

JAN. 2004 The Chronicle



OPTIMISTS SHOW APPRECIATION TO YOUTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Optimist Club of West Lorne held its 2003/2004 Youth Appreciation evening by hosting a delicious meal served to the students, their family members and teachers followed by a ceremony explaining what these youngsters have accomplished and a presentation of certificates by club chair member Optimist Doug Staddon and President Julie Lawrence. Pictured are the youth honoured (back row L-R) Morgan McWilliam, Rachelle Ambrose, Jenn Pinder, Justin Hwang and Matt Soos. (Second row L-R) Ann Pfeifer, Josh VanLoon, Laura Szusz, Andrew Ford and Emily Kalmbach. (Front row L-R) Optimist Pres. Julie Lawrence and Youth Appreciation Chairperson Optimist Doug Staddon.

Submitted photo

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The Chronicle

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 Mabee 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.

Genealogical society views historical items

New President, Mary Prud'homme, chaired the meeting of West Elgin Genealogical and Historical held Jan. 25.

Other members of the new executive are; Catherine Me Millan, Vice-president; Colin McGugan, Treasurer; John Kirkland, Secretary.

McGugan presented the financial report for the fiscal year and Don Carroll gave a cemetery report.

After a refreshment break, 12 members displayed treasured family items and explained their significance. These items included marriage certificates dated in the 1820s and 1850s, a box given by royalty, figurines, a Gaelic Bible, a tobacco cutter and a letter written to Scotland in 1817.

It was evident that each item was a cherished memento and the presentations were appreciated by the audience.

The Chronicle



DEATH BY CHOCOLATE...

Al Kirk of the West Elgin Dramatics Society joins the Friends of the Library in a murder mystery event being staged Saturday night at the WEDS theatre in Dutton. The interactive mystery is the culmination of the Friends of the Library's first Chocolate Festival. The morning features a chocolate bake sale followed by an afternoon "chocolate challenge" starting at 2 p.m. where entrants cook up their best chocolate delights for judging.

Dave Phillips photo

FEB. 12, 2004

The Chronicle

Environmental group inviting speaker on wind generation

The West Elgin Environmental Group (WEEG) is in the process of acquiring a speaker from the Ontario Power Generation organization to come and speak on the benefits of wind turbines.

There is at present a test site in the area with the results being expected in the spring of this year as to how well a turbine farm would work in our area. These giant turbines are quiet and produce power with a minimum amount of wind.

WEEG, a non-profit, grassroots organization whose purpose is environmental protection and restoration, was founded in 1989 and achieved charitable status in 1996.

Since 1989, the West Elgin Environmental Group has acted locally to raise awareness of environmental issues through school contests, community fairs, the media, and through the example of good environmental stewardship set by its members.

The West Elgin Environmental Group is a volunteer organization with some members being from the local service clubs.

This is a group of individuals concerned with the fragile state of the earth, and its increasingly diminished potential to sustain future generations. If you care about the future of your children and grandchildren, or you just have a healthy respect for nature and the environment, this is your opportunity to make a difference.

Regular meetings of the West Elgin Environmental Group are held on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the West Elgin Municipal Complex in West Lorne.

The West Elgin Environmental Group would be pleased to have you as a member, so if you have any ideas or if you feel that you could be of any assistance please call Secretary-Treasurer John Eagleson at 768-1427, and become a member.

The group's next meeting is to be held on Feb. 16 at the West Lorne Complex and everyone in the community is invited to attend at 7:30 p.m.

SERVICE CLUBS 2005

West Lorne Optimist Club 10th Annual Santa Claus Parade Float Winners

Best Commercial ~ TFT Global Inc
 Best Service Club ~ Rodney Fair Board
 Best Family Group ~ West Elgin Moto Cross Riders
 Best Youth Group ~ Melody Fellowship Youth Group
 Best Illuminated ~ Melody Fellowship Sunday School
 Best Decorated ~ Albert's Generator Service

Congratulations to all winners. Many thanks to all participants, and we look forward to seeing you all next year.



SUBMITTED

Rodney Firemen honoured

On June 29 the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshall presented long service awards. Three members of the West Elgin Fire Association, Rodney Department were honoured: William Keutch, 40 years, Dennis Lee, 35 years, and Robert Wight, 30 years. Their spouses, Deputy Mayor Bernie Wiehle and Fire Chief Andy Kieraszewicz also attended to witness the presentation.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

All I want for Christmas is...

Emma Brears meets Santa Claus at the West Elgin Community Health Centre after the West Lorne Optimist Santa Claus Parade Nov. 25. While organizers felt less people came out to brave the cold and see the parade, more than 100 came to visit Santa afterward.

West Elgin Legion to honour veterans

2005 has been declared the Year of the Veteran to thank and honour all veterans who served their country in times of war, military conflict and peace. Consequently, all West Elgin Legion Br. 221 member veterans and their spouses are invited, as guests, to attend a roast beef and cabbage roll dinner. This event will be held Sept. 11. A social time and presentations will take place from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and then a dinner buffet from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The general public is invited to attend this event and tickets are available at the branch on John St. in West Lorne or at Murray's Video in Dutton, Krebsz Jewellers in West Lorne, Marg's Variety, in Rodney.

To top the evening off, the Fairey Swordfish fundraiser comes to an end.

All proceeds from the fundraiser are to further benefit our veterans and the communities the branch serves.

Tickets are still available at the Legion and the Chronicle.

In keeping with the spirit of the Year of the Veteran, the participation of family and

WEST ELGIN LEGION BRANCH 221 NEWS

friends of our celebrated veterans would be greatly appreciated.

In other news for Branch 221 RCL, members recently hosted a food booth at the August 13 West Lorne Minor Soccer cup day held at Miller Park.

Ric Whyte, Jim Stocking, Dennis Joyce, Joe Santos, Pete and Gloria Palmer, Justin Swan, Georgina Jensen, Barb Campbell, Kim Penney, Nancy Murray and helpers Stacey Penney and Brent Brown worked hard at this event.

Legion Week will be celebrated across the province starting Sept. 18 at all branches.

Many branches host activities and events to serve our veterans and community members during this week.

Take the opportunity during this week to visit one or all of the branches in western Elgin County. Everyone is welcome.

Don't forget to come out to Branch 221 West Elgin's weekly meat draws held every Friday at 8 p.m., all-you-can-eat breakfast held on the first Sunday of every month or the roast beef lunch held the last Friday of every month.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Optimists and soccer association come together

Chris Leys, President of West Lorne Minor Soccer gives Doug Staddon, from the West Lorne Optimist Club, a hand shake in appreciation for the \$1,000 the club donated to the association this year.

Heritage gardening noted for flavour

WEST LORNE AND COMMUNITY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

The West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society held its October meeting at the West Lorne Complex on Oct. 11.

President Susan Lilley welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that hanging containers have been removed from the downtown area as well as flower boxes and beds having been emptied and cleaned up. She also said that tulip bulbs, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Ontario Horticultural Association, are available. Some bulbs have been donated to the high school for students to plant and that the remainder will be planted in the arena bed.

Members and guests attending were treated to a very informative talk on Heritage Gardening by Master Gardener, Kim Penney of Eagle.

Kim stated that vegetable gardening was introduced to New England in the 1700s by the Dutch, French and Germans. The Dutch and French introduced the more formal and elaborate kitchen gardens in the New York area while the Germans, known for neatness, etc., introduced their gardens to the Pennsylvania area. Flower gardening was not too popular until the 1800s, mainly because they needed garden space for vegetables and herbs etc. for their very survival. They did, however, have shrubs, such as lilac, forsythia and hydrangea, as well as roses.

Seeds were not available commercially until the Shakers introduced packet seeding of a wide variety of herbs and flowers. By the mid-1800s larger seed companies introduced the colourful packaging similar to those now, which gradually led to the demise of the Shaker business.

Heritage seeds are available today from various seed companies for flowers, vegetables and fruits. To be noted is the flavour of heritage produce as compared to hybrid varieties of today.

Kim explained that local Master Gardeners were asked to plant a heritage garden at the Backus-Page House at Tryconnell, which turned out to be a very successful venture.

By way of slides Kim showed the five most popular types of heritage gardens: Country Cottage; Medieval Herb; Old Fashioned Parlour Garden; Old Fashioned Fruit Garden and a Kitchen Garden.

Susan thanked Kim for coming and the evening concluded with lunch served by Susan Lilley and Wendy Goodall.



Remembrance Day | November 11th

To all those with loved ones in the war remember you are not alone

We understand that this is a hard time for all of you that have had to say good-bye, for a while, to loved ones that have left for the war. What your family members and friends are doing is something that one considers to be the 'ultimate sacrifice' that a person can make. We must give thanks to all of those that are currently in the war and to those that have already served in a war. These men and women are taking a stand and standing up for a country that they so strongly believe in

and want to keep safe. It is important at this time to remember why your loved ones are there and how proud you should be for their bravery. I could tell you not to worry and not to jump every time you hear that doorbell ring, but I know that you won't. It's that feeling of wonder, wondering where they are, how they are, wondering when they are going to come home and how they will come home. It's a long wait that seems to want to drag on and on, but hold on,

this will get easier and when they come home you will feel like they had never left.

Good luck to all those who are involved with the occurring war, and to all those waiting for their arrival home. Hold on, stick in there, and only think good thoughts and memories. And remember, you aren't alone, there are people that you can talk to and comfort in, use those people and it will make all the difference

— Stacey Penne

Canadian virtual war memorial (NC)

The legacy of Canada's Veterans lives on in the Canadian Virtual War Memorial. This on-line registry contains information about the graves and memorials of more than 116,000

Canadians who served and gave their lives for their country. Veterans Affairs Canada is encouraging Canadians to send in photos or memorabilia of Canada's war dead. To participate, go to canada.gc.ca, click on Veterans in the A-Z index and then visit the Canada Remembers site.

The Scars that never fade...

The Veteran Project 2005 brought West Elgin Secondary School students together with local veterans.

Students interviewed local veterans about their experience and it resulted in a book released this past October.

Writing from the book has been contributed to this special section marking Remembrance Day and Year of the Veteran.



KAREN GONCALVES/THE CHRONICLE

West Lorne remembers

War Veteran and West Elgin Br. 221 RCL Comrade Scotty (George) Bell stands guard at the West Lorne Cenotaph with #2884 West Elgin Army Cadets William Feere and Jessica Kalita during the annual Nov. 11 Remembrance Day Service.



KAREN GONCALVES/THE CHRONICLE

Optimist youth appreciation

The Optimist Club of West Lorne held its annual Youth Appreciation Week this November where a dinner was hosted for students and members of their families. These students are chosen as outstanding young people of our community, for many different reasons, by their teachers. The club presented them with certificates following the meal and a brief outline of each individual's accomplishments was given. Pictured L to R back row: Optimist Pres. Doug Staddon, Jonathan Godfrey, WESES; Thalia Weis, Aldborough Public School; Stephanie Duarte, St. Mary's Catholic School; Andrew Gumpert, St. Mary's Catholic School; Danial Wittek, Aldborough Public School; front row: Jessie Lowes, WESS Jr.; Rachel Cardol, WESS Jr.; Laura Szusz, WESES and Drew Lebedz. Missing from photo Brittany Jewell, WESS Sr. Free public skating was also offered by the club on Sunday, Nov. 20 in appreciation to our community youth.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Marching in remembrance

Second World War veteran Charlie Cronkite, right, leads the colour guard from the Royal Canadian Legion Branches 221 and 525 West Elgin and Rodney Sunday morning on Shackleton Road in Dutton before taking part in a remembrance service at Knox Presbyterian Church.

SERVICE CLUBS 2005



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Octoberfest golf tournament a big draw

With 112 golfers, the 1st annual Octoberfest Gold Tournament was held at Dutton Meadows Golf Club Oct. 15. An 18-hole scramble was played under blue skies for most of the afternoon. Above, Lynda Cosens putts on hole #7 with teammates Charlie Cronkite and Brenda Sheridan watching behind. Right, Ric Whyte discusses Rosalie Krebsz's next shot on hole #9. The event raised more than \$7,000 for the West Elgin Daffodil Society in its efforts with the Canadian Cancer Society.



Knights of Columbus donate to WECHC

Alex Schadenberg, Grand Knight of the West Elgin Knights of Columbus, right, presents a \$2,000 cheque to the West Elgin Community Health Centre. Accepting the donation, is Martin Joldersma, Chairman, and Cate Melito, Executive Director, of WECHC. The donation included proceeds from the August 2005 Fish Fry and the Annual Knights of Columbus Car Raffle.

Daffodil Auxiliary, unique in Canada

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

A dedicated group of community members continues to reach out to people with cancer to help them with expenses, through the West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary Cancer Fund.

And the group continues to be supported by the community with great response for the upcoming golf tournament.

Started in 1956, by the wife of a local doctor, Helen Saunders started driving cancer patients for treatment in London, doing homecare duties and helping financially.

In time, more people came to assist Mrs. Saunders, particularly the Women's Institute.

This was before medical plans and even the Canadian Cancer Society existed.

Because of its early start, the Daffodil Auxiliary is the only registered organization in Canada that can raise funds for cancer and not be required to forward the funds to the Cancer Society.

Having helped hundreds of people over the years, the auxiliary provides funds to cancer patients needing medicines not covered by drug plans.

The auxiliary is also used to pay for patient's lodgings when they visit the London Regional Cancer Centre.

As well, the auxiliary helps pay for gas money when the patient doesn't wish for a volunteer to drive.

"Many of us have been touched by cancer. That's kind of why we do it," said treasurer Leola Lawrence of West Lorne.

Reaching out to current cancer patients is always a challenge for the society.

While the volunteers are community oriented, sometimes patients don't know the auxiliary exists.

However, local doctors and pharmacists have helped patients access the auxiliary for needed funds.

Sometimes, pharmacists will even charge cancer medication to the auxiliary account.

The Daffodil Auxiliary receives funds from two sources: a quilt, donated by the Fingal Quilting Group for the last 28 years and fundraising donations, including memorial contributions.

The volunteers also help organize local cancer fundraisers like the Great Ride and Stride

and the sale of daffodils.

For the first time, Dutton Meadows Golf Club is donating funds raised at its Octoberfest Mixed Classic Tournament to the West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary.

Krebsz Jewellery has donated a diamond ring to the event.

Brian Girard, owner of Dutton Meadows is donating proceeds from the tournament in honour of his mother Liz Girard.

She passed away in 1994, at the age of 55 from breast cancer.

While the tournament's field is full, people can still get on the waiting list.

For information about the charity golf tournament, call Dutton Meadows at 762-3435.

For information about the West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary, call Leola Lawrence at 768-1526 or Norma McMillan at 762-3721.



SCOTT HILGENDORFF/
THE CHRONICLE

Put that fire out

Chris Ward, 12, of West Lorne learns from West Lorne Firefighter Craig Elliott how to properly use a fire extinguisher. Members of the public were invited to the fire hall Oct. 12 for a Fire Prevention Week open house. Stoves were set up in the parking lot where grease fires were simulated and people were given a chance to learn how to safely put out the fires.

Second country music jamboree being held at West Elgin Legion

Br. 221 of the Royal Canadian Legion in West Lorne will host another country music jamboree Oct. 29 starting at 1 p.m.

This family event is a follow up of the first jamboree held this past March that was a huge success and enjoyed by many young and old. Local and outside entertainers are expected from as far away as Windsor, Chatham and Sarnia. Organizers are Jim

Carmichael and Bill Graham, both of West Lorne, with the help from Al Schnekenburger of Glencoe. Carmichael spearheaded the first jamboree after attending and performing at similar events held at other Legion branches in the area where he witnessed the joy of all who were there.

Everyone is welcome to get up and play an instrument, sing,

dance or just sit and listen to the many great musicians performing. The cost for the event is a donation at the door.

For more information call Bill Graham at 768-1798 or Jim Carmichael at 768-2697.

Stew, hamburgers and hotdogs will be available for a donation as well. All proceeds to Legion activities to support the communities of West Elgin.

Optimists start new year with installation of Board of Directors

Oct. 1 marks a new year of operations for Optimist International and the Optimist Club of West Lorne has just installed its new board of directors for the next year of service to our communities.

President for 2005/2006 is Doug Staddon, Vice President; Ken Neil, Secretary; Dorothy Staddon, Treasurer; Bill Trask, Past Pres.; John Eagleson and six directors; Richard Hale, Ric Whyte, Jim Carmichael,

Brad Reive, Elsie Beaudoin and Karen Goncalves.

The Optimist work throughout the year to raise money for the youth within our communities from local sports teams and school functions to musical events and health the Childrens Hospital.

Next on the agenda is organizing the annual Santa Claus parade coming on Nov. 25 and the club has already planned a ham and turkey bingo to raise money

for this event on Oct. 30 to be held at the West Elgin Legion starting at 1 p.m. Lots of work and effort goes into putting together this parade and volunteers are always a welcome.

If you are interested in helping out please call John at 768-1427 or if you have any questions or are interested in becoming a member please call President Doug at 768-2972.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Dancing at country jamboree

Bud Welch and Marg Varga dance along to a tune by musicians jamming at the country jamboree held at the West Elgin Legion Saturday. Jamming are Jake Zoller, left back, Betty Tetreault, John McIntyre, fiddle, Frank Merryfield, Jim Zoller and Don Varnier.



Picking a plant SCOTT HILGENDORFF/THE CHRONICLE
Susan Lilley, right, of the West Lorne Horticultural Society, helps mom Stephanie Martin and her daughters Brittany and Jessica pick out some plants at the garden fair held Saturday at the West



Girl Guides paint town for water conservation JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Kelsey Shaw, right, Jamie Stallon, Jessica Wilson-Evettes, Jessalyn Betsh and Sandra Wilson, leader, left back, and the First West Lorne Girl Guides painted yellow fish at storm drains in West Lorne Monday and informed residents about the importance of properly disposing hazardous waste to protect fish in our lakes.

Container gardening discussed at meeting WEST LORNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

The General Meeting of the W. L. and Community Horticultural Society was held at the W. L. Complex April 12. Pres. Susan Lilley opened the meeting. Susan introduced guest speaker Diane Vaughan of St. Thomas, who gave a very informative and amusing talk on Container Gardening. Diane started out by explaining the difference between containers suitable for potting and those that are not. There are hundreds of different containers available on the market but some of the most interesting are those made out of unusual items, such as old boots, baskets, pails, etc.

One of the most popular is the clay pot, but these tend to dry out much faster than others so have to be watched closely. She explained that if using a clay pot make sure it is soaked in water for a day before planting so that the pot does not pull all the moisture from the soil and therefore dehydrate the plant. Baskets can be used by simply lining them with plastic before adding soil and plants; half baskets make interesting planters to hang on doors, etc.

Potatoes can be planted in a container made out of an old laundry basket lined with heavy black plastic. Fill basket half full with soil and then plant potatoes. Once growth appears cover with more soil, and do this until basket is full. Once potatoes appear through top layer let them grow like those in a garden. She stressed that fertilizing is very important. Read labels carefully and follow them. If using a pellet fertilizer labelled "good for three months" do not add any more for that length of time.

Over-fertilizing can be disastrous, as can over or under-watering. Set up a routine for watering and check plants every day. Watering amounts can differ greatly depending on sun and heat. If containers are very deep a piece of plastic pipe drilled with holes can be placed in soil and water poured in. This makes an even distribution of water possible. To make a lovely display in any area, use different size pots and group them together with larger planters in back or centre and use different textured plants to create interest.

There are wonderful plants suitable for pots such as hosta, evergreens, cactus and grasses, etc. Deadheading is very important to keep plants blooming and looking their best and always keep some extra plants on hand to replace those which have become straggly or have died. She gave many helpful hints such as placing a piece of pantihose or fine screen in bottom of planters to prevent earwigs from getting in. Plants can be given a shot with the hose to help get rid of bugs or use a mild solution of soap and water. These ideas are environmentally friendly and will help keep butterflies, and birds around. If strong chemical products are used you can be sure there won't be any butterflies. Most container gardens will survive the winter if they are buried two feet under the ground and covered with burlap, soil and leaves.

Susan thanked her for coming and presented her with a gift on behalf of club members.

A lunch followed served by Elaine Conway and Sally Cantelon.



Kickin' out the jams at the West Elgin Legion JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
John McIntyre plays fiddle, left, with Dave Tuffin on guitar, John Foley on mandolin, Bill Graham on guitar and Jake Zoller on bass Saturday afternoon at Branch 221 West Elgin Legion as part of a music jamboree held from noon to 9 p.m. to raise money for the Legion.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Optimist support WESES volleyball
West Lorne Optimist Club President delivered a cheque for \$350 to West Elgin Senior Elementary School teacher Krista Price for the volleyball program.



Fairey Swordfish ride donated to West Elgin Legion SUBMITTED
Nancy Murray (West Elgin Legion), centre presents Bob and Marie Spence with a 'Hats Off' award in recognition of donating a ride in this Second World War bomber to raise money for the new patio at West Elgin Legion Branch 221.

West Lorne Legion an emergency centre

For the Chronicle

Elgin county is hoping to succeed with an application for an 11,000-watt portable generator to be shared with the West Lorne Legion and the Rodney ambulance base.

The county is applying for \$6,951 to the federally funded Joint Emergency Preparedness Program both to wire locations and purchase a generator.

The West Lorne Legion has been designated as an emergency operations centre.

"The Rodney ambulance base is also not equipped with a generator back-up power in an emergency," said Larisa Andrusiak, ambulance and emergency management co-ordinator for the county.

If the grant was approved, the county's share of the project would be \$4,170.

Girl Guides fold, more leadership needed to continue

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

The West Lorne Girl Guides are looking for volunteers to prevent its demise.

Bonnie Robertson is fighting to keep the group going after volunteers moved on.

Recently, the last Girl Guides graduated on to the Pathfinders group taking their mothers along, who worked as Guide leaders.

This, and other members leaving to join the burgeoning West Elgin Cadet Corp.

2884, has left girls wanting to be in the group, but not enough volunteers to organize and run the Guides.

Not running right now are the Sparks, for girls four and five, Brownies, six to eight, and the Girl Guides for eight to 12-year-old girls.

"I'm willing to open anything," pleads Robertson. "I'm the only one left and I'm willing to open up any age group. I just need someone to help."

Please see Pathfinders, page 7

Nature Club and Padfield partner

The West Elgin Nature Club is getting support from a new memorial service offered by Padfield Funeral Homes.

Trees at the West Elgin Nature Reserve on Downie Line will be affixed with a name plate honouring the memory of someone lost to be hung on a tree in the memorial forest.

Friends and family of the deceased will be able to purchase a plaque through Padfield's.

The club wants to continue to raise money for the memorial forest which lines the front of the nature reserve.

"More than just a fitting tribute, this program provides for trees that shelter our wildlife, reduce water and wind erosion and contribute

the purity of the air we breathe," said Ken Neil, club member.

"This program will be accompanied by an annual memorial service to commemorate friends and family lost over the preceding year," said Jim Price, President of Padfield Funeral Homes.

For information about the new program, contact Bill Denning at Padfield Funeral Homes at 785-0810.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Lost to be remembered

Jim Price, left, and Bill Denning, right of Padfield Funeral Home met with Bill Prieksaitis, centre and announced a new memorial service at the West Elgin Nature Reserve last week.

Optimist Club hosting fun night

If you're looking for something fun and different to do this weekend, try the Optimist Club of West Lorne's Annual Adult Fun

Night. The event will be held on Feb. 26 at the Rodney Legion hall with many activities offered including a live and silent auction for you to bid on. All items auctioned are generously donated by

WEST LORNE OPTIMIST CLUB News

local merchants and businesses. There is also a lunch available.

This is the club's largest fundraiser of the year and all

proceeds are for youth activities and sports. Some of this year's proceeds will be set aside for the anticipated washroom and food concession facility being planned for Miller Park in West Lorne.

For ticket information call Ken Neil 768-2691

Historical photos being put on DVD

WEST ELGIN HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Meetings held November 2006 and January 2007 consisted of reminiscences of bygone years of Rodney.

Guest speakers, Harley and Nancy Lashbrook, showed a DVD of pictures taken from the Rodney Mercury covering the period of 1870s to 1950s. Harley and Nancy are in the process of transferring their large files of photos to DVD.

The community owes a debt of gratitude to them for the preservation of the past for future generations.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Optimists give to Jacob's Paws

President of the West Lorne Optimist Club John Eagleson donates \$500 to Linda, Scott and Jacob Dunn on behalf of the club. The money goes to National Service Dogs for Jacob's Paws. A medieval dinner is being held this Saturday at the International Club for Jacob's Paws.

Fish ponds need water changed

The West Elgin Horticultural Society met at the West Lorne Complex March 8.

Pres. Susan Lilley opened the evening by welcoming the crowd and noting some upcoming events.

Betty McKillop introduced guest speaker Lorraine Gregson of London, who gave an informative talk on water gardens and fish.

Lorraine stressed the most important element to a pond is filtration whether by veggie filter or by making or purchasing a biological filter.

Lorraine, who has 14 ponds on her property, talked about and demonstrated bio-filtration. She explained types of filters, some costing up to \$1,800, none of which seemed to do an efficient job. So, she came up with her own simple design made out

WEST ELGIN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

of a plastic garbage can, some plastic pipe a t-joint and plastic scrubbers which are put into a mesh bag, total cost of which is about \$50.

She explained water changes are compulsory to maintain the health of fish, and also recommended not over-feeding as this tends for fish to produce more waste, which produces ammonia which in turn produces nitrate which has to be filtered out. Foreign plants should be avoided, e.g. don't transplant river plants, grass, etc. to a garden pond as they may contain foreign eggs which when hatched will destroy any eggs from your own fish. This could bring different fish than your own.

In fact, Lorraine recommends using no plants at all as they will use up oxygen and will also gunk up filters.

She talked about good and bad algae and how some can be dried and used as fish food as it contains nutrients.

Betty McKillop presented her with a gift and thanked her on behalf of the club and all attending. Lorraine offered a free membership to the Southwestern Ontario Pond Keepers as a prize which was won by Sally Cantelon. June Smart and Theresa Knight served lunch.

The next meeting will be held April 12 at 7 p.m. at the West Lorne Complex when Diane Vaughan of St. Thomas will speak on container gardening. The public is invited to attend and admission is free.

Horticulturalists view birds of Elgin County

WEST LORNE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS

The West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society held its annual potluck supper, at the West Lorne Community Complex, on Dec. 14. The thirty-seven people attended and enjoyed a delicious meal in the festively decorated meeting room and many of them stayed for the Annual Meeting afterwards.

District director Jim Mabee was present and listened to committee reports, from various chairs, and the president's remarks, from the outgoing president, Liz Clark. Mabee then installed the new executive and board of directors. They are, as follows: President Susan Lilley, first vice-president Betty McKillop, second vice-president Helen Kovacs, secretary/treasurer Kim Penney, and Immediate Past-president Liz Clark; directors for one year are Kim Penney, Teresa Knight, Maureen Romero, and Wendy Goodall; two year directors are June Smart, Margaret Murray, Elaine Conway, and Sally Cantelon. These people are responsible for the business decisions of the society, and if anyone has any concerns, questions, or comments, please feel free to contact any of them.

The service certificate was presented to Frances McCallum, the Life Membership Award was given to long-time member Mary Lippold, and the President's Award went to Betty McKillop for her hard work over the past year.

At the Jan. 11 general meeting of the society, new President Susan Lilley welcomed everyone and introduced the new executive and board of directors to the general membership and guests. She then introduced the evening's guest speaker, Chris Leys of West Lorne, who presented a slide show and discussion on The Birds of Elgin County: A Century of Change.

The book, now in its second publication, was the brain child of former West Lorne resident and bird lover Harold Lancaster. Lancaster wanted to see information about present day bird species captured in print before some people were no longer able to contribute information. A committee was formed to pursue this idea and, along with Lancaster, Chris Leys, Dave Martin, and Bill and Marjorie Prieksaitis saw the book through, from concept to completion, a period of five years.

The Birds of Elgin County: A Century of Change, printed in 2003, is a compilation of information gathered from local naturalists, the public, and information included in two predecessors to the book, a book by Frank Farley published in 1891, and another printed in the 1950s by Ronald Brooman and several other contributors, including Harold Lancaster.

The newly published book gives a one hundred year perspective of the bird life, in Elgin County. The 1891 book listed 190 species, the 1950s book had 274, and the 2003 book has 333 species listed. The book has been donated to local schools, universities, the Royal Ontario Museum, and the Elgin County Public Library system.

Susan Lilley thanked Chris Leys for his interesting talk, and everyone then enjoyed a social hour.

Horticulturalists learn about matching a garden to the home

The monthly meeting of the West Lorne Horticultural Society was held at the village complex on Feb. 8.

Kim Penney, of Eagle, was guest speaker and gave an informative talk on the Five Principles of Garden Design.

She explained the first important element of garden design is unity and simplicity which basically means to keep the number of objects in a garden to a minimum, too many objects create chaos. Mass similar plants together and repeat colours,

textures and/or shapes. Also, to create unity use landscape materials common with the home. For example, a wooden home should use wooden materials for fencing, arbours and edging, whereas brick walks and fencing should be used with a brick home. Also mirror the curves of the house in flower beds.

The second element is proportion and scale. This element is very important and means large elements should be used in large spaces and small elements in small spaces. A basic rule to follow is "the height of

the tallest element should not be more than half the size of the garden." For instance a statue five feet tall needs 10 feet of garden space.

The third element is rhythm and line. Curving lines flowing and connecting gardens together are restful and pleasing to the eye whereas jagged diagonals or vertical lines tend to create excitement. Repeated colour schemes and forms create rhythm and reduce confusion.

Balance is also very important. The basic rule of balance is: foundation plantings should extend from

the house at least one-third the height of the house. A 30-foot home requires gardens extend 10-foot from the foundation. Balance is achieved when gardens are visually equal or symmetrical or an asymmetrical garden balance that is weighted visually equal.

The final principle of design is focalization. An example of focalization being: too many focal points make the eye bounce around which creates confusion. She explained these fundamentals by showing slides of different garden design and

how they appear when certain elements are added or taken away.

Kim has booklets available, which she prepared on garden design, explaining the basic fundamentals using text and pictures.

Following the program lunch was served by June Smart and Margaret Murray.

The next meeting will be held March 8 at 7 p.m. when Lorraine Gregson will present the program on Ponds, and fish, etc. Everyone is welcome to attend and admission is free.

SERVICE CLUBS 2005



Legion opens patio SUBMITTED

West Elgin Legion Br. 221 Past President Julie Lawrence and Vice President Mike Mooser officially opened the Legion's new outdoor patio with a ribbon cutting ceremony in June. The patio was built in preparation for upcoming laws that may ban smoking indoors.



Cadets hold annual ceremony

Capt R. Goldick presents the Most Improved Award to Spr. Holly Baughman, left at the West Elgin Army Cadet Corps 3rd annual Ceremonial Review. Capt W. Stinson presents the Espirit de Corps Award to Spr Amy Kalita, right.

SUBMITTED



Kiwanians hold talent show JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Adjudicator Mary-Lou Phoenix-Sheeler critiques pianists Aerial Whalen, furthest away, Jacob Rowe and Hillary Hodder at the Kiwanis Talent Show held at the WEDS Performing Arts Theatre March 4 and 5.

West Elgin Chamber ready to roll out economic development campaign

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

West Elgin Chamber of Commerce will receive additional taxpayer's money for business development and education programming.

The additional \$1,000 in 2006 would be used for possible initiatives like a job fair at the high school.

The request at the West Elgin Council meeting Feb. 9 was far less than the \$20,000 the Chamber was figuring on asking for almost two years ago.

However, Ted Uffen, President of the Chamber said the past year has been frustrating for the volunteer group trying to spur economic development in the area.

"It's taken us a lot longer to do what we wanted to do," said Uffen.

The chamber has spent around

\$2,500 of a \$20,000 municipal grant given in 2005.

Some of that \$2,500 was spent on designing and creating a Web site with a community calendar, marketing material and business directory, as well as information on available land.

The Web site roll out could be by the end of March with a breakfast.

The Web site is included in a \$14,000 plan for business development.

A new signage proposal is being brought to Elgin County to place Welcome to West Elgin signs at Furnival and Graham Road on Highway 3.

An original plan to allow businesses to rent space on signs proved too cumbersome to maintain in a feasibility study.

"We're committing the sin of esti-

mating high then coming in under budget," said Uffen.

Uffen apologized for intangible results so far but said all the initiatives would be complete by Sept. 1, the end of the chamber's fiscal year.

"Don't apologize for not spending taxpayers money. Volunteers have lives too. It's important you think about it," said Mayor Graham Warwick.

The unspent portion of the \$20,000 grant was approved for renewal by council for 2006 and \$1,000 was added to the annual \$3,000 grant.

Uffen said this year the chamber is pushing to increase membership.

He said only about 40-50 per cent of businesses in West Elgin are members of the chamber and if membership can increase, the chamber should be able to pay for the majority of its expenses going forward.



Optimists give Easter gifts JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

The West Lorne Optimist Club held their Easter egg hunt March 26. Children who found large eggs in their age group won an Easter basket. Winners were, Charlotte Stone, back left, Twan Dieker and Ashley Lowes.



Knights of Columbus teach drug awareness SUBMITTED

The Knights of Columbus recently held their annual Substance Abuse Awareness poster contest. Pictured here are the winners of the contest: Megan Campiotto, Jessica Jensen and Anita Rastapkevicius.



Optimist's host zone oratorical contest in West Lorne SUBMITTED

The Optimist clubs of West Lorne and Wallacetown recently hosted their oratorical contest with two 1st place winners going on to the regionals in Windsor in April. Pictured L-R: (girls) Taylor Moorby-Blain, 3rd; Taylor Cundy, 1st; Karlee Willcocks, 3rd; (boys) Alex Kirscher, 3rd; Jacob Rowe, 1st and Rishi Sharma 2nd.

West Elgin Legion holding jamboree this weekend

Local musicians will be kicking out the jams at the Legion in West Lorne this Saturday starting at 1 p.m.

For the first time Branch 221 of the Royal Canadian Legion in West Lorne will host a country music jamboree.

"Anyone who likes music or dancing should come out. The legion is a great place to have some fun," said Allan Schneckeburger, musician. A family event, local

musicians like 14-year-old Jake Zoller will play some old style country guitar.

Bill Graham and Jim Carmichael have organized the event and are bringing talent - young and old - from as far away Windsor, Chatham and Sarnia.

After seeing jam sessions at other legions, like Newbury, Carmichael thought it would be a great idea to host one to support the West Lorne

branch.

"Legion's can't continue to be a great place for the community gather if they aren't supported," said Schneckeburger, adding it's all volunteers who are putting together this jamboree.

Hoping to raise \$1,000, everyone is welcome to get up and sing, play an instrument or just sit and listen to some great musicians.

Donations will be taken

at the door and Irish stew, hamburgers and hot dogs will be available inside.

All proceeds will go to the Legion's activities in West Elgin.

West Elgin Legion is currently raising money to build a patio.

Families are encouraged to come out to this afternoon of great entertainment.

For more information call Bill Graham at 768-1798.