



**Grease fire** JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE  
 Captain Craig Elliott inspects a grease fire at a Graham Road home Jan. 11. Cooking french fries, a pot was left unattended. Water was used by a resident of the home to try and stop the fire which burned cupboards. Water is not to be used in grease fires as it spreads the grease. Ontario's fire prevention officers say use: baking soda, a lid or wet towel, but call 911 first.

## COP to start in West Elgin

An OPP presentation is hoped to kick start Citizens on Patrol in West Elgin in this New Year.

Another response to petty vandalism in the villages, it's hoped people will come forward and contribute to keeping the community safer.

Mary Bodnar, Ward 1 councillor and the Community Policing Committee is spearheading the COP program across West Elgin.

Last spring, Bodnar began looking for people interested in patrolling the village of Rodney.

She has found 15 people committed since then, including people willing to watch over West Lorne and Eagle.

She is still seeking people to head up patrols in the New Glasgow and Port Glasgow area.

OPP Community Relations Officer Michelle Scott is making a presentation on Citizens on Patrol at the Rodney Legion Jan. 25.

Bodnar said there's no number of people

needed to make the program work.

She said COP will work as well as people make it work.

"Many people are already out walking around," she said. "Why not lend your eyes and ears to support a safer community?"

All that is required is lending one to three hours of time to patrol.

Two people must patrol together.

They call into the OPP communications centre to let the police know they are patrolling the village either by foot or in a vehicle.

Two big challenges face the effort to restart COP, said Bodnar.

Keeping people committed to patrolling is one reason the program disappeared in recent years.

The second challenge will be getting people on patrol to call in anything suspicious or crime in progress.

Anyone wishing to join Citizens on Patrol can bring two pieces of I.D. and a criminal record check to the meeting Jan. 25.



**Laying bricks**

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Hoss, bricklayer receives a block as he builds the foundation for the elevator shaft in the West Lorne Community Complex Monday. The elevator and expansion to the library are added features as the building is reconstructed after fire gutted the community centre last February.



### Heritage House helped by Legion

SUBMITTED

Harry Mezenberg, Chair of the West Lorne Heritage Homes Board thanks Perry Penney, President of Branch 221, West Elgin Legion for their \$1,000 contribution. The Legion was the first group to submit a donation to support the project in the fall of 2006.

## Fundraising event Saturday

The West Lorne Heritage Homes Board of Directors officially launches their capital campaign March 17 with a St. Patrick's Day dance and silent auction at the Elgin International Club.

The dance, silent auction and raffle for two nights stay and dinner in Niagara Falls, will help to raise the \$70,000 local contribution required for the affordable apart-

ments for seniors project in West Lorne.

The remainder of the funding will be received from the Canada - Ontario New Affordable Housing program.

The silent auction will start at 8 p.m. and the dance will start at 9 p.m.

The tickets can be purchased at the door or you can call Dorothy Staddon at 768-2972.



**Choir sing** SUBMITTED  
The new women's choir in West Elgin performed at Kintyre Presbyterian Church Saturday night. Front row: Jane Anton, Lynn Sculland, JoAnne Brady, Lori Ivanski, Pauleen Donaldson. Back row: Karen Kendrick-Diamon, Idith Fleuren, Tanya VanRaes, Jill Soos and Amy Kozma. Sharon Little, conducts.  
DEC 13/07



**Christmas tour of homes** JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE  
Rose and her husband Frank McMurchy opened their home as one of the stops on the Christmas Tour of Homes to benefit Beattie Haven Seniors Home. Rose had 17 trees on display, including this black tree which featured crystal ornaments bought by her late son Douglas. About 200 people took the tour of six homes, many decorated by local businesses.



**Car Show - fish fry** JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE  
Dave Sommerville of St. Thomas and Ralph Needham of Lucan talk cars at Dave's 1948 Buick during the Optimist Club of West Lorne's Car Show in the Park, Canada Day. Right: Tony Mezenberg and Bill Vanderzanden man the fryers during the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry July 1.

## Canada Day



**Water games** JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE  
Aaliyah Cunha soaks Chanel Timson during water games held by the Centre Ice Youth Group and YWCA July 1 in Miller Park.



**Baseball** JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE  
Adam Heidt hits during a game between a Special Olympics team from St. Thomas and local ball players in Dutton July 1.



**Frog races** JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE  
Always a big draw, the frog races, at Canada Day celebrations in Dutton July 1. Along with Stramish and kids activities throughout the day, volunteer awards were given. Rebecca Stone was awarded the youth volunteer award. Marie and Sean Verdel were given the recreation award. Helen Vanbrenk was given the Dan Moore Award.

## Green Lane Community Trust supports new homes



**Green Lane**  
Left to right: Stan Lidster (Green Lane Community Trust -Board Member), Lion Bob Purcell for Caledonia TWO project, Jim McIntyre (Board Member), Harry Mezenberg & Doug Staddon for Heritage House project, John Andrews (Board Member). SUBMITTED

Board Members of the Green Lane Community Trust where pleased to confirm, in-person, their pledge to both the Dutton and District Lions Non-Profit Housing project Caledonia TWO, in Dutton/Dunwich and the Heritage House project in West Elgin (West Lorne).

Caledonia TWO will receive a total of \$75,000, over the next three years, with \$25,000 flowing each year, starting in 2008.

Heritage House will receive a total of \$30,000, with \$10,000 flowing each year.

These pledge totals have been included in the total funds raised announced previously.

Green Lane Community Trust is funded by a percentage of all

tipping fees charged at the Green Lane Landfill site.

The mandate of the Trust is to assist worthwhile, local projects, after approval of the Board members, who conduct a careful review of each application.

The Trust has an emphasis on environmental related initiatives and each of the seniors housing projects will be incorporating as many energy saving features into their construction as makes financial and environmental good sense.

Without the support of Green Lane Community Trust it would have been very difficult for either of the seniors housing projects to attain their stated financial goals.

Hanging on the wall of St. Mary's Rectory office is a tapestry of Saint Maximilian Kolbe.

He and his story is admired by the Parish's new Priest Father Wes Gutowski, who started the first of July, ministering to the congregations of St. Mary's and St. Helen's in Wallacetown.

Like Kolbe, Father Gutowski is from Poland.

Kolbe died as a prisoner in Auschwitz in 1941.

Father Gutowski tells the story of Kolbe who stepped out and gave himself to the Nazis as they selected prisoners to die.

Kolbe provided shelter to refugees in the war, including 2,000 Jews.

Kolbe was canonized by John Paul II, also from Poland.

Father Gutowski met John Paul II who passed April 2005, in Rome in 1985, exchanging words and a hand shake.

Father Gutowski was born 75 kilometres outside Warsaw. He's was ordained as a priest in 1964 and moved to Canada in 1970.

He said the diocese likes to move priests around after several years.

In Canada, he started as an assistant pastor in the Parish of St. Phillip's in Petrolia.

From there, he worked in Mitchell, Samia, Brussels and Windsor.

Already, he's been impressed by St. Mary's Parish, adding he's been treated "royally."

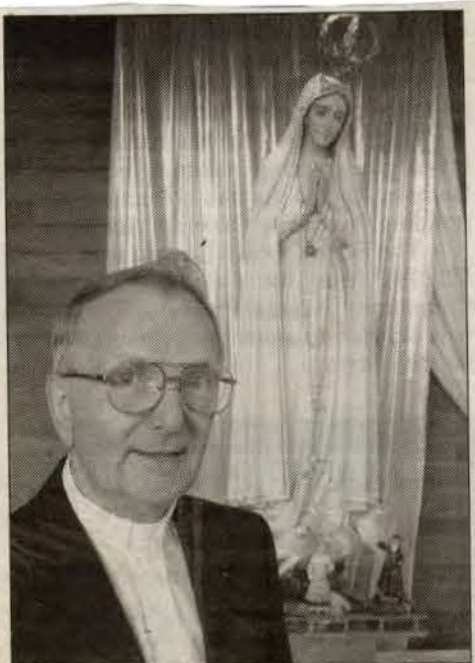
"I was very pleased to see this small community that is really neatly put together. There's a lot of friendship. People talk to each other. They socialize. In the city you don't see that. HERE people come to meet. It's more relaxed," he said of the congregation which is about 250 people.

Also, he is impressed with the ties to St. Mary's Catholic School, with students attending mass the first Friday of each month.

Simply, his job, along with visiting with families at home and at the hospital or church, is to share "the good news of the gospel."

With each priest having their own form, Father Gutowski says he likes to take time on each sermon.

"Ask me to speak for 5 minutes, give me a week. Ask me to speak for 15 minutes, give me a few days. Ask me to speak for an hour, I'm ready," he said.



**Father Wes** JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE  
Father Wes Gutowski, new priest at St. Mary's Parish stands before Our Lady of Fatima.



**Volunteer** JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE  
Counc. Trudy Balint and Irene Puddester present the Rosalie Krebs Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award to Mary Bodnar.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

**Villages celebrate 100 years**

A weekend-long celebration was held to mark the 100th anniversary of the villages of Rodney and West Lorne becoming independent from Aldborough Township. Here the Royal Scots O'Mocha pipe and drum band from London parade down Graham Road in West Lorne Monday. See more pictures on page 7.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

**Fireworks**

Caleb McCullough and his family enjoyed fireworks at Miller Park to celebrate Canada Day Sunday. See more Page 6.

# Steve Peters voted in for another four years

For the Chronicle

Liberal Steve Peters cruised to his third provincial election victory in Elgin-Middlesex-London with a healthy majority over his closest competitor.

Peters finished with 20,069 votes, or 49.1 per cent, according to the Elections Ontario website. Progressive Conservative Party candidate Bill Fehr was a distant second at

12,459 votes. Coming third was Brad James with 4,653 votes. Devin Kelly, Green Party candidate had 3,363 votes while Ray Monteith, Freedom Party candidate, had 353 votes.

"It's hard to describe," a jubilant Peters told the crowd gathered at St. Anne's Centre in St. Thomas to celebrate his victory.

Earlier, he told friends how nervous he was even after 19 years in politics.

around him chanted, "Four more years!"

Peters reflected on what others told him about the need for him to leave a legacy in the riding.

"I didn't get into this to leave a legacy," he said. "It's about putting people first."

Peters said one of his first priorities when he returns to Queen's Park will be to settle the compensation issue for tobacco farmers. During the campaign he said the province had done its part and that it was now up to the federal government to confirm its commitment. Peters said that with boundary changes this year, he found himself breaking ground in Thorndale while meeting new constituents.

"I started the election campaign on the first day in Thorndale and ended up there on the last.

Peters said his plurality was satisfying. "That, in itself, makes me feel good," he said.

He said it was not an election in this riding characterized by personality issues.

"We (candidates) may have started the campaign as strangers because we didn't know each other," he

said, admitting there were, obviously, philosophical issues based on party platforms.

Peters is clearly pleased to see the Liberals returned with a majority.

"I believed in the electorate that they could see through the campaign ads and base their decision on facts.

The party, he said, now remains focused on funding public health care, public education and maintaining a public service.

## Election results

**Elgin-Middlesex-London**  
 Voter turnout: 40,897 of 76,544 - 53.4%  
 Steve Peters, Liberal: 20,069 - 49.1%  
 Bill Fehr, PC: 12,459 - 30.5%  
 Brad James, NDP: 4,653 - 11.4%  
 Devin Kelly, Green: 3,363 - 8.2%  
 Ray Monteith, Freedom: 353 - .9%

**Lambton-Kent-Middlesex**  
 Voter turnout: 42,075 of 75,997 - 55.4%

Maria Van Bommel, Liberal: 18,191 - 43%  
 Monte McNaughton, PC: 15,281 - 36.3%  
 Joyce Jolliffe, NDP: 4,522 - 10.8%  
 Bill McMaster, Family Coalition: 547 - 1.3%  
 Brad Harness, Reform: 208 - .5%

**Referendum - Ontario**  
 Keep current system: 2,704,652 - 63%  
 MMP, new system: 1,579,684 - 36.9%

"This is my seventh election," he said. "I was as nervous until the polls closed as I was when I ran for city council in 1988."  
 "I've loved the past 19 years," he said as supporters



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

**First on the list**

Paul Gangle was the first one to sign up to connect to a new municipal water line being installed north of Highway 401 on Graham Road. Lloyd Jarvis, water superintendent for West Elgin provided details on the project Oct. 3 at WESS. 31

## Cornerstone Kids learn good news about Jesus

These are boys and girls from your "Cornerstone Kids", held on Friday evenings at the West Lorne Baptist Church.

This group is eager to learn new songs and hear stories of Jesus. They are very creative which is evident in the work that they are bringing home for their Parents and Grandparents to see.

Pastor Adam Hall was there last week, working side by side with his wife Rosalee, who along with other volunteers from the church, have started this group.

They are excited about the opportunity to provide a place where kids can have fun and learn about the Bible. Rosalee worked with a group like this when she was living close to Barrie.

Cornerstone Kids are children from Grade 1 to Grade 5 that would enjoy being with their friends and learning of Jesus. They meet at West Lorne Baptist Church 6:30 p.m. on Fridays.

For more information call (519)768-0181.

### Cornerstone

Front row: Anthony St.Onge, Billy Smith, Dillon Saunders, Andrew Brown, Jesse and Chris Batton, Madison Murray. 2nd row: Allison Brown, Kathryn Philmore, Joseph and Nicolas Sowden, Gavin Deshutter, Emily Sowden, Megan Dennshower, Phoebe Moore. Back row: Rosalee Hall, Katie and Sharon Welch, Matt St.Onge, Karen Uitviugt, Ben Welch and Pastor Adam Hall.

SUBMITTED



MAR 22/07



### Housing money announced

CONTRIBUTED

Federal and provincial money for affordable housing was officially announced last week in London. Joining the event were local delegates involved with seniors housing projects in West Lorne and Dutton. Here: Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Cate Melito, Executive Director with the West Elgin Community Health Centre, Bob Purcell, treasurer, Dutton and District Lion's Club and the Caledonia Gardens 2 project, MP Joe Preston, George Smith, Dutton and District Lions, Harry Mezenberg, chair West Lorne Heritage House committee and John Gerretsen, Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The official announcement includes \$173 million for 2,700 new affordable housing units in Ontario under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement. This includes \$2.1 million for the 30-unit Caledonia Gardens 2 project and \$1.17 for the 16 unit Heritage House.



### Romancing the Stone

BRIAN WILSDON PHOTOGRAPHY

Sara Peternel of West Lorne tries on a strapless, chiffon, dress with a cathedral veil, a very romantic, destination style dress. She will model at Romancing the Stone Wedding Show, Sunday, Feb 25. Admission by donation to Teen Challenge Farm. FEB 22/07

THE CHRONICLE OCT 4/07

## Elgin-Middlesex-London Candidates — vote Oct. 10



**Steve Peters**  
The Liberal Party

Age: 44  
Home: St. Thomas  
*Education:* Graduate of Arthur Voaden Secondary School, and later, the University of Western Ontario.

*Politics:* Former St. Thomas mayor for two terms. He was elected a Liberal MPP in 1999 and served as the opposition critic for disabilities. Served as Minister of Agriculture and for the past two years, as Minister of Labour for a total of almost 20 years in politics.



**Bill Fehr**  
Progressive Conservative

Age: 58  
Home: St. Thomas  
*Status:* Married with four children.  
*Education:* Graduate of East Elgin Secondary School and is a certified general accountant.

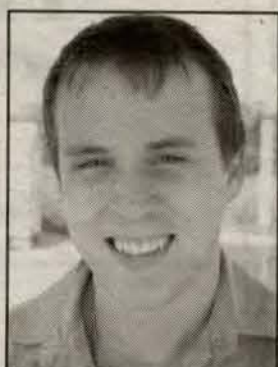
*Politics:* For 10 years, he served as president of the Progressive Conservative riding association and as treasurer. He was also the first president of the newly merged Conservative Party of Canada in 2003, which he occupied for two years.



**Brad James**  
NDP

Age: 46  
Home: Toronto  
*Education:* Grew up in Lambton County later attending, Queen's University, graduating Bachelor of Commerce degree, and then attended the University of Toronto, graduating with a Masters in Industrial Relations

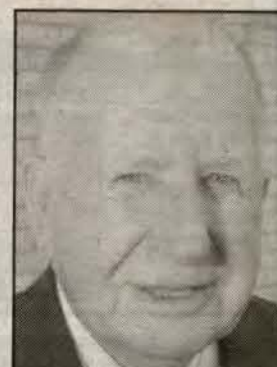
*Politics:* Worked for the United Steelworkers (USW) union since 1989 and recently received endorsement from the St. Thomas and District Labour Council



**Devin Kelly**  
The Green Party

Age: 21  
Home: Port Stanley  
*Education:* Attended Central Elgin Collegiate Institute but left early. He is obtaining his GED at Fanshawe College

*Politics:* Grew up with a family that's very worldly and politically engaged. He took out party membership at age 18. His uncle, Gerry Zuchlinski, is his campaign manager is a St. Thomas native and a professor of ecology at Sault College.



**Ray Monteith**  
The Freedom Party

Age: 87  
Home: Central Elgin  
*Status:* His wife Doris passed away almost 20 years ago.  
*Education:* Completed high school in St. Thomas.

*Politics:* Former rail conductor for Conrail this is his sixth provincial election in EML. Monteith says he will run federally for the first time in the coming federal election if Prime Minister Stephen Harper doesn't legalize pot.

# Family first for RCAF coach

BY AMANDA ROBINSON  
Sun Media

Harold Leslie Lancaster returned home in 1945 from Britain to Canada disappointed.

As a Royal Canadian Air Force instructor, he trained hundreds of men who went off to fight in the Second World War but never used his own flying skills in battle.

His loving young wife saw to that by making his family top priority.

For 2½ years at the war's onset, Lancaster trained young flyers at the air base in Goderich, where he flew everything from the small, pesky Spitfire to the mammoth bomber with which he shared a name — the Lancaster.

Then it was on to Britain in August 1944, where he trained more Commonwealth pilots, all the time hoping he'd see action in the war in the Pacific.

But that campaign of the war would end, too, before Lan-

## REMEMBERED



**HAROLD LANCASTER:** As a soldier and in his later years.

caster, who died April 1 at age 85, could fulfil his adventurous spirit.

Disappointed as Lancaster was at again missing out on battle firsthand, it suited his young wife, the former Evelyn Tunks, just fine.

The two had been married on Sept. 13, 1941, about six years

after meeting at age 14.

She had more than a little influence on Lancaster never fighting overseas — she wanted her husband to be around for her and their children.

"Thank God he didn't have to go," she said. "When he came home he had a chance to go on but I said, 'No, I want a father for my children.'"

And that was that — Lancaster would devote the rest of his life to family and nature.

When he died last month, he left behind his wife of 65 years; and two daughters, Sharon Stewart, 64, and Janis Lancaster, 57.

He also is survived by two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

"He was such a nice, kind man and he was a lot of fun," Stewart said of her dad. "He just loved young fellas or gals who loved nature."

Lancaster grew up on a farm in Elgin County with six brothers. There, he developed a love

and appreciation for nature, specifically birds. He was fascinated by them and became an avid bird watcher, documenting and writing about many species.

Lancaster also became active with many environmental groups, among them the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, the West Elgin Nature Club and the eco-Elgin Environmental Society.

Stewart credits her father for her appreciation of nature. She admits she's never had the passion for birds her father had but she does enjoy the peace and quiet of natural settings.

"I love to sit and listen to the birds and I love to have my place natural-looking," she said.

"I also got from my father just (a) love of life and (the belief) that I can do anything that I want."

Amanda Robinson is a Free Press reporter. Arobinson@fpress.com

MAY 27/07

LONDON FREE PRESS

# New deck officially opened at Port Glasgow

by Linda Easton

Port Glasgow: The Port Glasgow Yacht Club celebrated the recent completion of its new deck, picnic shelter and docking facilities at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday afternoon, January 29th, 2007. The members were beaming as MPP Steve Peters cut the ribbon on the Club's new, safer and more accessible facilities. Peters said, *it is through proactive community groups*

*like the Port Glasgow Yacht Club and the Provincial Government and its agencies that we are able to make our local communities better places to live and work and for tourists to visit.*

The mammoth deck, measuring 6 m (20 feet) wide and 60 m (200 feet) long, sits almost in the middle of the marina basin overlooking the water just to the west of the Yacht Club building. It covers up an unsightly rock rubble seawall and provides

access to an unused stretch of the marina. A gleaming white railing

*Continued On Page 3*

BELOW Left to Right: Bernie Wiehle Deputy Mayor of West Elgin, Richard Leatham member, Wayne Roodzant member, Bob Miller member, Steve Peters MPP, Joe Trump representative for the Trillium Foundation, Graham Warwick Mayor West Elgin, Andy Cipu member, Jonathan Wolf Ward 2 councillor West Elgin, Norm Miller VP of yacht club (Photo Linda Easton)



# Vacation Bible School planned for West Lorne

Plans are now being made to arrange the program for the Vacation Bible School for young people ages five to 12 to be held the week of July 9 to 13.

This year it is to take place in West Lorne United Church and it is for all who are interested in attending from the whole community.

As always it will be a fun time with lots of activities such as music, crafts, Bible stories, and games.

Many will remember crafts from past summers which brought out some real skills.

There will be fun songs with lively guitar accompaniment.

Then throughout the whole program some important Biblical teachings will take place and will be appreciated by all.

In past years this has been a popular summer activity for our young people and the leaders are hoping for a good attendance again this year. They have memories of joyous times other years and all have appreciated our churches working together.

It is a good idea to pre-register by calling 519-768-1603 or 519-768-1456.

Once again, the Vacation Bible School runs mornings from 9 a.m. to noon, July 9 to 13.

Those who wish to register the first morning may do so 8:30 a.m.

JUNE 28/07

## OBITUARIES

### LANCASTER



LANCASTER, Harold Leslie, Glencoe, formerly of the Niagara Peninsula, West Lorne and Forest, passed away on April 1st, 2007 in his 86th year. Born in Aldborough Twp., Elgin Co, son of the late Wilbert and Christena (Paterson) Lancaster. Survived, by Evelyn (Tunks), his wife of 65 years, daughters Sharon Stewart of Forest, Janis Lancaster and her husband Stephen Cheetham of Scarborough, grandchildren Melissa Corfield and her husband Brian of Scottsdale, AZ, Christopher Walters and his wife Lisa of London, ON, and four great grandchildren Samantha, Dylan, Jackson and Hannah, as well as several nieces and nephews. Also survived by brothers-in-law Morley Tunks and his wife Meryl of Chatham, Gerald Tunks of Wardsville, and sister-in-law Beryl Tunks of Sarnia. Predeceased by infant son, Stephen Douglas (1957), brothers Archibald (1977), Maxwell (1991), Donald (1970), Wilbert (1988), Hector (1943, WWII), Lloyd (1941, WWII), son-in-law Richard Stewart (1994). Following 4-1/2 years as a pilot in the R.C.A.F. during WWII, rising to Flight Lt., he spent most of his working years in the Niagara Peninsula with Canada Packers and Genstar Ltd. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion and the West Elgin Masonic Lodge # 386. Served as a director of the Niagara Credit Union (currently Meridian) for 18 years, six a chairman, three years on the Niagara Planning Board, eight years as a director of the Federation of Ont. Naturalists, four years as a director of the Fertilizer Institute of Ontario, founder and currently a member of the West Elgin Nature Club and the eco-Elgin Environmental Society. He was active for many years in the Peninsula Field-Naturalists and the Niagara Falls Nature Club. He also served on several horticultural societies and United Church Boards as well as assisting in historical organizations. Following retirement and returning to West Lorne, he was a charter member of, and spent one term, as a director of the West Elgin Community Health Centre. Cremation. Relatives and friends were received at the Van Heck Funeral Home, 172 Symes St., Glencoe on Wednesday, April 4th from 2 to 4 pm & 7 to 9 pm. A Masonic service was held at 6:45 pm prior to visitation. A Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, April 5th at 11:00 am. at the funeral home. Private family interment at the McLean Cemetery, West Elgin. If desired, donations of remembrance may be made to the Ontario Nature (Federation of Ontario Naturalists), West Elgin Nature Trust or a charity of your choice.

## Local runs in Boston

Magda Badura of West Lorne competed in the Boston Marathon.

Badura can often be seen running the country roads in the area but says Boston was a whole other experience.

"There were a lot more hills. It seemed like it was up and down, up and down, not like the roads around here," says the 31-year-old.

It was her first time running in the Boston marathon.

She qualified by running in the Mississauga marathon.

She also ran in mini-marathons in London and the Detroit Marathon.

She says she finished the 40 kilometre run in 3 hours 28 minutes.

"I'm very happy," she says, adding her time has improved with each marathon.

Locally, she trains by running to Longwoods Road and back often taking Dunborough Line.

Before the marathon she had strained her hip over training. She only started running three years ago.



Magda Badura

She finished 706 out of all woman and 5058 overall.

She says it was really exciting, with tens of thousands of people lining the streets cheering the runners on.

"I've never seen that many people in my life," she says.

Cold, wearing a garbage bag with soaking wet shoes from rain that wouldn't stop up to the start of the race, conditions weren't great.

But the rain seemed to stop for the race which remained dry.

Badura says the organization of the race is amazing with a field size of 22,500 people.

Her husband Jeremy cheered her on from the sidelines and made the drive with her to Boston.

She admits she is still sore after the marathon which was April 16 but has come a long way after not being able to move for two days after the run.

But to prove to herself she can do it and push herself, she says she hopes to run in another mini-marathon in London soon.

## Handyman to help in hurricane ravaged New Orleans

Steve Schleihauf, a regular go-to fix-it guy in the area is taking his handy skills to New Orleans next month.

The Talbot Line, Dutton-Dunwich resident is going on his first missionary

excursion to a city still reeling from the devastating hurricane of August 2005.

"I'm going to New Orleans with Aylmer Baptist Church through the Dutton Baptist Church," he said.

About 30 people are going by bus to help rebuild homes and churches in the city from Nov. 2 to 10.

Today, more than 200,000 people have not returned to the city which once had the population of 1.4 million.

"My heart is for those people that don't have money to

rebuild," he said.

Schleihauf has been fixing houses and doing handy work since he was 13 years-old.

Along with putting in eight hours a day while on the mission, he'll be teaching young people how to build homes too.

His church's new message: Dutton Baptist Church, Doing Better Church, has encouraged its congregation to reach out.

"I'm taking up the challenge," he said.

A silent auction and cabaret night in Aylmer helped raise money for the trip.

A group made the trip earlier this year and at that time raised money for supplies.

Each person going has to raise \$1,000 on their own. Steve has raised \$500 so far.

He's heard stories of the conditions learned trailers are lined up for blocks to give to homeless residents temporarily before homes are rebuilt.

"I'm excited. I've never been on a mission before. I've never been to New Orleans before. I thought it would be a great opportunity," he said.

If you would like to help Steve Schleihauf or the mission call 762-6755.



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

### New Orleans

Steve Schleihauf is heading to New Orleans to help rebuild homes and churches.

MAY

## Computer takes seat at council

Jeff Kempenaar

Staff

Technology made its presence in the West Elgin Council chambers at the last meeting, May 10.

Councillors Trudy Balint and Jonathan Wolf each used their own laptop computers throughout the meeting.

Jumping on a wave of technological advancements seen throughout the county, the presence of computers at the council table was discussed during an early break in the meeting.

Council Balint noted using a computer is a lot more efficient for her.

Clerk Norma Bryant emailed the meeting's package of information to Balint and Wolf.

The meeting's package was more than 150 pages.

It had to be emailed in two portable document files (PDFs) to fit it all, one 64 pages, the second, 96 pages.

Normally, councillors have to pick-up the paper version of the package at the municipal office, usually a day or two before the meeting.

"Sometimes it would be hard to get here to pick it up because of work," said Wolf.

Balint notes it will save the municipality from having to print out another package and it saves the environment, "It saves on emissions because I won't have to drive to pick it up."

It also gives councillors more time to read through the package.

However, the presence of computers did cause a distraction during the meeting.

Councillor Mary Bodnar asked Wolf to turn his laptop because it was distracting her.

Council started talking about whether internet connections would be allowed on the laptops, via wireless connection, a capability in the municipal building.

Bryant said one downside to internet connection would be everyone involved in the meeting, wouldn't be looking at the same information.

"We should all be looking at the same thing," she said.

She decided not to email some confidential information, including property standards complaints, handled at the meeting.

Please see Technology, page 5

## Used books wanted for Jamaican school

Jeff Kempenaar

Staff

Julie and Wentworth Newman of West Lorne have saved piles of books from the dumpsters.

Boxes of books filled their garage last week after local schools dropped off surplus books.

The Newmans have been filling barrels, preparing to ship the books to a school in Jamaica.

Wentworth grew up in Christiana, Jamaica and finished his schooling there in the early 1950s, after 15 years, before his family immigrated to Canada.

The couple visited Jamaica earlier this year and found distant relatives who took them to the school.

For years, the school has been waiting for government priorities to shift from infrastructure to schooling and to fund a new library and computer lab at the school.

Currently the school has no library and not one computer or fax machine at the school.

"We couldn't believe it. The library consists of one book shelf, not unlike what people have in their homes. There is no reference books or story books," said Julie.

The primary school, crammed with 1,300 students shoulder to shoulder in tiny class rooms, was thrilled when the Newmans sent about 1,000 used books already.

One snag with the first batch sent, the teachers in Jamaica had to pay port fees out of their own pockets. That process is eliminated by getting letters from the ministry of finance, which should eliminate taxes.

Now, with the help from local schools, encyclopedias, children's story books, stationary and board books for smaller children are being compiled.

Julie was amazed that the local schools were discarding teacher's manuals along with text books, perfect for the school in Christiana.

"The children can use the books to learn but also, with the numerous story books we have, they can have fun reading too," she said.

Wentworth's decedents moved to Jamaica from Ireland.

He was the only white child in his class but said there was never any prejudices.

"There are a lot of memories with me from the school," he said.

Particularly, he remembers one of his teachers, whom he still carries a picture.

A storm thundered into Christiania and lightning struck dead his teacher before the entire class.

"I'll never forget that moment," said Wentworth.

The first three barrels were sent with funds raised and books collected by Erie Flooring and Wood Products, Judy's Family Hair Care and Barbershop, Roland Bitterman and Corner Consignment. Also the West Lorne



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

### Collecting books

Wentworth and Julie Newman of West Lorne are collecting used books for a school in Jamaica.

United Church donated its coffee fund to the project.

But the Newmans have a bigger goal.

"We would like to fill 10 barrels," said Julie.

That's about 3,000 books more and \$500 needed for shipping fees.

"It's about 2.5 books per student," she said.

The Newman's are looking for community support.

"I know we can do this. The community response has been great so far," she said.

Anyone wishing to pledge funds or donate books, can call the Newmans at 519-768-1801.

# CURRENT EVENTS

## Quilt made in 1930 with 272 local names to be displayed

A quilt made in 1930, stowed away until this year, will be unveiled once again. The quilt was the result of a Missionary Fundraising Project by the Sunday School at the former Church of Christ in West Lorne.

Each person who donated 10 cents to the project got their name on the quilt.

In total, there are 272 names on the quilt.

The Sunday School class, made up of young teenage girls, called the

Triangle Club, was headed by their teacher Mrs. J.A. McKillop.

In 1930, the quilt was purchased by Irene Thomson (Wilson).

She passed away in 1994, and bequeathed the quilt to her niece Grace Wilson, who stored it in a box in a safe place.

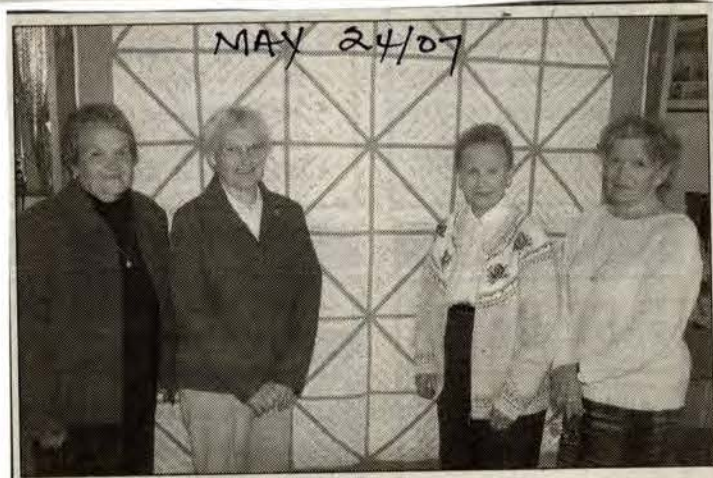
She rediscovered

the box this year and brought it forward for the community to enjoy.

Organizers are inviting people to come and try and recognize as many

names, and relatives as possible.

The Heritage Quilt Tea will be May 16 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the West Lorne United Church.



**Quilt Show** A quilt created in 1930, containing 272 stitched names was displayed at a quilt show May 16 at the West Lorne United Church. Seen here are: Joyce McFadden, Gwen Szabo, Jean Besley and Grace Wilson, the nieces of Irene Thomson who purchased the quilt in a fundraising auction in 1930.



**Strong winds knock down trees** West Elgin Recreation staff Jen Pinder and Rob Wilkins clean up Jessie Street in West Lorne. The top of a large tree fell on Graham Road Friday night during a heavy rain and wind storm. West Lorne Fire Department and roads crew were called out as the tree blocked the entire road. Four trees were also knocked down in Miller Park along with trees on Queen's Line.

## Local pastors remember Anna

The reverend of the Tyrconnell Parish of the Anglican Church of Canada Rev Anna Berwick, known simply to we who knew her as Anna, passed away suddenly in mid-February leaving her family, her parish and her friends shocked and grieving. We who knew her, worked alongside her and loved her in the Lord felt compelled to share our thoughts regarding this servant of God. Our collective prayer is that in some way, the sharing of these memories will aid us all in coming to terms with the reality of this loss.

In following editions reflections and thoughts of "Anna" will be shared by Pastor Diane Macpherson of the Dunwich United Pastoral Charge, Pastor Rob Shaw of Knox-St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Pastor Deane Proctor of Dutton & Iona Station Baptist Churches and Rev. Andy Kaups formerly of West Lorne Baptist Church.

From Pastors Deane Proctor and Diane Macpherson: As a new minister to the Dutton Baptist Church, I (Deane) first met Anna 7 years ago on Good Friday. As had been done for several years before and every year since, the churches of Dutton (Anglican, Presbyterian, United and

Baptist) join efforts to present an Ecumenical community-wide observance of Good Friday.

As the congregation physically moves from church building to church building following a wooden cross, we unfold, re-tell and embrace again, the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the first event of this kind for me as a minister having only arrived at the Baptist Church about one month before. Thankfully despite my "rookie status", Anna was a welcoming soul to me.

The next year (2001) efforts were expanded to present the first community VBS. Pastor Diane Macpherson was serving the Dunwich Pastoral Charge by this time and remembers fondly the joint efforts of the four churches in Dutton, planned in part by the 4 pastors and with Anna being integral in this process.

More recently the breakfast in mid-January marking the Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity and involving many local churches and denominations would simply not have taken place at all were it not for the leadership and planning that Anna offered.

## Cost estimates for landfill closure reported

West Elgin Council received cost estimates to close its landfill by 2022.

A report was done earlier this year about possible decisions for the landfill on Hoskins Line at Blacks Road.

Council may look at buying adjacent land or begin looking at other locations for the municipality's waste.

The report on costs to close

the landfill were given at council Oct. 25, as prepared by Water, Earth Sciences Association, hired to research the landfill.

Starting with the 2008 budget, \$52,600 will have to be put in reserves annually.

With that, a one-time cost of \$42,817 will be made and each year after \$14,650 will go into reserves.

That means to close the current landfill, will cost an esti-

mated \$568,200, in 2022 dollars, calculating for inflation or \$296,180 in today's dollars.

This includes final covering of the site, general maintenance and long-term monitoring.

"We're not saying it has to close. If there is still room..." said Deputy Mayor Bernie Wiehle.

"If we were smart, and I'm not saying we're dumb, we've just had a lot of things on the go, we should be aggressively

trying to expand the landfill," said Mayor Graham Warwick.

The official plan shows seven closed landfills in the municipality.

The 3.2 hectare landfill accepts 748 tonnes annually

Landfill capacity is 134,823 cubic metres with a life expectancy until 2022.

A specific closure plan will need to be prepared when the landfill has reached 90 per cent capacity.



**Heritage House gets donation** Cate Melito receiving a cheque from Joanna and Brian Simpson in the amount of \$7,000 to support the \$70,000 capital fundraising campaign launched by the West Lorne Heritage Homes Not for Profit Inc.'s Board of Directors. These funds will be used to build 16 affordable apartments for seniors in West Lorne. Absent: Rob and Mirah Simpson.



**St. Mary's Ladies help Heritage House** The St. Mary's Ladies Group invited Harry Mezenberg and Brian Simpson to their May 7th meeting to speak on the West Lorne Heritage Homes. After the meeting the Ladies Group presented them with a cheque for \$1000 to go towards the seniors housing project. Pictured are, left to right: Harry Mezenberg, (Chair of Heritage Homes), Betty Mezenberg (Chair of the Ladies Group), Thea Long (Ladies Group President), Brian Simpson (Chair of Heritage Homes Fundraising committee) and Rose Ingratta.