



Paul Dieker, front left, and Steven Minnema, front right, as Elvises were among the performers at the West Elgin Skating Club's 50th anniversary carnival celebrations held at the West Lorne Arena on Saturday. Two performances were sold out of "Retro Mania" which took a look at the music and styles of the past 50 years. A highlight of the carnival was medalist Jeffrey Buttle, who performed during both shows.

Chronicle photos



Hailey Slaats gives her solo performance.

West Elgin Skating Club celebrates 50th anniversary



Skating as hippies are Khloe Beer, left, Mary Jane Miller, Breyanne Serle and Payton Snobelen.



Chase Guindon is an elephant Beanie Babie



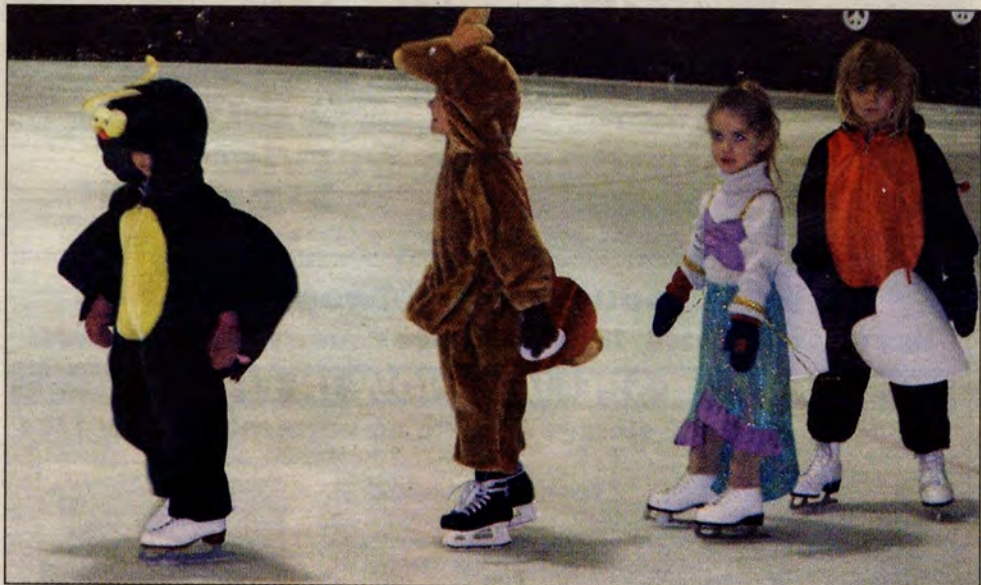
Many musical eras were represented at "Retro Mania".



Skating as "Jessie" from A Toy Story is Kylie Beer.



Paxton Knott, left, Samantha Reimens, Samantha Fletcher, Aleah Jabara, Ryann Fink, Alyssa Paiva and Travis Morley perform in a number to The Pink Panther.



Beanie Babies MacKenzie Fink, Nolan McLarty, Mallory Hooghiem and Alexis Degraw take to the ice.

December 2, 2004

Lakers beaten by Thamesford

The West Lorne Lakers lost 8-4 to the Thamesford Trojans at home in game action on Nov. 27.

Travis Reddy, Jordan Dufton, Matt Bartoch and Brady Campbell scored for the Lakers in the team's fifth loss in a row.

The Lakers suffered a heartbreaking 6-5 loss at the hands of the Exeter Hawks in West Lorne in game action Nov. 24.

With 6 seconds remaining in the game, Exeter took control of the puck, mustered one shot at Laker's goaltender Blake Wladyka and banged in the rebound with two seconds on the clock to win the game.

Coaching staff say the team was heartbroken and deserved a point from the game.

Shots were 52 for Exeter to 38 for West Lorne.

Brady Campbell scored two

goals and Jordan Dufton, Dave Marshall and Luke Hopkins each scored for the Lakers.

Lakers continue to have troubles putting the puck in the net after losing 3-1 to the Thamesford Trojans in Junior D hockey action Nov. 17.

The Lakers fired 37 shots at the Trojans goaltender but Justin Rowles could muster the only goal.

Rowles banged in a rebound off a point shot from Travis Reddy who deked around a Trojan forward to take the initial shot.

Blake Wladyka made 45 saves playing in goal for the Lakers.

The Lakers were home to Belmont Dec. 1, after press time.

The team's next home game is Dec. 4 at 7:15 p.m. versus the Lucan Irish.



RODNEY SOCCER U 11

SUBMITTED

Front row: Emily Varga, Cassie Bergey, Sabrina Fletcher, Anna Kelly, Codi VanderGulik, Justin Roose, Kylie Beer, Josh McGahan, Jessie Bergey, Haley West, Mary Jane Miller. Back row: Anne Nogradi (Coach), Brian Kelly, Matthew Ritchie, Sheldon Downie, Abbey Fleming, David Morley, Randy Ossel, Rebekah West, Victoria Parker, Jacob Peters, Cal Nogradi, Dana Varga (coach).

Girls Peeewe hockey team beat Strathroy

The West Lorne Comets were beaten in St. Mary's 5-1 in girl's peeewe hockey action Nov. 27.

Comet's lone goal came from Bailey McKillop.

The Comets peeewe also lost against Glencoe in game action on Nov. 20.

Glencoe shut out the Comets by a score of 9-0.

The Comets beat Strathroy 3-1 in game action Nov. 6. Goals scored for the Comets were by Bailey McKillop and Jessica Small scored twice.

The team has been juggling its lines and hopes to put a better effort together for the next game Sat. Dec. 4 at 2 p.m. against Mt. Brydges.

Azevedo to play against world

West Lorne's Justin Azevedo was selected to play on the Ontario men's under-17 hockey team at the 2005 World Hockey Challenge.

Azevedo has been playing centre ice for the Kitchener Rangers in the Ontario Hockey League this year and has five goals, seven assists for 12 points.

The 22-player team will compete in 10-team tournament in Lethbridge Alta. from Dec. 28 to Jan. 4.

Team Ontario will play in a conference with U.S.A, Slovakia, Germany and Team West.

Azevedo, 16-years-old began his hockey career within the West Lorne Hockey Association.

He was drafted 14th overall by the Rangers for the current season.



SUBMITTED

Front row: Nolan Collard, goaltender. Second row: Jason Alves, Kyle Barber, Michael Brennan, Bryan Johnston, Kurtis Gosnell Third row: Cody Parker, Michael Verboom, Jacob Dymock, Tyson Ford, Tyler Hull. Fourth row: Jon Collard (Trainer), George Gosnell (Head Coach), Mike Hull (Assistant Trainer), Susan Hull (Manager) missing John Verboom (Assistant Coach)

West Lorne Atom's win local tournament

The West Lorne Atom Travel team won the local Black & Gold Tournament held Nov 12-14 in West Lorne. The team played three games to capture the championship in undefeated style. Their first opponent was Norwich who they defeated 7-0. Michael Verboom got a hat trick, Jason Alves had two goals, Jacob Dymock and Kurtis Gosnell had the other goals. Next the boys had to play Port Stanley, one of their toughest competitors and the game lived up to its expectation. West Lorne won the game 3-2 with only 20 seconds left in the game on a goal by Cody Parker. Other teammates that contributed to the score were Michael Verboom and Jason Alves. The boys advanced to the finals with their 2-0 record where they had to play Port Stanley again. West Lorne was victorious once again over Port Stanley 4-3. Goals were scored by Tyler Hull, Michael Brennan, who had two, and Michael Verboom. The entire team had a fantastic weekend, playing great defense, putting the puck in the net when needed and keeping the puck out of their net. The coaching staff said, "Great job boys! Keep up the hard work."

Peeeweos win in Mitchell

This past weekend the West Lorne Comets Peeewe hockey team entered the 49th Annual Mitchell Minor Hockey Tournament and captured first place. The boys played 5 games in two days and fought right to the bitter end in sudden death overtime versus Dorchester. During the tournament West Lorne scored a total of 19 goals and only allowed six. This was due to excellent back checking, defense, and of course goaltending from Tyler Russell. The team improved their level of play with every new game and rose to the occasion.

West Lorne won their first game 7-1 against Port Dover, lost the second game 2-1 in a tight game against Dorchester, and won their third game 6-1 against Lucan. This put the team in second place in our division through the round robin and meant we had to play the first place team in the semi-final from the opposing division. Our boys managed to beat Ilderton in the semi-final 2-0. The game was extremely physical and was hard on the team. The boys anxiously waited to see who we were up against in the final. Dorchester won their semi-final game and the boys were pumped.

In the final the boys came out firing on all cylinders, and dominated the first period of play. The Dorchester goalie was not letting anything through until early in the second period when Robert Johnston received a great pass from Luke Gosnell and Jake Campbell. Dorchester responded quickly by tying the game 13 seconds later. With less than six minutes left in the second period Robert Johnston again received an excellent pass from Jake Campbell and Chris Clark to take a 2-1 lead. Again, Dorchester pressed hard and was able to score with 48 seconds left in the second. During the third period it was a sea-saw battle by each team, both having several opportunities but only being denied by the awesome goal tending being performed at each end of the rink. At the end of regulation time West Lorne and Dorchester were tied 2-2.

In overtime, the tournament play is a five minute, sudden death, four on four during the first overtime period. Both teams came out hard, quickly getting chances. West Lorne seized an opportunity to go in on a break away to score. A tripping call was also made on the play against Dorchester. This meant West Lorne has a man advantage. Our boys gained control of the puck, Evan Timmermans saw an opening to take the puck deep in to the Dorchester end. From behind Dorchester's net Timmermans came out, turned and fired high on the goalie and scored giving the West Lorne Comets the win.

Even though the boys won, the weekend did not go without an incident early in the semi-final game against Ilderton. Wil Manneke was fighting hard for the puck in the corner of Ilderton's zone when the two Ilderton players, trying to gain possession of the puck, fell on top of Wil. Wil had to be taken off the ice on a stretcher and taken to the hospital in Stratford for a leg injury which later was confirmed to be broken. Our boys had to regain composure and from there on in we were playing for Wil. West Lorne went on to win that game and then beat Dorchester. Wil's hockey stick was with the team on the bench for the final game against Dorchester and can be seen in the team picture taken at the end of the Tournament held by Tyler Russell. From the entire team, players and coaches, we dedicate this win for you Wil. Get well soon Wil, we are going to miss you.

Novice Gold improving

The West Lorne Novice Gold hockey team lost a close game to Bothwell in game action Nov. 5.

The final score was 7-4 for Bothwell.

Brandon De Cook had a hat trick and Racheal Frizell added the fourth goal for the team.

The team had lost to Bothwell in a close game on Oct. 29.

The final score was 4-3 for Bothwell.

This was one of the best games the team has played this year, coaches said.

Brandon De Cook tied the game at four but the referee later called the goal back.

De Cook scored one goal and Cal Horvat added two goals.

The coaching staff said the teamwork has been fantastic.

Lakers officially coming

It's official. The Port Stanley Lakers are now known as the West Lorne Lakers and come September, the team will be bringing junior hockey to West Lorne.

"We're now officially down there and we're quite excited," said team owner Wayne Bedford of Fingal.

The announcement comes following the Ontario Hockey Association's final approval of the move, ending a 15-year history for the team in Port Stanley and beginning an exciting new chapter in West Lorne.

The family-run Junior D team will see Lyle Bedford remaining as assistant coach and general manager and Kyle McVey, a former Laker and Junior A St. Thomas Star, will be coming as head coach.

Bedford continues to seek local representation on the team from volunteer support to local players who will have a chance at some positions on the team with only some of the former Port Stanley team signed for this coming season.

"We want the community to come out to the tryouts," said Bedford. He will be announcing tryout dates later this season but will be filling two goalie spots and forward and defence positions with some local talent.

Bedford said West Elgin and the area has made it easy for the team to make the move.

"I think it's really good for our community," said John Frizzel, president of West Elgin Minor Hockey.

With a well-run arena and hockey-supportive community, he thinks the Junior D team is a great fit.

He said there are a lot of local fans who follow junior hockey and having the Lakers here will bring some exciting games to the arena.

He also said having a junior team here will give the kids a chance to carry on their hockey careers past the age of 17.

"I think it will be good hockey. It's entertainment for all ages," he said.

He also expects the minor hockey association will be able to work closely with the team.

The Chronicle

Lakers win first game of season

Luke Hopkins scored two goals for the West Lorne Lakers in a loss against the Exeter hawks in Zurich on Oct. 2.

The Hawks jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the first period.

With the Lakers short-handed, Hopkins beat one defender at the blueline and snapped a wrist shot to the far corner of the net to make the score 2-1.

His second goal came in the third period against the defending Junior Development champions, the Hawks.

In the team's previous game, Brandon Palmer started in goal for the Lakers at the brand new arena in Zurich.

Goals came quick and plentiful for the West Lorne Lakers Sept. 29 as they beat North Middlesex 11-7, Sept. 29.

By the end of the first period, the home team Lakers were winning 7-0 with Ryan Carey in net.

The large, early lead proved to be the difference as they held a 10-3 lead after two periods.

Captain Paul Bray led the way with a hat trick and one

assist. Local player Greg Arvai has been on a three game scoring streak, netting two goals with two assists.

Ben Schnekenburger, Luke Hopkins, Dave Marshall, Jordan Dufton, Matt Willis and Trevor Vanderberg each scored for the Lakers.

Mount Brydges were in West Lorne Oct. 6, after press time. The Lakers have two road games in Lucan Oct. 13 and Mitchell Oct. 15. The next home game is against Lambeth Oct. 20.

The team's record is 1-3-1 with three points.

Skaters win gold



Chris Van Raay of the West Elgin Skating Club and Kaitlyn Lambert of the Glencoe Skating Club are gold medal skaters.

Chronicle photo

Chris Van Raay (West Elgin Skating Club) and Kaitlyn Lambert (Glencoe Skating Club) won gold medals in the pre-juvenile compulsory dance competition at the Ottawa Spring Festival on April 18.

After winning a gold in Grimsby and a bronze in Mooretown they placed on the Western Ontario Development team which made them eligible to go to Ottawa.

A gold in Wallaceburg qualified them for the Ontario qualifiers in Chatham where they received silver and became members of the Western Ontario Provincial team. At the all-Ontario's they placed 4th in their dance.

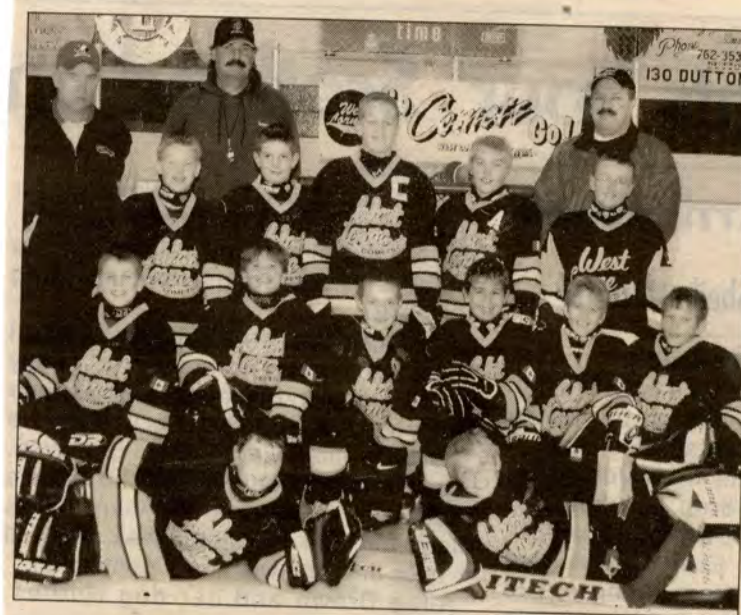
Their coaches, Patsy McGill (West Elgin Skating Club), Kelly Lambert (Glencoe Skating Club) and Greg Knight (Glencoe Skating Club) helped lead the group to success.



TRICOUNTY HONOURS...

The West Lorne Comets Novice Local Gold team finished its season with a win in the semi-final game and a hard-fought win against the West Lorne Novice Local Black team to take the TriCounty Hockey League championship. The team includes Gregory VanDerveen, Kent Vandenberg, Jason Timmermans, Steven Reimans, Scott Barfett, Stephen Carter, Courtney VanDyk, Carter Blake, Justin Delgado, Noah Redman and Dustin VanHee.

Submitted photo



The West Lorne Atom Travel team were the Shamrock League "B" Division Champions this season. The team includes: back, left, Mike Rivard (assistant coach), Jeff Russel (coach), Jon Collard (trainer), middle row, left, Mike Verboom, Jake Dymock, Zachary Dymock, Robert Johnston, Tyler Hull, front, left, Tyson Ford, Darian Hamm, Luke Gosnell, Jason Alves, Kyle Barber, Matt Vanceeder, on ice in front, left, Goalies Nolan Collard and Tyler Russell.

Submitted photo

SPORTS

JAN. 8, 2004



RIDGETOWN CHRISTMAS CLASSIC CHAMPS...

The West Lorne Gold Novice hockey team won the Ridgetown Christmas Classic tournament held during the Christmas break with four-straight wins. The team includes (not in order) Gregory VanDerVeen, Scott Barfett, Noah Redman, Justin Delgado, Steven Riemans, Dustin VanHee, Carter Blake, Courtney VanDyk, Jason Timmermans, Stephen Carter and Kent VanDenberg. Coaching staff includes Ted Vandenberg, Gerben VanDerVeen, Dianne VanDyk, Jim Redman and Scott Carter.

Submitted photo

Novice travel team dominates season

The West Lorne Novice Travel Team won its last regular season game in Glencoe Sunday afternoon with a strong 8-2 victory.

This team of incredible eight-year olds has won all 22 of its regular season games.

In fact, this team is 39-0-0 having also won six exhibition games and 11 tournament games in three tournaments they entered.

This is quite a feat, considering this team has to play teams from larger centres such as Dorchester, Lambeth, St. Thomas and St. Mary's in the Shamrock league.

The team had an impressive total of 204 goals scored and only 43 goals scored against them in the regular season games. Their totals for all 39 games played since late September are 339 goals "for" and 72 goals "against".

The team won a tournament in Norwich in October, West Lorne's Black and Gold Tournament in November and most recently, have won the chance to go to the International SilverStick finals in St. Clair Shores, Michigan by winning the regional SilverStick tournament in Parkhill in December.

The members of the Novice travel team are; Troy Winger (goalie), Andrew Barfett, Mackenzie Dick, Ryan Frizzell, Kurtis Gosnell, Matthew Hooghiem, Bowie Horvat, Bryan Johnston, Scott Payne, Gina Toth, David Vergeer. Stephen Carter is an affiliated player from the local league team who has played up with the travel team for almost all their games and Gregory Vanderveen has been a solid back-up goalie for the team in tournament games.

Six were experienced travel players from last year and the remaining players are first-time travel hockey players.

The Novice travel team as begins OMHA playdowns and league playoffs now while preparing for the Michigan International SilverStick finals at the end of the month.

Novice travel team wins Silver Stick regional tourney

TOURNAMENTS

Two of our boy's teams participated in tournaments the weekend of Dec. 12th.

The Darrell Dick Excavating Atom Travel team travelled to Blenheim and played some great hockey.

They opened the tournament with a tie against Kingsville 4-4 and followed with a tough 4-2 loss to Dresden.

In their final game, a 3-0 deficit to Glencoe didn't get our boys down as they fought back to end the game in a 3-3 tie.

Coach Jeff Russell is impressed with the constant improvement of his team and looks forward to continual leadership from Zachary Dymock, Robert Johnston and Luke Gosnell and strong goaltending from Ty Russell and Nolan Collard.

The Herm's Sport Exchange Novice Travel team were in Parkhill for their Silver Stick regional tournament.

Our boys and girl played solid hockey, defeating Port Stanley 12-0, London 10-0, Ilderton 9-3, Lucan 4-0 and Glencoe 8-1 to win the championship.

The team now travels to St. Clair Shores, Michigan Jan. 30 for the North American Silver Stick finals.

If you wish to assist the team in their fundraising efforts for their trip to Michigan, please drop off your donated beer bottle empties at the following drop off spots Jan. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Cindy's Country Cuts (Rodney), West Lorne Arena or Dutton Building Products-Pro Hardware.

GIRLS HOCKEY

This year West Lorne has two exciting girls hockey teams and we invite you to drop by the arena for a game.

Our junior girls team, ages nine to 12, are coached by John Verboom and they continue to have fun as they develop their skills.

The junior girls regular home games are Saturdays at 2 p.m.

Our intermediate girls team, ages 13 to 18, are coached by Brandon Hein and they continue to improve their play against some tough competition.

The intermediate girls play their home games Wednesday at 8 p.m.

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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



Spike

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Sherri Ford spikes past an East Elgin Secondary School defender in seniors girl's volleyball action Monday at West Elgin Secondary School. The Wildcats beat the Eagles in three sets to remain undefeated. The Wildcats have yet to lose a set with two games remaining against which could determine the team's seeding going into playoffs.



Lawnbowlers hold championships

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Jim West of Dutton and Donna Rose of Mitchell measure from the jack to determine points in the final match of the Merchants and Manufacturers Tournament held at the West Lorne Lawnbowling Club Sept. 7. The final tournament of the year at the club, the Albert Lashbrook trophy was won by a team from Sarnia with Ed and Edna Braithwaite and Lorna Haggett. The trophy was given by June Moore, daughter of Albert Lashbrook.



SUBMITTED

Rodney U-6 have a blast this year

Not just the coaches, and the players but parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters were involved in making the Rodney U-6 soccer team have lots of fun. The coaches were Dave Long and Greg Byers. The players were Cale Davis, Nolan McLarty, Cody Dasilva, Jesse Batton, Kyle Eastwood, Jack Verdel, Dawson Roodzant, Domink Siertsema, Tyler Byers, Jordan Garton, Erik Lyvang Rivard and Eric Larson.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

West Lorne U-7 win at Cup Day

West Lorne U7 soccer team recently won the year-end tournament in West Lorne. After having a great season they defeated teams from Shedden and Wallacetown to win the gold medal. Pictured are; Front row; Cody Van Acker, Samantha Wilson, Josh Goos, John Dunn, Emma McDonagh, Jami Jensen, Michael Payne, Raine Hindley, Taylor Parish. Back Row; Jade Hindley, Sarah Dewit, Sean Ricker, Tyler Mooser, Paul Dieker, Brandon Grant. Coaches; Stephanie McCulloch, Dave Jensen, and Julie Oliveira.

Skating club sharpening up for season

West Elgin Skating Club's Board members and Professional Coaches have been busy preparing a fresh and exciting season for its skaters. WESC, which is now entering its 52nd season on the ice, is a member of Skate Canada and part of the Kent Region, which represents the Western Ontario section of Skate Canada.

Following Skate Canada's mission: "enabling every Canadian to participate in skating throughout their lifetime for fun, fitness and/or achievement", WESC offers programs for skaters of all ages: preschool to adult.

Beginning skaters enroll in the CanSkate Program. This is the Skate Canada nationally acclaimed learn-to-skate program focusing on fun and continuous movement. CanSkate skills are divided into stages in a group lesson format with a Professional Coach and Program Assistant. This session offers group instruction however limited private instruction is available. CanSkate is also a great program for hockey and ringette skaters to improve on stroking and other skating skills without equipment or sticks.

Our club professionals at WESC are Patsy McGill, Pam Parezanovic and Rene Bergey. Our Saturday

morning Freeline professional is Kelly Lambert. CanSkate programs will run on a circuit system this season focusing on themes, games and incentives. Skills are taught by Club Professionals and then reinforced by Program Assistants. These assistants are usually Intermediate/Senior skaters with the club that volunteer their time to help and encourage our younger skaters to achieve their goals.

Skaters looking to advance in skills, freeskate or dance, enroll in the StarSkate Program. After working through the group lessons of stages 6-7, skaters spend time independently focusing on specific skills and supplementing practice with a private/semi-private lesson from a Professional Coach.

WESC is thrilled to be offering an Adult Skate Program this season. Former skaters looking to refresh skills, fitness and time to socialize with other adult skaters will enjoy the group time with Synchronize Skating Coach Lois Hathaway. If you'd like to be a part of this team or have any inquiries, please contact Trisha Fink (693-4220) for more information.

WESC is already planning for the 52nd annual carnival which will be held March 25, 2006. "Broadway" will be coming to life on the West Elgin arena ice. Along with the carnival this season, WESC will host "Futures-West". Open to skaters in the Bluewater, Kent and Sun Parlour Regions, this two day competition is a great opportunity for beginning skaters to be introduced to competition right on home ice as well as local business owners to attract new clients. Sharon Nielson, club president says, "Our club and the sport could not exist without the generous support of volunteers. It can be gratifying to get involved, particularly when one sees the faces of the young children alight with joy as they participate in their first carnival or competition. I wonder how many dreams of the stars of figure skating were born during home-club events like these?"

If you'd like to volunteer to be a part of these activities or to be a sponsor, contact Teri Knott (785-0673).

Come and be involved in a great team. WESC will be holding its first of two registrations at the West Lorne Complex on Aug. 23rd, 7-8 p.m. The second registration will be held at the arena on Sept. 8, 7-8:30 p.m. Skate swap and clothing/accessories will be available at both registrations.

For more information on any WESC programs, ice schedules or pricing call Sharon Nielson: 762-3066, Dianne Fratscher: 768-1803 or our web site: www.westelginskatingclub.com.



Skaters learn this summer

SUBMITTED

WESC skaters participated in a one-week seminar earlier this summer at the Mariposa School of Skating in Barrie. Mariposa is known as one of the National training centres for our Canadian athletes. Posing for a picture with Canadian National Bronze medalist Ben Ferreira is Coach Pam Parezanovic with skaters (l-r) Shelby Nielson, Sabrina Griffin and Kylie Beer.

SHELBY NIELSON IS THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF MARY LIEPMANN, A W.I. MEMBER

Lawnbowlers have fantastic night

Aug. 9 proved to be a sensational evening for a West Lorne Lawn Bowling Tournament, sponsored by Butch's Small Engine Repair from Dutton.

Three games of 10 ends were very competitive and the adrenaline was very high in the teams competing from Aylmer, Ridgetown, Freleton and West Lorne.

Scrumptious desserts prepared and served by Jean Vanseader, were enjoyed by everyone after the first game.

The team of Ken Willson and Carrie Garrish produced a perfect end, scoring 8 points in the first round of the third game.

First prize went to the team of Al Emerson and Ada Ure from Ridgetown with three wins and a score of 33 points.

Second place went to Andre and Locki Van Roessel from Aylmer with 3 wins and a score of 27 points.

Third place winners, tied in every sense of the word, were the

teams of Ken Willson and Carrie Garrish, Hugh Mills and Rose Daniel, with 2 wins, 38 points, plus an aggregate of 8, with 17 ends each.

A consolation prize, sweet corn, donated by Jim West, went to the team of Ivan Daniel and Doug Small.

Super excitement is extended to all who would like to participate in the great sport of Lawn Bowling.

Come join us every Monday and Thursday evening at 7 p.m.



Midget girls in tough JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Chelsea Dionne gives a little shoulder to a Strathroy Storm player in a midget girls hockey game in West Lorne Monday night. Krista Walker and Emily Dryfhout scored for the Comets but it wasn't enough to help Amanda Ford get the win in net. Strathroy won 4-2.



Takes the pass JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Courtney Van Dyk skates out of her own end during a 2-2 tie with Watford Nov. 26 in Girls Atom AE play. Steele Vandyk and Rachel Frizzell scored for the Comets.



Young local skaters learn tips from pros JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Six-time Canadian skating champion Jennifer Robinson signs autographs for skaters from as far away as Blenheim during a special development day hosted by the West Elgin Skating Club at the West Elgin Arena all day Oct. 5.

Skaters meet a star

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

All it took was a phone call and six time Canadian Champion Jennifer Robinson was teaching young figure skaters techniques at West Elgin Arena last week.

Robinson led on and off ice training sessions to help budding skaters with techniques and routines for warming up.

She was joined by skating coach and owner of the Mariposa School of Skating in Barrie, Michelle Leigh and veteran coach Paige Aistrop.

Skaters learned spins, jumps and performance techniques on and off the ice.

"If they can do a jump off the ice, there is no reason they couldn't do it on the ice. It's all about confidence," said Robinson.

Throughout the day she was signing autographs for the 70 skaters from Glencoe, western Elgin County and as far away as Blenheim.

"Some days you can learn just as much outside of the classroom as you can inside," said Sharon Neilson, an organizer of the event and the West Elgin Skating Club.

The event gave more skaters an opportunity to access professional coaches.

The coaches stressed, what is learned on the ice can be used in the outside world.

"Skating is really good for that," said Leigh. "They learn time management, respect for peers and coaches."

"These kids have so much energy and want to learn. Hopefully they can learn something they won't learn in school."

Leigh said in school, students learn the lesson then take the test. In skating it's reversed.

"In sports you learn how to deal with disappointment and how to rebound," she said.

Skaters also learned the importance of preparing to go on the ice.

Angie Cornwall, dietician at the West Elgin Community Health Centre taught the girls what foods can give them the energy to perform a five minute skate

at their best.

Along with eating, warming up off the ice can help the skaters shake the rust of their blades.

Often, skaters are rushed after school to the rink and onto the ice.

Robinson encouraged the girls to do stretches and activities like skipping to prepare the body for rigorous skating.

"For young skaters that want to make it, they need to start with good habits," said Robinson.



Skating with pros
Professional skating coach Michelle Leigh helps Jamee Ellis with her spins.

Willcocks playing in national soccer final

Shelby Willcocks of West Lorne was on her way to Moncton Oct. 5 to play in the Girls/Boys U-14 Canadian Soccer Championships this weekend.

The Grade 9 West Elgin Secondary School student plays goal for the London Supernovas.

Having started playing soccer in the West Lorne Minor Soccer League in the U-5, she decided to try goal a few years ago.

Spotted in a game in London, she was asked to come play for a competitive team, the Hurricanes.

Now with the Supernovas, she's had the chance to travel into the U.S. and across the province to play soccer.

Her team recently won the Ontario Championships in Oakville.

She also helped her team win the London Regional Soccer League.

"I'm really excited," she said.

Shelby, daughter of Sheri and Kevin boarded a plane, for the first time with her team to fly to Moncton for the weekend tournament.

The Supernovas are representing Ontario and are the top seeded U-14 team.

Shelby is hopeful for the teams chances but know it won't be easy, with tough teams from British Columbia and Quebec.

"I'm looking forward to the final game," she



Shelby Willcocks

said. "We've all played really well to get here. If we play hard I think we'll do really well."

She'll continue to play hard when she returns home and sets soccer balls aside for hockey pucks as she joins the Junior A Devillettes in London.

Lakers without loss in season

Reversing last year's dismal start to the season, the West Lorne Lakers Junior D hockey team have started this season without a loss in its first seven games.

After the first seven games last year, the Lakers were 1-5-1 with 29 goals for and 44 goals against.

The team faced adversity and criticism for the slow start last year, especially when the playoff run was so successful, making it to the semi-finals.

The team has responded this year with 35 goals for and only 20 goals against.

The Lakers beat Lucan Monday night, 4-1 with Brandon Palmer making 31 saves.

Ryan Campbell of St. Thomas scored the first Lakers goal and added an assist on Mike Dufton's breakaway goal in the second period.

Rick Buncick and Justin Rowles had the other Lakers' goals.

On Saturday the Lakers romped the Belmont Bombers in a scoring frenzied 9-6 win in Belmont.

Jordan Dufton had five points with one goal.

Matt Willis had four points including three assists.

Ryan Roke scored twice and Mike Dufton, Mike Cameron, Mark Firth, Brady Campbell and Ryan Campbell adding the other goals.

West Lorne fired 67 shots on goal while Liam Nediger stopped 28 for the Lakers.

On Oct. 12 the Lakers won at home against the Exeter Hawks 7-5.

Ryan Roke had five points including two goals to lead the Lakers' to a comeback win.

Down 5-2 after the first period, the Lakers scored five goals in the third period.

Matt Willis had five points including the empty net goal at the end of the game.

Jordan Dufton had three points including a goal, Brady Campbell had four points and Billy Carter also scored for the Lakers.

The Lakers play four away games before returning home Oct. 31 to face the Lucan Irish at 8:15 p.m.



Lakers knock over Lucan JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Lakers' power forward Jordan Dufton skates away from two Lucan Irish players that attempted to knock him down in the second period Monday.