the group.

There are three more levels of schooling for advanced master gardeners.

"Gardeners are book people," said Patterson.

With baby boomers looking toward retirement, the ladies expect gardening to grow as a passtime.

The group can make public or private projects work more smoothly with its advice and designs.

Master Gardeners is a non-profit organization focused on teaching and educating people.

"People can get burned out with a shovel in their hand or get frustrated not knowing how many plants will fit in a space," said Penny. "Gardening can be therapy, it should relieve stress."

The group has 11 members, or Master Gardeners, in training.

Members are biology teachers, psychologists interested in children gardening or from the conservation authority. However, anyone interested in persuing gardening further can join.

The groups inaugural meeting was Oct. 19 at the Backus-Page House in Tyrconnell where they hope to do some projects.

The group will hold monthly meetings throughout the winter and encourages newcomers to join.

The Chronicle



JEFF KEMPENAAR/CHRONICLE

Anita Hyatt, centre was presented with the Memorial Cross (pinned to Anita's sweater) for the loss of her son on a peacekeeping mission by West Elgin Legion Branch 221 President Julie Lawrence on Nov. 11 at the Legion. Herm Hyatt, right, is Anita's husband.

## Memorial Cross brings closure

From Page 1

Philip enrolled in the Royal Canadian Signals, a communications and electronics branch of the Canadian Forces in 1960, as many young men did in the Atlantic provinces.

"I don't know why he joined. It was what he wanted to do.

"He was somewhat adventurous. You join because it is in you. A lot of people in the Atlantic provinces joined."

Bev's son Scott is currently peacekeeping in Bosnia and her husband Jerry served for 32-years.

Her other brother William died in Cold Lake in a military training accident.

She remembers when the chaplain and a military officer

came to her home to bring word of Philip's death.

"They came to the door. They said 'he is coming home.' It was hard to believe he was gone without the body," said Bev.

Bev and Anita were living alone and held a memorial for Philip's death but his body could not be transported home.

It didn't feel like closure for the women without the body present.

Philip is buried in the Canadian Section Gaza War Cemetery in Egypt.

He was posted to Canadian Forces Station Alert, 817 km south of the North Pole over a year's time for which he received the Special Service Medal with Alert Bar.

In October 1965 Philip became a peacekeeper with the UN in Egypt. On Aug. 19, 1996 he was killed in an electrical accident setting up signal equipment.

Just a week before, he wrote home to Anita with expecta-

tions of being home soon.

Anita said it was a waste for him to be there. "They are still fighting there."

She said he died doing what he wanted to do though, helping people.

In his letters home she remembers him asking to send jellybeans to give to the children.

His Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal and SSM were presented to Anita at a ceremony at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 221 on Remembrance Day last week.

The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal was awarded to Anita from the Secretary General of the UN in memory of her son's ultimate sacrifice.

"This is wonderful," said Anita at the ceremony. "He was such a good son. I think of him often."

Anita's giving spirit was inherent in Philip, said Bev. She continues to knit hats and mitts for the Salvation Army.

# Marketing West Elgin starts with cash boost and Chamber plans

JEFF KEMPENAAR

staff

For the first time, West Elgin now has an economic development plan.

It will "identify and execute opportunities that will enhance the economic activity of the municipality for the betterment of the community as a whole", said the mission statement in the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce business plan presented to council Nov. 25.

The municipality approved funding \$20,000 of expenses incurred by the chamber including \$5,000 for Web site development and \$4,000 for signage to lead people to the downtown areas of Rodney and West Lorne.

Council held off on approving the budget last April requesting the chamber make the budget more accountable before it would consider its approval.

While council said the budget was itemized this time, Mayor Graham Warwick said it didn't say much.

However, Warwick, council, and the chamber members who attended the meet-

ing said the two parties are developing a relationship of trust.

"The turtle doesn't go anywhere without having to stick its neck out. If we want to do something that has never been done we have to stick our necks out. Let's spend some dollars on something positive," said Warwick.

At the meeting on behalf of the chamber were President Ted Uffen, Keith Fretter vice-president, directors Tom Jones and Jeff Knight. Counc. Mary Bodnar is also the Chamber's treasurer.

Questions were raised about the accountability of the money being spent and where it was being spent.

Council. Trudy Balint moved to approve the budget but questioned Fretter's interest in the money. She questioned if the money would benefit his business, Compass Realty in Rodney, indirectly.

"If we successfully bring a business to town, will Compass benefit? We might sell a home. Is that a sin? The municipality will get a broader tax base," said Fretter.

Continued on Page 2



## GREENING UP

Bethany and Fraser Morton check out a section of baby spider plants while Natalia Dos Santos finds an outdoor plant she likes at the West Lorne Horticultural Society's spring plant sale held Saturday at the West Lorne Complex.

CHRONICLE

## West Lorne Optimist Club host successful annual night-time Santa Claus parade

The sound of music was heard and the twinkle of the many Christmas lights were seen through the main streets of West Lorne at the recent Optimist Club of West Lorne's annual Santa Claus parade held on November 26. There were many illuminated and brightly decorated floats making it difficult for the judges to make their decisions on who would take the cash prize

of the individual categories.

Winners were K.D. Metal Works (Best Commercial); Kettle Valley Volunteers (Best Service Club); The Serle family (Best Family); West Elgin Sparks (Best Youth Group); Melody Fellowship (Best Illuminated); Albert's Generator Service (Best Decorated).

**OPTIMIST CLUB OF WEST LORNE Christmas Shopping Cash Draw Winners:**  
Wayne Hauser (\$300); Kathy Staddon (\$200); Ron Campigotto (\$100)

We thank all who supported this fund raiser.  
All proceeds to youth activities within our communities.



## LEGION COMPETITION WINNERS...

Zone A-7 essay and poster contest winners are (l-r) Ryan Bedford (2nd place coloured poster), Kasey Kosik (2nd place essay) and Shannon Kindornay (1st place essay). Absent is Jennifer Watson (1st place black & white poster). Making presentations is West Elgin Branch 221 President, Joe Santos.

Chronicle photo



The Optimist Club of West Lorne recently hosted its 2004 Oratorical zone contest combined with the Optimist Club of Wallacetown. 10 speakers came to share the views on the topic 'thinking, working and expecting the best'. Finalist included Kasey Kosikar (1st girls), Gayle McFadden (2nd girls), Cody McCallum (3rd girls), Rishi Sharma (1st boys), Jacob Rowe (2nd boys). Rishi Sharma and Kasey Kosikar qualify for the regional final held this weekend in Bothwell *Chronicle photo*



The Knights of Columbus held its Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest. Winners at St. Mary's School include: back, left, Darren Brown, Cassandra Vandenbrink, middle, left, Dakota Poels, Ann Peifer, Melanie Ganhadeiro, front, left, Rebekah Brayton, Adam Ameida, Kasey Kosikar, Megan Simpson, Kaylee DeRooy and Mathew Westelaken.

*Contributed photo*



Joanne Murray, Governor of Eastern Canada and the Caribbean District of Kiwanis International attended the West Lorne Kiwanis Club's fund raising barbecue last Tuesday afternoon on West Lorne's main street. She was presented with a special spatchula to help Bill Denning fry up some hotdogs and burgers. The event raised about \$100.

*Chronicle photo*

## Marketing plans for West Elgin on hold for now

### Council wants more accountable budget before approving Chamber projects to promote economic development

By Scott Hilgendorff  
The Chronicle

The West Elgin Chamber of Commerce is being asked to do a little more homework before council will consider approving an extra \$21,000 for economic development.

"We have a whole whack of volunteers who want to go out and tell the world what you already have," said chamber member Irene Puddester.

The chamber came to council last Thursday seeking support to cover the expenses volunteers would incur driving to meetings with potential industries and businesses.

However, council had several concerns with the budget, particularly from Mayor Graham Warwick who was concerned the budget was not accountable enough as to how the money was going to be spent.

The itemized budget included \$1,000 for a brochure and information package, \$2,500 for meeting expenses, \$5,000 for travel costs and \$5,000 in advertising expenses to promote the area.

There currently isn't an economic development information package

decided to take on the role as a group of volunteers.

The chamber restructured and formed new committees to look at promoting the municipality to the outside world while looking internally at training and education needs local industries and businesses have.

"We must move forward with economic development. The community has too much at stake. The business community is at risk, therefore employment is at risk, therefore the community is at risk," said Keith Fretter who acted as spokesperson on behalf of a West Elgin Chamber of Commerce

**"WE MUST MOVE FORWARD WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE COMMUNITY HAS TOO MUCH AT STAKE,"**

**— Keith Fretter,  
West Elgin  
Chamber of Commerce**

available to prospective new businesses or industries.

Chamber President Tom Jones said after unsuccessful past efforts to find a way to hire an economic development officer, the chamber

delegation seeking council's support.

With available land for development, strong infrastructure, cheaper land and homes for sale, a close proximity to the Highway

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## Scouting in crisis

### Lack of leaders forcing local troops to shut down while Scouts Canada looks at closing area camp

By Scott Hilgendorff  
The Chronicle

As cash-strapped Scouts Canada looks to close Camp Timken near Iona this month, Helena Vanvugt remains hopeful the Scouting program could return to West Elgin.

"I would love to see it get started again. I think it's a good program for the youth," she said. Now a senior who finally decided it was time to quit, Vanvugt's departure as a cub leader for 35 years left a void no one else was willing to fulfill.

The program, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, was close to falling apart from a lack of volunteer leaders and as Vanvugt retired, the last parent-leaders gave up as well.

"It's really a shame," said Vanvugt.

"By and large, volunteers are our largest challenge in providing the programs," said Myles Vanni, operations manager for the Tri-Shores Council of Scouts Canada in London.

He said there's no shortage of children

wanting to take part in Scouting programs but just not enough volunteers to keep it going in every community where it was historically found.

He said Volunteer

a lot of communities," he said of the disappearance of Scouting programs.

However, he said it's not completely bleak. Some communities are coming forward with volunteers looking to start Scout troops including one that just formed in Alvinston.

In Cubs, Vanvugt remembers seeing as many as 24 children involved at one time, not counting the other Scouting levels and said there were about 12 registered for this fall when the program finally collapsed.

She said it's unfortunate because of all the work in recent years through the Optimist Club and a Trillium Foundation, the helped secure a first-rate building for Scouts.

While she misses the program it was just too much work for her to stay involved.

Not only with parents being busier, she wonders if some are scared away from volunteering because of the police checks and interviewing process



"I WOULD LOVE TO SEE IT GET STARTED AGAIN. I THINK IT'S A GOOD PROGRAM FOR OUR YOUTH"

**— Longtime leader, Helena Vanvugt**

Vanvugt

Canada is reporting a massive loss of volunteers in all sectors and suspects some of it has to do with people having less time.

Employees are often doing the work that was normally done by two or more people and in most homes, both parents have to work full-time to make a living.

He said it keeps them from having time to commit to helping programs and organizations.

"West Lorne is similar to



**ARTISTIC EVENING...**

Kris King performs during West Elgin Secondary School's coffee house last Thursday evening. Students and community members exhibited art projects and performed during the evening to a small crowd.

*Chronicle photo*



**GRADE NINERS GET ORIENTATED**

JEFF KEMPENAAR/CHRONICLE

A muddy and wet Hunter Manley and Jamie Vanceeder, both Grade 9 students slip and slide at the Grade 9 orientation games on Sept. 24 at West Elgin Secondary School.

SEPT/04

**It's like being a mom for two hours a day**

By Scott Hilgendorff  
The Chronicle

It's the children that can be the best and worst parts of Joyce Hutchison's job.

She picks up 53 children on 53 kms of western Elgin County roads, driving school bus for Elgin Bus Lines.

"I've got a pretty good bunch of kids," said Hutchison.

The children and teens are both a challenge and a joy to Hutchison with some who touch her hearts and some who test her patience along the route that sees her collect students for St. Mary's Catholic School, West Elgin Senior Elementary, West Elgin Secondary School and Aldborough Public School.

Hutchison's day starts at 7 a.m. at the bus barns in West Lorne where she makes a daily check of the bus, inside and out, for any potential hazards or problems before heading out on the route that takes her out

to Argyle Line where she works a back and forth route along the concessions before coming back to West Lorne.

"They work the routes out very neatly," said Hutchison, who found becoming a bus driver six years ago was a job that fit her lifestyle and gave her a chance to be around children.

While the driver training was intensive, she said past experience with her husband, a truck driver, gave her an advantage to picking up the defensive driving skills needed to handle a larger vehicle like a bus.

"It's bigger but not hard to get on to," said Hutchison.

The largest challenge is the children who seem to find the crucial moments, like when she's negotiating a corner or making a turn-around in a driveway, to want her attention.

"They stand up, move around when they're supposed to be sitting," said Hutchison, who finds she has to be a mom as much as a driver, making sure the kids are staying in their seats, designed to keep them safer in a collision.

She said her eyes are constantly in motion from being on the road ahead of her, on the mirrors for the road behind her and on the children in the mirrors on the bus, making sure they're safe.

"You're just going like that all the time. That's what they train you to do," she said.

She remembers when she first took over the route a couple years ago, that the children were noisy and all over the bus.

"I came home and was hoarse from all the yelling," she said of attempts to settle the children down.

Now, she said it's like a whole new bus and it just takes a look to remind a child of what he or she should be doing.

She said some parents don't realize how difficult their children can be when it comes to listening to an adult, while others are surprising in how well-behaved they are.



Joyce Hutchison enjoys time with the children on her bus route.

*Chronicle photo*

"Naturally, they're going to be laughing and talking," said Hutchison, but sometimes they get carried away.

"You can tell by the children when a full moon is coming up," she said.

The strictness is all about keeping the children safe and despite some tense moments, Hutchison loves being with the kids.

"I've got one little Grade 1 girl, you'd never know she was on the bus," she said. She also has another girl in Grade 3 or 4 that she swears talks like she is 25 and carries on some great

conversations along the route.

As much as her job is to transport the children, she said it's often like being a mom to 53 kids.

From having to keep them in line to hearing their concerns about life, Hutchison can often be involved with the kids, hearing their thoughts and talking to them about their problems.

She remembers one little girl getting on the bus crying because other girls didn't want to be her friend anymore, needing someone to listen to her.

"If a child is upset, I try to talk to them," she said.

Outside the challenges of having 53 students on the bus, Hutchison said the next biggest obstacle to doing her job well is sharing the roads with other drivers.

"Some are bad. It's against their religion to follow a bus," she said of drivers who will do anything they can to get in front of her, not thinking that on an icy road, she can't hit the brakes hard when they pull out in front of her.

"If they see you coming, they'll pull out. They do not want to drive behind you," she said. "Just like a tractor trailer, this bus won't stop on a dime."

It's up to her to get the children to school and home again safely each day and said it's important for motorists to use care when sharing the roads with school buses.



**ON THE HUNT...**

Fraser Morton, left, and Calvin Dowling look for some chocolate Easter eggs hidden among the books at the West Lorne Library on Monday afternoon.

*Chronicle photo*

The Chronicle



Cliff Hooper bowls at the West Lorne Lawn Bowlers Association. KEMPENAAR/CHRONICLE

## Lawn bowlers duke it out

The fifth tournament of the season on Aug. 20 began at 6 p.m. The late afternoon breeze made it very enjoyable for the participants from Aylmer and the West Lorne members to duke it out.

Three games of 12 ends were played and the lights were turned on to complete the last game. Desserts and beverages were prepared and served by Jean Vanseader and enjoyed by the 12 participants and three guests. Sharing in the prizes, sponsored by Butch's Small Engine Repair were, Don Broom and Jackie Leitch; Andre and Mrs. Van Rossel from Aylmer; Cliff Hooper and Bill Kocsis; Hugh McCahon and Doug Small; Bert Jones and Rose Daniel; Bob Hailstone and Myrtle Hooper. The public is invited to come out and play every Monday and Thursday at 7 p.m. sharp.

## Nurseryman visits West Lorne Horticultural Society

Tom Intven of Canadale Nurseries, in St. Thomas, was the guest speaker for the September 14 meeting of the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society.

Intven visited our society to bring members and guests up-to-date on what plants will add colour to the autumn garden. Intven brought along about 50 potted perennials, broadleaves, and shrubs to support his discussion.

Teddy Globe Cedar, a "touch me" evergreen, and Threadleaf Cedar, a loose

mound with whipcord-like branches, were two of the evergreens Intven displayed. Broadleaves included Variegated English Boxwood, with blue-green leaves edged with white, and Castle Wall Blue Holly, a male form of blue holly ideal for tall hedges.

There was a large selection of shrubs on display for the audience. Early Amethyst Callicarpa bears purple balls of fruit, in clusters, along the branches, in fall. Limelight Hydrangea, with chartreuse flowers on

upright branches, is a favourite of the florist industry. Summer Wine Compact Ninebark is a dwarf form of Diabolo, with dark, deeply serrated leaves.

Intven donated all the plants, which he'd brought with him, to the society.

Please join us on Oct. 12, when Don Yarwood, of St. Thomas, will be the guest speaker. His topic will be "Orchids" and he'll be bringing along a display of several different varieties. For more information, call Susan at 768-2665.

## West Elgin Legion Outdoor patio approved

West Elgin council approved a proposed outdoor patio at the West Elgin Legion in West Lorne at its Aug. 12 meeting.

The patio will be built after the building inspector reviews the plan. It is being built in expectation of a smoking bylaw in the future. Also council learned Legions will receive tax relief from the county like they already do from the municipality.

The Legion asked Mayor Graham Warwick to get the County to stop collecting property taxes from Legions. He made a presentation to Elgin County council stressing the importance of the Legion and veterans that fought for freedom in World War 2. The tax relief will begin in 2005.



RACE IS ON...

Michael Blais races around the playground at St. Mary's School in West Lorne during the Optimist Club of West Lorne's annual Easter Egg hunt held Saturday afternoon. (Top, centre and right) More than 75 children raced around the school ground in search of chocolate eggs and the special giant eggs that earned three age groups a special Easter basket of treats. Scott Langstaff offers some encouragement to his daughter Erin.

Chronicle photo



April 8, 2004

## Local horticulturalists will have one last chance to learn from pro

A lifelong love of gardening has given horticultural guru, Shirley Bellows, an appreciation for the natural world, and all its inhabitants, great and small.

The regionally renowned horticulturalist will be leaving the area but local residents will have one more chance to learn from her when she speaks to the West Lorne

and Community Horticulture Society before departing for the west coast.

Bellows, who first started gardening, at the tender age of two, credits her father, for her love of horticulture.

"I have a black and white photo, of my father and I, along with all the produce that we grew, in our vegetable garden. I was four years old, at the time," said Bellows. From the age of ten, Bellows tended her own garden, planting, harvesting, and saving seeds, all by herself.

Eventually, Bellows became a Master Gardener and was the president of the London-Middlesex chapter from 1995-96. She helped to establish the London African Violet Society, in 1980, and is currently its past-president. Bellows is an active member of the Canadian Organic Growers, a group dedicated to organic gardening and farming, and responsible

for an increasingly popular organic conference, held every year, at the University of Guelph. She is also a member of Seeds of Diversity Canada, fellow gardeners and farmers, who preserve heritage seeds of flower, fruit, vegetable, and grain crops.

Bellows is the "question and answer" contact, for this group, responding to letters and e-mails, from around the world. A certified flower show judge, Bellows has even schooled judges on houseplants.

She has also participated, for five years, in the Horticultural Therapy Program, at the London Psychiatric Hospital, enriching the lives of its patients. For the last ten years, Bellows has been involved in local television. She started on "One O'clock Live", with host Bruce Williams, and can now be seen on the New PL's "New Day", hosted by Bevan Palmateer.

So, what's next for Shirley Bellows?

One major change, coming this summer, will be her husband's retirement, from a teaching position at Medway High School. Bellows and her husband will be leaving southwestern Ontario and relocating to the Vancouver area, to be closer to some family members there. Although she is excited by the move, Bellows regrets having to leave other family and friends behind.

Bellows will be the guest speaker, at the next meeting of the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society, on April 13, 7 p.m., at the West Lorne Community Complex.

If you would like to learn how to garden and live, in harmony with nature, you would be more than welcome to attend. There is no admission or membership necessary. For more information, you can contact Susan Lilley, at 768-2665.