

WEST LORNE

WOMEN'S

INSTITUTE



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HISTORY

Volume 9

2006-2007

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Compiled by Leola Lawrence



Marine biologist talks to WESS

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Gerry Cross a marine biologist from London, has taken under water photographs around the world and showed his pictures at an assembly at West Elgin Secondary School recently. Here, Jordan Gallant and Chris Wemp help Cross with a game.

Erie Flooring recognized

Erie Flooring and Wood Products has been recognized for its commitment to apprenticeships.

The West Lorne company had been nominated for an Apprenticeship Employer Recognition Award by Janet Maguire, employment counselor at West Elgin Support Services.

The hardwood manufacturer, distributor and exporter of truck and residential flooring was nominated for providing co-op opportunities for students, giving exposure to apprenticeship trades and providing summer jobs for youth.

Al Jones, plant manager received the certificate from the Apprenticeship Network for Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford at a dinner at Fanshawe College in London Nov. 9.

Clothing shop opens in West Lorne

Bonnie Robertson has had a dream come true.

She's the new owner of Corner Consignments, a used and new clothing and accessories store at Graham Road and Main Street West Lorne.

"If you had told me February 13 I was going to open a store I would have said no way but the opportunity came February 14 and I said 'okay!'" said Robertson.

With clothing to suit all budgets, Robertson has consignment deals with 66 people already bringing new and

used items every day.

From wedding gowns to retro clothing and latest fashions to name brands, Robertson has something for seniors, adults and teens.

"Everyone who comes in says they're amazed how much is in here and the large amount of space," said Robertson.

With tons of family and friends helping her out, Robertson has also received a lot of community support to help her open.

Her first weekend rocked,

with Hogwild members performing on the street in front of her shop.

"It's going to be a good venture," she said. Robertson was a grocery store demonstrator for 12 years as well as working at book sales at local schools.

Open every day but Sunday and Monday, Corner Consignment has longer hours in the summer to accommodate farm workers and campers.

Her long-term goal: "Make it a success."



Winner of the bike draw at the Youth Safety Day held in June (left to right) Diane Van Dyk (organizer), Gerry Leeson (bike donor), Jasmin Brewer (bike winner)

Elgin - St. Thomas
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Foodland raises \$610 for Easter Seals Society

Collecting \$2 from customers for two weeks resulted in \$610 raised for the Easter Seals Society at the West Lorne Foodland. Here Jennie Christian, district manager for Easter Seals accepts a cheque from staff, Melissa Slaats and Fernanda DeMatos. Christian said the Foodland staff stepped up this year after raising less than \$100 in 2005.



Life road leads back home for Stephen Huver

Stephen Huver has returned to West Lorne to open his own business across the street from where he had his first job as a teenager.

Huver, 36, of Rodney opened a Freedom 55 office on Graham Road across the street from Home Hardware, which his father Rudy owned for many years.

"I assembled many bikes over there," he said.

Building bikes and priming tobacco, Huver saved money to go to school and earn his business degree at the University of Western Ontario.

From there he worked 10 years as a business analyst with Microsoft Canada in Mississauga, preparing the Canadian operation reports.

"I even met Bill (Gates) a few times," he said.

After meeting his wife Krista and starting a family, which now includes three children, Luke, four, Matthew, two, and John-Paul, one, Huver decided he wanted to be close to his roots.

He earned his mutual funds licence and life insurance licence in March through London Life, at the Chatham office.



Freedom 55 opens

Stephen Huver has opened a Freedom 55 office in West Lorne.

City-like experience in small town



Bonita's opens

Cindy Sutton has opened a new spa in downtown West Lorne.

A new mini spa has opened in West Lorne. Bonita's, owned by Cindy Sutton, offers many esthetic services.

Bonita's, Portuguese for "beautiful," opened April 11 at 236 Graham Road.

Sutton has turned her dream into reality, at the age of 26.

With the help of her husband Kory Sutton and family, the new spa has been decorated with chic pottery in the front window, a fire place and suede covered couch.

"Some people have said it belongs on Richmond Row," said Sutton of the high-end section of stores in London.

She studied esthetics at the Rebec School in London and manicuring/pedicures at Bluewater College before learning the ropes at Reflections Getaway in Dutton.

Now, she's opened her own spa in West Lorne, which she calls central to neighbouring villages, with city-like services in a small town.

Leaving the Chronicle for the rodeo road

Among the Christian community, there's a concept understood as 'God's timing'; that despite our best planning and personal goals, what's meant to be, happens in God's timing, not ours.

Sometimes, we're in complete synch with that timing and sometimes not.

For years, I have wanted to be able to work full time in the rodeo ministry I've been involved with for about seven years now.

Nov. 1, I start. While it was a long time coming, all the pieces came together quite suddenly.

That means leaving the Chronicle and a 14-year career in journalism to pursue something a lot of people think is crazy. It means literally living in my van in the summer on rodeo grounds. It means not always knowing if there's going to be gas in the van. It means living on faith.

Those who know me well know I should be absolutely freaking out to give up stability.

I'm not. It's something I truly feel called to do and I'm at peace with that.

But I'm not losing ties to these communities and will continue to keep in contact with friends and coworkers who have been a big part of life at the Chronicle. Because of that, it's not a sad goodbye, just a change in direction.

When I was asked to fill in during a pinch almost four years ago as the editor, the opportunity existed to stay. I chose to leave a daily newspaper to come back into a weekly because of the extremely positive experience I had in these communities.

I'd never met as many people who were willing to work with you and help you to provide coverage for the community including individuals, organizations, coworkers and business owners who believed in the quality of life out here. I found myself believing in it too.

Since coming here, I've tried to be an advocate for these communities, often behind the scenes, sometimes more publically.

I will still be able to spend time in the area and will remain an active member of the Marketing Partners of Western Elgin Region.

I'll also still be producing the Horse Farm Tour.

The ministry will be taking me into Tennessee for six months of the year and Ontario for six months where I'll work with about three different rodeo associations.

On the rodeo grounds, I'll be providing "cowboy church." For many, it's the only access rodeo cowboys have to church as their lifestyle takes them on the road, away from churches and family. Because of the dangerous lifestyle they've chosen, it's also a great way to reach a growing, largely unchurched population (there were almost 40 rodeos in Ontario alone this summer).

Cowboy church is an informal church service with a short message applying Biblical teachings to cowboy culture.

Because rodeo cowboys are so open to prayer, we studied it throughout the summer in Ontario to help these guys develop their own relationships with God. Before the summer was over, about 25 cowboys realized they didn't have to wait for me to pray for or with them, after focussing entirely on that topic.

In Tennessee, larger groups of guys gather for cowboy church where it's been a much more common event and with that comfort, they bring more needs directly to you.

The ministry was started there in a church in Chattanooga and through friends I had made travelling there where I started helping by distributing cowboy Bibles: New Testaments with rodeo-related covers that cowboys are more comfortable taking.

I've since become the sole operator of the ministry, now being managed through the Blyth Community Church of God in Huron County, where I had relationships before coming to

COLUMN



Thinking Out Loud
Scott Hilgendorff

western Elgin County.

To date, I've only been able to provide these services as spare time allows but demands on that time have continued to grow. Cowboy church is the most visible aspect of the ministry, but it's only where the work starts. Relationships are built through connections made during cowboy church that lead to mentoring and discipling situations. From there, more personal needs are revealed and more involved work begins.

As long as it's packaged in a rodeo or cowboy context, these guys will also accept written teaching material on a regular basis while maintaining a website is another way to keep in contact with many of them and receive prayer requests. Despite its unusual nature, it's a very fruitful mission field with interest in these kinds of services growing as the rodeo industry continues to expand in North America.

To date, enough funds have been raised to provide a shoestring operating budget for the next eight months. Ongoing supporters and independent contributions are always going to be needed now as I try to operate with an \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year budget. Because of little infrastructure and housing (I will be staying on the rodeo grounds in the summers) less than the cost of sending someone on a two-week African mission trip can keep this ministry in operation for an entire year, reaching out with Christian support to literally hundreds of cowboys.

Tax deductible donations can be left at Dutton Flowers, The Chronicle in West Lorne or Real Pac on Pioneer Line in Rodney. Please be sure to include your name and address with your donation for a tax receipt.

To keep up with ministry happenings, or to reach me by email, I can be found at www.ridingforchristministries.com.



Tobacco planting begins

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

After the frost melted, tobacco planting season began at the Schneckenger's farm Monday. Terri Schekenger, Tracy Larson, Irene Doan and Heather Johnston plant tobacco on Silver Clay Line. Only two tobacco family farms remain in western Elgin County.

Serving the communities of West Elgin • Dutton-Dunwich • Southwold
Newbury • Wardsville • Muirkirk • Duart • Clachan and surrounding areas

The Chronicle

September 14, 2006 Established 1993 Volume 14 - Issue 37

Jewellery stolen in West Lorne

Several items were stolen from Krebsz Jewellery in West Lorne March 3 after the glass door was smashed between the bars.

Witnesses told Elgin County OPP two males were seen committing the crime then leaving in a dark coloured Jeep Cherokee.

OPP are requesting anyone with information to contact the OPP at 310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-888-222-TIPS.

Dutton van found torched

For the second time in a month a vehicle was stolen in Dutton then found destroyed by fire.

This time, sometime over night,

March 5, a 1993 Black Ford Aerostar Van was stolen from Mary Street.

It was later recovered destroyed by fire on Water Tower Line in Central Elgin.

Driver dashes paying for gas

After an attendant filled up a blue car at the Petro Canada on Highway 401 the driver said they would be right in to pay but didn't Feb. 22.

The black man, looked approximately 50, was 5'7" and left in a blue car, without paying for \$42.46 in gas. A partial plate was seen; #AXDY.

Lock pried off West Lorne business door

A lock was pried off the front door of a store on Main Street West Lorne to gain entry Jan. 9.

An alarm sounded, scaring away the culprits at around 10:30 p.m. The name of the business is not being released to protect against further attempted break ins.

Man found sleeping in snow New Year's day

An intoxicated man was found lying in a snow bank in front of the West Lorne Fire Department New Year's day.

Thames EMS was called and took the man to Four Counties Health Services.

West Elgin man dinged with many traffic charges

A 43-year-old West Elgin man was charged with several offences including possession of marijuana and

driving with a disqualified licence after being stopped on Queens Line and Blacks Road Jan. 15.

Elgin County OPP pulled over the man in a 1990 white Cadillac without a validated permit or licence plate authorized for the vehicle.

Along with the marijuana charge, the man was also charged with driving without insurance, failing to notify the Ministry of Transportation of a change of address and failing to apply for a permit on becoming owner of the vehicle.

Also the man was without the interlock device required on his licence after a past impaired driving charge.

Shed fire extinguished on Gray Line

A small shed and its contents were destroyed in a

blaze Jan. 16.

At 5 p.m. Rodney Fire Department responded at 20615 Gray Line, where a six-square-metre (64-square-foot) shed was on fire.

Elgin OPP report a candle light was being used for lighting and heating the shed.

"A (64-year-old) lady was storing some articles in (the shed). We're not exactly sure how it started," said Rodney Fire Chief Andy Kieraszewicz.

He estimated damage to the shed at more than \$2,000.

"It's still standing, but all the contents (Christmas decorations and clothes) were destroyed. It will be a write-off since the interior had enough damage that it will have to be rebuilt."



New biz

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Alex Perovich and Dave Campbell have partnered to open AP Electronics in West Lorne offering televisions, home theatre, satellite and computer repair.

Electronics business opens

AP Electronics opened its doors officially during the West Lorne Santa Claus parade.

Alex Perovich and Dave Campbell, two tech savvy business partners opened their first shop and are already getting more customers.

Both worked out of their homes in the homes of many of their customers.

Perovich is a licenced Starchoice satellite seller and installer and Campbell is known as the Dutton Computer Guy.

Both needed a place to keep inventory and by joining forces are able to keep the store open and display the latest in consumer technologies.

"I thought it was the right move," said Perovich. "Consumer products and computers are converging. Everything works together now."

The Graham Road store includes a show room with televisions and surround sound stereo equipment.

Up front is the latest in satellite equipment, electronic accessories and computer hardware.

Perovich said his reputation has been built by being in business in the area for many years.

The former tobacco farmer left the family

farm that he operated with his father, former Aldborough Reeve Dan Perovich.

"Lot's of people ask what they should buy," he said.

Now, they can come and see the latest products and test them out in the showroom.

High definition television, satellite radios and stereo equipment are on display.

Perovich said people don't want to drive to the big box stores in the city and are intimidated by the huge selection and pushy salespersons.

"It's not all about the money. It's about building a reputation," he said. "You have to go the extra mile."

For Campbell, patience is the key while fixing computers.

"I have two kids. I know patience," he said.

While his house calls are still under a separate business his in-store computer cleaning is part of the new business.

He offers a wide range of services for troubleshooting and computer repair.

Perovich calls it value-added service, it's more than setting up or selling equipment and leaving.

"We'll take the time to show you how to use it," he said.

Kolars move dojo to old health centre in West Lorne

Jim and Kate Kolar have moved their martial arts dojo to the old health centre building on Main Street West Lorne.

With additional pace for additional equipment, the Security Training Solutions has become a Martial Arts and Fitness Centre, the only one of its kind in the

area. The business occupies up to the old reception area in the health centre building which was abandoned when the new West Elgin Community Health Centre was built in 2004.

It includes a weight room with free weights and a three

person universal machine.

Next door is the cardio room with, among other equipment, an elliptical machine.

In the near future, personal trainers will also use the facility and circuit training will be provided.

Across the hall, in the old

lunchroom, is the dojang, a room for martial arts classes.

The centre is starting Little Dragons, a martial arts program taught by youth for kids.

The centre is open 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., then 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

Women At Work

"Sew Exciting" quilted seminar coming

Exciting things are happening in the Home Sewing Industry according to Heather Bell from Heather Bell's Sewing & Dye Studio.

All over Canada, two of the hottest trends in sewing today, Quilting and Home Dec are being combined in an exciting informative presentation.

Soon, area residents will be able to experience that excitement at a Sulky "Sew Exciting" Seminar at

Heather's studio at 24846 Pioneer Line, West Lorne, on September 26, 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. or 7 - 9:30 p.m.

The Sulky "Sew Exciting" Quilted Home Seminar is a 2 1/2 hour program that will be presented by Sheila O'Hagan, a Canadian Sulky Educator. Sulky is a well-known decorative thread and stabilizer manufacturer.

Contemporary, traditional, beginner and advanced quilters will discover that Sulky Decorative Threads are truly the sewing artisans paint



Heather Bell

and Sulky Stabilizers are the foundation.

Each person will receive a free giveaway valued at \$20.00 and is eligible for a door prize.

Sheila will be bringing beautiful quilts and projects using a variety of fun and easy techniques highlighting quilting and embellishing with decorative threads.

For more information about attending this Sulky "Sew Exciting" Quilted Home Seminar call Heather at (519)768-1284.

Everyone is welcome but pre-registration is required. The cost is \$25 plus GST=\$26.60.

Heather feels that it is vital to keep sewing skills alive in our community and that by offering seminars helps keep the excitement alive and introduces new sewers to a high level of the industry.

Email: mydyestudio@netscape.net



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Stone wall built at Eagle shoreline

Armour stone was placed along the Lake Erie shoreline last week by Van Bree Construction to protect against further erosion. Last spring erosion damaged an access road to the lower lift of the West Lorne Water Treatment Plant which services 20,000 residents in Dutton/Dunwich, Newbury, Southwest Middlesex, West Elgin and Chatham-Kent.

Focus on Farming

Young people getting into farming

Growing up, children want to become policemen, firemen but farmers?

In our area, while many find work in agri-business few are going back to

the farm after college, say local farmers.

Statistics Canada's 2006 census shows 30 farm operators under the age of 35 in West Elgin and

Dutton/Dunwich.

This, while the average age of farmers remains around 55.

At the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus, half of graduating students go back to the family farm, while the other half work in agri-business, says Peter Sikkema, teacher and researcher at Ridgetown.

More would like to go back to the farm.

"You've got that right," he said. "My guess is that there's some more that would like to work in primary ag, they may work on the home farm and they will also work in an agribusiness of some sort so they can build up equity in the farm so they can take it over at some point in the future."

Jamie McCaffery said almost all the

farmers he knows under the age of 35 have a full time job.

"Anyone my age that is farming has another job. I sell seed. That's my full time job," said the 28-year-old who owns a farm on Silver Clay Line in Dutton/Dunwich. "Once you're established you can do it.

Guys 35 or under have a second job."

As soon as he finished a two year program at the University of Guelph he bought his first farm.

He and his father Leo have four farms.

Full time, Jamie is a Pioneer Seeds dealer but has 300

acres of cash crops.

Calling farming the best job in the world, Jamie said, "You've got to love it to do it."

Married to Tina, a horticulture teacher at West Elgin Secondary School, Jamie said the family farm isn't disappearing.

"I don't like it when people say the family farm is gone. The farmers have just got really big," he said.

Working in an industry where the average age of a farmer is 55, Jamie said he learned all the negatives about farming quickly.

"You can see the negative side pretty quick. You've got to remind yourself of the positives. Without that it's easy to get discouraged," he said.

Low crop prices being one of the negatives and particularly for a young farmer, with a high debt load.

Some of Jamie's friend, living in cities and working outside of agriculture are trying to

find investments, whether it be in oil and stocks.

"For me I see this as investing in myself," he said.

John Watterworth, 24, has taken responsibility for farming 1,500 acres around West Lorne.

His father, Don, passed away in 2005 and while the farm is a company John is

working the ground.

He made the choice to become a farmer several years ago but with the passing of his father, it's full time now.

With help from the "farm supervisor" family friend, John has even expanded the farm, tripling its size since his father's death.

John has rented fields himself since he was 16.

"Some people think I'm crazy," he said.

"I've been around it since before I can first remember," he said. "Even if I was doing something else I would still farm a little bit."

Calling farming a silly racket, John



Jamie McCaffery, 28, is a seed dealer and farms in Dutton/Dunwich.



John Watterworth, 24, farms near West Lorne.

compares his career as a farmer to other careers.

"Someone who works in a factory, you know, can take a week off and someone will fill in for them," he said. "Here, if I don't do something it doesn't get done."

He said he had the choice several years ago to be a farmer or do something else.

"Lots of kids grow up on the farm, are given a choice and backed away or went away to school and weren't around when the decision had to be made," he said. "It's not like I woke up one day and said 'I want to be a farmer' I just kind of rolled into it"

But if it wasn't going well or he

didn't like it, he said he wouldn't still be doing it.

Rob Tait is a next generation farmer, continuing a tradition stretched back to his great grandfather.

The 25-year-old has been taking over the family farm from his parents Duncan and Annie Isobel, in North Dunwich.

Tait also teaches at West Elgin Secondary School and is working towards having the farm pay for itself, so he doesn't have to subsidize it with his teaching wages.

Tait's been learning the challenges of owning land, animals and a farm.

The farm is 300 acres, with 20 cow/calves and sheep.

One big chal-

lenge this year has been water, or lack of, as the pastures grow dry and shallow wells constantly need to be filled up. He's also been disappointed, learning about insurances that don't cover for livestock that just don't make it.

While he grew up on the farm and learned how to run it, he said it was still a choice to take it over.

"I could have said I want nothing to do with it. All of us have a choice. You look and see so much work to do," he said. "It's been a lifestyle I've always known."

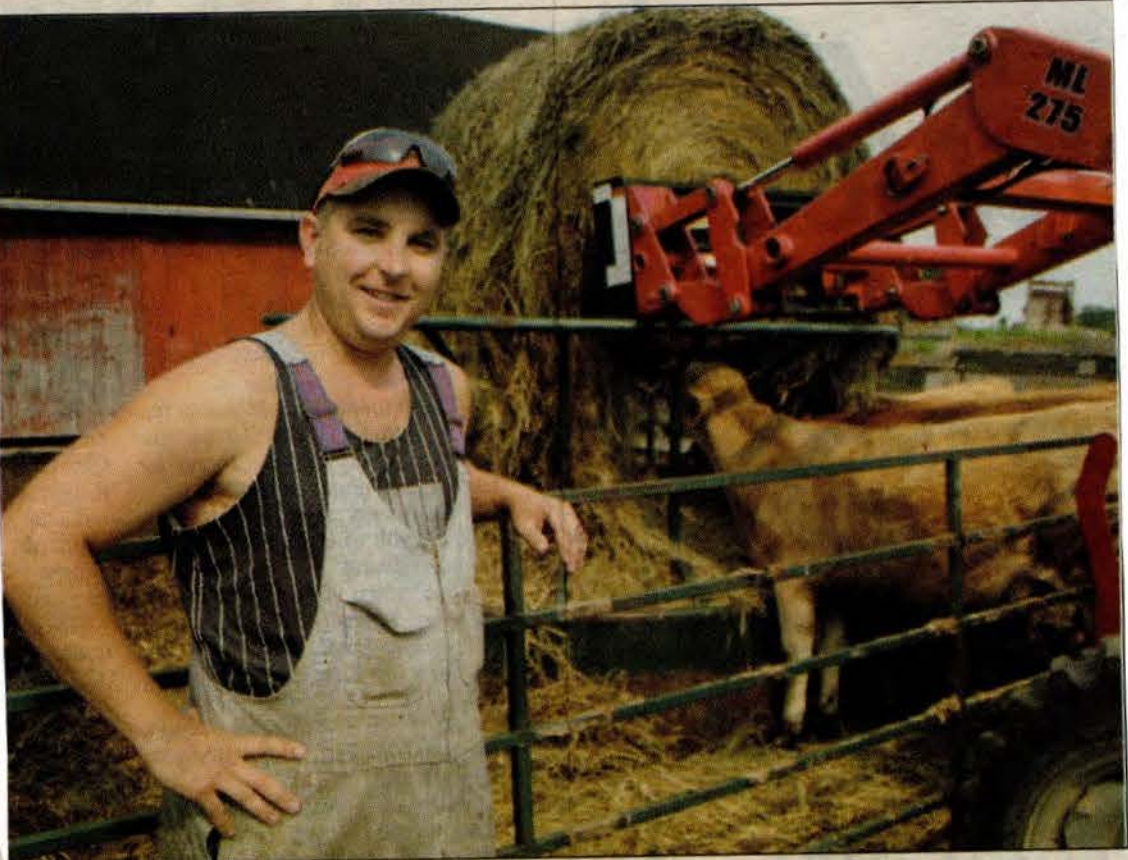
Life style or maintaining a lifestyle desired, Tait wants to travel.

He's okay with the idea of following in his father's

foot steps and working on the farm, even into his 80s.

"Some people would sell it all and ride off into the sunset," he said. "My father always wants to contribute to feel he has a purpose."

Having an off-farm full-time job, though, is a reality, part of the balance of what he calls the "best of both worlds," where he can teach and farm.



Rob Tait, 26, farms in North Dunwich while maintaining a teaching job at West Elgin Secondary School.

"No way would I dream of farming if I didn't have work as a teacher," he said.

"There's a lots of positives too, that we're moving forward," he said. "This has always been a rural-based community. It's always going to be. All of us young guys have to stay positive."

Young entrepreneur opens salon in West Lorne

Nikki Ross has opened up a salon and tanning business in West Lorne.

Ross & Co. is located at the B&J's Variety Plaza on

Graham Road in the village.

Having grown up in the area, Ross apprenticed at Hair Razorz Tanning Salon and Esthetics in Rodney before making the jump to entrepreneurship.

"It was a huge decision," she said, but it's paying off. "It's been overwhelming," adding she's booked for the next four weeks.

With the support of family and friends she designed her own salon.

Receiving compliments, Ross said people have called the space "Zen-like". She wanted it

to be a relaxing atmosphere.

With modern mirrors, laminate flooring and a stone wall separating the hair washing station, soft music is heard over the salon which opened earlier in May.

At only 21-years-old, Nikki is the daughter of Harold and Cindy of Eagle.

Along with her apprentice Taryn Clements, Ross hopes to grow the business and establish a good clientele.

Ross says the salon has a big city feel, leaving people amazed when they first walk in the



New salon

Nikki Ross owner of Ross & Co., a new salon in West Lorne.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

door. "My biggest goal is to make people feel good about themselves when they walk out the door," she says.

She admits she has something to

prove, being so young.

"You have to really want it. You have to have drive," she said. "That's why I've been putting in 12-hour days to get it going."

Ross and Co. is located at 2089 Graham Road and can be reached at 519-768-3266. Hours are Tues. to Thur. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Fri. and Sat. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Women's business

Yvonne Brooks and Gucheri Matruski of Mt. Kenya Coffee in St. Thomas chat at the Elgin Business Women's Network dinner at Lakeview Gardens Sept. 19.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE



Smart meters

Bob Wright installs one of the new Hydro One Smart Meters in West Lorne Dec. 21. Current Hydro One electric meter are being replaced with Smart Meters until the end of next year. The meters download automatically to Hydro One for billing purposes.

JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

Denning brothers purchase Padfield Funeral Homes

Bill and Brett Denning have purchased Padfield Funeral Homes.

The brothers are the fourth owners of the business which has two locations, Rodney and West Lorne.

Bill, a fourth generation funeral director was hired in 2000.

Brett is 24, Bill 28 and already the two now own three funeral homes, including Forest and Watford.

Jim Price who had owned Padfield's since 1986 when he purchased it from Emerson Padfield will remain a director.

Denning said all along there was honesty between him and Price as Price opened the books and showed Denning

everything about owning and operating the two homes.

Bill and Kelly Oliveira live adjacent to Padfields in Rodney.

Living close to work, Denning has learned to love the small town lifestyle.

He appreciates the uniqueness of owning a funeral home here.

In the city, someone may only be responsible for helping with the ceremony while someone else is responsible for the burial.

At Padfields, Denning greets the family at the door, helps with the ceremony, is at grave side and then has to go through the business of doing the

book work.

All the while, he will see the family at the grocery store and town events.

A new service Denning is looking at including with funerals is digital slide shows.

With a flat screen T.V. the moments of a life can be shared in a moving piece compiled by Denning and the client.

Both Brett and Bill learned the ropes at their parent's funeral home in Strathroy.

Their parents, Becky and Randy remain supporters and investors in the boy's venture today.



Padfield Funeral Homes

New owner of Padfield Funeral Homes, Bill Denning and now former owner, Jim Price.

CONTRIBUTED

JUNE 21/07

New Angus House opens

West 76 Angus House and Tavern has opened on Main Street in West Lorne.

Tim and Jody Liddiard, brothers from London, bought the restaurant and see it as a good investment.

West of the County Road 76 the new owners are priding the restaurant on good food and entertainment.

Already the new business had a good night with an acoustic open house.

"It was awesome," said bar manager Bonnie McMullen.

An open electric night is planned for March 24.

More entertainment is planned and the operators request that performers drop off a business card.

An easy-going smalltown attitude has the owners feeling good about the new restaurant.

"The people are great. They always want to hear your story and want to tell you their story," said Tim.



West 76

New owner of West 76, right, Tim Liddiard and bar manager Bonnie McMullen.

"It's a good atmosphere. It's a big place with a great dance floor," said McMullen.

Seating for 100, the restaurant is offering dinner specials with plans to grow and offer lunch.

West 76 is open Wednesday to Monday 6 p.m. to midnight.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE



Chronicle helping with senior's projects

Karen Goncalves, advertising and design, and Steve Down, publisher for the Chronicle (middle) present certificates for \$1,000 each to Harry Mezenberg, chair of West Lorne Heritage Homes, left, and Bob Purcell, chair, Caledonia Two project. The certificates represent in-kind donations of advertising to support both group's fundraising efforts.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

AUG 23/07

Young and in the biz

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff



Farrier
Justin McCallum, farrier, works a horseshoe for Travis at Pat Wilson's farm.

Justin McCallum is only 18-years-old but he's already started his own business and landed some of the area's largest customers.

McCallum, from north of West Lorne is a farrier and trained blacksmith.

A graduate of Oklahoma State Farrier School, McCallum has been working with horses since he was very young.

At 10 he owned his first horse, a quarterhorse that he still owns today at his parent's, Dave and Florence, farm.

While he is still completing his high school diploma through correspondence, he has already found his calling.

Asked if he would rather work with horses than people, he said, "yeah" with a smile as he trimmed Travis, a quarterhorse at Pat Wilson's farm.

Wilson gave McCallum his first horse and now eight years later, McCallum shoes and trims for her.

Another client of McCallum's is Mac Lilley Farms, one of the areas largest standard bred operations.

"They gave me a chance," said McCallum. "It's a great place to work."

Young, McCallum has to prove his abilities with every new customer.

"A younger person going into an older person's barn, they might not think I know what I'm doing," he said.

"Some people might think I do a good job, some might think I don't."

New into the business McCallum

admits he still has lots to learn.

He apprenticed with George Westfall from Blenheim last year after he graduated from the school in Oklahoma.

Travelling across the continent for a six week program was a lot of fun and an important step as it is one of the most well known schools he said.

"It was a lot of hands on. We didn't sit around talking about it, we did it," he said.

There he also learned the blacksmith trade, giving him the ability to make his own horse shoes.

"Justin is a teenager but he knows what a good days work is," said Pat Wilson, who has watched McCallum grow up around horses.

Working with horses is suited for younger people, said McCallum.

As he trimmed Travis, the 1,000 lbs. horse leaned on his back.

Working with young colts can be a challenge, said Wilson, when it moves around and you're trying to nail shoes on it.

"You can't be shaking in your boots," she said. "Justin has no fear of the horses and the horses can tell."

"Anything to do with horses, you have to be a horse lover. You have to enjoy it," said Wilson, adding McCallum has the potential to be a trainer one day too.

There are many different careers that can open up in the horse industry.

"Like most teenage boys Justin didn't like school. He loves horses. He wheels and deals," said Wilson, commenting on McCallum who has bought and sold horses for years.

As for the future, McCallum said he'll stay with the farrier business while he's young and strong.

MAR 1/07

Shane Wood starts business

Shane Wood of West Lorne has moved on from his job in the unpredictable auto sector and started his own lawncutting and trimming business.

While he's worked in other industry's Wood is taking 12 years experience in landscaping and has started Saw Landscape and Tree Service.

He's already been busy with rain gutter cleaning: "A lot of people forget or can't clean out their gutters," he says.

No cleaning out gutters can big problems such as water backing up under shingles, says Wood.

"Keeping the leaves, sticks, shingle pieces out of the gutter keeps the water moving down the spout to the ground," he reminds people.

From trimming overhanging trees, to landscaping, planting, cutting and even taking care of yards while a customer is on holidays, Wood says no job is too small.

"This company, to me, is everything I have ever wanted," he says.

He's following the lead of his grandfather who started a successful trucking company in London.

me," he says. Wood has applied for municipal contracts.

He hopes to continue to grow the business, moving on from the auto industry.

Shane Wood can be reached at 519-768-3079.



New landscaper
Shane Wood has started his own landscaping business.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

New environmentally friendly West Elgin Water Treatment Plant in the planning stages

by Scott Hilgendorff

A new, \$19 million water treatment plant in West Elgin will be using some of the latest technology that has local environmentalists and the rest of the community's attention. *The community is excited about it,* said Mayor Graham Warwick. Although the physical work will likely not start until October, the plans have been drawn up and the detailed engineering has started on the project by the North American consulting firm, Stantec, with a team of engineers operating out of its London office. The overall project will see a 1,200 cubic metre water treatment plant built on the east side of Graham Road south of Eagle.

The reason for the excitement, especially among local environmental groups, is that the project's innovations include some



relatively new and environmentally significant technology. *This new technology uses a membrane filtration system,* said Mike Manning, one of Stantec's engineers on the project. It acts like a filter cloth to clean out the silt and particulate matter from the water drawn out of Lake Erie.

Warwick said a *pulse back system* is then used to push water back through the membrane every 90 seconds. About 95% of the solids are removed from the water before it is treated with the solids going to a settling tank. The 5% that is left will be directed to two

With permission from the Municipality of West Elgin

settling ponds in the form of backwash that Warwick said would become a natural area.

The ponds were established as a less costly and environmentally friendly alternative to pumping the left over water back to the lake.

It's envisioned it's going to be a natural place you could enjoy, said Warwick, adding it will be open to foot traffic only. Stantec is working closely with a group of local wildlife and plant experts in the form of an Environmental Steering Committee with involvement that includes the West Elgin Nature Club, the Elgin Stewardship Council and members of the West Elgin Secondary School Environmental Club.